



Media Release
Monday, 5 July 2010

Grant fosters seedling growth at Eden Hill Primary

Students at Eden Hill Primary School are reducing their carbon footprint through a native tree planting project, thanks to a grant from Teachers Credit Union.

The school is celebrating the achievements of their sustainability program, with its second Tree Planting Day on Wednesday 21st July, at Ashfield Flats, Bassendean.

As part of the project, each student potted two seeds indigenous to the local area, caring for and observing their seedlings' progress. Students from six classes and their teachers have propagated a total of 350 native trees, preparing them for planting in the community park on Tree Planting Day.

Teachers Maggie Amy and Maria Scarfone, who oversee the program implementation said, "The program provides a hands-on learning experience for students to learn about native seeds and trees. It reinforces that each of us can make a difference and contribute to the welfare of our planet, by planting trees and respecting our natural area."

The teachers said that the Teachers Environment Fund grant, the second one for the school, has helped create a successful learning environment, teaching valuable lessons on sustainability.

"The students have learned how seeds emerge and ultimately grow into trees, along with the importance of local species providing homes for insects and animals that live in the area."

Eden Hill Primary School has successfully partnered with a local environmental group to assist with their native tree planting project; the Bassendean Preservation Group, as well as the local council - the Town of Bassendean.

"Through a coordinated community approach, the project has promoted the importance of preserving and enhancing the natural environment. The community has benefited by participating in the tree planting and learning that children have a role in shaping our present and future environment," Ms Amy said.

Carolyn Murphy, Manager of Teachers Credit Union in WA, 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 not only help sustainability, but also provide teachers with a practical teaching example that embeds 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, biodiversity – even native tree planting," Ms. Murphy said.

Eden Hill Primary School is the only school to receive a Teachers Environment Fund grant twice, in the late 2008 and 2009 round.

Since 2008, the Teachers Environment Fund has distributed over \$110,000 to 34 public 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:	Eden Hill Public School Tree Planting Day
WHEN:	10am, Wednesday, 21 July
WHERE:	Ashfield Flats, Bassendean (access to the site is from West Road-Sandy Beach Reserve end)

About Teachers Credit Union

Teachers Credit Union is one of the largest credit unions in Australia. 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.

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