

# North Mandurah Education Support Centre (ESC)

- Paper Recycling • Worm Farm • Ice-cream Containers • Stamps

## Background

Sharing a site with North Mandurah Primary School, in the Peel region, North Mandurah ESC has 32 students from Years 1-7. Since 2001, the ESC has been involved in environmental programs, teaching the children important life skills for the future.

The ESC students at North Mandurah, who have mild to moderate learning disabilities, benefit socially and educationally from a range of interesting Waste Wise projects.

## Learning About Worms

The life cycle of a worm is a fascinating and exciting discovery for the students at North Mandurah ESC. Students collect lunch scraps and blend them into a smooth mixture which is added to the class worm farm.

ESC students were able to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the worm farm with a group of Year 2 students. This collaboration reinforced their social skills and confidence.

Proceeds from the sale of *Worm Wee* go to North Mandurah's sister school in Bali.



*MAKING LUNCH FOR THE WORMS – STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT HOW TO OPERATE THE BLENDER SAFELY.*



*"EVERY HOUSE NEEDS TO BE CLEANED, EVEN THE WORM HOUSE! HERE, ONE OF THE STUDENTS IS CLEANING OUT THE DRAINAGE PIPE, SO THAT WORMS DO NOT GET TRAPPED IN THERE...AND ALSO TO ALLOW THE WORM WEE TO FLOW INTO THE COLLECTION BUCKET TO BE BOTTLED AND SOLD." PAM BENNETT, ESC TEACHER*

## Paper Recycling

The ESC students collect paper from other classes and sort it into reusable and recyclable piles. Reusable paper is made into planning pads for other classes or donated as note pads for local businesses. Recyclable paper is collected by Cleanaway.



*STUDENTS MAKE "HAVE A GO" PADS AND GRAPH THE NUMBER OF PADS GIVEN TO EACH CLASS.*

**Students also shred paper, which is fed to the worms, given away for pet bedding, used as garden mulch, and as packaging by local businesses.**

## Ice-cream Containers

The senior ESC class runs an ice-cream container collection for a Perth recycler. Proceeds from container sales are used to purchase student resources. Students plot and graph the number of containers to determine the amount collected and which class has collected the most each semester.

**In 2002 recycled ice-cream containers were used by a shipping company in building the interior of yachts such as Greg Norman's luxury cruiser.**

## Stamps

Postage stamps are saved by students and office staff and sent to a Uniting Church member in Perth who passes them on to Inland Mission. The stamps are sold to dealers and the money is used for Inland Mission's medical supplies in the North West.

## Plans for the Future

North Mandurah ESC hopes to complete its disabled access garden next year by planting a mix of native plants, herbs and vegetables. The garden will be maintained by the students.

*"Students have made fantastic progress in the area of social skills by speaking to unfamiliar people as they collect paper from each class."*

*Pam Bennett, ESC teacher*

