

Permaculture Partners Newsletter



Term 3 2015

Spring in our Permaculture Gardens

The aim of this newsletter is that each term the schools will give an update on progress with Environmental Initiatives at their school that focus around their Permaculture gardens.



Warrawong High School

It has been an inspiring Term 3 in the Permaculture Gardens at Warrawong High, with the students completing two significant construction projects and growing an abundance of vibrant winter vegetables. The Support Unit has retrofitted the chicken system in preparation for 12 incubated chickens, grown in their classroom.

The annual "Kids Teaching Kids" Biodiversity Day was a fantastic day for all. Year 8S Science hosted Garden Ambassadors from Cringila PS and Port Kembla PS in a brilliant student directed event. Catering by Year 10 TAS and the Permaculture engagement students produced tasty wood fired pizzas and garden grown drinks.



The Permaculture boys' engagement class attended the annual Permaculture extension camp to the Crossing Land Education Centre. Twelve students headed to Bermagui, for environmental restoration activities, koala surveying, canoeing, bush walking and camping out in the bush. Thanks to Dean and Annette Turner, the staff at the Crossing and the community of the Bega Valley who sponsored the boys to attend the camp.



Lake Heights Public School

The students of Lake Heights PS have enjoyed harvesting the last of the winter crops ready for spring planting. Our garden group has planted tomatoes of three varieties, cucumbers, capsicums, corn, beetroot, beans and

eggplants. The Tuesday cooking group have made use of the array of vegetables and herbs in their cooking classes and have cooked delicious and healthy meals such as stir fries, dips, and pasta dishes. Our photography group has also been utilising the garden on Tuesday afternoons, taking a collection of beautiful photos. Some of our students were invited to create a variety of artworks that represented the beauty of our garden and these art works were put on display at the Cringila Public School Permaculture Partner's morning tea.



Warrawong Public School

What a wonderful winter at Warrawong PS! The weeds finally slowed down, the winter vegies virtually exploded out of the ground and we revelled in the mild weather – perfect for digging up and transplanting some big clumps of bamboo. Every lesson was finished with a snack from the garden, which turned out some wonderful citrus, delicious Brazilian Cherries, mountains of Ice Cream Beans and a late harvest of Caramel Berries – YUM!



Digging is something that the students love. However the students all queue up to have their turn chipping away at the coal wash hidden under the thin layer of topsoil. Their efforts have been rewarded with successful transplants of bamboo clumps that are now shooting for the sky.

The end of Term 3 saw all the beds cleared and rebuilt as well as 4 new beds added. There are currently about 300 seedlings ready to plant and we hope that by the start of summer, there will be bountiful food and beautiful flowers adorning this wonderful garden.

 **Port Kembla Public School**

If you want a delicious garden grown lunch, come to Port Kembla PS and join the talented Ambassadors in whipping up a storm in the outdoor kitchen. Each fortnight the students rotate through the Ambassador team to pick, prepare and serve a seasonal fare made with care and laughter.



Throughout the term the garden has been producing shining ocean side produce for the staff, students and the wider community. The new influx of students have quickly learned the Permaculture practices. They have been building soil, planting whilst creating an eco-system that requires little input.

Mrs Pollack's class has been visiting in the morning session and easily incorporated into the garden routines into their unit on "garden to plate". It is an excellent example of peer mentoring. The break times are still a hive of activity with the emerging Ambassadors of Kindergarten to Year 2 repeating the seasonal garden practices with joy and much gusto!

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Cringila Public School

The new Year 3/4 Garden Ambassadors have eased into the dynamic flow of the blooming abundance of Cringila's Permaculture Garden. It was common for soccer ball sized cauliflowers and broccoli heads to be harvested over the late winter and early spring months.



We welcome the new Year 5 Ambassador leaders and thank the Year 6 for their wonderful work in mentoring the Year 3/4 Ambassadors in soil building and plant pruning activities. Mrs Whittaker and small groups of students have used the Red Gum kitchen and converted the famous garden produce into tasty winter soups for all to share over the chilly winter days.

Tzaddi Degan, a Permaculturalist from Lismore, has been working with students on the "western fig avenue" garden, to build soil, weed and maintain the amazing plants that are literally growing out of concrete, slag and coal wash.

The citrus have really come to full production this year with kilograms of juicy fruit falling off the trees and into the worthy hands of the hard working Ambassadors of Cringila PS. We look forward to more fruit harvest this spring and summer.

Lake Heights Garden Art



A big thankyou to our ongoing sponsors

