
Media Release

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GIPPSLAND SCHOOLS - WAR ON WASTE IN PRACTICE

Big news in the war on waste from ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland. Over the past ten years, participating schools have made significant savings when it comes to waste, energy and water, and meaningful gains in biodiversity that position them as leaders in sustainability in their local community.

ResourceSmart Schools is an award-winning Victorian Government program that assists schools to embed sustainability in everything they do. The program, delivered by the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group, provides Gippsland-based facilitators who work directly with schools to tailor curriculum to suit local needs, aspirations and activities.

ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland's coordinator Alison Taylor said, "Our program is heading into its second decade in Gippsland, and with the current focus on the war on waste, it's great to know that many school communities are leading the way when it comes to maximising resources and minimising waste."

"The savings made collectively by the schools we've worked with over the past ten years are significant. Improvements in energy use throughout 2008-17 have saved over 9,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas. This was a combined hip-pocket saving of \$1.5million for Gippsland's ResourceSmart Schools," Alison highlighted. "By focusing on wise use of water, 17,000KL of water was conserved over the ten-year period, translating to a saving of around \$54,000."

Alison also confirmed that by minimising the amount of waste going to landfill by 9,000m³, ResourceSmart Schools saved over \$95,000 and, among many achievements contributing to biodiversity, planted close to 25,000 plants.

"In their first decade, Gippsland's ResourceSmart Schools have proved themselves as leaders in sustainability. Great educational, social, economic and environmental outcomes have been realised through local, practical and achievable actions, not to mention the bonus of \$1.7million of savings."

ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland has entered its second decade supporting over 70 schools. This assistance included 30 audits in waste generation or energy use, 98 teacher visits and 55 professional development or student workshops.

"We're here to help schools bring their sustainability aspirations to fruition. The ResourceSmart Schools program is available free of charge and enables schools to become part of a community taking action to minimise waste and maximise resources – there are great learnings and savings to be made."

For further information about ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland visit www.gwrrg.vic.gov.au or contact Alison Taylor on 5633 2744.

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