

PADUA COLLEGE Environment Club

About the Club:

As a Franciscans school, Padua College aspires to the teachings and example of St Francis, Patron Saint of Ecology. The Environment Club was established in 2000, to set up sustainable practices within the school. The Club is a voluntary group for students who meet weekly to learn about environmental issues and to complete weekly tasks such as recycling and waste management activities.

The Environment Club Planning Committee is managed by a selected group of students. They meet with the Director of the Environment Club, Mr. David Searle (Al Gore Climate Project Ambassador) once a week to discuss projects, plan and establish new initiatives and conduct regular evaluation of all the school projects.

The Club aims to foster environmental awareness both in the school and local community. It participates in Clean Up Australia Day each year, and recently, begun working in partnership with the Local Government, on an anti-plastic bag program.

Padua College is involved in the Green & Healthy Schools Program, an initiative of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council of Queensland. The school has been successful in receiving many State and Regional Awards for its efforts.

Achievements:

- EPA Clean Beach Challenge “Young Legends” Regional Award & Queensland Finalist (2001)
- EPA Clean Beach Challenge “Beach Spirit” Regional Award & Queensland Finalist (2002)
- Comalco Green & Healthy School “Resource Conservation & Waste Management” Regional Award & Queensland Finalist (2002)
- Comalco Green & Healthy School Brisbane winner & Queensland Finalist (2003)
- Comalco Green & Healthy School “Litter Prevention” Regional Award (2003)

- EPA Clean Beach Challenge “Community Action” Regional Award & Queensland Winner (2003)
- Comalco Green & Healthy School “Minister for Education Young Legends” Regional Award (2004)
- EPA Clean Beach Challenge “Community Action” Australian Finalist (2004)
- Comalco Green & Healthy School “Litter Prevention” Regional Award (2005)
- Comalco Green & Healthy School “Resource Conservation & Waste Management” Regional Award & Queensland Finalist (2006)
- Comalco Green & Healthy School “School-Local Government Partnership” Regional Award (2006)
- Green & Healthy Schools – “Litter Prevention Award” (2007)

Solar Panels:

In October 2007, Padua College was advised that we were one of seven schools in Brisbane to be selected to have solar panels installed by Origin Energy.

The solar panels were installed in March 2008 and an official launch occurred on May 22. This new technology will become a part of the Year 7 Environmental Unit on alternative energy.

David Searle is to be congratulated on his initiative and commitment to this programme. The dedication of the students and the activities that they are involved in is highly commendable. If you would like further information about The Club and its activities, please contact David via email dsearle@padua.qld.edu.au

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
 Creator of the universe.
 You fill the world with your glory,
 And give it to us as a home.
 Teach us to recognize its wonders,
 To treasure its variety,
 And to protect its fragile beauty.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.