



01 December 2017

Kurnai College Sustainable Futures

Kurnai College students were inspired and motivated to explore future work opportunities within the region during their Sustainability Afternoon held recently at the Morwell Campus.

The event was the brain-child of the Green Team at the school, a group of students who have been working with Gippsland's ResourceSmart Schools program. A key focus for the students organising the event was to share with the rest of the school ideas and pathways available to them in the transition to post carbon-economy green careers and practices.

The event brought to the school a range of people with valuable 'green skills', including many already working in green jobs within the region or using their skills in the pursuit of sustainable enterprises.

Hands-on activities and information sessions included tree planting with Landcare, wildlife conservation with Animals of Oz, insight into the workings of Gippsland Water's Soil and Organic Recycling Facility, and waste management and recycling with the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group. Gippsland Solar not only highlighted the range of benefits and opportunities that come with renewable energy but also had their electric car on hand which proved a popular attraction.

Other activities with a sustainability focus included a very popular bike-powered smoothie maker, ugly fruit tasting, upcycling clothing, and Indigenous artist and presenter Cassie Leatham working with students to make emu feather necklaces and kangaroo leather wristbands.

The day was designed so that students had a chance to talk to presenters as well as do something practical that may inspire them to make greener lifestyle choices and, importantly, consider careers they had not previously thought of.

Alison Taylor Coordinator of ResourceSmart Schools said, "the students did an amazing job of organising and delivering this unique and successful event."

"It was a fun and engaging way for them, and attendees from across the region, to learn more about the various employment and career options that can be generated by a green economy."

The event was also supported by the Regional Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Education (RCESE), the Latrobe Valley Authority, Sustainability Victoria and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition.

ResourceSmart Schools is a Victorian Government initiative that supports schools to take action to minimise waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative helps schools reduce costs while giving students the opportunity to learn about sustainability in a tangible and realistic environment.

For enquiries about joining up to ResourceSmart Schools, please contact Alison Taylor on 5633 2744 or alison.taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au

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Photo (attached to email)



Caption – Simone Taylor from ResourceSmart Schools (centre) and Kurnai College’s Green Team.