



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS CENTRE
BACCHUS MARSH

newslinc Newsletter

Welcome to our Term 2 Newsletter!!!

June 2024



What's Been Happening at Ecolinc in Term 2?

Women in STEM Program

The Ecolinc Women in STEM event was a beacon of empowerment, featuring a line-up of engaging activities aimed at igniting passion and fostering connections. Held on Wednesday June 5th, the WIS program featured a captivating keynote presentation by Emi Arnold, an esteemed Ecologist who was part of the team last year to rediscover the once thought to be extinct, grassland earless dragon. Complementing the keynote address were two immersive workshops: Dragon DNA and a Species Survival Escape Room.

A major highlight of the program was the Speed Dating session, where students had the unique opportunity to engage in one-on-one conversations with a diverse array of female Superstars of STEM from seasoned researchers and engineers, to trailblazing entrepreneurs and innovators. These remarkable women shared their personal career journeys, insights and advice, offering invaluable mentorship and encouragement to the next generation of STEM leaders.

Our next Women in STEM event, which is already fully booked, is on Wednesday 16th October and will be hosted by RMIT at their Melbourne campus.



Victorian Challenge & Enrichment (VCES) Program

Over 350 high ability students from Primary Schools across the state participated in an engaging VCES program on the topic of Space Junk and Salvaging Satellites. Professor Brett Carter, Space Scientist at RMIT, led a captivating session exploring the issue of space junk and the implications this has for us on Earth.

Following this session, students engaged in a hands-on workshop where they were given the opportunity to design and build a satellite spinner capable of re-entering Earth's atmosphere without breaking up into tiny pieces.

If you would like to book your students into any of Ecolinc's remaining 2024 VCES programs, please see below:

Secrets of Eromanga (via VC)

Year 3-4

August 27th Session 1: 10am – 12pm OR Session 2: 1pm – 3pm

<https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/courses/vces-secrets-of-eromanga/>

Dinosaur Dynamics (via VC)

Year 5-6

August 28th Session 1: 10am – 12pm OR Session 2: 1pm – 3pm

<https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/courses/vces-dinosaur-dynamics/>

A Plastic Ocean (2 day onsite program: 1 day at Ecolinc, 1 day at ACMI)

Year 5-6

November 12th & 13th OR November 13th & 14th

<http://vces.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/2023/11/20/a-plastic-ocean-2-2/>

Limited spots left available

Challenging Climate Change (via VC)

Year 5-6

November 20th OR November 21st 9.30 - 11.30am

<https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/courses/vces-challenging-climate-change/>

Coastcare Schools Kit Program

Ecolinc has partnered with Coastcare Victoria (DEECA) to promote the [Coastcare Victoria Schools Kit](#). This free online education resource aims to engage young people in caring for marine and coastal environments. The Kit is designed for Years 5-8, however is a flexible resource and able to be adapted to other year levels. The resource includes engaging videos, student activities and worksheets, teachers guide, PowerPoint presentations, and is multi-disciplinary and aligned to the Victorian Curriculum.

Student incursions



Year 5-6 students from Woolsthorpe PS

In term 2, we travelled to Warrnambool for one of our annual road trips. Over 450, year 5-6 students from Woolsthorpe PS, East Warrnambool PS, Hawksdale PS, Woodford PS, Koroit and District PS, Terang College and Warrnambool PS, participated in practical investigations focusing on the impact of plastics in oceans and solutions.

Teacher Professional Learning

The collaboration incorporates the delivery of Teacher Professional Learning. In term 2, we have conducted an online PD and two onsite PD's (at Deakin University, Warrnambool and the Port Phillip EcoCentre). This brought teachers and other educators together from many schools throughout the Warrnambool and Port Phillip region.



Coastcare Teacher PD: Deakin University, Warrnambool and the Port Phillip EcoCentre



Term 3 & 4 Video Conference Program Opportunities

Ecolinc offers a wide variety of free video conference events to support learning called STEMlinc.

The video conferences are interactive, and often involve games, activities, demonstrations and/or experiments that students can either observe or take part in. Each VC is accompanied by teacher notes and in many cases there is a STEM-in-a-box kit that accompanies the VC that is sent out to schools for students to use.

The range of VC programs cater for students from Prep – Year 12 and are all free of charge. Some of our latest offerings include:

Program	Year Level Suitability	Dates & Times	Details & Bookings
Earthworm Superheroes	Yrs F-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">July 22nd 10am, 12pm, 2pm	Book here
Fabulous Frogs	Yrs F-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">July 24th 10 am, 12pm, 2pm	Book here
Pollinators: Honey Bees	P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">July 25th 10 amAugust 14th 10 amOctober 15th 10am	Book here
STEMex <i>Give your students the opportunity to question a real scientist!</i> <i>Encourage student to explore STEM pathways.</i>	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">July 25th 2pm (<i>Living Seawalls</i>)August 8th 2pm (<i>Extinctions: Time Machine</i>)August 22nd 2 pm (<i>Bats, Rats and You – disease transference</i>)September 5th 2pm (<i>Antarctica: Ice Cores</i>)September 19th (<i>Your brain and junk food</i>)October 17th (<i>Crime scenes: Dinosaurs</i>)	Book here 
Incredible Invertebrates	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">July 29th 10am, 12pm, 2pmOctober 23rd 10am, 12pm, 2pm	Book here

First People's Science	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 30th 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
Fantastic Beasts: Animal Adaptations	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 31st 10am, 12pm, 2pm November 6th 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
Slimy Science	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 1st 10am, 12pm, 2pm August 12th 10am, 12pm October 25th 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
Portraits and the Environment	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 2nd 10am 	Book here
Pollen Power	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 16th 10 am, 12pm 2pm 	Book here
Slithering Cycles	Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 18th 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
My Little Dino	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 23rd 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
A Climate Crisis	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 11th 9.30 am October 22nd 10am 	Book here
Royal Tyrrell Museum tour	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 5th 9.30 am 	Book here
Secrets of the Lost Quarry	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 4th 9.30 am 	Book here
Up Close and palaeo Jr.	Yrs 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 10th 9.30 am 	Book here
You, Me and Sustainability (Middle Primary)	Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 23rd 10 am August 2nd 12 pm August 8th 10 am October 15th 12pm October 29th 2pm 	Book here
You, Me and Sustainability (Upper Primary)	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 8th 12pm August 7th 10 am August 7th 2 pm October 24th 2pm October 29th 10am 	Book here
Drawn Together	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 23rd 12 pm August 9th 10 am August 1st 2pm October 24th 10am October 30th 12pm 	Book here

Coastal Custodians	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 9th 12 pm October 30th 10am November 11th 2pm 	Book here
Turtle Connections	Yrrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 7th 12pm August 2nd 2 pm October 31st 10am November 19th 12pm 	Book here
Living things on the reef	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 12th 10 am 	Book here
Life cycles and growing up on the reef	Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 12th 12 pm October 31st 12pm November 15th 12pm 	Book here
Creatures and their features	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 12th 2 pm August 14th 12 pm October 22nd 12pm November 19th 2pm 	Book here
Eat or Be Eaten Alaska	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 6th 10 am November 7th 10am 	Book here
Ancient Australian Animals	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 8th 12pm 	Book here
Mammals Alaska	Yrs 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 30th 10 am 	Book here
Terrific Alaskan Tide Pools	Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 12 10 am 	Book here
Insect ID 101	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 26th 10 am November 25th 12pm 	Book here
Insect-a-cycle	Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 26th 2 pm November 7th 2pm November 18th 10am 	Book here
Dinosaurs of Australia	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 29th 10am, 12 pm, 2pm October 21st 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
Bush Choir	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 3rd 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
VCES Secrets of Eromanga	Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 27th 10am, 1pm 	Book here
VCES Dinosaur Dynamics	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 28th 10am, 1pm 	Book here
VCES Challenging Climate change	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 21st 9.30am November 20th 930am 	Book here

A Christmas Bush Story	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 27th 10am, 12pm , 2pm 	Book here
Santa's sleigh Design	Yrs P-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2nd 10am, 12pm, 2pm • December 5th 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
Christmas Light show	Yrs 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 3rd 10am, 12pm, 2pm • December 9th 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here
Santa's sweet show	Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 4th 10am, 12pm, 2pm • December 10th 10am, 12pm, 2pm 	Book here

To book and to see all of our STEMlinc offerings: <https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/stem-linc-events/>



STEMLinc, where virtual transportation of your class to the wilderness of Alaska or to learn about the magnificence of Australia's natural environment, is a reality.

Join our expert team to discover the fascinating mysteries of Environmental Science.

Professional Development

VCE Environmental Science

Ecolinc Science and Technology Centre invites VCE Environmental Science teachers to a PD opportunity designed to:

Unpack the misconceptions, mistakes and misunderstandings that students have made in the 2023 Year 12 Environmental Science exam.

Explore the importance of experiential learning in VCE Environmental Science.

Participate in a range of ‘hands-on’ workshops to explore what Ecolinc can offer your VCE Environmental Science students.

Date: Monday 26th August 2024

Where: Ecolinc Science & Technology Innovations Centre

17-23 Labilliere St

Bacchus Marsh, Vic.

Times: 9.00am – 2.30pm

Cost: Free

To book: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/vce-environmental-science-professional-development-ecolinc-registration-899687117387>

Coastcare Schools Kit Teacher

This is an opportunity to familiarise yourself with the Coastcare Schools Kit and how to empower your students to be coastal stewards.

Online: Thursday 29 August

4-6pm

To book: [click](#)

Onsite at the Penguin Parade, Phillip Island: Monday 9 September

4-6pm

To book: [click](#)

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Opportunities for Educators

By leveraging AI, teachers can save time and energy in material preparation while ensuring that their content remains engaging, relevant and effective in promoting student learning. AI systems can for example create customized worksheets, assignments and assessments based

on an individual student's abilities and progress. Use AI to refresh and enhance your existing handouts. Did you know that AI systems can generate customised programming code? Enhance your teaching skillset today by unlocking AI opportunities.

Presenter: Leon Furze

When: August 5th Primary Teachers

August 6th Secondary Teachers

Time: 9.00am – 3.30pm

Venue: Victorian Academy of Teaching & Leadership (Ballarat)

Cost: Free

To book: <https://www.academy.vic.gov.au/professional-learning/ai-opportunities-educators>