



Holy Spirit College
A Catholic Coeducational Secondary College

Holy Spirit College, Bellambi **Laudato Si' Action Platform Reflection 2022**

Overview

Holy Spirit Bellambi is a systemic co-educational Catholic College catering for students from Year 7 to Year 12. The school provides a quality Catholic education for young men and women in the northern Illawarra.

The community of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi has grown in an environment of respect and appreciation for the past, and a tremendous enthusiasm and hope for the future.

The College Motto 'Live By The Truth' comes from the Gospel of St John: "But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God" (3:21). The motto reminds the College community that Christ is the role model for all we undertake. Jesus described himself as "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6) hence by following the example of Christ, we enable the mission of our Baptism to be lived on a daily basis.

The motto invites each of us to take seriously the call of ecological conversion to act and live with truth and justice for God's creation. We need to take seriously the challenge from Laudato Si' to care for our common home. At Holy Spirit we see that it is crucial that we take action to be sustainable stewards and responsible citizens that contribute to the building of a better future for humanity and our planet.

Environmental Vision

Our Vision: For the school to be a role model in demonstrating stewardship and sustainability.

Our Purpose: To empower the school community to be proactive in caring for our school, local and global environment.

Mission Statement: To incorporate and promote sustainability into daily life at the college and improve the culture of stewardship.

Holy Spirit College's Contribution to the LSAP

From 2019 - 2021 Holy Spirit College was involved in the SEMP process.

Our SEMP Process aligns with the Laudato Si' Goals of:

Response To The Cry Of The Earth

Response To The Cry Of The Poor

Ecological Economics

Adoption Of Sustainable Lifestyles

Ecological Education

Ecological Spirituality

Community Resilience And Empowerment

Below are some initiatives that were undertaken in that time

Setting up a small garden with vegetables, herbs, native flowers and bush tucker (2021).

Donations from Bunnings, Bellambi and the Wollongong Botanic Garden were most welcome.

Tank water is used for the garden via an irrigation system funded by the school.

The garden was featured in a WIN News broadcast recently (March 2022).



<https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsIllawarra/videos/2445985515538438>

A preloved clothing sale is held each year on Holy Spirit Activity Day with donations from staff, students and their families. It has become a high point of the day. Sadly this took a hit due to Covid but was reinstated in 2021 to the delight of the school. In addition to saving countless items from landfill, the event made nearly \$500 for charity.

Reflections, prayers and liturgies for environmental occasions (World Day of Prayer etc)

Woodiwild tree planting scheme set up in 2020, has planted 122 trees so far.

<https://woodiwild.org/holy-spirit-college-bellambi/>

Reintroducing the worm farms into the vegetable arden.

Used writing equipment donated to Terracycle.

Paper and plastic bottles recycling boxes in all classrooms. The boxes are themselves recyclable to further reduce plastic waste.

Return and Earn Vinnies bins for recycling plastic bottles, cans and popper boxes. Initially there were just boxes around the school and there were complaints of them being unhygienic, but the blue bins have made things more acceptable.

Bread tag recycling programme with BRAD, over 1kg of tags sent in 2021

Blister Pack recycling scheme with BRAD

Soft Plastic boxes in many areas of the school, the contents are collected and taken to the supermarket to be recycled.

Many departments also have their own small recycling hubs (such as the one in the science prep room pictured below) to collect individual items which are then collected centrally and recycled or sent for recycling



Reduction of plastic in canteen and for corporate events with BioPak or compostable items now being used.

A “reclaim table” was set up with the school captains and SRC. When “waste” is dumped in skips at the end of the school year, reusable items (such as pens, textbooks etc) were offered to students with a donation to charity.

Disposable mask recycling through Terracycle.



Future Projects

- To reinstate the staff environmental group which declined during remote learning.
- To be part of the development and design of the new outdoor learning area at school to improve biodiversity within the school grounds.
- To assist the technology KLA with starting a “Patch to Plate” initiative with the year 7 as well as building a frame for a vertical garden to be used in design lessons. “The Garden” will be utilised much more by various KLAs
- To involve year 7 in making labels for the plants in “The Garden”, particularly the bush tucker plants.
- To make nesting boxes for native birds.
- To make a lizard house for the blue tongue lizards that live in “The Garden”.
- To use the compost bin that was the lizard house to produce actual compost.
- To meet with commerce teachers to build sustainability into the food sale projects undertaken by students in year 9 and 10.
- To liaise with Wollongong Botanic Garden to obtain native plants to be planted around the school.
- To gradually change to LED lighting where possible in the school.
- To push for solar panels on the roof of the new building. Building works will start in 2022.
- To refine and improve the recycling boxes and waste management within the school.
- To negotiate providing waste paper skips at the end of the school to prevent paper being put into the skips with general waste.
- To draw up a new SEMP to begin in 2022.
- To continue to reduce plastic waste produced by the canteen and school events.
- To push for more water refill stations around the school to further reduce plastic waste.
- To get the Waste Stream (designed by Ms Rochelle Kennedy) into every classroom.

