The four pillars of sustainability
A strong foundation for community well-being

What does a sustainable curriculum look like?
Committing to projects with real value

Sustainability Day
Hillbrook’s biennial sustainability event is back in 2017
Archbishop’s message to schools-2017

“Each year for the last few years, I have asked our Anglican schools to focus on a challenge as you serve your community and the world.

In 2017, the challenge is about the environment; the world we live in. All around the globe Anglican Churches try to cooperate with God, to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew life on earth. For a long time now, we have all known that we cannot continue to use the planet as we have been. Human actions are affecting the health of the earth in a way that is simply not sustainable. We threaten not only other species, but our human well-being and survival as well. Hearing that truth, again and again, can lead us to be discouraged, to lose hope. But, we must not lose hope. Creative minds and willing spirits can make a big difference.”

- Geoff Newton, Principal

At Hillbrook, our philosophy is centred on balance, deep thinking and making a positive difference. Sustainability is a concept inextricably linked with our values and integral to the well-being of our learning community, as well as our global community. Our logo is a visual reminder of these values, and beliefs. In this issue of Connections, we explore the meaning of sustainability and look at practical ways that we can all work together to maintain our environment.

Across the curriculum at Hillbrook, we provide opportunities for our young people to think sustainably; to challenge and question, to respect one another’s contributions and to consider the outcomes of their actions – short and long-term. Our Outdoor Education Program illuminates the importance of systems-thinking and cognitive empathy, encouraging students to develop an understanding of how nature supports life through direct experience. You can read about sustainability in the curriculum on page 4.

At the very heart of sustainability is community. As cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, ‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.’

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and that it inspires you to live sustainably and thoughtfully each day.

- Geoff Newton, Principal

The four pillars of sustainability

When most people hear the word sustainability they think of environmental resources, but it is so much more than that.

The four pillars of sustainability are cultural vibrancy, environmental responsibility, economic prosperity and social justice.

Just as we have limited environmental resources, we also have limited human, financial and cultural capital.

By adopting a systems-thinking, balanced mindset, we ensure sustainable action across these pillars.

To support this balance, our school has eight Future Thinking Committees:

- Student Voice
- Curriculum Innovation
- eLearning
- Campus Development
- Teaching and Learning
- Student Support and Well-being
- Co-Curricular and Community Engagement
- Sustainability

Our Sustainability Committee has had a productive 2017 so far, with the school accepted into the Land for Wildlife (LFW) Program, new solar panels installed and Hillbrook students, Neve Townsend and Sanna Heinonen-Barnes, recognised as representatives of Brisbane City Council’s Student Environmental Leadership Network.

Each of these committees has committed to action in support of sustainable growth of our school.

Keep an eye on the Hillbrook Newsletter, Facebook and Instagram sites, where we will share stories of their learning journey and achievements.

- Chinese proverb

A centre of prosperity, thriving on innovation, creativity, critical thinking and ethical decision-making

Cultural vibrancy

A connected and accessible community working together to make a positive difference in our own lives and the lives of others

Economic prosperity

A supportive, rich and diverse environment where ‘good things happen’ and everyone has a sense of place

Environmental responsibility

A community with an understanding of how nature supports life and a commitment to environmental conservation

New solar panels on the REC roofs
What does a sustainable curriculum look like?

The theme of sustainability has a significant focus in the Hillbrook curriculum. Students, across a wide range of subject areas, in a variety of year levels, have the opportunity to complete real tasks within the curriculum to build upon their understanding of sustainable practices.

**English**

**Year 7: Ecology**

In this unit, one of our students captured a mindmap demonstrating why biodiversity is important.

**Year 8: Energy**

For their assessment task, students designed their own experiment using wind turbines or solar cells to investigate how to generate the most power. Students, across a wide range of subject areas, in a variety of year levels, have the opportunity to complete real tasks within the curriculum to build upon their understanding of sustainable practices.

**Year 9: Going green**

Students determined whether it is worth paying extra for brands that are advertised as sustainable. They designed an experiment to test the efficiency of different brands of a product (e.g. nappies, paper towels, tissues, soap), then used this information and other judgements in a decision matrix to decide the best brand. Some of their findings include:

- It is difficult to find environmentally friendly nappies that are as absorbent as non-environmentally friendly nappies.
- It is worth paying for more expensive soaps made from sustainably produced materials.
- It is worth paying for environmentally friendly tissues as they were more absorbent than others.
- It is difficult to find environmentally friendly nappies that are as absorbent as non-environmentally friendly nappies.
- It is worth paying for more expensive soaps made from sustainably produced materials.

**Home Economics**

Home Economics students:

- Use compost bins to compost scraps after cooking sessions.
- Use recycle bins to save plastic containers, bottles and tins for recycling.
- Make use of our new worm farm.
- Collect seeds from produce grown in the kitchen garden.
- Use the produce we grow in our cooking.
- Learn about companion planting and avoid using pesticides.
- Learn about the Doctrine of Signatures and grow plants that were used for medicinal purposes in the past.
- Use organic compost and fertilisers.
- Set up textile drying racks to dry tea towels, rather than using a dryer.

**Outdoor Education**

Being outside in nature offers the perfect place to explicitly address the need to tread lightly on the earth. Research shows that young people who spend more time in nature grow up to feel more connected to nature. While the old bushwalker adage “take only photographs and leave only footprints” is as relevant as ever, it has now morphed into the more instructive “leave no trace principles.” The need to minimise adverse impact on the environments we visit becomes obvious to students, particularly in areas of high conservation value. Camp also provides space for critical reflection on the patterns of consumption and impact we think of as being “normal” in our day-to-day lives. Outdoor Education students and staff:

- Plan to leave the places they visit in better condition than when they arrive (sometimes through planting endemic species in consultation with the land managers, or simply by removing rubbish).
- Undertake long-term bush regeneration programs in Yuraygir National Park. (Since 2003 every Year 10 student has contributed to the rehabilitation of a substantial area of rare rainforest, and more recently been involved in dune care after their destruction through sand mining).
- Undertake explicit activities to highlight possible human impact on waterways, land and marine environments.
- Take part in a program called “Journeys” (in Year 9) that maximises green transport and minimises vehicle use.

For humans, it is difficult to care for things you are disconnected from, whatever, or whoever, that is. Underpinning Outdoor Education at Hillbrook is the aim to assist students connect with each other, themselves and the environment.

---

**English Year 8: The novel ‘Trash’**

In 2017, students read ‘Trash’ by Andy Mulligan, which is about three boys who live by picking through mountains of rubbish in a large Asian city. Following this study, Hillbrook English and Science students took a field trip to Towards Zero Education Centre to look at recycling processes here, and how they compare to the situation in developing countries. The Education Centre is a Brisbane City Council initiative based at the Rochedale landfill site.

The centre invites visitors from Brisbane schools and community groups wishing to learn about moving towards zero waste, waste minimisation practices, and landfill operations.

Whilst the students quickly realised that Australians have quite a different approach to waste management, the take home message remained the same - reduce, reuse, recycle.

**German**

**Years 7-12**

**German students study a range of units with a Sustainability theme:**

- **Year 8:** Tiddalik story: sharing water.
- **Year 9:** Recycling.
- **Year 10:** Describing the weather, patterns and changes.
- **Year 11:** Recycling and renewable energies: habits, attitudes and issues.
- **Year 12:** Bil Unit: presentation in German on issues related to sustainability and eco-tourism.

**Home Economics**

Home Economics students:

- Use compost bins to compost scraps after cooking sessions.
- Use recycle bins to save plastic containers, bottles and tins for recycling.
- Make use of our new worm farm.
- Collect seeds from produce grown in the kitchen garden.
- Use the produce we grow in our cooking.
- Learn about companion planting and avoid using pesticides.
- Learn about the Doctrine of Signatures and grow plants that were used for medicinal purposes in the past.
- Use organic compost and fertilisers.
- Set up textile drying racks to dry tea towels, rather than using a dryer.
A sustainable curriculum continued:

Co-curricular activities to promote sustainable living

Native bee hives have been set up and students are encouraged to observe native stingless bees in a natural setting. By observing the bees as they pollinate our Science and Home Economics gardens, students learn about the importance of bees in our ecosystem.

In order to protect our local wildlife we have become a member of Land for Wildlife and recently launched the Hillbrook Creek Revegetation Project. Watch out for more information about our ‘Weeding Workshops’ and your opportunity to learn how to manage weeds at your house!

The Environmental Club has started to meet again this year, every Wednesday afternoon, from 3:30pm to 5pm. With Mrs. Nagle, they have continued last year’s focus on recycling around the school.

Green Justice has focused on Clean Up Australia Day in Term 1, will focus on Sustainability Day in Term 2 and the 40 Hour Famine in Term 3. The focus for Term 4 is yet to be finalised! Right now, they are working on recruitment and have been using recycled materials to develop advertising posters.

The Hillbrook Board Shapers use Paulownia timber to make their boards. Paulownia is 100% Australian grown and owned, and is sustainably sourced from the Northern Rivers of NSW. The shapers have also found a supplier who uses recycled EPS foam (other than creating new blanks) and are talking to their paint supplier about more environmentally friendly paints.

Sometimes it seems hard to see how we can have an impact on the world’s environmental problems. However, there are practical things we can do every day to help our beautiful planet. For example:

- Bring a keeper cup to work for your morning coffee.
- Use paper or bamboo straws instead of plastic ones.
- Buy locally to reduce food miles.
- Boycott products with excess packaging, or those that use unsustainably sourced palm oil.

Making little changes in your daily routine can have a huge impact. Many of us are already seasoned label-readers (I know I am!), working hard to reduce our carbon footprint. However, we can always do more: my resolution this year is to find and adopt five more sustainable practices than I had in 2016. If you are looking for more ideas about living sustainably, Sustainability Day at Hillbrook is a guaranteed source of inspiration.

With a theme of “Community Solutions to Global Problems”, this free event will be on display and Hillbrook music students will provide entertainment. In the lead-up to the event, Substation 33 will be collecting e-waste, as well as on the day. If you have any unwanted e-waste such as old computers, printers, CRT/LCD monitors and computer peripherals, bring it along to place in the Substation 33 collection bin located at the school on the day, or in the week before. More details about the program, as they are finalised, will be available at: hillbrook.qld.edu.au/sustainability-day.

We hope you’ll leave the event inspired and armed with practical ideas and products you can incorporate into your everyday life to help reduce your carbon footprint.

- Jane Woodley  (Sustainability Day Committee)

HILLBROOK
Sustainability Day

When: Saturday 13 May,
10am - 3pm

Where: Hillbrook Anglican School

Cost: Free

Transport: There is limited parking in the surrounding streets, and a shuttle goes for parents with small children and the frail and elderly; however, there is no on-site parking at the school. So, in keeping with the sustainability theme, why not bike, train or bus your way to Hillbrook?

Visit translink.com.au to plan your trip.
Year 10 camp (2016) was full of new experiences, challenges and dependent and independent adventures. It is a very big leap from Year 9 camp in many ways. In terms of responsibility and freedom, students rather than Outdoor Education staff led the majority of the camp activities. This camp placed the emphasis on “Transitions”, growing up or growing old.

During the second day of camp, we were fortunate enough to meet Uncle Ron, an Aboriginal custodian of the Yuraygir land. He spoke to us about his upbringing and childhood, his connection with the land, and some of the rituals practiced. We were then able to assist in the re-vegetation process, which Hillbrook students have been partaking in for many years. This was a special moment, to know that we were helping the environment and continuing what past Year 10 Hillbrook students started.

There was also the famous Solo Night, an opportunity to be alone for 16 hours. The solo night location I was allocated was fantastic. I could see the ocean from my shelter. I also sighted so many whales I lost count! Whilst completing the last stage of the painting activity laid out for us, I watched the sunset over the ocean and a feeling of calmness and peacefulness filled my mind and heart. It was truly an incredible feeling of accomplishment and fulfillment.

In the morning, I woke to the sounds of birds chirping in the trees my shelter was tied to, the ocean waves crashing against the rocks below, and the most amazing sunrise. A mix of pinks, oranges and purples - the whole spectacular show just for me.

I was able to watch the sunrise lying in my shelter. This was one of the highlights of the whole camp for me. I enjoyed this camp and learnt a lot about my future, my values and myself. The experience really helped me gain the ability to overcome challenges, be mindful and, most of all, it allowed me to discover who I want to be and where I want to go.”

Keeping our community active: Mind and body

Project Active, Hillbrook’s co-curricular activities program, is integral to our student’s broader physical, social and emotional growth. In Semester 1, Hillbrook students had the option to participate in:

- Table Tennis
- Touch Football
- Strength and Conditioning
- Gymnastics
- Softball
- AFL
- Rock Climbing
- Story Bridge Climbing
- Writers Club
- Surfboard Making
- Aerial Tissu
- Self-defence
- Zumba
- Photography
- Drone Club
- Netball
- Cross Country Training
- Zumba
- Boxing
- Environmental Club
- Badminton
- Circus Skills
- Bootcamp Fitness
- Orienteering
- Yoga
- Mountain Biking
- Fencing
- Debating
- Political Club
- Innovation Cell
- Lawn Bowls
- Connection with the land

Sophie Blackwell

Date Claimers & Important Dates!

- Sustainability Day 13 May
- Philosophers in Residence 15-19 May
- 30 Year Anniversary Ball 27 May
- Foundation Day 31 May
- 10 and 20 Year Reunions 3 June
- Hillbrook in Action 3 August
- Interviews for Year 7 2020 22-24 August
On Tuesday 28 February, ARIA Award winning a capella group, The Idea Of North, performed at Hillbrook.

Congratulations to the students who participated in the vocal workshop, and to the students and Hillbrook Chorale who performed in concert with The Idea of North. It was an instructive and enjoyable event.

Year 10 student, Alexander Cvetkovski, competed in the World Youth Sport Climbing Championships in Guangzhou in November 2016. He competed in the Youth B (under 18) category - even though he is only 14 - and was selected to represent Australia in the Lead category.

Generally, Alexander competes in all three events the Olympic Committee approved for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics - Speed, Lead and Boulder Climbing. As of late last year, he was ranked first in Speed Climbing in Oceania (Australia, NZ and New Caledonia) and second in Lead (but there was only 0.5 points between first and second). Congratulations, Alex.


Each year, in the September/October holidays, the states take their turn to run the national Orientationeering Championships. Last year, Gabrielle Withers (2016 graduate) competed in her 5th national competition ITAS, ACT, WA and VIC and in the Women’s 20 Elite class against the best orienteers from Australia and NZ - doing herself proud! It was a podium finish in the Australian Relay where, with fellow teammates, they placed 2nd in W2OE. Well done, Gabrielle!

2014 graduate, Josh Seaton, is now a Marine Service Technician.

Throughout high school, I had no idea what I wanted to do after graduating. Hillbrook was always encouraging students to step out of their comfort zone, and try new things. So, after graduating, I did exactly that. I took a massive step out of my comfort zone and travelled solo to Canada for a short holiday, which ended up being a lot longer than I expected. I found a job that I love, formed strong friendships with people from all over the world, and now have plans in place to continue being a permanent resident. I suggest to those who are unsure of what they want, to take the opportunity to travel and see new places. Who knows, you may find somewhere you fall in love with and want to stay.

Lee Knight, (nee Emily Klapper, 2005 graduate) has completed a Masters of Information Studies (Librarianship) through CSU and is now working on applying for a PhD. Lee hopes to do research involving children in public libraries. She is also proud of her musical achievements, having completed an ATCL in classical piano, and is working on preparing her LTCL.

If you would like to check out his student productions! It's exciting to hear his sister Ellen is going to study acting at NIDA in mid-2017. We are going to miss Luke’s expertise.

Congratulations to students who participated in the vocal workshop, and to the students and Hillbrook Chorale who performed in concert with The Idea of North. It was an instructive and enjoyable event.

The 2016 SRC Executive

The 2017 SRC Executive

Team Blue for the win

Our students, in their four Home Class colour groups, fiercely contested the 2017 Swimming Carnival - all with a sense of fun and belonging, in line with the festival theme. Congratulations to students and staff on the wonderful spirit and participation evidenced throughout the day, and the brilliant organisation by the Year 12 Sports Council and PE teachers.

Congratulations to Blue for the overall win!

Lee, Knight, 2005 graduate, made the decision to study Industrial Design (Honours) at QUT.

Hands down - it is one of the best decisions I have ever made. Throughout my degree I have been fortunate enough to have incredible experiences, such as being a part of the team designing the 2018 Commonwealth Games Baton and traveling to South America on Study Tour. This year I enter my 4th year of study and will be completing my thesis. Will it be easy? Nope. Worth it? Absolutely.

2016 graduate academic update

Congratulations to 2016 graduate Lachlan Clarke, who was named as one of Queensland’s top performing students at the annual QCE Achievement Awards. Lachlan was offered both the National University Scholarship at the Australian National University and the Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship at UQ.

He chose to accept the former and started a Bachelor of Philosophy/Bachelor of Science Honours (research science dual degree) in February this year. We are proud of all of our 2016 graduates on their outstanding end of year academic results:

- 29% of our students achieved an OP1-5 (State average of 21%)
- 63% of our students achieved an OP6-10 (State average of 52%)
- 90% of our students achieved an OP1-15 (State average of 83%)
- Overall, the cohort achieved 4 OP1s, 7 OP2s and 5 OP3s.

We would also like to offer special recognition to graduates, Lachlan Clarke, Alexandra Green and Georgina McGregor whose consistent approach to their studies resulted in them qualifying for a Chairperson of School Board Award in every semester during their schooling at Hillbrook.
Mark Herriman – Deputy Principal
I have spent the last 12 years working at The Southport School in various pastoral and academic roles, more recently as the Dean of Curriculum Innovation.
I live in Coorparoo and enjoy watching and playing tennis, as well as travel.

Trish Bryan – Enrichment Centre Coordinator
My face may be familiar as I have been part of the Hillbrook Community, as relief staff, a number of times during the past 10 years. I have had many years’ experience in primary schools and institutional communities.

Sarah Hart – Enrichment Teacher
I am a mother of three, a wife and a Support Teacher. What a challenge to sum up ones’ life and career in just a few introductory lines! I have taught in a range of roles over the past 20-odd years, including Special Education, primary classes and learning support.

Rhiannon Said – Admin Support
It is my first time working in a school environment; previously I’ve worked in digital/marketing agencies. I am a mum to two little boys, Felix and Elliot. In my spare time I am involved in Growl Theatre.

Trish Bryan – Enrichment Centre Coordinator
I have spent the last 12 years working at The Southport School in various pastoral and academic roles, more recently as the Dean of Curriculum Innovation.
I live in Coorparoo and enjoy watching and playing tennis, as well as travel.

Rhiannon Said – Admin Support
It is my first time working in a school environment; previously I’ve worked in digital/marketing agencies. I am a mum to two little boys, Felix and Elliot. In my spare time I am involved in Growl Theatre.

Steve & Sarah Cambridge

Helen Heckenberg & Warren Painting
Welcome Max Thomas Painting. Born on 17 October 2016. Zoe is excited about her little baby brother!

Catie & Mike Dunlop
Welcome William Darcy Dunlop. Born at 8:31pm 24 October 2016, weighing in at 9 pound 3 ounces.

Katie Ahrens – Admin Support
I have been at Hillbrook working in the Creche for the last year, along with a couple of days a week nannying. This year, I join the support team in the Hillbrook copy room. When I am not at Hillbrook I enjoy ballet.

Rosie Jumelet – English/Drama Teacher
I am very excited to be re-joining Hillbrook this term. I am enjoying catching up with staff and students alike, and I am confident my time in both the Drama and English departments will be just as fabulous as my previous experience here.

Sarah Hart – Enrichment Teacher
I am a mother of three, a wife and a Support Teacher. What a challenge to sum up ones’ life and career in just a few introductory lines! I have taught in a range of roles over the past 20-odd years, including Special Education, primary classes and learning support.

Katie Ahrens – Admin Support
I have been at Hillbrook working in the Creche for the last year, along with a couple of days a week nannying. This year, I join the support team in the Hillbrook copy room. When I am not at Hillbrook I enjoy ballet.

Rosie Jumelet – English/Drama Teacher
I am very excited to be re-joining Hillbrook this term. I am enjoying catching up with staff and students alike, and I am confident my time in both the Drama and English departments will be just as fabulous as my previous experience here.

Rhiannon Said – Admin Support
It is my first time working in a school environment; previously I’ve worked in digital/marketing agencies. I am a mum to two little boys, Felix and Elliot. In my spare time I am involved in Growl Theatre.

Katie Ahrens – Admin Support
I have been at Hillbrook working in the Creche for the last year, along with a couple of days a week nannying. This year, I join the support team in the Hillbrook copy room. When I am not at Hillbrook I enjoy ballet.

Helen Heckenberg & Warren Painting
Welcome Max Thomas Painting. Born on 17 October 2016. Zoe is excited about her little baby brother!

Catie & Mike Dunlop
Welcome William Darcy Dunlop. Born at 8:31pm 24 October 2016, weighing in at 9 pound 3 ounces.