

Hello students, parents and guardians,



Welcome back to another wonderful school year! I hope that you all had a relaxing break, and that you kept up your sustainability practices over the holidays!

Monbulk Primary School is picking right up where we left off in 2018. As Dimie O'Halloran is leaving us this year to expand her family, Sue Brooks has stepped up to the plate and is helping us in our sustainable endeavours. Thank you Sue, and all of us at Monbulk Primary wish Dimie the very best as she embarks on this exciting phase of her life.

As always, I'll start this piece off with an update on how our school is travelling with our sustainability practice:

ResourceSmart School Snapshot

We've Saved



\$20,314.82

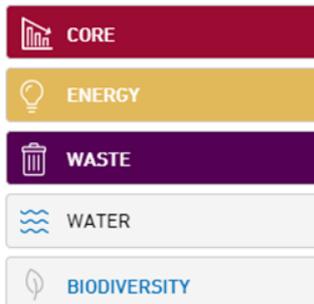
since 01 Dec 2015

\$78.03

per student

All time Last 12 months Last 6 months

Our Modules



3 Modules Completed

We've Achieved



3Star "Transforming"

How we're doing



Equal to flying Melbourne to Sydney 2 times

57 Tonnes of CO2



Equal to 96 fridges running for a year

48,907 kWh of electricity



Equal to 4 swimming pools of water

2,715,985 Litres of water



You would need 9 trees to make this much paper

180 Reams of paper

As you can see, our monetary savings have been substantial and our environmental impact has lessened significantly over the last few years! Thank you to every individual who helps to make this possible – students, staff, parents and others – we couldn't have got this far without you!



Our Water module is in the process of being verified by Sustainability Victoria. I will let the school community know as soon as I hear about our module application. If all goes well, we will be a four star sustainable school, with only one star to go until we reach five star. This is incredibly exciting – we have all worked so hard to make this happen in such a short amount of time!

This year will see our Sustainability team – myself, Sue Brooks, Maddy Stewart, Mahlea Poole-Poidomani and Ava Jackson – continue to work on our fifth module, Biodiversity. Biodiversity focusses on our school grounds, the plants within in, and the kinds of animals and other creatures our grounds attract. It is an interesting module, and we have learned a lot with the help of one of our parents, Carolyn Blomley. Thank you Carolyn, we couldn't have identified all those plants without you!

Our aim for Biodiversity is to increase the number of plants (mainly natives) on our school slowly over the course of many years. If you or someone you know is able to help us with this endeavour, please contact either myself or Sue Brooks.

As part of our Biodiversity module, I have signed our school up for National Tree Day, which will take place on Friday 26th July. The team and I will keep you updated as more information is made available about this event. You can check out information on National Tree Day at <https://treeday.planetark.org/>.

If you are interested in the biodiversity of your own garden, why not try to classify the trees and plants there? There are plenty of apps to choose from on the Apple Store and GooglePlay, such as PlantSnap and GroNATIVE. Having lots of plants around helps us in so many ways; not only are plants a natural and productive part of the environment, research has shown that activities such as gardening can help reduce stress and improve wellbeing. So, try to get out there and discover what's in your own backyard – you might be surprised!

I am looking forward to what 2019 will bring us – in the meantime, please keep up the amazing work you are doing at school and in your homes. Every little bit you do helps the environment, which in turn will help us and our children have a more beautiful and sustainable place to live.

Thank you!

Renae Lansdell.

I have one last favour to ask you – I have set up a survey on parents and guardian's attitudes towards biodiversity. If you could please take the time to complete the short eight question survey, it would be very much appreciated. Your voice and opinion matters, and I want to hear as many as I can to help make a difference to our school!

To access the survey, please copy this link into your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZR97DD>

And follow the prompts. The survey will be open for two weeks from today. I look forward to viewing your responses, and thank you again in advance!