



WASTE WISE WORDS

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Case Study Snippets</i>	2
<i>Funding Opportunities</i>	2
<i>Savings with SITA</i>	3
<i>Worm Farming</i>	3
<i>Workshops</i>	4

On Sunday March 6, 670 000 volunteers from all around Australia spent the day collecting at total of 8450 tonnes of rubbish from our beaches, parks, streets, bushlands and waterways. There were 392 sites registered in Western Australia and 32 151 volunteers were involved.



Year 1 students at Doubleview PS

At this point in time Clean Up Australia Day is an important event for keeping our local environment litter free. However we envisage a future where we will be able to rely less on clean up initiatives as we become better at reducing, reusing and recycling, producing much less waste.

this year's Clean Up day. We visited Doubleview Primary where the whole school helped to clean up their school grounds. The type of rubbish collected included chip packets, plastic wrap and drink containers. Another of our Waste Wise schools, Quintilian School in Claremont also took part. They cleaned up their school grounds and the road verges near their school in the morning, some of the students even found an old letter box!

Clean Up Australia Day has been supported by schools since 1992. Schools Clean Up Day was held on Friday March 4, with 117 school sites registered.

Some of our Waste Wise schools took part in



THE COST OF RECYCLING

On January 12 this year The Recycling Company of WA went into voluntary administration and stopped operating the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale.

products are purchased by consumers. Recyclable materials are viewed as a resource for industries to use in making new products. The success of recycling depends on stable, reliable markets for these materials. (<http://www.rro.state.mn.us/Recycle.htm>)

This has raised many questions regarding how the recycling business operates. The major concern appears to be whether recycling continues when a facility like this one is not operating. The simple answer is yes, whenever possible. The thing that many people don't realise is that recycling is a big business. MRF's make money from selling recyclable material whereas it costs the operators money to send waste to landfill, so recyclable materials will be recycled whenever possible.

The economics of recycling is controlled by many factors, these include; the price of the recyclable material versus the price of virgin (new) material, demand for recycled products, the ease of using the recycled product in place of the original one, collection and transporting the recyclable products, energy costs in recycling, and any restrictions placed on the uses of the recycled product.

Economics is a major factor in determining the success or failure of recycling. Recycling occurs when, and only when, recyclable materials that have been collected, sorted, processed, and manufactured into new

Our aim for the Waste Wise program is to look beyond the economic value of recycling. With your help we hope to instil values that allow people to see their roles and responsibility in dealing with waste



CASE STUDY SNIPPETS WELD SQUARE PRIMARY SQUARE

Each class at Weld Square Primary School is responsible for at least one aspect of the Environmental Program, ensuring that every student contributes to the program's success.



Students composting food scraps.

The Environmental Program covers various environmental issues and sustainable practices including waste and litter reduction, reuse of materials, recycling, responsible waste management, composting, vermiculture, native bush regeneration as well as conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.

As students move through the year levels



Collecting printer cartridges

they have the opportunity to learn and be involved in activities that address this broad range of environmental issues offering practical, hands on, sustainable



Collecting stamps for Lions

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

Baba Dioum

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Back by popular demand!

Due to the amount of questions we are asked about how schools can go about funding environmental education projects and initiatives we decided to run this article again.

Unfortunately, the Waste Wise Youth Grant money has all been allocated for this financial year so the Grants will not be available until after we receive funding for the next financial year.

There are many other ways for your school to raise funds to set up a waste minimisation project. There are various grants and sponsorship deals on offer.

Have you considered contacting your local council, banks hardware and landscaping businesses?

Many larger businesses are happy to send employees to volunteer at school bus-bees or sponsor an environmental project.

There are also community grants available for schools and community groups

For more information, check out these websites

- www.grantsearch.com
- www.grantsink.gov.au
- www.ourcommunity.com.au
- www.lottery.wa.gov.au
- www.deh.gov.au/education/programs/guidelines.html
- www.ds.wa.gov.au/funding/funding.asp
- www.healthway.wa.gov.au
- <http://grantsdirectory.dlgrd.wa.gov.au>
(Grant information courtesy of Badgingarra Primary School)

The following are some new leads
www.franciscans.org.au (Catholic schools)
www.healthactive.gov.au
www.mitre10.com.au/inGarden/juniorLandcare.asp (go to grantsprogram)

Good Luck!

SITA ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Our corporate sponsor SITA along with the Water Corporation of Western Australia have a joint venture called BLOWISE which produces high quality compost mulch for landscaping. They are recycling waste resources into an organically rich compost



Biowise compost is produced from a

controlled feed stock including greenwaste, biosolids and grease trap waste and complies with Australian standards. The Biowise plant is located in Kwinana.

At present several schools have supported this recycling system through purchasing the Biowise products. SITA are considering the possibility of including schools in this large scale composting process more directly. The idea would be to provide and service skip bins to be used to collect green waste when required (for example for green waste clean ups in the school grounds) and then transport the waste to the plant in Kwinana.

For more information you can contact Paul Veletta at SITA on 0412911945.

WORM FARM TROUBLESHOOTING

Worms provide a very simple and effective way of dealing with organic waste that would otherwise end up in landfill, then breaking down to produce methane gas. If set up properly and if a few key rules are followed your worm farm should be low maintenance and productive. However if you are having some problems with your worm farm the following may help.



Oberthur PS students helping to fix their worm farm.

eat on a daily basis and add a little garden lime.

ANTS

The presence of ants in your worm farm indicates that the worm farm is probably too dry or acidic. To alleviate this just add a little water and some garden lime to where the ants are gathering. You can also smear some vaseline or sprinkle some talcum powder around the base of the worm farm to prevent re-infestation.

If you are having problems with your worm farm and these tips are of no help, you can contact Kelsie Prabawa-Sear (9278 0676), Vanessa Whiterod (9278 0642) or James Milne (9278 0681) for advice. We will even come out and help you to fix the problem.

SMELL

If kept properly your worm farm should not smell. If it does this is probably due to a build up of bacteria in uneaten food. Once the food is infested with bacteria the worms will probably not eat it as they don't eat living organisms. In this case you should stop feeding the worms and stir in some garden lime into the layer of food. This will aerate the layer and allow the worms to access the food more easily. This should be repeated until the smell disappears, then you can start feeding them again.

VINEGAR FLIES

As with the problem of unwanted smell, vinegar flies are most likely caused by the presence of too much food (or the wrong kinds of food) in the worm farm so the worms have not got enough time to eat the food before it goes mouldy. Likewise to solve this problem you should limit food supply to what the worms can



Kelsie explaining how to look after the worms.

For more info on worms check out these websites

- www.wormshed.com.au
- www.wastenotwantnot.com.au
- www.organicmatter.com

“Each time we share information and refine our techniques we collectively become a little wiser and move a small step closer to the sustainable future our children deserve”

Doug McKenzie-Mohr and William Smith

Contact Us.

Waste Wise Schools

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Check out our website:
www.wastewise.wa.gov.au



UPCOMING WASTE WISE WORKSHOPS AND TRAILER TOURS

Our Waste Wise Workshops have been very popular so far this year with sessions booking out. It is great to meet so many interested teachers who have managed to make time in their hectic schedules to become involved.

Full Day Workshops

Tues 10th May RRRRC Canning Vale

Wed 25th May Eastern Suburbs
(venue TBA)

Half Day Follow Up

Thur 31st March RRC Canning Vale

Wed 18th May Northern Suburbs
(venue TBA)

Mon 30th May ETC Murdoch Uni

Upcoming Events

24th/ 25th June

Joint PD with : Airwatch, Ribbons of Blue, CALM, Watercorp
(details to be confirmed, contact Anna Hester 9278 0686)

Waste Wise Trailer

Sun 1st May—Sat 14th May

South West tour with the Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)
The trailer will be visiting Bunbury, Busselton, Capel, and Australind.

For more info contact:
James Milne on 9278 0681

PARTICIPATING WASTE WISE SCHOOLS SIGN

We are currently trying to catch up with all our Waste Wise schools who have sent a teacher to a half day follow up, or who have completed the follow up activities and who have not received their Participating School sign. If this is the case for your school please contact Vanessa Whiterod on 9278 0642 so we can present your school with a sign.



FEEDBACK FORMS

Our focus area for Waste Wise this year is to concentrate more intensively on our existing Waste Wise Schools and provide them with the support they need to develop their programs. The first step in this process is our feedback form which has been faxed to every school that has sent a teacher to a Waste Wise Workshop. With the information we receive back we will hopefully gain a broad understanding of what our schools are up to and any areas where we need to focus our support. This will also give you the opportunity to let us know what kind of support you specifically need. We are offering a major prize of a Worm Farm or a book voucher to the value of \$50.00 and several runner up prizes to be awarded to schools randomly selected from the forms that are returned to us. If you have not received a form you can contact Kelsie Prabawa-Sear on 9278 0676 or Vanessa Whiterod on 9278 0642 and we will fax you one.

DAVID SUZUKI

David Suzuki is an internationally renowned scientist, broadcaster, author of more than 30 books and an inspiration to us all. Dr Suzuki was recently in Perth for a sold out presentation talking about sustainability. He is the chairman of the David Suzuki Foundation which has a great website – www.davidsuzuki.org. There is a section specifically designed for children. Why don't you check out the website and inspire your class to take the 'Nature Challenge'?