



HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Is your work with children 'Sticky and Elastic'? Fun ideas for memorable learning

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Abstract

Willoughby City Council is a heavily populated urban area that has continuously grown a resilient, environmentally connected community.

The Council Environmental Education program has been successful in building a high profile and popular status within school, community and preschool groups. Projects continue to engage all schools and are activities for the community are continuously booked out.

Engaging with busy Schools is challenging and once through the door, it requires environmental educators need to give more, cover more curriculum requirements and involve ever increasing number of students in tight spaces.

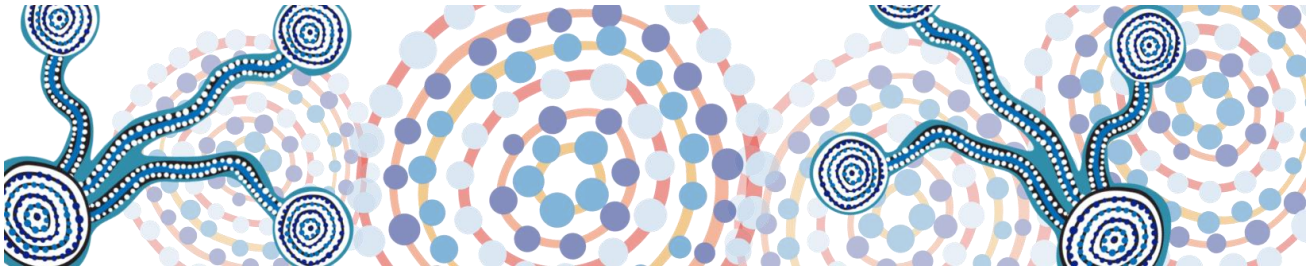
Covid created a desire within the community to get out into nature in numbers never seen before. The demand for nature interpretation is at an all-time high but how can we make those first-timers, especially those with busy families continue to spend time and develop a passion for conservation?

Providing learning experiences that focus on nature and enables each person to have fun experience is a proven winner. Repeat customers want more.

This workshop will detail how the Wildlife Storybook project has continued to create a platform for engagement within schools. How creative presentations about wildlife have included the children and made them think.

If you think of snails and slugs, think of making natural slime to play with. If you want to teach about Octopus think about getting kids to use their body language to communicate like the Octopus. Learning about Butterflies that dance whilst sharing Pheromones can be a fun dance routine.

This workshop aims to be fun and ensure all participants feel like they have the power to engage with children in a huge variety of ways. To make the learning memorable (sticky) and enable the project to be resilient and stretch far and wide (elastic).



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

Speaker Profile

Emma Hayes and Rowena Chong work at Willoughby City Council mostly as educators working to broaden community connection to the local bushland and sustainability principals through initiatives such as guided bushwalks and the Wildlife Storybook Project with local schools.

Emma Hayes has extensive experience working for 20 years + in a varied environmental interpretation role within local government. Emma is a nature guide, a lecturer in sustainable tourism, a bush re-generator and horticulturalist, a landscape designer and storyteller. Emma is a believer in the powers of nature, how it heals and motivates.

Rowena Chong recently joined the Willoughby City Council as the Bushland Community Liaison Officer. Prior to this, Rowena completed a PhD in Tasmanian devil conservation genetics at the University of Sydney. She has also worked in science education across various renowned organisations, including Sea Life Sydney Aquarium, Taronga Zoo, The University of Sydney and Nutty Scientists. She is passionate about protecting the world's biodiversity, inspiring others to take part, and making science accessible and fun through education and community outreach.

Website links

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