

Mount Carmel LSAP Reflection 2022



Mount Carmel Catholic College is a six-stream co-educational secondary school located on Dharawal Country in Varroville, Campbelltown and is part of the Catholic systemic schools in the Diocese of Wollongong. The school caters for students in years 7-12 and has a current enrolment of 1121.

The school, beginning in 1985 at John Therry and moving to the current site in 1986, provides Catholic secondary education for students from the Parishes located in the northern sector of the Diocese including: St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown; Mary Immaculate, Eagle Vale; Holy Family, Ingleburn; Holy Trinity, Minto; Mary Mother of the Church, Macquarie Fields; and St Thomas More, Ruse. The College also has applicants from over twenty local Government schools.

The College vision statement is, *Mount Carmel Catholic College, guided by prayer and through spiritual formation, aspires to be a Catholic community reflecting gospel values. The students receive a holistic Catholic education, in the Marist tradition, with the aim of attaining moral, academic and personal excellence.* As such, the goal is for graduates of Mount Carmel to be confident and courageous young men and women who make a positive difference in their world.

The core values of the college are identified within the college motto "Ite in Veritate" -To walk in Truth and its prayer "to make Jesus known and loved" and are demonstrated in a strong Catholic ethos where students are advocates for social justice and peace. The school has foundational links to the Marist Brothers and their charism since its establishment and the 5 Marist characteristics of *Presence, In the Way of Mary, Love of Work, Simplicity and Family Spirit* are evident across many aspects of school life. The College is named from the Carmelite tradition, and means "God's Garden"; this underpins much of the talk at the College and environmental thinking through its values of fraternity, simplicity and contemplation. Both charisms complement the Laudato Si seven areas.

These core values invite the college community at Mount Carmel to take seriously the call of ecological conversion and to live in peace with God's creation. The college takes seriously the challenge from Laudato Si' to care for our common home. At Mount Carmel the school community identifies that it is crucial to take action to be sustainable stewards and responsible citizens that contribute to the building of a better future for humanity and our planet.

This School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) is a tool that will enable us to document, implement, reflect and celebrate sustainability as we respond to the challenges from Laudato Si' to walk our own journey of ecological conversion. At Mount Carmel we understand that we have a missionary and ecclesial mandate that impels us to participate and respond to the call to care for our common home with strategic planning, formation and concrete actions and it is within this context that this SEM is formulated.

Since 2015 following the release of Laudato Si', Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong has

taken seriously Pope Francis' prophetic call for an ecological conversion and has proactively responded in a strategic, planned approach whereby sustainable practices and ecological values are promoted and supported across the system of schools in the Wollongong diocese.

Engagement with eco-spirituality, environmental education and action is a key component of our mission, of being Catholic and is viewed as "core business", not an "optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (LS n217)

This strategic approach has involved schools embedding ecological values into school programs and practices that promote an ecological and sustainable culture, encouraging everyone to live out his/her ecological vocation and engage in caring for our common home.

The College has ...

- Implemented CEDoW Environmental Education Action Policy
- School Environment Management Plans (SEMP)
- discussed future Professional Development and Staff Formation in eco-spirituality, eco-theology and ecological conversion, as part of a Staff Spirituality day
- Involvement in CEDoW Environmental Education Grants Program so as to complete the planned new Indigenous contemplative garden
- Member of Wollongong Environment Network (WEN) that aims to support school communities respond to Laudato Si' and implement environmental stewardship and sustainability
- attained a Level 3 Certification as an Earthcare School
- We are Inspired to enact the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement – [Cry of the Earth](#), Cry of the Poor and Bishop Brian's Diocesan Pastoral Message
- Aligning our Values...

As a Catholic school that is steeped in the traditions of the Marists and the Carmelite traditions, we respond to the goals in the following ways:

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH - THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND CARE FOR THE LAND WE ARE ON, RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

RECYCLING BINS TO SEPARATE RUBBISH

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR - THE SUPPORT OF CARITAS AND MAPS PROJECTS, CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES TO RAISE AWARENESS

Caritas Project Compassion - students and staff are aware of how their actions support the message Poor

Marist Schools Australia - Champagnat Day focus and fundraising

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS - SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES TO PRODUCTS THAT ARE PURCHASED, THAT ALSO ARE PART OF WHS PRINCIPLES

The Hospitality unit are purchasing recyclable cups, and people are encouraged to bring their own coffee cup

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES - ENCOURAGING RECYCLING, NO PRINTING AND LESS ELECTRICAL USE

Print signs above powerpoints to remind people to turnoff lights
Continued purchasing of recycled paper for printing

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION- FORMS PART OF ALL KLA CURRICULUM AREAS

Student environmental group

KLA Scope and Sequences to show where Ecological units of work occur and the inclusion of Green days as content specific activities

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY- UNDERPINS PRAYER LIFE OF THE COLLEGE

We participate in the World Day of Prayer

Staff prayer and reflection

College Assembly prayer and sacred spaces

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT- DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF RESILIENCE SO THAT ALL FEEL EMPOWERED TO BE MORE AND DO MORE

Students participate in the St Vincent de Paul - Winter Sleepout

- Looking at the ASSISI Framework an overview of SEMP Actions and Environmental Education Achievements include:

For 2022 there are two specific actions that must occur

- A) A reinvigoration of SEMP, so that all stakeholders are aware of our commitment to living out the directive of Laudato Si'
- B) Based on the self-reflection there are two areas that have been very successful, screenshot below while two areas are in need of improvement.

This will need to be factored into SEMP II

