

# CERESly Sustainable Newsletter

March 2008

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*AuSSI Vic* (The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative, Victoria) is delivered across the state by CERES and Victorian Government agencies.

*CERESly Sustainable* is produced by CERES and is distributed to all CERES Sustainable Schools. It is available online at [http://sustainability.ceres.org.au/files/sei\\_newsletters\\_2008.htm](http://sustainability.ceres.org.au/files/sei_newsletters_2008.htm)

Would you like to contribute to the next edition of *CERESly Sustainable*? If so, please contact Cara Horner on the contact details below.

### Contact Us:

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Who went to the 'Greening Australia' Toolbox? Many of you, I'm sure, and hopefully you were energised by what you heard of successful projects and creative ideas and structures to make life easier as we reshape the world. Anna's keynote reminded us of the importance of political engagement and youth leadership. We live in a democracy and should use all opportunities to pressure politicians and teach them how to spell 'Urgent'.

As a case in point we have read this week that Melbournians have twice the carbon output of Londoners due to an antiquated car dependent system of urban sprawl. At the same time Professor Garnaut (Australia's answer to Nicholas Stern?) identified sprawl and car dependency as major threats to Australia's greenhouse gas reductions. And our own Brunswick MP Carlo Carli bravely questioned his own government for undermining its own policy on transport.

What should we be doing to our cities? Maybe you could send some bright ideas to our 'Letters to the Planet'?

On the ground some of our schools are using carbon offsets and solar panels and are still saving more water (see reports from the schools). Please continue to supply us with these great stories...school target, at least 2 stories a year of your accomplishments sent to this newsletter! Don't be shy.

We are flat chat at the moment trying to prepare the roll out of the Resource Smart-AuSSI Vic programs on Waste and Core modules. The Sustainability Victoria program is well intentioned but small scale. Because of this there will still be many complementary programs run through Local Councils, Waste Education officers, Planet Savers, LandLearn, Greening Australia, Water companies and catchment authorities and of course DEECD. We will provide some mapping of this in the next newsletter to make your journey easier. For ourselves at CERES we will still be providing support for all the AuSSI modules as required along with our many partners such as Carbonetix (SETS program). Contact us if you are not clear about future pathways but our aim is to contact about 500 schools about this in the next few weeks.

*The times they are a-changing!*



**Major threat to Australia's greenhouse gas reductions.**

Eric Bottomley,  
Team Leader,

On behalf of the rest of the CERES Sustainable Schools Team  
(Cara, Michelle, Narelle, Lorna, Heidi, Sue, Sally and Anthony)

## National Solar Schools Program

Following the news by Lindsay Tanner, Minister for Finance, in our last issue, Peter Garrett has now elaborated on the National Solar Schools program. The website provides details of which elements can be funded.

We are still urging that this support be linked to an expanded AuSSI to ensure educational and organisational changes accompany the technologies

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Principal,

*The Australian Government recognises that we all want clean air, healthy waterways and green spaces for our children to play in. That's why the Government is committed to helping our schools take practical action to tackle climate change and conserve our precious water supplies, providing every student in Australia with a working example of solar power, and energy and water efficiency.*

*You may already be familiar with the previous government's Green Vouchers for Schools program to support schools in installing rainwater tanks and solar hot water systems. Following feedback from schools, the government is replacing this program with a new, more flexible initiative.*

*Under the \$489 million National Solar Schools Program, every school in Australia is eligible to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to install 2 kilowatt solar panels and a range of energy efficiency measures such as lighting upgrades, sky lights and shade awnings, in addition to rainwater tanks and solar hot water systems. This new program represents an additional Australian Government investment of \$153 million, allowing schools to choose the most effective way to meet their energy and water efficiency goals. I expect this new program to be in place by 1 July 2008.*

*Enclosed is a brief fact sheet outlining the broad scope of the National Solar Schools Program, which may assist in your future planning. Given the broader range of items available, I expect that most schools will wish to wait and access this new program. I will write to you to outline the next steps for participating in the program as soon as the details are finalised.*

*However, reflecting the importance of tackling climate change and to ensure that no schools I disadvantaged by the changeover, Green Vouchers for Schools will remain open for claims until the new program opens and schools can choose to claim for eligible items either purchased for contracted prior to 1 July 2008. Amounts claimed under Green Vouchers will be deducted from a school's entitlement under the new National Solar Schools Program.*

*If you wish to access Green Vouchers funding, further information about registering and lodging a claim is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenvouchers> or by contacting the Australian Government Community Water Grants Team on 12800 020 065.*

*The Australian Government is keen to support schools in developing energy and water efficiency initiatives. This new and more flexible program is designed with the individual needs of schools in mind. We look forward to helping you take practical action to tackle climate change, use energy and water more efficiently and to save money in your school.*

Yours sincerely,

Peter Garrett AM

6 February 2008

\*\*\*\*\*

On the following page, is the fact sheet which Peter Garrett refers to this in his letter.

### Sustainability Events

**2008 is:**

International  
Year of Planet  
Earth

[http://yearof  
planetearth.org](http://yearofplanetearth.org)

**March**

[Schools Clean  
Up Day](#)  
2nd

[Clean Up  
Australia Day](#)  
4th

[Seaweed:  
Marine Bycatch  
Matters](#)  
4th-10th  
Free online  
resources at:  
[www.mesa.edu.au  
/seaweed2007/  
default.asp](http://www.mesa.edu.au/seaweed2007/default.asp)

[World Forestry  
Day](#)  
21st

[World Water Day:  
Coping with  
Water Scarcity](#)  
22nd

[World  
Meteorological  
Day: Polar  
Meteorology](#)

Information on  
these and other  
upcoming  
observancy days  
can be found at

[http://www.  
globaleducation.edu.au/globaled/  
go/pid/117](http://www.globaleducation.edu.au/globaled/go/pid/117)

## Professional Learning Events

### Toolbox for Environmental Change 13 March Melbourne

Greening Australia (GA) is partnering with Sustainability Victoria to deliver the 2008 Toolbox for Environmental Change forum. The Toolbox provides a thought-provoking and inspirational event for teachers and educators across Victoria. It showcases practical and innovative models for effective environmental and sustainability programs and demonstrates the benefits of incorporating sustainability education across the whole school. The keynote presentation will be delivered by Anna Keenan - Community Campaigner with the ACF. Don't miss this exciting event that promises to help teachers plan and deliver sustainability projects for 2008 and beyond. \$110 inc. lunch/drinks. Details: <http://live.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/VIC/> phone 9450 5300, [jbaille@gavic.org.au](mailto:jbaille@gavic.org.au)

## National Schools Program (Cont'd from page 2)

The National Solar Schools Program will help Australian schools take practical action over the next eight years to tackle climate change as part of the government's Solar Schools - Solar Homes Plan. The program is expected to be launched in July 2008.

The National Solar Schools Program will offer grants of up to:

- ◆ \$20,000 for solar technology and to support the installation of 2kW solar panels; and
- ◆ \$30,000 to invest in any combination of solar hot water systems, rainwater tanks, and passive solar innovations such as sky lights, shade awnings, lighting upgrades, extended solar power systems or other energy efficiency measures

The maximum amount any school can claim under the National Solar Schools Program is \$50,000. The amount of funding a school is eligible for will be reduced by the full amount of any claim made under the Green Vouchers for Schools Program.

Projects funded under the National Solar Schools Program must meet certain requirements.

- ◆ The works must be carried out at a clearly defined school site
- ◆ The supply and installation of any photovoltaic system must be done by an accredited renewable energy designer/installer
- ◆ All works must be completed by a suitably qualified person and installed according to relevant Australian Standards
- ◆ The cost of on-ground works must be related to the installation of eligible items
- ◆ All the necessary Federal, State and local government regulations must be met and approvals obtained.

It is anticipated that schools will complete their projects within six months of receiving funding.

Schools will need to carefully research options to ensure they get the best value out of their National Solar Schools Program funding. This may include conducting an energy and water use efficiency audit at the planning stage and contacting an accredited designer/installer to discuss the best solar system options, and the best combination of energy and water efficiency improvements.

For more information on the Federal Labor's National Solar Schools Program, please visit <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1007/msCCloo250.php>

## Water Tours at CERES

Green Technology are going to run monthly walk-and-talks about all the interesting and amazing water projects on site.

Come join us for a tour and a talk on CERES' exciting demonstration projects in water harvesting and reuse, including:

- \* our brand new aquaponics system at the Farm's fishponds
- \* stormwater filters designed to make carparks creek-safe
- \* reed beds for treating water
- \* the small things that make collecting rainwater simple
- \* lots more!

You'll get ideas on where you can harvest your water from, the grades of water you get, and see some fantastic new ideas about what to do with it next. There'll be plenty of time for questions and answers on setting up home systems and making them work.

There's a \$5 charge for the walk (includes a cuppa at the end). Bookings essential to Tiki at [tiki@ceres.org.au](mailto:tiki@ceres.org.au), so we know how many people to expect.

Water walk-and-talks will run first Tuesday evening of the month at 6pm during daylight savings, and noon of the first Saturday during non-daylight-savings months for all of 2008. Please spread the word, especially to anyone you know who's wondering how to make their own water go a little farther!

**Professional Learning Events**

**Biodiversity Up Close 8 May Healesville**

Supporting the Biodiversity Resource Module of AuSSI Vic, LandLearn will be offering workshops suitable for teachers and Landcare/Community Group members to support the integration of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management themes into schools curriculum  
 Details: LandLearn 5824 5523 [landlearn.program@dpi.vic.gov.au](http://landlearn.program@dpi.vic.gov.au)

**Learning in the Garden. Port Phillip EcoCentre, St Kilda**

**14th April 10am- 2.30pm**

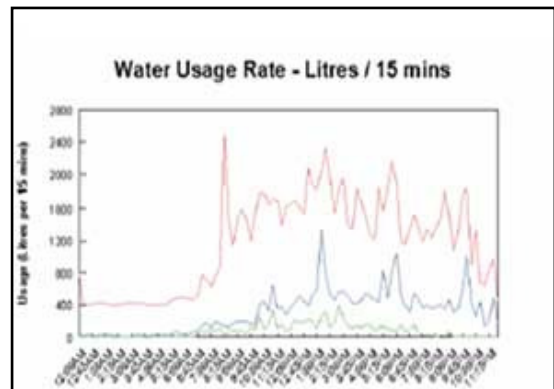
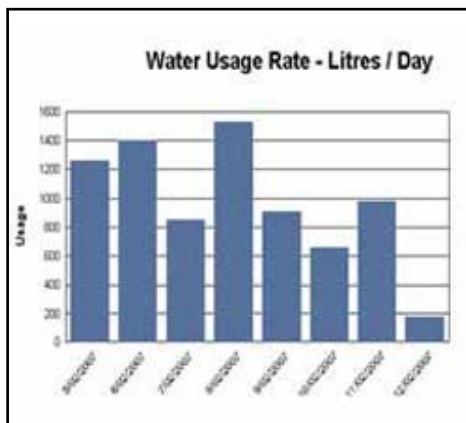
Aimed at providing curriculum resources & ideas for teachers to integrate their garden across the curriculum. Explore an existing garden and network with those who have planned & planted their own school vegie gardens.  
 Details: LandLearn 5824 5523 [landlearn.program@dpi.vic.gov.au](http://landlearn.program@dpi.vic.gov.au)

**TechTalk- WaterGuard Smart Water Meter**

**WaterGuard** is an intelligent Smart Water Meter, monitoring water usage in real-time, protecting property against the damage caused by burst pipes and leaks and helping the user to understand, manage and reduce water consumption.

**WaterGuard** records water consumption data from any pulse capable water meter and can be configured to upload the data to a secure web site for analysis. Monitoring Water consumption by time and volume, WaterGuard can also be programmed to automatically cut-off the water supply when it detects an abnormal situation.

**WaterGuard's** user-friendly analysis software (WaterGuard Management System) allows the user to view usage data in real time in a variety of ways and allows the instant production of comparative graphs on water consumption. It also provides the ability to export the data to a range of software programs such as Excel and Adobe PDF for further analysis and/or



Comparisons of water usage across multiple meters and locations can be displayed

distribution to other interested parties.

The WaterGuard management System also incorporates a threshold alert system whereby the user can set thresholds for usage at various times during the day. If those thresholds are breached an alert can be sent to the nominated people either by SMS message on a mobile phone or via email. This functionality is ideal for notifying maintenance staff of possible leaks as they occur – no need to wait until the next water bill to check for excessive water usage.

Many schools use **WaterGuard** and by doing so have, for the first time, been able to understand their water consumption and recognize how much water is wasted through leakage. Once it has been understood that leakage is occurring schools have then taken steps to find and fix the leak, generally saving many thousands of litres of water and its associated cost. If leaks are unable to be fixed immediately, water leaks can easily be stopped overnight by turning off the system.

Schools are also looking at where and at what times of the day consumption is occurring and are using that information to plan school activities to minimize water wastage.

Two major problems for schools are theft of water by local residents and the long periods of time when a school is closed. **WaterGuard** can prevent water theft by automatically turning off the water when the school is unoccupied or by turning off the water supply if the threshold set for those times is breached. In the same way **WaterGuard** can protect the school from flooding or any water loss through vandalism during weekends or holiday periods.



Many of the schools are also using **WaterGuard** as a teaching aid on sustainability with great success. Watersave has a number of educational modules available for schools, developed in conjunction with another organization.

## Ongoing Grants Schemes

### Mullum Trust Ongoing

Aims to support and engender projects which have significant, ongoing, or catalytic environmental outcomes. Such projects are preferred to those with specific localised environmental outcomes, although projects which are locally based but have far reaching impacts are also encouraged

Details: Phone 9208 7000, email [simitchell@deloitte.com.au](mailto:simitchell@deloitte.com.au)

### Botanic Guardians Incentive Scheme Ongoing

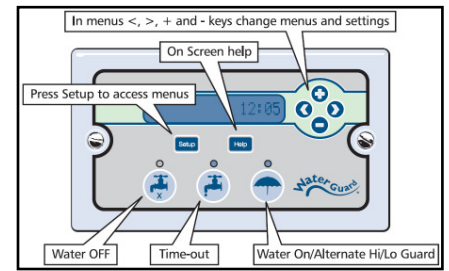
The BGI Scheme aims to help conserve Victoria's rare and threatened native plant species & vegetation communities on public & private land. Funding is usually available year round & projects can be awarded up to \$3,000.

Details: Phone 9412 4232, email [adrian.morreese@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:adrian.morreese@dse.vic.gov.au)

## Waterguard (Cont'd from page 4)

### WaterGuard Benefits

- Helps reduce costly water bills;
- Conserve precious water resources;
- Allows simple push on/off of the water supply;
- Records water usage data in real-time over the Internet;
- Is the cost-effective answer to total water management;
- Supported with free educational materials; and
- Automatically protects against the damage caused by burst water pipes.



There are two schools in Victoria that have the WaterGuard system installed. These schools are:

- Donvale Christian College (John Harris - 9844 2471), and
- Blackburn Primary School (Peter Dyer - 9878 1483)

Feel free to contact these schools if you have any further enquiries about WaterGuard. -Cara

## Local School Aims to be the (Ecological Footprint) Sole of Sustainability

Independent school Billanook College, in Mooroolbark is committed to reducing their environmental footprint through a range of exciting initiatives.

The College has been chosen to be one of only 20 Victorian schools who will participate in the 2008 Ceres Carbon Sink Schools Program.

As one of only 20 participating pilot schools in Victoria, students and Staff at the College will endeavour to further reduce their carbon emissions, through a wide application of green energy use, carbon sink plantings and continuous carbon auditing. The rigorous program aims to create a reduction in the College's current carbon emissions, create a platform for carbon trading and embed sustainable environmental practices within the School and wider community.

The College was selected for the program on the basis of its demonstrated commitment to the environment, its 5 Star Sustainable Schools rating, Land for Wildlife Accreditation and continuous environmental efforts, initiated through curriculum based and student run initiatives.

The Federal Government has also recognised the College's commitment to the environment by awarding a Community Water Grant of \$50,000.

The grant is for the installation of a 100,000 litre water tank in the vineyard which will collect the water from the Viticulture Skills Centre and surrounding areas eg car parks and ovals. After filtration this water will be used to irrigate the vineyard and the top oval.

This initiative will save 3,870,000 litres of water per year.

The next stage will be to implement a program that collects the water from all over the campus to use for flushing toilets and watering the gardens.

Billanook College aims to be a model green School which is energy efficient, waste wise and with a whole School approach to sustainable behaviours.

The College runs regular tours of their 32 hectare campus. For further information regarding the sustainability programs and the educational opportunities at the College please contact Mrs Josephine Reed on 9724 1109 or by email at [registrar@billanook.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@billanook.vic.edu.au)

## Jackgreen Energy



Jackgreen Energy, one of Australia's leading retailers of accredited renewable energy is working with schools to encourage as many people as possible to switch to GreenPower.

Jackgreen have agreed to donate \$35 to schools for each parent and teacher household which switches to Jackgreen GreenPower and select their school.

They have one of the lowest prices on 100% GreenPower and even have a 10% GreenPower product for no extra cost. Register your interest with [michelle@ceres.org.au](mailto:michelle@ceres.org.au)

## Ongoing Grants Schemes

**Australia Post Community Development 25 April and 19 September**

Community groups, including local landcare groups across Australia, can now apply for yearly grants of up to \$3,300 (including GST) to help improve their local community and environment. The grants can fulfil a community groups' "wish list" and directly fund a community project, help buy much needed tools and equipment, or help raise awareness and encourage more community members to get involved. The flexibility in the allocation of funds aims to help groups in their ability to grow within the community.

Details: [http://www.landcareonline.com/funding\\_opportunity\\_details.asp?fo\\_id=9](http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=9)

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## Letters to the Planet

Last month we asked you, the readers of the CERESly Sustainable Newsletter, to write and let us know what you think of the articles we feature in every issue. We received a lovely letter from Timmee Grinham (Humanities Teacher and Co-ordinator of Sustainability) of Ruyton Girls' School.

*Hi Lorna,*

*I've just read the latest CERESly Sustainable—and wanted to say “thanks” for the glossary! It helped me a lot!*

*Also—the article on what kids feel about climate change was really interesting. I've forwarded it along to the Staff Sustainability Committee here at Ruyton. We decided to take the students involved in our Students for Sustainability Committee on a little enviro retreat this year - and the benefits of that have been confirmed for me by your article!*

*Timmee*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Thanks, Timmee,*

*It is great to get good feedback from striving sustainability educators! Having student involvement in making your school sustainable is essential and it is fantastic to see Ruyton Girls are also heading down that road!*

*Lorna Pettifer*

\* \* \* \* \*

Again we invite you to write to us and let us know what you think of the articles and issues we bring up in the newsletter every month. Also if you want to tell us what your school has done lately, know about a gadget or technology that helps the environment or just want to have your say on how to save the planet..... Write to us!

Address your letter to “Letters to the Planet”

You can email

[lorna@ceres.org.au](mailto:lorna@ceres.org.au)

Or send a letter to

Attn: Lorna Pettifer

**Letters to the Planet**

**CERES ~ Environment Park**

Cnr of Roberts and Stewart Streets,  
Brunswick East,  
Victoria 3057.



## Here Comes the Sun!

Merri Creek Primary School is preparing to go solar! We have recently gained funding through the from the State Government's Solar in Schools Program to install solar panels on our rooves, which will be installed shortly. To celebrate this, the students of Merri Creek PS have investigated what solar power can really do.

The grade 3/4 students have been studying energy, building circuits and experimenting with solar power and now they are ready to show off what they've learnt.

Solar power is free, it's green and it's ideal for powering small sailing vessels. Our 66 grade 3/4 students were given the brief to design, build, test and race a boat built entirely from recycled materials and powered by a twelve-volt solar panel. The results were varied, but spectacular.

“I like solar powered boats, because it saves energy and petrol.” Isobel Fitzpatrick, Grade 4.

“Solar power comes from the sun. It can become almost any type of energy.” Meaghan Gaunt, Grade 3.

“If the boat's density is more than one gram per cubic centimetre it will sink.” Giovanni Colarossi, Grade 3.

“Because the weather kept changing, you had to wait a while for your boat to go. But when the sun came out, they went really fast!” Liam O'Connor, Grade 3.

-Jonathan Shearer, Merri Creek Primary School

## Ongoing Grants Schemes

**Dilmah Water Quality Grants**  
**30 May**  
**31 October**

Do you need a Waterwatch kit and/or new stock or training to go with it?

Through the grants, Landcare, community groups and schools around Australia will now have better ability to monitor and improve the quality of their water in their local area. Grants of up to \$1,650 (inc GST) are up for grabs. Schools and community groups are able to apply for the following: Water quality testing kits for community groups and schools; Water quality testing training; and/ or Water quality testing kit consumables.

Details: Phone (03) 9662-9977

[http://www.landcareonline.com/funding\\_opportunity\\_details.asp?fo\\_id=10](http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=10)

## North Fitzroy PS Offsets Excursion

North Fitzroy Primary School has become part of the Carbon Sinks Program in an effort to become carbon neutral. Eric Bottomley recently spoke to the whole staff about climate change and reducing carbon emissions, and has been a great support to the school. NFPS has become a five-star Sustainable School by focusing on reducing energy and water consumption, minimising waste and increasing biodiversity. The process took three years.

With the world moving towards a carbon offset trading scheme, the school has gotten in early, looking to offset the amount of carbon used in getting students to and from excursions.

During February, thirty students in grades 5 and 6 from North Fitzroy visited the sustainability festival in Federation Square. The students enjoyed a mini film festival on sustainable themes, viewed many fascinating solutions to environmental problems, and reinforced their knowledge of how to reduce people's impact on the environment. "The presenters were impressed with our students' knowledge of topics such as fair trade," said grade 5 teacher Kathy Peters after the trip.

The unique thing about the excursion was that North Fitzroy included the price of a carbon offset credit in the bus price. It was surprisingly cheap! For only \$23 grade 5 teacher Jenni Jamieson purchased an offset of one tonne of carbon from an accredited online source. This made the excursion more than carbon neutral. Grade 6 student Charlotte said of the offset that "it's great we can buy an offset so we don't feel guilty about putting carbon into the atmosphere."

North Fitzroy is looking at offsetting all of its excursions in future.

For more information on this article, please contact David Ruddick from North Fitzroy Primary School on 9481 5860 or by email at [ruddick.david.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:ruddick.david.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

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Offsetting carbon from a trip is just one of many things schools can do in their carbon plan. The Carbon reduction hierarchy is similar to our usual 3 Rs in Waste, but in this case there are 5 Rs.

1. **REDUCTIONS** and avoidance of all unnecessary heating, lighting, air-conditioning, travel, material use, waste generation, etc.
2. **REFINEMENTS** - energy use by using energy efficient alternatives, passive solar designs and well planned behavioural approaches (monitors and managers, tracking systems and reporting etc)
3. **RENEWABLES** - use green electricity and utilise biogas and biomass where appropriate
4. **REVEGETATION AND RETENTION** - Planting trees and shrubs as carbon sinks, retention of vegetation, maintaining ground cover and soil storage of carbon in fertile soils
5. **REIMBURSEMENTS FOR OFFSETS!** - paying for carbon use by purchasing offsets (as with Greenfleet and Landcare tree plantings)

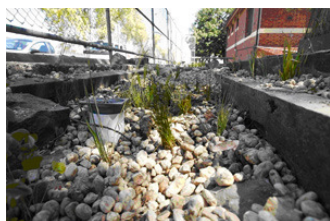
This could be a standard approach by schools working through the 5 Rs.

- Eric

## Win a Raingarden for your School

A raingarden is a regular garden, but is designed to act as a filter, as it cleans the rainwater collected from a hard surface. How would you like one for your school?

As part of the 2008 Melbourne Water River Health Youth Conference (held on June 4th and 5th, 2008), twenty participating schools will have the chance to win a raingarden for their school, each valued at \$10,000. All you need to do is to simply register now for the 2008 Melbourne Water River Health Youth Conference here:



<http://www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/index.php?pageid=239>

... but you have to act quick, as registrations close on March 20th!!

For more information, click here for the conference flyer [http://education.melbournewater.com.au/content/library/Youth\\_Conference\\_08\\_Flyer.pdf](http://education.melbournewater.com.au/content/library/Youth_Conference_08_Flyer.pdf)

## Ongoing Grants Schemes

Mitre 10,  
BI-LO and  
Australia Post  
Junior Landcare

**16 May**  
**1 August**  
**24 October**

Any school or organisation that would like to involve their students in landcare projects, in conjunction with local landcare groups, can apply for grants of up to \$550 (including GST) to assist them with the cost of their projects. In addition to on-ground rehabilitation or restoration works, projects may also include conservation of natural resources, environmental monitoring programs, waste minimisation, using school grounds as learning centres or undertaking an environmental field trip.

Details: Phone (03) 9662-9977  
[http://www.landcareonline.com/funding\\_opportunity\\_details.asp?fo\\_id=6](http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6)

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## CERES Workshops– March & April 2008

CERES has a number of exciting workshops running throughout March and April held here at CERES (Corner of Roberts and Stewart Sts, Brunswick East) for AuSSI schools to participate in! Check this out:

**Bee Keeping, with Lyndon Fenlon, 30 March, 10am-3pm, \$88 Full or \$77 Conc.**

Learn everything from the inner workings of a bee hive to the healing properties of raw honey; how to maintain a healthy hive; to the wonders of swarms and how to keep them in check. Weather permitting also open a hive and have a hands on demonstration.

**Intro to Permaculture, with Matt Daniele, 5 and 6 April, 10am-5pm, \$150 Full or \$140 Conc.**

Permaculture (permanent agriculture) is a whole system approach to ecological planning and design for sustainable living, developed by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. In this workshop you will be introduced to permaculture principles and design methods.

**Small Farm Planning, with Justin Calverley, 26 April, 10am-4pm, \$88 Full or \$77 Conc.**

Join the walking classroom as it tours CERES using living examples to help you select the right property, plan for water needs, choose appropriate buildings, plantings, animals and machinery and make being on the land a lot more pleasure than pain.

For further information on CERES workshops or to make a booking, please contact reception on 9387 2609, email [reception@ceres.org.au](mailto:reception@ceres.org.au) or go to the CERES website and download the

## Grants Closing Soon

### **Solar in Schools - Round Two 28 March**

Solar in Schools' supports Victorian schools and community facilities to install solar photovoltaic power systems and provide education on renewable energies. Applicants are also eligible to apply for both the Victorian Solar in Schools rebate and the Australian Government's Photovoltaic Rebate Programme (PVRP). For general enquires on the Victorian rebate, contact 1300 363 744.

Details: Sustainability Victoria's [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au) > Take action > Schools  
<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au:80/www/html/2398-solar-in-schools.asp>

### **Norman Wettenhall Foundation 30 March**

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation's objective is to support projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment. They will support and encourage research, education and recording of all aspects of the natural living environment, with a particular emphasis on advancing the interests of native birds & their habitats.

Details: <http://www.nwf.org.au/grants/applications.htm>, or contact Elizabeth Mellick on (03) 5472 1316.

### **NRCL Arbor Week grants 4 April**

There is an opportunity for your school to apply for funding (up to \$4000) in 2008 through the Natural Resources Conservation League (NRCL) to assist your school in celebrating Arbor Week. Arbor Week is a 118 year old tradition of promoting tree planting in schools and other community facilities, and involves thousands of students across Victoria. Each year, Arbor Week comes alive in June.

Details: <http://www.nrcl.org.au>, or contact Marita McQuirk (NRCL) on 5966 5822.

### **Australia Post Community Development 25 April**

Community groups, including local landcare groups across Australia, can now apply for yearly grants of up to \$3,300 (including GST) to help improve their local community and environment. The grants can fulfil a community groups' "wish list" and directly fund a community project, help buy much needed tools and equipment, or help raise awareness and encourage more community members to get involved. The flexibility in the allocation of funds aims to help groups in their ability to grow within the community.

Details: [http://www.landcareonline.com/funding\\_opportunity\\_details.asp?fo\\_id=9](http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=9)

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