



Media Release

Wednesday 30 March 2011

A lesson in the tree of life

A Southern Fund grant of \$2,000 is helping Albany's Flinders Park Primary School to roll out its innovative 'Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Refuse, Reinvent' program over 2011.

The program exposes year 6 and 7 students to the life of materials and in particular, the evolution of paper from forests to the notepad.

Teacher Sarah McNamara said the program had grown over a number of years to integrate environmental sustainability across several learning areas including Science, Society & Environment, Mathematics and Art.

"The program examines the science, history and industry of trees and forests, through to what paper is used for and what happens to it next. The students learn to look at forests as living ecosystems as well as important places of recreation, art and culture," she said.

Term One is shaping up as an exciting adventure with the students involved in the local Paperartzi Festival exploring line drawing and paper dying techniques, visiting the harbour to view woodchip loading, exploring an old growth forest, and listening to a range of guest speakers including a nature photographer, woodturner and plantation industry manager.

"As a school teacher you have lots of ideas about what to teach your children and while the internet is a fantastic tool, I think the kids learn best through hands-on experience," Ms McNamara said.

"The Southern Fund grant will help pay for art materials and will subsidise the bus fares because they can be very expensive for parents."

The Southern Fund committee chairman Gary Schwab said the Flinders Park Primary School initiative was a great example of the kind of project the fund was looking to support.

"The Southern Fund supports sustainable environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes across the South Coast region of WA. Ultimately we hope applicants will use the grants to leverage further financial support for their innovation projects and to foster partnerships with government, business, not-for-profit groups and the wider community," Mr Schwab said.

The Southern Fund is an initiative of South Coast NRM, Bendigo Bank, Community Sector Banking and local Community Bank® branches.

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