



An initiative of:
Department of Education and Children's Services
Department for Environment and Heritage
Natural Resources Management Boards



Australian
Sustainable Schools Initiative
A Partnership of the Australian Government, the States & Territories

June 2008 Volume 3, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- The Fourth International Middle Years of Schooling Conference has a commitment to sustainability

ENERGY, WASTE, WATER, BIODIVERSITY, VALUES, EQUITY, STUDENT VOICE, INNOVATION, ENGAGEMENT, SACSA

Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative — South Australia (AuSSI - SA)

Schools and Preschools get involved in AuSSI - SA

People sharing common Education for Sustainability (EfS) values is one of the most important aspect of being involved in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative in South Australia (AuSSI - SA).

AuSSI-SA supports schools* to undertake and share their education for sustainability journey no matter how big or small the steps.

The little things that we can do as individuals and in groups have a big cumulative effect on local, national and global sustainability.

Schools across the State have indicated their interest in

sustainability by registering with AuSSI-SA through the web site.

Individuals can also join up to *SedNet* (Sustainability Education email Network).

To do this, go to the AuSSI-SA web site and subscribe to the

newsletter online.

www.decs.sa.gov.au/efs

By subscribing you will receive emails that link you to information and opportunities to advance Education for Sustainability at your school or in your community.



Cowandilla Primary School shares their sustainability focus with the whole community

What makes a school an AuSSI-SA school?

Over 150 schools* have registered to be part of AuSSI - SA.

An AuSSI-SA school:

- has registered (via the website)
- has reviewed the *Education for Sustainability Guide to becoming a sustainable school*
- establishes or continues with plans to improve sustainability based on the AuSSI- SA *EfS Guide to becoming a sustainable school*
- commits to the values of AuSSI-SA schools as outlined in the EfS Guide
- is continuously trying to reduce its ecological footprint
- is committed to learning about sustainability (i.e. social, cultural, environmental, economic)

- shares with other AuSSI-SA schools and contributes stories when appropriate
- provides feedback on their progress to AuSSI-SA.

Firestarter Youth Environment Conference

This years Firestarter SA Youth Environment Conference is fully booked . Students from 12 schools will present workshops about climate change, the River Murray, waste and other important environmental issues. All participating 27 schools will travel to Hindmarsh Island on the second day and participate in a range of environmental activities.

For those who are not able to attend the conference this year go to the Firestarter web site for more information about next years conference.

Go to www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com

* Schools = 'Schools and Preschools'

Schools and Preschools show off their sustainability credentials

The 2008 Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Display at 31 Flinders Street showcases *Sustainable Schools* initiatives in DECS schools and preschools. Schools and preschools were invited to participate in the display by providing artwork, informative exhibits and interactive displays.

The displays demonstrate a breadth and depth of engagement not only in specific environmental projects but right across school curriculum and operations.

Primary schools such as North Haven, Stradbroke, Jervois, Black Forest, Edwardstown, Aldgate, Victor Harbor, McLaren Vale, Norton Summit, Para Hills West and Goolwa all demonstrate a deep engagement with education for sustainability.

Christies Beach and Unley

High Schools show how middle and senior years students can learn about and actively participate in programs that make a real difference at school and in the local community. At the Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten sustainability is also the focus for learning and action.

Congratulations to all the schools and preschools that contributed to such a fantastic demonstration of how our community is moving towards sustainability with our young people.



This picture shows the display from North Haven School featuring products from the Aboriginal plant use trail.

Sustaining our global future: Bob Hawke Centre free film series

Our global future depends on the ideas that we generate and share as a thinking, compassionate and tolerant society.

The UniSA Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre together with Inspirational Cinema is offering a free film series 'Sustaining our Global Future' to secondary schools at the new Hawke Building.

www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au

The films highlight ethical action, UN Observances and new thinking featuring inspiring speakers such as Al Gore, Bona, Tenzin Pamo, Jane Goodall, Tony Robbins and youth leaders.

Times:

Daily sessions 10.00 – 11.15am or 12.30 - 1.45pm

Venue:

UniSA City West Campus, Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, Hawke Building - level 3,

50-60 North Terrace, Adelaide.

Term 3 Program theme and dates

- 24 July:** World Population Day (11 July)
- 31 July:** World Indigenous Day (9 Aug)
- 14 Aug:** International Youth Day (12 August)
- 21 Aug:** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 4 Sept:** International Literacy Day (8 Sept)
- 25 Sept:** International Day of Peace (21 Sept)

Information & bookings: Susan Rooney-Harding

Mobile: 0418 833304

admin@inspirationalcinema.com.au

www.inspirationalcinema.com.au

ECOtv is back!

ECOtv (ecological television commercial) is a competition to create a 30 second commercial to raise awareness about the sustainability of our planet... and inspire action. It began in 2004 and runs usually in conjunction with Adelaide Film Festival.

When the competition is announced, the process involves young people submitting ideas in a storyboard format for a TV commercial based on a theme that is provided by us.

Up to ten are picked and supported to produce the TV commercial. These are screened at Adelaide Film Festival and awards are presented, and then the winner is also screened on television and cinemas. The theme of the commercial is always an environmental theme or a theme that impacts on future civilizations.

Interested? –

Please contact Deb Lavis 0418804228

deb.lavis@gingergecko.com.au

It is the intention of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA, to incorporate a new competition for the 2008 Royal Adelaide Show.

The "Sustainable SA 2008 Competition" is focused on Water Saving Innovations. Its principal aim is to foster new, innovative water saving initiatives, in response to the ever-increasing pressures on South Australia's water resources. Entries are invited from across Australia. For more information go to www.adelaideshowground.com.au and look for "participating / competitions & exhibits"

On Holy Ground - (<http://catholicearth-careoz.net/resources.html>) "This document provides Catholic schools and colleges with a planned and logical pathway to journey towards more ecologically sustainable practices." Bishop Christopher Toohey

Natural Resource Management Boards educating for sustainability

The NRM Boards are a major partner in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative in South Australia. They support the implementation of AuSSI-SA by helping schools to develop environmental education for sustainability strategies and plans.

The Boards encourage a whole-of-school approach to explore improvements in the school's management of resources including energy, waste, water, biodiversity, landscape design, products and materials.

As part of this whole school approach, NRM student programs help to develop knowledge, understandings, skills and values for a more sustainable community.

To explore what the NRM Boards are doing in your area go to

<http://www.nrm.sa.gov.au/>



What the kids say: Hallett Cove Preschool

What the children say...

The following are comments collected for a sustainability case study from Hallett Cove Preschool.

It goes through the white pipe to the black pipe. When it is in the tank it goes through the grass up to the other pipe, the kindly pipe, and...um...it goes into something on the roof and it goes through somewhere and we get the nice clean water and it goes into the grown-ups' cup of tea. Olivia

Water can't be left on. Georgia

Don't waste water...it's for the ducks.
The rain falls off the clouds. Jakeb

If you see the tap dripping you turn it off. Kiran

Turn the tap off when it is on. Michael

You look after water so you don't waste it. Jessica

...it comes from big tanks.
We play with water outside from the tank.

Emily

The solar panels are up on the roof. They get energy from the sun. They heat up all the water. Olivia

The solar panels make electricity work...and the wires, the wires have pointy sticks on them and they make your electricity work. Jordan

Our future is in good hands!



AuSSI - SA Contacts

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*This edition of the AuSSI-
SA newsletter will be
distributed broadly across
SA. If you require more
copies or know someone
who would like to read this
newsletter contact Jonathan
on the number or email
above.*

*To submit feedback about
this newsletter please contact
Jonathan via email.*

*Feedback could include
suggestions for future
topics/content, themes for
analysis, promotion of
sustainability education
initiatives to educators.*

The Fourth International Middle Years of Schooling Conference has a commitment to sustainability

In 2008, the Fourth International Middle Years of Schooling Conference (IMYSC) has undertaken an initiative in partnership with Carbon Planet.

Global Warming is the greatest challenge now facing our global community. Through a new partnership with carbon emission reduction company, Carbon Planet, The IMYSC is making a commitment to remove the carbon footprint of the conference and establish sustainable carbon emissions practices.

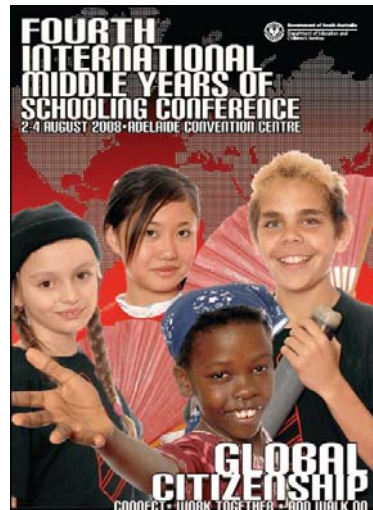
The IMYSC underwent a comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions audit to ascertain the carbon footprint associated with the conference. Advice was sought from Carbon Planet on low emissions practices. Some examples of changes that we have implemented include:

- Using jute delegate bags rather than nylon
- Endeavouring to move towards a paperless conference
- Online registration rather than paper-based registration
- Using a venue that runs on Green Power
- Offsetting all those emissions we can't reduce by using certified carbon credits
- Encouraging our delegates to offset the emissions associated with their flights and accommodation

Other things you can do to reduce your conference footprint:

Walk to the conference or take public transport

If travelling from overseas or interstate consider offsetting your flight emissions by clicking on the button below: http://www.carbonplanet.com/shop_conference_calculator/imysc2008



For further information about the conference go to <http://www.sapmea.asn.au/conventions/middleschool2008/index.html>

Or internet search for 'SAPMEA'



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The AuSSI-SA website

www.decs.sa.gov.au/efs

We are developing the AuSSI - SA website as an important resource for your school's or preschool's journey towards sustainability. New performance stories or examples of effective practice in education for sustainability are wanted for the website so that we can share the learning with other AuSSI-SA participants.

We would love to hear from you if you have sustainability stories to share.

Contact Jonathan on noble.jonathan@saugov.sa.gov.au