



# Diocesan e-News

## WATER GARDENS FOR SCIENCE WEEK

This year the theme for Science Week was Future Earth. At Emmanuel College Warrnambool, we investigated how aquaponics can be used in sustainable food production. On Monday, August 14, Ben Pohlner from Wannan Water came to Emmanuel. He set up two aquaponics tanks in the MacAuley Learning Resource Centre at lunchtime with the assistance of students. The tanks are water gardens - fish tanks that also grow herbs and sprouts. The fish feed the plants that clean the water with the help of some friendly bacteria. Ben also spoke to the Year 9 Health and Care of Farm Animals and the Certificate II Agriculture students about how food can be sustainably produced.

On Friday, students in the Year 9 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematic (STEAM) elective participated in a nation wide CSIRO Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) in Schools virtual classroom, joining the live conversation with scientists from around the world via video link. This was followed up by producing and experimenting with some non-Newtonian liquid.

Emmanuel College thanks Science Teachers Association Victoria for their donation of the two aquaponics tanks and Wannan Water for the goldfish. Thank you to Ben Pohlner, Penny Ryan, Leanne O'Brien, Jed Gleeson, David Beard, Marg Sinnot and Jean Christie for their assistance with the event and the students for their enthusiasm.

Simone Rolfe - Science Coordinator

