



ENVIR NEWS



Issue 7 - Autumn 2009

An initiative of the City of Ryde

City of Ryde

The year is in full swing with exciting sustainability projects within schools around Ryde already occurring! This issue is packed with information so enjoy reading about some great Environmental Programs.



Enviro Dates for 2009

Earth Hour	28 March
National Youth Week	5 April
Earth Day	22 April
Fair Trade Fortnight	2-17 May
Walk Safely to School Day	15 May
International Day for Biological Diversity	22 May
World Environment Day	5 June
World Oceans Day	8 June
World Population Day	11 July
Schools Tree Day	31 July
National Tree Day	2 Aug
National Science Week	15-23 Aug
Keep Australia Beautiful Week	24-30 Aug
National Threatened Species Day	7 Sept
International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	16 Sept
Clean Up the World Weekend	19 Sept
Walk to Work Day	2 Oct
World Teachers Day	5 Oct
World Habitat Day	6 Oct
World Food Day	16 Oct
National Recycling Week	9 Nov
Buy Nothing Day	28 Nov
Coastcare Week	1-7 Dec
International Mountain Day	11 Dec



Waste Watchers visits schools across Ryde!

Waste Watchers run by Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, is one of the State's leading environmental education programs. Starting in April, the Catchment Chronicles and Water Welfare modules are being run across schools in the Ryde council area. This term 17 schools have signed up for the interactive and fun programs sponsored by City of Ryde.



For workshops on waste education, call Council's Waste Education Officer, **Tori Quine** on 9952 8267.

Next Meeting:
The next REEN meeting will held around the last week in May. Come along and enjoy an afternoon tea and see what is happening with REEN in 2009.
Keep an eye on your email for notification of the meeting. If your school would like to host a REEN meeting, please call
Jim Fraser on 9952 8247



Please Recycle Me



Australian Association for Environmental Education Inc



Early Childhood AUSTRALIA INC ... voice for young children

Case Study: The Backyard Boys Project

An Environmental Initiative Supporting Boys Education

Who are the Backyard Boys?

Stage 2 (Yrs 3/4) are divided into 3 groups for Guided Reading sessions

1. Boys group (middle to low ability)
2. Girls group (middle to low ability)
3. Mixed group (high ability)

The 28 boys from the boys group are 'The Backyard Boys'

Why the Backyard Boys Project?

- Boys Education was an Inner West Cluster focus for 2007
- Was an engaging way of motivating boys to enjoy reading
- Got them involved in hands on tasks that were significant to their everyday world
- Extensive support from parents who had 'green thumbs'



What has been the impact?

- The boys have loved it!
- Improved reading results
- Less playground waste: Success of 'Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge'
- Beautiful school gardens
- Has taught them to be responsible and has raised their (and the school's) awareness about practical ways to care for our environment
- Project has taken on other forms (The Garden Girls, The Backyard Guru's and the involvement of the mixed maths group)

Case Study by:

St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Meadowbank

Teacher Contact: **Kylie Griffiths**

kylie.griffiths@smpsmeadowbank.catholic.edu.au



What happened?

- The Backyard Boys researched landscaping and basic gardening to design and create a garden under our gum tree (school crest)
- The Backyard Boys also researched documentary film-making skills to create an accompanying DVD documenting the process (in the style of Backyard Blitz)
- The Backyard Boys researched information and sought expert advice to establish a worm farm, 2 compost tumblers and maintain the garden from last year.
- The Backyard Boys also explored concepts related to visual literacy when packaging and selling the Worm Wee at this year's Fete.





WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2009



The theme for WED 2009 is **'Your Planet Needs You-UNite to Combat Climate Change'**. It reflects the urgency for nations to agree on a new deal at the crucial climate convention meeting in Copenhagen some 180 days later in the year, and the links with overcoming poverty and improved management of forests. REEN will be promoting WED with activities including a **Waste to Art** competition - for more information Call Waste Education Officer, **Tori Quine on 9952 8267**.

GO ACTIVE 2 SCHOOL

Go Active 2 School is a project that targets parents and children to take active forms of travel to and from school. This is a new and innovative project which aims to help students to walk safely to school on a regular basis. The Go Active 2 School project is currently being piloted at Holy Spirit School in North Ryde and St Charles in Ryde. The City of Ryde and Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service have been working on the project since October 2007 through funding received from NSW Health.

The Go Active 2 School project aims to increase the number of children walking to and/or from school on a regular basis and has developed resources that will assist children/parents to plan their walking journeys to and/or from school. The Go Active 2 School resource kits focuses on the idea of developing an informative and practical resource that will assist children/parents to plan their walking journeys to and/or from school.

Supplied to the pilot schools are resource kits which contain material which help in assisting the child's trip to school. Such resources include, Transport Access Guides (TAG), water bottle, pedometer and vests among others. The TAG's provide information about various routes to and from school. It contains drop off points, safe walking routes and useful transport information.

As a result of this project we hope to reduce; the amount of congestion in and around schools, increase incidental physical activity for students and their parents, reduce carbon emissions through reduction in car travel, increase the safety of students travelling to school through a reduction in the amount of traffic, create changes in the physical environment around the school and encourage positive behavioural changes for students and parents travelling actively to school.

We are looking for new schools that are keen to implement strong active travel messages in their school. If your school is interested please let us know by contacting:

Alex on p: 9858 7734 e: afox@nssccahs.health.nsw.gov.au or Emily, City of Ryde on p: 9952 8302 e: eburgess@ryde.nsw.gov.au

Go Active 2 School Criteria:

- Primary school must be located in the Ryde LGA
- School should have an interested party of people willing to work on the project. We would prefer that this group include members of the school community such as: principal, teaching staff, P&C members and/or interested parents.

Grants for Your School

NSW Environmental Trust Eco Schools Grants. Up to \$2500 per school is available. Workshops on applying for a grant will be held 5th May in the CBD or on the 11th May in Parramatta. A video link workshops will also be held. More information visit the Environmental Trust website



Sydney Water Kids Design Challenge

Focus on water conservation



Who can enter: Classes in Stage 2
Contact: Susan Harriman, Kids' Design Challenge coordinator
Email: susan.harriman@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.ptc.nsw.edu.au/kdc

Water in your built environment...
The KDC SydneyWater Challenge for 2009 asks Stage 2 students to critically examine their local built environment and propose changes to improve it.

Students will:

- ◇ focus on evaluating water use in their school or local built environment
- ◇ design changes to reduce water use
- ◇ develop water saving strategies.

Classes will work with experts to help students understand and value water. Online contact with industry specialists and expert teachers is provided through the Kids' Design Challenge website at www.ptc.nsw.edu.au/kdc

Students will receive feedback from architects and expert teachers on their final proposals. The challenge will celebrate the outstanding achievements of students by exhibiting successful solutions on www.ptc.nsw.edu.au/kdc and at the KDC SydneyWater Celebration.

Register by 1st June 2009

Quote of the Moment:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Anthropologist Margaret Mead

Interesting Websites

<http://co2nnect.org/>

The CO2nnect activities are designed to support learning that can provide pupils with abilities, skills, attitudes and awareness as well as knowledge and understanding of climate change issues.

Welcome Tori!

Tori Quine, Council's new Waste Education Officer has an Env. Sci Degree, Teaching Degree and been a teacher for the last 6 years.

She is keen to hear from teachers who'd like their school to have a Waste Education Workshop and/or have the Waste Education Trailer to come to their school. She also wants to give a free worm farm to any schools that have not already had one donated by Council. See her contact details below.

Contact Us

Write to REEN's coordinators at:

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Submissions are welcome.

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