

newslinc Newsletter

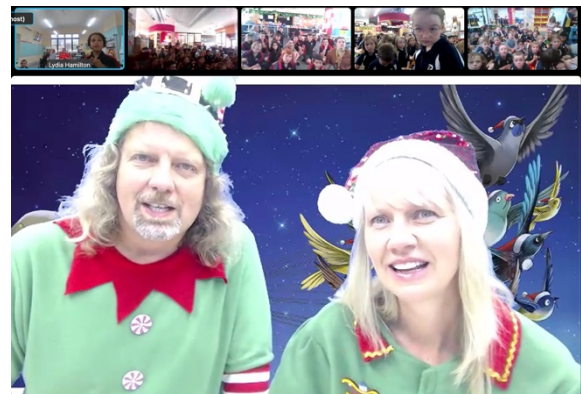
Welcome to our Term 4 Newsletter!!!

Wow, what a year 2021 has been for us all!

There is no doubt that this year will be remembered for its Covid disruptions, lockdowns, isolation, vaccines etc. Schools have had to face a range of challenges, but with innovation, perseverance and a genuine commitment to providing quality education outcomes for students, we have managed to overcome these obstacles.

Ecolinc has also had to think 'outside the box' when it came to supporting schools throughout the Covid crisis. In terms 2 & 3 we provided a significant number of online programs and video conference sessions (STEMLinc) for teachers to use with their students to support and enhance learning, and we were exceptionally pleased that these resources were very well received and utilized.

In recent weeks, our Santa Elves have been busy delivering Santa Science Shows to schools via VC. Hopefully our elves have brought a little Christmas cheer to your students.



2022 Bookings

We have had an overwhelming response from schools for booking requests for onsite and outreach programs in 2022 and have closed our online booking form. However, there are still some spaces available for outreach and for onsite programs at our new Deep Creek Reserve site in Pakenham, as well as a variety of video conference program opportunities. For further information, please visit our website or email us:

<https://ecolinc.vic.edu.au/content/booking-form>

In addition, Ecolinc has prioritized bookings for **VCE Environmental Science** programs. If you are teaching a Unit 1-2 or Unit 3-4 Environmental Science subject in 2022 and have missed out on booking one of our programs, please contact us on: ecolinc@education.vic.gov.au and we will see if we can accommodate your request.

What's on offer in 2022?

Victorian Challenge & Enrichment Series:

Ecolinc's 'S.T.E.A.M Ahead' program is part of the Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series, an initiative of the Department of Education and Training (DET), 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.

Participating students in the VCES 'S.T.E.A.M Ahead' program will be able to explore environmental themes and issues in film, 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 and include:

Term 1: 'Oddball'

Tuesday March 8th and Wednesday March 9th.

Year 3-6

Via: Video Conference

Dogs may seem like unusual guardians for endangered and vulnerable animals, but Maremma's and other breeds are currently being trained to protect species that are at risk of predation and/or extinction. Students will participate in a virtual excursion to learn more about the Maremma Penguin Project and how animals are being used to protect other animals.

Term 2: 'Wall-e'

Tuesday 7th June for Year 3-4's.

Wednesday 8th June for Year 5-6's

Via: Video Conference

Wall-e is set in a time when we have exhausted our natural resources, rubbish is everywhere and life as we know it no longer exists. Students will engage in workshops and use critical

thinking and problem solving skills to design an innovative solution to address the waste issue facing our world.

Term 3 : 'Wall-e

Tuesday 13th September for Year 3-4's
Wednesday 14th September for Year 5-6'

Via: Video Conference

Wall-e is set in a time when we have exhausted our natural resources, rubbish is everywhere and life as we know it no longer exists. Students will engage in workshops and use critical thinking and problem solving skills to design an innovative solution to address the waste issue facing our world.

Term 4: 'A Plastic Ocean'

Tuesday 7th November & Wednesday 8th November (Please note: this is a 2 day program)

Year 5-6

Venue: Ecolinc, Bacchus Marsh & ACMI, Melbourne

Plastic is having a major ecological impact on our oceans and on the broader environment. Students will participate in a range of workshops and design a social media campaign and pledge to reduce plastics.

Further information about the 2022 VCES programs please visit our VCES website: <http://vces.ecolinc.vic.edu.au>

If you would like to book your students in for any of the above VCES high ability programs, please contact Ecolinc on ecolinc@education.vic.gov.au



Women in STEM Program

The Women in STEM program will be back next year featuring exceptional guest speakers, workshops and the very popular careers speed-dating session. The dates in 2022 are:

Wednesday June 15th

Wednesday October 19th

Given that the 2021 WIS program was cancelled due to Covid restrictions, priority will be given to those schools who were booked in for this event.



Model United Nations Conference (MUNC)

Ecolinc will once again host a model United Nations conference in 2022. The conference will be held at the Deep Creek Reserve, Pakenham for students in Years 10 - 12 on **Friday 19th August**.

Students will have the opportunity to represent one of the UN Countries and research and debate the topic: *Planet Ocean: Protecting the World's Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources*.

The Model UN Conference will be run by the United Nations of Australia (Victorian Branch).

Priority will be given to schools who were booked in for the 2021 MUNC but missed out due to Covid restrictions. For further information and to book contact Ecolinc on 53670171 or ecolinc@edumail.vic.gov.au Booking numbers apply and limited spaces available.



Video Conferencing -STEMlinc

Bookings are open for the 2022 STEMlinc video conferences. Some of the featured programs include:

- You, Me & Sustainability
- Drawn Together
- My Little Dino
- Pollinators
- Fabulous Frogs
- Earthworm Superheroes
- Animal Lifecycles
- First Peoples Science
- Dinosaurs of Australia
- The Science of Toys
- Smelly Science
- Slimy Science

- Animal Adaptations
- Continental Drift: Fact or Fiction?
- Alaska Sea Life – Eat or Be Eaten!
- Plus many more....

The video conferences are activity based and often include a 'STEM in a Box' kit that is sent out to schools. The video conference and kits are free.

To book any of these opportunities, please go to: <https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/stem-linc-events/>

Please note that schools can now book for multiple tickets by using the drop down menu.



[Ecolinc Learn Online](#)

The Ecolinc learning management system called *Ecolinc Learn Online* has a range of new and recently revamped online learning programs aligned to the Victorian Curriculum/VCE ready for 2022. It is free for teachers and students. <https://learnonline.ecolinc.vic.edu.au>

Some of the programs include:

VCE:

- ***Biology Unit 3 AoS 1: Genetic Engineering.*** This program explores the structure of DNA and how it can be manipulated to create GMO, and considers the biological, social and ethical implications of using biotechnology.
- ***Biology Unit 3 AoS 2: Photosynthesis.*** This course begins with an overview of photosynthesis before covering the light dependent and independent reactions in more detail. Rubisco is an enzyme used to speed up the fixation of carbon dioxide in the Calvin cycle. CRISPR cas9 is explored as biotechnology for improving the efficiency of the rubisco enzyme and other plant modifications to cope with increasing carbon dioxide and temperature levels brought about by climate change.
- ***Biology Unit 4 AoS 2: Proteins 101.*** This program looks at why proteins are important in our diets, the structure of proteins and how they are produced from our genes.

Year 9-10:

- ***DNA Detectives.*** This program explores the structure and function of DNA and then considers how it can be manipulated for use in detective work.

Year 5-6:

- **Deadly.** Get up close and personal with some of the more deadly species found in Australia and explore the amazing adaptations that these animals have that help them to survive our environmental extremes.



Ecolinc Partners

We would like to acknowledge and thank our valued partners for their support and commitment to Ecolinc. We wish you all a fantastic festive season and look forward to working with you again in 2022 as we continue to work together to provide strong, innovative and immersive programs in the areas of environment and sustainability.



Christmas Greetings

On behalf of all the staff at Ecolinc, I would like to extend a very Merry Christmas and wish all of our Ecolinc friends and visitors a happy and safe New Year.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you again in 2022.



[Onsite programs](#) | [Outreach programs](#) | [Online learning](#) | [Video conferences](#)