



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 ☺*

March 2016

Hi and welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for 2016.

What a wonderful and fruitful year we had last year and it appears that 2016 will be even better. Firstly, we would like to acknowledge all the members of the school community who participated eagerly in our aim of a sustainable future. It would be a lengthy task to name them all here, but for all those who produced results (not always visible to the naked eye), please know that the school and the greater community appreciate your efforts.

In particular, we'd like to acknowledge our 2015 Golden Grove High School Sustainability Award winners:

Staff Award: Mrs Mary Lane

Student Award: Jasmine

Congratulations and thank you for your inspirational work in the field of promoting sustainable futures!

GGHS Leading The Way: We were visited recently by another local high school as they had heard of what we do towards becoming sustainable. They came with hundreds of questions, surprising us all. We must be doing something right! We have also been approached by KESAB to run a training day at GGHS for other schools next term. This is going to be a great chance to not only showcase what we do here, but also to learn from others and encourage participation in a statewide drive towards sustainability in schools.

Free Herbs: The start of this year has seen herbs being planted in the garden beds behind Home Economics. This is yet another strategy being put in place to promote both environmental and economic sustainability. Please pass this information on to your colleagues who may not know it's there and is free to be used.

Recycling Hint: Need to recycle polystyrene? Our friends at Salisbury East High School have told us that Cool Foam in Elizabeth will take your waste. Although hard to do, an even better option is not to buy goods where they give you polystyrene as this product causes adverse environmental and health effects.



Good News Story

Our Science Faculty recently took responsibility for seven *Danaus plexippus* larvae. These will eventually become Wanderer Butterflies or, as they are known in the USA, the Monarch.

These butterflies feed off Milkweed which is a weed in South Australia. In the USA they are calling for people to plant Milkweed to encourage the rehabilitation and sustainability of the population of Monarch butterflies.

Our students will definitely be doing their part! Their main aim is to observe them throughout the life cycle process.

2016 Green Team: Given the enormous positive response that we received last year, we are offering an exciting opportunity for students to join the Green Team for 2016. Many of our 2015 Green Team students have advanced to the next level and have taken up studies in our Certificate II Conservation and Land Management course, a TAFE certificate course presented by Mr David Larritt. Please see Mary-Lou Horvat or Paul Howieson for an application form.

Free Energy Efficient Products: Did you know that you can easily get access to free energy efficient light globes, shower heads or standby power controllers? These are all provided under the South Australian Government's Retailers Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES). Call Tom on 0421 695 128 for further details.

Zip-Lock Bags: Last week one of our valuable EAT members did a collection of zip-lock bags that had been thrown on the ground during one lunch time. She collected a staggering 98 zip-lock bags in the quadrangle and amphitheatre alone. This is a massive disappointment as these bags, if they need to be used instead of lunch containers, can be washed and re-used or recycled appropriately. Think of the environmental and economic benefits if we all play our role.



Handy Hints for the Garden:

Ants

Discourage them with common old talcum powder. Sprinkle where needed - no needed for chemical usage.

Slugs and Snails

Rub Vaseline around the rim of your garden pots and they will never trouble you again.

Pests on Plants

Keep bugs away naturally by boiling rosemary in water. Simply allow to cool and then spray on foliage. Don't forget though, some bugs are actually good for a healthy garden.

Air Conditioners

Get the most out of your A/C and don't overload it. Our split systems are best set at 21°- 22° C. If you set the temperature on your unit any lower it may do several things:

- a. Run constantly, chewing up electricity
- b. Not achieve the desirable temperature
- c. Freeze the unit up and make it stop working
- d. Leak water in to the room

If (c) or (d) should occur, your unit will have to be switched off, leaving you without cooling.



Warning: Potential Learning

For the non-gardeners at the school, the new trees in the carpark are Wilga Trees (native willows). Please don't treat them as nuisances. These were chosen particularly with sustainability in mind. Benefits are that they are long lived, drought resistant, have lack of leaf litter, are low maintenance and are very shady. An overall sustainable benefit to the school. Pruning them in the juvenile years is detrimental to good growth and shape. Cussing them and running them over is not advised either! Please be patient and they will provide good shade in the coming years. If you are worried your car may get scratched, please consider parking away from them.

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.