



Media Alert
Monday, 17 May 2010

Grant keeps Wetherill Park TAFE solar charged

ATTN EDITORS – PICTURE OPPORTUNITY

Wetherill Park TAFE will save energy 365 days a year with a new battery charging system used in mechanics courses. This project has been funded by a \$5000 Teachers Credit Union grant.

Currently, the car battery stations used in teaching mechanics students consume large amounts of energy, charging 24 hours a day on general electric power outlets.

By switching 15 x 12 volt car batteries to solar powered electricity, Wetherill Park TAFE will significantly reduce their power usage whilst promoting green options and sustainability to students.

Wetherill Park TAFE is funding the project through a Teachers Environment Fund grant, which aims to help teachers in public schools and TAFEs make positive changes in their environmental strategies.

Daniel Severino, Mechanics Tutor at Wetherill Park TAFE, said the solar power initiative would raise awareness about sustainability while providing the perfect alternative to electrical power.

As an active member of the Fairfield City Council Sustain 'n' Save program, Wetherill Park TAFE aim to become leaders in the community for 'green' issues.

“One of the objectives of our newly formed Environment Committee is to introduce green energy into our TAFE, so it is great we are getting a helping hand from Teachers Credit Union.

“If successful, the project could expand to other institutions, and help to raise awareness of TAFEs and their contribution to sustainability,” Mr Severino said.

Craig McMahon, Executive Manager of Member Relations of Teachers Credit Union, said the Teachers Environment Fund helped 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 resources for schools and TAFEs as well as practical teaching examples that embed sustainability into students’ 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 biodiversity and even solar charging battery stations,” Mr McMahon said.

Wetherill Park TAFE is one of five NSW educational facilities to receive a Teachers Environment Fund grant in the May 2010 round. The full list of nine winners nationally follows.

WHAT:	Teachers Credit Union presents \$5000 grant to Wetherill Park TAFE
WHEN:	TODAY - 2:45pm Monday, 17 May
WHERE:	Wetherill Park TAFE, The Horsley Drive, Wetherill Park

Teachers Environment Fund Recipients – May 2010

NSW

Hamilton Public School	\$5000
Warrumbungle Environmental Education Centre	\$4679
Balgowlah Heights Public School	\$4983
Kensington Public School	\$4200
Wetherill Park TAFE	\$5000

WA

Marmion Primary School	\$1925
Bertram Public School	\$4854
Woodlupine Primary School	\$4491

ACT

Alfred Deakin High School, ACT	\$5000
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Ends

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 an initiative to assist public schools and TAFEs in their long-term sustainability. To date the Teachers Environment Fund has distributed over \$110,000 to 34 schools across NSW, ACT, NT and WA. 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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