

Welcome to Term 4

Welcome to Term 4 and the last term of the year. Summer holidays will be here before we know it!

This edition of the newsletter includes articles on the Wired for Science Community Expo and Canoeing on the Canning that were held recently. We also meet Natasha and Erin, SERCUL's new Environmental Education Officers who have joined the team recently. A big welcome to them!

There are also articles on some upcoming workshops and projects that you can get involved with - Catchments, Corridors and Coasts; Bennett Brook Education; Junior Dolphin Watch; Little Green Steps WA Expo and Turn Orange for Orangutans. We also meet one of the rivers more secretive inhabitants, the Bull Shark.

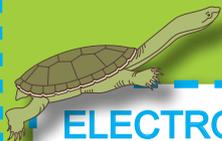
Enjoy the rest of the year and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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 email your name and school to amykrupa@sercul.org.au with the subject 'Electronic Education Newsletter'.

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

Community Science Expo Wrap Up *Wired for Science!*

In celebration of National Science Week (13 – 21 August), AAEE WA, City of Canning, SERCUL, CREEC, DPaW and the Australian Government presented this year's Community Science Expo which was held at CREEC on Sunday 21 August 2016, with the theme Wired for Science. The day focused on investigating the technology and connections in science with hands on, interactive activities, workshops, presentations and displays for the whole community with a focus on science and sustainability. Highlights included robotics, Scitech shows, native animal encounters, Great Gardens workshop, free native plant give aways and much more!



Youth Competition Winners

As part of the Expo a youth competition is held where students design a logo, based on the theme, to advertise the Expo. This year's winners were:

- Kindy: Aiden Lewis, Coolbinia Primary School
Pre Primary: Chloe Oh, Belmont Primary School
Year 1: Khadija Shalaby, Belmont Primary School
Year 2: Austin Thomas, Victoria Park Primary School
Year 3: Tahny Pickworth, Bannister Creek Primary School
Year 4: Sophia Atartis, Rossmoyne Primary School
Year 5: Myles Blake, Belmont Primary School
Year 6: Isla Sandbek, Lancelin Primary School



Allegra Tryhorn with her winning logo printed on the banner

Overall Winner: Allegra Tryhorn, Bannister Creek Primary School

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts 2017

18 - 20
January
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.



Please go to www.aaeewa.org.au for further information and to download the registration form.



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



Canoeing on the Canning PL Workshop

Canoeing on the Canning is a full-day professional learning opportunity, that was held during National Water Week on the 21st October by SERCUL.

Participants ranged from teachers in local schools, local community members and Local Government officers. They learnt about the Indigenous connections to the river through a fantastic show and tell by Noongar Educator, Leonard Thorn; learnt about the fresh and salt water ecosystems of the area; heard from Marnie Giroud from the Department of Parks and Wildlife who explained about River Guardians and Dolphin Watch; and heard about the key environmental issues that threaten the Canning River ecosystem while canoeing and on foot. Hayley Bullimore from the Canning River Eco Education Centre showcased what they can offer schools and community groups while Jo Stone from the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers took the participants on a walk through the park to explore the local biodiversity.



Canoeing on the Canning will be held again next year during National Water Week or can be held as a whole school PD for teachers in your school, at a time convenient to you.

Contact Amy Krupa at amykrupa@sercul.org.au if you would like to find out more.

Bennett Brook Education Program

This program is an extension of the Phosphorus Awareness Project into the Bennett Brook/Saint Leonards Creek Catchment. Over the year long project residents and students in the catchment will be educated about protecting the waterways using the existing Fertilise Wise and Freshwater Fauna education programs. School students will be educated through incursions to their schools and each school will receive a Freshwater Fauna Teacher Guide package while teachers will be invited to a Professional Development session; residents will be educated through shopping centre displays, community presentations and at community events and Fertilise Wise Fertiliser Training sessions will be held for turf managers and Local Government Parks and Gardens staff. Thus if you are a teacher in this area contact us now for a free incursion to your school!



Introducing New SERCUL Env Ed Officers

SERCUL are very excited to announce that we have two new Environmental Education Officers that could be coming out to your school very soon. A big welcome to Natasha Bowden and Erin Farley who joined us recently.

Natasha Bowden

Natasha has been involved with environmental education for a number of years through working at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre (where she is still working part time). Natasha studied Environmental Science at university and worked for a number of years in Environmental Consultancies.



Erin Farley

Erin worked for Conservation Volunteers Australia for a number of years before joining SERCUL and has experience working with school groups and adult volunteers in implementing onground projects. Erin studied Conservation and Wildlife Biology at university and is also a Girl Guide Leader.



Junior Dolphin Watch

The Dolphin Watch project launched in April 2009 focuses on one of the Swan Canning Riverpark's most iconic species; Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife, together with Murdoch and Curtin Universities, developed Dolphin Watch as a collaborative, citizen science research and education project. The project is a key component of the departments' River Guardians program.



Dolphin Watch recognises the importance of dolphins as potential indicators of river health and aims to provide scientists with a better understanding of dolphin ecology and their interactions with human activities, and to better understand our iconic Riverpark.

Junior Dolphin Watch was launched in 2013 to engage students in citizen science and assist them in learning about dolphins living in the Swan and Canning rivers.

The Junior Dolphin Watch coordinator is looking for interested schools within the Swan Canning Catchment to take part in this FREE project.

Schools that take part in the project will receive:

- a free dolphin excursion or excursion tailored to age and content requirements
- curriculum linked teacher resources
- loan of dolphin watch kit box of resources
- ongoing support and help



Please contact the program coordinator for information on how to get involved by calling (08) 9295 2244 or emailing: linley.brown@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Little Green Steps WA Event



Little Green Steps WA supports education for sustainability in the early years sector. They have an upcoming event in Armadale that you might like to attend.

Armadale Early Childhood Sustainability Expo

Thursday 10 November 2016, 6.30 – 8pm
City of Armadale Function Room, 7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale

The City of Armadale and Little Green Steps WA invite you and your staff to come along, relax and have fun after work as you:

- Meet organisations that can support your service on your sustainability journey
- Try out sustainability-focused learning activities that you could run with children
- Find out about the new Armadale Early Childhood Sustainability Directory
- Network with other early childhood professionals

Please RSVP to: CSAdministration@armadale.wa.gov.au by Monday 31 October

Enquiries: [Kylie Hosking - lgs@aaeewa.org.au](mailto:Kylie.Hosking - lgs@aaeewa.org.au)



Canning River Eco Education Centre

CREEC offers a number of K-Y12 programs which allows students to learn about the local natural environment in interactive ways.

Middle Childhood

Take a Dip – Exploring river ecosystems



Explore a whole world of biodiversity beneath the water! Students use water sampling methods to investigate the diversity of aquatic life.

\$7 per student (1.5 hrs)

Early Adolescence

Testing Testing H₂O – A comparison of water quality

Did you know salt water can travel upstream? Get hands on with scientific equipment and monitor water quality in a riverine habitat.



\$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

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Important Dates – Term 4, 2016

7-13 Nov	National Recycling Week www.recyclingweek.planetark.org/about/
11 Nov	National Walk to Work Day www.walk.com.au/wtw/homepage.asp
20-27 Nov	Pollinator Week www.beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain.html
21 Nov	World Fisheries Day www.gdrc.org/doyourbit/21_11-fisheries-day.html
5 Dec	International Volunteer Day www.volunteeringaustralia.org/2014/11/international-volunteer-day-december-5/
11 Dec	International Mountain Day www.un.org/en/events/mountainday/
15 Dec	Last Day of Term 4
25 Dec	Christmas Day
1 Feb 17	First Day of Term 1



Turn Orange for Orangutans

Between the 7th – 11th November 16 you can turn your school orange for orangutan caring week. Every class who signs up will receive a pack with information, activities, posters and an orangutan mascot for your class.



We're calling on schools to help raise the profile of the palm oil crisis facing species such as orangutans and to send a clear message to decision makers that palm oil should no longer be a hidden ingredient on supermarket products - a government vote on this issue is scheduled for late November.

We suggest schools get involved by sending letters/drawings/petitions to the individuals who will be voting on this important issue and by embracing orange in any way possible to spread the word to their community that they too can make a difference.

Click on the link to register for your free Turn Orange for Orangutans School Supporter Kit
<http://www.zoo.org.au/palmoil/school-pack>

Did You Know?

Bull Sharks, or River Whalers as they are also known, occur in parts of the Swan Canning Riverpark as they tolerate fresh-brackish water and thus can travel far up rivers.

The Bull Shark can be recognised by its stout body, short blunt snout, triangular serrated teeth in the upper jaw and no fin markings as an adult. The species has a rather large second dorsal fin and small eyes, and no skin ridge between two dorsal fins. It is grey above and pale below, sometimes with a pale stripe on the flank. The species grows to a length of 3.4m.

The Bull Shark cannot complete its entire life cycle in freshwater and requires access to saltwater through rivers and estuaries. The Bull Shark gives birth to 1-13 young in each litter after a gestation of 10 to 11 months. The female gives birth in late spring and early summer in estuaries, river mouths and the young are born 55-85cm long. Mating takes place at the same time of the year. Bull Sharks are mature at 9-10 years and can live 20-30 years.

Bull Sharks swim slowly and heavily, usually close to the bottom and are known to be an ambush predator. Their diet is broad and varied and includes fish, other sharks, sea turtles, birds, dolphins, crustaceans, echinoderms, molluscs and terrestrial mammals.

For further information go to - <http://www.riverguardians.com/education/bull-sharks-river-whaler>

