

Welcome to Term 1

Welcome to Term 1 and to a brand new school year. The summer holidays went way too fast!

In this edition we wrap up the very successful Catchments, Corridors and Coasts program for another year and showcase the Little Green Steps WA program which is also presented by the Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter.

We also have some PL opportunities and some ways to get your students involved in environmental and sustainability education including the Booyi Cultural Program. There is also information on how to register for Schools Clean Up Day if you would like to host your own event.

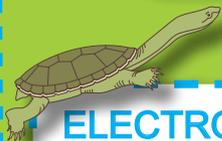
The SERCUL education program, the Phosphorus Awareness Project, is also showcased.

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 2018

Wrap Up
2018

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 17th - 19th January 2018 19 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 through the presentations and at the Expo on the Friday.

Please go to www.aaeewa.org.au/ccc.html for further information. If you missed out this year CCC will be held again in January 2019.

What's Happening in Term 1?

Clean Schools Professional Learning Workshop

22 February 2018
1pm - 4pm

FREE PL session for primary and secondary schools. Provides a step-by-step process on how to run the Clean Schools program with personalised support from the Clean Schools Coordinator.



As an added incentive, Keep Australia Beautiful offers a half-day teacher relief subsidy for up to two teachers per school to attend.

Venue: Canning River Eco Education Centre, Kent St & Queens Park Rd, Wilson

To register go to www.kabc.wa.gov.au/register-for-clean-schools-workshops

Butterflies in my Backyard Workshop

27 February 2018
4pm - 6pm



This workshop presented by Scitech uses the 'Butterflies in your Backyard' resource to explain the guided inquiry approach to learning science, and shows how making children active agents in their learning enhances ownership and motivation.

Using the Five E's approach, develop students' critical thinking and problem solving skills as they increase their awareness of the importance of biodiversity in the ecosystem.

Cost: \$22 teachers, \$11 pre-service teachers.

Go to www.scitech.org.au/education/professional-learning for further information and how to register.



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 on 26th October 2018. This will be the fourteenth 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.

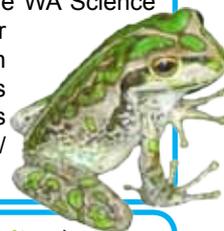


Planting Opportunities during winter and spring months. This is a great opportunity to get students involved in onground action that has wonderful benefits for the environment, the students and the local community. The PAP have local native plants available that can be planted in bushland or wetland 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.

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

- Bush Tucker! (K – Yr 12)
- Building a Frog Habitat (K – Yr 12)
- Turtle-ology! (K – Yr 6)
- Algae Busters - Catchment Story (K – Yr 6)
- River Food Web (Yr 3 – Yr 12)
- Life Cycles: Frogs, Mistletoe, Dragonflies or Mosquitoes (Yr 3 – Yr 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/excursion.



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

City of Swan Teachers - Free Incursions in Term 1

Due to an extension of the Phosphorus Awareness Project into the Bennett Brook/ Saint Leonards Creek Catchment schools in the City of Swan can access **FREE incursions in Term 1**. All of the incursions are linked to the curriculum and teach students how to look after our waterways, such as Bennett Brook, or about the animals and plants that live in our waterways. The 'Being Mozzie Wise' incursion is a great one if you are covering lifecycles, the 'River Food Web' incursion covers food chains and webs and the impact that people have on them and the 'Algae Busters - Catchment Story' incursion looks at how we impact on our river systems and how we can look after them. To find out what incursions can be presented [click here](#).

These incursions can be presented at any time suitable for your school in Term 1. There is a limit of four incursions per school so book in now to avoid disappointment by contacting Amy on 9458 5664 or amykrupa@sercul.org.au.



Little Green Steps WA

- supporting education for sustainability in the early years

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.

Little Green Steps WA (LGS WA) is working together with an extensive range of educational resources, networks and local communities towards our common goal of giving children the confidence and skills to have a positive impact on their lives and their environment.

LGS WA has a number of workshops coming up that may be of interest to your centre:

Reducing Waste in Early Years Settings Workshops

March 19, Tamala Park, Mindarie Regional Council

Presented by the Waste Authority, this workshop is free and is for early childhood professionals from the Towns of Cambridge and Victoria Park and the Cities of Perth, Vincent, Stirling, Wanneroo and Joondalup.

April 10, Cloverdale Childcare Centre, Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

Presented by the Waste Authority, this workshop is free and is for early childhood professionals from the Town of Bassendean, Cities of Bayswater, Belmont, Swan, and the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring.

Learn about waste and the problems it can cause; meet the waste education officer and see what happens to waste after it goes into the recycling bin; explore links to the NQS, EYLF and Australian Curriculum; hear what others are doing to reduce waste in their services; and take away a free electronic copy of the Reducing Waste Together Kit.

Other Workshops

There are also more workshops coming up including a Cultural and Social Diversity in Early Years Settings Workshop for early childhood staff in the City of Armadale on the 21st February, Day to Day Sustainability in Early Years Settings Workshop for early childhood staff in the City of Cockburn on the 14th March and many more. To find out more go to www.littlegreenstepswa.org.au/events

Little Green Steps WA is a program proudly run by the Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA Chapter) and supported by SERCUL.



Booyi Cultural Program

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

The Yelakitj Moort Nyungar Association are proud 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, Nyungar art and dreamtime storytelling.

The activities can be presented as incursions and excursions and prices vary depending on the number of activities and the group size.

For further details about the activities on offer go to: www.sercul.org.au/booyiprogram/

To make a booking contact: Tarnisha Ogilvie

booyi@sercul.org.au or 9458 5664



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.

Early Childhood

Bush Detective

Many of our native animals are very secretive and can be difficult to find. Students use puzzles and examples of animal evidence such as skulls, feathers and nests to investigate what lives in and around the Canning River Regional Park. Students apply their detective skills on a nature walk and record their observations by making a model of their own to take home.

\$7 per student (1.5 hours)

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)

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.



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\$7 per student (1.5 hrs)

Contact CREEC 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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



SERCUL is a proud member of:



SUSTAINABLE
SCHOOLS WA



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
(VIA CHAPTER)

For further information please contact:

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W| www.sercul.org.au

1 Horley Road, Beckenham, WA

Important Dates – Term 1, 2018

31 Jan	First Day of Term 1
2 Feb	World Wetlands Day http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/world-wetlands-day
2 Mar	Schools Clean Up Day https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/
3 Mar	World Wildlife Day http://www.un.org/en/events/wildlifeday/
21 Mar	International Day of Forests http://www.un.org/en/events/forestsday/
21 Mar	Harmony Day https://www.harmony.gov.au/
22 Mar	World Water Day http://worldwaterday.org/
24 Mar	Earth Hour https://earthhour.org.au/home/default.aspx
13 Apr	Last Day of Term 1
22 Apr	Earth Day https://www.earthday.org/



Schools Clean Up Day

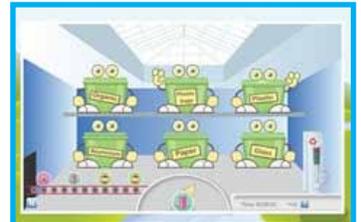
2nd March 2018

Schools Clean Up Day is a fun and engaging way to teach young Australians about the responsible disposal of rubbish, resource recovery and the repercussions of rubbish dumped irresponsibly in the local environment. Not only do they provide schools with a free starter pack of materials, but their website also features a range of *learning resources* to supplement the hands-on experience of the Clean Up.

Registration is free, quick and easy. Register your site by providing your details *online*

Clean Up the River: An Interactive Recycling Game

Clean Up the River is an Interactive Recycling Game for Primary School Students (K-6). The game is curriculum-based, easy for teachers to use, fun for students and free. To play the game go to <http://cleanup.noco2.com.au/>



Did You Know?

There are about 173 species of banksia, of which 58 are native to the south-west of Western Australia, and all but one occur naturally only in Australia.

They are named after Sir Joseph Banks, the English Botanist, who came with Captain Cook to explore Australia around 1770. The leaves and flowers of the Bull Banksia are the largest of all the banksias.

In 1843, Lieutenant Richard Dale witnessed 'natives gathering the flowers and extracting a sweet juice resembling honey' near what is now called Albany. Nyungar people use the flower spikes which can be used to make this drink of honey-sweet mead known as 'mangite' or 'mungitch'. The nectar can also be sucked directly from the flower. Grubs which burrow into the flower spikes can be gathered and eaten. Seed cones were used to carry smouldering coals when travelling.

The seed cone releases the seed and a new plant will establish from seed. However, the plant grows very slowly and can live as long as 150 years. They like to grow in poor sandy soils. Few banksias are found in the arid regions of Australia or in the rainforests of the eastern coast. In recent years the genus Dryandra has been incorporated into the genus Banksia.

