

2012



Riverina Environmental Education Centre

Annual School Report

5734

Our school at a glance

Students

4970 students attended environmental education programs.

88 different schools used the Centre.

234 students from 51 primary schools attended the Year 6 Talented Student programs and 241 students from 51 schools attended the Year 5 Talented Student programs.

160 students attended the Regional ‘Envirochamps’ Leadership Program

Staff

The Centre has a teaching Principal, one Teacher, a School Administration Manager and a General Assistant.

Significant programs and initiatives

Riverina Environmental Education Centre (REEC), Lake Cowal Conservation Centre and Murrumbidgee Irrigators ran an Environmental Leadership Program ‘Envirochamps’ for Year 5 students with assistance from the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, Wagga Wagga City Council and Teys.

11 schools took part in the School’s Sustainability Challenge which was run in partnership with WWCC. The challenge developed leadership and project management skills in year 5/6 students

New Traditional Culture campsite was constructed at REEC and Aboriginal students took part in the world wide Indigenous culture ‘Cuddie Cuddie’ program

REEC supported a network of environmental centres; Wirraminna EEC at Burrumbuttock, Brungle Aboriginal Education Centre, Talbingo Energy Park at Talbingo, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre at West Wyalong, and Murrumbidgee Irrigation at Griffith.

REEC established strategic partnerships with Inland Fisheries, Narrandera Shire, Lachlan Catchment Authority, Temora Landcare, Temora Shire Council and Adelong Gold Mill Ruins and Wagga Wagga City Council to deliver EE across the region

Student achievement in 2012

REEC received two Minister’s Commendation Awards for Sustainability Education for the development of the Discovery Room and The Lab

Students and staff working with REEC to develop and manage the Fiveways Project at Henty received the Minister’s Sustainability Award for Riverina Region

Students from 8 Schools participating in REEC projects received Minister’s Commendation Awards for Sustainability Education

Messages

Principal’s message

The Riverina Environmental Education Centre is a facility of the Department of Education and Communities located within the grounds of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in Wagga Wagga.

The Riverina Environmental Education Centre is committed to supporting Public Education in the Riverina. The Centre’s teaching programs are science and geography based reflecting the partnership with the Office of Environment and Heritage.

The Centre has undergone some major improvements this year with the development of new learning areas and the revision of programs.

A greater emphasis has been placed on delivering Environmental Education across the region.

Several strategic partnerships have been developed with other EE providers to utilise their expertise and deliver EE programs.

The Centre has undertaken to offer studies at or near school sites across the region to provide greater equity in delivery to distant schools.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

**Paul Greenwood**

*Relieving Principal*

School Context

**School use**

Schools attending one day environmental education programs (numbers = number of day visits)

Adelong PS (2)

Albury West

Ariah Park

Ashmont PS

Binya PS

Bongongo PS (2)

Brungle (2)

Collungullie PS (2)

Coolamon CS

Cootamundra HS (3)

Corowa HS (2)

Franklin PS (6)

Gadara PS  
Griffith HS

Gundagai HS

Gundagai PS (3)

Henty PS

Humula PS

Junee Nth PS (4)

Kapooka PS

Ladysmith PS

Lake Albert PS (6)

MAHS (2)

Mount Austin PS (2)  
North Wagga PS

Rosewood PS

Stockinbingal PS

Sturt PS (4)

Talbingo PS

Temora HS (3)

Temora PS

The Rock CS

Tumut HS (5)

Walla Walla PS

Willans Hill PS (4)

WWHS

WWPS (8)

Young HS

Schools attending the Year 5 & 6 Talented Student Programs

Adelong PS Gundagai South PS Temora PS

Albury PS Henty PS The Rock CS

Ardlethan CS Hillston CS Tolland PS

Ariah Park Holbrook PS Tumut PS

Barooga PS Junee Nth PS Turvey Park

Beckhom CS Kapooka PS Ungarie CS

Boree Ck PS Kooringal PS Uranquinty PS

Coleambally PS Ladysmith PS Wagga Wagga PS

Collungullie PS Lake Wyangan West Wyalong PS

Conargo Lavington PS Yenda PS

Corowa PS Leeton PS Yerong Creek PS

Culcairn PS Maimaru PS Young PS

Deniliquin North PS Mt Austin PS

EA Southee Murringo PS

Edward PS Murrumburrah PS

Eurongilly PS Narrandera PS

Finley PS North Wagga PS

Goolgowi PS Oaklands CS

Griffith East PS Parkview PS

Griffith Nth PS South Wagga PS

Griffith PS Stockinbingal PS

Grong Grong Talbingo PS



School context

Staff establishment

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Position | Number |
| Principal | 1 |
| Classroom Teachers | 1 |
| School Administrative & Support Staff | 2 |
| Total | 4 |

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

There are no Indigenous staff employed at the centre.

REEC consults with DEC ACLO as well as members of the local aboriginal community for advice and assistance. 

Building the Traditional Campsite

Staff retention

The substantive Principal took long service leave prior to retirement in April.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Qualifications | % of staff |
| Degree or Diploma | 100 |
| Postgraduate |  |



Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of financial summary | 30/11/2012 |
| ***Income*** | $ |
| Balance brought forward | 51038.73 |
| Global funds | 24584.00 |
| Tied funds | 18237.57 |
| School & community sources | 12490.32 |
| Interest | 2174.33 |
| Trust receipts | 0.00 |
| Canteen | 0.00 |
| Total income | 108524.95 |
| ***Expenditure*** |  |
| Teaching & learning |  |
| Key learning areas | 12537.16 |
| Excursions | 2237.69 |
| Extracurricular dissections | 0.00 |
| Library | 36.60 |
| Training & development | 1206.86 |
| Tied funds | 11364.24 |
| Casual relief teachers | 0.00 |
| Administration & office | 9063.81 |
| School-operated canteen | 0.00 |
| Utilities | 1525.20 |
| Maintenance | 7084.31 |
| Trust accounts | 0.00 |
| Capital programs | 17152.74 |
| Total expenditure | 62208.61.00 |
| **Balance carried forward** | 46316.34 |
|  |  |

A full copy of the school’s 2012 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the Advisory Committee. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2012

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

REEC has support from the local Aboriginal community to teach Aboriginal cultural programs. REEC constructed a new traditional campsite at the centre and developed new studies in consultation with the local community.

REEC has supported the development of the Brungle Aboriginal Environmental Education Centre and studies conducted with Murrumbidgee Irrigators in Griffith.

REEC took part in the ‘Cuddie Cuddie Program’ with a worldwide Podcast from the campsite.

REEC has developed a package of lessons on traditional culture with teaching instructions for distribution to schools.

REEC has added to the artefacts collection to enhance student learning.

REEC worked cooperatively with the MAKET and Malia dance group to deliver quality cultural studies.



**Multicultural education**

All REEC programs are suitable for students from various cultural and religious backgrounds. REEC promotes a racism free learning and working environment.

**Environmental education for sustainability**

REEC environmental programs encourage the development of positive student values toward the environment and participation in protecting it.

Teaching programs promote student action for the environment. Staff act as role models for good environmental citizenship.

Buildings have supplementary power by solar cells and wind generator.

The grounds have ‘waterwise’ gardens and food scraps are composted.

Achievements

Other

Developed a learning **Discovery Room** for use by stages 1-4 students



Discovery Room

*Developed a hands on science learning area -****The Lab*** *which provides an extra teaching room and activities for students across K-12*



The Lab

Established **Strategic Partnerships** with other Environmental Education providers to deliver EE across the region:

* Inland Fisheries
* Narrandera Shire
* Lachlan Catchment Management Authority Temora Landcare
* Temora Shire Council
* Adelong Gold Mill Ruins Committee
* Wagga Wagga City Council

Developed an **Outreach Program** where REEC assists other EE providers and schools to deliver programs in their local area by providing training, resources and teaching kits.

Introduced an **Incursion Program** where REEC staff visit schools to develop and deliver EE programs at school.

Developed **new study sites** to assist distant schools:

* **River Red Gum**- Corowa, Temora, Narrandera, Deniliquin and Barham
* **Wetlands**- Temora, Griffith, Narrandera, Walla Walla
* **Woodlands**- Temora, Walla Walla, Narrandera



Willans Hill SSP Traditional Culture Study Day

Developed a new **Year 6 Talented Student Program** based on scientific methods and completed successful trials of the program

Revised and upgraded programs:

* Infants Sensory Program- Early Stage 1 - Stage 2
* Bush Study- Stages 2 and 3
* Soil Study- Stages 2 and 3
* Water Study- Stage 3
* Caves Study- Stages 5 and 6
* Alpine Study- Stage 6

Introduced a greater range and use of **technology** into EE programs and REEC management

Ran the region wide ‘Envirochamps’ leadership program involving 40 schools in partnership with Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, Murrumbidgee Irrigators, Talbingo Energy Park



Progress on 2012 targets

Target 1

Teach 5000 students from 100 schools.

REEC taught 4970 students from 88 schools. A number of small schools had difficulty with transport costs and cancelled visits. The Murrumbidgee river floods impacted on visitation in term one.

Our achievements include:

* Established Strategic Partnerships with environmental organisations to deliver EE programs in distant locations
* Established new study sites to assist distant schools



Target 2

REEC will run regional ‘Envirochamps’ Leadership Program

Our achievements include:

* 40 schools completed the program
* Eight schools were awarded 2012 Learning for Sustainability Awards for their projects

Target 3

Incorporate Technology into teaching programs

Our achievements include:

* Utilised new Apps for science based programs and field identification activities
* Connected classroom used for meetings and pre-visit communication
* Participated in world-wide ‘Cuddie Cuddie’ podcast program

School evaluation

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of:

Leadership Program Evaluation

**Background**

REEC expanded the leadership program for Year 5 students run in 2011. The program consisted of a skills day, a follow up assistance day, school environmental events and a celebration day where the students meet again and reported on the program.

In 2012 the program was implemented as a regional program in conjunction with Lake Cowal Conservation Centre (West Wyalong), Murrumbidgee Irrigators (Griffith) and Talbingo Energy Park (Talbingo PS)

**Findings and conclusions**

* Responses were affirmative of the ‘Envirochamps’ leadership program 2012.
* Leadership skills day could be run by REEC staff in preference to paying outside providers

**Future Directions**

* In 2013, REEC will continue the program as a joint venture with the other partners

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses were very positive. Typical responses were:

* “A great day, very well presented”
* “I really enjoyed the day”

Professional learning

* REEC co-hosted the annual Western EECs conference with Thalgarrah EEC in Armidale
* REEC conducted the registered course Introduction to Fieldwork for Secondary Teachers
* REEC staff presented T&L forum: Environmental Education resources
* Conducted courses for CSU teacher undergraduates

Training courses attended by staff included:

* Annual Western EE conference
* Principal conference
* New principal course
* EEC Principal’s conference
* Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviour
* Senior First Aid and Emergency Care
* Adobe Acrobat Pro- Introduction
* Introduction to Fieldwork for Secondary Teachers
* Riverina Aboriginal Story Telling
* ESES Making a Difference module one

School planning 2012—2014

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

**School priority 1: Use of the centre**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**

The Centre is used for maximum benefit for students and schools in the Region

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

* REEC staff will teach over 5,000 students each year from more than 100 different schools.

**Strategies to achieve these targets include:**

* Deliver programs which engage students.
* Deliver programs which address curriculum.
* Develop a communication strategy to promote Centre.

**School priority 2: Working in schools**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**

Staff will assist schools with school based environmental programs

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

* REEC staff will work with two or more schools on school based environmental programs each year.

**Strategies to achieve these targets include:**

* Staff will identify schools and programs and approach individual schools.
* Staff will advertise for an expression of interest from schools regarding a project.
* Schools approach the Centre for assistance.



Franklin PS “Water Shark”

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Paul Greenwood- Relieving Principal

Bernie Ward- Teacher

Belinda Franks- School Administration Manager

Jim Rees- General Assistant

School contact information

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>



Mini Beasts Study at REEC



Talbingo Energy Park Maze



MAHS Weaving at REEC campsite