

Welcome to Term 3

Welcome to Term 3 and to my first edition as the new SERCUL Education and Promotion Manager.

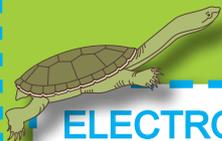
In this edition we celebrate all things science with the upcoming National Science Week and Celebration of Science Community Expo. We highlight the Canoeing on the Canning professional learning opportunity and ways to get your students involved in planting native species. We also focus on reducing, reusing and reinventing waste, and in particular plastics, with the Young Re-Inventor of the Year Competition, Plastic Free July, Keep Australia Beautiful Week and our own Did You Know? section.

Natasha Bowden

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!

SERCUL's New Face of Environmental Education!

Hi! My name is **Natasha Bowden** and I am SERCUL's new Education and Promotion Manager. As mentioned in Term 2's newsletter, Amy Krupa has moved into the role of Chief Executive Officer at SERCUL after 17 years in the Education position. Whilst this is a loss to all of you who have benefitted from Amy's wealth of knowledge over the years, please be assured that Amy has been, and will continue to keep, guiding me as I endeavour to fill her very big shoes!

I have been working at SERCUL as a casual Environmental Education Officer for a couple of years now so may have already met some of you in that capacity. Now I am at your service full-time and will do my best to continue the work Amy has so successfully pioneered.

Feel free to contact me at any time regarding the topics covered by the Phosphorus Awareness Project or to make an incursion or excursion booking. I can be contacted on 9458 5664 or at natashabowden@sercul.org.au. I look forward to meeting you all some time soon!



What's Happening in Term 3?

Celebrating 25 Years of Wild Times at Cockburn Wetlands Centre

The Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre was established in 1993 and has been dedicated ever since to the conservation and restoration of wetlands, environmental education, training and youth services. This year it celebrates it's 25th anniversary! Please join them for a celebration of 25 years and to launch the next 25 years with a new look Centre and logo on Sunday 22nd July from 10am to 11.30am at 184 Hope Road, Bibra Lake. To help with catering please RSVP by Wednesday 18th July at www.trybooking.com/400515.



Young Re-Inventor of the Year

The theme for this years **switch** your thinking competition is **Water**: Reinvent rubbish into something that helps keep our waterways clean or conserves water!

The purpose of the initiative is to get young people thinking differently about waste and possibly share in \$3000 worth of sustainability prizes.

The competition is open to people aged under 18 years and entries are accepted from individuals, schools or community groups. The initiative can link to curriculum outcomes in Science, Arts, Technologies and Human Society and its Environment.

Register early and receive a prize! For more information go to:

<https://www.switchyourthinking.com/our-projects/young-reinventor-of-the-year/>.

Submissions close 22 October 2018.





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:
Natasha Bowden on 9458 5664
or email natashabowden@sercul.org.au

Planting Season

There is still time to get dirty and help our environment!

We have a number of sites available at SERCUL where students can participate in a hands-on excursion for an hour, half day or full day, depending on the time that is available to your class. By participating in a planting session at SERCUL, students will not only be improving their local community but they will learn about the benefits of planting local native species including increasing the biodiversity of the area, creating habitat for native animals, helping to combat climate change and air pollution and improving the health of rivers and wetlands. All plants, equipment and fun provided, you only need to provide the youthful enthusiasm and energy!



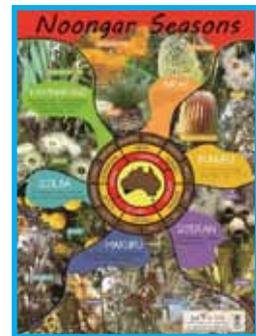
If you don't have the time to undertake an excursion, another option is to accept a donation of native plants from the Phosphorus Awareness Project, which is run by SERCUL in conjunction with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and involve your students in planting a bush tucker garden, frog pond/bog habitat or in remnant vegetation within or near your school grounds. This planting could coincide with a special day such as Arbor Day or Schools Tree Day (27 July).

Free plant stocks are limited so it will be first in best dressed!

Noongar Seasons Poster

Order yours today!

SERCUL have a Noongar Seasons Poster that compliments our Bush Tucker program. The Noongar Seasons A2 poster showcases the six Noongar seasons and some of the local plant species used during those seasons. The poster costs \$5 inc GST if picked up from SERCUL or \$15 inc GST if you would like one posted to your school. Contact Natasha on 9458 5664 or email natashabowden@sercul.org.au to order one now!



To order a poster, get your class involved in a planting session - either at SERCUL, a local site or a bushland or wetland area on your school grounds - or to receive a donation of native plants for your school, please contact:

Natasha on 9458 5664 or natashabowden@sercul.org.au

National
WATER
WEEK

21-27
OCTOBER
2018

Canoeing on the Canning Professional Learning Opportunity

Friday, 26 October 2018

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

On the day, expect to:

- ▶ learn about the Indigenous connections to the river;
- ▶ explore the local biodiversity;
- ▶ learn about the fresh and salt water ecosystems of the area; and
- ▶ hear about the key environmental issues that threaten the Canning River ecosystem while canoeing and on foot.



Register early to avoid disappointment as the day is capped at 20 participants.

See the attached flyer for further information.

Call Natasha on 9458 5664 or email natashabowden@sercul.org.au to register.

Celebration of Science Community Expo

10 Year Anniversary!

In celebration of National Science Week (11 – 19 August), AAEE WA, City of Canning, SERCUL, CREEC, DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service, Inspiring Australia and the Australian Government presents this year's Community Science Expo. The 10 year anniversary of the Community Science Expo is to be held at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) on Sunday 19th August from 10am to 3pm. Come and celebrate technology and achievements in science with hands on activities, workshops, presentations and displays for the whole community. Highlights include:

Josh Byrne presenting Josh's House, Scitech Shows, Solar Science, Native Animal Encounters, Bug Science, Aboriginal Presenters, Rock Band, Waste as a Resource, Recycled Wood Workshop, Native Plant Giveaways, Castledare Miniature Railway, Sausage Sizzle and much more!



There will be something for all ages from kids to teens and adults! Entry is free so come along and enjoy the day.

Youth Competition

As with previous years, we are running the youth competition to design a logo for the event. If your primary school is interested in participating, go to www.aaeewa.org.au to download the entry form, terms and conditions. Entries close on Wednesday 8th August at 4pm. There are fantastic student and school prizes to be won!

National Science Week School Theme 2018

Game Changers & Change Makers

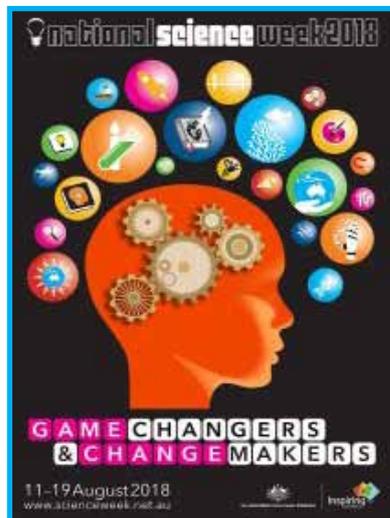
The 2018 National Science Week school theme is **Game Changers & Change Makers**.

The development of this year's theme and the free teacher resource book took inspiration from three significant celebrations in 2018:

- 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein
- 40th anniversary of the birth of the first IVF baby
- International Year of the Reef

The Game Changers and Change Makers teaching resource book is available as an interactive online book and as a downloadable PDF that can be printed. A Game Changers poster is also available to download.

There are a variety of ways you can get your students, class, year level, school and community involved in National Science Week (11 - 19 August). Your participation can be as simple as a display in the school library, or as complex as a whole-school science fair. To find out more or to download the above mentioned resources go to -



www.scienceweek.net.au/schools/

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.

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 & 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!



SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

ALGAE BUSTER



PHOSPHORUS
AWARENESS
PROJECT

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:

Natasha Bowden

Education and Promotion Manager
natashabowden@sercul.org.au

P| 9458 5664

W| www.sercul.org.au

1 Horley Road, Beckenham, WA

Important Dates – Term 3, 2018

16 July	First Day of Term 3
27 July	Schools Tree Day https://treeday.planetark.org/schools/index.cfm
29 July	National Tree Day https://treeday.planetark.org/about/
9th August	International Day for World Indigenous Peoples http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/
11-19 August	National Science Week https://www.scienceweek.net.au/
20-26 August	Keep Australia Beautiful Week http://kab.org.au/keep-australia-beautiful-week/
September	National Biodiversity Month http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-month
1-9 September	Sea Week http://www.aeee.org.au/events/seaweek/
7 September	National Threatened Species Day http://www.natureaustralia.org.au/our-work/wildlife/endangered-and-other-threatened-species/
16 September	Bushcare's Big Day Out http://conservationvolunteers.com.au/what-we-do/bushcares-big-day-out/

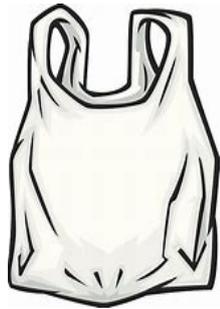


Go Single-Use Plastic Free

With the introduction on July 1st of a ban on the supply of single-use or lightweight plastic bags in Western Australia, there has been a lot of focus on going plastic free.

Plastic Free July

The Plastic Free July initiative was started in 2011 by Western Metropolitan Regional Council's (WMRC) Earth Carers. Since then it has grown from a handful of participants in Perth to millions of participants across more than 150 countries worldwide. This incredible transformation led to the establishment of the Plastic Free July Foundation. The foundation encourages people to join the challenge and 'Choose to Refuse' single-use plastic during July. Their aim is to build a movement that dramatically reduces plastic use and improves recycling so that one day we might live in a world without plastic waste. Accept the 'Choose to Refuse' Challenge today at www.plasticfreejuly.org/.



Keep Australia Beautiful Week

Keep Australia Beautiful Week occurs from 20 - 26 August and the focus for this year is marine litter. Given that about 8 million metric tons of plastic enters our oceans every year (see Did You Know? below), a focus on marine litter can only be a good thing. For more information about how to get involved head to www.kab.org.au/keep-australia-beautiful-week/

Did You Know?

There are five offshore plastic accumulation zones located in the world's oceans!

The largest of these is known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP) and it is located halfway between Hawaii and California. Despite the common misbelief that it consists of islands of floating rubbish, it has a low density (4 particles per cubic metre) which prevents its capture by satellite imagery and means it would not be detectable by people boating or diving in the area. It is largely comprised of suspended, often microscopic, particles in the upper water column. Plastic pollution poses risks for the health and safety of marine animals and people as it can contain Persistent Bio-accumulative Toxic (PBT) chemicals. When animals consume plastics they consume these chemicals, which increase in concentration in the tissues of organisms at successively higher levels of the food chain, of which humans are often at the top! It also impacts on the economy with approximately \$13 billion USD worth of environmental damage being caused by plastic to marine ecosystems, which includes the cost of beach cleanups and the financial loss incurred by fisheries. To find out more go to <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>.

