

March 2019

## Term 1 at Ecolinc

### What's Happening in 2019

2019 is proving to be a very busy year once again with lots of new programs, special events, professional learning opportunities and a range of other activities on offer to schools. Here are a few opportunities to note and booking information:

#### New Onsite Programs in 2019:

##### Fair Dinkum Dinosaurs – Year 5 & 6

This program focuses on Australia's Dinosaurs, their unique features, where they lived and what Palaeontologists have learnt about them through fossils, bones, footprints etc.



##### Waste Warriors – Year 3 & 4

This program allows students to explore their role in fighting the issue of waste. Students learn about our natural worm waste warriors, how our waste water can be cleaned and purified and what we can do individually and collectively to recycle our waste.

##### Marsupial Milk – Year 10

In this program, students learn about the importance and composition of marsupial milk for infant marsupials. Students use the AAS and UV Vis to determine the calcium and protein content in marsupial milk formulas.



### Professional Development – ViSTA

Nine schools from across Victoria have elected to be part of the Ecolinc Virtual STEM Teaching Academy (ViSTA) Professional Learning program in 2019.

The ViSTA program will provide an opportunity for the teachers of science at Year 7 & 8 in Government schools to engage in sustained high-quality professional learning throughout 2019 designed to improve teachers' pedagogical knowledge and skills.

In addition to participating in high quality professional learning sessions with leading educational consultants such as Glen Pearsall and Ben Newsome from Fizzics Education, an Ecolinc STEM Teaching and Learning Coach will work with these teachers extensively via a blended delivery model (in person, online and via video conferencing) throughout 2019.

### Ecolinc Women in STEM Conference & Careers Portal

Ecolinc is proud to be associated with our sponsor Toyota Australia, to be offering a 2 day Women in STEM conference for students in western suburbs Government Secondary Schools on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. This conference will see 120 Year 9 & 10 girls participate in a range of activities from keynote speakers, panel forums, industry visits, a careers expo, workshops and a careers speed dating session.

With keynote speakers such as Jessica Vos, Spacecraft Systems Engineer at the Johnson Space Center live via video conference and Dr Sue Cook, Iceshelf Glaciologist at the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre, the conference is shaping up to be a truly unique opportunity for these girls.

Ecolinc will also launch its new online Careers Portal at the conference.

### Video Conferencing – STEMLinc



Commencing in term 2, Ecolinc will be offering a range of STEMLinc learning opportunities by video conferencing.

Primary School Teachers will be able to book and 'dial in' using either CISCO Webex, Polycom, or SKYPE to a range of unique STEM experiences delivered by one of our staff or by one of our partners.

The opportunities include:

- **Under the Sea** – exploring life in our oceans with Questacon.  
Dates: June 18<sup>th</sup> & July 25<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 2-3pm  
Year Level: P-6  
Cost: **Free** – see attached flyer for more info & booking details.



- **Great Barrier Reef Live Dive** – go on a virtual dive into the coral reef and predator exhibits of the Reef HQ Aquarium.  
Date: May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 2-3pm  
Year Level: 4-6  
Cost: **Free** - see attached flyer for more info & booking details.



## Ecolinc Learn Online - Learning Management System

Ecolinc along with our website developers have developed an online a Learning Management System for students and teachers to be able to use. The Ecolinc Learn Online portal will provide teachers in both primary and secondary schools with STEM programs and resources centred around the key concepts of environment, conservation and sustainability.

The aim of developing the LMS system is to provide teachers with reliable content and resources aligned with the Victorian Curriculum/VCE that teachers can use in the classroom on a daily basis. Teachers will be able to set students a range of tasks to complete, track student progress and assess learning.

The Learn Online LMS will be live from the beginning of Term 2. Programs include:

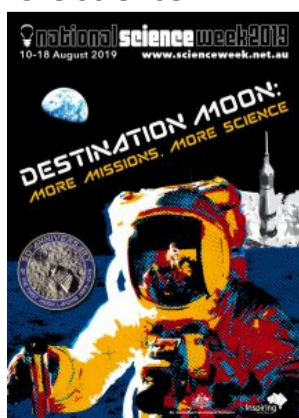
- Facing the Furnace
- Spotlight on Survival
- Digging Deeper – What happened to the Diprotodon
- Kingdom Animalia
- The Next Big Thing – Predicting Phenomena
- Magic Microscopes
- Decoding DNA
- Dinkum Dinosaurs
- Rapid Response
- And lots more.....



We will continue to populate the Learn Online system as new programs are developed so keep a look out for notifications about new programs via email or via this newsletter.

## National Science Week – The Aark, Space Junk and UN conference

This year's theme for National Science Week is 'Destination Moon: More missions, more science'.

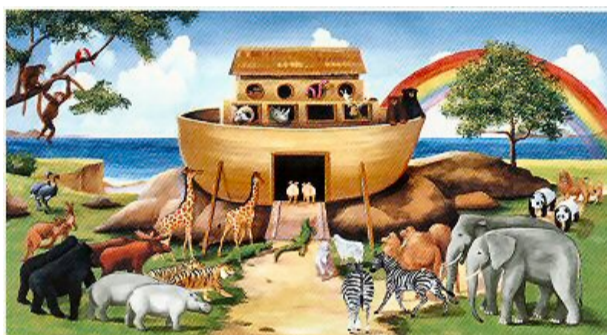


As part of Science Week, Ecolinc is offering schools 3 special programs:

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 'The Aark Program' Year 7 & 8

Climate change has suddenly kicked in. Massive floods are predicted and sea levels are rapidly rising. The people have been evacuated to the moon but in the rush to remove people, the animals have been left behind. The Government has put together a rescue plan to take the DNA of animals to the moon to establish new colonies, code named 'The Aark'.

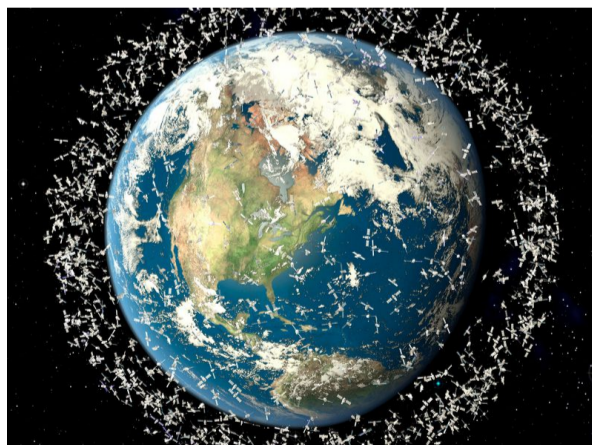
**To book please contact Ecolinc directly either via email or by phone 53670171. Booking numbers apply and limited spaces available.**



### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 'Space Junk' Year 9 & 10

Your business is tendering to be the exclusive international organisation driving the clean-up of space junk. Consider the need to redirect, repurpose or remove both floating space junk and stationary items on the moon.

**To book please contact Ecolinc directly either via email or by phone 53670171. Booking numbers apply and limited spaces available.**



### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August Model UN Conference Year 10 - 12

Ecolinc will be hosting a model United Nations conference where students will debate the topic of: 'Space Research and Sustainable Development: Improving Life on Earth?'. This will be run by the United Nations of Australia (Victorian Branch).

**For further information, please see the flyer attached. To register, please go to: <https://unaavic.wufoo.com/forms/kbtyw80dwth38/> Booking numbers apply and limited spaces available.**

## Outreach Road Trips

Ecolinc is offering 3 Outreach Road Trips in 2019 to primary schools in rural and remote areas of Victoria.

- Horsham area  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Topic: *Living Things, Life Cycles & Adaptations*
- Mildura area  
29<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August  
Topic: *Megafauna and Dinosaurs*
- Warrnambool area  
28<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Topic: *Saving Earth's resources & Renewable Energy*

**If your school is located in one of these areas and you would like to book an Outreach program please contact Ecolinc directly either via email or by phone 53670171.**

## Ecolinc Facebook Page

Don't forget to like us on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest Ecolinc news, stories, up-and-coming events and latest happenings.

[https://www.facebook.com/Ecolinc-Science-and-Technology-Innovations-Centre-883844761653025/info?tab=page\\_info](https://www.facebook.com/Ecolinc-Science-and-Technology-Innovations-Centre-883844761653025/info?tab=page_info)

