



newslinc Newsletter

Welcome to our Term 1 Newsletter!!!

March 2024

I hope that your year has commenced well for you all. Whilst Ecolinc is booked out for onsite programs, there are many opportunities available for your students to participate in a Video Conference, Victorian Challenge & Enrichment Series (VCES) or Women in STEM (WIS) programs in 2024 (see below for more details).

Professional Development

1. *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.

Presented by: Leon Furze



Leon Furze is an international consultant, author and speaker with over fifteen years of experience in secondary and tertiary education and leadership. Leon is studying his PhD in the implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence on writing instruction and education. Leon completed his Master of Education at the University of Melbourne in 2016 with

a focus on student wellbeing, leading schools through change, and linking education systems and communities.

When: August 5th Primary Teachers
August 6th Secondary Teachers

Time: 9.00am – 3.30pm

Venue: Victorian Academy of Teaching & Leadership (Ballarat)

Cost: Free – Bookings open start of Term 2.

2. *Coastcare Schools Kit (Explore, Engage & Empower):*

Ecolinc, Coastcare Victoria and the *Museum of Australian Democracy* have joined forces to deliver an exciting professional learning opportunity that focuses on familiarising and upskilling educators in the use of the free online **Coastcare Schools Kit** and how to empower students to become coastal environmental change makers. This opportunity acknowledges the support of Coastcare Victoria and the Victorian Government.

What to expect

A unique and hands-on PD session delivered by Ecolinc and Museum of Australian Democracy Learning Coordinators. You will:

- Understand how the Coastcare Schools Kit fits into current Department of Education priorities,
- Learn how to implement the Kit's resources in the classroom (the Kits covers content from sustainability fisheries, litter recycling, citizen science and so much more!),
- Be engaged in hands-on activities provided in the Kit,
- Learn how to empower your students to volunteer and become active coastal stewards,
- Collaborate with other teachers.

The professional learning sessions will be 2 hours long (from 4-6 pm) and available throughout 2024 in locations along the Victoria coast and online (see below).

30 April 2024	Online Eventbrite Ticket
13 May 2024	South West (Warrnambool - Brother Fox, Deakin University) Eventbrite Ticket
11 June 2024	Port Phillip Bay (Melbourne - Port Phillip EcoCentre) Eventbrite Ticket
29 August 2024	Online Eventbrite Ticket
9 September 2024	South Gippsland (Phillip Island - Penguin Parade) Eventbrite Ticket
28 October 2024	East Gippsland (Bairnsdale - Victorian Academy of Teaching & Leadership) Eventbrite Ticket

This event is specifically designed for school teachers, community educators, and government and corporate sustainability educators across Victoria.



Video Conferences - STEMLinc

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

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.

Date/Times	Topic	Yr Levels	More detail/Booking
April 17 10am,12pm, 2pm	Bush Choir	5-6	Click here
April 18 th 2pm	STEMex Expert Scientist: Sea Diver Karen Player 'Life in our Oceans'	5-6	Click here
April 23 rd 10am	Turtle Connections: Great Barrier Reef	3-6	Click here
April 24 th 10am, 12pm, 2 pm	First Peoples' Science		Click here
April 29 th 10 am	You, Me and Sustainability (Upper Primary)	5-6	Click here
April 29 th 12pm	Insect-a-cycle : With our very cool Entomologist Shasta Henry	3-4	Click here
April 29 th 2pm	You, Me and Sustainability(Middle Primary)	3-4	Click here
May 1 st 10am, 12pm , 2 pm	Fantastic Beasts: Animal Adaptations	5-6	Click here
May 2 nd 10am, 12pm	Drawing Fossils: Little scientists in the field	3-6	Click here
May 2 nd 2pm	STEMex Expert Scientist: Dr Mariana Pinto 'Designing Living Seawalls'	5-6	Click here
May 3 rd 10 am	Insects 101 : With our very cool Entomologist Shasta Henry	F-2	Click here
May 3 rd 2pm	Turtle Connections: Great Barrier Reef	3-6	Click here
May 6 th 10am	You, Me and Sustainability(Middle Primary)	3-4	Click here
May 6 th 12pm	You, Me and Sustainability(Upper Primary)	5-6	Click here
May 7 th 10am, 12 pm, 2pm	Fabulous Frogs	F-2	Click here
May 9 th 10am	NEW! Terrific Alaskan Tidepools	3-4	Book here
May 9 th 12pm	Coastal Custodians	5-8	Click here
May 9 th 2pm	Drawn Together	5-6	Click here
May 14 th 9.30am	Up close and palaeo Jr. Live from Canada! Royal Tyrell Museum	4-6	Click here
May 23 rd 9.30am	Royal Tyrell Museum dinosaur hall live tour – your questions	3-6	Click here
May 23 rd 10am	Pollinators: Honey Bees	P-2	Click here
May 23 rd 12pm	Life cycles and growing up on the reef	3-4	Click here
May 24 th 10am, 12 pm , 2pm	Eat or Be Eaten, Wetlands	5-6	Click here
May 28 th 10am	VCES Space Junk & Salvaging Satellites	5-6	Click here
May 28 th 1 pm	VCES Space Junk & Salvaging Satellites	5-6	Click here

May 29 th 10am	VCES Space Junk & Salvaging Satellites	5-6	Click here
May 29 th 1 pm	VCES Space Junk & Salvaging Satellites	5-6	Click here
May 30 th 10am, 12 pm	Dinosaurs of Australia	F-2	Click here
May 31 st 12pm, 2pm	Slimy Science	3-6	Click here
June 3 rd 12pm	Creatures and their features	F-2	Click here
June 4 th 10am	Mammals: Alaska Sealife	3-6	Click here
June 4 th 12pm	Living things on the Reef	5-6	Click here
June 6 th 9.30am	Secrets of the lost quarry: Collect the evidence, solve the mystery	3-6	Click here
June 6 th 11 am	Drawn Together	5-6	Click here
June 7 th 9.30am	A Climate Crisis	6-8	Click here
June 13 th 10 am	Alaska : Mammals	3-6	Click here
June 20 th	Pollinators: Honey Bees	P-2	Click here

Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series (VCES)

The VCES is an initiative of the Department of Education (DoE) that provides enrichment opportunities to extend high-ability students in Victorian government schools so they are better supported to excel and reach their full potential.

Ecolinc's 'S.T.E.A.M Ahead' program encompasses a range of activities both online and onsite. Participating students in the VCES 'S.T.E.A.M Ahead' program will be able to explore environmental themes and issues, hear from leading experts and participate in a range of workshops as part of this series. The events are free of charge for Government school students.

Events include:

- Space Junk & Salvaging Satellites***
 Date: May 28th or May 29th 2024
 Audience: 3-4
 Mode of delivery: Virtual delivery
 Sessions: 10am – 12pm OR 1pm – 3pm
<https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/courses/space-junk-salvaging-satellites/>
- Secrets of Eromanga & Drawing Fossils***
 Date: August 27th 2024
 Audience: 3-4
 Mode of delivery: Virtual delivery
 Sessions: 10am – 12pm OR 1pm – 3pm
<https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/courses/vces-secrets-of-eromanga/>
- Dinosaur Dynamics & Dinosaur Locomotion***
 Date: August 28th 2024
 Audience: 5-6
 Mode of delivery: Virtual delivery

Sessions: 10am – 12pm OR 1pm – 3pm

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

- **A Plastic Ocean**

14th Nov 2024

Date: Group 1 – Tues 12th & Wed 13th Nov OR Group 2 – Wed 13th & Thurs

Audience: 5-6

Mode of delivery: 2 day onsite (Day 1 at Ecolinc, Day 2 at ACMI)

Maximum number per school: 20 (*limited places still available*)

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



Women in STEM program:

Ecolinc is once again offering our famous Women in STEM program for Year 9-10 girls. The program features a keynote speaker, 'hands-on' workshops and a careers speed dating session.

Limited places still available (limit 10 students per school)

Date: Wednesday 16th October 2024

Venue: RMIT (Melbourne)

Cost: Free

[To book: ecolinc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ecolinc@education.vic.gov.au)