

Staff and students learn about worm farms and composting

Manly college stays green

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WORM farms and composting are part of the International College of Management's life. Sustainability is implanted into student culture from day one. With 53 nationalities studying at the Manly college, sustainability is both an unfamiliar word and practice for many.

"Many of our international students are unfamiliar with the concept," ICMS maintenance manager Jason Nicol said. "We get everyone involved from day one. When students go home and become managers themselves, getting rid of waste is going to be their biggest cost."

In his 10 years, Mr Nicol has seen sustainable business practices become commonplace for students, housekeeping and grounds staff. Students and staff are inducted in environmental and recycling procedures including worm farming and onsite composting.

Green practices aren't reserved for students - housekeeping and ground staff are trained in water-saving techniques. On-campus

practices include timers installed in showers, drip irrigation in gardens and recycling water from stormwater to irrigate lawns.

Staying green is an ongoing pursuit, Mr Nicol said. ICMS is currently setting up a student Green Team to investigate ways to keep the campus clean and environmentally sustainable. The team will then implement new ways of improving recycling and sustainable practices on campus.

In November 2008, ICMS bagged two Manly Council sustainable business awards. Armed with its swag of impressive green credentials, it took out the water use management category for strategies including student and staff water education, low-flow showerheads and dual-flush toilets in bathrooms, rain-water collection and pollution prevention techniques.

It also picked up the excellence in sustainable business management for ongoing commitment to sustainability and its triple bottom line of diverse social, economic and environmentally responsible practices including organic waste recycling to establishing vegetation



Jason Nicol with the college's worm farm.

corridors for wildlife, supporting handiwork surveys, membership of the Manly Chamber of Commerce and sponsorship of organisations such as Bear Cottage and the North Head Sanctuary Foundation.

Although no awards were held in 2009, ICMS is taking up the challenge for the 2010 Manly Sustainable Business Awards.

They acknowledge business achievement across the triple bottom line of social, economic and environmentally responsible practices, Manly mayor Jean Hay said.

"The aim of the Manly Sustainable Business Awards program is to promote corporate responsibility within the local business sector and provide community recognition for outstanding sustainable business practices," she said.

There are six award categories: water use management, waste management, energy efficiency, contribution to local community, excellence in sustainable business management and fair trade.

Category winners will receive a certificate and a \$1000 cheque to be

invested in sustainable business management initiatives.

■ To enter, businesses must complete an entry form and questionnaire and return it to the council by March 24. Entry forms are available online at the council website www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Sustainable-Business-Awards.html or call 9976 1654.

Winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony hosted by Manly Council in Council Chambers on Tuesday, 30 March.

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