

SERCUL's School's Catchment Education Newsletter

Welcome to Term 2

Second term already. Where is the year going?!

This edition includes information about the upcoming planting season, a new SERCUL/PAG incursion on Canning River fish and information about native fish of the River, upcoming events and PD opportunities, new resources and education programs and Triple S Science Fairs.

Please find enclosed an updated Resources Available for Schools to keep handy somewhere!

Amy Krupa
Phosphorus Awareness Project
Coordinator

P.S. - Please pass this newsletter on to anyone you think may benefit from it.

Get Ready Now for the Planting Season

It is nearly that time of the year when students have a chance to get dirty at a local rehabilitation site where they can plant local native species. Autumn through to Spring is the ideal time to plant local species into degraded bushland, river bank and wetland areas. Due to the slow (or no!!) start to the rainy season this year the first planting sessions will be available in June.

At SERCUL we have a number of sites available where students can participate in a hands on educational hour, half a day or full day, depending on what time you have available. Not only will students be improving their local community but they will learn about the benefits of planting these species including increasing the biodiversity of the area, helping to combat climate change and air pollution and improving the health of rivers and wetlands.

To get your class involved in a planting session either at a local site or a bushland or wetland area on your school grounds please contact Amy on 9458 5664 or amykrupa@sercul.org.au. We also cater for Year 10 students that need to do their community service.

This planting could occur on a special day such as Arbor Day or Schools Tree Day (31st July). You can also organise a planting event at any time convenient to your class. All plants, equipment and fun provided. It will be first in best dressed!



Students planting at Hawkesbury Lakes, Willetton

What's on in Term 2?

Bush Survival Skills Workshop

Saturday 23rd May 2009
10.00am – 12.30pm
Canning River Eco Education Centre

Presented by Vanessa Paget – Bush Wisdom.
Develop basic outback and bush survival skills that you can use throughout Australia.

Topics covered include:

- * Modern survival kits and techniques
- * Alternative fire-lighting methods
- * Priorities for survival
- * Water management & procurement
- * Edible and medicinal plants
- * Direction finding without a compass
- * and more.....



Cost: \$12.00 per person
Morning Tea Included

To book contact the centre on
9461 7160 or email tporter@canning.wa.gov.au

Back From the Brink – Conservation Biology Workshop

Tuesday 2nd June 2009
Time: 9.00am to 12.00pm (Perth Zoo)
12.30pm to 4.00pm (UWA)

A unique opportunity for secondary science teachers to tour Perth Zoo's Native Species Breeding Program. Participants will hear from scientists and zoo keepers about the successes and challenges linked to working with threatened native species. Participants will also be provided with ideas and resources for teaching conservation biology back in the classroom. This professional learning opportunity is a partnership between Perth Zoo and the SPICE Program.



Cost: \$40 (GST inclusive).

Teacher relief available, conditions apply.
Bookings: Please call SPICE on (08) 6488 3917

For further PD opportunities at Perth Zoo please refer to
www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au or call 9474 0365.



Algae Busters Page



Go Fish! - New Canning River Fish Incursion

Did you know that there are nine fish species (six native and three introduced) living in the freshwater section of the Canning River? Did you also know that the native fish are under threat from the introduced fish, habitat destruction and pollution? These are just some of the interesting facts that you and your students can learn while participating in the Phosphorus Action Groups new Canning River Fish Incursion - Go Fish!



Students will get to go 'fishing'.

Go Fish! is suitable for Year 5-12 students with the students going 'fishing' to discover what fish are found in the freshwater section of the Canning River. Working in small groups students will need to identify the fish they have caught using an identification key. The nine fish species are studied in detail including their size, lifespan, habitat requirements and diet.

The affects on native fish from pollution, habitat destruction, reduced river flow and introduced fish is also discussed. Once the students have an understanding of what threatens native fish they help to alleviate the problems and create healthy fish habitat using a magnet display.

The students also brain storm other activities or actions they can participate in that can help protect native fish. This includes preventing pollution, not releasing aquarium fish into waterways and abiding by fishing regulations.

If you would like further information about this new incursion or would like your class to participate in the incursion please call Amy on 9458 5664 to make a booking.

Native Fish of the Canning River



Freshwater Cobbler

Length to 50cm, lives up to nine years. Males look after the eggs and young fish in a nest in slow flowing freshwater rivers and streams. Have an eel like tail and barbs around mouth.



Nightfish

Length to 15cm, lives to two years. Young fish feed during the day while the adults feed at night under ledges, rocks and logs.



Swan River Goby

Length to 5 cm, lives at least a year. Withstands extreme salinities and temperatures and can be found in nutrient rich water. Likes rivers or lakes with mud or rock bottoms.



Western Pygmy Perch

Length to 6cm, lives for two years. The males belly turns bright orange in the breeding season. Lives close to the banks near vegetation and in snags.



Western Minnow

Length to 17cm, lives for two years. Eats insects during the day and shrimp at night.



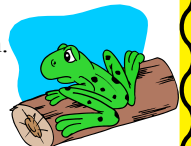
Western Hardyhead

Length to 7cm, lives for a year. Often forms large schools in flowing freshwater streams and rivers.

Phosphorus Action Group - *FREE* Resources for Schools

The Phosphorus Action Group (PAG) is concerned about the high levels of nutrients that are causing the growth of algal blooms in the Swan and Canning Rivers and wetlands. The group offers a number of education opportunities to school groups including:

- Algae Buster School Incursions - interactive, fun programs where students learn about catchments, nutrients and algae.
- Building a Frog Pond Incursion - a must have incursion if a school is considering building a frog pond. Students construct a mini frog pond in the classroom with all the essential elements in constructing a frog pond covered in detail.
- Go Fish! Incursion - students learn what fish live in the Canning River and what we can do to protect our native fish.
- Clean Drains River Gains Incursion - students learn about drains and pollution through stencilling drains at school.
- Planting Opportunities (available Jun - Oct) - students plant local native species into rehabilitation sites.
- Resource Sheets - nine resource sheets are available based around the nutrient issue.
- Nutrient Display - a colourful display which explains the problem, cause and solution to nutrients and algal blooms in our rivers.



For further information about nutrient issues or if you would like a **FREE** presentation or a display to be set up in your school please contact the Phosphorus Awareness Project Coordinator, Amy Krupa on 9458 5664.

Upcoming Personal Development Opportunities

Dieback Information Group Conference

DIG 09- Cross Roads

Date: Friday June 5th 2009, 9am-4pm

Venue: Kim Beazley lecture theatre, Murdoch University.

Who should attend: Environment students and educators, land managers, local and State Govt officers, employees of NRM's, anyone with an interest in Phytophthora Dieback and it's devastating impact on the environment.

Cost: \$40 students/volunteers; \$75 professionals; FREE for 10 deserving students/volunteers upon written application to Libby Burgess (see below)

To register go to <http://www.secureregistrations.com/dig2009>

Contact: Libby.Burgess@water.wa.gov.au

Living Smart Course

A course focused on giving you a kickstart to being healthier, saving money and reducing your impact on the environment.

The Course will run from 14 May - 25 June, every Thursday evening from 6.30 - 8.30pm at the Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre.

The seven week course costs \$20.

To book: Call 1300 635 845 (payments can be made over the phone) or visit the City of Melville's Civic Centre.

Open Mon-Fri, 8.30am - 5pm.

For more information about the course: Call Ben Kelly on 9364 0790 or email benjamin.kelly@melville.wa.gov.au



Great Gardens Workshops

Great Gardens has been a huge success with over 31,000 people attending one of 345 workshops held throughout the Perth Metro area and rural Western Australia since September 2003.

The workshops focus on Waterwise, Fertiliserwise, Energywise, Moneywise and Environmentwise ways we can all live in Western Australia.

The workshops are fun and full of Western Australian advice.

The Great Gardens Team guarantee no sales pitches just

FREE advice to help you be more sustainable

Register at www.greatgardens.info or 1300 369 833.



Calling for Local Heroes!!

If your school is doing great things for the environment then we would love to hear about it.

Please forward a short article, preferably with a couple of photos, about what fantastic things your class or school is doing. This will then be included in this newsletter as an 'Our Local Heroes School Catchment Education Case Study.'

Send to Amy either by email amykrupa@sercul.org.au or by post, 69 Horley Road, Beckenham WA 6107.

Please feel free to call Amy on 9458 5664 to discuss your article.

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL

New school resources and programs

Primary and Secondary Curriculum Resources

'Learning about litter' provides a series of fun and interactive lessons for primary students to learn about the impact of litter on the environment, and then take on the challenge to make their school litter-free!

The Marine debris education kit aims to educate upper primary and secondary students about the impact of litter on the marine environment through a series of hands on lessons and coastal excursions.

Film and Documentary

This DVD educates students about the social and environmental impact of litter through a short film starring local primary students, and a documentary filmed at a waste management facility.

Professional Development

Classroom or whole school approach.

KAB provides professional development for teachers and principals once a term throughout the metro region. Included is a Litter Prevention Toolkit, which provides a framework for planning a whole school approach.

Community Service Program – Adopt-a-Spot

Secondary students can make a difference to their environment by organising a clean up event in their local community through our new 'Adopt-a-Spot' program. Not only is this a fun and rewarding way to get students involved in community service, they can make a long term difference to their environment.



For more information:

Phone 6467 5169,

Email jennifer.weston@dec.wa.gov.au

Website www.kabc.wa.gov.au

The SERCUL Educators wish to thank
our major sponsor.



South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

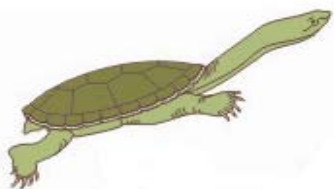
Amy Krupa
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Phone: 9458 5664
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Website: www.sercul.org.au

If undeliverable, please return to:

Educators
SERCUL Inc.
69 Horley Road
Beckenham WA 6107



Important Dates - Term 2, 2009

11th-17th May	National Volunteer Week
22nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity
23rd May	World Turtle Day
5th Jun	World Environment Day www.unep.org/wed/2009/english/
8th Jun	World Ocean Day www.theoceanproject.org/wod/
3rd Jul	Last Day of Term 2
5th-12th Jul	NAIDOC Week www.naidoc.org.au/
31st July	Schools National Tree Day www.treeday.planetark.com/



Triple S Science Fairs

Triple S holds **FREE** Science Fairs where everyone is welcome - students, parents, and the general public. At the Science Fairs you'll get to try out plenty of 'hands-on' activities, talk to enthusiastic scientists and check out some very cool demonstrations and technology. There is a wide variety of fascinating interactive displays - you're sure to find something that interests you - and there are even prizes to be won!

The 2009 Fairs run from 5.30pm - 8.30pm on:

Tuesday 12th May, 2009
St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls
Bay View Terrace, Mosman Park

Thursday 10th September, 2009
Willetton Senior High School
Pinetree Gully Road, Willetton