

## SERCUL's School's Catchment Education Newsletter

### Welcome to Term 4

Can you believe that we are in the last term! I certainly can't!

This edition includes information on upcoming PD opportunities, a student competition and bird sessions to get your students involved in. There is also an article on SERCUL's Fertilise Wise fertiliser endorsement program and Our Local Heroes are all the schools that got involved in this year's planting program.

Please also find enclosed a flier about Catchments, Corridors and Coasts 2010.

*Amy Krupa*

Phosphorus Awareness Project  
Coordinator

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

### A Taste of Science Success

The inaugural Taste of Science Community Fair, held on Sunday 16th August 2009 at the Canning River Eco Education Centre, was a resounding success.

The Fair, held during National Science Week, showcased the science of native plants, bush food and medicinal plants from Western and Indigenous perspectives. There were guest speakers and fun activities such as microscope viewing, cooking, art and heaps of kids activities! Native plants were also given away on the day.

A logo competition was held with children needing to design a logo with a native plants and animals in the Canning River environs theme. There were over 80 entries with a very high standard of logo ideas submitted. The logo competition winner was Oaksoe Nathan from St Judes Catholic School with a very colourful and ecologically diverse entry. There were also two Highly Commended entries - Tim Fletcher - an independent entry and Kevin Wellalagodge from Rossmoyne Primary School.

The Fair was a joint initiative between the Australian Association for Environmental Education, Canning River Eco Education Centre and SERCUL and was supported by National Science Week.



Jennifer Pearson with the winning logo competition entry.

### What's on in Term 4?

#### Perth Beachcombers Education Kit Information Sessions

**Wednesday 11th November 2009**

Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre,  
Hillarys Boat Harbour

**Tuesday 17th November 2009**

Department of Fisheries, South Fremantle

**Wednesday 18th November 2009**

Rockingham Environment Centre (Naragebup)

**Time: 4:30pm - 7pm**

The Kit aims to raise the level of understanding of local coastal ecosystems and to encourage a greater appreciation and care of these fragile systems. Developed for a broad audience, information and activities in the kit can be adapted to suit the level of the participant.

To register your interest for one of these information sessions please email: [michelle.dyer@fish.wa.gov.au](mailto:michelle.dyer@fish.wa.gov.au)

Bookings are essential!

#### Making the Connections Professional Development Sessions

**Tuesday 3rd November 2009**

Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre, Wembley

**Thursday 5th November 2009**

Canning River Eco Education Centre, Wilson

**Thursday 12th November 2009**

Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Winthrop

**Time: 9.00am-3.00pm**

A professional learning experience for teachers and school administrators that explores AuSSI-WA and the journey towards becoming a 'Sustainable School'.

Please contact Howard Flinders at the Department of Education and Training to register your interest:  
[howard.flinders@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:howard.flinders@det.wa.edu.au)





# Algae Busters Page



## You Can Fertilise Wise

Lawn and garden fertilisers are the largest threats to our rivers as nutrients added to our sandy soils are easily leached. The lack of awareness of the impact of fertilisers on the rivers is a target for the Fertilise Wise campaign.

A key part of this campaign is the new fertiliser endorsement program. The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare officially launched the Fertilise Wise Responsible and Effective fertiliser endorsement on the 1st September 2009. Fertilisers endorsed with the Fertilise Wise logo provide consumers with assurance that the product is both environmentally responsible and effective.

The aim is to reduce the amount of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) people contribute to waterways through stormwater drains and leaching into groundwater by promoting appropriate fertiliser practices for the soils of the region.

You can help by:

- Minimising lawn areas
- Fertilising only when symptoms of nutrient deficiency occur eg. yellowing

- Using Fertilise Wise endorsed complete fertilisers

**Look for the FERTILISE WISE endorsement for effective and responsible all purpose fertilisers >**

- Otherwise use a complete lawn fertiliser containing a Nitrogen: Phosphorus: Potassium (N:P:K) ratio of 10:1:6
- The MAXIMUM individual application rate for the fertiliser should be 25 grams per square metre for Couch and 12 grams per square metre for Kikuyu and Buffalo
- If fertiliser is required, apply in spring or early Autumn (Sept, Oct, Nov, Mar and Apr)
- Do not fertilise in summer or winter
- Do not over water
- Grow local plants – they require less fertiliser and water.

For further information or to have a look at the fertiliser endorsement criteria go to [www.sercul.org.au/fertilise\\_wise.html](http://www.sercul.org.au/fertilise_wise.html).



## Canoeing on the Canning PD

### Places Still Available!!!

The Canoeing on the Canning - Professional Development Day for Teachers will be held again this year on **Friday 23rd October 2009.**

This will be the sixth time this popular PD has been held. Come on a journey of discovery through this unique region by canoe and on foot. Experience first hand the Canning River ecosystem and its associated problems.

Enjoy this active learning day for local teachers. Teachers from all year levels are welcome.

Call Amy on 9458 5664 or email [amykrupa@sercul.org.au](mailto:amykrupa@sercul.org.au) to register.

## October is for the Birds!

In October of each year, the biodiversity and wonder of Australia's native birds is celebrated and recognised by environmental groups country-wide.

As part of the Canning River Eco Education Centre's support for conservation and education of our native wildlife, we would like to highlight our 'Birds of a Feather' education program. Students are given a guided birdwalk through sections of the Canning River Regional Park, and provided with bird identification guides and binoculars. The importance of birds in our environment, as well as the need for conservation of their habitat, is discussed.



If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Canning River Eco Education Centre's Education Officer on 9461 7160 to arrange a booking.

## Phosphorus Awareness Project - *FREE* 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 wetlands. The project 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.

# Our Local Heroes Planting Wrap Up 2009

## School Catchment Education Case Study No. 20

With the rain coming to an end and the warmer weather fast approaching (hopefully!) the 2009 planting season has concluded. We had a fantastic response to the planting program this year with students improving their local community and learning about the benefits of planting local native species including increasing the biodiversity of the area, helping to combat climate change and air pollution and improving the health of our rivers and wetlands.

Twenty two school planting sessions have been held since June 2009 with 12 400 plants being put into local rehabilitation sites and on school grounds. Over 650 students participated in these sessions contributing over 900 volunteer hours to improving our local environment. This is a massive effort with the following schools helping to make this possible:

- \* Banksia Park PS
- \* Rossmoyne PS
- \* Rossmoyne SHS
- \* Pickering Brook PS
- \* East Kenwick PS
- \* Huntingdale PS
- \* Canning Vale PS
- \* Challis PS
- \* Bibra Lake PS
- \* Canning College
- \* Queen of Apostles PS
- \* Kensington PS
- \* Cannington Community College
- \* Mel Maria PS
- \* Riverside Community PS
- \* Forrestdale PS
- \* Orange Grove PS



Students planting at Hawkesbury Lakes, Willetton.

A big thank you to all the students and teachers involved in these sessions. You have all made a huge contribution to helping to improve our local environment. You are now well and truly on our 'Local Heroes' list!

The SERCUL schools planting program will be running again next year and we look forward to working with schools south of the river in Perth on this important program.

This is the twentieth article in our 'local heroes' series. These articles document and acknowledge the efforts of some local schools in the South Region who are doing great things for the environment.

If you would like to highlight your schools achievements please contact Amy on 9458 5664.

## Catchments, Corridors and Coasts 2010

- A Snapshot of Environmental Education in WA.

January 13th - 15th 2010

Snorkelling in the ocean, walking in the bush, getting up close and personal with native fauna, sharing experiences with broad scale farmers – these are just some of the activities you can expect when you participate in the action packed Catchments, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) Program.

CCC provides a 'snapshot' of environmental education in WA from catchments, through corridors to the coast and is presented by the Australian Association for Environmental Education. It provides a rich experience, facilitating the development of networks with and between practitioners, and an awareness of the resources

and support across WA to help address core environmental and sustainability issues in the State. Learn about environmental issues, what is being done by community groups and various levels of government, what resources are available and how we can all work together for a better environment.

It 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 will provide a wealth of take home resources, which will form a toolkit for participants to use in their own workplace. All of the program content can be linked to the current West Australian curriculum.

Please refer to the flier enclosed with this newsletter for the registration form.



**For more information contact:**

Catherine Baudains

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Email: [c.baudains@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:c.baudains@murdoch.edu.au)

The SERCUL Educators wish to thank  
our major sponsor.



South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

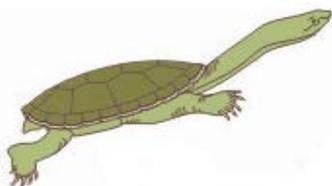
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If undeliverable, please return to:

**Educators**  
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**69 Horley Road**  
**Beckenham WA 6107**



## Important Dates - Term 4, 2009

18th-25th Oct	National Water Week <a href="http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au">www.nationalwaterweek.org.au</a>
9th-15th Nov	National Recycling Week <a href="http://www.recyclingweek.planetark.org">www.recyclingweek.planetark.org</a>
15th Nov	Steve Irwin Day <a href="http://www.steiveirwinday.org">www.steiveirwinday.org</a>
7th-13th Dec	Coastcare Week <a href="http://www.coastcare.com.au">www.coastcare.com.au</a>
5th Dec	International Volunteer Day <a href="http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org">www.volunteeringaustralia.org</a>
18th Dec	Last Day of Term 4



## Trash My Ad Competition

At Keep Australia Beautiful we have dusted off the archives and found our TV ad from the 1980's and realised, just like litter, it belongs in the bin. So now that we have trashed our ad, it's over to you!

Just by coming up with your own littering ad you can win a trash can full of cash - that's right, \$1000 is up for grabs!

The entry which receives the highest number of public votes will also win the People's Choice Award of \$500!

The competition closes on Friday 30th October 2009 and you will have until November 20th to vote and comment on all the entries. The winner of the main prize and the People's Choice Award will be announced on Friday 27th November.

For further information please go to [www.trashmyad.com.au](http://www.trashmyad.com.au)