




Narrabeen Lakes Primary School

Students	336
Onsite Support	A dedicated science teacher and devoted parent who lead the development of the garden.
Recent Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 The Award for Excellence in Environmental and Sustainability Education for the Northern Sydney Region • 2011 Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Winner of Environmental Education Award • 2011 Australian College of Educators Award for science, sustainability and environmental education - Janette Clark • 2011 Regional Director's Environmental Sustainability Education Award - Janette Clark
Their Story	<p>Many students live in units with no gardens, so the skills learnt in the school garden also prepare them for their future.</p> <p>The vegetable gardens are a feature of the school. They are maintained by the Garden Club (consisting of teachers, parents and students) who volunteer their time at lunchtime once a week.</p>  <p>Gardens are fenced with old school fencing held together with cable ties and vines are grown up the wire fence. That's because recycled items from council throw outs play an important part in using everything and giving it a second life eg. an old dinghy is used as a raised garden bed and fences, beds, tools, tables & chairs etc. are also used in the garden.</p> <p>Every class in Stage 2 has a raised corrugated iron garden bed of their own.</p> <p>Worm farms & composting are the foundation for the vegetable gardens. There are even plans for worm towers (PVC piping with food scraps in them) that are sunk into the gardens.</p>

Continued . . .

Their Story (Cont.)

Students at all levels are involved in learning about and helping in the gardens:

- Years one and two study invertebrates through invertebrate audits in the gardens and study worms, snails and ants in the school and external environment.
- Year three and four students help germinate seeds, plant them in the garden, examine the flowers and fruit that is produced and also learn about and work with the worm farms and composts.
- A chicken coop was recently built and now houses four bantam chickens. Year six students learn about the adaptations of birds into the domestic environment, maintain and care for the chickens and grow medicinal plants for the chickens.
- Year five students are currently working on landscaping the area adjacent to the chicken coop, enclosed by a picket fence.

A bandicoot garden, adjacent to the vegetable garden, has been established with native plants, rocks, logs, & mulch to lure the bandicoots away from the vegetable garden.

Janette Clark, science teacher at Narrabeen Lakes PS, embeds sustainability into the science curriculum, which she teaches during teacher's 'Relief from face to face teaching' (RFF). She also teaches programs such as Earth Alive, Plants in Action & Habitat Havens. Students implement action plans to increase biodiversity by adding plant layers, mulch, rocks & hollow logs. She instils in the students the philosophy that 'It's easy being green'.

