



Media Release
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School students join forces with Warrumbungle Environmental Centre to boost native birds

Warrumbungle Environmental Education Centre will engage in a partnership with geography school students to learn about their local native bird life, thanks to a grant from Teachers Credit Union.

The centre will use the \$4,679 grant from the credit union to buy new bird monitoring technology - 10 new GPS systems to use in programs for Year 10 students in the western region of NSW.

"Current statistics show that bird numbers in regional New South Wales (NSW) are in decline," said Meg Leathart, Principal of Warrumbungle Environmental Education Centre.

"This grant helps the centre achieve its vision of engaging students in a local biodiversity program and educate students to conserve their local environment. It also equips the students with skills needed for employment in natural resource management, in the place where they live."

The centre's teaching program involves students doing preliminary research on species and vegetation in the local area, with an optional trip to Warrumbungle National Park. The students will then design their own research action plans and monitor birds on their school grounds.

The Warrumbungle Environmental Education Centre promotes the teaching of environmental education in schools, and delivers environmental education programs in the Warrumbungle National Park, at nearby sites and at nearby schools.

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 bird monitoring systems to promote biodiversity," Mr James said.

Warrumbungle Environmental Education Centre is one of nine educational facilities - and the only one in the Central NSW region - 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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