

# Mulching Munchkins

SHARING STORIES... LOCAL ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY

Determinant of  
Food Security:  
Food Access

Sub-determinant:  
Knowledge and skills

Location & year:  
Dorset Region (NE  
Tasmania) 2013-15

Story teller:  

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Primary Health  
Dorset (THO  
North) DHHS



## Summary

The aim of the *Mulching Munchkins* program is to develop a comprehensive yet flexible agricultural program designed for primary school aged children. The *Mulching Munchkins* program will link with the history, science, literacy and numeracy Australian Curriculum requirements.

*Mulching Munchkins* will connect children and their families' of Bridport and Ringarooma Primary schools to their local food system from the paddock to the plate.

Practical activities relating to soil preparation, mulching, composting, planting, farm maintenance, animal husbandry, food processing, transport and preparation will be combined with the teaching curriculum. This will allow learning to be engaging and set against the local back drop of the rural community in which the children live.

It will expose children to a range of career options within the food and agriculture sectors.

Gardening is something all the kids can get involved in no matter what their abilities are-  
Teacher

## Benefits and achievements

Bridport and Ringarooma Primary School teaching staff are working with their children on the school gardens and curriculum activities which have included:

- Assisting with building and installing garden infrastructure water tanks, hot houses, compost bins, raised garden beds and fencing.
- Mulching Munchkins* logo design for each school by the students.
- Classroom science experiments.
- Farm and supermarket visits and cooking with a focus on locally grown produce.
- Students have showcased their understanding of agriculture and food production to peers and wider community
- Visits to the school by agronomists, soil experts and historians.



## Challenges

Ensuring the program fits within the National Curriculum Framework for Australian school students in the areas of science, history, literacy and numeracy as well as health and wellbeing.

If we can embed agricultural learning in the curriculum we can help ensure it becomes integral to teacher lesson planning

Building ongoing partnerships that can be sustained beyond the life of the program.

## Promotion

The *Mulching Munchkins* program is promoted through the Bridport and Ringarooma School Community Networks including their school newsletters.

Media opportunities including use of social media will be used to develop new networks and increase communication around the program.

Opportunities will be sort with program partners from the Education, Agricultural and Health sectors to showcase and share the learning's of the program.

## Funding

*Mulching Munchkins* was funded through a Food for All Tasmanians Fund Grant 2012. In-kind support has been given by Primary Health Dorset (DHHS), Bridport Primary School community and Ringarooma Primary School community, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA), Physical Activity and Community Nutrition Unit (DHHS). Donations of time and goods have been provided by local community members and the farming community.

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Information was compiled by **Population Health Services (DHHS)** in partnership with this initiative and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

