



# Waste Not, Want Not

## Scenario

The North Shore City Council wants everyone to reduce the waste going into landfills. One day their aim is to achieve zero waste. Worm farms and composting are two ways of reducing organic waste. Using skilful compare and contrast could these assist your family to significantly reduce their waste stream?



Members of our EcoTeam with scientist Dr John Walsby and some of our hungry worms.

Dear Parents

We are about to start a new science Quest called 'Waste Not, Want Not' This unit of work has been developed here at Birkdale Intermediate with the assistance of scientist Dr John Walsby. Our students work in pairs to answer the question posed in the scenario.

Each Teaching Team has chosen a class to investigate composting while the other classes are investigating worm farms. Each class is responsible for gathering data which will be shared with the team at a 'concluding conversation' in the school's theatre. Students will take notes and question the groups presenting so they have all the information needed to skilfully compare and contrast and make a recommendation as to how their family could reduce their waste stream.

They will be answering questions like:

- How does composting work?
- How do worm farms work?
- What are the significant advantages and disadvantages between the two methods?
- Which would your family be most likely to use effectively?



Mercury Energy provided the school's main worm farm and the initial 20,000 worms.



Our Worm Farm..

You can support your child during this study by:

- Helping them collect the waste they need to create their compost or feed their worms.

## Quest Awards and Presentations



**Online Learning Award**  
Recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.



Presented at the National Education Computing Conference, New Orleans, United States of America.



Finalist Computerworld Excellence Awards.



Presented at the Col.legi Montserrat, Barcelona, Spain.

Yours sincerely

Richard Coote  
Principal