

Raymond Terrace PS

Raymond Terrace PS has a student population of 393 and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2008. It is a well established school with attractive timber buildings and mature trees. The school principal has raised environmental awareness within the school and has identified a teacher to manage environmental initiatives. The teacher is released to work with each class throughout the week.

A School Environmental Management Plan is being developed this year under the management of a teacher. The School Environment Committee consists of teachers, interested students and some parents. Initially the SEC met regularly and is now meeting as required. The SEMP is reported on in the Annual School Report and is outlined in the school newsletter. The final newsletter of the year contains an environmental report.



Curriculum Integration

- Senior students have researched and identified the mature trees throughout the school grounds. They then constructed and painted identification labels for them.
- Birds which visit the school are identified and recorded regularly.
- A class constructed a billy cart using recycled materials.

- The rainfall is measured and recorded regularly.
- The Frog Pond has been constructed and used for life cycle studies.
- The school is a Waterwatch school and participates in the annual Spring and Autumn Bug Survey and monitors water quality in Windeyers Creek.



School Grounds

- A Frog Pond has been constructed.
- Native gardens have been designed and constructed. It is planned to extend these in the future.



- A vegetable garden is maintained with the produce available for students to take home, for the canteen or for class lessons, such as making cheese and lettuce sandwiches. Reports are sent home via the school newsletter.

Other Programs include:

Water tanks. Green voucher funding of \$30,000 allowed for the installation of large watertanks which will be plumbed to the toilets for toilet flushing. Two smaller tanks are to be used for watering the vegetable garden.

Paper Recycling is being implemented with waste paper collected for recycling. Use of recycled paper for printing is restricted due to cost. Some classrooms have reuse strategies in place. Recycled toilet paper is used throughout the school. Printer ink cartridges and drums are recycled.

Tong Patrol is a popular activity for students at lunchtime when they can collect a bucket and pair of tongs to collect playground scraps.



Food Scrap Recycling is managed in some classrooms where lunch food scraps are collected and taken to composting bins at the vegetable gardens. The compost is then used on the gardens here.

Future Plans include:

- Funding of \$20,000 is being accessed through the National Solar School Program for the installation of classroom insulation and blinds. This will increase the efficiency of air conditioners and promote passive solar principles.
- Expansion of native gardens throughout the school.
- Development of a sensory walk and outdoor classroom space. These plans will depend on access to further funding.
- Continuation of having a designated teacher available for class support.



Challenges

- Motivation of parents to participate in school activities, such as school working bees.
- The availability of funding to support specific projects and having the time available to develop applications.
- Supportive staff. The principal and the general assistant are very supportive, but sometimes it is difficult to motivate other staff.
- Theft occurs in the school; however there is not a big issue with vandalism. The school has a security fence.

Benefits

- Student interest in the school grounds, particularly the Frog Pond and the ability to integrate with curricula.
- Hands on programs increase the language skills of students.



