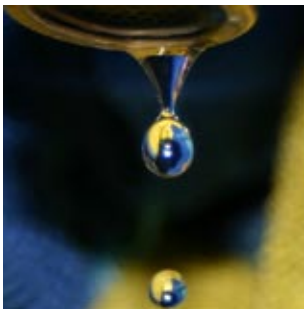


REEN Newsletter

Ryde Environmental
Education Network
(REEN)

March 2011



Contents

Welcome to the REEN Newsletter's March 2011 Edition. This newsletter explores a plethora of cost-free REEN workshops, shows and other activities for Terms 1 and 2.

They included a Schools Eco Food Gardens Program, Schools Clean Up Australia Day activities, The Last Drop Show and Workshops, the Clean Up Your Act Show and a Waste to Art Workshop. Places are limited – so book soon.

It also includes recent REEN highlights and details of the next REEN meeting. Enjoy!



Launch Meeting 2010

School Eco Food Garden Program Pg 2

A series of student and staff workshops exploring hands-on environmental education on preparing, planting and maintaining school fruit and vegetable gardens.

The Last Drop Show and Workshops Pg 5

This engaging and non-didactic theatrical presentation and workshop program focuses on issues about water as is told through the eyes of colourful local characters.

Clean Up Australia Day Pg 6

Hundreds of schools will be participating in this event on Friday the 4th March and be making a difference!

Clean up your Act - A Water-bug Adventure Pg 8

This program offers a theatrical show that explores the story of Matilda and the Pollutalots as they discover ways in which we impact our rivers and creeks through stormwater.

Booking Form Pg 10-11

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/reen

School Eco Food Garden Program

This program provides practical student workshops for both primary and high school students on the principles and practice of organic food gardens. The program also provides a teacher professional development day on the topic.

Please see the booking sheet at the end to make a booking or call 9952 8104.

Student Workshops

Primary Schools

Teachers can choose from either a 1 hour (preferable for under 7 year olds) or 2 hour workshop.

The workshops can be specifically tailored to your school's needs and are based on the principles of organic and bio-dynamic practices. There is a focus on age appropriateness and an experiential and creative learning experience. It incorporates promoting awareness of seasonality, soils, water-cycles and catchments, plant growth, composting and gardening. The sessions provide urban based students with a connection to the natural origins and needs of their food production.

The workshops are facilitated by Diane Watkins of Biodynamics Sydney who has over 20 years teaching experience in the Steiner school system.

Diane can source and provide all required garden materials for schools. In addition up to \$100 worth of materials will be funded by the program for each school.

For details on workshop content please call Diane Watkin on 9550 1682.

Biodynamics Sydney



City of Ryde





High Schools

Teachers can choose from either a 2 hour or 4 hour workshop. The longer workshops allow for a greater practical emphasis on establishing a garden.

You can choose to use the same facilitator as the primary series i.e. Diane Watkin from Biodynamics Sydney or one of two facilitators noted below:

Penny Pyett, Permaculture Sydney North (PSN)

Penny has over 12 years experience teaching Permaculture Design at Ryde College of TAFE and the community sector. She is the Local Groups Coordinator of the not-for-profit Permaculture Sydney North (PSN) group and has facilitated many courses and workshops. PSN has been operating for 19 years and has a vibrant membership of over 500 members. Penny also teaches school and community gardens courses through TAFE outreach where she facilitates groups to design and develop their own school community gardens based on Permaculture.

Web permaculturenorth.org.au/

Contact 9888 2575 or 1300 887 145

Email pennypyett@hotmail.com



Steve Batley, Sydney Organic Gardens

Steve Batley is a Landscape Architect and Permaculture Designer with 20 years experience establishing and managing productive organic gardens. As director of Sydney Organic Gardens Steve with his team are transforming landscapes throughout Sydney with the vision of creating a healthy sustainable future. Projects have included community gardens, school gardens, public open space and residential properties. For the past five years Steve has been running workshops on sustainable organic gardening and permaculture for council ratepayers and schools.

Workshop Content

In consultation with school teachers, classes can choose from a wide range of topics which are based around the process of designing, building and caring for a vegetable garden. Depending on the topics selected, after the workshops students will be able to:

- list the things plants need to grow,
- describe the best place to put a vegetable garden,
- draw a soil profile and list the thing you find in healthy soil,
- make a fast compost heap and describe how to manage it,
- make potting mix, plant a seed and look after it,
- plant out a vegetable garden with seedlings and seeds,
- effectively and efficiently water a garden,
- list the 5 steps of integrated pest management,
- harvest food plants and eat them
- harvest seeds and store them.

Each 2 hour workshop will cover 2-3 topics, a four hour workshop 4-5 topics.

Broad environmental considerations like water conservation and catchment management, food miles and biodiversity will be weaved through the content.

Web www.sydneyorganicgardens.com.au/index.html

Contact 1300 760 727

Email info@sydneyorganicgardens.com.au



Eco Food Gardens Teacher Professional Development Workshop



A teacher professional development workshop facilitated by Paula Granelli from Perm Up will be held at a local school or community facility on Wednesday the 18th of May, 2011. If your school is interested in hosting the workshop please see the

booking form at the end of this booklet or call 9952 8104. The workshop will be held from 9.30am to 3.00pm with lunch and refreshments provided. A half day option is also available. The program will fund casual teacher replacements up to the value of \$200 per teacher if required. All materials are provided.

The workshop will cover:

- Soil structure & improvement
- Composting
- Worm Farming
- Water Harvesting
- Mulching
- Seed and seedling raising
- Seed Saving
- What to plant when and where
- A pesticide-free approach
- Building a no-dig garden bed
- Planting & Care
- Garden Maintenance & the lifecycle



Web www.permup.com/

Contact 0402 064 832

Email info@permup.com



Northern Sydney Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge 2010

Congratulations to the five Ryde Area Primary Schools who took part in the 2010 Northern Sydney Region Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge. Ryde had the largest number of schools participating with nearly a third coming from our area.

In addition to the impressive participation rate in the Ryde area, the judging panel was particularly impressed with the quality of reports and promotional strategies employed by our schools. These included blogs, youtube videos, in class writing exercises, and the involvement of school SRC and environment club members.

The winning honours went to schools in Manly, Warringah, and Willoughby Council areas. The encouragement award was rewarded to Manly Village Public School. This school recognised that the majority of their waste was being generated by disposable containers being distributed by their school canteen. They are now implementing a plan to reduce the amount of food packaging available at school.

Thank you to the challenge coordinators at the five participating REEN schools - St Charles Primary School, Putney Public School, Ryde East Public School, Truscott Street Primary School, and Meadowbank Primary School.

The Last Drop

Presented by Thor Blomfield of Leapfish Environmental Education

The Last Drop is a non didactic, fun and engrossing performance about local waterways. The ghost of Granny Smith visits the present day and is joined by a range of colourful characters to explore why water matters. The show incorporates magic, juggling and audience participation.

The Last Drop is followed by workshops which explore the issues raised in the show.

The Last Drop Program explores stormwater and pollution, the concept of a catchment, water quality and cycles and the importance of water conservation. It also explores local flora and fauna and eco-systems.

The program has been tailored to local schools with information on local issues and initiatives. It includes teacher resources and activities with curriculum links.



Teacher Feedback

“The show was powerful and effectively transmitted the message of water conservation and environmental preservation to our students.”

John Spargo, Ringrose Public School

“The show was highly effective at engaging students and communicating its message at an age appropriate level. It was enjoyable, fun and above all educational. The presenter showed quality interactions with the students and encouraged them to become proactive in working towards a common goal of saving the planet.”

Laura Stolzenhein, Hannans Road Public School

“Effective means of conveying water saving message to students - students were engrossed.”

Olga Sofiolakes, Wiley Park Public School

“Excellent presentation of science concepts and their relevance to conservation of the environment, primarily water.”

Amanda Ronero, Bossley Parl Public School

“The students gained a lot of information from the show and were able to demonstrate how much they learnt in the workshop afterwards.”

Kevin Short, Fairvale Public School

The Last Drop has been presented to over 10,000 students in 40 schools. Evaluation of the program through the NSW Government Water for Life Program and the University of New England provided evidence that the Last Drop Program had a favourable impact on water conservation behaviour. 90% of students demonstrated increased knowledge of practical actions to reduce water consumption and the program resulted in a 7% reduction in water consumption in student's families. The program also links to the HSIE part of the K-6 curriculum for Primary Schools and the geography, science and mathematics curriculum for year 7 and 8 High School students.

What it involves:

A 45 minute show for the school assembly, (or requested classes) and two 30 minute workshops. The program is available for students from K to Year 8 i.e. Stage 1-4.

The Last Drop



About Leapfish Environmental Education

Leapfish was formed in May 2003 with a mission to energise people to look after the planet for future generations. Leapfish believes that environmental education should be:

- Positive and inspiring
- Based on the latest scientific information
- Create new stories and narratives
- Create a high level of participation
- Be practical, achievable and outcome driven

The presenter, Thor Blomfield is an experienced performer and environmental educator who has created a range of award winning programs.

See www.leapfish.com.au for more information about the presenter and Leapfish programs.

See the form at the end to make a booking or call 9952 8104. For details of content and logistics contact Thor Blomfield on 0406 718 492 or email thor@leapfish.com.au



Other Environmental Education Initiatives for Schools:

- www.australianmuseum.net.au/event/Fashion-Less-Waste-2011-Birds-of-Paradise
- www.fieldofmar-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/
- www.sustainable.schools.nsw.edu.au/
- www.sustainablecommunities.lgsa.org.au



Schools Clean Up Australia Day

Friday 4th March 2011

Schools that have registered at www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au will receive the following:

- A schools clean up kit, containing: rubbish and recycling bags, gloves, posters, certificates and much more
- Your own unique school's clean up day webpage
- Access to Educational Resources including: Schools Climate Kit (including state based lesson plans for teachers) and Clean Up The River - an Interactive Recycling Game.

Last year's Clean Up involved more than 470,000 students across 2,100 schools Australia wide. Inspiring children to care for the environment is a vital part of Clean Up Australia. Since 1992 Schools Clean Up Day has allowed school students to participate in Clean Up Australia as part of their school community.

Together, we CAN make a difference!





Interpretive Signs

Thanks to the classes that participated in the Water Sensitive Urban Design Interpretive Signs Workshops. Your artworks are included in the signs located at Meadowbank Station, Meadowbank Park and Looking Glass Bay.

For upcoming Catchment Connections activities including guided nature walks and workshops see <http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/catchmentconnections>

Student artworks on water conservation and stormwater protection



Waste to Art Workshop

The Waste to Art Workshop was held on Saturday 26th February 2011, many thanks to all the schools that participated.

For more information, please contact the Waste Communications Officer at City of Ryde on 9952 8246.



Waste Watchers Workshops

The Waste Watchers, Wide World of Waste and Mechanics of Organics and Sustainability Sleuths modules were presented in Term 4 last year to St Kevin's Eastwood PS, Meadowbank PS, Eastwood PS, Ryde PS, Truscott PS, Eastwood Heights and West Ryde PS.



'Clean up your Act' - A Water-bug Adventure

Presented by Micheal Connor and others of Theatre in a Wheelbarrow

There is plenty of audience participation, and just a little humour, in this colourful and entertaining performance by the Theatre in a Wheelbarrow team from the Discovery Centre, Wollongong Botanic Garden.

This is a hilarious and sometimes sad underwater, and above water, adventure, of the lives of those little inhabitants of our creeks and streams - the water bugs.

You will get to meet the tolerant water bugs, Mr Leech, Skate and Diver Dan. You may even see the more sensitive Mud Eyes, Whirly and Yabby. Also be prepared to meet Matilda Pollutealot and her insensitive family.

The home of the water bugs is not so fresh; in fact it's rather polluted. Who did it? Can it be fixed?

Enjoy the adventure but be prepared to take a long hard look at how you treat your stormwater-perhaps you are part of the problem? You can certainly be part of the solution. You just need to clean up your act...



About Theatre in a Wheelbarrow

Environmental theatre, written and produced at Wollongong Botanic Gardens including interactive, educational, entertaining and award winning plays. The producer, Micheal Conner, is a professional teacher with around 25 years of teaching experience including school teaching, university teaching (BEd. course in EnvEd) and working as an Educator for Wollongong Botanic Gardens.



The plays usually run for 45 minutes. To make a booking please see the next page or call 9952 8104. For questions on the detailed content or logistics please call Micheal Conner on 0418 422 717.





Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN)

Term 1 2011 Meeting

You are invited to attend the Term 1 meeting REEN. Learn about Clean Up Australia's school's resources, Catchment Connection's EcoKids program, LeapFish Environmental Education programs and Free Eco-Garden workshops offered to all schools and teachers.

Guest Speakers

- Thor Blomfield - LeapFish Environmental Education
- Diane Watkins - Biodynamics Sydney
- Ben Eadie - Catchment Connections EcoKids Program
- Marshall Thurlow - Clean Up Australia
- Paula Granelli - Perm Up

Wednesday 2nd March 2011

4-6pm Truscott Street Primary School Staff Room
Truscott Street, North Ryde Refreshments provided.

Agenda

3:45pm General Networking and Refreshments

4:00pm **Welcome Nilushi Disanayake and Helen Kerley**

4:15pm **Clean Up Australia's School's Resources Marshall Thurlow**
Learn about CUA's resources including School's Clean Up Australia Day.

4:25pm **EcoGarden Workshop Program Diane Watkins**
Overview of school's ecogarden workshops available to schools in terms 1 and 2.

4:45pm **Catchment Connection's EcoKids Program - Ben Eadie**
An unique school's EMS, environmental auditing, planning and support service with a staff and student education day.

5:10pm **The Last Drop - Thor Blomfield**
This engaging theatrical presentation and workshop series focus's on water issues.

5:30pm **EcoGarden Professional Development Session - Paula Granelli**
A full or half day professional development session for teachers interested in creating food gardens using permaculture principles.

REEN Provides...

- Networking Opportunities
- Environmental Curriculum Delivery Support
- Environmental Education Workshops and Events
- Guest Speakers
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Regular Newsletters and Forum
- Environmental Education Resources for educators working within the City of Ryde area.

To register for our mailing list, further information or to RSVP please email hkerley@ryde.nsw.gov.au or ndisanayake@ryde.nsw.gov.au or call 9952 8247

RSVP not essential but helpful for catering

REEN Website and previous minutes
<http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/environment/schoolenv.htm>

Youth Environment Prize

Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 Youth Environment Prize!
Details of the upcoming 2011 competition will be posted on <http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/yep>



Workshop Bookings

Booking Form

Name and Title

Phone

Email

Address

Postcode

School Name

Schools can book more than one program each where spaces are available.

For all general enquiries or phone bookings please call 9952 8104.

School Eco Food Garden Program Student Workshops

Preferred Term

Term 1 Term 2

Preferred Dates

(Please indicate preferences or restrictions regarding booking dates here).

Please tick the appropriate boxes.

Primary School

1 hour workshop (recommended for under 7 year olds) 2 hour workshop

No. of classes

1 Number of students

2 Number of students

Other Number of students

High School

Facilitator

Diane Watkins, Biodynamics Sydney

Penny Pyett, Permaculture Sydney North (PSN)

Steve Batley, Sydney Organic Gardens

Duration

2 hour workshop 4 hour (half day) workshop

Eco Food Gardens Teacher Professional Development Workshop

Full Day (9.30am-3pm with lunch provided)

Half Day (9.30am – noon)

Yes, my school requires teacher replacement funding*.

No, my school does not require teacher replacement funding.

No. of teachers attending _____

(This may be limited to allow more schools to participate).

Expression of interest in hosting Workshop

Yes, our school is interested in hosting the Workshop

Date Wednesday the 18th of May, 2011

Facilitator Paula Granelli, Perm Up – Permaculture Solutions

For enquiries regarding detailed content and logistics please contact the relevant facilitator. Contact details for facilitators can be found on pages 3-4. Please note to contact the facilitator for questions regarding tailoring the workshops to your school's needs and material requirements**.

*Funding of up to \$200 per teacher is available for covering the costs of replacement casuals.

An invoice addressed to the City of Ryde will need to be provided.

**Materials up to the value of \$100 will also be funded by the program.

The Last Drop

Presented by Thor Blomfield of Leapfish Environmental Education

Preferred Term

Term 1 Term 2

Preferred Dates _____

(Please indicate preferences or restrictions regarding booking dates here).

For further enquires about the program content details and logistics please contact Thor Blomfield on 0406 718 492 or email thor@leapfish.com.au.

'Clean up your Act' - A Water-bug Adventure

Presented by Micheal Connor and others of Theatre in a Wheelbarrow

Preferred Term

Term 1 Term 2

Preferred Dates _____

(Please indicate preferences or restrictions regarding booking dates here).

For further enquires about the program content details and logistics please contact Micheal Connor on 0418 422 717 or email MConnor@wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

**This form can be faxed to: City of Ryde, Attn: Environment Unit, 02 9952 8111
or posted to: Environment Unit, Locked Bag 2069 North Ryde NSW 1670.**



**For bookings or general enquiries
please call 9952 8104 or 9952 8247**



City of Ryde Council
Civic Centre, Devlin Street, Ryde NSW 2112
Telephone 9952 8222 Fax 9952 8111
www.ryde.nsw.gov.au