

Permaculture Partners Newsletter



Term 3 2017

Spring in our Permaculture Gardens

The aim of this newsletter is that each term the schools will give an update on progress with Environmental i



Warrawong High School

By Nicole Brown

Using the Permaculture principles, we designed our bromeliad living walls. These sites, while being underutilised, are an ideal position for shade loving epiphytes like bromeliads and orchids to thrive.

We were inspired by the natural cone shapes of tree hollows to shape recycled sheet metal into our bromeliad holders. We were able to make fifty five holders for our living walls. The bromeliad holders were designed to hang on cut sheets of concrete trench mesh which were donated by a local building contractor.

We hosted eight people from the Illawarra Bromeliad Society for lunch preparing a roasted butternut pumpkin soup, wood fired flat bread with an Arabic twist, organic black tea and coffee with organic milk.



It was a really fun day for the Permaculture girls getting to know a lot more information on how to pot the plants up and how to look after them. We loved that our visitors took time off to come and see us and share their experience and wisdom.

Illawarra Bromeliad Society said they had an amazing day with us and we had a great day with them and they have offered to come back to visit us in late Term 4.



Lake Heights Public School

After much attention and TLC Lake Heights Public School has had a bumper crop of herbs and vegetables which include cabbages, beetroot, carrots, peas, parsley, basil and coriander. Students have been researching their favourite recipes and are now ready to prepare some healthy food. Our next job is to prepare for summer. We already have our first passionfruit flower for the season on the vine and we will soon be busy tending our succulent garden bed.



Port Kembla Public School



The Port Kembla PS Garden Ambassadors have settled into their roles and routines in the Living Classroom and have pulled the garden into shape for spring. Our Ambassadors have also been mentoring some of the infants during the break times. These students have been achieving as much in the breaks as the Ambassadors do during their sessions.

We would like to extend our thanks to parents Will Liesheman and Louie Mitry who have been volunteering their time to assist with preparing the amazing lunches. We are also very fortunate to have the Permaculture specialists, Matt McKay and Sarah Ann Raymond assist with garden practices this term.



Five Islands Secondary College

Spring is upon us and the garden is buzzing with the excitement of things to come. Our staff and students have been hard at it getting the garden beds ready for a wide variety of seasonal vegetables.

Our students have been working hard and our third seating circle is now complete in the upper part of the garden. It has created a great space to sit back and take in the relaxing views of the garden.

We are also excited to announce that in 2018 we will be the first school in NSW, and maybe even Australia, to be offering a 2 unit Permaculture subject for our year 11 students. It is sure to be an exciting course so contact the school for more information.



Warrawong Public School

Do you like your weather windy? Well, that has been the flavour of the last couple of months. Wind and no rain, dry, parched, nothing! Not ideal for a vegetable garden you would think...

In the spirit of good permaculture design our garden has kept producing and we managed a very respectable winter harvest. The garden looked like a lettuce festival! That was not all, the citrus were abundant and our staff and students were supplied with fennel, broccoli, beetroot, buckets of potatoes and many macadamias - a favourite for the students to try and crack open.

Our watering system (thanks Water Well!) is now installed and will help our garden stay happy until the good stuff falls from the sky again. Stage 3 students and Kindergarten have had classes each fortnight in the garden this term and they have adored their outdoor classroom time. In fact they want more!

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The weather is heating up, the deciduous fruit trees are coming into leaf again and we are expecting great things from our little piece of paradise this spring.



Cringila Public School

It has been a winter of bumper annual harvests as the Garden Ambassadors have been laden with regular soccer ball size cauliflowers and broccoli heads. Mrs T has been converting the

garden goodness into tasty lunches to complete the 'garden-to-plate' cycle. The Garden Ambassadors have been expanding their culinary palate by eating meals prepared from seasonal produce.



This season's olive crop has now been processed, preserved and stored in the larder. Those tasty little olives are the talking point of the local seasoned olive eaters!

Peter Nolan, who built the Cringila Living Classroom in 2003, has been busy removing the fences around the Living Classroom and pruning our larger trees. Some of the staff will remember when Peter took an injured Peregrine falcon from the school office area, nursed it to health and released it for the whole school to witness.

With the early arrival of a warm spring, the Cringila PS Living Classroom is ready with summer vegetables, herbs and fruit trees covered in flowers.

A big thankyou to our ongoing sponsors

