



MEDIA RELEASE EMBARGOED TO 12.01 AM WED 28 JULY 2010

Major Sydney school bans bottled water, 'does a Bundanoon'

Plastiki's David de Rothschild and Do Something's Jon Dee to launch bottled water ban at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney

In a first for an Australian school, Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College in North Sydney will today ban bottled water and launch the water stations that helped Bundanoon, NSW, ban bottled water in a world-first exactly one year ago.

The student-led initiative will see six water fountains and bottle refill stations installed at the girls' school, which has 1100 students in years 7-12. The bottled water ban is designed to cut plastic bottle waste and reduce the negative environmental impacts of bottled water. It will also save the students money.

Launching the ban with Monte Environmental Captain, Claudia Saunders, will be Do Something founder, Jon Dee, and eco-adventurer David de Rothschild, expedition leader of the Plastiki. This catamaran built from 12,500 reclaimed plastic bottles has just completed its epic voyage from San Francisco to Sydney highlighting the environmental damage caused by plastic waste.

Claudia Saunders said, "As a Mercy school, it is important that we are responsible stewards of our world and that we are advocates for positive change. Monte is delighted to take the lead in this important environmental initiative. I hope this encourages the student body and leaders of other schools to follow our example."

Jon Dee, founder of Do Something's 'Go Tap!' campaign (www.gotap.com.au), worked with Monte Sant' Angelo on the initiative. Mr Dee said, "We applaud the achievement of the Monte students, the P&F and staff in ridding the school of bottled water. It's great that the school has installed new fountains and bottle refill stations that will give students fresh, free drinking water on tap. This water won't just save them money – tap water is also better for their teeth than bottled water.

"The Monte bottled water ban provides a role model for other schools to follow".

David de Rothschild said, "I congratulate Monte Sant' Angelo's student environmental leaders on spearheading the bottled water ban and program to install water fountains and bottle refill stations.

"By refusing single use bottled water, they've made a powerful statement that can galvanize other young people to act to reduce plastic waste in our environment. There is exactly the kind of action that the Plastiki voyage has sought to inspire. Everyone has a Plastiki in them – what's yours?"

Monte's water fountains and bottle refill stations were supplied by Street Furniture Australia, which donated three fountains and bottle refill stations to Bundanoon.

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JON DEE IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW ON WED 28 JULY
ON 02 9519 8766

DAVID DE ROTHSCHILD, JON DEE & CLAUDIA SAUNDERS ARE AVAILABLE
FOR INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPS AT THE LAUNCH, DETAILS BELOW.

LAUNCH EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: Launch of bottled water ban and water fountains / bottle refill stations at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney.

WHEN: Media crew set up from 9.30am for **launch at 10am sharp, Wednesday 28 July 2010**. Launch concludes 11 am.

WHERE: McQuoin Centre, Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, 128 Miller St, North Sydney.

Metered parking available on Miller St and all adjoining streets, and at North Sydney Council car park in Ridge Street. Extremely limited parking available on site for crews. Must be organised in advance and arrival time registered to gain access - see media contacts below. All visitors including media must register at reception.

INTERVIEW & PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT LAUNCH WITH:

David de Rothschild, Jon Dee and Claudia Saunders.

CONTACT FOR MEDIA:

Do Something: Annemarie Jonson 02 9519 8766