

Perth, 8 March 2019

Newbie Nature Knights lead the charge

Newborough Primary School has been awarded a \$14,500 grant from resource management company SUEZ to support the next generation of sustainability champions.

The funds will enable the building of a large storage shed and patio workstation as a base for the Newbie Nature Knights, a student committee formed with the initial aim of reinvigorating the school's recycling program and degraded kitchen garden. Located adjacent to the school vegetable garden area, the shed will house equipment to support a range of sustainability initiatives.

"Currently materials are housed in classrooms, old garden sheds and storerooms all around the school, and teachers are reluctant to run many sustainability activities because of the lack of usable, accessible storage and workspaces," said John Worthy, Newborough Primary School Principal and Sustainability Leader.

"The shed will securely house our gardening tools and equipment and our recycling bins. The outdoor classroom patio will have stainless steel work tables, and allow for a broad range of activities including Newbie Nature Knights meetings, sorting recycling material, potting and planting and much more."

The new facility will also provide a space for all students to undertake curriculum-based sustainability learning activities, and offer greater continuity across environmental education programs when the staff, parents and students leading them move on.

Principal Mr John Worthy and three of the inaugural Newbie Nature Knights Elsie Winton, Izzy Toovey and Rosie Garratt accepted the cheque from SUEZ Infrastructure Manager – Western Australia, Daniel Van Veen, who visited the school on Friday 8th March 2019.

"It is so inspiring to see young people taking the lead in developing and running sustainability initiatives, and we are delighted to support the school and the Newbie Nature Knights in their mission," said Mr Van Veen.

"We look forward to seeing the impact that this new sustainability hub will have on current and future students and staff and to the exciting ideas that it will enable," said Mr Van Veen

The school hopes to engage families and the wider community with the project, extending the benefits of sustainable living beyond the current student body.

The Member for Scarborough, the Hon Liza Harvey MLA also attended the presentation and said, "It is fantastic to see SUEZ supporting the Newbie Nature Knights. These Newborough Primary students are hardworking, committed members of their school community and I know this community grant will help them to achieve great results throughout the school and the broader community."

City of Stirling Mayor Mark Irwin said it was great to see SUEZ supporting a new generation of sustainability leaders.

“One of the City’s main areas of focus is sustainability and we work with a number of schools including Newborough through our Living Green Schools Program, which offers incentives, support and funding so they can work towards becoming a sustainable school,” he said.

“We have seen some really great results already since the program started and this grant will go a long way towards helping the school achieve success.”

Now in its fifth year, the SUEZ Community Grants program has donated more than \$740,000 in funding to community organisations and projects across Australia that help communities and the environment thrive.

Learn more about the SUEZ Community Grants program, the successful applicants and their projects at www.suezcommunitygrants.com.au.

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