

Welcome to a new edition of KLA. The Port Stephens Council Environmental Education team is keen on helping you integrate environmental education into school programs and activities. Here is some helpful information.

Important Information on Awards & Grants

Unfortunately, only three entries were received for this years Port Stephens Schools Environmental Awards - thank you to Bobs Farm, Iona and Grahamstown. These schools will be rewarded for their effort.

Instead of the Awards this year our major sponsor, Tomago Aluminium, has agreed that their sponsorship be put toward extra grant funds for schools to undertake environmental projects. This should lead to some great applications for the 2009 Schools Environmental Awards.

Given this, from January to June 2009, up to **\$500** is available to schools for environmental projects and activities, instead of the usual \$300. Schools will need to apply during this period to be eligible for the \$500, otherwise the amount will be \$300.

For those schools who have not applied for a Schools Environmental Grant this calendar year, you still have this term to get your applications in, so don't miss out. With the \$300 from this year and the \$500 from next year you should be able to undertake some great little projects.

Application forms are available on council's website at www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/environment/1275/1328 or by emailing melinda.anderson@portstephens.nsw.gov.au.

Grants

Don't forget, through the Junior Landcare Grants Program, any school that would like to involve their students in landcare projects can apply for grants to assist them with the costs of their projects. Included under this program are the:

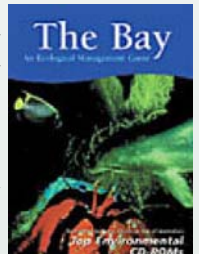
- ◆ Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant - up to \$1,000 for projects like creating native gardens or indigenous bushfood gardens, planting native flora and encouraging native animals to return to the area.
- ◆ Australia Post Junior Landcare Biodiversity Grant - up to \$500 for biodiversity projects.
- ◆ VISY Junior Landcare Recycling Grant - up to \$1,000 for recycling and waste reduction projects.

For more information and application forms go to www.juniorlandcare.com. Also, check out the Case Study on Albert Park Primary School and their grant to build a frog habitat in a local park.

Teacher Resources

WEEDS ATTACK is a multimedia school resource developed by DET to educate children about the threats weeds pose to Australia's environment, and supports the Weed Warriors bitou bush program. Copies are available by phoning 1800 028 374 or can be downloaded from www.tale.edu.au.

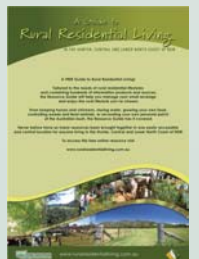
The BAY is an educational CD-ROM dealing with the management of water quality in a bay. You tackle five major problems which are randomly selected, including a freak storm, dying penguins, algal blooms, pollution and killer starfish. The aim is to finish with the Bay as healthy as (or healthier than) when you start. During the game, you become acquainted with concepts such as ecosystems, food webs, biological indicators, toxicant, introduced species, sewerage and stormwater systems. Visit www.sustainableinsight.com.au/shop/the-bay-an-ecological-managementgame.



The **Rocky Shores Resource Kit** was developed by Newcastle City Council and is a great resource for schools. Download and use the components of the resource kit, they include sections on: Aboriginal uses; intertidal algae; birds; caring for our coast; crabs; geology; intertidal animals; and shells and pebbles. Visit www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/ep_resources.

Please note that **Port Stephens Council** has some more locally relevant information, so if you are interested please contact Melinda Anderson.

Rural Residential Living is a new resource that may be of interest to schools and communities in rural residential areas. It brings together information and resources to assist residents enjoy a rural lifestyle. Content includes information on keeping chickens and livestock, dealing with neighbour's dogs, storing water, growing your own food, controlling weeds and feral animals, and creating habitat. It can be accessed at www.ruralresidentliving.com.au. CD versions are also available, just contact Melinda Anderson. A paper version of the Guide is available for viewing at Councils Administration Building in Raymond Terrace and all of Council Libraries.



What else is happening locally?



2009 is not too far away and the **Coastcare Summer Festival** will once again be happening in the Port Stephens area throughout January. Keep your eyes open in the media or visit our website for dates and activities. Activities will include rockpool rambles, geology and heritage walks, science of the surf presentations, koala walks and snorkeling. Visit www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/environment/1275/64668.

The next **Port Stephens Marine Discovery Series** will

be something a bit different. Jason Morton will give a presentation on sex changing Wrasses found in most coastal waters, including Port Stephens. The presentation will be held on Thursday 20 November, 6.30 - 8pm, at the Tomaree Library and Community Centre.



Back by popular demand is Teresa Rutherford from Sydney to deliver two **Non-toxic Cleaning Workshops** under Council's Sustainable Living program. These workshops are hands-on, informative and fun. They are designed to encourage people to rethink their attitudes and behaviours towards the use of chemical cleaning agents in and around the home.

For more information on the above activities contact Melinda Anderson.

Wildlife Rescue

Change of Phone Number

The Native Animal Trust Fund (Inc) has changed its emergency rescue phone number to

0418 628 483

or

0418 NAT IVE

This wildlife rescue service is always seeking new volunteers to assist in the rescue or rehabilitation of injured wildlife in the Hunter Region. For further information go to www.hunterwildlife.org.au or call the rescue number. Council has available printed cards (business card size) with this new number. They are great to put in your glove box. Contact Melinda Anderson if you would like some for your school.



Waste and Recycling Tours

Port Stephens is home to Australia's first environmentally responsible domestic waste processing plant. The Bedminster Composting plant uses innovative alternative waste technology to compost the material from domestic RED garbage bins.



The resulting compost is sold as a soil conditioner and fertilizer. Tours of Bedminster, as well as the decommissioned landfill site (King Park) are available for high school groups Mondays - Wednesday. For bookings phone Cathy Seberry on 4980 0134.

Ever wondered what happens to your recycling and how it gets sorted? Tours of the Recycling facility at Thornton are also available for high school students and will take them on a behind-the-scenes look at these operations. For enquiries phone Diana Korving on 4983 2824.

National Recycling Week

This year National Recycling Week runs from 10-16th November 2008. On Planet Arks website www.planetark.com.au, you will find fascinating factsheets on recycling and educational games for kids and teachers.

The story of paper

The earliest crude form of paper was made in Egypt as early as 2000 BC. Egyptians used the 20 fine layers of fibre found inside the stem of papyrus to use as paper. However, the art of papermaking actually comes from China in about 150 AD. The Chinese used a type of mulberry tree similar to the one used to feed silkworms. The process included soaking and boiling the branches, working it by hand into a pulp and then beating it with a mallet into a finer pulp. Rice and a root called oveni was then mixed with the pulp. A sheet was formed by dipping a type of deckle through the mix and letting it dry. This method was 'stolen' from the Chinese by the Arabs in about 704 AD who then passed it onto Western Europe.

Our paper today is made from the Radiata pine tree. It takes 1 tree to make nearly 17 reams of photocopying paper! Some specialty papers can be made from rice, hemp and even elephant poo.

More than 1.6 million tonnes of waste paper is collected in Australia each year. Recycling this paper saves having to bury this waste and saves one sixth of the energy to make the new paper. About half of the fibre used in Australia to make paper is from recycled paper. Unfortunately we import about half of our paper needs from overseas and this may not come from sustainable forests or be recycled paper.

To help, you can recycle as much paper as you can in your wheellie bin. Just don't include paper which has had food on it, shredded paper; tissues, toilet paper or paper towels. Put those in your red bin.

Contact Us

Would you like to share your stories, ideas and photos? We can put them in the next edition of KLA. Please contact Melinda Anderson on Ph 4980 0251 or email melinda.anderson@portstephens.nsw.gov.au. For assistance in specific areas, contact the following people:

Waste Minimisation Cathy Ph 4980 0134
Recycling (Solo) Diana Ph 4983 2824
Vegetation & Weeds Anthony Ph 4980 0157

Funding, Enviro Issues, Sustainability Melinda Ph 4980 0251
Native Animals Native Animal Trust Fund Ph 0418 628 483