



The Expert in Residence program was enjoyed and embraced by teachers and their increased interest in environment and sustainability topics has resulted in the school dedicating their 2017 inquiry unit to sustainability.

Gardenvale PS Tim McRae



The regular weekly presence of the Sustainability Expert throughout the duration of the program provides teachers and staff with formal and informal professional development opportunities that build on their content knowledge and teaching strategies. The *Expert in Residence* program also provides new curriculum resources, ready to be used in classrooms.

To find out more details of the sustainability *Expert in Residence* program and how it could be developed and implemented in your school please contact Sharron Hunter, sharron@ecocentre.com

Schools interested in an *Expert in Residence* program need to register their interest. Places are limited and schools are encouraged to register as soon as possible.



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Expert in Residence



**Tailored whole school STEAM
sustainability curriculum**

Tailored curriculum

Port Phillip EcoCentre's sustainability *Expert in Residence* program brings much appreciated knowledge, energy, depth and passion to learning and teaching for every class within your school. The *Expert in Residence* program will provide your school with a tailored approach to embedding environment and sustainability education across curriculum priorities and across all classes.

Whole school

This whole school approach ensures that all students and their teachers have the opportunity to explore environmental content knowledge and values of sustainability across a diverse range of subjects and teaching modes. This enhances the school's potential to initiate and affect behaviour change in line with sustainable principles. Embracing behaviour change empowers students to take action to protect the natural environment in "their place", an important step to understanding the issues facing their world on a larger scale.

Well being

Port Phillip EcoCentre's program has research-proven impacts for student wellbeing. Enacting mindfulness strategies for learning and connection to the local environment and community supports increased student engagement, resilience and cognitive function.

Each *Expert in Residence* Program is co-designed with the school to ensure the learning and teaching priorities, including STEAM, for the school are delivered.

A typical daily schedule:

Week 3

- Class 1** 9-10am, Preps, All about Worms
- Class 2** 10-11am, Grade 5, Urban Biodiversity
- Class 3** 11-noon, Year 2, Mini-beast Hotels
- Class 4** 12.30 – 1.30pm, Year 4, Indigenous Perspectives
- Class 5** 1.30 – 2.30pm, Year 3, All about Worms
- Class 6** 2.30 – 3.30pm, Year 6, Improving biodiversity habitat.



Gardenvale Primary School

At Gardenvale Primary School, Sharron Hunter, an EcoCentre education and curriculum specialist, designed the programs' activities to enhance content knowledge for biodiversity with an indigenous perspective focus. Students also investigated effects of waste and other pollutants on habitat.

Classes from Prep to Grade 6 participated over the term creating a delivery cycle that had all 26 classes at the school undertake 78 sessions in total, covering:

- 🕒 Indigenous cultural perspectives
- 🕒 Local biodiversity
- 🕒 Place-based education concepts
- 🕒 The science of soil health
- 🕒 Habitat audits and ecology mapped
- 🕒 Mindful observation practice
- 🕒 Eco footprints
- 🕒 The waste cycle and the effects of waste on natural environments
- 🕒 Planting of native flora for improved habitat in the school grounds.

A celebratory afternoon saw the community come together, where parents, their students and teachers worked together to make nesting boxes and complete a planting regime.