

## Nakara Primary School (NT) Takes on the Challenge to Become a Cleaner and Greener School

Nakara Primary School has chosen to follow the Eco-Schools “whole-school” approach to encourage both students and teachers to get involved with ideas of producing fruit and vegetables locally, reducing waste, and improving recycling.

Eco-Coordinators Tracey Bradley and Michaela-Mercy McNair engaged the students with an “Eco Warriors project”, where children between ages 7 to 11 use practical skills to learn about energy and climate, waste, and healthy lifestyles.

The school initially held a working bee, where 20 parents and 20 students came to build the foundations of this fantastic project. From when the project began, Nakara Primary School noticed a significant reduction in waste and an increase in both recycling and the use of reusable containers among students.



Using “litter audits” has been useful for students and staff to monitor how much waste is being produced on the school grounds. Being aware of this encourages students to make conscious decisions about what to eat, where to put their used packaging and whether they should use single-use packaging or reusable containers instead.

Now, the school's Eco Warriors are working on a vegetable garden. With the involvement of students, they aim to use the produce to sell at lunchtime!



Since engaging with the Eco-Schools program, Nakara Primary School is highly motivated to get the whole school involved in the Eco program. The school has created a trophy which is awarded to the “eco-class” of the week!



The school's Eco-Coordinators express that “...this is the way we will be sustainable. The Eco jobs need to be shared with the whole school. This will encourage and create that sustainable culture that needs to be present in every student, for their future. This is when we will have achieved our goal.”

With the use of teamwork and collaboration among students and teachers, schools can achieve their goals of being more environmentally friendly.



Teaching our younger generations about the importance of recycling, composting, growing and sourcing food, and producing less waste is particularly important. After all, this is the time when our children are easily influenced by their surroundings and the messages we try to convey to them. It is important they know that their decisions do have an impact both on the local area as well as the wider environment.

We hope to see more schools taking steps towards becoming cleaner and greener. For more information about how your school can get involved, feel free to contact us at [marina@kab.org.au](mailto:marina@kab.org.au).