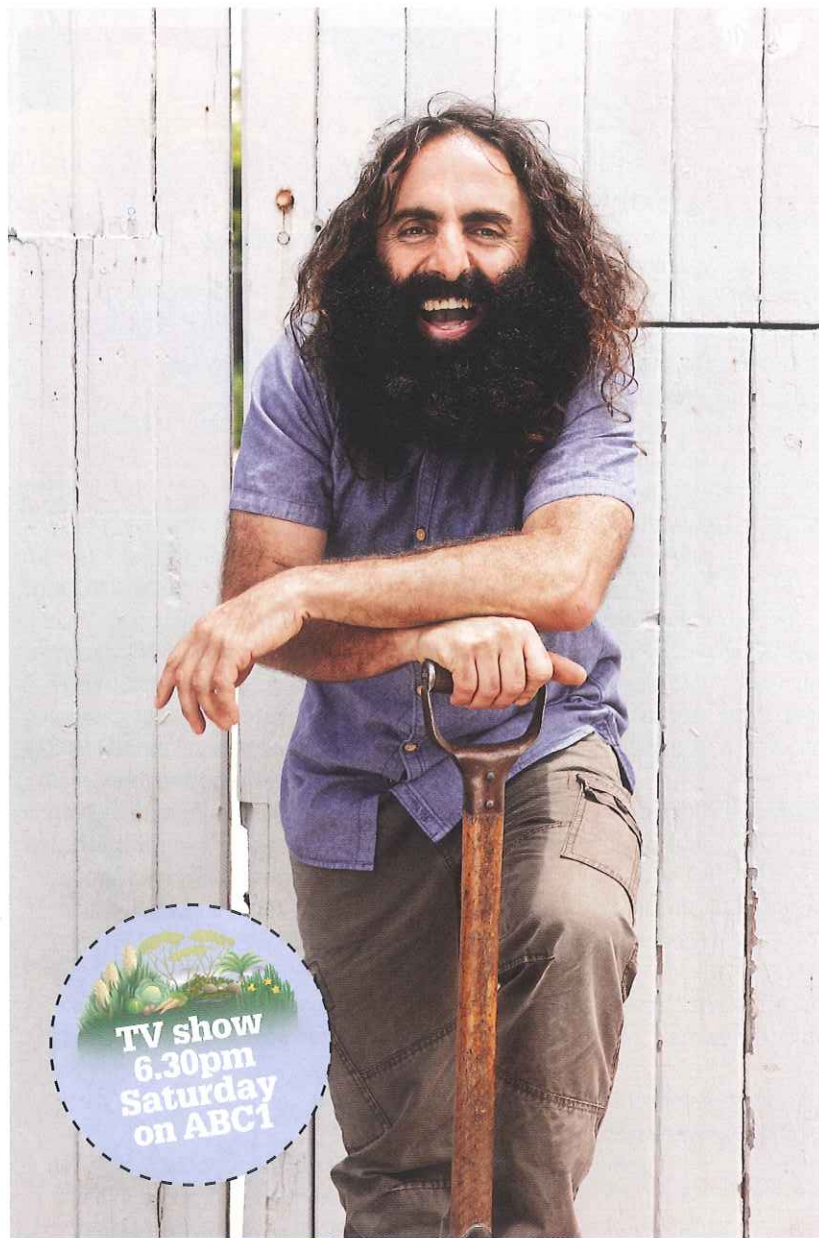


costa's crusade

by costa georgiadis



enviro education

It's awesome how easy it is to engage kids. And the more you engage them with the environment as part of a program, the more we can grow the school curriculum nationally.

I recently went along to the launch of the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW EnviroMentors 'Schoolyard Harvest' module at Newington Public School in Sydney and it got me buzzing. This is a really active school resource program.

The best bit about it is that it's a simple program to start up: the schools don't need anything to get it up and running – they don't need a big classroom or kitchen.

Plus, the program includes lots of different modules that feed into different subjects such as science, technology and the environment.

There are people called EnviroMentors who go out to schools and teach about waste education and do workshops. Basically they share a positive environmental message tied to everyday learning.

The EnviroMentors do it in all sorts of fun ways, depending on the age of the kids. For older kids, they start calculating food miles and looking at food packaging; with the really little kids, they do drama, quizzes and drawing.

With this kind of program, there's also going to be more of an opportunity for teachers to expand the new national curriculum – not just in terms of growing food, but also stretching into health, nutrition and exercise modules, and across all areas of learning. **GA**

if I only have...

5 minutes

SHORT-ON-TIME GARDENING TIPS

- I quickly pull out any winter weeds before they take hold as it's the best way to prevent them taking over. Getting them before they set seed is crucial to avoid more work further down the track.
- I give deciduous fruit trees a good shake to help them to defoliate and pluck off any straggling leaves. This means more light gets to the understorey, but also helps with disease control and flower set in spring.
- I wander around the garden and make a quick mental list of things that need doing. That way I can mull the tasks over in my head and prioritise what needs to be done when I've got time on the weekend. It's amazing how this bit of planning makes for time well spent later on.

josh

