



28 May 2007

Illawarra Christian School  
The Principal  
Tongarra Campus  
Calderwood Road  
ALBION PARK NSW 2527

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Healthy Cities Illawarra, I am writing to advise that the **Illawarra Christian School** are to receive a Healthy Cities Award for their contribution towards a healthier, safer, greener and more caring illawarra.

**The award is for planting trees to make the school grounds more "asthma friendly".**

Healthy Cities Illawarra is part of a **World Health Organisation** movement which seeks to improve the health, wellbeing and the environment of the Illawarra. Individuals and all organisations have a vital role to play in creating a healthier place.

In 2007, Healthy Cities Illawarra is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ([www.healthycitiesill.org.au](http://www.healthycitiesill.org.au)) and will be holding a special awards ceremony. A cordial invitation is extended to three representatives of your school to attend this year's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards presentation ceremony which is to be held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 10.00 am at the Sea Spray Function Centre, Junction Road, Shellharbour.**

A two course lunch will be served after the ceremony. It would be appreciated if you could RSVP and advise any special dietary requirements you may have by phoning **Tracee or Kristi on (02) 4226 5000 by Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007.**

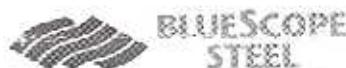
Please note that Healthy Cities will be taking group photos on the day for our own records. If individual photos are required please don't forget to bring a camera with you.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any further enquiries. I look forward to you joining us for this important celebration

Yours sincerely

Frank Wallner  
SECRETARY/MANAGER

*Sponsored by:*



Sharon Bird, MP  
Jennie George, MP

*Better Health For All*

63 Auburn Street Wollongong NSW 2500 Ph: (02) 4226 5000 Fax: (02) 4226 5339  
Email: [manager@healthycitiesill.org.au](mailto:manager@healthycitiesill.org.au) Internet: <http://www.healthycitiesill.org.au> ABN 83 964 176 052

# Schools score poor marks for asthma

By COURTNEY TRENWITH

CONDITIONS at Illawarra schools are among the worst in the state for asthmatics, according to the NSW Asthma Foundation.

Only 41 per cent of schools in the Illawarra and south-eastern Sydney have received asthma-friendly accreditation from the foundation, compared with the state average of 52 per cent.

The North Coast is the only area to record a lower percentage.

The foundation has run the Asthma Friendly Schools Program since 2001 in a bid to help schools create better environments for asthmatic students and to better cope when an asthma attack occurs.

One in six people have asthma, which can be triggered by environmental factors, and on average six people die each week from the condition in NSW.

Asthma Foundation chief executive Greg Smith said schools that had implemented the program had had a 33 per cent fall in asthma-related absenteeism and 54 per cent less asthma emergencies.

The program is funded by the Federal Government and supported by the State Government.

Schools volunteer to be accredited under the program and are evaluated according to eight criteria, including training staff to recognise an asthma attack, keeping records of students who suffer from asthma, purchasing asthma emergency kits, educating parents and including asthma programs in the school curriculum.

About 25 per cent of Illawarra schools have not registered for the program, and another 30 per cent have registered but are still to fulfil the criteria.



Deep breath: Illawarra Christian School student Teagan Hunter with her asthma ventilator.

Picture: ROBE

## Changes let Teagan breathe easier

By COURTNEY TRENWITH

YEAR 10 student Teagan Hunter used to dread using her school's change rooms because her classmates' spray-on deodorant would often trigger an asthma attack.

Since spray-on deodorant has been banned at Illawarra Christian School's Albion Park campus, Teagan has not suffered an asthma

attack while attending school.

The campus is one of scores across the region that have completed the NSW Asthma Foundation's Asthma Friendly Schools Program.

It has replaced numerous allergy-prone plants with non-allergen species, provided staff with asthma training and bought asthma emergency kits.

Extractor fans have been installed in the school's change rooms and students are now banned from using spray-on deodorant.

About 15 per cent of students at the school are asthmatic. Teagan's mother, Gabrielle Hunter, said her daughter was sent home from school after an asthma attack at least four times last year but had one at school this year.

A NSW Department of Education and Training spokeswoman said even without the foundation accreditation, all public schools were required to provide safe and supportive learning environments and to support the health care needs of students.

She said individual health care plans were designed for students with severe asthma.

South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health respiratory clinical nurse Kerrie Shaw said although there were many non-accredited schools in the

region, it did not mean they were not asthma-friendly.

She said many schools had made their environments asthma-friendly years before the Asthma Foundation program and did not feel the need to participate.

"Because the schools in

the Illawarra had been looking at it for six to eight years before this program, in many cases they feel that the program is a very comfortable fit for asthma," Ms Shaw said.

She said over 100 schools in the Illawarra region were now controlled.



Attention: David Imisides  
Illawarra Christian School  
234 Calderwood Rd  
Albion Park NSW 2527

22 August 2006

Ref: 06/3-AN06



Dear David,

**Letter of Offer  
Australia Post/Junior Landcare Grants (Biodiversity)**

Congratulations! Landcare Australia and Australia Post are pleased to confirm that you have been successful in your application for an Australia Post/Junior Landcare Biodiversity Grant, part of the Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program. You have been awarded \$500 (inc GST) towards your project as detailed in your Junior Landcare Grants Application Form.

The following basic steps are required to ensure funds can be transferred and for recognition and reporting purposes.

- 1 **Please complete and return the enclosed tax invoice/acceptance form** so that Landcare Australia can prepare your grant payment by electronic funds transfer. Make sure you keep a copy of this for your records
- 2 **Include the Australia Post and Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program logo on any promotional material and signage** associated with this project. If you would like to receive this logo, please email me at [rebecca@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:rebecca@landcareaustralia.com.au).
- 3 **Provide a report to Landcare Australia** on the success of your project. A guide and template to assist you in completing your report is also included.

We would like to engage as many schools and youth groups in the Australia Post/Junior Landcare Grants Program as possible. We encourage you to assist us in raising awareness of the program by promoting your achievement.

A representative from Australia Post may contact you to organise a local media opportunity. However, we also encourage you to add your details to the enclosed media release and distribute to your local newspaper and radio (if applicable)

If you would some advice about the best way to approach local media, please contact Kate Fenby [kate@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:kate@landcareaustralia.com.au). We wish you every success with your project. Please contact me on ph: 03 9662 9977 or email: [rebecca@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:rebecca@landcareaustralia.com.au) if you require any assistance or additional information.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Millard  
Junior Landcare Coordinator  
Enc



# Eco fund a tad Indigenous

KIAMA MP Matt Brown has congratulated the Illawarra Christian School at Tongarra for receiving \$2,500 in Eco Schools grants from the NSW government's Environmental Trust.

The school is the only recipient of the grant from between Shellharbour and the Uladalla.

It will use the money to conduct an environmental cultural change project by constructing a bush tucker farm and indigenous frog ponds.

Mr Brown said the local grants were part of a statewide \$150,000 program that helped schools save water, energy, reduce waste and restore the natural environment.

"These grants provide the opportunity for our schools to do something practical to improve our environment," Mr

Brown said.

"At the same time, they provide important learning experiences that students can use to find out just how fascinating the environment is."

"The project aims to teach the students environmental life skills that can be easily transported back to their own homes and families, encouraging this cultural change to take effect in the wider community."

"The Eco Schools program is funded by the Environmental Trust which also funds programs in environmental rehabilitation, education and research, along with a program specifically for Aboriginal communities to undertake environmental projects.

"This is a great success story for the NSW environment."

## Hike not 'fare'

THOSE who can least afford it will be affected by changes to CountryLink fares.

Commenting this month, pensioners using their travel vouchers to travel on CountryLink services will be hit with a booking fee.

The fee will be calculated at 15 per cent of the equivalent full adult fare, or a minimum of \$10, whichever is greater, and

will be charged for each voucher used.

Leader of the Nationals Party Andrew Stoner said the booking fee comes on top of an eight per cent increase in fares, putting the idea of regular train trip out of reach of some people.

Kailcorp spokesperson, Philip McCall said the fee is consistent with that charged by other transport operators.



• Kiama MP Matt Brown (third from left) with the Illawarra Christian School's teacher and students who were involved in obtaining the Eco Schools grant

## acne

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## S'harbour fined less

Motorists in Shellharbour picked up just 160 parking tickets last year, compared to more than 11,000 by their Wollongong counterparts.

While motorists immediately to their north forked out almost \$1.25 million in parking fines last year, Shellharbour drivers paid out just \$34,120.

Almost all the tickets in Shellharbour were for serious parking offences, particularly around school zones.

## 'Ribbet, ribbet' at school's 'wet lab'

By AMANDA GARARD

Illawarra Christian School's Tongarra campus has been given \$2500 to build a frog pond, which is still awaiting approval from Shellharbour City Council.

The money will be used to conduct an environmental cultural change project, which includes the frog pond and a native produce farmlet.

The aim of the project is to give students hands-on experience and teach them environmental skills that can be easily transported back to their own homes and families, encouraging this cultural change in the wider community.

The money is part of an Eco Schools grant from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust.

Grants co-ordinator and school veterinarian Aine Seavers said children will be taught how to construct frog ponds, analyse water quality and learn how to record changes in bio-diversity at the site.

Ms Seavers said produce, like trumpet fruit and the Illawarra plum, from the native farmlet would be sold to local restaurants.

"Australian ecosystems are amongst the richest in the world and can rarely be reproduced elsewhere," she said.

## State's grants for sporting facilities

Applications have opened for the State Government's popular capital assistance program (CAP).

Illawarra MP Marianne Sabha said the CAP provides grants to assist local government authorities and non-profit, sporting and recreational organisations to develop

"The children will be taught how to be guardians of their unique Australian flora and fauna by

planting low allergenic, drought and fire robust native produce that is both edible and visually attractive.

"It is hoped that the skills learned through these projects will be transplanted back into their own backyards where non-native plants will be replaced with native plants that are less destructive on the soil."

The grant will help the school create one of the largest, most dynamic science outdoor "wet labs" in the region.

"This outdoor living lab will give the next generation of ecologists and environmental scientists studying at the school, a hands-on local practical experience that will stand themselves and Shellharbour City area in good stead over the coming years," she said.

Member for Kiama Matt Brown said the grants provided an opportunity for schools to do something practical to improve the environment.

"These programs will provide important learning experiences that students can use to learn about the environment," he said.

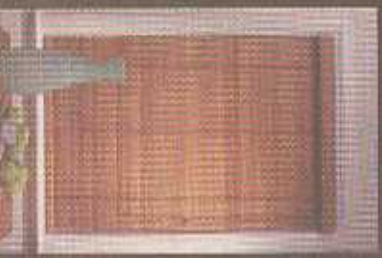


Illawarra Christian School student Melanie Jones holding two frogs near the school's proposed new frog ponds. Picture: STEVEN LIBER.

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12 October 2006



Aine Seavers  
Illawarra Christian School  
234 Calderwood Road  
Albion Park NSW 2527

**Small Environmental Grant**

Dear Aine

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$400, the remaining 25% of the funds awarded to your group.

If you have any further enquiries please contact me on 4221 6111

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Williams', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrew Williams  
Environmental Officer

All communications

addressed to:

**GENERAL MANAGER**

PO Box 155

Shellharbour City Centre 2529

Telephone: 02 4221 6111

Facsimile: 02 4221 6016

DX 26402 Shellharbour City Centre

Email: [records@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)

Web: [www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)

**ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:**

Lamerton House, Lamerton Cres.

Shellharbour City Centre 2529

**COUNCIL MEETING CHAMBER:**

City Shellharbour 8

Lake Entrance Hoods/Warilla

15 March 2006



Mr David Imisides  
Illawarra Christian School  
234 Colderwood Road  
ALBION PARK 2527

### Small Environmental Grants

Dear David

I refer to your application for funding under Council's Small Environmental Project Grants.

I am pleased to advise that your application to undertake the Environmental Project Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools Healthier Cities at the Illawarra Christian School has been successful. However, due to the popularity of the grants program, funding awarded to your group has been revised to 1,600.

To accept the grant please complete and return the attached Funding Agreement and revised project budget prior to commencing work on this project.

You will be further notified regarding project reporting requirements and payment upon receipt of the completed Funding Agreement.

Council look forward to seeing the results of your project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Andrew Williams".

Andrew Williams  
**Environmental Officer**

All communications

addressed to:

**GENERAL MANAGER**

PO Box 155

Shellharbour City Centre 2529

Telephone: 02 4221 6111

Facsimile: 02 4221 6016

DX 26402 Shellharbour City Centre

Email: [records@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)

Web: [www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)

**ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:**

Lamerton House, Lamerton Cres.

Shellharbour City Centre 2529

**COUNCIL MEETING CHAMBER:**

Cnr Shellharbour &

Lake Entrance Roads Warilla





MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote: 2005/ES/0088

Mr David Imisides  
Illawarra Christian School Tongarra  
PO Box 80  
ALBION PARK NSW 2527

25 NOV 2005

Dear Mr Imisides

**Eco Schools Grants Program – 2005 – *Cultural Change via Environmental, Educational & Community Integration***

I am pleased to advise that the Environmental Trust has approved a grant of \$2,500 towards your Eco Schools project "Cultural Change via Environmental, Educational & Community Integration" subject to certain conditions.

The Environmental Trust was established by the NSW Government in 1998 to support exceptional environmental projects that do not receive funds from the usual government projects.

The Eco Schools program provides grants to schools to give them the opportunity to involve their students and community in environmental management projects.

There was strong competition for funds this year, with a diverse range of projects proposed. The Trust received 203 applications and approved 60 grants.

Lists of successful grants have been placed on the Trust's website at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust).

The Environmental Trust's staff will be in contact with you shortly to make arrangements for the uptake of your grant. Alternatively, you may contact Trust staff on (02) 8837 6093.

I congratulate you on your successful application and I wish you well with your project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Debus".

**Bob Debus**



**Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells**  
Liberal Senator for New South Wales



24 August 2007

Ref: CFW/VS

Mrs Linda Columbro  
Illawarra Association for Christian Parent Controlled Education  
PO Box 80  
Albion Park NSW 2527

Electorate Office  
Level 1  
90 Crown Street  
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

PO Box 886  
WOLLONGONG NSW 2520

Phone: (02) 4226 1700  
Facsimile: (02) 4226 1733

Dear Mrs Columbro,

**Re: 2007 Volunteer Small Equipment Grants**

I have been advised by the Hon Mal Brough MP, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, that your organisation has been successful in obtaining funding under Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEG) 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your success in obtaining this funding.

Satellite Office  
Suite 2  
125 Byron Street  
GRANGE NSW 2800

Phone: (02) 6360 1119  
Facsimile: (02) 6360 1139

Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Phone: (02) 6277 3345  
Facsimile: (02) 6277 3351

I would also like to acknowledge the valuable contribution that your organisation makes to the community. Volunteers make an immense contribution to our society by giving up their valuable time to help others.

Toll Free: 1300 735 268

This is the ninth time the Howard Government has delivered equipment and grants to community organisations with volunteers, with over \$62 million distributed to more than 29,000 community organisations since 2001.

Email: [Senator.Fierravanti-Wells@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.Fierravanti-Wells@aph.gov.au)

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs will send you a letter of offer for you to accept and return in order to receive your funding. If you have any questions please email [vseg2007@facsia.gov.au](mailto:vseg2007@facsia.gov.au) or telephone the VSEG toll free Hotline on 1800 183 374.

Once again, congratulations on your success.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells  
Liberal Senator for New South Wales



# Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

## Liberal Senator for New South Wales



28 November 2006

Ref: CFW/DJT

Dr Aine Seavers  
Illawarra Christian School  
Tongarra Campus P&F  
234 Calderwood Rd  
ALBION PARK NSW 2527

Dear Dr Seavers,

### Re: Volunteer Small Equipment Grants

I have great pleasure in advising that your organisation has been successful in obtaining funding under the 2006 Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEG). I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your success in obtaining this funding.

Your organisation will receive \$2,366 for a marquee

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution your organisation makes to the community. Overall, volunteers make an immense contribution to our society by giving their valuable time to help others locally.

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs will be writing to you directly with a letter of offer. In order to receive funding this offer must be signed and returned to the Department.

I appreciate that you might like to share this good news, however, I would ask that you not make public comment until the grants are announced publicly. To that end, my office will be happy to co-operate on any public comment you might like to make.

Yours sincerely,

Senator C.A. Fierravanti-Wells  
Liberal Senator for New South Wales

Electorate Office  
Level 1  
90 Crown Street  
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

PO Box 886  
WOLLONGONG NSW 2520

Phone: (02) 4226 1700  
Facsimile: (02) 4226 1733

Satellite Office  
Suite 2  
125 Byng Street  
ORANGE NSW 2800

Phone: (02) 6360 1119  
Facsimile: (02) 6360 1139

Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Phone: (02) 6277 3345  
Facsimile: (02) 6277 3351

Toll Free: 1300 735 268

Email: [SenatorFierravanti-Wells@aph.gov.au](mailto:SenatorFierravanti-Wells@aph.gov.au)



SENATOR THE HON IAN CAMPBELL  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
SENATOR THE HON ERIC ABETZ  
Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation

Mr Paul Middleton  
Illawarra Association for Christian Parent-Controlled Education  
PO Box 380  
UNANDERRA NSW 2526

Dear Mr Middleton

We are pleased to advise you that we have approved your application for an Australian Government Community Water Grant (Project ID 23230) for funding of \$45,164 (GST exclusive).

Community Water Grants is the community component of the \$2 billion Australian Government Water Fund. Community Water Grants encourages people to save, reuse and improve the health of their local water resources with practical, on-the-ground projects.

Over 4,500 applications were received in Round 2 from all states and territories, making the assessment process highly competitive. We have approved \$61.656 million to fund 1,444 projects throughout the country. Round 2 projects will save 9,518 megalitres of water, treat water from a combined catchment area of 1,514,569 hectares and commit 559,427 volunteer hours to community projects.

Your project has been supported because it is community orientated, demonstrates public benefit and involves practical, on-the-ground works that will save or protect water resources.

Community Water Grants will contact you soon regarding your funding agreement. If you have any questions please contact Community Water Grants on 1800 780 730 or email [cwg@deh.gov.au](mailto:cwg@deh.gov.au).

We wish you and your supporters every success and look forward to seeing the successful completion of your project.

Thank you for participating in this important Australian Government initiative.

Yours sincerely,

IAN CAMPBELL

ERIC ABETZ

Senator the Hon Ian Campbell  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
Telephone: 02 6277 7640  
Fax: 02 6273 6101

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz  
Minister for Fisheries, Forestry & Conservation  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
Telephone: 02 6277 7270  
Fax: 02 6273 7096

# Water thieves to be caught on tape

By AGRON LATIFI

Protection for Elvina the water tank is almost complete now that the Tongarra campus of the Illawarra Christian School has received a Dairy Farmers Creating Greener Pastures community grant.

The \$3000 grant will help subsidise the installation of video surveillance cameras on the campus' large 250,000-litre water tank, Elvina, which provides a guaranteed source of rainwater for use by the Rural Fire Brigade to protect the communities of Albion Park and Calderwood.

Tongarra Campus Committee grants coordinator Aine Seavers said as water was as much a commodity as oil these days, theft from tanks was a regular occurrence.

"The increased security provided by the Dairy Farmers grant for video surveillance will provide protection additional to the time and sequence specific locks plus coloured dyes that are activated if the tanks are interfered with in any way, thus rendering the water unable to be drunk or sold with its bright red colour," Ms Seavers said.

Christened "Elvina" (as the sister tank on the ground to the flying water helicopter Elvis), the water storage tank provides water to fill Rural Fire Brigade tankers many times over.

"Instead of the brigades drawing from drought-afflicted streams and dams, this tank will supply a clean and reliable source of water for both training and real time exercises and leaves what little water we have in our waterways for use by native and domestic animals," she said.

Ms Seavers said the Illawarra Christian School was awarded a 100 per cent grant of \$39,000 from the Federal Government's Community Water Grants initiative to provide for this "rural static water supply for irrigation



Illawarra Christian School's Tongarra campus committee members Aine Seavers, Paul Middleton, David Inisides and Greg Batten in front of the big water tank named Elvina.

FIGURE: HANK VAN STUJENBERG

and bush fire fighting".

She added that the school would directly benefit also as the water grant included a unique prototype installation of probably the "biggest stand-alone" bush fire fighting system in Australia designed exclusively by parents and staff for the Tongarra campus.

"This system will provide a domestic and wildlife safe haven in the event of a fire threat with a capacity to protect the area shielded by the water walls for up to twice the time a fire front would normally take to cross such an area," Ms Seavers said.

"This means that the neighbouring dairy

farm could evacuate the herd into the school grounds and give the cattle some shelter by a 40-foot wall of water from a fire front moving down from the escarpment as has historically happened.

"The irrigation system will also be used to irrigate the clay soil on which the school stands, guaranteeing constant water supply for the many environmental rehabilitation and restoration works that are in progress at the school.

"This fire tank and sprinkler system prototype is being currently installed at our Cordeaux Heights campus, and other schools have expressed interest in the concept."

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## Self-sufficiency pays dividends

By AMANDA GARARD

The Illawarra's only self-sufficient school reliant on rainwater has secured more than \$9000 in funding to buy rainwater tanks to collect water to irrigate the sports field at the school.

Illawarra Christian College will use \$9050 from the State Government's Capital Assistance Program to buy the water tanks.

The head of the Illawarra Christian College campus at Calderwood, Greg Batten, said the sporting facility at the Pongarra campus of the school was in poor condition and had been closed for the past six months because it was a "hard, compacted dust bowl".

"It's the only sporting facility we have in the school," he said.

"It's a quality facility and we don't want to see it ruined.

"We are looking to pop dress it and we need to be able to pour water into it."

Mr Batten said the school was looking to install subterranean pipes filled with grey water to water the sports field, but it would take a long time for that to happen.

The school's grant organiser and board member Aine Seavers

said because the school was self-sufficient it suffered the effects of the drought as hard as any facility in the area.

"We spent money putting in a [high quality] sports oval and had to close it for six months because it was completely stripped bare," she said.

She got the idea to apply for a Government grant after hearing about Jamberoo Bowling Club getting rainwater tanks for its facility.

Ms Seavers thought it would be a good idea to get water tanks to irrigate the sports field and to be used as a "de facto fire fighting facility".

"It's important to provide a sports facility for the school and the school community all year round," she said.

"We couldn't have the 80-year-old archers who use the facility falling over on hard ground."

The school is sustainable and ecologically friendly with water-efficient native shrubs and gardens and is not connected to town water.

All water is collected in rainwater tanks, including drinking water. Water collected in tanks goes through a filter and is able to be drunk.

The school also has septic tanks and is not connected to the sewerage.



Member for Kiama Matt Brown (right), Head of the Illawarra Christian College campus at Calderwood Greg Batten and students with a water tank. The college has been given money to buy a water tank.

One of the water tanks is for fire fighting purposes.

Member for Kiama Matt Brown said the wisdom of tanks and sustainable water use in the drought was a great thing.

He urges other schools to take advantage of the Sydney Water tank rebate, worth up to \$2500.