The purpose of the newsletter is to showcase environmental events in our region, promote good ideas and create a network of environmental educators. Please distribute this newsletter to all teachers interested in sustainability education.

PROGRAMS at DOROUGHBY

This year at Dorroughby we have officially launched our new programs with a brochure and a new website. The iPad Documentary is our favourite so far. With access to some of the best environmental apps and the help of iMovie students can make their own movie about their local environment. The program can also be implemented at your school with Dorroughby supplying all the equipment. We have 15 iPads and an apple T.V to allow students to share their projects on the Interactive Whiteboard. We’ll even show you how to upload them to a password protected website. Call us to make a booking soon!

UPDATE ON REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Last year the Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators (NRGEE) met to discuss a new Regional Environmental Sustainability Plan. This is now near completion and will be released at our professional learning day on the 15th March. The plan has enabled local Educators to work together on a number of projects. Some of these include the development of a ‘Big Scrub” rainforest book, a Threatened Species Investigation project with Taronga Zoo in September, A Kids Teaching Kids forum in October and teacher professional learning in Sustainability Education in week 7 each term. The plan will uploaded to the Dorroughby Site along with a list of contacts for local Sustainability Educators

VIDEO CONFERENCE 2nd April

Join us for a video conference on the problems of litter and Marine Debris. Estimates suggest over a million seabirds may die each year and up to 100, 000 marine mammals and turtles as a direct result of Marine Debris. The debris collects in a pool of rubbish known as a waste gyre – one of the worlds’ largest is The Pacific Garbage Patch which has an area twice the size of France.
Meet Tim Silverwood who sailed to the Pacific Garbage and conducted research on the impacts of marine debris on our world oceans. See live footage of Tim’s trip and ask him about his journey and what he discovered. Also meet Lisa Wriley who is an environmental activist for the Cash for Containers Campaign. Her aim is to 10c cash returns for bottles Australia wide in order to reduce marine pollution. Find out how to help Lisa in her campaign and meet other students who have already voiced their opinions.

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

School Environmental Educators Forum on Friday 15th March 2013. (see attached brochure for more info). 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) and an introduction by John Lynch (SED). Please ring Dorroughby to register or use My PL, Course Number is NR04245.

**Teach Wild Fellowships**

TeachWild Fellowships involve teachers and Shell employees in Earthwatch marine research expeditions. It provides a really unique opportunity for teachers to work with some of Australian leading marine scientists. Teachers develop current skills in science research and education and can communicate their experience to their students whilst they are in the field (visit [http://teachwild.org.au/7-day-projects](http://teachwild.org.au/7-day-projects) to see former TeachWild fellows in the field). Most of the costs are covered by the fellowship. The next trip is to Phillip Island on the 9th-13th April.

**EVENTS & ACTIONS**

Environmental Art Camp Term 2

In early term 2 Dorroughby EEC will be hosting an environmental art camp for stage 3 students. Thanks to a regional arts grant this three day adventure will only cost $50 per student including accommodation, food and materials for a personal art project. Students will spend a day in the forest learning new art techniques with a professional artist. They will then apply their new techniques to an artwork of their own and contribute to a giant forest mural that will be used at the centre as a teaching resource. If you have some talented students please contact the centre to register your interest. Max 45 positions available.
March 3 – 9 Seaweek. The theme for 2013 is ‘Sustainable Seas’. For information and teaching activities go to; www.mesa.edu.au Other useful resources are available at www.oceanwatch.org.au/kids-stuff/

Schools Earth Day Friday March 22 & Earth Hour Saturday March 23
Host Earth Hour events www.earthhour.org/page/get-involved/join-community.

GRANTS
Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grants of up to $1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community, such as bush tucker gardens, water wise gardens or veggie gardens. These programs encourage students to learn about the environment through “outdoor learning” and interaction in developing their own school gardens.

Eco-Schools grants (up to $2500/school) and the Food Gardens in Schools (up to $3500/school) provided by the NSW Dept. of Environment and Heritage www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm that will open on 16 March and close on 17 May.

NRMA Environment Grants are for projects that raise awareness and/or promote actions to combat climate change through activities that directly engage and educate the community about environmental sustainability. More info at http://www.nrma.com.au/about-us/community-grants/environment

RESOURCES
Sustainable Schools NSW is a repository of great information for making your school sustainable. Note that they have a new website www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools

The Museum of Victoria Free Field Guide app has interesting information on more than 700 animals at the swipe of your finger including: identification, biology, distribution, diet, habitat, scientific classification and endangered status.