



## Environment Committee Report - Term Four 2023

The committee has had dwindling numbers and finding volunteers to help with school activities or environment and sustainability projects has been challenging. We have been in a “maintain” state, with WFW, newsletter content, pen recycling, ReCollect, lunchbox rescue and working with events and canteen to assist.

### Waste-free Wednesday:

- A big thanks to Beth and Suz for keeping WFW alive. The Environment committee is supporting WFW by providing volunteers on Wednesdays. A call to the broader school community for support has not produced any additional volunteers but we will push hard at the start of 2024. Since the end of COVID and WFH, availability of volunteers has been constrained across all facets of school.
- The green team are enthusiastic supporters of WFW and we are redirecting large amounts of recyclable and compostable material from the bins on Wednesdays.

### 2023 events:

- The Environment Committee have continue to support the Events Committee to minimise waste at 2023 events through education on sustainability and providing support with recollect and compost at events. The Trivia Night particularly was impressive with no-waste catering, raffle and gifts.
- Events team have procured reusable coffee cups with lids. Huge congrats.
- The Fair has been postponed/cancelled.
- School-planned events are not being notified to the environment committee fast enough for committee involvement.
- Peddlars Parade was much more sustainable this year but still lots of lolly wrappers.

### Canteen:

- Canteen would like to implement recycling, and the school has agreed to allow this and in the staff rooms. The Environment Committee has to obtain quotes and provide a proposal to Julie for review.

- Swap for Good is now in its third year. 70 reusable bamboo bento boxes were donated by Northern Beaches Council. Green cups are in regular use and replacements brought in.
- Polly the Penguin, the bin for 10c containers is outside the canteen every day. Around 50% of containers are currently reaching the bin, raising \$8-10 per week.
- Overordering is a big issue. Cheese is usually thrown in the bin. Messaging needs to get back to parents.

### **ReCollect:**

- ReCollect picks up containers eligible for a 10c refund directly from homes and businesses. Manly West P&C has registered with ReCollect.
- Once the app has been downloaded, families can organise regular collections from home.
- Not many families have signed up – a bit disappointing! However, a trickle of funds is coming into the account. Messaging will continue to build up the initiative.
- ReCollect has left a 240l branded purple bin at Manly West which is kept in the bin room. Shona takes bags to this bin as Polly fills up. Collections by ReCollect happen every 3-4 weeks on a Friday morning. The Environment Committee organise pick-up dates, money earned goes straight to the P&C.

### **Lost property:**

- The new lost property area is working well with a significant increase in lost items being returned to their owners.
- 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.

### **Lunchbox rescue:**

- A lunch box rescue stall was held in Term 2 with some success, money was donated to the P&C account via the uniform shop.
- There were not enough lunchboxes rescued to hold another stall for Kindergarten Orientation in Term 4 – probably a good sign that less items are being lost.
- Good quality containers and bottles will continue to be sold in the uniform shop.

### **Sustainable travel:**

- This item has not had traction but will be reconsidered in 2024.

### **Pen recycling**

- Boxes from Officeworks are now in several locations around the school. They are being used by all teachers and classes for the disposal of used pens, highlighters, etc. Environment Committee members collect the boxes when full, drop off to Officeworks and return empty box.

## **Kitchen garden**

- Suz is doing amazing work in the kitchen garden
- One parent volunteer helps occasionally but more support would be appreciated, especially to turn compost.
- Expression of interest for volunteering – 2024 project.
- Environment committee to reach out to BASC about compost, chopping fruit and volunteering to help.
- Additional rainwater tanks and plumbing would be a great project to use P&C funds and has been suggested by the school.

## **School grounds:**

- New landscaping on Boyle St complete.
- New playground complete.
- School to complete list of wants and needs for environment, kitchen garden and schoolgrounds that can be taken to P&C for fundraising/provision of funds (eg more shade, imaginative play area, water tanks)
- There were no working bees in 2023. Environment committee to research insurance, first aid, toilets, etc.