



SPEAKING 4 THE PLANET

Report 2013-16



 Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre

CONTENTS

Section 1: History 2

Section 2: Speaking 4 the Planet in practice 4

Section 3: Curriculum Links 7

Section 4: Speeches and Performances 9

Section 5: Benefits 11

Section 6: Future of Speaking 4 the Planet 14

Section 7: Testimonials 15



Speaking 4 the Planet made me think about what I'm doing and how I can have a positive impact on the planet. Student from Rouse Hill High School.

The work you are doing with the schools for environment day is really special and I hope that this event is something that will continue to grow and get increasing support for in the future. Sutherland Shire Council

Speaking 4 the Planet is a wonderful opportunity for high school students in The Hills Shire to develop their public speaking skills whilst speaking about something that they are passionate about – our planet. The event provides a great platform for schools to compete and students to perform. We are always looking for ways in which we can support high schools, and given the success of this event last year, this is a good fit, and we will be supporting the event again next year. The Hills Shire Council

Speaking 4 the Planet was an excellent opportunity not just to encourage children in the art of public speaking. The youth of today are the decision makers of tomorrow. Bunnings, Castle Hill

Skills in Public Speaking can make an enormous difference to people's lives. I have seen evidence of this in the 27 years I have been a member of Toastmasters, both in my own life, the skills gained by other Toastmasters and the excellent results achieved in the 65 Speechcraft Courses our Club has conducted. Carole Sharp, Miranda Toastmasters

website: www.Speaking4thePlanet.org.au

email: info@Speaking4thePlanet.org.au

For more information, please contact Phil Smith on +61 412 338 687

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SECTION 1: HISTORY

Speaking 4 the Planet is a public speaking and drama competition for high schools students. Speaking 4 the Planet is held in conjunction with World Environment Day (WED), which is celebrated each year on 5 June. This is an internationally recognised day endorsed and supported by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). It is designed to raise global awareness about matters of global importance and encourage people to take positive environmental action.

For the Speaking 4 the Planet events, students are required to speak and perform on subjects linked to the WED theme. They are also asked to make their presentations quirky! Speaking 4 the Planet is shaped by the view that, if we are to achieve sustainable communities, we will need people to be able to think creatively – often away from the mainstream – and express and support novel ideas in public arenas. We will need people who can persuade decision-makers and community members to choose the sustainability options and directions.

Speaking 4 the Planet enabled our school's environmental team [Gynea Green Group] to not only discuss important environmental issues at a school level in the English classroom leading up to the day, but to send representatives to help create ideas for environmental change. As it turned out, many of those quirky ideas weren't too far from the realms of possibility! Paula Stuart, Gynea Technology High School

The inaugural competition was at The Jannali High School in June, 2013. Seven schools and 35 students participated in that first Speaking 4 the Planet event. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre sponsored that event and has provided support for every one since.

In 2014, two Speaking 4 the Planet events were held: one in the Sutherland Shire at Port Hacking High School; the other in The Hills Shire at the council's administration building in Baulkham Hills. A total of 10 schools and 65 students participated. In 2015, Speaking 4 the Planet was held in three locations: Sylvania High School in the Sutherland Shire, James Busby High School in the Liverpool City local government area, and again at the council's main building in The Hills Shire. Thirteen schools and 120 students participated across the 2015 events. In 2016, Speaking 4 the Planet events were held in Sutherland, Liverpool, The Hills Shire, and Armidale.

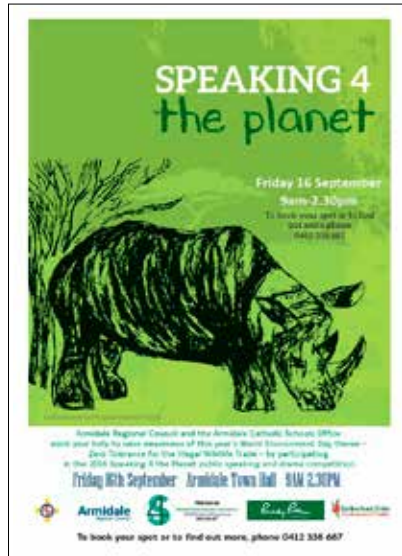
In total, 28 different high schools and almsot 350 students have participated in Speaking 4 the Planet since it began in 2013.

Since the beginning, Speaking 4 the Planet has received support from the host councils, Bunnings, Paddy Pallin, Segway Blue Mountains, Keep Australia Beautiful national Association and Featherdale Wildlife Park. Along the way, Toastmasters groups have become great supporters. In 2016, the Catholic Schools Office in Armidale helped get the first regional Speaking 4 the Planet competition off the ground.



■ Art 4 the Planet

An innovation for 2016 was an Art 4 the Planet competition. This was held at Eagle Vale High School, and it produced some wonderful ideas and artworks. The winning entries were used to promote Speaking 4 the Planet events. Parallel Art 4 the Planet competitions will be held in Liverpool and Campbelltown council areas in 2017. Others may take up this idea as well.



SECTION 2: SPEAKING 4 THE PLANET IN PRACTICE

The finer details of each Speaking 4 the Planet event are individualised to suit the venue, the hosting organisation and the participating schools. But the key elements remain the same.

■ **Competition format**

Speaking 4 the Planet is a public speaking and drama competition for high schools. Students from Years 7–12 can participate. The event has three sections: prepared speech (5 mins), impromptu speech (3–5 mins), impromptu drama (3–5 mins). The focus for all talks and performances is the UN's World Environment Day theme.

We thoroughly enjoyed learning from other students. We loved that there was no age limit and enjoyed working alongside 'senior' students and being able to learn through Drama and Speech. Students from Rouse Hill High School

The students loved working under pressure in a creative space. Rowena Garcia McCabe, Northmead CAPA High School

■ **Hosting and location**

A tradition is building around hosting the competition. The school of the winner of the prepared speech section is invited to host the following year's event. So far, schools have embraced this opportunity very warmly. In one very large metropolitan local government area and in the Armidale region where the schools are widely spread, the venues have been the council chambers. The students thrill at speaking in the chambers.

Displays of school achievements and art work relevant to the WED theme have been installed at each venue to acknowledge the work being done in schools and to create an appropriate atmosphere for the speeches and performances.

■ **Teacher support**

A Teachers Resource Pack is prepared for use in classrooms or across the whole school. This package identifies teaching and learning strategies linked to the WED theme, and it helps teachers prepare students for the Speaking 4 the Planet event. Each year, teachers have thanked the organisers for the package.

My students were very engaged right from the beginning. They all researched the website and links, and in the process learned a great deal. Life skills included team work, public speaking and / or performance, communicating with each other and with adults and using information to develop and create a team project. Jenny Roff, O'Connor Catholic College, Armidale

Students are encouraged to research the topic and ensure their views are supported by evidence. "Everything I needed to know was provided," said Angelina Bea, a teacher from Liverpool Boys HS.

■ ***On the day***

On competition day, participants are welcomed by the Mayor and school Principal. The MCs – usually a pair of students who have been coached in the lead-up to the event – then begin the competition with the prepared speeches. When these are concluded, the specific topic for the impromptu speeches and drama is given. An extended morning tea break is taken to allow preparation time for the next sections of the competition. This extended break also allows judges to convene and determine the winner of the prepared speech section. After morning tea, impromptu speakers and actors deliver their talks and performances. In 2015, the theme was "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care." Students for the two impromptu sections were asked to speak or perform with a specific audience in mind. Some chose business and political leaders, while others chose parents, peers and teachers. In 2016, the United Nations asked us to think of the illegal trade in wildlife. The impromptu topic was, 'Go Wild for Life - it's All Connected!'

■ ***Judges and judging***

Judging panels have included representatives from sponsoring organisations and businesses such as Paddy Pallin and Bunnings, Toastmasters groups, SSEC, Keep Australia Beautiful National Association, Australian Packaging Covenant and local councils. Judging criteria are linked to curriculum requirements for speaking and drama. A template is provided to make judging a bit easier, but given the quality of the speakers and performers, judging is perhaps the toughest job all day!

■ ***Speaking circuit for winners***

The winners of the prepared and impromptu speech sections are invited to repeat their performances at the local Council and local Toastmasters groups. The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre invites winners from all three sections to speak and perform at its Annual General Meeting. Liverpool City Council invites winners to speak and perform at an end of year event they hold for community volunteers. Each year, more and more opportunities are being found for the students to present their winning talks and performances.

■ ***Funding***

Funding and in-kind support come from a variety of sources, including local councils, SSEC and a range of sponsors. The main program costs include: planning, managing and evaluating each event; ongoing communication and promotion with schools; preparing materials to support teachers and students; organising the logistics for the day; and sourcing gifts and prizes.



Each year, sponsors have made generous donations for the prizes and gifts, They have been enthusiastic for the opportunities to participate on the day, including giving short talks on how their organisations/ businesses contribute to making the world a better place.

■ **Promotion**

Behind the scenes, SSEC prepares the art work for the certificates and manages the Speaking 4 the Planet website. Transcripts of the winning speeches are uploaded onto the website.

Media support is provided by local councils. The event is registered on the UN's website.

■ **Evaluation**

After the event, participants and stakeholders are invited via email to provide comments and suggestions for improvement.

Many thanks for organising the event. The students had a great time and the principal has received positive comments regarding the event too. We will certainly support it again next year. Thanks to you, Kath [The Hills Shire Council] and the others involved. Looking forward to next year. Pip Dellar, a teacher from Rouse Hill High School

SECTION 3: CURRICULUM LINKS

Speaking 4 the Planet helps schools meet the expectations of the Australian Curriculum about integrating sustainability into teaching and learning. Teachers say that Speaking 4 the Planet provides multiple opportunities to link with a wide range of curriculum requirements. Examples include:

In English, Stages 4 & 5 Outcome: EN4-2A. Effectively uses a widening range of processes, skills, strategies and knowledge for responding to and composing texts in different media and technologies.

Texts in English, Stages 4 & 5 include a focus on sustainability and environment. Those texts include:

- 'The Killing Sea', which opens up conversation about the world around us and the ways in which the climate is changing, causing more natural disasters and creating an impact on humanity. This is used in Year 7.
- Anh Do's autobiography, 'The Happiest Refugee', (Year 10), leads into the documentary 'Go Back to Where You Came From' in Year 11. (**Legal Studies** also uses this documentary). Book and program invite conversations about natural resources in Australia, refugees, lifestyle, citizenship, human rights and global responsibilities.
- 'The Rabbits' picture book and the movie, 'Rabbit Proof Fence', allow teachers and students to cover sustainability of cultures in a globalised (Western) society.
- Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' is studied in Stage 5.

In Geography, Stages 4&5, Focus Area 4G4 is Global Issues and the Role of Citizenship. In this, students learn about the nature of the issue such as climate change. They explore the different perspectives, the responsibility of governments, actions of individuals and groups, and the implications for social justice and equity. Students consider the interrelationships between people and environments. Stage 4 & 5 topics include People, Places, Environments, Management and the Future. Syllabus Concepts include: place, space, environment, interconnection, scale, sustainability, change. And students are required in Stage 5 to communicate geographical information to a range of audiences using a variety of strategies.

In Science, students learn to work scientifically and communicate to a range of audiences. Each Stage 5 student 'Presents scientific ideas and evidence for a particular purpose and to a specific audience, using appropriate scientific language, conventions and representations (SC5-9WS). In Stages 4 & 5, students learn to show a 'willingness to engage in finding solutions to science-related personal, social and global issues, including shaping sustainable futures' (SC4-2VA, SC5-2VA).



In drama, Speaking 4 the Planet provides opportunities for students to use voice, movement, timing and use of space effectively and appropriately to the style of the piece. It requires them to work together in design and delivery of a drama piece with a specified purpose and time.

When the competition is run at a school, the **Food Technology** students are supported to prepare a low-environmental-impact, plant-based lunch for participants.

Across all curriculum areas, Speaking 4 the Planet provides opportunities for students to develop original ideas, to think critically, to communicate clearly and to choose language, tone and style appropriate to the purpose of the speech or performance.



SECTION 4: SPEECHES AND PERFORMANCES

Student speeches and performances have been very high quality. And they have hit the mark on being quirky as they communicate effective, action-oriented messages related to the UN's WED theme. Suggestions have included alternative energy, food miles, soil and water quality, pollution, poverty, and local shopping. One 2013 speech proposed a National Left-Overs Program that involved underground transport of city left-overs to country farms. Another ironically proposed we train animals to pick up litter and keep our streets clean.

Over the three years and in all the Speaking 4 the Planet events, speakers have asked insightful and critical questions – tough questions. Many are gathered here:

Why don't we know where all our food comes from? Do we actually need to eat as much as we can? Where have we gone wrong that some people die of eating too much while others die of starvation? How have our governments lost control to big corporations? Will we consume the planet into extinction? Why do we keep destroying the planet and the people on it? Why are there poor people in the world?

Why can't we be better at sharing? What are you going to do now to not waste the Earth's resources and help fix this situation?

At the inaugural competition, Tim, a student from The Jannali High School, ended his talk with a critical message: 'If an opportunity to save the planet doesn't come knocking at our doors, we must make one.'

In 2013, Melissa, a student from Port Hacking High School won the prepared speech section with a talk on encouraging people to eat less meat in order to protect our soils and climate. She suggested we 'Veg In' at the weekend rather than 'Veg out'. Jenni Gormley, Chair of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, was a judge and has worked with Melissa to create a website for Veg-In.

Other winners have spoken about ecological footprints (Abdallah, Rouse Hill HS) and about how the world's poorest people would be hardest hit by global warming even though they contribute very little of the world's greenhouse gases (Emma, Sylvania HS). One student, Julious from Liverpool Boys HS said, 'In this world we put profit above people, greed above need, and the rule of gold above the golden rule. We're using Mother Nature as a credit card with no spending limit, driving animals away from their homes and leading them to extinction never again to see their own uniqueness.'



In 2015 when the WED theme was “Seven Billion Dreams. One planet. Consume with care.” the winner at the Sutherland Shire event argued that we need a Copernican shift in how we think about our dreams: instead of putting our individual dreams at the centre of actions, we need to mediate our dreams by the planet’s capacity to provide.

In her winning speech at the Armidale event in September 2016, Ashini, a student from The Armidale School, informed the audience that, “Every year hundreds of millions of animals are removed from their habitats and sold for medical purposes, ornaments, gourmet dining, and fashion accessories. And every year more and more species are being added to the rare, endangered and extinct lists, throwing the ecological ‘balance of nature’ out of stability. Wildlife crime is an industry that produces billions of dollars annually and is responsible for the deaths of millions upon millions of iconic wildlife every year. Driven by the growing demand of the customers, the levels of illegal trades have skyrocketed into dangerously high magnitudes, putting countless species onto the brink of extinction.”

In the impromptu drama, Speaking 4 the Planet has seen students begin a skit in the present and then take the audience 400 hundred years into the future and into the dreams of a climate change sceptic. In another, students played chess and discussed climate change; each piece lost in the game was a small island being drowned by rising ocean levels. Another performance challenged people to think creatively inside and outside the box of ideas for sustainability.

A skit about the illegal trade in wildlife tried to see the issue from the perspectives of poachers, traders and buyers. Another turned the issue inside out and prepared a performance about the illegal trade of humans and human organs.



Speaking for the planet was an interactive event that engaged young people by allowing them to utilise their creative talents to learn more about how they, as individuals, can help reduce waste and pollution and provide positive contributions to our planet. The day was facilitated well and I feel the students benefited from the opportunity to hear from the local community but also from being provided the opportunity to showcase their understanding of the topic and learn from each other in a way that is both fun and educational. Rebecca Deep from 2realise, the Partnership Brokers in The Hills

SECTION 5: BENEFITS

Speaking 4 the Planet has been beneficial for participating students, schools, supporting organisations and local councils. It offers teaching and learning opportunities across numerous curriculum areas. It links curriculum and school values to the broader world of environment, society and politics. It strengthens connections with councils, community organisations and businesses also keen to build a world worth living in. And it invites all participants to look deeply into their own views and values related to healthy communities living on a healthy planet.

Here's what some participants have said.

■ Councils

Speaking 4 the Planet delivered many benefits to our Council. We strive to support local schools in terms of environmental education and always seek opportunities to engage. This event is a great fit in terms of our approach to education in that it brings students together who have a passion for speaking out for our environment and are interested in enhancing their public speaking skills. It provides Council with the opportunity to recognise students in this area. And it has led to new relationships, particularly with local businesses and organisations that supported the event. The Hills Shire Council

Liverpool Council is proud to be involved in Speaking 4 the Planet. It is a great initiative to raise awareness of sustainability among students, and a valuable opportunity for students to speak passionately about an important local and global issue. Sustainability is part of everything we do at Liverpool Council – from our unique Community Recycling Centre which diverted 125 tonnes of landfill in its first six months, through to providing free monthly Sustainability Workshops for our community to recycling bins in our council offices. The Speaking 4 the Planet event aligns with Council's aim for Liverpool to be a 'Natural Sustainable City' which we do by encouraging the community to create and carry out environmentally sustainable practices. Our Environment Restoration Plan aims to protect our local bushland, while building community networks and partnerships, and through education programs. The Speaking 4 the Planet competition helps us build good relations with our local high schools and demonstrate our commitment to supporting the important messages of World Environment Day. Liverpool City Council

■ Sponsors

It was excellent liaising with the folk from Keep Australia Beautiful which led to a greater understanding of their function within schools. Bunnings, Castle Hill

Thanks to Speaking 4 the Planet Bunnings Hoxton Park has developed a relationship with Liverpool City Council Environmental Team. Bunnings, Hoxton Park



Keep Australia Beautiful is always looking for ways to empower young people to do the right thing by our environment and Speaking 4 the Planet has been a highlight of 2015 in this regard. In 2014 we were charged with managing the international "Eco-Schools" program in Australia, so we're really focussing on activities that help students to develop themselves as school sustainability leaders and initiatives that support teachers with sustainability education. Speaking 4 the Planet achieves these things, plus it's a huge amount of fun and brings together a wide group of supporters from the community that will surely continue to grow. Stacey Passey, Programs Manager, Eco-Schools Australia, KABNA

Speaking 4 the Planet is an innovative way to get young people thinking about environmental issues. Because it is based on the UN annual WED theme, a new aspect of the environment is considered each year. SSEC believes that once people thoroughly understand humanity's inter-connectedness with our planet's eco-system they will see the need to properly protect it. If we can educate our children about this, then sustainable behavior from society and government will follow in the years to come. Jenni Gormley, Chair, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

■ Schools

Speaking 4 the Planet directly links to the Australian Curriculum focus on Sustainability. Students are given opportunities to develop their public speaking and drama skills...This is a great opportunity for students and provides many benefits. The day encourages students to think about their daily lives and how they contribute to the planet. In addition, it allows them form relationships with other school students and community members... In the two years that our school has attended, students have been given exceptional opportunities. The first year one of our students was invited to speak on the radio and present her thoughts about sustainability. In addition, this year two of our students were invited to be part of a Toastmasters club night. The students presented their speeches in front of the members and were given feedback. This has provided students with more relationships within the community! Jemma Saville, Rouse Hill HS

Students gain confidence and it also broadens their view of the world because the topic exposes them to issues around the globe which may not form part of their current curriculum pattern. Sheetal Chand-Kamal, Head Teacher, English, James Busby High School

Speaking 4 the Planet provided a network to interact with other like-minded individuals where everyone had a voice. Our students really enjoyed the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. And there were specific educational benefits for our Year 8 geography students, Year 9 Eco Rangers and our senior hospitality students. Di Vince, Sylvania HS

Speaking 4 the Planet created opportunities beyond the day. Emma Douglas, the winning Speaking 4 the Planet 2014 winning student welcomed the opportunity to speak at Sutherland Shire Council, and participating teachers from other schools were very excited about sharing the school's Eco Rangers programs and resources. Mechelle Brunton, Sylvania HS



The boys loved it! All students said they had a lot of fun. Some of my students were a little shy with the drama performance when we practised at school, but they thoroughly enjoyed the day because it was a comfortable environment. It also challenged them to think about the environment in different ways. Hearing many speeches from students across schools made them think about the importance of caring for the environment. We have since had the opportunity to participate in a local Toastmasters meeting where two of my students presented their speeches. They got to meet the National Public Speaking Representative which was a great honour for them. One student also addressed the Liverpool City councilors. Angelina Bea, Liverpool Boys HS

The two girls who participated liked meeting students from other schools and developing their skills in public speaking. Both girls have continued to enter speaking and debating competitions. We have an environmental group and their teacher would also like to be involved in future competitions. The information about the competition was very clear. Catherine Divitale, Tara Anglican School for Girls

■ **Students**

My least favourite part of the day was recess, because we weren't doing fun things like the speeches. Hoxton Park HS

We found that hearing and meeting speakers and performers from other schools was the best part. Baulkham Hills High School (Note that this has been one of most common points made by students in their feedback.)

■ **Toastmasters**

The Toastmasters groups that supported the 2015 event also benefited. And their participation opened up conversations about running SpeechCraft courses for students. Courses will be conducted in Sutherland and Liverpool.

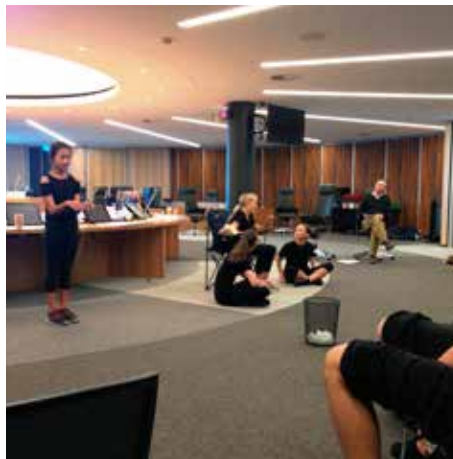
Benefits are that members of our club can see the excellent work being conducted in public speaking in our schools. The members who attended the competition and the members who attend the meeting when the students present their speeches. Both events I believe will highlight awareness of Toastmasters in the community, and our club Miranda Toastmasters in particular. Carole Sharp, Miranda Toastmasters

By arranging the SpeechCraft course, this will help our Toastmasters with their training skills and help expand their comfort zone by going outside their normal club audience. The SpeechCraft course for the students will be a contribution from Double C Toastmasters to our local community. Luci Sepp, Double C Toastmasters



SECTION 6: FUTURE OF SPEAKING 4 THE PLANET

Speaking 4 the Planet has adapted and improved each year for schools and participating organisations. The aim is to see this unique competition taken up and supported in school districts and local government areas right around Australia. This is one way of ensuring that the UN's annual World Environment Day message gets a hearing far and wide. And as Speaking 4 the Planet spreads through the cities and regions, it will provide more and more students with opportunities to express their concerns and their serious and quirky ideas for building a sustainable world.



SECTION 7: TESTIMONIALS

The students spoke well and they presented wonderful, original ideas. I also enjoyed seeing young people from different schools connect with one another. ...there was positive feedback generated and Council was happy to be a part of an event that show-cased positive ideas and contributions made by young people as well as raising environmental awareness. I would definitely recommend it to other Councils – perhaps there could be an inter-council event. Richelle Figliuzzi, Community Development Officer, Sutherland Shire Council

Speaking 4 The Planet is a wonderful opportunity for schools and students to showcase their ideas and thoughts in conjunction with World Environment Day. As a judge for the competition, I was astounded by the quality of thoughts/ideas the students put forward. So many elements of their day to day education can be integrated into their ideas around sustainability particularly as the United Nations declared 2014 the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). I would recommend more schools get involved in such a project as the benefits to the students is far and wide Suzie Field, Partnership Broker, Southern Sydney Business Education Network

My students have always enjoyed attending and hosting as well. They particularly enjoy the interaction with students and teachers from other schools, and they like seeing other schools physically. They enjoy participating in the competition and see it as a way to perform or gain more practice in public speaking and the drama performance as well as be part of a global event. They enjoy learning of others' opinions and seeing the topics from a different perspective. Dianne Vince, Sylvania High School

The Speaking 4 the Planet event was effectively managed by Know Hands Education Consultancy. Throughout the entire lead up to the event, Know Hands maintained effective communication and provided updates throughout. Phil ensured that every aspect of planning in the lead up as well as post event activities were managed and completed to a high standard. The actual event was a success and all students participated in at least one of the three categories- impromptu speaking, prepared speaking and the drama performance. Each of these three categories challenged the students, who were judged by a representative from three different organisations. This year's event was very successful and all involved on the day enjoyed the event and were very positive. We look forward to participating again and supporting the 2016 event. Sarah Callus, The Hills Shire Council

The Pallin family, proud owners of Paddy Pallin, retailer of adventure gear, have a very long history of supporting environmental conversation. The family set up the Paddy Pallin Foundation, a charitable organisation, to enable Paddy Pallin and its customers and friends to contribute to better conservation of the natural environment for future generations and the animals and plants that inhabit them. Speaking 4 The Planet is one of many great ways to involve the leaders of tomorrow in environmental education and appreciation. Paddy Pallin



WE SPOKE 4 THE PLANET

On Thursday 4th June, 2015, a group of students from The Hills Grammar School set off to the very fancy Council Chambers in Norwest for what was to be a truly fun and educational event. First we began with an introduction by Phil, the MC of the event, and we learnt what the theme of the day meant, "7 billion dreams. One planet. Consume with care".

We each had a chance to write down what our dreams for the future planet were and we stuck the pieces of paper on a big board for everyone to see. It was really great to see what other people's thoughts were on the planet, and what their hopes for the future generations and planet were. The day really changed my perspective of the Earth, and encouraged me to be more caring towards the environment, for example, bringing food in waste free packaging, rather than glad wrap or foil.

One fact I would definitely take away from the day is that we would need 3.6 Earths per person if we were to sustain the lifestyle of the average Australian person. We need to make sure that we limit our carbon footprint and make sure we create a sustainable future for the generations to come. We want the next generations to experience seeing the wonderful thing that we are proud to call our world today, but it won't happen without us taking action against having too big a carbon footprint.

After the first prepared speeches which were very informative, we had recess which was also our time to prepare for the impromptu speeches and drama performances. It was really cool to hear what the impromptu speakers had come up with in a short space of time. The idea was for them to direct the speech at a particular audience, for example kids or teachers. There was a wide range of speeches directed at different audiences, and it taught us how to approach the issue in different ways. The drama pieces were really funny, at the same time as raising important issues concerning the environment. My group did an allegory and we used the actions of "Earth", "Wasteful" and "Pollution" as metaphors for serious things happening in the world. For example, when wasteful took Earth's food at lunchtime, this was symbolic of people taking Earth's resources, as we need to try and reduce our carbon footprint.

The day ended with a lovely presentation, and we were given our own plant to take home. Overall, I really enjoyed the experience of being able to stand up and speak about some very serious issues in our world today.

It was great to hear everyone else's thoughts and get inspiration from others. I would definitely come back next year!

Chelsea McVay, Year 9 student, The Hills Grammar School.

2013-16 SPONSORS AND LOGOS



