



# WOODBRIDGE

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

## Water care winners

**W**OODBRIDGE School's sustainability program was recognised this week when the school was named the secondary section winner of the prestigious Dr Edward Hall Environment Award.

The \$1000 award is made each year by the Hobart City Council.

The award was one of a number of honours the school has received this year for its environmental program.

Creating Sustainable Futures is a key element of the Essential Learning, World Futures. In creating a sustainable future this year Woodbridge School has a focus on water conservation.

The school was also awarded a grant from the Australian Government National Water Conservation program through the Department of Environment and Heritage.

"This is a demonstration project for water conservation in Tasmania and schools and other educational institutions across Australia," the school's Watercare coordinator, Helen Pryor said.

For Woodbridge School water care is a high priority. The school uses tank water and draws from the boundary creek for irrigation of the school grounds.

There is a coastal wetland running through the school farm and the school is nestled on the banks of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The project engages all students in learning about water efficiency, preparing and planting water resistant gardens and monitoring the water quality of creeks flowing into the sea.

The current school redevelopment is encompassing water efficient design principles. Initiatives such as the installation of water saving technology — including waterless urinals and spring-loaded taps — have been calculated to save 1.5 million litres of

water annually.

Principal Alison Grant said: "We are very excited to be leading the way in this new water initiative."

"We would like our project to become a model for other school redevelopment projects across Australia."

There is nothing wasted at Woodbridge.

"Lunch scraps are collected for the three ravenous pigs and the peckish chooks and are made into delicious compost for wiry worms," said regular helper Aiden Jackson.

A roster of students collects the scraps from each class and the staff rooms each day.

When students collect the eggs for the school canteen and then buy their egg sandwiches they see a whole sustainability school system at work.

Zucchini frittata, salad and wedges are on the menu for Grade 2/3. Students have planted seed, harvested, cooked and eaten their favourite organic vegetables.

Landcare coordinator Nel Smit said students were enthusiastic about eating vegetables they had grown themselves.

The students enjoy making "cow pat soup" in big drums to fertilise their plants. Kinnan Brightman found that his silver beet has recently grown taller than he is.

The school grounds have been a focus for caring and responsibility for water conservation. Prep/one students maintain their indigenous garden patches each week. They have a strong sense of ownership of "their patch."

They have collected seed, and propagated and planted native plants to support a bandicoot habitat. The school has bought a new mulcher so that students have a ready supply of mulch for their gardens.

Students Brooke Bourke and Dylan Davey have be-



**WATER WORLD:** Shay Turreff and Connie Zerafa by the wetlands pond.

come the resident indigenous advisers. They accompanied

Aboriginal consultant Leigh Maynard on a survey of Aboriginal sites at the school. Other students now look to them for advice on identifying Aboriginal artefacts in the school grounds.

Students in grade 3/4 were concerned about the oil and litter run-off into the wetlands from the storm water pipes draining from the car park. Three cars were found to leak oil.

Students wrote a report on the wetlands for environmental consultant Steve Cole who recommended that students plant more native wetland species and divert the water through the plants to filter the water.

This week 10 volunteers from the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers have been helping students to plant over 1000 trees in the wetlands.

The wetlands rehabilitation has been used this year as a model for the National Frog Zone Manual published by the Centre for Environmental Education, in NSW.



**WIRY WORMS:** James Milner and Arran Howitt with a healthy worm from the school's vegetable garden.

Woodbridge School incorporates the Marine Discovery Centre with over 6000 visitors per year. A native garden at the entrance to the centre has been created by the grade 4/5 with advice from landscape designer Lindsay Campbell. Students are now responsible for the development of this high profile area.

The Fishcare program was established and has trained over 54 volunteers at Woodbridge School to give talks to students in schools around Tasmania about sustainable fishing

practices. The program was awarded a prestigious Learning Together Award.

The school has been further recognised in its efforts to create a whole school sustainability program this year by being awarded the Tasmanian Awards for the Environmental Excellence in Environmental Education and Training.

In addition, Woodbridge School together with Natone Primary School were co-winners of the State Westpac Landcare Education Award for 2005.

### IN BRIEF

#### 50 years at Woodbridge

THE reunion of old scholars and staff at Woodbridge School last week brought over 1500 people to the school to share memories and celebrate the 50 years of Woodbridge School.

The community were treated to a student performance celebrating the five decades.

Grade 5/6 students produced a video based on interviews with long-term residents of the community reflecting on how the environment has changed over the past 50 years.

#### Snack Attack

STUDENTS in grade 2/3 were surprised to discover they used 360 pieces of plastic wrapping in their lunch boxes in just one week.

Snack Attack was introduced to encourage healthy eating and reduce the amount of processed and packaged food.

Students take a break at 10am each day to eat fresh food such as fresh or dried fruit or carrots and have a drink of water.

Processed or packaged food is not allowed.

Part of the program also included teaching students to cook and to make healthy lunches.

#### Environmentally friendly leaders

Students from the primary classes meet regularly as the Environmentally Friendly Leaders, the EFL team.

Their job is to encourage students to make the school grounds a cleaner place.

They hand out raffle tickets to students who they see doing the right thing such as putting rubbish in the bins.

Each assembly the raffle is drawn, with all tickets going to a big prize at the end of the year.

**Production Team Declan Wood, Daniel Carr, Jemma Doyle, Kara Clifford, Shannon Kennedy, Andrey Panevin**

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