

ESSSN Minutes – Term 2, 19 May 2011

Kincoppal Rose Bay

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Melissa Sellen – Environmental Education Officer from Woollahra Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked people for coming. She thanked Kincoppal Rose Bay for hosting the Term 2 meeting and for their hospitality. She also reminded people that a free child minding service was also available during the meeting.

2. School Presentation – ‘Sustainability at Kincoppal’

Nicole Johnson, a teacher at Kincoppal Rose Bay’s Early Learning Centre, the “Joigny Centre”, gave an overview of the sustainability projects that have been completed to date. She began by explaining that the school has received small grants from Woollahra Council for the past four years. This money has been used to support projects including:

- Making the schools upcoming fair a sustainable event, with an environmental focus;
- Installation of a ‘Nibble & Walk’ path in 2010;
- Construction on an environmental garden in 2009 which involved planting natives and building a frog pond. There have since been a few challenges associated with this as it was located close to a storm water drainage area; and
- Building four garden beds to grow vegetables – this has involved the formation of a veggie club who at times provide food to the canteen.

In addition, the school also has seven worm farms, and is in the process of installing their first rainwater tank to be used to water veggies and herbs. Thank you Nicole!

3. School Sharing and Networking

Mel invited everyone to find someone with the same birthday month on their name tag (which everyone had written on at the start of the meeting), introduce themselves and have a chat...and didn’t the room erupt!

People talked about which school or organisation they were from, what they had been up to at their school and what their sustainability plans were for the future. It was a wonderful ten minutes!

4. Guest Speaker: Peter Carroll, SCRAP (School Communities Recycling All Paper)

Our guest speaker, Peter Carroll, gave a presentation about SCRAP, waste management issues and his top ten tips for schools in regard to waste management.

He began by providing a background on SCRAP, which he founded 20 years ago. SCRAP now has its own sustainability centre which has a number of special features including solar panels. The facility is waste-free.

Peter then discussed a range of issues associated with the waste management industry, food and other packaging, and the National Solar Schools Program. He urged schools to apply for the Solar Schools Program given the recent changes where the program will now only run for another two years.

Peter passed around a handout that he had prepared for everyone (see Appendix 1) which summarised his top ten tips for our ESSSN network. Beginning with conducting an audit, he discussed the points below and more:

- Try and get the students to contemplate consumption – don't forget to add 'Avoid' & 'Refuse' to the start of the old saying 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'
- Is waste a verb or a noun?
- Try and encourage kids to THINK ABOUT WASTE – ask how they feel about it, critically examine the resources we use, ask how we do something about it?
- If you deal with your paper waste well, you will have dealt with approximately 80 – 90% of your 'inside' waste
- The key for outdoor areas is SOURCE SEPARATION
- In the playground you should aim for a 2 bin system – one for inert materials (recyclables) and the other for organics – meaning no general waste bins / no waste going to landfill / a no-waste school. Peter mentioned that there had to be significant change management to deal effectively with these two types of rubbish.
- For effective waste management there needs to be a whole of school approach – including developing things like a canteen policy, supervision policy and excursion policy

Peter concluded by discussing the range of services provided by SCRAP. These include conducting waste audits for schools, running workshops, setting up worm farms and many more. **See Appendix 1** for Peter's handout and information on the range of worm farms SCRAP has for sale (including very large ones!).

5. Group Activity – Developing Strategies for Waste Reduction in Your School

Mel had prepared three sheets of butcher's paper with different headings:

- How can we incorporate waste and recycling education into teaching and learning in the classroom?
- How can we improve waste and recycling separation in the playground?
- How can we reduce waste as a whole across the school?

She placed them on different tables in the room and then asked everyone to go to the table which had the topic that interested them most. Everyone split up and started discussing ideas. For a summary of the ideas generated, **see Appendix 2**.

6. Resources

Zhi from Planet Ark gave an update on some of their programs and resources:

- **RecyclingNearYou.com.au and BusinessRecycling.com.au**
These are services to help you find local recycling options and waste services for a wide range of items. Schools could find the two websites useful for different purposes. RecyclingNearYou has a focus on materials commonly found in households and also has a dedicated page for your local council's recycling and waste services. BusinessRecycling.com.au has a focus on recycling in workplaces (including schools and offices but also commercial and industrial). In some cases the

service providers listed on BusinessRecycling may be more used to handling large quantities. Both services also have a telephone hotline in case you can't find what you need online and want to talk to someone.

- **'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark'** (<http://cartridges.planetark.org/>)
This is a cartridge recycling program where schools may be eligible to have a free collection box (depends on the brands of cartridges used). If schools are interested in participating, check out the website or call 1800 24 24 73.
- **Planet Ark has some lesson plans** (for years 3-6), factsheets and posters on recycling - <http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/recycling-info/>
- **National Recycling Week runs from 7-13 November** this year and Planet Ark is in the process of developing new initiatives to support schools and other organisations with NRW activities.

Renee, mentioned that the Birds Australia curriculum-linked program "Answering the Call", suitable for stage 1 to 3, is now a reality! The teacher training day has passed however for more information about the program; contact Amy Freimanis on 96471033 or at a.freimanis@birdsaustralia.com.au.

Erin from Waverley Council showed the group a handout that had been prepared with additional waste related information including organisations, programs, and contacts etc. **See Appendix 3.**

7. Council Updates

Waverley Council

- **Green Brains series coming up**
This year we are again holding a series of fun, free events over the cooler months. The program includes:
 - A comedy night - 16 June
 - 'Fix it Fest' workshops - 18 & 19 June
 - *Waste Not, Want Not* - film and talk night - 27 June
 - Coastal walk - 10 July
 - Trivia, tunes & comedy - 21 July
 - Clothes swap party (kids & women's clothes) - 27 JulyAll free, with some bookings required. For all the details visit, http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/environment/Events_and_workshops
- **Bondi the Beautiful Sea Fair**
A big day to celebrate Bondi's community and environment (World Environment Day). There are going to be many enviro stalls, a kids entertainment area, a Kindy Farm, displays, music and more.
Bondi the Beautiful Sea Fair
Sunday 5 June, 10am – 4pm
Bondi Park, Bondi Beach
- **Monthly environmental news updates** – all welcome to join community contact list to receive. Send an email to environment@waverley.nsw.gov.au
- **Next round of Councils small grants** program will close in late August

- **Community Environmental Grants Program 2011/12**
 - Closes June 30 2011. Start your school's application now!
 - All information available online at, www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/community/grants
- **2011 Woollahra Environmental Schools Sculpture Prize**
 - 2011 theme is Sustainable Production and Consumption
 - Call for student entries are now open. Entries must be submitted to Council by 14 October 2011.
 - Sculptures will be on display from Sunday 24th October – Friday 4th November 2011

Free sculpture skill workshops for students in years 3-10 from Woollahra schools will be run during the July school holidays. Register now!

Free teaching resource *Precious Resources Environmental Sculpture Resource Kit* available online!

Visit www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/environment/essp for information about all of the above

- **Talks and Schools Support**
 - Council's Waste Support Officer, Brooke Brooks is available to help your school with a waste audit or recycling support. Contact her on 0438 223 011.
 - Contact Melissa Sellen on 9391 7095 for any other environmental education schools support including classroom talks and special events.
- **Schools Tree Day Native Garden Competition**
 - Info packs will be sent to schools at the end of May
 - Offering all high, primary and pre schools the opportunity to win a native garden for their school to be planted on Schools Tree Day, Friday 29 July 2011

- **Randwick Council offers a free comingled recycling service** to schools (primary and secondary) in Randwick City Council
- **Council provides free waste avoidance and recycling workshops** to schools and community groups
- **A school visit program is being developed** for Randwick Community Centre to showcase the permaculture garden and sustainability fit-outs
- **Councils Waste and Sustainability Education Officer (who was at the meeting) is Guada Lado – 9665 9031 / Guada.Lado@randwick.nsw.gov.au**

8. Meeting Close and Thanks – 5.15pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday 18 August 2011
3:45pm – 5:15pm
Coogee Public School
Byron Street, Coogee



SCRAP's TOP TEN TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL WASTE REDUCTION

1. Conduct a **WASTE AUDIT** to understand your waste – how much is there; what types; what services do you have; how much do you pay, etc.
2. **ANALYSE** the results, waste generation, waste origins/sources and assess whether the services you have meet your needs, aspirations and waste profile. Include any recycling services, waste reduction within the school as well as your existing waste services.
3. Formulate a policy for waste reduction; include reuse and recycling strategies and aim **TOWARDS ZERO WASTE**.
4. If you do not have **PAPER RECYCLING** in all areas, extend or implement paper recycling wherever paper waste is generated – your waste audit should show how much paper is actually recycled and how much is still ending up in the waste. Successful paper recycling should reduce waste to landfill of up to 30% by weight and more by volume.
5. Make sure that **PAPER RECYCLING RECEPTACLES** are well labeled and in a prominent location in all areas (the garbage bin should be less prominent in the room).
6. Consider the **PLAYGROUND/EATING AREAS** – most of the waste is generated here. It is in two basic types – organic (food waste and paper packaging up to 50% of the total waste by weight) and inert (mainly other packaging – plastic, metals, liquid cartonboard, etc – up to 20% of the total waste by weight).
7. Implement a **TWO BIN SYSTEM** – BIN 1 - for **ORGANICS** (food and paper packaging) and BIN 2 for **INERTS** (plastics, metals, liquid cartonboard). Investigate composting and worm farming for all BIN 1 materials and a commingled recycling service for all BIN 2 materials.
8. **REFINE** the system by eliminating or reducing to a minimum any non-recyclable items in the commingled recycling stream (especially non-recyclable plastics).
9. Implement **COMPOSTING & WORM FARMING** on a suitable scale for the recovery of all organics generated on site. This needs proper planning and money spent on implementation – but serious savings on waste removal can pay off the investment. Plan for the use of the compost/worm farm products in the school grounds/gardens and integrate to the curriculum to involve students at each stage.
10. Look for **REUSE** opportunities for all other items and further refinements of the system (canteen & school purchasing, student lunches, etc. – **YOU ARE NOW BECOMING A ZERO WASTE SCHOOL!**)

SCRAP can assist at all stages of the progress towards zero waste – we offer cost effective waste auditing (involving staff and students) and reporting; waste reduction strategies and SEMP development; waste and recycling services through licenced companies; composting and worm farming materials, advice, support, training and maintenance and Education for Sustainability on waste and other issues including water, energy, biodiversity, grounds, gardens, purchasing, etc.

CONTACT Peter Carroll on 0400 982 516 for obligation free assessments and quotes.

SEE our website www.scrapltd.com.au/greenbuys for our range of products and services.



Dr David Suzuki - SCRAP International Patron

*"Initiatives like SCRAP are at the heart
of the changes we have to make
to come into balance
with the Earth"*



School Communities Recycling All Paper Ltd

C/o Holsworthy High School Huon Cr, Holsworthy 2173
Ph: 02 9825 1062 Fax: 02 9825 6972 ABN 40 079
741 227



Recycling Floor Boxes
\$5.94 each



Australian made 100% recycled post consumer brown paper bags – various prices x size



Compost Tumblers
from \$385



SCRAP 380 Worm Farm for up to 300 people - \$1200



SCRAP 1000 Worm Farm for up to 700 people - \$1800

Also available – constructed compost systems, school garden services, wheelie bins, waste and recycling services, maintenance programs, recycled paper products, etc



Dr David Suzuki - SCRAP International Patron

"Initiatives like SCRAP are at the heart of the changes we have to make to come into balance with the Earth"

Brainstorming Summary – ESSSN Term 2

How can we incorporate waste and recycling education into teaching and learning in the classroom?

- Making the most of existing curricula and units
 - Maths – weighing, measuring and graphing
 - HSIE – places we know (topic), taking care of our place
 - English – writing, essays
 - Science – Living Things (worms, plants etc), School yard safari
 - Art – using recycled materials (Woollahra Council lesson plans online)
- Waste audit
- Look for opportunities in planning and policy
 - Integrate formally into curriculum
 - School environmental/sustainability/environmental management policies
 - Grade specific program planning
 - Teacher pre-service training
- Summary: There are lots of opportunities to integrate into existing curriculum but this needs to be supported systemically (through policy, community, pre service training etc)

How can we improve waste and recycling separation in the playground?

- Bins – interchangeable bin lids
- Council collect the waste?
- Buckets and monitors for compost
- Whole fruit into a plastic bag and stomp/smash before compost
- Litter metre on the school grounds/visible
- Environmental representatives from each class
- Train the students – student led engagement
- Nude food lunch days
- PDHPE – eat in classroom and sort in room (red bucket, yellow bucket etc)
- “Resource Recovery Centre” replaces “Rubbish Bins” – watch terminology

How can we reduce waste as a whole across the school?

- Worm farm
- Make it fun
- Whole school engagement
- Use music/art/movie making/do a rap about waste to communicate messages
- Regular reporting by students on progress (at assembly and in newsletters)
- Auditing – make rules e.g. ban water bottles, nude food days etc
- Increase the awareness of cleaners to ensure waste that is separated is recycled correctly
- Reward system (gain points and a certain number of points equals a voucher)
- Think about the bin locations
- Needs a multi-pronged approach – there are three streams of people to consider: Kids, Parents and School Management
- Buy recycling bins
- Consider succession planning and knowledge management. How do you keep it going?
- Reuse

Useful Resources & Information - ESSSN Term 2 Meeting, 2011

Resources (waste focus)

- **Planet Ark** – recycling near you website, national recycling week (November), Schools Tree Day (July), cartridge recycling – www.planetark.org
- **Clean Up Australia** – recycling game with notes on links to curriculum (stages 1 to 3), many fact sheets, schools clean up day - www.cleanup.org.au/au/LiveGreener/at-school.html
- **Keep Australia Beautiful** – Waste Watchers Program (waste board game, crossword, sorting activity)
- **Our Cool School** - www.ourcoolschool.org – search ‘waste’ – downloadable activities and clear information (yrs 3 – 6)
- **Mobile muster** – schools recycling challenge on now! www.mobilemuster.com.au
- **Nude Food Day** – free resources, lesson plans etc – simple school registration required – www.nudefoodday.com.au/schools
- **Reverse Garbage** – not for profit co-op that sells industrial discards, cut offs and lots of great stuff for art and craft projects, based in Marrickville www.reversegarbage.org.au
- **3-Council website** (Waverley, Woollahra & Randwick) – questions, answers, blogs, projects & events relating to waste – www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au + new online compost / wormfarm tutorial & quiz

Awards & competitions

- **Keep Australia Beautiful** – Metropolitan Schools Award, entries close 6 June - www.kabnsw.org.au/programs/SustainableCities.aspx
- **Mobile Muster Schools Recycling Challenge** – www.mobilemuster.com.au/school_challenge
- **Landcare Awards** – close 27 May (include categories relevant to schools & young landcarers) - www.landcareonline.com.au (see web banner link)
- **Enviro Inspiro** – for DET high schools to create a short film – entries close 24 June – www.schools.nsw.edu.au/events/statecompetitions/enviro_inspiro/index.php

Grants & funding

- Eco-schools – closes tomorrow! (up to \$2,500)
- Coles school garden grant – next round closes 5 August
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Important dates

- 20 May Walk Safely to School Day
- 22 May International Day for Biodiversity (it is the International Year of Forests)
- 5 June World Environment Day
- 29 July Schools Tree Day
- 18 August ESSSN – Term 3 meeting – Coogee Public School

www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/esssn/