It's good to see that many of you were inspired from our last grant writing workshop to write grant applications to fund environmental projects. Fingers crossed the tips you learnt in our workshop will make for successful grant applications.

Spring Environmental Activities

Leading into Spring is the perfect time to turn over a new green leaf. Get your school active with Keep Australia Beautiful Day (August 23) and Biodiversity Month (September). Read on to find out how your school can get involved!

We need your contributions

We know that many of the schools in Hume are doing some great environmental work. Send us some of your favourite environmental tips or facts. Better still ask one of your students to write an article!

Hume's Sustainability Taskforce

New youth representatives have joined Hume’s Sustainability Taskforce, providing two extra pairs of eyes and ears to help improve environmental sustainability at Hume. Get to know your youth representatives on page 3.
Keep Australia Beautiful Week (August 23-29) is about reminding Australians of the simple changes they can make everyday to reduce their impact on the environment and take action!

To celebrate, Hume is partnering with Girl Guides Australia to compile a list of 100 ways to keep Hume beautiful – one for every year the organisation has been ‘Guiding’.

Schools can help out during Keep Australia Beautiful Week by:

- Running incursions and workshops on recycling right to make sure the whole school is making a difference.
- Hosting ‘Rubbish Free Lunches’ throughout the week.
- Conducting litter counts in or around your school and comparing your area with the state or national average.

If you would like help with running an initiative contact Council’s Waste and Litter Education Officer, on 9205 2456 or email KatieN@hume.vic.gov.au

Last year, Hume recycled 14,044 tonnes of materials, saving enough:
- greenhouse gases to take over 2,200 cars off the road permanently, and
- water to fill over 95 Olympic sized swimming pools.

However, with Victorians recycling just over half of the waste we produce, on average, we can still do more.

CASE STUDY
WATER BOTTLES BANNED AT SCHOOL

In 2009 Eltham North Primary School was the first school in Victoria to encourage students to drink tap water and to use only environmentally friendly plastic containers. The school also installed waste cutting water fountains.

Principal David Foley said the ban was part of the school’s green policy, which includes reusable containers for lunches. The bottled water ban sent students an important message about re-using materials instead of purchasing new.

It’s estimated that Australians spend about $500 million each year on bottled water.

What can your school do to reduce its bottled water use?
ON THE GREEN WITH YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY TASKFORCE MEMBERS
DEBORAH PHILLIPS (DP) FROM AITKEN COLLEGE AND
ANDREA BOZIC (AB) FROM PENOLA COLLEGE

What is Hume’s Sustainability Taskforce?
DP: The taskforce is a committee where representatives of Hume City come together to discuss and find solutions about environmental issues in the area.

What is your role as a youth representative of Hume’s Sustainability Taskforce?
DP: I represent the youth community of Hume. I provide input and suggestions on environmental issues facing the community.

AB: I make sure the youth of Hume have a say in Hume’s environmental future.

Why did you get involved in the Hume Sustainability Taskforce?
AB: I believe that saving the environment starts here and now. Not when I finish university.

"I believe that saving the environment starts here and now. Not when I finish university”

Why do you think it’s important for young people to have a say on environmental matters in the community?
DP: It’s important for young people to have a say because the actions we take now will impact on our environmental future.

Do you have any advice for teachers and students on how to improve environmental sustainability at schools across Hume?
DP: Schools should improve their environment by planting, recycling and reducing the amount of energy that is used in the school.

AB: For a week schools could focus on environmental sustainability. Schools should introduce paper and plastic recycling and provide incentives for students to use them.

Can you share with us your favourite environmental tip?
AB: If you need something, ask around or go to the local op shop first. You’ll be surprised at what you can find!

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Funding availability</th>
<th>Closing date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ivor Ronald Evans Foundation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eqt.com.au/not-for-profit-organisations/grants/trust-list.aspx?page=2">www.eqt.com.au/not-for-profit-organisations/grants/trust-list.aspx?page=2</a></td>
<td>Targeting public schools only</td>
<td>Variable (past projects $5,000 - $20,000)</td>
<td>2 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Landcare Grants</td>
<td><a href="http://www.juniorlandcare.com/grants.htm">www.juniorlandcare.com/grants.htm</a></td>
<td>School Environmental Management Plan</td>
<td>Up to $1,000</td>
<td>22 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water quality and conservation</td>
<td>Up to $5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Macpherson Trust Grant</td>
<td><a href="http://hmtrust.org.au">http://hmtrust.org.au</a></td>
<td>Supports community needs. Education and environment priorities for 2010</td>
<td>Up to $25,000</td>
<td>30 September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE LIBRARY CORNER

Smarten up your environmental knowledge by checking out these environmental resources.

Transition Schools SETS Workshop (Schools Environment Tracking System) at Aitken College Friday August 27, 9:30am - 2:30pm
This is an opportunity for teachers to participate in the new SETS workshops, sponsored by Sustainability Victoria and facilitated by CERES and VAEE. The workshop will enable schools that are new and current users of SETS to understand the ways of using the online tracking system to monitor resource consumption and assist schools to deliver important sustainable actions.

RSVP to Bridgid Soames by August 20 at bsoames@vaee.vic.edu.au

The Little Green Books
If you’re interested in finding out about environmental projects that young children can get involved in then check out this website.

Wilbur Worm, an environmental educator, has taken up residence on the front lawns at Parliament House Canberra to promote 20 fun projects children can undertake in their own backyards to help reduce their impact on the environment. The first edition of Little Green Books is free to download.

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder
Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv shows how children today have become increasingly alienated and distant from nature. Camping in the garden, climbing trees, collecting bugs and picking flowers are what childhood memories are made of but for the majority of children today these simple pleasures are missing.

Louv investigates how children’s indoor habits contribute to epidemic obesity, attention deficit disorder, isolation and childhood depression. This book is a call to action, full of warnings but also full of ideas for change. If you’re interested in growing a connection to nature with your students, this international best seller is worth the read.

GET DOWN AND DIRTY IN BIODIVERSITY MONTH

Now is the time to teach your students about Australia’s native plants and animals. Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and promotes the importance of conserving and improving biodiversity in Australia.

What is biodiversity?
Biodiversity is the diversity of plant and animal life in a particular habitat.

What can your school do?

- **Create a natural habitat in your school:** Look at plants that are native to your area and help create a sanctuary for local birds and wildlife.
- **Reduce, reuse and recycle:** Look at ways to reduce the amount of rubbish that ends up in landfill and waterways. Packaging from school lunches is a great place to start!
- **Start a school compost bin:** Organic matter, like fruit and sandwich scraps which usually ends up landfill, is great for your school garden.
- **Only put water down the drains:** Inform students not to put solvent or oil paints down the drain as they may end up in our waterways and can affect animals and plants living in streams and rivers.

If your school is completing the biodiversity module of the Resource Smart AuSSI Vic program make the most of Biodiversity Month.

For more information about how your school can get involved in biodiversity month contact Georgina Murphy, Council’s Environment Education Officer on 9205 2485.

Did you know?
Australia is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Georgina Murphy
Environment Education Officer
9205 2845
georginam@hume.vic.gov.au

Katie Nuthall
Waste & Litter Education Officer
9205 2456
katiendo@hume.vic.gov.au