Freshwater Bay Primary School combining Claremont and East Claremont Primary School, embraces both the history of its foundation schools and the shared vision and values of the current school community. For more than 100 years the two schools operated independently until their amalgamation and the establishment of Freshwater Bay Primary School in 2011.

In 2011, the school joined an international network of schools, Our Education Network and held a Visioning Day with the school community of parents, teachers and the student council to establish the school's vision and values.

Photographer Leon Bird drew upon the school's vision and values to produce a series of interactive and inspiring panels for the internal spaces of the refurbished school. Five large photographic panels represent the school's identity and character.

In Tangney House’s Senior Hall and Cowan House’s Junior Cluster, both named after distinguished West Australian women, open flexible learning spaces are surrounded by large light filled classrooms. In these spaces, children are encouraged to think and work together using traditional learning tools, hands on equipment and technology.

Tangney House’s entry lobby features a portrait of a Year 2 student tenderly caring for his leaf insect (“imagine explore learn”). In the large adjoining hall, in two panels, located directly opposite each other, a child’s hands cradle a bird’s nest and egg, a metaphor for the school’s caring approach (“nurture support learn”). The panel opposite shows friendship growing as two children talk under a tree on the foreshore of Freshwater Bay (“make friends grow learn”).

In Cowan House, like Tangney House, sensitively restored, the nature theme continues with a child’s colourful painting of a duck. Created by a Grade 1 student and last year’s winner of the Shan Tan Art Award, this painting reflects the school’s commitment to enjoyment, laughter and fun (“laugh love live learn”).

In the School’s Library and Multi-purpose facility the image of a boobook owl traditionally associated with wisdom greets the children (“focus enquire learn”).

Participation of students and staff was fundamental in the success of this project and was a key to distilling the spirit and goals of the Freshwater Bay Primary School.

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