Composting Outline for Maroubra Bay Public School

**Aim:** To reduce the amount of waste produced by the school

- To utilise a current waste stream as a means of improving the soil quality in the school garden
- To provide practical experience and learning opportunities for students

Successful composting involves the correct combination of green (wet) and Brown (dry) organic material in aerobic conditions. The school is in an unusual position of producing large quantities of brown material from the chickens in the form of used straw and manure. Typically a school community produces a lot of green waste, in the form of lunch rubbish and tree and plant cuttings, and attempts at composting are hindered by a lack of brown material.

At present we need to secure a green waste stream from the school and use it in a designated composting area combining it with waste from the chickens to produce quality compost for the garden.

In order to achieve this we need to separate green waste produced by the students and teachers and deliver it to the garden.

Composting can be achieved by implementing the following;

**A Green Team**

A group of selected students (final numbers to be decided by staff based on need) form a team who are responsible for the collection of green waste bins from around the school and transporting the contents to the composting area in the garden. These children will check and make sure only suitable waste goes into the designated green waste area. Bins will then be taken back to the waste station location. Children will not be responsible for layering or turning compost (decision based on the experience of Coogee PS). Bins can be taken down to the garden at an interval decided on by the children depending on how quickly they are filled. Green team members are also able to help other children identify what waste is appropriate for which designated bin.

**Education of Children**

Use of signage around bins. This may include pictures of what goes into what bin. Organising speakers at the school to talk about waste reduction and composting, such as Erin Gibson from Waverley Council, and The Eastern Suburbs Sustainable School Network.

**Three Bin Waste Stations**

New bins to be provided for the playground area. These would be perhaps, 5 stations in groups of three bins, and would have covered lids to stop rubbish removal by Ibis. The bins would be coloured to indicate the type of waste for each bin. RED - general rubbish. YELLOW - recyclable material like...
paper, cardboard, p.e.t. plastics etc. GREEN - compostable material from lunches and garden waste. This continues the bin colour coding done by Randwick Council and therefore the children's school waste management experience to be transferred readily to home. A three bin station is recommended as it means children will not have to search for the appropriate bin for their waste. They are more likely to sort then to put all of their rubbish into the first bin they see.

**The construction of a composting area – COMPLETED 22/5/11**

Composting area built in the garden. This would consist of five bays. Three composting bays and one bay for green waste and one bay for brown waste. The compost area is to be located half way between the chicken run and the COLA to the south of the existing timber beds. These bays have been constructed from timber and materials supplied by MITRE 10, Kingsford.

**Composting overseen by John Duffy**

John Duffy is a neighbour of the school who has an interest in gardening and in composting in particular. He has agreed to oversee composting in the garden, probably once or twice a week. Turning and layering of compost from a school and for a large garden that measures almost an acre, only becomes a manageable task when there is a system in place to provide easy access to the materials needed to compost. Composting could be done on a parent roster.