



# Case Study

## Mount Gambier High School

Years: 8 - 12

School population: 1150

Location: Mt Gambier

Source: David Overall

A WOW Support School

### Highlights

2004 and 2005 recipient of KESAB Tidy Towns Environmental School Award.

One of the schools environmental education initiatives includes the introduction of a student Recycling Group in 2003 by a Technical Studies teacher. The program is currently coordinated by David Overall, the Recycling Program Project Officer, who dedicates 3-4 hours per week to this role. In recognition of the amount of time required, David does not have Home Group responsibilities.

The recycling program is financially self-sustaining through funds raised from 5c container collections. In 2005 \$1 495 was raised, with over \$600 already raised in Term 1, 2006.

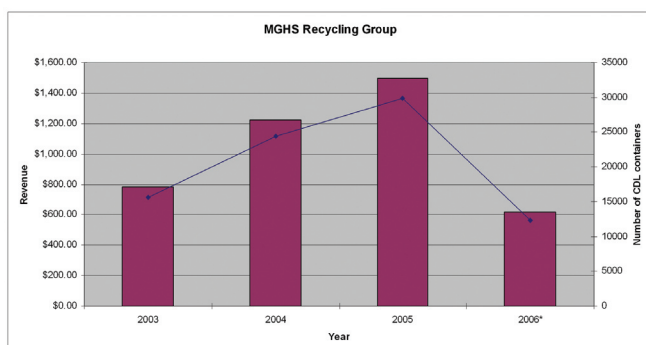
### What the school says about waste

In the Application Form for membership of the MGHS Recycling Group, David Overall writes,

*'Students at Mount Gambier High School have the opportunity to become involved in a number of initiatives that aim to improve the health of our environment and reduce the day-to-day impact people have on their natural resources. The minimisation of the amount of waste produced by the school has been identified as achievable and the outcomes measurable.'*



Highly effective and visible 5c collection containers are placed next to rubbish bins



Recycling and waste minimisation at Mount Gambier High School



## Waste Systems and Learning

### Waste in Curriculum

A Year 8 Maths class has undertaken surveys of waste. Year 8 classes have also collated data from material collected on Clean Up Australia Day. The Year 8 Science curriculum includes the following topics: Pollution, Waste and Recycling, and Your Environment.

Year 9 Science includes investigations into everyday substances and recycling plastics.

Year 10 Science incorporates Chemicals in the environment, including Air pollution and Water pollution.

In 2006 staff are discussing a united approach to environmental initiatives in the school which will include: recycling across the site, maintaining or improving the physical environment, mapping / auditing curriculum and accessing funding.

### Reducing & Reusing

Reducing paper wastage is managed effectively by allocating students a printing budget. When this is used, additional printing or photocopying must be paid for.

Reuse practices include putting aside boxes, magazines and packing materials. Staff are alerted to these materials being available for their use.

### Recycling

The Recycling Program collects paper / cardboard waste from various locations around the school and drink containers from recycling bins located throughout the schoolyard. These materials are then sorted in the recycling shed, prepared appropriately, packed and transported to the recycling depot. The recycling bins are cleaned and repositioned.



Paper recycling in admin areas



Different coloured bins for 5c containers

## Getting started and Keeping it going

A key factor in helping to establish the waste program at the school was a group of very dedicated students. The school recognised the benefits and allocated some funding for staff to support their ideas.

A number of staff volunteer their time to run the recycling program.

As substantial student input is required the school offers incentives for active participation to ensure its success. Incentives include \$1 Vouchers that are redeemable at the School Canteen, with 'triple pay' for after-school participation, and the opportunity to be excused regularly from one lesson per week, with the permission of the subject teacher, to assist the recycling program.

Students participating in the Recycling Program have received Principal's Awards in recognition of behaviour that exemplifies the School Code or Vision and Values. Staff nominate worthy recipients. Award recipients receive a movie pass to the local cinema, together with a Certificate of Recognition and a letter from the Principal.

### MGHS Recycling Group Application and Contract Form

Students at Mount Gambier High School have the opportunity to become involved in a number of initiatives that aim to improve the health of our environment and reduce the day-to-day impact people have on their natural resources. The minimisation of the amount of waste produced by the school has been identified as achievable and the outcomes measurable.

The Recycling Program collects waste from various locations around the school and drink containers from recycling bins throughout the schoolyard. In the past this has been done in lesson times and after school by a small number of regular volunteers and a larger group of 'one off' helpers. These materials are then sorted, suitably prepared, packed and taken to a local recycling depot. A number of staff already volunteer their time to run this program and in order to make a success of this venture it also requires a substantial student input. Incentives for active participation are offered; among them are vouchers that are redeemable at the school's canteen.

In order for the program to work effectively, students wishing to participate during lesson time need to clearly understand the expectations and requirements for being part of this group.

1. **Permission to regularly attend** a recycling session must be gained from the **subject teacher**. It is the subject teacher's right to deny the student permission to attend during the requested session time. It is also their right to determine whether or not a student attends any session once they have been accepted into the program.
2. **It is the student's responsibility** to ensure they **complete any work missed** whilst absent from class. (Catching up for homework may be an option).
3. A student cannot attend if they are in Time Out or Buddy at the time of the session.
4. The completion of this Application Form does not guarantee a session time. Places are limited and past behaviour of a student may be considered.
5. They are **expected to actively participate** when present and to follow the directions of those in charge.
6. They must be aware that classes are on throughout the school whilst they are participating in the program and their actions should not disturb them in any way.

Project Coordinator

Name:.....



Equipment used by the Recycling Group





# Wipe out Waste



## MGHS Recycling Group Application & Contract Form

### APPLICANT DETAILS

Name: ..... Home Group: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

Session preferred: (Day and Time 1) (Day and Time 2)

Subject Teacher: ..... Signature: .....

Work expectations in relation to missed class time: .....  
.....  
.....

Have you been in Time Out and / or Buddy for this subject? If yes, please detail.  
.....

### CONTRACT

I, ....., agree to abide by the instructions and directions given by the people in charge of the Recycling Program, whether it be a teacher or someone assigned a task by a teacher.

I understand that I am expected to abide by the school's Code of Conduct at all times.

Failure to do so will result in one or more of the following:

- being sent back to class
- short-term / long-term exclusion from the program

Student Signature: .....



Well organised shed used by the Recycling Group