



Centre name: Casula Preschool

Project name: Wildthings – The journey to develop connections with nature

Why: The ‘Wildthings’ will increase the children’s genuine connections with nature by facilitating the construction of a space to interact with living and non-living things and nurture a connection to place and value and advocate for their world.

How: We will

- establish a wild things garden play area to encourage interactions with the natural environment
- construct a ‘bug hotel’ within this garden to allow places for children to find and observe insects.
- Install a native bee hive
- Develop a ‘gardening club’ as a way for children, families and the community to engage in positive experiences in the garden.
- Introduce community composting as a way for the preschool and families to reduce food waste and use on our gardens
- Establish a re-use centre within the centre to encourage families to donate specific items that can be used within the preschool or exchanged for money through the “return and earn” program. This money will go into purchasing materials for the garden
- Create a “help wanted” board that provides children with specific tasks related to sustainable education e.g. ensuring the lights are turned off when we go outside

Outcome: Educators have seen a significant increase in the children’s awareness around sustainable attitudes and enjoyment of nature. They are able to interact with nature and participate in sustainable activities every day.

- Compost bin is implemented and in use
- Food scraps and recycling boxes purchased for children to sort waste. We have seen a significant reduction in the need to purchasing food for our animals (chooks and rabbits) and art supplies. This was extended through a workshop with Reverse Garbage for creative re-use of what would have been waste items. Culminated by entering the 2018 Art Expo at Casula Powerhouse Art Centre with our 3D map of our place made with re-used materials. 200 people attended.
- Native bees are now installed and doing well. Children to continue to learn about the bee’s role in producing our food
- ‘Help wanted’ board successfully in action and sustainability jobs are enjoyed by the children
- Educators have liaised with council’s waste officers to advance sustainable practices
- Educators are continually research and brainstorming ways to ensure continual growth in sustainability approaches
- Regular sustainability agenda items at staff meetings
- Floor books have utilised to document children’s learning
- Centre philosophy has been updated to include ecological values

