

# John Forrest Senior High School

- John Forrest Bushrangers After-School Program • Paper Recycling • Water Monitoring
- Air Watch • Ribbons of Blue

## Background

John Forrest Senior High School runs a very successful after-school environmental program – the John Forrest Bushrangers, now in its eighth year.

The school has long been recognised for its numerous environmental programs – some of which have been running for decades!

The John Forrest Bushrangers have been inspiring young people to do their bit to support the natural environment both at school and in surrounding areas.

## Bushranger Cadets

After-school becomes a time for environmental action for 32 John Forrest Senior High School students. These Bushranger Cadets are students from Years 8-11 who meet to learn about programs such as Waste Wise, Air Watch and Ribbons of Blue. In the weekly two-hour sessions, cadets assume a range of responsibilities as they rotate through a variety of projects.

## Recycling and Waste Minimisation

**The Bushranger Cadets are responsible for recycling about 60 kilograms of paper each week through boxes placed in each classroom.** The cadets themselves contacted a company specialising in recycling photocopy quality paper, to collect it from a large skip bin at the school.



COMPOSTING



PAPER RECYCLING

The cadets also participate in Clean Up Australia Day by starting in their own school backyard and cleaning up the school grounds and surrounding community.

## Plant Life

The cadets enjoy looking after plants and participate in ongoing rehabilitation of a remnant bushland site near the school (see pictures right and below). They are kept busy weeding, planting, and repairing reticulation pipes. Seedlings are propagated in the school's shade-house, where the cadets ensure they are healthy before planting and a permaculture garden on the school grounds is also cared for by the Bushrangers.



The cadets have been trained to safely use the bush cutter and mulcher. Green waste is diverted from landfill, mulched and used as a nourishing feed for the worm farm and a rich blend for the compost bins.

Nothing is wasted at John Forrest High School.

A mulberry tree in the permaculture garden produces

tasty fruit for students and leaves for the cadet's silkworm farms. **Different plant species are also grown to provide food for animals at Perth Zoo.**

## Water Monitoring

Stormwater run off is monitored and vegetation is planted around water catchment areas for Bayswater Integrated Catchment Management (BICM) by cadets looking after their local waterways (see picture below). Also, as part of the Ribbons of Blue program, regular water testing for nutrients and biodiversity is done at Nora Hughes Lake and Brown Lake in Morley.

## Other Activities

The John Forrest Bushrangers are involved in many other exciting activities, including the logging and graphing of data from a school-based computerised weather station. Data is submitted to Channel 7 News as part of the WeatherWatch program run by Airwatch.

