

ST RAPHAELS SCHOOL PRODUCTIVE FOOD GARDEN

This project aims to encourage the involvement of the entire school community; students, teachers and parents, in the creation of a productive food garden within the school playground. The creation of this garden will teach the school community about the NATURAL world, its wonders, beauty and how to cultivate and care for it.

Funds were received from Cowra Council to complete Stages One and Two of the St Raphaels School Productive Food Garden.

Stage One Kindergarden has expanded with the acquisition of a further two mobile pallet beds constructed by the Cowra Mens Shed.



Stage two of this project was to construct a cylindrical garden in close proximity to water storage. We proposed to install a minimum of 4 beds using old water tanks in the area . The water tank is to be the primary source of water for the beds. A combination of hardy herbs and vegetables were to be the preliminary plantings.

Cowra Mens Shed was employed to modify old water tanks. After dividing the tanks they were made safe for use. Following a major working bee in the school playground in March 2015 these beds were positioned and filled. These beds have been allocated to Year 6.

Stage Three of the garden project was to install 5 raised wicking beds for Years 1 through to 5. These beds were acquired from Amos Water Tanks Cowra. These beds were also constructed as wicking beds and filled with soil on the day of the working bee.





PROJECT BUDGET

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING AMOUNT	ACTUAL
Garden Beds	2 Mobile Pallet Beds	\$165	\$220
	5 Upcycled Rainwater Tanks	\$200	\$200
	5 Amos Garden Beds	\$1600	\$1600
Planting Mix	Vegetable Garden Mix	\$400	\$800
Garden Tools	Hand Tools, Wheelbarrow Watering Cans	\$320	Donated \$85 Donated
Materials to install Wicking Bed	Plastic lining, water pipes, etc	\$100	\$400
Seedlings		\$50	Donated
<i>FUNDING SOUGHT</i>		<i>\$1000</i>	

Funds received from Cowra Council purchased two Mobile Pallet Beds (\$220), modified old rain water tanks(\$200) and the balance of the grant (\$560) contributed to the purchase of the raised beds from Amos Water tanks.

TIMELINE FOR PROJECT

DATE of Start	STAGE	
October 2014	Stage 1 – KINDIGARDEN a courtyard area situated outside the kindergarten rooms. Garden is based around an upcycled container concept. Two mobile pallet beds constructed (\$165), filled and planted (\$20). Used tyres for containers of herb plantings. Set up small worm farm and compostin bin to utilize playground waste. (Donated by Bunnings)	Complete
November 2014	Blue barrels sculpted and used as a wicking container.	Complete
February 2015	Additional 2 pallet beds to be acquired. (\$165)	Complete
February 2015	Assess site for Stage 3 and sun exposure.	Complete
February 2015	Stage 2 – A CYLINDRICAL GARDEN within the playground situated near an existing rainwater tank. Modify discarded rain water tanks and adapt to be used as raised vegetable gardens. Beds to be set up as wicking beds. Set up a larger composting system for playground waste.	Complete
March 2015	Plant out beds with seasonal vegetables.	Incomplete
June 2015	A small selection of bare rooted fruit bearing trees to be planted on embankment. Construction of swales to conserve water flow.	Complete
June 2015	Review site assessment re exposure to sun. Stage 3- Install 4 commercially built raised beds, with wicking system, fill.	Incomplete
August 2015	Plant seasonal vegetables. Implement the use of chooks in the productive garden, with the acquisition of a chook tractor (\$600).	Complete
		Underway

The 'St Raphaels School - Productive Food Garden' project is beginning to have a flow on effect through the students, parents, teachers, families. It has begun to capture the interest, curiosity and energy of individuals. Students are experiencing a real life context of learning, interweaving the theories and practices behind growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing fresh, seasonal food. Through the educational experience of planting, nurturing and harvesting produce, the awareness of how produce is derived and the resources required to produce is being learnt.