

school councils creating  
stronger links:  
connecting primary and  
secondary communities

# about

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS JUNE 2005

## environmental

Catholic school students demonstrate leadership and initiative by

### 'heroes of tomorrow' express their water message through art

With water restrictions and dropping dam levels sounding a wake-up call about the real value of water in this dry continent, Catholic school students took a special interest in the World Water Day message this year.

'Water for the Future' was this year's message from World Day for Water 2003.

One thousand school students aged 5-14 years around Australia embraced this message by illustrating colourful images about the problem of future water use in Australia as part of the second National Environment Art Competition, 'H2O in 2020,' which coincided with UNESCO's International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' campaign.

Nine students from three Catholic schools in the Sydney Archdiocese were selected from the 1000 students to display their artworks at the Australian Museum among 54 other finalists.

The author of 'Water...The Amazing Journey', Caren Trafford, founded the competition to challenge students to consider the importance of water. "Students were invited to design a poster illustrating the state of water in the year 2020 and what current measures can be taken for the future," she said. "They were encouraged to become the Environmental Heroes of tomorrow."

The environmental educator said that the judges in the Westpac boardroom - including Robyn Williams, Science journalist and presenter of Radio National's Science Show - had a hard time choosing the winners.

"The fabulous artworks show a real concern for the future of water as well as the students' willingness to become involved with the issues which will affect all of their futures," she said.

The artworks of finalists Dexter Martinez and Sarah Waddington from St Patrick's Primary, Summer Hill, displayed images of Sydney harbour in a pessimistic view.

The Year 6 school captains said the competition was part of their Science and Technology subject last year,



**Bob Debus, Minister for the Environment, presented Sarah Waddington from St Patrick's, Summer Hill with a finalist prize.**

which focused in part on their water supply.

"I chose the Harbour Bridge and Opera House because I thought about how sad those beautiful icons would look if the harbour dried up," Sarah said.

Francesca Colubriale, 7, from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary at Earlwood, earned her place with her illustration of Sydney Harbour in 2020.

Talented students Joanna Cheung, Lawrence Han, Gabrielle Manganaro, Alana Rafter and Veronica Cho heui Ahn from Trinity Catholic College were finalists for their images of water restrictions, and their version of a terrifying future reality that bans farms, cars and swimming pools to alleviate depleted resources.

Over 180 guests attended the finalists award ceremony presented by Bob Debus, Minister for the Environment. Among them were nineteen Year 6 students from St Patrick's who cheered along their classmates including school graduate Emma McGifford, now a Year 7 student at Domremy College.

The Minister praised the students for their achievements, and thanked them for using less water at home after speaking to them about global warming and Sydney's current water shortage.

The artworks of all 54 finalists can be viewed online at [www.planetkids.biz](http://www.planetkids.biz)