



***“Our Vision
is an active,
environmen-
tally aware
community
that ensures a
sustainable
future for our
shared world.”***

Inside this issue:

<i>SPROuts Practice Awards winners</i>	2
<i>Guest Speaker workshops</i>	3
<i>Keep Australia Beautiful week</i>	3
<i>Low waste lunches</i>	3
<i>EEEC Conference</i>	4
<i>Green Dates</i>	4

Eco Centres for Early Childhood

NSW ECEEN was very excited to recently receive funding from DECC to implement their Eco Centres for Early Childhood project. We will develop and showcase models for creating Eco Children's Services within diverse communities and within a range of service types that may offer inspiration for early childhood services throughout NSW.

Over a two year period the plan is to develop 4 regional hubs of expertise in environmental sustainability by inviting staff and families from each service to form an *Enviro Committee* and participate in a series of 5 free workshops.

The workshops conducted by Julie Gaul and Deb Watson will provide practical opportunities to enable each service to develop an Environmental Management Plan and begin the change process in a holistic manner. Onsite consultation will be provided to services to support the development of the management plan. The aim is to invite at least two

centre representatives from nominated services, ideally one being a parent or family member.

After employing the new project coordinator for ECEEN, Sarah Murray, the first hub was set up in the Randwick Botany area. With lots of support from Randwick council participants from all types of Early Childhood services and lower primary programs have been introduced to local resources and explored strategies for sustainable alternatives.



We have started planning our second hub, with the area to be confirmed.

Resource kits ready for you to borrow

NSW ECEEN have Resource Kits that are available for current members to borrow over a two week period. The kits contain a range of fantastic books, games and lots more resources, that will give you great ideas

about how to provide meaningful environmental education experiences for young children.



The group from *Hippos Friends*, working hard to think of ways to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' within their service.

On April 7, NSW ECEEN held their AGM. We were delighted to re elect our hard working and dedicated Convener's Julie Gaul and Deb Watson and welcome Robert Benson as Secretary and Lesley McGuigan as Treasurer. Julie revised the various activities ECEEN had been involved with over 2008 and outlined the exciting projects that are planned for 2009. This includes the ECO Centres project and a major update of our website which will contain a special member section. Now is a great time to become a member of ECEEN, to download and fill out a membership form simply go to www.eceen.org.au & click on the 'Join Us' button.

'SPROuts Practice' Awards Winner

Since 2005, the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education has encouraged best practice in early childhood environmental education though it's Sustainable Projects Recognising Outstanding Practice Awards (SPROUTs Awards).

NSW ECEEN aims to support and acknowledge those Early Childhood Services in NSW who are demonstrating outstanding commitment to promoting environmental best practice and sustainability.

On behalf of NSW ECEEN, Sue Elliot presented the 2008 SPROUTs Practice and encouragement Awards at The Point Preschool of

Oyster Bay at their 3rd Annual Environmental Sustainability Expo in March.

This year's winner is Bonnyrigg Preschool for their "Nature Education – for children's wellbeing and global sustainability" project.

Young children's interest in nature was the stimulus for a year long program which strongly emphasised interactions with the natural world.

The program followed emergent curriculum philosophies - utilising spontaneous opportunities and events. They began with simple sustainability practices, including a recycling program, worm farm, na-



tive garden, experimented with growing vegetables, staff began reviewing cleaning practices and looking at how to install a rain-water tank.

Congratulations to Robyn and the staff, children and families at the Bonnyrigg Preschool!

'SPROuts Practice' Awards Encouragement Awards

There are also three SPROUTs Encouragement Awards this year, reflecting the high standard of entries.

Brookvale Children's Centre made significant eco-improvements including auditing their waste, water energy and chemical use. They developed their own Environmental Action Plan and identified priority areas for future important changes.



Watering the veggie patch

The staff and families at Kenny Street Children's Centre did an outstanding job of totally transforming a barren area into a beautiful outdoor environment where children could explore the natural elements of the landscape. The

amazing transformation can be seen in these before and after shots.



Before Shot



After Shot

Clovelly Child care Centre has sought to achieve best practice in terms of environmental sustainability for the past 25 years. An organic vegetable patch provides the kitchen with healthy produce for the children's meals. The

Centre recently decided to take their sustainability journey to the next stage in mid 2008 and applied for a Community Water Grant with the Federal Government. The application was successful and the Centre now boasts 2 large water



Planting new plants in the herb garden

tanks (8,000L) which are plumbed to the 10 toilets and laundry as well as a 3rd tank (2,000L) for storing water to irrigate the garden.

Go to www.eceen.org to view the PowerPoint slide show of SPROUTs case studies. You can also download the application form to enter your early childhood environmental project into the 2009 SPROUTs Awards.

NEW — In the Bin!

Written by Kellie Bollard "In the Bin" is an informative rhyming story about bins, recycling, worms, compost and all things rubbish.

Full of colour photographs, This is a great introduction to correctly sorting household rubbish



and the concept of reduce, reuse and recycle for primary and preschool aged children. In the Bin - Classroom Resource Kit" contains six laminated A3 posters, extending the topics covered in the book. This includes; correctly identifying where waste should be disposed, reusing waste materials and minimising packaging. For more information www.kelliebollard.com.au

Mon 24—Sun 30 August is Keep Australia Beautiful Week



Why not celebrate by having a 'Low Waste Lunch Day' is a great way to mark Clean up Australia Day this August, a great way to encourage children and their families to stop and think about their packaging choices, and how they can help the

NSW ECEEN Guest Speakers

Randwick Council provided us with the funding to invite Clarence Slockee the Aboriginal Education Officer at RBG. Clarence mesmerised us with his fantastic talk about the importance of making connection with nature and explained how integral nature is in the Aboriginal culture. Clarence brought along an array of interesting resources like beautifully hand woven baskets and rugs and some delicious bush food from the Lilli Pilli and Rainforest Plums. He treated the group by making some wattle seed damper which we gladly smothered with lashings of Lilli Pilli jam!



she was involved with and how to ensure services follow best practice when maintaining a safe and hygienic environment for children Find out more by going to www.freashgreenclean.com.au and www.sasiclean.com.au. Don't

worry if you missed out on these fantastic guest speakers as there is one more very workshop that you may still have the opportunity to attend! Relle Mott is the Community Programs Officer with the RBG and thanks again to the support from Randwick Council will be our guest speaker on **Tuesday 2 June** at Randwick. Get your hands dirty and learn to create and maintain a



In May, KU Children's Services made it possible for Bridget Gardener to join us as a guest speaker on safe and sustainable cleaning in EC. Bridget explained the key findings from the recent SASI-clean report pilot trial with which

successful garden in an Early Childhood service or program. For more info or to make a booking contact the Project Officer: info@eceen.org.au. Cost is \$10 or \$5 for NSW ECEEN members

Low Waste Lunches

What is it?

An easy way to

- *reduce the amount of rubbish we generate that is going into land fill
- *reduce the amount of products we use that generate greenhouse gases in their production and in transporting our waste to landfill sites
- *reduce the amount of processed food being consumed
- *learn ways to reduce our impact on the planet 'reduce, reuse & recycle'
- *how save money, a waste free lunch costs around 37% less.



Contact us at NSW ECEEN and we can email out more information and tips to make your day a success.

Tips to make it easier to start make no waste lunches ...

The change to low waste lunch can take a little time at first. Some tips:

- *Pack lunches in the evening and store them in the fridge overnight.
- *Involve the children in the preparation
- *Maximize leftovers.
- *Make sure you have a set of containers that your child likes and can open easily.
- *Write your name on all your containers before leaving the house.

DECC green dates 2009

5th June **World Environment Day**
United Nations Environment Program
www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/

8th June **World Ocean Day**
"Helping our climate/helping our ocean"
www.theoceanproject.org/wod/

31st July **Schools Tree Day**
Planet Ark 1300 88 5000
www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/3/story.htm

2nd August **National Tree Day**
Planet Ark
1300 885 000
www.planetark.com/trees

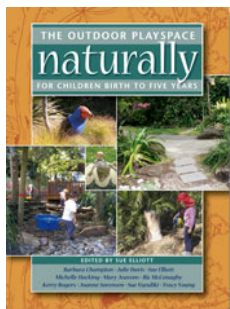
25th - 31st August
Keep Australia Beautiful Week
www.kab.org.au

7th September
National Threatened Species Day
Department of Environment & Water Resources
1800 803 772
www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/ts-day/index.html

7th-13th September **National Landcare Week**
<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/>

The Outdoor Playspace Naturally for children birth to five years

Challenge your perceptions about early childhood outdoor environments as the case studies and beautiful photographs contained within the book and inspire change! The motivation for this book has come from concerns shared by the editor and contributing



authors about the lack of natural elements in children's playspaces in early childhood services. "Over recent years we have....observed the changes in children's playspaces to the point that we can no longer lament these concerns, but must do something about them! Increasing urbanisation, concerns about children's health and wellbeing and a disconnection with nature suggest that the time is right to instigate change in outdoor playspaces" *Sue Elliott*. You will find this wonderful book in our resource kits ready for you to borrow.

Engage Empower Enact
Sustainability and the Early Years

22 - 24 October
2009



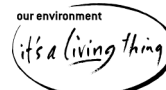
Environmental Education in Early Childhood Victoria (EEEC) and the **Conference Organising Group** are pleased to present the third joint Australian and New Zealand conference focussing on education for sustainability in early childhood. Both **local and international keynote speakers** will challenge and inspire, while workshops and papers will be structured to encourage debate and discussion to enable participants to reflect on their own practices and consider how to become more effective educators for sustainability.

More info at: www.eeec.org.au

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust

WE NEED YOU!

Calling all NSW ECEEN members—share your stories and ideas about all the fantastic work that is being done out there in early childhood services and programs—encouraging children's connection with nature and ability to live more sustainably. Send us an email so we can add these to our soon to be created 'members section' on our website.



Our aim is to bring together interested people and organisations in order to promote the paramount importance of integrating environmental education into all facets of young children's lives in NSW

www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/

NSW ECEEN Project Coordinator
Phone: 8064 3625
Web: www.eceen.org.au
Email: info@eceen.org.au

New