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

Environmental Arts Camp Report
Thanks to all the wonderful students that attended the Environmental Arts Camp for Stage 3 students on the 22nd-24th May. The murals will lift the look of the centre for many years to come. Forty two students from twenty local schools attended the three day event that was funded through a regional arts grant. Activities included iPad photography, Andy Goldsworthy style sculptured art in the forest, art works using plant pigments (with guest artist Imbi Davidson), camp fire, and drama workshops. It is hoped that the camp will run each year and due to overwhelming support more places are hoped to be available. View the photos on our website!

Youth Eco Summit
Congratulations to Coraki Public School who have been chosen to represent our region at the Youth Eco Summit in Sydney. They are working on their presentation that they may potentially present to thousands of students who visit the site over three days.

World Environment Day
Lismore Council celebrated World Environment Day with an official opening of their new Education Area and Botanic Gardens. Many volunteers have helped make the new garden a success. The Mayor opened the site and gave a great speech on the theme for W.E.D which was Think – Eat – Save. Seven schools participated in activities provided by Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators (NRGee). Dorrroughby EEC enjoyed meeting students at our sustainable energy trailer. The new classroom will be available for waste and rainforest lessons. Contact Kevin Trustum at Lismore Council for bookings. 66232004
EVENTS & ACTIONS

Video Conference with Dorroughby EEC Tuesday 25th April
Did you know that platypus are killed each year in our region by yabby traps? Although these traps are illegal to use for trapping in our state they are legal to purchase from most fishing shops. Find out more about this issue and how schools can help conserve platypus in the Northern Rivers. Our presenter will be Cathie Williams from the Central Coast NSW who has significantly helped to form the Platypus Action Conservation Team on the Central Coast. She will tell us more about this unique animal, share the achievement of PACT to date and show us photos of platypus research. There is a complete platypus education kit to use with your students on this issue on the Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre website. [http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/resources/platypus-education-kit](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/resources/platypus-education-kit)

Please call or email Dorroughby to book your school in for the conference.

Platypus Awareness Day June 26th
Find out more about platypus in your area. Two student leaders from your school are invited to find out more about the issue of platypus being killed in yabby traps. An invite is attached to this newsletter. Open to primary and high schools but a maximum of 50 spaces available. Presenters will include education officers from Dorroughby EEC, Rous Water, Lismore Council and the Department of Primary Industries.

Taronga Zoo Visit to Lismore September
To help understand more about threatened species month Taronga Zoo will be joining forces with Dorroughby EEC to deliver a program on Squirrel Gliders, Koalas and threatened frogs in our area. The program will run for one week during the 9th-13th September and each school can be involved for one day. Activities include an up close encounter with live animals from the zoo, a habitat walk and the opportunity to talk to local frog, squirrel glider and koala experts. Ten schools are able to participate and will be supported with further teaching materials on the three animals and students will be encouraged to make an action plan to help threatened species in their area. Funding is currently being sort to reduce the cost of the visit. If you are interested call the centre and we’ll let you know more details.

School’s Tree Day – Friday 26th July
There are some great resources available on the Planet Ark Website including lesson plans and activities. [http://treeday.planetark.org/schools/](http://treeday.planetark.org/schools/)

Environment = Life
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Ideas for Outdoor learning
Are you still trying to organise a meaningful experience for your Professional Development Day. Dorroughby EEC staff can deliver a course on the benefits of learning out doors at your school. Current research shows there are intellectual and mental benefits for students who learn in the outdoors. Find out more about this research and participate in some outdoor lesson demonstrations. A variety of resources will also be displayed. Contact Christine Freeman at Dorroughby for more information, flyer attached.

Join the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) NSW and get 15 months for the price of 12 months. It’s a great way to increase your professional reading with regular copies of the AEE journal distributed as part of the price. Regular newsletters and teaching ideas emailed monthly. http://www.aaeensw.org.au/

Plants – gotta love ‘em! (they do keep us alive)
From guerrilla gardeners, to seed bio-banking - 10 great talks on plants, http://www.ted.com/playlists/118/plantastic.html

Frog Disease
Find out more about the Chytrid Fungus that is threatening frog in Australia.

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.

Cadbury Fundraiser Community Grants of up to $3,000 can be applied for under the following three grant categories: 1 Community Engagement; 2 Healthy Living; 3 Learning and Development.

Environment = Life
**Schools First Awards** – In 2013 NAB Schools First is introducing key themes which encapsulate the ways in which school-community partnerships are providing students with resources, knowledge and expertise to face the challenges of the twenty-first century. The themes include: Living sustainably/Being active and well/Caring for your community/Embracing diversity/Asia ready/Work ready/Entrepreneurial spirit/Open. Applications close 28 June 2013. More information at www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G05210/info

**Beverage Container Recycling Community Grant of up to $10,000** will resource practical steps to encourage and facilitate “Out & About” recycling programs in Australia at a local community level, provide education on the correct disposal of waste, provide education on cause and effects of recycling and enforce best practice principals in our communities. Applications close 14 June 2013. More information at www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G05379/info

**RESOURCES**

**Cash for containers campaign**

Of the 15 billion drink containers consumed by Australians each year, about 60% is littered or ends up in landfill. A container deposit scheme might just help. Learn the facts and start a debate with your students! www.boomerangalliance.org.au/cash-for-containers.html

**Linking Drama with Sustainability**


*Dorroughby EEC also has a wonderful trained Drama teacher who can come and run a drama activity at your school. Call the centre for more information.*