

THE Greenhouse News

A program for growing and nurturing green minds



PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2008

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAM 2008

REDUCE BEFORE RECYCLE

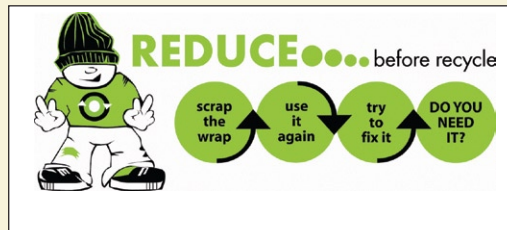
A new year and another exciting new program. The theme for our program this year is Reduce before Recycle. This is obviously a very broad topic and could be approached on many levels. To help schools focus let me introduce Rad, our little cool dude mascot who has a few tips on how we can Reduce.

Why have we chosen this theme?

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is a very important concept. The Greenhouse Program has focused on recycle in previous years and through this and other initiatives, we believe that the children and schools of this region understand the need for recycling and in general are quite good recyclers. Despite this however, we are still massive users of the planets resources. Did you know that Australia has one of the highest ecological footprints in the world? In order to change this we need to look beyond recycling, we need to look seriously at our resource use and find ways to reduce it.

The Program

Like previous years the program consists of many parts and schools are able to participate in the components that best suite them. Schools that participate in all aspects of the program obviously have the best chance of winning the School of the Year Award and prizes.



Project Competition – Both infant and primary project focus this year is our buy and throw away approach to resources. Infants are asked to question if they really NEED items they are purchasing, and if so, explore alternatives to buying brand new.

The Primary Project asks students to investigate the “real” cost of a household item they have recently purchased or are planning to purchase in the near future.

Dance, drama or oral presentation. – Schools are invited to create a short performance or oral presentation addressing the issues of this year’s theme. Selected groups will be asked to perform at the Awards Ceremony at Laycock Street Theatre in December.

School Activities. A resource book of activities and ideas will be given to all participating schools. Judging of schools for the School of the Year Awards will be partly based on the schools incorporation of these activities into their school teaching as well as the general environmental ethos of the school.

Presentation Day - The Awards Presentation Day will be held on Friday November 21, 2008. This is a fantastic event, full of colour, excitement and obviously a strong educational focus. In addition to selected performances, we also present the project and school winner awards. It is a great way to reward students and schools for their hard work and an opportunity for showcasing some wonderful performances.

MORE >



YOU CAN STILL GET INVOLVED.

At present we have 25 schools participating in the program this year but we are happy to have more.

If you are interested in joining the program or wish to just find out more about it, please contact us to arrange a meeting. Remember all schools that participate receive a \$150 participation award, fantastic resource material and other prizes. You will also be in the running for the major School of the Year Awards.

For more information contact our Environmental Education Officer, Anni Griffiths 4325 8333.

MORE OVER

AVAILABLE GRANTS

2007 PROGRAM WINNERS

IMPORTANT DATES

Welcome to Our Lady Star of the Sea, Kariong Public School, Central Coast Grammar and St John the Baptist - all schools new to the program this year.



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AVAILABLE GRANTS

APPLY NOW !

Financial help for schools for environmental initiatives.

Eco School Grants - this program provides grants to schools to give them the opportunity to involve their students and community in developing and implementing environmental management projects. Sixty grants of \$2,500 are available. Closing date is Friday 16th May. For more information visit:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm

Water Saving in Schools Program - this grant is offered by Gosford City Council and is aimed at financially helping schools to introduce water saving initiatives into their school. Ten grants of up to \$5,000 are available. For further information contact Mikell Borg, the Water Project Officer on 43258333 or look at the website:

www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/water_and_sewer/water-savings-in-schools-program

Green Vouchers for Schools - A new look Green voucher scheme is now open for schools to



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WHAT IS A GREENHOUSE?

A place to propagate, grow and nurture the green of our environment.

What better name for a program that aims to grow and nurture a green approach to life in our students. In celebration of the Gosford City Council Schools Environmental Awareness Program 20th anniversary we decided to give it a new name. Looking forward to another 20 years of The Greenhouse Program.

register for. Schools can still apply for funding of up to \$50,000. This money can be used for a variety of energy saving initiatives including solar power system, lighting upgrades, shade awnings and solar hot water systems. For more information visit:

www.environment.gov.au/programs/greenvouchers

2007 WINNERS

Large, Medium and Small School of the Year

KINCUMBER PUBLIC SCHOOL
PRETTY BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOL
SOMERSBY PUBLIC SCHOOL



Gosford Public School, winners of the Mayoral Award for Performing Arts.

A big congratulations to all schools and students that were involved in the Greenhouse program last year

Like previous years the Awards Ceremony was a wonderful showcase of ability and talent as exhibited by both the singing, acting, dancing and presentation skills of the children and the creativity of teachers as displayed by their wonderful original performance pieces.

The winner of the Mayoral Award for

Performing Arts was Gosford Public School for their Green is Cool performance.

In the individual project competition we had a 1st and 2nd place winner for each year level who received an award and prizes. However every student who entered the competition this year was a winner as the Australian Reptile Park generously gave each student who submitted a project a free pass to the park. Congratulations to those students and thank you to the Australian Reptile Park for their generosity.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Student Project Completion

- Friday 12 September.

School Judging

- Monday 8 September - Friday 26 September

Awards Ceremony

- Friday 21 November

Other Important Dates

- June 5 - World Environment Day
- July 25 - School Tree Day
- August 25 - 31 - Keep Australia Beautiful Week
- September - Biodiversity Month
- September 7 - National Threatened Species Day
- September 22 - World Car -free Day
- October - International Walk to School month
- November 10 -16 - National Recycling Week
- November 28 - Buy Nothing Day

