Have your say on Council’s Schools Environment Program!

Council is after your feedback on what resources would assist your school in environmental education.

This term we would like input from Primary and High School teachers on what activities and resources would best assist your school to implement environmental activities and projects in your school.

To have your say please complete the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCCschoolsurvey.

Remind Preschool Educators will be contacted in Term 2 for their feedback in developing an environment program for preschools.

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Eco Schools grants from the NSW Environmental Trust

The next round of the Eco Schools Grants Program is due to open in April 2016.

The Eco Schools Grant Program aims to provide learning opportunities for students, teachers and the school community, through hands-on curriculum-based environmental projects that focus on strong student participation.

Funding available
• Grants of $3500 each are available for up to 80 schools in 2015/2016.
• Up to 25 of these grants of $3500 will be available for projects working primarily with students with special needs.

Objectives
The program will fund school environmental management projects aimed at one or more of the following objectives.

Objective 1 - Environmental benefits
• Enabling schools to promote more efficient resource use and improve the quality of the local environment.

Objective 2 - Student participation
• To promote the development of knowledge, values and behaviour in students that supports environmental sustainability.

Objective 3 - Teacher engagement
• To assist teachers to integrate environmental management principles and practices into curriculum delivery and maximise student learning.
• To promote professional learning for teachers to gain skills and knowledge about sustainability education and engagement.

Objective 4 Managing for sustainability in school and the community
• To encourage sustainable management of resources, school operations and grounds, and to fund activities that facilitate student and community learning about the environment.

The ultimate goal of the Eco Schools Grant Program is the development of environmentally sustainable schools.

If your school has an environmental program in mind or is interested in possible funding to start a project now is the time to start planning.

Find out more about the grant program including examples, tips, resources, guidelines and application forms visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm.

Council’s Sustainability Officers are happy to provide advice on your grant application (see back page for contact details).

Schools are invited to apply for up to $500 for environmental projects.

Congratulations to the following schools that were successful in receiving 2015-16 Schools Environment Grants from Council:
- Kurri Kurri Early Childhood Centre
- Holy Spirit Infants School
- Cessnock Multipurpose Children’s Centre
- Greta Community Preschool
- Weston Preschool
- Honey Tree Preschool
- Kearsley Public School
- Millfield Public School
- Natural Steps Preschool
- Pelaw Main Public
- St Phillips Christian College
- Stanford Merthyr Infants School
- Rosary Park Catholic School

Funded projects include a range of activities such as rainwater tanks, gardens, watering system, indoor plants for air quality, chicken coops and environments excursion.

The number of schools applying for grants was extremely high with 21 submissions and unfortunately not all of these could be funded with only 10 grants available. We encourage each of the unsuccessful schools to reapply in late 2016. We also encourage all of our schools to look for other opportunities to fund projects including the Eco Grants program details above and a number of other organisations offer grants to schools for environmental projects. A comprehensive list is available from the Sustainable Schools website www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainable/schools/manager/fundingopps.htm.

Councill’s School Environment Grants Recipients

School’s Clean Up Day

Friday 4 March 2016

Schools Clean Up Curriculum Toolkit

Turn your Schools Clean Up Actions into valuable classroom learning!

Teachers can educate school students of any age about environmental sustainability using the curriculum resources that were developed in partnership with Cool Australia. The kit includes free lesson plans digital worksheets, new digital learning resources, Smartboard lessons and a host of other resources for teachers that are explicitly aligned with the Australian Curriculum and addresses the cross curricula priorities and general capabilities.

To access the toolkit visit www.cleanup.org.au/au/LiveGreener/schools-curriculum-toolkit.html

In 2016 Clean Up Australia is celebrating 25 years of Schools Clean Ups.
To register your school clean up go to www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au.

Wetlands EEC Teacher & Student Network Day

Thursday 10 March 2016

Wetlands Environmental Education Centre is holding it’s annual network day on 10 March from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

The free workshop is available to teachers and up to four students from schools in the Hunter.

Teachers attending are entitled to three hours of registered Professional Learning.

This event will include information on:
• Waste management in schools
• School food gardens
• Measuring and cutting your power use
• Waste recycling in schools
• Renewable energy
• Information about ClimateCam
• Leadership opportunities for students to present

To attend the event email wetlands-e.schools.nsw.edu.au

Register for professional learning at MyPL.edu (Course Code RGG0327).

Visit the online directory at greenaccessposter.com.au

Wetlands EEC

Term 1, 2016