

SCHOOL STORIES



Fitzroy Community School

Could you introduce us to your school?

We are Fitzroy Community School. We opened in 1976 and are an independent and alternative school, with about 60 students.

Describe your school garden.

Our school built the garden project as part of a new creative space at our Thornbury campus. Our school's existing outdoor space was only a backyard, and was not suitable for growing anything.

By the end of 2012, we completed the construction of three garden beds suitable for growing organic vegetables, two garden sheds, a compost bin and a worm farm.

How does the garden fit into school life?

The children have become more actively involved in gardening as part of the school timetable. They are able to make connections between literacy and numeracy in gardening through instructions, plant depth, seasons, dates, and watering requirements, amongst other things.



Describe a problem that you have had to face or tackle.

Many children had no previous gardening experience, and very little understanding of organic principles. Children who had gardening experience assisted those who were new, to understand the processes required to raise a plant from seed, through to the harvest stage. As a result, many children have now become keen gardeners, and have made requests to their parents for greater access to gardening opportunities.

Do you have an interesting fact or story to share?

Students found early success with strawberries and herbs, and planted broad beans to eat, and provide nitrogen enrichment for the garden beds.

We had previously done gardening at school but we have been able to create an organic garden that the whole school and wider community can enjoy and be a part of.



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How has the Australian Organic Schools program benefited your school?

Receiving the grant allowed our school to realise the edible garden project on a larger, more sustainable scale. The students can now take part in gardening activities as part of the school curriculum, and many parents have become involved in the product too.