

ESSSN Minutes – Term 1, 19 February 2014

Bronte Public School

1. Welcome

The Chair, Vicky Bachelard from Waverley Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She thanked Bronte Public School for hosting the meeting and introduced Ben Tyacke a Year 2 teacher, and Green Team coordinator from Bronte to address the group.

2. Sustainability at Bronte Public School

Ben explained that the school has been nurturing environmental awareness within the school community and incorporating their sustainability projects to fit into the K-6 curriculum.

- The school received Hi-Top recycling bins and waste bins from Waverley Council – students run recycling audits to assess the recycling stream and contamination levels, constant reminders to students, parents and teachers about recycling. However, problems with contamination still exist.
- See <http://www.sulo.com.au/?s=topp> for more information.
- Collect organic waste and food scraps for compost – waste minimization focus.
- Vegetable Gardens – classes take turns in the nurturing of the vegetable gardens. Students learn about life cycles of biota, how living things grow and develop. Incorporates mathematics (graphing growth rates), incorporates literacy (writing about the garden etc)

3. Café conversations: learning from the 2013 ESSSN winners

5 schools whom were awarded Highly Commended or Winner for their 2013 projects, briefly spoke to the audience about their schools sustainability project. I.e. Project background, how they ran it, how it worked, any problems they encountered, what feedback they received etc.

The speakers were:

- Dave Kistle, Clovelly PS on their 'Outdoor Learning Area' project
- Alan Mcfadyen, Maroubra Bay PS on their 'What a waste' project
- Candy Joyce, St Andrews Catholic Primary School on their 'Playground Project'
- Sally Kennedy, Randwick PS on their whole school sustainability program.
- Jessica Timbs, Vacluse PS on their Bush Tucker Garden Project

4. Table summaries of the inspirational ideas raised

The speakers from each 2013 winner schools sat at different tables, a sign was placed on their tables stating their project, name, and their school.

All teachers, community groups, Early Learning Centres and Educators were encouraged to approach the speakers to discuss their sustainability projects in further detail. This gave the educators time to ask specific details and for the winners to share their knowledge.

By the end of the session, participants were able to:

- List items they have learnt from the winners that they could use at their school
- List what they would like to achieve for the year

5. Earth Hour 2014

Anthony Weinberg notified all attendees about the Earth Hour 2014 event happening on March 29.

- The Eastern Suburbs Council with WWF are hosting a Earth Hour - Starlight Picnic and Video Screening at Bondi Beach Park - next to the Pavilion
- This will be a relaxed family friendly event from 6pm to 9:30 on 29th of March with local celebrities, unplugged music, giveaways and fun activities for the kids, followed by star gazing from Sydney Observatory and a fantastic fire dancing performance.
- The focus on the night is on climate change and sustainability and we will be screening a WWF documentary (also being aired on Channel 10) called "It's Lights Out for the Reef" hosted by Charlie Pickering with cameos from Dr Karl and Dr Chris.
- We want to get our local schools involved and put together a short and fun movie (2-4 mins), of your school's project or achievement. Your movie would be screened around 7:30 at Bondi Park in front of an audience of 1000-2000 people.
- Your movie can be about anything to do with sustainability or the environment - either something that is ongoing or something that you might have completed that your school is proud of.
- The good news is that the three Councils will pay for and organise professional film makers to come to your school and produce the movie. Then the whole school community can come along to watch the movie on the night. So all you have to do is sign up and we will be in touch to discuss your idea and arrange a time and date to come over.
- If you would like your school to be considered for this please contact Anthony Weinberg on 9369 8207/0404 452 791 or Anthony.Weinberg@waverley.nsw.gov.au

6. Meeting Close and Thanks

Vicky thanked everyone for attending and drew the lucky door prizes.

Within the Council updates, Stephanie announced that the **ESSSN Sustainability Awards** will run again in 2014 and winners will be announced at the Term 4 meeting – so start thinking about which project you will nominate now!

All schools are encouraged to submit a nomination for one or more of their 2014 school projects. Award categories include energy, water, waste, biodiversity and student empowerment & leadership.

For the award guidelines, and nomination form, visit www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/esssn/.

The Term 2 meeting will also be a great event. We are yet to receive confirmation from Double Bay Public School, however, the calendar details are below

Next Meeting:

Term 2 Meeting

Tuesday 20 May 2014

3:45pm – 5:15pm

TBC – Double Bay Public School

William St, Double Bay

Meeting closed at approximately 5:15pm.

6. Council Updates

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

Appendix 1 – Council Updates

Waverley Council Update

Having trouble viewing the email below? [View it on the web](#)



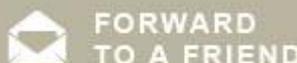
Welcome to our new look sustainable schools newsletter!

Our newsletter has had a bit of a makeover but rest assured it's still full of loads of great info to keep you up to date with local school sustainability news!

Got some feedback on our new look? [Email us](#).

This Issue

- Eastern Suburbs Sustainable Schools Network (ESSN)
- A grant story, you could be next..
- Fun sustainability lessons with less planning?
- Join in the Ride2School Day Fun
- Free local excursions
- What lives in our rockpools?
- Dates for your diary



Well, the new year has brought about a new look for our schools newsletter. You're receiving this newsletter, either because you've previously attended the Eastern Suburbs Sustainable Schools Network (ESSN) or worked with Waverley Council on school sustainability in some form. If you don't want to continue to receive these newsletters, just click 'unsubscribe' at the bottom of the email. If you know someone who would like to subscribe, they can [email us](#).

21 Feb A grant story, you could be next..

Last year, Bondi Public School was awarded \$3,000 through Council's Small Grants program - Environmental Grants to carry out verge planting to create a joint school and community garden. So far, the project has been extremely successful in improving the local environment, reducing illegal dumping on Moore St and raising awareness about sustainability, food production and native biodiversity.



Is your school or childcare centre looking for funding for an environmental project?

There are several grants that you might be eligible for.

For small projects, Council offers Sustainable Schools grants, which you can apply for throughout the year. For larger projects, check out our Environmental Grants, available in two funding rounds each year - February and August. But get your skates on, as the current round closes on Friday 21 February.

More info:

- Check out our [schools grant page](#)
- [Email Ale Torres](#), Council's Environment Officer, or call 9369 8045.

For a full list of grants available to schools and early education centres, [follow this link](#).

Fun sustainability lessons with less planning?



Over the coming months, we'll be working with local primary schools to develop a program to assist schools with their sustainability education. With your help, we will create a program that makes sustainability learning fun for students and easy for teachers.

We would love to know your thoughts and ideas so together we can produce a sustainable schools program that works best for you.

If you had a magic wand, what kind of sustainability program would you love to see in your school?

This is one of the questions in our super short [survey](#). Click on the [link](#) and let your imagination run wild.

Keen to get involved in the development of the program?

We are currently organising a local teachers "brain trust" to help guide the development of this program. Two forums will be held this year facilitated by Les Robinson, a well-known expert in behaviour change. Spaces are limited so register your interest today - speak with your principal or contact Council.

More info:

- [Email Vicky Bachelard](#), Council's Environment Officer, or call 9369 8049.
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19
March

Join in the Ride2School Day Fun

This year there is a cool prize up for grabs for the most active school! Council will also, as always, be supporting schools who participate with a healthy fruit snack for all their riders.

More info:

Letters are going out the principals shortly.

Contact Council's Sustainable Transport Officer, Carolyn New by [email](#), or on 9369 8206.

Check our [website](#).



Free local excursions



Want free local excursions for your class? Then get involved in the fun and interactive school program at Randwick Community Centre!

Students will discover the secrets of energy and water using the Sustainability Hub demonstration site and garden. Choose from a selection of lessons which are curriculum-linked and book in for a full day or half a day. Best of all, it's FREE! Randwick Council will even reimburse the cost of transport to get there. Places for Waverley schools are limited though so get in quick.

More info:

- Check out the [Reduce Your Footprint website](#).

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What lives in our rockpools?



The Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi Pavilion may have recently closed its doors, but it doesn't mean they aren't still offering some great educational activities for school groups!

Book your class in for a fabulous exploration of our local rockpools and the creatures that inhabit them with a subsidised Rock Pool Ramble.

Want more info?

- [Email](#) the Marine Discovery Centre or check out their website.

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Dates for your diary

[Eastern Suburbs Sustainable Schools Meeting](#) (ESSSN)

Tuesday 18 February

3.45 - 5.15pm

Bronte Public School

[Council grants close](#)

Friday 21 February

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get funding support for your school project - get your grant applications in now!

[National Ride2School Day](#)

Wednesday 19 March

Council will, as always, be supporting schools who participate in National Ride2School Day with a healthy fruit snack for all their riders.

More info:

- Contact Council's Sustainable Transport Officer, [Carolyn New](#), on 9369 8206.

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[United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards](#)

Nominations open until Thursday 17 April

Why not nominate your latest school project for the Environmental School Award? If you win, it would be a fantastic recognition of your school's efforts!



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Woollahra Council Update

Community Environmental Grants Program 2014/15

- Information packs will be sent to Woollahra schools in March
- A pool of \$10,000 is available, with grants awarded of up to \$500 or up to \$1000
- Applications due by 30 May 2014
- See www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/community/building_your_community/community_grants/

Eastern Suburbs School Excursion Program 2014

- Suitable for Early Childhood, Stage One and Stage Three teachers and students
- The program will be FREE for the first 5 Woollahra Council schools who make a booking
- Find out all the details at <http://reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/eastern-suburbs-school-excursion-program-2013/>

30% Discount for Woollahra Schools at Marine Discovery Excursions

- All Woollahra schools are eligible for a 30% discount on Marine Discovery Excursions at Bondi Pavilion. The new-look excursions actually have more time at the rockpools, more time for lunch and more Environmental Beach Games!
- Visit <http://www.marinediscovery.org.au/education.html> for more information and to see the remaining available low tide dates for this school year – there aren't that many, so get in quick and choose the best date for you!

ESSSN Sustainability Awards 2014

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

Earth Hour 2014

- The Eastern Suburbs Council with WWF, hosting Earth Hour - Starlight Picnic and Video Screening at Bondi Beach Park. Family friendly event from 6pm to 9:30 on 29th of March.
- We want to get our local schools involved and put together a short and fun movie (2-4 mins), of your school's project or achievement. Your movie would be screened around 7:30 at Bondi Park in front of an audience of 1000-2000 people. Your movie can be about anything to do with sustainability or the environment - either something that is ongoing or something that you might have completed that your school is proud of.
- contact Anthony Weinberg on 9369 8207 or anthony.Weinberg@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Schools Tree Day 2014

- Friday 25th July. Aim is for school children to plant 500 trees in Gap Park. There will be more details to come, but Woollahra is looking for 3 classes of students from a Primary School to take part in this activity in the afternoon of Friday 25th
- Whats involved: Environmental presentation, giveaways, children contribute to the local environment, local media attention.
- Send an expression of interest to Stephanie.

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.

