

MINIMISING OUR IMPACT



At Mount Mee State School we aim to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste to lessen our impact on the environment and to build and develop a more sustainable way of living.

Most of our food waste at our school is composted and used on our vegetable and herb gardens.

The remaining food waste goes to our busy little composting worms who work away at producing great fertiliser for us to give to our plants to help them grow strong and healthy.

We recycle our waste paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminium products at the local recycling facility. To date we have reduced our general waste going to landfill by 75%.



95% of our families receive all communication from the school electronically. This conserves 80 reams of paper per year or **approximately five fully grown trees**, not to mention the toner cartridges we are conserving.

Our commitment to waste reduction is universal across the school. Our school tuckshop is also involved in minimising waste, as all food packaging, plates, cups, bowls and cutlery are made from potato and corn starch. These products are added in with our food waste and are broken down in our composting bins.

Mount Mee State School
1368 Mount Mee Road
Mount Mee, 4521

Creating an edible garden

Our school operates three raised vegetable gardens and one very large herb garden. We grow seasonal fruits and vegetables which are used in our school programs. The “Enviro Freaks” often get to cook the fruits of their labour on our purpose built fire pit in the Richard Thomas Environmental Centre. Our “Enviro Freaks” are the key to maintaining the gardens and in turn they are developing valuable life skills in organic gardening.



Our “Enviro Freaks” produce their own environmentally friendly pest sprays, fertilisers through our composting program and get their hands dirty in weed management.

Nude Food



A competitive streak races through our students each Friday as classes are challenged to have the least litter in their lunches. On average 90% of students bring a nude lunch on Fridays. This has influenced the lunches of students on every other day, with 60% of students bringing a nude food lunch each day. The challenge is driven by the students in our school.

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CARING FOR OUR FUTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
AT
MOUNT MEE STATE SCHOOL



EDUCATION FOR OUR FUTURE

At Mount Mee State School we want to;

Educate, motivate and inspire students, families and the broader community to become conscious about our impact on the environment, to develop an understanding of environmental issues and create innovative solutions in order to become active custodians of our shared planet.

To achieve this;

Over the last two decades, our school has worked closely alongside other local community groups, local and state governments, and business to develop a learning environment that enables us to engage all stakeholders, share information and celebrate our achievements. More recently our school has expanded our horizons, linking with schools in Ireland that are recognised as environmental leaders in their own communities.

The Enviro Freaks

The “Enviro Freaks” are a group of students from Year Four to Year Seven who have an active interest in learning about the environment and are keen to play their part in sustaining our environment for our future.

The Freaks are involved in a number of initiatives which include propagation of native plants, revegetation, weed and pest management, recycling and composting, growing and harvesting fruits, vegetables and herbs and advocating sustainable practices.

The “Enviro Freaks” program has enabled our school to showcase the passion we feel towards developing and promoting a sustainable, healthy lifestyle. We use education as the primary source of understanding the world in which we live and we endeavour to put into focus our need to work together to find clever and innovative solutions to environmental issues.

Education Programs

Our School Environmental Education programs fall into three categories;

- Building our biodiversity
 - Enhancing our sustainable practices
- Conserving and preserving the environment that we have.

These three focuses allow us to explore a diverse range of concepts including; seed propagation, animal care and welfare, water quality testing, waste management and site rehabilitation.

In 2012, we were given the opportunity to extend our learning outside of our school and share our experiences with close to 2000 other students at the Kids in Action Conference.

World Environment Day and National Schools Tree Day



Every year we host a community event to celebrate World Environment Day and National Schools Tree Day. As a school community, students and families are engaged in environmental activities such as art projects, discussions, debates, tree planting, waste clean up, dramatisations and performances as well as a food celebration utilising the produce grown in our own gardens.

Recent partnerships with wildlife carers have seen the successful release of native fauna back into the Richard Thomas Environmental Centre. Students have actively been engaged in the development of suitable habitats and feral pest management to provide a suitable rehabilitation environment that will, hopefully one day link back with the State Forest.



REHABILITATING & CONSERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Richard Thomas Environmental Centre

In the 1990's, members of the school community noticed that many of the Hoop Pines in the “Forestry Plot” were dying. Several attempts were made to identify the problem and save the trees. These were not successful, and the decision was made to harvest the remaining healthy trees and reconsider how this area would be used.



After considerable community debate, it was decided to regenerate the area. Since 2002, over 8000 trees have been planted. The area has been reshaped to include a learning circle, a natural water course, and extensive areas of weed and lantana have been cleared. The dam is stocked with fingerlings in the ongoing development of this beautiful area of the school.

This ¼ hectare pocket of land, located on the school grounds, is not only an integral component of the school's environmental education programs, but a valuable environment enjoyed by the wider community.

