



ResourceSmart Schools Module Progress Workshops

We will be running three workshops early in March to assist teachers to work on the modules and also participate in a short session that will provide advice on how to complete the waste module. These sessions have proven to be a great way for teachers to meet each other, get advice from ResourceSmart staff and take time to complete modules. Teachers only need to book in for one session and most attendees in the past have found them a very useful day.

Please book in for one of these sessions in the following locations:

7th March 2016 – Traralgon

15th March 2016 – Sale

21st March 2016 – Trafalgar

Session times: 10.00-3.00pm

Lunch will be provided, however we are unable to provide CRT for this day.

To book in, please email Alison Taylor at alison.taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au and indicate which session you are interested in attending.

Updating Your ResourceSmart Schools Online for 2016

It's that time of year again where it is important to log in to your ResourceSmart Schools Online Account and update your School's Settings. This information needs to be updated annually to ensure the school's data is divided by the correct number of teachers and students at your school. If you have added more buildings, your school area can be updated using the excellent Google Maps tool linked to your online account. If you have any trouble updating your details, please contact your facilitator so that they can assist you -.

Litter Innovation Fund Grants

Litter Innovation Fund Grants

The Victorian Litter Innovation Fund provides support for the Victorian community, including government, business, not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises **and schools**, to fund innovative approaches that prevent and reduce the impact of litter and illegal dumping. Organisations are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for innovative solutions to litter and illegal dumping that are delivered through a partnership approach. For more information on the litter grants please visit: <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/litterinnovation>



Australian
Sustainable Schools Initiative
A Partnership of the Australian Government, the States & Territories





Gippsland Water Free Education Programs

Gippsland Water offers a free water education program to all schools in its service area. Last year Gippsland Water visited more than 2000 students from 33 schools to share their love of water. The program includes both incursions and excursions and covers topics such as The Water Cycle, After the drain, Water Efficiency and Water for Health and Hydration.

The interactive sessions include hands-on activities that engage students and consolidate their learning. Bookings are already filling up fast for Term 1. Don't miss out! To find out more, visit the Gippsland Water website www.gippswater.com.au or call the Communications Team on 1800 050 500. View a short video [here](#).



Students at Mirboo North Primary School enjoying a Gippsland Water incursion

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Schools Clean Up Day

Since 1992, school communities across Australia have demonstrated their support for caring for the environment through participating in Clean Up Australia's Schools Clean Up Day.

In 2016 we will be celebrating 25 years of Schools Clean Up.

Registrations are now open

If you are a pre school or a primary school please register as a School.

If you are a High School/Secondary or Tertiary College, please register as a Youth Group.



All year round Schools Clean Up

Your School can participate by simply following these easy steps:

Register your Clean Up site* **If you are a pre-school or a primary school, please register as a School. If you are a high school/secondary or tertiary college, please register as a Youth Group.**

- Receive your **Clean Up Kit** and read the Site Guide for information on how to prepare your event.
- Tell your students and staff about your Clean Up Day - access the Clean Up Australia **resource centre** for ideas on how to promote your event.
- Have fun on the day and don't forget to report back to us!

Educational resources

Schools Clean Up Curriculum ToolKit

Teachers can educate school students of any age about environmental sustainability using our curriculum resources in partnership with Cool Australia. The kit includes lesson plans and resources for teachers themed around Water, Energy, Climate Change, Packaging and Waste and Recycling.

[View The Schools Clean Up Curriculum ToolKit](#)

Teachers can still access our older curriculum and educate primary school students (K-6) about environmental sustainability using our Schools Climate Kit. The kit includes 21 lesson plans for teachers themed around Water, Energy, Climate Change, Packaging and Waste and Recycling.

[View the Schools Climate Kit](#)



Interactive Recycling Game

Clean Up the River: An Interactive Recycling Game

Clean Up the River is an Interactive Recycling Game for Primary School Students (K-6). The game is curriculum-based, easy for teachers to use, fun for students and free.

[Learn more about the game](#)

[Play Clean Up the River: An Interactive Recycling Game](#)



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Tracking Your Solar Generation

You will have noticed on your ResourceSmart Schools online account that there is a space in the bills section where you can put in your solar power generation. This is a great thing to do because students and schools can track the seasonal variations of solar generation and also will alert you when the system is not working. If you are working on the **energy module**, setting up tracking of your solar generation is an item you can tick off your list. At present, electricity bills do not tell you how much energy you have generated from your solar panels so you need to take the reading yourself (involve a student team/class). Inverters should be read about every three months and it is very easy to get the data you need by taking an initial reading from the figure in the Total section and then return three months later and take the reading again. By subtracting the previous reading from the current reading, you then know how much solar energy you have generated. We suggest putting an alert in your calendar so that you remember to take the reading. Try to time the readings so that they do not fall over school holidays. Students can also calculate the money the school has saved by multiplying the KWh generated by \$0.30. **Your facilitator can also send through a tracking spreadsheet to make this activity much easier.**



The Next Certification Date for Stars is the 11 March



Keep the 11th March in mind for Star Certification. You can put a module in for certification at any time, however as stars are signed off by the Minister they all get assessed at the same time.

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Schools Complete Modules and Get Stars!

Congratulations to the ResourceSmart Schools that have completed modules and received stars! We will have many more to add in the coming months as our schools get across the line and finish modules, but we would like to acknowledge the following schools:

Core Module:

Bona Vista Primary School
Buchan Pre-School
Clifton Creek Primary School
Commercial Road Primary School
Cowes Primary School
Gippsland Grammar
Korumburra Secondary College
Poowong Consolidated School
Poowong Pre-School
Somers Woorabinda Camp
South Gippsland Specialist School
St Vincent De Paul Primary School

Biodiversity Module:

Commercial Rd Primary School
Cowes Primary School
Clifton Creek Primary School
Poowong Pre-School
Somers Woorabinda Camp

Water Module

Clifton Creek Primary School
Commercial Rd Primary School
Cowes Primary School
Somers Woorabinda Camp

Energy Module

Bairnsdale Primary School
Clifton Creek Primary School
Commercial Rd Primary School
Grey Street Primary School
Koonwarra Village School
Yinnar South Primary School
Wild Cherry Steiner School

Waste Module

Clifton Creek Primary School
Commercial Rd Primary School
Somers Woorabinda Camp
Stratford Primary School

STARS!

1 Star

Bona Vista Primary School
Clifton Creek Primary School
Cowes Primary School
Korumburra Primary School
Poowong Consolidated School
South Gippsland Specialist School
St Pauls Grammar School Warragul

2 Stars

Clifton Creek Primary School

3 Stars

Commercial Rd Primary School

4 Stars

5 Stars

Somers Woorabinda Camp

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Koonwarra Village Schools Spreading the Word

The Koonwarra Village School (KVS) has a story to tell and they are actively sharing it with their whole school community. How? With regular updates on both their sustainability initiatives and/or resource smart tips in every edition of the school's regular newsletter, which comes out approximately every six weeks. A unique school of only 44 students in 2015 (up from just 32 in 2014), the schools already has close links with their school community. They run a Family Camp, or 'Famp' every year, where students and their families go camping together for three nights in the middle of the school term; it doesn't get much closer than that! When it comes to sustainability, they've shared news on some of the initiatives undertaken with the ResourceSmart Energy Efficiency Grant – installing LED panel lights and pellet heaters – as well as energy saving tips for householders coming in to winter, and info on sustainable water use in the home. (See below.)

But the best bit is that, not only are they spreading the word on sustainability, they are also ticking off a number of Whole School Community Engagement actions across their modules. Nice!

ResourceSmart Schools

In Victoria, householders spend approximately \$800 a year, or around one third of the average home's energy bill, on home heating. Here are a few quick tips from Sustainability Victoria to save money and resources;

- Plug up the gaps under doors, skirting boards and around windows. A draughty home could cost you up to \$160 per year.
- Cover your windows, up to 20% of your homes heat can go out through bare windows.
- Set your thermostat - Every degree above 20°C adds 10% to your heating bill.

(Source – Sustainability Victoria)



ResourceSmart Schools

Have you been in the Caf lately? You may notice it's a bit brighter thanks to our three new LED light panels. We were able to purchase the lights thanks to the Resource Smart Energy Efficiency Grant, which also allowed us to purchase the pellet heaters to ensure the Caf and Sun Room are toasty warm.



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ResourceSmart Schools

Sustainable water use around the home:

- Three star water efficient showerheads can save \$100 per year and up to 45 litres of water per day.
- When having a shower—play your favourite song and try to finish by the time the song ends!
- Check if your toilet is leaking by placing a little food colouring in the cistern—if it appears in the bowl (without flushing) you may have a leak.
- Use mulch on the garden and reduce evaporation by around 70%.

(Source – South Gippsland Water website)





Woorabinda Gets 5 Stars!

Woorabinda School Camp on the banks of Lake Narracan near Moe is celebrating a 5-Star achievement. It has earned all five stars in the ResourceSmart Schools program, a major achievement in developing sustainability that also resulted in cost savings. It is also the first school in Gippsland to receive the 5 Star accreditation. Woorabinda is also sporting some impressive savings from its participation in ResourceSmart Schools. Overall the school has saved \$29,000, nearly 3 million litres of water, 198m³ of waste, 79,188kWh of electricity and 90,188 tonnes of CO₂!!

Nestled amongst 100 hectares of protected bushland, natural wetlands, temperate rain forest and grassland on the north shore of Lake Narracan, Woorabinda is a residential school for grade 4 and 5 students from across Victoria.

On the ResourceSmart Schools journey the School identified a number of ways it can be more sustainable and save money. One example was identifying a mysterious and expensive water leak when undertaking the water module. The maintenance team started doing weekly checks for leaks after it was realised the water bill was high. They soon realised that what was originally thought of as a natural water flow on the Pipeline Track, so called because the mains water pipe runs underneath it, was actually a hole in the mains-water pipe. Further investigation found it was caused by tree roots rubbing on and wearing down the pipes causing the hole. After plumbers were called in and replaced the piping the water bills returned to normal.

When undertaking the waste module, the School quickly realised that about 70 percent of the landfill waste was food from the kitchen/dining room and outdoor eating areas. The School was able to divert this from landfill by setting up worms farms. At each meal time a duty group is assigned to correctly separate food waste, which is then transferred to the worm farms. The worm farms are a very simple system and is something that students are encouraged to replicate at home.

Students are encouraged to take home the habits and initiatives developed during the week, for their own households as well as their schools. These include turning the lights off during the day, using shower timers to ensure the only have up to four minute showers, checking that taps are not left dripping throughout the day, thinking about what goes into landfill, recycling and the worm farms, and making the choice of how much food they take to ensure they take just enough.



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Do More with Less Conference in Bairnsdale

The lights went on for students from eight East Gippsland schools when they took part in a multi-school conference on sustainability at Bairnsdale. The 'Do More With Less' conference was run by CERES (Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies) with support from the ResourceSmart Schools Program, auspiced by the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group.

As well as being able to share their activities and ideas with students from other schools, the students took part in a range of hands on activities that explored how different forms of energy are created and, most importantly, how to use less of it.

The energy theme was carried through the various activity stations, which included renewable solar, an energy bike where person power provided the capacity to turn on lights and run a variety of electrical items, and wind power where students provided the muscle via a hand pedal to run a tiny turbine.

The program was developed by CERES as the community environment partner with RACV, which has supported rural and regional student leadership conferences around the State with the final one for the year at Bairnsdale.

The conference fitted well with the on-going ResourceSmart Schools program. ResourceSmart Schools helps schools work through a number of modules that identify ways in which they can reduce their operating costs through resource efficiency as well as teaching students about sustainability.



People Power ... Airly Primary School students Shaun Molden, Adam Russell (on bike) and Tayde Molden learn firsthand how much energy it takes to power lights. The stationary bike is hooked up to a small generator that creates power to turn on the light board.



We'd love to hear from you and your students?

Do you or one of your students have a story about your ResourceSmart Schools journey that you would like to share? We'd love to publish stories about your school in our newsletter. This will also enable you to tick off some leadership items in your ResourceSmart Schools modules.



Students at Newborough Primary School with Nude Food Lunches

Planning your 2016 Sustainability Events and Awards!

We're looking forward to a great year this year. There's lots of events and themed weeks that you can plan your sustainability program around. The Cool Australia Calendar is a great place to start. It can be downloaded and put up on the wall so that you can use it in curriculum planning.

<https://www.coolaustralia.org/whats-new-cool-australia/2016-calendar-school-events/>

We are also looking forward to the ResourceSmart Schools Awards this year. If your school has a story to tell about the work you have been doing and would like to go in the running for some prize money then talk to your local facilitator. The ResourceSmart Schools awards also gives your school the opportunity to present your work to other schools, which can be a great experience for students. The award categories are as follows:

- Biodiversity School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Community Leadership School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Energy School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Waste School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Water School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Student Action-led Team of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Teacher of the Year (Primary and Secondary)

There are two overall awards for schools:

- School of the Year (for schools that enter three or more categories are eligible for the prestigious *ResourceSmart School of the Year 2015* award).
- Newcomer of the Year

There is one early childhood category:

- Early Childhood Service of the Year

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Calendar

7 March Traralgon ResourceSmart Schools Module Progress Workshop
11 March Star Certification date
15 March Sale ResourceSmart Schools Module Progress Workshop
21 March Trafalgar ResourceSmart Schools Module Progress Workshop
21 April Sustainable Schools Expo – Sale

ResourceSmart Schools Local Facilitators

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