



Toogoololawa students Matthew Cavers, 13, Joel Martin, 14 with principal Neil Wales and fellow students Brandon Rogan, 13 and front) Darcy Wood, 12 with rubbish collected at Throsby Creek foreshore.

School boys clean creek foreshore weekly

It is a weekly sight – about five school boys walking along the Throsby Creek foreshore with a bucket in hand.

Toogoololawa School, a behavioural boy's school based at Wickham, sends some students every Wednesday to clean up sections of Throsby Creek.

Supervised by school principal Neil Wales, the students armed with tongs and a bucket, collect garbage bags of rubbish including plastic bags, glass bottles and even syringes.

Mr Wales said this activity was called Water Ways Clean-Up and was designed to promote the idea of keeping the environment clean.

"It's a voluntary thing we do each week," he said.

Mr Wales said the boys usually picked up about four garbage bags full of rubbish, but collected even more after it had rained.

"Sometimes it gets really bad. It's choc-a-block with rubbish," he said.

He believes the students are the only ones that keep that section of the creek maintained on a regular basis.

Newcastle City Council environmental education officer Alicia Martin said in previous years council had received funding from the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority to undertake quarterly clean-ups around the boardwalk.

However, council did not apply to the authority for funding this year.

Instead, the council decided to rely on community support to protect and enhance the environment.

"We had the Newcastle Rowing Club and another community group on Clean Up Australia Day, as well as students from Hunter Valley Grammar," she said.

"Newcastle High and Islington Primary will be doing some planting in May."

– KYLIE ADORANTI