



“Our Vision is an active, environmentally aware community that ensures a sustainable future for our shared world.”



ECA NSW Branch proudly
auspice NSW ECEEN

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SPROuts Award Winners

Sustainable Projects Recognising OUTstanding PRACTICE

In the warm and welcoming environment of Addison Road Children’s Centre, Marrickville the SPROuts Winning Awards were presented by Peter Salier of the Department of Environment and Conservation on Tuesday 28 March.

Two centres tied for the first position. Wollongong TAFE Children’s Centre and Carinya Children’s Centre at Hunter TAFE.



Peter Salier, DEC presents Jodie O’Leary, Wollongong TAFE CC with SPROuts Award.

Wollongong TAFE Children’s Centre’s entry by Jodie O’Leary ‘Toward better environmental sustainability’ was an outstanding example of involvement of children, staff, families and others in the community, including Wollongong City

Council through Glengary Cottage and Yallah TAFE horticulture department.

It all started with a gardening day at Glengary Cottage which led into setting up a compost bin, worm farm and vegie garden. Next a waste management system, green cleaning and waste free lunches all supported by staff training.

Children, staff and families at Wollongong TAFE CC are incorporating environmentally sustainable practices into their lives. Successful projects start small and build on their gains.

Rachael Kinsella’s entry of Carinya Children’s Services Centre at Hunter TAFE was an environmental management plan. This is an ongoing strategic plan to work toward environmental sustainability. The passionate staff are committed to reducing their impact on the environment and seek to role model their ways to the children and families in their service. The incorporation of these practices into the daily operation of the centre has resulted in

changes in attitudes of staff and families, a renewed excitement and awareness. Carinya has worked with many groups in the community to get started; including expertise at TAFE, environmental networks such as ECEEN and Gosford Council.



Watering seedlings at Carinya

Carinya Children’s Services Centre has demonstrated the effectiveness of having a plan, ensuring they stay on track and remain motivated.

SPROuts are on again this year. Have you considered entering? Want to know more?

Call Julie Gaul on 9398 4374 or email: nsweceen

@earlychildhood.org.au for more information

BECOME A FRIEND of NSW ECEEN

We would like you to be our friend.....

Being a Friend entitles you to borrow resource kits, enter the SPROuts Award & free network meetings. So why not join.....only \$22.

Go to www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nsw_branch/eceen.html and download a form today!!!

March Network Meeting **What a Waste!!!**

NSW ECEEN's March Meeting was held at Addison Road Children's Centre which is situated in the community space that includes Reverse Garbage and Marrickville Council's Community Garden.

Our network meetings are held in services that showcase environmentally sustainable practices and Addison Road excelled!

A tour of the centre by Patricia Angelopoulos, Director, revealed the many elements that contributed to the centres warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The sustainable practices that Addison Road have taken on board include;

- reuse and recycling of the paper and packaging,
- worm farm and compost of green waste has been trialled and
- water conservation has been addressed with the installation of timed taps and dual flush toilets in the children's bathroom.
- A rain water tank has also been installed to harvest on site water for the gardens.
- The outdoor environment is filled with interesting spaces for the children to explore including a herb garden .



The focus of the meeting was waste.

Why do we need to avoid waste?

We are running out of landfill space. Save money and resources by recycling.

What is a waste audit?

Waste audits enable you to find out more about what is being thrown out and helps you decide what type of waste service/s you need. It tracks your progress towards waste reduction targets.

Angela Maier, Sustainability Officer of Marrickville Council gave answers to these questions and then provided suggestions of ways early childhood services could get started.

Angela also outlined Marrickville Councils experience in establishing a waste audit

Helen Nippard and Deb Watson, ECEEN committee members gave practical examples of how to avoid waste particularly in relation to the type of equipment purchased including sourcing second hand goods and considering the 'life' of the product.

Some things to try at your centre recommended by Angela Maier

Reduce waste

Low waste lunch boxes-workshops with parents

Double sided printing

Buy in bulk

Reuse waste

Be creative

Craft activities

Reuse items-eg. Reusable cups instead of disposable

Office paper reused as pads

Recycle waste

Setting up a recycling system in your centre

Make it EASY and CONVENIENT

Get children and families involved

Locate bins in various places clearly marked

Compost bins and worm farms

Contact your council for support

Department of Environment & Conservation DEC

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Clean Up Australia www.cleanup.com.au

Learning in the Garden Seminar

The Australian City Farms & Community Gardens Network with Australian Association for Environmental Education hosted the Learning in the Garden seminar held in Adelaide on March 4th & 5th 2006 which gave inspiration, ideas and practical information on establishing food gardens for young children.



Gardens are places of creativity. The Goody Patch Scarecrow.

Food gardens in early childhood have many advantages including;

- active learning in an outdoor setting
- independent and self-reliant
- contact with nature, lifecycles and seasons
- children learn where food really comes from and the role of food in life
- respect, caring and responsibility
- interacting, co-operating and problem solving with others
- opportunities to integrate curriculum
- try food that is not offered at home eg. rare and heritage varieties
- celebrate cultural differences and most of all have fun!



Collingwood College Kitchen Garden an inner city refuge

The conference was opened with a presentation from Stephanie Alexander about the success and hurdles encountered in establishing the Collingwood College Kitchen Garden and where the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation is now heading. Carolyn Nuttall, a school garden educator and author of 'A Children's Food Forest' and Jude Fanton, co-founder of Seed Savers' Network gave inspiring presentations about their experience with school gardens.

The rest of the day was filled with a wide range of workshops.

Sunday was a tour of school gardens throughout Adelaide including Woodville High and Allenby Gardens, Kilkenny, Black Forest Primary Schools and the Goody Patch at Goodwood which is a joint community-primary school project.

The common theme running through all the projects is the importance of the students/community/ parents active involvement to ensure the ongoing success. If left to a motivated individual it inevitably falls over when that person leaves. This active involvement must be consolidated in a plan. A plan that shows the vision for the project and how it will be achieved.

This ensures the ongoing success of the project.

The meaningful participation of children and community gives the project an anchor to the culture of the service/ community.

This is often difficult due to the time pressures of people today and perhaps the model of the Collingwood College is a successful alternative where a paid horticulturist facilitates in the garden and a paid chef facilitates the cooking of the produce rather than relying only on the good will of volunteers. We certainly need to acknowledge what a worthwhile resource a food garden is in any early childhood service.

Go to www.communitygarden.org.au/schools/resources for more information and NSW ECEEN project officer at nsweceen@earlychildhood.org.au

Green Dates

Network Meetings

MAY 10 Wednesday 4:00—6:00pm

The Point Preschool, 72 Greens Point Rd, Oyster Bay

*Environmental sustainability—
'Let's get started'*

JULY 25 Tuesday 4:30—6:30pm

Warners Bay Early Learning and Care Centre

Issues surrounding Environmental Sustainability in Early Childhood

Useful information

Grants for projects at your service try:

Junior Mitre 10 Landcare Grants

Offering assistance toward projects seeking funds for general gardening of school grounds available at www.landcareonline.com or contact Rebecca Millard (03) 9662 9977

Climate Action Grants are part of the NSW Government's Greenhouse Plan. Grants for 2006 are available for up to \$250,000 for projects of 1 to 3 years duration. Two types of grants are being offered - Technology Action Grants & Community Action Grants. Application guidelines and forms are available at http://www.greenhouseinfo.nsw.gov.au/climate_action_grants Or contact the Environmental Funding Programs Section at the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation on (02) 8837 6093.

NRMA Community Grants for 2007

www.nrma.com.au/pub/nrma/community/help-program/index.shtml.

NSW ECEEN Project Officer:

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Check out these websites

Australian city farms and community gardens
www.communitygarden.org.au

The Edible School Yard
www.edibleschoolyard.org

Stephanie Alexander's Kitchen Garden
www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au

Royal Botanic Gardens Education Service-Early Childhood Teacher's Kit www.rbg.vic.gov.au

Seed Savers Network www.seedsavers.net

Diggers Seeds
www.diggers.com.au

* If you have come across any great websites *
* that you would like to share with the network *
* please email your suggestions to *
* nsweecen@earlychildhood.org.au *
* *****

'SPROuts Practice' Award 2006

Thank you to all of those EC services who contributed to the SPROuts Practice Award.

All case studies will be posted on the web-site as inspiration for others wanting to promote education for sustainability in their Early Childhood Services.

What environmentally sustainable projects can you enter in the 2006 SPROuts Practice Award? ? ?



Our aim is to bring together interested people and organisations in order to promote the paramount importance of integrating environmental education into all facets of young children's lives in NSW

www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nsw_branch/eceen.html