



## EEV Tour of Gippsland- Professional Development



**A wonderful opportunity is now available for Gippsland teachers to access training offered usually in Melbourne by Environment Education Victoria, the peak body for Victorian Environmental Education.**

The training will focus on best practice sustainability in Victorian schools. ResourceSmart Schools Coordinator Alison Taylor states, “we wanted to teachers in Gippsland to inspired by best practice sustainability ideas that they can take back to their schools”.

The training is being offered in six locations across the region. CRT will be offered to one ResourceSmart Schools teacher from each school. More places per school can be negotiated depending on availability.

### **Training is available at a variety of venues and locations across the region:**

Tuesday 11 September 9.30-3pm – Koonwarra (includes a tour of Koonwarra Village School) [Book Here](#)

Wednesday 12 September 9.30-3pm – Wonthaggi Primary School (Bass Coast) [Book Here](#)

Thursday 13 September 9.30-3pm – Nilma Primary School (Baw Baw) [Book Here](#)

Wednesday 17 October 9.30-3pm – Gippsland Grammar (Wellington) [Book Here](#)

Thursday 18 October 9.30-3pm – Nagle College (East Gippsland) [Book Here](#)

Friday 19 October 9.30-3pm – Gippsland Tech School Morwell (Latrobe) [Book Here](#)



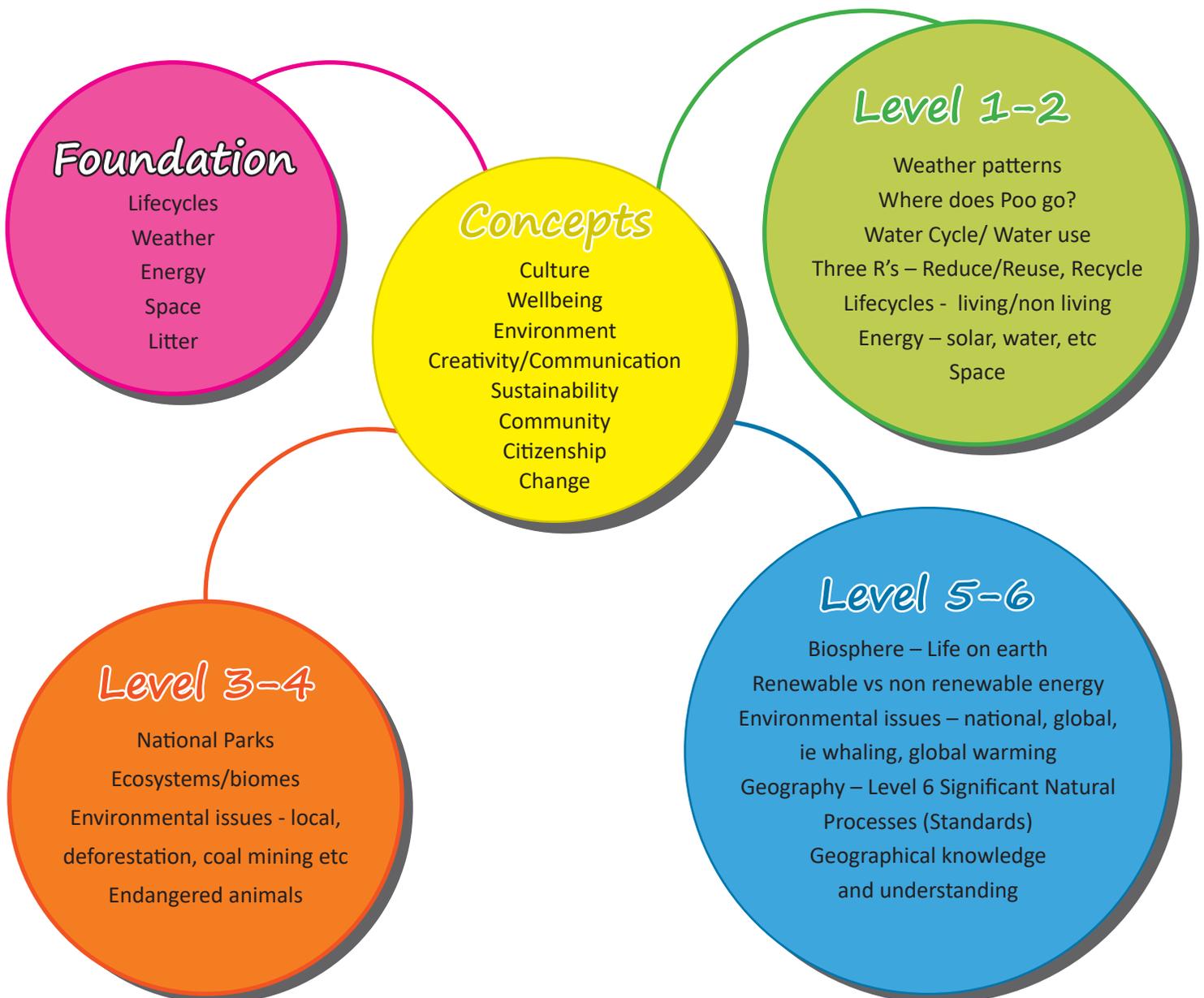
## YINNAR SOUTH PS- Awarded 3 Stars



Yinnar South Primary School has continued their journey towards being a 5 star ResourceSmart School. They recently completed their biodiversity module which included the development of a frog bog and butterfly garden and the continuation of the wonderful vegetable garden at the school.

So far, the school has saved \$62 per student as a result of participating in the program, have found water leaks and implemented a range of energy saving strategies and reduced waste. The school is one of the few schools in Gippsland who collects their soft plastics and this has reduced the amount of waste going to landfill significantly.

As the school progresses towards 5 stars in the ResourceSmart Schools they will act as leaders in the ResourceSmart Schools program. The school has consistently embedded sustainability into their curriculum and this depth of learning supports their activities on the ground with their broader reach into the community through their participation in events such as National Tree Planting Day. Below is an example of the Schools Environment Theme in their Scope and Sequence.



## NARRACAN PRIMARY SCHOOL- Welcome To The Tropic of Gippsland

Hot sunny days, humidity, cool slices of watermelon and sweet, ripe bananas – just some of the things that come to mind when thinking about the tropics. Well, what if we were to tell you that you could have all that right here in Gippsland!

The students and staff of Narracan Primary School have created a little slice of Gippsland paradise by using their greenhouse and other sheltered microclimates around their school to grow some delicious tropical fruit.

With the help of volunteers from their local Men’s Shed, the School has set up a large wicking bed in their greenhouse and has successfully grown a number of watermelon and cantaloupe varieties. One of the benefits of the wicking bed, being an enclosed garden bed which draws water from a reservoir located at its base, is that the produce was able to continue growing with adequate water while the school population departed for the summer holidays.

*Wicking garden beds are a great option for schools, being easy to construct, using much less water and requiring less maintenance than conventional garden beds to produce an abundance of vegies and other plants.*

They can be left unattended for a period of time, such as school holidays, without the danger of running out of water. If you are interested in setting up, or converting existing garden beds into wicking beds at your school, please talk to your ResourceSmart Schools facilitator or visit <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/building-a-wicking-bed/9435452>

But Narracan Primary School haven’t stopped there. The school has planted a row of bananas along the north wall of their administration/classroom building, some of which are currently laden with many hands of unripe bananas. “I’m always in need of a new challenge”, says Principal Kevin Bradford, “I like to plant things that don’t naturally grow here and see what happens.” According to Kevin, a number of the bananas from last year’s harvest were ripe enough to eat!

Let’s hope the things bode well for the 2018 crop. Congratulations to Narracan Primary School on giving such a unique project a go. We are wondering what their next endeavour will be? “Perhaps a mango tree”, muses Kevin. Now that would be a challenge!



*Above: A young banana tree ready for planting.*

*Right: One of the mature banana trees heavily laden with fruit.*

*Below: The school’s new wicking bed.*

*Bottom: Some of the delicious tropical fruit that has been harvested (and eaten).*



## AIRLY PRIMARY SCHOOL- Paper Bricks, Worm Farms and Websites

### Preps Making Bricks & Writing Pads from Used Paper

Airly Primary School prep students have been recycling the school's waste paper by making paper bricks. Used paper is shredded, soaked, then loaded into the 'brick machine' and squashed before being placed in the sun to dry.

The paper bricks will be sold as replacement fire wood. Students have learnt that this is a sustainable way to re-use a product that might otherwise go in a waste or recycle bin and also reduces the need to cut down trees for fire wood.

Grey St Primary School's Green Team have taken a different approach and are collecting paper that has only been used on one side to make note pads so that the paper is reused before finally being recycled.

### Include Sustainability on your School Website

One way to give your school sustainability activities a focus is to include sustainability on the school website. It could be a separate area or included within the outline of the school's Curriculum.

Airly Primary School has focused their activities with short stories about some of the activities undertaken in their Waste/Recycling; Biodiversity and Water saving activities.



<http://www.airlyps.vic.edu.au/index.php/special-programs/2-uncategorised/38-sustainability>

*Left: Airly students busy tending to their very productive worm farm as part of the school's commitment to sustainability across all year levels.*

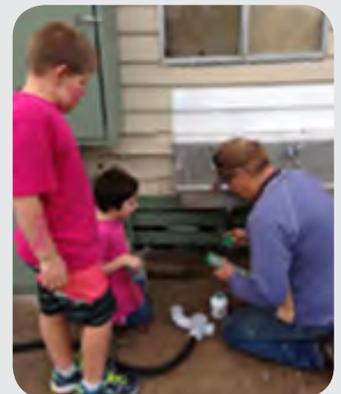
## When students provide the ideas...



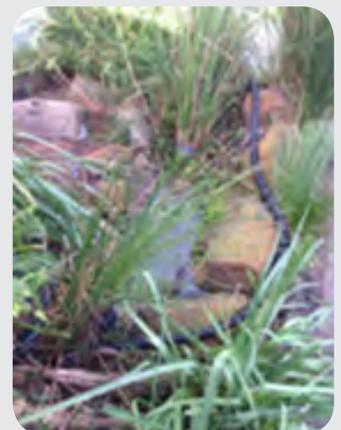
Adam, a student at Airly Primary School used some lateral thinking when he saw water trickling down the drain when students drank from the drinking taps.

## Why not divert it to the school's nearby frog bog?

A hose is now connected below the drinking trough and ends in the frog bog so that waste water from the trough can flow into the frog bog and isn't wasted.

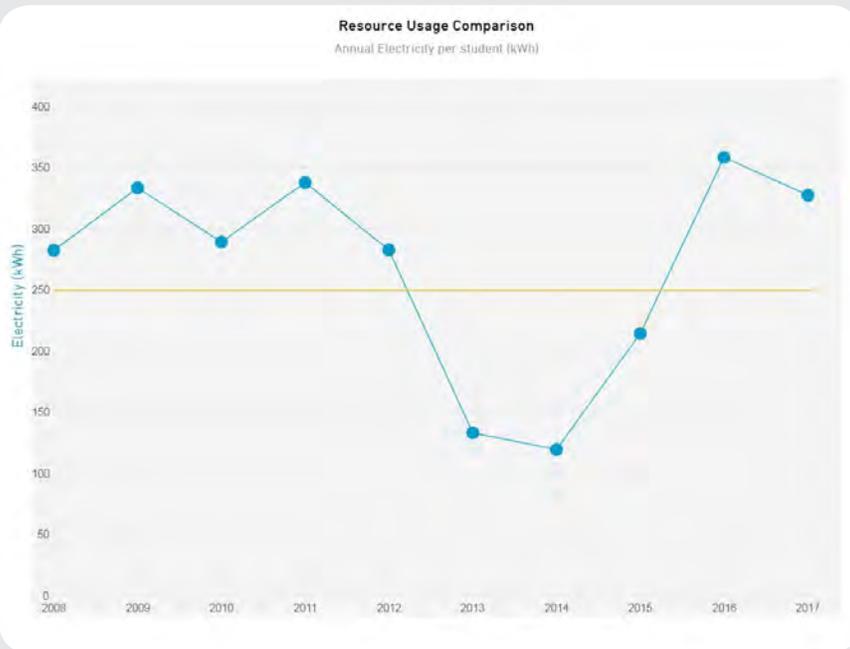


Naturally, alternative means of keeping the frog bog topped up are used during school holidays.



A tap at the connection allows the water to be diverted back to the waste drain if soap is used when students wash their hands.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL- A Tale of Two Graphs



### How can your data tell a story?

On a recent visit to St Vincent De Paul Primary School in Morwell, I sat down with the wonderful teacher Katarina Monacella and suggested we have a look at her data and see how the school was tracking in terms of their resource use.

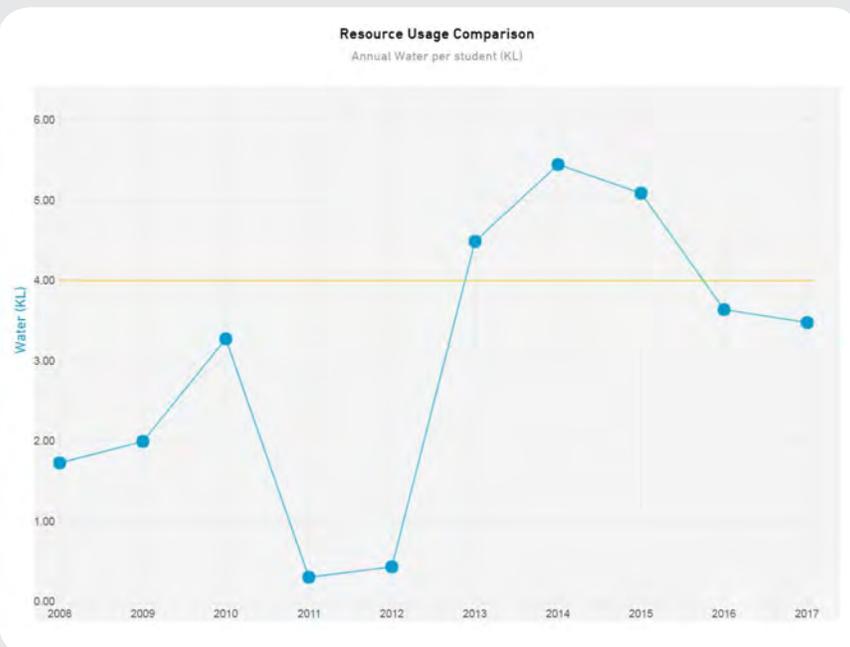
The school has a dedicated business manager who is able to log all of their bills so they have a long and accurate history. We made some interesting findings. As you can see from the graphs to the left, there is a big dip in their electricity use.

It was really interesting to find out how the school had achieved this and then what had made it reverse?

It turns out that in 2013 the school had installed solar panels, clearly from the graph the panels had been working beautifully until 2015 where their electricity began to climb.

After investigation, it turned out that the solar inverter was no longer working. This has since been rectified and the school should see a dip in their consumption back to the levels of 2013-14.

On looking at the school's water data, we also found a drop in their water use in 2011-12. This was due to the installation of tanks at the school. Unfortunately in 2016 they were no longer working. The school is currently looking into changing this.



The moral of the story being, keep an eye on the wonderful data that comes out of ResourceSmart Schools online as it is a great way to ensure that the systems installed to help your school to reduce resource consumption are doing exactly that!

# JUNIOR LANDCARE HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Are you interested in starting a Junior Landcare group for your class or group so they can learn about the importance of environmental sustainability of the land they will one day inherit? There are few steps you will need to take.

## 1. Starting a Junior Landcare group

A Junior Landcare group can comprise primary or high school students, youth sporting groups, scout groups, faith groups or other youth community groups.

It needs a co-ordinator such as a teacher, community member, parent or senior student, to direct the activities of the group.

If you are the co-ordinator, research the issues in your local area. This will help you to work out what activities your group will undertake. If your group is a school group, you may find it useful to undertake a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP).

## 2. Linking with your local Landcare or similar group

- Head to the National Landcare Directory to find contact details for groups, networks or community support officers in your local area. You may find out about Landcare, Coastcare and other groups in your area who are working on improving the environment. There may also be local council committees or trusts looking after local Crown reserves.
- Discuss with a local group how you can work together. Your school could become involved in the environmental activities of a Landcare group or help with their planning. Alternatively, the school could volunteer to help out with on-ground activities as needed by particular groups.
- Your school and the local Landcare group could develop a joint Landcare project.

## 3. Developing a Landcare Project

- Design a Landcare Project that not only helps to restore a degraded environment but also teaches others about Landcare. It is usually best to think small and work on something that can achieve change within a school term or year. Your project could involve removing weeds and rubbish, bush regeneration, planting trees, monitoring water quality or designing and planning rehabilitation activities. It could be about teaching kids where their food comes from by creating a sustainable garden.
- The success of your project will rely on thorough planning and research, and strong communication links with key people in the local community.
- Carry out a monitoring programme to determine if your project, or the local Landcare group's work is achieving change and environmental improvements.
- Access the 'How to Kits' and Curriculum Resources developed by Landcare Australia to help you create your project.

## 4. Applying for a grant

There are grants available to help you undertake your environmental activities. To find out which grants you can apply for, [click here](#).

To keep up-to-date on the latest news, resources, and available grants for schools, subscribe to the Junior Landcare monthly e-newsletter.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



**What is e-waste?**

E-waste refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted.

It covers a whole range of items from work, home and even the garden shed.

**Did you know that e-waste is valuable?**

- At least 90% of a computer, television or mobile phone can be recovered and reused
- Recycling captures valuable metals like copper, silver, gold, aluminium, as well as plastics and glass so they can be re-used in the next wave of technology rather than mining or making new materials.

**Recycling e-waste**

To protect our environment and recover more precious resources, the Victorian Government is banning all e-waste from landfill from 1 July 2019.

This means, recycling e-waste will become part of everyday life, an important part of minimising waste and maximising resources.

Check with your local council for details or visit [Sustainability Victoria](http://Sustainability Victoria)



During April, Sustainability Victoria launched its Energy Champions Challenge.

The initiative is open to all schools in Victoria and there is the chance to win up to \$5000 just by saving electricity.

ResourceSmart Schools can join by logging in at <https://secure.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au/users/login>

Other schools can join the challenge by registering through ResourceSmart Schools <https://secure.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au/users/register>

# Upcoming Dates and Events

AUGUST
11-19 National Science Week
20-26 Keep Australia Beautiful Week
26 Aug - 1 Sept National Op Shop Week

SEPTEMBER
7 National Threatened Species Day
1-30 Biodiversity Month
16-24 National Organic Week

OCTOBER
1 World Habitat Day
1-31 Nude Food Day
1-31 Buy Nothing New Month

NOVEMBER
12-18 National Recycling Week
23 Buy Nothing Day
Useful Link - <a href="#">CoolAustralia 2018 Event Calendar</a>

## GRANTS & COMPETITIONS

### [Colgate Community Garden Challenge](#)

Amount: various size awards to grow your schools veggie patch

Awards close: 31st October 2018

### [Where I Live Competition](#)

ABC Education - create a 60-second video about where you live, describing what makes it special.

Entries close: 5pm 26 November 2018

## TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### [AAEE Conference 2018 - Creating Capacity for Change](#)

The Conference theme of Creating Capacity for Change builds on AAEE's strong tradition of sharing the latest in environmental education theory, policy and practice to support excellent environmental and sustainability education and build capacity for change in children, young people and adults.

When/Where: 21 - 25 October. Southern Cross University, Coolangatta Campus

### [Waste away - the future of garbage](#)

The EPA is hosting a panel event as part of Science Week 2018.

When: 12 - 2pm, 16 August  
Where: Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson Street Carlton

Attendees can either attend in the live audience or by web stream.

### [2018 GTAV Annual Conference](#)

The three-day Annual Conference brings together many wonderful Geography educators to share their knowledge and skills with their colleagues at the largest Geography conference in Australia.

When: 26 - 28 August  
Where: Karsten's, Queen Street Melbourne



These and more details can be found at [www.eev.vic.edu.au](http://www.eev.vic.edu.au)



## ZOO WEB CONFERENCES

Students meet expert Zoo teachers and keepers to learn about the animals at the zoo.

Using a web conference platform, students can also ask questions and learn more about what they can do to take action for conservation.

Web conference dates:  
9 August 2.30 - 3pm  
23 August 2.30 - 3pm  
6 September 2.30 - 3pm  
20 September 2.30 - 3pm

[Click for further information.](#)

### THE CONVERSATION

Arts • Culture • Business • Economy • Cities • Education • Environment • Energy • FactCheck • Health • Medicine • Politics • Society • Science • Technology



### INTERESTING READING...

#### How To Break Up With Plastic (using behavioural science)

*"The key to successfully phasing out our reliance on single-use plastic products is to change the norm. The more we talk about the problem and the solutions, the more businesses will seek out and offer alternatives, and the more likely we are to mobilise together."*

[Find out more...](#)

**CURIOS KIDS** - The Conversation also has a Curious Kids section where children are encouraged to send in questions they'd like an expert to answer.



### BECK LAMBLE - RSS Facilitator

Beck Lamble is the ResourceSmart Schools Facilitator in the east of Gippsland, and is Sustainability Officer at East Gippsland Shire Council three days a week.

#### When did you become interested in sustainability?

Growing up on a farm in East Gippsland and holidays in Mallacoota, I spent most of my time outdoors. A connection with the outdoors developed early and continued into adulthood - I can only imagine this to be scratching the surface of the indigenous concept of 'country' and how living things are all inter-connected on a level we miss in our daily lives.

#### What is your favourite part of your job/role?

The best part of this job is encouraging students who have a passion. My favourite part is providing kids with permission to keep asking grown-ups difficult questions.

#### How can we make a difference to our local environment and our world?

- Have the knowledge and confidence that you can do something.
- Do things in your everyday life — reducing pollution, reducing plastic. Once you start taking those steps, you can move onto bigger things, like driving less and walking more.
- A favourite quote is "I always thought somebody should do something about that. Then I realised I was somebody."

#### Who is your greatest sustainability hero?

Professor Brain Cox – he shines a spotlight on things we overlook and explains difficult concepts so simply, making science accessible to a greater audience.

## YOUR LOCAL FACILITATORS

### Simone Taylor

#### Baw Baw Facilitator

Ph: 5625 0255 | Simone.Taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au

### Peter Collins

#### Latrobe City Facilitator (Waste)

Latrobe City Council

Ph: 5128 6134 | Peter.Collins@latrobe.vic.gov.au

### Lyndal Peterson

#### South Gippsland Facilitator

South Gippsland Shire Council

Ph: 5693 2462 | M: 0409 879 910  
lyndalp@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

### Rebecca Lamble

#### East Gippsland Facilitator

East Gippsland Shire Council

Ph: 5153 9500 | rebeccal@egipps.vic.gov.au

### Raquel Harris

#### Wellington Shire Facilitator

Wellington Shire Council

M: 0429 172 889 | raquel.harris@wellington.vic.gov.au

### Alison Taylor

#### Coordinator, ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland

Facilitator and Assessor for Latrobe City Council and Bass Coast Shire Council

Ph: 5633 3335 | Alison.Taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au



**ResourceSmart  
Schools**

