

A PASSION FOR STEWARDSHIP

THE STORY OF ALEXANDER DAVIES

LAUDATO SI @ ATC

Combining nature with a 21st Century campus

Ambrose Treacy College is in a unique situation compared to fellow EREA schools. As a new College, with a rapidly developing campus and population, construction and development is the norm, not the exception. This fact, combined with a long and narrow campus along the Western outreaches of the Brisbane River, means that 21st Century education is rapidly integrating with flora and fauna that has existed for thousands of years. Inevitably, this has sometimes meant that the environment has changed more quickly than plants and animals could often adapt. Causalities seemed inevitable!

Enter Year 9 student Alexander Davies. Born with an infectious intrigue for the environment, Alex swiftly inspired a committee of wildlife warriors – comprising staff and students - who got their hands dirty to ensure all possible species were preserved and protected. "There was one day when I walked past a collection of native plants. It looked like they were in the path of the new Callan building. I went to the groundmen's shed, borrowed a shovel, dug them out, and replanted them on the river bank."

Alex's vision of regenerating subtropical plant species has united the community. Working bees, fundraising and awareness campaigns have given all boys a deeper understanding of the role we can all play in ensuring Pope Francis' vision of *Laudato Si* becomes a reality.

"In 2017, we are knowledgeable enough to leave a longer, stronger legacy than any other human generation."

**"IT IS HUMAN'S
RESPONSIBILITY TO
CARE FOR GOD'S GIFT.
IT'S EASIER TO
MAINTAIN IT, THAN TO
DESTROY IT."**

Alex's endeavours recently resulted in the State government granting the College a sum of \$26 000 to ensure the Gully project remains viable, and a permanent part of the school grounds. He is committed to planting more native species and creating natural habits for a broad range of birds, lizards and insects. "It's not all 'give and give' though. The other day I found an enormous stick insect and just had to take it home for my own collection!"

The environment has given Alex a grand stage to educate and inspire thousands of people.

Pope Francis can be very proud!



ALEX'S PAST

Alexander Davies wasn't always a cult hero. Given his unique interest and skill set, he was often a target of teasing and ridicule growing up. A rare skin condition, combined with suffering from clubfoot, prevented him from participating in more traditional activities. He has also fought hard to control a temper which, at times, has gotten the best of him. Alexander is a 'C' student in many subjects, but is applying himself diligently in Year 9 with aspirations of studying Herpetology at University.

