

SUSTAINABILITY IN LIBRARIES... THE WRAP ON AN ALL-IN APPROACH!



Raeco was delighted to present another fabulous webinar in our series based on topical subjects of interest to all libraries. The hot topic: Sustainability!

Along with the keynote speaker Elementary Coordinating Principal, Christine Stayte, from the Sekolah Ciputra international school in Indonesia, panel members Jody Rodas from Woollahra Libraries and Rod Riley from James Bennett Ambassador joined Libraries, Literacy and Learning Ambassador Paula Kelly Paull in the discussion.

The Sekolah Ciputra school has a strong commitment to environmental sustainability. the concept of sustainability is used with in the frame of a 'whole-of-school' approach and is found throughout the curriculum supporting their commitment to the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (UNSDGs) and International Baccalaureate (IB) syllabus. The IB stipulates that the UNSDGs are in every aspect of teaching and learning.

Christine's passion for sustainability is life long, and while it is sometimes a case of "three steps forward, two steps back, two steps to the side... and sometimes you feel like you're in a field drumming a drum on your own, and traction on the issue has taken a long time", they are finally seeing things happening at Sekolah Ciputra.

Utilising all aspects of the school environment to embed sustainability, the challenge has been to come up with innovative and creative ways to introduce sustainability into the curriculum, the campus, and the community.

Christine has developed and worked with a wide range of programs and events across the many schools at which she has worked that support the sustainability curriculum. All of these programs are attached to books and the promotion of reading and access to information. Literacy and the importance of high-quality material is vital in bringing about change, says Christine ...“a book can change a person's life”.

Programs include:

- The SDG Bookclub provides reading lists for all 17 of the SDGs, encouraging children from 6-12 to interact with the principles of the SDGs. [SDG Book Club - About - United Nations Sustainable Development](#)
- Eco school program 7 step program that looks at all areas of the school, including sections on auditing, action planning, monitoring and continually improving. [Our Programme — Eco Schools](#)

Other programs have included:

- Celebrating Peace Week, participating in Peace Walks, developing Literacy Week programs based on environmental awareness and sustainability
- Premier film screenings
- Green travel days - a one day program became an everyday program
- Eco picnics – everything that is used is recycled, repurposed or reusable
- Movie nights
- Reused uniform shop

The sustainability program weaves storytelling and events into everyday school life and is supported by three promotional tools: Taglines, Superheroes and Songs.

Taglines

Something catchy and contagious, empowering and transferable that is mentioned at every opportunity:

“Enough for everyone today...enough for everyone in the future”

“From little things big things grow...”

Superheroes

Create a Superhero, get one of your team to dress up as an eco-warrior and encourage kids to reuse, repurpose and recycle.

Songs

Songs are a powerful tool to get your message across.

Peace Train by Cat Stevens

Together We Can Shape the World by Mark Shepard

A Million Dreams by One Voice Children’s Choir

The panel discussed some of the ways that they have been working in the sustainability space. Jody Rodas from Woollahra Libraries talked about how literacy is embedded into everything they do and how they work toward being a leader in sustainability and the important role libraries play in connecting people with ideas.

Rod Riley from James Bennett raised the importance of engaging with the SDGs in their business practices. Key amongst which is their partnership with Raeco and the world first fully recyclable (compostable) book covering - BioGuard80 developed by Raeco. Since release over 50,000 books have been covered in BioGuard80, projecting at least 250,000 books covered annually in fully recyclable material. A significant green initiative impact!

There were a number of questions raised about BioGuard80 during the webinar from the audience and here’s a summary of the answers.

- The backing paper from BioGuard80 is 100% recyclable
- There’s no need to remove the cover from the book when discarding, you can dispose of the whole book as BioGuard80 is accredited to be 100% biodegradable
- The gritty texture is important to distinguish the books which have been covered in BioGuard80 so when it comes time to discard you can be sure that you’re putting the right stuff into the recycle bin!

Environmental sustainability is an important global responsibility and libraries have a key role to play, not just in our practices but in our collections and our programmes. Underpinning the UNSDGs with literature, information and practices we can highlight various aspects of sustainability and promote these to our communities. The key messages to impart are taking a holistic approach and to use every lever you can to get the message across and empower staff, children and communities to take action for a better planet for the future – today!

Compiled by Ambassadors: Karyn Siegmann and Paula Kelly Paull

June 2023