



# Case Study

## Portside Christian School

Years: Pre-school - 10

School population: 300

Location: Ethelton

Source: Lee Grigg (Environmental Education Coordinator)

A WOW Support School

### Highlights

The school was invited to present their collection systems at the 2005 Children's Week launch.

Displays at the 2004 National Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference in Adelaide and the Semaphore Road Street Party highlighted the simple waste reduction strategies that have been put into place at Portside.

In 2006 the school appointed a dedicated Environmental Education teaching role (part time).

As well as a vast range of resource collection systems, the school has a Mangrove Care Team which cares for the adjacent Mangrove Cove.

### What students say about :

Bread Bag Tags:

*'The Mental Illness Fellowship of SA have a contract to supply 5 000 kilograms, that's about 13 million tags, each year for the next 5 years. They get 1c each tag. There's \$60 worth of tags here – I know because I helped count them!'*  
Talitha

*'Our class was invited to share at the opening ceremony for Children's Week at the Art Gallery. We talked about ring pulls and 5c recycling. You can see in the photo that we were dressed up.'*  
Semra

White Paper Recycling:

*'Each classroom and office area has a box for recycling white paper. Every few weeks our class empties all the boxes into the 2 green wheelie bins. SITA comes and empties the wheelie bins when we ring to tell them that they are full and ready for pick up.'* Sam W



Presentation at Children's Week 2005 shows how collections help others



# Wipe out Waste



## Cardboard Recycling:

*'Most classrooms and office areas have a box for cardboard. Twice a term (more often in the office areas) and at the end of the year, we empty the boxes into the big white SITA dumpster.'* Timothy Z

## Stamps:

*'Global Interaction is a Baptist mission organisation that works in Australia and overseas. We trim the postage stamps to give them a 1cm border. This is good fine motor practice for us. The people we give the stamps to get about \$10 per kilogram.'* Maria

## Bokashi:

*'Bokashi is a method of composting our food scraps. Instead of putting our food scraps in the big rubbish bin, we put them in here. When this bin is full we put the scraps into the Bokashi bucket. We sprinkle the Bokashi over the food scraps and mix it around a bit then put the lid on and just keep adding scraps. Every now and again we drain off the Bokashi juice. This is really great for fertilising plants. When the bucket is full we leave it for 6-8 weeks in the dark to "pickle".'* Joseph

## Waste Systems and Learning

### Waste in Curriculum

Recycling is included in the Year 4/5 Health curriculum. Now that the school has appointed an Environmental Education teacher, each junior school class has one lesson a week of Environmental Studies. (This is a non-contact lesson for the class teacher).

Other subject areas are integrated across the Environmental Studies curriculum. Much enthusiastic Maths learning occurs in classes involved in the collection and counting of various items. It's not every day that Reception students can say they can count to 100! Fine motor skills are honed while students cut around stamps as they listen to a story. Teams of older students negotiate to develop their own systems to count and record different items.

Money raised from 5c recycling is used to sponsor community-based projects in overseas countries. As part of their SOSE studies students learn about the different projects, often from the perspective of a child living in these developing countries, and then decide which projects to support. Students can put into practice the principle of acting locally but thinking globally.

Sunnies for Sight Day was an opportunity for students to not only support this project financially but also to collect old prescription glasses that could be modified for use by people who were unable to afford them.

In 2005 Year 3/4s were involved in a Solid Waste Audit which assisted in making improvements to existing systems. This led to more recycling bins being placed in strategic locations in the school.



Classroom activities to understand the 5Rs

## Reducing & Reusing

A number of practices occur which include:

- ▼ double-sided photocopying
- ▼ reuse of single-sided paper for drafts and notepads
- ▼ a reduction in the use of plastic sleeves on student's workbooks as covers are transferred from old books to new
- ▼ filling student work books before beginning a new book
- ▼ reducing the number of stationery items for students
- ▼ the introduction of reusable book bags at Reception for ongoing use instead of a new reader cover every year
- ▼ collection of security patrol cards for reuse by security staff
- ▼ collecting stamps and reading glasses for aid organisations
- ▼ reusing laundry baskets for 5c container collections.



Reused laundry baskets for 5c containers





The 2005 Solid Waste Audit found that a lot of the school's food waste occurred in Junior classes, so information was placed in the newsletter encouraging smaller amounts of food for younger students, and in particular, smaller-sized pieces of fruit. This has been very successful.



*Effective display of 5c containers*

## Recycling

School paper and cardboard is collected by SITA as part of the Schools Recycling with SITA program. Students manage this system, with reusable laminated notes sent to each class to remind them when to place their paper recycling out for collection!

5c containers are collected with funds raised going to OS aid programs. This initiative has grown from one class to the whole school and wider community! In the year this commenced the goal was to raise \$40 to purchase a goat for a family in Uganda. This goal was exceeded with over \$700 collected in the first year through the whole school community, friends and neighbours of school families becoming involved! Students wrote and performed a comical role play at an assembly to promote the correct way to use the 5c collection system.

Ring pulls from aluminium cans are collected for Rotary overseas aid programs, with over 50 000 collected in 2005. This collection was initiated and supervised by a senior student.



*Students sorting collected items*

Bread tags are also collected to support MIFSA (Mental Illness Fellowship of SA) with over 17 000 collected in 2005!

Printer and toner cartridges are collected as part of the 'Go for Green' program, where schools can work towards earning recycled plastic products for their school.

Corks are collected for Guides SA.

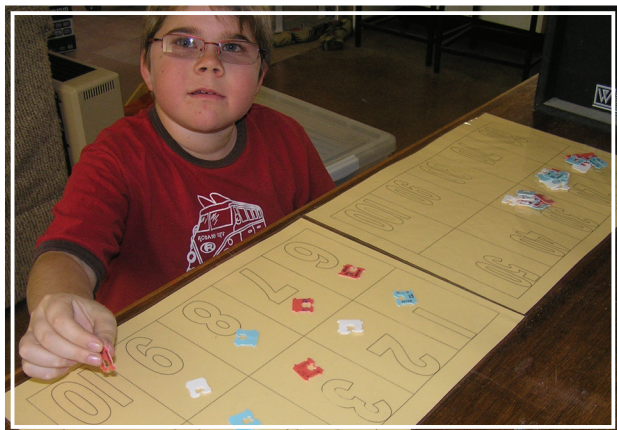
After previous composting programs had been unsuccessful, the Year 3/4 class became part of a school Bokashi composting trial in 2004. This has been maintained by the class involved as well as a new system introduced to the Early Learning Centre. The finished product is used on school gardens.



*52 541 Ring pulls - what an effort!*



# Wipe out Waste



Using collected items for Maths activities

## Getting started and keeping it going

Waste programs were begun by a single class whose enthusiastic teacher and students have expanded programs across the school. Their enthusiasm has spread to other staff and students, who have adopted waste programs and are taking responsibility for various waste and recycling collections at the school.

### Whole School Community

A key factor that has assisted in the growth of waste programs across the school has been teaching by example with students becoming enthusiastic and aware of waste issues and the positive actions they can take. This has led to staff and parents also changing their waste practices.

Most school staff now use reusable shopping bags. Staff are sorting their used containers for recycling where possible and are often seen picking up rubbish around the school.

The practice of picking up rubbish by students as punishment has been replaced by other behaviour management strategies. Students are being encouraged to see that they all have a responsibility for keeping the school clean.

Many of the parents report that their children are taking over the responsibility of 'doing the recycling' at home. Parents have commented about the community feel of the 5c recycling. Neighbours are keen to be kept informed about the different projects being supported.



Excellent bread tag collection signage on buckets



Glasses and stamp collections for aid organisations