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Odd Spot Did You Know?

Commonwealth nations include some of the largest populations on earth – such as India, with a population of 1.01 billion – and some of the world's smallest populations such as St Helens, a 308 sq km Island in the Atlantic, with a population of 7000.

The Environment and You

Introduction

'The Environment and You' is the key theme for our third issue of the CG Reps GameZINE.

The Games will allow us to have a positive impact on the environment, through an innovative new strategy - the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Environment Program. It aims to achieve this in three ways:

1. Being **water wise** through using water-efficient appliances, collecting stormwater and recycling water at major Games venues;
2. Being **carbon neutral** through reducing energy consumption, increasing public transport use and planting up to 1 million trees to act as carbon sponges;
3. Ensuring **low waste** by discouraging littering and reducing waste that goes to landfill through more recycling. Since August 2004, a new litter barge has been patrolling the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers to ensure these waterways look their best for the Games. Already, the barge has scooped up around 2000 cubic metres of litter. That's roughly enough to fill two 50 metre swimming pools!

We know you and your school also care about the environment and we are highlighting the work you are doing to reduce, reuse and recycle in your local community. This GameZINE covers the great work being done at Anderson's Creek Primary School, St Thomas Primary School and at Worawa College.

In this issue we're also announcing a new suite of competitions to help get you motivated to contributing to GameZINE!

If your school sends an article, a snapshot or a solution to Karak's Creek Mystery, you will go into the running for some great prizes. Check out the details in this ezine for more information.

We hope you enjoy this edition of GameZINE and consider contributing to future issues.



Top: Laura Cook holds the Queen's Baton in a field of Jersey cows at St Mary on Jersey's north coast. Copyright Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation. Photo: prpix.com.au

Above: Rob Gell, Commonwealth Games Environment Ambassador and students from Worawa Aboriginal College, Healesville, plant trees and participate in Waterwatch education activities.

Rob Gell, the Environment and the Commonwealth Games

An interview with Rob Gell, Commonwealth Games Environment Ambassador

Q: What do you do as the Commonwealth Games Environment Ambassador?

A: I share the different ways the Victorian Government is making the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games the “Green Games” by talking to schools, teachers, business, Mums and Dads about how we can protect our environment by making our own homes, businesses and schools more environmentally friendly.

Q: How will the 2006 Commonwealth Games be “Green”?

A: The Commonwealth Games Environment Program has three main themes:

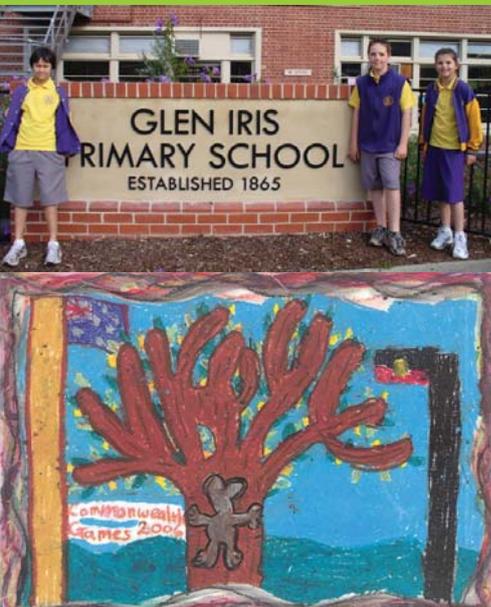
Carbon neutral – The Games will attract thousands of visitors and there will be lots of activity happening in March 2006. This means extra greenhouse gases will be produced by the extra energy used. The Government is planting up to a million trees across Victoria to “soak up” these greenhouse gases. Schools have been involved in growing the seedlings and planting trees in their local areas.

Waterwise – Saving water is very important for our environment. The new sporting venues and the new Games Village have been built to collect and recycle water. They will use as little water as possible for showers, toilets and other appliances.

Low waste – We want to encourage Victorians to stop littering so that our streets and public areas are kept clean. Schools have created their own “waste wise” events to help reduce waste in their own school communities.

Q: Why is the Games mascot “Karak” important?

A: As you know, Karak is a South Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and is one of Australia’s most beautiful parrots. Unfortunately this bird is endangered because its natural habitat and sources of food are threatened. By having Karak as our Games mascot we hope to let everyone know how important it is to save this bird and to preserve the old trees in which Karak needs to nest.



*Top:
Jackson, Justin and Laura, Year 5/6
students at Glen Iris Primary School.*

*Above:
Our environment is important to us.
Art4Athletes entry by Olivia, Grade 3/4,
Werribee Primary School.*

*Right:
Rob Gell paid a visit to Healesville
Sanctuary where Karak’s cousin, Karak
Junior, the South-Eastern Red-tailed Black
Cockatoo, was hatched in March 2004.*



Anderson's Creek Reduces, Reuses and Recycles

By Elaine Roberston

Anderson's Creek is 34km north-east of Melbourne near Warrandyte State Park and the Yarra River in Warrandyte. Our school is keenly interested in the local environment. Our curriculum focuses on developing knowledge and understanding of the impact of people on the environment and how the behaviour of people can improve or destroy a natural environment.

We have been part of the Waste Wise Schools Program and have been working towards making our school and the environment sustainable and more energy efficient. We are embracing the Environmental Sustainability message for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. The school is very much committed to the 3Rs - *Reducing, Reusing and Recycling*.

How do we reduce?

- Reduce the amount water wastage: ice-cream containers are put under the drinking taps to collect water to go on garden beds.
- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by collecting food scraps from the Prep classrooms and the staffroom, and putting them in a worm farm.
- Reduce the amount of paper used for printing and photocopying by reusing one-sided paper in the printer and photocopying double-sided worksheets.
- Preps promote lunch boxes with compartments for food items, to reduce the amount of food wrapping.
- We place our Staff Bulletin Board on the school intranet and reduce the amount of photocopying of notices.
- Our School Newsletter is emailed to families weekly.

How do we reuse?

- Lids for Legs: collecting the ring pull from aluminium cans enables the making of artificial limbs for landmine victims. The program was developed by Dr Therdchai

Jivicate in Thailand and supported by Rotary *Lids for Legs*.

- Ink Cartridges of all types are re-inked. The funds go to a local community group.
- Paper is reused in the classroom in many forms. Single-sided sheets are put into a desktop box for reuse.
- Shredded document paper is sent to local pet shops for use as bedding.
- Our Art Room reuses cartons, newspapers, material scraps and visits **Reverse Garbage** for materials to inspire children and develop art ideas.
- Cork Collection: corks are collected for reuse and fundraising for a community group.

How do we recycle?

- Composting food scraps: the Preps and the Staff Room put fruit and vegetable scraps, sandwich crusts and tea bags into a worm farm for compost.
- Paper recycling: once paper has been reused, it is recycled. Newspaper and other paper scraps are recycled.
- Bottles, cans, tetra juice packs are recycled from outside the staffroom and the canteen. A more comprehensive system is being developed to incorporate each grade and monitors.

Our school received the 1st Prize in the worldwide Cyberfair competition *Our Environment, Our Future*. Please view our wonderful project at <http://teachit.acreekps.vic.edu.au/cyberfair2005/index.htm>

The Environment is very special and the students, teachers and local community are united to prepare it for the future.

Elaine Robertson is a teacher at Anderson's Creek Primary School and has extensive experience in using the Internet and Information and Communication Technologies to enhance learning in her classroom.



Top: Anderson's Creek Primary students create a scarecrow to protect their vegetable garden.

Middle: Cleaning up the yard. Anderson's Creek Primary School, Warrandyte.

Bottom: Newspapers help to suppress weeds and retain moisture in the soil. Reducing, reusing and recycling at Anderson's Creek Primary School.

CG Reps Spot

Primary: Ghana arrives at St Thomas Primary, Sale

One of the Grade 3/4 classes at St. Thomas Primary School has been actively involved in the Commonwealth Games Education program over the past two terms. The students are learning about the distant country of Ghana and have studied the type of clothing Ghanaians wear. The Commonwealth Games spirit strengthened when a member of the Australian Opals Olympic Basketball team, Jessica Bibby, visited the school and spoke of her experiences. The class has also accessed online sites to read a diary entry from a

Ghanaian child named Anusibuno and see how he spends daily life, eating, cleaning and going to school. The Ghanaian group Wala also attended the school, performing many songs from their rich heritage using African drums, flutes and dances. This allowed students to meet the people they had been reading about and to listen to and ask questions. To complete the Ghanaian experience at St Thomas, the students compiled information they each found on the Internet, in books and in encyclopaedias. The class have adopted Ghana as their second team and will be actively engaged in their efforts and success in Melbourne 2006.

Below, middle and right: Students from a grade 3/4 class at St Thomas Primary School in Sale have embraced their second team, Ghana and have been learning about Ghanaian life and culture.



Secondary: Our River, Our Games

Sporting and cultural events on Melbourne's Yarra River will cast it into the international spotlight during the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The 'Our River, Our Games' project, part of the Commonwealth Games Environment Program, has encouraged the people of Melbourne to take pride in their river and learn how they can help improve its health to ensure it looks its best for the Games and beyond.

Between August and October, volunteers have been doing their bit in a series of community action days along the Yarra. These included tree planting, revegetation, litter clean-ups and drain stencilling activities.

Special days were held for local schools along the Yarra and students participated in Waterwatch activities and storm water education. They learned how to identify bugs, water quality and about the health of the river.

Left and below: Rob Gell, Commonwealth Games Environment Ambassador and students from Worawa Aboriginal College, Healesville, plant trees and participate in Waterwatch education activities.



What's in your school now?

These resources are available in your school now and on the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Education website at www.melbourne2006.com.au/education.

Getting Schools Involved – A Guide to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Education Program (A4 ring bind folder kit)

Curriculum material CD-ROMs

Starting Blocks – An Introduction to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

Post-compulsory Resources for VCE/VET in Schools/VCAL

Watch out in Term 4 for.....

Let the Games Begin – Middle Years Resources

United through the Games – Integrated Units

CommPASS – A Commonwealth Games Passport Program for primary students

Karak Poster / Water Saver Champion Poster

The Age Education Games supplement and poster series which started on 14 September.

Get involved in GameZINE and enter the exciting prize draw

We want YOU!

GameZINE 4 will focus on *Countdown to the Games* and we want YOUR contributions:

- Snapshots or stories about what you are doing in your school;
- Photos of your activities;
- Details about how teachers, students (and your classmates) are benefiting from being CG Reps.

We need to know what's happening in your school as you warm up for the Games, what projects you're linking in with or what your school is doing to promote Games-related activities.

Write your article and tell us what you're doing by November 18 and you will **automatically enter the prize draw to receive a school visit by Karak or the national flag of your adopted second team!** For more information on the competition go to Karak's Korner, or Tim and Don's Games Diary, in this GameZINE.

When you send your article to robin@dk2.com.au, make sure you have met all the permission requirements. You can download the Permission Form at www.melbourne2006.com.au/education and follow the prompts to the CG Reps page.

Calendar of Events

1. Bringing it all together – Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Education Program Teacher PD

This state-wide professional development program began on October 18. Training sessions are being held in all Victorian Regions until November 24. Several sessions are already booked out, but if you would still like to attend, go to www.dk2.com.au/commgames.htm to find out more about the program and the sessions still taking registrations. Then download a booking form and register your attendance.

2. Karak and Flag Competition – November 18

Submit your article, snapshot or creek solution to GameZINE and enter the prize draw for a school visit by Karak or your adopted second team's flag. Go to Karak's Korner for more details.

3. Warming Up for the Games – November 20

Events will be held in every municipality across Victoria in a single day of state-wide activity. Contact your local council to find out how your school can get involved.

4. Art4Athletes due date for artworks – November 30

440 schools from across Australia have registered to provide nearly 6,500 artworks for athletes and team officials coming to Melbourne for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Artworks need to be completed and delivered to the Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination by 30 November 2005. For any school that has registered for the program and requires assistance, email games.schools@dvc.vic.gov.au

5. Publication deadlines for GameZINE

GameZINE 4- Countdown to the Games	Submit by Nov 18	Publication: Early Term 1, 2006
GameZINE - Post-Games Celebration	Submit by Mar 30	Publication: Term 2, 2006

6. School2School Registrations close end Term 4

If you want to get your school involved in the School2School program, register this term by going to www.melbourne2006.com.au/education and following the prompts to School2School.



Our first competition!

Come on... start your contributions to our next GameZINE. Closes November 18! Come on... start your contributions to our next GameZINE. Closes November 18!

If your school sends in an article, a snapshot or tries to provide a solution to Karak's Creek Mystery and what might have happened to Pete the missing platypus, you will enter the prize draw for one of the two exciting Commonwealth Games prizes:

- a visit by Karak to your school in Term 4; or
- receive the flag of your school's adopted second team!

To enter, simply email your article, snapshot or creek solution to robin@dk2.com.au, ensuring you have also completed the Permission to Publish requirements by downloading the Permission Form at www.melbourne2006.com.au/education and following the prompts to the CG Reps page.

Deadline for your submission: November 18, 2005.

Karak's Korner

Giddy!

Can you remember in the last GameZINE I described how I was training for the Cockatoo Flyathlon which will take place just before Christmas? Wish me luck.

Well, my training was going along well. Each day I was flying a couple of kilometres and catching a breather every now and then in a lovely tall Stringybark tree. But that's sort of finished for now.

I have moved onto phase two of my training – the scramble. As you know, this involves me running around with my wings spread wide screeching “Karaaaakkk!!” It drives mum crazy.

But I have something I must tell you. The other day, I was training for the scramble and couldn't believe my eyes when I got to Red Gum Creek.

The creek was a yucky shade of brownish green and there was rubbish everywhere.

I couldn't believe it.

I slowly walked down to the bank and pecked at a piece of rubbish. It stuck to my beak. I squawked loudly but nobody came to save me and I nearly swallowed it.

Eventually I managed to scrape it off with the talons on my feet. I found out it was a supermarket shopping bag with sticky chewing gum inside. Then I tripped over a rusty drink can and nearly cut off one of my talons.

Looking around, I found many trees and bushes around the creek had been cleared.

There was a new track which had been made for the farmer's ute to drive along when he goes out to spray his crops.

Some of the plants along the creek were dying and the creek banks were starting to erode.

I also found that my old friend Pete Platypus was missing. I called out for him.

“Karaaaak...Peeete...Karaaaak!!!!” and looked to see if he was wedged underwater beneath a rock or tree stump.

He was nowhere to be found.

I noticed that there weren't any more tadpoles in the creek and that the worms and insects he likes to eat were missing too.

For some reason people have stopped caring for Red Gum Creek - and many similar creeks, parks, forests and sensitive eco-systems around Australia - like they used to. They have become rubbish tips. Before long, I'm afraid the creek, and many others like it, will be gone.

Can you help me to find Pete and work out ways of saving our creek?

If we can't fix up Red Gum Creek, Pete won't return and I will have lost a friend.

We won't be able to have the Cockatoo Flyathlon in summer either.

We must do something now! Can YOU think about HOW people can contribute to helping to save the creek? If you have some ideas or you are already doing something in your school to look after your local environment, I would love to find out about it. I have some instructions for your teacher on how to do this in the A Karak Idea section.

See you in our next GameZINE.....and enjoy working out ways to solve this Karak Creek Mystery.

A Karak Idea

Teachers might like to print out this edition of Karak's Korner, enlarge it and post it on a special M2006 Commonwealth Games classroom or school noticeboard. The content of this Karak's Korner will help you to discuss issues with your students such as looking after the environment and being water wise. When your students see what has happened to Karak's Red Gum Creek, they might think about the sorts of actions they could take to improve the creek environment.

If your students would like to send in ideas for how to look after Red Gum Creek, or they would like to submit artwork, or they want to

tell Karak about what they're doing to look after their local environment, make sure you follow the same steps and instructions outlined in this edition for submitting a snapshot or an article for GameZINE.

A little bit more on the M2006 Commonwealth Games Environment Program.....

There will be a Games anti-litter campaign in the lead up to and during the Games. Games Planting Days were held at Casterton in early September to restore and revegetate Karak's habitat and there is a Games litter barge patrolling the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers collecting litter.



Tim and Don's *Games Diary*

Giddy everyone!

As we look forward to the Commonwealth Games, it's very exciting for us to see and hear about the changes taking place in our great sporting city of Melbourne.

As well as the obvious changes like new sports venues, other changes aren't so easy to see – like the work that is being done to protect our environment. Hundreds of volunteers, including lots of school students, have been lending a hand to make sure our streets, parks, beaches and schools look as good as they can for our international and interstate guests.

Our environment has a great effect on us as athletes: the weather can affect our training regime; when we train during the colder months we need to make sure we warm up properly as the risk of injury is far greater than in summer.

We are lucky to have such clean air in our country, which makes training easier and

lets us enjoy a healthy lifestyle and lots of outdoor activities.

We should work together to protect the natural resources we have. We have competed in sporting events in cities all over the world and we have seen the negative effects of pollution and litter. In some cities you can't even see the sky. Let's make sure this doesn't happen in Australia.

We have included some tips on how you can help protect our environment. If we all do our little bit and keep our own community tidy and save water whenever possible, then we will have a healthy environment that can let us enjoy sport and physical activities for many years to come.

We hope that you are all trying some new sports this year and are getting excited about the Commonwealth Games.

Happy, healthy training!

Tips On Saving Water

1. Keep your showers under four minutes.
2. Turn the tap off while you clean your teeth.
3. Grow water saver plants in your garden, such as plants native to your area.

Tips On Reducing Waste

1. Always put your rubbish in the bins, even if you have to walk a few extra steps.
2. Reuse your plastic bags.
3. Remind your friends not to litter.



Above:
Royal Swazi Warriors perform a show of strength as the baton arrives in Swaziland. Copyright Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation. Photo: prpix.com.au

Right:
Local children await the arrival of the baton at an official ceremony at the University of Botswana. Copyright Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation. Photo: prpix.com.au



What YOU can do in your school



Top:
Where is New Glasgow, Nova Scotia? Year 5/6 students at Glen Iris Primary School are motivated participants in the School2School program.

Above:
Students from Scotsburn Elementary School, Nova Scotia, Canada are partnering up with students at Glen Iris Primary School, Victoria.

1. Enter the Karak's Korner / Tim and Don's Games Diary Competition by submitting an article, snapshot or solution to Karak's Creek Mystery.
2. Contact Greening Australia and find out about where and when a 'schools planting days' might be occurring in your area. Go to the Greening Australia website to find information on <http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/VIC>.
3. Think of a burning environment issue and develop a webquest with your students to work on some excellent actions and solutions. Structure your quest around the themes of waterwise, carbon neutral or low waste. You could visit websites such as:
 - Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination: Protecting the environment
www.dvc.vic.gov.au/ocgc/protecting_environment.htm
 - EPA and Students
www.epa.vic.gov.au/Students/
 - EcoRecycle Victoria
www.sustainability.vic.gov.au
 - TravelSmart
www.travelsmart.vic.gov.au
 - Save Water
www.savewater.com.au
 - Victoria Litter Action Alliance
www.litter.vic.gov.au
 - Greening Australia
www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/NAT/
www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/VIC
 - Landcare
www.landcare.com.au/
 - PlanetArk
www.planetark.com/index.cfm
 - Clean Up Australia
www.cleanup.com.au
4. Develop a graph of litter collected since October 2004 by the Yarra Litter Barge and estimate where this volume of litter could be stored: e.g. a football oval, a wheelie bin, an olympic swimming pool, your school tennis courts etc. To get started, go to www.dvc.vic.gov.au/ocgc/environment/litter_barge.htm.
5. Explore the *Environment (3-4)* unit on the *United through the Games-Integrated Units* CD-ROM and complete activities such as *Mapping the Environment* and *Water Water Everywhere*.
6. Register for School2School and find out what environmental problems are facing your partner school and help them to work out actions that they could do to make a difference to their local environment. To register, go to www.melbourne2006.com.au/education and follow the prompts to School2School.

Other Contacts

If you have general queries about the Commonwealth Games Education Program you can contact John Templeman, Education Program Manager, Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination at games.schools@dvc.vic.gov.au