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Entries are now open for the 2016 ResourceSmart Schools Awards.

There are cash prizes to be won and finalists can attend the awards ceremony in the I-Max Cinema at Melbourne Museum, at which the Museum will be conducting some workshops.

**Entries for the Awards close on 15<sup>th</sup> August.** If you would like to enter, your local ResourceSmart Schools Facilitator can assist you with your entry.

For more information please go to:

<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schoolsawards>

For inspiration/ ideas visit the [2015 Awards web page](#).

## ResourceSmart Schools Awards 2016

## ResourceSmart Schools How To Guides Now Available

'How To' Guides have been launched as part of the ResourceSmart Schools program for the **Energy** and **Waste** Modules to assist you with ideas of the kinds of actions you can undertake at your school to reduce your environmental impact. The Guides can be accessed here:

[Access guides](#)

## Love Food Hate Waste

Turn leftovers from one meal into something new for lunch or dinner the next day. See recipes at:  
[www.lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au/recipes](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au/recipes)





## School Shade Grants

Expressions of interest for Round 2 of the State Government's **School Shade Grants** close on **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> July**. All **Victorian Government schools** are eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 (excluding GST) for new built shade (such as shade sails), repair or replacement of existing shade, or planting of natural shade (trees).

Eligible schools are invited to submit an Expression of Interest for a shade grant using the following guidelines:

1. Read the [Schools Shade Grants Program application guidelines](#) which outlines eligibility, application and assessment criteria. Take careful note of the requirements of the Expression of Interest stage, and the shortlisting process.
2. Submit an Expression of Interest online via [SmartyGrants](#).

## EPA Citizen Science Program

Citizen science programs are scientific and environmental projects in which volunteers from the community are involved. This involvement can include, but is not limited to, the co-design of projects, collection of data and interpretation of data.

EPA Victoria is creating a number of environmentally focused citizen science projects for the mutual benefit of the community and EPA. Because EPA values the knowledge, capabilities and enthusiasm of a wide variety of Victorians, it is aiming to work with the community to co-design projects that incorporate monitoring of the environment and allow for joint interpretation of results by both citizens and EPA.

The EPA is currently working with communities in the Latrobe Valley to achieve this – and is planning future programs across Victoria.

To participate in the Citizen Science Program and have access to one of EPA's water testing kits, participating schools need to attend a water quality training session. To find out more download the Q & A <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/hazelwood/citizen-science/q-and-a-on-citizen-science> OR contact the Citizen Science Program Coordinator for further information:

**EPA Gippsland Phone:** [1300 372 842 \(1300 EPA VIC\)](tel:1300372842) **Email:** [citizen.science@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:citizen.science@epa.vic.gov.au)



## Great Apps for Engaging Students

Ever wanted to be involved in a real-life scientific experiment? Wondering how to engage students in real, applied science that has tangible outcomes? Looking for ways to connect with the community beyond the school gates? Citizen Science could be for you!

Citizen Science is an exciting concept that engages the community in collecting and reporting scientific data in order to contribute to a greater understanding of a particular issue. Using the power of many, citizen science enable researchers to collate information from a large number of geographically-isolated sites in short time, greatly enhancing the ability to understand the issues, establish the status quo and observe trends over time.

Citizen Science isn't new – organisations like Waterwatch Victoria have been engaging individuals, schools, groups and others in it for around 15 years. However, as with most things, now “there is an app for that!”

Following is a selection of mobile and tablet apps, plus some website and social media based projects that could be useful for your school and your students:



### **ClimateWatch app**

Developed by the Earthwatch Institute, the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Melbourne, this simple app involves recording and reporting the “what, where, when and how many” of a selection of species designated as indicators of climate. Involving everything from algae, frogs and birds, to mammals, insects and marine creatures, the project aims to develop a picture of the climate by mapping species by location and time right across Australia. <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/mobile>

### **Aussie Backyard Bird Count**

This popular app is designed for a once-per-year week-long Australia-wide bird counting exercise, to be held this year between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. Outside of that week, you can use the app to get to know your local birds – the built-in field guide is a fantastic resource for identifying Australian birds. It's one of the few apps where you don't need a profile to utilise its features, but you will need to log-in when it comes time for the actual count. <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

### **Coastal Walkabout**

Probably the most user-friendly of the lot, Coastal Walkabout is a brilliant tool for schools located near the coast, or even visiting on holiday. Focussing predominantly on sea creatures such as fish, sea mammals and coastal birds, the app is easy to use and helps develop a sense of scientific rigour in users. The app aims to “gather scientific observations within the coastal, estuarine and near-shore environments” in order to build a publically-accessible database of information about the coast, and the results of more than 74,000 records worldwide can be browsed online at [www.coastalwalkabout.org](http://www.coastalwalkabout.org)



### Great Victorian Koala Count 2015

This is an annual count of Koalas in Victoria – similar to the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, above.

Following the count, sightings can be viewed online via a map, with 324 sightings and 103 “I didn’t see a koala but...” reports lodged.

Last conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the app has limited functionality outside this date – really, it is only useful for participating in the count. While there isn’t any specific info on the website, presumably it will be happening again this year. <http://www.vic.gov.au/social-media/mobile-apps/great-victorian-koala-count.html>

### BowerBird (website)

BowerBird is a website (not an app) funded by Museum Victoria and the Atlas of Living Australia. It provides a platform for participants to report sightings of animals, plants, etc., either just as one-offs, or to contribute them to existing projects focussed on a particular location. You can even start your own location-based project, and have others contribute to it!

A couple of existing projects which may be of interest locally are: *Morwell National Park*, which “aims to be a comprehensive repository for the fauna and flora of Morwell National Park”; or *Gippsland Plains Flora and Fauna*, which is keeping a record of sightings on the Gippsland Plains.

<http://www.bowerbird.org.au/>

### FreshWater Watch app

This is a global project, also run by the Earthwatch Institute, designed to build a picture of the state of health of the world’s freshwater ecosystems. With more than 14,000 data sets collected to date worldwide, Australia and the Asia-Pacific is relatively poorly represented, with only 118 reports. However this may soon change, with more people in this country getting on board.

The app allows you to choose a location (or several) and report on its ongoing health, although the ability to track one location over time is limited, as it sees each record as a separate report.

The beauty of this app is in being part of something larger than just in Australia. However, there are some issues to consider: firstly it seems the app cannot be logged into on some phones. Second, it seems to a cost £140 (approx. \$290 AUD) per year for a subscription and the associated water testing equipment.

There may be some issues with the platforms that are being used to access it, so be patient! There are tests being reported from all around the world, so it is likely it will work in most regions.

<https://freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org/content/download-our-apps>



Keep 26 August in mind for Star Certification. You can put a module in for certification at any time, however as Stars are signed off by the Minister, modules for stars all get assessed at the same time.



## Water – Learn it! Live it!

The 'Water - Learn It! Live It! program is a Prep to Year 10 educational resource that allows students to explore water through Science, English, Geography, Maths, Communications, Music and Art activities. It is divided into three volumes, each jam packed with information and activities to assist teachers to deliver water as a subject in the classroom. Click on the following links for a free copy:

[https://www.gippswater.com.au/download\\_file/view\\_inline/67](https://www.gippswater.com.au/download_file/view_inline/67) - Volume 1 Water in the Natural Environment

[https://www.gippswater.com.au/download\\_file/view\\_inline/68](https://www.gippswater.com.au/download_file/view_inline/68) - Volume 2 Water in the Urban Environment

[https://www.gippswater.com.au/download\\_file/view\\_inline/69](https://www.gippswater.com.au/download_file/view_inline/69) - Volume 3 Water in the Community

## National Water Week Poster Competition 2016

The annual National Water Week poster competition is now open. Make sure you enter before **Friday 2 September 2016** for your chance to win! The competition is a great opportunity for primary school students to use their artistic talents to create an inspiring A3 poster that supports learning about water.

This year the theme is: **Water. Life. Growth.** Students might wish to create a poster that captures why water is important for them, their family, their school and/or our community.

Entries close at **4pm on Friday 2 September 2016.**

Please download the [official entry form, conditions of entry](#), and [entry criteria](#).

National Water Week is an annual celebration of water in Australia, which occurs in the third week of October each year. It is designed to assist the community to take action to help protect and conserve our most precious resource – water.





## School Garden Tips

On the following site you will find free, easy-to-use, educational resources suitable for use in primary schools. <http://www.organicschools.com.au/teachers/>

### Egg shells – calcium for the garden or the chooks

Don't throw away those egg shells! Save eggshells from school cooking or get them from a café and dry them, by the sun, in the oven after cooking or by the heater, then blitz or grind them to a coarse grit and store in a glass jar. Mix them with chook food as shell grit for strong egg shells or use as calcium in the garden, worm farm or compost bin. <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s4470071.htm>

### Snails and slugs a problem?

To deter slugs and snails sprinkle crushed eggshells or untreated sawdust around your plants. Snails don't like slithering across the rough surface as it gets stuck in their foot.

Alternatively, watered down vegemite in jars works and is a child and environmentally friendly way to control snails!



So how does this work? The snails and slugs are attracted to the yeast in Vegemite; they slide into the jar but cannot get out again. The Vegemite trap works in a similar way to a Beer Snail Trap (using beer or ginger beer) and is safe to use around children.

To make a Vegemite Snail Trap, simply add a tablespoon of Vegemite to an empty jar and fill with water. Mix until the Vegemite has dissolved. Next, bury the jar to the rim and wait for the slugs and snails to arrive!

A good place for a trap is near your rhubarb. <http://www.gardening4kids.com.au/>



## Resources at Melbourne Zoo and the Baw Baw Frog

Want to link students to the environment in an interesting way?

[Zooperman and the Extinction Fighting team](#) aim to help Zoos Victoria save wildlife and show people how they can take action to fight extinction. One reptile threatened with extinction is Gippsland's own **Baw Baw Frog** - see: <http://www.zoo.org.au/melbourne/animals/baw-baw-frog>

Zooperman is the new zooper hero for Zoos Victoria – fighting extinction along with his band of 20 Extinction Fighters. The Extinction Fighters™ is a band of 20 incredible Australian native species – birds, amphibians and animals that are found in the south-east corner of Australia and are all under serious threat! They are a mighty voice for native fauna and help the public learn to love their local wildlife and take action to ensure their survival. Everyone can be a hero and help save wildlife, no matter how small, young, old, furry or slimy you are.



Zooperman can show you that it doesn't take much to make a difference to wildlife and fight extinction – be it switching to recycled toilet paper or buying beads at our zoos, you can be sure Zooperman's advice is advice that works! <http://www.zoo.org.au/loveyourlocals/zooperman-and-the-extinction-fighters> .

Teacher resource packs and stories of how other schools are involved can be found at: <http://www.zoo.org.au/education/fighting-extinction-schools>



## Waste and Recycling

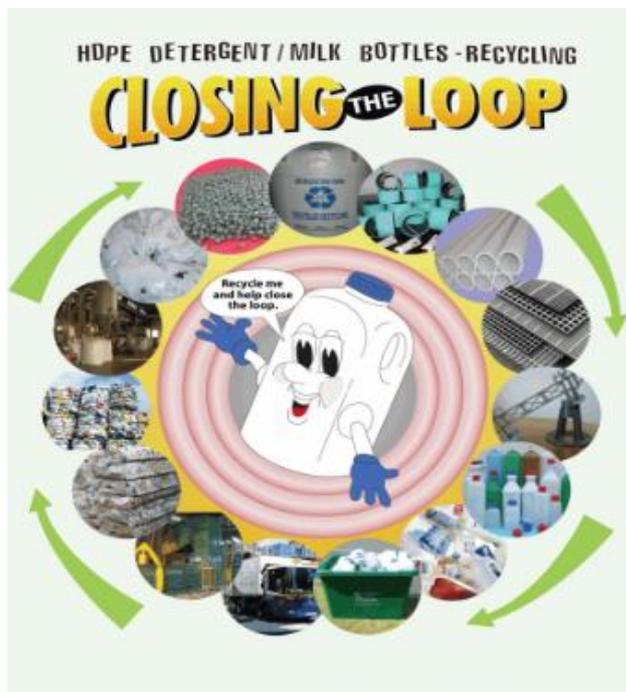
We put our recyclables in the yellow-lidded recycle bin or the recycling skip and often don't give another thought to what happens to them. What do your students think happens to their rubbish and recycling once the trucks collect it?

Local company DASMA owns and runs a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Morwell to sort recyclables into their various streams eg. Paper and cardboard, glass, plastic, metal and aluminium.

Tambo Waste sorts recyclables in East Gippsland prior to despatch for recycling, but most of Gippsland's recyclables now go to Melbourne for sorting ready for manufacture into a variety of value-added products. One of the companies receiving Gippsland recyclables is Polytrade.

Once sorted Polytrade Recycling's various divisions works as follows:

- **Plastic division** reprocesses PET & HDPE bottles and then turns them into high quality resins suitable for manufacturing into various products such as PET Soft Drink Packaging / HDPE Milk Bottles, Plastic Recycling Wheelie Bins & Irrigation Pipes.



- The **paper division** sorts paper and cardboard for export and local manufacture into new cardboard packaging, newsprint production & other forms of packaging.
- Sorted **glass** is turned into new glass bottles and jars, insulation bats and glass sand for use in road and footpath construction and for filtration.

Some of these processes can be view at <http://www.polytrade.com.au/list.php?id=7> or for further waste information <http://coolastralia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Wastefactsheet1.pdf>



## Gippsland Councils' Waste and Recycling Tours:

**Latrobe** – Guided tours of Latrobe City's Hyland Highway Landfill, the DASMA Materials Recovery Facility, Morwell Transfer Station and PineGro Greenwaste Recycling Facility are conducted 1<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> June by Council's Sustainability Education Officer [Peter.Collins@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Collins@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

**Wellington** – Guided tours of the Kilmany Resource Recovery Centre are conducted by Sustainability Officer [Raquel.Harris@wellington.vic.gov.au](mailto:Raquel.Harris@wellington.vic.gov.au)

**East Gippsland** – Transfer Station/Landfill and MRF tours can be arranged in advance by contacting the Council's Waste Education Officer [MichelleK@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:MichelleK@egipps.vic.gov.au)

**Bass Coast** – Tours are currently unavailable, but "Follow your Waste" tour opportunities are being investigated by the Council's Waste Education Officer [danielle.lisle@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:danielle.lisle@basscoast.vic.gov.au)

**South Gippsland** – Education tours to explain how a Transfer Station works and how rubbish and recyclables are dealt with are currently in the planning stage. For current status please contact the Council Waste Officer [peter.roberts@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.roberts@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

**Baw Baw** – Sends its recycling to Polytrade in Dandenong for sorting and is investigating the possibilities of tours to the facility. Contact Environment Sustainability Officer [Jessie.Ablett@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jessie.Ablett@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)



*Items at a Materials Recycling Facility are sorted by type and colour then baled for despatch to a reprocessing factory.*

## Other waste resources:

What happens to your waste? <http://www.newrrg.vic.gov.au/kerbside-bins/>

<http://www.wastedive.com/news/global-garbage-how-5-influential-countries-are-combating-issues-with-waste/417895/>

[http://www.familywastetracker.com/games/pdfs/Activity\\_BoardGame.pdf](http://www.familywastetracker.com/games/pdfs/Activity_BoardGame.pdf) - Gould League



## Positive Social Proof - Behaviour Change Made Easy

Some of the ResourceSmart Schools modules ask if we have installed interpretive signage encouraging positive actions eg. A2.5 for both Energy and Water. However, what is on that sign can have a significant impact on how effective it is and whether it has a positive or negative impact.

Whether the sign is about saving energy in the office, classroom or looking after a natural location we, as a group, respond in similar ways. We take many of our cues from the people around us – the social norm. So when you're sending a message about the behaviour you want to see it's important to send and reinforce the right cues.

When writing a sign (or an e-mail message to your colleagues):

- Highlight the behaviour you do (or don't) want to happen. For example, 'Thanks for keeping the kitchen tidy,' is going to be more effective than 'Stop leaving the kitchen in a mess - clean up after yourself'. The second message just reinforces that everyone is leaving a mess.
- If possible, re-frame the numbers to support a positive social norm rather than a negative one. In the workplace you could frame a message along the lines of 'Most people remember to turn the lights off when they leave the room.' This message reinforces the social norm and encourages other to follow suit. If you have stayed at a motel, you have probably seen similar messages about "X% of visitors re-use their towels".

It can be difficult to frame something positively - especially if you get annoyed walking into a room with all the lights still on - but focus on encouraging the right thing, rather than highlighting the negative norm. Reinforce the idea that most people are doing things the right way.

## Donated Goods

**Waste Module Item A6.3** asks if the school collects materials for social support, charity, donated goods program or fundraising, for example, clothing, used furniture, bikes, toys etc. Following are outlets for the collection of old/used glasses:



The **Lions Recycle for Sight Australia** program distributes glasses across the world to Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and other humanitarian organisations, which then distribute them to people who can't afford glasses. The program has been running for the past 15 years in Australia, as part of the Lions Clubs International Worldwide Eyeglasses Recycling Program. Since it began, 2.5 million pairs of glasses have been distributed to countries including Africa, Europe, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent, and Asia. Collection boxes can be obtained from Lions Clubs. Further information at:

<http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/health/vision-hearing/lions-eye-health-recycle-for-sight/>

**Dresden Optics**, which makes fun, colourful frames from a completely recyclable nylon called Grilamid also has a donation program. The company is a great closed loop example as it has made frames from recovered ocean plastic, milk bottle lids and beer keg caps. At the end of life the frames can be recycled by Replas ([www.replas.com.au](http://www.replas.com.au)), so they can be repurposed yet again. Dresden Optics glasses: [www.dresden.com.au/recycling/](http://www.dresden.com.au/recycling/)



## We'd love to hear from you and your students?

Do you or one of your students have a story about your ResourceSmart Schools journey that you would like to share? We would love to publish stories about your school in our newsletter. This will also enable you to tick off some leadership items in your ResourceSmart Schools modules.

## Calendar

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2016** - Closing date for **School Shade Grant** Expressions of Interest

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2016** - National Schools Tree Day <http://treeday.planetark.org/schools/>

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2016** – Entries close for **ResourceSmart Schools Awards**  
<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schoolsawards>

**2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016** - National Water Week **Poster Competition 2016** closes

**11-17<sup>th</sup> September 2016** – Enviroweek - <http://www.enviroweek.org/>

## Enviroweek – A Year of Action a Week of Celebration

**Enviroweek** is a flexible and adaptable national schools event. Aussie kids can take genuine action on waste, gardening, energy and health projects and see the immediate impact of positive everyday choices – for them, their school and our environment.

Teachers and educators can use Enviroweek's 'How-to guides' for action and inspiration, or continue existing projects and events already underway. Teaching Cool Australia classroom lessons counts for Enviroweek action too.

Enviroweek is celebrated at the end of Term 3 and is a time to have fun, celebrate, showcase and engage others in positive change.

Be part of the solution. Join Enviroweek or check out the [All You Need to Know](#) guide.



ME



MY SCHOOL / CENTRE



OUR ENVIRONMENT



## ResourceSmart Schools Local Facilitators

### **Alison Taylor**

**ResourceSmart Schools Coordinator,  
Facilitator and Assessor for Latrobe City  
Council and Bass Coast Shire Councils**

[Alison.Taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au](mailto:Alison.Taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au)

Ph: 5633 3335

### **Nola Anderson,**

**Facilitator and Assessor  
Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group**

[Nola.Anderson@gwrrg.vic.gov.au](mailto:Nola.Anderson@gwrrg.vic.gov.au)

Regional Education Officer

Ph: 5633 3337

### **Jessie Ablett**

**Baw Baw Shire Facilitator**

Baw Baw Shire Council

[jessie.ablett@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:jessie.ablett@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

Ph: 5625 0255

### **Peter Collins**

**Latrobe City Council (Waste Module)**

[Peter.Collins@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Collins@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

Ph: 1300 367 700

### **Brad Kijlstra-Shone**

**Facilitator for South Gippsland Shire Council**

[brad.kijlstra-shone@gwrrg.vic.gov.au](mailto:brad.kijlstra-shone@gwrrg.vic.gov.au)

Ph: 0438 994 804

### **Rebecca Lamble**

**East Gippsland Facilitator,  
East Gippsland Shire Council**

[rebeccal@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:rebeccal@egipps.vic.gov.au)

Ph: 5153 9500

### **Raquel Harris**

**Wellington Shire Facilitator**

Wellington Shire Council

[raquel.harris@wellington.vic.gov.au](mailto:raquel.harris@wellington.vic.gov.au)

Ph: 0429 172 889