

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS NETWORK JOURNAL

Tinana State School

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Outward Bound Australia
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Sustainable
SCHOOLS NETWORK

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EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER
7th - Networking Night @ Currumbin RSL
Supported by Tugun Bendigo Bank

Mid December - Mid January the SSN will be taking some time off :)

SAVE THE DATE
2020 Sustainability Symposium
27-28th April - student focus
28th April - Dinner
29th April - 2 May - Curriculum Masterclass with Jaimie Cloud
Supported by City of Gold Coast, ASAS Parents and Friends Association, Cr. McDonald

SSN MEMBERSHIP NOW 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.

NETWORKING EVENT

**Guest Speaker - Carly Wilson
from Rubber Jellyfish the Movie**

Tugun **Community Bank**[®]
Branch



CURRUMBIN RSL
NOVEMBER 7, 2019
7:00 - 9:00PM



CURRUMBIN
RSL



Tinana State School acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and live and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Located in the Butchulla country in the Great Sandy region, Tinana State School is in a leafy green area of Maryborough where encounters with local fauna are commonplace. The school is also part of The Great Sandy Biosphere (a very special place – designated in 2009 by UNESCO in recognition of the international importance of the region).

Tinana State School has a growing enrolment and one of their challenges is to manage that growth without increasing their environmental footprint. Tinana is a 5 Star Cleaner Greener School and a Keep Australia Beautiful Green Flag Eco School, recognised for their strong school-wide sustainability ethos and commitment to reducing the School's Environmental footprint in the areas of energy, waste, water and increasing biodiversity in the school-grounds and beyond.

Tinana actively seeks opportunities to develop community partnerships so students can have a positive impact on the world, starting in their own community.

By working with partner groups and businesses on strategies for a sustainable future, the students are developing the knowledge, actions and commitment of future minded citizens.

These partnerships allow the students to demonstrate environmental leadership, and actively and positively contribute now to the future they wish to have. Many years ago, Glen Miller, their Butchulla elder, spoke to the School about Butchulla laws, and they resonated with what Tinana State School was trying to achieve.

'Wherever you go leave only footprints'

This is part of the Butchulla welcome and Tinana State School knows the importance of reducing their environmental footprint to have 'enough for all forever'. Recently the School has added the Butchulla Laws to their Eco-code including:

1. What is good for the land comes first
2. If you have plenty you must share
3. Do not touch or take anything that is not yours.

It all started in 2009 when Year 6 students at Tinana State School, came up with a solution to food scrap waste. The newly formed Waste Wallabies with the help of Bunnings, gave a bucket to each year level.

From here these students took over the management of fruit break scraps preventing waste going into the bins and diverting the scraps to those who had chickens at home. In 2010, the newly named, 'Waste Warriors Squad', presented to more than 700 other students in Gympie, their innovation on the previous year's waste solution by developing a waste program using Bokashi - a process that converts food waste and similar organic matter into a soil amendment which adds nutrients and improves soil texture - in a special composting bin and building a wicking bed vegetable garden for preps. This solution came from learning about compost worms and their enemy, citrus (which was the main fruit waste identified in a school audit).

From then on, every year, students (volunteering in their own time) planned, set goals, acted, reviewed and improved. Their goal was to reduce the environmental footprint of their school. Tinana State School (TSS) believed that to be a successful sustainable school they required a structured approach and elected to 'plan', 'act' and 'review'.

Essentially, the plan was to have a whole school approach to embedding sustainability. In 2011, the first School Environmental Management Plan was written by the Principal Mr. David Burns, Science Facilitator, the Curriculum Coordinator Mrs. Robyn Yates, with the help of Sue Gibson (the Principal of Barambah Environmental Education Centre) and 25 students called the 'Waste Warriors'. The School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) has enabled the development of action.

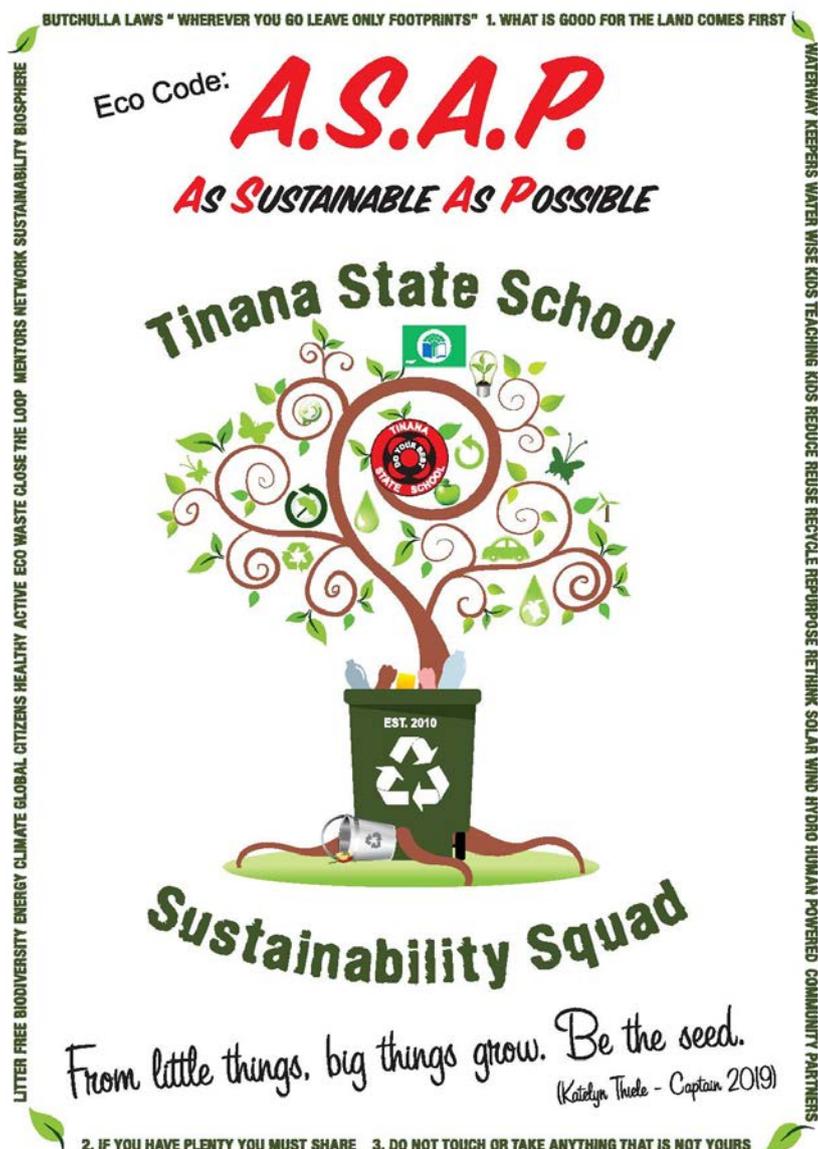
In 2011, the Year 5 Tinana Nude Food Shakers presented a Kids Teaching Kids (KTK) workshop at Kawungan SS as part of Education Queensland's Earth Smart Schools program and they shared their whole school waste initiatives - 'Nude Food Waste Audits' and 'How to make your school litter free'.

The School joined the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program and became a Reef Guardian School in 2011.

"Our success, provides motivation, appreciation and recognition for student and staff efforts in environmental improvements and education.

Tinana has deliberately and actively sought opportunities to engage and work with the local community; to not only enhance student learning outcomes, but to also contribute and enhance community outcomes. From little things big things grow."





Tinana State School developed their whole School Reef Guardian Action plan at the Future Leaders Eco Challenge. In 2012, they became a 5 star cleaner greener school and completed their Bam-pi Bin-dha (Bushtucker) Garden.

One of Tinana's Environmental Management goals is to improve school grounds by removing exotic and invasive species and use native species for all future planting programs; this included the development of their garden.

Tinana State School demonstrates how community based partnerships can help you achieve your goals. For example, a wonderful community effort ensured the needed native plants were donated from FCRC and BEEC. The project was brought to fruition by a grant, hard work and partnerships between TSS P&C, TSS Sustainability Squad, Maryborough and Aldridge SHS Teachers & SRC, and the Kahwun-Wooga Aboriginal Corporation & Natural Resources Management Team.

The School has also been invited to participate in the Gympie Future Leaders Eco Challenge for a second occasion whereby 5 Reef Guardian Schools (involving 52 participants). Schools planted 120 native trees with Gympie and District Landcare and schools presented their Earth Smart projects.

Tinana State School has had challenges but many more successful stories. In 2012, 'Tinana Eager Energy Savers' presented a Kids teaching Kids workshop at Albert State School to inform and involve the wider school community by suggesting ways in which all members of a school can work together to increase awareness of energy issues and to improve energy efficiency within the school.

In 2013, TSS partnered with Barambah Environmental Education Centre and Reef Guardian Schools to continue Earth Smart traditions showcasing sustainable school initiatives using the signature KTK ethos. Ensuring continued community partnerships, the 2013 Maryborough/Hervey Bay multi-school sustainability symposium was hosted at TSS. In 2014, students from the Sustainability Squad participated in Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day, built a herb spiral garden next to the tuck-shop and presented an interactive edible workshop on healthy herbs to share their story with others at another KTK event. Encouraging more schools to promote the health and wellbeing of young people and the wider community, and to make environmental connections to health and safety, is a key part of the Sustainability Squad's activities.

In 2015, Tinana State School participated in the Schools National Tree Planting Day at Woocoo Park where they planted 40 koala food trees with the Fraser Coast Wildlife Preservation Society.

The School has been a finalist in the QLD Premiers Sustainability Awards twice and became the first school in Australia to achieve the prestigious Green Flag Award in 2017. Tinana State School continues to share sustainable best practice, being invited to present at the Inaugural Biosphere Conference in 2019, as well as continuing to host their annual Sustainability & STEAM Symposium during Kids Teaching Kids Week.



INAUGURAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

40 nominations for Tweed Shire Council's first sustainability awards have highlighted how active Tweed schools and youth are in environmental sustainability projects. Nine schools and three under 18s submissions have described a wide range of inspiring environmental projects underway in the Tweed. Embedding sustainability throughout school operations and into the curriculum feature strongly in many of the nominations. Student-led environmental groups are actively engaging their school communities, establishing organics and recycling collection facilities, and closing the loop on lunch scraps to compost in school kitchen gardens. Partnerships with others in the community feature prominently, as students connect with Dunecare, wildlife rescue, Boomerang Bags and innovative recycling initiatives such as the Envision project to reuse plastics for prostheses.

Check out the nominations www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/SustainabilityAwards and vote for your favourite. Voting closes Sunday 3 November.



Some of the 2019 Tweed Sustainability Award nominees

Introducing

CHRIS PACEY

Science & Mathematics teacher & designer of the Marine Science program at St Patrick's College, Townsville

Following a 20 year career as a Marine Biologist, Senior Ranger and Project Officer, Chris decided his passion was in providing education about the natural world and he decided on a change of career; he became a secondary Science and Mathematics Teacher.

Chris has designed and implemented St Patrick's College Marine Science Program, which has achieved exceptional outcomes and forged valuable industry links. In 2016 Chris was awarded the Peter Doherty Outstanding Teacher of STEM award.

He is committed to fostering passion and enthusiasm for the environment and developing informed global citizens. In 2019 Chris was nominated as a finalist for the Australian Education Awards Department Head of the Year.

As a Reef Guardian School, St Patrick's College has made sustainability a part of its ethos for many years and hosted the Connecting Regional Queensland: Sustainability Summit on 29 October 2019. For Chris, teaching at St Patrick's has been a great opportunity to embed his studies and passion for the natural world. In his effort to promote more sustainable activities, he has overcome challenges such as budgeting, combining efforts and the limiting time for teacher-driven activities.

When asked about his understanding of sustainability, Chris responds simply, "*Sustainability is about balance and we can see this in nature. Nature has those mechanisms where the 'by-products' of nature are used within the system and perform a role.*" He knows that recognising the needs of now without compromising our ability to meet the needs of tomorrow is needed for a sustainable world.

He explains, "*There has been a shift at a local level from treating the environment as part of the economy to treating the economy as part of the environment. This has allowed projects to have sustainability as a starting point and not an afterthought.*" Chris believes parallel efforts work have commenced to establish a strategy that identifies key goals and timelines for education for sustainability.

Likewise, for teacher-driven activities Chris highlighted the importance of establishing and maintaining groups such as the Reef Guardian Schools Program to ensure challenges can be overcome. He asserted the availability of student leadership positions in the area of sustainability have improved and are really important for the education sector.

Chris has been involved in numerous school projects. His favourite being last year when St Patrick's College received GBRMPA Stewardship funding that allowed 30 Reef Guardian students to take part in the College's first Reef Recovery Project.

This project looks at the removal of algae to assist coral growth and involved partnerships between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, leading reef awareness enterprise, Reef Ecologic and local tourism operators. The result: St Patrick's College Reef Guardians took part in an education day in the classroom and a field trip to Magnetic Island 3 weeks later.

During the field trip, students had the opportunity to snorkel in Nelly Bay and help remove over 30kg of algae with the aim of allowing coral to grow and settle in these spaces and increasing awareness of issues facing coral reefs.



They also took part in a beach clean-up to remove rubbish, getting a better idea of where it comes from to hopefully help programs aimed at reducing this impact on our reef.

Moreover, during these activities, students also had the chance to chat to world leading researchers and local community members about what these projects mean for the future of the Great Barrier Reef.

Chris has many plans for the future in terms of sustainability practices. Two main goals are continuing to align parallel efforts and aiming to tap into the innovative and exciting ideas from students and to transfer ownership to projects to the student body.

The Sustainable Schools Network Limited thank St Patrick's College and Chris Pacey for all of your support to ensure Connecting Regional Queensland: Sustainability Summit was such a successful event.





OUTWARD BOUND

The power of Authentic Adventure for changemakers

Outward Bound Australia (OBA) has been taking students on authentic adventures for over 60 years. Whether it is a selected group of students or one or multiple year cohorts, OBA collaborate with schools and other organisations to deliver innovative, holistic, outcome focused, learning experiences.

One question Outward Bound Australia (OBA) is always asking: *“How can outdoor education inspire youth to be empowered leaders for a changing world?”*

OBA uses the term 'authentic adventure' for their outdoor education learning. It involves experiential learning in a wall-less and screen-less natural environment. Students are taken on a journey, pushed out of their comfort zone and challenged physically, mentally and emotionally.

'Authentic adventure' has six elements: expeditions, challenging activities, taking responsibility, immersion in the natural environment, exploring limitations, and progression.

Authentic adventure help students to discover and develop essential skills for navigating and influencing a changing world. These skills –

'the 7C's – include collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, compassion and courage and they build self-confidence, self-awareness and self-efficacy. Students realise they are capable of more than they know.

Moreover, machines don't do these 7Cs. These skills are what makes us human, and it is these skills that are imperative for students to envisage change and inspire action. This is powerful learning.

Tweed School's Environmental Leadership Program (TSELP): Case Study

Now in its 3rd year, the TSELP is an example of a collaboration between 11 high schools, 18 year 10 students, Tweed Council including five passionate council employees, two external environmental facilitators and OBA.

Commencing in early 2018, Council staff approached OBA looking for an innovative environmental leadership experience for secondary students in the Tweed.

The key objectives are to:

- provide year 10 students with a nature based, positive and experiential learning opportunity;
- to expand and share their knowledge about environmental issues and opportunities that matter to them; and,
- to develop new skills in leadership.

The TSELN has become an inter-school opportunity to learn, share and collaborate across a region on sustainability issues; issues that youth are passionate about, and where the lens is expanded to explore the systems we live in and encourage divergent thinking to find solutions. And importantly, it connects, develops and supports these aspiring environmental leaders regionally so they too, can inspire and empower others.

The 3 measurable outcomes for the program are:

- resilience
- taking initiative
- compassion for others.

Students are invited to apply for a fully funded place on the program and are selected based on their past and current actions and interest in environmental issues and opportunities.

For the past 2 years these have included, protecting the ocean, encouraging sustainability ethics and leadership in the school culture, how to start a school environmental hub, deforestation, water saving, school recycling and composting, wildlife conservation and climate action. As part of their authentic adventure, students are pushed mentally, physically and emotionally, and challenged to solve problems individually and as a group with selective initiatives and activities. These activities are a segue into deep conversations around the fire; a time to share feelings, thoughts, challenges and opportunities. This is the learning stuff, that grows the individual and connects the group.

THE FUTURE

Going forward, OBA is planning the 2020 Tweed School's TSELN with an extended workshop and mentoring component to assist students to implement an environmental action in their school or community. They are also collaborating with the Sustainability Schools Network on a similar program for southern Gold Coast students and are in conversation with Bali based Youthtopia for an Australia & South Pacific Youth Leadership Program centred around the Sustainable Development Goals.

Authentic adventure with a focus on sustainability develops the essential skills to empower our young people to be thinkers, collaborators and influencers; to take a lead and be the change they want to be, right here, right now!

To read the full Tweed EYLP case study visit: <https://www.outwardbound.org.au/outdoor-education-courses/>

Quote from 2019 student participant:

"...if I had to pick one (highlight) I think it would be...all the empowering people I had the pleasure of meeting and the friendships I made with like-minded students. Everybody made me feel like I was a part of something bigger and that I do have the power to make a difference no matter how small or insignificant I seem compared to the scale of the problems."

Quote from accompanying teacher, Jess Whitelum from Mt St Patricks College:

"The importance and positive impact of the camp was not only seen through the strong connections individuals made with one another whilst participating in a range of outdoor activities, but also the conversations and discussions around environmental issues, solutions and future projects."



ZAC PATERSON



Meet 7 year old Zac. A young environmental activist that believes in the power of change and is committed to making the world a better place.

"I want to continue to help fundraise and protect the environment and everything that lives on it."

Zac

Thinking and reflecting on the world's environmental challenges from a very young age, Zac came up with an imaginative solution to fundraise money for charities.

Zac was concerned about issues like environmental pollution, poverty and other social issues. He asked his mum about it and decided that he could do something to make a change: *"I asked my mum if I could give some of my money to help people and things that don't get help."* This is how the idea of VEDO all started.

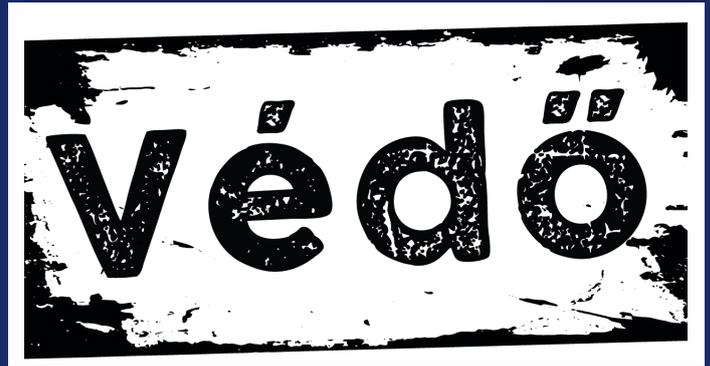
Zac explains,

"I am 7 years old so for me the word sustainability is hard to comprehend and spell, but I know that looking after the planet and each other is important and I want to make sure I do the best I can to help everyone and everything."

Always looking to make a difference, Zac asked about the usage of plastic straws at his school's tuck shop. *"At school we only have one bin for everything, so everything goes to land waste which makes me so angry. I wish we had recycling bins and other bins to collect and separate our rubbish."*

Zac already has an altruistic goal, stating,

"I just want everyone to be nice to the Earth and the animals on it, so we live in a healthy planet with the animals and we don't die. Rubbish is everywhere and it makes me sad, because people could just put it in the bin and do the right thing, but they don't."



About Védö

Zac has designed some illustrations that represent his parents who, he adds, *"Are my protectors"*, and he wanted everyone to become protectors of something important to them.

"I wish everyone could give money to charities to help people and the environment and the animals that live on it. Mum said my idea was great and that we should create shirts and other items to sell so people could wear them and help fundraise money for charities."

Zac's mum's company, Eco Avengers, and Védö have started an in-school program that teaches students how to create tote bags from t-shirts so that everyone knows how important it is to reuse things that they don't want anymore.

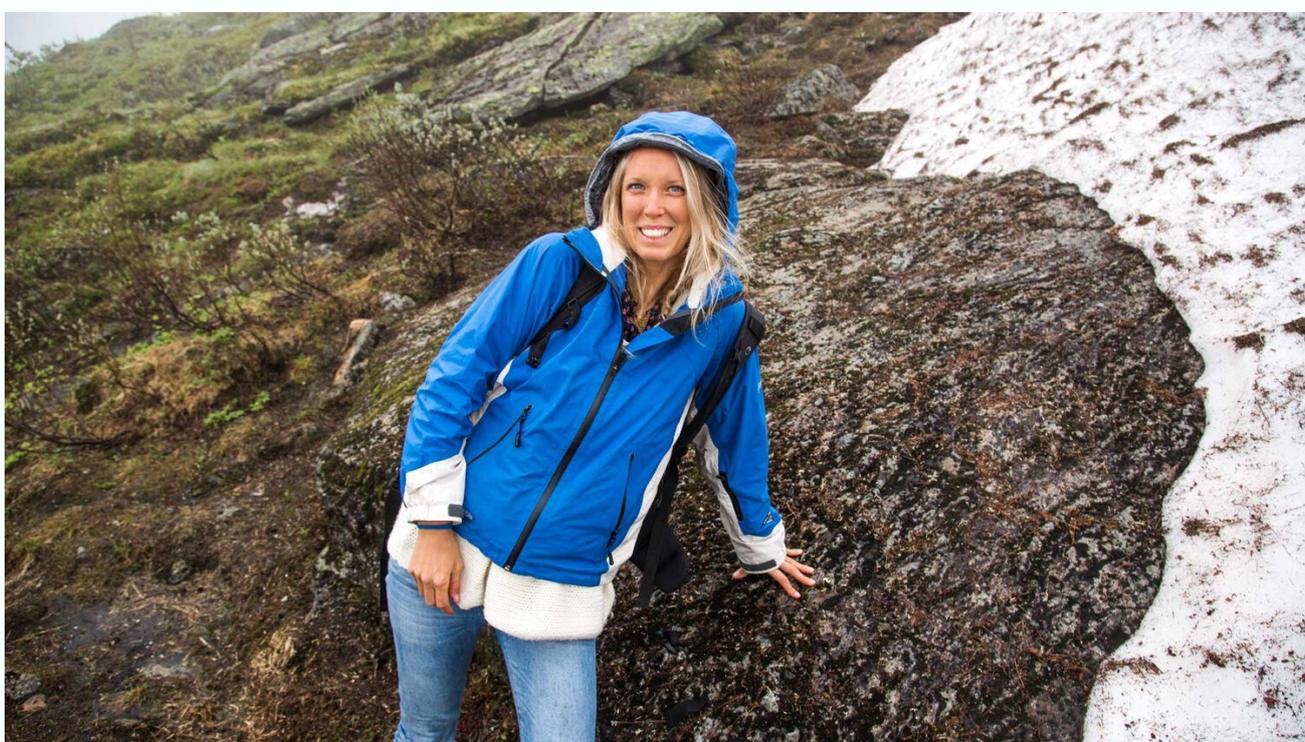
"I want to go to every school on the Gold Coast and show them how easy it is to make small changes. I want to continue to help fundraise and protect the environment and everything that lives on it."

For more information about Zac and Védö go to: www.vedoaus.com.au

Introducing

Hanna Hervall

Hanna is the founder, lead editor and designer of the Green Light Collective. Passionate about nature, travel, sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship, Hanna wants to connect people back to their deepest values and remind them that they really do care to do a lot better for our environment, as it is how we best look after ourselves too.



Hanna was asked a few months ago by the Fete Committee at Junction Park State School in Brisbane to help them make their school fete less wasteful. She agreed to help stating: *“My answer was and is always the same: encourage people to take responsibility and make it easy and fun for them to do the right thing.”*

According to Hanna, there are 10 key steps to planning a zero waste event, but she explains that it is the organiser who determines what level they are willing to commit to knowing that every little bit helps.

In the case of Junction Park State School, the idea of running a waste free event was new. Therefore, it was helpful to identify the, *“Low hanging fruit, the changes nobody would argue against”* says Hanna.

The estimated cost of disposing solid waste to landfill ranges between \$45-105 per tonne in Queensland, but that number is sure to increase as sites for landfill becomes scarcer and more remote, and the true cost of polluted soil, water and air becomes clearer.

Therefore, a school event, run by parents, students and teachers, Hanna believes the fete was an excellent opportunity to educate, inspire and empower people to take responsibility. According to Hanna, *“It initiated many important conversations around long term sustainability and got people to think about their own habits.”*

Hanna explains, “If we were to start by diverting all food waste and recyclables from landfill by implementing a clearly labelled separate bin system, we could potentially reduce waste by up to fifty percent, with little to no extra effort. That we’re sending organic matter to landfill in 2019 is a rather scary thought, but that’s where we are at, and the most important thing is that we are now in a position to change that.”

Junction Park State School are lucky to have a very passionate school community. There are many great low waste fete ideas already up and running such as trash and treasure, homemade jams and treats, face painting, interactive art spaces, and relax rooms. They are also highly supportive of local businesses, growers, bakers, artists and community groups.

Hanna shares with us some learnings and ideas for improvements when organising a 'zero waste event':

- **Communication.** People know what a fete is, they already know there will be rides and sweets, so make sure all marketing material state that the event will be waste-free/low waste and that they need to come prepared. State your goal and why it matters.

- **Signage.** Having a bigger cleaner signage on bins, of what goes in what, and set up as waste stations rather than single bins spread out. Big signs and clearly stated goals, like “Our goal is to only have one bin of general waste this year, because...” really helps to engage and inspire people.

- **Waste management.** Hire clear bins so everyone can see what’s being thrown.

- **Measurements matter!** Make some posters about the positive impacts the school can make, i.e “This year we have saved XXX kilos of food waste from being sent to landfill.”

- **Learning.** Bring the waste audit statistics into class! Encourage the children to create an interactive scoreboard to measure, problem solve, set new challenges, celebrate wins and inspire more innovative thinking, not just for events but every day!

- **Buy** lollies in bulk and set up a ‘weigh and pay’ stall, like an old candy shop, instead of selling individually wrapped lollies.

- **Set** up a bar instead of a drink stall with cans and poppers. Soft drinks and lemonade can be served on tap.

- **Remove** take away cup option from coffee stall altogether, when there is a \$1 hire charge on a cup people will remember to bring their own.

- **Plan** for people forgetting by setting up a “hire a plate” stall. If it charges a small fee, that is enough to encourage people to come prepared or return the item.

- **Avoid** buying decor such as plastic glitters and choose to reuse materials already in circulation or compostable alternatives such as biodegradable glitter.

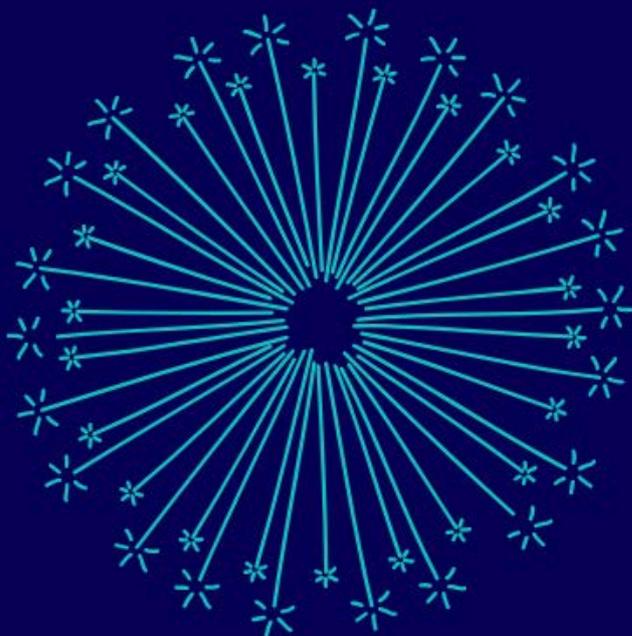
- **Stop** using cling wrap for baked goods, investigate other options such as waxed paper wraps, wide mouthed glass jars or use a glass cabinet that can be restocked, and people can use their own containers to bring their goodies home.

“With the right communication and a clearly stated goal, people are generally very enthusiastic and supportive of sustainable initiatives.”

After years of working with big organisations, councils, schools and small businesses, Hanna feels like there is still no understanding of why we must change our ways when it comes to sustainability, and the focus is still at the ‘what level’ which is why it is happening so slowly.

“Society is moving into a phase of waste reduction and resource recovery and it not only feels good, it also makes financial sense and it is the only way forward if we plan to stay on this planet for a little while longer.”

Hanna is currently working on designing additional resources and courses like a meditation course as well as a sustainable business course which will be very helpful to shift behaviours to align with our deepest truths and values and our hearts knowing.



2020 Sustainability Symposium

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Igniting souls, inspiring change
26 April - 2 May



CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.



All Saints Anglican School

EARLY BIRD TICKET SALES OPEN ON 11 NOV '19

The 2020 Sustainability Symposium aims to connect Northern Rivers and South East Queensland Schools in their commitment towards sustainability education. The event will address the sustainable development goals and build knowledge and skills for a sustainable future. To find out more about the event, to become a sponsor, or to find out how to secure your tickets follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or **email** info@ssn.org.au

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