



ComEd news **GRAB**

Department of Environment and Conservation

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has a new website for sustainability projects and support for schools. The website provides a single portal for accessing education programs including Waste Wise, Ribbons of Blue, Clean Schools, EcoEducation, Bush Rangers and AirWatch. You can access program information, keep up to date with the latest news and download resources for your classroom.

These DEC's programs help schools reduce their ecological footprint, and increase their social handprint, through the Australian Sustainable School Initiative WA and are ideally suited to covering sustainability in the Australian Curriculum—see it all at education.dec.wa.gov.au

September is *Biodiversity Month*

How are you celebrating Biodiversity Month? Nearer to Nature has a fantastic range of educational excursions and incursions that promote the understanding of and action for biodiversity conservation.

Our website at <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/ecoeducation/> has full details of excursions and incursions that are available, but don't forget to also get involved with local organisations working towards biodiversity conservation.



Pansy orchid

| Inside this issue | |
|---|---|
| Congratulations to Waste Wise Schools | 2 |
| Bush Rangers scientific research! | 2 |
| Energy saving campaign | 3 |
| Fun with Ribbons of Blue | 3 |
| These Clean Schools Clean Up! | 4 |
| LITTLE winners make a big difference | 5 |



Congratulations to all involved with **Waste Wise Schools**



Students Madison and Madeline along with teacher Mrs Holmes accepting a Waste Wise award from Hon. Bill Marmion, Minister for Environment.

Last June, the Waste Wise Schools program celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The ceremony included presentations from a number of students from Waste Wise Schools; including Bridgetown, Dunsborough and Upper Swan primary schools and Emmanuel Catholic College.

Each shared inspiring stories about the various ways they were implementing their Waste Wise program in their school.

All Waste Wise Schools are to be commended for their amazing waste education projects.

Bush Rangers involved in important scientific research!

Bush Ranger cadets from Rossmoyne Senior High School travelled to Perup Nature Reserve, east of Manjimup to take part in an important piece of scientific research monitoring populations of native animals, in particular the woylie (*Bettongia pencillata*). Not only did they get an opportunity to spend time in some magnificent jarrah forest (*Eucalyptus marginata*), they also got to work alongside staff from the Department of Environment and Conservation's Science Division, who are overseeing the project.

It didn't take long for the Bush Rangers to get an insight in to the amount of work that's needed to undertake this type of field work. They eagerly rolled up their sleeves and got to work on the finer points of how to bait, set and clear fauna traps, clear and prepare sand pads to identify species from their tracks, as well as going spotlighting to record species active at night. Some of the species recorded include the brush tail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), woylie (*Bettongia pencillata*), western grey kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*) and the boobook owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*). They collected and recorded lots of data which will be analysed and included in this ongoing piece of research.

As you can see, Bush Rangers WA really does encourage young people to take action for positive change!



Students lead energy saving campaign

Students from Clifton Hills Primary School got in to some fun energy saving activities at the beginning of Term 3, when Linley from AirWatch brought her energy bike and electrical appliances. Years 4 through to 7 received a free one hour presentation about climate change, electricity and energy savings as a reward for participating in the Energy Smart for Air program.

The students will lead their school in an energy saving campaign, to reduce overall consumption by at least five per cent. They will collect real data from an energy audit and by reading the schools electricity.

They will then encourage the rest of the school to save energy using their own ideas, using anything from puppet shows, posters and even energy monitors in each classroom. Students expressed interest in turning off all lights and having a 'black Friday', though the teachers may have needed some convincing!

If your school is interested in finding more about this program or attending the upcoming November registration sessions, visit the AirWatch website at <http://education.dec.wa.gov.au/airwatch/energy-smart-for-air.html>



A student tries out Linley's energy bike.

Fun with water, bugs and Ribbons of Blue

Do you think it's important for your students to:

- experience our natural environment in a close-up, hands-on way, or
- collect, analyse and interpret real data, or
- investigate how humans impact on the environment and how we can care for it, or
- develop a sense of place through connection to local 'wild' places and their plants and animals?

If you said 'yes' to any of these then Ribbons of Blue can help you focus on the ecosystems of local wetlands, rivers or creeks. A variety of curriculum materials is available to help you build a teaching and learning program focussing on ecosystems, environment and place. The materials suit the Australian Curriculum and support a free excursion to a local wetland provided by Ribbons of Blue.

Fantastic hands-on experience with the resources ready to be used in the classroom, teacher feedback on Ribbons of Blue workshop

Workshops planned for the remainder of 2012 are:

- Field activities: Tuesday, 18 September at Herdsman
- Curriculum planning: Wednesday, 28 November (Primary), Thursday, 6 December (Secondary) at Canning River Eco Education Centre

For more information on workshops and to download resources or access equipment, go to www.ribbonsofblue.wa.gov.au or contact Richard Olive: richard.olive@dec.wa.gov.au.



These Clean Schools clean up!

Three schools who have participated in the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Schools program and their case studies are available on the KABC website at <http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/programs/clean-schools.html>.

Congratulations to Emmanuel Catholic College, John Wollaston Anglican Community School and Cecil Andrews Senior High School for their fantastic implementation and success in the Clean Schools program.



Students doing the right thing!

For information and to register your school, please contact cathy.hadlow@dec.wa.gov.au or phone 6467 5132.

Upcoming professional learning (PL) dates:

Thursday, 1 November PL for north metropolitan schools at Henderson Centre, Star Swamp Reserve,
Groat St, North Beach, 1pm–4pm

Thursday, 8 November An online PL for regional schools, 1pm–3pm.

LITTLE winners make a big difference



A Rossmoyne Senior High School student has won a state award for her ideas on tackling litter prevention.

Year 9 student Sonya Kyi, who is 14, won the Leading Integrated Taskforce Tackling Litter Everywhere (LITTLE) competition for her innovative and original ideas on preventing adults littering.

LITTLE is a national program being implemented by Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB). The program is tackling litter across Australia by using young people to change the littering behaviour of adults, who are Australia's main litterers.

The LITTLE competition, run by KAB WA, received 80 entries from across the state.

KAB WA Chairman Mel Hay said Sonya's entry impressed the judges with her quality suggestions on litter prevention.

"Her ideas included the installation of bins on public transport, boats and in cars, small pocket bins for cigarettes, the creation of a confronting film dealing with the impact of litter, and further emphasis on the laws and fines for littering," he said.

In second place was 10 year old Adam Gootkin from Carmel School in Dianella, who suggested using a famous person to promote the anti-litter message, while 12 year old Jack Farmer from Cornerstone Christian College in Busselton, proposed a fun run where runners collect litter as they run and scores are based on the amount of rubbish collected.

"KAB WA looks forward to implementing some of the anti-litter strategies that the students have suggested," Mr Hay said.

The anti-litter strategies will be presented to the LITTLE taskforce, which consists of 10 students from each state and territory who promote the anti-litter message. Lachlan Moir from Broome is the Western Australian LITTLE committee representative.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Environment and Conservation**

Community Education Branch

Level 7, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

Post: Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 9983

Telephone: 6467 5000 Facsimile : 6467 5532

Email: education@dec.wa.gov.au

education.dec.wa.gov.au