Greening Cameragal Primary
2013
Before our greening project we had a gorgeous sandstone hall, a car park, and some ants to work with…

oh yes… and the fish fern.
First we cleared the fish fern and also quite a range of other “unexpected items” found hiding in there, and replaced it with clean, good, draining pebble. As time allowed, some pots and plants were added…

The students cared for them daily and were excited when each new plant arrived.
Our fabulous new compost bin arrived and we were overrun with the students wanting to help assemble it... and so they did with surprising ease and most impressive collaboration. Indeed, it made any “flat-packed-item-designed-in-Sweden-made-in-China” challenged parent proud.

This compost bin is low enough for kids to see into and load, and with a gear operated crank handle they can easily turn the bin themselves. A good design for the home garden.
Then our beautiful feature shade tree, a Snow Pear, arrived and days later blossomed for us and the newly arrived bees to enjoy.

More plants arrived to plant into the potting mix “(and some “not-so-sweet-smelling” cow manure) to mulch, water and deadhead.

Then the bitumen came up........
…and the green moved in!

Lawn, planter beds, and ever more potted vegetable, fruit, herb and flowering plants ....

Then the serious gardeners (the primary students) moved in to set up the worm farm, fill and turn the compost, water/mulch/dig-in/trim/monitor/measure/ harvest/eat and work and play together in the new play garden.
There was great excitement when the worms turned up! The students have learned to keep the worms’ environment healthy by checking their blanket is moist – not wet. Fresh leaves are brought in weekly. It is a bit early to have many worm castings or worm juice, but that will come in time and be used on the garden.

Now we have organic herb, flower, vegetable and fruit garden beds to excite the senses: lovage, strawberries, thyme, sage, basil, tomatoes, chives, oregano, marigolds, natives, aloe vera, peas, daisies, grasses…
With patience, rain, and early warm weather came the time to enjoy the salad and herb spoils of having a school garden...
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Many thanks from the Cameragal Montessori community to North Sydney Council for the chance to undertake such an empowering, beautifying and educationally valuable project.