

NSW ECEEN Conveners Report 2009

NSW ECEEN supports early childhood educators to develop environmentally sustainable practices through its website, newsletters, resource kits for loan, meetings, workshops and phone/email assistance.

During 2008 the following activities were undertaken:

Greening Early Childhood; a series of 5 workshops for Early Childhood services conducted by Deb Watson and Julie Gaul. Provided within the Ku-ring-gai Council and the City of Sydney areas with funding from the Small Grants Scheme, and the Local Community Grants Program. A report was written by Deb Watson.

In December ECEEN was successful in gaining a Community Education Grant from the Environmental Trust for the project **Eco Centres for Early Childhood**. Developed from the Ku-ring-gai and City of Sydney experience this project will be rolled out over two years developing four Eco Hubs within NSW.

Sustainability in early childhood reached other audiences throughout the year with **workshops** conducted for KU Children's Services, Uniting Care Forestville Preschool, Clovelly Child Care Centre and the Blue Mountains City Council's Seed Pods Project.

ECEEN focused on hosting meetings with guest speakers. These meetings were held at KU Children's Services Central office in the Sydney CBD and were well supported.

23rd June – "Storytelling as a basis for learning about the natural world" Kumara Tarr

25th August – "Hear it from the Practitioners" – Katy Jenkins, Director, Pinjarra Children Centre and Robert Bensen, Director KU Peter Pan Preschool Rushcutters Bay

ECEEN was proud to be part of the Early Childhood Australia Conference held in Canberra where there was a strong focus on Education for Sustainability in the Early Years. Deb Watson and Julie Gaul presented a workshop on the 'Greening Early Childhood' project.

ECEEN was promoted at the Randwick Eco fair, the KU Annual Seminar and the Gowrie event Children In Nature – From the Ground Up

Thanks to a \$1,000 donation from the Department of Environment and Climate Change the SPRouts Practice Award was again offered to Children's services.

2008 was a year of developing and strengthening partnerships, I'd like to thank KU Childrens Services, the City of Sydney, Ku-ring-gai, and Randwick Councils, the Royal Botanic Gardens, and the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

I'd also like to thank all those who have donated their time and effort to support ECEEN in particular Deb Watson, who has been a power of strength in helping drive ECEEN through 2008 and into the future.

The hard work of the ECEEN committee in hosting the Conference in November 2007 has inspired the Victoria network, Environmental Education for Early Childhood. We are now looking forward to the third Australasian Early Childhood Education for Sustainability Conference which will be held in Melbourne in October 2009, Engage, Empower and Enact.

Julie Gaul. Convener NSW ECEEN
www.eceen.org.au