



Ursie's Earthies: St Ursula's College Environmental Service Group

Our mission, our goals and our future

Acknowledgement of Country

- We acknowledge the traditional custodians and owners of the land on which St Ursula's College stands, the land of the Wakka Wakka, Giabal and Jarowair peoples, and pay our respects to their elders past and present, for they hold the memories, traditions, cultures and hopes of Indigenous Australia. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and that we are gathering today on stolen land. We reaffirm our commitment to closing the gap and to reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Australia.

What is Ursie's Earthies?

- Ursie's Earthies is a service group at St Ursula's College
- Focused on:
 - Promoting environmental sustainability within the College
 - Encouraging students to engage with environmental issues in their community
 - Educating students about environmental issues
 - Reinforcing and normalizing sustainable behaviours and lifestyle changes



What do we do?

- Running events within the College
 - International Women's Day: plant-based "sisterhood brownies"
 - Change for Change: Bottle lid activity and build your own seed cup
 - Service Group Sign Up Day
- Long term projects
 - Eco Bingo Cards
 - Ursie's Earthies Store (selling environmentally friendly products such as reusable coffee cups and bags – a future project)



What do we hope to achieve?

- Overall goal: to move St Ursula's College and its students towards a sustainable future; to normalize and encourage sustainable lifestyle changes; and to provide avenues for students to make these changes
- To foster a sense of community in environmental action; the current state of the world, especially regarding climate change and related issues, can be isolating and frightening, and it is important to make these topics accessible to young people in group settings
- We hope that educating students about the environment in a student-to-student setting while they are young will promote sustainable habits as they move through life



What are our plans for the future?

- Ursie's Earthies Store: selling reusable and sustainable products to students
- Eco Bingo Card Initiative: rewarding sustainable behaviour by "gamifying" sustainable activities in Pastoral Care groups
- Possible long-term projects include sustainable canteen packaging, Meat Free Mondays, community gardens and 10 cent bottle recycling fundraisers



Why is it important to get young people involved?

- Young people will be dealing with many of the consequences of past and present inaction on climate change and other environmental issues, and so giving us opportunities to have our say on the treatment of the Earth is important
- This can only be possible if young people are aware of environmental issues and the ways they can solve them
- Climate anxiety is also very prevalent in young people, and although individual action will not solve all environmental problems – taking individual action on climate change is a privilege of those who are economically and socially able to do so – it is still important that those of us who can take action ourselves and encourage our friends, family members, corporations and elected representatives to do the same.



Questions?

