Editors Column

Welcome to the Term 3 edition of the Barambah Environmental Education Centre Newsletter. In this newsletter we will take a look back over what has happened in Term 3, as usual at Barambah we have been busy.

We are happy to announce our new website went live on the 26th August and whilst we want to build on to the site, it is up to date with all the forms and information for booking a camp, visit www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au Keep an eye on it for up to date information, happenings and our Term Newsletters.

Sue heads off on the 5th September until 14th October to do Internal Reviewing, then from the 17th October until 14th November on Long Service Leave. During this time Steve Roach will step in to the position as Acting Principal and Don Reid will take on Steve’s teaching duties.

Peter also goes on Long Service Leave from the 17th October until 14th November and we welcome Mark Jelnick to Barambah as Peter’s relief.

In this edition we have the first of our staff profiles, Nursery News from Cyndi, a report on the Bunya to Bay 2016 from Steve and our featured program is the Barambah Challenge, submitted by Peter.

Read on and enjoy 😊

Sandra

Solid Pathways

Monday, 22nd August to 24th we had 24 High School students from Brisbane, Gympie and the Darling Downs visit Barambah to take part in the Solid Pathways program. Barambah EEC and the program even got a mention in the Director General’s email (see below).

A message from the Director-General - 18 August 2016

Solid Pathways to explore coding in Barambah

Another of our popular Solid Pathways camps will be held at the Barambah Environmental Education Centre, west of Gympie, for Years 7 to 10 students on 22 to 24 August. The academic program is designed to assist high-achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students develop their critical and creative thinking while supporting their sense of cultural identity.

Students will learn basic coding and environmental science while working as a team, learning to set goals and making new friends. This program has been shown to increase student performance and engagement, leading to successful transition in to tertiary education. For more information, visit the Solid Pathways website.
CaLM - Certificate II in Conservation Land Management

Barambah EEC has kicked off their first Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) with a group of twelve Year 12 students from Murgon State High School. As part of their program, the students have participated in two overnight work camps at Barambah, collected fauna and flora data as they cycled from Barambah to Linville during Section 1 of the 2016 Bunya 2 Bay Eco-Adventure, and worked with the Murri Rangers to maintain a local site of cultural significance.

Whilst at Barambah EEC, students have learnt about Occupational Health and Safety requirements for a worksite, as well as demonstrated competencies with basic machinery like ride on mowers and whipper snippers. Students will also be creating a native garden at their school to provide a habitat for birds, butterflies and small lizards, with plants from our native plant nursery.

The program was delivered through the Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education Centre RTO and facilitated by Barambah teacher Peter Gibson supported by other Barambah staff. The Centre provides an excellent context for this course as the area is richly diverse in plant and animal species, and the Centre has been managing weed control and revegetation in the surrounding area for many years. The students have been able to continue this work as part of their CaLM activities, demonstrating the real life applications of this course.

BUNYA TO BAY 2016

Since 2006 Barambah Environmental Education Centre has played a pivotal role in the biennial Bunya to the Bay (B2B) Eco Adventure along with Stanley River and Moreton Bay EEC’s. July 2016 saw Barambah EEC continue this proud tradition by hosting the launch of B2B 2016 and conducting the first leg of the journey. This year three separate teams of students hiked, biked, paddled and cruised along an ancient pathway that follows the Brisbane River from the bunya forests of the South Burnett to Moreton Bay.

The B2B launch saw the students gather at Barambah EEC on a wet Sunday in July to farewell the first group of travellers. Local Wakka Wakka elder, Aunty Vera Sullivan was present to welcome the visitors to country and to pass over the message stick to the students to be delivered to the Quandamooka people of Moreton Bay.

The students on the first leg of B2B 2016 were from Murgon State High School’s Certificate Two in Conservation and Land Management course who were able to satisfy some of their course requirements while participating in the journey. The bulk of this journey was accomplished by using mountain bikes which provided thrills and sore muscles in equal parts. The highlight for most students was the walk to Mt Gibbarnee on the east branch of the Brisbane River and also an afternoon spent yarning with Jinibara elder Uncle Ken Murphy. The group finished their leg of the journey at Linville but later re-joined the other students from legs 2 and 3 at Newstead House in Brisbane for the closing ceremony and the final voyage to Moreton Bay. The students and teachers slept the night on the veranda of Queensland’s oldest residential building before joining indigenous elders, EQ leaders, teachers and family for breakfast and the closing ceremony.
The end of the adventure saw the students pass the message stick to Quandamooka Elder Aunty Judy Watego who welcomed the students to country and invited them to share lunch with some of the traditional owners at Manly on the shores of Moreton Bay.

SCHOOL CAMPS AND DAY VISITS

In term 3 our Centre has delivered 12 camps, 2 off site day visits, 2 onsite day visits, 4 High Ropes days at Gympie East State School and 5 Pre-visits. As well as taking part in the Bunya to Bay, this runs over 3 weeks.

So, up to date for 2016, we have facilitated 35 camps, 6 off site day visits, 5 onsite day visits, 13 High Ropes days, 1 Professional Development day and a number of Pre-visits. Term 4 looks busy with at least 1 camp per week and sometimes 2 and we are still fielding enquiries about more bookings.

BOOKINGS FOR 2017

We are taking bookings for 2017 and applications can be downloaded from our website www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au or you can contact us on 41 688190 or email admin@barambaheec.eq.edu.au and ask us to send an application form to you.

Don’t miss out as the uptake for next year has been constant since bookings opened.

We offer great programs that align with the Australian Curriculum and C2C units and our great staff members deliver these programs to suit all age groups and abilities.

STAFF PROFILE

Sue Gibson (Principal, Barambah EEC)

It’s not hard to love your job when you work at Barambah EEC! I have had a keen interest in the natural environment since I was a kid and love being outdoors, so moving from a background in teaching secondary science to teaching at Barambah was a very easy transition in 2010. I have always enjoyed teaching, particularly the challenge of engaging students in learning no matter what the topic, so working in an environment where the outdoor classroom changes throughout the day and from season to season brings endless opportunities to create awe and wonder moments for both myself and my students. I can truly say I have the best job in the world!

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM

Barambah Challenge

The Barambah Challenge is a leadership program in which all students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to lead and manage a small group of their peers as part of an extended bushwalk in Wrattens National Park. Students work in teams to plan and prepare a course which will take them over different types of terrain and through a variety of landscapes such as vine and rainforests, open grasslands and pine plantations.

Learning leadership skills, mentoring peers and contributing to a team effort are experiences that help student develop confidence and a positive image of self.
The Barambah Challenge provides multiple opportunities for students to engage with their peers and complete a physically challenging activity with a team problem solving focus, and also individually lead the team for a section of the walk.

“For me the greatest thing is variety, a variety of student learning styles, in an ever changing environment with real life experiences like GPS and map use are sure to have some aspect to appeal to all students. Most students and Staff find the bushwalk often steep, untracked and demanding, but all have a sense of great accomplishment at the completion.”

Peter Gibson
Barambah Env. Ed Centre Teacher

**Australian Curriculum Intent Years 5 - 6:-**

Health and Physical Education - (ACPPS059), (ACPMP067)
Personal and Social Capability (Level 4)
Sustainability OI.7

**Australian Curriculum Intent Years 7 - 8:-**

Health and Physical Education - Learning through movement (ACPMP086)
Personal and Social Capability (Level 5)
Sustainability OI.7

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**NURSERY NEWS**

Well it is spring here in the nursery so it’s BUSY BUSY!

Lots of vegetative cuttings to be set, shrubs and tree setting seed after a glorious show of flowers and seedlings to be potted on that have grown over the winter.

Visiting students love the opportunity to come to the nursery to help grow on plants.

Frost covers can come off at the end of term.

Pruning of Native Gingers (Alpinia caerulea) can now be done and any frost damage can be pruned back from the Centre’s gardens ready for the explosion of new growth.

Barambah’s gardens and bushlands are alive with flowering wattles (Acacia fimbriata), native and European bees are laden with pollen and our nectar loving birds are happy that spring is here after a cold winter.

**Barambah’s Plant of the Month is:**

Acacia fimbriata (Brisbane Wattle) a glorious shrub or small tree to 5 meters. Perfumed, ball flowers to 8mm, winter to spring. Extremely hardy variety to grow in moist to dry areas.
ANIMAL WANDERINGS

After their winter absence the goannas are back. The centre usually has 3 that are regular visitors, they particularly like hamburger day when camps are in, and will quite happily wander amongst the noisy students, and the kids love them. Goannas are carnivorous, eating anything they can overpower, insects, small mammals, frogs, birds and reptiles. The larger species will even take on venomous snakes. They will also scavenge and it is not unusual to see Lace Monitors emerging from the carcasses of dead cows.

In our next newsletter:-

- Staff Profile – Steve Roach
- Feature When Cultures Meet and the Curriculum Links.
- Nursery News
- Wildlife Wanderings