



**2010 is the  
International  
Year of**

# **Biodiversity**

## **Gould League's School Programs**

- **Schoolgrounds for Learning**
- **Multicultural School Gardens**

**embrace biodiversity in your school curriculum and help implement the**

**resourceSmart** AussiVic  
**Biodiversity Module**



## **Since 1909, the Gould League**

has been recognised as an environmental education leader. Millions of Australians have been inspired through Gould League school programs, educational resources and publications, and membership.

The Gould League currently delivers two major programs that help schools implement the

**resourceSmart** AussiVic **Biodiversity Module.**

## **Schoolgrounds for Learning**

mentors the Student Action Team and their teachers to develop a schoolgrounds masterplan with a vision to create greener, more interesting and stimulating schoolgrounds, to enrich learning and play resources, and provide opportunities for schools

to incorporate environmental sustainability by reducing energy and water use, and producing less waste.



Schoolgrounds for Learning includes a range of whole school community activities. Resources include our unique online drawing tool designed to help you create your personalised schoolgrounds masterplan – providing up to five years' worth of authentic student projects.

The course incorporates student leadership, facilitation, environmental sustainability, and professional project planning - including fundraising and public relations - into an easy-to-use strategic framework. The delivery format, using a blend of workshops, mentoring and online learning is designed for busy teachers to maximise their impact on greening the schoolgrounds while incorporating rich, real-life student learning and leadership.

## **Multicultural School Gardens**

combines community volunteering, intergenerational and multicultural understanding, gardening skills and cooking into a unique and enriching whole school environmental education project. Students work with their volunteer gardening buddies to create multicultural food gardens and gain an insight into the cultures of immigrant nationalities.

Together they cook traditional dishes using the produce they have grown.



This award-winning program celebrates cultural diversity, helps develop healthy eating and nurtures skills and interest in sustainable gardening. The program engages the often-marginalised ESL parents and community in an area where they are confident: their traditional food and their culture.

Students and teachers receive both online and face-to-face creative and practical learning opportunities closely linked to the school curriculum that cultivate leadership and teamwork skills and give practical implementation of numeracy and literacy skills.



The project resources comprise modules of curriculum activities outlining VELS links and PoLT and Performance and Development Culture, and incorporating ICT skills.

Broader community involvement includes help from Conservation Volunteers Australia to build gardens, free seedlings from Scotsburn Nursery, and low-cost edging made from 100%-recycled plastic from eWood.

## Education for Sustainability

Gould League Programs encompass:

- learning about the environment
- learning for the environment
- learning in the environment

## Victorian Essential Learning Standards & Principles of Learning & Teaching

Gould League Schoolgrounds Programs offer the perfect vehicle for implementing VELTS through authentic student learning opportunities and can provide significant social benefits. International research demonstrates these can provide:

- 71% increase in student physical activity (Canadian study)
- 64% reduction in bullying and 28% reduction in vandalism (UK study)
- 44% decrease in discipline problems (Canadian study)
- 33% improvement in attitude to learning (survey of UK principals).

**resourceSmart** AussiVic

has nine guiding principles

The Gould League Biodiversity Schools Programs address all nine principles. They are **staged programs** (principle 1) that take students on a journey from the initial "tuning in" activities that assess prior knowledge and identifies topic, through "finding out", "sorting out", "making conclusions", "going further/keeping going" and finally "action" where students can identify their learning and makes links to their daily lives.



The programs **promote inquiry based learning** (2), and the inclusiveness of the programs **enhance social justice and understanding** (3 & 6). There is always the potential to include **indigenous** foods (4), and **teamwork and leadership** are developed throughout the project (5). By interacting with community buddies and accessing cultural wisdom and knowledge students learn **respect and tolerance** and their role within it and similarly develop an **appreciation for nature** (7 & 8). **Transformative learning** underpins the student-lead project with the garden being an active and changing learning space (9).

## Meeting Educational Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the biodiversity resource module are met comprehensively.

### Curriculum

is covered through the resources provided to schools including learning and teaching activities.



### Wider

**school engagement** is developed through whole school and community involvement and leadership.

**Infrastructure** is put in place through the school masterplans, construction of the garden beds and other learning, play and habitat structures, and new technology such as water tanks and water reticulation systems.

### Behaviour

**change** is targeted through improved sensitivity to the environment, eg organic (rather than chemical) gardening and



water conservation. The changes are usually transferred to the students' homes.

**Conservation and efficiency** flows from a greater understanding of and empathy with the environment, composting food scraps, healthy home-grown alternatives at the canteen, concern about habitat quality and protecting animals that nest in the school grounds.



**Student action teams** are key in planning, constructing and managing these programs.

**Find Out More About the Gould League and our programs**

[www.gould.edu.au](http://www.gould.edu.au)

Email: [info@gould.org.au](mailto:info@gould.org.au)

Tel: 03 9532 0909

The Gould League offers an extensive range of quality resources for sustainability and biodiversity education at

[www.gould.edu.au/shop](http://www.gould.edu.au/shop)

Tel: 03 9555 5565

*The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic) helps schools to become demonstration centres of green technologies and design, linked to sustainable curricula, so that people in all local communities will be motivated to live more sustainably. Visit [www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au) to find out more*