

# Schoolgrounds for Living and Learning - 2005 Case Studies

## Arthurs Creek Primary School

<b>Location</b>	900 Arthurs Creek Road, Arthurs Creek
<b>School size</b>	52
<b>Phone</b>	9714 8204
<b>Fax</b>	9714 8433
<b>School website</b>	

Gould League worked with this school to develop a Schoolgrounds Masterplan with assistance from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. With great support from the School Council and Principal, Arthurs Creek Primary School was inspired to improve its schoolgrounds and has made great progress with many exciting projects.



*A guardian watches over the Arthurs Creek Primary School Vegetable Garden  
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### **Educational Outcomes**

#### ***Enriching the curriculum***

The school has found many opportunities to enrich the curriculum with schoolgrounds projects.

- The theme was integrated into English, Maths, Health and PE, Science, Technology, and Civics.
- The theme will be used in 2006 to implement VELs (Victorian Essential Learning Standards)
- Teachers and students use the schoolgrounds for more learning opportunities
- Outdoor learning has become more achievable for teachers

#### ***Action based learning***

The hands-on projects offered by schoolgrounds projects:

- stimulated students' creativity
- enabled students to take responsibility for their own learning

## Social Outcomes

### *Community Engagement*

- Community involvement in erecting chicken coop
- Community involvement in vegetable garden
- Growth in community pride
- Pleasure felt by immediate community

### *Whole School Involvement*

- **Staff** attended propagation PD through Nillumbik Shire
- **Students** responsible for caring for garden, planting shrubs, participating in community Landcare plantings
- **School Council** - Direction for school council re grounds improvements – implementation plan being drawn up – with timeline at next school council meeting.
- **Community** participation in several projects.

### *Working as a Team*

The schoolgrounds planning process and subsequent projects encouraged team work amongst the students, staff and wider school community.

## Environmental Outcomes

### *Biodiversity*

- Focus on biodiversity
- 250 indigenous shrubs, grasses and climbers planted
- Native grasses bed planted
- Bird and butterfly attracting areas planted
- Indigenous creepers planted to cover front fence
- Greenhouse being installed.

### *Water*

- Saving approximately 150 litres water per week for use on garden through containers under drinking taps.
- Replacing gardens with indigenous, drought resistant species

### *Other*

- Old Wisteria replaced with six passion fruit vines
- Vegetable garden more fully utilized
- Chicken coop established

## Economic Outcomes

At this stage Arthurs Creek Primary School have not applied for any awards or grants but are enjoying the great pleasure the projects are bringing to the school community.

# Bayles Regional Primary School

<b>Location</b>	3730 Ballarto Rd, Bayles
<b>School size</b>	95
<b>Phone</b>	5997 7261
<b>Fax</b>	5997 7441
<b>School website</b>	<a href="http://www.baylesps.vic.edu.au/">http://www.baylesps.vic.edu.au/</a>

Gould League worked with this small rural school to develop a Schoolgrounds Masterplan with assistance from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. The school is also involved in the EcoRecycle Waste Wise Schools Program. The school community has enthusiastically developed their schoolgrounds and enjoy the whole-hearted support of the School Council and Principal. The school is now very focused on raising funds and working to complete many of the different projects identified in their Schoolgrounds Masterplan. The year 6 students in particular were very keen to achieve some changes before they completed their time at the school this year.

## Educational Outcomes

### *Enriching the curriculum*

The school has found many opportunities to enrich the curriculum with schoolgrounds projects.

- The theme was integrated into English, Maths, Health and PE, Arts, Science, and Technology
- The theme will be used in 2006 to implement VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards)
- Teachers and students use the schoolgrounds for more learning opportunities
- Outdoor learning has become more achievable for teachers

### *Action based learning*

The hands-on projects offered by schoolgrounds projects:

- stimulated students' creativity
- enabled students to take responsibility for their own learning

## Social Outcomes

### *School Culture*

The school has noted a reduction in inappropriate behaviour in the schoolgrounds (eg bullying) and has achieved exceptionally high rankings in parent surveys.

### *Better play areas*

Students now enjoy the benefits of alternative play options from:

- Two new playgrounds
- Playground seating
- Two rotundas/ shade shelters
- Freshly painted school fencing and garden shed
- Painting and hand prints on a water tank
- New sandpit
- Shade shelter over a playground
- A new sports gym from the refurbishment of junk shed (lined, carpet, etc)

### ***Whole School Involvement***

“The pride we have in what we have achieved and the involvement of our children and the community consolidates this as the most important project we have been involved in on so many levels.”

Sue Goodall, Principal

- Increased Parent involvement and PRIDE in our school
- Parent and community members are involved in Gardening club
- All students in the school involved in extensive plantings

### ***Working as a Team***

- Encouraged team work amongst the students, staff and wider school community
- Formation of a Gardening Club
- Students, teachers and leadership team working together on masterplan

### ***Student Leadership***

- Leadership team created to coordinate Garden Club
- Year 6 students very keen to achieve some changes before they completed their time at the school.

### ***Student Recognition***

The school has received several grants and awards, including:

- Gould League Helen McPherson Trust Schoolgrounds Masterplanning Grant
- Coles Myer Garden Grant
- Award of Merit in the 2005 Schools' Garden Awards
- Regional Garden Award, small schools category
- Waste Wise Science, Design or Technology Project prize of \$100

## **Environmental Outcomes**

The school has established the following projects that will bring environmental benefits.

### ***Biodiversity***

- Established a Frog Bog
- Maintaining a chicken shed and chickens
- Creating numerous garden beds with extensive planting
- Vegetable garden

### ***Water***

- Installing a new water tank for surplus rainwater to use on gardens
- Mulching all garden beds
- Water wise planting

### ***Waste***

- Worm Farming
- Classroom recycling program

## **Economic Outcomes**

- Prize money from awards

# Fitzroy Primary School

<b>Location</b>	319 George Street, Fitzroy
<b>School size</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	9417 4222
<b>Fax</b>	9419 3180
<b>School website</b>	<a href="http://www.fitzroyprimaryschool.vic.edu.au/">http://www.fitzroyprimaryschool.vic.edu.au/</a>

Gould League worked with Fitzroy Primary School to develop a Schoolgrounds Masterplan with assistance from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. The school was inspired to improve its schoolgrounds and has made great progress with many exciting projects. This urban school is passionate about providing the best opportunities for their students, many of whom are recent immigrants to Australia. Their activity is supported by a principal who makes excellent links with community networks and resources.



*Fitzroy Primary School students planting in their garden beds.  
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## Educational Outcomes

### *Enriching the curriculum*

The school has found many opportunities to enrich the curriculum with schoolgrounds projects.

- The theme was integrated into English, Maths, Health and PE, and Science.
- The theme will be used in 2006 to implement VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards)
- Teachers and students use the schoolgrounds for more learning opportunities
- Projects stimulated students' creativity
- Outdoor learning has become more achievable for teachers – for example, the development of the “Multicultural Kitchen Garden” on the Napier street site of the school has provided the students and parents with outdoor learning activities involving the planting, growing, maintenance and harvesting of fresh produce.

## Social Outcomes

### *Working as a Team*

The many schoolgrounds projects encouraged teamwork amongst the students and staff.

### ***Better play areas***

Students now enjoy the benefits of alternative play options from:

- A large concrete area on the Napier Street site, generally an unused space, has been transformed into a vegetable garden area.
- A large recycled fence paling screen has been used as a backdrop, providing privacy and aesthetic improvement.
- A small chicken shed and four chickens.

### ***Student Recognition***

The school's great work has been recognised with several awards including:

- Royal Melbourne Show: Schools Gardening Competition
- Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria award
- Victorian Schools' Garden Award

## **Environmental Outcomes**

### ***Water***

- A 4500 litre water tank and new guttering on the Napier street building have been installed and is now operational.
- Students are now more aware of responsible water usage.

### ***Biodiversity***

- Three new raised red gum sleeper garden beds (2 x 5500mm x 2350mm) (1 x 2750mm x 1800mm) have been planted with seasonal vegetables. Two smaller (1000mm x 1000mm) areas have been used for fruit trees (Lemon and Lime). There is also an area 8000mm x 500mm which has been used for planting herbs.
- A cyclone fenced chicken enclosure has also been built and now houses a small chicken shed and 4 chickens.

### ***Waste***

- Students are now more aware of recycling.

## **Economic Outcomes**

The school has received the following economic benefits from awards and grants:

- Garden seat and \$100 plant gift voucher from Royal Melbourne Show: Schools Gardening Competition
- Mature tree, gardening tools, products and books from Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria award
- \$137.00 plant gift voucher from School Garden Awards.
- \$5000 from City West Water for the installation of a water tank and guttering
- \$10,600 from Department of Education for site development
- \$4000 and 20 staff from ANZ Bank to further develop the Napier Street gardens and kitchen.

## Corio West Primary School

<b>Location</b>	Wexford Court, Corio
<b>School size</b>	430
<b>Phone</b>	52753261
<b>Fax</b>	52756207
<b>School website</b>	See <a href="http://www.corioshorescluster.vic.edu.au/">http://www.corioshorescluster.vic.edu.au/</a>

Gould League worked with Corio West Primary School to develop a Schoolgrounds Masterplan with assistance from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. The school was inspired to improve its schoolgrounds and has used the process to enable students to take greater ownership and pride in their projects and to make more use of the schoolgrounds in school projects.



*Corio West Primary School students search for minibeasts in their new minibeast habitat.  
© Gould League 2005. Photos may not be reproduced without permission.*

### **Educational Outcomes**

#### ***Enriching the curriculum***

The school has found many opportunities to enrich the curriculum with schoolgrounds projects.

- The theme was integrated into English, Maths, Health and PE, Science, Arts, ICT, Technology, and SOSE.
- The theme will be used in 2006 to implement VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards)
- Teachers and students use the schoolgrounds for more learning opportunities
- Projects stimulated students' creativity
- Outdoor learning has become more achievable for teachers

#### ***Action based learning***

The hands-on projects offered by schoolgrounds projects enabled students to take responsibility for their own learning.

### ***Working as a Team***

The schoolgrounds planning process and subsequent projects encouraged teamwork amongst the students, staff and wider school community.

## **Social Outcomes**

### ***School Culture***

The school has noted a reduction in inappropriate behaviour in the schoolgrounds (eg bullying).

### ***Community Engagement***

- Tree planting day held as part of Alcoa's million trees project.
- Parents supported garden elective.

### ***Better play areas***

Students now enjoy the benefits of alternative play options from:

- Vegetable gardens and minibeast areas established
- Removed some asphalt and provided seating.
- Plantings in infant playground

### ***Student Recognition***

Barwon South Western Achievement Award in Victorian Schools' Garden Awards

## **Environmental Outcomes**

### ***Biodiversity***

- Vegetable garden (54m<sup>2</sup>) established
- Minibeast area prepared and established including frog environment (108m<sup>2</sup>)
- 450 trees and shrubs planted
- Some asphalt areas removed

## **Economic Outcomes**

Applied for Commonwealth grant to put in tanks for catching rainwater

## Croydon West Primary School

<b>Location</b>	Hinkley Avenue, Croydon
<b>School size</b>	200
<b>Phone</b>	9870 1566
<b>Fax</b>	9870 1228
<b>School website</b>	<a href="http://www.croydonwestps.vic.edu.au/">http://www.croydonwestps.vic.edu.au/</a>

Gould League worked with Croydon West Primary School to develop a Schoolgrounds Masterplan with assistance from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. Croydon West is also a Sustainable School and very active in many areas. The school was inspired to improve its schoolgrounds and has been very keen in following up with schoolgrounds projects.



*Students love their new friends in the chicken coop  
© Gould League 2005. Photos may not be reproduced without permission.*

### **Educational Outcomes**

#### ***Enriching the curriculum***

The school has found many opportunities to enrich the curriculum with schoolgrounds projects.

- The theme was integrated into English, Maths, Health and PE, Science, Arts, Technology, SOSE, and Civics.
- The theme will be used in 2006 to implement VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards)
- Teachers and students use the schoolgrounds for more learning opportunities
- Projects stimulated students' creativity
- Outdoor learning has become more achievable for teachers, for example with the class gardens

#### ***Action based learning***

The hands-on projects offered by schoolgrounds projects enabled students to take responsibility for their own learning.

## **Social Outcomes**

### ***School Culture***

The school has noted a reduction in inappropriate behaviour in the schoolgrounds (eg bullying).  
Healthy menu in canteen

### ***Better play areas***

Students now enjoy the benefits of alternative play options.

### ***Working as a Team***

The schoolgrounds planning process and subsequent projects encouraged teamwork amongst the students, staff and wider school community.

### ***Student Leadership***

Grade 4 Eco Captains organise school litter watch days

### ***Student Recognition***

Victorian Schools' Garden Award

## **Environmental Outcomes**

### ***Biodiversity***

- Vegetable Garden
- Establishing class gardens, which students planned, planted and now maintain
- Establishing chicken coop
- Establishing Peace Garden
- Acquiring three green tree frogs

### ***Waste***

- Composting
- Recycling (paper, green waste, cans, bottles, bottle tops, corks)
- Worm farm
- Rubbish free lunches
- Eating inside or in a designated area (one bin in school yard)
- Establishing process of whole school litter watch on Tuesdays and Fridays organised by Grade 4 Eco Captains
- Canteen rubbish-free initiatives
- Painted food court bin and recycle bin to encourage students to be litter wise.

### ***Water***

- Mulching all garden areas
- Extensive planting with drought resistant plants and bird attracting plants, many of which are indigenous to the Maroondah region

## **Economic Outcomes**

- Landcare Grant for Peace Garden
- Grant for Frog Habitat
- Prize from Victorian Schools' Garden Awards
- The school has also submitted various grant applications to fund future projects

# Kings Park Primary School

Large (approx 550 students) primary school in St Albans with students from many different ethnicities, particularly those of Vietnamese background.

Kings Park Primary School has a model gardening program based on their ever increasing *Kings Patch Vegetable Garden* – a large area at the side of the school that is devoted to a garden classroom. It includes many garden beds, shade house, compost area, water tanks, garden shed and the new addition of a shaded outdoor classroom adjacent to the shed. The students work with their teachers and gardening teachers employed by the school from Cultivating Community.

Other schoolgrounds features around the school include a Japanese Courtyard Garden to complement the schools' LOTE language studies and an indigenous garden

## 2005 achievements / projects

- Students with Gould League facilitator planned extensions to the *Kings Patch Vegetable Garden*
- A shaded outdoor classroom area in the *Kings Patch Vegetable Garden* has been built by the school community
- New playground installed – student recommendations used
- An application for federal funding has been submitted to allow our environmental education program to encompass greater cooking opportunities through the use of an outdoor learning centre with kitchen. (A recommendation from the students)
- The School council has approved the establishment of a new Vietnamese Garden to build on the success of the *Kings Patch Vegetable Garden*.



## **Educational Outcomes**

- Disciplines taught that have made use of the schoolgrounds during 2005 are:
  - English
  - Maths
  - Health and PE
  - Science
  - Arts
  - Civics
- Working with the Schoolgrounds Masterplanning program enabled teachers to see that students have many ideas about what should be in 'their' schoolyard.
- New outdoor classroom

## **Social Outcomes**

- Members of the greater school community actively took part in the building of the shaded seating area in the *Kings Patch Vegetable Garden*.
- Students are now part of schoolgrounds planning processes.

## **Environmental Outcomes**

- Schoolground biodiversity has been increased by expansions to both the vegetable and indigenous garden areas

## **Economic Outcomes**

- Prize money from Schools' Garden Awards Regional Award