



ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic

Loddon Mallee Consortium Newsletter No.5



Whole School Waste Reduced by Half!

Winters Flat Primary School has started their ResourceSmart journey with enthusiasm from teachers, students, and parents.

The school has formed the Winter's Flat Primary School Sustainability Group, comprising teachers, parents, and students. Their energy is infectious, and with each member being passionate about doing something for environmental sustainability, they are kicking goals. The following are some small steps that have been made and celebrated as a whole school.

- 1. Whole school waste reduced by half!!** In less than 6 months, the school has been able to increase awareness of the amount of rubbish they produce, and have adopted some strategies to reduce their waste production. These strategies include:
 - a. Professional Development with Rachel from the Calder Waste Management Group
 - b. Students maintaining a daily record of their class waste in three categories: recycling, compost and rubbish
 - c. Some classes have removed their rubbish bins.
 - d. Students are encouraged to bring nude food every day and those that bring rubbish have to take it home with them
 - e. The school rubbish bins are now collected fortnightly instead of weekly
- 2. Planning:** The school has a number of initiatives under way to plan for their sustainability program. This includes:
 - a. Students, teachers and parents ideas collected and recorded by students on waste, water, energy and biodiversity
 - b. Development of the School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) over a three year period
 - c. Curriculum review for 2014 completed, with sustainability embedded into each year level
 - d. Core module of ResourceSmart almost complete
- 3. Water Module started:**
 - a. Rob Krober from Coliban Water has run Professional Development and student workshops at the school
 - b. A water audit that involves the students is also underway
 - c. Rob is returning to run more workshops with students
 - d. Students have developed signs about water use and put them up around the school
- 4. Energy Grant Application Successful:** the school was successful in its application for an energy efficiency grant from SV/DEECD. They will use this funding to:
 - a. Conduct and energy audit at the school
 - b. Implement some of the recommendations from the audit
 - c. Students have already developed signs about reducing energy use and have put them up around the school

- 5. Biodiversity:** The school has large school grounds, and various gardens between buildings, so the group have:
 - a. Started to do their biodiversity audit
 - b. Started to make connections with the local community and the school gardener
- 6. Communications:**
 - a. The school has an awesome website that documents their sustainability journey and promotes awareness of environmental issues, and events.
 - b. The local newspaper has included some articles about the school's ResourceSmart journey to promote community awareness and to seek support from the community for their projects

As you can see, the school is really flying along the sustainability path. The student's motivation is high with strong ongoing support from parents and teachers to continue the programs that have already started and to plan others. The school entered the EnviroWeek competition, and developed a water poster for another competition. They have instigated a "Care for the Environment" award, which is presented to classes or individuals at assembly by the principal each week. The award recipients are also included in the school newsletter, which is encouraging to the students.

One person who has noticed the difference that the waste project in particular is making to the school is Jeff the school cleaner. He feels supported in his work and is very happy with the efforts the students are making. Jeff often attends assembly to talk about the improvements he sees and offers ideas to students. The school grounds also look fantastic, and with less rubbish strewn around, really looks cared for.

Well done Winters Flat Primary School!



Some members of the Winters Flat Primary School Sustainability Group receiving their commencement certificate.