

# Media Release

26 August 2013

## Young leaders explore green future at Point Nepean National Park

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September, students from 7 Mornington Peninsula schools will transform themselves into the teachers during an environmental youth leadership program at Point Nepean National Park.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Target Kids Teaching Kids event is a collaborative program that helps primary school aged youth put the environment and its challenges under the microscope, and feel empowered to make meaningful contributions to issues and concerns facing us locally, and nationally.

Over 120 students from private, catholic and public primary schools across the peninsula will spend the day delivering presentations to their peers on local matters such as mangrove ecosystems, endangered animals, marine debris, hooded plovers, and recycling and renewable energy.

The day is part of the 2013 Target Kids Teaching Kids Week, a national program where more than 10,000 students focus on locally relevant environmental issues such as biodiversity, conservation, renewable energy, recycling, population, pollution and climate change.

Event creator Arron Wood, who was Australian Environmentalist of the Year for his environmental education efforts said that all events being held around Australia are packed with great activities and learning opportunities.

“Adults take a back seat at this event – kids teach each other in much more interesting and creative ways than the usual classroom format, with songs, dance, poems, games, interactive quizzes and crafts, “ he said.

Boneo Primary School Principal Gill Wright said the school was absolutely thrilled to be a part of the program.

“In preparing for Target Kids Teaching Kids our students get to make a very tangible connections with the wetland and coastal environments surrounding us, and through the program they’re extremely motivated and inspired to share their environmental know-how with other kids regionally and nationally,” she said.

Supported by Parks Victoria, People and Parks Foundation, Target, and Caring for our Country, the Kids Teaching Kids day at Point Nepean will also feature a series of interactive field trips with rangers and local environmental experts as they share their knowledge with the students.

Victor Teoh, Parks Victoria’s Ranger in Charge, is delighted to welcome the program back for its third year and the connection these students are making with the national park.

“While we park managers get to live and breathe the environment, and its challenges and fragility on a daily basis it’s both reassuring and refreshing to hear the passion and wisdom of our young visitors during Target Kids Teaching Kids Week” he said.

# Media Release

“Last year these very engaged and confident students were presenting complex issues in such a simple way that we wished they had been televised nationally. The Target Kids Teaching Kids model really does help students contribute to the conversation about our environment, and it’s important that we provide them with a platform for their views and suggestions , and what a perfect spot to learn in one of Victoria’s most stunning and diverse national parks.”, ” said Mr Teoh.

“Parks Victoria is also delighted to be sponsoring St Macartan’s Primary School to attend the national Melbourne Water Kids Teaching Kids conference later this year in October and present their environmental topic to a wider audience”, he added.

Kids Teaching Kids is a multi award winning program which has inspired more than 55,000 children across Australia to learn and care for their environment since its inception 13 years ago. The day at Point Nepean National Park is proudly supported by Parks Victoria and the People and Parks Foundation.

## EVENT DETAILS:

**What:** Target Kids Teaching Kids Week mini conference

**When:** 10:00am – 2:15pm, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2013

**Where:** Point Nepean National Park, Badcoe Hall (Quarantine Station), end of Point Nepean Road, Portsea

**Who:**

- \* 120 Students and teachers from participating schools – Boneo Primary School, Derinya Primary School, Mt Eliza Secondary College, Our lady of Fatima Primary School, Rye Primary School, St Macartan’s Primary School and Sorrento Primary School
- \* Representatives from Kids Teaching Kids
- \* Parks Victoria staff
- \* local environmental experts and traditional owners

## Vision/Pic opps:

- \* 11:30pm Students presenting workshops in front of other students and peers
- \* 12:10pm Group photo of all students
- \* 12:45pm Students /ranger undertaking a ponding program outdoors. Set up shot
- \* Selected students and teachers avail for interviews

## For further information:

**Andrea Rowe – 0409 965 552    Event Contact – Sally Hutchinson: 0414 558 314**

## Note to Media

For further information about Kids Teaching Kids Week contact  
Angela Takats on 0422 933 198 or email at: [angela.takats@gmail.com](mailto:angela.takats@gmail.com)

Find out more about becoming a volunteer: Call Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au)