

Welcome to the Eco-Schools Australia newsletter for Term 3, 2021

What a year 2021 is proving to be!

With the unpredictability and changing nature of this pandemic, we find ourselves once more in various states of lockdowns and returns to a semblance of normality.

We at Eco-Schools would like to take a moment to applaud all the teachers and students across the Nation as they work around various challenges brought on by the pandemic. Your resilience, sense of spirit, inspiration for one another and collaboration during a rather frustrating and arduous period, must be commended.

Thank you all for continuing your Eco Warrior journey under such challenging circumstances. Your spirits are shining bright. We see you!

Visit our **website here** or follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**!



COVID resources for students learning from home

In a missive to all Eco-Schools across the globe, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) has expressed its appreciation of the time and energy teachers, parents and students have put into adapting to the new 'normal' of on-site, online, distance and hybrid learning models that are shaping the current school environments across the world due to COVID.

To support everyone in the Eco-Schools network, FEE has shared a number of resources that may be helpful in continuing the Eco-Schools journey despite COVID challenges.

Photo by Hitoshi Suzuki on Unsplash

CLICK HERE to access the online resources



Mini Litter Less Campaign International Competition: 10 days - 7 Actions

Commencing on 18 October and ending on 28 October

The mini Litter Less campaign (#litterlesscampaign) is a 10-day campaign in which students complete seven actions that promote sustainable behaviour change related to litter and waste.

The actions are easy to fulfil, short and adaptable to any context (e.g. as a lesson in school or activity in a youth group meeting).

The winners of the competition will receive a prize and a certificate from FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education).

For more information, CLICK HERE

SUSTAINABLE G ALS



NEW LESSON PLANS: Positive Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2019 and 2020, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) invited teachers to develop and submit lesson plans that promote an action-oriented pedagogy about specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Based on this, four new lesson plans have been published:

- <u>'A bee is not just a bee'</u> SDGs 3, 4 and 15
- <u>'Sustainable Cities'</u> SDGs 4 and 11
- <u>'Plastic pollution in rivers'</u> SDGs 12 and 14
- <u>'Let's save water'</u> SDGs 3, 4, 6 and 12

CLICK HERE to find all available lesson plans for teachers



Earn \$100 by simply answering our survey!

Eco-Schools Australia is looking for eight control schools to participate in a short survey.

You do not need to be a member of the Eco-Schools family to take part. We are seeking eight schools that HAVE NOT undertaken a litter reduction project or addressed litter reduction recently.

The best part? Each participating school will receive \$100 as a thank you for taking part.

Interested? Then contact <a href="mailto:mai

Photo by Isaac Taylor from Pexels

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Nakara Primary School (NT) takes on the challenge to become cleaner and greener

Nakara Primary School has chosen to follow the Eco-Schools 'whole-school' approach to encourage both students and teachers to get involved with ideas of producing fruit and vegetables locally, reducing waste, and improving recycling.

Eco-Coordinators Tracey Bradley and Michaela-Mercy McNair engaged the students with an "Eco Warriors project", where children between ages 7 to 11 use practical skills to learn about energy and climate, waste and healthy lifestyles.

The school initially held a working bee, where 20 parents and 20 students came to build the foundations of this fantastic project. From when the project began, Nakara Primary School noticed a significant reduction in waste and an increase in both recycling and the use of reusable containers among students.



Bullsbrook College Students are Litter Legends!

Our friends at Bullsbrook College in Western Australia are working hard to reduce litter and waste on school grounds, with Year 4 and Year 5 students participating in the Litter Legends Campaign.

The schools Eco-Coordinator Caroline Alder acknowledged that litter across their school became a noticeable issue despite having an adequate number of bins. She believed that the students did not fully understand the impacts of littering on the school grounds and on the wider environment.

The program was also integrated into the Science curriculum across Year 1 through to Year 6 covering:

- What is litter and what are the impacts of littering?
- How to categorise rubbish (landfill, organic and recyclable)
- Participating in a litter sorting activity

This teaching exercise is going to be extended to Science Week in Week 5, where students will be using organic waste to rebuild worm farms for their school veggie garden!

Teaching our younger generations about the importance of reducing waste and preventing litter is a lesson for life. We hope to see more students making positive decisions to reduce litter at school.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Carol Baghdad, Eco-Schools Acquisition Lead

Where are you from?

I was born in Sydney, Australia but my parents are from Cairo, Egypt. I have never been there but hope to visit one day.

How long have you been volunteering with Eco-Schools?

Three months.

Why is it important for you to volunteer with Eco-Schools?

Eco-Schools is a sustainability program that is recognised globally and implemented effectively in many countries. While the program in Australia is still growing, it presents a significant opportunity to create an impact in sustainability education and make a lasting impression on young people.

What is a highlight of volunteering with Eco-Schools?

So far, I have enjoyed learning and researching about how sustainability is delivered in schools, to better understand the issues at hand and find solutions that will encourage Australian schools to adopt the Eco-Schools program.

I also enjoy working with Marina Antoniozzi, National Program Manager for Eco-Schools.

How do you make sure you contribute to keep Australia beautiful?

I think the best place is to start in your own backyard. I am a keen gardener, so other than recycling as much waste as I can, I compost and have been keeping a worm farm, which not only reduce waste but also feed and nourish the garden to produce delicious, herbs and vegetables.

I also hope to one day study permaculture and put it into practise.



This project received grant funding from the Australian Government

Australian Government



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