



For immediate release

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School kids join together to make their mark on climate change

Australian school students have been busy preparing individual patches for a giant quilt to be presented to world leaders at the upcoming United Nations Summit on climate change in Copenhagen next month.

The quilt will begin its journey next week on Wednesday at a ceremony at Grimwade House, which is to be opened by **Professor David de Krester, A.C., Governor of Victoria**.

"I am delighted to be opening the Habitat Heroes Make a Difference Day. Getting children involved in an issue that will affect their lives now and in the future, will not only help combat the global issue of climate change, but initiate greater discussions at a community level and in the home. The Climate Quilt initiative is a fine example of people taking steps to address the issue of climate change in our community and schools," the Governor said.

Schools across Australia, United States, New Zealand and China have participated in this unique climate change educational initiative. Each student has designed a patch with an individual pledge to take their part in saving the planet.

Joining the Governor next Wednesday will be The Climate Project Presenter and Director of Change&Switch, Linh Do.

"The Climate Quilt Campaign is a great initiative because it allows for young people to do what they do best – be creative," Linh said.

"Educating children about climate change from early on is extremely important. They literally are the generation living through all of the changes that we are predicting. And they need to know what's going on so that they can protect their futures if we can't do it for them".

Grade 5 students from seven schools across the state will assemble at the *Making a Difference Day* on Wednesday 11 November. Various keynote speakers will address the participants and run diverse eco and social awareness workshops.

Among them, is environmental entrepreneur Sharon Lowe, founder of Habitat Heroes and a major sponsor of the Climate Quilt Campaign. Habitat Heroes is a free, virtual world where kids can play, interact and learn about environmental and social issues facing the world today and in the future.

"The Climate Quilt is an effort to tangibly connect children globally on the issue of climate change while empowering them to help make a difference," Sharon said.

"This Remembrance Day we look forward to paying our respects by honouring our heroes of the past, and think about our future and the role we all have to play."

In addition to officially handing over the quilt to begin its 'Road to Copenhagen', the students present on the day will become Habitat Hero Youth Ambassadors.

The ever-growing quilt is to be presented in Copenhagen by Australian Youth Climate Coalition representative Anna Rose, part of a 30-person delegation participating in next month's UN Summit.

Beyond next month's UN Summit, the Climate Quilt will continue its journey and again be unveiled in New York on Earth Day, April 2010, at the United Nations Building.

The Climate Quilt Campaign is also made possible by the Green Schools Alliance, established by schools worldwide to raise environmental awareness in young people.

The Campaign is also supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Applause for a Cause, The Climate Project, Habitat Heroes, Greening Australia, Zoos Victoria, Jewish National Fund, Ardoch Youth Foundation, Stonnington City Council, Student Youth Network, Etiko, ACMI, David Southwick and BRITA Water.

For details, please visit the Climate Quilt Campaign website at www.climatequilt.org or Habitat Heroes (www.habitatheroes.com) or the Green Schools Alliance (www.greenschoolsalliance.org).

Making a Difference Day

Date: Wednesday, 11 November

Time: 9.45am

Venue: Grimwade House (Melbourne Grammar Junior School)
67 Balaclava Road
Caulfield, Victoria



Picture: The Australian Climate Quilt so far

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