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ISSUE 7 | MARCH 2020

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS NETWORK JOURNAL

St Benedict's Catholic School

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SUEZ
Katura Halleday
William Davy

SSN Sustainable SCHOOLS NETWORK

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Photography
Cover courtesy of William Davy

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EVENT CALENDAR

2020 Sustainability Symposium
5 March - GC networking night
26 April - student masterclass and alumni meeting
27 April - GC Yr 9-10 *Creating a Water Sensitive GC*
28 April - student, parent and operational leader workshops
28 April - professional development dinner
29th April - 2 May - Curriculum Masterclass with Jaimie Cloud
This event is a partnership between the SSN, All Saints Anglican School and Griffith University
Awards
Applications open - close 10 April
4 June - Teacher recognition dinner
5 June - Finalist presentations

SSN MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Email info@ssn.org.au for more information

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Open since January 2018, St Benedict's Catholic School is Townsville's newest Catholic school. St Benedict's is proud to nurture learning success by promoting high expectations, student engagement within a flexible learning environment, including a high emphasis on sustainability and caring for the environment. The school embraces sustainable practices for the natural and built environment fostering a love for creation and aspiring to be good stewards.

St Benedict's culture reflects the grace and spirit of St Benedict, known as a gentle, dignified, strong, peace-loving man, who lived a contemplative life and honoured 'God in all of life'. The school values are Love, Community, Learning, and Stewardship.

At St Benedict's, choices are made to ensure resources are used in a manner that meets the needs of the community in the present, while preserving these resources for future generations, and nurturing relationships with the local community. To do this, they have incorporated the building of sustainable infrastructures, the embedding of sustainable practices and learning within their curriculum, and responding to authentic, engaging, and complex problems through their projects.

In early 2019, St Benedict's was proud to receive a Six Green Star Rating by the Green Building Council of Australia for the school infrastructure.

"The value of Stewardship calls for everyone to encourage the sustainable use of all resources and seek to promote an awareness that we are all part of a larger world."

Ngaire Trigg,
School Officer - Outdoor and Environmental Projects

The Green Star rating acknowledges the clever design and sustainable practices being utilised throughout the buildings and grounds of the school. Systems like rainwater collection, bore water, solar panels, sustainable design technologies such as indoor noise reduction (Autex Tiling), ambient natural light and passive cooling through wide windows and doors. Not only does the design of the school benefit the environment, but it also improves the sense of wellbeing and engagement.

For St Benedict's Catholic School, it is important to embed sustainable practices within the curriculum for all year levels, prep to year 6. They achieve this through their eProjects offered to every year level aiming to inform and motivate students to care for the environment while working within the Australian Curriculum. EProjects are year-long and focused on environment, engagement, and education. Helping to create real-life connections and address real-world concerns regarding sustainability, eProjects provide opportunities to problem solve and engage in critical thinking and hands-on learning.

According to Ngaire, School Officer at St Benedict's, "*Each eProject is unique and engaging, and the students are always excited to move on to the next year level to work with their new project.*"

St Benedict's eProjects include having and looking after their own beehive, a billabong with fish and other native creatures, chickens, fruit and veggie gardens, a recycling and waste centre, litter free lunch system, kitchen garden, and they are now in the process of developing a Native Bush Tucker Trail. The eProjects are designed to engage as the names suggest:

- Prep: Benny's Bees
- Year 1: Benny's Billabong Buddies
- Year 2: Eggs Benedict
- Year 3: From the Dirt to our Plate
- Year 4: Waste Warriors
- Year 3/4: Sea and Soil Shepherds
- Year 5/6: Global Gladiators and coordinators of EcoFest

As a brand-new school, St Benedict's identified the unique opportunity to instil sustainable practices within their school community, the curriculum, the teaching and learning from the very beginning. This has been a journey they have embraced from the day the doors opened in 2018.

St Benedict's is continuously revising and reflecting on their sustainable practices and will continue to nurture the joy, wonder, and complexity of the world and all the living things within it.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY MASTERCLASS

JAIMIE CLOUD

Educating for a Sustainable Future

The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education prepares Pre-K-18 (and beyond) school systems to educate for a sustainable future by inspiring educators and engaging students through meaningful content and learner-centered instruction. Education for Sustainability (EfS) teaches children and young people the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and habits of mind necessary to become responsible citizens who can achieve economic prosperity and restore the health of the social and ecological systems upon which we depend. EfS has multiple, positive effects on student achievement, commitment to democratic participation, teacher effectiveness, and school culture.

29 APRIL
INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY
$250 EARLY BIRD PRICE

30 APRIL - 2 MAY
CURRICULUM DESIGN STUDIO
$800 EARLY BIRD PRICE

The curriculum design studio includes the introductory session and three days working with internationally recognised EfS pioneer Jaimie Cloud. Educators, administrators, and program designers learn how to design and embed EfS into curricula, assessments, and performance tasks without the need for additional class time. You will get access to expertise, resources, and tools to reorient and enrich curricula. Through working sessions, learning circles, coaching, peer review, and optional mini-sessions, you are supported as you create and develop units and protocols that educate for sustainability.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY GOLD COAST CAMPUS

Secure your tickets from Humanitix: 2020 Sustainability Symposium
Email info@ssn.org.au for more information
Ticket cost includes catering and SSN membership

The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education · Griffith University Queensland, Australia · City of Gold Coast · SSN Sustainable Schools Network · All Saints Anglican School

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Introducing

ANGELINE ANTHONY

Senior Science Teacher with Education Queensland, Green Heroes Facilitator and Volunteer

Angeline Anthony earned her Honours Bachelor of Science at Trent University, and her Bachelor of Education at Queen's University, both in Canada. She began her teaching career over 20 years ago in 1997 in Colombia. Angeline taught in Kuwait and Germany before choosing to live and work on the Gold Coast in 2005. She currently works at Varsity College, on the Senior Campus, teaching general and academy science classes as well as senior biology. She also works with Green Heroes teaching groups of children how to rescue injured and orphaned wildlife. When Angeline is not in the classroom, she is working with various community groups to improve our planet's health.

Angeline remembers that as a child, she never went camping or experienced nature first-hand in any meaningful way. She grew up rather urban with minimal interactions with nature outside of gardening and domesticated animals. Nevertheless, in her teenage years, she developed a deep love for the natural world as a result of her education. In school, she gravitated to life sciences – from microbiology to the macro level of ecosystems, and it was clear to her that the natural world is our most precious treasure, at once essential and majestic. Therefore, it was not a choice for her that somehow, she would have to commit some part of her life to work on sustainability,

"*I was inspired by the leadership and downright gumption of others, and have now become more direct in my approach,*" Angeline stated.

Sustainability for Angeline has meant,

"*Exclusively the care of the earth and all of its inhabitants such that we can coexist and leave the earth liveable for future generations. As such, it means that humans need to take much, much less, as they are currently, (and have been for some time), taking far more than their fair share of the resources available to all the organisms on the planet.*"

In more recent years, Angeline has broadened her understanding of the term to take into account social and economic sustainability which ultimately are necessary if ecological health is to be achieved.

It has not always been easy. Angeline admits her challenges are unoriginal and are most likely shared by others. For example, there is not enough time, there is not enough support and she feels a bit hopeless thinking about the many problems our planet is facing. However, she has persisted in spite of it by finding hope and joy in the enthusiasm of her students. Knowing her students are passionate and committed about creating positive environmental change; this is the sustenance she needs. Simultaneously, she is grateful for the staff that are always willing to help her. Angeline would like to offer a big thank you to Emma DeBritt in particular who is co-leading the Varsity Lakes sustainability group. She adds, "*I literally could not do it without her.*"

In 2019, after attending the 2019 Sustainability Symposium, Angeline organized a sustainability student group called Generation Green at Varsity College.

Generation Green have implemented a few projects already, including a clean-up day at the beach as well as getting recycling bins (both co-mingled and the container refund scheme). Angeline believes that the most heartening experience so far has been the students' genuine enthusiasm and leadership.

"*Whether it means getting up in front of the student body, announcing what changes are happening or spending their lunchtime beside a recycling bin to educate their peers about recycling,*" Angeline shares.

Her students bolster her morale immensely as they are always there to show their commitment to her and their environment.

Within the context of her classroom when the curriculum allows for it, Angeline educates about climate change, biodiversity loss and other current environmental crises that are explicitly part of the science Australian curriculum. She also teaches about ocean acidification and other issues that can be embedded into the senior science curriculum. "*I do these with great zeal because, not only is it a requirement of my job, it is unquestionably something my students need to understand and relate to their own lives,*" Angeline comments.

Without intending to Angeline has increasingly led by example throughout her life. Lately, her social media page shares with her community little daily tips for behaviour change. Simple things like alternative ideas for dental floss or to reuse packaging helps others understand the small steps they can personally take.

Volunteering is also something Angeline models to her two children, students and community at large. *"I must say that we, collectively, have incredible choice when it comes to volunteering our time and energy into making a difference,"* Angeline points out as a 'blessing in disguise'. Some of the fortunate organisations that benefit from the enthusiasm of Angeline and her family include: Beachcare, her children's school, and previously Wildcare as a wildlife carer. One of Angeline's favourite organisations she volunteers for is Day for Girls, and international charity sewing sustainable and hygienic period packs for girls and women in developing countries so that they can continue to earn an income or go to school when they are menstruating. Angeline noted, "*I am so thrilled to be a part of initiative as it contributes to the sustainability goal of gender equality.*"

In 2020, Angeline will continue to volunteer in her personal time and work with Generation Green on their projects including:

- A Clean Up Australia Day function;
- A school-wide Environment Day event that will aim to increase awareness, fundraise for local environmental groups and collect pre-loved teddy bears for wildlife carers.
- Hosting a sewing bee for students to create joey pouches for wildlife carers who are increasingly inundated with injured and orphaned native wildlife.

According to Angeline, "I *still do not have enough time (does anyone?) and the problems facing our planet are objectively overwhelming,*" yet Angeline believes in the power of change and she is clearly leading the way.

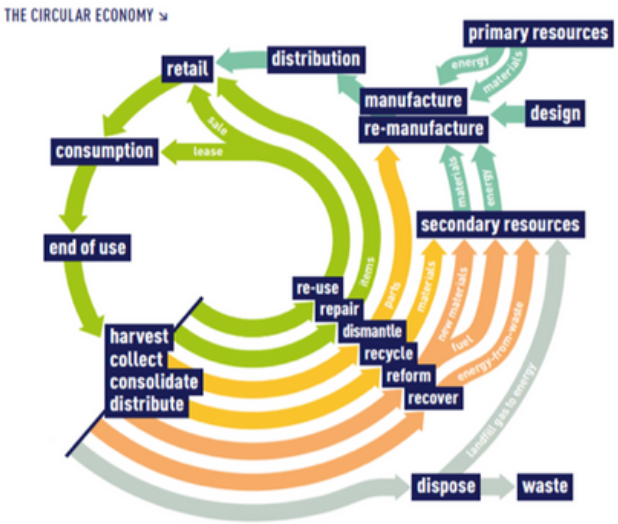
SUEZ

Transitioning to a circular economy

As experts in water and waste management, the SUEZ team provides solutions that supply seven million Australians with safe drinking water and divert 1.2 million tonnes of waste from landfill every year. In terms of waste and recycling, the company operates more than 100 waste management facilities across the country. It holds the most extensive network of resource recovery and transfer station facilities and operate more than half of the Advanced Resource Recovery Technology Facilities in Australia. SUEZ's operations in Queensland are extensive, ranging from their Advanced Resource Recovery facility in Cairns to waste collection services across the state including Mackay, the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

As part of the Resource Recovery Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, the Queensland Government states, *"A circular economy aims to ensure that products are designed to eliminate waste and pollution, and that products and materials keep circulating in the economy at their highest value for as long as possible."* Value can be gained from material otherwise destined for landfill when there are increased options for reuse, recycling and recovery of resources.

Waste management plays a central role in the circular economy: it determines how the waste hierarchy is put into practice. The long-term vision for Queensland – and Australia – should be moving towards a circular economy that would encourage the development of sustainable waste management and resource recovery solutions to deliver the best environmental and economic outcomes.



The diagram demonstrates how the correct management of certain waste types needs to be the responsibility of the entire waste process from manufacturers of the product through to business and community who purchase the product.

Transitioning towards a circular economy approach will help to drive innovation and investment in resource recovery and recycling, and the associated economic and environmental benefits and employment generation such investment brings. Moving towards a circular economy in both the short and longer term is reducing waste generation. Banning single-use plastics, changes to procurement policies and container deposit schemes are tangible solutions that send a clear and positive message to a population eager to reuse resources where possible. However, substantial long-term changes are required to support the growing demands on waste infrastructure and the systems that support the existing infrastructure.

Case Study

From Wasted to Wanted: The Circular Economy in Motion

The Challenge: Several SUEZ clients had expressed a desire to do better when it came to managing their waste in a more sustainable way. The Queensland Waste Levy introduced from July 1, 2019 meant there was also a financial incentive to do the right thing. One area that contributes to greenhouse gases is food waste going into landfill. Every kilo of food waste that goes into landfill produces 1.9 kilos of carbon dioxide. Given SUEZ services shopping centres and food-based businesses, it recognised that finding a composting solution that allowed its clients to divert food waste from landfill was the "lowest hanging fruit" within its stewardship of the circular economy.

The Solution: AMP Capital had sought a more sustainable approach to how it managed its waste at its various shopping centres and agreed to become part of SUEZ's composting pilot program.

AMP's Gasworks Plaza was one of the early adopters to start collecting and composting food waste. SUEZ partnered with NuGrow – a composting facility headquartered at Ipswich, near Brisbane – to process the food waste from Gasworks and other clients' premises and turn it into nutrient-rich compost. SUEZ educated retail staff on the importance of avoiding contamination from ceramics, metals and plastics to maintain compost quality.

The Results

1. From the program's inception in August 2018, Gasworks has recycled more than 50 tonnes of organic waste, whilst improving diversion rates from 30% to 47%.
2. Gasworks is on track to achieve its 2020 target to divert 50% of their waste from landfill to recycling.
3. In September 2019, NuGrow returned the first batch of food waste collected from the centre in the form of nutrient-rich compost, which was then used to nourish the centre's gardens.
4. The Gasworks Plaza is just one business within the pilot program. Since mid-2018, SUEZ has upcycled 2500 tonnes of bulk food and organic waste from Brisbane and surrounding suburbs via a dedicated "food waste run".

SUEZ Community Fund is a Platinum Sponsor of the 2020 Sustainability Symposium. State Manager, Liesl Hull will be presenting in the parent sessions on 28 April 2020.

Katura Halleday

Her name is Katura Halleday, and at 15 years old, she is a humanitarian and social justice advocate raising awareness, funds and goods to support education in Developing Nations.

"Obtaining a quality education is the foundation for creating sustainable development,"

says Katura.

Katura Halleday remembers her first time in Mozambique. When at 13 years old she was there with Fish Films to make a documentary about education in Africa. She remembers feeling unprepared for what she saw

.

"The first few days were great, meeting students like me with hopes and dreams and passions. 55 smiling 5 years old kids with bright, wide eyes as I introduced them to painting for the first time, but after we left the school and visited the homes of my new peers, I realised how every different we were," Katura recalls.

Katura realised these young people did not have any of the opportunities she had as they had few choices. Every day was a struggle for survival, as homes faced another wet season with palm-frond roofs held together with string, little to no sanitation and poverty beyond what she thought still existed in today's modern society.

It was a shock for Katura, and she soon realised what school meant for these kids, *"The school was a refuge, it was the solution to the poverty cycle and I quickly saw how much respect these kids and their families had for the education."* Accessing education in Mozambique is challenging; many children simply cannot afford to go to school. According to UNICEF (2019), about 1.2 million children are out of school, more girls than boys, particularly in the secondary age group.

Katura realised something needed to be done, so she did it. Coming home, she decided to start '8x8 to Educate', a social enterprise that raises money and donates 100% of the profits to Mission Educate to support the school. To date, they have raised over $150,000 in cash and goods which is now helping Mozambique communities address education equality.

When we ask her about the challenges she has faced, she remembers another robust experience. Not long after she came back to Australia, a cyclone devastated the school in Mozambique. It was a challenging time for Katura as she did not know if her friends had survived the Cyclone and were still alive. She had no news for over a week.

Slowly communications were restored, and fortunately, she was able to find that the whole school community had survived; most have lost everything, but they were alive.

Katura knew they had so little and, she struggled to comprehend what the next twelve months would look like for them. She decided not to dwell on the hopelessness and instead saw an opportunity to help.

"While at times the situation seems so big I know that what I am doing is changing lives, and I have learnt that sometimes it takes courage and persistence to achieve your goals, that not everything is within our control, but we can control how we react."

In November 2019, Katura held an art competition and exhibition with over 180 pieces of original art donated, from artists with an age range of 5-95 years old. *"Each artwork, was painted with so much love. It is a symbol of our humanity, hope and unity,"* she adds. Each artwork represented a brighter future, not just for the kids of Mozambique but for everyone involved. "*Each of us acknowledged our privilege and reached out to help someone else. We raised three times our target and had over 160 people attended. We sold out in 2 hours."*

As for the future, there are so many exciting plans including presenting at the 2020 Sustainability Symposium; making 8x8 an annual event; introducing an online sales platform. She is also working on a start-up entrepreneur school for girls while in Mozambique with initial start-up cost being provided from raffle funds raised at the Art Exhibition. The businesses they are looking into are, Chicken, Pig and Maggot farming, which will all add to the circular economy.

Introducing

William Davy

Father to three children, the eldest attends Hillbrook Anglican School. William supports Hillbrook to utilise the medium of art to engage students in sustainability education.

William Davy spent his childhood and young adult years in Zimbabwe. Resources and finances in Africa were and are limited, and he recalls how recycling, reusing and upcycling were natural practices long before these became a focus in the first world. A bottle of cooking oil when finished naturally becomes a vessel to collect water, a worn car tire always finds new life as a toy, scrap wire is reshaped into artwork, aluminium road signs become cooking utensils. These practices continue today. This is the world he grew up in; consequently, he developed a natural mindset to fix, improve and innovate. This was why he started working in sustainability.

For William, sustainability means viable daily practices that fulfill human need whilst considering both local and global environmental health. His inspiration comes when he sees examples of people challenging traditional ways of thinking, particularly toward building positively in an eco-friendly manner such as incorporating a large tree or creek into a build plan, rather than levelling the area.

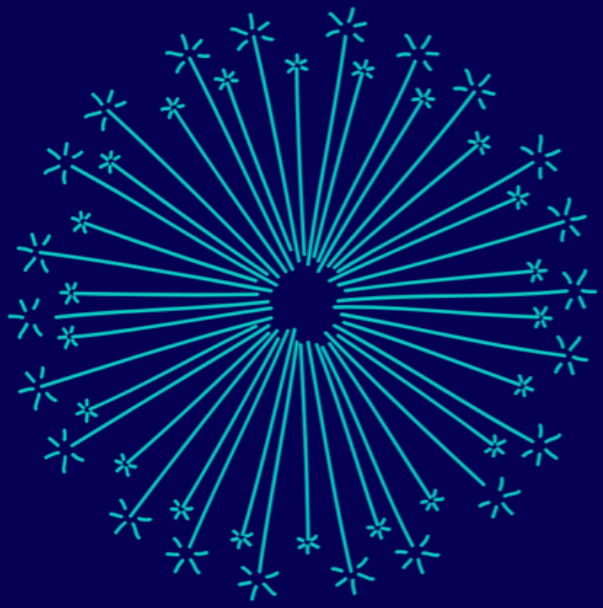
"As we grow and learn ourselves our aim is to continue to encourage sustainable practices and an understanding amongst the youth that small changes in daily life has a ripple effect in future proofing our world." says William.

When asked about the challenges he has faced, he thinks about his own work. One challenge for creating artworks from scrap metal and hardwoods is access to the materials, as most transfer stations will not allow access due to health and safety. Another challenge is not being tempted to simply buy an already made solution for part of a sculpture, alternatively letting the piece evolve from the found objects. The artwork is revealed through the juxtaposed shapes collected.

Overcoming these challenges has meant rethinking and letting the found objects dictate the final outcomes to an extent rather than having a preconceived idea and looking for the parts to make it. William has now been granted limited access to some Moreton Bay transfer stations in order to build the annual "Wrapper-less Lunch Award". This is a competition open to all schools in the Moreton Bay Region to encourage less use of plastic bags and wrappers.

William recalls that one of his earliest and most favourite recycling projects was in the mid 90's. He remembers using old washing machine parts sourced in Harare, Zimbabwe and created bar stools that went on display in the capital's main art gallery (pictured below right). Another rewarding series of projects was entering the Brisbane City Council recycled art competition ("Salvage") in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The competition involves sourcing only found and reused materials. A highlight was winning in 2017 with his "Cable Harvester Bug" entry (pictured below left).

William and his wife have formed an educational business called "KinetiKits". Part of their practice so far has included school incursions creating sustainable toys from recycled everyday objects such as milk bottles. These workshops have proved to be fun and incredibly empowering and challenging for the students. The goal is encouraging students to fix broken objects not just to throw away and replace.



2020 Sustainability Symposium

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Igniting souls, inspiring change

26 April - 2 May 2020

Griffith UNIVERSITY Queensland, Australia

CITY OF GOLDCOAST.

SSN Sustainable SCHOOLS NETWORK

All Saints Anglican School

A seven day event across four venues and two states, the 2020 Sustainability Symposium will ignite souls and inspire change. We will present a whole school approach to addressing sustainability in educational contexts by providing learning experiences for students, teachers, operational leaders such as principals, business managers and/or heads of maintenance/cleaning, and parents. Addressing the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides the 'glocal' context for the event, as we focus especially on SDG 11, 16 and 17. Building on the success our our inaugural event the 2019, the 2020 Sustainability Symposium will deliver training and networking experiences that will ensure schools can meaningfully deliver the cross-curriculum priority sustainability whilst also designing a visionary future.

Tickets are on sale NOW via Humanitix (2020 Sustainability Symposium). Follow us on facebook to find out more information or **email info@ssn.org.au**

The Sustainable Schools Network, City of Gold Coast, All Saints Anglican School and Griffith University are looking forward to igniting souls and inspiring change!