

Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre



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DORROUGHBY EEC TERM 4 2023

Please distribute this newsletter to all teachers interested in Sustainability Education/Outdoor Classrooms.



Jingelah Bloggerman! Greeting Colleagues,

Term 3 was fabulously busy at DEEC with off-site field studies, incursions, excursions, camps, and outreach. Our teachers took some of our favourite programs inland to support rural and remote students who don't have easy access to an EEC. This year our Sustainability Outreach Program was run successfully with Gumflat PS at Copeton Dam. As well as our usual programs, DEEC planted Big Scrub pocket forests with Upper Coopers Creek PS and Casino West PS; and ran workshops at the Wilsons River Catchment Event.

Term 4 is almost completely booked, so if you are considering working with us, please contact us soon to secure the dates that suit you and your students.

We are looking forward to a busy term enjoying learning outdoors and connecting with Nature.

DEEC has an updated COVID-19 Safety Plan and COVID-19 Risk Assessment to supply to visiting schools.

Program information is available from our website or call our centre.

www.dorrroughby-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au



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Southern Cross Public School invited DEEC to work with them at their Stage 3 Energy Day.



Big Scrub Pocket Forests were planted in two schools this term Casino West and Upper Coopers Creek Primary schools



Students from Rous PS enjoyed being archaeologists on their camp.



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Copeton Dam was a great site for teaching the fabulous students from Gumflat Primary School



Big Scrub Pocket Forest at your school

Interested in planting a Big Scrub Pocket Forest in your school? See flyer on last page.

Our programs can be viewed via our website.

<https://dorrroughby-e.schools.nsw.gov.au/programs/primary-programs.html>

<https://dorrroughby-e.schools.nsw.gov.au/programs/secondary-programs.html>

Please don't hesitate to contact the DEEC if you have an idea of how we can collaborate with you to support Education Delivery,

Team Dorrroughby





DORROUGHBY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

BIG SCRUB POCKET FOREST

(Geography, History, Science, Maths, Indigenous perspectives, Sustainability)

Aims: To create intergenerational biodiversity hot spots within local schools that engage and foster students' knowledge and love of our endemic flora and fauna, through the planning, and creation of situationally appropriate Nyambir (Small) Muruwi (Forests). To create endangered Big Scrub pockets within our region. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA4L3dSurCk>

1. Interested schools **contact DEEC.**
2. **Preconstruction of your school's forest:**
Preparing- Half Day:
 - **Site assessment** - Assessing the best site for your (Big Scrub Pocket Forest)
 - Consultation will include principal and possibly GA and other key stakeholders (1-2 hours)
 - Decide on suitable times for construction and lessons.
3. **DEEC purchase the materials:** Big Scrub species seedlings/soil enhancers/mulch etc.
Costings (include DEEC teachers for construction and lessons)
\$7500* - 10 m by 5 m - Approximately the size of 2 car parking spaces
\$8500 - 20 m x 10 m - Approximately the size of 4 car parking spaces
***If site is very compacted, we may need to hire a backhoe/excavator to till the soil.**
4. **Implementing the creation/construction of your school's forest - 4 whole days**
A cross curricula, scaffolding approach to the Pocket Forest process is desirable.
Day 1
 - Session 1: Students first learn about the importance of forests; rotate through mini stations with experiments and info- humus/ decomposers, leaves softening rain, roots holding soil, transpiration/leaves in bag, enjoy sit spots and nature journaling.
 - Session 2: they can do abiotic measurements; temperature under trees vs in the sun, photosynthesis, and oxygen production experiment. Biodiversity survey...
 - Session 3: How do humans connect with forests and what are the impacts? Looking at Big Scrub deforestation, climate change, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders connections, Indigenous forest peoples of the world.
 - Additionally: Plant propagation, save the rainforest banners, habitat games etc.
Day 2 and 3 (need to be consecutive):
 - **Preparing the site-** (2 Dorroughby staff over 2 days). Can be done with students or without. Ground prep - removal of grass, tillage, addition of amendments, mulching and string line added at 1 m intervals, ready for planting.
Day 4:
Session 1: **Planting and mulching of forest** (2 DEEC staff -1 day) with DEEC staff and school community.
Session 2: Discussion of ongoing care including access to the DEEC Pocket Forest Google Drive site. Detailed explanation of watering and care within the first year. Discuss how to conduct regular biodiversity surveys, contribute to ongoing research, interact with the forest for food, medicine, fibre. Signage for some bush tucker species.
5. **Follow up morning** - 6 months after planting. DEEC staff return, assess, and run a few activity





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