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Ecolinc wins 2009 National Savewater Award and 2009 AILA Award for Design in Landscape Architecture



Rob Gell presenting Suzanne Clark with the 2009 Savewater Award for 'Educational Institutions'.

Ecolinc has been awarded the 2009 National Savewater Award for Educational Institutions. The award recognizes 'outstanding innovation and achievement in water management and conservation'.

Ecolinc leads by example when it comes to saving water, with ecological sustainable design principles used during the design and construction of the centre, now incorporated in curriculum programs. The site includes two 22,500 litre tanks for flushing indoor toilets and watering within the horticultural area, as well as two outdoor waterless composting toilets. The 654,000 litre habitat wetland recycles urban stormwater. The facility includes an online building maintenance system that monitors water and energy use. Ecolinc has contributed to countless litres of water being saved as a flow on effect of students using their Ecolinc experience to begin water saving initiatives within their own schools and homes.

Ecolinc has also been awarded a 2009 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) Design in Landscape Architecture Award with a special commendation for Education Facilities. As an outdoor classroom, the landscape setting extends opportunities for innovative curriculum through active participation in ecological and horticultural activities. 'To take a grassy paddock and convert it into a valued environmental centre is inspirational.'

To reconnect it with its river setting through carefully considered stormwater management and indigenous habitat planting is environmentally responsible landscape architecture at its best.' (<http://www.aila.org.au/victoria/awards2009/ecolink.htm>)

Ecolinc will host MooraFest on Sunday 15 November. This Moorabool Shire Council community festival celebrates sustainability and will provide a range of events and activities for adults and children. Tours of the award winning Ecolinc facility and wetland will be available during the day. Please see the MooraFest website <http://www.moorafest.com/> for more details. **Ecolinc** launched 'Digging up the Diprotodon' for Children's Week. In addition to exploring the Geological Trail, students investigated the footprints of giant kangaroos, wombats and the Diprotodon, which have been preserved as casts from megafauna trackways discovered in western Victoria. The casts were constructed by Museum Victoria and are currently on loan to **Ecolinc** from the University of Ballarat.



Students from Lalor Park PS investigating the Ecolinc Geological Trail



Department of Education and Early Childhood Development



Ecolinc is currently taking bookings for 2010. Please see the **Ecolinc Curriculum Programs** brochure on the **Ecolinc** website for details.

Ecolinc will be conducting three VCE professional learning activities in December. Please book early.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009

VCE Physics and Environmental Science - a workshop designed for VCE Physics and Environmental Science teachers, to update aspects of the study designs and explore options for student activities.

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2009

VCE Chemistry - a workshop designed for VCE Chemistry teachers, to update aspects of the study design, focusing on instrumental analysis. Explore a range of student activities.

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2009

VCE Biology - a workshop designed for VCE Biology teachers, to update aspects of the study design. Explore a range of student activities.

A presentation by Dr Stephen Carey, University of Ballarat, entitled 'Superb megafaunal trackways from the Volcanic Plains of Victoria: relics of the behaviour of giant marsupials' will be a feature of the day.

The cost for each program is \$80 including morning tea, lunch, all refreshments and a full curriculum package. All participants will receive a VIT approved certificate of course completion.

mecu is currently finalizing a new sponsorship arrangement.



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