

QUEANBEYAN SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL



Cameron Road
QUEANBEYAN
NSW 2620

Phone: 02 6297 3043

Fax: 02 6299 3350



Job Description for the Kitchen Garden Program - Garden Specialist at Queanbeyan South Public School

Our mantra is Growing, Harvesting, Preparing, Sharing.

The aim of the Kitchen Garden Program is to introduce young children to the wonderful world of good food via a productive food garden and an exciting kitchen, as an integral part of the school curriculum.

We hope to engage the curiosity of the young students and to help them learn how to grow the very best food in the very best way, how to care for it in the garden, how to recognise when it is ripe and at its best, how to prepare it easily and enjoyably and how to develop an expanding culinary palate – and be excited by all these experiences.

We want to convince children to modify their eating habits because the food they are experiencing tastes so good, rather than because they are being told to eat some foods and not to eat others.

The best of all possible worlds would be to engage the classroom teachers, food providers elsewhere in the school, parents and the community to all become excited by the possibilities this project offers.

The **Garden Specialist** has overall responsibility for planning and maintaining the garden, and also plans and conducts weekly garden classes in which students learn about growing produce for a kitchen (among many other things!).

On taking up the position you will undertake the following tasks.

- Attend regular kitchen garden committee meetings at the School to facilitate the rollout of the vegetable garden component of the Kitchen Garden Program, along with general problem solving and planning of special events, publicity etc.
- Plan weekly garden classes, ensuring they are applicable to all participating age groups.

A Quality School Building Queanbeyan's Future

This involves preparing up to five activities per class, creating a syllabus and preparing materials.

- Facilitate garden classes with the aid of the classroom teacher assisting with behavioural issues.
- Involve classroom teachers and students in the development of the syllabus through formal and informal discussions.
- Plan the planting of the vegetable garden and involve the students in the process.
- Plan any development of the vegetable garden infrastructure – incorporating the pre-existing vision – and involve the school community in the process.
- Document suggested garden changes and provide to kitchen garden committee.
- Assist with documentation of the project by recording comments on classes, collecting worksheets, class surveys, photographic documentation, weekly records etc.
- Be resourceful about obtaining items needed for the garden – receive donations when possible, scavenge(!) or purchase within budget guidelines.
- Work in the garden doing general gardening tasks like weeding, pest control and completing jobs not finished by students, as well as maintaining equipment.
- Communicate any maintenance matters to either the school groundskeeper or the maintenance worker.
- Coordinate and support garden volunteers, compile and update volunteer information, help coordinate volunteer events, advertise for volunteers and respond to interest from potential volunteers.
- Provide encouragement, advice and inspiration to other schools by facilitating group tours and school excursions to the garden, giving presentations and responding to phone calls and emails.
- Liaise with the wider community and nurture relationships with those donating goods to the kitchen garden.
- Liaise with School Administrator Manager regarding purchases required.
- Identify and facilitate fundraising opportunities such as coordinating the selling of seeds, seedlings and excess produce at a suitable outlet, e.g. school market.
- Liaise with the Kitchen Specialist on a weekly basis to inform them what can be harvested immediately and in the future to inform menu planning.
- Consult with the Kitchen Specialist regarding their produce requests.
- Liaise with the Kitchen Specialist and Classroom Teacher on ways to integrate the learning in the garden with the learning in the kitchen.
- Harvest produce for kitchen classes.
- The Garden Specialist reports to the Assistant Principal.

The part time position is for approximately 14hours per week over 2 &1/2 days, as a General Assistant.

Applications to be received by mail, fax or email by 5pm Monday 5th March.

Email: queanbeyas-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Web Address: www.queanbeyas-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

A Quality School Building Queanbeyan's Future