



## Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre

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# DORROUGHBY EEC TERM 1 2024

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



Jingelah Bloggerman! Greeting Colleagues,

Welcome to Term 1. Dorroughby EEC's calendar is looking full, with very few spaces left in T2 and T3- T4 filling up. We have been busy with HS field studies, camps, kayaking treks, bushwalks and coastal days. The weather has been mainly glorious and we are looking forward to another great year, 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 or call our centre

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



Environment = Life



**Annual Environmental and Zoo Education centre conference on the Hawkesbury.**

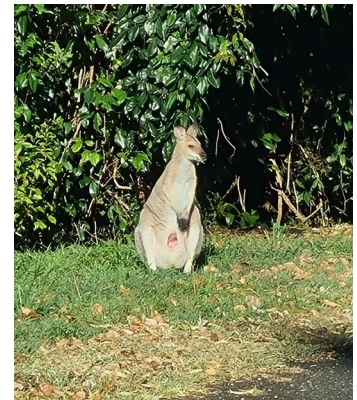


**Alstonville HS enjoyed collecting data on rock platform ecosystems at Woody Head**



**Xavier Christian College Geography students investigated the Evans Head ecosystem whilst enjoying a paddle.**

**Kyogle HS Yr 11 Science students camped at DEEC and took part in Rock Platform study and then investigated Minyon.**



## Gifted and Talented Environmental Art camp; June 25<sup>th</sup> -26<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 to reserve your spot. Applications will be on our website at the beginning of Term 2 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 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.

