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**

**FREE BUS TRAVEL TO DORROUGHBY AND ENVIRONMENTAL VENUES AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS**

Richmond Landcare have available limited excess grant funds that can be used to subsidize transportation (for example bus hire) trips for member group students to visit environmental related field days or workshops before the end of the 2015 calendar year.

The field days/workshops could be (but are not limited to) Ballina Coastcare Flat Rock Project, Tuckombil Landcare Teven Memorial Park Restoration Project, Bulwinkel Landcare Restoration Project Alstonville and DEEC Projects.

If your school group has a project that requires transportation or you would like to visit any of the above mentioned projects please email grants2015[at]richmondlandcare.org or phone Hannah at 02 66190115 with the following details:

- Name of your group
- Contact name, phone and email
- Brief description/location of project
- Estimated month transportation required

NB: this subsidy is only available to RLI member school Landcare groups. Please get in touch if you would like to become a member group of RLI.

**Koala Education Program at Dorroughby**

Koalas are under threat from habitat loss, disease, predation from dogs and fatalities on roads. Habitat has been cleared and fragmented. Students from six local schools have been participating in a koala awareness program at Dorroughby EEC in conjunction with Friends of the Koala. Students have been participating in direct actions to help local Koala populations including propagating Koala habitat trees, planting and developing resource materials that will contribute to increasing community awareness about koalas and improving the extent of Koala habitat in Lismore. Student findings and presentations about koala’s will be displayed at Lismore City Library later this year. If your school is also interested in learning about Koalas contact Dorroughby EEC to discuss a program.
New Bore Water Testing Station for Water Lab at Dorroughby

Last month a bore was drilled for our water lab, with water being found 25m down. Students visiting the water lab will be able to investigate water quality of the bore and discuss the use of groundwater for our water supply. Students will also be able to view a soil profile taken from samples during drilling and relate water depth to weather data from our new weather station. Ballina council will also be sponsoring a new waste water station for the lab.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Plugging into Nature: Learning Outside the Classroom with iPads 14th July at Dorroughby EEC

Plugging into nature will provide participants with practical ideas and pedagogical approaches for using ipads outside and inside the classroom. By blending natural experiences with the authentic use of technology it’s possible to create learning experiences that are highly engaging, support cross curriculum priorities and contribute to quality learning outcomes. This one day course will contribute 20 hours towards BOSTES registered professional development with a minimal cost of $30 per teacher. Presenters will include apple distinguished educators from Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre in Sydney as well as film and media lecturers form Southern Cross University. Participants can use their skills to enter their class in the Arts Vs Science video completion at Lismore in August (see information below). See attachments for a course outline.

Working Scientifically: Implementing Science Investigations in Your Classroom.

Dorroughby EEC and Rous Water will be delivering BOSTES approved science professional learning in Term 4 this year or on a professional development day agreed upon by your school. The workshop is designed to provide teachers with practical tools and strategies to assist them to implement the new NSW science and technology curriculum. The workshop aims to help to increase teacher confidence to deliver effective science investigations through a series of open-ended, experiential, challenge-based science activities in Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre Hands-On-H20 teaching and learning laboratory. Participants will come to realise that the scientific process is a circular process that often results in further investigations and testing of ideas. Participants will follow the teacher-learner cycle as they familiarise with templates for scientific investigation and fairness testing. Please contact Christine Freeman at Dorroughby EEC for further information.

The Nature of Learning: Free Webinar

Early childhood – Secondary teachers will learn how time in nature helps improve academic performance, concentration, creativity and self esteem in children and teens. Also receive practical advice about Schools Tree Day and how to embed whole school sustainability principles into daily teaching. Requires a computer or mobile device with internet. Register planetark.org/thenatureoflearning. Register early to receive win a $200 fitbit.

EVENTS & ACTIONS

Dorroughby Environmental Arts Camp

Our Arts Camp is on again in August from Monday 10 -12th Wednesday. Selected year 5 and 6 students from local schools will be invited to attend a visual and performing arts camp at Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre. Students will visit Rocky Creek Dam and create art on site at DEEC over three days with professional artist from the northern rivers. They will create individual and group art works and have an opportunity to

Environment = Life
exhibit in Lismore later in the month as part of the Northern Rivers Science Hub Art Vs Science Festival August 22. For application forms for 2015 please contact DEEC on 66895286 or email us at dorroughby-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au

**Science V’s Art Local Video Competition – Fantastic Prizes!**
The Northern Rivers Science Hub is running a Schools Art and Video Competition for National Science Week. Students are invited to create artworks in any medium that communicates a sustainability, science concept or bright idea. Artworks will be exhibited and judged during the Arts Science Festival at Lismore Hall 22nd August. Prizes include a free day excursion to Dorroughby EEC, a 128 gig iPad Mini (with retina) donated by **Powermax Computers Lismore**, primary science resources from Primary Connections and art teaching materials. See attached document for more information.

**Our Voice: Sustainability Conference for Young People by Young People**
Held at Southern Cross University - Lismore campus and Gold Coast campus Friday 30 October 2015 from 10am to 2.00pm
The aim of Our Voice is to provide a platform for children and young people to voice their concerns and ideas relating to sustainability and the environment in regional Australia, in particular the Northern Rivers. The conference welcomes students from preschool (children aged three to four) through to junior secondary (students up to 17 years). We encourage seminars with drama, music, puppetry, discussion forums, story telling, video, and/or participatory workshops to share, discuss and stimulate ideas. The emphasis of Our Voice is to spark conversation through the exchange of diverse perspectives, ideas and experience. There will also be a gallery display for children and young people to voice their concerns and ideas (this will be in the form of posters, photographs, models or artwork). Register your school on line at [http://scu.edu.au/ourvoice/index.php](http://scu.edu.au/ourvoice/index.php)

**Wompoo Gorge Field Day** Thursday May 28th from 9am to 12 pm
Celebrating seven years of lowland rainforest restoration! Join us and see the amazing transformation from dense lantana to rainforest.

- See restoration of lowland rainforest - habitat for over 27 threatened species.

- Hear how professional bush regenerators and Green Army teams restore rainforest together.

- Meet at the end of Upper Coopers Creek Road, parking before closed gate.
For further details and to register for the workshop contact: Georgina Jones at EnviTE on 02 66272800 or georginaj@envite.org.au

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Lismore City Council: ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME NOW OPEN**

Applications are now open for Council's new and improved community grants process, which has replaced the complex Section 356 Donations system and instead creates one simple annual funding round. There are three funding categories in the 2015/16 Annual Community Grants Scheme that community organisations can apply for:

Category 1: $500 - $2000     Category 2: $2000 - $5000     Category 3: $5000 - $10,000
Community groups have until 4pm on 21 May to apply for the Annual Community Grants Scheme.


**TEACHERS MUTUAL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS**

Applications for environmental projects up to $2000 are offered bi-annually with round two open now and closing on the 3rd July. Apply now [https://www.tmbank.com.au/community/creating-a-better-tomorrow](https://www.tmbank.com.au/community/creating-a-better-tomorrow)