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Summary

Sacred Heart School in Wagga Wagga has constructed a large vegetable garden and mini farm on the school grounds to show children where food comes from, and how to look after animals. In a dry area, the need for watering the garden is a constant issue, and in the interests of conservation, a water tank is desirable to retain some of the rainfall from school building roofs. As the garden needs to be moveable, a standard water tank is too heavy to relocate.

About (Background)

Bishop F. A. Henschke, Bishop of Wagga Wagga purchased four, 5 acre blocks in different areas of the city for the purpose of establishing parish churches and schools. In 1957, on the block on Lake Albert Road, an army hut made of corrugated iron was transferred from Kapooka Barracks and became the Mass Centre for that part of the Cathedral Parish, which was then under the administratorship of Monsignor Des Lane.

In 1960 a school building was erected on that site. It housed three classrooms and a large room which became the centre for Mass. The army hut was turned into two classrooms. Further classrooms were added to the main building. When the Parish Centre was erected in 1978, the army hut was sold to a farmer who now uses it for storing hay. What was the original Mass Centre became the school library until 2008 until it was turned into two classrooms.

The Challenge (or Problem/Objective)

The school is an active participant in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, and as the school is in a particularly arid environment, water is precious. The garden has been moved on occasion to fit additional buildings, so a traditional water tank is less useful, due to it being too heavy to relocate. The Pak Flat Tank was made available by Greenco Water as part of the Greener Gardens promotion throughout Australia.

The Solution

The school chose the Pak Flat Tank partially because of the donation of one tank, and partially because of the success of the tank fitting the school's short and long term plans. The ease of assembly and installation meant the school handyman could attach the tank to the existing downpipes and overflow discharges, saving the school substantial costs in hiring a plumber. The portability of the tank also helped, as the school has moved the garden on two occasions in the past to allow for building expansion.

Results

The two Pak Flat Tanks now provide the water needs for the school gardens to grow vegetables and herbs for over 300 children in their in-class cooking lessons.



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