

Cross Curriculum Priorities

Our Christmas Tree was saved from the bushland fire!



School logo and totem tree in November 2014



The fire burnt up to our Christmas Tree in January 2015

Empowering projects to care for our bushland have already commenced. Look out for your child's involvement in one of these projects this year.

Welcome to news from the Cross Curriculum Coach for 2015...

The Australian Curriculum identifies three cross curriculum priorities:

- Sustainability
- Aboriginal Cultures and Histories
- Australia's Engagement with Asia

My role in the school is to support the embedding of these cross curriculum priorities into all subjects, from English and Mathematics to Science and Geography, and more ... where ever there is a meaningful link.

2015 is International Year of Soils and International Year of Light, so we have some exciting programs planned in relation to these themes too.

Look out for these special initiatives as the year unfolds.



Sustainability

100 Tonne Plan Achieved ... Next Target?

Working together we achieved our 100 tonne target to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions! This target was reached at the end of 2014, over eighteen month period. This is a huge achievement ... congratulations and thanks to all involved: students, staff, parents, other schools and wider community members.

What do you want our next greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to be? Please provide feedback to Elaine Lewis about the 100 Tonne Plan and what we should aim to do next. You may do this by:

- emailing Elaine – Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au ;
- talking with Elaine on Tuesdays when she is at school.

Your input is vital! Please provide feedback. Thank you.



Eco Footprint

1. Biodiversity Action:

River Rangers

At the end of last year the former Year 6 and 7 River Rangers celebrated our inaugural year as a River Rangers School by an excursion to Nearer to Nature, at The Perth Hills Centre. This River Rangers event complemented their Geography and Science studies.

Our students joined with other River Rangers groups and participated in a totems activity and face painting, sensational trail and invertebrate hunt, Western Shield Trapping and more, as illustrated in some of the photos below:



While at The Perth Hills Centre, our River Rangers took soil samples, as part of their Microblitz citizen science work. Microblitz is building a state-wide map detailing the biodiversity and health of our environment using DNA sequencing to identify the biodiversity of microbes in our soils. Working with the University of WA's Microblitz team, our River Rangers are contributing to the creation of a baseline map that can be shared and used to monitor, manage and protect our precious environment into the future.



2015 Year 6 River Rangers

Our new River Rangers cadets – 44 Year 6 students – met for the first time on Monday 2nd February, the first day of Term 1. Yes, we are enthusiastic! They discussed the aims of the River Rangers program and their preferences for activities in the year ahead. Their preferences included working in the bushland, fishing, canoeing and going to a waterpark.

Next week the cadets will commence work in the bushland. They will be investigating regeneration of the burnt area of the bushland, monitoring their own quadrats monthly.



Later in the year they will start the 2015 planting program. Nearly 1000 native seedlings have been ordered for winter planting. Seedlings will be provided for planting in the bushland by Friends of Coolbinia Bushland, the South East Regional Council for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) and Perth Airport.



Plants in our greenhouse from Perth Airport

Environmental Warriors

Our Environmental Warriors were back at work in the first week of term. What enthusiastic and committed environmental advocates we have!

Thank you for your caring actions!



Assembly presentation by Environmental Warriors ...



now back in action in 2015!

Cooking in the Kwobadarn

The Kwobadarn is the name of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen. It is a Noongar word meaning 'very good place' and it is certainly that! Cooking in the Kwobadarn has ranged from making sushi and sesame chicken, Chinese dumplings and mulberry jam, to baking Sun Biscuits for science to show solar flares (orange sprinkles), sun spots (chocolate bits) and prominences (snakes).



Starting "Sun Biscuits" ...



... to the end product

Your children will be involved in cooking this year, using recipes that link to English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography.

Wildlife at School

Our Tawny Frogmouths have been visiting again ... outside the ELC this time.

Welcome back!



2. WasteWise:

5 Years of Waste Wise Accreditation

At the end of 2014 the Waste Authority congratulated the entire school community at Coolbinia PS for receiving Waste Wise Schools Accreditation for five consecutive years. Marcus Geisler, Chairman of the Waste Authority, said our school's "commitment to waste reduction is laudable".

The school was presented with a special accreditation certificate to serve as both acknowledgement and celebration for all our hard work over the past five years.

Thank you for all your waste wise actions, from recycling batteries and aluminium cans to composting and worm farming .

Bobtail Recycler

The bobtail recycler, located in the undercover area, is nearly ready to be emptied again! Congratulations to all recyclers! Our can recycling has increased dramatically since our bobtail creation. Thank you.



Please continue to support the various wastewise initiatives across the school:

- Recycle batteries outside the Kwobadarn door
- Recycle mobile phone inside Kwobadarn door
- Recycle food scraps using the green bucket in the undercover area
- Use a 'nude food' lunchbox without gladwrap or aluminium foil



Wastewise Roster

Year 4 is the Waste Warrior year in our K-6 Sustainability program. On Tuesday 3rd February Mr Bosworth's class learnt about the Ecological Footprint and where 'waste' fits into sustainability education. Mr Bosworth's class is undertaking wastewise duties this term:

- Emptying the student and staff food scraps bins into the worm farms or compost bins.
- Keeping the worm farms moist in the hot weather.

Thank you to the rostered students. You are doing an important job in recycling our food scraps!

Waste Wise and Healthy Schools

There are many links between the *Waste Wise* and *Healthy Schools* programs. The following table highlights the links between making healthy choices and the impact on the environment.

Behaviour	Environmental impact	Health impact
Use alternative transportation, for example, less car use and more cycling and walking.	Reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality.	Increased physical activity and personal energy expenditure.
Eat locally; eat fewer foods that have been transported over long distances.	Reduction in food miles due to lower transportation. Reduced carbon emissions.	Increased access to fresh produce.
Eat more fruit and vegetables, less meat.	Reduction in grain feed and livestock production. Less processed and packaged foods equals waste reduction.	Increased access to more healthful foods.
Reduced intake of sugar sweetened Beverages.	Fewer bottles and cans - waste reduction. Fewer transportation miles, reduced carbon emissions.	Reduced intake of obesogenic foods.
Eat less processed and packaged foods.	Less packaging-waste reduction. Fewer transportation miles, reduced carbon emissions, reduced use of energy and water to produce food.	Reduced intake of obesogenic foods.
Replace passive entertainment (e.g. TV, electronic games) with more active leisure activities (i.e. riding a bike).	Reduction in use of nonrenewable energy, reduced carbon emissions.	Increased physical activity increased personal energy

From *Waste Wise Words* Vol 41 Dec 2014

For further information please contact the Waste Wise team at one of the following:

wastewise@der.wa.gov.au

6467 5167

www.facebook.com/wastewise

Or visit the website at: www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/programs/waste-wise-schools/

3. WaterWise:

At the end of 2014 our Year 1 & 6 students won the Water Corporation's Waterwise Song competition. Congratulations to all involved! Thank you for helping to promote the waterwise message in such a creative manner.



Our students performing their waterwise song

Pedal Power

Another Waterwise project involves the *Engineers Without Borders* team from the University of WA. They are helping our senior students to develop a water pump using a recycled exercise bike. This pump will be powered by students riding the bike and will pump water from the rainwater tanks to the gardens. This project is expected to be completed this year.



Waterwise Roster

Year 3 has the Waterwise focus in our K-6 Sustainability program. On Tuesday 3rd February Mrs Greer's class learnt about the Ecological Footprint and where 'water' fits into sustainability education. This class will be undertaking waterwise duties this term:

- Using water from our rainwater tanks to water our pots and hanging baskets.
- Ensuring there is water in the bird baths and frog ponds during the hot weather.

Thank you to the rostered students. You are doing an important job by modelling waterwise behaviours and caring for our plants and animals.

Waterwise Fact

Thirst is an indication that your body has already begun to dehydrate: drink water before you feel thirsty.



EnergySmart:

Our EnergySmart program is ongoing. Here are photos from the last solar energy lesson in PP...



PPs learning about the safety rules when the using the solar cooker



PPs cooking lamb & rosemary sausages on solar cooker

Summertime is optimal for using the solar cooker, so it will be in use again this term .

5. TravelSmart:

Film stars! ... for Fume Free Friday

Our 2014 Year 6 TravelSmart students participated in a filming session with 'TravelSmart to School', an initiative of the Department of Transport. 'TravelSmart to School' produced a short 'How we did it' educational video showcasing steps that parents, teachers and students had taken to successfully run a TravelSmart initiative at our school. You may see the video on the following link:

<http://www.coolbiniaps.wa.edu.au/?page=news&newsitem=761>

Other exciting TravelSmart news ...

We achieved Platinum level as a TravelSmart School at the end of 2014. This is a huge achievement and the students worked hard to reach this standard.



And ... we were awarded TravelSmart School of the Year!



TravelSmart Roster

Year 5 is the TravelSmart year in our K-6 Sustainability program. On Tuesday 10th February Mr Owen's class will review understandings about the Ecological Footprint and where 'transport and air quality' fits into sustainability education. Students from Mr Owen's class will be involved in organising the TravelSmart activities for this term:

- Fume Free Fridays
- Ride to School Day

Please be TravelSmart and support the students' initiatives.

TravelSmart at Coolbinia involves:

- Ride to School Day on 6th March
- Fume Free Fridays ... to reduce congestion around the school and help the environment. Please walk or ride to school every Friday.
- Walking School Bus ... they are fun, healthy and good for the atmosphere!
- Idle Free Zones ... in car parks to reduce carbon emissions.

Sincere thanks to all TravelSmart supporters throughout 2014 and let's make it another fume free, healthy year!

Social Handprint

1. Student Wellbeing:

Kids Who Give WA

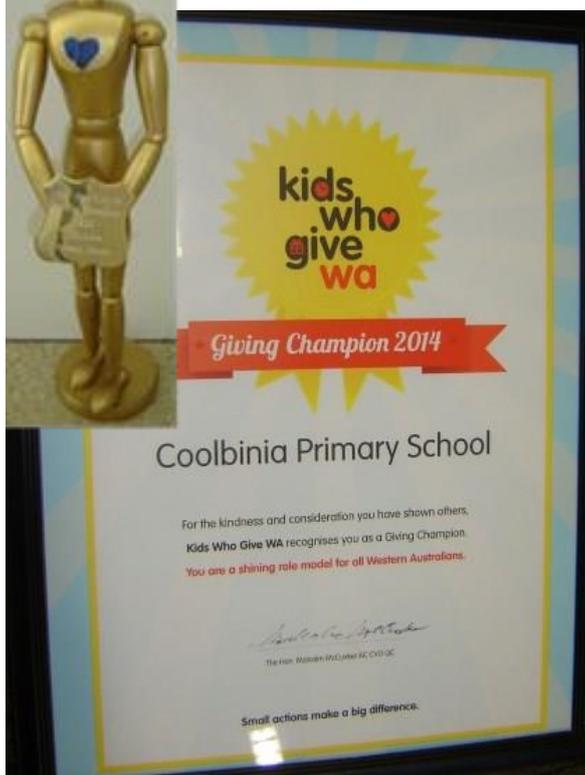
As a 'Champion' Kids Who Give WA school we were awarded a \$1000 prize for our fundraising and caring initiatives throughout 2014. Year 6 & 7 students voted on how they wanted to spend the \$1000 prize money. It was expected that this prize money would be used for a good cause or causes.

Student voting resulted in the following allocation of donations:

UNICEF Australia - Ebola Children's Crisis	\$500
Youth Off the Streets (homeless youth in Australia)	\$280
Kids With Cancer Foundation Australia	\$220
Total:	\$1000

Youth Off the Streets received another \$120 donation from the Astronomy Camp 'River of Hope' fundraiser, making a total of \$400 for this charity.

Sincere thanks to students, staff, parents and community members who supported our various fundraising activities throughout the year.



RSL Care Visits

Coolbinia's caring relationship with RSL Care, Menora, finished on a high note at the end of last year. During Term 4 students performed concerts at RSL Care bringing joy to the residents. Some residents also attended our end of year concert and were thrilled by the children's items. However, benefits go both ways, as our students are provided with an opportunity to showcase their performance skills and learn how to care for others in practical ways.



Students singing at RSL Care

2. Aboriginal Cultures:

Last year we worked with Peter and Miranda-Lee Farmer on our award winning 'Understanding Totems' project. Peter worked with our students on a large artwork representing our totems, while both Peter and Miranda-Lee provided information about the different totems.

Coleen Sherritt, Noongar language specialist from the Department of Education, provided language support for our totems project.

The culmination of this project was showcased at our end-of-year concert. Sincere thanks to the whole school community for your outstanding support for this initiative.



This year our Aboriginal culture focus will be based in our bushland. Please refer to the Aboriginal Cultures and Histories section below for details.

3. Cultural & Social Diversity:

At the end of last year Coolbinia PS participated in the International Kids Teaching Kids conference. Attendees and presenters came from all states of Australia and overseas.

The students attended Panel Sessions with experts from across a wide range of environmental education fields, as well as workshops and presentations conducted by students from other schools, including from China and India.

Here are more photos of our students presenting their *Fishing Fandango*:



4. Community Partnerships:

Coolbinia PS has close links with many community organisations and government departments. One such organisation is the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE).

Australian Association for Environmental Education

- 100 Tonne Plan: We were represented at the AAEE biennial conference in Hobart recently, with Elaine presenting a paper on our 100 Tonne Plan. Other schools across Australia expressed interest in our approach to education for sustainability and wanted to know how we go about embedding this cross curriculum priority in different learning areas.

- Little Green Steps: This is an early childhood program developed by AAEE WA aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of sustainability issues in young children, such as using food scraps for worm farming and enhancing intercultural understandings.
- Turtle Watch: This year we have completed a number of activities related to the conservation of the oblong turtle. This will enable school accreditation as a Turtle Watch School, another initiative of AAEE WA.
- Support from AAEE members in other government departments, such as, Michael Burke, Senior Education Officer, Department of Fisheries. Michael arranged for Glen Jakovich of Eagles fame, now a Promotions Officer for Fisheries, to present a talk on the importance of sustainable fishing.

5. Economics & Built Environment:

Boya Currency:

Boyas are our local currency created to reward environmentally and socially supportive actions. There are three different boyas circulating in our community and wider:

- 1 boya notes from our initial 10 Tonne Plan in 2011,
- 5 boya notes from our 50 Tonne Plan in 2012-2013 and
- 10 boya notes from our recently completed 100 Tonne Plan, 2013-2014.

Boyas can be spent at assembly garden produce stalls and the canteen.

Aboriginal Cultures and Histories

'Understanding Totems' 2014 PALS Project

The aim of the 'Understanding Totems' project was to enhance understandings of Aboriginal culture. The totems project was part-funded by a PALS grant. The PALS acronym stands for the qualities of Partnership, Acceptance, Learning and Sharing. This program encourages young people to take a leadership role in strengthening relationships in their local community between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The 2014 PALS project focused on the 'Arts' category. As mentioned above, Peter Farmer, renowned Noongar artist, guided our students working on the large totems artwork. Sincere thanks to Peter for sharing his expertise with us and his outstanding support for our 2014 PALS project.



Coolbinia PS was the winner of the 'Arts' category. School wide congratulations to all students, staff and parents. For more information and photos about the 'Understanding Totems' project, including the PALS Awards Ceremony at Parliament House, please see:

<http://www.coolbiniaps.wa.edu.au/?page=news&newsitem=746>



'From Black to Gold' 2015 PALS Project

The aim of this project is to create a trail through our bushland, identifying plant and animal species, in the context of Noongar culture. Issues such as the six seasons, regeneration after fire and the use of plants for food and medicines will be addressed. The draft title of the book is: *From Black to Gold*.



From Black: Our bushland in January



To Gold: Our Christmas Tree

All classes will participate in the project and contribute to a book being written by the River Rangers. Noongar educators and artists will work with our students. *Millennium Kids*, a youth leadership group, will support our River Rangers to write and publish the book. The River Rangers have already commenced work on the project. They are identifying quadrats in the bushland and monitoring regeneration on a monthly basis.

On the Staff Development Day at the start of this term, staff investigated the state of the bushland and conducted a range of experiments that will be adapted for their classrooms. This photo shows one group in the process of conducting a leaf litter study.



The 2015 PALS project aims to enhance relationships and futures between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. This aligns with Coolbinia PS's *Reconciliation Action Plan* that is working to develop sustainable community partnerships focused on building positive relationships for all.

Watch this space for regular updates on this exciting and empowering project.

Australia's Engagement with Asia

To enhance the implementation of the Asian Cross Curriculum Priority of the Australian Curriculum, a new partnership is being established with the University of WA through Professor Lyn Parker, Anthropologist with the UWA School of Social Sciences, Asian Studies. Elaine and Professor Parker are exploring avenues for collaboration, such as starting a sister school relationship with a primary school in Indonesia.



Students learn to take shelter under a desk as part of their disaster management preparedness at Wadoi Primary School, Indonesia.

Finally, a special welcome to new parents and care givers at our school. I look forward to working with you this year, along with all the community members who so generously and kindly supported me throughout 2014. It is a privilege to work at Coolbinia Primary School with such enthusiastic and committed students, staff and parents. Have an inspiring, empowering and joyful year of learning adventures ...

Sincerely

Elaine Lewis

Cross Curriculum Coach (Part time role; located in the Kwobadarn on Tuesdays)

3 February 2015