Queensland’s Greenest and Healthiest School for 2009 is Ferny Grove State High School

Keep Australia Beautiful has spotted Ferny Grove State High School as its 2009 Greenest and Healthiest School in Queensland.

Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland Judge, Grant Evans said, “Ferny Grove State High has once again ticked all the boxes and has emerged as one of the finest Greenest and Healthiest School of 2009. Despite being severely affected by the devastating storms which swept through the northern suburbs of Brisbane late in 2008 and again in March 2009, Ferny Grove has been able to continue to demonstrate at the highest standard, total commitment to the environment and to the welfare of its students. It is always pleasing to highlight a school that has shown initiative and creativity in making positive changes to pupil’s lives and the wider school community.”

Given below are Highlights of 2009’s State Winner.

Environmental Protection
- A school with a passion and land for wildlife
- All levels involved in Creek revegetation and creek analysis
- School grounds are grassed to reduce surface runoff

Partnerships
- Part of Brisbane City council’s Sustainable Schools program
- Ferny Grove Bushcare groups volunteer to preserve parks and Bushlands
- Sustainable Science Certificate II VET in Renewable Energy leading to installation of three solar houses from TAFE to help with practical training in wiring up solar panels
- Partnerships with Bunyaville and Nudgee Beach Environmental Centre through science department
- First school in Queensland to sign up to the Centre for Environmental Education Australia’s Global Communities for Sustainability Program for 2009
- Other Welfare programs include funds for Queensland cancer council, Red Shiel Appeal, Silentathon – women of Buma, World Vision, 40 hour famine, participated in shave for a cure, sold badges for Anzac day, donated 10 boxes of Easter eggs to Royal Children’s Hospital, green team raised money for Oxfam and also raised funds for victims of Victorian bushfires.
- A versatile hunger banquet was done to better understand the life in the developing world

Resource Recovery
- All animal manure and bedding is recycled into compost for garden areas
- Energy Efficiency – by turning off boilers in holidays and fans and lights in breaks and at the end of the day. Also conducts audits for each department and has energy action plans to follow.
- 50 printers which use remanufactured cartridges
Art department recycles variety of materials to use as tools to aid in creation of art, one of it is ‘Techno Animals’ where old machines are used to create creatures.

Paper and cardboard recycling – 6 bales being collected each week saving 156 trees and 48 cubic meters landfill space.

Industrial bins are used for non recyclables and specialised disposal methods

Green team raised awareness through Mobile Muster Schools Challenge

School Spirit
The students showed a spirit of unity, commitment and maturity during the storms. Combined efforts of the community, school auxiliary staff, EQ, tree lopping companies and the air force personnel to clear the vegetation debris was indeed great and has now a new look with very little evidence of the damage.

Queensland Fit & Active
A new website to promote benefits of physical activity
Green team through its fair trade through Football match
Links with Keperra Golf Club, Samford Valley Golf Club, Rebounders, Ferny Hills Swimming Pool and Ferny Hill Tennis Club
Well maintained equipments and facilities with 4 multipurpose courts
Hall facilities upgraded making it available for communities in evenings
Bike racks are provided to encourage physical activities
HPE introduced fitness software program to analyse results
Sunscrens are provided with instructions to have hats as part of the HPE uniform
Three times in a year students participate in physical activity during swimming and athletics carnivals

Waterwise School
Agricultural Area - water tanks of 32300 litre capacity installed
All trees mulched onsite are used in gardens to reduce weeds and preserve water balance
Students perform ‘waterways health check’
Several water grants
Installed underground irrigation and sprinklers and 250,000 litre rain tank
Lately water tanks of 24000 litre in capacity was connected to students toilets and since its installation approximately 36000 litres of water is saved and used via the tank
All toilets have changed to dual flush option

Health and Nutrition
All crops are used to their full potential like Rosellas are made into Jam, bake bread from crops onsite.
Smart Choices Program is fully integrated to promote better nutrition
Tuckshops have only green or amber foods with water and fruit juices replacing soft drinks, with no fried food and only oven baked ones. Chocolates and lollies are no longer sold.
Free Apples are given to promote healthy snacking
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• Student are not allowed to bring soft drinks and energy drinks
• The subject Health and Nutrition is studied in one term in year 8 & 9 and is built on in Year 10 as TFD where a selling project that fits with the Smart Choices Program is done.
• Assessment tasks in Year 11&12 to evaluate their ability to create tasty and nutritious dishes
• Receives brochures, magazines and mails from Nutrition Australia
• LOTE department does cooking classes for staff and adult members of the community

Litter Prevention Award
• Clear Vision on being spotless
• Two years of trial have brought new metal bins with an open lid on the top to avoid litter around the bin and to allow access by the cleaners
• ‘Working Bees’ was introduced to clean up and maintain the school
• Had a Cleanup Femy Grove day in conjunction with the Clean up Australia day
• Has 160 bins distributed around the school with regular GIS class surveys by year 10 on mapping results and designing anti-litter campaigns.

Outstanding Achievers at Femy Grove are Tahila Hays, Anna Cameron and The Green Team

Young Legends at Femy Grove are The Green Team and the Green unit which chose energy as this year’s theme for the school to work on.

Year of Creativity Thinking Caps
• A welcome booklet for new residents in the suburb
• Interviews with local residents to spark conversation far beyond the school

Thus Femy Grove is an outstanding Green and Healthy School in 2009.

Other outstanding achievement awards went to:

1. RUNNER UP GREESENST & HEALTHIEST SCHOOL
BURDEKIN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

It is always pleasing to highlight a school that has shown initiative and creativity in making positive changes to pupil’s lives and the wider school community.

Students from across all levels of the College are able to demonstrate their involvement in the principles of the Green and Healthy Schools program through partnerships and active programs. It is an outstanding initiative to introduce an Enviro Club with members now being able to select their portfolios, titles and focus areas and then take on these responsibilities and frequently report back to the students and school community. Roles range from the Nutrition Officer, Wom and Squirm Officer, Healthy Food Shack Officer, The Biggest Loser Officer, On the Watch Officer, Energy Saving Officer, Special Events Officer
and the list goes as so many students have the opportunity to make a difference. This is a model that could be used by other schools as the students, and College, have clearly documented policies and procedures. This school, and staff, are outstanding ambassadors for the Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland Green and Healthy Schools Program.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Award

BEACONSFIELD STATE SCHOOL

The school has a comprehensive environmental program that combines on-ground works and learning groups achieved through education both by themselves and their community. Each learning group focuses on one integrated environmental unit per year as part of the whole school plan.

The main highlights of their environmental protection initiatives are

- Revegetating Activities within the school and the surrounding community by rebuilding a native rainforest, a local melaleuca forest at Bedford Rd paddock, the Mackay City Councils Blue Water Trail at Sandy Creek and the foreshore at Blacks Beach
- Waste Management by having waste audits leading into recommendations to recycling and composting program. The ‘Clean up Your School Day’, Foot Prints Eco club, Litter Lifters are other innovative anti waste ways of the school.
- Plastic Reduction by starting their own eco friendly reusable shopping bag business and diverting the profits made to sponsor a turtle at the Reef HQ Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital in Townsville. The ‘Drastic Plastics’ Committee of the Eco club are a plastic eliminators squad educating and providing strategies on plastic reduction.
- Energy usages have been documented and a number of green energy sources have been identified. The ‘Energetics’ committee of the Eco club help with surveys, education and implementation of the strategies.

3. Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability’s LOW CARBON SCHOOL Award

MACHANS BEACH STATE SCHOOL

The school has been on the forefront of effective sustainable practises in its region and was outstanding as a state finalist. Its slogans and stickers exhorting carbon-reducing messages more epitomise a comprehensive range of activities that reduce Machans’ carbon footprint. Their carbon reducing skills by practising what they preach motivated them to meet with the Cairns Education District Office conducting a complete audit and survey and presenting a “frank” power point assessment of how the District office could “improve” its performance.

As Eco Citizens for the 21st Century alternative energy activities were performed. The “Carbon Wars” with its strong educational messages brought to life characters such as evil Lord Carbon Emission, Brave Luke Power walker, Greenhouse Gas Troopers and many more.
Apart from these the school and its community participate in the earth hour every year, have developed a permaculture garden, messages on environment are displayed on the school sign for communities to read.

All its actions have proved its qualitative and quantitative approach in reducing carbon emissions making it a deserving winner.

4. Schoolzine PARTNERSHIPS Award

MOUNT GRAVATT STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mount Gravatt State High had a very strong foundation based on the Pentagonal Bottom line allowing the school to be a chief stakeholder of developing partnerships within the school and the local community and as part of which it has linked with a number of environmental partnerships like the

- Reef Guardians Program reducing contamination in the reef region
- KABQ through it Green & Healthy schools Program
- Member of QESSI linked with the Toohey Forest EEC to be a sustainable school
- Origin Energy through Solar Schools Program and with the State and Federal Government grants has installed 14 solar panels, Inverters and Data Displays
- ABC T business evaluating soil and plant conditions resulting in advice and donation of 1000 litres of organically produced liquid biome fertilizers
- Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordination Committee is part of the Twinning Project working together in resolving catchment issues.
- Walking on water surf school with a one year certificate
- Local businesses which supplies equipment and free mulches
- Local primary schools visit its ecocentre and aquaponics centre for firsthand sustainable environmental practices.

It also has formal partnerships with all levels of government, like the dialogue with the Minister for Climate Change, Penny Wong and the supply of Possum boxes provided by the State Government Correction Department.

The School has definitely set a new trend of crossing all barriers and reaching out and partnering and thus is a proven state winner

5. Remondis RESOURCE RECOVERY Award

BALLANDEAN STATE SCHOOL

The school’s involvement in recovery, reuse and appropriate waste management is evident with its waste audits being the newest of its kind wherein the rubbish waste from the sports day was segregated, documented and reported by the boys of grade 4 to 7. The result showed 74% of the waste collected to be of the recyclable category. There also brought out some interesting practical recommendations on waste management.
Nothing is wasted at Ballandean State School is a true fact as waste paper is converted into paper bricks, lunch waste are converted to fertilisers in their Bokashi system. Community based can recycling operates from the school by collecting cans from soccer clubs, local shops and delivering them to a recycling point at the Stanthorpe refuse station.

This school has discovered a new way of managing their waste making them a State winner and such methods deserve to be shared among all schools.

6. SCHOOL SPIRIT Award

PADUA COLLEGE

The spirit of Padua College has been far reaching from the yearly fund raising for St Francis of Assisi School in East Timor to the shoes donated for children in Africa called the ‘Shoes for Africa’.

Money raised by Padua is used for school buildings, desks, chairs and school equipment for students at Assisi and this year’s money, a total of $28670 raised in March-April 2009 was used for building a fence around the school, to stop the animals getting into the school buildings and food gardens.

The school also participated and raised money for “Genes for Jeans” Day, “Two Can Day”, where every student was asked to bring in two food cans, to be donated to the St Vincent De Paul Society. In March 2009, the school had a free dress day to raise money for the Victorian Bushfire Victims and “Shoes for Africa”, where students brought sports shoes they no longer needed for donating to Africa.

The school’s signature campaign on banning plastic and their attitudes combined with actions proves a spirit of coming together for solving problems of the modern times.

7. Queensland Health’s FIT AND ACTIVE Award

ST ANDREW’S ANGLICAN COLLEGE

For an amazing level of sporting commitment with activities reaching far beyond school sport to a high level of involvement in community sport with a baseline of ‘Balance in life’.

Mind-blowing Achievements for this State Winner are

- A Breakfast club encouraging healthy eating and healthy exercise before school
- Community Involvement where 420 students ran at the Noosa 5Km Fun Run in 2008
- Girls Active Program promoting emotional wellbeing among Adolescent Girls
- Fit Foodies group of mums providing practical support catering at the sports carnival
- Healthy Lunch and Litter free lunches which had 1300 litter free lunchboxes in a week in 2008
- Health and Fitness week for fun activities like the ‘Pink Day’ and money raised was used for charity like the Breast cancer Research.
8. Minister for Natural Resources, Mines & Energy’s WATERWISE Award

**IONA COLLEGE**

The development of the Iona College Water Management Plan was very innovative and modern way of water conservation that Iona stands out for as a State Winner. It has estimated the benefits that would be gained by the College and Community. The plan also addresses runoff from the school into the Bulimba Creek catchment which depicts it partnerships with other water conservationists.

This school has reduced its water consumption from February 2007 to February 2009 from 147kl per day to 22kl per day.

The various methods used were
- Conversion of urinals to waterless urinals
- Changed all toilet cistems to low water usage type
- Changed all shower heads to water saving type
- Converted all drinking taps to spring loaded types with restrictions on lines
- Meters installed to all areas to help check on leaks.

Other Hallmarks of the success
- Established mulched gardens along all water ways to stop flow of rubbish into drains
- Ongoing understory planting with aid of Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordination Committee
- Ongoing program to keep gardens in water flow
- Installation of tanks to a total of 700000ltrs which is used to fill the pool and run toilets
- Recognised water bird habitat on site wherein the rare raphael shell duck was also found

9. Brisbane Produce Market's HEALTH & NUTRITION Award

**FREESTONE STATE SCHOOL**

Brilliant outcomes have been achieved through the ‘Getting Down and Dirty' program where students started a totally organic, ‘no dig' veggie patch beginning from planting to harvesting to cooking and to cherishing its delicious taste. It just didn’t end there, as a surprise to parents they even documented the entire process in a book called ‘Grow It, Cook It’ and sent it to every family to share Good Health & Nutrition tips with the community of which few families inculcated the shared knowledge and skills. This is definitely a success story for a healthy lifestyle.

10. The Wrigley Company's LITTER PREVENTION Award

**SOUTHPORT STATE SCHOOL**

This school has actively participated in a variety of programs on litter prevention. And some of its highlights are
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- The Australian Schools clean up along with interviews by the Gold coast bulletin for the launch of KAB week
- Students supervising eating time ensuring litter to be placed in the right bin
- Mesh fencing to prevent litter going out from the grounds and vice versa.
- The “Wasteless lunch” award to the class with the least waste.
- A weekly ‘cleanest block’ award judged by the school cleaners are a great initiative
- Regular ‘emu’ parades to collect litter
- Ibis Buster Program to reduce the amount of litter and to prevent the Ibis eating rubbish

11. Terry Palmer EXCELLENCE Award
Mr Kargun Fogarty, of the Yuggera people, who are traditional custodians of the land on which the school is built. Mr Fogarty is a leader in the community teaching traditional language, dance and customs of the indigenous people. The 30 Koorana dancers perform for about 30 groups each year varying from schools to community groups and large public events. St Peter Claver college has the largest secondary Indigenous enrolment of any Catholic school in Brisbane and such outstanding performances showcase the traditional cultures of the community.

12. Minister for Education & Training’s YOUNG LEGENDS Award

ST. TERESA’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
St. Teresa’s have proved to be young legends in their service to other young people by their various outcomes like the ‘Mission Mexico’ where 2 students went to train children in an orphanage on lifesaving and surfing skills from the fund raised by working in holidays at the Noosa Farmers Market.

Three students volunteered to work in Nepal with the Mother Teresa’s Sisters of Charity of whom one even went back to volunteer again and developed a global reaching website for the orphanage.

Locally they are reaching out to the homeless people in Brisbane with Homeless Connect by distributing hygiene products to them.

13. Year of Creativity THINKING CAPS Award

THE HALL STATE SCHOOL
The 100th anniversary celebration of the foundation of School is known to be hallmarked by the 25 year time capsule which indeed stands out to make this a State winner. Its time capsule would to be buried in a new dinosaur garden being constructed by moulding out mounds of earth then covered in grass and decorated in mosaic plates. The Dinosaur will provide a small amphitheatre and will be an important erosion management plan for its playground.

Some of the numerous items planned include
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- a commemorative DVD presenting an oral history by interviewing former students on the last 100 years of the school along with the hopes and dreams for the future oncoming generations.
- The School newsletters ‘Hall Happenings’ will also be buried as it would depict the day to day events of the school.
- Documents and DVDS’s on recycling procedures would demonstrate the schools commitment to the environment.
- Schools tree mapping project as a snapshot of the schools landscape in 2009
- ARC monument and DVD as visual records of the current school community and projects

The burial ceremony will include local dignitaries and indigenous elders as well as past members of the school community.

The school has been exceptional in all matters relating to the time capsule as they would give a copy of the time capsule contents will be archived on date storing software and given to the school library, the Rockhampton regional libraries and the Historical libraries.

Keep Australia Beautiful congratulates all the winners and participants in the 2009 competition and looks forward to the program being bigger and better next year.

ENDS