

# South Coast school flies "Eco-Schools Flag"

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By Jon Govender

**N**AIDOO MEMORIAL Primary in Craigieburn, Roseneath is an "Eco-School" and has been proudly flying the International flag since 2005.

In 2006 the school was awarded a second flag for again qualifying as a "Green School". Co-ordinators Miss P Phooobala and Mr RA Rangasamy explained the secret of their consistent success as a "whole school involvement" including the principal, teachers, pupils, parents, school government, education department, corporate and environmental organisations.

This year-long programme starts every January and culminates with the presentation of a portfolio to the National Eco Schools coordinating body WESSA (Wild Life and Environment Society of South Af-

rica) for evaluation and assessment. The portfolio has to reflect pupil involvement and facilitation by teachers as well as evidence of involvement of different sectors such as Department of Water Affairs and Umgeni Water Works. In awarding the 2006 Eco flag, B Ringdahl, National Eco Schools Co-ordinator said, "Pupils and teachers must be applauded for putting their shoulders to the wheel in this manner! It is integrated assistance of this kind, that, together with the community and the whole school, will make your establishment grow from strength to strength."

In 2007, grade seven pupil, Lerena Govender brought honour to the school with her artwork, which was placed fifth in the world. In the Coastal Clean-up Model Competition the school was judged first against 150 participating schools.

Apart from integrated class work,

pupils are engaging in clubs and mini organizations promoting such diverse issues as AIDS support, TADA (Teenagers Against Drug Abuse) and Feeding Schemes for disadvantaged pupils.

Naidoo Memorial School is at the forefront of conservation and promoting the international message of caring for the resource-

es and the earth. It is geared to influence the lives of pupils not only at school but also through their interactions with society as a whole. Their skills will hopefully enable them to better cope with real life issues such as the "energy crisis" caused through the bungling of government and ESKOM.



"Stop treating the sea as a bottomless dustbin" is the message carried by Naidoo Memorial's model, which scooped first prize in the KZN Coastal Clean-up competition.



Naidoo Memorial's wholehearted support for this year's International Beach Clean-up is evident in the amount of litter they picked up on Wildenham beach.

