



MEDIA RELEASE

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YINNAR SOUTH 5-STAR RESOURCESMART SCHOOL

Stars are shining brightly at Yinnar South Primary School, a school leading the way in Gippsland when it comes to a curriculum and school yard rich in sustainability, fun and practical lessons for life.

As part of the ResourceSmart Schools program, the school was recently awarded 5-star accreditation in recognition of its hard work, innovation and commitment to completing all five program modules. Areas of focus included energy and water conservation, waste reduction and improvements to biodiversity.

ResourceSmart Schools is an award-winning Victorian Government program that provides practical support to reduce resource use and make cost savings, to integrate sustainability education into the curriculum, and share learnings beyond the school gate.

Alison Taylor, ResourceSmart Schools Coordinator for Gippsland said, “Sustainability at Yinnar South is integral to the curriculum and the students explore their world through this lens. It might be small school but it’s big in achievement; testament to the passion and commitment of teachers, students and the school community.”

According to principal Mark Di Corleto the school is committed to teaching students practical strategies that support sustainable lifestyles.

“Involvement in the ResourceSmart Schools program has been a great way for us to fulfil our aims of fostering an appreciation of the environment, reducing and responsibly disposing of waste, improving biodiversity, and developing responsibility by caring for animals.

“It’s important to us to provide quality hands-on learning experiences for students and a great example is our much-loved vegetable garden that is planted, tended and harvested to provide nutritious food for the weekly lunches our students prepare and eat together.”

Students have been involved in many initiatives that have led to outcomes such as: audits for water, waste, energy and biodiversity; replacement of inefficient heating and cooling; introduction of chickens, worm farms and composting; recycling and soft plastic collection; and, the development of a frog bog and butterfly garden.

Yinnar South is one of 70 schools across Gippsland involved with ResourceSmart Schools. In 2018-19, these schools produced savings totalling \$137,989 through energy and water conservation, waste reduction, biodiversity gains and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Looking to the future, Yinnar South Primary School has plans to utilise stormwater more effectively, track tank water usage, plant more fruit trees and create more permanent structures to act as habitat for animals.

Resource Recovery Gippsland and ResourceSmart Schools Gippsland congratulate the entire school community on their significant achievement.

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Additional information

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

Key to the success and effectiveness of ResourceSmart Schools is that local sustainability facilitators work with schools to integrate sustainability into the school curriculum so that it provides educational, environmental, social and economic benefits to the

The program provides practical support to help schools develop a range of activities and resources to help students understand the fundamentals of sustainable living and lead the way on relevant, practical projects.

For further information or comment, please contact:

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Photo



Caption – Excited Yinnar South Primary School sustainability stars.

*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.