



BUNNINGS & MIRANI HIGH SEP GARDENING PROJECT BY Mrs Brown

Mirani State High School Special Education Program (SEP) have joined forces with Bunnings, we've had a busy week establishing a garden which will become part of the SEP enterprise gardening project for 2014. The fresh herbs and vegetables that are grown will be sold to staff and parents that will eventually supplement the SEP budget.

Shelley (Activities Co-ordinator) and her offsider Kylie, from Bunnings, arrived 'first thing' Monday morning ready to kick-start **Day 1** of our little gardening expedition. After a very explicit safety debrief from Shelley, extremely 'snazzy', (and should I also mention 'free') Bunnings gloves were donned by all helpers... We unloaded the wooden planks, gardening tools, cane mulch, cow manure, potting mix and other 'goodies' from the Bunnings' vehicle with great anticipation of how our you-beaut, 'no dig' gardens were going to come together. [Thankfully, no official reports of splinters were recorded]. The eager assistance of Mrs Nash's Year 11 Early Childhood students sped up this whole process immensely (see pic's); I'm sure Lunch 2 would have 'come and gone' were these students not available, so thanks again ladies – and Mrs Nash. Thank you also to Chappie Rex, and fellow SEP Staff and students who were present; "A+" for effort to everyone involved! ☺

Gardens assembled and painted, cardboard laid. Check. Next came the cane mulch. Oh, then the joyous task of the spreading the cow manure - all in the name of a healthy, nutrient-rich garden bed. After morning tea, guest speaker Mr Don Gipson arrived from Mackay Lifestyle Choices. He was spotted in the garden prior to making his presentation.

Fast forward to **Day 2**...Shelley returned with a new car load of supplies; however the focus had turned to 'colour' and making the garden space more vibrant. Plants, tiles, special powder to add to PVC pipe adhesive and lots of stones appeared – not to mention our PVC-piping-hot scarecrow!

Helper numbers were down on the previous day; however our spirits had not been dampened. We went out and coloured-up the garden. The staff and students who had the opportunity to finish off this project on Day 2 can now proudly say that a 'part of them' will be in this garden for many years to come; individually designed tiles were mounted onto the side of the first garden bed facing out to HBlock.

This project is still on-going with more plants to be brought for one of the garden beds. A massive shout out must go to Bunnings' for making this project happen!! ☺

