

Case Study

Warradale Primary School

Years: R - 7

School population: 215

Location: Warradale

Source: Jan McFarlane

Highlights

2005 Runner-up in the KESAB Environmental Art Challenge for Metropolitan Schools. Jan McFarlane says,

'We entered the KESAB art competition with all our Year 6/7 students. The focus on the 3Rs, student collaboration and creativity suited our learning goals perfectly, and complemented our whole school theme for the term on environmental sustainability. We have a stunning emu trophy in our Front Office as a result.'

A Food Garden was established in 2005 with assistance from a local Council grant. Food scraps are collected and composted in the garden.

StudentAction Teams are responsible for collecting recyclable and / or reusable items from all classrooms, the staff room and After School Care.

What students say about waste

'The best part of our school waste program is the Bottle Recycling. We really like recycling bottles in our school waste program because it helps our school reduce litter, makes money for our 'enviro' projects, and in the long term, helps the environment to make the world a better place for everybody.'

Shane Hutt, Year 6; Anne-Marie Chorlton, Year 7

'The best part of our school waste program is working together as a team to help our School, the environment and the community. We recycle corks and bread tags to reduce waste and to raise money for the Girl Guides and the Mental Illness Fellowship of SA.'

Jessica and Kayla Wright, Polina Kisselev, Maggie Doherty



2005 KESAB Environmental Art Challenge entry



Wonderful produce in the Food Garden!



Wipe out Waste



Waste Systems and Learning

Reducing

As part of a unit of work on waste, a Junior Primary class focused on reducing lunchbox packaging. A letter explaining their goal was sent to parents. The class successfully reduced packaging from 81 items / day to 18, a reduction of over 75%! Maths learning included tallying and graphing of packaging and students designing their ideal lunchbox, which required no packaging! 'Waste-free' lunch days were initiated following the success of this class.

The school has adopted the KESAB Better Bag enterprise program to reduce reliance on single use plastic bags in the wider community. This program is managed, promoted and monitored by a team of students.



Counting collections with 'Bread-tag-o-meter' at rear

Reusing

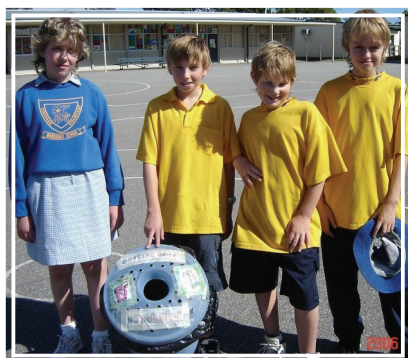
Reuse practices include paper reuse in the photocopying area, a reuse box situated in all classrooms and reuse of bottles. Reusable plastic crockery and cutlery was purchased for use by the 'Breakfast Club' (a before school breakfast program) on Wednesday mornings.

Recycling

Recycling of a wide range of materials is carried out by Student Action Teams. Materials include 5c containers, paper / cardboard, glass bottles, film plastic, bread tags, corks, cartridges, and ring pulls from aluminium cans. Food scraps are composted for the Food Garden, and produce is used in the Canteen, cooking programs and sold to staff.



Recycling collection supported by local council



5c container recycling collection

Getting started and keeping it going

'Our programs were established from action planning by a Year 6/7 class in December 2004, on how we could be more environmentally friendly at Warradale. All ideas suggested by our departing Year 7 students were implemented in 2005 under the leadership of a Green Team of five students who made many phone calls to establish contacts, and reported to each school assembly on new initiatives.'

A visit from KESAB encouraged the team in its early work and they were soon joined by other interested students who assumed responsibility for establishing the Food Garden. Our local nursery advised the students on plantings and several parents donated seedlings. A class established a worm farm as part of its 'enviro' theme and this assisted our composting. The addition of the first compost saw exponential growth in the garden and this encouraged the students greatly. Composting had not been popular until then! A community volunteer has advised us with the composting. Herbs from the garden have been used in the Canteen, we have used produce in cooking to educate students and produce is sold to staff to finance necessary purchases.'

Student Action Teams are highly valued for their work in our school and classroom teachers negotiate with students to attend to their 'enviro' work during some class time. A teacher advises and monitors the work of each team, meeting with them regularly for a short time to organise exposure at Assembly and in Newsletters. Awards are presented for class and individual efforts at Assembly.'

Jan McFarlane

Whole School Community

Monitoring the number of items recycled or reused, and reporting this to the school community has been instrumental in involving family members and friends across South Australia. 35,000 bread tags were collected in 2005. Setting targets and reaching these motivates all, as does acknowledging outstanding family donations.

Inviting representatives of the organisations we collect for to attend Assemblies to receive our donations has educated our students and parents on the reuse of some items and established valuable community links.

Local council support with the supply of an appropriate number of recycling bins for a school, and regular collection has been instrumental in recovering large quantities of recyclable materials.

'The school participates annually in Clean Up Australia Day, cleaning up parks or beaches in the local community with parents also participating. We also work in collaboration with our local Council in the planting of trees in local parks and reserves, and students monitor growth and report any problems to Council.'

Jan McFarlane



Healthy eating from Food Garden