



Environment Committee Report - Term Two 2022

General:

- The Environment Committee has 7 enthusiastic new members. We hope to divide and conquer and achieve a lot in 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.
- Gifts: Brigitte and Nelly helped source sustainable gifts for the Mothers' Day stall. Their support was much appreciated and discussions have already begun about the gifts for the Fathers' Day stall.
- Easter Morning Tea: Committee amplified the BYO cup message and the organised a supply of ceramic cups on the day
- Education Day: set for 17th August. The children will be in 1920s clothes and there will be games and activities from that era. The 'travel to school like is 1922' and 'bring a 1920's lunch' events could happen then. However, Mrs Organ is concerned that additional special initiatives will create too much work for parents preparing for the day. To be discussed more later in Term 2.
- Research projects: each grade will study a different decade and produce posters/ videos to display its findings. It is possible that lunchboxes and transport could form part of the research. The displays will be ready by the Alumni Day on 6th August.
- 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 restarted on Wednesday 2nd March.
- The first weeks have been very successful. Although the project was abruptly cut off after the Term 2 launch last year, students haven't forgotten how it works. The new team of Year 5 Waste Warriors are fantastic.
- 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.

- A parent volunteer will be needed each week for the foreseeable future. The Environment Committee has asked the school community for more volunteers for this specific role and identified 4-5 new helpers.
- It was felt that more students should be interested in working as Waste Warriors. Bath proposed badges to celebrate the role and has ordered a set.
- Beth also suggested asking the Waste Warriors to develop a short presentation about Waste-free Wednesdays and 'nude' lunchboxes to share at assembly and SRC meetings. This would help reinforce the waste-free messages and shine a light on the great work the Waste Warriors are doing.
- 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.
- 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.
- The major new initiative is the introduction of reusable bamboo bento boxes for hot food. 70 boxes have been donated by Northern Beaches Council. The Canteen has labelled these and wants to slowly introduce them, starting with salads and staff meals.
- A note will be made of which student has which numbered box. However, there is a too high a chance that boxes will end up in a red bin as children tend to put all their canteen waste into the paper bag for disposal. This will not be a problem on Waste-free Wednesday when bags are emptied at the waste station and sorted properly.
- Canteen has suggested that parents will be billed \$10 if a box is lost. The school was asked if this approach was feasible and it was felt that parents would be upset and unsupportive. They may avoid ordering food that came in the new containers and the school could not manage the admin involved in collecting fines.
- **It was suggested that boxes are only used on Wednesdays at first.**
- Note that our efforts have been celebrated by NB Council on their website.
- Canteen was incredibly supportive of Waste-free Wednesday and we thank the team for all the changes made so far. The elimination of single-serve sauces, single-use cups and plastic sushi boxes has made a huge difference to the waste and litter produced at school and reduced the contamination of compost and the paper recycling bins.
- Canteen/BASC collaboration: Ali Devlin organised a successful meeting in November 2021 to discuss how BASC could use the canteen facilities for a new chef to prepare

meals for both BASC and Canteen, working at scale to save money. This is now in the hands of BASC and the canteen team but the Environment Committee is happy to help progress the project if needed.

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.
- Note there was some community opposition to the use of Sharpies on clothing and lunchboxes during SRC-run labelling days in 2021. Kate Raynor has some new ideas for a labelling campaign. She will present a plan to the school soon.
- The Environment Committee is happy to further support management of lost property if needed.

Lunchbox rescue:

- The second Lunchbox Rescue sale was held on April 27th. It was popular and \$130 was raised.
- However, it is quite a bit of work to set up the stall and the sale only made a small dent in the available stock. There is still a huge pile of unsold stock and this grows each week.
- The pile is stored in the fete room but can hopefully move to a designated spot in the lost property area soon.
- Ashleigh kindly agreed to trial the sale of containers and bottles in the uniform shop. The Environment Committee will keep the tubs topped up. The idea has been popular so far and sales have been steady.
- We may run a stall at the kindy orientation so new parents can stock up with containers for waste-free lunchboxes.
- However, only the best items can be sold in the uniform shop. Tubs of free bottles and boxes will be placed outside the fete room on Friday afternoons for a few weeks to try and get as many items back into circulation as possible. After this, the scratched and dented items will be destined for the recycling bin!
- Tony Falzarano has 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 said that she would like to buy a heavy-duty slinky machine and a yellow lidded bin for canteen recycling. She would also appreciate a contribution to the labelling costs for the new bento boxes.

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 now registered with Re-collect.
- Messaging has begun in the newsletter and on social media to explain what Re-collect is, 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.
- However, the Environment Committee would like to launch the initiative with a whole school 'bottle drive' to raise money for a specific goal.
- Two ideas were discussed – the SRC can lead the 'bottle drive' (ideally set for a date late in Term 2), encourage participation and put the money towards the new playground equipment; or Year 6 could take it on to raise money for their end-of-year gift to the school and charity donation.
- The Environment Committee will attend an imminent SRC meeting to present the Re-collect concept.
- A collection from school (for canteen and staff room containers) is possible but not necessary for the project to go ahead. Once the logistics are clearer, it may be possible to use the service for containers generated by the canteen and staff but a parent volunteer will need to be involved.

Saturday markets:

- The Events team have developed a plan for a monthly 'Sustainable Saturdays' market that can work alongside the existing Saturday morning organic market. It would be a community event and help many families with piles of goods to sell after lockdown decluttering.
- Not much progress has been made but we aim to begin in Term 3. It may be better as a quarterly event.
- We have discovered that the organic market has ceased operating. We will collaborate with the school to understand the Community User Agreement system, insurances and the best way to collect fees for stall. Contact has also been made with the Manly Village Markets organiser.
- The Environment Committee will let people visiting the market know that toilets are not available. The community is used to this situation when using the oval out of school hours.
- Removal of all unsold items will be a condition of renting a stall.

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.
- However, we would like to run a "travel to school like its 1922" day as part of the on-site centenary activities in August.

- It was decided that it would not be possible to collect travel data this year. It could be a student project at a later date.
- The Environment Committee has spoken to Council about active travel initiatives that Manly West can get involved in 2023 and beyond – we will be contacted if a new pilot project is being developed.

School grounds:

- 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.
- Mrs Organ is working with two parent landscape architects to develop a masterplan for the grounds. The Environment Committee looks forward to hearing more.
- Beth is organizing the new playground equipment and a renewed bush tucker garden. Environment Committee to support as needed.
- 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.