



Karridale Primary School

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Karridale Primary School takes a hands-on approach to education, teaching its students about environmental responsibility and sustainability.

From growing, nurturing and transplanting plants for regeneration to working alongside local custodians and drawing on thousands of years of Wadandi cultural knowledge, Karridale students are gaining a thorough understanding of how the environment works and what it takes to sustain it.

Principal Fiona Cormack said the Australian school curriculum emphasised sustainability, but the school took it even further through hands-on activities from kindergarten through to year six to “build a rich understanding of how and why caring for the environment is important,” she said.

As well as restoring bushland, planting gardens and growing plants to restore dune systems, students have created a nature trail exploring the importance of different plants to Aboriginal culture and created two art installations as part of the Land Art project.



Ms Cormack said students especially enjoyed activities that involved the entire school, like the Land Art projects and planting days. “When the students have undertaken projects within the community, apart from the obvious benefits to the community, memories have been created that it is hoped will resonate as they grow to become the adults able to care for the environment,” she said.

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Students, staff members, teachers and its network of community groups and volunteers have worked tirelessly to eradicate non-native plants and invasive weeds; remove large amounts of rubbish – an issue that harks back to the days when dumping trash in bushland was commonplace; and create bushfire protection zone measures.

While they’ve already achieved a lot, the road to environmental recovery is not yet over and going forward, the school will continue implementing the three P’s: planning, patience and perseverance.



“Planning ahead is fundamental to success. Plants need to be selected and ordered many months ahead and timelines need to be flexible due to the weather,” Ms Cormack said. “Undertaking such projects requires patience and perseverance but when you have a whole group of people on board, the momentum builds.”

She said building relationships with groups outside the school community highlighted what can be achieved when people work together, locally.

“We live in a beautiful part of the world (with a) highly valued natural environment. When we work together, with people from within and without the school, building relationships, great things happen.”