

MEDIA RELEASE

5 December 2016



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

Footprints to get smaller at SMC Sustainability Day

Environmental sustainability is an ever increasing priority in today's world. St Mary's College is leading local change with its second Sustainability Fair, to be held on Tuesday 6 December.

The Sustainability Fair is an all-day educational event that aims to implement change through hands on active learning opportunities. In fact, the topic is considered so important that most traditional classes will be suspended to enable students to be actively involved throughout the day and increase awareness about environmental issues, sustainability and how they can make a difference.

St Mary's College student-led initiative, The Footprint Project is at the forefront of the initiative and has planned the day's events around a core goal for all students and staff to take away one daily change that has a positive environmental impact.

Changes can be made at school or home and include becoming more aware of reducing waste, separating rubbish to increase recycling, sourcing ethical products or bringing nude food instead of packaged food to school.

SMC Principal Helen Spencer is a strong supporter of the Fair and its aims.

"St Mary's College embraces our educative and spiritual responsibilities around sustainability. We are excited that our Sustainability Fair will help our students know how to reduce their environmental footprints, and inspire them to do so," she said.

The range of activities throughout the day is varied and focuses on how easy it is to make a difference.

Fair organiser and Senior School teacher, Tanaz Jungalwalla works with students on The Footprint Project.

"The students of The Footprint Project are passionate about the environment and have a wonderful drive to make positive changes in their community. They are very excited for the fair," she said.

"We have everything from a fashion parade featuring clothes made from recycled products through to staff from Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary teaching us about what to do when we encounter injured wildlife and food vans will be on site throughout the lunchtime Fair on the Green within College grounds."

"It's going to be a great day!", she enthused.

Further information about the Fair and the day's schedule is on the following page.

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Schedule of Events: SMC Sustainability Fair Tuesday 6 December

8:45am-10:30am

Students will participate in a range of class activities, including:

Year 7: will work in elective subjects on ethical practice and sustainability. The three main focuses will be:

1. How we can think creatively to repurpose and upcycle.
2. Understanding the clothing industry and how we can make more sustainable choices and encourage transparency in big businesses.
3. Understanding sustainable and ethical food choices including eating seasonally and supporting ethical and Fair Trade products.

Year 8: is buddying up with Year 4 classes to develop a footprint, which will be decorated with ideas on how to reduce their ecological footprint

Year 9: Will head off-campus on a community clean up around North Hobart, the Hobart CBD and Bellerive Beach. They will compete in House groups to collect the most recycling and landfill litter.

11.00am – 12:15pm

Assembly in the Nagle Centre. Guest speakers will include Emma Haswell from Brightside Farm Sanctuary, Rose Bray from the Hobart Cat Centre and John Prichard from Parks Australia. There will also be a number of items from students including a Trash to Fashion Parade, a dance performance, and poetry readings.

12:15 – 1:30pm (Year 6-9)

Fair on the top ground and courts, including stalls run by students and invited guests.

Stalls include: Food trucks supporting local and ethical products, ethical cupcakes, Fair Trade smoothies, pop up op shop, sustainable make-up, bike powered slushies, face painting and visiting animals from the Hobart Cat Centre and Brightside Farm Sanctuary.

1:30 – 3:20pm

Workshops for Year 7-9 students

- Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary sharing tips on what can you do at home to protect wildlife and what to do when an animal is injured on the road
- The Carter Family from Tarooma speaking about their experience as a Zero Waste family and sharing practical ideas on how to produce less waste
- Anita Johansson-Wong explaining the concept of ethical consumerism and how to make ethical decisions and vote with your dollar when shopping