

ESSSN Minutes – Term 2, 20 May 2014

Double Bay Public School

1. Welcome

The Chair, Stephanie Martin from Woollahra Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She thanked Double Bay Public School for hosting the meeting and introduced Principal Andrea Garling and invited teacher and sustainability coordinator Adam Abbi to address the group.

2. Sustainability at Double Bay School

Adam showed the meeting the mini movie that was commissioned by the three Council's for Earth Hour. The movie, which Double Bay starred in, shows students demonstrating environmental initiatives from local schools. Local students also got to ask the three mayors curly questions about sustainability in the local area. You can watch the movies here <https://www.youtube.com/user/WavCouncil>.

Adam went on to give a snap shot of sustainability at the school which includes:

- Composting
- Waste free Wednesdays
- Clean up Australia day event
- Toy recycling drive with Energizer
- Bunnings BBQ to raise funds for the veggie garden
- An Italian food garden
- School Excursion to Randwick Education Centre

3. Birds in Schools presentation by Renne Ferster Levey

Renée Ferster Levy is an ecologist and educator with BirdLife Australia, passionate about wildlife, about engaging children and communities in the joy of fieldwork, and creating habitat to improve biodiversity. She is also a long-time local resident, rarely seen without her binoculars!

Birds in Schools Program

Is an environmental education program designed and delivered by Birdlife Australia with support from NSW Environmental Trust. It is designed for stage three and involves teacher professional development, excursions and incursions and lesson plans. Birds in Schools does not currently operated in our area but there may be scope if a group of schools are interested. Contact your local Council if interested.

Birds Bush and Biodiversity

Renee gave a presentation detailing some of her Eastern Suburbs survey work that spans over 20 years. Her surveys show that many of the small birds are disappearing from the area due to lack of habitat and, being out competed by aggressive birds and predation.

Renee pointed out that all is not lost though. If schools and Council's work together at recreating suitable small bird habitat, green corridors can be created for populations to expand, move around and thrive.

How to invite birds into your school grounds

- Plant a range of lower / understory shrubs that provide a diverse food range, including fruits, nectar and seeds.
- Do not use pesticides, insects are also food.
- Provide water.
- Provide tree hollows or nest boxes.
- Contact you Council to see if the Bush care officer can provide planting advise as every site is different.

Benefits to Schools

There are great benefits to schools in creating bird habitat. Studying birds, insects and plants can support lessons in many areas of the curriculum including science, maths, art and English.

Please contact Renee for more information about her presentation

✉ r_ferster_levy@hotmail.com.

4. Bushcare advice

Paul Angel, Waverley Councils Bushcare Coordinator spoke to the group about planting options in our area. Paul is available to visit Waverley Schools to give advice on habitat creation.

Paul Angel, Waverley Council Bushcare Coordinator

☎ (02) 9386 7915 ✉ PaulA@waverley.nsw.gov.au

5. Local schools can be part of Australian Garden Show at Centennial Park

September 4th-7th

Circles of Learning are putting together a spiral garden using small box gardens, with a mosaic artwork.

This project is for primary children and each school is being invited to bring 5-6 of their keen garden students to plant individual boxes and to create the mosaic. Children would be at the show for approx 1 ½ hrs and each school will be allocated a time to be there.

This is a great opportunity to show to the public what the schools in the Eastern Suburbs can and are doing in their own gardens.

Please contact Judith if you are interested.

Judith Schulz: ☎ 9327 7750 ✉ info@circlesoflearning.org.au

5. Council Updates

*Free seedlings for Waverley schools for National Schools Tree day.

*Youth Leading the World Congress 12- 14 August. Get your high school involved in this amazing and inspiring event for young people.

See **Appendix 1** for the full details of council updates from Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick councils.

Next Meeting:

Term 3

Tuesday 19 August 2014

3:45pm – 5:15pm

Claremont College

30 Coogee Bay Road, Randwick NSW 2031

6. Meeting Close and Thanks

Steph thanked Renee for presenting and everyone for coming.

Meeting closed at approximately 5:15pm.

Useful Links

Bird identifier

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/finder>

Birds in School

<http://birdlife.org.au/education-publications/education/birds-in-schools>

Bringing Birds to Schools Guidelines (PDF)

Appendix 1 – Council Updates

Woollahra Council Update

Community Environmental Grants Program 2014/15

- Applications for Grants due THIS FRIDAY
- Available to all school groups, community groups and ELCs
- http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental_education/schools/community_environmental_grants_program



YOUTH LEADING the World in the Eastern Suburbs

How will YLTW benefit your school?

- ✓ Promote environmental action within the school
- ✓ Networking and partnership opportunities between local schools
- ✓ Be a recognised supporter of youth leadership
- ✓ Local media attention and photo opportunities

Visit www.ozgreen.org.au which has everything you need to know about YLTW 2014

YLTW Congress details

Date: Tuesday 12 –Thursday 14 August 2014

Time: 9am -3.30pm each day

Location: Bondi Junction

Lunch will be provided each day.

School Water Efficiency Assistance Now Available!

- Has your school participated in the Sydney Water- Woollahra Council water efficiency program yet? If not, you are missing out on **FREE water efficiency audit**, free water efficient products and thousands of dollars of savings on your schools water bill. Will only take 1 hour!
- To get involved contact Sustainable Business Program Officer Rob Brewster on 0409 333 145, 9391 7047 or Robert.Brewster@woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

ESSSN Sustainability Awards 2014

- Start planning now for what your school will enter in the 2014 ESSSN Sustainability Awards.
- Award categories: **energy, water, waste, biodiversity and student leadership & empowerment.**

Environmental Schools Sculpture Prize 2014

- This year our theme is **Marine Life in Sydney Harbour**. Just make a sculpture out of reused materials that tells a story about all the amazing creatures that inhabit our beautiful harbour - what animals live there, how they live, what threatens them, how we can live in harmony with them, why they are important or how we can ensure their future.
- Entries open March 18th
- Sculptures will be on display from Monday 27 October 2014 - Friday 7 November 2014

Talks and Schools Support

- Contact Stephanie Martin on 9391 7095 for if you need environmental education schools support including classroom talks, help organising guest speakers, special events etc.

Australian Garden Show at Centennial Park

- September 4th-7th
- *Circles of Learning* has been asked to put together a spiral garden using small box gardens, with a mosaic artwork.
- This project is for primary children and each school is being invited to bring 5-6 of their keen garden students to plant individual boxes and to create the mosaic.
- Children would be at the show for approx 1 ½ hrs and each school will be allocated a time to be there.
- Great opportunity to show to the public what the schools in the Eastern Suburbs can and are doing in their own gardens.
- Email your interest to info@circlesoflearning.org.au

<h3>Waverley Council Update</h3>

25 July - Free Seedlings for National Tree Day

National Tree Day is a great way to get the kids or the community involved in greening up you school for free!

Waverley Council will again be providing free seedlings to registered schools. Let me know early if you would like some as they need to be ordered with the nursery.

Go to the Planet Ark website to register:

www.treeday.planetark.org/schools/ to register and download lesson plans and your toolkit.

For free seedlings to plant on the day, email: Vicky.bachelard@waverley.nsw.gov.au.

12 - 14 August - Youth Leading the World (YLTW)

This three-day event connects future movers and shakers, and gives them the skills and confidence they need to take action on sustainability in their communities. Participants explore local and global sustainability issues, measure and understand their own eco-footprint, and work on action plans to effect change in their lives, schools and communities.

With the forum expected to run in up to 150 locations this year, YLTW is an amazing opportunity for young people to participate locally whilst connecting globally with other congresses through innovative workshops and digital media.

This event is open to students at Waverley and Woollahra high schools and local youth groups.

More info:

www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au/events/youth-leading-the-world-waverley-woollahra/

<http://ozgreen.org.au/>

Or email or call Vicky Bachelard, Council's Environment Officer, Vicky.bachelard@waverley.nsw.gov.au.

New Resources for Early Learning Educators

Cool Australia has launched a raft of new resources designed to help early learning educators take sustainability into their centres.

These new activities cover a range of engaging and current topics and are mapped to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, so you can download and use the resources straight away.

If you haven't yet used the Cool Australia site, it has a fantastic range of lesson plans and activities for all ages.

Grab these exciting new resources, <http://coolaustralia.org/curriculum-materials>

Mini movie showcases local school sustainability

If you are looking for some inspiration to get your school sustainability project going, then look no further. For Earth Hour this year, we made a mini movie to showcase sustainability initiatives in our local schools. We challenge you not to feel warm and fuzzy after watching!

The children from Clovelly Public, Double Bay Public and St Brigid's Catholic schools also got the opportunity to ask curly questions to the mayors of Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick. These short films were shown to the crowd of locals who gathered at Bondi Park for the Starlight Picnic to celebrate Earth Hour.

To watch these great films and a wrap up of the night, <https://www.youtube.com/user/WavCouncil>

Randwick Council Update

Please contact Fiona Campbell at Randwick Council for information on Randwick Council's programs

fiona.campbell@randwick.nsw.gov.au / 02 9314 4868