



In this issue, we highlight a school that has participated in our STEM program, as well as a corporate partner who made it possible for another school to get involved. We are also very excited to share some distribution stories from the past 3 months. We also have a STEM activity for you to try and a fun fact about SolarBuddy!

St Columba's Primary School Lights the Way with STEM Innovation



On June 4th, 2025, 80 enthusiastic Year 4 students from St Columba's Primary School rolled up their sleeves and got hands-on with real-world impact, assembling 50 JuniorBuddy solar lights as part of the SolarBuddy STEM Program.

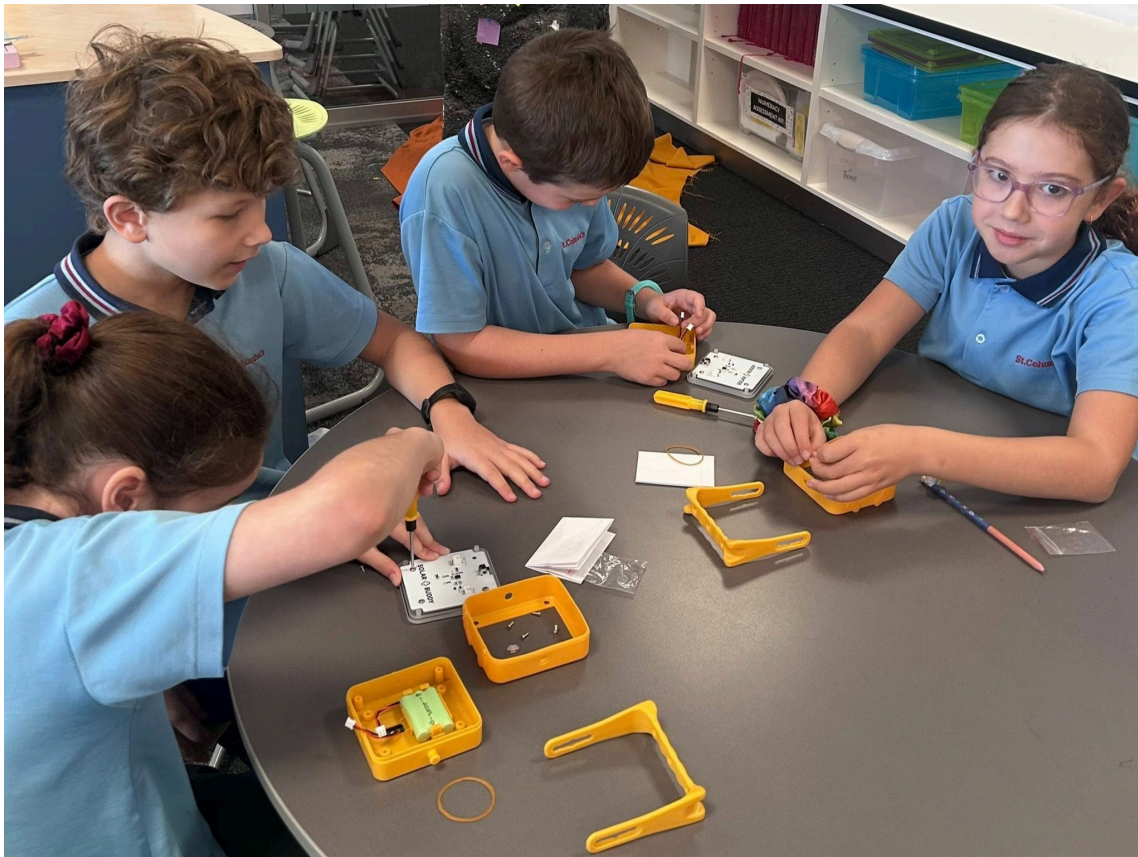
The students not only thoroughly enjoyed the experience but also embraced the opportunity to learn about energy poverty, renewable energy, and how small actions can make a big difference. Their commitment and curiosity were truly inspiring!

What made this experience even more exciting is what came next. St Columba's didn't stop at assembling lights — they took the program further. Using the SolarBuddy experience as a springboard for extended learning, students were

challenged to design their own STEM-based solutions to help make the world a better place.

By exploring innovation and problem-solving in this way, these young changemakers are already demonstrating the power of empathy, creativity, and STEM thinking in action.

We want to say a huge thank you to the staff and students at St Columba's for your support and participation. We hope to see you involved again in the future — keep shining bright!



**Airbus supports SolarBuddy STEM
education workshop in Fiji**



In May, over 600 primary school students in Fiji took part in an unforgettable SolarBuddy STEM education experience, thanks to the support of Airbus, in collaboration with Fiji Airways and Lau Education.

At Nadi Airport School, students learned about renewable energy, built their own solar-powered JuniorBuddy lights, and gained insight into how clean energy can transform communities. These lights will soon be distributed to fellow Fijian students living without reliable access to electricity — meaning students helped brighten the future for their peers in a very real way.

We know that education thrives when students have access to clean, safe, reliable energy. That's why we're so proud to partner with Airbus and our Pacific partners to deliver experiences that go beyond the classroom.



As part of the program, students also heard directly from Airbus and Fiji Airways employees during a special aviation careers session. This unique opportunity opened their eyes to the variety of exciting roles in the aviation industry — from engineering to operations — and sparked new aspirations among the next generation of leaders.

Access to clean energy supports more than education; it fuels economic opportunity, promotes healthier living, and creates safer environments for students and their families. With Pacific communities already facing the impacts of climate change, solar stands as a powerful solution for a more resilient future.

Activities like these highlight what's possible when we work together — blending innovation, education, and global citizenship to help end energy poverty and illuminate brighter futures.

Thank you to Airbus, Fiji Airways, and the local education teams for being part of this incredible initiative.

STEM Activity: Solar Time Capsule

Download Instructions

Share your results and photos with us, please send to hello@solarbuddy.org

Stay tuned for more STEM activities in our next issue!



Fun SolarBuddy Fact

Just one day of sunshine can power a SolarBuddy device for up to 16 hours at night!

Students Equipped with JuniorBuddies in Sierra Leone



For many students in Sierra Leone, the setting sun once signalled the end of learning for the day.

In Sierra Leone, [64% of the population still lives without access to electricity.](#) Even where the grid exists, energy shortages and reliance on expensive, polluting diesel fuel result in frequent power outages. This lack of reliable energy deeply affects essential services like schools and healthcare facilities.

SolarBuddy is working to change this reality through our partnership with [The Fig Tree Children](#). Together, we distributed JuniorBuddy lights to students across Sierra Leone, and now they can continue their studies with confidence and consistency, well beyond daylight hours.

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