Editors Column

Welcome to the first edition of the new look Barambah Environmental Education Centre Newsletter. In this newsletter we will take a look back over what has happened in the last Semester, following editions will be published each term. We will be keeping you up to date not only with our Programs and Curriculum offerings, but the fun activities and upcoming events.

Read on and enjoy 😊

Sandra

Professional Development

One of the great things about working at Barambah is that we get to do really interesting, and sometimes challenging, professional development relevant to our specialist work. In January, we attended a Corporate Driving Training Day at Road Craft in Gympie. It was a very informative day, where we learned about tyres, peripheral vision, travelling and stopping distances, as well as evaluating ourselves as drivers before and after the lessons. The fun (scary) part was the hands on driving on the skid pans. A lot of witch’s hats became casualties and had we been on the roads it may have been interesting. However, everyone learnt a lot and had fun in the process and perhaps we are not all as good a driver as we think. It was a very worthwhile days training, especially if like us, you spend a fair amount of time driving.
Forensic Fauna in February was another great Professional Development opportunity for staff. Martin Fingland from Geckos Wildlife visited with his creatures, cute and cuddly and not so cuddly...

Martin gave Pete, Sue, Steve, Cyndi and Andrew a refresher on snake handling (while Sandra bravely took photos); this included the Blue Belly Spotted Black, the Red Belly Black and a Brown Snake.

Martin showed Steve how to come to grips with a Cuckoo (Storm Bird)

The cuddly were so much better.... Martin taught us about the legalities involved in handling wildlife, and how to capture and relocate a number of native animals including Bandicoots, Cuckoos, Possums and Owls. We also identified scats, bones and feathers. It was a very informative day and helpful for us in our roles as educators.

SCHOOL CAMPS AND DAY VISITS

So far our Centre has delivered 23 camps, 4 off site day visits, 3 onsite visits, 9 High Ropes days at Gympie East State School and one Professional Development day, as well as a number of Pre-visit.

One such day visit was an Environmental Leadership day on the 20th June; Kilkivan State School students from year 4 to year 10 visited the centre. They viewed a PowerPoint presentation on leadership qualities and helping the environment. After morning tea, the students divided into 3 groups and set out to different areas of the Centre’s lease to lead the way in making a difference to the environment. Groups focused on Lantana and Cotton Bush removal. In doing so they learnt about the weeds they were helping to control and their impact on the environment, whilst putting into practice the Leadership Hi 5: Communicate Clearly, Make Decisions, Delegate to Others, Care for Others, Have a Clear Goal.

Students and teachers then enjoyed a lunch of pizzas, garlic bread and fruit prepared by Cyndi and Sandra, whilst reflecting on what they had learnt. Everyone received a free native plant, a Hi 5 sticker, some Ergon energy saving tips and the teachers received a Leadership poster with activity masters on the reverse.
NURSERY NEWS

On 1st June we hosted a Nursery Open Afternoon for the public and students from Lockrose & Kentville State Schools. This included a bush tucker walk and tasting, a talk from Joel Hogan from Ergon Energy, and a visit to the Nursery to view the water recycling project proudly funded by The Ergon Energy Community Fund, the Barambah EEC P&C, and the Department of Education and Training. Each visitor received a free plant and the students received some Ergon Energy gifts.

On June 2nd we hosted a Bush Foods Afternoon for staff from local schools. This was attended by 18 Principals, teachers, teacher aides and Unit Support Officers. Despite the rain everyone enjoyed a bush tucker walk, a delicious afternoon tea showcasing bush food, and a talk on the water recycling project. Everyone received a plant and information pack and some Ergon goodies.

P&C NEWS

President: Mark Smith       Vice President: Kev Macklin       Secretary: Steve Roach       Treasurer: Sandra Gilchrist

Barambah EEC P&C has a large membership for a “school with no enrolled students” and our meetings are always well supported. This year we discussed fund raising options and we were lucky enough to have one fall in our lap when we catered for the Beginning Teachers Summit. Cyndi, Sue, Pete & Sandra catered tea, breakfast, morning tea and lunch for 30 Teachers and Principals. I think everyone enjoyed the food provided and the P&C made a tidy amount to bolster the coffers. Thanks to Val & Graham for the beautiful scones.

As another fundraiser, we ran a raffle at the Open Afternoons, and two lucky people took home some natural cleaning products and some skin care products.

We have also been fortunate recently to receive a donation from Bunnings in Gympie toward our Rain Garden Project, which is the next stage of the Nursery Recycled Water project.

We meet by teleconference six times a year, and would love to welcome new members. Just give Barambah a call!

NEXT EDITION

In our next newsletter:-

- The first of our staff profiles, so you can get to know all of our staff members and what their role entails here at Barambah.
- Feature Barambah Program and the Curriculum Links.
- Nursery News
- Wildlife Wanderings