



Eastern Suburbs Sustainable

School Network

Term 3 Minutes - 18th Aug 2015

Host School: Randwick Public

1. Welcome

Vicky Bachelard from Waverley Council opened the meeting and introduced Sally Kennedy from Randwick Public School

2. Host school presentation

Sally showed a few student movies that have helped document their sustainable journey and then led the group in to the playground to see the composting system. They have three compost bays that the students maintain by adding food scraps to and shovelling the compost over into the next bay as required. They store dry leavers in chicken wire baskets near the compost bays ready to add to the mix as needed.

Sally explained that they now save around \$4 – 5000 per year on waste fees. Allan from Malabar Public asked how they manage to get the teachers on board with the food scrap collection. Sally explained that it was vital to have the principal driving it.

3. JP Williamson from Compost Revolution

JP manages Compost Revolution which is a food waste reduction program that runs across Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick Council's. The program provides subsidised or free worm and compost bins to local residents, schools and businesses. To get a compost bin or worm farm:

1. Go to <http://compostrevolution.com.au/>
2. Complete the online tutorial
3. Complete the online quiz. You can do this as many time as you need to
4. Order your composting bin, worm farm, worms and or compost stirrer and it will get delivered to you.
5. To get your **bin for free** enter coupon code **3councilfree**

Everything you need to know about setting up the bin and troubleshooting any problems is on the website. If you are interested in setting up a larger scale composting system JP is happy to talk this through with you and help where he can.

6. Group brainstorming and Q and A

Tips

A traffic light system works well where you have red and Green lids. Children know to add fresh scraps to the green lidded bin and let the others rest. You can swap the lids around as needed.

Stop rats by placing chicken wire around the base of the bin and bringing it up the side and securing. Like an upside-down jam jar with cloth cover.

Get rid of cockroaches by stirring well each time you add food scraps and adding water. Cockroaches like to hide in dry, warm and undisturbed places.

How do you have a compost bin when you have no garden to place it on (only concrete)? Buy a tumble bin that sits on a frame - JP advises you get one that spins round like lawn roller not one that spins front to back.

See the tutorial for all other questions about composting and worm farming.

7. ESSSN Sustainability Awards 2015

The awards are for projects that focus on biodiversity, energy, water or waste reduction. Enter your project into one of the following categories:

1. High schools
2. Primary schools
3. Early childcare centres
4. Projects focused on student leadership & empowerment that improve the capacity of students to lead and make change within their school or early childhood centre (green teams, SRC, leadership programs etc).

All projects will be in the running for the Judges' Choice Innovation Award.

Read the guidelines here:

http://reduceyourfootprint.com.au/media/uploads/attachments/2015_sustainable_schools_award_guidelines.pdf

Complete your entry form here:

<https://woollahra.wufoo.eu/forms/esssn-sustainability-awards-2015/>

Closing date: **5pm, Friday 6 November 2015** (please supply at least two supporting photographs).

8. Council Updates

Waverley

Environment Grants close on September 4th with up to \$3000 available for projects in the following areas:



Waste

- reduce waste generation
- encourage waste diversion through recycling, composting, worm farming, reusing etc
- reduce littering and illegal dumping

Water

- reduce mains water consumption (eg. water tanks, dual flush toilets etc)
- reduce water pollution in Waverley's waterways (eg. clean waterways projects)

Greenhouse gas emissions

- reduce car use and/or increase travel by the public transport, walking, cycling or the use of non-motorised vehicles
- reduce electricity and gas use (eg. retrofitting of buildings, solar panels, education programs etc)

Biodiversity

- contribute to the protection of native species and ecological communities (eg. bush regeneration)
- enhance habitat connectivity and improve weed management (eg. native gardens)
- increase awareness of Intertidal Protected Areas and Bronte to Coogee Aquatic Reserve.

* Please note that we are currently not providing grants for food gardens and would like to see a focus on native gardens instead.

The next round of grants close on 8th April 2016.

For the guidelines, application forms and more information go to our website.

www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/environment/events_and_programs/community_environmental_grants

Woollahra

Environmental School Sculpture Prize 2015

All K-12 students in attendance at a Woollahra school are invited to take part in Woollahra Environmental Schools Sculpture Prize. The Prize provides an opportunity for school children from the local area to creatively express their concerns and ideas on an



environmental theme throughout the visual arts, for the benefit and education of the community. This year our theme is Patterns in Nature

Sculptures must be hand delivered to Council Chambers by **Monday 12 October 2015** and finalist entries will be on display from Monday 19 October 2015 - Friday 30 October 2015. **Entry into the competition is free.**

About the 2015 theme: Patterns in Nature encourages students to submit an entry that portrays all the unique and astonishing shapes, patterns and designs we see in nature. Our diverse environment has beautiful patterns and natural shapes that inspire creativity within us. Students are encouraged to observe objects like webs, feathers, flowers, spirals, leaves, shells, scales, and create a sculpture which reflects the patterns they see.

Visit Woollahra Council website for more details on how your students can enter in the sculpture competition.

http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental_education/schools

More information: Stephanie Martin // Environmental Education Officer // 9391 7095

// stephanie.martin@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Contact- Stephanie Martin / Stephanie.martin@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Randwick

Contact- Fiona Campbell / Fiona.campbell@randwick.nsw.gov.au