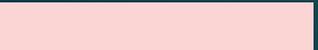




Climate change: The role of education

BY SAM RUSSELL



Acknowledge of country

- ▶ I acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Awabakal people of the Awabakal nation and pay respect to Elders past and present. I recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continue to be important to the Awabakal people living today. I would like to acknowledge my cultural mentor Peter Townsend, a proud Kamilaroi man who works for the Awabakal Land Council who has given me guidance and passion. I would also like to acknowledge that Aboriginal people have lived sustainable lifestyles for thousands of years. This was, and will be Aboriginal land.



Australian Curriculum: Climate Change

- ▶ The [Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians](#) (2008) was developed and agreed upon by all Australian Education Ministers.
- ▶ The Melbourne Declaration acknowledged that major changes in the world are placing new demands on Australian education.
- ▶ Cross-curriculum priorities:
- ▶ Sustainability
- ▶ Through the priority of Sustainability, students develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary to contribute to more sustainable patterns of living.



Why is the Australian Curriculum important in Climate Change?

- ▶ The Australian Curriculum is the specification of **what** teachers are to teach and students are to learn at particular times (**when**) in the schooling process.
- ▶ Scope and sequence, muscle movement and the snow ball. Teachers not always...

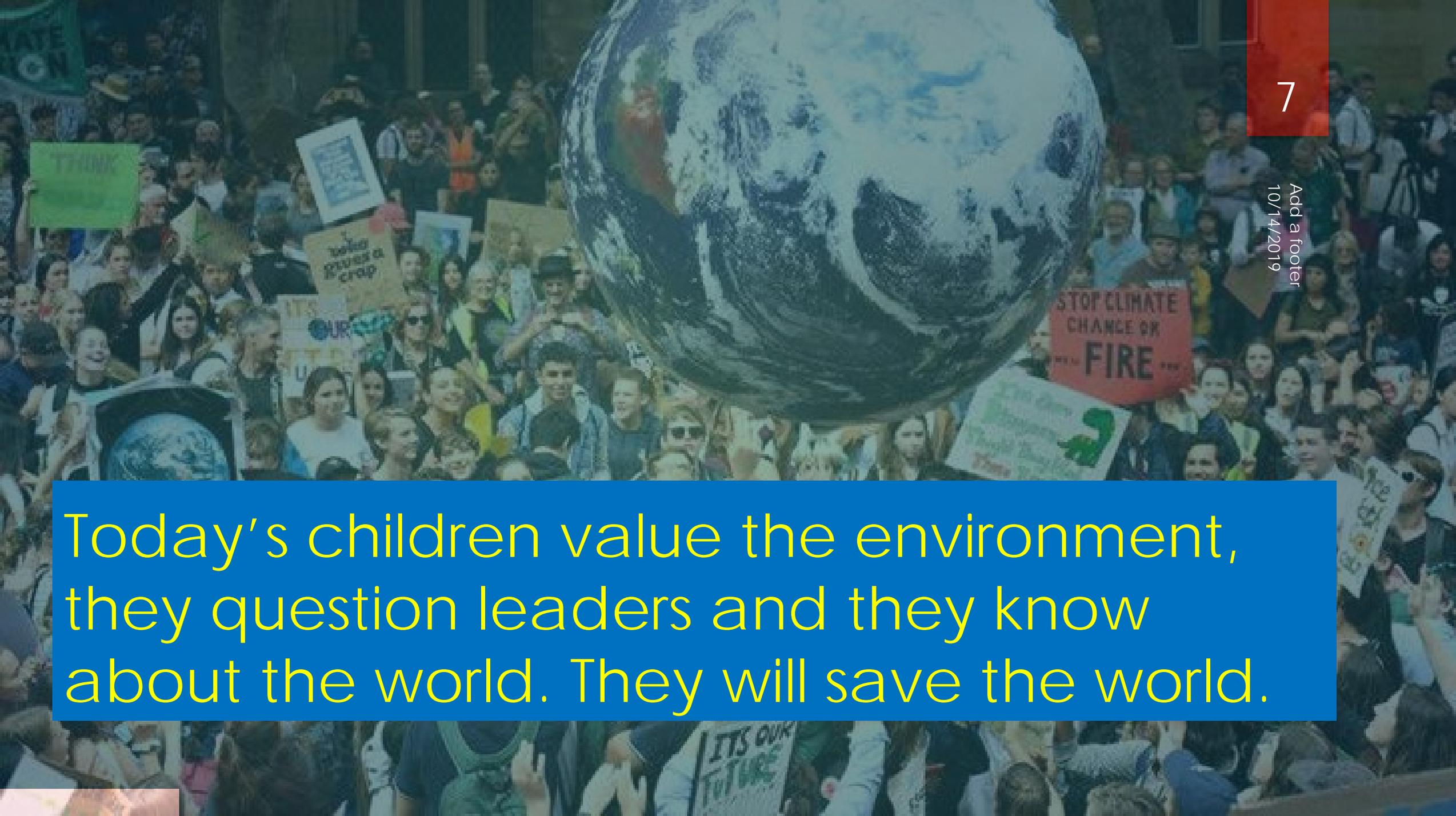


The role of technology and critical thinking in the Australian Curriculum:



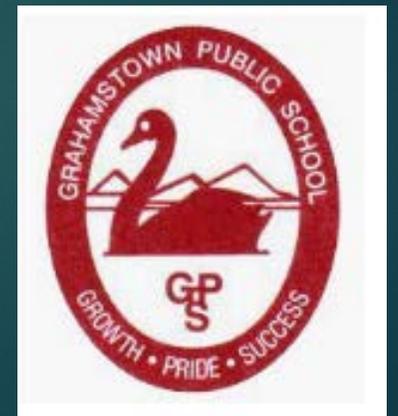
6



A large crowd of people, mostly young adults, is gathered for a climate protest. In the center, a large, realistic-looking globe of the Earth is being held up. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance. Many people are holding up signs with various messages. One prominent sign in the foreground reads "STOP CLIMATE CHANGE OR FIRE". Other visible signs include "today gives a crap", "OUR FUTURE", "IT'S OUR FUTURE", and "The Earth is not a ball". The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and concern for the environment.

Today's children value the environment, they question leaders and they know about the world. They will save the world.

My Journey

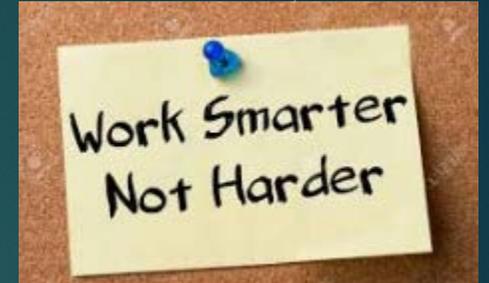


What you want done about the climate change issues of most concern to your sector?

More sustainable practices in schools:

Extracurricular: Guiding students with sustainable practise in whole school programs

- ▶ Waste Free Wednesdays, Nude Food Days
- ▶ Bottle Deposit Schemes
- ▶ Compost and Worm Farms
- ▶ Recycling plastic through Redcycle
- ▶ Bug hotel, lizard lounge, frog ponds, possum houses and butterfly houses
- ▶ Plant a Tree Day
- ▶ Bush tucker gardens, wall gardens, Yarning circles (OLA)
- ▶ Walk to School Safely Day
- ▶ Earth Hour and Green Days
- ▶ Nature world, making dream catchers and painting rocks
- ▶ World Environment Day, Recycling Week and Biodiversity Week
- ▶ Vegetable garden
- ▶ Renewable energy days

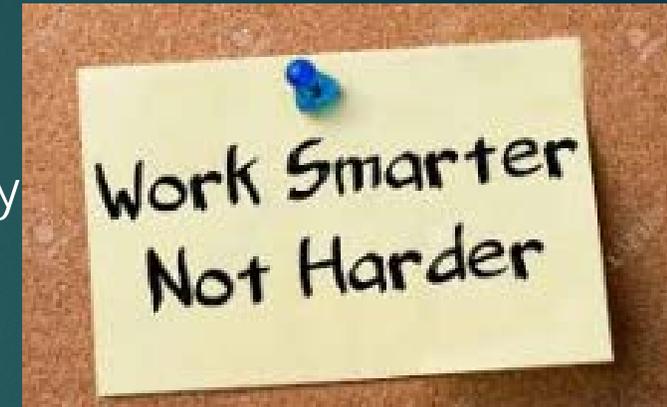


What you want done about the climate change issues of most concern to your sector?

More sustainable practices in schools:

Curricular (in class): Simply implementing to cross curriculum priority into all subjects.

- ▶ Renewable Energy Vans from Environment Centres
- ▶ Schools transitioning to renewable energy
- ▶ Units of work (not just in science)
- ▶ Guest speakers and workshops: Council, organisations and environment groups
- ▶ Changing the culture in the school
- ▶ Conversations
- ▶ Making things positive.
- ▶ Make schools accountable for implementing sustainable practices.



But none of this relates to climate change?

Wrong. Students learn to value the environment, the Earth and sustainable lifestyles. Which begins a journey of appreciation...



Who you need to do it?
My role as a department employee.
The kids are my focus. I guide them.



What are my plans?

- - Train educators to have more confidence around sustainability
- - Keep guiding the younger generation with their ideas
- - Make schools and teachers accountable for embracing sustainability as extra-curricular and curricular programs.



How can you help me?

14

- ▶ - Approach schools and teachers and ask what are they doing to promote sustainability
- ▶ - Have conversations with people around the roles of schools on Climate Change.
- ▶ - Talk to principals, The P&C and businesses about providing students with sustainable practices.
- ▶ - Remember schools are the centre of all communities. It is the best place to start and continue the conversations.

