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## Media Release

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16 July 2019

### EXTRA FUNDS BOOST SUSTAINABILITY IN SCHOOLS

Frog bogs, chooks, water efficiencies and trash puppets are just some of exciting initiatives put forward by schools in Gippsland to further sustainability.

ResourceSmart Schools across Gippsland have shared in \$11,000 of funding to help them become more sustainable.

In May, ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland offered the opportunity for schools to apply for extra funds to help deliver on their sustainability, education and community stewardship goals.

Alison Taylor, ResourceSmart Schools Coordinator for Gippsland said, 'It's been fantastic for us to support schools who have worked hard to investigate what they need to be more sustainable. Reading through their submissions has been encouraging and inspiring and I'm excited to see them put their plans in place and deliver real changes for their school and community.'

An interesting array of projects have been funded. Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cowes and Yarragon Primary School each received funding to help with the creation of Frog Bogs. This type of wetland habitat increases biodiversity in the surrounding area and provides schools with an ever-evolving outdoor classroom.

Likewise, creating habitat was important to St Pauls Anglican Grammar in Warragul who will use their funding to develop an indigenous garden in an area of the school currently suffering from erosion.

"Many schools have developed detailed plans for habitat creation as part of completing their ResourceSmart Schools biodiversity module," Alison explained. "Other modules assist schools to minimise waste, reduce energy and water consumption, and cut greenhouse gas emissions; the added bonus to schools is real cost savings."

Efficiency was important to Newhaven College who will use the funds to purchase new bins for sorting waste and, similarly, Wonthaggi Primary School will upgrade their taps with fittings that are more water efficient.

Other projects included support for vegetable gardens and chickens for East Gippsland Specialist School, Korumburra Primary School and Araluen Primary School. Bairnsdale Primary School will invest in sustainability resources and Nungurner Primary School will use their funding to support a tour of the performance group *Trash Puppets* at schools in their part of the region.

"We congratulate all schools involved and look forward to seeing them reap the rewards that come from being sustainability champions," Alison Taylor acknowledged.

Through the ResourceSmart Schools program facilitators, based in the region, work with 90 Gippsland schools to integrate sustainability into the curriculum, providing individual support and mentoring to schools in each council area.

For further information about ResourceSmart Schools or to register for teacher training, visit [www.gwrrg.vic.gov.au](http://www.gwrrg.vic.gov.au) or contact Alison Taylor on 5633 2744.

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*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.*

**For further information or comment, please contact:**

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Photo



*Students at Yarragon Primary School are putting their funding toward the creation of a Frog Bog.*