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.

**GENERAL NEWS**

**BOOKINGS FOR DORROUGHBY EEC 2014**

We are now taking bookings for 2014. Please see our up to date website for program ideas. We can offer programs at the Centre, in your school grounds or at a variety of natural environments in the Northern Rivers. Our new programs align to the new science syllabus and we will be developing new ideas to support the concept of ‘working scientifically’ and inquiry based learning.

**WILSONS RIVER CATCHMENT EDUCATION and RESTORATION PROJECT**

Last Monday the Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators (NRGee) visited Richmond River High to help them understand how to care for and protect the Wilsons River Catchment and plant 200 trees on the river bank. Over 180 students from years 8-10 participated in the activities. Thanks Richmond River High for your efforts and a special thanks to Georgina Jones from Envite who has co-ordinated similar activities at Kadina High, Albert Park P.S, St Carthages Catholic School and Woodlawn Catholic College as part of an Environmental Trust grant applied for by Rous Water.

**TARONGA ZOO INSITU REPORT**

Students from 13 local schools came together to learn how to take action in helping to save locally threatened species such as Koalas, Giant Barred Frogs and Squirrel Gliders. As a part of September’s Threatened Species month, from 9th- 13th September Taronga Zoo took its Zoo Mobile to participating...
schools across the region, as students went 'InSitu' with local experts to raise awareness of the plight of threatened species. During on-ground workshops, students got up-close and personal with some very special furry members of the Taronga Zoo's team, whilst learning how to assess habitat, look for evidence of species presence & test waterways. Following the workshops, each school developed an education project, motivating students to become part of the solution by creating awareness, improved habitat and behaviour change in their local communities.

Project InSitu was a collaborative project with Richmond Landcare, Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre, Taronga Zoo, Southern Cross University, Rous Water and Friends of the Koala. It was made possible with a Community Environment Grant under the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country program.

**OUR VOICE CONFERENCE REPORT**

The Our Voice: ‘Sustainability Conference for Young People by Young People’ was held on the 1st November at Southern Cross University. The conference brought together more than 250 children and young people from the Northern Rivers to express their ideas and concerns relating to sustainability and the environment. Students used a variety of formats to express their ideas, from song, photos and drama. Some of the highlights included Main Arm Public Schools music video ‘Listen to the Warning’, which outlined the importance of saving energy and climate change issues. The Dorroughby Green Team presented the issue of platypus being caught in yabby traps and The Pocket P.S presented a fantastic documentary on squirrel gliders and actions that had taken to increase biodiversity at their school.

The conference was also a celebration of DEC Climate Clever Energy Savers Program that has been delivered by Dorroughby to 150 Schools and over 200 class groups in the Northern Rivers over the past three years and was a collaboration of Southern Cross University, Rous Water and Dorroughby EEC. It is planned to continue the event annually. Read more on the ECHO online [http://www.echo.net.au/2013/11/students-learn-in-a-climate-of-ideas](http://www.echo.net.au/2013/11/students-learn-in-a-climate-of-ideas).

**EVENTS & ACTIONS**

You are invited to an information session and afternoon tea on sustainability education and local issues at Rocky Creek Dam on **Wed 4th Dec** at Rous Water Building (Level 4), 218 Molesworth St Lismore. The session will feature programs available at the dam by Rous and Dorroughby and will also include an opportunity to preview new technologies especially developed for the site including, Smart Notebook activities, an IBook on Bush tucker and a documentary program using a class set of iPads (see invite attached). Please phone 66233827 if you are interested in a similar session at Byron Bay.

Environment = Life
**CLIMATE CLEVER ENERGY SAVERS**

*Climate Clever Energy Savers* program will be running again in 2014. The program enables schools to develop energy saving and green house gas reduction proposals within their school assisted by $800 funding. Teachers involved will also receive relief funding to attend a professional development day that offers programming ideas, curriculum links and access to resources. All schools involved can also receive a lesson with our new updated Energy Trailer. This is currently being fitted with exciting new features as well as an energy bike.

Please contact the Regional coordinator, Kim Kairies (Dorroughby EEC) on 66895286 or Email Kim.Kairies@det.nsw.edu.au for additional info and see the attached flyer.

**Sustainability action and engagement in NSW A framework.**

The Australian Association of Environmental Education NSW in partnership with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has released ‘Inspiring sustainability action and engagement in NSW A framework’. The formal education sector (early childhood, schools training and tertiary) play a critical role in developing sustainability competencies in the community. Your feedback on this framework is critical. You can attend a meeting with Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators at the Byron Community College Mullumbimby Campus on the 10th Dec, Cnr Gordon and Burringbar Rd (please ring Dorroughby if attending)

or

Review the draft framework online and complete the survey at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YTD7M8WEFSFRAMEWORKDRAFTFORCONSULTATION

**SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS NSW SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY**

Sustainable schools NSW is conducting a survey of teachers to investigate the potential of social media as part of the program’s communication tools. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SustainableSchoolsNSW

**RESOURCES**

You are invited to the launch of the *Sustainability for Educators* book on December 12th 5.30-7.30pm at Byron Community College Mullumbimby Campus (Cnr Gordon and Burringbar St).

Environment = Life
If you would like to know more about the book and e book see:

MARINE DEBRIS
At least 18,000 pieces of plastic are estimated to float in every square kilometre of ocean and can effect many threatened species such as turtles, whales and birds. Tangaroa Blue is a non-profit organisation focused on improving the health of the marine environment through monitoring and on the ground clean up’s. Check out their website http://www.tangaroablue.org for great resources, data recording sheets and curriculum ideas on how to survey for marine pollution in your local area. Monitoring can be included in Dorroughby EEC coastal field work and local Southern Cross Teacher Katie Grubb (a member of Tangaroa Blue) has offered to help schools to set up monitoring programs. Contact Katie for more info Katie.grubb@det.nsw.edu.au

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN & ENERGY SAVINGS
As the end of the year approaches, school can take action to reduce energy use in the holidays. Students can investigate appliances, cooling and other electric systems that can be shut off over the summer holiday break.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
This is a great learning resource developed by DEC for students to investigate more sustainable methods of transport using the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). All curriculum links and learning sequences for the new syllabus are identified. The Northern Rivers currently have a planning committee to research this very issue so its very relevant to our area.

MEDIA
US citizens belief in human induced climate change growing
This article includes a comparison of climate change beliefs between US citizens and Australians.

BRUSH TURKEYS IN ACTION
Ann Goeth, from ProEcology consulting has produced a great slowmation video of how brush-turkeys hatch.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B93rFV6l1jQ&feature=youtu.be