

*Deep bellows can be heard from Kev, a frisky male Koala, persuading the nearest female to join him for a cuddle amongst the gum leaves, Short-tailed Shearwaters are resting their wings after migrating from the northern hemisphere, while families are planning their annual camping trip to the beach, "tent...check, surfboard...check, beach cricket.....check.....
Let's hit the beach!!!"*

WWWF SUMMER SMACK DOWN!!!

**Yes, it's back for yet another season:
it's the World Weed Wrestling Federation Smack Down!!**

With summer upon us, what better place to hold this years smack down than in our coastal sand dunes, where competition between the "Narky Natives" and the "Wayward Weeds" is heating up.

After a productive spring, the "Wayward Weeds" have definitely sowed their seed for a long and painful battle. However, local environmentalists predict that the "Narky Natives" will be the last one standing in this years Smack Down arena.

Here is this season's Smack Down showcase events.....who do you choose?

WAYWARD WEEDS

VS NARKY NATIVES



ROUND 1

VS

<p>MENACING MYRTLE LEAF MILK WORT</p>			<p>PUNGENT PIGFACE</p>
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ROUND 2

VS

<p>ASS KICKIN' AGAPANTHUS</p>			<p>CONTAGIOUS COAST SWAISON PEA</p>
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ROUND 3

VS

<p>MIGHTY MIRROR BUSH</p>			<p>BIG BAD BEARD HEATH</p>
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To show your support for the "Narky Natives" at this year's WWWF Smack Down, join us every Wednesday for **Weeding Wednesdays**, sponsored by Eco-Logic's "Dune EduAction" Program. For more information contact Eco-Logic or see our Summer Holiday Program for January 2010.

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Summer Holiday Programs

It's time to start thinking about the best way to spend your January school holidays...

★As usual, **Eco-Logic's Holiday Program** will be running from January 2-23 and includes Ocean Snorkelling, Creatures of the Night walks, & Spooky Story and Twisted Tours at Split Point Lighthouse. See the full program at www.ecologic.net.au

★CoastAction/ Coastcare's free **Summer by the Sea** program runs from January 1-16 in our area. Find out more: www.dse.vic.gov.au/coasts



Staff Profile-Sarah Reid



Sarah Reid is a 'repeat offender' at Eco-Logic. After leaving Eco-Logic 8-10 years ago, Sarah has returned to impart her vast knowledge on the environment with fellow Eco-Logic staff and school students.

After leaving Eco-Logic, Sarah spent time in the tree tops working as a guide for the Otway Fly, discovered the underwater world of rivers and catchments as an Education Officer for Corangamite Catchment

Management Authority and moved to Sydney to educate city folk on the importance of water.

Sarah is a huge fan of the outdoors, particularly of her time spent surfing and snorkelling in the ocean. Sarah tells us that if she could be any animal she would be a Giant Cuttle, not only do they have three hearts and blue blood but they are the ultimate "James Bond" type spy creatures, particularly the way they change their colour to camouflage themselves from predators.

Sarah also told us that if she was to share a sanga with William Buckley she would ask him, "Out of all the things you observed and learnt from our indigenous peoples, what is one thing we could apply or use to take better care of our local environments?"

Kids Capers:

Calendar Creations

The year is almost over and grandma needs a new calendar for her toilet.

Make a class calendar, incorporating pictures from field trips or environmental projects from your school with environmental messages attached.

This makes for a great Christmas present and inspires those of another generation to reduce the footprint that they have on the environment.

Creature feature:

Eastern Tiger Snake (*Notechis scutatus*)

With significant rain in recent months, the coast is primed for one of Australia's most venomous reptiles, the Eastern Tiger Snake.

The Eastern Tiger Snake is a robust snake growing up to 200cm long. It is often hard to identify as the Eastern Tiger Snake ranges in colour from olive grey, tan and dark-brown to black, with or without the yellowish cross bands that give the snake its tiger-like appearance.



The Eastern Tiger Snake inhabits moist and swampy areas where it will often congregate in colonies. These swampy areas serve as a supermarket for an Eastern Tiger Snake, feeding on fish, frogs, lizards and small mammals. The Eastern Tiger Snake has even been observed climbing trees in order to feed on nesting birds.

The Tiger snake, like all snakes, is unable to rely on its sense of hearing to detect its prey, as it is deaf. Instead, it detects vibrations through its body and analyses scent particles using its tongue!!

The Eastern Tiger Snake is a member of the snake family, Elapidae. These snakes are front fanged snakes that have sharp, hollow, recurved teeth on both sides of the top jaw, called fangs. When elapid snakes bite, venom from glands in the upper jaw of the snake is forced down through the hollow fangs and into the wound.

Although Tiger snakes are not generally aggressive, they can bite. When threatened, the tiger snake hisses loudly and inflates its body. The venom injected when a tiger snake bites its prey causes localised pain, tingling, numbness and sweating, followed by a quick onset of breathing difficulties and paralysis. To be on the safe side, it's a great idea to add compression bandages to your day pack and be aware of snake bite first aid procedures before you go bushwalking this summer.

Snakes such as the Eastern Tiger Snake are amazing creatures of the bush. Don't be scared of these creatures, just be aware of where they live and if you see one, let them get out of your way.

Something Smells a bit Fishy...

Eco-Logic would like to thank all those schools who have participated in an "Estuary Discovery" and contributed to our estuary fish data collection. For three years students from all over Victoria have been recording every fish collected in seine and dip nets in the Anglesea and Painkalac Creek Estuaries, with some interesting results.

It seems that October/November is when our estuaries are going berserk with juvenile fish. Over the years our highlights have been ■juvenile toadfish in the Painkalac, when puffed up they looked like fishing sinkers with lips ■being shocked to find 2 tiny sea jellies in the Painkalac creek, pulsing like a heart beat ■a Bridled Goby in the Anglesea Estuary, a species we've never spotted before

The Great Victorian Fish Count!

The southern temperate waters that surround the Australian continent are unique in that 90% of the marine life that is found there is not found anywhere else on the planet. Reef Watch Victoria is dedicated to protecting and conserving this biodiversity through involving the community in education and practical evaluation programs.

The Great Victorian Fish Count (GVFC) takes place at a number of sites during December each year. The project is intended to be a snapshot of a sample of fish species living in the temperate coastal waters of Victoria. By counting fish during this window, the data collected allows an estimation of the structure of fish communities around the coast at that time, which can then be compared to future fish counts at the same time each year.

The data collected during the GVFC goes directly into a database at Reef Watch Victoria, and the information is accessible to community groups, scientists and coastal and marine managers. Strictly speaking, the GVFC is not a scientific or research-based project that can be used for environmental impact assessments. The information gained from the GVFC will be used to show general patterns of fish populations and communities.

Reef Watch, Victoria. Find out more: <http://www.reefwatchvic.asn.au/GVFC.htm#op>



On Sunday 13th December, some keen volunteers, including Eco-Logic staff braved the windy conditions to take part in the Friends of Point Addis Fish Count at Jarasite in the Point Addis Marine National Park. We counted 12 fish species which included Magpie Perch, Sea Sweep, Blue-throat Wrasse, Horseshoe Leatherjackets and even a Weedy Seadragon! (see photos above)

On Thursday 17th December, Eco-Logic will join forces with CoastAction/ Coastcare to run a Fish Count at Lorne pier with grade 5/6 students from Lorne Aireys P-12 school. We ran this event for the first time last year, and the students did a fantastic job given the cold and choppy conditions on the day. We're looking forward to the warmer weather predicted for this year's Fish Count at Lorne!

Gearing up for 2010...

In the lead up to another Summer, we've been busy at Eco-Logic reviewing our existing Risk Management Plans, and creating our *Bushfire/ Extreme Weather Plan & Policy*.

We have collected information from the Country Fire Authority, Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, Parks Victoria, Surf Coast Shire, Tourism Victoria and the Victorian Outdoor Education Association.

We've also met with local camps and other activity providers in our area to ensure that we take a coordinated approach to planning for and managing the risk of a bushfire event occurring in our region.

Our *Bushfire/ Extreme Weather Plan & Policy* will be emailed to all school teachers and leaders that we work with, and is available to view on our website.

We are looking forward to another fantastic Summer and Term 1 2010 on the coast!

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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