



Welcome to Term 4

The end of the year is fast approaching, but before you settle in for a well-earned hiatus you have a term full of experiences awaiting you!!

The Term 4 edition of our newsletter is packed full of opportunities to get involved in Education for Sustainability. With National Water Week happening in October and National Recycling Week happening in November, there are plenty of events coming up.

SERCUL's Canoeing on the Canning PDDayforteachers is happening during National Water Week and is a great way to learn about and celebrate the importance of our waterways. The Australian Water Association has some fantastic competitions for school kids to enter and expand their knowledge of this precious resource.

Planet Ark's Schools Recycle Right Challenge, Switch Your Thinking's Young Reinventor of the Year competition and the Waste Wise Schools Program are fantastic ways to incorporate recycling and waste management into your school's learning environment and are all discussed in the coming pages.

We also provide a wrap-up of the recent Nature of Science Community Expo and youth competition winners.

Natasha Bowden

Phosphorus Awareness Project

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!

Nature of Science Community Expo Wrap-Up



In celebration of National Science Week (10 – 18 August), the Australian Association of Environmental Education (WA Chapter), City of Canning, Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC), South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) and the Australian Government (through National Science Week and Inspiring Australia) presented the Nature of Science Community Expo at CREEC on Sunday 18th August 2019.

This year the event was focused on getting in touch with science and sustainability and investigating how we strive to make sense of our natural world and adapt to changes. Highlights included the Wadumbah Dance Group, Scitech shows, native animal encounters, bug science, Aboriginal presenters, a recycled wood workshop, native plant giveaways, Castledare Miniature Railway, and much more!

Youth Competition Winners

As with previous years, a youth competition was held to design a logo for the event. A big congratulations to Grace Waikari (pictured) who won this year's 'Design a Banner' competition. Year group winners were Johnny Moon (Pre-Primary), Alicia Chow (Year 1), Nadia Chwal (Year 2), Jermaine DeSilva (Year 3), Melva Shinto (Year 4), Shuvani Aryal (Year 5) and Lyana Tacadena (Year 6), with two highly commended awards being presented to Zavier Philpott and Ella Limnios. Well done to everyone who entered and thanks for all of your efforts and to the teachers/parents who encouraged you to enter!

Opportunities to Get Involved in Education for Sustainability!!

Waste Wise Schools Introductory Webinar

Waste Wise Schools are offering a free Online Webinar on October 22nd 2019 from 1 - 2 pm for schools interested in becoming an accredited Waste Wise school. The webinar will cover the accreditation process, the resources available to Waste Wise schools, including grants and teaching materials, and how schools can minimise their waste. A half day relief payment is available to enable two staff members from each school to participate in the webinar. To register go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7626749613515958531>.



Nearer to Nature Incursions & Excursions

Nearer to Nature with Parks and Wildlife Service offers a range of excursions and incursions covering curriculum content for Science and Geography with an emphasis on sustainability. Programs cover a range of topics following themes such as bushfire; threatened species; forest, river and wetland ecosystems; and Aboriginal culture and sustainability. All programs



Nearer to Nature

are hands-on in the natural environment at purpose-built centres or carefully selected sites. The brochure for programs suitable for Years 7 - 12 in 2020 is now available at <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/nearer-to-nature/schools>. Book online through the Enquire Online button, email nearertonature@dbca.wa.gov.au or phone 9295 2244.

PAP Plant Grant 2020



Each year, SERCUL provides local native plants to schools as part of the Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) grant it receives from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The PAP grant is used to educate the community about the environmental impacts of too many nutrients entering our waterways. One way we can reduce the amount of nutrients entering our waterways is to plant local native plants that are adapted to our soils low nutrient levels and thus do not require the addition of large amounts of fertiliser. If your students are interested in creating a frog habitat, establishing a Bush Tucker Garden, adding native plants to the school garden or revegetating remnant vegetation on their school grounds or in local bushland, then register at natashabowden@sercul.org.au to receive some native plants in May/June 2020.



Phosphorus Awareness Project Resources for Schools

The Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) is concerned about the high levels of nutrients that are causing algal blooms in the Swan and Canning Rivers and associated wetlands. PAP offers incursions, excursions and resources to school and community groups concerning this issue and how we can look after our waterways and the animals and plants that live there, 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 are 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.

• **Turtle-ology!** teaches students about the life cycle of the Long-Necked Turtle and the various impacts humans have on them at each stage.

• **Macroinvertebrates and Minibeasts** gives students the opportunity to observe the little creatures that live in our waterways or on land up close and personal.

• **Bush Tucker** allows students to learn about the Noongar seasons and how the traditional owners used a range of native plants at different times of the year.

• **Life Cycles: Frogs, Mistletoe or Dragonflies** gives students the opportunity to learn about the life processes of these plants and animals.

• **Aquatic Weeds** informs students about the environmental problems that occur when plants from ponds and aquariums are released into drains and waterways to become weeds!

To find out if your incursion is free go to <http://www.sercul.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SERCUL-PAPSchoolChargeMap.pdf>

For further information or to book an incursion to your school please contact: Natasha Bowden on 9458 5664 or email natashabowden@sercul.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

SERCUL's Canoeing on the Canning PD Day



National WATER WEEK 21-27 OCTOBER 2019

SERCUL's Canoeing on the Canning Professional Development Day is on the 25th October 2019 - during National Water Week - and places are still available! Join 19 other participants for this unique event where you will experience the river and its flood plain. Learn about the Indigenous connections to this landscape, explore the local biodiversity, learn more about the fresh water and salt water ecosystems of the area, and hear about the key environmental issues that threaten the Canning River ecosystem. All participants collect a teacher resource pack containing some great resources to support your learning program. Teachers and other interested community members are encouraged to register now for only \$55 including GST! Registrations can be made by contacting Natasha Bowden on 9458 5664 or via email at natashabowden@sercul.org.au.



Catchments Corridors & Coasts 2020

January 21st - 23rd 2020

... A Snapshot of Environmental Education in WA

S snorkeling in the ocean, walking in the bush, getting up close and personal with native fauna, sharing experiences with environmental educators - these are just some of the activities you can expect when you participate in the action packed Catchments, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) program from the 21st to 23rd January 2020. Presented by the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), this 3 day course is designed to provide a 'snapshot' of environmental education in Western Australia from the catchments, through the corridors, right down to the coast. For more information or to register go to <http://www.aaeewa.org.au/documents/CCCBrochure2020Interactive.pdf>.

Green Lab Biome Panel

Did you know that some council's in the Perth metropolitan area have hard surfaces covering 60% of their total area? Over 500 young Perth people interviewed by Millennium Kids Inc. expressed concern about canopy loss, urban heat island effect, climate change and biodiversity loss. In response Millennium Kids, DBCA and the City of Melville are holding a free event on Wednesday 23rd October from 2 - 4pm at Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre to discuss these issues and encourage schools with bushland (or Green Lab Biomes) adjacent or in the near vicinity of their grounds to facilitate activities that can build climate change resilience; preserve the biodiversity values of these sites; and provide students with the opportunity to be part of the solution. Principals, teachers, school gardeners and other interested personnel are encouraged to attend. Grab your free ticket from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/74066572111> or email catrina@millenniumkids.com.au for more information.



National Water Week



The third week of October every year (21 - 27 October 2019) is National Water Week - a time for individuals, communities and organisations to work together to build awareness around the value of water. The theme for this year's National Water Week is "It's Time to Change The World", which has been adapted from the World's Largest Lesson (<http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>) - the United Nations campaign to introduce the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to children and young people everywhere and unite them to take action to meet these goals by 2030. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #6 challenges us to work towards a world in which every person is able to access safe and clean water. Water also plays a part in another 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

There are several ways you can get your class involved in National Water Week. The Water Corporation has some great ideas for the celebrating in the classroom, school and community at <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/home/education/events/national-water-week>. The Australian Water Association also has a great selection of ways you can be involved at www.awa.asn.au/AWA_MBRR/About_AWA/National_Water_Week.aspx, including a short film competition for primary and high school students, the Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize (see below), colouring pages and educational resources for students and teachers.

Australian Water Association Short Film Competition



The AWA's Short Film Competition asks the question: What are some actions we can take to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Australia and/or globally? They want students' short film's to focus on 1-2 goals and provide a set of actions people can take to help meet those goals and change the world. Each video entry must be no longer than 2 minutes and can be completed by a maximum of 2 students, but they may enter the competition multiple times provided they focus on different topics each time. There are 2 prizes worth \$500 each to be won which will include individual prizes for the student/s involved plus a prize for their school, ideally to be used to promote sustainability. The winning entries will be uploaded to and shared across the Australian Water Association's online platforms. The closing date for entries is Friday, 8th November 2019 at 5pm. For guidelines, consent form, entry form and to upload your short film go to http://www.awa.asn.au/AWA_MBRR/About_AWA/National_Water_Week.aspx. So what are you waiting for...start filming now!!

Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize



The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is the most prestigious youth award for a water-related science project at high school. It aims to inspire students to develop solutions to real water problems and encourages students into careers in the international and Australian water community. The winner of the Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize will represent Australia at the international competition in Stockholm, Sweden in August 2020. In 2019, Australia won the international competition for the first time in history!!

Entry is open to students aged 15-20 years old, but projects must have been developed whilst still in secondary school. Individuals and groups of up to three students are eligible to enter. The task is to develop practical and innovative water research projects on a local, regional, national or global topic that has the potential to improve quality of life and/or the environment. All projects must use scientifically accepted methodologies for experimentation, monitoring and reporting results, including statistical analyses. For more information and entry forms, go to http://www.awa.asn.au/AWA_MBRR/About_AWA/National_Water_Week.aspx.



The City of Canning is partnering with DBCA's Nearer to Nature to deliver the CREEC school programs. CREEC offers a number of K-Yr 12 programs which allow 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.



\$7 per student (1.5 hrs)

For more information contact: Nearer to Nature Phone: 9295 6149 or 9295 2244 Email: n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/nearer-to-nature/schools>

SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

ALGAE BUSTER



PHOSPHORUS
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PROJECT

The SERCUL Educators wish to thank our major sponsor.



Department of Biodiversity,
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SERCUL is a proud member of:



SUSTAINABLE
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AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
(VIA CHAPTER)

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Important Dates – Term 4, 2019

14 October	First Day of Term 4
21-27 October	National Bird Week http://birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/bird-week
	National Water Week http://www.awa.asn.au/AWA_MBRR/About_AWA/National_Water_Week.aspx
10-17 November	Australian Pollinator Week https://www.beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain.html
12-18 November	National Recycling Week https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/nationalrecyclingweek/about
21 November	World Fisheries Day http://www.gdrc.org/doiyourbit/21_11-fisheries-day.html
5 December	World Soil Day https://www.un.org/en/events/soilday/
11 December	International Mountain Day https://www.un.org/en/events/mountainday/
19 December	Last Day of Term 4



National Recycling Week

National Recycling Week (12 - 18 November 2019) is a Planet Ark initiative that aims to bring a national focus to the environmental benefits of recycling. To get your school involved, why not take part in the Schools Recycle Right Challenge taking place from Monday 7th October until Friday 15th November. Planet Ark provide free recycling activity guides, lesson plans and school event ideas designed to engage students and teachers to learn by doing and having fun. For more information go to <https://schoolsrecycle.planetark.org/> and <https://www.coolaustralia.org/unit/national-recycling-week-primary/>.



Young Re-inventor of the Year 2019 Plastic Pirates Ahoy!

Switch your thinking are encouraging young people to put their creativity to the test in this exciting initiative that encourages them to reuse, repurpose and upcycle before throwing away. Inventors aged 18 years and under from high schools, primary schools, early years learning centres and community groups or individuals across WA are encouraged to apply. Young Re-inventor of the Year can link to outcomes in Science, Arts, Technologies and Human Society and its Environment. The 2019 theme is Plastic Pirates Ahoy! so start collecting plastic loot and re-invent it into something to be treasured!! For more information, curriculum links and to register, go to www.switchyourthinking.com/our-projects/young-reinventor-of-the-year/.



\$3000 in sustainability prizes is up for grabs including worm farms, compost bins, upcycling workshops and sustainability books!! Just by registering, you will receive a \$50 voucher for the City of Armadale Drop'n'Shop! Those who share their waste reduction story in a way that inspires their school or community to take further action can also be in the running for a \$500 Change Makers Award!!

Entries close 21st October 2019.

Sustainable Schools WA Network Group Meetings

Term 4 Sustainable Schools WA network group meetings are currently being planned. Find out about the one closest to you by contacting:

- South Metro (Canning): joselyn.juraszek@dbca.wa.gov.au
- South Metro (Armadale/Bedforddale): smccabe@gosnells.wa.gov.au
- South Metro (Mandurah/Peel): wadek@fias.wa.edu.au
- North Metro (Mundaring/Perth Hills): richard.olive@dpaw.wa.gov.au
- North Metro (Padbury): howard.flinders@education.wa.edu.au
- North Metro (Wembley): centremanager@wagouldleague.com.au
- North Metro (Bayswater/Morley): sustainablehomes@inet.net.au

Or visit <http://det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/sustainableschools/detcms/navigation/about-the-initiative/professional-learning/> to find out the latest meeting dates.

Did You Know?

Almost 90% of the world's wild plants and 65% of our food crops, rely to some extent upon insects for pollination! Pollinating insects include many species of bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, moths, mosquitoes, midges and thrips. They assist in the pollination of plants by helping to move the pollen (male sex cells) to the carpel (female reproductive organs) thus enabling fertilisation, seed set and fruit development. Unfortunately, pollinator numbers are declining throughout the world so it is important that people are educated on the need to protect these wonderful creatures and their habitats from further destruction! Celebrate Australian Pollinator Week and go to <https://www.beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain.html> for more information.

