



MEDIA RELEASE

WATER AUTHORITY

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Wadalba community school benefits from rainwater tank

Wadalba Community School is one of 15 schools in Wyong Shire which has installed a 10,000 litre rainwater tank.

It has taken advantage of the free Schools Rainwater Tank Program and now operates its own fish farm vegetable patch and flower garden as part of its Vocational Education Training (VET) activities.

Head teacher Glenn Mullaney said the rainwater tank opened up a whole host of opportunities for the students to get involved with.

“Not only has it encouraged them to save water but it has also taught them about other activities which can help them in the future – and could even spark some possible career paths,” he said.

“We set up the aqua culture venture because fishing is such a major industry on the Central Coast. We can’t run a commercial operation at the school but do get many visitors interested in how it all works.

“We have also now established extra storage units totalling 3,000 litres which means the water used for farming fish and growing flowers and vegetables can be recycled.

“The students certainly enjoy it as they see real life unfolding before them – they clean out the fish tanks, test the water quality, measure the fish growth, water the flowers and vegetables – and also learn how to save water.

“They then take these water saving practices home to their families.”

When the rainwater tank was first installed in 2004 the students worked out what size roof was needed and how much water could be collected as a maths subject. They concluded that for every one millimetre of rain that falls on one square metre of roof they could collect one litre of rainwater.

According to Wyong Shire Council estimates, a 10,000 litre rainwater tank should fill up around four times a year – which can save demand on the town supply by about 40,000 litres of water per school.

Wadalba Community School also has an overall ‘Water Wise Policy’ which includes spring loaded taps on playground bubblers, vandal proof taps to ensure they can’t be left on, dual flush toilets and well-mulched gardens.

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