



School Story

Lyrup Primary School

Years: R - 7

School population: 33

Location: Lyrup

Source: Graeme Milne

Paper Bricks

Several years ago, Lyrup Primary School was involved in a program run by the Advertiser newspaper which saw the school receiving 10 copies of the paper daily for a fortnight.

At the end of the program the school had 100 old copies of the Advertiser. What do we do with such a large volume of paper? A suggestion was made that we convert the paper into paper bricks that can be burnt in combustion heaters.

The year 3 / 4 class took this project on as their enterprise. They tore the paper into strips, soaked the paper in water, mushed the paper up into pulp and then put the pulp into the brick maker and squeezed out paper bricks. A long slow process when you only have one brick maker and very cold on the hands in the cooler months.

By the time the stack of newspapers had disappeared the children had made 125 bricks over a 10 week period. The bricks were then put into sacks of 25 and advertised for sale, in the school newsletter, at \$5 a sack. This enterprise earned the class \$25 and inspired the children to bigger and better things.

The school now recycles all of its paper waste, which is quite considerable, into paper bricks. We no longer shred the paper by hand but use the shredding machine and instead of having one brick maker we now have four.

The whole school is now involved in the process during our Environmental Education lessons held each term over a 5 week period for one afternoon a week.

Student paper brick making instructions on following pages.



Wipe out Waste

Paper Brick Making

Step by Step guide to making paper bricks.



Step 1

Shredding the paper that has been put aside for recycling.

Step 2.

Soaking the paper in water



Step 3

Turning the soaked paper into pulp



Step 4.

Putting the pulp into the brick maker



Step 5.

Squeezing all of the excess water out of the pulp inside the brick making machine.

**Step 6.**

Turning the freshly made bricks out of the mould.

**Step 7.**

Putting the bricks out to dry.

Step 8.

Bagging the dried bricks ready for selling.

**Step 9.**

Another satisfied customer.

