

ESSSN Minutes – Term 1, 19 February 2013

Holy Cross Primary School

1. Welcome

The Chair, Melissa Sellen from Woollahra Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She thanked Holy Cross Primary School for hosting the meeting and introduced the Principal of Holy Cross, Vicki Bourne-Fallon to address the group.

2. Sustainability at Holy Cross Primary School

Vicki explained that the school has been on an evolving sustainability journey since 2009.

- In 2009 they began a paper recycling program in the classroom
- In 2010 and 2011 they developed a school kitchen garden that was jointly made by parents and students. Year 3 students currently look after the garden. They have been successful in securing funding to fence the garden and also install a rainwater tank. Selling produce to the community (including great tomatoes!) has been a highlight
- In 2012 they received grant funding to set up a number of worm farms which will be an ongoing project in 2013. They also received National Solar Schools funding to install a solar PV system and have also become a collection point for mobile phone recycling.
- In 2013 the focus will be on education. This is primarily through the Year 6 sustainability leadership program and continuing education around the garden and worm farms. They are also looking to install bike and scooter racks for the students.

3. Council Updates

See **Appendix 1** for full council updates from Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick councils.

4. Preparing for 2013 – Planning, Funding and Support

Sally Blackwell from Sustainable Schools NSW took the group through the resources available on the newly designed Sustainable Schools NSW website available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/.

The website is broken up into three key areas: Teach, Manage and Connect:

The **Teach** section has a range of teaching and classroom resources, broken up by environmental topic area for easy browsing.

The **Manage** section has a range of resources useful for planning (including SEMP building and management), identifying funding opportunities (including grants & competitions) and finding sources of local support for your schools (including what's available from local government and various other service providers).

The **Connect** section provides information on the various schools networks (like the ESSSN) in NSW, lists case studies of school projects and gives details of professional learning opportunities.

There are a number of great planning resources on this website. See **Appendix 2** for a list of links to some of the key documents and information on the website.

5. Setting Your Goals for 2013

Melissa led the group in a discussion of how planning for the year is going so far.

Vaucluse PS, Double Bay PS, Cranbrook, Emmanuel School and Moriah College all shared how their planning was going so far. Many have had planning meetings already with the other teachers involved and picked out the projects they want to focus on this year.

The group then discussed some tips for how to get projects going and see them through to completion. These included:

- Giving yourself plenty of time to plan and work on your project
- Having regular meetings with your planning group and Principal
- Linking any idea you take to the Principal to the curriculum – always helps!
- Partnering with parents and families gains buy in from the community
- Getting your students on board from the beginning

Melissa also suggested using strategic questioning techniques. Much of the time there will be some resistance to the changes and projects you would like to do. If you set yourself up by asking a question that is very easy to say 'no' too (e.g. can we have \$1000 for this project?) you are making things harder for yourself!

A great question to ask when you come across someone who has a problem with your project is 'what would it take for you to change on this issue/feel differently about this issue?'

This forces them to identify for you what the levers for change are. They might say something like 'well, we'd need to build a fence so it is safe' or 'I'd need to know it wouldn't take more than 4 weeks to build' etc. It's then a matter of trying to accommodate or address those more constructive concerns.

See **Appendix 3** for a template you could use to plan for your sustainability projects in 2013.

6. Feedback on Network in 2013

Melissa checked in with the group about whether the network needed to change at all in 2013.

Participants commented that the time and location generally works well.

Suggested topics for the year included: water reuse on site in schools, water sensitive urban design in schools, and general resource management in schools.

7. Meeting Close and Thanks

Melissa thanked everyone for attending and drew the lucky door prizes.

Melissa also announced that the **ESSSN Sustainability Awards** are back in 2013 and winners will be announced at the Term 4 meeting – so start thinking about which project you will nominate now!

All schools are encouraged to submit a nomination for one or more of their 2013 school projects. Award categories include energy, water, waste, biodiversity and student empowerment & leadership.

For the award guidelines, and nomination form, visit www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/esssn/.

The Term 2 meeting will also be a great event. It will be held at Moriah College from 3:45pm – 5:15pm on Tuesday 21 May. Hope to see everyone there!

Meeting closed at approximately 5:15pm.

Next Meeting:

Term 2 Meeting

Tuesday 21 May 2013

3:45pm – 5:15pm

Moriah College

Queens Park Road, Queens Park

Appendix 1 – Council Updates

Waverley Council Update

Last call for Small Grants

- Applications close Friday 22 February 2013, 5pm.
- Go to our website for forms and guidelines.
http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/community/grants_and_donations/small_grants
- Please call 9369 8049 for any advice on grant applications, especially in the planning / design phase of your projects.

Schools sustainability survey

- A survey was sent to schools in 2012 to gather information and help us build an **environmental profile** oneach school. We are also seeking input on how you would best like us to help you.
- We had a good response initially, but still some schools who have not responded.
- I will resend the survey. I know it is a bit long and if you don't have time to fill it all in please **just go to section 7 and work through from there.**

Eastern Suburbs Sustainable Schools Excursion program

- Sustainability lessons and activities at the Randwick Sustainable Education Hub for Early Childhood, Stage One and Stage Three teachers and students. Five places available to Waverley Schools in 2013. Go to the Reduce your Footprint site for more info
www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/eastern-suburbs-school-excursion-program-2013/

Sustainable Schools NSW new look website

- Visit environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools for tonnes of useful environmental resources for your local school communities. The online hub has been revamped based on feedback from teachers, so it's now easier and faster to use.
- The hub has tools to help schools develop an environmental plan plus the latest environmental funding opportunities. Up-to-date materials on energy, waste, water and food gardens are easy to find.

Enviro events for 2013

- Up to date calendar is available, please pick one up.

Never miss an event again!

- Join our monthly eNews to keep up to date on local sustainability events and happenings.
- Just email environment@waverley.nsw.gov.au.

For more information please contact Vicky Bachelard at Waverley Council

- Phone: 9369 8049
- vickyb@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Woollahra Council Update

Community Environmental Grants Program 2013/14

- Information packs will be sent to Woollahra schools in March
- A pool of \$10,000 is available, with grants awarded of up to \$500 or up to \$1000
- Applications due by 30 June 2013
- See www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/community/building_your_community/community_grants/

Eastern Suburbs School Excursion Program 2013

- Uncover the mysteries of sustainability with your class at Randwick's Sustainability Education Hub
- Suitable for Early Childhood, Stage One and Stage Three teachers and students
- The program will be FREE for the first 5 Woollahra Council schools who make a booking
- Details at reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/eastern-suburbs-school-excursion-program-2013/

40% Discount for Woollahra Schools at Marine Discovery Centre in 2013

- All Woollahra schools are eligible for a 40% discount on visits to the Marine Discovery Centre, Bondi. Plan your excursion now on 9300 0242 to take advantage of this subsidy from Council.

ESSSN Sustainability Awards 2013

- Start planning now for what your school will enter in the 2013 ESSSN Sustainability Awards
- Categories include energy, water, waste, biodiversity and student leadership & empowerment
- Read the guidelines and see the application form at reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/esssn/

Talks and Schools Support

- Contact Melissa Sellen on 9391 7095 for if you need environmental education schools support including classroom talks, help organising guest speakers, special events etc.

Randwick Council Update

NATIVE HAVENS FOR SCHOOLS in the Randwick Council area

With a focus on increasing habitat protection and conservation on public and private land, the Native Haven's project is designed to provide advice and support for schools, and others, to work together to encourage the conservation of local plants and animals in school yards and other areas. If your school has a biodiversity project and you would like to be considered for Council's Native Haven Project, contact the Bushland Management Team on 9339 0683 or at matt.leary@randwick.nsw.gov.au

WASTE EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS in the Randwick Council area

Free waste education incursions are available for Stages 1 to 3 including Rubbish today, resource tomorrow, School waste audit, Smart shopping, Live (bi)cycles, The world beneath our feet, Closing the loop on organics. Contact Council's waste contractor, SITA Australia's Nicole Anscombe for details on 9339 0683 or at nicole_anscombe@sita.com.au

SCHOOL EXCURSION PROGRAM AT THE SUSTAINABILITY HUB – recommencing Term 2, 2013

Four lessons in energy and water are available: Hello Sun, Sounds like Water, Water our Resource and Energy Rocks. Lessons are suitable for Stages 1-3. During the year we will be developing other lessons in the area of biodiversity and smart resource use.

For details visit reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/eastern-suburbs-school-excursion-program-2013/

TEACHER & PARENT EDUCATION available for schools and services in the 3-council area

Another *Creating Eco-schools & Services* course has commenced. This course will be offered again in Term 1 2014. Details available at reduceyourfootprint.com.au/events/creating-eco-schools-services/

URBAN SHORTS 2013 - Randwick Youth Film Festival

Entries close for Urban Shorts on Tuesday 12 March. Urban shorts is open to all people aged 12-25 years who attend school, live or work in Randwick City. Have your movie screened at the Ritz Cinema during Youth Week! For details contact Avril Jeans on 9399 0823 or at Avril.Jeans@randwick.nsw.gov.au or visit www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/A_sense_of_community/Community_and_culture/Community_programs/Young_people/Urban_Shots/index.aspx

Appendix 2: Links to Helpful Resources on Sustainable Schools NSW Website

Teaching Resources on a variety of environmental topics:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/teach/index.htm>

Planning – SEMP Guide and Template

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/howtoplan.htm>

Grants and Funding

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/grantsfunding.htm>

Competitions

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/competitions.htm>

Awards

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/awards.htm>

Developing a vision

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/visionvalues.htm>

Building an environmental team

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/buildingpartic.htm>

School Case Studies

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/connect/schoolstories.htm>

Professional Learning Information

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/connect/proflearning.htm>

Local Services and Support

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/localservices.htm>

Contact Sustainable Schools NSW

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/contact.htm>

Appendix 3: Planning for 2013 Template

1. What are 3 sustainability goals you would love to see your school achieve by the end of 2013? (Tip: be realistic and specific e.g. start recycling containers (plastic, glass, aluminium) in the playground.)

GOAL
1.
2.
3.

2. What are the barriers to these goals being achieved?

GOAL	BARRIERS
1.	
2.	
3.	

3. What would it take to overcome these barriers? (Tip: list practical actions you could take e.g. organise a meeting with the principal, email parent group to address concerns and seek support, seek funding etc.)

GOAL	ACTIONS
1.	
2.	
3.	

4. Who could you partner with, or involve this year, in a new or fresh way, to help achieve these goals? (Tip: consider new or existing parents, teachers, students, community groups, government agencies etc.)

PARTNER	HOW THEY COULD BE INVOLVED
1.	
2.	
3.	