



Focus on the Environment

In line with the Quaker values that inform its daily operations, The Friends' School is continually seeking to improve its environmental practices. One aspect of this work is an environmental space that has been under creation for several years on the Primary School campus.

Incorporating a produce garden, chooks and outdoor 'daydreaming' garden rooms, the space embodies the vision of Year 6 teacher, Mark Febey.

"The overall intention is to provide all students with an opportunity to connect to the natural world here on-campus," Mark said.

"Everything in the space is fully recycled and sustainable, with all timber sourced from sustainable forestry practices.

"The plants have been chosen to attract native birds, watering is all gravity-fed to minimise wastage, and the chooks provide the compost."

While students can currently access the vegetables growing in the garden, the longer-term plan is to create a complete seed-to-table environment.

"We hope to build an outdoor kitchen, where students can pick their produce, cook and then eat it, all in the outdoor environment of the garden," Mark said.

The environmental space is one of the projects that occupies the School's Environment Committee, which is also led by Mark Febey.

"The Committee works continually to progress a long list of projects, which include the rollout currently underway across the entire School of a waste management system incorporating sorting of waste into recyclable materials; creation of an environmental space incorporating a vegetable garden on the High School campus; and becoming a 'Green Flag' Eco-School," he said.

"National Tree Day is a core focus for the Committee as well.

"Last year, we planted 260 plants in the Primary School environmental space, with our Kindergarten, primary and senior students all working together with parents and staff; we will be building on that work again this year with more plantings."