



# THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2022

We are very grateful that Mr James Fox, Business Manager at Marist College Ashgrove who served as our guest speaker on the 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Mr Fox first presented a reflection on the transformational journey of the school towards sustainability, which started in 2016. First, sustainability was embedded in the school's strategic plan. Mr Stuart Richards, an expert advisor () and electrical engineer specialising in helping households and businesses to reduce their power bills, was engaged to create a business plan. Then approval was sought from the school board to invest \$750K for 1,125 solar panels and other means of electricity savings, such as pool blankets to reduce the need for water heaters, and power factor correction units. This forward-looking decision by the board has already paid off, as the solar systems save the school \$200K each year and will have generated the investment return by the end of this year.

Other initiatives of the school include water and waste management. The school has invested in seven water tanks with over 900K litres of water capacity, serving the school sports fields and gardens. Waste is separated into paper, recyclables, organic and landfill waste and while this is costing about \$30K extra each year, the school is happy to report that this has resulted in a large reduction of landfill. The school students are very actively involved in this sustainability agenda, especially those engaged in the 'Green Ash' group, and this year have set themselves the goal to create habitat for several native beehives.

The audience was very impressed with these outcomes, and there was active discussion especially amongst the principals of several local schools who are also leading their communities towards greater sustainability.

### Next event

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, Mr Peter McMahon will lead a guided walk into the D'Aguilar National park, to view some possible Platypus habitat. It will start at around 7, meeting at Walton Bridge and be back by midday – about 10k walk. Pls RSVP to [thegapsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com) if you would like to join.

### Next meeting

**Our next working group event** will be on the 20th of September, with some working groups meeting in between online to move their agenda along. Please let us know by email if you would like to join one of our three working groups

- Elevate use of existing capabilities
- Platypus project, and
- Energy project.

Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website [www.thegapsustainability.org](http://www.thegapsustainability.org) and you can email us at [thegapsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com) with any questions.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Thank you to all those who have already initiated their membership, we continue our invitation to join. The membership fee is \$5 per annum to cover costs such as insurance, website hosting fee, room hire and facilitated meetings. Please use our Bank Account Name: The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186 and send us your name, DOB, and address to [thegapsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com) for the membership registry.





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**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website [www.thegapsustainability.org](http://www.thegapsustainability.org). We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](#).

## Fundraising update

We are planning a cake stall at Bunnings in September. Pls let us know by email [thegapsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com) if you are available to bake, or man the stall for a couple of hours.

**Yours sincerely,** The Gap Sustainability Initiative team





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