

The Sustainability Education Roundtable is an informal, broadly based forum open to all who share a commitment to a comprehensive, integrated approach to education for sustainability. We believe in developing stewardship values, behaviours, and lifestyles in Victoria through sustainability education.

The round table working group is chaired by Mike Hill and hosted by CERES and includes participation from Department of Sustainability and Education, EcoRecycle Victoria, EPA, Environment Victoria, Gould League, LeastWaste, Maunsell, VAAE, and Victoria University.

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Sustainability Education Roundtable #1

9.30 am - 12.30 noon: 27/07/05

'Treetops' Café, Melbourne Museum

Thanks to all the individuals and organisations who attended this inaugural Roundtable for 2005. About 117 people attended and heard excellent background briefings from the speakers. The list of speakers is given below as a reminder of the events and all the PowerPoint presentations delivered are provided in the attachment.

THE EVENTS OF THE DAY

Registration, Welcome and Purpose: Mike Hill

This Roundtable aimed to inform all those involved in sustainability education of a range of background changes and events that will have an impact on the field

Presentation One: Steve Malcolm

Steve introduced Victoria's Sustainability Education Strategy 'Learning to Live Sustainably' and identified processes for its action and communications programs

Presentation Two: Rebecca Falkingham, DSE

Rebecca spoke about the recently released Victoria's Sustainability Framework with emphasis on its implications for education and behaviour change

Presentation Three: Cheryl Batagol

Cheryl is Chair of the Interim Advisory Board of Sustainability Victoria, a new body with a strong sustainability education brief

Presentation Four: Peter Lyon, DSE

Peter is part of the Secretariat of Victorian Local Sustainability Committee, a Ministerial Committee charged with developing an Accord between the State and local governments

Presentation Five: Jenny Lindell, MP

Jenny spoke about the final report of the Inquiry into Sustainable Communities undertaken by the Environment and Natural Resources Parliamentary Committee

What's Next: More Roundtables

Mike Hill outlined the planned program for four further Sustainability Education Roundtables. The next Roundtable will be at 9:30 – 12pm on September 21st at the 60L Building in Leicester Street. Open to all sustainability educators, but **prior bookings will be essential**. While the date is fixed, the venue is provisional at this stage depending on the number of participants. Venue will be confirmed closer to the date. The focus will be on the 'Learning To Live Sustainably' strategy, with a background briefing, and Roundtable discussions leading to feedback for the DSE. Have your say!

Follow Up

This is a reminder that reports from the Roundtable Phase 1 and presentations from the current roundtables can all be accessed on <http://sustainability.ceres.org.au>

We have had very encouraging feedback from the Roundtables, in fact Western Australia is keen to use material from the report of the Roundtable Phase 1 in its own state strategy. Many individual responses, such as the one below, have been received.

Dear Mike

It has taken me a while but while working recently with EcoRecycle and some of the excellent REO's on Waste Education issues I was reminded of the Sust Education Roundtable Project. I have just read your full report and wanted to pass on my congratulations to you and the participants for a great body of work. The 11 Key Drivers are a terrific summary and I liked the references to Stephen Sterling's work on the difference between 'Transmissive' versus 'Transformative' learning. One aphorism that I have found useful recently is:

*Communication - - is the sharing of created meaning
Conversation - is the creation of shared meaning*

Keep up the great work...

Julian

EcoSTEPS - Sustainability Partner

Crawford

Statement from the Department of Education and Training on its Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Way Forward: An Environmental Sustainability Strategy for the Department of Education & Training. The Department has approved a Department-wide strategy, including corporate offices, regions, schools and TAFE institutes to:

- support Government goals and targets for environmental sustainability
- improve the environmental performance of the Department's facilities;
- increase awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability in the Department, our stakeholders and the wider community; and
- support whole school planning in education for a sustainable environment in schools through student learning.

This strategy recognises and builds on the work that has already commenced across the Department and aims to help people work together across all sectors and with our key stakeholders in this challenge. The key objectives of the strategy include:

- 1) strengthening governance and leadership for environmental sustainability;
- 2) implementing and learning from 'Quick Wins';
- 3) integrating environmental sustainability into existing systems and policies;
- 4) increasing participation, engagement and achievement;
- 5) enhancing people's knowledge and skills in environmental sustainability; and
- 6) achieving sustainable financing and resourcing for environmental sustainability actions.

Key Components of the Sustainable Schools Strategy 2005

Support for the Department's Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Department will develop an Administrative Guidelines for Sustainability as a support document to the Victorian Government School Reference Guide. The guidelines will outline essential policy and ways to implement sustainability practices across the Department, including curriculum in schools.

The Strategic Partnerships Program

The Strategic Partnership Program's next three year funding round will incorporate the concepts of "sustainability" and "sustainability education" as significant overall criteria. New round of three year funding commences in 2006.

Development of training programs

For stakeholder agencies, DE&T and the Department of Sustainability and Environment will develop a training program to:

- provide quality assurance of the delivery of environmental education by stakeholder agencies in their support for schools
- engage the stakeholder agencies as effective facilitators for the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative, Victoria (AuSSI Vic).

For use with pre-service teachers, DE&T and the Department of Sustainability and Environment will develop a resource to:

- provide the essential learnings and activities in Education for a Sustainable Environment
- ensure ongoing promotion and support for the next generation of teachers in schools.

Thanks to Conrad Remenyi for this summary.

Victorian Sustainability Education Program wins National Recognition

Congratulations to CERES-Gould partnership for Sustainable Schools which won the Eureka Award- *the Dept of Environment and Conservation Allen Strom Eureka Prize for Sustainability Education*. These awards organised by the Australian Museum are amongst the most prestigious awards in Australia for science and environment. The Eureka site provides a description:

"The Victorian Sustainable Schools program started as a pilot in 2001 with just eighteen schools. Today, the program wins the \$10,000 Department of Environment and Conservation Allen Strom Eureka Prize for Sustainability Education for bringing best practice sustainability education to over 160 schools."

Read more at http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/environmental_education/2005_winner.htm.

CERES and Gould would like to thank all participants in the Roundtable for their support. Some organisations have helped finance the SS initiative, some are involved in delivering on the ground program support, many people at the Roundtables over the last 12 months have listed this as a flagship program and have provided thoughtful critiques and support for Sustainable Schools initiatives. Thank you to all for helping win the Eureka Award.

Victorian Sustainability Education Roundtable

Next Roundtable Meeting:

9:30 am – 12.00 noon
21st of September 2005,
60L Building
Leicester Street,
Melbourne

*Open to all sustainability educators, **but prior bookings will be essential.***

Contact:

For further information about the process or to discuss your ideas about direction contact:

Eric Bottomley (CERES)

eric@ceres.org.au,

9380 1556

Steve Malcolm (DSE)

Stephen.Malcolm@dse.vic.gov.au

9653 6929

Frank Mitchell (Swinburne)

frank.mitchell1@bigpond.com

9695 2705

Mike Hill (Roundtable Chair)

mike@westwyck.com

9380 1459