

# Use your EGG to comprehend nature

Lou Beaumont

The EGG (Educational Green Garden) is an educational tool with a difference. It is a small-scale ecosystem, mimicking the larger picture that is mother nature. A relatively small space set aside somewhere like a school can be transformed into an area for hands on learning that spans the school curriculum.

The EGG, a domed area of about 15m x 5m, is used to grow food and farm fish and poultry. Water is collected in a rain water tank from the roof of the EGG, overflowing into ponds housing fish which then overflows into raised kitchen garden beds providing plants with nutrient rich water. Lower garden beds receive water from the raised gardens, by now the water is even higher in nutrients. Deep rooted plants and trees around the border of the EGG draw up seepage water which transpires back into the EGG's atmosphere making clouds and rain and completing the water cycle.

Energy required for water pumps, lighting and electrical equipment is provided by a wind turbine and solar panels on the roof, making the EGG a carbon neutral eco education centre. The energy is stored in a battery to be used when required. The EGG is also solar passive, using vines and trees to control light and warmth within the area, providing shade for different activities, such as planting or potting, depending on the time of day.

Moreover, the system produces no waste. Organic produce goes to the school canteen or local community, and



Mullum High students (all those pictured are members of SLEG – Sustainable Living & Environment Group) with other EGG lovers around the model EGG (Educational Green Garden) at the proposed site for the real thing at Mullum High School. Students from left: Cassie Level (Yr10), James Rixon (Yr7), Phoebe Nicholls (Yr10), Cara Maku (Yr8) and Marlo Webber (Yr8). EGG supporters from left: Giovanni Ebono, Paul Frangos, John Dolman, Principal Ian Graham, Mitra Ardron, Malcolm Mackenzie and EGG creator Wayne Wadsworth with his model turbine.

garden waste is given to the chickens living within the EGG and subsequently poultry manure fertilises the plants.

EGG creator, Wayne Wadsworth, said, 'The EGG teaches the sustainable use of land by integrating the efficient and sustainable use of water, energy and land (WEL) into a design format that produces a lot of organic food in a small area, thereby teaching younger generations how to grow healthy organic food in the city.'

'Ultimately, oil and most of the mined minerals we use will soon peak and then rapidly run out. We will need to design and build natural organic systems that create our wealth from on top of the land and not beneath it.'

'Growing food in our cities will free up rural land to be used for growing basic foods

and crops for paper, cloth, fibre bio plastics and a myriad of other goods currently made from petrochemicals. Farmers and rural communities will prosper... anything made from oil can be made from plants instead!'

Also, by localising WEL needs, food transport nationally and globally can be phased out, reducing food miles, transport energy and carbon use. Wayne also has a vision to share this green technology and knowledge with people less fortunate, helping them to create healthy, wealthy and wise communities that are self-sufficient and sustainable through the localisation of their water, energy and land needs.

Wayne said, 'I believe sharing knowledge, education and green technology is the road to solving the green-

house effect and creating health, wealth, peace and security for all.'

Mullum High will be the first high school to fully install an EGG system, and the project is fully supported by school principal Mr Ian Graham and teachers such as Paul Frangos. Upper Coopers Creek Public have a current working educational module also created by Wayne which is a simpler version of the EGG structure and is called the Hilton Hen House.

If you would like more details about the Educational Green Garden or would like to assist financially, you can contact Wayne on 6684 6202, 0417 841 057 or hellowadzy@gmail.com. The One Stop Green Shop website [www.onestopgreenshop.com.au](http://www.onestopgreenshop.com.au) also has information on the EGG project.