

---

## Water Saving Champions – South Gippsland Schools

South Gippsland Schools are leading the way when it comes to keeping a close eye on water use. They are tracking down and addressing water wastage through the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP).

Through the combined efforts of 19 schools in South Gippsland Water's region, significant savings in water and money have been achieved through a focus on water efficiency within the school curriculum.

Throughout Victoria, over 750 schools involve more than 345,000 students and staff in this State Government program, an initiative that aims to reduce water and energy consumption in schools and promote awareness of sustainability throughout the broader community.

Participating schools track and analyse their water consumption using water meter data loggers and input data to a central interactive website. Abnormal peaks in water usage are identified and investigated, with particular attention given to those occurring in out-of-school hours.

In doing this, participating schools in South Gippsland have saved 15.3 million litres of water over a four-year period, which equates to a combined financial saving of over \$41,000.

South Gippsland Water is a supporter of local school involvement in the program, and Managing Director Philippe du Plessis is impressed by the work done by students and teachers in championing water conservation measures through their curriculum and in daily practice.

“Data gathered and analysed by students within South Gippsland Water's region has helped identify that, on average, 30.6% of total school water consumption is attributed to loss through leaks and faulty appliances.”

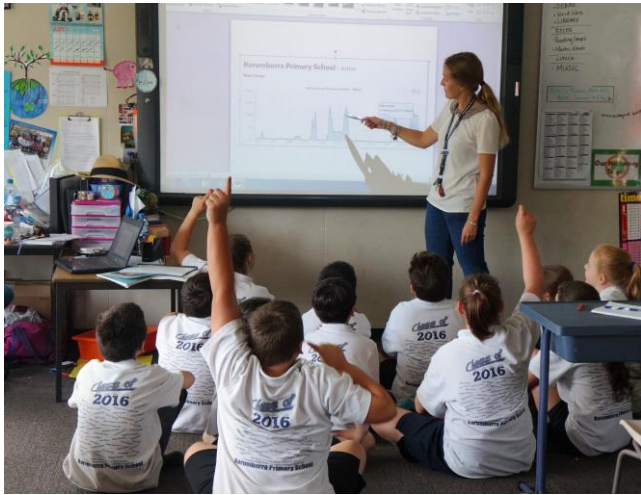
“Having this type of information on hand enables schools be proactive and put effective measures in place to save water and, ultimately, precious school funds.”

According to data provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, identifying and addressing leaks through the SWEP program has resulted in an average saving of \$2,100 per participating school within South Gippsland Water's region.

The SWEP program is available to all Victorian schools and is supported by the Department of Education and Training.

Be part of the 2016 SWEP Short Film Competition with the chance to win prize money by demonstrating how your school has used SWEP to save water and/or electricity. For further information visit [myswep.com.au/2016-short-film-comp](http://myswep.com.au/2016-short-film-comp).

- END -



### Caption

*Korumburra Primary School teacher Ms Abbott working with the Korumburra Green Team monitoring and figuring out causes of a spike in water usage.*