

## **News from the NSW Catholic Sustainable Schools Network**

With support from The Columban Mission Institute  
*E Newsletter Number 17 Term 1 2011*



This New » work together creating sustainable schools in the Catholic system. Contributions for this newsletter have kindly come from Anne Lanyon CMI, Gary Burrows CEO Sydney, Mary Connor BBD, Clare Maloney Parramatta diocese and Mark Caddey DET. Please contribute to the newsletter by contacting Sue Martin [sue@kcj.net.au](mailto:sue@kcj.net.au) or your Diocesan Sustainable Schools contact.

Welcome to **2011 International Year of the Forest.**



In this edition of our quarterly newsletter you will find updates on

1. **A Blessing**
2. **Green Church Initiatives**
3. **Catholic Earthcare Australia update**
4. **Sustainable Schools Update**
5. **Stories from around the Dioceses**
6. **Calendar of environmental events**
7. **Environment Resources available**
8. **Conferences**

### **Objectives of the Network:**

- Assist NSW Catholic schools as they use "On Holy Ground" an ecological vision statement for Catholic schools in NSW  
[www.onholyground.edu.au/go/download-pdf.cfm](http://www.onholyground.edu.au/go/download-pdf.cfm)
- Assist Catholic schools as they join the NSW Sustainable Schools community
  - [www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au)
- Support teachers and the wider school community (students, parents, parishes, administrators) in their sustainability endeavours in NSW Catholic schools
- Link, learn and share together.

### **1. A Blessing**

#### Rainforest

The forest drips and glows with green  
The tree-frog croaks his far-off song  
His voice is stillness, moss and rain

Drunk from the forest ages long.

We cannot understand that call  
Unless we move into his dream  
Where all is one and one is all  
And frog and python are the same

Oodgeroo Noonucca(aka Kath Walker)

## **2. Green Church Initiatives**

**From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice**

**OUT SOON!**

### **Stations of the Forests (Australian Version)**

DVD and supporting booklet using the 'Stations of the Cross' format to lament the stages of death of part of God's Creation, the Rainforests.

In the International Year of the Forests, how can prayerful reflection on the destruction of forests challenge us to take action in our communities?

**Pre-orders taken now!**

Ph 02 9352 8021 E [pej.cmi@columban.org.au](mailto:pej.cmi@columban.org.au)

Did you see the Carbon Fast for Lent put out by the NSW CLRI  
[www.clrinsw.org/current/soc\\_just/sj\\_110302.pdf](http://www.clrinsw.org/current/soc_just/sj_110302.pdf)

Green Church Awards – Five Leaf Award. <http://wr.victas.uca.org.au/green-church/>

ARRCC launches its Policy Positions Paper

**3. Catholic Earthcare Australia update:** [www.catholicearthcare.org.au](http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au)

"If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation" Pope Benedict XVI's message for the celebration of World Day of Peace

In May CEA is holding a schools sustainability learning network meeting at All Saints Liverpool, Ken Brown CEA is organizing [kensbrown@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kensbrown@optusnet.com.au)

To contact Catholic Earthcare Australia [luke.edwards@catholicearthcare.org.au](mailto:luke.edwards@catholicearthcare.org.au)

## **4. Sustainable Schools Update**

Eco Schools grants now open!! Applications close 20 May 2011

Guidelines, application forms and workshop information is available on the Trust's Eco Schools web page [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm)

For ideas check out the project summaries of previous grants, [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/2010schools.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/2010schools.htm) also assistance with writing grants can often be found by contacting your local government environment team.

Another grant that may interest primary schools is the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen School garden grants for up to \$60,000

Program information and application: [www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au](http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au). Applications for funding open on 3 May and close 3 June 2011

Register your school to get updates from the Sustainable Schools NSW team by visiting [www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au)



[www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au)

## **5. Stories from around the Dioceses**

### **Sydney Diocese**

#### **All Saints Primary School Liverpool officially 'carbon-neutral'.**

The company Carbon Planet, in conjunction with Pangolin Associates Pty Ltd, were commissioned by the Principal Ms Rose-Marie Hoekstra to conduct a comprehensive assessment of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In their report: **Executive Summary: All Saints 2009 GHG report v3 carbon Planet** they concluded;

*"The net total carbon emissions for All Saints were 211.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>-e). which includes indirect contributions up to Scope 3 emissions as well as any voluntary carbon credit and renewable GreenPower purchases.*

*'Third Party Services' was the largest contributor, at 75.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e (35.8% of gross GHG Protocol emissions) & the main activity contributing to GHG emissions in this sector was 'Buses', (20% of gross GHG Protocol emissions).*

*Overall emissions changed by -201.2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e), **a decrease of -48.7%** over the base year.*

*In a like for like net comparison where only activities measured in both assessments were compared, there was a **decrease of -19.1 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e representing a net change of -9.3%**. This was largely driven by a decrease in electricity consumption of -60.6% (-45.2 MWh).*

*Total energy consumption was 0.1 TJ.*

*The minimum reportable emissions for All Saints was 26.2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e, as defined by Scopes 1 and 2 emissions covered under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (NGER)".*

The community is carbon-neutral after offsetting the final tonnes through purchase of carbon credits - to the value of around \$2500.

**Congratulations to Rose-Marie, the students and staff on achieving a long-fought-for goal.**

Gary Burrows the sustainability officer for Sydney CEO has developed an on-line sustainability group at: [http://sustainceo.ning.com/?xg\\_source=msg\\_mes\\_network](http://sustainceo.ning.com/?xg_source=msg_mes_network)

Check out the paper Gary has written guiding schools in the decision on “to air condition or not”

**St Ignatius College Riverview-** for Earth Hour hosted the third annual Earth Hour breakfast 25 schools attended around 160 participants who listened to the story of Simon Bradshaw Climate Campaigner with ACF. More information can be found [www.express.org.au/article.aspx?aeid=25664](http://www.express.org.au/article.aspx?aeid=25664) At the Riverview Earth Hour school assembly Jill Finnane and Maria Tiimon spoke about the ERC Pacific Calling Partnership.

**Broken Bay-**

St Peters Tuggerah is conducting a Stations of the Forest for Holy Week

**Wollongong**

Congratulations to Amanda Lloyd who is assisting in the Forest Schools round table discussion at the WEEC in Brisbane in July

**6. Calendar of environmental events:**

Earth Day April 22<sup>nd</sup> [Ideas for celebrating Earth Day in your parish](#)

Walk to School day May 20<sup>th</sup> [www.walk.com.au](http://www.walk.com.au)

**7. Environment Resources available**

- New DECCW EfS Learning Hub launched – visit [www.efslearninghub.net.au](http://www.efslearninghub.net.au)
- An inspiring talk at a recent Sydney-based TEDx event, Rachel Botsman talks about shared consumption  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpv6aGTcCl8&eid=7453425](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpv6aGTcCl8&eid=7453425)
- [DeeperNatureOfTrees\\_JFeehan\\_Feb2011.doc](#)

**Websites of interest:**

<http://kitchengardensinschools.blogspot.com>

[www.csiro.au/resources/CarbonKids.html](http://www.csiro.au/resources/CarbonKids.html)

**8. Conferences**

Upcoming conference Brisbane July 19-23

2011World Environmental Education Congress



[www.weec2011.org/](http://www.weec2011.org/)

NSW Environmental Education conference North Sydney Boys HS  
September 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> [www.aaensw.org.au](http://www.aaensw.org.au)



I hope we can work with your hearts, hands and minds, as we create sustainable schools in this the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Looking forward to hearing how you are going with your small steps towards sustainability and if we can help at all please ask.

Yours truly,

*Sue Martin*

**Sue Martin**  
**CSSN Newsletter Volunteer**

I acknowledge the Darug Nation, the traditional Custodians of my land  
Think before you print this newsletter