



## Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow Reflection 2022

Good Samaritan is a Catholic systemic co-educational school located in Fairy Meadow. The school caters for students in years K-6 and has a current enrollment of 405 students. Good Samaritan School was formed from the amalgamation of St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School Wollongong and St John Vianney's Catholic Primary School Fairy Meadow. The school opened in January 2012 on the site of the former St John Vianney's Catholic Primary School.

The vision of the school embodies the hope for student's development, engaging all students in meaningful learning that is based on Gospel values, is data driven and develops the ability of each student to be faith filled, global citizens who can be independent thinkers and problem solvers and approach all life experiences with compassion for all people and their environment.

Our school motto 'Moved to Compassion' implores our school community to action this in a concrete way throughout our lives as we journey with Jesus. We consider a crucial aspect of our journey as being sustainable and responsible stewards caring for God's creation, our common home.

We are informed by the Benedictine charism which reminds us that all things are holy since they come from the hand of God and so we have a duty 'to cultivate and take care of' the good things of God's creation.

Since 2015 following the release of *Laudato Si'*, Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow, has taken seriously Pope Francis' prophetic call for an ecological conversion and has proactively responded in a strategic, planned approach whereby sustainable practices and ecological values are promoted and supported across the school.

Engagement with eco-spirituality, environmental education and action is a key component of our mission, of being Catholic and is viewed as "core business", not an "optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (LS n217)

This strategic approach has involved Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow in embedding ecological values into our school programs and practices that promote an ecological and sustainable culture, encouraging everyone to live out his/her ecological vocation and engage in caring for our common home.

Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow, has completed a School Environment Management Plans (SEMP1). We have planned and are currently implementing the goals outlined in our SEMP11 which began in 2021 and will be ongoing until 2024.

The staff at Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow participated in a Staff Spirituality Day led by Beth Riolo (CEODow) called Who Is My Neighbour? This professional development guided the staff towards understanding eco-spirituality, eco-theology and ecological conversion.

The staff at Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow will be involved in a Staff Spirituality Day led by Beth Riolo (CEODow) called Praise Be. This professional development will guide and inspire the staff towards living our ecological conversion.

Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow have planned, submitted and received two CEDoW Environmental Education Grants in this program.

- 2018 Creating a Sustainable School through the introduction of REDcycle and a Water Tank.
- 2019 'Nourishing' Water Tank

Donna Malady is a staff member from Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow who is an active and current member of Wollongong Environment Network (WEN) that aims to support school communities to respond to Laudato Si' and implement environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow has attained Level 3 Certification Earthcare School. This is a formal recognition by Earthcare Australia as "a school certified as level 3 and is now committing to a whole school ecological change".

As part of our vision mission statement, Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow is Inspired by Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement – Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor and [Bishop Brian's Diocesan Pastoral Message](#)

Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School connects to the value of Laudato Si' Goals. Good Samaritan aims to provide programs and practices that care for our common home embedding within the school community a commitment to ecologically sustainable actions that promote and nurture ecological conversion.

## RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

- INVOLVEMENT IN CLEAN UP (AUSTRALIA) SCHOOLS DAY
- WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
- WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION

## RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

- ENGAGED IN PROJECT COMPASSION
- CONTRIBUTES TO FOOD COLLECTION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ST VINCENT DE PAUL
- VINNIES RETURN AND EARN

## ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

- RECYCLED PAPER
- ONLINE NEWSLETTERS/DIGITAL COMMUNICATION
- SENSOR LIGHTS IN SOME AREAS OF THE SCHOOL
- STICKY BEAK LUNCH WALLET (OFFERED AT KINDER ORIENTATION)

## ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

- SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING

- CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY (SCHOOLS DAY)
- RECYCLE PRINTER CARTRIDGES
- RECYCLING BINS IN EVERY CLASSROOM STAFFROOM AND PHOTOCOPY ROOM
- NUDE FOOD (WASTE FREE WEDNESDAYS) REIMPLEMENT 2022
- CHANGES TO CATERING EG NO PLASTIC PLATES, CUPS, CUTLERY & CROCKERY ETC
- ENCOURAGEMENT OF KEEP CUPS AND REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS
- VEGETABLE GARDEN - FAMILIES AND STAFF ENCOURAGED TO TAKE HOME PRODUCE
- STICKY BEAK LUNCH WALLET (OFFERED AT KINDER ORIENTATION)
- GSFM STAFF ROSTERED ON ONCE PER WEEK (AS THEIR DUTY) TO ORGANISE/SUPPORT AN EARTHCARE ENVIRONMENT CLUB WITH WHICH ANY STUDENTS CAN ATTEND. (FROM TERM 1, WK 6)

## ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

- PARTICIPATION IN WEN CONTACT PD DAY FOR STAFF
- PARTICIPATION IN WEN PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS DAY
- SUSTAINABILITY SCOPE AND SEQUENCE THAT ENSURING EACH GRADE IMPLEMENTS AN ECOLOGICAL UNIT
- INFORMING PARENTS VIA NEWSLETTER OF ECOLOGICAL TIPS

## ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

- LITURGIES FOR SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS
- STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS LINKED TO ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

## COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

- ENGAGED IN PROJECT COMPASSION
- CONTRIBUTES TO FOOD COLLECTIONS (HAMPERS & CLOTHING) THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ST VINCENT DE PAUL
- VINNIES RETURN AND EARN
- INVOLVEMENT IN CLEAN UP (AUSTRALIA) SCHOOLS DAY
- LIAISE WITH WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL (PENNY HOSWELL) SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES - IN PARTICULAR NURTURING AND EDUCATION OF OUR INDIGENOUS GARDEN

## ASSISI Framework

Good Samaritan Primary Catholic School, Fairy Meadow, has engaged in the Assisi Framework developed by Catholic Earthcare Australia. This Framework has focus areas and goals regarding ecological conversion, that is used in all ecological initiatives and plans. These five focus areas and related actions are:

### Focus Area Goals (ASSISI Framework)

Across the focus areas the goals of this plan are:

#### 1. Whole School Planning

*Environmental Plan (SEMP), Strategic Plan, Governance, Policy, Environmental Team*

#### 2. Religious Dimension

*Catholic Social Teaching, Celebration, Liturgy, Prayer, Embedding of eco-theology and Catholic Social Teaching principles in RE Curriculum, Formation in eco-spirituality & theology*

#### 3. Teaching & Learning

*Curriculum, Syllabus Perspectives & Materials, Professional Development, Environmental education integrated into all stages and KLAs, Scope & Sequences for environmental education, Curriculum links to environmental action in school*

#### 4. Ethical Resource Use

*Individual and School Ecological Footprints, Administrative Practices, Waste Management – recycling, Green catering, purchasing, Audits*

#### 5. Caring for Country

*Physical surrounds & Maintenance, Biodiversity - Grounds developed to enhance environmental education – eg. "Outdoor Living Classroom", outdoor education, Landscaping (equipment, shade, safety and seating reflect an awareness and consideration of environmental impact)*

**6. Community Relationships**

*Networks and Partnerships, Student Life*

