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ONE DEGREE OF CHANGE – SAVING OUR PLANET IS UP TO EVERY ONE OF US

An Inner West Courier Environmental Initiative

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Local heroes

Building a green economy

State Education Minister and Balmain MP Verity Firth launched the first group training program targeting the "green economy" in Sydney last Thursday. The WPC Group GreenSkills program creates apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities for emerging green collar jobs. The green economy has been identified as one of the most immediate sources of employment growth as businesses, governments and households respond to the need to minimise carbon pollution, adapt to water scarcity and repair environmental damage. The need to build skills in these areas won't wait until the end of the global financial crisis and businesses providing services to meet these growing needs are building their skilled people now or are looking to build them soon. GreenSkills is a partnership between business, the not-for-profit sector, government and education.



Balmain MP Verity Firth.
 Photo: SIMON CHILL-
 INGWORTH



Earth Day: nature photographers have chance to share skills

Nature photographers and bush enthusiasts have the chance to compare ideas and hone their skills at Rodd Point for Earth Day 2009.

The day will start at 10.30am at the Rodd Point barbecues where the City of Canada Bay's Bush Care co-ordinator Rob Stevenson and Bush Care volunteer Andy Doldissen will be talking about the Sisters Bay Bush Care project and hosting a morning tea.

Then from 11am to 1pm internationally acclaimed wildlife and nature photographer for the Lonely Planet and Gecko, Dennis Jones, will be running a free photography workshop and photo safari around Rodd Point.

Children must be supervised by an adult and all participants in the photo safari will need to have their own camera.

An exhibition of the winning photographs will be on display at Five Dock Library in June.



Say no to plastic bags

Earth Day is observed annually on April 22. The official Earth Day network site (www.earth-site.org) explores what we can do to make a difference, by saving energy and reducing pollution. It provides links to Earth Day events worldwide, including Australia. One of the site's recommendations is that we get rid of plastic bags. Some of the reasons include: The raw material of plastic bags is oil. Therefore, the more we use plastic bags, the more we waste oil – a non-renewable energy source; the petroleum-based plastic bags take decades to break down and; they endanger wildlife, particularly sea life such as sea turtles and dolphins which can die of entanglement, suffocation and ingestion because they assume that these bags are jellyfish.

It's a fact



Gas guzzlers

There are 11 million cars & trucks in Australia which consume 26 billion litres of fuel every year.



Cool energy savings

An old, inefficient fridge can use three times the energy of a new one.



Under pressure

Using a pressure cooker will save 25 per cent of the energy of a standard convection oven.