DORROUGHBY EEC APRIL NEWSLETTER 2014

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

A NEW WATER LAB AT DORROUGHBY

Dorroughby EEC and Rous Water have successfully received funding to develop a 'Hands on Water Laboratory' focussed on inquiry based learning and directly related to the new science curriculum. The Lab will be located at Dorroughby with research stations that provide authentic and experiential ways that students can learn about the water cycle and their role in it. The lab also aims to be a hub for professional development in science education and demonstrate quality teaching. Any interested science teachers are also invited to a consultation meeting at Dorroughby EEC next Wed 7th May 3.30 to ensure our regional needs in science are covered through the project. The Lab should be fully operational by term 3 this year. See attached brochure for more info.

DORROUGHBY ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS CAMP 2014

Due to popular demand the environmental arts camp will run again this year so prepare your students for a fantastic experience. We are aiming to offer the camp mid term 3 and hope to coincide the camp with a special science week event to be held in Lismore for Science Week. The focus will be on using art to help understand science concepts in our natural environment.

OUR VOICE SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE 2014

Planning has already begun for the Student Sustainability Conference to be hosted again by Southern Cross University on the 31st October 2014. Keep this date locked in and have your students think about a concept they would like to present. Check out the updated website at http://scu.edu.au/ourvoice/
FUTURE LEADERS ENVIRONMENT AWARD 2014

The Future Leaders Environment Award recognises Year 12 students who have shown strong environmental leadership and initiative. Australian secondary schools are invited to nominate Year 12 students for the Award. **Prize:** In 2014, the award winners will receive a Fellowship to participate in an Earthwatch Expedition in Australia. [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)

Please send all nominations by 1 July 2014 – electronically: [helen@futureleaders.com.au](mailto:helen@futureleaders.com.au). Future Leaders is a philanthropic initiative about leadership and our future. It seeks to involve, inform and inspire. [www.futureleaders.com.au](http://www.futureleaders.com.au)

THE SUSTAINABILITY STORIES VIDEO CONFERENCE 2014

**TERM 3 - Week 6 and 7 - 18th – 29th AUGUST**

The aim of the festival is to showcase a range of amazing environmental and sustainability education lessons, activities and projects. The festival has two main components: teacher professional learning and student learning sessions. These sessions are either teacher or student-led with a focus on environmental and sustainability education. Sessions run for around 30 minutes including question time. Your school is invited to submit an expression of interest for presenting in the 2014 festival via your connected classrooms video conferencing technology.

**Presenter EOIs are due by the end of Week 1 of Term 2, Friday 2nd May 2014.** Go to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yTN-qjyYOJ532nyGoDzO_F0QIu7Dtm5h4Y0CoW9rws/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yTN-qjyYOJ532nyGoDzO_F0QIu7Dtm5h4Y0CoW9rws/viewform) or find the link on the latest Schoolbiz.

Promotion, publication and bookings for the Festival will begin late Term 2 2014. Professional learning on use of connected classrooms and development of video conference sessions will be offered Term 2.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

**AAEE 2014 National Conference: 2-4 November**

Registration for the 2014 Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference to be held in Hobart, Tasmania is now open! **Guest Speakers:** David W. Orr a well-known environmentalist and author and is active in many areas of environmental studies, including environmental education and environmental design. Paul Gilding author of The Great Disruption and as a keynote speaker on the theme of "Sustainability: Smart Strategies for the 21C."


RESOURCES

**Dorroughby EEC and Rous Water are currently developing a Climate Watch Trail for Rocky Creek Dam.**

ClimateWatch was developed by Earthwatch Australia with the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Melbourne to understand how changes in temperature and rainfall are affecting Australia's plants and animals. You and your school can become regular ClimateWatchers by recording on campus, on the move, or on one of our many ClimateWatch trails in gardens and parks across Australia. It is free and easy to set up a regular ClimateWatch trail at your school, providing students with ways of engaging with biodiversity and technology while contributing data to real scientific research. There are over
190 species to monitor, including birds, plants, reptiles, insects, mammals and marine creatures. Record sightings online, or through the free ClimateWatch smartphone app and help scientists shape Australia’s response to climate change. To get involved, head to the ClimateWatch website here or email climatewatch@earthwatch.org.au.

Release of IPCC Report on Climate Change

YOKOHAMA, Japan, 31 March – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report that says the effects of climate change are already occurring on all continents and across the oceans. The world, in many cases, is ill-prepared for risks from a changing climate. The report also concludes that there are opportunities to respond to such risks, though the risks will be difficult to manage with high levels of warming.

The report, titled Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, from Working Group II of the IPCC, details the impacts of climate change to date, the future risks from a changing climate, and the opportunities for effective action to reduce risks. A total of 309 coordinating lead authors, lead authors, and review editors, drawn from 70 countries, were selected to produce the report. They enlisted the help of 436 contributing authors, and a total of 1,729 expert and government reviewers.

The Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (WGII AR5) is available at www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5 and www.ipcc.ch

International Court of Justice rules in favour of the whales

1 April, 2014 - The International Court of Justice has upheld Australia's bid to ban Japan's Antarctic whaling program. ICJ president Peter Tomka said the court concluded the scientific permits granted by Japan for its whaling program were not scientific research as defined under International Whaling Commission rules.


ECO SCHOOLS GRANT

NSW Environmental Trust grants provide funds for schools to improve their environment, engage with their communities, and offer hands-on environmental learning opportunities for students.

Funding is available for projects, such as:
- water and energy conservation
- waste avoidance and reuse
- outdoor learning areas
- bush regeneration and habitat improvement
- bush tucker, sensory and food gardens

For 2014, there is additional funding for Food Gardens in Schools projects working with children with special needs. To make a start - Read the Eco Schools and Food Gardens in Schools Program Guidelines.

Applications close 5pm Friday 16 May 2014

Contact the Trust by calling (02) 8837 6093 or email info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Environment = Life