

## **PHEEN Meeting Minutes – Term 1 2018**

*Wed 28 Feb, Glossodia Public School*

Chair: Martin Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council

Minutes: Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council

### **Presentation & tour by Glossodia Public School**

Students from the school took the PHEEN members on a tour of their school and gave an overview of their various environmental programs. Some of their work included:

- Veggie garden & orchard – veggie garden is about to be replanted for the new year.
- Native bushtucker garden.
- Composting bays & worm farm
- Bug hotel made from materials from student's backyards.
- Restoration and bush regen on their dam.
- After watching the War on Waste, the students did their own waste audit and started 'Glossodia's War on Waste'. The students identified the main waste sources and implemented:
  - Nude food days where there's no soft plastic packaging. (ie. "The Nude Food Girls")
  - Campaigned the canteen to stop serving hot chocolate and coffee in disposable cups, and they now sell reusable cups. (ie. "The Coffee Cup Girls")
  - "The Worm Farm Boys" who collect food scraps 3 times a week and manage the compost system.
  - 10c refund boys who collect all of the plastic bottles and cans for a refund.
  - Tshirt bag girls who take old tshirts and create reusable bags to replace plastic bags. (ie. "The Bag Ladies")
  - "The Plastic Bag Boys" who are helping to reduce plastics within the school.
  - Involvement with Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre cross curricular sustainability program. The first stage is focusing on palm oil & the habitat displacement of Orang-utans.

The students did a great job on showing us around their school and all their projects.





## Round the table updates

### **Martin Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council**

[Martin.GAUCI@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Martin.GAUCI@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

- The latest Bushtrackers program has been delivered with Glossodia Public School and was another great success. All of the students at the school have received their own map.
- Koala art competition for schools will be coming soon. The focus of this is to create community awareness & ownership of the Koala population in the lower mountain areas of the Hawkesbury. An open day is planned to exhibit these art works towards the end of the year. More information to be released at next meeting.

### **Dindy Boutagy, National Parks and Wildlife Service**

- Dindy gave an update on the Bushtrackers program. There are 5 spots for schools available, they're looking for students in Stage 2 and to deliver it in terms 1 and 2. The program is centered on connecting children to nature, they'll do a walk in a reserve and do activities like art, nature connection and so on. Their artworks are compiled into a professionally designed map by a graphic designer. The program is free and transport is also included, and there are curriculum outcomes for geography, history and science. More information is attached with these minutes. For enquiries please contact Jacqueline Reid at NPWS on [Jacqueline.Reid@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.Reid@environment.nsw.gov.au).

### **Lucy Haynes, Conservation Volunteers Australia**

[LHaynes@cva.org.au](mailto:LHaynes@cva.org.au)

- CVA have two local nature reserves – Bartolo at Agnes Banks and Woodland Reserve at Londonderry. They are doing regular days at these sites where volunteers can get hands on with helping to look after the local environment, and transport is provided to Penrith or Richmond stations. They've developed relationships with Bushtrackers, Western Sydney University, and councils.

### **Sue Price, Brewongle & Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centres, Western Syd Uni**

- Sue works at both Brewongle and Longneck Lagoon EECs, and also teaches pre-service teachers at Western Sydney University. She's currently doing a research project exploring indigenous landscapes and sustainability.

### **Evan Freame & Nathan Green, Greening Australia**

[NGreen@greeningaustralia.org.au](mailto:NGreen@greeningaustralia.org.au)

- Greening Australia are running their Cumberland Conservation Schools program. They'll do 44 school visits, which includes planting 500 plants at the participating school. They're also delivering 10 bird workshops in conjunction with Mark Fuller.
- Their community nursery is at Oxley Park. They are hosting an Earth Hour event in conjunction with WWF on 24 March.

### **Jenny Linklater, Hawkesbury High School**

- Hawkesbury High are working with Xuela Sledge to deliver a Local Land Services grant focused on Cumberland Plain. They are also interested in some slow burning hazard reduction activities.
- They're establishing a bush tucker yarning circle.
- Recent wildlife spotting includes a Willy Wagtail's nest and a goanna.

### **Jo-anne Dorahy & Belinda Raymond, Glossodia Public School**

- In addition to all of their awesome work outlined on page 1, they're also involved with a curriculum based program with Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre. The first stage is focused on Orangutans and palm oil, and looking at what actions the students can take to reduce use of palm oil. The second stage will be looking at veggie gardening and incorporating that into the curriculum.
- Through the RCE network they have connected with a sister school in Japan and communicate with them regularly.

### **Steve Body, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre**

- There is a Koala forum being held on 13 March in the evening in North Richmond. The focus is raising community awareness of the Koala communities in the lower mountains and Hawkesbury regions. More information on the event website:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/koalas-in-our-midst-tickets-43336240863?aff=ebdsorderfbbutton>

### **Helen Angelakis, Western Sydney University**

[H.Angelakis@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:H.Angelakis@westernsydney.edu.au)

- The Office of Sustainability has changed its name to Sustainable Futures. The work is more closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Currently working on a sustainability sub-major that students can participate in, which would result in an award recognised internationally by the UN.
- Brittany in the team is the Youth Coordinator for the Asia Pacific RCE program. The Uni will be hosting a virtual conference for the Asia Pacific region.
- The Schools for Sustainability program will be run again in 2018, and is open to high schools from the Hawkesbury and Penrith regions. There are spots for up to 6 students from 8 schools across the region. Students will participate in hands on learning about a range of topics, and have the opportunity to receive seed funding of up to \$500 to implement their own project. Please see the attached letter for more information.

### **Kay Rowe, Kurrajong East Public School**

- Working with Greening Australia, they have developed a lunchtime Landcare program. They've done a waste audit, and the SRC are participating in the return and earn container deposit scheme. They're installing native gardens, and are looking at improving the catchment behind their school. They've also put out water trays for animals like lizards with the recent hot weather.

### **Ashley Mulcahy, Glenmore Park High School**

- They've undertaken their Glenmore Park Health Check, where they compared local urban areas to the adjacent Mulgoa Nature Reserve. Following this they successfully received a \$3500 Eco Schools grant, and are looking at developing a climate trail to track ecological changes. This will come later in the year when the syllabus focuses on ecology.
- Ash has become the STEM coordinator so has a lot of suggestions for tech focused programs forwarded to him by other teachers.
- The school has a sustainability club, and is also collecting containers for the return and earn scheme.

**Justin Murphy, Hawkesbury City Council**

[Justin.Murphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Justin.Murphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

- Council is looking to profile World Recycling Day in March, so is looking for positive local case studies.
- The upcoming Clean Up Australia Day is the largest one ever held in the Hawkesbury, and includes 14 schools participating.
- Council is also monitoring the local roll out of the return and earn scheme. Currently there are 7 drop off points in the Hawkesbury council area, with a reverse vending machine being installed.
- Council is supporting Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) to roll out the Responsible Cafes program locally. This sees cafes sign up to the program and pledge to give discounts to customers with reusable cups.

**Vicky Martin, Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre**

[Victoria.Whitehead@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Victoria.Whitehead@det.nsw.edu.au)

- Longneck have developed a 1 hour long sustainability course that is NESA accredited and focused on integrating sustainability across stages 2 to 5. They can also come to schools and deliver it for teachers. Please see the attached Sustainability Action Process flyer for more information.

**Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council**

[Andrew.hewson@penrith.city](mailto:Andrew.hewson@penrith.city)

- Council is hosting a home solar, energy, and battery information session on the evening of Thursday 22 March, a few days before Earth Hour.
- Their next big project is rolling out street tree planting in South St Marys. This will include a range of activities to get the community involved.
- Next summer both Penrith and Hawkesbury Councils are participating in citizen science program which will see local residents undertaking scientific measurements to see how the built landscape correlates to temperatures. Potentially this may be something older high school students or university students may be able to participate in.

**PHEEN Meeting Calendar**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
2	Tue 22 May	Kurrajong Public School
3	Thur 13 Sep	Penrith Observatory (Western Sydney University)
4	Mon 5 Nov	Jordan Springs Community Hub