

Weld Square Primary School

- Stamp Collection • Batteries • Ice-cream Containers • Worm Farm • Shade-House
- Compost • Printer Cartridges • Recycling Prizes

Background

Weld Square Primary School in Morley features an area of bushland surrounds. It's the perfect location for the 225 students to observe first-hand how they can care for the environment.

Recycling has been a way of life for Weld Square staff and students for almost a decade. It was no surprise then that the school was one of the first to join the Waste Wise Schools Program in February 2002, integrating their existing recycling programs with some new initiatives.

Like all Waste Wise schools, the focus at Weld Square is on student ownership and community involvement. Each class is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of at least one aspect of the Environmental Program, including stamp and battery collection, and the recycling of spectacles and aluminium ring-pulls.



LOOKING AFTER THE WORM FARM AND PLANT SEEDLINGS LOCATED IN THE SCHOOL'S SHADE-HOUSE.



THE PRE-PRIMARY STUDENTS RUN THEIR OWN COMPOST SYSTEM.



USED STAMPS ARE SENT TO THE LIONS CLUB STAMPS PROGRAM. SORTING PROVIDES RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

Reusing

As well as reusing household packaging for various craft, science and technology projects, other items are collected for reuse and donated to community organizations.

- Stamps are used by the Lions Club Stamps Program – elderly people collect and peel them to help keep their hands and eyes working well; young people collect them in themes; and stamp sets are framed and sold for fundraising.
- Ice-cream containers are collected for industry reuse – Plasti-Cycle pays \$30 for 300 clean containers.
- Old computers are donated to Computer Angels, an organisation where volunteers provide old computers and basic training for those who cannot afford to buy a new one.



PRINTER AND COPIER CARTRIDGES ARE SENT TO PLANET ARK – THIS COLLECTION BOX IS SITUATED IN THE FRONT OFFICE.



The Year 6 students demonstrate a sound understanding of waste management. From littering to leaking toxins, the students could explain the environmental benefits of banning small jelly cups after packaging was continually left on the school oval; and how discarded batteries could leak harmful toxins into the earth.

Eyes and Ears

Many of us take our eyes and ears for granted. We can see and hear without help. For others however, it's a different story. A Lions Club service is helping to improve their quality of life.

When fire or flood hits here in Australia or overseas, many people lose their glasses and hearing aids. There are also many people including Indigenous Australians, who do not have access to hearing aids or glasses.

The Lions Club Save Sight Foundation and the Lions Club Hearing Aid Bank collect used glasses and hearing aids and resurrect them for people who would otherwise go without. See the "Where to Recycle" (page 30) for contact details.



EYE GLASSES ARE SENT TO THE LIONS CLUB FOR PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Recycling

Weld Square has a comprehensive recycling program and students are encouraged to bring items in from home. Tokens for cans, ring-pulls and batteries are drawn for fortnightly prizes and certificates are given to families who regularly contribute.

- Paper and cardboard are recycled through the City of Bayswater.
- Used plant pots are taken to a local nursery to be sent to the Pot Recyclers for recycling.
- Dry cell batteries are collected for the Schools Dry Cell Battery Collection Program through the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council.
- Aluminium cans are sold to Metro Can Recyclers.
- Aluminium ring-pulls are donated to the Rotary Club of Scarborough, who forward them on to Wheelchairs for Kids. This organisation sells aluminium cans and ring-pulls to scrap metal dealers to raise money for wheelchairs for children in developing countries.

Awards and Public Recognition

- 2004 – Winners of \$5000 from the IKEA Schools Competition.
- 2001– Year 2 and 2002 Years 1, 3 and 5 at Murdoch University School of Environmental Science Competition.
- 1999 – Runner up in Earth Schools.
- Weld Square's ring-pull collection promoted on local radio.

Plans for the Future

Weld Square Primary School plans to build a more visible enclosure in local bushland to grow and identify and label local native plants for the Men of the Trees project.

