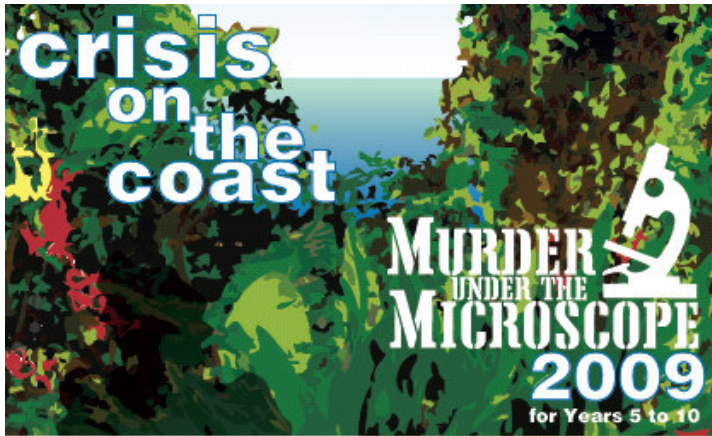


## Murder under the Microscope 2009



The new *Murder under the Microscope* (MuM) website is now live with an exciting new mystery for 2009, Crisis on the Coast. Visit the website to register teams, prepare for the game and download classroom support materials. Go to [www.microscope.edu.au](http://www.microscope.edu.au)

The new website builds on the success of the previous *MuM* project, which received a Premier's Public Sector Award in 2008.

### Key dates for 2009 Murder under the Microscope

Date	Event
<b>Pre-investigation phase</b>	
29 April	Catchment HQ online
6 May	Possible crime sites listed
18 May	Possible victims listed
<b>Investigation phase</b>	
19 May	The briefing and possible villains listed
27 May	Investigation mid-point
4 June	The big day—accusations
5 June	Investigation winners listed
<b>Plan phase</b>	
9 June	Plans started
25 June	Last day to submit plans
7 July	Plan winners listed

## **What is Murder under the Microscope?**

*Murder under the Microscope (MuM)* is an interactive environmental investigation game for school students. It will run for approximately 10 weeks in term 2, (April-July) 2009 for years 5 to 10 and is accessed through the website:

[www.microscope.edu.au](http://www.microscope.edu.au)

*MuM* supports the learning content for NSW Stage 3 Science and Technology, HSIE, Stages 4 and 5 Science and Geography syllabuses. Registration and support materials for the game are now available at the website.

The aims of *MuM* are to:

- build students' understanding of environmental issues
- foster awareness of the impact of human activity on the environment
- promote appreciation of the need for sustainable practices in production, work and life activities.

The metaphor of a "murder" is used to symbolise the mysterious disappearance of an animal or plant from its natural environment. The students work in teams as investigators, using the website and their own research to identify the specific environment (crime site), the effects (victim) and the cause (villain). While the scenario of the game is fictitious, the environmental crime is based on science and could occur in the real world.

Previous *MuM* projects have aroused great interest among Australian and overseas school students. During the 2007 and 2008 projects, there were over 11 million hits on the *MuM* website during a six-week period.

*MuM* began in 1995 as a series of televised dramas, live broadcasts and fax communications. Over recent years, it has evolved into a fully online, interactive experience. *MuM*'s fame is spreading with teams from all states and territories in Australian and several other countries registering for the 2008 game.

[www.microscope.edu.au](http://www.microscope.edu.au)

### **For further information:**

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