



17 August 2017

## **Students learn with worms and how to ace with waste**

Wriggly worms, compost critters and recycling right were the main focus of National Science Week activities, coordinated by the City of Nedlands, at Nedlands Primary School recently.

Year 1, 2 and 3 students took part in several interactive workshops under the guidance of Waste Education Officer Robyn Brown, relating to this year's sustainable theme of "Future Earth".

Wearing gloves, the children sorted through bins from the previous day for a waste audit to learn how much of the content could have been recycled or composted.

They also explored where waste food could go instead of landfill by looking at worm farms under a microscope, which revealed other creepy crawlies useful to the composting process.

City of Nedlands Policy and Projects Officer Polly Fisher said that, during the waste audit, the students found a lot of plastic and food waste.

"The small amount not recyclable included fruit juice cartons, a disposable coffee cup and 44 pieces of single-use plastic consisting of cling film and plastic bags," she said.

"The children learnt how they could recycle at home and swap single-use plastic for their food with re-usable lunchboxes and drink bottles instead.

"They were also shown how easy it is to set up and manage a worm farm, learning how worms will eat unwanted food and pet waste and convert it into fantastic fertiliser for the garden."

City of Nedlands Waste Minimisation Coordinator Chaminda Mendis said the council was keen to get involved with the school to deliver the reduce, re-use and recycle message.

"Nedlands Primary School approached the City for its expertise in waste management and sustainability so local, practical and relevant knowledge could be shared with the students," he said.

"It was an opportunity to give them an understanding of how waste management affects their suburb and surrounding areas.

"At the same time, we showed the children how to get rid of household waste the right way and the impact it has when not disposed of correctly.

“About 3 million pieces of uneaten fruit and the equivalent of 750,000 loaves of bread in uneaten sandwiches are thrown into bins across WA schools each year, all destined for landfill.”

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said nearly a quarter of all waste found in an average Nedlands rubbish bin could be recycled instead.

“The City currently diverts 54 per cent of waste from landfill and we are aiming for 65 per cent by 2020,” he said.

“As part of our Waste Minimisation Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2020, education is a key focus of this goal.

“We offer second recycling bins to all residents for free – but it’s important to only place recyclable items inside your yellow-lidded bins.

“Nedlands residents are also eligible for subsidised worm farms, compost bins and Bokashi compost bins by contacting the City.”



Nedlands Primary School Year 1 students Holly, left, and Ben take a look at a worm farm close up.



Waste Education Officer Robyn Brown, students Emma, Matilda, Riley and Waste Minimisation Coordinator Chaminda Mendis with a recyclable City of Nedlands bag.

**About the City of Nedlands**

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of more than 21,000 lives in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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