



Manly West P&C Environment and Kitchen Garden Committee

Meeting information P&C General Meeting – Tuesday 25th June 2024

News and updates

Supporting Events: The environment committee partnered with the events committee and kitchen garden to provide sustainable plant gifts as option. This was a great opportunity to partner with the events committee, and plants were a great success raising significant funds for the school. Bunnings was generous in donating pots and discounted plant products and offered to provide Manly West other donations for future events with a letter of request from P&C where they consider it appropriate.

Congratulations to the hard-working events team for the Mother's Day stall it was a great success

We are also working with Year 6 graduation committee who are designing sustainable decorations. We are keen to partner with events committee and other groups to support them have a sustainable focus at events.

Pen recycling – Manly West recycling pens through office works. Last term Manly West diverted 3.87 kg of waste or textas, white board markers, pens and glue from landfill! These will be recycled into new products, such as outdoor furniture, watering cans, construction applications and much more! Great work Manly West.

Proposal for funding to be considered by Executive Committee for Waste Free Wednesday –

The Environment Committee will submit a proposal to P&C consider funding a support role for Waste Free Wednesday due to lack of volunteers and support kitchen garden composting. The indicative annual cost of this support we think is around \$3,500 per annum. The Executive P&C Committee will consider this request in a separate forum.

Recognising MW environmental achievements: Across the schoolteachers are dedicated to providing our children in a solid grounding in environmental actions they can take, sustainable gardening and projects that build awareness to protect our environment. Miss Dowdle is running a range of education activities and also leads the green team and waste free Wednesday. The Environment Committee is collaborating with the school to raise awareness about all the efforts both students and teachers make to support and understand the environment.

This will include newsletter articles on key initiatives and projects like the year 5 Penguin Project, sustainability actions, storage clean up. We also plan to create an achievements board for the playground that children can reflect on and celebrate their achievements. The team is also exploring signage to recognise the schools' efforts to reduce waste (Similar to Manly Public).

Supporting sustainable transport to school – there is great interest in riding and scooting to school and students are requesting additional scooter hooks. Ms Dowdle has discussed this initiative with the SRC lead teacher Kate Walton and the students who are interested will attend the next SRC meeting to make a request and possibly discuss some ideas or designs they have come up with soon. The Committee recognises this is an important initiative for the children and also supports clean and green transportation to school.

Kitchen garden – Suzanne continues to do a terrific job in maintaining the kitchen garden and, chickens and is providing great activities for the children. There is very little volunteer support for the kitchen especially turning compost which can take up to 5 hours and without support is a health and safety risk. The Committee and school are proposing a solution to the resourcing problem for kitchen garden and waste free Wednesday (see project 1) that we would appreciate P&C support on.

The Environment Committee was advised that the shed that stores food in the chicken coop is old and is both unsafe and falling apart presenting risks to the children and staff that feed the chickens which will be addressed through school funding requests to P&C.