

News from the NSW Catholic Sustainable Schools Network

With support from The Columban Mission Institute
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This Newsletter is produced to assist you and your school, as we 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 or your Diocesan Sustainable Schools contact.

World Environment Day

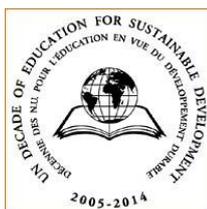


In this edition of our quarterly newsletter you will find updates on

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
- Assist Catholic schools as they join the NSW Sustainable Schools community
 - 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

From the Fourteenth Station of the Stations of the Forests:

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus turned to the women who were weeping as he walked to Calvary and said: "Do not weep for me; rather weep for yourselves and for your children....For if this is what is done when the trees are green, what will happen when they are dead?" Luke 23: 28-31.



2. Green Church Initiatives

The Columban Stations of the Forests – Australian Version is a DVD and booklet designed for group reflection and discussion. It follows the format of the Stations of the Cross and tells the story of the indigenous Subanens in the Philippines who are literally having their home cut down around them. The Stations of the Forests incorporates issues related to rainforest destruction, mining, logging, and agriculture, loss of biodiversity and climate change. The DVD invites people to reflect on the Australian landscape in a similar manner. It is available in hard copy or online. See www.columban.org.au or phone Anne Lanyon 02 9352 8021.

Pacific Calling Partnership PCP Film Event

12th June PCP & Sydney Film Festival -- Premiere screening:

The Hungry Tide World Premiere

For the past two years PCP has worked in close collaboration with award-winning documentary filmmaker Tom Zubrycki as he has laboured to bring to wider audiences the human face of climate change.

When: 6.00pm Sunday 12 June 2011

Venue: Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street, Sydney

Tickets: www.sff.org.au

Pontifical Academy of Science – Climate Change statement

May 11 2011

We call on all people and nations to recognise the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of global warming caused by the anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, and by changes in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other land uses. We appeal to all nations to develop and implement, without delay, effective and fair policies to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems, including mountain glaciers and their watersheds, aware that we all live in the same home. By acting now, in the spirit of common but differentiated responsibility, we accept our duty to one another and to the stewardship of a planet blessed with the gift of life.

We are committed to ensuring that all inhabitants of this planet receive their daily bread, fresh air to breathe and clean water to drink as we are aware that, if we want justice and peace, we must protect the habitat that sustains us. The believers among us ask God to grant us this wish.

www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdsien/2011/PAS_Glacier_110511_final.pdf

Resources:

Eco Catholic, *National Catholic Reporter* <http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic>

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change ARRCC launches its Climate Change Action kit

www.arrcc.org.au/images/stories/reports/Christian_Climate_Change_Action_Kit_COMPRESSED.pdf

3. Catholic Earthcare Australia update: 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 early June the Sydney gathering of Earthcare schools occurred at All Saints Liverpool thank you to Rose Marie and her team.

This week the Parramatta Earthcare Learning community is meeting at St Patricks Kitchen Garden

To contact Catholic Earthcare Australia luke.edwards@catholicearthcare.org.au



4. Sustainable Schools Update

Taronga Zoo, Sydney (from Laura Murphy CEO supported Zoo educator)

See the new Taronga Teachers Association. It is our aim that this will be a community of environmentally minded teachers who can gain great professional learning here at the Zoo (keeper talks and behind the scene experiences etc) and build relationships that will help give support to teachers who would like start environmental projects at school.
www.taronga.org.au/education/taronga-teachers-association/taronga-teachers-association

Find out more about the National Curriculum Sustainability Framework

www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/teaching/framework/index.htm

Murder under the Microscope 2011 - Horror in the Harvest www.microscope.edu.au For more information on all these student learning opportunities see the [Student Learning Object](#)

Dig Your Dinner NSW Schools competition. A fun and easy competition to show how simple it is to grow your own food, free from artificial nasties. There are two categories in which to enter: 1. Pre-schools/Primary Schools 2. Secondary Schools/Colleges (dependent on entry

numbers these may be split further). Entries close 15 July. Competition is judged at the show on Saturday 6 August, 2011.

Check out the **teacher networks** in your area and to get updates from the Sustainable Schools NSW team by visiting www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au



AYCC – switched on schools

The **Australian Youth Climate Coalition** aims to create a generation-wide movement to solve the climate crisis –and we believe that it’s essential to have a team of **switched on** and **engaged** school students leading the way!

The Switched On Schools program unites schools across Australia, equipping them with the knowledge and momentum to tackle climate change.

By **registering** for our program, your school can be at the forefront of climate action- driving initiatives at a local, national and international level!

5. Stories from around the Dioceses

Broken Bay Diocese

Mini Farm

At St John the Baptist Catholic School at Woy Woy we have our own garden, chickens, quails and mini farm. Last year we began collecting food scraps and fruit scraps and began composting in earnest. This year with the help of Parents and Friends we have built our garden and farm enclosure. We have 19 chickens that are now laying eggs. These chickens actually were hatched at school in Year 2 in incubators when Year 2 studied “How Living Things Grow and Change” as their Inquiry Learning Unit this year and last year. The chickens were fostered out until the farm was ready. We also have quails and large garden beds. The year 2 children and other children during fitness work in the garden and have planted lettuce and beans so far. Every day children from our Environmental Team look after the food scraps and water the garden and make sure the chickens have food and clean water. Four children each day do jobs around the farm and groups of children each week plant and look after the garden as part of our fitness program. We hope to produce more vegetables and have plenty of eggs to sell in the future. We will be getting sheep and rabbits in the near future. It is an excellent opportunity for children to see first hand how a mini farm operates. It is a great source of information and a wonderful stimulus for literacy and our Inquiry Units. Teachers take their classes to observe and work in the farm when it suits their learning. At St Johns we are Respectful, Responsible learners and the mini Farm gives us an opportunity to live this more fully each day.



Sydney

St Charles Waverley

In 2011 we are focussing on sustainability in a different way. The school has been very proactive already with our curriculum having built sustainability in the theme of 'Simplicity' – related to St Francis of Assisi The Bush tucker garden opened with smoking ceremony by local Aboriginal elders, vegetable garden – produce is available to families. The toilets are fed by large water tanks Our school held two recent competitions

- "Design a sticker for lights" won by a girl in Yr 3
- "Design a poster for Earth hr" also won by a girl in Yr 3

We have also included sustainable products in recent renovations and undertook a detailed energy audit to establish patterns of use. And Finally joining "sustainable schools NSW" website so as to access resources for the classroom.

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

Parramatta

Check out the <http://kitchengardensinschools.blogspot.com>

Wollongong

Corpus Christi Oak Flats conducted a low waste lunch to celebrate World Environment Day this year.

St Michael's Nowra- has a happy composting month and are having a "wee off" seeing which grades worm farm can produce the most wee over the month of May.

6. Calendar of environmental events:

June 5th World Environment Day

July 29th **Schools Tree Day**

Planet Ark 1300 88 5000

<http://treeday.planetark.org>

7. Environment Resources available

www.ecoliteracy.org (smart by nature – schooling for sustainability)

Making seedling pots out of newspaper – a lovely quick way to make pots that can then be planted out directly in a 2 minute you tube vid -
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FFIoISaYVY>

www.greenlanediary.org/

www.savepower.nsw.gov.au/community/save-power-library-kits.aspx#libraries

Borrow a power meter for use at home from selected libraries

www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/index.htm

8. Conferences

Upcoming conference Brisbane July 19-23
2011World Environmental Education Congress



www.weec2011.org/

NSW Environmental Education conference North Sydney Boys HS September 26th & 27th

www.aaeensw.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,

Aue Martin

Sue Martin

CSSN Newsletter Volunteer

I acknowledge the Darug Nation, the traditional Custodians of my land

Think before you print this newsletter