Mount Tarcoola Primary School wins $10,000 worth of shade!

The Win $10,000 for Shade competition, now in its fourth year, encourages membership of the SunSmart Schools program. Only SunSmart schools are eligible to win. A SunSmart School is one that has registered its sun protection policy with Cancer Council WA.

Principal at Mount Tarcoola Primary School Mark Whisson said the win meant a lot to the school. "We've been a SunSmart school since 2008 so our students are very aware of the need to protect themselves appropriately," he said. "Winning the school shade grant means we will be able to significantly increase the shade area for our students. The cost would have put this project out of reach without the support of the Cancer Council."

This latest round of the competition coincided with National Skin Cancer Action Week, which raises awareness of the need for sun protection for skin cancer prevention.

Through the competition entry Cancer Council asks schools to nominate what they would spend the money on if they won. We know from the high number of entries received that many schools need increased shade, often due to increasing enrolments the following school year. Common themes in responses are shade marquees for outdoor events, shade over junior primary playgrounds and sandpits, to replace shade sails that have been damaged in strong weather, and shade over upper primary play areas.

SunSmart Manager Mark Strickland said “The grant was an excellent way of reminding schools about the importance of shaded play areas. Skin damage during childhood and adolescence greatly increases your risk of developing skin cancer later in life, so it’s really vital we educate young people about the risks of skin cancer and make shade available to them at school. The more we promote the SunSmart message through measures such as this grant, the more successful we will be in reducing their risk of developing skin cancer,” he said.

Previous winners are:

- **Blue Gum Montessori School** who shaded an outdoor play space for upper primary students including a half basketball court.
- **Kardinya Primary School** erected shade over an existing junior primary playground and replaced a sail that was previously damaged in a storm.
- **Bluff Point Primary School** erected shade over a multipurpose outdoor space they plan to use for assemblies and other outdoor gatherings.

The SunSmart Schools program is a FREE program that aims to minimise student and staff exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

For information about joining the SunSmart Schools program and to view a list of current member schools, visit [www.GenerationSunSmart.com](http://www.GenerationSunSmart.com)

---

End playground arguments about hats! Cancer Council UV Meters are now available!

Now you can be SunSmart when the UV is 3 or above. Cancer Council WA is excited to announce that the first batch of our long awaited real-time UV meters is now available for sale.

There are only 10 UV meters available so you’ll need to be quick to secure one.

The meters measure and display the UV Index at your location. They are solar powered and can be wall or pole mounted. They broadcast their reading to the internet and can also connect to your school network via Wi-Fi if you wish. Meter accuracy is monitored remotely by Cancer Council WA to ensure that the reading is always correct.

Prototype meters have been installed at St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls, Deep Water Point in Mount Pleasant and at the Surfing WA clubhouse at Trigg Beach.

UV meters cost $4 375 + GST. For more information please contact us.

P: (08) 9388 4333 or E: education@cancerwa.asn.au