BOOKINGS 2013

Now is the time to start planning your Dorroughby field work for 2013. We have a new website for you to view our programs and facilities. We have also recently purchased 15 iPads that will be integrated into our programs for 2013. Please ring the centre soon to ensure your preferred dates. Also consider inviting a Dorroughby teacher along for your staff development days. We can offer advice in curriculum planning and sustainable management of resources (waste, water, energy, biodiversity).

NORTHERN RIVERS GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS (NRGEE)

As part of our commitment to sustaining our environment the NRGEE met with others interested in Environmental Education (including teachers, university reps, AECG and non-government environment groups) to form a united group and plan for Sustainability Education in our region. The meeting resulted in a vision statement and a commitment to uniting together for special environmental events and
activities. In October we will be organising a Kids Teaching Kids’ Forum with details available next year. It is also planned to collectively organise a Professional Development Day for teachers on a sustainability theme each term. Term 1 2013 is advertised below. It is hoped to have our plan released in 2013 and a calendar of events and contacts distributed to all schools.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

School Environmental Educators Forum on Friday 15th March 2013. A chance to network with other teachers and environmental educators – share experiences and practices, participate in practical workshops and find out about resources, support, grants. Presenters will include educators from NRGEE (Dorroughby EEC, local councils, ROUS Water and Landcare). This course will be accredited with the Institute of Teachers and registered on My PL shortly.

VIDEO CONFERENCES

This term Dorroughby EEC facilitated a video conference on ‘Sharing Our Sustainability Stories”. Bexhill P.S students were outstanding in presenting their waste and water saving systems to four other schools in the Northern Rivers. In term one 2013 we will be providing opportunities for other schools to share their stories. Please contact the centre if you are interested in presenting.

In term 1 we will be also offering a video conference on reducing litter, marine debris and the effect of plastic in our environment. This will include guest speakers such as Tim Silverwood (who sailed to the Pacific garbage patch) and Lisa Wrilley who is running a campaign to bring back cash refunds for empty containers. Dorroughby EEC and ROUS Water will also provide follow up support for schools by offering stormwater audits and water quality testing. For an insight into the problem follow the link to "Trashed" - an environmental documentary with Jeremy Irons www.trashedfilm.com
YES – YOUTH ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT
Students from Mullumbimby and Kyogle High school represented our region at the Youth Environment Summit at Homebush, Sydney on the 17th-18th October. The event attracted 2200 students from around the state. Dorroughby EEC also organised an environmental song writing workshop for the event. Have a look at the wonderful musical contribution from Brewarrina Central School students who performed a song they entered in the Western Region Environmental Song Writing Competition. www.danielrutterfilms.com/#!kidz4change/c18t go to videos, Kids 4 change.

DORROUGHBY GREEN TEAM
Thanks to Dorroughby Green Team for their assistance this week. They helped pot some seedlings, mulch the vege garden and painted some nest boxes that will be erected in our habitat area during the holidays. They also made some solar ovens to take back to school and trial with their class. What would we do without them!

RESOURCES
Stage 4 Geography ‘The changing nature of the world and responses to these changes’. A unit of work on Mobile Phones guides student investigation using the Sustainability Action Process. Looks at the production, and recycling of mobile phones. Available at www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/resources/waste/what-can-we-recycle/mobile-phones-stage-4-geography

The Great Barrier Reef has lost half its coral cover in the last 27 years. The loss was due to storm damage (48%), crown of thorns starfish (42%), and bleaching (10%).

Smart Power generation
A great website with lots of information on past, present and future energy production and use, climate change and energy solutions.
http://www.smartpowergeneration.com

Environment = Life
Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre