

Harmony Dreaming – Sustainability at St Francis Xavier College

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Our school invited Landcare/LandLearn to assist our year 4 students to create an Indigenous food garden as part of their rich assessment task. Landcare Education Officer and LandLearn team member Jim Mead encouraged us to keep developing our initiatives towards sustainability particularly in the school grounds. At the time, we also had a vegetable garden which generated the directions for “Harmony Dreaming”, the name for our journey towards a sustainable future for our learning environment. In June 2006, Jim actively co-planned and took part in launching this journey.

Students and teachers have worked on activities such as story of a river, making macros, plant identification and seed sowing leading up to our planting days and launch. Jim also provided Hamilton tree planters, other tools and assistance to plant out the garden.

Harmony dreaming initiatives have enhanced our learning environment, the school grounds, as we have added a frog bog, Indigenous food garden, orchard and revegetated the oval. Jim has assisted us in accessing Landcare Grants, provided us with advice and assistance when establishing the garden and helped us source LandLearn resources.

The most significant change as a result of being involved in Landcare/LandLearn is that the whole school community is now on a journey towards co creating a sustainable learning environment. Another impact is becoming aware of, and being involved in professional development days through out the state that LandLearn run. This involvement has led to me teaching sustainability as a specialist area in 2007.

I am really keen to become actively involved in LandLearn in the future as Sustainability Education at St Francis Xavier College will be based on the learnscapes we have created. I envisage LandLearn Professional Development sessions can be attended by other staff members in the future, for LandLearn to hopefully assist us with PD here at the school and for LandLearn to continue to offer their resources to assist us.

