



Media Alert
Friday, 14 May 2010

Grant helps Hamilton school harness pedal power

Hamilton Public School is helping kids to get fitter and more environmentally aware, thanks to a grant from Teachers Credit Union.

The \$5000 grant will be used to build a bike shed, to encourage cycling as a sustainable transport option for students.

The primary school has been active in the environment for some years, having just completed their first four-year environmental plan. One of their existing initiatives is a vegetable garden, which grows healthy produce that has even been sold to local businesses.

The bike shed funding was secured with a Teachers Environment Fund grant from the Teachers Credit Union. The shed will house 24 bikes, with additional storage space for plant equipment and resources used by the student 'green team'.

Renae Burdack, Manager of Teachers Credit Union in Newcastle, said the Teachers Environment Fund exists to assist public schools and TAFEs in their long-term sustainability.

"Through the Teachers Environment Fund, the credit union is helping teachers to 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 biodiversity and even bike sheds to promote sustainable transport," Mr Burdack said.

Find out more about Teachers Credit Union at www.teacherscreditunion.com.au

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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CASE STUDY

Monday, 10 May 2010

About Hamilton Public School's Bike Shed Project

One of nine recipients nationally in the May 2010 round of Teachers Environment Fund grants, Hamilton Public School has shown it's serious about encouraging students and their families to live more sustainably.

Now entering its second four-year sustainability plan, the school will use the \$5000 grant to build a bike shed, encouraging students to ride to school and learn how this practical action can help the environment.

By helping kids to stay active, the school also hopes to promote healthier lifestyles and reduce obesity.

The inclusion of a recycling shed for plant and equipment, plus a water tank, will help the school continue its vegetable garden activities, and help reduce water usage on school grounds.

Since 2006 the school has set benchmarks for environmental awareness and action, having established water tanks, a vegetable garden, conducted energy audits and implemented an energy reduction plan.

Hamilton Public School 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.

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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