



MEDIA RELEASE

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**ResourceSmart
Schools**

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.

Thirteen ResourceSmart Schools across Gippsland have shared in \$13,000 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. East Gippsland Specialist School, Korumburra Primary School and Araluen Primary School will direct their funds toward productive gardens including vegetable gardens and chickens. Bairnsdale Primary School will add materials and resources focussed on sustainability to their exciting new science resource hub.

Nungurner Primary School has used their funding to support performances *Escape from Trash Mountain* by Trash Puppets which were open to other schools within the region on August 26 & 27.

"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. Both Grey Street Primary School in Traralgon and Phillip Island Village School will be addressing waste management by investing in recycling systems and worm farms.

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.

The entire population of Paynesville Primary School has already made the most of its funding by engaging the Marine Mammal Foundation to do sessions focussed on litter free lakes.

“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 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 Resource Recovery Gippsland.

For further information or comment, please contact:

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Photo



Caption – Bairnsdale PS students Amy (grade 4) and Emily (grade 5) holding insect hotels they made at their science expo.

*You will have known us for some time as the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group (GWRRG), but we are starting the new financial year with fresh new look – **Resource Recovery Gippsland**.*

Still one of Victoria’s seven Waste and Resource Recovery Groups, Resource Recovery Gippsland is committed to supporting our region’s journey in maximising resources and minimising waste.