



# Terrigal Public School

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Talking waste and sustainability !!



# Acknowledgment to Country

**I pay my respect to these lands that provide for us. I acknowledge and pay respect to the ancestors that walked and managed these lands for many generations before us.**

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**I acknowledge and recognise all Aboriginal people who have come from their own country and who have now come to call this country their home. I acknowledge the Elders who are the knowledge holders, teachers and pioneers.**

**I recognise all Aboriginal people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities and acknowledge the negative impact on the Aboriginal community. I acknowledge for many of the children and now adults, removal meant that they have now lost all connection to family, and the life-long consequences for those taken.**

**I acknowledge the youth who are our hope for a brighter and stronger future and who will be our future leaders.**

**Learning pathways.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn72f78kCNw>



# Why we started!

As a school with over 860 students we have a responsibility to our families, local community and the planet to reduce our environmental footprint.

In 2019 we had representatives from Rumbalara school come to our school to facilitate a whole school waste audit as part of the Wiping out Waste program, funded by Central Coast Council.



From the results we identified a large amount of waste that did not need to be put into landfill. Food waste at our school during this 1 day was a whooping 40kg !!!

The main areas we identified that needed to be addressed was of course food but also where our soft plastics and return and earn items could go. After much research we found out that we could send these items to be recycled or repurposed.

These are the changes we have made so far.....



# The TPS Rumbalara audit 2019





# Recycling at TPS

“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”  
– **Native American Proverb**

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## Soft plastics Orange bin

Chips packets, muesli bar wrappers, lolly bags, plastic bags, zip lock bags go in this bin at TPS.



No food, liquids  
or paper!



If you can  
scrunch it. It  
can go in !

<https://www.replas.com.au/the-circular-economy-replas-video/>



# Where to for our Soft Plastics ?

Where does it all go?

After some research we found the best place to take our soft plastics was to public drop off points. We are presently looking into longer term initiatives such as 'Plastic Police'.

Our school currently recycles: 6 x 40 litre bags of soft plastic **each week** !!



# Recycled products at our school

In 2020 we purchased products that have been made using soft plastics. These plastics are sent to Replas to make items such as furniture. Every 50kg of plastic saves 12,500 plastic items from landfill.

TPS purchased 2 tables settings (300kg each) at a cost of approx \$2,600 each with the chess board (seen in image)





# Food organics GREEN bin

## What Can Be Composted?

- Fruits, vegetables,
- dairy products,
- grains, bread,
- unbleached paper napkins,
- Coffee, teabags
- eggshells, meats
- newspaper/kitchen towel

If it can be eaten or grown in a field or garden, it can be composted.





# The TPS 'food waste' Green Bin

This bin takes all food wastage. On Wednesdays our 120L bin is collected and taken to Lake Macquarie Waste Management Centre where it is composted and we will be able to use our waste as soil in our school gardens.

Students across K-6 are on a roster and responsible for emptying our smaller bins into the larger bin. This helps to prevent contamination.





# Further details about the 'green' bin

Compost Service for surplus school food scraps -Suggested bin size for school sizes (based on waste audit data from 8 central coast schools in 2019)

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A < 300 humans (students & staff) weekly 120L bin

<https://www.lakemac.com.au/Venues/LMORRF>

B < 500 humans - weekly 240L & 120L bins

C < 900 humans – weekly 660L bin (school will still have to compost approx 100L food scraps/week - or add a 120L bin/week)

## **Central Coast prices (for the year):**

A: \$546 for 120L and only \$590 for 240L so I recommend booking a 240L bin - to avoid excess weight charges.

Round up to \$800

B: Booking a 120L + 240L bin costs more than a 660L in the central coast - I recommend booking a 660L bin for \$938- Round up to \$1200

C: 660L bin for \$938 + 120L bin for \$546; total: \$1484 - Round up to \$1700



# Earn and Return White bin



- Flavoured milk cartons
- cans
- Water bottles
- poppers





# We have saved **2044** bottles from landfill so far!

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Earning our school \$204.40 from Earn and Return!

## **How this works?**

Students have been taught that their containers need to be empty and straws removed.

Parent volunteers, then collect our bottles and take them to return and earn. They they drop the money back into our teachers.

This money has gone back into initiatives for our environmental team including buying compostable liners, plastic buckets and tongs.







# Landfill Red Bin

Straws  
Styrofoam  
Coffee cups  
Long life milk  
containers  
Broken plates  
Materials

**And all other waste  
unable to be  
recycled**





# The YELLOW bin !!

The yellow bin is a staff used initiative. We currently have two yellow bins. This is the first year our school has had a yellow bin.



Things we consistently use the yellow bin for includes:

- Tins – Tuna
- Yoghurt pots
- Glass Jars
- Foil containers
- aerosol cans
- Hard plastic - Chinese containers, butter, ice-cream, yoghurt pots, sour cream, tomato sauce bottle and milk containers.





# Environmental 'Green team' club





# The TPS Blue bins

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Blue bins - are in each classroom - for paper ONLY!

These are emptied every Friday afternoon by Stage 3 students and collected for recycling.



# Waste Free Wednesday lunchboxes

Thankyou to all students and staff who have assisted with  
Waste Free Wednesday this term.

It is all about getting our fabulous school community to have an awareness about how we can make a difference so we can to decrease the waste we're contributing to the landfill.

What does this mean exactly?

Waste free means only packing items that can be composted or recycled and that won't end up in the garbage bin. That means,

**no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods.**

For some helpful tips and ideas, please look at the link below.

<https://healthy-kids.com.au/waste-free-lunch/>

A big **Thank you** to Natalie Powles and Bunning Erina North for providing our school community with prizes for our school sustainability programs.

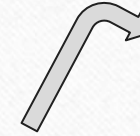
Have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing some wonderful lunchboxes in Term 4.

Mrs Murphy

School newsletter note



WFW token



Our Sustainability leaders encourage this across the school and students receive a token each time they bring in a WFW lunchbox.

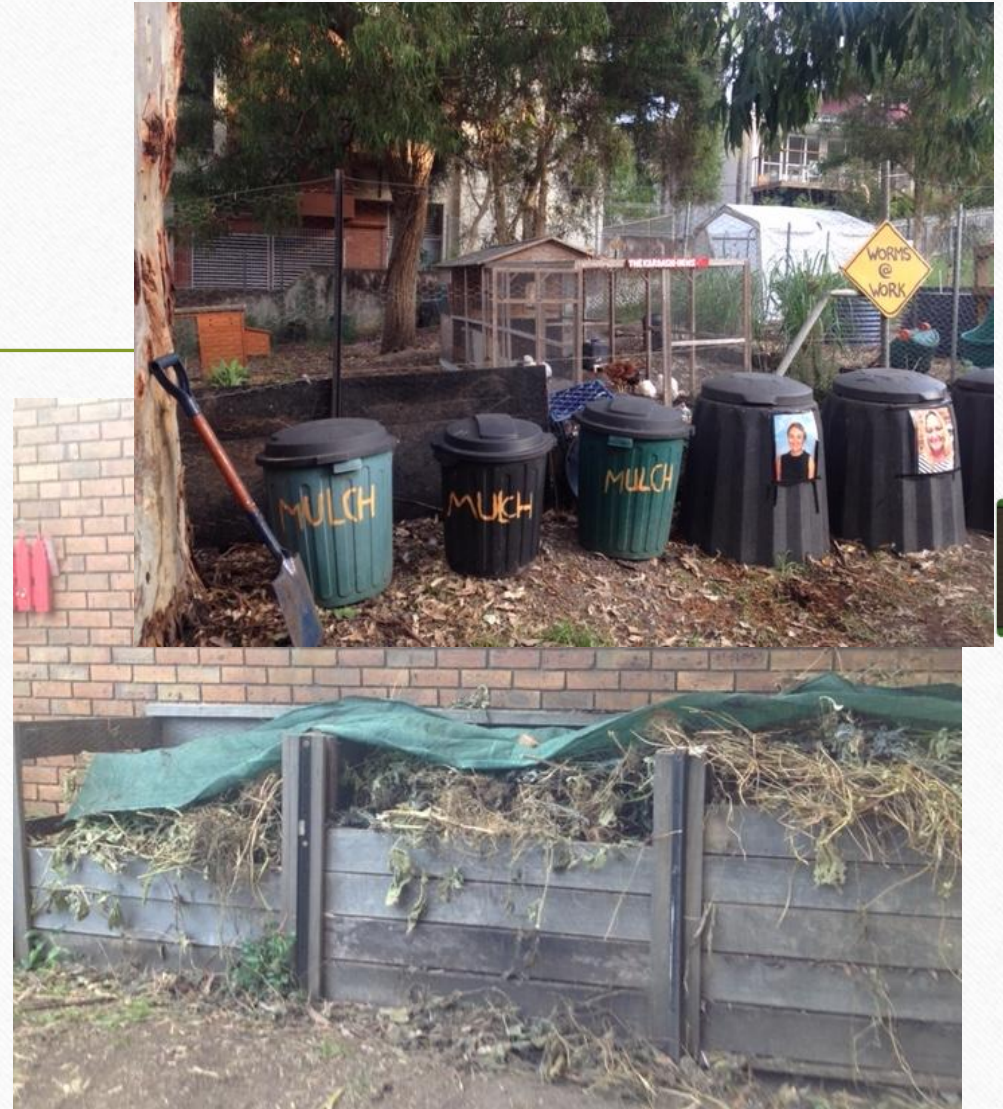
Donated prizes are drawn at the end of each term at the whole school assembly. Examples are show weekly at the Stage assemblies, to keep students interested in this initiative.



# Composting at TPS

In conjunction with our green 'all food waste' bin collection service, each class composts their fruit scraps. These go to our school garden. We have composting bins as well as a large a 3 bay composting system (made with a \$500 Remondis grant).

We use the compost on our vegetable gardens.





# Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Stage 2 students participate in the SAKGP weekly, as part of the Science KLA.

This program incorporates a variety of sustainability concepts.

The students use grow and harvest food in our garden to create a variety of seasonal dishes.



Reading a recipe to make gnocchi



weighing freshly picked beans for a recipe



# Parent information night

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In Term 2, 2020, 2 staff members held a parent information night to inform our invested parents of the role they can play in our waste management initiatives.

Parent signed up to volunteer to take our soft plastics and Return and Earn to the appropriate places.

We communicate with our parents verbally, through email, the school newsletter and our official facebook page.

# Future Goals

## Student goals

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- “I want not to send so much to landfill”
- “I want to stop shopkeepers making so much rubbish”
- “Everyone to have waste-free lunch boxes”

## Parent goals

- “find alternatives or minimize waste produced from our school canteen”
- “no more styrofoam cups in our canteen”



# TPS future goals

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- Students in all stages to be actively involved in the process
- Majority of teacher at TPS aware and actively encouraging the program, using student Environmental team and powerpoint information
- Deliver PL to all staff in 2020
- All K-6 Classes to be participating in recycling program by 2021
- An audit from Rumbalara School in 2022 to sort and weigh our waste

# Cost of these initiatives at TPS

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Source separation solutions bin stations - 4 x bin \$500. We currently have bin stations in Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 and the staff room.

In 2019 we also invested in the yellow bin services and this is used in the staff room and the canteen. We have 3 x 240L at \$121 p/a and these go out fortnightly.

Currently we have a 120L compost bin @ \$546 p/a. This goes out weekly.