



WATER CONSERVATION AWARD RUTHERGLEN VIC

RUTHERGLEN Primary School believes that it is vital that sustainable practices are in place as well as educating students about environmental issues.

The school's rain harvesting system is a high quality process that includes the collection of rainwater into ten tanks that can be used for biodiversity gardens and toilet systems. Water is also used for the propagation of plants, maintenance of the school's worm farm and is used on vegetable gardens.

Living through the drought has taught the St Mary's Primary School community to value water as a valuable and precious resource. St Mary's commitment to water conservation is evident through the school's water management techniques which include the installation of water tanks, water free urinals, drought proof gardens and ice cream containers under bubblers for watering gardens.

North East Water has entered into a pilot partnership with the RUTHERGLEN Garden Club to lead a new approach to the promotion of community water conservation. As the partnership evolves it is envisaged that other clubs in the region can see the benefits and join the alliance.

As water conservation approaches are embraced across the community, RUTHERGLEN's average water use has dropped dramatically as these figures show.

2005/06	401 mega litres per household
2006/07	386 mega litres per household
2007/08	244 mega litres per household
2008/09	382 mega litres per household (swimming pool leaking seriously)
2009/10	264 mega litres per household.

**COMMUNITY ACTION & PARTNERSHIPS AWARD
COMMENDATION
RUTHERGLEN VIC**

RUTHERGLEN's long-standing commitment to the Tidy Towns program was again recognised by winning Victoria's Rural Proud City and Tidy Town award. It continues the high standard achieved as a result of the numerous community groups' cooperative approach, in partnership with Indigo Shire, to the principles of Tidy Towns and overall sustainability programs conducted within the town.

Concern, care, commitment, cooperation and pride are key components of RUTHERGLEN's approach to the many tasks associated with Tidy Towns within the town and its surroundings. Various community members continue to be involved in multiple tasks associated with beautification and environmental improvement within the community.

**ENERGY INNOVATION AWARD
COMMENDATION
RUTHERGLEN VIC**

Valhalla Wines' Green Living Fair demonstrates how easy it is to live a sustainable life by making changes that not only save money and improve health, but benefit the environment. The Green Living Fair, which has a major focus on 'green' energy, has become established and increases in popularity each year.

In the areas of biodiversity, waste, water and energy, students at the RUTHERGLEN Primary School are becoming well versed on aspects of sustainability and are seeking solutions to issues that they believe need addressing. Using data from meters and other reference points, students are able to analyse their efforts and monitor improvements and savings at the school.

Energy wise initiatives have become embedded into St Mary's school culture and now occur instinctively, such as their 'switch off policy'. The school is committed to extending their knowledge of how to be more energy efficient throughout their school community and beyond.