

*Following good rain, estuaries are bursting out to sea, seedlings planted by keen Dune EduAction participants are reaching for the sky and Acacias are drooping with the weight of their vibrant yellow flower heads!! Spring has sprung!*

## Riding the Waves



Waves are a form of energy generated far out at sea by wind. Those huge dumping waves that catch you by surprise when taking a dip over summer begin their lives as mere ripples on the ocean's surface. In the ocean, these ripples can travel thousands of kilometres before reaching a land mass. Along its journey across the sea these ripples grow as the wind continues to push the surface water. The size of a wave is determined by how fast wind blows, how long it blows and the distance the wind travels across the ocean, called fetch.

The most exciting stage of the wave's life is when it breaks. As many of you may have experienced when boogie boarding as a child, waves can break with a lot of force. One cubic meter of water weighs one tonne. This means that the smallest of waves we surf lift thousands of tonnes of water as they move along. Waves will usually break when they travel over shallow water. This may be when they reach a sand bank, the shore or a rocky reef. When a wave moves from deep water to shallow water the wave slows, increases in height and becomes steeper causing it to break.

Realising that there are huge amounts of energy moving around in the ocean, scientists are now trying to harness the energy in waves to replace non-renewable energy such as coal. If you would like to check out wave energy in action, why not venture down to the seaside town of Lorne. Over the next few months a new technology that harnesses power generated by waves to produce electricity and desalinated water will be trailed at the Lorne Pier. You might even catch a few waves of your own while you're there!!

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## Staff Profile- Andrew Gray



Andy has completed a degree in Recreation, studied Tourism and Eco-psychology at a postgraduate level, completed a Diploma of Education and is close to completing a Cert IV in Carbon Management Response Plans. In his spare time Andy enjoys cutting it up at the local surf breaks of

Anglesea, surf fishing, bushwalking, sea kayaking and beachcombing. In the near future Andy would like to see Eco-Logic offer a range of environmental consulting services, see a friends group for Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary be created and for Eco-logic to develop a bar-coded interpretive signage system to be rolled out over the Surf Coast and Otway National Park, replacing intrusive signage and incorporating current mobile phone technology in the delivery of interpretive information.

## Kids Capers: Big Brown and Squishy!!!

Ever wondered where your number ones and number twos go when you flush the toilet?

Dive into the toilet head first and find out exactly where it all ends up.

Get students to develop a flow chart that follows your sewage from the toilet to its final destination.

You might be surprised where it ends up!

# Creature feature:

## Tawny Frogmouth, *Podargus strigoides*.

“Am I seeing things or did that branch just look at me?”

No, you're not seeing things, what you saw was a Tawny Frogmouth.

Although they look and behave like an owl, Tawny Frogmouths are closely related to Nightjars, medium sized nocturnal birds with long wings, short legs and short bills.

The Tawny Frogmouth has silver plumage streaked and mottled with black or rufous. A second race of the female has a russet red plumage. The Tawny Frogmouth has distinct yellow eyes above a wide beak topped with a bunch of feathers resembling whiskers. Its mottled colouration and morph allows the Tawny Frogmouth to blend into its habitat by day while it roosts in trees found in forests, woodland, urban and rural areas.



This bird is so successful at camouflage it is often mistaken for a branch. You may have trouble seeing the Tawny Frogmouth but you can easily determine their presence by a deep continuous call, “oom....oom...oom”.

Due to a lack of talons and relatively weak feet, the Tawny Frogmouth is limited to eating small creatures such as insects, worms, slugs, mice, lizards, frogs and small birds. This bird is swift and silent through air, its hunting style often referred to as being similar to that of a Kookaburra.

The breeding season for the Tawny Frogmouth is August to December. Both the male and female incubate a clutch of up to 3 eggs on a loose nest of sticks usually placed on a horizontal forked tree branch.

Threats to this bird are cats, barbed wire fences, removal of habitat and cars. The Tawny Frogmouth is often hit by cars while chasing moths illuminated by car headlights.

Photo: Museum Victoria <http://museumvictoria.com.au/about/mv-news/2009/night-shift-in-forest-gallery/>

# International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend 10

This year's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of August) was a real hit! 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.

Some were brave enough to climb the 136 stairs to the balcony of Split Point lighthouse, while others chose to explore Painkalac Creek on an Eco-logic Canoe Discovery Tour. Sightseers looking for something a little bit different joined in on a "Wonderful Whale Tour" or a "Twisted Tour", a lighthouse tour with a twist.

This year Eco-logic decided to explore their theatrical side so we employed the Skipjack theatre to present "The Secret Life of Eels" an exciting live action play with puppets, proving to be fun for all the family. Thank you to the sponsors Bendigo Bank Anglesea & District Community Bank Branch, Surf Coast Shire and Great Ocean Road Coast Committee who made this weekend possible.

All proceeds from the weekend went to the Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College Production "The Square". Thank you to all those that donated money, over \$900 were raised.

Stay tuned to here what is happening at the lighthouse these school holidays!



## Spring School Holiday Shenanigans

After a couple of term holidays in hibernation (torpor) Eco-Logic staff are refreshed and ready to get out and explore our spring environment. Ascidians and sea pens have been washing up in our local rock pools, red necked wallaby are carrying pouch young and the heath is ablaze in colourful spring flower. Come along and



join us for some fun and games at the lighthouse, night spotting in the picnic grounds, star gazing at the lookout, gandering in the rockpools and/or paddling the Anglesea estuary. Activities will be held on most days of the September Holidays. See our website for a copy of the schedule [www.ecologic.net.au](http://www.ecologic.net.au). We look forward to exploring this wonderful place with you and your family and friends at such a diverse time of year.



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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