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Faxback Contact Sheet

To receive your own copy of future newsletters or provide information on your own projects to include in future newsletters copy and complete the form below and return to Trisha Donnelly by fax to 4993 2503 or mail to PO Box 152, Cessnock NSW 2325.

Name: _____ School: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Comments/Interests/Suggestions for future newsletters or descriptions of your own projects:

2006 Environment Calendar Dates

3rd March	Schools Clean Up Day
5th March	Clean Up Australia Day
5th—11th March	Seaweed
7th April	Walk Safely to School Day
5th June	World Environment Day
9th June	World Oceans day
28th July	Schools Tree Day
30th July	National Tree Day
September	Biodiversity Month
7th September	Nat. Threatened Species Day
15th—21st October	Water Week
6th—12th November	Recycling Week



Schools Environment Newsletter

Sustainability Snapshots

Sustainability Snapshots is a Hunter initiative that aims to demonstrate the simple actions individuals and families can do to save money as well as saving our environment. Aimed at providing people with practical ideas and advice on how to live more sustainably, the *snapshots* are designed to make it easier for people to understand what sustainability really means in terms of our everyday actions.

Snapshots will appear on a weekly basis at different shopping centres across the Lower Hunter from February - June 2006. Weekdays will feature a display and free, practical information on sustainable activities designed for "in the home"; "in the yard"; "at the shops" and "on the move". Saturdays will feature local identity Chris Kelly from Ship-O'-Fools as William Doodrop, performing "magic acts of sustainability" between 10am - 1pm. These performances will highlight the simple and practical actions everyone can do to become more sustainable whilst also saving money in the household budget.

Photos from
Kurri
Snapshots
February
2006



The Snapshots display and performance will be back at the Cessnock Plaza (Woolworths) from 13th to 19th March with the performance on Saturday 18th March from 10am till 1pm. Copies of information (including posters and factsheets) from the program can be found on Councils website under 'Council Services', 'Environment', 'Sustainability'.



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Inside this issue:

Nature Watching	2
Resource Corner	2
2006 NSW Environmental Educators Conference	3
Aust. Academy of Science Teachers	3
Seaweed 2006	3
Environment Contact Teachers Meeting	3
2006 Environment Calendar Dates	4
Faxback Contact Sheet	4

Are you Interested in Being Involved in Landcare?

Are you or your School interested in being involved with Landcare? In the Cessnock Local Government Area a number of Landcare Groups work on projects with local Schools. Funding can be available through a number of organisations for a Landcare Project. A project can be as simple as planting a garden, weeding a creek, or creating a frog pond at your school.

Local household names such as Mitre 10 and BiLo provide funding for primary schools across the Country. The Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program is a grant scheme open to schools and other youth organisations around Australia. It provides funds to enable young

people to participate in local Landcare projects. These schools or groups can apply for one of a variety of grants - either by choosing a project from an existing model or by creating a plan of their own specifically relating to a local issue or local need.

In the Cessnock Local Government Area your local Community Support Officer can assist with the development of projects for schools or put you in touch with the local Groups in the area. If you would like further details please contact Mrs. Sarah Roberts on (02) 4993 4234 or sarah.roberts@cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

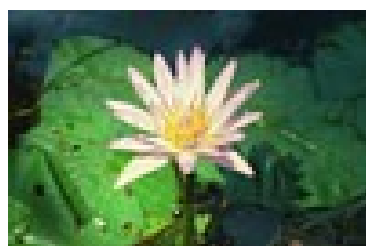
Nature Watching

Nature Watching is about the study of seasonality in nature. Looking at and recording the changes you observe in the natural environment around you and comparing these to observations from previous years to see patterns in nature over time.

Most people who participate in systematic recording of their daily natural history observations soon become fascinated by the regular and predictable sequence of happenings in nature. On comparing notes with those of previous years, the outstanding impression is how much nature is on 'time'. Experienced nature watchers can get to the stage where they can *predict to the week of the year* when a certain plant will commence flowering, or when a certain migratory bird is sure to be seen or heard. Yet there is always something new to discover!

There are several different Nature Watch Diary's and Journals available but you can use anything as long as you pick something and keep recording in the same way so patterns over time become obvious. Perhaps this could be a Year 6 project that continues year after year till you have a great nature history of your school and its surrounding environment. For some examples and ideas check out the websites across.

- Download a copy of the Central Coast Nature Watch Diary which contains lots of information on things to look out for, how to record your observations and useful resources to assist as well as record sheets and how to share your observations with other nature watchers.
<http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment/naturewatch.html>
- You can buy a copy of the Newcastle Nature Watch Journal from the Newcastle Visitor Information Centre, the Wetlands Centre, MacLeans Bookshop, and the State Forest Shop for \$15 or find out more by going to
<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/environment/naturewatch/index.cfm>
- Maitland Landcare Sense of Place Resource Kits contain class worksheets for nature watching activities. Go to
<http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/schools.html> and look in part 1 chapter 2 for the worksheets and examples.



Resource Corner

Consuming Planet Earth Resource Book for Teachers

The Consuming Planet Earth Resource Book for Teachers provides curriculum materials on environmental and sustainability issues and how they relate to young consumers. Developed by Consumer Affairs Victoria it aims to provide young people with the knowledge and skills to contribute towards a more sustainable future by understanding that every decision we make as consumers has an impact on the environment. While developed for Victorian curriculum standards it can also be utilised by NSW teachers containing case studies and work sheets on various topics and complementary to teaching commerce, maths, English and health and well-being. To view and download go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au and type 'Consuming the Planet' into the search box.

Hunter Water Schools Kit

The *Water Kit* is a local production. It provides an opportunity to develop a sense of place whilst demonstrating how we can all contribute to sustainable water management. It encourages students to observe research, think critically and be open to discussion and new ideas on local and regional water issues. The *Water Kit* features four main sections - Water Supply, Water Conservation, Wastewater and Stormwater, and Support Material. The first three sections contain fact sheets and worksheets. Section 4 outlines a range of other resources available to schools, information on websites, and funding and awards opportunities for schools interested in sustainable water initiatives. The introduction of each section outlines learning opportunities and potential links within different levels of the curriculum. Enquiries about the *Water Kit* (available on CD only) should be directed to Hunter Water's Communications Unit on 1300 657 657.

2006 NSW Environmental Educators Conference

To be held in beautiful Shellharbour on the 10th and 11th March, the 2006 NSW Environmental Educators conference will provide a state wide forum on the challenges, demands and opportunities currently facing environmental educators in NSW.

The aim of the conference is to enhance the capacity of Environmental Educators across the state by providing networking, knowledge and information sharing opportunities that will introduce new environmental education concepts.

Included in the program are presentations on designing programs to empower, enhance and embellish schools environmental works and green schools. There is also a session on supporting early childhood teachers sustain sustainability.

A program and registration forms for the conference are available at
<http://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/2006NSWEnvironmentalEducatorsConference.asp>

Australian Academy of Science Teacher Awards

The Australian Academy of Science is sponsoring awards for a teacher from each State and Territory to attend its annual Science at the Shine Dome event in Canberra on 3-5 May 2006. Activities include the New Fellows Seminar, awards presentation, education workshop and annual symposium. The topic of this year's symposium is Science on the way to the hydrogen economy.

The awards are open to primary and secondary teachers. Selection is based on merit. Selection criteria include the applicant's interest in highlighting cutting-edge science in the classroom, their contributions to the profession of science teaching and their commitment to disseminating to colleagues the information gained at the symposium.

Those who attend will:

- learn about the latest research across a range of science disciplines
- meet and talk with renowned scientists and young researchers
- exchange ideas and curriculum materials with interstate colleagues, and
- participate in an education workshop.

For further information contact Emma Anderson on phone (02) 6201 9426, fax (02) 6201 9494 or email emma.anderson@science.org.au. Application forms are also available at www.science.org.au/sats2006/tap.pdf.

Applications close on Friday 10 March 2006 and successful applicants will be notified by the end of March.



The theme for Seaweed 2006 is "Footprints for our Future" and is looking at many different aspects of environmental sustainability through the personal behaviour and monitoring those changes through ecological footprinting. There will be LIVE, interactive webcasts every day during Seaweed for schools to access experts and information on topics such as water, energy, and biodiversity. There are also teaching resources available for download.

If you live near the coast or even if your school is thousands of kilometres from the sea, learning to live, work and play in a sustainable way will help to protect and preserve many of our precious land and marine environments.

Check out www.mesa.edu.au/seaweed2006/ to register for webcasts or download information.

Environment Contact Teachers Meeting

The Wetlands Environmental Education Centre is organising an Environmental Education get-together for teachers for the end of March 2006. Watch out for your schools invitation coming soon. This is a great opportunity to find out about local resources you can tap into for environmental education in your school - including what you can get from your local Council.