



Media Release
Tuesday, 8 June 2010

Environment grant hatches students' interest in sustainable living

A chicken pen and vegetable garden funded with a \$4655 grant are generating vital sustainability and social rewards at Crystal Creek Public School.

The school is celebrating the achievements of their sustainability program, made possible through a grant from Teachers Credit Union which was awarded late last year.

Teacher Louise Dunn, who oversees the program implementation said, "Students are seeing and learning where vegetables, chickens and eggs come from, and how easy it is to live in a sustainable environment.

"As well as receiving a fantastic learning experience, students are enjoying valuable downtime 'chilling out' with the chickens and getting their hands dirty in the garden. We've noticed a significant, positive impact on student behaviour."

Students have raised baby chicks, even 'chicken-sitting' on the weekends until the birds were old enough to lay eggs. Now responsible for the fully grown chickens, students sell eggs to parents for \$4 per dozen.

Each class participated in planting vegetables, tending to the crop of corn, pumpkin and herbs. They're now sampling the produce through food from the school canteen.

Ms Dunn said the Teachers Environment Fund grant has helped create a successful learning environment at the school with valuable lessons on sustainability. Parents and the community are also actively involved in helping with ongoing maintenance.

The project draws on lessons from sustainable living and links to all curriculum learning areas, especially science, where units on the life cycle of chickens as part of biology class were incorporated.

"We believe education is the responsibility of the whole school community. The outcomes that students and their families have achieved through these projects have been very rewarding," Ms Dunn said.

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 sustainability projects. We want to support projects which provide a resource for the school, as well as a practical teaching example that embed sustainability into students' thinking.

"The Teachers Environment Fund grants can be used for any suitable environmental project such as water and energy saving, composting and recycling, tree planting and biodiversity - even raising chickens," Mr James said.

Crystal Creek Public School is one of ten educational facilities to receive a Teachers Environment Fund grant in the late 2009 round.

Since 2008, 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

ATTN EDITORS – PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

WHAT:	Sustainability in action: Students at Crystal Creek Public School get their hands dirty in their sustainable garden
WHEN:	1pm, Monday, 21 June
WHERE:	Crystal Creek Public School, Numinbah Road, Crystal Creek

About Teachers Credit Union

Teachers Credit Union is one of the largest credit unions in Australia and the largest in New South Wales. With more than 155,000 members nationally and assets of \$3 billion, Teachers Credit Union has 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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