

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.

## Increase in Schools Environmental Grants

For the first half of this year Council has increased the amount offered to schools under the Schools Environmental Grants program to \$500. From the 1 July 2009, the funding available will revert back to \$300.

Unfortunately, the 2008 Schools Environmental Awards did not go ahead late last year due to insufficient applications received. The Awards major sponsor, Tomago Aluminium, has agreed that their funding should go towards an increase in the grant amount offered to schools.

We hope that this added stimulus will generate some great projects for the 2009 Schools Environmental Awards, which will be held in November 2009.

Types of projects that you can apply for include:

- ◆ vegetable, native or other types of gardens
- ◆ recycling and waste minimisation activities
- ◆ frog ponds
- ◆ energy and water saving devices and activities
- ◆ habitat rehabilitation
- ◆ nesting boxes
- ◆ artworks and murals
- ◆ environmental events
- ◆ waterwatch activities
- ◆ tree propagation
- ◆ composting and worm farming

An Application Form was sent to every school with this newsletter. Alternatively, you can access one at <http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/environment/1275/1328.html> or by emailing [melinda.anderson@portstephens.nsw.gov.au](mailto:melinda.anderson@portstephens.nsw.gov.au). Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

## Green Access Poster

Multiple copies of the 2009 Green Access Poster will be sent to each school in the next couple of weeks. This annual publication is designed to be used by schools, community groups and environmental education providers as a guide to environmental events, resources and contacts in the Hunter Region.



## Newcastle's Going Solar

Would you like to make your own clean, green electricity on your roof?



In 2008, the community group Climate Action Newcastle (CAN), arranged for the bulk purchase of 140 photovoltaic systems which were offered to the community. Following on from the great success of Round 1 of *Newcastle's Going Solar*, a Round 2 offer is now available.

Blue Mountains based company *Aussie Solar* will supply a fully installed basic 1 kilowatt grid-connected system for \$1,386 (after allowance has been made for the \$8,000 Federal Government rebate). A system of this size has the ability to produce at least \$200 of renewable electricity each year at today's prices, which we know are set to rise.

Full details of the offer and the options available including 1.5 and 2 kilowatt systems are available online at [www.climateaction.org.au/campaigns/newcastles-going-solar](http://www.climateaction.org.au/campaigns/newcastles-going-solar), or by emailing [NewcastlesGoingSolar@live.com.au](mailto:NewcastlesGoingSolar@live.com.au).

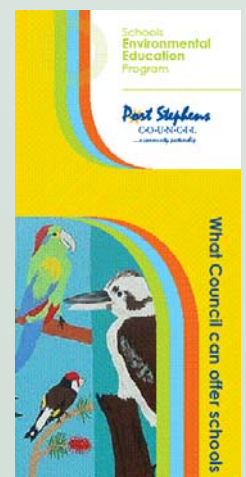
The Round 2 offer will be open until the 30th June 2009. If you wish to participate, read the full details then register by sending an email to the above address with your name, telephone number, email and address. You will then be provided with updates on how Round 2 is progressing.

## Services & Resources for Schools

Keep your eye out for a new brochure on what Council can offer schools. Multiple copies will be sent out with the Green Access Poster soon.

This brochure contains information on a wide range of environmental advice, activities, assistance, programs and grants that can be accessed through Port Stephens Council.

Make sure you have a look as there may be something in it that you didn't know.



# Upcoming events & activities



## Port Stephens Marine Discovery Series

The next presentation as part of this very popular program will be held on **Thursday 26 February**, 6.30pm at the Tomaree Library and Community Centre. Terry Domico, conservation biologist, writer and photographer, will be talking about the importance of seagrass habitat in the local area. Following from this, Des Maslen, marine engineer and inventor, will talk about the development of his Seagrass Friendly Mooring and how it does not scour the seabed.

## Schools Clean Up Day

Schools' Clean Up Day, **Friday 27th February**, is specifically designed to allow students to participate in Clean Up Australia as part of a school activity. It's a great way for students of all ages to learn about how to reduce the impact of waste on our environment and make a real difference in their local community.



Your school should register on the clean up website [www.cleanup.org.au/au/Campaigns/schools](http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/Campaigns/schools) if you intend to participate. Following this, you will be contacted by a Council officer to discuss waste collection. This year, Council is encouraging schools to be self-sufficient and suggest you ask children to bring in a plastic bag and a glove from home to use.



## Project AWARE on the coast

*Project AWARE on the coast* is a unique community education program to help conserve our marine environment. This is a fantastic opportunity for any teacher or student who wants to learn more about marine ecology and conservation, and the best thing is it's FREE.

The course features 3 evening lecture sessions, field trips, a group research activity and an individual project by participants. This hands-on course is suitable for ages 12 to 100, and will be conducted between March and June 2009. Those teachers that participated last year thought it was thoroughly worthwhile.

An information session will be held on **Wednesday 4th March**, 6.30pm, at the Tomaree Library and Community Centre. Register your interest by contacting Melinda Anderson on 4980 0251 or email [melinda.anderson@portstephens.nsw.gov.au](mailto:melinda.anderson@portstephens.nsw.gov.au).

## Recycling Education

Diana Korving from Solo Resource Recovery will be contacting schools this term to book Recycling Education sessions for Terms 2 and 3. This year the program is going to be about fun, fun, fun with recycling, and very interactive!

## Tilligerry Creek Catchment Art Program

The Tilligerry Creek catchment stretches from Lemon Tree Passage to Fullerton Cove and supports healthy communities of mangroves, fish and bird life, and even sections of salt marsh. To celebrate the creek, Waterwatch and Council are running an art competition for schools in the catchment. The challenge is to investigate the Tilligerry Creek catchment and why improving it's quality is important to the environment, and then to present this in art form. Entries will be displayed at a Tilligerry Creek landholder expo in May, Port Stephens Council and other locations. For more information or to register for the competition, please contact the Waterwatch team on 49301030.

## Waste as Art

Start planning now for Waste as Art 2009. Get your head in the bin as it's your opportunity to create art using only waste materials. Primary and high school categories exist, as well as 3D/sculpture and Functional Art. This year's special category is 'Textiles and Wearable Art'. Entry forms are due by **Friday 5th June** and artworks have to be delivered on 26-27th June. Entry forms available soon by phoning 4908 6848 or Port Stephens Council on 4980 0134.



## Schools Tree Day

To celebrate Schools Tree Day on **Friday 31 July**, Council is proposing to host tree planting activities in the Local Government Area as well offer free native tubestock to schools. If you would like your school to participate in a revegetation activity off-school, please register your interest with us as soon as possible. Dependant on the availability of a suitable site, Council will instruct the students on the what, where and why of their local plants. More information will be available in the Term 2 Schools Newsletter.

## 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](mailto:melinda.anderson@portstephens.nsw.gov.au). For assistance in specific areas, contact the following people:

**Waste Minimisation**  
**Recycling (Solo)**  
**Vegetation & Weeds**

Cathy Ph 4980 0134  
Diana Ph 0400 398490  
Anthony Ph 4980 0157

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