

## The Lakes South Morang - Supporting Sustainable Communities

At The Lake South Morang we continue to be as sustainable as possible. It is important to minimise our impact on the environment by trying to reduce our ecological footprint as much as possible @ The Lakes “we tread lightly”

This is not only important for the environment but also important as part of educating our students and school community about the need to reduce our use of resources and energy.

Some of the initiatives @ The Lakes include:

- **School Structure – Tilt up concrete**

This material enables our school to store energy in winter. High ceilings, fans, double glazing on our northern aspect and a purging system that enables hot air to be extracted overnight

- **Smart Roof Project**

Using Solar Panel our Early Years campus benefit from a system that uses the hot air stored in the ceiling cavity to pushed into the building during winter to reduce energy cost while in the summer months extracts the hot air to cool the building more rapidly.

- **Seating and Outdoor Learning Spaces**

The outdoor seating spaces feature indigenous rock quarried from our site in construction of the Technology Building this together with the mulch harvested from land clearing programs within our estate ensure our school is true to the learning about sustainability.

- **Successful completion of Schools Water Efficiency Program.**

This program involved an audit of our water use and identification of conservation. I am pleased to report no opportunities for further water efficiency measures were identified and we are an accredited Water Efficient School

- **Water Harvesting Project – Toilet Flushing.**

On average a school such as The Lakes uses 80% of its water use to flush the children’s toilets. We have installed 6 tanks which collects water from our buildings that are pumped to the toilets. It is estimated that this project will save 1,000 000 litres of water each year.

- **Water Harvesting Project – Bus Washing**

Currently under construction is a project that will collect water from the new bus garage near the Technology building. The water will be collected via the stormwater system in tanks.

- **Water Harvesting Project – Gardens**

We also use water tanks that are placed around the school next to existing downpipes. Each tank has a capacity of litres. The tanks will supply water to the garden beds in the immediate vicinity through a gravity feed system.

- **National Solar Schools Project**

We are currently waiting for approval from the Federal Government for \$50,000 of Solar Panels to be placed on the Technology building. These panels will enable us to put energy back into the grid.

- **Recycling**

At the Lakes we promote the re use of paper that has been used on one side. Each Pod has a paper recycling basket and recycled paper is collected in city of Whittlesea Yellow Lid Bins and picked up on a fortnightly basis. We also collect and recycle mobile phones on behalf of the school community. Mobile Phones can leach toxins into the soil and water system if disposed of in landfill.

- **Reduction of use of energy in classroom.**

We promote the reduction of the use of lighting and heating/cooling through the promotion of such strategies as turning lights off at recess and lunchtimes, keeping doors closed to keep the heat or cool air in, ensuring that computers and other equipment is turned off at end of each day. Our lights and heaters are on timers and sensors to maximise this feature

- **Composting**

Small buckets with lids are located throughout the school to ensure food scraps are sent to our compost heads and worm farms – This compost is use in our veggie gardens

- **Annual Walk/Ride/ skate to school Day.**

This day is highly successful with over 400 students participating.

Each of these initiatives is supported by strong curriculum programs across the school. Ecomania

We are very proud to have be named the winner of the 2009 Proud Schools Award by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, as Sustainability Champions by the University of NSW in 2007 and again in 2008 and a finalist in The City of Whittlesea Sustainable Schools award 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 2008.

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