

## End of Year Report – December 2010

### Summary of 2010 achievements

#### Incorporation

- Incorporated association, now known as Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc.

#### New Financial Supporters of TLfS programs

- City of Greater Shepparton
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
- Goulburn Murray Water
- Goulburn Valley Water
- Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project
- Office of Water – Department Sustainability & Environment
- Rubicon
- Yarra Valley Water

#### Principal Partners in TLfS programs

- Bayside Glen Eira Kingston Local Learning and Employment Network
- Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network
- Goulburn Murray Local Learning & Employment Network

#### Training Workshops / Forums

- Continued our delivery of training workshops for teachers and community educators. From May 2008 until December 2010 we have delivered 9 workshops for 104 teachers, community educators from 60 schools and 33 community groups in Victoria.
- Continued our development and delivery of Youth Sustainability Forums. In 2009 and 2010 we delivered two three-day forums (Horsham and Shepparton), reaching a total of 150 students and their teachers, and a one-day Youth Sustainability Forum in the City of Manningham (in partnership with the City of Manningham and the Rotary Club of Doncaster), reaching a total of 50 students and their teachers.
- Developed and delivered a new Community Leadership Training course for 20 community leaders in the Surf Coast Shire in Victoria
- Commenced the new Reader series with *Reader #1. Literature Search on Youth Leadership*
- Completed the manual – Armstrong, P. and Stewart, J. (2010) *Collective Passion for a Sustainable Future – A Guide for Building Learning Networks Between Schools, Community Groups and Environmental Organisations*.

#### Marketing

- Created a new organisational brochure – see TLfS website
- Contributed an article in Eingana magazine – *Collective Passion for a Sustainable Future*
- Gave presentations at two conferences – Zero Waste conference in Sydney in September 2010 and the Australian Association for Environmental Education conference in Canberra, also in September 2010

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## 1. Overview of TLfS Inc.

In 2010 the TLfS was formally set up as an incorporated association and is now known as Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc. We felt that it was important to establish ourselves as a not-for-profit organisation to set a solid foundation for future development. We also believe that it will help us access a wider range of grant opportunities in the future. In 2010 we extended our range of programs and services. One of these new programs was the Community Leadership Program, a six-day training program developed for the Surf Coast Shire in Victoria. This was created using our knowledge in leadership training, combined with our experience in running and funding large and small projects. The Surf Coast Shire were keen for us to develop a program that, firstly, helped members of their community develop their intra and inter personal skills and, secondly, be able to deliver a successful project if given funds to do so. Feedback from both representatives of the Shire and the participants showed that we were successful on both counts. Our goal now is to market this program to other Councils to encourage them to use our services to deliver this type of training program within their communities.

2010 we also delivered further Youth Leadership for Sustainability Forums, in both urban and rural settings. We learnt a lot from these experiences and are working to deliver these forums in other communities. We will also be developing guidelines and training for other organisations to run these forums on our behalf.

## 2. 2010 Key Activities

### 2.1 Casuarina Leadership Program

The Casuarina Leadership Program commenced with a two day workshop on Friday 14th - Saturday 15th May and continued with four one-day workshops held on 4th June, 18th June, 16th July and 13th August 2010. The program, sponsored by the Surf Coast Shire, was free to all participants. It is a professionally facilitated program designed to develop an active network of community members and to provide them with the skills to plan, fund and successfully deliver community projects.



*Caption: Participants of Casuarina Leadership Program*

The Casuarina Project has been conducted across the Surf Coast Shire since 2001 and has strengthened links between individuals, community groups, businesses and local government and encouraged community creativity and inspiration. The 2007/2008 'Eco' Casuarina program had a specific focus on community based sustainability, supported by the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund and ran as an integral part of the Surf Coast's Shire's 'Sustainability at Home and Beyond' program.



In 2010 the program title changed to the 'Casuarina Leadership Project', although sustainability projects were still encouraged. The 2010 Casuarina Leadership Project is a partnership project between the Surf Coast Shire's Community Development and Environment Units. Administration support was provided by the Community Development Unit.

*Caption: Working hard at the Torquay Bowling Club – an awesome venue!*

The 2010 Casuarina Leadership Project was held over six days at a range of different locations in the Shire.

### **Broad Outline of the Course**

#### **Day 1: Getting Started, Leadership and Teamwork**

1. Introductions
2. Effective Leadership
3. Teamwork

#### **Day 2. Your Project**

4. Planning Your Project
5. Funding Your Project

#### **Day 3. Building Your Project**

6. Running Effective Meetings
7. Building Effective Community Partnerships

#### **Day 4. Communication and Presentation**

8. Communicating Effectively
9. Giving Effective Presentations

#### **Day 5. Working with People**

10. Persuading and Influencing People
11. Solving Problems and Resolving Conflicts
12. Ethical Decision-Making

#### **Day 6. Reporting Back**

The graduation day was an exciting event with special guests such as the Mayor of Surf Coast Shire, Cr Libby Croker, and other Councillors. All participants presented their projects using a variety of multimedia tools and performance methods. It was not only an entertaining day, but also an inspiring occasion with many individuals and groups excited about the future of their projects and their involvement in it.



*Caption: Graduation Day for the Casuarina Leadership Program*

Indeed since the graduation one project, *Grow it!*, has received funding from Sustainability Victoria to move forward and another, *Re-Entry*, has received support from the Surf Coast Shire to start delivery within the region. This is well deserved recognition for these projects and encouragement for other participants. Some of the projects delivered on the Graduation Day are described below.

#### **Re-Entry Program**

- To support mothers who feel ready to explore and plan their re-engagement with the world of employment, training or community work

#### **Winchelsea Men's Shed**

- Shoulder to shoulder men in our community

#### **Grow It!**

- Grow It! is bringing food production and carbon back to where it belongs, the backyard. By joining, participants get a subsidised colorbond vegetable box with timed irrigation, up to 12 x two hour training sessions over 12 months and a newsletter to help them jump the first hurdles of growing their own food.

#### **Walk for your Surf Coast—Connecting Communities through celebrating stories of our coast**

- A two day walk, following the Surf Coast trail, using art, music and education to celebrate our natural beauty through a series of workshops and a performance finale

#### **Drop-in Life Drawing**

- Life drawing (casual and untutored). \$10 for 2 hours. All materials supplied. A Not-For-Profit project with sponsorship from local winemakers and brewers

#### **Compassionate Communication in Schools**

- To create a pilot program to bring compassionate communication into local Surf Coast Schools

### **Deans Marsh Community Economic Development Initiative**

- A Community Economic Development Initiative for Deans Marsh to achieve its plans for a preferred and sustainable future. This Economic Development Initiative is being undertaken proactively by the Deans Marsh Community Cottage to identify needs, strengths, resources and opportunities in Deans Marsh.

### **Community Newsletter**

- Ongoing Community Newsletter that celebrates our surf culture and looks positively to a sustainable future whilst inspiring greater community involvement.

### **Fence building and Feral Seeds – the trials and tribulations of a gardener**

- Helping each other and the Winchelsea community to grow.

“Casuarina showed me, when we all are aware of process and procedure and when information is shared, "good" results can come from the most unlikely place. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and thanks to Pat and Jane for sharing your knowledge.”

**Participant**

## **2.2 Manningham One-day Forum**

The Manningham Youth Sustainability Forum, held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010, was attended by over 50 students and their teachers from secondary schools in Manningham. 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. This was achieved by dividing all the students into nine Special Interest Groups, having them undertake a series of activities over the day, and then asking them to deliver a 5 minute group presentation in the afternoon.

During the morning, the Indigenous Hip Hop Projects 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.

We invited some inspiring young people to give a presentation to the group. Rachel Lowry, Zoos Victoria Community Conservation Manager, gave a presentation on taking leadership for sustainability and Tom Dowsley, Youth Leadership for Sustainability in Manningham, gave a presentation about how to run a sustainability project in his community. Both speakers did a great job and students commented on how inspired they felt to take action themselves.



*Caption: MC Pat Armstrong thanking key note speaker Rachel Lowry*

During the morning students were also able to visit a number of exhibits at a Sustainability Expo to help them research the Forum topic from the point of view of their respective Special Interest Groups. Some of the exciting organisations who exhibited at the Expo included:

- CERES
- Friends Warrandyte State Park
- Grandstand for the Environment
- Manningham City Council
- Melbourne Water/Water Watch
- Sustainable Gardening Australia
- Yarra Valley Water
- Warrandyte Climate Action Now

In the afternoon, each group gave a five minute presentation, based on five open-ended questions and the Forum theme: **Manningham 2020, Imagining a Sustainable Future.**

At the conclusion of the presentations, teachers summarised the key points of each presentation and a community ‘elder’ summed up the Forum in general. Students were given the opportunity to vote on recommendations for key “changes for a more sustainably Manningham” and to make commitments to personal action to live more sustainably at home, school and the community. These commitments have been collated into Forum posters.

“I think the morning session was very powerful in inspiring the students (and me!), and I learnt quite a lot from it.”  
(Teacher)

### 2.3 Shepparton Three-day Forum

The Shepparton Youth Sustainability Forum was held at Melbourne University’s Dookie Campus from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. Approximately 80 students and teachers from schools across Victoria came together to discuss, debate and negotiate positions on sustainability within the context of climate change and its impact on rural and urban communities.

The question posed to the students was: **“What should policy makers consider when planning to allocate water in northern Victoria?”** This proved to be a particularly appropriate topic, as the Forum coincided with the release of the Murray Darling Basin Authority’s “Guide to the proposed Basin Plan”. As all media outlets across the state were full of stories relating to the new “Guide”, students came with current knowledge and awareness of the controversy about water issues in the region. Hence, it was very timely that local students had the opportunity to mix with Melbourne students to discuss the issue of water and how it impacts all Victorians no matter where they lived.

The Forum began with introductions and then all students were divided into Special Interest Groups to work together to answer the theme of the Forum. In the afternoon of the first day students participated in a water themed activity hosted by Goulburn Murray Water. Students had to build a water tower strong enough to hold a china mug, keeping in mind materials and their cost. It was a fun activity that also helped break the ice amongst the students. Next it was on to the Goulburn Valley Hotel, where students joined with local water and natural resource management authorities to host a National Water Week event. Students were asked to set-up and manage a series of interactive displays to encourage more than 500 guests to understand a range of water issues and their impact on communities.

In the morning of the second day, students listened to presentations from sustainability leaders, local farmers and local water organisations about the challenges they face in managing their farms and businesses in the face of climate change. Then the students ventured out on field trips to visit local places of interest, including a tour of the local Rubicon factory, the Waste Water Treatment Plant, examples of old and new irrigation systems, water processing facilities, water sensitive urban design, a modern dairy farm and bio-remediation wetlands.

The day ended at Kidstown where the City of Shepparton and Shepparton Lions Club hosted a delicious BBQ before the Indigenous Hip Hop Projects led an interactive one hour dance workshop that was lots of fun, but with the underlying message of caring for oneself and each other.

On the third morning all students in their Special Interest Groups delivered a five minute presentation about the forum theme. Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Dr Kate Auty, joined David Hodgkins from Yarra Valley Water and Travis Turner from the City of Greater Shepparton to act as the adjudicators for the final presentations. The "Environment Group" won on the day, by not only delivering the most convincing argument, but by backing this up with strong research and data and delivering their presentation in an engaging and entertaining way.

The student feedback was, predominantly, very positive. Several students commented on how well they enjoyed the Water week Activities and many students made a point of praising the Indigenous Hip Hop Crew at Kids Town.



*Caption: Students and teachers at the Shepparton Forum*

A small selection of student comments is included below:

- Awesome!!!!!!
- The forum is very good and has lots of information on water. Now water isn't just that, it's a life force. Everything depends on water to survive. Forum should continue, but also have other issues – e.g. fire, renewable energy
- Very good!
- Had a good time, enjoyed it! Learnt lots!
- It should be longer. So much stuff to do and so little time. Maybe it should be in Melbourne next year so that country kids could see our “environment.”
- Even better than last years, would love to return if there is one next year.
- Great will do it again.
- Great effort, great speakers, excellent organisation. More time to ask speakers questions, perhaps fewer presentations. More time for hands on activities – e.g. watching cows being milked
- It was fun, interesting and highly recommended
- I really enjoyed the camp/forum and learnt a lot about water and its capabilities
- The Forum is great for all of us kids to have a say!
- I really think that it was a good idea to put different people from different places together in groups, it teaches us how to interact and understand other people & in the long run that will help us be better people.
- It was a good opportunity for people to voice their opinions and help out.
- It was great learning experience and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

The teacher feedback was mostly positive with some great suggestions on how we could improve the forum for next year. Again they enjoyed the Water Week Awards Night and felt the hands on nature of the activities really helped with student engagement and understanding in water related issues.

We would like to thank all supporters of the Forum for their financial assistance.



### 3. TLfS Schools

The secondary program is working well in many schools and is proving to be especially valuable for VCAL students. Holmesglen College VCAL teachers are using the program with their students for Unit 1 VCAL.

TLfS workshops are now recognised under the pdi system. This means that teachers can count our workshops as a part of the annual professional development points.

We have developed a number of new materials this year, including:

- Secondary School Assessment Rubric
- Using the TLfS Materials with the e<sup>5</sup> Instructional Model
- Reader #1. Literature Search on Youth Leadership

These materials all downloadable from the website.

### 4. Lessons learnt

During 2010, the Co-founders of the Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability programs continued to train and mentor teachers schools across Victoria and to monitor and evaluate the programs. We have continued to build partnerships with several local learning employment networks (LLENS) and many industry groups, community groups and businesses to create exciting forums and workshops. These partnerships continue to build bonds between the schools involved in the TLfS program and organisations in their local communities.

We also took the important step of registering TLfS as an incorporated association.



*Caption: Participants at the Casuarina Leadership Program*

Overall, it has been another busy and successful year – one of refinement of existing programs and development of new programs in the new sector of community leadership.

Some of the lessons learnt include the following:

- Young people continue to amaze and impress us with their knowledge and commitment to live more sustainably and their willingness to develop and practise their leadership skills.
- We are convinced, more than ever, on the importance of building TLfS Learning Networks in local regions to provide collegiate support for the teachers and educators and to give local schools and organisations ownership of the programs in their region or locality.
- TLfS clearly complements the Victorian Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) through helping to build Student Action Teams.
- TLfS is consistent with the e<sup>5</sup> Instructional Model and teachers have welcomed our paper on how to use TLfS with the e<sup>5</sup> Model. We will need to align the school programs to the new National curriculum in 2011.
- The TLfS secondary materials continue to be relevant the Year 11 Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). Two schools have already used the materials successfully with VCAL students.



*Caption: Students on tour at Gemmill's Swamp just out of Shepparton*

- In regard to the youth leadership forums we have learnt that:
  - Three-day forums deliver fantastic outcomes for students, such as: giving them great depth of understanding of local sustainability issues and opportunities to practise their leadership skills in a challenging, but non-threatening environment; giving them the opportunity to appreciate different perspectives on an issue; and allowing them to build new friendships. However, these forums were a huge amount of work for the organisers, especially as they were tailored to local issues. They also relatively expensive to run, as there are significant travel and accommodation costs. So in summary, three-day forums give great depth and impact for the students, but are a lot of work and are relatively costly.

- The one-day forum gave good outcomes for the students in terms of opportunities to learn leadership skills and about local sustainability issues. However, with one day forums, there is less time to build deep understandings on issues and lasting friendships with other students. From the organisers' point of view, the one-day forum was much less work to organise. So in summary, one-day forums give less depth and impact for the students, but are much less work and cheaper to run.



*Caption: Students joining in with the Indigenous Hip Hop group*

- In both one and three-day forums, it is essential to involve organisations in the planning and delivery. It is also important to consider developing more generic, but still meaningful and engaging activities, rather than tailoring forums to specific issues in particular regions.
- There was an amazing response from the participants to the inaugural community leadership program. Clearly this program has great potential to be conducted in other councils.

## 5. The way forward



*Caption: Co-Founders of TLfS Inc. Pat Armstrong & Jane Stewart*

2011 is set to be another good year in the development and delivery of the TLfS Programs.

### **Planning**

We have established a comprehensive business plan which includes consultancy to regional areas and states to set up their own TLfS Learning Networks and programs.

Now that we have formally incorporated as Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc., we are seeking Board members to develop a sound governance structure for the new association. We will also be seeking sponsors for the association.

With the expansion of our programs, we will be looking to train additional facilitators for school and community workshops.

### **Schools**

So far we have trained 104 teachers and educators from 60 primary and secondary schools in the program. This includes schools that work independently (with support from the TLfS Co-founders) and those that are part of three Model Projects in the following regions:

- Bayside / Glen Eira / Kingston region
- City of Port Phillip region
- Wimmera region

This number is expected to continue to increase steadily in 2011. The Port Phillip EcoCentre has again received funding from the City of Port Phillip to train teachers in a further four schools in the Port Phillip region in 2011 and the BGK LLENS has obtained funding for a two youth forums in the Bayside region. We will also continue to run additional workshops for teachers.

We will start to develop more generic hands-on activities for youth forums, to both engage the young people and reduce our workload.

### **Community Leadership Programs**

We plan to actively market this program to other municipalities in Victoria and interstate.

### **Promotion**

TLfS will continue to write papers and articles and submit them for publication in education journals and publications and to deliver papers at selected conferences.

Most importantly, we will continue to develop the TLfS Website. This site houses a wealth of information about the TLfS programs and research on youth leadership.

We plan to expand the shop section in 2011, with secondary and primary schools modules and units of work, as well as a growing number of support materials which will be available as pdf documents.

We continue to publish a regular TLfS Newsletter.

### **Forums**

We plan to build on the success of the 2009 and 2010 Forums and conduct a number of one-day forums in other municipalities. We will be seeking sponsors and partners for these forums.

### **Consultancy**

We have had considerable interest from organisations in other states and territories to learn how to conduct TLfS school and community programs under a licensing agreement. We expect that TLfS consultancy to assist these organisations will be an area of expansion in the future.

**END OF REPORT**