



Media Release

Thursday, 27 May 2010

Grant boosts Balgowlah Heights Public School's "learnscape"

Students at Balgowlah Heights Public School will develop their understanding of ecological sustainability, thanks to a grant from Teachers Credit Union.

The school will use the \$4983 grant from the credit union to enhance its outdoor classroom "learnscape" experience to include two new specialised learning areas: bush tucker and nursery studies where students will propagate native plants.

Craig Davis, Principal of Balgowlah Heights Public School, said "The project is based in a small pocket of bushland where students will learn bush restoration best practices, create a wildlife refuge to attract native birds, insects and animals and develop an understanding of the impact of people on the environment."

Steve James, CEO of Teachers Credit Union, said the Teachers Environment Fund was formed to assist public schools and TAFEs in their long-term sustainability.

"Through the Teachers Environment Fund, the credit union is helping teachers bring to life their environmental projects. We want to support projects which provide a resource for the school as well as a practical teaching example that embeds sustainability into children's thinking.

"The Teachers Credit Union grants can be used for any suitable environment project such as water and energy saving, composting and recycling, tree planting and even create a wildlife refuge," Mr James said.

Balgowlah Heights Public School is one of nine educational facilities - and the only one on the Northern Beaches - to receive a Teachers Environment Fund grant in the May 2010 round.

To date the Teachers Environment Fund has distributed over \$110,000 to 34 schools and TAFEs across NSW, ACT, NT and WA.

Find out more about Teachers Credit Union at www.teacherscreditunion.com.au

Photo opportunities available upon request.

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About Teachers Credit Union

Teachers Credit Union is one of the largest credit unions in Australia with more than 155,000 members, assets of \$2.9 billion and the highest member retention rate of any Australian credit union.

The Teachers Environment Fund is a Teachers Credit Union initiative to assist public schools and TAFEs in their long-term sustainability. Applications for the next round of funding open in August.

For further enquiries on how to become a member or to apply for a grant, please visit the website on www.teacherscreditunion.com.au

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