

ISSUE 1 - APRIL 2010

Eco Schools Quest Newsletter

Hello MEEGers,

2010 is well underway and the Eco-Schools Quest is off and running for another year!

Now in its third year the Quest is a competition for schools in the Manning River Catchment, it's open to all ages and focus' on promoting and rewarding environmentally thoughtful schools in our region.

For those schools already competing there is more great prizes to win in 2010 not to mention the title of Eco-Schools Champion being up for grabs!!

And for those schools not yet competing now is the time to get involved!!

Term One Forms Due NOW!!

The year is already flying by and forms are now due for term one.

In order to claim points for any environmental projects your school has undertaken simply fill in the attached points claim form, get your principal to sign it and email or fax it back to MEEG.

Closing Date for term one points forms is 7th May 2010.

Eco - Schools Grants Available

Does your school have a great idea for an environmental project but no money to implement it?

The Environmental Trust has opened its 2010 round of Eco-Schools grants. Grants of \$2500 are provided to schools in order to give them the opportunity to involve their students and community in developing and implementing environmental management projects.

Additional information about the grants as well as guidelines and application forms can be found at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm>

Applications for the Eco-Schools grants close on 21st May 2010.

Larger grants of between \$5000 and \$100 000 are also available for works involving environmental restoration and rehabilitation.

Information can be found at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>



Previous
Eco-School
Champions
Upper
Lansdowne
Primary
School

The Eco-Schools
Quest is run by the
Manning
Environmental
Education Group



New Entrants Claim Cash Prizes

If your school is not yet entered in the Eco-Schools Quest then now is the perfect time to get involved.

All new schools joining the competition before Term 3 2010 will receive \$50 upon entering their first points claim form.

Sustainable Teachers Network

The Sustainable Teachers' Network had the first meeting of the year at Wingham Brush PS with guest speaker Keith Davy.

Keith proved to be a wealth of information about the local area – it's people, it's environment and their history. Our planned walk was washed out, but if there is interest we will do it in the future.

We will meet again next term, stay tuned for details! The focus of each meeting is driven by you: what do you want to learn about, share, discuss? In the mean time, join our Ning discussion forum (<http://meeg-teachers.ning.com/>) request an invitation to join from: kirsty.hughes@midcoastwater.com.au.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity!!

Local Environmental Educators

Environmental subjects are an important part of the school syllabus in NSW and knowing where to find information regarding these topics is important.

To help aid local teachers in lesson and excursion planning MEEG has compiled a list of local organisations offering environmental education to schools.

For more information on these organisations and the services they offer visit the MEEG Website.

New Water Education Toolkit

The Australian Government has launched a new Water Education Toolkit.

The Toolkit will assist teachers and schools across Australia to access a multitude of curriculum and resource materials.

For more information about the toolkit go to: www.environment.gov.au/wet

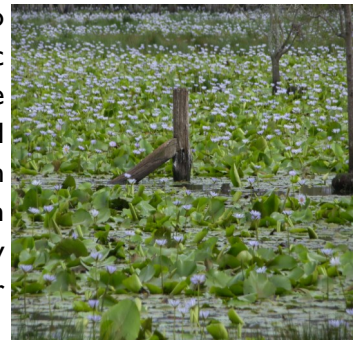
Excursion Opportunities at Cattai Wetlands



Looking for an exciting place locally to take your class where you can cover a variety of subjects such as HSIE, Geography, General Science, Biology, Geology, Art and many more?

Cattai Wetlands is the perfect place, owned by Greater Taree City Council the site was previously used for agricultural purposes and has now been regenerated to a more natural state. The site now contains a variety of different environments including 7 Endangered Ecological Communities and over 170 bird species.

While not open to the general public guided tours of the site can be arranged for schools with the information provided on the day suited to your needs.



If you would like more information or would like to arrange an excursion please contact Council's NRM Project Officer Erin Masters on erin.masters@gtcc.nsw.gov.au or 6592 5354.

More Information

For more information on the Eco Schools Quest or any other MEEG projects visit our website:

<http://meeg.terapad.com>

Alternatively contact

Erin Masters - Greater Taree City Council on 6592 5354 or erin.masters@gtcc.nsw.gov.au