



Media Release
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Waterway breathes life into Erskine Park's school grounds

Erskine Park High School's Indigenous garden is flourishing with native plant and bush tucker, thanks to water harvesting project made possible through a \$5,000 grant from Teachers Credit Union.

The school designed the water harvesting project to bring to life the barren school grounds. The construction of the watercourse creek has allowed the school to use natural water movement to prevent erosion and capture water to hydrate the landscape.

The school is celebrating the achievements of its sustainability program, which began after the Credit Union awarded the grant in late 2009.

Tim McCallum, Principal of Erskine Park High School, said "The water harvesting project began by lining the creek with sandstone, rocks, plants and mulch. We implemented a drainage system and landscaped the area. The beauty of the creek now complements the school gardens and playground.

"The creek has turned the grounds into a thriving environment. We're excited about the return of native plant and bird life."

The creek also enhances science lessons where students examine the use of water at school as part of the curriculum. It also provides an active platform for students to sustain the project through the agriculture class and gain landscaping skills, in the work experience program.

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 not only benefit the environment but provide 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, tree planting and biodiversity - even creating a creek to rejuvenate gardens," Mr James said.

Erskine Park is one of 10 educational facilities - and the only one in Sydney's Western suburbs - 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.

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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