

Welcome to Term 1

Welcome to another school year. I hope you had a relaxing summer holidays. They seemed to fly by this year!

In this edition we wrap up the very successful Catchments, Corridors and Coasts for another year and showcase the Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter that host this wonderful event.

We also have some PL opportunities and some ways to get your students involved in environmental and sustainability education. There are also National Science Week grants available for schools if you would like to host your own event.

The SERCUL education programs, the Phosphorus Awareness Project and the Booyi Cultural Program, are also showcased.

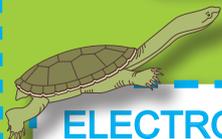
See you out in the catchment somewhere soon!

Amy Krupa

Phosphorus Awareness Project

Like SERCUL on Facebook and keep up-to-date with everything that is happening in landcare.

facebook 



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive this valuable resource straight into your Inbox early each term, please go to www.sercul.org.au/signup/ and subscribe to the Education Newsletter.

Please pass this information onto your colleagues. The more environmental educators we have, the happier our planet will be!

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts 2017

Wrap Up
2017

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) is a practical program, which focuses on learning through experience and skill development, while also reflecting the synergies between the environmental education practitioners in WA. CCC provides a 'snapshot' of environmental education in WA from its enormous catchments through its narrowing corridors to the beautiful coast. It is proudly presented annually by the Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter. SERCUL helps to co-organise this wonderful event.



From the 18th - 20th January 2017 20 participants took part in activities such as a salinity game, a behind the scenes tour of the Native Species Breeding Program at Perth Zoo and snorkeling. Not only did the participants experience amazing activities they met environmental education professionals from the Perth Region.

Please go to www.aaeewa.org.au/cc.html for further information. If you missed out this year CCC will be held again in January 2018.

What's Happening in Term 1?

Clean School Workshops

Start planning now for a Clean School in 2017 with this whole school program presented to you by Keep Australia Beautiful.



Workshops

Henderson Environment Centre,
North Beach
Thursday 27 February 2017, 1-4pm

or

Mills Park Centre, Gosnells
Thursday 9 March 2017, 1-4pm

These FREE professional learning sessions provides a step-by-step guide on how to run a whole school litter prevention campaign.

Clean Schools offers a half-day teacher relief subsidy for two representatives from your school.

[Register here](#)

Please contact Sam Culbertson for further information -

samantha.culbertson@kabc.wa.gov.au

Earth Day Expo

Join the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) and the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE-WA) in celebrating this international event that is recognised by more than 150 countries worldwide. The Earth Day Expo is a whole day excursion for Years 2-6 filled with fun, interactive education for sustainability (Efs) activities presented by environmental organisations that are passionate about a sustainable future for our planet.

Term 1, Week 9, Friday 31 March 2017
\$9 per student (inc GST)

Canning River Eco Education Centre
P| 9461 7160

E| creec@canning.wa.gov.au



Places
Still
Available!



Algae Busters Page

Phosphorus Awareness Project Resources for Schools

The Phosphorus Awareness Project is concerned about the high levels of nutrients that are causing the growth of algal blooms in the Swan and Canning Rivers and associated wetlands. The project offers opportunities to school and youth groups including:

- **Algae Buster Incursions** are interactive, fun programs where students learn about catchments, nutrients and algae through a catchment story or river food web.
- **Building a Frog Habitat** is a must have incursion if a school is considering building a frog habitat. Students learn about the frogs of the Perth Region and listen to their calls. All the essential elements in constructing a frog habitat is also covered.
- **Go Fish!** allows students to learn about the diversity of fish that live in our local waterways and what we can do to protect our native fish.
- **Clean Drains River Gains** allows students to learn about the links between drains and pollution through stencilling drains at school.
- **Planting Opportunities** allow students to plant local native species into rehabilitation sites and learn why this is important (available Jun–Oct).



- **Resource Sheets** are available based around the nutrient issue.
- **Nutrient Display** explains the problem, cause and solution to nutrients and algal blooms in our rivers in a colourful display.

For further information or to book an incursion or a display to be set up in your school please contact:
Amy Krupa on 9458 5664
or email amykrupa@sercul.org.au

Phosphorus Awareness Project Resources for Schools

The Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) and SERCUL have a number of initiatives and resources to help teachers with environmental, and specifically catchment education in the classroom. See attached flier for further information.

Canoeing on the Canning – Professional Learning Day for Teachers will be held again this year in Spring. This will be the thirteenth year this popular PL has been held. By canoeing on the river you will experience first hand the Canning River ecosystem and its associated problems. Keep an eye out for the Term 2 and 3 Catchment Education Newsletters for more details and registration information for this PL opportunity.



Planting Opportunities during winter and spring months. This is a great opportunity to get students involved in onground action that has wonderful benefits for the environment, the students and the local community. The PAP have local native plants available that can be planted in bushland or wetland areas on your school grounds or in bush tucker or frog friendly gardens. If you don't have a bushland or wetland then we will connect you with a local 'Friends of Group' to plant in bushland or waterway areas or you can plant near the SERCUL office. We will put out a call of interest in Term 2 to get involved.



Booyi Cultural Program

Join the Booyi Cultural Program and follow the footsteps of the Noongar people to experience firsthand how they used the materials from the land to provide food, water and shelter!

The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) and Yelakitj Moort are thrilled to join together to present the Booyi Cultural Program, an exciting interactive educational program that celebrates the understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

The Booyi Cultural Program is an inspiring program that offers a variety of exciting hands-on activities, including interactive nature walks, bush-tucker workshops, cultural-history lessons, ochre art and dreamtime storytelling.

Incursions cost \$11 inc GST/student or come out to SERCUL on a three hour excursion for \$495 inc GST/class.

For further details about the activities on offer go to: www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/booyi-cultural-program/

To make a booking contact: **Tamisha Ogilvie**
booyi@sercul.org.au or 9458 5664

Catchment Incursions and Excursions: The PAP have some exciting incursions/excursions on offer. Our most popular incursions include:

- **Bush Tucker!** (K – 12)
- **Building a Frog Habitat** (K – 12)
- **Turtle-ology!** (1 – 6)
- **Algae Busters - Catchment Story** (K – 4)
- **River Food Web** (5 – 12)
- **Life Cycles: Frogs, Mistletoe, Dragonflies or Mosquitoes** (1 – 12)

All incursions have a science focus and have been developed to meet the requirements of the WA Science Curriculum. A teacher pack of information and resource sheets will be left for the class after the incursion and best of all, they are all free!



The **SERCUL Website** has an education section containing a wealth of information and resources. Go to:
www.sercul.org.au/for-educators/edu/

Become a Member of AAEE WA

The Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter (AAEE WA) works with government and non-government organisations in the interests of quality education and environmental change. The WA chapter is unique, involving a broad cross-section of environmental educators from diverse areas such as schools, government agencies, industry, universities, technical and further education centres, zoos, museums, parks and reserves, environmental education centres and community and conservation groups.



The AAEE WA network group meets every month on the third Thursday from 4.00 to 5.30pm at the Canning River Eco Education Centre. This provides an opportunity to keep in touch about the developments in Environmental Education in WA and to plan for joint projects and events with a diverse range of people.

Some of the annual events include:

* **Catchments, Corridors and Coasts**

- a three day snapshot of environmental education in WA held in January (refer to article on cover of this newsletter).

* **Earth Day Expo** - a one day event for Yr 2-6 students celebrating Earth Day at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (refer to details on cover on this newsletter).

* **BEES Day** - a one day event on Friday 8th September 2017 for Year 9,10 and 11 students that showcases some of the exciting careers and investigations that are related to these subjects. It is held at North Metropolitan TAFE.



* **Community Science Expo** - is held annually on a Sunday in National Science Week at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC). This years theme is Frontiers of Science with displays, interactive activities and presentations about technology and the future.

Turtle Watch and Little Green Steps WA are two projects that run year round.

Turtle Watch includes a collaborative network of community partners and individuals who work to facilitate the conservation of Long-Necked turtles. Turtle Watch is associated with five environmental centres that offer educational opportunities about the Long-Necked turtle and encourages people to report sightings of turtles to the *ClimateWatch* website so that we can learn more about them.

Go to www.aaeewa.org.au/turtlewatch.html for further information.

Little Green Steps WA is a not for profit program that supports Education for Sustainability (EFS) in early learning centres in Western Australia. This includes childcare centres, preschools, family day care, kindergartens, after school care and long day care services for children aged 0-8 years.

Go to www.littlegreenstepswa.org.au/ for further information.

Check out the AAEE WA website - www.aaeewa.org.au to find out more about the WA Chapter. If you would like to become an AAEE member then you can join online here - www.aaeewa.org.au/members/member-benefits/

creec

Canning River Eco Education Centre

CREEC offers a number of K-Yr 12 programs which allows students to learn about the local natural environment in interactive ways.

NEW **Middle Childhood**
Weir-d Science

The Kent Street Weir on the Canning River provides a unique location to compare two river ecosystems.



Students have the opportunity to investigate the role of the Weir, how it has altered the river system and how plants and animals have adapted to changes in the physical environment.

\$7 per student (1.5 hrs)

NEW **Early Adolescence**
Rivers at Risk

Students are introduced to natural and ecological hazards associated with river systems within an urban catchment such as drought, introduced species and eutrophication.

\$7 per student (1.5 hrs)

Woodloes Homestead

Looking for an excursion that links with local history? Woodloes Homestead in Cannington is a wonderful example of a traditional colonial home built in the 1870's.

Guided tours and curriculum-linked resources are available to schools.

Contact CREEC for school bookings, contact details are below.



Contact CREEC Education Officer,
Hayley Bullimore on 9461 7160 or
creec@canning.wa.gov.au
to book your excursion now!



The SERCUL Educators wish to thank our major sponsor.



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



SWAN CANNING
RIVERPARK

SERCUL is a proud member of the:

Sustainable Schools WA Alliance



For further information please contact:

Amy Krupa

Education and Promotion Manager
amykrupa@sercul.org.au

P| 9458 5664

W| www.sercul.org.au

1 Horley Road, Beckenham, WA

Important Dates – Term 1, 2017

1 Feb 17	First Day of Term 1
2 Feb 17	World Wetlands Day http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/world-wetlands-day
3 Mar 17	World Wildlife Day http://www.un.org/en/events/wildlifeday/
3 Mar 17	Schools Clean Up Day http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-for-schools
5-11 Mar 17	National Groundwater Awareness Week http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/awareness/Pages/default.aspx
22 Mar 17	World Water Day http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/
25 Mar 17	Earth Hour https://earthhour.org.au/home/default.aspx
7 Apr 17	Last Day of Term 1
22 Apr 17	Earth Day http://www.earthday.org/



National Science Week School Grants

The 2017 National Science Week theme for schools is Future Earth. Future Earth launched in 2015 and is a major 10-year international initiative to advance global sustainability science.



There are a variety of ways you can get your students, class, year level, school and community involved in National Science Week. Your participation can be as simple as a display in the school library, or as complex as a whole-school science fair.

Small grants of up to \$500 are available – these are administered by the Australian Science Teachers Association and applications will be open from 27 February – 24 April 2017. The grant pool of \$90 000 is provided by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Click on the link below to find out more about National Science Week 2017 and the grants available.

<https://www.scienceweek.net.au/schools/>

Did You Know?

Mosquitoes have a bad reputation for spreading diseases but they are a very important part of our waterway ecosystems and food chains.

There are about 100 species of mosquitoes in Western Australia with less than 20 representing a significant risk to human health, either as nuisance-biting pests or disease transmitters to humans and animals. In WA, there are four viruses that can be transmitted by mosquitoes to people including Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, Murray Valley encephalitis and Kunjin virus.

The main food of both male and female mosquitoes is nectar and plant juices and only female mosquitoes bite humans or animals to obtain their blood meal to produce their eggs in the warmer months. Mosquitoes provide food for other animals (e.g. insects, frogs, fish, turtles, birds and bats), help to pollinate plants and their larvae are effective filter feeders.

The best way to protect yourself from mosquitoes is to remember the 4ds:

- * Limit the amount of time spent outdoors at **Dusk & Dawn**.
- * **Defend** yourself when going outside by using insect repellent.
- * **Dress** in loose, light coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants and shoes and socks when you are outdoors.
- * **Drain** water from any place where it has been standing for four or more days.

Go to www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/mozzie-wise/ for information.



**MOZZIE
Wise**

