

SSEEN

Southern Sydney Environmental Education Network

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 13 March 2019

Location: Helensburgh Public School

The highlight of the SSEEN meeting was a tour of the amazing facilities at Helensburgh PS by host and teacher Celia Lewis.

First stop was the kitchen garden where we learned how to make newspaper pots by wrapping paper around PVC piping (the small ridge helps to line the paper up). Fill the pots with potting mix (or even better, compost!) and sow seeds directly into the pots. When they're ready to transplant put them directly into the ground without removing the newspaper pot (the pot decomposes and the seedlings don't get damaged when transplanted).



Then we toured the kitchen garden and learned lots of tips re growing and engaging students, including:

- Let your carrots go to seed and self-sow
- Collect marigold seeds with students and plant in their paper pots = life cycle study
- Chew on a fennel seed for a delicious taste of aniseed



Then we visited the indigenous garden and learned how to make a bright red dye from saltbush (<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/publications/berry-saltbush-facts/>).



And finished with a visit to the rainforest.



Such a wealth of outdoor resources and spaces! By then it was past 5 pm and time to conclude the meeting.

Here is a list of resources that we planned to share on the night:

- Return and Earn school fundraising information and toolkits: <https://returnandearn.org.au/community/schools/>
- EcoArts Australia Conference 26-28 May: <http://www.ecoartsaustralis.org.au/events-and-projects/conference-2019-using-the-visual-and-performing-arts-to-encourage-pro-environmental-behaviour/>
- Keep Australia Beautiful NSW EnviroMentors workshops: <https://www.kabnsw.org.au/our-programs/enviromentors-program/>
- AAEE (Australian Association for Environmental Education) 2019 Conference is being held at Kirrawee High School 3-5 October: <http://www.nswconference.org.au/>
- Sustainable Schools newsletter full of ideas and resources: <https://mailchi.mp/aaeensw/students-doing-amazing-things-resources-updates-and-events-1822753?e=1f6cb405f4>
- Eco-Schools Australia – student-lead initiatives leading to school awards; P&C or fundraising can cover annual membership fee approx. \$100: <https://www.eco-schools.org.au/>