



# WOODBRIDGE CREATING A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

## Return of trees makes bridge between schools

WOODBRIDGE and Campania Schools were connected by a gift of 200 trees returned to their home on September 25.

The story began 15 years ago, when concern about tree decline in the Midlands prompted teacher Peter Hughes and Alan

Gray from Greening Australia to establish the Woodbridge Seed Orchard using seed from drought affected Midland trees.

The trees matured and in 2006 a Green Corps group together with Woodbridge students collected and germinated seed

from the orchard. Some 200 blackwoods were nurtured by the Peppermint Bay Landcare Group over the summer.

With a grant from the Landcare Association, students, staff and parents from Woodbridge took the trees to Colebrook.

These were presented to students, parents and teachers from Campania District High School who gave them to landowner Phil Headlam.

Forty-five volunteers from both communities and the Understorey Network planted

the trees along the river bank on a sweeping bend of the Coal River. A bonfire of willows was lit as the last tree was planted.

Ken White of the Peppermint Bay Landcare Group found it a moving experience. "We all gave a little bit and received a

lot in return," he said.

The 45 volunteers celebrated together, with a great deal of satisfaction, with a barbecue. There was a special feeling about the day as volunteers helped each other planting, bagging and watering these symbols of hope for the future.

## Sustainability work peddles key message

A PICTURE of Sylvia Grace with her bicycle at the old Oyster Cove School in 1938 hangs in the foyer at Woodbridge School.

Seventy years on, Sue Wood rides the school's bicycle to the post office.

A bicycle is recognised as the most energy efficient form of transport and so has been made available to all staff as part of the school's Sustainability Program.

The school is also doing an energy audit with consultant Arthur Masters under the program.

Students have calculated the school has reduced its organic waste to landfill by 100 per cent and its paper waste to landfill by 80 per cent, saved 1.3 million litres of water and planted 1000 native plants.

This is the fourth year of Woodbridge School's sustainability program.

Principal Alison Grant said development of formal partnerships with the Green Corps and a local nursery.

The Seed to Plate Pro-



Sylvia Grace

gram, establishing a demonstration organic garden and taking trees back to the Midlands have been highlights.

Students have taken on leadership roles such as managing the chicken farm and recycling.

Check out the Woodbridge Sustainable School project at [www.woodbridge.education.tas.gov.au](http://www.woodbridge.education.tas.gov.au).

THE Green Corps team based at Woodbridge School has been doing great things to support the community.

This program has pro-



Sue Wood

vided a team of young people with the opportunity to volunteer to conserve and restore Woodbridge's natural environment and cultural heritage.

The team has been visited by botanists, soil experts and nursery workers and has been involved in the set-up of an organic vegetable garden.

The team also refurbished an old glasshouse as well as working on fencing, track work, and revegetation with native plants.



PLAYING CHICKEN: Mr Young congratulated us on our healthy chooks.

## Plenty to crow about

WE had a visit recently from Stuart Young, an expert in organic chicken management, to give us some advice about our chickens.

Mr Young told us how to tell which of our baby chickens were roosters.

When we walked into the pen two of the chicks put their heads up keeping an eye out for danger, but the other chick put her head down, which is what hens do.

Roosters are the ones that keep a lookout.

Mr Young said we should have some railings up for roosting, which we built in the afternoon.

He congratulated us on how well we look after the chickens and said their legs were very healthy.

I felt proud as I had helped paint their legs with used cooking oil and wood ash.

This helps kill mites, which try to

bury their heads into the chickens and suck their blood.

The talk with Mr Young was very interesting. I like meeting people who come and give us talks and help us with the farm.

I love how doing this in Landcare also helps with things we have at home.

My chickens at home have never looked better. I also enjoy giving talks to groups who tour the school.

ALEX MORTON

### Remembrance

WOODBRIDGE School in partnership with Adrian Howard from Soldiers Inc. and Norm Cairns from the Kingborough RSL are developing an Avenue of Remembrance to acknowledge all those men and women from the Channel who died in World War II.

The Green Corps has planted an initial 40 Blackwood trees, with students researching the lives of the veterans for the memorial plinths to be placed under each tree.

### Partners

OUR school has established a formal partnership with nurseryman Dan Magnus who has developed a nursery facility on the school farm in exchange for supporting student learning of plant propagation and farm management.

### Team

THIS Mercury School Page was produced by Grade 5/6 students Carly Swards, Purdie Day, Louisa Haley and Erin Martin, with thanks to all our sponsors. Chris Zeven provided the Green Corps report.

This is the final Mercury School Page for 2007. Teachers interested in getting involved in 2008 can contact Damian Bester on 6230 0736 or email [besterd@dbl.newsttd.com.au](mailto:besterd@dbl.newsttd.com.au)

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