

# NETWASTE

# WASTE2ART

# EXHIBITION

## EDUCATION RESOURCE KIT FOR SCHOOLS

**Waste to Art is a community art exhibition and competition that aims to educate, inform and challenge the way we look at waste in our communities.**

Students and community members are encouraged to create artworks that are made from materials that would normally be thrown away as waste & when these artworks are displayed, we hope that they will not only raise awareness and greater knowledge about challenges surrounding waste in our society but encourages others to think about what they can do to reduce the waste that we all create.

### **WHY GET INVOLVED IN WASTE2ART?**

W2A provides a wonderful opportunity for students:

- Develop their creative art making skills.
- Express their thought & feelings about the environment around them.
- Develop enquiry-based learning skills around environmental sustainability issues through addressing targeted questions.
- Develop knowledge & understanding about environmental sustainability issues:
- Develop critical & creative thinking skills while considering environmental issues;
- Develop personal & social capability by becoming involved in displaying & discussing artworks & their environmental messages; and
- Cultivate environmental ethics individually & amongst peers.

For teachers:

- Engage their students in holistic, enquiry-based cross curricular art process which addresses curriculum outcomes.
- Deliver on many quality teaching dimensions including intellectual quality, quality learning engagement, social support, problematic knowledge, metalanguage, substantive communication, engagement, social support, student self-regulation, student direction, knowledge integration, connectedness & narrative;

- Address the cross-curriculum priority of sustainability; and
- Address the general capability of critical and creative thinking.

## **WHY FOCUS ON WASTE?**

Waste is a by-product of modern living and Australia is one of the most wasteful countries in the developed world. Almost everything we do creates waste and as Australia grows in income and wealth there has been a large increase in the disposal of goods no longer needed or wanted, with an associated increase in waste diversity, toxicity, and complexity. What do we do about it? We all create this waste, and we all need to change our everyday behaviours and look at our personal needs and product life cycle before consumption.

Recent statistics from NSW alone include:

- The average NSW household generates about 23 kg of waste a week, consisting of about 5kg of recyclables, 5kg of food and garden organics and close to 13 kgs of landfill waste;
- The average person in NSW generates nearly 10 kg of waste a week.

Consider posing the following investigative tasks to your students to encourage them to explore the theme of sustainable and unsustainable lifestyles:

- Investigate changes to the consumption, recycling, and reuse of materials over time, and consider how this has impacted on waste generation. You may wish to focus on one or two items such as the different bottles used for milk and soft drinks. Describe the changes that have taken place in the manufacturing and recycling of these products. Develop a product life cycle for these containers comparing how the process may have looked 40 or 50 years ago compared with today's modern processes;
- Think critically about how we are conditioned by messages of consumption (e.g., through mass advertising) and how we may counter that by reflecting on actual needs and the impacts of over consumption, careful consumption choices, repairing and using products for as long as reasonable etc. design an advertising message to change thought – patterns around consumption.
- Consider how much waste on average an Australian person generates each year. What is the waste made of? Who are the highest and lowest consumers in our society? Students to interview grandparents, neighbours & friends about their shopping and waste habits.

## **WHAT IS A PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE?**

Everything we consume goes through a life cycle, and each stage of the life cycle has environmental impacts. By reducing the use of materials in every stage of the life cycle from materials extraction, manufacturing, distribution, usage and end of life management or disposal, we can help to minimise the environmental impact associated with the products we use. Linking waste education to product lifecycle provides a powerful message to

students of all ages around purchasing behaviour, product use and re-use, disposal, or recycling.

[The Story of Stuff](#) is an overview of product lifecycle and links to environmental management and conservation. Teacher could select a section of the Story of Stuff to show students followed by discussion and activity. Consider the following approach:

- Watch up to approximately 1.34 minutes of The Story of Stuff (available on YouTube). Then write labels for each of the steps described in the video. Choose a common item from the classroom such as paper and describe how it gets from the original product (trees) to the piece of paper they are writing on, and...
- Next watch from 16.45 minutes (the section on disposal). Revise your products life cycle using the steps outlined in the video that include recycling. This will encourage your students to analyse the issue and apply it to their context.

### TEACHING RESOURCES

- NetWaste website provides school education resources including PowerPoint presentations, comprehensive lesson plans with activity suggestions, and fact sheets aimed at primary school students. There are also various resources that may be useful on the NetWaste YouTube site.
- The sustainable Schools NSW website has some great teaching resources which focus on waste & include units of work, lesson plans, students guided investigations and activities.
- Cool Australia – War on Waste website. “This series lets you bring the topic of waste management to a multitude of subjects, engaging students in the curriculum through topical content”. Lessons available for Foundation – Year 3; Year 4 – Year 6; Year 7 – 10.
- The Story of Stuff website also provides some great information. It focuses on an amazing community project and what has been achieved. “We have too much stuff and that’s not the way things have to be”.
- Environmental & Zoo Education Centres (EZEC) are located across NSW supporting Department of Education & Communities schools. The local environmental education centres are great sources of information and activities, and the EZEC network has also created virtual resources for primary schools & secondary schools.
- Access the Department of Education’s ‘Waste as Art’ teaching resources & includes units of work which have been developed across 3 learning themes: Biodiversity, Resources and Water. Each of these resources aims to support teaches in further applying the education aspects of Waste to Art projects, whilst enabling students to build their confidence as they submit their works. These three units of work are each a six-part teaching and learning resource that offer lesson ideas and support to teachers. All units are aligned with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and the NSW Creative Arts Syllabus K-6. Resources have been designed to support schools in combining visual arts with environmental

sustainability education, in addition to guiding schools and the wider community to collaborate in Waste to Art projects. Each lesson within the resources has been designed to provide flexibility to suit class needs. The aim is to encourage creative, individual responses. Each activity can be varied to suit individual classes: however, it may be helpful for activities to be worked through in the order they are presented in the resource. Whilst these resources were originally written for stages 2 and 3, suggestions of adaptation ideas for younger or older students are provided, and extension activities are suggested for further development of the units.

## **LEARNING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM WITH WASTE2ART PROJECTS**

### **Literacy**

W2A projects provide opportunities for developing skills in speaking and listening (to fellow students, the school community, media, the public) reading and writing (online articles, creating artist statements), and viewing and representing (creating and describing art projects). For example:

- Expressing views through different media, writing artists statements and
- Presenting orally about artworks

### **Numeracy**

W2A projects can provide opportunities for students to develop their skills in numeracy by identifying and using numerical, measurement, spatial, graphical and statistical concepts and skills. For example:

- Collecting, classifying and analysing waste and recycling data

### **Information and communication technology (ICT)**

Students can become competent, discriminating and creative users of technology as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately when investigating, creating and communicating W2A ideas and information. For example:

- Researching waste generation in their local area;
- Simulating an investigation using information technology and
- Developing an online forum for exchange of ideas.

### **Critical and creative thinking**

Students can develop critical and creative thinking by seeking sustainable outcomes when researching, developing, and ultimately disposing of their artworks. They learn to evaluate knowledge about waste and resource efficiency, assess ideas and possibilities and use reason and imagination to direct their thinking for better environmental outcomes. For example:

- Researching whole of life impacts of products;
- Determining how to develop artworks for better end-of-life recycling or repurposing;
- Retrieving, analysing, interpreting, and evaluating information about raw materials and waste materials from a variety of sources and
- Organising and planning a project.

### **Personal and social capability**

Students develop personal and social capability as they learn to understand and manage themselves, their relationships, lives, work and learning more effectively. Through taking part in W2A project planning, implementation and evaluation tasks students learn to identify and express their own opinions, beliefs, and responses and to interact confidently and appropriately in a range of social contexts. For example:

- Working cooperatively with others in developing artworks;
- Taking individual and group responsibility for aspects of the project and
- Communicating with a range of stakeholders and making decisions around best practice approaches to project management.

### **Ethical understanding**

Creating artworks that reflect a environmental and social or human rights messages and issues provides a positive tool for strengthening a student' s capacity for ethical understanding and commitment to ethical behaviour. For Example

- Researching the life cycle of clothing manufacture and its impact on the environment and on workers as part of designing a W2A clothing piece.

### **Intercultural understanding**

Participating in W2A initiatives provides students with opportunities to deal with cultural diversity in a positive and informed manner, showing awareness, understanding and acceptance as they participate in local or regional projects and research different cultural attitudes and perspectives on waste and the environment. For example:

- Students actively engage migrant or indigenous communities in their W2A projects and
- Students showcase art projects in aged care facilities and communicate with the aged on their aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.

### **Sustainability is a Cross-Curriculum Priority**

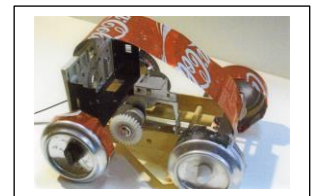
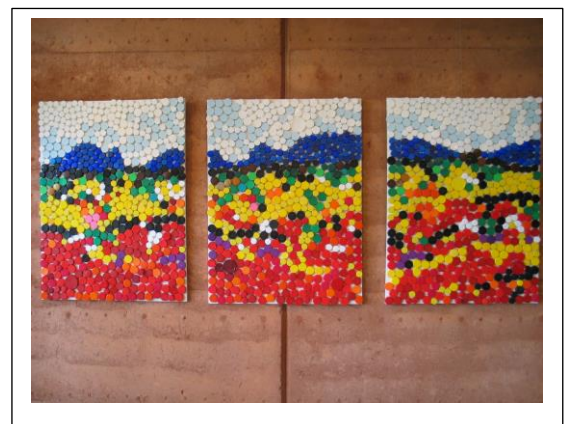
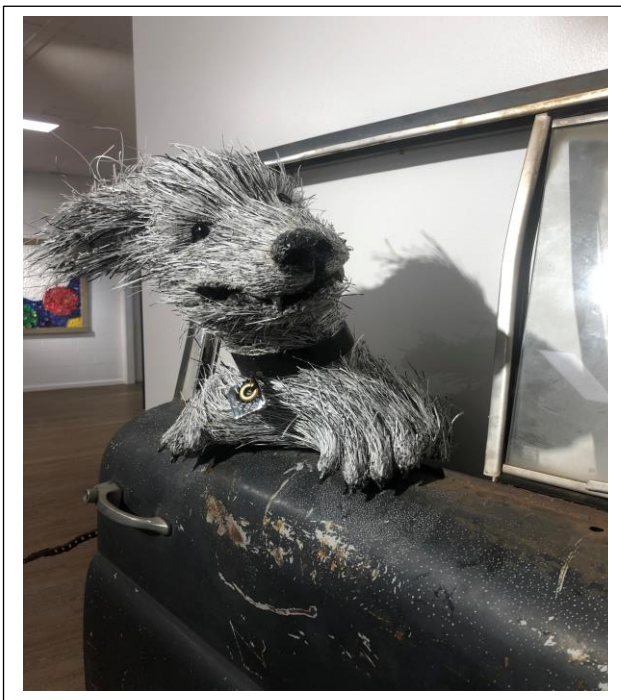
Cross-curriculum priorities provide students with the tools and language to engage with and better understand their world at a range of levels. The priorities provide dimensions which will enrich the curriculum through development of considered and focused content that fits naturally within learning areas. Incorporation of the priorities will encourage conversations between learning areas and between students, teachers and the wider community. W2A provides an opportunity to incorporate the cross-curriculum priority sustainability.

W2A projects can deepen our understanding of sustainability and the challenges waste presents to a sustainable future. Waste is an issue that has personal, local, national and global sustainability contexts and can be addressed by a range of years and learning areas. The issue of waste has intergenerational impacts which students could explore. Students can:

- Research the items of waste they are using to male their artworks;
- Identify, research, and analyse why material in the artwork may represent a risk to the environment or human health.
- State the case for why a more sustainable and environmentally sensitive material could be used in place of this material in our everyday lives;

- Research options and processes for how the material should be returned to a waste stream for recycling at the end of its life as an artwork and
- Investigate materials used in the past that have now become significant waste issues for current and future generations.

This document has been inspired by the Sustainable Neighbourhoods W2A Education Resource document which was compiled using information from the NSW Department of Education's 'A guide to implementing waste as art and environmental art projects in schools' and the websites listed throughout the body of this document. The fair use of this resource is limited to educational purposes in schools only, and therefore not subject to copyright.



## HOW DOES THE NETWASTE WASTE2ART WORK?

### **Waste2Art is a community art exhibition and competition that aims to educate, inform and challenge the way we look at waste in our communities.**

Students and community members are encouraged to create artworks that are made from materials that would normally be thrown away as waste & when these artworks are displayed, we hope that they will not only raise awareness and greater knowledge about challenges surrounding waste in our society but encourages others to think about what they can do to reduce the waste that we all create

Each year there is a specific waste stream that will be featured during the Waste to Art that allows us to focus on specific problem wastes. **2022 IS THE YEAR OF SOFT PLASTICS**. Students do not have to use the featured waste stream as their artwork medium, any waste materials can be used.

\*Fact Sheets about the Featured Waste are included as they may be useful for you to use in class.

## BACKGROUND TO WASTE TO ART

NetWaste consists of 26 councils in Central and Western NSW. Each year Councils are invited to participate in the latest round of Waste to Art by NetWaste. Council involvement is voluntary and depends on availability of a community or council representative who is able to coordinate the local competition. Last year 13 council shires participated.

### How Does it Work:

1. **Local Competition and Exhibition** - Each participating council will conduct a local competition and exhibition. The date for the exhibition will be determined by the coordinator and Entry Forms will be available from your local council, or from the NetWaste website [www.netwaste.org.au](http://www.netwaste.org.au) . Entries may be submitted by a group of students or an individual.
2. **Regional Exhibition** - The winning artworks from each local exhibition and competition will be transported to a Regional Exhibition that is organised by NetWaste. The cost of transport to & from the Regional Exhibition will be covered by NetWaste but the packaging of each artwork for travel is the responsibility of the artist. The next Regional Exhibition will be hosted **by Lithgow Shire Council and the opening is planned for mid 2022 at .....**

Small prizes are awarded as part of the Local Waste to Art events but there is almost **\$9,500** in prize money awarded at the Regional Waste to Art event. Obviously the Primary & Secondary Categories have been included specifically for schools, but students can also enter into the Community & Sustainable Sculpture/Building Categories.

**Categories** (Entries may be submitted by groups or individuals into any of the categories below.)

- **Primary School**
  - 2 Dimensional - Poster/Painting/Collage/Drawing
  - 3 Dimensional – Sculpture/Installation
  - Functional – Furniture/craftworks/wearable objects made from recycled materials
- **Secondary School**
  - 2 Dimensional - Poster/Painting/Collage/Drawing
  - 3 Dimensional – Sculpture/Installation
  - Functional – Furniture/craftworks/wearable objects made from recycled materials
- **Community (Groups or individuals may enter this category but no professional artists)**
  - 2 Dimensional – Poster/Painting/Collage/Drawing
  - 3 Dimensional – Sculpture/Installation
  - Functional – Furniture/craftworks/wearable objects made from recycled materials
- **Open (Professional artists may enter this category)**
  - 2 Dimensional – Poster/Painting/Collage/Drawing
  - 3 Dimensional – Sculpture/Installation
  - Functional – Furniture/craftworks/wearable objects
- **Creative Repair, Redesign & Restoration**
  - 2 Dimensional - Poster/Painting/Collage/Drawing
  - 3 Dimensional – Sculpture/Installation
  - Functional – Furniture/craftworks/wearable objects made from recycled materials
- **Annual Theme Waste**

**2022 Year of soft plastic (the winning artwork for this category will be chosen from one of the above categories)**

**NB: Any artworks that exceed the size and weight limit may enter a photograph of their artwork. It must be framed and ready to hang please.**

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Waste to Art Community Art Exhibition and Competition is open to all community members, artists and schools who currently reside within the NetWaste region.

- All artwork in each category must demonstrate the re-use and recycling of waste.
- Entrants will be notified of competition results by mail/telephone.
- The results of the competition will be announced to local media.
- All entrants grant permission to the organisers to publish &/or broadcast the names and photographs of the finalists and the winners through print and electronic media.
- Judges and their immediate families are not eligible to enter.



## ALL ARTWORK MUST:

- Include a brief description of your composition, the materials and inspiration of your artwork. Preferably this should be emailed to the Waste2Art Coordinator at your local council, otherwise include your description with your entry form (Maximum 300 words)
- Be exhibition ready, which means that if the artwork needs to be hung it **must include a hanging system** (it can be simple).
- Be stable and safe for public exhibition.
- Any instructions for display or set-up of your artwork should be included when submitting artwork to the local exhibition (or, if successful, the regional exhibition).
- Not exceed a size limit: 2 dimensional – 2x2 metres & 3 dimensional – 2x2x2metres.
- Not exceed a weight limit of 40kgs. (If entries exceed the size and weight limit photographs can be submitted (at least A4 size please) but must be ready to hang. **All artworks must be delivered to your local participating council and collected once the exhibition has ended. For details, please contact the local Waste to Art Coordinator.**

**The cost and means of transport to the local exhibition are the responsibility of the entrant.**

If your work is identified as a local winner, it will be transported to a Regional Waste to Art Exhibition. NetWaste will cover the cost of transporting artworks. The organisers will take all reasonable care in handling and dealing with works submitted, however the organisers will not be responsible for any loss or damage incurred to any of the artworks or materials.

## REGIONAL EXHIBITION AND COMPETITION

Lithgow Shire Council will host the 2022 Regional Exhibition & Competition. The official Opening is planned for **mid-2022** at ..... Local coordinators will arrange transport of all winning entries from each of the local competitions to Lithgow.

Artists are responsible for packaging their own work ready for transportation to Coonamble and delivering their work to the local council ready for collection by the courier on the designated day.

Your work should be clearly labelled & include:

- ✓ FROM: your name, phone number competition category and council shire.
- ✓ TO: Regional Waste to Art Exhibition – **Lithgow**
- ✓ If your work is for sale the price should be included on your original Entry Form.
- ✓ Any instructions for display or set-up of your artwork should be included.

The organisers will take all reasonable care in handling and dealing with works submitted, however the organisers will not be responsible for any loss or damage incurred to any of the artworks or materials.

**If you require further information about the Regional Exhibition, contact the NetWaste office on 0400 336 508 or email [ela@netwaste.com.au](mailto:ela@netwaste.com.au)**

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