



Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre

Bundjalung Country

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DORROUGHBY EEC TERM 1 2023

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



Jingelah Bloggerman! Greeting Colleagues,

Welcome to Term 1. Dorroughby EEC has got off to a flying start with incursions, excursions off-site field studies, and staff trips away to learn about different ecosystems. So lovely to have the gentle rain and the National Parks opening again for offsite field studies.

We have some dates available throughout the year for bookings if you are considering working with us get in early 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.dorroughby-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au



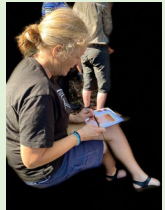
Environment = Life



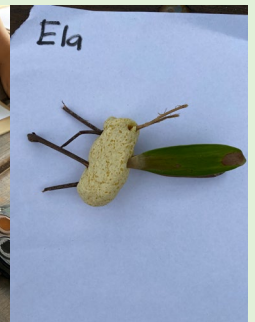
Modanville Primary School 8-week Water Efficiency Program



Wyrallah Public School created and performed 'Cat on an Island' as an eco-play about threatened species and human impact.



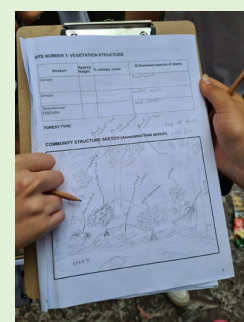
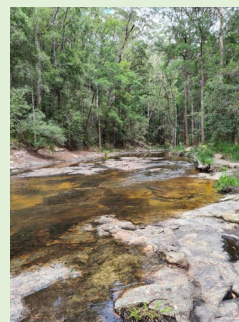
Staff development Cascade EEC Dorrigo.



Dunoon and Albert Park Primary School students enjoying STEM/nature learning activities at Rocky Creek Dam



New toilet demountable arrives.



BBHS Year 11 Earth and Environment students investigate Minyon as part of their studies.



Environment = Life

Water Efficiency Program

DEEC have partnered again this year with the NSW Department of Primary Industry - Sydney Water and other EECs to provide 8 lessons in three local schools this term focusing on reducing water waste and improving water efficiency for times of drought to come. Clay Pawson and Tamlin Heathwood have been delivering these lessons to some very enthusiastic school communities. Thanks to Corndale PS, The Channon PS, Goonengerry PS, Modanville PS and Dunoon PS for lending us you amazing students for this pilot.



Gifted and Talented Environmental Art camp; June 13th - 14th - 15th 2023 (Week 8, Term 2)

DEEC's annual Environmental Art camp is happening once again. Schools are asked to nominate **ONLY 3 year 5 students per school**, who are environmentally minded and artistically gifted. Places are limited and **FIRST IN FIRST SERVED** so contact DEEC to reserve your spot. Applications will be on our website at the beginning of Term 2 This year we will focus on Music in the environment and block print making as well as digital photography, drumming, nature journaling T-shirt dying and printing.

Please contact DEEC if you have students in mind to attend.

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*



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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 Straight 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 activities.

