

## The Patch School Garden Project Brief

- Design and construct, through a participatory process, a working garden and resource centre for use by the school and community as a living laboratory to support teaching and learning;
- Incorporate sustainable elements in the design and function of the teaching facility and gardens to model appropriate, positive environmental practises such as composting, waste minimisation, energy and water conservation and recycling;
- Develop a series of gardens that enable students to engage in active discovery and problem-solving whilst developing confidence and enthusiasm for learning and developing gardening and environmental stewardship skills and values;
- Link the teaching facility and gardens to the existing wetlands in a way that aesthetically builds on the indigenous vegetation, biodiversity and conservation values;
- Restore the creek bordering the garden site to its natural state through weed removal and revegetation and link this to the wetlands (as this will require considerable planning and work in itself, adequate access to the site must be ensured to prevent any interference with developing garden);
- Incorporate a weather station to measure and record local weather conditions and trends;
- Establish a “chook house” for waste minimisation, egg production, animal husbandry skills and related themes in the curriculum;
- Incorporate in the garden design theme gardens for individual class access, kitchen gardens for production, harvest and consumption of produce and an orchard for fruit production;
- Create a space that is one of beauty and creativity that links students and the community to their school and generates pride in their school environment;
- Provide for activities to be carried out in the garden that enrich the school curriculum across all subject areas;
- Provide through the gardens a context for celebrations and rituals such as harvest days, planting days, Open Gardens and picnics;
- Establish a clear plan for maintenance and management of the garden during the school year and over the summer holidays;
- Provide for the training of staff to incorporate the garden and plant-based lessons into classroom teaching;
- Create network opportunities for continuing education beyond the school community;
- Establish a garden team that oversees the development, use and evaluation of the garden;
- Incorporate the principles of safety at all levels of design, construction, use and maintenance of the site;
- Maintain thorough documentation of the project at all stages;
- Provide yearly evaluation of the project to ensure the attainment of project goals and improved learning outcomes for students.

May, 2006