

## **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](mailto:sue@kcj.net.au) or your Diocesan Sustainable Schools contact.



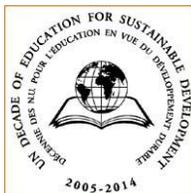
### September Biodiversity Month

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

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

#### **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 reflection

**'If you speak the language of the belief in God, and embrace what the revelation of science tells you, then no species is insignificant. Each is worthy in the eyes of God, deserving of our respect and study and admiration...Trees are at the root of our psyche. We were, we are as a species – born in and of the forests, and grew up with it, and – as literally as makes no difference – carry its echo in our genes.'**

**From "The Garden God Walked In: Meditations on the Spirit of the Trees by John Feehan, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science, School of Agriculture, University of Dublin.**

## 2. Conference

Invitation to participate in the 30<sup>th</sup> NSW Environmental Education Conference 26/27 September

Registrations and workshop spaces are now open at the 30<sup>th</sup> NSW Environmental Education Conference to be held at North Sydney Boys High School on 26-27<sup>th</sup> September  
Sustainability . let's just do it! [conference@aaeensw.org.au](mailto:conference@aaeensw.org.au)



This year the conference is being organised by the students of Monte and North Sydney Boys High School. They want to talk with other students and hear what they are doing in their schools. They would also like to hear how teachers are approaching sustainability. There are many great initiatives run in schools. If you have a project, observations or key learning to share I would encourage you to send in a workshop proposal and come to the conference.

[www.nsweec.com](http://www.nsweec.com) .

## 3. Green Church Initiatives

Faith and Ecology Network [faith\\_ecology\\_network-subscribe@yahogroups.com.au](mailto:faith_ecology_network-subscribe@yahogroups.com.au)



Caritas [www.caritas.org.au/ajustclimate/index.html](http://www.caritas.org.au/ajustclimate/index.html)



**'For us Climate Change is a life issue – people are trying to cope with it day by day.**

**For the rest of the world it is an economic issue'**

Father Michael McKenzie, Kiribati

Pacific Calling Partnership <http://thehungrytide.com.au/>



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

*God our Maker, through the gift of Creation,  
When Jesus walked on Earth, He showed us God's way...  
take only a fair share from the abundance of our planet,  
consume wisely and use careful practices - to ensure all life has enough to live and  
sustain the balance with nature on Earth as You, Creator, intend it.*

**Learning Community for Sustainability –**

**Sydney Archdiocese**

CEA is supporting the establishment of Learning Communities as a forum of exchange and support for those involved in the ASSISI program. The next meeting is at St Ignatius School, Riverview, September 8th, 10am to 12 noon. RSVP [admin@catholicearthcare.org.au](mailto:admin@catholicearthcare.org.au).

**Parramatta Diocese**

The PLCfS meeting is at St Nicholas of Myra Primary Penrith on 31 August 2-4pm ...

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



5. **Sustainable Schools Update**

Sustainable Schools NSW  
Office of Environment and Heritage  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Tel: 1300 361 967  
Email: [admin@sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au)

Find out more about the National Curriculum Sustainability Framework  
[www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env\\_ed/teaching/framework/index.htm](http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/teaching/framework/index.htm)

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

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



## 6. Stories from around the Dioceses

### Broken Bay

The Two Hands Project. [www.twohandsproject.org/](http://www.twohandsproject.org/) Narrabeenø Silke Stuckenbrock started the project in 2010, cleaning Up playgrounds, local areas

### Sydney

Well done to the Monte Sant' Angelo girls who are helping to host the 30<sup>th</sup> NSW EE conference

In the Sydney Diocese about 18 schools are involved in the Cert IV Carbon Management course and will be developing carbon plans for their schools. Discussion at WEEC was around offering the Cert III carbon management course as a vocational ed course to students, a great way to get sustainability mainstreamed in the curriculum.

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)

### Parramatta

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

### Wollongong

**Congratulations St Peters and Paul Kiama who were recently awarded the Five Leaf Eco Award certificate**

Some of the activities undertaken ; holding an environment focused service at Kiama Surf beach on Easter Sunday, a range of environmental film screenings, creation walks and workshops. The church has also installed environmentally friendly lighting and is working with their parish school to help them become more environmentally friendly. Lighthouse Project, a year-long calendar of events celebrating the need to care for the environment through action, reflection, prayer and fun, that was launched on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi in 2009. This project, which concluded in October last year, was supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation, National Council of Churches, World Wildlife Fund, Wollongong Diocese, Kiama Council and

Healthy Cities Illawarra. The awards are based on the creation care concept, which treats care for the environment as a basic tenant of religious faith.

**Wagga Wagga** [www.erinearth.org.au/](http://www.erinearth.org.au/)

**Bathurst** [www.rahamim.org.au/](http://www.rahamim.org.au/)

**Maitland** GreenCare Kids Centre óCoastal explorations and activities-Janet Street, Merewether ph 0410 459 945, [jenny@greencarekids.com](mailto:jenny@greencarekids.com)

#### 7. Calendar of environmental events:

Keep Australia Beautiful Week, 22-28 August 2011

September 7<sup>th</sup> Threatened Species Day – the day the last Tasmanian tiger died in a Tasmanian zoo

September 9<sup>th</sup> Sustainable House Day

**Ride to worship week – ARRCC's second annual Ride to Worship Week will run from 7-13 October 2011.** To join in the fun during Ride to Worship Week, all you need to do is to cycle, walk, or use another form of environmentally friendly transport to get and from your religious observances.



#### 8. Environment Resources available

##### **Catholic Mission**

The performance arm of Catholic Mission (Australia), 'Village Space', has developed a performance and teaching resources for schools entitled 'Climate Justice'. Visit the [Catholic Mission website](#) for more information

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

**Through my window – garden challenge** – Does your school already have a kitchen garden? If you do, why not join in this simple and engaging email activity with a kitchen garden twist.

The Jesuit Asia Pacific conference has started a carbon offset program called Flights for Forests [http://sjapc.net/sites/default/files/flights\\_for\\_forests\\_july\\_2011.pdf](http://sjapc.net/sites/default/files/flights_for_forests_july_2011.pdf)

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Sue Martin**

**CSSN Newsletter Volunteer**

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