



Young Environmental Leaders (YEL)

2023 Information Pack

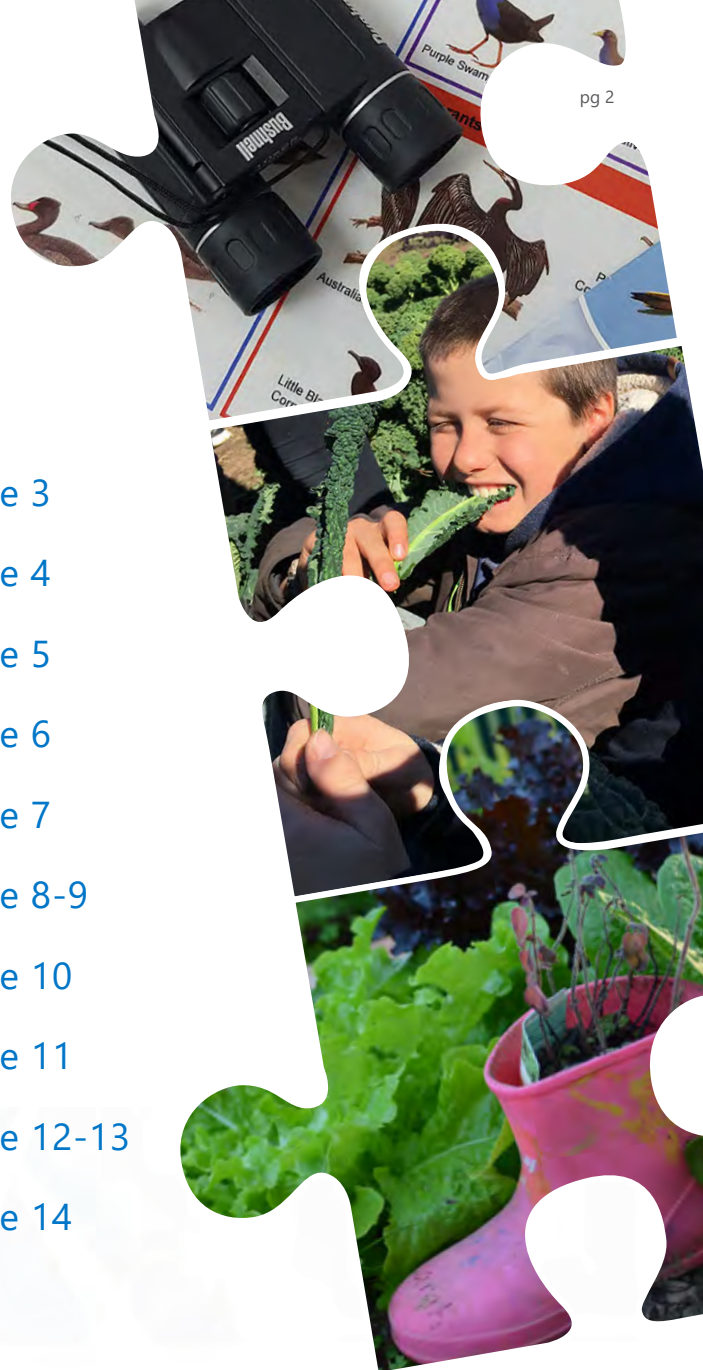
Everything you need to know about the Murraylands and Riverland Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) program including program overview, dates and themes.

2023 YEL information pack

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Overview

The Young Environmental Leaders program provides students with opportunities to learn about their local environment and develop as leaders in their school community.

Participation in the YEL program will help students to develop skills including public speaking, while also creating a connection to and respect for the environment.

The program is free and open to students in years 5 and 6.

In 2023 forums will be held once per term in both the **Murraylands** and **Riverland**.

What's the aim?

Empower young people and ensure they have a connection with nature and their local environment so they can appreciate it into the future.

Involve as many local schools as possible and provide students with the opportunity to develop as young leaders.

Encourage the 'ripple effect' with students learning through hands-on activities and sharing back at school and with the wider school community.

Encourage students to get involved and take action within their local environment, community and at home.

Need to know:

YEL forums are open to all Murraylands and Riverland schools and caters for students in years 5-6.

The forums will be held in different locations across the region so some travel is involved.

Schools are encouraged to bring 4 students to each forum (easy for transport). You can rotate students or choose 4 to attend all forums. If you would like to bring more than 4 to a forum (eg. members of your environment group) please arrange this with your Education Officer.

Schools will need to register for each forum via the Eventbrite link to secure places.

What's involved?

Schools are invited to attend as many of the forums as possible and there is no requirement to attend all forums. Places are limited to allow for suitable group numbers at each forum.

At least one adult (teacher/SSO/mentor or parent) from each school must attend to supervise students and assist with learning and activities.

One YEL forum is hosted per term in both the Murraylands and Riverland districts, and forums run from 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

YEL forum themes for 2023:

Term 1: healthy natural landscapes

Term 2: sustainable farming

Term 3: sustainable water use

Term 4: healthy rivers and wetlands

Forums are based on the themes and include hands-on activities and personal skills development for all involved.

Participants should bring morning tea and lunch to each forum. The education team provides tea and coffee for teachers/adults and water to refill bottles.



Benefits

The YEL program provides many benefits to the students, teachers and mentors who attend. Here are just a few:

Students

Develop a connection to the natural environment resulting in smarter, healthier and happier kids who are more mindful of their surroundings.

Develop confidence and skills in leadership, public speaking, peer teaching and more.

Build friendships and share ideas with students from other schools.

Develop knowledge and skills in caring for and conserving our local landscapes.

Be inspired and empowered to take action and make changes in their local community and at home.

Be rewarded for their efforts in learning and sharing throughout the year.



Schools and community

Direct links to the curriculum-these are not add-on projects! This is learning in authentic context.

Develop relationships with community members, partnership schools, outside organisations and the education program.

YEL students pass on knowledge, skills and what they have learnt to peers, friends and family members.

Improved sustainability due to student-led projects e.g. improved biodiversity or waste reduction.

Where possible the education team will provide in-school support for learning and on-ground projects.



Teachers/mentors

Receive information to assist with lessons, resources, activities and curriculum links to share at school.

Have the opportunity to network with and learn from other teachers and professionals.

Develop knowledge and skills in caring for and conserving our local landscapes.

May receive professional development recognition for the forums they attend.



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Curriculum

Information and activities used at YEL forums can be linked to many subject areas in the curriculum, particularly science, HASS, geography, health and physical education, and even maths.

YEL activities tie in well with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Environmental issues are often challenging, requiring complex solutions and the education team encourage hands-on practical activities that help learners experiment, use new technologies, test ideas and create innovative solutions to real problems.

Relationships with local industries and communities are also important to both teacher and student learning in both STEM and sustainability. YEL helps develop these relationships with guest speakers and linking with existing projects.

Examples of links with the Australian Curriculum

Students explain interconnections between people and places and people and environments, describing how these interconnections change places and environments. (HASS)

Students examine how connecting to the environment can enhance health and well-being. (HPE)

Students predict the effect of human and environmental changes on interactions between organisms. (Science)

Students describe and predict the effect of environmental changes on individual living things. (Science)

Links to general capabilities

Literacy skills are developed by students presenting ideas and opinions, through sharing their learning back at school and within their wider community.

Critical and creative thinking is developed when students consider environmental issues and propose solutions.

Personal and social capability is developed through interacting with students from different schools, working in teams, and developing leadership skills.

Ethical understanding is developed by students engaging and discussing the ethical values of environmental issues such as climate change and sustainable living.

The YEL program links well with the cross-curriculum priority of sustainability.

YEL forums help students to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living.

Students focus on protecting environments and creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action.



Forums

In 2023, a YEL forum will be held in both the Riverland and Murraylands each term. A registration link and location information will be emailed to schools at least 3 weeks prior to each forum. Students and teachers will need to register for each forum via the Eventbrite link to secure places.

Term 1: Healthy natural landscapes

Riverland: ***note date change**

Wednesday 5 April (Week 10)

Location TBA

10:30 am - 2:00 pm.

More information to come.

Murraylands:

Thursday 23 March (week 8)

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

More information to come.

Term 2: Sustainable farming

Riverland:

Wednesday 28 June (week 9)

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Murraylands:

Thursday 22 June (week 8)

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Term 3: Sustainable water use

Riverland:

Wednesday 20 September (week 9)

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Murraylands:

Thursday 14 September (week 8)

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Term 4: Healthy rivers and wetlands

Riverland:

Wednesday 29 November (week 7)

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Murraylands:

Thursday 23 November (week 6)

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

What to bring to each forum: all attendees need to bring a packed recess, lunch and refillable water bottle (tea, coffee and snacks will be provided for adults where possible). Camera/ipad for photos. Wear suitable clothing for the day. Hats and enclosed shoes are a must at all YEL forums and long pants will be required at some locations.



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Requirements

It is not a requirement or expectation that schools attend all YEL forums, or that the same students come to each forum. The content and activity at each forum will be tailored so that anyone who attends will learn and take away valuable knowledge and skills.

To maximise the outcomes for participants, students and adult supervisors are encouraged to participate to the best of their ability. Here are some hints and tips to help you gain the most out of your YEL experience:

Students

Actively participate in activities and presentations during the forum.

Will be encouraged to share information at school based on the skills learnt.

Will have the opportunity to earn rewards for sharing what they learnt back at school.

Throughout the year, think about their connection with their local landscapes and what they can do to make change and live more sustainably.

Will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with students from other schools from across the region.

Schools

Provide time/resourcing for teacher/SSO/mentor to attend YEL forums with students and support the sharing of information back at school.

Support students in YEL participation and to share the learnings and new leadership/public speaking skills at school via peer teaching/sharing or presentations.

Promote the excellent work of the YEL students throughout the school community.

Teachers/mentors

Register your interest to ensure you receive forum information (simply email cindy.kakoschke@sa.gov.au to be included on the YEL email list).

Select students to attend the forums. If you have a school environment group please consider rotating students. If you would like to bring more than 4 students to a forum please let your Education Officer know but note that places may be limited depending on location.

Register your school and students via the Eventbrite link for each YEL forum. The details and links will be sent to each school at least 3 weeks prior to the event.

Ensure that each student has completed and returned a signed photo release form prior to attending forum.

Transport students and supervise them at the forum.

Provide support to the students at school so they are able to sharing what they have learnt.

Share resources, activities and information with fellow teachers at a staff meeting after the forum.



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Sharing at school

After a YEL forum, students are encouraged to share their knowledge and skills at school. Sharing their knowledge with their peers is one of the ways the YEL program is so effective. Whether it be presenting to the school assembly or running an activity with a group of students, there are many ways to share, create the ripple effect and ensure the excitement and information flows through the whole school community.

When students commit to sharing their knowledge at school, they are rewarded for their effort. Once information or activities have been shared, students will need to explain what they have done in order to receive their reward(s). Report cards can be used OR an email with photos or copies of their work can also be shared with your Education Officer.

This year we will be offering a prize pack for the YEL school who shares the most information back at school (for one Riverland school and one Murraylands school).

News reward

Students are encouraged to write a newsletter article or update on what they have learnt and achieved at the YEL forum.

Once an article is completed or appears in the school newsletter or local paper, copies can be submitted to your Education Officer.



Presentation reward

Students will participate in activities to help improve public speaking skills and identifying what makes a good presentation.

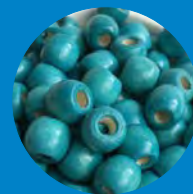
At school, students are encouraged to make their own presentation about the YEL forum topic and deliver it to their class or at assembly.



Kids teaching kids reward

Students will learn skills to assist them in delivering an activity or lesson about the forum topic to their peers or younger students back at school.

Students are encouraged to teach their peers as well as younger students at school about what they have learnt or experienced.



Action reward

At the forums students will learn about how to take action back at school or home and will be given simple ideas, resources and tools to help.

Any efforts towards taking action for the environment at school or home will be rewarded.



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Sharing at school

In 2023, student rewards for sharing back at school will be given out in the form of coloured beads. Each student will receive a YEL keyring/bag tag to add their coloured beads to, creating a keepsake that reminds them of their experiences.



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Risk assessment

Excursion risk assessment and safety of students is the responsibility of the school and adults in attendance. A simple/generic risk assessment of each YEL event will be provided to registered schools and can be used as the basis for more detailed requirements at school.

Below is an example page from the 3 page basic risk assessment from a YEL event from 2022.

GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2022 Term 4 Riverland YEL Forum – Wednesday 23 November 2022 Hosted by Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Education Program – LOCATION: Bulla Burra farming enterprises, 240 Browns Well Highway Loxton. EMERGENCY CONTACT & YEL COORDINATOR: Cindy Kakoschke 0429 413 074				
EVENT:	ACTIVITY/HAZARD Identified	INITIAL RISK LOW/MED/HIGH	CONTROL MEASURE/DETAILS	RISK LEVEL AFTER CONTROL LOW/MED/HIGH
YEL Forum on location at Bulla Burra 240 Browns Well Highway Loxton SA 5333	EMERGENCY event – accident, fire, extreme weather event etc	MED	** In the event of an emergency all YEL Attendees will gather at the YEL base location (Bulla Burra shed) for briefing/information and how the day will proceed. If YEL base location is unsafe, YEL attendees to gather as a group near to the carpark. MR Landscape Board staff present on the day all Senior First Aid and emergency services will be contacted. Shelter available at location(s) in sheds and office and shelter in vehicles in the event of extreme weather/rain/thunderstorm can be accessed.	LOW
LOCATION: -34.4728316, 140.5763702	Illness/medical requirements of attendees	MED	Attendees/teachers/adults/supervisors to be aware prior to excursion of any illness/medical conditions and appropriate medication to be carried either by student or teacher. Education Officer to be made aware of any medical conditions prior to forum. First aid and mobile phone carried at all times.	MED
	Severe or inclement weather on the day of event	MED	Weather forecasts will be monitored in the lead up to the event. If severe weather, or severe thunderstorms are forecast the event will be cancelled to ensure school groups are not travelling in severe weather. If severe weather develops on the day of the event, the situation will be monitored and assessment made throughout the day including the need for cancelling the event. Shelter can be accessed in sheds and office at Bulla Burra.	LOW
	Extreme heat or cold, Fire danger ratings	HIGH	Attendees to be made aware of weather conditions on the forum day and they are asked to wear suitable clothing including hats/beanies, jackets and sturdy enclosed shoes. Activity will be postponed in extreme weather case including if it is raining on the day. Attendees to supply own refillable water bottles. **If fire danger rating for forum date is "Catastrophic" the forum will be cancelled.	MED
	FARM & HEAVY MACHINERY – incident or accident/fall/hit	HIGH	Attendees may be in a situation where they are close to farm machinery (non-operational AND potentially operational). All attendees to be made aware they are not to touch any machinery or move too close to machinery at all times unless guided/instructed by Bulla Burra staff. Machinery will be operated	LOW



2023 YEL program Registration

Registering to be part of the YEL program ensures you will receive information about future YEL forums in your area.

An event registration link, flyer and location information will be emailed to you at least 3 weeks prior to each forum. Teachers will need to register students for each forum via the Eventbrite link for each separate forum to secure a place and this provides us with our attendance list for the day.

Teachers will also need to ensure each student and adult attending a forum brings a signed photo consent form (see page 12-13). You can provide these now if you know who your YEL students will be.

To register your interest in the YEL program and join the contact list or to send your signed photo consent forms please email Cindy Kakoschke: cindy.kakoschke@sa.gov.au



Children Consent Form

TALENT RELEASE FORM

For the use of images for promotional purposes

I: _____

(parent's/guardian's name - PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME)

of: _____

(address - PLEASE PRINT)

On behalf

of: _____

(child's name - PLEASE PRINT)

1. am the parent or guardian of the child named above;
2. consent to the use of my child's image and performance in video footage or photographs taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water (the Minister) for the purposes of promotional activities or other purposes, (including print publications, websites and advertisements or other means of communication);
3. agree that copyright in any recording made or image taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board of my child, or any performance of my child, in connection with promotional activities is owned by the Minister and I further agree that any use by the Minister of my child's performance or my child's image is authorised for the purposes of the Copyright Act 1968, Privacy Act 1988 and any other applicable laws such as the Information Privacy Principles (SA);
4. acknowledge that my child's participation in promotional activities may be edited at the sole discretion of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board;
5. acknowledge that the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board is not obliged to include my child in the promotional activities;
6. release the Crown in right of South Australia from any claim by my child or anyone on my child's behalf for any cost, expense, loss or damage arising out of the use of video footage, photos, or other images of my child for promotional activities or other purposes, (including print publications, websites and advertisements or other means of communication);
7. acknowledge that there will be no payment or other consideration paid for the use of my child's image or my child's performance.

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/____.

Adult Consent Form

TALENT RELEASE FORM

For the use of images for promotional purposes

I: _____

(PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME)

of: _____

(address - PLEASE PRINT)

1. am over the age of 18 (eighteen);
2. consent to the use of my image and performance in video footage or photographs taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water (the Minister) for the purposes of promotional activities or other purposes, (including print publications, websites, social media and advertisements or other means of communication);
3. agree that copyright in any recording made or image taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board of me, or any performance of mine, in connection with promotional activities is owned by the Minister and I further agree that any use by the Minister of my performance or my image is authorised for the purposes of the Copyright Act 1968, Privacy Act 1988 and any other applicable laws such as the Information Privacy Principles (SA);
4. acknowledge that my participation in promotional activities may be edited at the sole discretion of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board;
5. acknowledge that the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board is not obliged to include me in the promotional activities;
6. release the Crown in right of South Australia from any claim by me or anyone on my behalf for any cost, expense, loss or damage arising out of the use of video footage, photos, or other images of myself for promotional activities or other purposes, (including print publications, websites and advertisements or other means of communication);
7. acknowledge that there will be no payment or other consideration paid for the use of my image or my performance.

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/____.



For more information about the
Young Environmental Leaders (YEL)
program contact:

Cindy Kakoschke
Education Officer
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
Ph 08 8580 1800
Email cindy.kakoschke@sa.gov.au

Visit the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape
Board website:
landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/home

