

SchoolLink

THEME Lutheran education earthcare charter

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Ever since the creation of the world ...



Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga VIC

Psalm 148 urges us and all creation to praise the Lord for the beauty and wonder of God's creation, planet earth and all the universe. This precious planet and God's creation which we have been blessed with was one of the three focus areas for the 2017 Australian Conference on Lutheran Education, *PEOPLE PLANET PURPOSE*, held in the Adelaide Convention Centre in July 2017.

At the conference delegates were challenged to consider the *human influence* on planet earth by Professor Tim Flannery (Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, University of Melbourne; Australian of the year 2007 and Chair, Copenhagen Climate Council). Tim also spoke about global food security, land and water ecosystems as well as biological and chemical ways to reduce carbon dioxide.

Ms Jacqui Rémond, Director of Catholic Earthcare, followed and outlined to the 1100 attendees the path Catholic Earthcare has travelled to achieve the level of resources, support and programs evident today as well as the support of the Australian Catholic Bishops. Jacqui stated 'A solution at the economic level can be found only if we undergo, in the most radical way, an inner change of heart, which can lead to a lifestyle and a change of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. A genuine conversion in Christ will enable us to change the way we think and act'.

Finally, the Lutheran education earthcare charter was launched. This charter has been developed over the past three years and will enable Lutheran early childhood services and schools to begin and continue their journeys of understanding their local environments as well as better appreciating and honouring God's creation.

Additionally, an LEA paper titled *Caring for creation within Australian Lutheran school communities*, developed in consultation with several Lutheran theologians, has been

circulated to Lutheran schools and contains the following principles:

1. **Celebrating creation** is a rich experience students and staff in Lutheran schools can enjoy as they delight in the wonders of creation in our planet home, a free gift from the Creator.
2. **Exploring creation** is an exciting possibility for all students and staff as they research the mysteries and wonders of planet earth and its connection with all of creation.
3. **Respecting creation** is a challenge that we face as we explore our intimate relationship with planet earth and its diverse species in the eco-systems of the cosmos.
4. **Caring for creation** is a ministry for Lutheran schools that is integral to their mission as caretakers of earth.
5. **Restoring creation** involves school communities being co-workers with God in caring for the earth, discerning the groaning of creation and finding ways to help restore the brokenness of planet earth.

Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) has developed an earthcare website which can be found at: www.lutheran.edu.au (click on the link on the front page). LEA also acknowledges the generosity of the LLL in providing \$105,000 for grants to Lutheran schools to implement, in their own unique ways, the *Lutheran education earthcare charter*. Fifty five Lutheran early childhood centres and schools have received earthcare grants, courtesy of the LLL. The pages of SchoolLink celebrate our young learners as they explore, inquire and learn about God's creation.

In Romans 1, St Paul writes 'Ever since the creation of the world, God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been clearly seen through the things God has made'.

LEA looks forward to hearing in the months and years ahead of many stories in which students, staff and school communities are celebrating and caring for God's precious creation. As Lutherans we, like all Christians, are challenged to take seriously our relationship with creation and especially with planet earth, our God-given home. Scripture teaches us that not only do we show respect for God as creator by respecting God's creation, but also that all of God's creation is deeply interconnected (Romans 8:18-25). In addition, the science of ecology has also awakened us to the mysteries of earth's ecosystems and to the interconnected wonders in the web of God's creation. Lutheran ECSs and schools are committed to teaching our students – across the curriculum – about theology and ecology in ways that prepare them to be caretakers of God's creation throughout their lives.

We hope our LCA partners and congregations can also take up the challenge of developing their own earthcare strategies no matter how great or small.

May God bless us as we celebrate, care for and live in God's amazing creation.

Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, and he established them for ever and ever - he issued a decree that they will never pass away.

Psalm 148:5-6

Lutheran education earthcare charter



Our Saviour Lutheran School, Aberfoyle Park SA

Our Saviour Lutheran School Aberfoyle Park SA

Principal Robert Sellars and his team of teachers, students, parents and volunteers embarked on a project to create a nature play area that linked local Indigenous culture to the Christian perspective of God as creator.

A guided tour of the new Kurna Garden by four student leaders unveiled a myriad of ways the garden is being utilised. The garden boasts an island surrounded by pebbles, which during the rainy months of winter will fill up with water that naturally congregates in that area of the school grounds. Then the island will be accessible by a line of large rocks.

The Kurna Garden is not only a place of play. Students can also learn a lot about local Indigenous culture. In the second phase of development, native flora will be planted and grown, which will be used to teach students about bush tucker, tools and weapons, weaving, bush tea, music and ceremony, and medicine plants. The Kurna Garden aims to teach students that they are the custodians of the land which is provided to us by God.



Living Waters Lutheran School, Alice Springs NT

Living Waters Lutheran School Alice Springs NT

Living Waters Lutheran School's new sensory garden has been a positive addition to the outdoor learning environments within our school grounds. This garden was designed with lower primary students in mind to enable them to connect with the environment and experience a range of sensory stimuli. While the garden has only recently been established it has already been utilised in many different ways.

It has been used to provide sensory breaks for students with emotional and behavioural needs, it has assisted in the engagement of reluctant learners with the curriculum, provides hands on experience of the Biological Sciences, and is a safe haven for students who find the main playground overstimulating or intimidating. We look forward to seeing how this space will grow and develop as students and educators interact and contribute to the sensory garden.

I would like to extend our sincere thanks for the funds to establish this wonderful learning space.



Good Shepherd Lutheran School Angaston SA

Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Angaston has been developing land to create an outdoor play and learning space, which we have named EDEN. Each class has been responsible for an area.

The year 4 class had the challenge to open their part in EDEN to the community at the end of term 2. Students led the project. They rang the local native plant nursery, talked to a local ranger, identified where they wanted to plant native plants on a map, measured the area, added the price of the plants, filled out forms and organised an excursion to buy the plants and planted them. The area was opened to the community. Students were very grateful when they were told they had money through the LLL earthcare grant.

They had been learning about how the land changes and their responsibility towards caring for the wounded planet.



Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Angaston SA



How amazing God's creation is...



Trinity Lutheran College, Ashmore QLD

Trinity Lutheran College Ashmore QLD

At Trinity we were very blessed to receive a grant from the LLL to allow us to focus on one of the earthcare charters for Lutheran Education Australia. With our year 7 cohort we have been investigating how, as custodians of our planet, we can find ways to prevent polluting our sacred site and home. The Trinity ECO CLUB decided what physical resources needed to be purchased and a team of eight students ventured to Bunnings to purchase these products.

In term 2, a number of students from middle and senior years gathered to set up our Trinity ECO CLUB area. We have two large composting bins and two tumbling bins for green waste and general composting, and two worm farms for specific fruit and vegetable scraps. Students process the food scraps into either the large bins, or the worm farm. The students also collect wood shavings from our Trade Training Centre, and food scraps from our Canteen and Hospitality departments.

Trinity ECO CLUB meets every fortnight on Wednesday at lunchtime. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to have first hand experience in a service project to improve the school grounds, and also contribute to a sustainable future.

Open Arms Community Child Care Centre Birdwood SA

At Open Arms Community Child Care Centre, we have used the grant to help our children (who range in age from birth to 5 years old) develop an understanding of how amazing God's creation is, how it sustains us and how we need to care for it as God created us to. We have established better garden beds where we grow plants from seeds and seedlings and use the products from our garden in our own meals here at the centre.

In the toddler yard, to promote water conservation even further we have put in a water tank so the children can see the process of water collection so we can water our garden which is growing both food and flowers for us to enjoy and appreciate. In our kindly room, we have taken it a step further by introducing a worm farm and a compost bin to recycle our scraps.



Geelong Lutheran College, Armstrong Creek VIC

Geelong Lutheran College Armstrong Creek VIC

Our plans for the earthcare grant are now making some headway. The works done so far will coincide nicely with the new growing season.

Our grape arbours have been built and we have spur and cane grape vines on order, which will be ready for planting this season.

We now have an extensive orchard planned for the open spaces around our Stephanie Alexander Garden and our plants ordered. The outer area will have different citrus, avocados, figs and quince varieties, which leaves the central orchard space for deciduous fruit trees such as peaches, apples, apricots, plums and pears.

In the hot house and across the back of the shed we have made the trays for the wicking beds and we are waiting on Hycks Australia for some felt material for the wicking mats. With that in place, we will be able to fast track our propagation program for both native and vegetable seedlings.

We have had a wetland pond cut on the west boundary and we will next begin planning how to develop this area for biodiversity with native planting.



Open Arms Community Child Care Centre



St Peters Lutheran School, Blackwood SA

**St Peters Lutheran School
Blackwood SA**

In 2017 our youngest students in the ELC experienced the joy and wonder of seeing chickens hatch from eggs right in front of their eyes. These chicks quickly became much loved and ‘many-named’ by children across the school. A short term Science experience then became a school wide project as it was decided that we should keep and care for the chicks rather than ‘farm them out’. Unfortunately,

our chicken accommodation proved to be inadequate and they ultimately were sent to a new home much to the disappointment of many. When the LLL earthcare grant came along we decided we would seek to build a permanent home for chooks on campus and include their long term care as part of our wider school programme.

Our new shed is now built (thanks to our wonderful groundsman Mr Smith) and almost ready for habitation by a new clutch of chicks that will soon arrive by egg. We look forward to

our students learning a great deal about caring for these creatures and how through them we can learn much more about sustainability and seek other opportunities to become stewards of God’s creation.

**Immanuel Lutheran College
Buderim QLD**

Immanuel Lutheran College is committed to building a recycling shed to be used to sort and recycle paper, plastics, glass and aluminium. It is also planned to incorporate a large scale composter alongside the shed to capture and recycle organic waste.

A feature will be the Worm Habitat Grande – a one of a kind worm farm. Its large scale, but compact design, makes it an ideal solution for schools where there is up to 40kgs of mixed waste per day. A worm farm reduces waste to landfill and would allow the college to process organic waste such as lunchbox scraps, spoiled food, tuckshop waste, shredded paper/cardboard, compostable packaging, grass clippings and mulched green waste in a sustainable manner.

The recycling shed will be fitted out with the necessary tools and infrastructure to efficiently sort and recycle. The program will rely on the volunteer efforts of members of the ILC ECO CLUB to work in the shed on a rostered basis to sort and recycle waste from around the campus. It is hoped that the project will also encourage primary school members to get involved in the sorting and recycling process too.



Immanuel Lutheran College, Buderim QLD

It's a welcoming place...



St John's Lutheran Primary School, Bundaberg QLD

St John's Lutheran Primary School Bundaberg QLD

Towards the end of 2017, St John's Lutheran Primary School readily set to work after receiving the LLL earthcare grant. The school decided to transform an underutilised, desolate, outdoor space into a faith garden.

A faith garden which would invigorate the senses (sight, sound, taste, smell and touch) as well as engender a sense of stewardship for the earth – God's creation.

Following consultations with staff and students a variety of designs were merged into one. Students from the school's EcoClub busily made various components for the garden like stepping stones and they enthusiastically planted a range of exotic and native bush tucker species. A simple cross was made as a

reminder of the school community's Christian faith and God's living grace in the garden.

Today the faith garden is enjoyed by all. It's a welcoming place to explore, reflect and to be connected to one another and to God's creation.

There are plans to extend the faith garden to another underutilised space (opposite the initial garden), where more bush tucker species are proposed to be incorporated. It will have an interactive prayer space and a meandering path, inviting student reflection and faith journeying.

Peace Lutheran College Cairns QLD

In 2018 Peace Lutheran College Cairns was fortunate to receive an earthcare grant from the Lutheran Laypeople's League (LLL).

These funds made possible a tree planting project that saw many trees planted around the boundary of the school's sports fields. When grown, these trees will provide natural beauty and shade for students during sports carnivals and activities, as well as new habitat for the local bird life.

The school's environment group – a group of conscientious students, passionate about their school's environmental foot print – were delighted at the news of obtaining the grant, and were ultimately responsible for carrying out the tree planting project.

Peace Lutheran College is committed to taking a proactive approach to its ability to be evermore environmentally friendly, with its current initiative to eliminate plastics throughout the school. And it is thanks to endowments



Peace Lutheran College, Cairns QLD

such as the LLL earthcare grant that assist us in continuing these endeavours and making a real difference.

**Vineyard Lutheran School
Clare SA**

At Vineyard Lutheran School we were able to use the LLL earthcare grant money to promote our gardening program with the purchase of raised garden beds and seeds/seedlings.

The garden beds were sourced and built by a local company and the seeds from the local garden shop, supporting the local community. The garden beds were built by a local apprentice welder and to the specifications that we as a school found suitable for the students to work with.

The school has been able to benefit from all classes having an opportunity to grow vegetables and herbs as part of our transdisciplinary inquiry units. Last year, as part of a collaborative staff STEM research the year 4/5s used digital probes to document plant growth in the bottom school garden – looking at weather and other factors including sunlight, rainfall, temperatures etc. One of their recommendations was to improve sunlight and make the garden more accessible by having raised garden beds by the stadium. This grant enabled those recommendations to be enacted.

**St John’s Lutheran Primary School
Eudunda SA**

Our LLL earthcare grant at St John’s Lutheran Primary School Eudunda has contributed to the establishment and maintenance of our school’s garden. We now have two established raised garden beds where vegetables are grown seasonally for students to access for their learning.

Students have worked closely in maintaining this area and have planned school cooking events including a whole school pumpkin soup day, due to all of the beautiful pumpkins grown in the garden and also a carrot cake morning tea from all of the carrots grown.

We have also built a chicken coop ready for some chickens. Our Student Voice team have been liaising with a local family and have successfully organised the establishment of a few laying chooks that will soon relocate to our school chicken coop. Thank you to LLL for their financial contribution to our school’s garden.



Vineyard Lutheran School, Clare SA



St John’s Lutheran Primary School, Eudunda SA

Build on lifelong skills...



Prince of Peace Lutheran College, Everton Hills QLD

Prince of Peace Lutheran College Everton Hills QLD

The GROW Club (Gardening and Recycling of Waste) has been reinvigorated with the expansion and development of waste management, gardening and nature appreciation projects.

Composting and worm farming (environmental care for our wounded planet): The earthcare grant has allowed us to purchase a worm farm and food scrap collection bin for the school.

Garden project (earth is a book of nature): The earthcare grant has allowed the purchase of a range of seeds, fertiliser and organic pest control for our existing garden project.

Native bee hive (cosmic sanctuary for celebration, web of inter-related forces): This term our students have been very excited to welcome native bees into our garden area. The hive and extraction kit were purchased with the earthcare grant. Once the students were reassured that native bees are stingless, they have begun to take time to watch the bees and their activity.

Student comments about GROW:

- » I learnt how to set up a worm farm
- » You can take the tops off a plant and put them in the soil to grow new plants
- » It's fun planting stuff
- » Lettuce takes a long time to grow!
- » I learnt what goes in each of the rubbish bins
- » I learnt that worms make special soil with more nutrients

Peace Lutheran Primary School Gatton QLD

Designed to encourage students in their knowledge of our world and their part in assisting to care for the world we live in schools were invited to apply for a grant provided by LLL (Lutheran Laypeople's League) to assist with specific projects.

To assist in our school project, teachers organised classroom visits from Mr Neil Huth from the CSIRO and Mr Scott Wright a local

razier, to provide information on local soil, weather and potential pest conditions and the best management strategies to ensure a high quality product was produced. The garden space was extended with the purchase of two large vegepods, with money from the grant also being used to purchase a worm farm, soil fertiliser and gardening utensils such as watering equipment, gloves, large and small hand digging forks, trowels and finally, plants. Students chose to grow eggplant, lettuce, potatoes, snow peas, capsicum, chives, oregano, parsley, dill, strawberries, rainbow silverbeet and brussel sprouts.

The students found some of the lettuce and herbs were ready to be harvested and it was with great excitement and pride they handed the first of their produce to Trudi Staaz and Deb Wodderson from the Gatton Hospital who are involved in the cooking and overseeing of the delivery of meals to Gatton residents.



Peace Lutheran Primary School, Gatton QLD



Immanuel Lutheran School, Gawler SA

**Immanuel Lutheran School
Gawler SA**

Sustainability has been a focus area at Immanuel Gawler for a number of years – through our units of inquiry and our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. Our earthcare grant from the LLL was a wonderful opportunity to continue developing our garden and our school environment for teaching students about sustainability and enhancing their connection to the natural world, as promoted in the LEA earthcare charter.

The grant was used to fund several ongoing projects:

- » The building of an outdoor shelter which has helped make the garden program an all weather program;
- » The development of a hydroponic garden which has allowed our students to engage in hands on learning about sustainable farming practices. This garden has been developed further to include an aquaponics garden with the building of a tank and the introduction of silver perch; and
- » Purchase of equipment for water testing in the nearby Para River.

We are very grateful to the LLL and the LEA for assisting us in further developing environmental awareness at our school.

**St John’s Lutheran School
and Kindergarten
Geelong VIC**

To enhance the learning opportunities of the students and maximise the growing space on our school campus, it was decided by the Kitchen Garden Committee that a greenhouse should be purchased to grow and cultivate

seedlings. This would be particularly beneficial in the winter months, allowing students to still develop their gardening skills and participate in growing and harvesting produce for their cooking sessions.

With this, an application to the LLL for an earthcare grant was lodged. Thanks to the successful application and generosity of the LLL, St John’s Lutheran School has been able to purchase a greenhouse for a space next to our ‘no dig’ beds. An area has been prepared. This will allow students to have further opportunities for not only learning through the Kitchen Garden program, but to build on their lifelong learning skills in a new setting.

**Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School
Golden Grove SA**

The development of a nature play area in an unused part of the school is an exciting prospect. With the aim of beginning development of the area by the end of this year, we have contracted an advisor to assist in our planning.

The first step was for leadership to discuss the brief with our advisor so he could gain perspective and knowledge of the site.

Part two of the process was for him to facilitate discussion with all the students in the school to ascertain their thoughts, hopes and dreams for this space. When this is completed the SRC will help refine the final product.

With student agency a large part of the process it is expected that the students will own and enjoy this space. We acknowledge the grant from the LLL and also our P&F who are supporting the project over two years.



St John’s Lutheran School and Kindergarten



Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School

The earth is the Lord's...



St Michael's Lutheran School, Hahndorf SA

St Michael's Lutheran School Hahndorf SA

Did you know that honeybees everywhere are under threat? They are! Here are some reasons why: mites, pesticides, a lack of habitats and food, not enough flowers, few bee keepers and weather patterns.

Last year St Michael's was fortunate to receive an LLL Lutheran education earthcare grant. We invited classes in our school to visit our large working space to learn about the jobs bees do, to hear how they are being threatened and to learn ways in which we can make a difference to their role through our actions.

Some of our students said:

- » I felt happy teaching people new things
- » I felt good because we were helping bees
- » I felt proud because we were helping God's world

We are looking forward to continuing to promote bees in our school community and to connecting with our local council to spread the word further. We really do 'bee-lieve' we can make a difference.

Good Shepherd College Hamilton VIC

Good Shepherd College has a rich tradition of working in harmony with the environment. Our senior campus operates within a working farm environment with a number of existing sustainable farming initiatives, including aquaponics systems, animal husbandry and horticulture initiatives, including a multi-fruit orchard.

To complement our current programs, the college desired to improve the vegetable production by installing a new food garden. The project involved pumping water from our

existing dam onto our newly constructed raised vegetable gardens located outside our Food Studies room.

Since its construction, we have already pickled cucumbers, grown lettuce and spinach for our pigs, used onions to produce sauces and have prepared pumpkin soup. Herbs growing, such as basil and parsley, are picked daily for use in the Food Studies kitchen.

We have also had year 3/4 students from Sunshine Christian School come and plant seedlings in our garden, making it a great community experience. It was great to share this facility with students from our sister school.

We are currently planting our new winter crop ready for the spring, including carrots, turnips and cauliflower. A grape vine and passionfruit will also be planted for next summer.

Good Shepherd Early Childhood Services Hamilton VIC

Through this project we created an area for chickens at the service that would assist educators to teach the children about the wonders of creation and how each one of us can have an impact on the world around us through our daily actions.

This grant enabled us to build an area which provides a home for chickens. As part of our daily program the children care for the chickens and learn about their need for shelter, security, food and water. We grow veggies to use in the kitchen and feed to our chickens and feed our food scraps to the chickens reducing our waste.

Future aims of our project include collecting freshly laid eggs and exploring how we can use them in cooking, hatch chickens, teaching children about their lifecycle. We will also be able to accommodate visiting calves, lambs, ducks etc and learn about how to care for them.



Good Shepherd College, Hamilton VIC



Good Shepherd Early Childhood Services, Hamilton VIC





Concordia College, Highgate SA

**Concordia College
Highgate SA**

The project at Concordia was to use 'Veg Trugs' to create an indoor food garden. The garden features Indigenous bush medicine plants and other edible herbs and plants.

Staff guided the students in the process of purchasing, constructing, painting, planting and maintaining the garden. Year 7 to 9 classes are involved in studying bush traditional Indigenous medicine plants, their history and their uses. The Murtoa building has an enclosed outdoor area that provides an appropriate space for the trugs.

Food stuffs produced will be utilised by the Food Technology department and Pastoral Care programs, and form part of ongoing education in regard to Aboriginal plant science for medicine and food and understanding of the use of plants as medicine and the Lutheran perspective of creation.

On behalf of the teachers and students of Concordia we thank you for your support of this project.

**St John's Lutheran School
Kingaroy QLD**

St John's Lutheran School Kingaroy are excited to announce that we have successfully applied for a grant to enhance the outdoor area outside prep for use in their indoor/outdoor program. As part of the new Lutheran earthcare charter, which is focused on caring for God's creation, the Lutheran Laypeople's League (www.lll.org.au) has made money available to help us upgrade the prep outdoor play space as a foundation for natural curiosity.

The prep classes are enjoying the use of their revamped outdoor learning space, where they engage in outdoor learning, imaginative play and make real life connections with their learning. We say a big thank you to the Lutheran Laypeople's League, to our grounds staff, Mr Kotzur and Mr Radcliffe for their contributions to making the beginning stages of this area possible. The prep students are engaged in the planning and decision making process of the next stages of this learning space.

**Lobethal Lutheran School
Lobethal SA**

In order to develop the faith life of the students at Lobethal Lutheran School we took great pleasure in creating a prayer garden on our grounds. Our hope was to create an outdoor space that would enhance the educational, religious and environmental experiences for all the students at our school. The creation of the project involved parents, staff, students and members of our wider community.

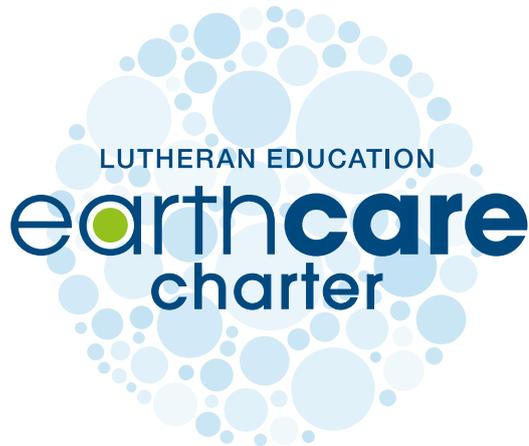
The prayer garden we have created allows the students to be close to nature. It provides them with a tranquil place to reflect and a place to pray in the presence of nature. This area will also be used for reflection and as an outdoor learning space. Within the garden there are many representations of God's wonderful creations. We want our students to understand that prayer doesn't always have to occur in buildings or in structures. Lobethal Lutheran School believes praying amongst nature in our new prayer garden is a wonderful way to build a stronger, closer relationship with God.



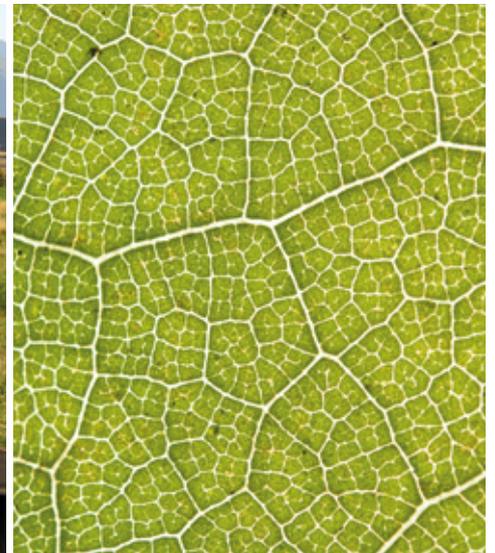
St John's Lutheran School, Kingaroy QLD



Lobethal Lutheran School, Lobethal SA



Six principles and missions



Principle one

Earth is a site for celebration

Spiritual and spatial dimension

Principle

Planet earth is a unique site in the cosmos, a planet filled with the wonders of creation, a free gift from the Creator.

Mission

Boldly celebrate earth as a cosmic site filled with wonders and sustain our planet as a precious habitat for life.

Principle two

Earth is a book of nature

Scientific dimension

Principle

Planet earth is a book of nature in the library called creation, a rare volume filled with science, stories and stunning images.

Mission

Read the book of nature closely, research its hidden wisdom, tell its fascinating stories and preserve its beautiful images for posterity.

Principle three

Earth is a web of mysteries

Ecological dimension

Principle

Planet earth is a wondrous web of inter-related forces, mysteries and mazes where we are all inter-connected and all belong.

Mission

Make eco-tours across the curriculum, probe the stories of our connections with earth and protect the mysteries that bind us together.



Principle four

Earth is a family tree

Evolutionary dimension

Principle

Planet earth is the ancestral head of a tree of living creatures with a family history that is vital for all members of her evolving family.

Mission

Carefully trace the evolution of life in earth, remember our ancestors, connect with our kin and rescue our endangered relatives.

Principle five

Earth is a caring mother

Personal dimension

Principle

Planet earth has nurtured its children for millennia and faced them with a life of caring and tough love.

Mission

Become aware that we are nurtured by planet earth and learn from it how to survive on this fragile planet.

Principle six

Earth is a wounded planet

Environmental dimension

Principle

Planet earth has been wounded by our crimes against creation and is calling for personal care from us and compassion from the Creator Spirit.

Mission

Make a commitment to hear the voice of our wounded planet and establish a dedicated earthcare program designed to provide healing and restoration for planet earth.

Stewardship role for God's creation...



Loxton Lutheran School, Loxton SA

Loxton Lutheran School Loxton SA

Loxton Lutheran School in SA is fortunate to have a large bush block surrounding the school oval.

A vision was established to make it more student-friendly by providing seating to enable students to venture outside for learning experiences. We also prioritised the mental health of our students, highlighting a strong desire for them to learn in the natural environment God has gifted us.

The first stage was the construction of a 7 metre diameter gathering circle. So far it has been used by students for sharing stories, poetry writing, nature based games and devotions over hot chocolate. It is made out of hardwood and blends in naturally with the surroundings. Movable furniture has also been added, with the repurposing of old tyres into 12 seats.



Maitland Lutheran School, Maitland SA

Loxton Lutheran School acknowledges the generous support of the Lutheran Laypeople's League and Lutheran Education Australia towards the project. We also thank our parent body for their expertise, namely Darren Zimmermann, Heidi Setchell and Pete and Svenna Oldroyd.

Maitland Lutheran School Maitland SA

Our nature play/outdoor classroom project has been made possible by the generous earthcare grant from the LLL. Our project is based around the principle... 'Planet earth is a book of nature in the library called creation, a rare volume filled with science, stories and stunning images.'

We are currently in the final stages of planning and early stages of construction of our new space. In the space we hope children will play, learn and explore and aim to nurture the learning environment for God to reveal

himself through his creation. The students have selected items that they wish to see in our nature play area and they will be involved in the planting of native plants, with a specific focus on local Indigenous plant species. Our school council, staff and hardworking parent committee with support from Salt Landscaping and Design will see this project come to fruition over the next six months.

Tatachilla Lutheran College McLaren Vale SA

Funding through the LLL earthcare grant has assisted in the development of the EcoClassroom Stage 2, *Eucalyptus microcarpa* woodland enclosure, providing necessary capital for feral exclusion fencing.

Since the opening of the EcoClassroom Stage 1 (2000) and with the introduction of the Brush-tailed Bettong (Woylie), Long-nosed Potoroo and other native fauna, use of the site by students and local community has increased dramatically seeing the need for development of the woodland. The 'Woylie' was listed as critically endangered (2008) in the wild. Male and female bettongs will be segregated into separate zones and become an important part of a breeding program.

Members of the college community, including students studying Conservation, Animal and Land Management will work with private sanctuaries to investigate selective breeding of the bettong with the goal of rewilding this species.

The positive impacts and benefits of the EcoClassroom project is extensive and far reaching, assisting in creating inspirational, passionate, caring and ethically minded young people who influence and shape the world we live in. Tatachilla Lutheran College thanks the LLL earthcare grant program for their support.



Tatachilla Lutheran College, McLaren Vale SA



Pacific Lutheran College, Meridan Plains QLD

**Pacific Lutheran College
Meridan Plains QLD**

Passionate about the environment and making a life long difference led year 12 student Scarlet Hopkins to initiate plans to create a recovery habitat that is rich and inviting for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly to breed in.

The butterfly is the largest of its kind in eastern Queensland, is listed as 'vulnerable' and is intrinsically attracted to lowland subtropical rainforest which borders Pacific Lutheran College.

Scarlet and Pacific Lutheran College Teacher, Mr Josh Cummins have investigated the area. 'We first need to clear the vines that prevent the butterfly's preferred food source from growing,' Mr Cummins explained.

Experts from the University of the Sunshine Coast have been invited by Scarlet to partner with PLC's environmental group to create the habitat, so it can flourish as the college expands. With the help of the LEA earthcare grant, it will be possible to see real change to the number of Richmond Birdwing Butterfly in the area.

**Good News Lutheran School
Middle Park QLD**

Thanks to a grant from the LLL we were able to engage our students in a highly practical, collaborative, environmentally friendly real-life application of their in-class learning.

After studying the life cycle of plants, the grant allowed us to purchase raised garden beds,

and with joint support from our local Bunnings (thanks Rob!) we were able to plant a wide array of herbs and vegetables. The children were tasked with watering, weeding and pruning the plants. And when it came time to harvest, the students were excited to provide fresh vegetables to the school tuck shop as well as engage in a little enterprise by selling the surplus to members of the school community.

It was so rewarding to be able to provide our students with such a rich learning experience! What a wonderful way to engage and inspire young children in the garden!

**Trinity Lutheran College
Mildura VIC**

Trinity Lutheran College Mildura was fortunate to receive a generous grant from the Lutheran Laypersons League (LLL), to undertake a project that celebrates and brings attention to the earthcare charter.

Students in years 5 and 6 addressed inquiry questions around what is a living world and

how do we care for it, responsible use of natural resources, Indigenous perspectives and our stewardship role for God's creations.

The grant enabled the students to take part in releasing 20,000 Murray Cod fingerlings into the Murray River near Mildura. This fish restocking will play a big part in addressing inequalities in introduced and native fish species in the local waterways.

Students worked with eight local environmental and Indigenous groups to produce educational digital material showing the importance of river health and what we can do to make a difference. The students coordinated the interviews and created the 360 videos.

The students are able to talk with confidence about river health and introduced/native fish species. They are satisfied that their actions will assist the local water ways immediately through the fish release and long term, through the educational videos. This addresses principle six of the earthcare charter.



Good News Lutheran School, Middle Park QLD

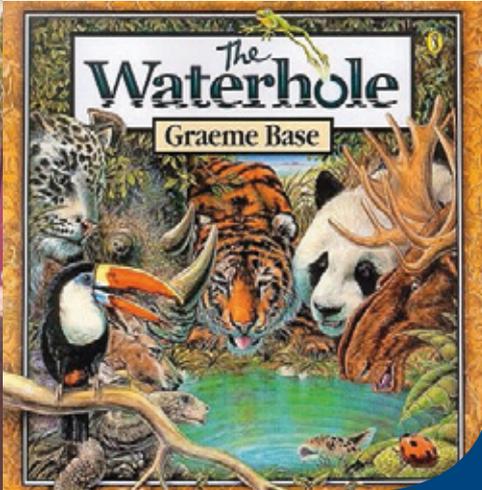


Trinity Lutheran College, Mildura VIC

Prayer is a very special part...



Calvary Kindergarten, Morphett Vale SA



St Martins Lutheran College, Mt Gambier SA

Calvary Kindergarten Morphett Vale SA

Calvary Kindergarten at Morphett Vale was very excited to use our LLL earthcare grant to purchase and install a rainwater tank for harvesting rainwater that falls on our sandpit shade structure so that this water can be used for play in the sandpit. This has had the effect of reducing our use of mains water, and inspired kindergarten children and educators to inquire into the amount of water we use and explore ideas around why it is important to be thoughtful about the use of water.

Graeme Base's book *The Waterhole* encouraged children to think about the connections between humans, animals and natural resources. Learning about the water cycle enabled children to begin to understand that water is a finite resource, and that if not cared for, one day the tap might be turned on and there will be no water there!

St Martins Lutheran College Mt Gambier SA

Prayer is a very special part of everyday life at St Martins, it is something that we naturally do. It was in fact some students who suggested creating a prayer garden and the idea of a butterfly prayer garden evolved where we could not only connect with God but also with one of his most beautiful and symbolic creatures.

We created a nurturing environment from a dirt patch that would attract and host butterflies and to do so we needed water, food, shelter and warmth. The food or plants needed to attract, feed and also host butterflies in order to encourage them to stay and breed. The water

is in the form of a pond that also hosts some fish and waterlilies. Warmth from sun baked rocks and recycled concrete finish the butterfly environment. Paths, a bridge and seating create a warm and inviting space for prayer and a place to feel a connection to the new life that God has given us.

Unity College Murraylands Murray Bridge SA

Thanks to the LLL and Lutheran education earthcare charter, our Junior School at Unity College was able to proceed with the next stage in our nature playground.

Murrundi, which in local Ngarrindjeri language means 'The River', was designed by year 4 students to follow the curves and bends of the

Murray River from Mannum to the mouth. The limestone rocks were sourced from a local quarry and native plants to balance our setting were chosen through the guidance of the Indigenous plant nursery. Our project involved students, parents, old scholars and local business owners.

Water is certainly seen as the most stimulating elements in our playground, with students previously relying on a water filled trough to access water for the mud kitchen. The installation of a vintage hand water pump complements the ever growing popularity of nature play and adds a new dimension in our school yard that will certainly provide many hours of engagement for years to come!



Unity College Murraylands, Murray Bridge SA





Nhill Lutheran School, Nhill VIC

Nhill Lutheran School Nhill VIC

The learning landscape project that we are developing as part of the LEA earthcare grant is titled, Dams and Diggers. We would like to develop an area where students can investigate water using pipes and canals that lead to a small catchment ie dam. The aim is to have the water pumped up from the catchment area and then released back along the pipes and channels so as to recycle the water.

At present, the area is prone to erosion and the water is not recycled. This project links with our overall curriculum project this year which is *inquiry learning beyond the classroom door*. This aims to open up an array of other rich learning experiences in our learning landscapes playground that incorporates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We have just renovated an indoor Science learning space with hands on inquiry tasks, and now aim to expand this to the playground.

St Paul's Lutheran Child Care Centre Nundah QLD

At St Paul's Lutheran Child Care Centre, Nundah, the children had the opportunity to dig up and find sweet potatoes buried in a pot. Moving some of the dirt out of the pot made it easier. Once all the potatoes had been removed the leaves and roots from the old potatoes were replanted as some had baby sweet potatoes growing.

After being picked, Jonty, Hudson and Jack assisted with washing them, dunking the potatoes in to containers of water to wash the dirt off. Once they were all clean they

were passed on to be used in the cooking so everyone could enjoy the yummy sweet potatoes that had been grown. Through a group discussion, we were talking about what we could do with the dirty water. Amelie entered into this conversation, suggesting that we could put it onto our plants! Great idea Amelie!

Redeemer Lutheran School Nuriootpa SA

In 2010, Redeemer opened an Indigenous Garden that celebrates and acknowledges the traditional owners of the land the school is set on. The garden has been designed to represent the Peramangk, Ngadjuri and Kurna people that live in and near Barossa Valley.

The gardens are a wonderful place for children and adults to wonder, to reflect and to enjoy the diversity of Indigenous plants. In 2018, the school is making a conscious effort to ensure the next generation of students appreciate the significance and symbolism of this space. It is also taking the opportunity to rejuvenate parts of the garden.

Staff and students have had a strong voice in advocating for the garden. Actions that have been taken include:

Planting: 70 Indigenous plants and the removal of introduced species

Sharing: at whole school assembly about the significance of the space

Writing: a book has been created that tells the story of the garden and how we are to care for it

Purchasing: equipment has been purchased to enable students to help care for the garden and ensure it is cared for well into the future



St Paul's Lutheran Child Care Centre, Nundah QLD



Redeemer Lutheran School, Nuriootpa SA

Serve and preserve...

Lakeside College Pakenham VIC

It has taken longer than anticipated to implement the LLL earthcare grant, however, it is evident that through this experience of planning environmental changes around the college, that consultation is key to success, and we have needed to consult widely to make good choices to enhance what we have and to restore what was lost. This process is ongoing.

The wicker garden beds are a huge visual to our college community that we are creating a sustainable culture in growing our own food; this provides engaging classroom curriculum outcomes and provides opportunities for parents to help, learn and share their knowledge with others. This is the ultimate in engaging our community to help our college be active stewards and learners of our environment.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School Para Vista SA

Just imagine...fast growing, large volumes of highest quality fruit and vegetables produced and made available to local families, organisations/charities, either free of charge or at a significantly reduced cost. This is the result of a year 5/6 student led project based learning inquiry at the end of 2017. The Aquaponics Project Based Learning has been ground-breaking for our community. From



Lakeside College, Pakenham VIC



Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Para Vista SA

research and design, to students lobbying the community, our school won a \$70,000 Fund My Neighbourhood Community Grant.

Since the exciting news, we are well on our way to food production by the end of the year. Over the long winter months in Adelaide, earthworks, building of an insulated shed, electrical and plumbing works for the aquaponics project is nearing completion. Stage 1 of the garden beds is imminent, with fish tanks and pumps being installed soon. Our students will harvest up to 3,000 plants by the end of the growing cycle!

The progress to date has been behind the scenes but in the coming months it will become highly visible and hands on. Our senior students will be involved in the marketing, growing, selling, delivery and packing of produce. Our vast learning through the project will be aligned to the curriculum and students will continue to lead with passion and purpose.

LORDS Pimpama QLD

Nearly 20 native plantings have helped redefine an area of the LORDS campus at Pimpama into a new outdoor learning environment. A contingent of students from year 3-6 embraced the horticultural educational opportunity and donned gardening gloves to dig, plant and mulch the new gardens with the guidance of Landscape Solutions.

This new butterfly and edible garden has been made possible by an earthcare grant from LLL with the grant used to supply plants and create new gardens beds either side of a

curved walkway. Plants were selected based on their ability to provide shelter and food for native birds and insects, particularly for the monarch butterfly which is often found in the Pimpama area.

The new garden includes plantings of milkweed along with Australian native grevilleas, banksia, callistemons and xanthostemon. Planned future work will include signs showing the botanical names and purpose of each plant.



Redeemer Lutheran School, Nuriootpa SA



Faith Lutheran College Plainland, Plainland QLD

Faith Lutheran College Plainland Plainland QLD

Faith Lutheran College Plainland sought funding to assist a year 7 partnership program with our regional council. The funds established a further opportunity to gather more relevant and timely information to assist in the redevelopment of this vital area. The project in its third year has created some outstanding service related opportunities as well.

Though all monies were spent on the allocated project the grant was stimulus for further discussion and the college embarked on further projects in line with the charter.

The earthcare charter was so important to our community that it was used to derive the worship schedule for each week for the whole school year. The year 12 student leaders spent time at the close of 2017 learning about the



charter and then developing a focus for the 2018 year.

As a final celebration to close our theme this year we will unveil some artwork that will reflect our Genesis verse from this year. We have placed 7 sandstone blocks around the tree that represents the 175 years of Lutheran Education in Australia and on each block will be a stainless steel cut out representing the 7 days of creation that were used in a simplified form in our theme logo for the year.

Navigator College Pt Lincoln SA

Navigator has been blessed with a 'bush block' that contains a damaged local ecosystem. We have cleaned it up and created safe paths throughout it. Most recently we constructed a path and garden that would create much wonder and curiosity.



Navigator College, Pt Lincoln SA



There has been high student involvement in the measuring planning of the path. We have also partnered with Greening Australia to better understand and know the local flora of the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Shortly when conditions are optimal the surrounding area of the path will be populated with local bush tucker providing plants as well as medicinal plants which the traditional custodians of the land have utilised for hundreds of years. The block, the new path and garden will allow students to experience local flora while conserving a natural local ecosystem, all at the school's backyard.

Salisbury Lutheran Kindergarten Salisbury SA

Salisbury Lutheran Kindergarten established a nature play area at the side of the kindergarten building. This project was completed in June, 2018 by Gardens by Graham and was jointly funded by an LLL earthcare grant, a donation by a kindergarten family's business and fundraising efforts by the Kindergarten community.

The nature play area features a rainwater tank that catches water from the kindergarten roof, with the children pumping water using a hand pump into a creek bed. The creek bed has stones and pebbles covering cement so that water remains in the creek temporarily, while the other side of the bridge is a natural creek area with small river-stones.

The bridge over the creek is a popular feature of the nature play area. There is a log seating area where the children pretend to make campfires, and a teepee. The area has many native plants growing around the rocks and creek, and there is a gravel path with log edging. The area has a vertical log fence entrance with a log arch to walk through. The children are loving the nature play.



Salisbury Lutheran Kindergarten, Salisbury SA

Awe and wonder of our world...



Sunshine Christian School, Sunshine VIC



St Peters Lutheran College Springfield, Springfield QLD

St Peters Lutheran College Springfield Springfield QLD

Psalm 89:11 The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.

Awe... wonder... sanctuary... nurture... survival!

Plans are well under way to create a meaningful earthcare space for our community at St Peters Lutheran College Springfield. Enlisting the cooperation of the gardening club, we set about transforming an overgrown area of the school grounds into our spiritual/mother earth garden.

Vegetable gardens have been established so our students can nurture the plants. They have already produced bountiful supplies of tomatoes, celery and herbs. Each lunch break students wander into the garden and use their senses to appreciate the produce. A garden bench (with a plaque acknowledging the LLL earthcare grant) has been placed in the area to enable students to sit, wonder and relax.

Scripture verses relating to the awe and wonder of our world are also a back drop in the garden to support student engagement in the spiritual area.

Our students are the voices of our future and to create a sustainable planet they need to take action. To help with this understanding our year 4-6 students took part in a poetry workshop to express their feelings about the future of mother earth.

Plastic makes elastic

*This is a plastic poem
If you want plastic to, plastic will,*

*It could hold all of your important pills
You can use it to flip
It even stores dip
But one more thing it does
It stays hanging around.
It even manages its way underground
Plastic is deadly It's strong enough to
behead the
Turtles and dolphin swimming in the sea they
can choke and die
You can say one word to their existence that
word is bye
And all that caused it was a little plastic bag.
Hugh Longmire*

Sunshine Christian School Sunshine VIC

Sunshine Christian School is a small Lutheran school, but our limitations in land size drive us to make the best use of our land possible. The LLL earthcare grant inspired us to realise the potential of even small sections of land to restore the native environment; thanks to the grant we have been able to care for the land by reintroducing Indigenous plants to our grounds, and we hope that in time they will attract native wildlife back to our gardens.

The students have enjoyed learning more about the environment through being directly involved in the transformative process, and over time will be able to explore the developing ecology systems and connections between our native flora and fauna. The project was a wonderful community project, bringing together students, staff, parents and volunteers, all united by their love and care for the environment.



Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda SA

Faith Lutheran College Tanunda SA

Faith Lutheran College planted a 5m wide biodiversity corridor bordering the south side of the college. Approximately 85 of our students from year 9-11 planted approximately 240 plants to create a 150m/220m corridor connecting the western side of the college grounds to Tanunda Creek.

The initiative contributes to the wider 'greenspace connectivity' around the heritage listed native pine woodland on Menge Rd. The buffer will also provide some weather protection and shade for crops and livestock in adjacent school paddocks. The greenspace connectivity concept managed by the Barossa Council is an opportunity for real life learning. Students gain an understanding of how this project links to the wider Tanunda greenspace, about the biodiversity and climate benefits of such greenspace in the context of a warming climate.

Opportunities also exist long term for students to participate in the greenspace concept through college based community service groups, year 12 Life classes and a new year 10 Geography unit being incorporated into the care for the native plants this semester. As we look forward to welcoming our first year 7 students in 2019, one section is earmarked for care by these founding students also.

Faith Lutheran College, Redlands Thorntlands QLD

At Faith we have used our earthcare grant from the LLL to design a propagating space on the junior school campus. Our grounds staff worked

alongside parent volunteers to construct the propagating benches, connect water and erect appropriate shelter/shade and provide storage for equipment.

Our students and community are actively taking action for our eco system and working to repair some of the damage to our planet and assist in its restoration and healing.

With the space completed it is now used for two primary purposes:

- » Volunteer parents and our grounds staff are working to propagate plants from our local environment. These will be then used to rejuvenate specific areas of our grounds with an emphasis on native plants to our area.
- » Parents from our college community to propagate plants for our college fair plant stall. The funds from this event go back into the college.

Classroom based learning has supported this project with opportunities for our students to research vegetation native to our local area and develop an understanding of how we have damaged our planet earth and how we can collaboratively work together, in partnership with others to care for our earth.

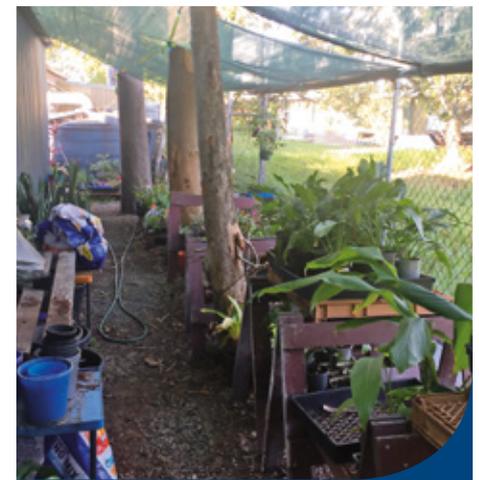
Concordia Lutheran College Toowoomba QLD

Our Warwick Street Campus wanted to establish an outdoor classroom, garden, chicken coop and a bush learning area for our students. The area was in a quiet location separate from our playground. The grant money was used

to remove non-native trees and fencing for the area, which included a chicken coop. Native trees were planted in the area to attract birds and other wildlife.

The students will watch the area develop over time. The children planted the native trees and they will see these grow over the next three years in their remaining time at the campus. By growing local native trees and establishing habitats for native creatures, the students will learn the importance of looking after the natural world.

All students across the campus have the opportunity now to link their studies to the outdoor classroom. As the area grows and additions are added over the years, the students will see how rewarding this area is to the campus. The grant money has been well spent and we are very grateful for the contribution to enable this thought to become a reality.



Faith Lutheran College, Redlands, Thorntlands QLD



Concordia Lutheran College, Toowoomba QLD

A unique and special gift from God...



Encounter Lutheran College, Victor Harbor SA

Encounter Lutheran College Victor Harbor SA

Encounter Lutheran College has used its LLL funding through the earthcare charter initiative to create a yarning circle with local Ngarrindjeri woman.

A yarning circle physically takes its form as a series of rocks in a circular shape, yet the richness and symbolism quite significant and powerful. In a relational way, yarning circles are viewed as places of harmony, creativity, collaboration and communicating to build healthy dialogue amongst groups of people.

Under the banner of the 2018 NAIDOC Week theme of 'Because of her, we can', we invited local Ngarrindjeri women to Encounter to appreciate their understanding of yarning circles, local art work and also to seek their input regarding Indigenous plants we would use in the vicinity of the yarning circle.

Our year 7-9 students will have their understanding of local Indigenous culture and their planet enriched by the generous donation of the LLL and the catalyst of the earthcare charter.

Lutheran School Wagga Wagga Wagga Wagga NSW

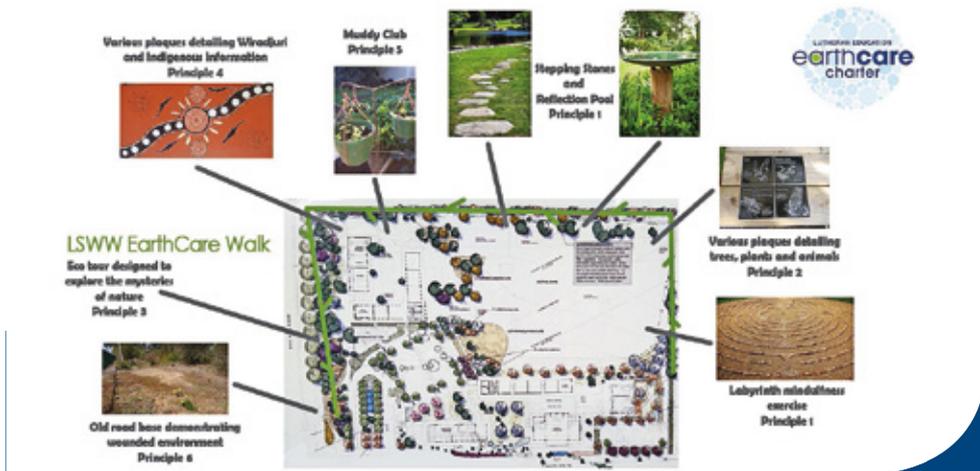
After developing a potential plan and accepting a grant from the LLL, Lutheran School Wagga Wagga brought together an earthcare team made up of teachers, parents and support staff and set about installing the proposed elements and signage of their earthcare walk. The walk will include individual installations around the perimeter of the school's southern, eastern and northern boundaries connected by a discrete path. Each element introduces the user to one of the six principles outlined in the earthcare charter.

The first of several elements to be commissioned as part of the Lutheran School Wagga Wagga earthcare walk is the reflection pool. A large glazed clay pot will be installed on some existing paving and with the immediate area around it being redeveloped. The existing plants are not suited to a school environment and do not allow a full class group to gather around. Signage will be installed to help guide users through various mindfulness tasks as well as displaying relevant Biblical scriptures.

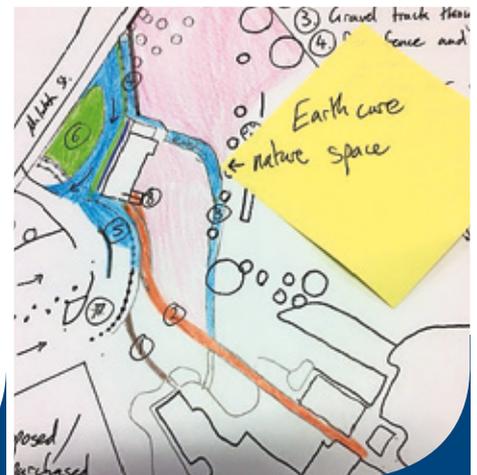
To keep the installation safe, a metal grill will be installed just below the surface of the water and to help keep the water clean, a solar powered aeration pump will also be installed.

Waikerie Lutheran Primary School Waikerie SA

At Waikerie Lutheran Primary school, the students are redeveloping a space to connect the 'schoolhouse' with the rest of the school. We have earmarked our space and started developing it, with our earthcare grant going towards the costs of irrigation, and the purchase of four tonnes of rubble with which to lay out the paths. One path is almost finished, using recycled vineyard posts to define grass from path. In the design brief, the students need to focus on the six elements of cosmic sanctuary, book of nature, web of mysteries, family tree, caring mother, and wounded planet we are formulating collages of the six ideas as a part of our design process. The grant has triggered some action into making a nature space in our school focussed on caring for our earth.



Lutheran School Wagga Wagga



Waikerie Lutheran Primary School, Waikerie SA



St Paul's College, Walla Walla NSW

St Paul's College Walla Walla NSW

Our compost has had a lovely facelift thanks to the generosity of LLL. I applied for a grant to help the community garden establish a better recycling system within the community of St Paul's College.

Scraps from the kitchen, shredded paper from the offices and manure from the farms are now composted into beautiful soil, thanks to LLL. A big thank you goes to Wayne Lieschke and his team for making this possible with all their hard work.

The worm farms also benefit from the recycling program of food, paper and manure creating rich compost to grow our seedlings in. Thank you again to the LLL earthcare grant making our projects come alive.

Living Waters Lutheran College Warnbro WA

Last year, Living Waters Lutheran College applied to the Lutheran Layperson's League, the Lutheran Church of Australia and Lutheran Education Australia for an earthcare grant. This grant was released in conjunction with Lutheran education earthcare charter in July of 2017. Living Waters applied for the grant with the hope of planting native, waterwise flora in a garden located at the front of the school.

Fortunately, we were successful and received a grant to carry out our plans. Students from

across our Junior School were involved in the preparation and planting of the garden, along with help from our groundskeeper. It was a wonderful experience and allowed our students to see the world as a unique and special gift from God.

Victory Lutheran College Wodonga VIC

Victory Lutheran College has undertaken the creation of an outdoor wetlands classroom with the support of the LLL's earthcare grant and local sponsors. The first two stages included establishing pathways, a small permanent covered area and outdoor seating area and initial revegetation of 900 native plants.

As a college, our student community has been 'hands on' throughout the project with senior VCAL & VET students supporting with the construction of pathways and covered area, year 9 students through their service learning in the RITE Journey program constructed a stone caged seating area and year 2 & 6 students planted 900 local native species on National Tree Planting Day on Friday 27th July 2018.

We are looking forward to our college community continuing to use this space as a learning environment from Foundation to year 12.

Nazareth Lutheran ELC Woolloongabba QLD

At Nazareth Lutheran ELC, workshops have been developed to educate children about environmental sustainability. The children have so far been excited to engage in learning about making and mixing their own potting mix, propagation of edible plant seedlings, and planting the seedlings into the community garden plot which were then used to make herbal teas to taste!

In future workshops we look forward to learning about composting and potato towers as well as creating insect and bird hotels. The children are excited to be planning garden beds at the entrance to the service that will be full of edible plants and vegetables. These gardens will be designed to invite families to help grow and cultivate our own food!

Nazareth Lutheran ELC has worked in collaboration with Tanya Bopf from the Gabba Hill Community garden and Linda Brennan, the Greenthumb Goddess from Ecobotanica to discuss, plan and implement these workshops to extend the Nazareth Eco-Explorers Kindergarten Program.



Living Waters Lutheran College, Warnbro WA



Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga VIC



Nazareth Lutheran ELC, Woolloongabba QLD

LEA would like to correct an error that was published on page 9 of the previous edition of SchoolLink. The article should have read: 'The staff from Cornerstone College, shared a four-week year 7 Christian Living unit with links to the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework.'

