



# Case study - Holy Cross School

8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 - updated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## EcoCover Weed Square project

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EcoCover manufacturing plants are located in Australia, the Czech Republic and New Zealand

Presented by Judy Laing

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 a presentation was done to 163 (Junior, Middle and Senior School) at Holy Cross Catholic School.

The middle and senior school have been involved in Enviro Schools and extensive planting of native trees was undertaken by the children on two plots at the school.

The site is relatively steep with one site having bark mulch placed on it and the other being a grassed area as per photos below:



EcoCover New Zealand was approached through a contact at the school and a presentation was organised and the children were involved in the laying of the EcoSquares.



Approximately 50 x 500mm RF EcoSquares and some Standard EcoSquares were used mostly around the smaller native trees.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (6 weeks after installation) a visual check of the site was done.

### **Conclusion**

The site is in good condition, no signs of any damage of the EcoSquares. The squares are intact and on the grassed site have continued to suppress the weed growth around the plants.



Despite no rain for the previous 5 days the soil under the EcoSquares remains moist as pictured below.



This site will continue to be monitored and at the start of the new school year will organise to do another small up date with the students and teachers.

**Up Date – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

The site has not been maintained apart from the caretaker mowing the grassed area. This has resulted in some post planting maintenance damage to the EcoSquares.

The bark covered area has not been well maintained and weed growth is prolific. However, the EcoCover weed squares have fully suppressed the weed growth around the stem of the trees (see photo below).



Photo taken 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008



Photo taken 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – 10 months



Photo taken 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008



Photo taken 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – 10 months



No weed growth around stem of plant

This is a site that has experienced very little or no maintenance and the EcoCover weed squares have been 'laid and left'. After 10 months – through 3 seasons, including one of the driest summers on record, the EcoCover is still in very good condition with little biodegradation of the product.

The hessian reinforcing has 'come away' on some of the squares and this appears to be due to outside interference. Those higher up on the steep bank are in perfect condition, in tact and doing an excellent job of suppressing the weed growth around the plant and conserving moisture. The growth in the new plantings over the 10 month period is exceptional.

Overall this has been a very successful project and Holy Cross School are extremely pleased with the results. The school is now looking at the next planting project of approximately another 500 native trees.

They will be using EcoCover again in the future.