

Subject:	REEN Term 1 – Face to Face
Venue:	Marsden High School, Library, 8 Rhodes St, Meadowbank
Date:	Wednesday 7 February 2024
Time:	04.00pm to 5.30pm
Chair:	Bonnie Mackenney and Emily Quinn Smyth

1.0	<p>Meet, Greet, and refreshments</p> <p>The teachers are working on some great sustainability and environmental projects in their schools</p>
2.0	<p>Guest Speaker - Luke Wallace - luke.wallace20@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Arts Coordination Officer- The Arts Unit www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Presentation on the suite of immersive visual arts programs available at the Field of Mars and Gibberagong Environmental Education Centres. See Attachment 2</p>
3.0	<p>Guest Speaker 2 – Sam Betteridge - sam@pocketcityfarms.com.au</p> <p>Education and Community Manager- Pocket City Farms</p> <p>Presentation on the Urban Farm (Pocket City Farms) and the range of excursions, incursions and virtual excursions available to schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.pocketcityfarms.com.au • https://www.pocketcityfarms.com.au/school-excursions • https://www.pocketcityfarms.com.au/school-incursions • https://www.instagram.com/pocketcityfarms/
4.0	<p>Environment and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centennial Parklands - Professional development courses for ELC and Primary Schools to integrate Nature Play into your teaching practice. Centennial Parklands have NESA accredited professional development and training programs to learn the skills, knowledge and attitudes to connect children to nature in their own settings. - https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/learn/professional-development • Environmental Education NSW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful environmental education resources to enhance professional development and outcomes https://aaeensw.org.au/resources/

- Includes a **Climate Crisis Resource** Hub to help communicate and ameliorate the climate crisis in your School - <https://aaeensw.org.au/climate-crisis/>
- **Lesson Plans**
 - **Clean Up Australia Day**
 - The annual Schools Clean Up Day will be on Friday 1 March. Register your school for a free Schools Clean Up Kit <https://www.cleanup.org.au/schools>
 - **Clean up Australia Day - Lesson plan resources:**
 - <https://cool.org/clean-up-australia-day-education-resources>
 - **The Environmental and Zoo Education Centre network (EZEC)**
 - Virtual resources for schools to support teaching and learning.
 - High School resources - <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/high-school-resources/home>
 - ELC and Primary School resources <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/primary-school-resources/home>
- **Challenges/Competitions**
 - **Metro Minds STEAM Challenge** provides an opportunity for students in Year 7 to Year 10 near [Sydney Metro's City & Southwest, West and Western Sydney Airport railway alignments](#) to work together to come up with an innovative solution to an authentic Sydney Metro challenge or opportunity in 2024. Suitable for Students in Years 7- 10 Registrations close on 10 May 2024 <https://www.sydneymetro.info/education/metro-minds-steam-challenge>
 - **Fun With Robots Incursion** - Sydney Metro has designed a classroom-ready, syllabus-aligned workshop for Stage 2 and 3 students. The program comes with presentation slides, video and facilitator guide. Teachers must have access to large indoor or undercover space to facilitate workshop. For more information and to register your interest visit <https://www.sydneymetro.info/education/fun-robots-incursion>
- **Citizen Science**
 - **AUSMAP School Program** - is directly linked to the Australian curriculum for high-school based Science & Geography, but it can be modified for upper primary. The teachings around AUSMAP can also be used for education for lower primary school students. Please send an inquiry if you are keen on being involved - <https://www.ausmap.org/get-involved>
 - **ClimateWatch** is an authentic learning experience that can be incorporated into primary, secondary and tertiary school subjects, a great way to build student capacity in critical and creative thinking, numeracy and ITC skills. Earthwatch has developed self-paced teacher professional development resources available here - <https://climatewatch.org.au/get-involved/schools>
- **Grant Funding**
 - **EPA litter prevention grant** - for projects such as increased waste infrastructure. Round 3 Applications Due 04 April 2024 Schools are eligible to apply for Stream 1 - Small-scale, on-ground projects Up to \$5000 funding <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/litter-prevention-grants-program/grants-available>. Council has utilised this grant previously for solar powered 'big belly bins' at Meadowbank Park.

- **National Science Week Grants** - The school theme for National Science Week in 2024 is Species Survival - More than just sustainability. The theme aims to highlight the importance of science and innovation in ensuring the survival and thriving of different species in an ever-changing world. Pre-school to Senior Secondary Schools 10-18 August 2024
<https://www.scienceweek.net.au/schools/> Grant round for ASTA National science week will open early 2024
<https://www.asta.edu.au/programs/national-programs/national-science-week/school->

Council updates

- **SWAP competition** opens 2 April 2024. Educational resources available online
[https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Environment-and-Waste/Waste-and-Recycling/Education-Programs/SWAP- Educational-Resource](https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Environment-and-Waste/Waste-and-Recycling/Education-Programs/SWAP-Educational-Resource)
- **Go4Fun** is a FREE NSW Health program for children aged 7-13 years who are above a healthy weight, and their families. The program aims to help families learn about eating well, staying active and also helps to boost children's self-esteem and confidence. [https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Go4 Fun-Program](https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Go4_Fun-Program) The Term 1, 2024 program is coming to Ryde, commencing 15 February.
- **Navigating Autism at Home and School-** Professor Tony Attwood will provide information, strategies and a greater understanding that can make a difference. Suitable for parents, carers, and educators of 8 - 14-year- olds.
 Date: Tuesday, 20 February 2024
 Time: 07:00 PM - 08:30 PM
 Location: Online
 Registrations: [https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Navigating- Autism-at-Home-and-School](https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Navigating-Autism-at-Home-and-School)
- **Community Workshops**
 - **Worm Farming Workshop** - 24 February 2024
https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Bookable/Worm-Farming-Workshop-ev_078ab81e254f4c4bb3d29fe7b78bd3ab
 - **Composting Workshop** - 9 March 2024
https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Bookable/Composting-Workshop-ev_782e822412e1437591560cbfa6a1cad3

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Current council supported programs

- **Scienza Viva** - <https://www.scienzaviva.com.au/> If you are interested in environmental incursions, please contact bonniem@ryde.nsw.gov.au Available to primary and high schools in Terms 3 and 4
- **Australian Environmental Education** - School Incursions – Contact Karen Player for more information - karen.player@australianenvironmentaleducation.com.au

General Business

- 2024 meeting dates
 - Term 2 – Week 2 - Tuesday 7 May – Online at 3.30pm
 - Term 3 – Week 3 – Wednesday 7 August – Online at 3.30pm

- Term 4 – Week 3 – Tuesday 29 October – In person at 4pm – location to be confirmed.

Tour of Marsden High

- David Zhu – gave us a tour of the Marsden high school grounds including the Edible garden beds and worm farm and composting provided by City of Ryde as a Part of the Edible Gardens program and newly planted native trees from The Habitat on the school grounds

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