PARENT/STUDENT/STAFF SURVEY

We will be sending home a fridge magnet to remind you to STOP and DO THE SURVEY. We want to emphasise how important it is to really know what each person thinks about the Catholic identity of Marymount College. It will help us to understand one another. It will tell us how differently individuals think. It will, if enough people JUST DO IT, give us a full picture.

It is a challenging survey. I have done the parent survey. I had to really think about what the questions were asking and then about what my opinion was. When I thought about giving up but didn’t, I came across questions that I was happy to answer. You will be surprised that some questions are even asked. Here are just some of the many items in the few parts to the survey.

The following statements require the person to choose – strongly agree/ agree/ somewhat agree/ neither agree or disagree/ somewhat disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree.

1. You can only live a meaningful life if you believe -
2. Faith is more a dream which turns out to be an illusion when one is confronted with the harshness of life.
3. Even though this goes against modern rationality, I believe Mary was truly a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus.
4. Despite the fact that the Bible was written in a completely different historical context, it retains a basic message.
5. God grows together with the history of humanity and therefore is changeable.
6. In the end, faith is nothing more than a safety net for human fears.
7. I think the Catholic school should be searching for a renewed way to realise the Christian message of faith, hope and love.
8. Marymount used to be Catholic, but Christianity has slowly disappeared from school life. Thus Marymount is Catholic in name only.
9. Marymount stresses the importance of religious education classes because learning about faith promotes a Catholic way of life.
10. I think religious education classes should try to link student values to the Catholic faith, hoping that they become deeper believers that way.
11. I am worried about the increasing diversity in society because I consider this a threat to the identity of Catholic schools.
12. A little diversity is fine, but if the differences between people at school continue to grow, then we have a problem, for then, the sense of Christian values is no longer shared by all people at school.
13. The questions in this survey made sense.

There are a few parts to the survey and many items, and it will take 40 minutes to complete if a person gives their quick, first response. The idea is not to get “bogged down”, worrying about your responses. The survey is “taking a picture” and it will just capture each person’s thoughts at the moment in time they complete the survey. We need everyone to COMPLETE THE SURVEY if we are to get the FULL PICTURE. Just do it and put your ticket of completion in the draw for the dinner for two. Thank you in anticipation.

ART SHOW MEETING
6.00PM WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH

Following this week’s first meeting, Mrs Pauline Cook and Mrs Caroline Horrocks have taken on the roles of co-convenors for the 2012 Art Show. The Art Show will be held from 3 – 5 August 2012. Organisation involves gathering a team around Pauline and Caroline. Responsibilities are taken on by members of the committee and support comes from others on the committee and through our regular meetings. The meetings are scheduled for:

Term 1  7th March, 28 April
Term 2  2 May, 6 June, 20 June
Term 3  11 July, 18 July, 25 July, 1 Aug

The Art Show involves work, involves a lot of fun along the way and on the weekend of the show. Come along to the second meeting on 7th March.

AT LAST....

We moved into the new Art/Technology building this week and lessons will begin in the new rooms from Monday.

The new lockers for Year 11 and Year 8 have arrived and were installed by Mr Hamilton, Mr Turner, Mr O’Shea, Mr Browne, Mr Peter Carroll, Mr Matt Carroll, Mr Kyle Connor and members of the 1st XIII Rugby League team. Consequently the Year 9 students received their MacBook Air laptops on Tuesday this week and Year 8 students will receive their MacAirs next Tuesday.

Our appreciation to the “Out of the Box” team who assisted the students as they began to use their new laptops. Our appreciation also goes to Mr Patrick Fedorczyk who worked from November last year to image the laptops and complete the administration tasks required before the laptops were given to students.

LENT

Easter Sunday is 8th April, the mid-point of the end of term 1 holiday break. The time between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday is an opportunity for each one of us to: prepare for Easter; reflect on our life’s journey; reflect on Jesus’ life, death and resurrection; and consider how we might be a better Christian. Have you decided to take up this opportunity this Lent?

Mr Chris Noonan
Principal
As we move into the school year I would like to remind both students and parents the college rules regarding travel and conduct when travelling to and from school.

TRANSPORT

- No skateboards are allowed
- Students riding bikes will obey all traffic laws which include wearing a helmet
- Students should not ride their bikes in the school premises and bikes are to be locked in school bike racks upon arrival
- There is no eating on buses, no littering on buses and no throwing of rubbish from buses
- Students must follow the Department of Transport guidelines for bus travel
- Students are to cross roads at designated crossings or at traffic lights, particularly at Tree Tops Shopping Centre

RESEARCH ON STUDY TECHNIQUES: The following is a summary of an article sent to me recently. It is a valuable insight into how to fine tune your skills and create a consistently productive climate when you are studying, revising, completing homework. A recent newsletter from Principals’ Digests provided some simple techniques based on findings from cognitive science that have been shown to reliably improve how much a student learns from studying. It is important to note, however, that no one technique is ever sufficient and study must be undertaken consistently and in a focussed, deliberate way to maximize the benefits. Deliberative study requires a focus on those areas that the student finds difficult and challenging and thus provides opportunity for extending learning not just consolidating what they already know and understand. Some techniques for consideration are:

- Study distinct but related concepts in one sitting, rather than focusing intensely on a single thing. Varying the type of material studied in a single sitting seems to leave a deeper impression on the brain than concentrating on just one skill at a time. For Musicians practice sessions often include a mix of scales, musical pieces and rhythmic work. Athletes mix their workouts with strength, speed and skill drills.
- Instead of sticking to one study location, move around. The brain makes subtle associations between what it is studying and the sensations it has at the time. Forcing the brain to make associations with the same material gives that information more neural scaffolding and slows down forgetting.
- Pack your brain carefully. Intensive immersion in scaffolding and slows down forgetting.
- The harder it is to remember something, the harder tests that makes them such effective study tools.
- Study on material they have been studying – having to dig it out, the more securely it will be anchored.
- Test, test, test. Testing not only measures knowledge but changes it for the better. It is the difficulty of recall, without requiring more overall study effort.
- No-one quite knows why. It may be that the brain, when it revisits material at a later time, has to relearn some of what it has absorbed.
- Mix up your studies. With mixed practice, each problem is different from the last one, which means students must learn how to choose the appropriate procedure, just like in tests.

Space and time your studying. For each study area, space and time vary length (try 1 hr of study tonight, 1 hr on the weekend, etc.). Such spacing improves later recall, without requiring more overall study effort. No-one quite knows why. It may be that the brain, when it revisits material at a later time, has to relearn some of what it has absorbed.

Test, test, test. Testing not only measures knowledge but changes it for the better. It is the difficulty of recall, without requiring more overall study effort.

Pack your brain carefully. Intensive immersion in one aspect of a subject is not always the best way to master knowledge. The brain picks up deeper patterns when seeing assortments. Hurriedly packing a brain (through last minute cramming) is akin to speed-packing a cheap suitcase – it holds its new load for a while, then almost everything falls out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

29 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH
Year 12 Retreat
7 MARCH
Year 10 Reflection Day
15 MARCH
Year 8 Gender Day
16 MARCH
St Patricks Day Celebration

As our student leaders gathered at Infant Saviour at Burleigh, for the 7.00am Mass on Ash Wednesday, this long standing tradition of the College is a memorable one for the students in the experience of attending Mass with a large number of parishioners and carrying the blessed ashes back for the school liturgy mid morning. Our 2012 Project Compassion was launched, its theme being “If you want peace work for justice” (Pope Paul VI). Shrove Tuesday pancakes were a big hit and good sales ensured a promising start to our fundraising.

Please pray for the success of the Year 12 Retreat that begins on 29 February. We look forward to visits from Father Pat and Father Peter over the two days and are very appreciative of their generosity in visiting us over such distances!

This coming week all families will receive a specially commissioned fridge magnet and information about the Enhancing Catholic Schools Project. The website will be open from 27 February.
Senior students spent time at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) in Brisbane this week. GOMA offer diverse and dynamic exhibitions and collection displays and exciting public programs and events.

**Matisse: Drawing Life:** The exhibition is the most comprehensive exhibition of Henri Matisse’s prints and drawings ever mounted, presented in partnership with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The exhibition has been designed by French artist Christophe Cuzin, who responds to Matisse’s palette.

**Look Now, See Forever:** Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama is one of the most significant and influential artists working today. ‘Look Now, See Forever’ transforms the dramatic spaces of the Gallery of Modern Art with a series of spectacular immersive rooms, featuring new sculptures and paintings as well as film projection and installation.

Steve O’Keefe
Art Coordinator
Homework Club will resume for 2012 in week 3 (Thursday, February 9) and continue each Thursday from 3.10 pm till 4.30 pm in the library.

It is a great opportunity for students to seek assistance with homework and assignments or access the library facilities after school under the supervision of three Learning Support teachers.

For further information, contact the Learning Support Centre.

Annette McMahon
Learning Support Coordinator

South Coast Netball Association would like to invite teams/players to participate in its Tuesday night competition at Mallawa Drive, Palm Beach. Girls from 13 to Opens welcome, as well as mixed. For more information contact: goldensouthnetball@hotmail.com or 0421 369 669. Competition commences soon.

...to Monnie Esmond on winning the Public Speaking Award at the Palm Beach Currumbin Lions Club. She gave polished performances in both the prepared speech and impromptu speeches sections of the competition. Her presentations were faultless and convincing.

Congratulations must also go to Aisling Waugh and Caitlin O’Connor (both from Year 10) who competed. They are the youngest ever students to represent the College in the competition. Both were most impressive in their handling of the impromptu topics and in their presentation of their prepared speeches.
YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY

TANGALooma TRIP

What a lovely time we all had once again this year on our annual three-day trek to Moreton Island. Our Year Eleven Geographers have been studying environmental ethics and are beginning an investigation into management of resources within a National Park. Each year, Moreton Island provides our students with a magnificent opportunity to explore the biophysical environment through a Geographer’s eyes. Students learned about and fed dolphins, investigated aspects of the resort’s development within a national park context, trekked to the outstanding sand desert and dunes, spotted dugong and sea turtles on a cruise and travelled by four wheel drive to view the island’s many outstanding natural, cultural and historical features. Mr Kelleher, Mrs Cooper and I were very pleased to see this terrific group of young people appreciate the opportunities that they were given to engage with nature. Each year the island seems to have something new and interesting to show us. In the past it has been oil spills and floods, whilst this year we saw the results of the recent bushfires at Cowan. Interestingly and sadly, some of our dolphin friends from past trips have perished as a result of the Brisbane floods and the pollution and sedimentation resulting from that. We all need to be mindful that what we do on the land is inexorably linked to the sea and affects our delicate marine life. It is always rewarding to work with these students and this year was no exception. They are all a credit to their families and this College. We have many great memories and every one of us is a little wiser about our relationship with Mother Earth.

Mrs Kim Parker
Senior Geography Teacher - SOSE Coordinator
YEAR 9 - “OUT OF THE BOX” DAY

On Monday 21 February, the Year 9s were jumping in anticipation. We had been waiting for WEEKS for our laptops and, finally, they were ready for us to take home. We all lined up in alphabetical order and, slowly but surely, we all received our laptops! Then we headed to a classroom to set them up. Despite the constant pleas from teachers to not open the box and take it out, I couldn’t resist a little peek. I must say the other grades should be so jealous. These laptops are sleek and stylish and as thin as paper!

We set up our accounts, and then had a little play with the computer. We found out that, with just a flick of a finger, we could open up multiple desktop screens so we could have the internet on one screen and a word document on another screen - so the desktop screen was not cluttered (another thing the Macbooks didn’t have!). We had an exciting and wonderful day. Our laptops will be a major tool for taking our education into the future, in exciting, new ways.

Brooke Fraser
Student reporter

LAPTOPS!!!

Packed in the P&F courtyard the Year 9 students eagerly waited to get their hands on their very own MacBook Air. You could feel the excitement in the air and the teachers tried to calm us down, but that plan didn’t work very well! After receiving our laptop, case and carry bag we were seated in the library waiting to be moved to a classroom to unpack the boxes and turn on the laptop for the very first time, but some students just couldn’t wait and had to open the box early but just moments later you could hear Ms. Gair reminding everyone, “You are not to open the box **UNTIL** you get to the classroom.”

Finally we learnt all the tips and tricks of using our laptop and what to do and what not to do. After logging on, everyone’s eyes were mesmerized on the screen, clicking and typing, trying to find out what every button on the computer did. Everyone in the grade was waiting for this moment and when it arrived the Year 9 group was on a high.

Lachlan Grant
Student reporter

STAC REPS

Recently, the Year 9 Pastoral representatives were selected by each Pastoral class, one of which was a boy and the other a girl. These representatives will take part in various activities within the school community. Votes were cast in each class and whoever received the most votes, was selected. From this group, a boy and girl were chosen by the selected Pastoral leaders to be our year level’s ‘Student Teacher Advisory Counsel’ reps. The STAC reps will assist our Pastoral Coordinators, Mr Fren and Ms Gair, in organising Year 9 related events and fundraising activities. They will also meet with other STAC reps. to compare and brainstorm their ideas to improve the school and make it a better environment for everyone. Below are the names of our Year 9 leaders:

**STAC REPRESENTATIVES**
Mitchell Cavanagh and Chantelle Sia

**PASTORAL REPRESENTATIVES**

9AA – Michael Bogdan & Isla MacDonald/ Savannah Brunton
9AB – Cameron Cooper & Shiloh Payne
9AC – Shae Adams & Steven Racki
9BD – Keely Houghton & Jed Vegelian
9BE – Daniel Debattista & Amber Cuffe
9KG – Molly McMahon & Mitchell Cavanagh
9KH – Chantelle Sia & Lewis Kemp
9PI – Zoe Curling & Matt Homer
9PI – Taya Oxenham & Ricki Viso
9PK – Angelo Hatzi/ Talor Marshall & Rachelle Payne/ Isobel Bedward

We know that these representatives will do a great job in listening and supporting our year level throughout 2012.

Taya Oxenham and Shari Johnson
Student reporters
MAXIMUM SECURITY
Robert Muchamore - CHERUB Series

This action-packed third instalment in the CHERUB series is one of those books you can’t put down. Forget chores, forget homework, forget dinner, you will read this book right through without a breath.

Thrilling and exciting the whole way through, you will wish you could have the adventures of young CHERUB agent James. If you’ve read any of the CHERUB series, you won’t want to miss Maximum Security!

Any avid readers who like action books filled with car chases and prison breakouts will love this book. Best of all, it’s kids who are in on the action!

YEAR 11 UPDATE

Welcome back avid readers as we continue to chronicle all the latest happenings throughout year 11. Watch this space for an entirely new segment in the student reporter’s area.

As always most students have settled back into school comfortably. The new lockers are in, the new and improved Year 11 area is open for business and new classes are all going well. Most felt that this time around settling back into habit was quite simple and not such a challenge as in previous years.

Ms Anderson and Mr Kelleher’s early impressions have indicated they feel positive about the group. They also mentioned at our Year level meeting that as always Leadership will be a big part of Year 11. More from them next week.

Some of the amazing talents from the mix of people in our grade are really starting to come to light. Over the past fortnight we have seen the annual Geography camp to Tangalooma, as well as a visit by the Art students to GOMA (Gallery Of Modern Art) in Brisbane and a Tourism excursion. Many have also made the most of the Cultural Sign-up day, excellently organized by the Year 12 Councillors, to get students involved in other aspects of College life such as debating, choirs and student reporting.

Many students have also taken on extra responsibilities since returning to the College. We now have around 40 of our year group involved in the Peer-Mentoring program with the Year 8s, which aims to lend a helping hand to the newer students in our community. Initial reports there have been excellent. Some students have also become involved in the Lions “Youth Of The Year” public speaking competition and Rotary Interact is still going strong with an ever-growing Year 11 presence.

Preparations for the Gold Coast Senior Drama Festival are ramping up once again as many of our students-turned-actors vie for key roles in this year’s production of the Shakespearian classic “Romeo and Juliet”.

In other exciting news the opening of the new Art and Technology building is expected to take place very soon. Once available it will provide a place for Art, Media and I.T students to advance their skills and continue to create amazing works.

Last but not least we must mention the admirable efforts many of our sports teams have gone to selling chocolates around the College to raise much-needed funds. The results have been rewarding, indicating that many students often enjoy throwing in a dollar to grab a Freddo, while supporting a lofty cause.

Overall Year 11 has launched itself into 2012 with much gusto and enthusiasm. Let’s hope we can continue in our current rich vein of form in for the future.

Sam Burbury
Student reporter
RETREAT

Final preparations are being made for the upcoming Year 12 Retreat program.

A most special event, the school invests in critical time for our senior students to come together and be enriched by the experience. As Year 12 students it will of course be the last such occasion of sharing, giving and participating in life long learning about ourselves, growing an understanding of who we are and our future pathway. It is also a sacred time of reflection and understanding our spiritual relationship with God.

UNIFORM

Parents, we ask for your assistance in ensuring that your sons and daughters wear the uniform correctly and with pride. It is not just in the school environment, but walking to and from the College.

Our students are our ambassadors; they send a message to the general community and to potential employers. If boys elect to wear ties, they must have an appropriate fit, close to the collar with the top button done up! If the button is too tight and the preference is to have it undone, then please do not wear a tie. They are not to be hanging loosely.

Girls are wearing far too much make-up. It is most inappropriate for young ladies wearing the school uniform to have such “plastered” faces. For some the degree of eyeliner and mascara is overwhelming – certainly not the standard expected at Marymount College. Students observed to be breaking the school rules regarding the uniform are given a uniform detention.

STUDENT DRIVERS

All students who drive cars to and from school MUST have a permission form filled in and signed by parents/guardians. If a driver has student passengers from another family, they must have a note from that family giving permission for the driver to have those particular passengers.

This is a safety requirement. The Driver Permission forms are available from the Year 12 Coordinators’ office.

STUDENTS’ WORK ETHIC

We are approaching a time now when first drafts and in some cases final submissions of work are required. Parents please be aware of your child’s timetable and become familiar with the task sheets for each subject. Students should have all due dates clearly identified in their diaries. This organization and the follow up is part of a student’s work ethic – their capacity to recognize what is required of them and their persistence in achieving their aim.

Mr Kevin Cornor and Mrs Irene Scott
Year 12 Coordinators

QUEENSLAND STATE SUMMIT 2012

At the beginning of every year United Nations Youth Queensland runs a three-day state summit for students in years 10-12. It is a way for young people to discuss international issues, get engaged in the world around them and meet over 100 like-minded people from across Queensland. The weekend this year will run from Friday 23 March to Sunday 25 March on the Sunshine Coast.

Every student is given a different country of the United Nations and they are to speak and represent the ideologies and wants of that particular nation. State Summit offers a range of activities including: Model United Nations debates, discussion groups, trivia, Joint cabinet crisis, guest speakers, dance and games.

If you are a student who may be interested in attending this weekend, there are still positions to be filled! It is $190 for the weekend and you can fill out a registration form online at http://qld.unyouth.org.au/conferences-2/queensland-state-summit-2012/. It is a truly fantastic weekend and I strongly encourage any students who are interested to attend!

Definitely a worthwhile and rewarding state summit.

Kate Coombes
Vice Captain, reporter and participant
SPRITUALITY OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY: ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 22 February was an important day in the spiritual life of Marymount College. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, the liturgical season leading up to Easter.

As in past years, the day began with the Year 12 leaders collecting the ashes from the 7am mass at the Infant Saviour church. This allowed the leadership team to show that we are an active part of the local spiritual community. After returning to Marymount later that morning, a liturgy was held.

This liturgy involved the entire school, during which the ashes, made from the burnt palms of last year’s Palm Sunday, were distributed to all the students of the school. In addition to the distribution of ashes, the liturgy also marked the beginning of Project Compassion.

Raising money through Project Compassion is a great way for the school community to assist people in need all over the world, and already hundreds of dollars have been raised through fund-raising activities.

So with Ash Wednesday now complete, we move on to Lent, where for 40 days we prepare for Easter, the most important spiritual season of the year.

Jack McLintock
School Councillor and reporter
**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION/CAREERS**

**SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIP POSITIONS VACANT**

Leaps and Bounds Children’s Fitness inCurrumbin is offering a Business Administration School Based Traineeship position. The successful applicant will be required to attend the workplace one day per week. For further details see the Marymount Careers Office or contact Ms Fe Taylor on 55 344 030.

Goldstein’s Bakery at Molendinar are offering a Certificate III Retail Baking (Combined) School-Based Apprenticeship. Interested students can contact Suzanne Dalton for further details and to apply on P: 55934396 or E: s dalton@kings.net.au.

**2012-2013 ADF GAP YEAR**

Register your interest now at defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear to receive updates.

Positions available in the Navy and Army only.

Applications open 9am on 2nd April and close midnight 16th April 2012.

Gain military training, life skills and make new friends!

Earn $50,000+ over the 12 month period.

Call 131901 or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au

**CASUAL POSITIONS VACANT**

The Chemist Warehouse Treetops is looking to employ students 15yrs + for after school shifts. For further details, contact Mel Kenny on 0408 704 884.

**PROJECTS ABROAD**

If you feel an urge to see the world, experience new things, and learn about yourself and others, volunteering overseas might be the next step. There are so many ways to help, and so many places to see! You can teach kids for whom learning English is a lifeline out of poverty, look after children who ended up living on the street, or make sure turtle eggs hatch and are not poached. Projects Abroad are hosting an Information Night on Thursday, 8th March from 6.30pm-7.30pm at the Bleeding Heart Event Space, 166 Ann Street, Brisbane. Visit www.projects-abroad.com.au to register and for further details.

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

**WANT TO LIFT YOUR GRADES THIS TERM?**
I can help! Offering tutoring to students from grades 8-12 in the areas of English, Legal Studies or Modern/Ancient History. Give Anna McGrath a call on 0451 006 951.

**PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES**
Performing Arts classes are run by Anna Waters-Massey and her daughter Cleo Massey.

Enrol now by contacting Anna on 0417 584290 or via email address ‘watersworks@bigpond.com’. www.annawatersmassey.com.au

**DRUM LESSONS**
Available at Marymount college every Tuesday. $30 per half hour. Contact Cvitan Barac for more information on 0408 722 539

**TUTORING**
Lily Fogg: Maths B Maths C Chemistry Biology. Call for details 0408 668 551

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**PARISH NOTICES**

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP**

Thursdays in the Infant Saviour meeting room. Call Paul on 5593 3794.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY**

Thursdays at 10.30am in the Infant Saviour meeting room. Call Brian on 5530 3337.

**OUR LADY OF THE WAY, PALM BEACH PENSIONERS**

We would like to thank you for your support of our raffles and social events during 2011. Through your generous support we have been able to help others - St Vincent de Paul’s Flood Appeal and the Christmas Appeal. With the assistance of the Parish the new votive stand was purchased, along with the curtaining behind it, to make a nice area for your special prayers. We look forward to your continued support and a wonderful 2012. Many thanks, Our Lady of the Way Pastoral Council.

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**P A C E**

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Starting 20th February 2012

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**Cost:** Weekly gold coin donation

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Term Dates

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2012
30 March
Last day of term

Term 2
16 April
First day of term
22 June
Last day of term

Term 3
9 July
First day of term
21 September
Last day of term

Term 4
8 October
First day of term
7 December
Last day of term

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What’s the background?
In 1989 an ‘average Australian bloke’ had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard - Sydney Harbour. This simple idea has now become the nation’s largest community-based environmental event, Clean Up Australia Day. In the past 20 years, Australians have devoted more than 24 million hours towards the environment through Clean Up Australia Day and collected over 200,000 tonnes of rubbish. Clean Up the World demonstrates that people across the planet are willing to do something themselves to help protect and care for their environment.

AUTHORITY FOR PARACETAMOL FORM
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