SCHOOLS' SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE AWARDS

The UNAAWA Sustainability Challenge Awards recognise outstanding school-student-led projects which implement the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The judges looked for the project scope and innovation, students' project management and leadership skills, and degree of commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Finalists: Secondary Schools

Supporting Gaury School, Nepal
Cecil Andrews College

Jane Vearer's Year 10 students held activities (car wash, sausage sizzle) to raise funds for a Nepalese school destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. They raised $450 for the school to completely plaster one classroom and commence another. The students, some from disadvantaged backgrounds themselves, said: "I realised how lucky we are" and "I've learned that it feels good to do something for someone else".

Community Sustainability
Denmark Senior High School

Teacher Anthony Ritchie engaged students in connecting with their local community. Megan Sainty and Sara Page collected 6kg of rubbish from local beaches and disposed of it sustainably. Blake Bond and Joel Dodson organised recycling of old jumpers and towels for a wildlife shelter. Izabela Margio, Zali Vigus, Taleana Coughlan and Johnsan Vu ran a food stall to raise funds for World Vision.

Compass Program, Active Sustainability
Kinross College

Teacher Sean Whitehead devised a way of engaging Compass students in education for sustainability by applying global competencies through upcycling (creative reuse) of waste found at Tamala Park. Students displayed and explained their finished products to senior students and adults at the Mindarie Senior College Sustainability Expo. Persuasive writing skills were also applied in emails to the Governor-General's office.

Conneativity
Shenton College

Some organisations have surplus food to give away. Others need that food. How do you connect them? As part of their teachers' (Bec McKinney and Samantha White) Education for Sustainability program, Alyssa Wong and Lily Purser developed a web solution. "Within the space of a few days we compiled a list of organisations, all in the same area, some throwing out food and some seeking it. We decided the only missing element to an environmentally friendly system that functions smoothly was a modern device that could be used to effectively connect businesses and charities that exist within mere hundreds of metres of each other to form lasting relationships that create change." The result is Conneativity.

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Finalists: Primary Schools

Lightening the Way Tonne by Tonne
Coolbinia Primary School

All Year 3 to 6 classes lead different projects linked to 10 of the SDGs. Each is integrated to measure contributions to the school target to reduce greenhouse emissions by 100 tonnes in 2017. In September, Coordinator Dr Elaine Lewis shared the school's experiences with world environmental educators in Vancouver.

Market Day
St Mark's Anglican Community School

Ninety-six Year 6 students created businesses to raise funds at Market Day for charities supporting the SDGs. "It was amazing to see children making the connection that their small effort made differences to global challenges. Overall, they raised $3,608.41 for 29 local and global charities, and connected with 8 SDGs," said Sustainability Coordinator Tracey Toovey.