
Media Release

26 August 2018

TEACHERS LEADING THE WAY ON SUSTAINABILITY

Savings of \$1.7million have been made by Gippsland's ResourceSmart Schools over a ten-year period through a focus on purposeful sustainability practices that make learning fun, practical and rewarding. Along the way, with the help of ResourceSmart Schools, teachers have become skilled in making their schools more sustainable.

The ResourceSmart movement in schools is driven by passionate, enthusiastic and innovative teachers who want interesting, real-life experiences and curriculum outcomes for their students.

ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland's coordinator Alison Taylor said, "We want teachers in Gippsland to be inspired by best practice sustainability ideas that can be easily embedded into school curriculum, lifestyle and culture; ResourceSmart Schools provides the support to make this happen."

Primary and secondary teachers are being offered the opportunity to attend one of six training days in Gippsland that will be facilitated by Environment Education Victoria.

The training is free and open to all schools in Gippsland. Schools already participating in the ResourceSmart Schools program are eligible to receive one funded replacement teacher per school.

ResourceSmart Schools is a Victorian Government program managed by Sustainability Victoria. In Gippsland, the ResourceSmart Schools program is delivered by the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group.

"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 schools, teachers and students are leading the way when it comes to maximising resources and minimising waste," explained Alison.

The savings made collectively by Gippsland's ResourceSmart Schools over the past ten years are significant. Improvements in energy use throughout 2008-17 have saved over 9,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas, a combined hip-pocket saving of \$1.5million for Gippsland's ResourceSmart Schools.

"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 highlighted.

The real 'win' is that any school can join in on the action (and savings) by becoming a ResourceSmart School; there is a team of highly trained and dedicated facilitators who are ready to partner with schools to bring their sustainability aspirations to life.

"We're really proud of the achievements of our ResourceSmart Schools, and with the ABC's War On Waste popular in the classroom at the moment, we want to support teachers in accessing best practice sustainability training."

For further information about ResourceSmart Schools or to register for training, visit www.gwrrg.vic.gov.au or contact Alison Taylor on 5633 2744.

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Tarwin Lower Primary School – a ResourceSmart School