

Permaculture Partners Newsletter



Term 1 2019

Summer in our Permaculture Gardens



Warrawong Public School

From Term 4 2018:

It was like a switch was flicked as soon as spring arrived and the long-awaited-for rain helped the garden explode into greens of every hue! We came back from holidays to find that the weeds had been busy too, so students have been busy weeding, mulching, composting and nurturing our fruits and vegetables into bountiful health. We harvested buckets of potatoes, lots of leafy greens, beetroot galore (they really seem to thrive at Warrawong!), fennel, large leeks and the new favourite - nettle, which we have been frying up into delicious and delicately crunchy nettle chips.

After rebuilding the beds and replanting with our Summer crops, we found the new watering system (thanks Water Well!) has been working wonders with some beds being harvested just one month after planting.



Our other big achievement is the completion of our Memorial Garden. The students have taken a scrappy patch of bindii-infested ground around the flagpoles and turned it into a fantastic tribute to

the sacrifices made by our service men and women. This garden with its Galipoli Rose, Australian native plants and 'ANZAC rosemary' - cultivated from a cutting brought back by a digger from a wild rosemary growing in ANZAC cove, is now a feature of the school.



Five Islands Secondary College

Lights, Camera, Action!

What a crazy few weeks we have had here at Five Islands with Gardening Australia coming to film a story for the show in our garden. A massive thankyou to Aaron, our community volunteers, staff and our students for all putting in some huge days (and even into the night) to get everything looking awesome for the day.

The garden looked amazing, the students looked very professional in their new gardening shirts, and most importantly everyone had fun filming with Clarence. It was a very long and hot day, but Clarence got stuck in with the students harvesting produce, building a no-dig bed and planting our next seasonal veggies. Thanks again to all involved.



In other news, the gazebo has gone up for our outdoor kitchen and we are now onto the exciting process of designing our kitchen area. We are looking forward to being able to cook the produce fresh from the garden while taking in the beautiful view.

With two Permaculture classes now in full swing, the garden is a hive of activity and is really starting to transform into something special. Stay tuned for an update on when our story is likely to go to air on Gardening Australia.



Lake Heights Public School

Lake Heights has been busy harvesting some of our delicious herbs to create a variety of yummy dishes in our school kitchen. With the help of our Permaculture Teacher Mrs Nicastrì and members of our Community Garden Group, our stage 2 and 3 students have made pesto spaghetti and basil and tomato bruschetta. Our Community Garden Group has been hard at work moving into our new garden shed.



We have recently had a delivery of vegetables and herbs to top up our garden beds. This will ensure we have a continuous supply of ingredients for our fortnightly cooking classes



Cringila Public School

It has been a fantastic start to the year for Cringila Garden Ambassadors for 2019. Having worked in the Living Classroom five times this term, this year's Ambassadors have definitely shown a real passion for getting their hands dirty!



The autumn soil building has been completed with students taking part in pocket planting over 100 leafy greens, brassicas and herbs. Our compost pile is looking healthier than ever as the new compost team have

been taking their role very seriously, encouraging other students in the school to follow suit.

Students have taken part in propagating macadamia trees, harvesting hundreds of tomatoes for our cooking program and recently started collecting olives to preserve. However, the real EGG-sitement is building leading into Term 2's new arrivals – watch this space, Cringila Garden Ambassadors are feeling very lucky!



Port Kembla Public School



At Port Kembla Public School we have had a wonderful time getting back into the swing of looking after our garden. With lots of our Ambassadors from 2018 moving into high school, all stage 2 and 3 classes have had the opportunity to learn about compost and making a no dig-garden.

This has involved learning the acronym CSC MMM, which stands for charlie cup, sea salt, clay, minerals, manure and molasses. It was great to see the remaining Ambassadors taking on a leadership role by running these sessions.

New Ambassadors will be joining our Permaculture garden group at the end of this term. All classes have really enjoyed spending time in the garden and learning about growing their own fruit and vegetables. They have particularly enjoyed tasting the delicious tomatoes and even trying spinach!



Warrawong High School

WHS Permaculture is continuing an Immersion Day for all students in Year 7 and 8 to deepen their understanding of Permaculture through fun "hands on" learning activities. The structure follows the successful Garden Ambassador Program model in place at Cringila and Port Kembla Primary school. The



students experience Permaculture ethics and principles in action with an orientation journey, planting in the vegetable garden, "cob stomp" pizza oven maintenance, wood-fired pizzas and a guided tour of Green Connect City Farm.

The Intensive English Centre students have been typically outstanding. Double classes

have been visiting to complete the seasonal Permaculture practices in preparation for the winter plantings. We have welcomed the return of two enthusiastic support unit classes who have joined the Permaculture maintenance team and will journey into tyre stair construction in Terms 2 and 3.

The Permaculture Engagement students are an outstanding group of young men who have been leading the post summer garden maintenance. They have been honing their Permaculture practices to support and lead the Permaculture Immersion Days. Many of the students are ex Garden Ambassadors who are developing and learning new skills to support them on their Permaculture learning pathway.

Thanks and gratitude to the students and staff for their support in Term 1.

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