



ENVIR NEWS



Issue 5 - Autumn 2008

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! We hope you enjoy this jam packed issue of REEN and can attend our Term 2 meeting in May. Make sure to check out the exciting World Environment Day activities on page three.



Mural Mania

City of Ryde has engaged four schools to complete a mural on healthy catchments to be placed along the Eastwood Canal. Local school's involved in the project are **Epping Boys High, Riverside Girls, Epping Heights and Ryde Public School**. The mural will depict how pollution makes its way into our waterways and the actions we can take to create healthier catchments and environments. Each school will be involved in the artwork of 12 panels and will receive environmental education as part of the program.



As part of the mural program, school children will design their own canvas bags with stamps printed with mural images.



City of Ryde wishes your school a Happy World Environment Day!
For details of how we are celebrating the day see page 3...

Next Meeting Details:

The next REEN meeting will be hosted by Gladesville Public School. Come along and enjoy an afternoon tea and see what is happening with REEN in 2008.

Please RSVP to the Waste Education Officer.

Where: Gladesville Public School, Victoria Rd, Gladesville

When: Thursday 22 May, 4.00 - 5.30pm



Please Recycle Me

Ermington Public School has also recently completed their environmental artwork mural with Hotbed Designs as part of their WSN grass roots grant received in 2007.





Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Catchment Chronicles & Water Welfare

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW mobile education unit, Waste Watchers, visited 11 primary schools in the City of Ryde area throughout March and April. The program, which educates children about responsible waste management and environmental care, is hosted by City of Ryde and forms a vital part of Council's overall environmental sustainability strategy.

Conducting Waste Watchers lessons, for the 2nd year running, City of Ryde highly value the renewed partnership with Keep Australia Beautiful NSW.

Waste Watchers educates primary school children to 'do the right thing' by disposing of litter properly, reusing and recycling. The program also covers topics such as water catchment protection and water conservation. The children take these vital messages home which can help influence family's perceptions concerning the environment as well as encouraging families to implement environmental solutions such as recycling, worm farming and composting - in the home.

The lessons in the Ryde area focus specifically on water conservation, waste water management and stormwater control and the kids participating in these lessons get the chance to learn about the small but significant steps they can take to help keep Australia beautiful.

Right. Putney Public School enjoys a visit from Keep Australia Beautiful NSW



Thinking of building a frog pond?

The Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW (FATS) are a society of people based in New South Wales, Australia, who have a genuine interest in frogs and tadpoles. FATS Group members span a wide range of interests - naturalists, herpetologists, pet keepers, professional scientists and private people with a desire to learn more about frogs and the environment. FrogFacts information sheets explain how to create frog-friendly habitats and frog ponds as well as facts of frog biology. FrogFacts are reviewed by an scientific editorial board.

www.fats.org.au





The theme for World Environment Day 2008 is 'Kick the habit: Towards a low carbon economy' and will highlight resources and initiatives that promote low carbon economies and life-styles, such as improved energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, forest conservation and eco-friendly consumption.

To celebrate World Environment Day we are offering your school...

Every school in the Ryde area will receive a complementary book on climate change from the City of Ryde, please contact us if you have not received your schools copy of the book by the end of June.

Free native trees to increase local biodiversity in your school. To order; Contact Sandra Payne, Council's Bushcare Officer, on 9952 8257 or spayne@ryde.nsw.gov.au.

Interactive Waste Education Workshops . Contact Emily Doyle to book.

And to relax at the end of the day..

Organic Wine and Cheese Movie Night

REEN also invites the community to a free screening of 'The Thin Green Line' at West Ryde Library. Enjoy the conservation movie with a complementary glass of organic wine and munch your way through an organic cheese platter!

Location: West Ryde Library, 2 Graf Avenue, West Ryde @ 7pm - 8.30pm

RSVP: Sarah Kinsela by 26 May, 2008.

Grants for Your School

Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) Eco Schools Grants

The ultimate goal of the Eco Schools Grant Program is the development of ecologically sustainable schools.

This includes initiatives such as native gardens and projects that result in water and energy savings and waste reduction.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm

Worried about your schools energy use?
Are computers and light switches left on after school?
Contact us for the design below to stick above light fittings and appliances around office buildings.



Streamwatch groups in Ryde are all full steam ahead in 2008 with six schools participating. If your school is interested in finding out more or becoming involved, contact Celia Busted from Sydney Water on 9350 6191 or CELIA.BUSTEED@sydneywater.com.au.



Solar Panels for Schools

National Solar Schools Program (NSSP). This program replaces Australian Government's Green Vouchers and will be open for applications in July 2008. Up to \$20,000 for each school can be spent on solar panels.



Did you know? Recycling one tonne of paper and cardboard saves around 13 trees!

Did you get your copy of the DVD?

Please contact Council if you require a copy



Above. Filming the Waste section of the DVD at Ermington Public School

Interesting Websites

Help with your SEMP

www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au

Updated eco footprint tool

www.powerhousemuseum.com

Online games

<http://www.wow.sa.gov.au/>

Farewell Jim...

Jim has left us for 6-12 months to work on a rural assistance waste management project for local government in the Northern Territory. In the mean time please welcome our new Waste Education Officer, Emily Doyle who has been filling Jim's shoes fabulously!

Contact Us

Write to REEN's coordinators at:

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Submissions are welcome.

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