

extra Need to Know

Funds for green thumbs



School of Student Leadership students (from left) Evan Penny, Michael Sacco, Caitlin Smith, Stacey Guild, Kara Abbott and Rachel Tregenza focus on sustainability.

FOUR community groups and two schools have successfully applied for funding in the Heytesbury and District Landcare Network's (HDLN) Craters to Coast Community Public Land Rehabilitation and the Craters to Coast schools programs.

The funding was made available through the Craters to Coast Alliance which is facilitated by the HDLN to help community environmental and school groups undertake activities that they see as being important.

The successful applicants include Simpson Primary School and the School for Student Leadership's Gnarud Gundidj campus.

Simpson Primary School teacher Ryan

Jones plans to start a garden club with the students which will run each week and be tied into the curriculum.

"This will allow students to participate in hands-on activities as part of their curriculum, developing valuable practical skills as well as leadership and environmental ownership among the students.

"We wish to start from the little that we have and develop a garden in which the students can grow their own food, from seed to stomach," Mr Jones said.

"This funding should help us develop it into a sustained program that runs each year."

The School for Student Leadership is using the funding in its curriculum.

"Our environmental sustainability

lessons provide students with a practical means to improve the sustainability of their actions, here and now, and the learning from this can be transferred back to their home communities," the school's curriculum co-ordinator Peter Torey said.

HDLN project officer Yonje Tiljak said the Simpson Primary School garden club and the School for Student Leadership's activities were a great example of the many community projects that were made possible through the C2C Alliance. Other projects include installation of interpretive signs in local parkland and bush land restoration. The Craters to Coast Alliance enables the HDLN to fund and support environmentally-focused community groups allowing them to finish projects.