

# Case Study

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|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name of School:</b>   | <b>Mawarra Public School</b>             |                                 |  |
| <b>School Post Code:</b> | <b>2570</b>                              | <b>Project Completion Date:</b> |  |
| <b>Eco-Coordinator:</b>  | <b>Sharon Kynaston<br/>Kristina Took</b> | <b>Current Award Level:</b>     |  |
| <b>Project Title:</b>    | <b>Eco Schools Pilot</b>                 |                                 |  |

| Eco-Schools Topic: Please enter "X" in relevant boxes |                                     |                            |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Water:</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Healthy Living:</b>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Waste:</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>School Grounds:</b>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Litter:</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Biodiversity:</b>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Energy:</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Global Perspective:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Transport:</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>General:</b>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |



### Guidance Notes:

- Please type in the boxes below. The boxes will expand automatically with the text when entered.
- You are more than welcome to separate your projects out into different case studies or cover a variety of projects within the one template.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

**Why did you decide to undertake this project?** (I.e. was it a particular issue in school or part of a larger campaign)

Mawarra became a part of the Eco Schools pilot because we already have an Environmental focus and we wanted to expand this across the whole school.

What aims did you have starting out? We began with the simple aim of undertaking an Eco Audit and seeing what the areas were in our school that needed further work.

## ACTION

**How was the project delivered?** The Eco Audit took place in Term 4 in 2013 with a Year 3 class.

**Was the project topic integrated into the curriculum? If so, please describe how.**

The project topic of measuring the different areas was integrated into the maths and science, data collection and recording aspects of the curriculum. Talking and Listening was also focused upon as results were tallied, recorded and conclusions drawn and then these were reported back to the whole school at an assembly.

## PUPIL LEADERSHIP

### **How did you get the pupils involved? How did they have ownership?**

The Year 3 students were heavily involved in group work to undertake the data collection and record all the relevant information in regards to energy use, waste, litter, water and biodiversity.

The students had ownership as they knew that their measurements needed to be accurate so that our results were scientifically rigorous and the conclusions that we drew would then be valid.

## FUNDING

### **Did you have to source funding for the project?**

No – there was no funding.

## PROJECT SUPPORT

### **Did you receive any support from parents, staff or outside agencies in regards to the project?**

We received terrific support for our local Environmental Education Centre or EEC. Brain Trench, Nathan Matthews and Gail came out to our school for the day to guide us and assist us with the Eco Audit process.

## CHALLENGES

### **Did you have to overcome any challenges to make the project succeed?**

An ongoing challenge is to ensure that all staff and students participate in the action plan that follows our audit.

## RESULT

**How have the pupils benefitted from the project?** (E.g. knowledge gained, skills learnt, an improvement in behaviour, attainment or attendance?) The students who were engaged in the Eco audit were very enthusiastic about continuing their work in 2014. Many of them are part of our Eco School Pilot committee who are working to ensure that our action plan is followed.

**Have there been any other benefits for the school as a result of the project?** (E.g. reduced costs, cleaner school, etc). **Please include any figures and analysis if appropriate.**

The Eco Audit revealed that our water wastage is very minimal which is a credit to our wonderful General Assistant. Interestingly it also revealed that many classrooms are over lit with fluorescent bulbs so discussions are underway to reduce the number of bulbs as a trial. The overall significant finding was the amount of plastic wrapping that was in the garbage bins and also the large amount of food wastage by senior students. These areas became part of our Action plan for 2014 with plans being made for chickens to recycle the food waste and also for recycling bins in the playground to assist with more efficient waste disposal. We are also looking at a no wrap day to become part of the school week.

## IMPACT

**How did you measure and monitor the impact of the project?**

The impact of the project is ongoing as we are still working through the tasks on our Action Plan.

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

**Have you used any educational resources or participated in any local or national campaigns or events?** (If yes, indicate which activities you have taken part in)

We have participated in the National Clean up Australia day and also in Environmentors who visited our school and selected classes learnt about more effective waste management and recycling.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### **What advice would you give to schools that want to follow in your footsteps?**

Ensure that the Eco Schools team has dedicated teachers involved and encourage all staff to see that they all have a part to play in effective Eco Schools.

## NEXT STEPS

### **Has this project inspired or driven other Eco-Schools ideas? What is the school working on next?**

## EXTERNAL SUPPORT

### **Has your school received any local council support with regards to the Eco-Schools Program?**

No – only the visit from the Environmentors. We are however hoping to access recycling bins and their collection through the council.

**Please return your completed case study and  
any relevant photographs to [info@eco-schools.org.au](mailto:info@eco-schools.org.au)**

**We will endeavour to publish it on the Eco-Schools website as soon as possible.**

**[www.eco-schools.org.au](http://www.eco-schools.org.au)**