

SUSTAINABLE STUDENTS

Nashville State School is nestled next to the Deagon wetlands and just a couple of hundred metres from the bay. With the wetlands and bay in such close proximity, it is only natural that we have an on-going interest in caring for our environment. We have many environmental and sustainability projects currently underway at our school, including our rainforest area "Mac's Patch"; our edible garden "Garden of Promise"; composting; worm farms; the use of energy efficient



light bulbs; bird breeding boxes in trees; solar power roof panels and large water tanks to provide water for our toilets and for our gardens.



In 2006 the Garden of Promise was established with the assistance of Growing Communities. The Grow what you Eat program, which was funded through a Round 2 Eat Well Be Active Partnerships grant or \$38 700, linked the school with local community groups and Government agencies and students established raised bed and no dig gardens that grew a variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs. Excess produce was sold to the community

to help pay for garden materials. A further \$50 000 was awarded to the school in January 2010 by NAB Schools First awards to extend the term of the program for a further 12 months.

Nashville's sustainability program, Nurturing in Nature @ Nashville commenced with the establishment of an eco council of student members and an eco committee made up of staff and parents. The program is based on the permaculture four zone focus and five Citizen's model of Learning for the 21st Century. We believe at Nashville that eco and informed citizens are integral to our school's vision because of our focus on engaging children in learning relevant to sustainability.



Mark Thompson from Plan to Plant drew up plans in consultation with school staff and students on a whole school vision for the future. The Garden of Promise or zone 1, grew fruits and vegetables for the school's tuckshop and for class cooking requirements.

An orchard was planned close to the rainforest and with parent help, the ground was prepared. Bunnings from Carseldine generously provided the plants, materials and labour to assist the grade 7 children in creating the orchard. A buffer zone of native plants was planted between the fruit trees and the Lagoon.



School/University/College: *Nashville State School*
Contact: *Simone Keates*
Email: *skeat5@eq.edu.au*
Telephone: *07-38697333*