

NSW ECEEN Conveners Report 2010

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

To enable NSW ECEEN to provide this support to children's services, it has continued to apply for grants.

ECEEN was successful in gaining a Community Education Grant for \$100,000 from the Environmental Trust, NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. The project 'Eco Centres for Early Childhood' was started in Randwick- Botany Region in March. The second hub was in the Hornsby Region and started in June. Workshops and site visits were conducted by Deb Watson and Julie Gaul.

Partnerships were consolidated with local councils, the Royal Botanic Gardens and DECCW. ECEEN has been supported by KU Children's Services by kindly providing meeting space and assisting with hosting Bridget Gardner. New partnership has been formed with 1 million Women campaign.

Sustainability in early childhood reached other audiences throughout the year including

- o Fiver guest speakers including; Clarence Slokee Indigenous Educator RBG, Bridget Gardner , Green Cleaning, Relle Mott Sustainable Gardening RBG and Dr Sarah Lantz, Chemical Free Kids. These events were supported by Randwick and Hornsby Councils. Catherine Lee, The Point Preschool.
- o Blue Mountains City Council's Seed Pods Project
- o Canberra through ACT Professional Services
- o Little Green Steps – Canterbury, Waverley, Leichhart, Hurstville, Woollahra

ECEEN was promoted at the IEU Education for Sustainability Conference, KU Annual Seminar, Randwick Eco Living Fair and the Point Preschool Sustainability Expo.

ECEEN was pleased to be part of the third Australasian Early Childhood Education for Sustainability Conference which will be held in Melbourne in October 2009.

We were able to hold the SPROuts Practice Award this year thanks to a \$2,000 donation from the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The Awards will hopefully be presented by Sue Elliott at an Early Years Education for Sustainability event on Friday 2nd July.

ECEEN's path for 2010 will continue to be dominated by the roll out of Eco Centres for Early Childhood in the Blacktown Region.

I would 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 2010 and into the future.

ECEEN continues to evolve as it strives to make education for sustainability in early childhood services mainstream.