

# Art of Sustainability Festival

## Learning to Live Sustainably Regional Alliance October 18-26

As global warming and sustainable living comes to the environmental forefront, a festival with a difference was held in Geelong during Children's Week and National Water Week, Oct 18-26.

The focus of the "The Art of Sustainability" festival is to promote a culture of living sustainably and understanding and valuing our environment. Themes throughout the festival included rethinking the four R's of refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle, and building up change such as making the most out of waste materials and defective products that are often seen as worthless object.

The festival is also aimed to draw attention to children's understanding of sustainability and the world in which they live. We have a responsibility to inform and empower the next generation to become active agents and caretakers of our environment.

During the festival week, children had the opportunity to participate in workshops that included music, dance, theatre, and visual art aimed at developing their knowledge and skills in various areas of sustainability

Teachers were not left out either. Workshops for teachers were held on the Thursday afternoon. They included 'Creating Sustainable Futures' (**innovative method for creative self-inquiry and thinking about sustainability**) by Jim Mead and Kathryn Goyen, ResourceSmart/AuSSi Vic - How to Improve the Triple Bottom Line at your school by Anthony Mangelsdorf and The Perth REmida Centre by Elissa McAuliffe.

Community partnerships and support for the project have been extremely important. Many community organisations including government agencies, schools, councils and local artists came on board for 'The Art of Sustainability Festival'. City of Greater Geelong, Visy, Barwon Regional Waste Management Group, Department of Education and Training and Teesdale PS were the major sponsors. The National Wool Museum, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Landcare, Ceres, and the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange were also contributors to the event. The festival was piloted last year and it was strongly suggested by participants that the festival become an annual event.

This year the exhibition included artworks from students, professional artists and industry. The trade display was of businesses in Australia that use recycled materials in their production, for example Stonker Surfboards who recycle styrofoam and use water based paints. The Flat Bottle Company of Australia produce functional items out of bottles and broken glass. The exhibition was aimed at showcasing high quality art and the trades of these innovative recyclers and promoting and acknowledging their contribution to making the world a better place to live.



Students participate in one of the many student workshops