

News from the NSW Catholic Sustainable Schools Network

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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 DEC. Please contribute to the newsletter by contacting Sue Martin sue@kcj.net.au or your Diocesan Sustainable Schools contact.

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

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

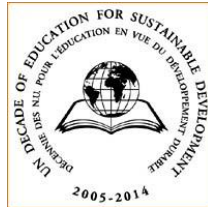


The 12 Green Tips for Christmas

1. Green your Christmas lights - use LED globes or purchase green energy for your display
2. Green your Christmas tree – use a live one; can you use a local species?
3. Green your Gift Giving – think fair-trade, low waste
4. Green your Shopping –consider the number of gifts and use green bags
5. Be a Sustainable Santa – give a gift to offset your footprint this year
6. Remember the food miles of your meal
7. Support your local community – buy local, get involved
8. Donate some time to a charity
9. Remember to have a Holiday Shutdown Plan for your place over the break
10. Green your holidays – think sustainable in how you get there and what you do
11. Green your New Years resolution
12. Most of all enjoy your family time

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 reflection

“Environmental stewardship should not begin with a sense of duty, but rather a passionate love of nature that prevents apathy from setting in. Caring for nature is not just about recycling and turning down the thermostat or anything like that... it is about being in awe of God’s creation.With this nurtured love of nature, hopefully caring for creation will not be viewed as a chore, but rather as a genuine desire of the heart” **Gerry Mahony De La Salle College Revesby Heights**

2. News from the Network



Congratulations to Amanda Lloyd St Michael’s Nowra (left) awarded the Highly Commended Formal Educator 2011, presented at the recent NSW Environmental Education conference dinner. Read some of the amazing achievements of Amanda below in the Stories from around the Diocese.

Happy Schools

Join the Happy Schools community, an initiative to improve the wellbeing of “teaching and learning”. The aim is to connect schools around Australia into finding positive solutions to make their learning environment a happier one. By leveraging the concepts underpinning the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index, the Happy Schools program is all about outcomes rather than comparisons across schools.

It relies on the engagement of teachers, students and parents to identify opportunities for

increases” in the happiness in their schools.

www.facebook.com/pages/Happy-Schools/159513167471839

And twitter

http://twitter.com/#!/happy_schools

SchoolNet For The Forests

www.schoolnetforthe forests.org

SchoolNet for the Forests is an online petition aimed at schools that are committed to preserving Old Growth Forests. The petition developed by a NSW school student is hoped to attract over 300 school signatures and will then be sent to the UN. Launched as an International Year of the Forests initiative visit www.schoolnetforthe forests.org for more information.

3. Stories from around the Dioceses

It was great to catch up with everyone at the very successful IEU Environment Conference – looking forward to the next one already.

Sydney

Congratulations to the following schools All Saints Casula, Freeman Catholic College, St Joseph’s Como, At PAtaick’s Sutherland, Good Samaritan Hinchinbrook, All Saints Primary, Liverpool, DLS Caringbah, CSO Broken Bay who undertook the GreenSkills funded Carbon Management course, www.carbontraininginternational.com/

Update from DLS Reversby: This year our College formed an Environmental Committee made up of 13 students and 7 staff, all of whom have a genuine love of nature and a sincere commitment to want to make the world a better place...starting with our school. Gerry and his team have put together a DVD a great way to showcase the great work occurring in our schools.

Lane Cove River Catchment Day Water Week 2011 – schools in the Lane Cove River catchment recently attended a day to learn about the river at St Ignatius College. Students from Holy Cross Ryde, St Joseph’s College and Riverview learnt from Sydney Water Streamwatch (as they wind down their program) Sydney Metro CMA, local councils and Habitat Network, a great day to link, learn and share together.

Check out the Ning - http://sustainceo.ning.com/?xg_source=msg_mes_network

Parramatta

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

Wollongong

St Michaels Nowra

Forest Schools are going worldwide after St Michael’s Catholic Primary, Nowra, Teacher Amanda Lloyd received the Bob and Margaret Frater Scholarship through the Australian Catholic University to complete training in the UK. Learning together outdoors is at the heart of the Forest Schools movement. The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive experiences and participation in engaging and achievable activities in a woodland environment, helping to develop personal, social and emotional skills. There have been trial programs running at St Michael’s Nowra over the last few years.

Our Rainbow Sustainable School

Our newest venture is the Rainbow Shop where we sell recycled gifts, fair trade chocolate, produce from our garden, and eggs from our families' home chook runs. It is an exciting time to be on the sustainability journey at St Michaels Nowra where connecting and learning in nature is supported in many ways.

Wagga Wagga www.erinearth.org.au/

Bathurst www.rahamim.org.au/

Maitland GreenCare Kids Centre –Coastal explorations and activities-Janet Street, Merewether ph 0410 459 945, jenny@greencarekids.com

Armidale St Mary's Armidale attends Sustainable Living Expo

4. Sustainable Schools Update

EcoSchools grants for 2011 announced

St Brigid's Primary School	Outdoor learning regeneration/rehabilitation project
St John's Primary Riverstone	The garden buds: establishment of vegetable and bushucker gardens
St Mary's High School Gateshead	Setting up the greenhouse
St Michael's Catholic Primary Nowra	Biodiversity birds alive!
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	St Paul's - we are a green school! (WAGS project)
St Paul's High School	Habitat haven
St Therese's Community School	Us Muurpa (Children) can make a difference with our land
Nazareth Catholic Primary School	Sowing, growing and knowing - a sustainable garden at Nazareth Public School

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

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



5. Calendar of environmental events:

2012 is International Year of the Sustainable Energy for All

2 February 2012 [World Wetlands Day](#)

2 March 2012 [Schools' Clean Up Day](#)



The 17th Biennial national conference of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) will be held on 30th September – 3rd October 2012 at Melbourne Girls College, Richmond, Victoria. *Creating Our Next Courageous Steps (Next Steps 2012)*.

6. Environment Resources available

Green Christmas gifts: www.thebestgift.com.au/

Fairtrade gift suggestions – Good Shepherd Trading Circle
www.thetradingcircle.com.au/

<http://isustainfairfield.org.au/fun-and-games>

www.forestlearning.edu.au/

www.ecofriendlyfood.org.au/

7. Catholic Earthcare Australia update: www.catholicearthcare.org.au

Update on the Learning Community for Sustainability networks–

Sydney - Thanks to Santa Sabina who hosted a great LCfS gathering for Sydney Diocese, highlighting their Year 7 Integrated Unit around Sustainability.

Parramatta - St Andrews Marayong hosted the LCfS in the Parramatta diocese, the school garden was amazing, all who attended received some seeds to start gardening back at their schools.

ASSISI FORMATION - Animators for Sustainability Program
www.catholicearthcare.org.au/ASSISI.html

To contact Catholic Earthcare Australia: admin@catholicearthcare.org.au.



8. Green Church Initiatives

[Hope For Creation](http://hopeforcreation.com.au/) is a Christian prayer movement that is mobilising people of faith all around Australia and the world, in a prayerful response to the issue of climate change. On Sunday 6th November 2011, thousands of Christians prayed and took action in a changing climate.

<http://hopeforcreation.com.au/>

Columban Peace Ecology & Justice:

Consider undertaking the Growing a Culture of Peace formation course in 2012 contact Anne Lanyon annelanyon.cmi@columban.org.au

Put a Stop to New Debt for Developing Countries in the name of Climate Change!
Support Jubilee Australia www.jubileeaustralia.org

Faith and Ecology Network faith_ecology_network-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au



Caritas 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/>



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

CSSN Newsletter Volunteer

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

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or visit www.aaeensw.org.au to join!