

Environment and Sustainability at GPS

Biodiversity and Waste, Energy & Water Management

(August, 2025 Update)

Our developments and behaviours with regard to Sustainability and Environment have flourished in the past decade. The whole Gardenvale school community has united in our pursuits to honour our Vision Statement: “We act responsibly now to protect our living planet for the future!”

Here are some examples of our Waste Management initiatives as we embrace the philosophy of The FIVE ‘R’s of Rubbish >

REFUSE, REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE, ROT:

- We practise rubbish-free snacks and lunches every day.
- We celebrate NO BINS Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Fridays we only have one bin outdoors.
- The GOLDEN LUNCHBOX is awarded to the most waste-free class each week.
- We re-use everything we can and recycle anything recyclable.
- All GPS fruit and vegie scraps are processed through our compost factories.
- We conduct regular Emu Bobs (litter pick-ups in class groups) in our local community.



Biodiversity is such a big part of Environment and Sustainability. Indeed, it is a key rationale for students to have passion in this field. We have recently converted our chicken house into a haven for quail. Our chickens could not reproduce (not possible to have a resident rooster) but our new quail will!

There are at least 25 local birds who inhabit our school grounds. Some (feral pigeons, mynas and sparrows) are not indigenous but most species have been here tens or hundreds of thousands of years! The

most popular natives are crows, rainbow lorikeets, mudlarks, currawongs, magpies, wattle-birds and spotted neck turtledoves.



Our yabbies in the Senior Campus Billabong are enjoying a diet of carrot and other small natural treats. Every biennial summer our yabbies give birth to over a hundred babies and we have liaised with Bayside City Council to begin the repopulation of yabbies at nearby Landcox Park!

We have thousands of worms and other micro-beasts working to transform our food scraps into magnificent compost for our gardens. Our Senior Campus students have developed a Compost Factory with four different operations of composting. We also have composting of all collected food scraps at the Junior Campus.

We are continuing to establish a broad range of indigenous and edible gardens. Our WOMINDJEKA Garden, WAA Garden and BUNDJIL Garden provide many herbs and vegies for garden-kitchen experiences. What we don't prepare and eat we sell at occasional Farmers' Markets to parents and grandparents!



We have planted over one hundred indigenous shrubs over the past few years and we are learning more of the indigenous Kulin Nation culture via our BLOOM (**B**ecause **L**earning **O**utdoors **O**ffers **M**ore) education lessons. Weekly staff instructed Garden Clubs for all students operate at lunchtimes on both campuses however many students contribute to the welfare of our gardens every day of the week.



Both our Senior Campus and Junior Campus have excellent garden sheds which give us a base for many of our BLOOM activities and projects. We are also proud of the many water tanks that store rainwater collected from our school buildings. All our main gardens receive water from these tanks.

Our range of fauna and flora is increasing and we had some exciting new garden spaces open recently, such as our Sensory Garden. Our Frog Bog, Yabby Billabong and Bird Watching Display Fence help draw the curiosities of our community to indigenous environment. Gardenvale PS is progressing Onwards and Upwards in the fields of Environment and Sustainability.









