

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS VICTORIA

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

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1

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Program Launch
- Victoria's pioneering schools
- 5 Star homes
- Antonio Park PS – feature school
- Sustainability Snippets!
- Resource Review
- Innovation – EcoRecycle and the Water Industry helping schools

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPITS

• Brush your teeth everyday, but don't leave the water running or you'll pay! (Joshua and Llewellyn, Ascot Vale PS)

• Save the energy by using fluoro lights, don't have long showers and use the shower right! The Greenhouse effect is really bad, so save our energy and Earth will be really glad! (From the New Gisbourne PS Energy Rap)

• Don't use lights, open blinds. (Hayley and Kat, Our Lady of Sion PS)



Alexandra,
Ascot Vale PS

MINISTERS KEMP AND KOSKY LAUNCH SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

While the "Power of One" is individually exciting the power of Sustainable Schools' partnerships is continually exhilarating!

Environment Australia and the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DE&T) have provided financial support and advice to the Gould League and CERES to help devise and implement the pilot program for Sustainable Schools in Victoria. Federal Environment Minister, the Hon Dr David Kemp, MP, and State Education Minister, the Hon Lynne Kosky, MLA, officially launched the program at Antonio Park Primary School this month. Dr Kemp has provided national leadership for this project with Victoria and NSW developing the pilot program. Ms Kosky is presiding over an exciting time for environmental education in Victoria, with the expected development of an environmental education policy; government support for the Sustainable Schools Program; and the implementation of environmental management systems within DE&T.

Gould League and CERES have pooled their resources and experience to develop this program, which integrates excellent environmental programs and practitioners. With the support of Government, industry and educators the Sustainable Schools dream is coming true: schools as demonstration centres of environmental technologies, designs and behaviours supported by an enriching sustainability curricula and vigorous community engagement.



Lynne Kosky, Pat Armstrong (Gould League), David Kemp, Eric Bottomley (CERES) and Ollie at the launch

VICTORIA'S PIONEERING SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Victorian schools are leading the charge towards sustainability through their involvement in the Sustainable Schools Program. The schools are improving the environmental performance of their operations, enriching curriculum and involving their communities in the areas of Energy, Water, Waste and Biodiversity. Victorias pioneering schools are:

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alphington PS | Altona North PS |
| Antonio Park PS | Ascot Vale PS |
| Bacchus Marsh College | Beaconhills College |
| Bellaire PS | Billanook PS |
| Briar Hill PS | Brunswick North West PS |
| Camberwell Anglican Girls' Grammar | |
| Castlemaine SC | Croydon Hills PS |

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Echuca East PS | Gisborne SC |
| Jells Park PS | Manorvale PS |
| Middle Park PS | Mildura West PS |
| Moorooduc PS | Moriac PS |
| Mount Waverley North PS | New Gisborne PS |
| Our Lady of Sion College | Pinewood PS |
| Princes Hill SC | Rolling Hills PS |
| Rutherglen PS | Somers PS |
| Southern Cross PS | Southmoor PS |
| St Cecilia's School | St Columba's School |
| St Finbar's PS | St Francis of the Fields |
| St Georges Road PS | St Joachim's School |
| John the Baptist PS | St Kilda PS |
| St Macartan's School | Templestowe Valley PS |
| Tintern Girls Grammar School | |
| Tylden PS | Trinity Maronite College |
| Torquay PS | Williamstown SC |
| Wesley College - Glen Waverley | |
| Woodend PS | Yarra PS |

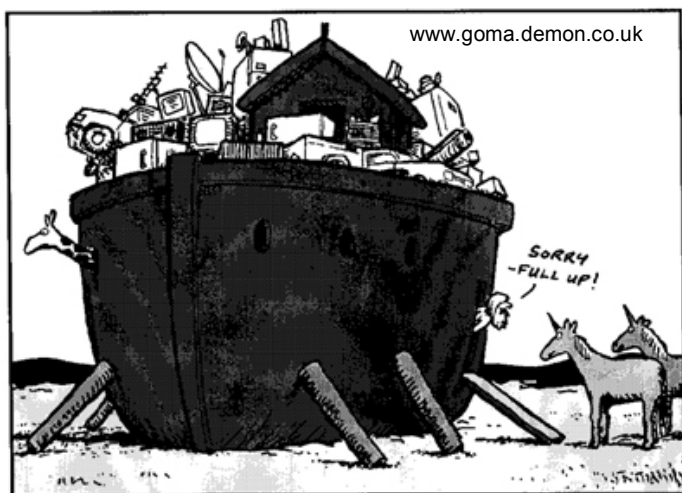
These schools are all leading the way to a more sustainable future.

5 STAR HOMES

New homes in Victoria will be the most energy and water efficient in Australia under new regulations to help Victorians reduce greenhouse gas pollution and save water. The Premier, Steve Bracks, and the Minister for Environment and Water, John Thwaites, announced that from July 2005 all new homes will be *5 Star* energy efficient and include major water savings devices – such as AAA rated taps and fittings, water tanks or solar hot water systems.

Victorias Sustainable Schools are already pushing the sustainable buildings envelope through retrofitting of existing buildings, and through the design of new buildings. Victorias Sustainable Schools are leading the way to 5 Star energy efficiency, not to mention their fantastic achievements in the areas of water, waste, and bio-diversity.

The schools are using their sustainable buildings as laboratories for students to engage in active curriculum on environmental sustainability.

**FEATURE SCHOOL – ANTONIO PARK PS**

Antonio Park Primary School was one of the first schools involved in the Sustainable Schools Program. This leading school has involved everyone in its work on improving all aspects of the program with students from prep to grade six brainstorming ideas, and special workshops getting parents involved. Bio-diversity, Waste, Water and Energy now make up key elements of their integrated curriculum at all levels in the school. Some of the many highlights at the school include:

- protecting and enhancing the significant area of remnant vegetation within the school grounds;
- a comprehensive waste management program including worm farms, compost heaps and chooks!; and
- the ingenious re-use of six classrooms (re-located from another school) to build their new school hall.

The school is now expanding its focus to water in 2004, with plans for rainwater collection and a new wetland area. The Sustainable Schools program has provided the structure, advice and links to resources to help the school achieve its goals.

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RESOURCE REVIEW

- EPA Victoria has recently developed fantastic new 'Footprint' calculators for schools, householders and businesses. Check out www.epa.voc.gov.au/eco-footprint and calculate your schools environmental impact!
- Landcare Australia and Mitre 10 have come together to offer *Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program*. These grants are available for school projects. Check out www.landcareaustralia.com.au for more information.
- The Department of Sustainability and Environment have a competition for students to create a "My Victoria" save water advertisement. Check out www.dse.vic.gov.au for details. Also on this page is a fantastic list of water education resources, as well CSF II links.
- A great new sustainability curriculum resource is Ollie Saves the Planet. This interactive CD helps students "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink their actions in the areas of Waste, Water, Energy, Air and Biodiversity". Check out www.olliesworld.com.

INNOVATION – ECORECYCLE AND THE WATER INDUSTRY HELPING SCHOOLS

Yarra Valley Water, Smart Water Fund, City West Water and the EPA Stormwater Program have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for Sustainable Schools in the form of organisational support, materials and technology, and curriculum support. Many schools are installing tank and wetland storages, minimising stormwater surges, conserving water use in gardens and toilets, and involving families in their projects. By the end of this year these outstanding Sustainable Water Use Schools in metropolitan and Regional Victoria will be saving up to 30% of normal water use and inspiring and challenging others to do the same.

EcoRecycle Victoria has led the way with Waste Wise Schools. Now the water agencies are providing their support. Here lies a powerful model for other State agencies and corporations across the nation.



Experimenting with water efficiency!