

Wise Water & Waste Management Newsletter



This newsletter is collaboration between **Rous Water** and the **North East Waste Forum** to inform, inspire and strengthen outcomes for wise waste and water use and Education for Sustainability in our local Early Childhood Services.



Families of Water Watchers can Win

PRIZE: \$80 mulch for the family and a book for the child.



How: Take home a form from the Water Aware Centre Program display, (after the Centre has the Water Aware Centre Program).

What: It's a pictorial checklist of the water conservation devices and actions at home. As Water Watcher detectives, search and tick off home water saving then read the score.

Prize draw: To be in the lucky draw (31/5 & 31/10) families are asked to return the form to their teachers for collection by Rous Water, (NB Activity is important not score).

Why: It's a fun competition for the children to take on at home to acknowledge and enhance interest and enthusiasm of the children from the Water Waters story and song.

March 2009

NEWS

Water, Waste Workshop!

28th March 2009
ECA Conference
Kingscliff, NSW
Details page 2.

Book: The Rous Water - Water Aware Centre Program

Children's story & song session
Bucket of books (loan)

Audit (1st & 2nd years or as needed)
Parent display (loan)

New Centres & repeat visits all welcome. (+Tank prizes).

Barbara Jensen - Telephone 6623 3827

What's On!

Engage Empower Enact: Sustainability & The Early Years

Conference: 22nd to 24th of October in Melbourne.

Consider being part of the bigger picture for EC Sustainability by attending the National Conference, hosted by Environmental Education in Early Childhood Victoria. Keynote speakers will challenge current practice, while workshops will encourage discussion and debate so that all participants can reflect on their own work and consider how they can engage, empower and enact with respect to education for sustainability in the early childhood sector. Also social gatherings, sustainable product stalls and field trips. To register your expression of interest in this conference and to receive further details as planning proceeds please email:

eeec@alphalink.com.au



Suffolk Children's House need water for their veggies.

What's New!

- A poster/factsheet called 'Water Play is Essential Play. Exploring Water Play and Conservation in Early Childhood Practice'. It is produced by the Early Childhood Australia Sustainability Special Interest Group Victorian Branch. Centres that book the Rous Water Program will receive a copy. Additional copies can be downloaded from this link as an A4 flyer:
[http://www.earlychildhoodvictoria.org.au/edit/Special Interest Groups/WATER%20POSTER.PDF](http://www.earlychildhoodvictoria.org.au/edit/Special%20Interest%20Groups/WATER%20POSTER.PDF)
- The Water Aware Centre Program QUT Study called 'The impact and potential of water education in early childhood care and education settings'. Rous Water formed a partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Resources, Queensland University of Technology, to assess the effectiveness of the Water Aware Centre Program, evaluate its outcomes and develop recommendations and case studies: Thank you to those who took part. Find this QUT study on the Rous Water website, look in Water School & Early Childhood at www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au



Early Childhood Waste Wise Education Project

There is a growing awareness of the importance of waste minimisation in Early Childhood Services in the Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Tweed, Richmond Valley and Kyogle Shire Council Areas. Early Childhood staff are embracing the concepts, routines and education required to work towards a Waste Wise Service. For the North East Waste Forum, the positive outcomes of this project make our work worthwhile and our goals for the community to become Waste Wise become a little more possible each day.

Twenty three services in the above Council areas are involved in the project which has run for 18 months and will continue for another 12 months. Visits to Kindergarten classes will also be available from July 09.

The key strategies in becoming Waste Wise are as follows:

1. Separating waste effectively in staff areas and with the children. Waste needs to be separated into compostable material, recycling and material that is rubbish or cannot be used again.
2. Materials need to be placed in the correct external bins and compostable material needs to go into worm farms, compost bins or sent home to feed chooks.
3. Educating the children to separate rubbish themselves and educating them as to why it is important to separate and dispose of rubbish thoughtfully.
4. Education of families so that carers become motivated to separate rubbish effectively at home and reinforce what is happening at your preschool or long day care centre with the children.
5. All staff working as a team, even cleaning staff as they are often responsible for putting rubbish and recycling into outside bins.
6. Considering what else can be done. Implementation of Environmental Action Plans, excluding the use of harmful chemicals, buying products with recycled content and double sided printing are examples of actions which work towards being environmentally aware.

For more details and support please visit our website or contact Georgie Piper 66813968 or 0429813968.
email: childhood@northeastwasteforum.org.au

Come to a Water and Waste Wise Workshop!!

Where: ECA conference, Mantra on Salt, Kingscliff

When: Sat. March 28th 2009 our workshop 10am

Participants are invited to:

- Explore and discuss the steps that are required to establish sustainable Early Childhood Services
- Listen to a presentation of achievable waste wise strategies and routines that are already working in Preschools and Long Day Care
- Write up an Early Childhood Water Conservation Action Plan
- Be part of an informal discussion and question time. Ideas generated from this workshop will be displayed for other conference participants.

Contact Jan Glynn on 66725012. Please ring ASAP as registrations are closing for the ECA Conference.



Children from Suffolk Park Children's Centre with their new worm farm. Worm farm donated by North East Waste Forum and set up with Georgie Piper at a centre visit.

BOOK THE PROGRAM: The Early Childhood Waste Wise Project visits include a visual waste audit, advice on recycling and composting for your Service, a free worm farm or compost bin donated by your local Council, a children's group time and lots of great resources! Many thanks to local Councils who are sponsoring this Project.

Georgie Piper: Telephone 66813968 or www.northeastwasteforum.org.au