



**St Columba**  
Anglican School



**Mr Terry Muldoon**  
*BA DipEd GradDipEd Admin MEd*

## **The Burch Sustainability and Environmental Centre Opening 5th March 2021**

The creation of this Centre was complex in many ways.

At one stage, an organization that had some control over the School's finances, required St Columba to justify the expense in creating such a building.

Determined to ensure the delivery of this Centre and endorse the educational ideals behind it, I settled at my computer and created a substantial formal justification for the creation of this important asset to the School and its community.

I must have done a decent job, because we received a guarded approval for the process to go ahead.

But let's be honest, I could have saved several hundred words by simply asking the following three questions as justification for this project:

- Given that we live in a world where strange online opinions seem to carry the same weight, in some quarters, as scientific fact, doesn't it make sense that we should create a space where our students can and will learn the difference between conspiracy fact and reality through their hands-on investigations?
- In a world where change is the new normal, and education has been so often limited by students having to work from outmoded, out of date and over-merchandised textbooks, why wouldn't we build a space where students can be engaged and inspired by hands-on learning and experiment?
- With our planet groaning under the pressure of human use of its resources, why wouldn't we create a space where our students can learn how they can restore the health of our fragile blue planet and become the sustainability leaders our world so badly needs?

In the end, it doesn't matter which approach we took to get the job done.

The important thing is this Centre has been created.

Now, we have made it possible for our students to learn more effectively about their world and their place in it and really, as a school, what else are we here for?

*Terry Muldoon*  
*5 March 2021*