



Term 3 Environmental Highlights



So Term 3's environmental initiatives started off with a new recycling action that the WEN Student team likes to call Texta Turnaround. This initiative is supported by **Officeworks "Bring It Back"** program.



This program includes recycling pens and markers. A small collection box has been developed to be used in stage classrooms or at other points around schools. Our school drops off used pens, markers, highlighters, and correction tape at designated recycling stations in their stores. These items are then sent to recycling partners who sort, separate, and shred the plastic, which may be used in new products like playgrounds.

National Schools Tree Day

During Term Three the WEN students presented liturgies on **National Schools Tree Day and Season of Creation.**

We celebrated the Schools Tree Day by gifting every student at Holy Cross with a plantable seed card in the shape of a heart with the simple message: **Seeds of Hope**, which ties in nicely with this year's Jubilee theme, **Pilgrims of Hope**. The seeds were collected from our Veggie and Flower Beds, as well as from Mrs Barbuto's herb gardens. The students were encouraged to write a message of hope and promise for their environmental action.



Prayers written and shared by the WEN Team.

My promise is to create a greener world for future generations to love and cherish.

My promise is to be a steward of the earth by acting responsibly now to protect, nurture and sustain our environment for future generations.

My promise is to reduce, reuse, and recycle. I will consume less, carry and make reusable grocery bags and water bottles. I will check what materials are recyclable and reuse my material scraps to create new items.

My promise is to use less water and energy by taking shorter showers, turning off lights, and unplugging appliances when not in use.

My promise is to take care of the Earth by focusing on reducing waste, conserving resources, and making sustainable choices in my daily life.

Plantable seed cards are a unique and eco-friendly way to share messages and gifts of plants. These cards are made from recycled paper infused with seeds of flowers, herbs, or vegetables.

Once the card is read, it can be planted in soil, where the seeds will germinate and grow.

Season of Creation

Pope Leo XIV reminded us that 1st of September 2025 marked the tenth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and it was to be celebrated in the theme “Seeds of Peace and Hope”. This year’s theme was chosen by our beloved late Pope Francis. The season ends on October 4th which is the **Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi**, who is the beloved patron saint of ecology and animals.

During this time the entire Christian family across the world unites in a celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we are co-creators with God who share a common call to care for all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. We need to be at **Peace with Creation** and practise what is good for our earth’s survival.

Yulunga Peace Garden

The WEN students have been working cooperatively with the Gardening Club students on the Season of Creation: Creation Changemakers Campaign. This year’s mission was to create a Garden of Peace - a living symbol of hope and harmony within school communities, inspired by the 2025 Season of Creation theme, Peace with Creation. This project will be ongoing throughout the year.



"With the Peace Doves, we remind everyone of the truth they sometimes forget — that peace is possible." — Dr Jane Goodall

Prayer Doves





Holy Cross Great Spring Clean Up Campaign

To end the Term all the students were involved in the Great Spring Clean Up campaign. This action reinforces the students being true stewards of the Earth by caring for the environment.



Return and Earn

The Return and Earn Pilot program is up and running, despite initial cross containment the students have shown great improvement in their abilities to recycle correctly. Supported by...



New signage for our repurposed blue Return and Earn Bins were provided this week by Return and Earn Pilot Program initiative and Exchange for Change



Stay tuned for funds raised by the end of Term 4 and what resources will be purchased for our Environmental groups usage.



environmental
education
NEW SOUTH WALES

Being Proactive by Recycling with SIMPLY CUPS



Despite initial hiccups with cross contamination in our Simply Cups collection units, we are pleased to report that this term there is a marked improvement in the correct student usage of these collection units.

Simply Cups.

The WEN students work tirelessly to support our recycling initiatives, by conducting audits of our **Waste Management System** and preventing cross contamination by explicitly demonstrating recycling procedures and reporting back progress to the student community.



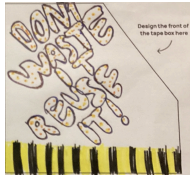
Despite initial hiccups with cross



To date, over 400 cups and lids have been taken to the 7-Eleven collection station for recycling purposes. Our next major aim is to reduce the use of these cups even further with students purchasing a limited edition **HCH Keep Cup** or bringing their own mug from home to further promote sustainability practices at our school, as well as, **our Mission is to Love, Learn and Live.**



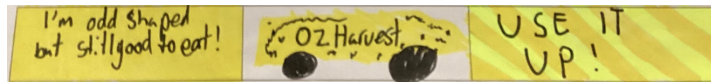
Competitions



Over the term, the WEN team have entered competitions such as **OzHarvest Fight Food Waste Design Competition** and **The Coles and Planet Ark Sustainable Schools Competition**, to name a few.



For OzHarvest Fight Food Waste Design Competition the students were asked to create an eye-catching poster and packaging for our Use It Up Tape – the simple solution that helps families reduce food waste at home.



Planet Ark and Coles are working together to help make sustainable choices and are running competitions to support school sustainability initiatives.

coles

So the WEN and Gardening Club teams have brainstormed some great ideas for a new proposed sustainability project for a chance to win \$5000 for our school and turn one of our sustainability ideas into a reality.



Fingers crossed on our entries. You have to be in it to win it!

Gardening Club Updates

Gardening Club Pressed Flowers

What did the students create with their pressed flowers?

Well, in the true spirit of recycling and repurposing, the students used old picture frames that Mr Chrystal purchased from Op shops to create unique framed floral arrangements for their own use or as gifts for family and friends. What talented students!



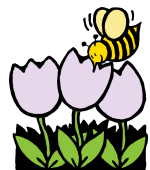
School Harvesting Radiant Red Radishes



One of this term's harvest gardening stars was the humble radish. The often overlooked radish is an easy-to-grow vegetable that is ready to go from plant to plate in less than a month. As you can clearly see in our photographs, we had a bumper crop for our gardening students to enjoy.



At the end of this term, the Gardening clubs students have been busy planting new crops such as tomatoes, sunflowers and turnips, just to name a few. If you have any spare vegetables or flower seedlings that you would like to donate that would be useful for our Veggie Patch and flowerbeds, please don't hesitate to contact the school office or Mrs Barbuto. The Gardening Club would be as grateful as bees!



Borrow and Return- Gardening Harvest Bags



A request from the Gardening Club students. The Gardening Club students have asked if anyone has an excess of small cloth (calico or cotton) bags, in good condition, that they would like to donate for the purpose of using during Gardening Club harvest times. The concept is that the students would borrow these bags when harvesting crops and then return them to school the next day.

Bags will be washed on a needs basis. Mrs Barbuto will add some of her Boomerang Bags or Op Shop purchases to the collection, too!



Don't forget that we have reusable limited edition Holy Cross Keep Cups (\$10 each) and Sticky Beak Lunch Order Wallets (\$13 each) for sale through the office.

Food for thought:
When you put the whole picture together, recycling is the right thing to do."



☒ The Allergy Alert Lunch Wallet was specifically designed to alert that a child has an allergy with its exclusive orange binding and alert symbol on the front of the bag, it is a must have for all children with a food allergy.

Teachers and parents have an important role to play in educating children to embrace the three Rs of sustainability: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The additional Rs – Repair and Repurpose – also need to be a part of the conversation for eco-conscious schools and families.

Thank you for supporting our ecological conversion journey, as well as any new green initiatives planned for HCH this year and continuing to promote ecological conversion by your actions. Stay tuned for our new green action that we have planned for Holy Cross over the next few years.

Mrs Barbuto and the Primary Student WEN Team