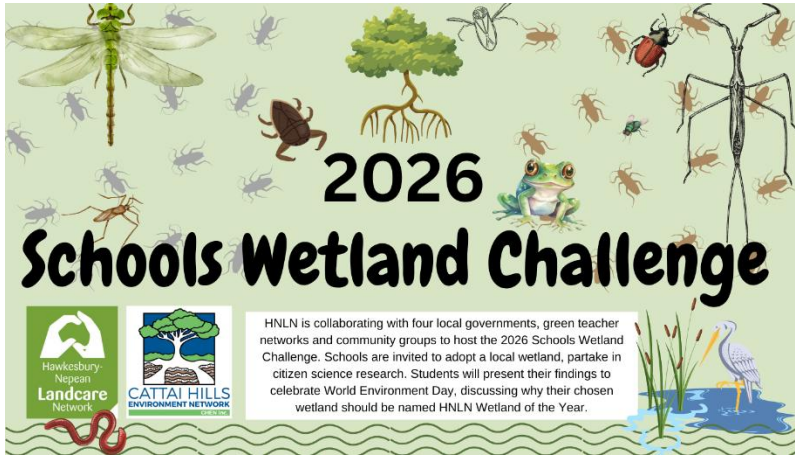




Hawkesbury Nepean Landcare HNL Schools Wetland Challenge 2026



All Schools in Penrith, Blacktown, Hawkesbury and The Hills Local Government Area Expression of Interest EOI



Hawkesbury Nepean Landcare HNL is caring for Dyarubbin Last year we held our first Schools Wetland Challenge, our Wetland of the Year was announced as Dooral Dooral Creek as presented by Lorien Novalis.

Who will be the 2026 HN Wetland of the Year?? HNL is seeking participation from schools to adopt one Hawkesbury Nepean wetland in their LGA (one

wetland, one school). The school team will present on September 11th Biodiversity Month 2026 why their local wetland should be HNL Wetland of the Year.

Definition of Wetland "Land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally, including marshes, lakes, rivers, floodplains, peatlands and swamps, Saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and coral reefs and human-made wetlands: Fish ponds, rice paddies and salt pans."

HNL Schools Wetland Challenge Criteria:

- Knowing your Wetland – Research, connecting with local groups
- Supporting your Wetland – Citizen Science – Landcare activities - Education
- Sharing your Story – within your school and wider community

Connecting with your wetland can be as small or BIG as your school capacity allows. You could present artwork that depicts what you have learnt since your wetland investigations, make a short video about what you've been doing to investigate the wetland, just observe, participating in insect or bird counting, talk with a local eco hero on what they are doing. Talk to the Department's EEC's in HNL [Penrith](#), [Long Neck](#) & [Brewongle](#) See our story from the 2025 Challenge day [here](#) Some wetland case studies can be found [here](#)

2026 HNL Wetland Challenge Day at Western Sydney University – September 11th

All schools will be asked to share a poster on the work undertaken to care for your wetland and those schools who can attend in person will be asked to present to our HNL Wetland Expert Panel.at Western Sydney University supported by the HN Waterkeeper program.





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Expression of Interest:

Yes our school is interested in joining the 2026 HNL Schools Wetland challenge

EOI's are due by the end of Term 1 2026, with work on caring for your wetland happening across Term 2 with calls for posters early Term 3 for the Challenge Day Sept 11th in person presence is encouraged but we know transport could be a limitation for some, so posters are encouraged. Be aware we will share on HNL socials the good news stories of schools caring for local wetlands.

Please submit this form to the HNL Wetland team via landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au

Name of School _____

Council area _____

High School / Primary School - Name & Address _____

School Wetland Team Leader _____

School Wetland Team Leader email _____

Name of Wetland _____

Hawkesbury Nepean Wetland Address _____

Some key facts about your Wetland

Our HNL Wetland Challenge organising group will be in touch to encourage your team in the 2026 Challenge.

Key contacts:

- Penrith Hawkesbury Environmental Education Network PHEEN Penrith Council – Sesilia.Devine@penrith.city and
- Hawkesbury Council – martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
- Schools Green Network The Hills – Emma esalvador@thehills.nsw.gov.au
- Blacktown Council - Alana.Rooney@blacktown.nsw.gov.au

HNL Schools Wetland Program Contact Sue Martin HNL chair cattaihillsenviro@gmail.com

