


WOODPORT PS WOW CASE STUDY





Our beautiful Woodport Public School now stands on what was once undisturbed Aboriginal land. We walk in the footsteps of the Darkinjung people who lived here hundreds of years ago. They looked after this area by only taking what they needed and not wasting any resources. Erina Creek was a thriving ecosystem which would have provided food and water for living plants, animals and Aboriginals in the area.

The traditional custodians of this area protected and nurtured their environment. In return, it provided them with resources for their survival. They had a wonderful connection with the land – they felt that they didn't own it, that they belonged to it. We are thankful for them looking after it for tens of thousands of years.

We are grateful to our school community and Elders for continuing our learning journey about our culture, environment and relationship with the land. We are thankful to these people for what they have taught us and continue to teach us about looking after our world and living in harmony with our surroundings.

July, 2017

Wiping Out Waste 2019

Aim:

- less waste to landfill
- maximise resource recovery
- creating a zero waste culture in the school communities participating
- changing habits and changing behaviours



Intended benefits: financial savings for each school and achieving sustainability outcomes.

This was a Pilot Program delivered by Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre, funded by Central Coast Council and supported by Cleanaway Waste Educators.

Thinking globally and acting locally

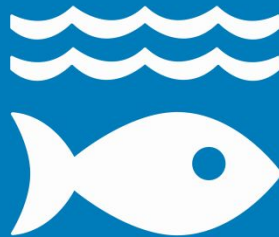
United Nations

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Learning to be less wasteful is part of being a good global citizen.
Sustainability is about considering the needs of future generations.



In 2019 we had 429 students and 38 staff. We joined the Wiping Out Waste program, and were supported by the Rumbalara EEC teachers.

In 2019 a dedicated team of students, teachers and parents formed the Wiping Out Waste (WOW) committee to declare a war on waste.

With waste management a serious global issue, our committee was concerned with investigating ways that we could educate students and reduce waste going to landfill from our school.



Some Past Achievements:

- Wise about Waste incursion for Stage 2
- Worm Tub set up
- Energy Trailer & Audit
- Staff Professional Development on Biodiversity, Energy and Waste
- Woodport Waste Warriors established
- Green Canteen Award
- Ongoing Integration of sustainability lessons

WOODPORT PS

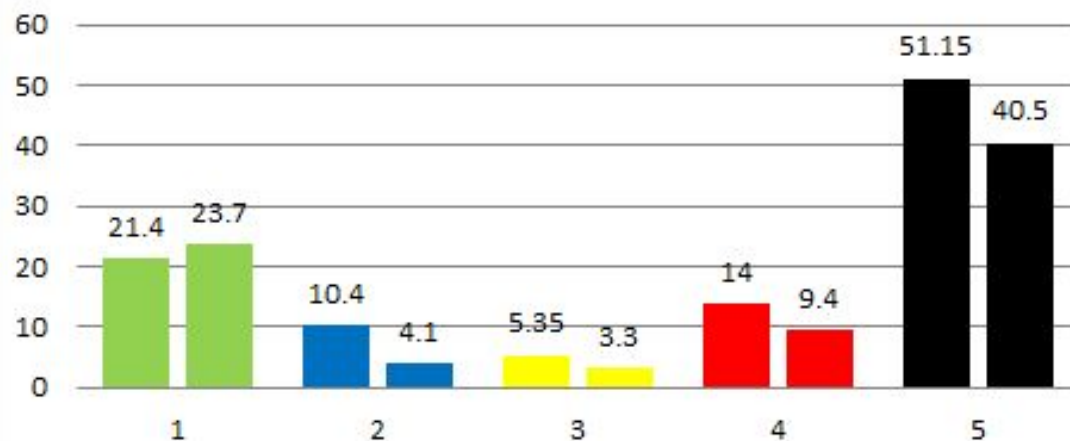
Waste Audit Day



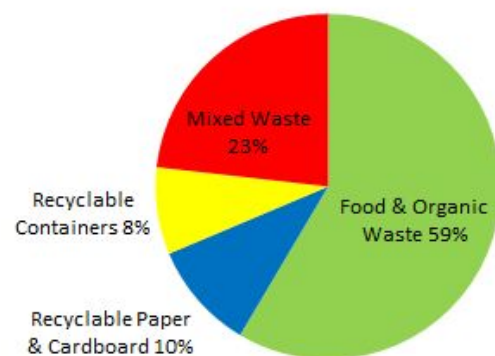
Our first step was to conduct an audit. All rubbish for an entire day was collected, sorted and then weighed. Students were surprised to see the staggering volume of rubbish, including whole pieces of fruit and uneaten sandwiches in the bins.

We sorted the waste into 4 categories - organic, paper and cardboard, recyclable containers and mixed waste. We conducted two Waste Audits to see what changes we could make.

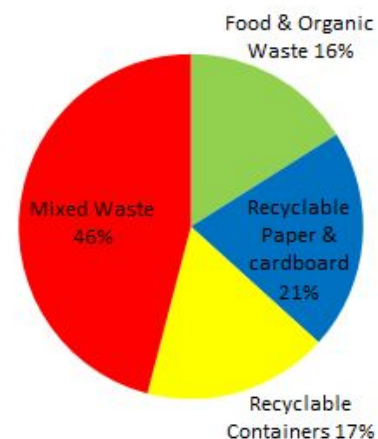
Woodport PS COMPARISON Waste Audit 1 & 2 Mass (Kg)



Woodport PS Waste Audit 2 31/5/19 Mass (Kg)



Woodport PS Waste Audit 2 31/5/19 Volume (Litres)



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



Woodport PS Waste Audit in 2019



Poppas and plastic bottles went to landfill

BEFORE



Poppas and plastic bottles are now recycled

AFTER

ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill and increase resource recovery

Once we had our data, our next step was to brainstorm solutions to the waste problem. Our school decided that we would initially focus on plastic bottles through the “Earn and Return” scheme. In addition to the environmental benefits of recycling waste, every bottle recycled would earn 10c for the school.

We set up an “Earn and Return” station outside the canteen using garbage bins with lids painted orange. Our student leaders educated students about the dangers of plastic to the environment and modelled the correct usage of the bins at morning assemblies.





Problem: Students were throwing away plastic bottles and poppas that were eligible for a 10c refund.

Solution: We introduced orange lid bins to collect the Return & Earn containers. Thanks to the GA for his help with the bin.



PROBLEM

SOLUTION

ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill

To encourage students to recycle plastic bottles, the WOW committee established a student led group named the “Woodport Waste Warriors.”

Each day members dress in their green fluoro safety vests and green bucket hats.

They encourage students to place their rubbish in the appropriate bins.



They discuss the importance of minimising waste and promoting a clean rubbish free playground and classroom.



ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill

Vegie Pods

We have purchased vegie pods and students in stage 2 have enjoyed watching their crop of vegetables grow. Our next step is to establish worm farms and recycle sip and crunch scraps. We can then use worm wee to fertilise our gardens, demonstrating sustainable solutions to food production.



Recyclable containers

We have a Co-mingled Yellow Lid Skip bin that can take our Paper and Cardboard, as well as milk bottles from the staff room and other recyclables from the canteen.



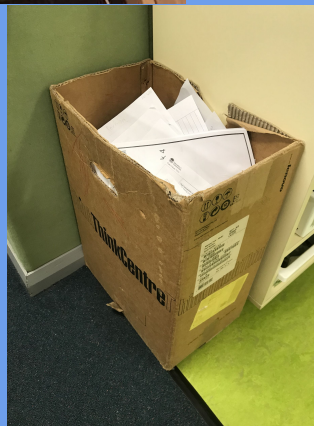
ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill



Paper and Cardboard Recycling

Every classroom collects paper and cardboard in a re-cycling bin. As the classroom bins fill, they are emptied into the co-mingled skip bin by students.

The school office also has Paper & Cardboard recycling for secure disposal of documents.



ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill

GREEN CANTEEN

In 2018 Woodport PS canteen was awarded the GREEN CANTEEN Award by Central Coast Environmental Educators when the Canteen Manager, reduced the use of single use plastic, in particular stopping using polystyrene trays for special food days.

The school received a GREEN CANTEEN plaque, a voucher for their canteen to help them go greener and a gift for their Canteen Manager.



What plans have you got for Wiping out Waste in the future?



In 2019 we made a great start to combating waste but we know we can make improvements.

We will continue to promote recycling while earning funds for the school at the same time. Our amazing stage 1 staff are committed to reducing waste through curriculum development. Students will be involved in a two term unit in 2020 where they will identify the problem of school generated waste and work scientifically to develop solutions.

Our next exciting phase will be to extend our use of worm farms and recycle food scraps through the FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) collection.



Bit by bit we are doing our part to save the environment through active learning about sustainability - a cross curriculum priority