



Corrigin students waterwise

CORRIGIN District High School recently celebrated achieving waterwise status through the Water Corporation's Waterwise Schools Program.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis presented school principal Jacqueline Bowles with a waterwise certificate on Friday November 13.

Mr Ellis said waterwise schools like CDHS were leading the way toward a sustainable water future.

He praised the children's work which included learning about the water cycle, learning about irrigation in country areas, studying the importance of keeping waterways clean and the effects of salinity on local vegetation.

The school's waterwise program was co-ordinated throughout the year by teacher Jacqueline Jones.

"The high school students looked at salinity, which is prevalent in this area," Mrs Jones said.

"We also had a guest speaker visit us to talk about salinity, and the science teacher set up a fish tank with pollutants in it to show students the effects of pollution on water.

"The primary classes learnt about the importance of saving water by having short showers and not leaving the tap running while cleaning their



Leading the way: Corrigin DHS Waterwise program co-ordinator Jackie Jones (right) holds the school's certificate acknowledging waterwise status. With her are Bush Ranger students Brendan Boyd and Michael Gannaway, Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, school leader Sam Kiddle, CDHS deputy principal Clive Hamilton, Water Corporation regional business manager Evan Hambleton, and school leader Amber Channon.

teeth."

The school has a conservation group, made up of 17 of the school's high school aged children and known as the Bush Rangers Group.

"At the school fete in April, the Bush Rangers held a stall where they promoted waterwise messages by encouraging passers-by to fish information out of a pond," Mrs Jones said.

The Bush Rangers group has also been involved in setting up a worm farm to recycle scraps at the school, tree planting at Gorge Rock, cataloguing lichens native to Corrigin, putting up nesting boxes for endangered native phascogales, and learning about other native

animals.

"On our last camp a few weeks ago, a snake handler came to speak to the kids about native snakes, and the kids had a go at handling the non-poisonous snakes," Mrs Jones said.

"We also did a search and rescue exercise, where the kids used two-way radios and learned how to speak correctly on the two-way.

"In previous camps we went to Kanyana encounter, a wildlife rehabilitation centre on the edge of Perth, where we saw bilbies, and other native animals.

"We also had an Aboriginal elder visit that camp, and he showed the kids various medicinal native plants,

how to make a stone knife using gum from trees, how aboriginals would trap fish, and he also showed them spear throwing and boomerang throwing.

"At our second camp we visited Dryandra wildlife park just outside Narrogin, where we did a night walk and saw bilbies and boodies and things you wouldn't normally see in the wild.

"With these visits there is always an educational factor such as teaching the kids to work out the heights of trees and record types of vegetation in certain areas.

"They also learn leadership skills, for example on Remembrance Day they marched in and conducted the ceremony."