

EYE  
on the planet  
Did you know...?

*Bringing it home; The  
Australian Eco Foot-  
print*

**Eco-footprint** is an indication of the total amount of land required to supply all the resources a persons lifestyle demands.

- The average Australian has an eco footprint of about 7.8 hectares. This is nearly 3 times the global average!

- Each Australian household produces an average of 1.14 tonnes of waste per year

- Australia has the world's highest per capita carbon dioxide emissions from energy use, overtaking the US as **the worlds worst per capita emitter** (Maplecroft's CO2 Energy Emissions Index)

# EYE



# Connect

Issue 1

Term 1, Jan-April 2010

## Bellingen EYE's First Newsletter!

Welcome! to Bellingen EYE's first ever newsletter. The Bellingen EYE newsletter "EYEconnect" is for both Bellingen EYE members and the general community to keep up to date with Bellingen EYE's movements and activities. The newsletter will be released quarterly at the commencement of each school term and will contain important information regarding coming events, important dates, past events, and environmental info. For more information on EYE Connect, or to get the newsletter sent electronically to your e-mail, contact Caitlin at [info@bellingeneye.com](mailto:info@bellingeneye.com). EYEconnect will be distributed through our local schools and throughout Bellingen.

## Our Story So Far...

Bellingen EYE began in 2007 as a small group of youth seeking to reconnect with the bush and get out under the stars. More than 2 years down the track, Bellingen EYE has evolved into far more than that. 2010 brings the second year of our partnership grant with the Foundation for Young Australians which has greatly strengthened our camp program. Every year we offer two camps to Junior EYE (yrs 7-8) and three camps to Senior EYE (yrs 9+). EYE also participates in Landcare working bees once a month, regular bushwalks, community education and environmental advocacy under our fundamental aim of reconnecting youth with the land. For more information on Bellingen EYE's history and how EYE functions check out [www.bellingeneye.com](http://www.bellingeneye.com).

## BE THE CHANGE: Leadership Camp 2010

"Be the change you want to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi's words have inspired many, and were the inspiration for Bellingen EYE's Leadership camp 2010 held in January at Mt Hyland Wilderness Retreat. 35 participants took part in this awesome camp that spanned over four days and involved leadership skills and training, time in nature, environmental education, deep ecology, delicious food and beautiful campfire moments. The first day was spent in self exploration, acknowledgement and appreciation, looking at the age

old question "who am I?" This then lead to identifying who we want to be, particularly in relation to being advocates for change. The rest of the camp then explored "how to get there" through group discussion, workshop electives, and environmental education. The food over the camp kept in line with our sustainable focus with most food coming within 200km radius of the area. Highlights of the camp were morning yoga, night time meditation in the bush and hilarious campfire comedy, music and drama.



**Bellingen EYE (Environmental Youth Experience)** is a group of inspired youth from the Bellingen Shire who have a passion for the environment and want to conserve its health and beauty. We provide adventurous and enlightening nature and leadership camps for local high school aged youth. We also carry out projects and environmental campaigns, and take part in environmental happenings in our community. We aim to strengthen the connections between youth and our environment, while empowering youth to create a stronger voice within our community.

**Any youth can become a member of Bellingen EYE from high school age onwards. For a Membership Fee of \$5 you receive a Bellingen EYE badge and access to Bellingen EYE activities throughout the year.**

**For more information on Bellingen EYE membership, camps, meetings and campaigns check out our website [www.bellingeneye.com](http://www.bellingeneye.com), e-mail [info@bellingeneye.com](mailto:info@bellingeneye.com) or phone 0423 362 844 .**

# EYE Senior Survival Camp 2010



Sinai using a hand drill to make fire.

Survival skills have always been an integral part of Bellingene EYE. The ancient and unique practices combined with the fun, awareness and group bonding they bring make survival camps intrinsic to our camp program and to EYE itself.

In the past Bellingene EYE members have learnt to create fire (without matches); build shelters, rope, and baskets out of natural local materials; collect water and bush tucker; practice bush first aid; and an EYE favourite— tracking and camouflage.

And now...**REGISTRATION IS OPEN** for our Senior Survival Camp 2010. The **WildEYE Survival Skills Camp** will be held over the weekend of **March 19-21**.

This is a senior camp, which means that all interested youth aged 14 and up are welcome – you are especially welcome if you have never been to an EYE camp before.

This camp will be held at Scotts Head, and is all about our relationship to the ocean environment ....our program will be filled with beach tracking, looking for coastal bush tucker, learning about sea level rise and climate change.....as well as our usual stuff like getting muddy, hanging out around the campfire, and just having fun.

Our camps usually end up with a waiting list – so don't delay, register now.

**We have a new camp rego system this year:** the first step is getting your name on the participant list by either (1) emailing your name to [info@bellingeneye.com](mailto:info@bellingeneye.com) or (2) ringing the EYE phone 0423 362 844 and leaving your name on the message bank.

You will receive confirmation that your name is on the list, and then you have until Wednesday, 10th March to get your forms and payment in (after that your place gets given away.) All forms and details can be found on the EYE website at [www.bellingeneeye.com](http://www.bellingeneeye.com), or ring Lisa on 0423 362 844. Also— please remember that Bellingene EYE has a Scholarship Fund for anyone that needs help attending our camps. Contact Lisa for more info.

“Plastic bags are consumed at a rate of nearly one million per minute.”

## No Plastic— Fantastic!

Introduced just over 25 years ago, society's consumption rate is now estimated at well over 500,000,000,000 (50 billion) plastic bags annually, or almost **1 million per minute**. These facts and more resulted in the inspiration for Bellingene EYE members to begin the No Plastic—Fantastic Campaign to make the Bellingene township plastic bag free in 2010/2011. The campaign launch will be at the New En-

ergy Festival on June 5th, and so between now and then Bellingene EYE members will be working very hard re-searching plastic bag alternatives, in particular vegetable starch and calico, forming a Bellingene Plastic Bag Free Coalition of support, seeking sponsorship, and conducting community education. Watch this space for more information on this exciting campaign!

## Bushwalking Group

Bellingene EYE Bushwalking Group is returning again in 2010 for exciting and delicious explorations of our beautiful local area. Step off the beaten track to explore pristine waterfalls, untouched rainforest or spectacular mountain views, under the guidance of knowledgeable mentors. Upcoming walks:

- March 6th-7th, overnight bushwalk to the beautiful Watergum Falls. This walk is for those aged 16+.
- April 3rd, Saturday Day Walk to Tuckers Knob. All EYE members are welcome.

To go on bushwalks you must be a member of the EYE Bushwalking Group. Pick up a rego form from Lisa or download from our website [www.bellingeneeye.com](http://www.bellingeneeye.com)

## Dates for your Diary!

Tear me off if you wish

Saxon Land care champion 2009



### Landcare/EYE Working Bees

- Sunday **28 February**
- Sunday **28 March**
- Sunday **25 April**

9am –12am with a yummy morning tea provided. Wear closed shoes and a hat (and clothes, if you want) Check the EYE website for location and wet weather plans. Landcare is a great way to be physically environmentally active, make a visible difference in our community and get your hands dirty!

### Meetings

Meetings are from 5pm at the Bellingene Environment Centre unless otherwise indicated.

- Wed **17 Feb-** Leadership Group EYE-lections
- Thurs **25 Feb-** EYE Workgroups
- Wed **3 March-** EYE monthly meeting
- Thurs **11 March-** Workgroups
- Thurs **25 March-** Workgroups

### Camps/Bushwalks

- **Mar 6-7** overnight bushwalk 16+ to Watergum Falls
- **March 19—21** Senior Survival Skills Camp
- **April 3** day bushwalk for all of EYE to Tuckers Knob
- **May 7-9** Junior EYE “jYEventure” Camp at Mt– Hyland (for years 7-8)
- August 6 –8** “EarthConnect” Senior Arts Camp at Mt. Hyland
- **Sept** Jnr “WildEYE.” Date TBA