



Environment Committee Report - Term Three 2022

Centenary year events:

- The Environment Committee is supporting the Events Committee and Centenary Committee to minimise waste at 2022 events.
- We recognise that these committees are in very good hands and waste minimization is built into each event. However, we will help at every opportunity.
- Fathers' BBQ Breakfast Morning Tea: Committee to amplify the BYO cup message and the organise a supply of ceramic cups and water cups on the day as well as a compost bin to divert napkins, food waste, coffee grounds and tea bags from landfill.
- Soccer match at Grahams Reserve: The Environment Committee will set up and man a waste station (similar to the carnival in 2019). A focus will be on collecting all 10c drinks containers and introducing Recollect and its fundraising opportunity to the community.
- Year 6 Graduation 2022: It is important to ensure learnings and outcomes from last year are shared with 2022 organising team. Environment Committee to support where needed.

Waste-free Wednesday:

- Waste-free Wednesday continues to go smoothly. The team of Year 5 Waste Warriors are fantastic. A parent volunteer will be needed each week for the foreseeable future. A call for new volunteers for this specific role yielded 2 more helpers.
- We are very grateful for the support provided each and every week by Beth Dowdle and Angie Penn.
- There is less than 1kg of waste sent to landfill each Wednesday. Much of that is from the single-serve packaging for hot meals.
- There are some really encouraging signs that waste is reducing every day of the week. Teachers have noticed that student snacks and sandwiches are mostly in containers now and that it's become normal to take any packaging home so it can be properly sorted and recycled.
- Thanks to Beth organising the Green Team badges. The Waste Warriors are wearing them with pride.
- Beth worked with the Waste Warriors to develop a short presentation about Waste-free Wednesdays and 'nude' lunchboxes that was shared at assembly and SRC meetings. The students were excited to do this and the presentation helped reinforce the waste-free messages and shine a light on the great work the Waste Warriors are doing.

- As a fun extra task, the Waste Warriors walk around the playground at the beginning of lunch and distribute minis to 5 K-2 students and 5 3-6 students who have waste-free lunchboxes.
- The canteen will offer a \$1 item as a reward for helping on WFW. In combination with the badges and the new minis role, this incentive should encourage more students to sign up as Waste Warriors. Some Year 4 students are now keen to help!
- An extension of WFW to Tuesdays – to be known as Trashless Tuesdays – is not supported by the school at this time. WFW is still not sufficiently embedded in the school routine.
- The Environment Committee continues to communicate with parents about Waste-free Wednesday in the newsletter and on FB. Teachers make regular announcements at assembly and SRC members are encouraged to support their classmates to bring zero-waste lunches.
- We will develop an info sheet with advice about the best lunchboxes to buy and how to avoid packaging for the Kindy 2023 orientation pack. If possible, we will talk briefly at the parent orientation as part of the P&C presentation.
- The Environment Committee is still keen to find a way to use house points to develop further engagement with Waste-free Wednesday in 2022. The school confirmed that it is working on a consistent system for collecting house points across different school activities. K-2 students have been placed in houses but this has not been announced yet. A new house point system could be an ideal project for the SRC later in 2022.

Canteen:

- Swap for Good is now in its second year.
- A Swap for Good certificate from NB Council has been presented to SRC.
- Shona is still trying to introduce the reusable bamboo bento boxes for hot food. 70 boxes have been donated by Northern Beaches Council.
- Potato wedges in the boxes are now on the Tuesday menu (when Shona works) Although there was concern that boxes would end up in a red bin (as children tend to put all their canteen waste into the paper bag for disposal), the boxes are being returned safely. This would not be a problem on Waste-free Wednesday as bags are emptied at the waste station and sorted properly so we hope the boxes can be used on Wednesdays soon.
- Shona would also like to trial a staff menu using the boxes.
- Shona has bought a new bin and painted it to create Polly the Penguin. It will live outside the canteen each day and be used for 10c containers (smoothie boxes and Emma+Tom juice bottles).

Lost property:

- The new lost property area has been painted and the storage system planned by Kate Raynor Morgans has been installed. There will be no more piles and items will be very visible for children.

- Karen Crawford is doing a fantastic job of managing the lost property day-to-day. She is washing unlabelled clothing and dropping items at the uniform shop, and collecting and cleaning unlabelled containers and drink bottles for the Environment Committee to sell.
- A team of student volunteers help every day.
- No labelling days are planned yet but the school will follow up with Kate as she has good ideas for a labelling campaign.

Lunchbox rescue:

- Two initiatives aimed to clear the pile of unsold stock from the Term 2 Lunchbox Rescue sale:
 - The best quality containers and bottles are on sale in the uniform shop. The Environment Committee will keep the tubs topped up. The idea has been quite popular so far and sales have been slow but steady.
 - Tubs of free bottles and boxes were placed outside the fete room on a recent Friday afternoons and most of the stock was snapped up.
- Karen Crawford is still collecting and washing unlabelled containers.
- The Environment Committee plans to run another stall at the Kindy orientation in Oct/Nov when the uniform shop is open to help new parents stock up with containers for WFW.
- Tony Falzarano confirmed that the money raised at the sales can be go directly to canteen to be used for items to support Waste-free Wednesday. Shona has now bought two heavy-duty slinky machines, labelling for the new bento boxes, and the bin and paint for Polly Penguin.

Re-collect:

- Re-collect picks up containers eligible for a 10c refund directly from homes and businesses. Fund can be donated to charity. Community collection drives have been organised at other local schools, raising money for the schools and saving families the hassle of going to the Return&Earn machines.
- Manly West P&C has registered with Re-collect and some messaging began in the newsletter and on social media to introduce Re-collect, describe how it works and ask families to save their eligible containers.
- Once the app has been downloaded, families can organise regular collections from home.
- The Environment Committe would like to launch the initiative with a whole school 'bottle drive' to raise money for a specific goal.
- The waste station at the football event will collect 10c drinks containers and provide some comms about the Recollect service to the community.
- The SRC can lead the 'bottle drive' following a presentation on how it works from the Environment Committee. We will set a date in December and another at the end of January to capture bottles and cans from seasonal entertaining. Funds raised could go towards the new playground equipment or an in-school activity. Prizes could be offered to families collecting the most (we can use the app to track donations)

- The Environment Committee can attend an upcoming SRC meeting to present the Re-collect concept.
- In the meantime, Mrs Organ agreed that Re-collect can come to school to pick-up containers collected in Polly.
- Re-collect has left a 240l branded purple bin by the red skip in the school car park. Shona will take bags up to this bin as Polly fills up. Collections by Re-collect will happen every 3-4 weeks on a Friday morning. The Environment Committee can organise pick-up dates, money earned goes straight to the P&C.

Saturday markets:

- No more progress with the monthly 'Sustainable Saturdays' markets. Maybe in 2023!
- Note that the Saturday morning organic market has ceased operating – without this key attractor it may be hard to establish Sustainable Saturdays.

Sustainable travel:

- The 2022 diary is very busy so plans to celebrate national active travel days (such as Ride2School Day on the third Friday in March and Walk Safely to School Day in mid-May) are on a back burner till 2023/24.
- The Environment Committee has asked Council about any active travel initiatives that Manly West can get involved in 2023 and beyond. Not much is happening in the LGA at the moment but a new Road Safety Officer will be appointed soon to run school projects. The focus will be on schools near new cycling infrastructure.

School grounds:

- Mrs Organ has been working with two parent landscape architects, Nadia Greatbatch and Emily Pierce, to develop a masterplan for the grounds. The area behind the Boyle Street block will be underway soon.
- Beth is organizing the new playground equipment. Two quotes have been received for the play equipment– the best was from Forpark. The Astroturf will be replaced with bark mulch.
- The total cost will be about \$100k. This is the focus of P&C fundraising in 2022.
- Plans are also being made to renew the bush tucker garden. Emily has ideas for this.
- There are plans to develop a Yarning circle in the Year 6 area. Note that there are some Aboriginal carvings on the site. Environment Committee will support the Aboriginal Committee as needed, with implementation expected in 2023.
- Angie Penn and the Events Committee are planning a 'Garden Social' once a term on a Sunday afternoon. This will involve a working bee, an intro to the Kitchen Garden programme and a barbecue. No progress on this yet.