

For June 5 World Environment Day. (WED)

Invitation to schools to participate with their children in emailing lists of **Food plants in 'backyards' for the Wimmera survey** to enviroed4all@gmail.com as a quick 2014 WED activity on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday this week.

This region-wide email-response event supports the WED theme and shows a way we can 'act local, think global'. I have no funding for this, but I need help to get hundreds of replies to make the survey reliable. I am hoping your school will be able to help by including it some time in your classes over the next couple of days, or else suggesting to students that they do it with their families at home. (There should be some radio and paper media about it.)

The WED theme is 'Raise your voice, not the sea level'

How do we do that from the Wimmera?

Food grown at home creates no 'food miles', low greenhouse gas emissions, low carbon footprint, so does not contribute to climate change, does not raise the sea level. ie **the act is local, the effect is global** But how many people know this?

Growing some food that you eat also makes you a **part-time small- scale family farmer** – something else that many people are unaware of, and 2014 is the International Year of Family Farmer – another global aspect to this survey.

Plan for participation in this WED survey in classes

- ☼ ask your students (in families in small schools) to make **a list of the food plants grown in their home gardens** under the three groups- using your own backyard as an example (if you have none, use an example you know about). Ask specifically about any plants grown in pots – possibly also inside the house, as these are likely to be herbs
 - ☼ **Fruits**
 - ☼ **Vegetables**
 - ☼ **Herbs**
 - ☼ **The name of the district or town** that this garden is located in, (which may be different to where the school is located). (names of people not needed)
- ☼ Introduce the WED theme and with the notes above, **explain how this is a family farming action and global in effect**
- ☼ Explain that there is a survey to see what we are doing as a region for this WED and they will email the list to me
- ☼ **email one list per family** to enviroed4all@gmail.com on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of this week - making sure the district/town location of the home garden is included (*Please do not use the email address I have sent you this on*)
- ☼ For my reporting, could you, the **teacher**, also please email me to say that your **school** has been a part of this survey and if possible how many children had food plants in their gardens and how many did not.

Possible follow ups, you may like to do

- ☼ Create **graphs** from your food plants lists to discover what is common/ rare
- ☼ Investigate the **origin** of the food plants
- ☼ Investigate the **nutrition** of the food plants
- ☼ Make an **artwork** based on their favourite plant in their garden – or someone else's garden

- ✿ Write a paddock to plate story for one of the foods in their gardens – and for students who don't have food plants in their gardens ask someone to adopt them into their garden, or use a school garden if you have one.
- ✿ Read experiences of small part-time family farmers in the collection being developed at <http://familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au/family-farm-snapshots/>
 - ✿ [herbpots-Horsham](#) and [littlefoodgarden-Horsham](#) from two senior ladies, with only a few food plants in their small gardens but very much enjoying them and the food they produce
 - ✿ [zucchiniHorsham](#) is from a small summer backyard garden
 - ✿ [town food garden Jeparit](#) is a larger well established backyard garden of an octagenarian
 - ✿ [50yearchill-Box Hill](#) is a well established backyard garden in Melbourne of an octagenarian
- ✿ Compare these with the children's experiences and with those of their grandparents
- ✿ Write a story for your school newsletter and /or the local paper about what you have found, and been part of WED
- ✿ Write the information for a snapshot for this collection – see guidelines pdf on <http://familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au/join-us/>
- ✿ Plant a food in a potplant or their garden as the smallest local act that can be done for a global effect.

Curriculum links - Maths, Science Biology and in our daily lives, Sustainability, Thinking Skills.

Follow ups – Maths, Communication, History, Geography, Health, Art, literacy, Sustainability

I will collate the list and send the results back to participants.

I hope it will also be reliable enough (have enough responses) to put on as a resource on the above website, which is linked on the World Rural Forum as an educational resource.

In case you are wondering about the short notice of this survey

– I only finished the 2 Horsham snapshots on Sunday ...

and they got me thinking about what they had learnt about the importance globally of growing their little bit

And that others didn't know that either...

and how it might be possible to do something for WED, which until then had seemed a bit remote to promote in the Wimmera ...

and came up with this survey idea...

and on Monday and Tuesday I went to see if the media would support it....

so today I know I can run with it and see what happens by the weekend!

Thanks for any support you can give this WED activity, including participating yourself and passing it on to others!

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websites : for activities www.enviroed4all.com.au ; for IYFF

familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au