

*Rivers are inundated with snowmelt from catchments, bringing wetlands to life! Aquatic life is buzzing, birds are nesting, platypus are mating and Eastern Banjo Frogs are spawning, so get out there and dance to their chorus!!!
Spring has Sprung.*

What's new at Eco-Logic?

NEW ARRIVALS

Eco-Logic has welcomed a new member to the Eco-Logic family, twelve of them to be exact! Weighing in at 35kg and a bold shade of blue or green are our new Canadian style canoes.

Being a Canadian style canoe with low gunnels, these canoes are incredibly stable and come with bucket seats and PFD's to fit all sizes.

Eco-Logic is now equipped to take a group of 25 students, 2 teachers and 3 instructors, keeping in line with the Adventure Activity Guidelines ratios.



In Eco-Logic's Canoe Discovery Paddle, students explore the Anglesea River or Painkalac Creek river systems. Participants learn basic canoeing skills incorporated into fun games relating to creatures in the river, the plants that hold it together, indigenous history and cultural uses of the place.

We can tailor our canoe sessions for primary, secondary and tertiary aged groups, and link to V.E.L.S curriculum if required.

NEW GROWTH

Eco-Logic is really excited about the progress our revegetation program is making. Several school groups have ongoing revegetation projects with Eco-Logic on the banks of the Painkalac Creek and at the Lookout Reserve in Anglesea. The students are continually impressed when they revisit their revegetation sites and see the new growth it has brought to the region.

Our June/ July holiday revegetation program in conjunction with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) proved to be a great success, incorporating discussion about the impact of rising sea levels, tourism visitation and the impact of dogs on coastal shorebirds.

Our current projects involve the planting of native species to stop erosion and trampling, brush matting to stabilise sand dunes and weed removal to make room for natives to the area, protecting the habitat of endangered species such as the Rufus bristlebird and the antechinus. Participants are supplied with gloves, tools, plants and safety instruction. New sites are popping up continuously that need revegetation- all we need are some eager helpers!



NEW BEGINNINGS

Some of our readers may have been lucky enough to experience a tour at Split Point Lighthouse. After completing a three year trial period, Eco-Logic has recently secured a further 3 year tender with the Surf Coast Shire to conduct tours at the lighthouse.

To celebrate, we have decided to offer tours every day, starting in September, and running on the hour between 11am and 3pm. Stop wondering about the view and the experience, and come and visit for yourself!!

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Yet another success!

Enviro Super Sleuth

Feral case No.5247

*Next issue out in
December*

Staff Profile-Regina Gleeson



Regina is the most recent addition to the Eco-Logic team. Her knowledge and experience has proven to be of great value, bringing new and exciting ideas to the table.

Regina has completed a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University and also completed her Master of Education at Latrobe University, Bendigo.

Before making the sea change, Regina lived in Bendigo where she worked as an Outdoor Education teacher at Bendigo Senior Secondary College and lectured in Outdoor Education at Latrobe University. Regina enjoys anything to do with the outdoors but particularly enjoys her Rockpool Ramble sessions at Eco-Logic. Regina says that Rockpool Rambles spark excitement and curiosity amongst students which makes the session incredibly enjoyable.

If Regina could be any animal she would be a dolphin, otherwise she'd choose the seahorse as the males carry the eggs when reproducing and it would be fun to play hide and seek amongst the kelp forests!

In the future Regina hopes to work with schools in ongoing programs at Eco-Logic, just as she initiated during International Lighthouse weekend. Keep up the good work Regina!!

Kids Capers: Bin it!!!

Get students to design campaign slogans against littering.

Promote the slogans around your school and organize fun events encouraging students to REDUCE, RE-USE and RECYCLE!

These events could include, litter free lunches, art exhibitions making use of litter (chip packets can make interesting collages) or an excursion to your local recycling depo.

Put the trash in the can, man!!!

Glowing Squid Jigg

On Sunday May 25th 2008, fishermen off Portland made the papers for their big catch!! They hauled in a giant squid weighing in at 245kg and over 16m long. Inspired by the fishermen's catch, Pete and I, two keen fisher people at Eco-Logic, thought we'd try our luck at squid fishing off the infamous Lorne pier.

Dressed in the appropriate attire (beanie, jacket, thermals) and supplied with the perfect fishermen's snacks- lollies, lollies and more lollies- Pete and I thread squid jigs to our lines and hoped for the best.

Unfortunately the squid didn't take the bait but we were lucky enough to find the remnants of a squid that someone else had caught. After dunking it in sea water we were amazed to see part of the squid glowing a vivid purple/blue, we were witnessing **bioluminescence**.

Bioluminescence is the production and emission of light by a living organism as a result of a chemical reaction which uses chemical energy to produce light energy. In Cephalopods (squid, octopus and nautilus species), this involves the pigment molecules called luciferins having electrons removed from them, using the enzyme luciferase. This process all takes place in light producing organs called Photophores.

Bioluminescence in Cephalopods is used to attract or recognize mates, lure potential prey and protect them from predation. Squids are very clever in that they concentrate most of their photophores on their underside. The squid breaks up its silhouette which can be seen from below by producing light of ambient intensity at various points along its body, making it invisible to those lurking below. AMAZING!!!



2008 International Youth Coastal Conference Update

Syngnathidae (pronounced SING-NAY-THID-AY) win the day!

After only a few get togethers, Grade 6 conference delegates from Lorne-Aireys P-12 College have already made great progress.

Billie Perry, Justin Fox, Tenzin Liddy-Corlett, Charlie Harvey, and Ella and Zoe Rust have spent a little bit of time surveying the local beach scene in Lorne and Aireys and, after considering lots of 'issues' affecting the coast, they voted unanimously to focus on the **Weedy Seadragon** for their presentation at the Youth Coastal Conference this year in Townsville, North Queensland.

This amazing fish (a member of the Syngnathidae family) will be used to highlight the spectacular environments and unique species that exist in our southern temperate waters.

Information anyone may have about Seadragons, sighting etc would be gratefully received by the team. Please contact Eco-Logic's Suzie Reeves on 0411 062 659 or suziejreeves@gmail.com



Students found a dead skate washed up on the beach, and were amazed to have a close look at the features of the marine creature, including it's sand-papery skin and big set of grinding teeth!

Kangaroo Update

The Anglesea Golf Course is world renowned for its Kangaroos. Those visiting the golf course to catch a glimpse of these amazing Eastern Grey Kangaroos may be startled at the accessories that some of the Kangaroos are adorning themselves with in a bid to make themselves beautiful.

These kangaroos are part of a study conducted by Michelle Wilson, a PHD student at the University of Melbourne, focusing on fertility control in kangaroos. Michelle is keeping records of sightings and incidents involving the study population of roos, who have each got a collar with their name on it- Wave, Ugly, Zoe and Pete to name a few, and have coded ear tags on both ears.

Collars are not put on young kangaroos as they grow too quickly, while older kangaroos have a three finger space between the kangaroo and the collar to ensure the kangaroo doesn't experience any discomfort.

Sadly, the only incidences to record so far have been road kill. In the last couple of months these have been at a rate of one per week! Obviously with their new necklaces and reflective earrings, these kangaroos are still not pretty enough to stop traffic. At a rate of one kangaroo dead a week, it's obvious that drivers need to be more careful when driving in Anglesea and the surrounding areas.



On a positive note, kangaroo sightings have shown that "Lug" is a regular in the Eco-Logic backyard, and the heathland surrounding the lookout on Harvey street is where the boys hangout, so keep an eye out!

If you spot any of the tagged kangaroos roaming Anglesea or have any incidents regarding the kangaroos to report, take note of their name written on their collar and contact

Michelle Wilson
Email: m.wilson7@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au
Phone: 0424 480 950



Creature Feature: Anglesea Slender Sun Orchid, *Thelymitra pauciflora*

The Anglesea Slender Sun Orchid resides in the Coastal woodland habitat restricted to the Anglesea district. It has a flower stem of up to 25cm, supporting 2 or 3 pale blue flowers that appear between October and November.

Orchids belong to the family Orchidaceae. Orchidaceae is the largest family of flowering plants, known for having the smallest seeds of all plants, taking more than 1.25 million seeds to weigh a single gram. Orchids are unique in that they rely on fungi to assist with germination and provide ongoing nutrients for their growth and maintenance.

Because Orchids form relationships with other organisms such as fungi, insects and host plants, these relationships must be considered to ensure conservation. Since European settlement, vegetation clearance, mining, wildfire, habitat damage, illegal collection, grazing from rabbits and spread of weeds has threatened the survival of Australian Orchids.



There are over 360 species of orchids in Victoria, the largest variety in the world.

Due to Australia's harsh environments, Australia's orchids have adapted amazing life cycles. Some orchids spend their entire lifecycle underground, while others mimic the female of an insect to ensure propagation/pollination. To see more of these amazing orchids such as the Anglesea Slender Sun Orchid, pop into the ANGAIR 2008 Wildflower and Art Show 20-21 September, 2008 at Anglesea Memorial Hall. Proceeds of the show are used for land conservation purposes.

Photo provided by: Waratah Software, natural images of Australia

International Lighthouse Weekend 08

International Lighthouse Weekend, held on August 16-17, was a great success. The focus of the weekend is to enhance appreciation of lighthouses around the world, but as managers of Split



Point Lighthouse, Eco-Logic also incorporates a coastal slant. Fun was had by all who were brave enough to dunk their hands in the icy water of the marine touch tank, canoe down the Painkalac Creek, climb Split Point Lighthouse and see an amazing ship in a bottle made by lighthouse keeper George Bardin.



This year Eco-Logic held a competition to encourage school children within the surf coast region to be involved in International Lighthouse Weekend. Students had the choice of writing a story, creating a piece of artwork or building a sculpture. Visitors had the chance to read

intriguing lighthouse stories and appreciate the artwork produced by Lorne-Aireys P-12 College, Anglesea Primary, Torquay Primary, and Bellbrae Primary School during Lighthouse Weekend.

Congratulations to this year's 1st Prize winners!
Short Story- "The Crab" by Harry Jones (Aireys Inlet)
Poem- "Lighthouse" by Caleb Burrows (Anglesea)
Artwork- Miranda Galpin (Torquay)
Sculpture- Torquay Primary School



Special thanks go out to Stan and Melva Stott who provided enthusiastic historical interpretation, adorned in their town crier attire. Thanks also to Shane Madden, Anglesea Bendigo Bank Branch Manager who judged prize winners and provided

sponsorship for the weekend, and the Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee (GORCC) who sponsored a Canoe Discovery Paddle on the Painkalac Creek. Well done to the Eco-Logic team who worked incredibly hard to put the weekend together. Look out for next year's celebrations in August, we're making plans already!

Enviro Super Sleuth...

Since European settlement, native Australian plants and animals have had to compete with a range of introduced species for habitat, food and shelter. See if you can solve the mystery as to what ferals are causing havoc at the Eco-Logic office in Anglesea.

Feral Case No.5247



Clue 1. Andy has found half the beach and bush treasures cached under the snorkelling trailer.

Clue 2. Phill has rushed in to the office in a fluster after doing some bird watching down by the Anglesea River to tell us he has found a dead Joey with its neck broken and its belly torn open.



Clue 3. When collecting eggs for the Sunday morning cook up at Eco-Logic. Sal notices that one of the chickens is missing from the eco chicken coup and that all that remains are tufts of feathers stuck together with saliva.

Clue 4. Being the grot that she is, Rose tramples an animal scat through the Eco-logic office. After a close examination she describes the scat as grey in colour, about 1.5cm wide, pointed at the end and decorated with tufts of fur!

Eco-Logic recognizes that we are on Indigenous ground.

We wish to acknowledge and pay respect to the original custodians -both past and present- of Geelong, Anglesea and Aireys Inlet, the Wathaurong, realizing that this land continues to be a place of significance.



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