

Bull Creek Primary School

• Recycling Bikes Program • Bin Sponsorship

Background

Bull Creek Primary School – 12 minutes south of the Perth CBD – runs an exciting and innovative program where students renovate old bikes before they are sold or donated for reuse.

Many exciting Waste Wise initiatives capture the hearts and minds of students, staff and parents alike at this vibrant school. Two initiatives particularly stand out – the bikes program and the bin sponsoring. Each program highlights how community links and practical, hands-on learning can benefit the environment.

Bikes Program

Bike Education – a program encouraging safe and responsible cycling to school – had been a tremendous success at Bull Creek Primary School in 2000 when teacher Chris Leeuwangh's mind went into top gear, devising a new in-school program to renovate old bikes and teach students outside a classroom setting.

The Bikes Program was launched with a handful of interested students who learned how to repair punctures and perform basic safety checks. The program has sped ahead since its humble beginnings and students now tackle complex tasks such as stripping bikes, replacing parts and rebuilding them into a reliable and environmentally friendly form of transport.

The program made local news in 2003 when it restored and sold 65 bikes raising \$1000 for CanTeen (young people living with cancer).



EVERY BIKE RESCUED MEANS LESS LANDFILL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ANOTHER ENJOYABLE PROJECT FOR THE STUDENTS.

Donations of old bikes come from City of Cockburn Landfill Site Manager, local shop Georges Bikes (which accepts donations from customers), students and parents – especially during council collection times when old bikes are discarded on the kerbside.

The school keeps some restored bikes for its safe cycling lessons, while others are donated to Good Samaritan Industries or sold to the school community for around \$10-\$20. In 2005, bikes were taken by parents to children in Bali.

Some of the money raised is fed back into the program to buy tools and equipment.

According to Mr Leeuwangh the program brings many benefits:

- Students understand they are making a valuable contribution to the environment and local waste management services as bikes take up a lot of space in landfill.
- Students who prefer “hands-on” activities to academic programs are acquiring valuable skills in Technology and Enterprise and problem solving by experimenting with different parts on bikes.
- Peer education through a mobile display of a deconstructed bike, helps the program's students explain the working parts to other students.
- Safety is promoted through the correct handling of tools and bikes.
- A healthy, active lifestyle is encouraged as more students ride to school
- Targeted at Year 6/7 students, the program is a unique opportunity for students in the junior classes to look forward to participating in.

Bin Sponsoring

Bull Creek's bin sponsorship initiative is a perfect example of a win-win situation.

Many parents own or work for companies that sponsor one or more of the eight paper recycling bins at the school. In return for covering the annual cost of the bin, the company's name is prominently displayed on it and they are acknowledged in the school newsletter.

Bin sponsors are established at the beginning of each year, providing a great opportunity for the school community to show its support.

“Go ahead and do it. You will feel much better and you will learn a lot!” Year 6 student

