



ONE  
STEP



## The digital newsletter of the Environmental Action Team

*It takes 375mls of water to make three sheets of A4 paper  
so please think before printing this newsletter ☺*

**August 2016**

*Hi and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for 2016.*

*What a month of public recognition we have had! At the end of last term we were contacted by the Australian Teacher Magazine regarding wanting to interview us about all the wonderful sustainable practices that we are engaged in - the GGHS Environmental Action Team had reached their radar all the way in Sydney. We have attached a copy of the published article from their latest edition for you to check out yourselves. Early this term we were also approached by the Australian Education Union (AEU) to write an article about the influence that sustainability training has had for GGHS as they see us as leading the way for secondary schools across the state. We certainly couldn't be getting our message out there so strongly without the support and actions of the GGHS community so we would like to say thank you for your ongoing contributions to a more sustainable school environment.*

### **Staff Engaged in Sustainable Learning**

In the school holidays, three members of EAT engaged in an overnight training and development camp at Arbury Park. A full reflection of our experiences will be available to read in the next AEU newsletter, but here is a sneak-peak:

'Arbury Park School – wow, what an amazing site! On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, three members of our Environmental Action Team (EAT) made the drive up full of excitement about getting to learn and share ideas about implementing even more sustainable practices in to our school. We were not disappointed. Sitting around the camp fire, roasting marshmallows and sharing stories was the perfect start to the conference and a great way to make connections with other enthusiastic sustainability 'warriors'....

Due to the conference we would love to make stronger connections with other community businesses and work with them towards environmental action. At the conference, the workshop run by Stuart Gifford, which explored the connections between Sarah's Sisters Sustainable Café (<https://www.facebook.com/SarahsSisters/>) and a primary school in the area, was truly inspirational. It made us question and look deeper at how we could strengthen our current Land Care program, offered at Year 9, by forming meaningful ties with the local community to work collaboratively, not only towards curriculum goals, but to contributing to local success in an environmentally and economically sustainable way.... Another true inspiration on the day was Madison Turley, a student from Victor Harbor High School, who actively runs an educational program about the impact of waste in our oceans and runs her own Facebook page, Don't Waste Our Wave (<https://www.facebook.com/Dont-Waste-Our-Wave>). At GGHS we strive to embed in students an ability to use the knowledge we give them to be critical, creative and reflective learners who make ethical decisions about environmental and social/cultural needs of the future. We can't wait to share Madison's story to help motivate students at GGHS....

Thank you to the AEU for providing such an opportunity in such an inspiring location, Arbury Park is an amazing DECD Outdoor School with accommodation, catering, staff and curriculum ready to go – check it out (<http://www.arburypark.sa.edu.au/>). Also a big thank you to the AEU Environment Action Group for making this happen



### **'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in Radelaide'**

Are you are looking to join like-minded people on a journey to live more environmentally friendly and be inspired by others in South Australia? If so, check out the page 'Reduce Reuse Recycle in Radelaide' on Facebook which is a fantastic space for sharing and reading sustainability tips especially designed for people living in our wonderful city!

## Soft Plastics Delivery to Coles!



Check out all the soft plastics that we have already saved from going to landfill this term! Remember to continue to fill your soft plastics bin in your office and/or in your classroom, and when it's full, simply deliver to the staff room or to G-Block office and a friendly EAT member will deliver it to Coles for you 😊

## Think Reusable, Recyclable, Sustainable

As many of you are aware, there is a new edition to the Thiele Library family – a brand new coffee machine! We are excited by the positive impacts that this is going to have on our senior school learning hub, but what about the environmental impacts? It is estimated that Australians use 1 billion disposable coffee cups each year, 90% of which ends up in landfill, equating to 60 000 kilograms of plastic waste each year. That makes disposable coffee cups the second largest contributor to litter waste after plastic bottles.

What's the solution? Bring your own reusable cup! This is such an easy and practical way to reduce coffee cup landfill without having to give up your hot chocolate fix.

Want us to order one for you? At GGHS we promote a range of enviro-friendly products, one being BioCup. These beautiful high gloss cups are a more **sustainable and healthier alternative** to conventional plastic and melamine. The BYOCups are free of BPA and phthalates and have FDA food contact approval. *It's made from a sustainable resource that you can use over and over again!* It's so cheap at **\$6.00** a cup! When it eventually does come to the end of its life, it is also compostable! All you have to do to order one is place your name on the order form next to the coffee machine in Thiele Library by the end of Week 6 or email Ms Zwartz at [Sarah.Zwartz452@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Sarah.Zwartz452@schools.sa.edu.au) – EASY!

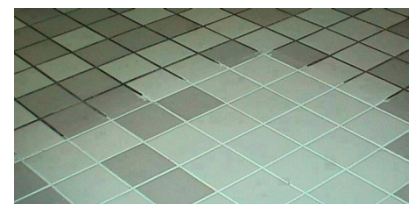
## Sending the Sustainable Message Across the Globe

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August we were once again fortunate enough to have Cobbler Creek Recreation Park host us for our 'Tree Planting Day' as part of the field work component of our Year 8 Geography course. The purpose of this day was to not only increase students' geographical knowledge and skills, but to also get them thinking about and participating in sustainable practices. Approximately 160 students, including the Japanese students visiting as part of the Koishikawa Secondary Education Study Tour, walked down to the park where we were met by multiple excited volunteers from the Friends of Cobbler Creek volunteer organisation and NRM Education. We were very humbled to have our Japanese visitors join on this perfectly sunny day, and hearing their enthusiastic conversations about being able to plant trees (something that even the Principal had never done due to their location in Japan) and learn about cultural sustainability through engagement in an Indigenous walking tour was heart-warming. Particularly as the weather warms up, we recommend you go and visit our tree planting site, which is directly opposite the Teakles Ruin within the park, and read all the wonderful messages left on the tree guards for the community to enjoy.



## Want to be less reliant on harsh unsafe chemicals in the home?

Are you looking for an environmentally friendly spring cleaning recipe to tackle the cleaning of grout and make your tiles sparkle? Simply combine 7 cups of water, 1/2 cup of baking soda, 1/3 cup of lemon juice and 1/4 cup of vinegar, throw in a spray bottle and spray your floor. Let it sit for a minute or two, and then scrub away. The results are amazing!



**Please note: Our newsletter is very colourful and has beautiful pictures. Please be conscious about whether you print this newsletter or not. It is meant to be read and enjoyed on a device or tablet and we would like to see it not printed at all. Thank you for being considerate.**