

TLfS E-Newsletter Issue 4 (July 2011)



Welcome to the TLfS E-Newsletter. This is our fourth issue and includes information about the delivery of the TLfS Program in schools and the community and details of our Youth Sustainability Forums.

In some cases, the formatting and embedded hyperlinks within this E-Newsletter can be distorted when viewed via a web browser – if this affects you, a pdf version is attached to this email. You can also download a copy of this and past E-Newsletters by visiting the Latest News section of the TLfS website.

We hope you enjoy this edition!

Jane Stewart & Pat Armstrong

In this Issue:

TLfS News

AGM

New TLfS Facilitators in 2011

Update on Youth Sustainability Forums

Case Studies

Case Study 1 - Community Network in Shepparton

Resources

Green School in Bali

AUSMEPA

Students Design Home for the Future

Books with Activities on Youth Leadership

Research into Youth Leadership

About TLfS

Upcoming Workshops

TLfS Contact Details

Becoming a TLfS Member

Unsubscribe

About Us

TLfS News

AGM

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc. will be held on Friday, September at 2 PM. Please contact Pat Armstrong if you would like to attend (Tel. 03 9846 4928).

New TLfS Facilitators in 2011

Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc. is proud to announce partnerships with two leading environmental organisations to help us deliver the TLfS programs.



Students and organisers at the Shepparton Youth Sustainability Forum

1. CERES

CERES, one of Australia's leading providers of sustainable living education, offers programs tailored for school groups of all ages, including VCE and ESL. Their education programs cover land, habitat, renewable energy, water conservation and management, sustainable building design, plants and animals, applied gardening, waste management and cultural diversity. CERES Facilitators have now been trained to deliver a range of TLfS Programs including:

- TLfS Primary and Secondary School Program
- TLfS Youth Sustainability Forums
- TLfS Community Leadership Training

Please go to the CERES website for more information or go to our contact page and we will send you their contact information. www.ceres.org.au

2. The Port Phillip EcoCentre



April Seymore from the Port Phillip EcoCentre facilitating the Bayside Youth Sustainability Forum

The Port Phillip EcoCentre is a not-for-profit, community-managed, environment group. The EcoCentre provides a base for a number of affiliate groups involved in a range of activities that promote biodiversity, environmental sustainability and community action. The EcoCentre runs a number of school and community education programs including fresh food workshops and surplus swaps, school excursions and support for sustainable school accreditation, exploring the foreshore and creative fun for the whole family.

EcoCentre Facilitators have now been trained to deliver the following TLfS Programs:

- TLfS Primary Program and Secondary Program
- TLfS Youth Sustainability Forums

Please go to the EcoCentre website (www.ecocentre.com) for more information or go to our contact page and we will send you their contact information.

Update on Youth Sustainability Forums

One of the most exciting developments at TLfS Inc is the delivery of Youth Sustainability Forums across Victoria. We have used all the feedback gathered to date to create One-day and Three-day Forums which are exciting, challenging and fun for all participants.

This is a brief summary of what has happened to date.

Wimmera Three Day Forum

Date: 25 – 27 November 2009

Theme: Leading the Way Forum - climate change and its impact on rural and urban communities

Location: Longerenong College, 13 kms from Horsham

Participants: 64 secondary students from Melbourne and the Wimmera region

Summary: This forum was the first time we brought city and country students together to discuss an issue that affects us all – water. Not only did the students learn all the facts and figures about water and its distribution in Victoria, but they also got to see firsthand the impact of drought on a rural community. City students came away with a much deeper understanding of country life and an affinity for those young people who live there. Country students were thrilled to meet some city counterparts and talk about their life and find out how similar it really was to their own. A highlight of the Forum was a barn dance on the first night, as it gave students the opportunity to mingle and make new friends. Testament to the great success of the forum in creating bonds between these students was their creation of a Facebook page – FOR STUDENTS ONLY – to enable them to keep in touch.

Manningham One Day Forum

Date: 13 October 2010

Theme: Manningham 2020, Imagining a Sustainable Future

Location: Manningham

Participants: 40 secondary students from Manningham schools

Summary: The aim of this one day Forum was to bring together students from Manningham schools to work together to create a picture of the City of Manningham as a sustainable city in 2020. During the morning, an Indigenous Hip Hop Group delivered a half-hour activity based on ideas of self esteem and personal worth. The students loved the musical elements of this activity, while appreciating the message of the group. This was followed by team building activities, Sustainability Expo and students working in nine Special Interest Groups (such as young families) to research the needs of a Sustainable Manningham from the perspective of each group. At the end of the day, all the groups gave 5 minute presentations to Forum, including key recommendations to Council. This Forum will be repeated in Manningham on 21 October 2011.

Shepparton Three Day Forum

Date: 20 – 22 October 2010

Theme: Leading the Way Forum – Allocating water in the face of climate change

Location: Dookie College, 30 kms from Shepparton

Participants: 80 secondary students from Melbourne and the Wimmera region

Summary: This forum was set right in the middle of a region that was hotly debating water allocation after the release of the Murray Darling Basin's new

Basin Plan. The media was full of information about different points of view and showed a number of heated community meetings amongst different stakeholders in towns impacted by The Plan. The students were divided into different Special Interest Groups and asked to argue a specific point of view. A highlight of the forum was attendance of Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Dr Kate Auty, who sat on the judging panel with local representatives of the water industry. This showed the students that the forum was an important event and part of community consultation in the region. Once again, the students enjoyed the forum and mixed well with other students from different schools

This is an excellent program running and should be told to many. Thank you for having me with you and for giving us all a fun and amazing time.

Student (Shepparton Forum 2010)



Students and facilitators on a field trip on the Shepparton Youth Sustainability Forum

Bayside One Day Forum

Date: 17 May 2011

Theme: Building a Green Learning Centre for 2020

Location: Highett Community Neighbourhood House

Participants: 70 primary students from Bayside region

Summary: This time the Forum was delivered to primary schools in the Bayside region. During the day, students learned about current sustainability practices in the areas of energy, water, construction, recycling and gardens. They were then able to put this knowledge to use as they worked in groups to build 3D models of 2020 Green Learning Centres. Students incorporated creative environmental sustainability solutions such as roof gardens, grey water, community gardens, wind turbines and solar power into their models. When commenting on the day one Year 5 student said that she "learned that sustainability can make a BIG difference in the school, at home, in the local community and the whole wide world."



Students building a model of a Green Learning Centre at the Bayside Youth Forum

TLfS Inc. would like to thank all supporters of all our Forums for their financial assistance. See this link for the details - <http://www.leadersforsustainability.com/supporters>

Case Studies

Case study 1. Community Network in Shepparton

The three-day Shepparton Youth Sustainability Forum, which was held on 20-22 October, could not have happened without the collaboration and contribution of all the partners in the project. The Office of Water led the way, providing sponsorship and helping the organisers to meet and involve key local players in the water industry, including the City of Greater Shepparton, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Goulburn Broken CMA, Goulburn-Murray Water, Goulburn Murray LLEN, Goulburn Valley Water, NVIRP, Rubicon, Yarra Valley Water. The partners helped select locations for the field trip, ran workshops, arranged for the students to participate in the region's Water Awards night, gave presentations and feedback on the students' presentations. This was an example of a community network operating at its best to bring about outstanding results for the students and the region.

The experiences of this Forum reinforced the key success factors for building community networks that we first noted in a paper we wrote after the Shepparton Forum – *Collective Passion for a Sustainable Future*. These factors are:

- Finding a local champion
- Building partnerships with environmental, business, government and community groups
- Developing shared ownership of the group
- Developing a shared purpose
- Developing a significant shared event
- Open, regular and clear communication
- Transformative facilitation

Resources

Green School in Bali

View this inspiring TED video about setting up a green school in Bali, made almost completely from bamboo. <http://sustainability.ceres.org.au/node/1017>

AUSMEPA

Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA) has added to their website an astonishing array of practical information and teacher resources on marine education. You can access these resources free of charge at this site: <http://www.ausmepa.org.au/>. The site includes an online learning centre and units of work on the following topics:

- Ships and the Marine Environment
- Ports and the Marine Environment
- Marine Stormwater Pollution
- The Effects of Climate Change on Coral Bleaching
- Marine Pests and Threats

Students Design Home for the Future

View an amazing video about how a group of middle years' students designed and built, with guidance from a local builder, a model home of the future.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rIivBA-eIA>

Books with Activities on Youth Leadership

Here are some books from the USA with some useful leadership activities:

Karnes, F. A., & Bean, S. M. (1995). *Leadership for students: A practical guide for ages 8-18*. Waco, Texas: Profrock Press.

MacGregor, M. (2005). *Designing student leadership programs: transforming the leadership potential of youth* (3rd ed.): Denver, CO: Youthleadership.com.

MacGregor, M. (2007). *Building everyday leadership in all teams: Promoting attitudes and actions for respect and success (A curriculum guide for teachers and youth workers)*: Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing Inc.

Research into Youth Leadership

There has been some recent research on personality traits of adolescent and their emergence as leaders (i.e. in leadership positions) in the workplace. Reichard et al (2011)¹ used data from a US longitudinal study of young people, finding that extroverted adolescents were more like to emerge as adult leaders in the workplace. They also noted that adult leadership development is "less than optimal" and recommended an "increased emphasis on youth leadership development programs". The authors argued for providing leadership development training for both extroverted students and introverted students, as the latter may not develop as naturally into leaders. They concluded that:

"Given that the roots of leadership begin in childhood and adolescence, we believe that it is advantageous to focus on youth leader development rather than expecting adult leadership training programs to have much of an impact. (p. 480)"

¹ Reichard, R. J., Riggio, R. E., Guerin, D. W., Oliver, P. H., Gottfried, A. W., & Gottfried, A. E. (2011). A longitudinal analysis of relationships between adolescent personality and intelligence with adult leader emergence and transformational leadership. *Leadership Quarterly*, 22(3), 471-481.

About TLfS

Upcoming Workshops / Events

Next Teacher / Educator Workshops

Friday 12th November Venue: Port Phillip Eco Centre

If you are interested in attending this session please contact:

Jane Stewart: TLfS (03) 9817 7722 / 0411 838 033 or
info@leadersforsustainability.com

For more information about other events and workshops please go to the [TLfS website](#).

Please forward comments, feedback, subscription requests or news for our next edition to info@leadersforsustainability.com.

TLfS Contact Details

Address: C/O LPO Box 3051, Cotham VIC 3101
Phone: 03 9817 7722 or 03 9846 4928
Fax: 03 9817 1466 or 03 9846 4928
Email: info@leadersforsustainability.com
Web: www.leadersforsustainability.com

Becoming a TLfS Member

Now that the TLfS website is up and running, we are keen for participating teachers and their students to become Members of the program. To do this, they can either fill in the form at the bottom of the [Members page](#) or write to info@leadersforsustainability.com.

Unsubscribe

If you would prefer not to receive this E-Bulletin in the future, please reply to this email with 'unsubscribe' in the subject header.

About Us

Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS) is an initiative that helps young people understand the key issues of sustainability while also gaining the knowledge and skills to become leaders in their chosen career. The program's training in sustainability leadership is based on a holistic and interactive approach to learning that respects the student's prior experience, knowledge and skills. The objective is help young people: understand the world around them; to learn how to live more sustainably; to improve their skills in leadership, thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and communication; to apply these skills to meaningful sustainability projects; and to act ethically and responsibly.

In 2010 our organisation expanded its programs by delivering community leadership training to adults and developing and delivering a series of Youth Sustainability Forums across Victoria.