



## Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre

*Bundjalung Country*

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## DORROUGHBY EEC TERM 2 2024

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



Jingelah Bloggerman! Greeting Colleagues,

Welcome to Term 2. Dorroughby EEC's calendar is looking full, with very few spaces left in T2 and T3- T4 filling up. We have been busy with Sustainability audits in primary schools, citizen science projects, HS field studies, camps, kayaking treks, bushwalks and coastal days. Cindy and Tamlin will head out on remote outreach to do some Environmental Education with students in the Broken Hill area this term and DEEC shall once again host an Environmental Arts Camp for local Stage 3 students. We are looking forward to another great term, supporting all our local schools.

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

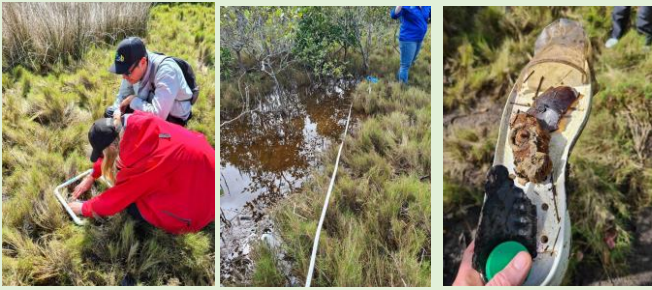
Program information is available from our website

[www.dorrroughby-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.dorrroughby-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au)

or call our centre 66895286



Environment = Life



DEEC Staff participated in a training day with Ozfish learning the importance of Saltmarsh and the sampling technique for a new citizen science project that we can offer with schools. We also did a clean up of the beautiful saltmarsh area.



John Larsson from Ozfish talks and conducts water quality testing with senior biology students at Brunswick Heads and Bagotville Barrage.



DEEC had a wonderful time camping and running coastal activities at Woody Head with Corndale Public School Community



Students at the Pocket Primary School refill their birdbath after a habitat survey of their school grounds - part of 2 days of environmental workshops with their Stage 2s and 3s.







## Special thanks to JOHN LARRSON

Dorroughby EEC would like to take a moment to recognise the amazing community volunteers we have the pleasure of working alongside. In particular, we would like to thank the very knowledgeable and passionate John Larrson, who regularly volunteers his time to talk to students about mangroves, oysters, coastal ecosystems and human impacts. John, Chairman of OzFish Richmond River chapter, has been sharing his wealth of knowledge generously with hundreds, if not thousands, of our local students for many years. Having experts available to talk with school groups, enhances student learning, provides current and relevant information, and encourages our young people towards environmentally responsible behaviour that can contribute to making our environment healthier. DEEC and local schools are incredibly grateful to have John volunteer his time and expertise. THANKS JOHN!

OzFish is a not-for-profit conservation group who actively protect fish habitat- they provide opportunities for community members to engage in citizen science programs and have many up to date and useful resources on their website:

<https://ozfish.org.au/>

## Gifted and Talented Environmental Art camp June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2024 (Week 9, 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 office (66895286) to reserve your spot. Applications will be on our website soon but ring the office before filling them out to ensure there is vacancies. This year we will focus on Biodiversity - what it means to our local Environments - how to protect it - how to enjoy it - how to create art from it. **Please contact DEEC if you have students in mind that would like to attend.**



Environment = Life

## Big Scrub Pocket Forest at your school

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

## Looking for excursions in line with the new Science 7-10 Syllabus?

The new Science 7-10 Syllabus covers content that explores Observing the Universe, Living Systems, Change, Energy and Environmental Sustainability. Dorrroughby EEC has the capacity to develop programs that can engage students in hands-on activities and offer opportunities to participate in a range of practical experiences. We would love to collaborate with you to create programs that encourage students to work scientifically towards the outcomes of; observing, questioning and predicting, planning investigations, conducting investigations, processing data and information, analysing data and information, problem-solving, and communicating. We could also support students to engage in depth studies if required. Please contact us to see how we can support your school to achieve the outcomes from the new content.

## Stage 6 Geography

DDEEC has worked with local teaching staff and other EECs to bring the Stage 6 Geography programs in line with the new Stage 6 Geography Curriculum outcomes.

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

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>

*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.

