

EREA Sustainability Conference June 1 2017

Arboretum Strategy Session: Principals' (p1) and Delegates Responses (p6)

1. **Principals**: Based on the responses from the last session, identify the key points you would include in your next newsletter article titled: **Our Schools Commitment to Sustainability**

Something linking the essential message of the pope, that call to action...plus a quote from Tim's address about a hope-filled future

Reaffirm some of the significance, beauty and importance of Laudato Si Affirm and remind Community of our current achievements. Remind parents of our strategic intent by quoting the sections of our recently launched 2020 strategic plan and inviting them to respond via the college portal to provide suggestions on how to implement strategy creatively, collaboratively and joyfully.

An introduction to the encyclical along with a link to the Charter to start the conversation around the school's commitment to sustainability

Articulate the new sustainability initiative and get the community on board

Provide context - Laudato Si, Tim Flannery Data from presentation College projects

The carbon problem/global warming - some of the facts presented by Tim Flannery. Then identify where the hope is and what the possible solutions might be. Issue the challenge to the community to do their bit. Offer the opportunity for sustainability group to have more consistent exposure in college newsletter, at public events and in influencing the student body to a call to action.

It is our moral and spiritual obligations to educate our boys in relation to sustainability

Connectedness, quotes from Francis, sustainability into future and young people, stewardship of the earth, the greater good, true global citizenship, school community example, model for young people

I will highlight successful initiatives to date, proposed initiatives such as an investigation by the sustainability prefects into the College electricity bill and where they could invest savings and outline possible conversations parents might have with their sons

As a school and as a community we need to be more than rhetoric and lead by example. It is all very well for our young men and staff to say they care deeply about sustainability when our rubbish bins continue to overflow and our electricity and water consumption increases each year....

Climate change is real and will impact significantly with even a change to average temperature of even one degree. Small changes add up. We can and should be leaders in action to stem the rapidly accelerating impact of climate change. Have faith. There are ideas and technologies to turn the change around. We will succeed if a global will can be developed and enacted.

Sustainability a key focus in our school. Work with students and their families on existing projects like recycling, water retention and taking a stance against bottled water. Continue to plan the investment in solar and energy efficient lighting etc. Investigate a reverse vending machine to encourage students to recycle their packaging. Commit to the development of sustainable gardens and farming of animals. Finally commence repatriation of cleared land on the school's greenfield site to encourage biodiversity. Get families and parish community working together on this.

Dot points: Schools are about creating a better life for our children. Individually and collectively. Commitment to sustainability is part of this. Explanation, rationale and financial case for solar installation. Aim of zero plastic in the college starting with the canteen No paper plastic coffee cups in VCAL coffee shop. Reduced paper and printing through e-books and use of online resources. Pact by staff re lights and heaters being turned off. Tied together with quote from Laudato Si and reference to OT creation story.

We are challenged as an EREA school by the touchstones to establish a commitment to awareness raising on the issues related to sustainability.

Following on from Tim's message this awareness raising is hope filled

Parents should be encouraged to engage in conversation with their son's and daughter's on concerns regarding sustainability to reinforce the messages promoted at school.

Explaining our commitment to sustainability using Laudato Si as a key point of reference. Outlining the current issues affecting the climate using examples as mentioned by Tim; ways in which the College community can support sustainability at home and at school; an outline of a College approach to sustainability through a staging of initiatives.

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We would want to unpack the LGBTI initiative and Apology as they are more time pressing because of recent announcements. This would give us time to properly investigate sustainability programs so we can more thoroughly investigate this essential and critical area and communicate it to our families.

Firstly, some work with staff is needed on LS. Then some work galvanising teams. Then a newsletter article that focused on the issues 1. Laudato Si. 2. Teaching our children to be hopeful and see opportunities around them which challenge the status quo and do good for the world.

3. Connecting this kind of creative positive work with the theology of Genesis, which calls on us, made in the image and likeness of the Creator God, to also be creative brings in our work. We want young people to "Be a builder, not a wrecker." 4. The connection of Laudato Si to the EREA Touchstones and the moral imperative to action that these documents inspire.

We need to respond to challenge of ecological sustainability School community is the beneficiaries of a wonderful natural resource which

has been cared for by previous school generations. The pope is calling us to respond to LS. We need to harness the goodwill of students, staff & community. While we already are doing a variety of actions & initiatives these remain unconnected. It is proposed to formulate a working party to develop a school wide approach to sustainability. This approach will include curriculum initiatives, co curricula activities as well as day to day operations within the school.

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1. The need for our students to develop their skills to be collaborative creative learners. 2. A commitment of staff to a gospel centred vision of hope and a commitment to the best learning for our young people. 3. The college to structure a sustainable model of learning. 4. To review current practices in line with the concept of sustainability

The importance of ecological spirituality in the education of our youth and the role that our curriculum plays in the understanding of our students in these real-life problems. The need to provide programs and experiences to our students that address the problems of climate change and provide opportunities in immersion experiences and Christian service Learning programs for our students Highlighting how ecological spirituality is a fundamental goal of our school strategic plan and school improvement plan. Empowering and entrusting our students through our student leadership programs and their role as advocates of change in global warming. Ensure that Ecological Spirituality is a core focus of our Religious Education Programs and that it integrated in our curriculum across the school.

How we put this in the context of our community. The cries of our staff and students need to resonate with the cries of our earth and all little things we do in both spheres make a difference

We must play our part in seriously examining the issue of sustainability. We need to inspire our students to strive to engage in the sustainability

debate. The question for our school community is “what can we do at our school? How do we incorporate sustainability into our curriculum and what actions can we instigate to make a difference in our school environment?

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- Ensure sustainable practices are embedded in our Master Plan processes (water storage / solar / positioning of buildings / lighting / refurbishment vs rebuild) - Taking advantage of a free council assessment of our power usage which will identify ways we can reduce our carbon footprint - student driven programs (SRC / prefect - environmental programs including - worm farms / recycling / permaculture/

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Greening our school Greening our thinking Greening our actions

Education for: Spirituality of the earth Social responsibility Reduce reuse recycle Act on our values Sustainability of our resources E.g. Power lights recycling plastics paper rubbish Inter connectedness in the curriculum Ecological conversion Developing our own Environmental Statement The earth is God's gift to us Our gift to the next generation is to lovingly care for and pass on a better world.

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Something linking the essential message of the pope, that call to action...plus a quote from Tim's address about a hope-filled future
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See next page for School Delegates Responses

2. School Delegates: Based on the responses from the last session, identify the key points you would include in a submission to your principal in relation to Sustainability.

Some kind of partnership with other EREA colleges. Coupled with empowered colleagues incorporating this into units of work and the daily life of the college

Start small, create an imaginative space for all parties, empower all members of the community and trust in God. Hope always!

Develop a sustainability team and framework, commitment to doing what is right not just what is cheapest, possibly a sustainability coordinator, carry on the sustainability plans from previous year/s

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School waste management, practices and systems to be in line with/support sustainable practices.

Continue to support integration of social justice education, including educating for sustainability, into our curriculum.

Cross curriculum problem based learning and critical service pedagogy promoted among staff.

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Educate our students We need to instil a sense of stewardship within the school Not only the global and local environment but also the school environment and with that it will extend to the greater community. We need to educate about the positives and movements towards improving the environment e.g. New technologies. We need to propose a short term and long term plan that are realistic and reachable as well as challenging. We need to get students, parents, auxiliary staff and teachers involved in a climate change group.

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We've arrived at a cross roads and we will be judged in the future, on our actions today. It's time for courage. Some people may obstruct the progress, but it's likely they're not well informed and need a refresher on the issues, so education is key.

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To make Sustainability a key issue in staff PD. Eg formation days revolving around sustainability. Including links to curriculum and accessing relevant resources/ devising units, to include sustainability education in all subjects. Allocate time for staff and student action on key aspects of sustainability around the school Appoint a sustainability prefect/captain and empower a sustainability student group to make change. Eg an

authentic recycling project Provide opportunities for education and engagement from parent body. Establishing key links with organisations in local and wider community to enable sustainable practices in our schools.

Action, resources (time), urgency, how do I start a coherent answer to this?

Get as many members of the community involved. Get more staff involved. Make sustainability both intra and extra-curricular.

Help me make this a priority please? Help me influence the culture please? We need to co-create a future for our students as there's no Future on a dead planet

1. The creation of a Sustainability / Environmental Coordinator or time- allocation provided for specific projects and initiatives 2. Social Justice & Environment [SJE] Prefect established 3. Staff PD on sustainability to link with curriculum and practical school applications [staffroom recycling etc]

4. Work with Local Council / Waste Management Contractors / School Business Manager to explore an all encompassing recycling program to pre-empt the NSW 10c collection campaign [money could be used to off-set recycling costs

or for mission and outreach charity] 5. Establish Herb Farm / Composting as an integrated part of the Hospitality Course

That Laudato Si be forwarded as a key message of learning for staff and students.

That sustainability practices are embedded in strategic directions - ie. teaching and learning, governance and administration, capital works etc

That a key driving committee be formed to pursue common goals specific to community and locale.

Authentic responses are required as we have plenty of opportunities. Any initiatives will need to be developed strategically, bearing in mind the scope of possible programs, their resourcing and the distribution of ownership across our community. We have the capacity to go beyond a 'pop up program'. Programs need to be academically rigorous, as well as formational.

1. The creation of a sustainability role in the EREA schools that has an allocated budget, time and say in strategic decisions. Sustainability can no longer exist as a "we should/if we get time/we hope to/someday " initiative but a real agenda with real school community intentions.

2. Examples we have seen from St Joseph's, St Laurence and Aquinas should not be news to our network of schools but instead resonate with practices we are all conducting. 3. The EREA needs to set up a network with delegates/school sustainability reps. The sustainable council at EREA can set up a LMS resource on their website where schools can discuss initiatives, issues and share stories. This can be curated by an individual on the sustainability council at EREA or a school representative.

Sustainability isn't a competition or challenge, it doesn't have a start or end, sustainability is a part of life.

We need to all contribute to a plan that will enact positive change and bring about ecological conversion. Students will need to be involved in all stages of the process. There are opportunities for us to embrace change in our own school community that will make a difference. Developing a curriculum that links to sustainability in all areas is important. Embracing new technologies will be very important. We need to provide the opportunities for imagination, innovation and creativity

For endeavours to be successful, they need the support of the Principal. Sustainable practices need to be afforded the same level of priority as any other learning outcome and adequate time needs to be ensured for outcomes to be achieved. Stewardship should be evident within our school setting and not just out in the community. With finite space and ever increasing enrolments, we need to become more innovative with the land available and for opportunities of learning how to become one with the environment.

Partnerships with other EREA colleges. Coupled with empowered colleagues incorporating this into units of work and the daily life of the college

