

WIRRABIRRA'S green team

All the children in Class C5/6 at the environmentally-friendly Wirrabirra Primary School in WA helped to edit our November kids' pages.

our kids' editors

NAME: Class C5/6,
Wirrabirra Primary School, WA

AGES: 10-12

OUR EDITOR SAYS: "We have been developing an eco-friendly veggie garden here at our school, but there are also lots of other exciting things to tell 'Burke's Backyard' magazine readers about our amazing school."

busy bees!

The C5/6 class of Wirrabirra Primary School in Gosnells, WA has been fixing up the garden and getting some awesome new animals. Recently we got some lovely birds, chooks, a new rainwater tank and worm farms. We have also had a Busy Bee with parents, care-givers and members of the local community. We collect ring pulls and batteries, and during silent reading a group goes out to the garden and does the gardening chores. Our teachers, Mrs Butler and Miss Bartholomuesz, organised grants from Waste Wise and Healthways so that we could set up our permaculture garden. It all looks FANTASTIC and we are so proud of all the work that we have done! *By Talitha and Kacey*



tree of knowledge

Everyone from our school has been getting involved in different environmentally friendly activities. In the past few months classes have been collecting both ring pulls (to help buy wheelchairs for sick kids) and used batteries (so that they can be recycled safely). At each assembly, classes which have collected a bottle of

get a certificate for their efforts in helping to save the environment.

We also have a 'Wirrabirra Wonder Tree'. At an assembly, each class takes its turn to pick two people to provide an environmentally friendly tip, and each tip is presented in the shape of a leaf. These leaves are then attached to the branches of the Wirrabirra Wonder

Tree for the whole school to see.

Everyone at the school really likes the things that we have been doing to be environmentally aware, and every class has its own plot in the permaculture garden.

We hope that this continues so our class can be environmentally-friendly.

By Siew-Bee, Cindy, Rozalia and Tanita

COOL BIRDS

At Wirrabirra Primary School we have some beautiful, awesome and colourful birds. We had a bird naming competition and it was quite tough picking names. We have nine birds, and they are all very pretty because they are very colourful in blue, yellow and other colours.

All of the classes get a chance to feed the birds and keep them company. The birds are checked every day, as are their little containers for food and water. There are wooden nesting boxes inside their cages and some have even laid their eggs there! We think it's quite cool having the birds at Wirrabirra Primary School because it gives us all something to look after and take responsibility for.

*By Jenayha and Ashleigh
(the cool kids)*



snake charmers

On Thursday, June 5, class C5/6 Year 5s went to Southern River Catchment for an excursion provided by the 'Ribbons of Blue' to learn about nature and the environment. We did several things there, including holding animals, planting trees, learning about invertebrates, did a river walk, played a human board game which involved the environment, and loads more! We spoke to a girl named Angela, who told us all about the river activities that were on. After that, we did activities that helped us learn to

respect our local nature reserves. Lots of people said it was scary holding the snakes, but others said it was fun. In fact, we think that the best part was holding the snakes!

By Amber and Casey



TALKING CHICKENS!



On Monday, September 8 we got six magnificent chickens for our new chicken coop. They are orangey-brown and white, with creamy-coloured feet and red on their heads. At recess and lunch lots of students come to talk to the chickens, and sometimes they talk back!

The chickens are let out during the day and a different class looks after them each week. Our class, C5/6, gathers food from all the school's classes in the scraps tub. The chooks eat seed, scraps, weeds and grass. They have already laid lots of eggs and we are now selling these to the canteen and the local community for \$3 a carton.

By Belinda, Nelson, Ethan and Joshua

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In the next few years class C5/6 and the rest of the school are hoping to continue to have an amazing permaculture garden. We are also hoping to have lots of cool vegetables and wonderful fruit. We want healthy chickens, birds and worms in our worm farms. The things we grow and produce are going to be sold at our school assemblies and we will learn how to run a business. Then we will use the money to buy lots of things for the garden. We will keep doing that for as long as we can and we will have lots of money for our school's various environmental projects.

By Jayden, Zachary and Reece