# SCHOOL LIBRARIES SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# Australian School Libraries Support the Sustainable Development Goals

This resource was prepared by teacher librarian, Natasha Lee as part of a final remote work placement for the Master of Education (Teacher Librarianship) with the Australian Library and Information Association. Natasha is Teacher Librarian at Cooranbong Public School where she encourages a love of learning and interest in the world for all of her students.

The work was supplemented by input from teacher librarians, Madison Dearnaley, Helen Weston, Kayte Eyre, and Jacqui Lucas. STEM specialist Nel Manansala also provided links to resources and initiatives.

## Introduction

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sometimes called the Global Goals, or the United Nations 2030 Agenda, are a shared vision for peace, prosperity, and the protection of the planet. At the heart of the SDGs are 17 goals, each of which is an urgent call to action for the realisation of a better world.

Libraries are uniquely positioned in relation to the SDGs, as by providing meaningful and equitable access to information, they have the potential to support all 17 of the goals. Through providing young people with the possibility and skills to make the most of information. School libraries play a significant role in contributing to and raising awareness of the goals.

This document is designed to be a practical guide, providing information, suggestions and resources on how Australian school libraries can support each of the Sustainable Development Goals now and into the future.

# Click on a goal
# to jump to a page

**1 NO POVERTY**

School libraries bridge the information poverty gap

**2 ZERO HUNGER**

School libraries enhance food security

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

School libraries foster the development of the whole child

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**

School libraries support excellence in education including First Nation's education

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

School libraries promote gender equality and support LGBTQIA+ community

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

School libraries strengthen water management and sanitation education

**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

School libraries empower students to make informed energy choices

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
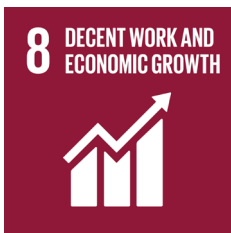
School libraries nurture the skills required for the future workforce

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

School libraries embrace creativity, imagination and innovation

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

School libraries reduce inequalities and amplify the voices of disadvantaged and minority groups

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

School libraries drive practices and innovation that support sustainable cities and communities

**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

School libraries promote initiatives for sustainable consumption and production

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**

School libraries support climate empowerment

**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**

School libraries promote the conservation and restoration of the ocean and its resources

**15 LIFE ON LAND**

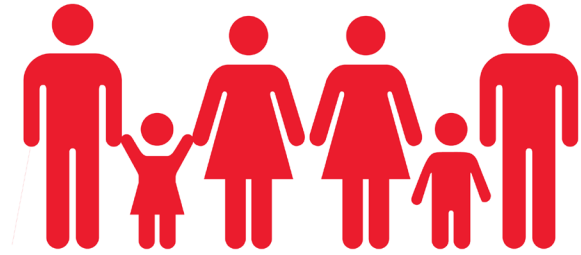School libraries develop understanding and an appreciation for life on land

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

School libraries empower change-makers and peacekeepers

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

School libraries foster essential partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

# 1 NO POVERTY

Poverty goes beyond the lack of clean water, food and shelter and extends into the inaccessibility of free information. Free access to information is now a basic human right and, without it, information would only be available to the privileged few, impacting on an individual's education, health, and overall quality of life. For many students, the school library is their most accessible gateway to information. Therefore, school libraries provide a fundamental service that bridges the gap between those that can and cannot fund the ticket to information access, making them an essential pillar of the school community. School libraries can play a leading role in bridging the poverty gap by:

- Facilitating free access to high-speed WIFI

- Providing free access to a carefully curated, quality collection of physical and digital resources that can serve as a solid base or stimulus in which innovation can thrive

- Allowing students to borrow resources and equipment to support learning beyond the school gates

- Enabling access to devices during lunch breaks to reduce technology inequalities

- Connecting students to literature and learning experiences that foster understanding, empathy and respect for individuals experiencing poverty and economic disadvantage

- Providing safe spaces, warm/cool for completion of homework and schoolwork which may not be able to be completed at home

- Providing extended hours to assist with completion of schoolwork and researching

- Provision of additional services such as therapy dogs for students who may not have access to therapy services due to poverty

- Providing a positive and aspirational environment revealing a world of possibilities to escape the poverty cycle

- Provision of cheaper books and resources through such things as Scholastic book clubs and book fairs.

## Resources

The following resources can be utilised to explore themes of poverty and economic disadvantage:

- *The Forward & Backward City* written by Diwa Boateng and illustrated by Meryl Treatner is a free eBook about two seemingly similar children growing up in different economic and social circumstances

- *The World Is Not Equal. Is That Fair?* by the World's Largest Lesson is a teaching resource that explores the impact of poverty and inequality

- *The Tree of Hope* written by Kehkashan Basu and illustrated by Karen Webb-Meek is a story about a young girl who rises beyond conflict and drought

- *How I Learned Geography* by Uri Shulevitz, read by Ed O'Neil on Storyline Online. This is the story of a family who fled their war-torn country and were living in poverty and starvation. The father brings a map home instead of a loaf of bread and the boy is furious

- *Internet Archive* - a non-profit library of millions of free books that provides access including people with print disability

- *Smart Passive Income* - in-depth guides on podcasting, email marketing, online courses and step by step tutorials

- *Startup Guide* - a free download providing information on start-up processes, funding sources, readings on success stories and other information on blogging for aspiring entrepreneurs.

# 2 ZERO HUNGER



Preventing hunger is not solely about creating access to nutritional food, but also ensuring that the production of food is sustainable in relation to both food supply and conservation of the natural environment. Teacher librarians are uniquely positioned to support the teaching and learning of food security within the library and across the school by:

- Connecting students to information about sustainable food production
- Collaborating with classroom teachers to embed resources into teaching and learning programs that develop students' food literacy skills
- Leading school kitchen garden and bee keeping programs to support sustainable food practices
- Providing literature and learning experiences that nurture understanding, empathy and respect for individuals experiencing hunger at a local and global scale
- Regular displays to showcase food programs and initiatives.

School libraries can promote awareness of sustainable food choices and play a role in fighting food waste in the school. They can ignite interests of students to undertake research on alternative farming practises or seed propagation techniques.

Teacher librarians can seek opportunities to collaborate with STEM teachers in developing problem-based learning experiences. Activities and research could include:

- composting techniques
- converting food scraps into useable products
- exploring ways to be zero waste

The intent is to transform mindsets and achieve a more sustainable, 'foodwise' world.

## Resources

The following resources and programs can support sustainable food practices and overall food security:

- *Food Tales* by the World's Largest Lesson is a research project that allows students to explore the journey of how food ends up on their plate
- Melbourne Water's *Farm2Schools Resources webpage* provides a range of resources to support the teaching and learning of sustainable agriculture
- *Native Bees in Schools program* by Sydney Stingless Bees allows schools to purchase their own stingless bee hive to produce native honey
- *Kitchen Gardening for Sustainability and Wellbeing K-6* by the NSW Department of Education provides learning sequences to sustainably grow and produce healthy food at school
- *Scootle* provides a series of links to resources on Food Security suitable to all year levels

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# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

School libraries are often viewed as the literature and learning hubs of the school. Whilst school libraries play a major role in academic development, in recent times, teacher librarians have expanded their services to foster the development of the whole child. Across Australia, school library staff are finding innovative ways to nurture the physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing of their students. School libraries can support good health by:

- Building students' health literacy skills, so they can source, understand and appraise health information from a range of sources

- Implementing activities that promote physical health, such as story walks, dancing, and movement games

- Providing physical and online resources for mental health and wellbeing

- Curating displays to showcase the resources and school programs

- Collaborating with classroom teachers to embed resources into teaching and learning programs that develop students' knowledge and understanding of healthy eating and physical activity

- Building health and well-being resource collections

Furthermore, there are countless ways school libraries can promote positive wellbeing including, but not limited, to:

- Providing mindful spaces through flexible and comfortable furnishings for students to daydream, play and imagine

- Providing 'safe' spaces as a retreat or timeout from the pressures of schooling and/or the playground

- Nurturing recreational activities, such as reading for pleasure, writing and gaming

- Fostering social connections through a variety of clubs such as book, gaming, eSports, robotics, writing and chess clubs

- Staff and student bookclubs, including Manga/LGBTQI+ bookclubs for inclusion, and promoting collegiality, discussion and good well-being

- Implementing wellbeing programs, such as yoga and meditation

- Connecting students to resources that explore feelings, and engaging in storytelling sessions on health topics

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## Resources

The following resources can be utilised to promote good health:

- Let's Move in Libraries provides a webpage of *Program Ideas* and *Resources* to support physical activity in the school library

- *Captain Create*, a cartoon superhero, teaches students to eat well and remain physically active through a series of educational videos

- Intended for upper years students, *Outbreak Squad* is an interactive game that teaches students about food safety

- *Sustainable Schools: Food Gardens* by Sustainable Schools NSW provides curriculum resources to support healthy eating

The following resources can support positive wellbeing:

- *be you* is the national mental health in education initiative delivered by Beyond Blue in collaboration with Early childhood Australia and headpace. *headspace* is the national non-profit organisation for youth mental health established by the Australian Government in 2006. The school library can be the central hub for staff professional development and community information supported by these organsiations

- *The Smiling Mind app* provides free meditation and mindfulness exercises to support teacher and students wellbeing

- *Top Blokes program* by the Top Blokes Foundation provides mentoring to improve young male health and wellbeing

- *Living Well* – has a self-test to check on your well-being and comes with plentiful mindfulness strategies to use

- *Scootle – Student wellbeing hub: Primary* contains resources aimed at P-6 to support wellbeing

- *Scootle – Student wellbeing hub: Secondary* contains resources aimed at 7-12 to support wellbeing

- *The Red Tree* by Shaun Tan uses vivid illustrations and powerful metaphors that may aid students to identify and describe their feelings

# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

It may come as no surprise that school libraries are an essential pillar in supporting excellence in education. From developing fundamental literary skills to providing extracurricular opportunities to extend high potential and gifted students, school libraries provide a substantial and multifaceted contribution to support the needs of all students. School libraries can continue to play a key role in delivering high-quality education by:

- Being staffed by professionals who are experts in the field of resource provision and education

- Providing access to a high-quality collection of physical and digital educational resources

- Including a range of extracurricular learning opportunities, such as literature and technology clubs, writing sessions and author visits

- Providing study clubs and workshops on researching, writing, and referencing to assist students who may need additional support with homework and/or assignments

- Offering flexible opening hours to support students' engagement with academic tasks before or after school

- Identifying school needs and providing resources to support professional development

School libraries are also committed to providing high-quality education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. School libraries can play a key role in supporting Aboriginal education by:

- Forming educational partnerships with Aboriginal community members, parents, caregivers, families and professionals

- Developing collections and programs that celebrate Aboriginal culture, identity, language

- Collaborating with classroom teachers to embed Aboriginal perspectives and resources across all areas of the curriculum

## Resources

The following resources are aimed at supporting quality education in school libraries:

- *Chakra the Invincible and Mighty Girl – The Value of Education* written by Ashwin Pande is an online comic about the value of education

- *Better Beginnings* by the State Library of Western Australia provides Western Australian school libraries free access to kindergarten reading packs to support early literacy skills development

The following resources may assist in supporting quality First Nation's education:

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curricula* – this University of Melbourne initiative aims to empower all teachers to integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in their teaching using these curriculum resources that incorporate Indigenous knowledge

- The *Indigenous Perspectives webpage* by My Place for Teachers provides teaching resources that supports Aboriginal perspectives within the curriculum

- The State Library of Queensland provides *Popular Nursery Rhymes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages*

- *Scootle – In my blood it runs: First Nations Education* provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and practices which inform non-indigenous Australians

**Sample:** Impara, Welcome to Our World – a Learning App

# 5 GENDER EQUALITY

Much has been achieved in terms of human rights for women and people of the LGBTQIA+ community. A myriad of literature, toys, television and social media continue to portray ways of being, however representations of gender often delimit the talents and abilities of women, girls and queer youth, impacting on their aspirations, educational experiences and life opportunities.

Through the development of quality collections, programs and services, school libraries can become a powerful force in dismantling these stereotypes and promoting gender equality. School libraries can support gender equality by:

- Providing a carefully curated collection that promotes gender equality and challenges gender stereotypes

- Displays and noticeboard features

- Acknowledging and celebrating days such as IDAHOBIT and Wear it Purple Day

- Hosting events that promote the social inclusion of girls and women, such as *Robogals Science Challenge* and *Ada Lovelace Day*, and International Women's Day

- Implementing empowerment programs that educate all students on women's rights, gender equality and health

- Connecting with community members to raise awareness around violence against women

## Resources

The following resources can be utilised to promote gender equality:

- *Robogals Science Challenge* by Robogals is an Australian-wide competition that aims to develop young girl's skills in STEM

- *Afghan Women, The Resilient Struggle* for Future written by Ali M Latifi allows students to explore the hardships and success of five inspirational Afghan women

- *Chakra the Invincible - Gender Equality* written by Sharad Devarajan and Ashwin Pande is an online comic that explores themes of gender equality

- The *Gender Roles and Stereotypes webpage* by My Place for Teachers provides teaching resources that reflect the changing expectations and attitudes towards males and females over time

- *Ada Lovelace Day* celebrates the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths

- *Scootle – Gender equality analysis from The Conversation* is a collection of curated articles on gender equality

- *Scootle – Julia Gillard addresses misogyny in parliament* is a video clip of Julia Gillard's famous address to parliament in 2012

- *Minus18* – Australian charity improving the lives of LGBTQIA+ youth. Provides workshops and resources for schools

- *Wear it Purple Day* – youth-led, volunteer organisation that provides resources, training and educational tools to raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ young people

- *IDAHOBIT Day* – International day against homophobia, biphobia, lesphobia and transphobia is observed on May 17 each year to raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights

# 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

It is the right of all individuals to have access to clean water and adequate sanitation. However, this is not the case for many people in disadvantaged communities. Water education is essential to improving water quality and reducing contamination for all. School libraries can enhance education within their school communities to ensure every individual plays an active role in improving water management and sanitation by:

- Connecting students to information about clean water and sanitation

- Coordinating hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) programs to empower students to design and build clean water and sanitation systems, such as NASA's *Cleaning Water Activity*

- Collaborating with classroom teachers to integrate literature into teaching and learning programs that promote clean water and sanitation

- Providing opportunities for students to carry out authentic water reducing initiatives in their school community, such as building a water-smart garden

- Applying for grants or fundraising to install sustainable water resources within the community, such as re-fill stations or rainwater tanks

- Providing opportunities for students to showcase their designs and creations in the library space

## Resources

The following resources can support clean water and sanitation education:

- NASA provides a *Cleaning Water Activity* that guides teachers and students to design and build their own water filtering system

- *Sustainable Schools: Water* by Sustainable Schools NSW provides curriculum resources to support sustainable water practices

- *Clean Water* by Rafał Hetman is a story about people all over the world who struggle to access clean water

- The *Waterways Library* by Enviro-Stories offers stories written by students on about the importance of water

- *Chakra the Invincible - Global Goals and Sanitation* written by Ashwin Pande is an online comic that explores themes of sanitation

- *Living Water Smart in Darwin* is a website that looks at saving water from various perspectives of the Darwin community

- *Scootle – The impossible made possible: Ahh, clean water!* Shows how spring water was piped up to an Indonesian village in need of fresh water

- *Scootle -Water and human wellbeing* provides access and resources to a case study on the importance of water and issues of scarcity

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# 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**Sample:** [Effectivity of Organic Shampoo Bars in Removing Sebum and Sanitation](#)
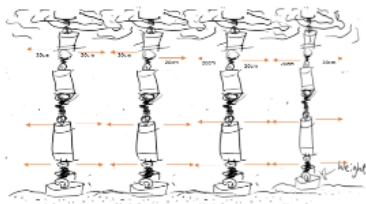


Based on the divers in front of the set-up, it the distance between poles could be estimated from about 1 metre to 1.5 metres apart.

The design was intended with overlapping electromagnetic distance of Neodymium, as there will be no gaps in which sharks will be able to pass through.

Figure 12: Craig O'Donnell's design

**Sample:** [Investigating the Use of Neodymium Permanent Magnets as a Shark Deterrent Device](#)



N52 Mental Eyebolt Circular Rings Magnet 25 x 30 mm For 8 KG Salvage

8/ Kg Salvage Strong Magnet Hook Treasure Hunting Countersunk AU

**Sample:** [Investigating the Use of Neodymium Permanent Magnets as a Shark Deterrent Device](#)

# 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Affordable and clean energy is essential to reducing emissions and improving Australia's economic prosperity. School libraries can empower students to not only make clean energy choices, but also design innovative energy solutions to enable a better quality of life for all whilst simultaneously protecting the planet. School libraries can support affordable and clean energy by:

- Connecting students to information about the importance of clean energy

- Coordinating hands-on STEAM activities to empower students to create sustainable energy solutions, such as designing houses or cars that are powered by the wind and/or sun

- Collaborating with classroom teachers to integrate resources into teaching and learning programs that promote renewable energy

- Providing opportunities for students to carry out authentic clean energy initiatives within their school community, such as designing smart energy library posters or conducting an energy audit within the school

- Fundraising to install clean energy resources within the school or community, such as solar panels

- Providing opportunities to display creations and information about affordable and clean energy

- Promoting affordable and clean energy initiatives within the school library by purchasing eco-friendly technology and using energy-saving settings on computers

**Sample:** Exploring the implications of an alternative miniaturised wind energy unit in effectively harnessing electrical power

## Resources

The following resources can aid the exploration of affordable and clean energy:

- REcharge Lab Activities by KidWind offers free teaching and learning resources to construct houses, cars, fountains that were powered by the wind and sun

- ClimateCam for Schools by the Wetlands Environmental Education Centre offers a program for schools to manage and upgrade to more water and energy efficient hardware and equipment

- Sustainable Schools: Energy by Sustainable Schools NSW provides teaching resources on renewable energy

- The Energy Digital Library by Cool Australia provides a range of multimodal teaching resources to support sustainable energy practices

- DeepBreath available on Outriders is a interactive text that explores the impact of air pollution due to fossil fuels

- Scootle – Clean energy fact sheet contains links to fact sheets



Image: Ben demonstrating the use of Miniaturised Hydro-Energy Unit (M.H.E.P.), 2019 to create light energy

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# 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

An array of international trends, such as globalisation, advancing technologies and the shift to a knowledge-based economy, has impacted on the future workforce and skills required to participate in these jobs. The skills required for the future workforce include:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Communication and collaboration
- Problem-solving and innovation
- Leadership and entrepreneurial skills
- Digital technology capabilities

School libraries can play an integral role in developing the skills required for the future workforce by:

- Implementing project- and inquiry- based learning activities to prompt divergent thinking
- Designing physical and digital learning spaces that strengthen collaboration and communication skills
- Introducing STEAM learning through makerspaces and robotics to encourage problem-solving and innovation
- Providing a professionally curated and current collection of print and online resources to encourage independent thinking, critical analysis and the wonder of literature
- Enabling leadership opportunities through library monitors and technology leaders
- Providing authentic, entrepreneurial ventures for students, such as book publishing

- Incorporating digital literature in the collection and technology throughout teaching and learning programs to support the development of digital literacy skills
- Database skills which support students as they transition to further study

## Resources

The following resources may develop students' knowledge and skills required for the future workforce:

- *The Makerspace Starter Guide* by Artefacto provides a guide to starting or enhancing a library makerspace
- *Career education: STEAM Learning and Creative Problem Solving webpage* by the Australian Curriculum provides a guide on STEAM learning that supports the development of skills students require for the future workforce
- The *Future of Work Digital Library* by Cool Australia provides resources for students to support their future career pathways

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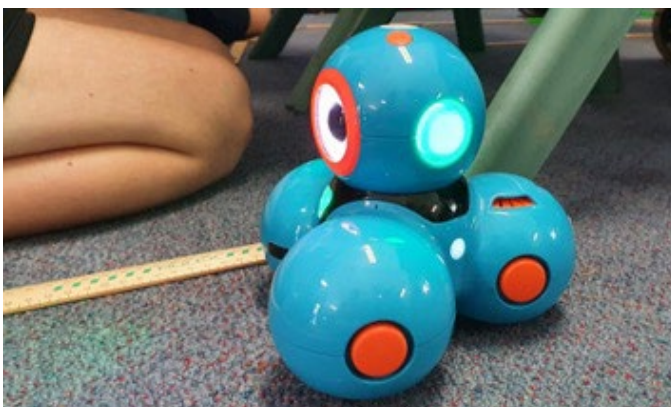
# 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

School libraries are no longer a silent place, but a space where creativity, innovation and bringing the imagination to life is possible. School library staff keep one eye on the present with another eye on future trends to provide programs, resources and services that, not only stay abreast, but embrace innovation. School libraries can support industry, innovation, and infrastructure by:

- Implementing STEAM challenges to encourage risk-taking and experimental learning

- Providing tools for creating and innovating, such as 3D printing and robotics

- Providing innovative and new database and subscriptions to resources such as Map as History (interactive history maps) and Massolit (specialised online lectures from leading academics) to sit alongside more traditional resources

- Creating spaces for making and tinkering through the implementation of a makerspace

- Broadening participation and developing students' skills in the field of technology and computer science through teaching and learning activities, such as an *Hour of Code*

- Library staff can contribute to professional associations and conferences to continue own knowledge development and share knowledge

## Resources

- *The Repairers: How Europeans Are Fighting e-Waste through Circular Economy Initiatives* by Lola García-Ajofrín is a non-fiction interactive text that explores innovative ways to reduce emissions

- *The Cosmic Climate Invention* written by Jona David and Dan Ungureanu is a free eBook that tells the story of two brothers whose innovative ideas reduce threats to their environment

- *Hour of Code* promotes creativity and innovation through coding and programming

- *I Love Potatoes* by the National Film Board of Canda is an interactive game designed to inspire new ideas and promote change

- *Scootle – The Conversation: Innovation* a curated collection of articles on innovation in government, technology, investment and science

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# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

When students enter the school gates, they each bring a unique suitcase of languages, beliefs, cultures, experiences, and abilities that shape their world. As Australian schools continue to diversify, school libraries continue to diversify their collections, programs, and services to support the needs and success of all students. School libraries support the achievement of all students by:

- Offering assistive technologies to support students with a disability or more diverse learning needs, such as text magnifiers, audiobooks and speech output software

- Providing resources in a variety of formats to support diverse learning needs and styles, such as graphic novels, large print, quick reads and high level texts. Online resources and physical resources also assist in reducing inequalities

- Providing large size games – chess, scrabble for students to participate in group learning of the games in a safe and collaborative manner

- Providing online resources, such as databases, that embed assistive technologies that allow students to listen to the text, change backgrounds or enlarge written texts

- Providing a carefully curated selection of texts that are productive to multicultural education by a specialist information and resource professional

- Hosting author and illustrators' visits and workshops with connections to and understandings of that culture, avoiding misinformation

- Connecting students to literature and learning experiences that foster understanding, empathy, and respect for individuals in disadvantaged and minority groups

School libraries are also committed to reducing the inequalities faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. School libraries can play a key role in supporting Indigenous equality by:

- Providing culturally inclusive collections and learning opportunities that foster deep understandings of Aboriginal histories, cultures and languages

- Providing a safe, supportive and culturally inclusive learning environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

- Purchasing literature and resources from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors, illustrators and artists

## Resources

The following resources may amplify the voices and experiences of people from different cultures in the library collection:

- *Cultural Diversity Database* by the National Centre for Children's Literature provides a collection of resource suggestions that can support cultural diversity in the school library

- *International Children's Digital Library* provides a collection of free, historical and contemporary books from different cultures throughout the world

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## Resources continued

School libraries are also committed to reducing the inequalities faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. School libraries can play a key role in supporting Indigenous equality by:

- *My Grandmother's Lingo* by SBS is an award-winning, interactive documentary that shares the story of Angelina Joshua, a young Aboriginal woman on a mission to preserve her language. In conjunction, SBS's *Preserving First Languages webpage* provides teaching resources to support language learning across the curriculum

- *Magabala Books* is Australia's leading Indigenous publisher, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors, artists and illustrators from all over Australia

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# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sustainable practices underpin the health, prosperity and wellbeing of every city and community. School libraries are exceptional vehicles to drive practices and innovation that enhance sustainable societies. Through transformative pedagogies, services and resources, school libraries can develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that empower students to manage their local community without compromising the health of the environment. School libraries can enhance sustainable cities and communities by:

- Providing a collection that strengthens students' knowledge and understanding of sustainable living

- Connecting students with information that promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and local perspectives on ways of living together and using existing resources in a sustainable manner

- Implementing project-based or inquiry learning activities in which students develop and design a solution to a sustainability issue within the local community

- Providing opportunities for students to carry out sustainable initiatives in their community, such as introducing a school recycling program or vegetable garden

- Supporting classroom teachers in embedding the cross-curriculum priority of sustainability across teaching and learning programs

- Hosting celebration days that raise awareness of environmental protection, such as Clean up Australia Day and Earth Day

- Collaborating with local community organisations and professionals, such as *Landcare Australia*

- Promoting sustainable library practices by purchasing from green suppliers and using bio-degradable materials

- Recycling of redundant resources and considering the necessity of book covering and materials used

- Collaborating with departments such as Humanities, Design Tech or Art, to host events highlighting sustainability, or display student work focussing on sustainability

# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

## Resources

The following resources may assist in exploring themes of sustainability:

- The *Sustainability webpage* by the NSW Department of Education provides teaching and resources to support more sustainable societies

- *Landcare Australia* is a not-for-profit organisation that offers a range of information, resources and programs to support sustainability within the local community

- The *Community Library* by Enviro-Stories offers stories written by students about the importance of sustainable community practices

- *Just Us Weirdos* by Charlie and Gabe White is a humorous, free to stream podcast about a group of teenage superheroes trying to save their city from environmental disasters

- *Eco-Schools Australia Program* by Eco-Schools Australia aims to empower young Australians in environmental education and action

- *AEGN – Sustainable cities and communities* – provides a philanthropic overview of sustaining Australian cities and communities
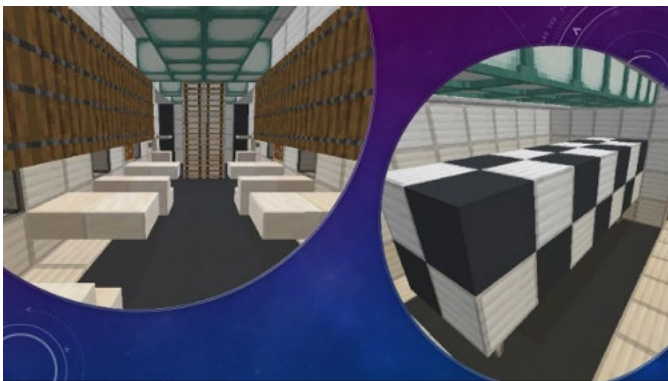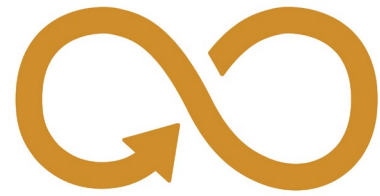


Figure 9: The Submarine

**Sample:** Creative Solution to Overpopulation Through Building Sustainable Underwater Cities

# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The goal of responsible consumption and production seeks to find methodologies that educate students to become informed consumers and producers of goods and services that provide a better quality of life without compromising the health of the planet. School libraries are proactive and innovative hubs that are well positioned to lead the way in promoting sustainable strategies for consumption and production both within the school and wider community. School libraries can support responsible consumption and production by:

- Leading initiatives and activities that develop students' practical skills of responsible consumption and production, such as sewing reusable library bags or creating bees wax wraps for sandwiches

- Collaborating with community members to host a Repair Café to empower students, parents/caregivers and the wider community to mend items rather than sending them to landfill

- Coordinating a book swap or book stall to recycle and reuse books and other school resources (study guides, text books). Indigenous Literacy Foundation run an excellent Great Book Swap

- Coordinating a seed library to inspire students and the wider school community to grow a fresh produce, harvest and return the seeds for others to borrow

- Promoting responsible consumption and production within the school library by selling or loaning reusable library bags and donating or recycling weeded books to prevent plastic bags and books ending up in landfill

- Implementing project-based or inquiry learning activities in which students develop and design a solution to a consumption and/or production issue

- Collaborating with teachers, community members and professions to develop a collection and teaching and learning activities that promote responsible consumption and production

- Becoming a collection point for recycling, donated or unwanted stationary

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# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

## Resources

The following resources may assist in supporting responsible consumption and promotion:

- The _Consumption Digital Library_ by Cool Australia provides a range of multimodal teaching resources to support responsible consumption

- The _Seed Library_ by Port Stephens Council offers information and resources for beginning a seed library

- _Junkyard of the West_ by Tadeusz Michrowski is a non-fiction, interactive text that explores the pollution, accidents and disposal of automobiles





**Sample:** Upcycling Clothes for Circular Fashion

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION

Education is a critical agent in achieving climate empowerment. School libraries, as educational hubs and champions for information access and lifelong learning, are well placed within their communities to drive climate empowerment. They not only support proactive attitudes and informed decision-making in relation to the world's climate, but also empower the school community to take action for a more sustainable future. School libraries can support climate empowerment by:

- Developing students' climate literacy skills, such as how to source scientific information about climate and weather, and how to distinguish credible from non-credible sources on the subject

- Connecting students to literature, activities and digital tools that explore the impact of climate change, such as the *Footprint calculator*

- Collaborating with classroom teachers and external professionals to develop educational awareness programs on climate change

- Providing students opportunities to disseminate information on climate change, such as a creating stories, films or art that explores climate issues

- Igniting students' agency through STEAM learning to seek and design innovative solutions to address climate issues

- Enabling opportunities to open community dialogue on climate issues through book clubs, film nights or community discussions



## Resources

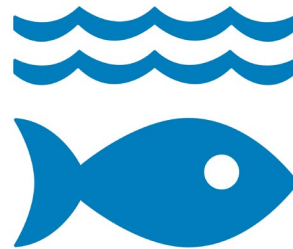The following resources may support climate empowerment:

- *Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change* by the American Library Association offers a guide for libraries responding to climate change

- *Firestorm* by The Guardian is a multimodal news article that reports on the catastrophic Tasmanian bushfires and addresses aspects of Australia's changing climate

- *Footprint calculator* by World Wildlife Fund is a digital tool that develop students' awareness about their own ecological footprint

- *Climate Change Resources for Schools* by the Victorian State Government provides a range of curriculum aligned, curated resources from recognised educational content providers on climate change

- The *Climate Change Digital Library* by Cool Australia provides a range of multimodal teaching resources on climate change

- Scootle - *Wine grape growing and climate change* is a video resource which explores how wine growers in the Yara Valley can adapt to climate change

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# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Whether residing by or away from the ocean, every individual depends on the ocean for its water, food and ability to regulate the climate. School libraries can play a significant role in the conservation and restoration of the ocean and its resources through education, advocation and innovation. School libraries can support the sustainable management of life below water by:

- Connecting students to information that develops their scientific knowledge of ocean life and health
- Building students' research capacity to search, select and critically evaluate resources to enhance engagement with scientific information on oceans
- Providing physical and online resources for students and staff to learn about ocean life
- Providing display opportunities for student work to demonstrate learnings and designs
- Providing opportunities for students to disseminate information on ocean conservation, such as sharing students' ocean stories and research on the school website
- Implementing initiatives that empower students to take action to protect coastal and marine areas in the community, such as a coastal clean-up, designing and distributing reusable water bottles and/or developing initiatives to reduce water waste
- Collaborating with classroom teachers to embed literature and tools into teaching and learning programs that support marine life and sustainable ocean practices

## Resources

The following resources may assist in exploring life below water:

- The *Ocean Conservation Digital Library* and *Water Digital Library* by Cool Australia provides a range of multimodal teaching resources to support ocean conservation
- *War on Waste: Plastics in our Oceans* available on ABC educates students on how plastics pollute oceans and impact marine life

- The *Fish Library* and *Ocean Library* by Enviro-Stories offers stories written by students that connects students to ocean life
- *School of Fish ABC Gardening Australia* explores students learning how feral fish are problems in water ways

**Sample:** e-steam fastrack hatchery crusaders (e-steamacademy.wixsite.com) Turtle Conservation

# 15 LIFE ON LAND

Our natural world provides an abundance of resources critical to humankinds' survival. However, as our natural world is currently under great stress, transformative practices are required to protect and restore the environment and its precious resources. School libraries are uniquely positioned to develop students' understanding and appreciation for life on land and, in turn, support the steps towards a more sustainable future. School libraries can support students' understanding and appreciation for life on land by:

- Providing an array of non-fiction texts that teach students how to create a nature experience such as a butterfly garden or bird sanctuary

- Integrating literature, activities and digital tools into teaching and learning programs that allow students to connect and develop respect for life on land, such as *Aussie Backyard Bird Count*

- Leading outdoor learning activities that connect students to the natural environment, such as a story walk or teddy bear picnic

- Implementing mindfulness programs that connect students to life on land, such as *12 Meditations for the Earth*

- Collaborating with classroom teachers to embed literature and tools into teaching and learning programs that develops students' understanding of biodiversity

- Providing students opportunities to create and implement sustainable land practices in the school community, such as developing a compost or worm farm

- Organising excursions with organisations that are responsibly and ethically run in order to prevent wildlife disturbance

# 15 LIFE ON LAND

## Resources

The following resources may assist in developing an appreciation for life on land:

- *Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program* by CSIRO - provides a hands-on approach to the scientific method and insight into local environments around the globe through data collected by citizen scientists, who follow global protocols. Plenty of classroom activities resources and excellent data source for analysis

- *12 Meditations for the Earth* by Intergifted explores mindfulness as a way of connecting with life on land

- *Wayfinder* by Matt DesLauriers is a free, interactive game that develops students appreciation for the natural world through poetry

- *Junior Landcare Bee Resources* by Junior Landcape provides videos, hands-on activities and other resources that protect our precious pollinators

- *Aussie Backyard Bird Count* by Birdlife Australia engages the school communities to connect with birds in their school playground

- *Build a Butterfly Box* by Backyard Buddies provides instructions on how to build a box that encourage butterflies into the garden

- *Scootle – Chris Arthur recalls the Franklin River campaign 2008* is an audio clip of an activist describing the Franklin River damming protest. He has since gone on to be a park ranger in the same area he was protecting all those years ago



Figure 13: front view of burrow



**Sample:** Creative Solutions in Rehabilitating Captive or Injured Wombats

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The commitment to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and ensuring effective, accountable and inclusive institutions pave the way for a sustainable world. School libraries and teacher librarians are the cornerstone of a just and peaceful society not only through the resources, services and spaces they provide, but their ability to empower students – the future citizens and leaders of society – as change-makers and peacekeepers. School libraries can promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies by:

- Supporting all children's right to read, right to access information and right to a quality education
- Amplifying the voices of minority, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups through collection development and programs, allowing students to develop respect and empathy for all people
- Connecting students to information that explores truth-telling and issues of justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Providing literature and programs that explore complex topics in a safe way, allowing students to examine their personal opinions and stimulate moral thinking
- Coordinating empathy circles to nurture students' deep listening skills and empathetic way of being
- Ensuring the library space as a welcoming, peaceful and inclusive place of refuge for all
- Developing students' digital citizenship skills to support peaceful, safe and inclusive spaces online
- Advocating at a local school level and at state and national levels through professional associations and educational publications

## Resources

The following resources may promote peace, justice and strong institutions:

- Provides hands-on approach to the scientific method and gain invaluable insight into local environments around the globe through data collected by citizen scientists, who follow global protocols; plenty of classroom activities resources and excellent data source for analysis
- *The Boat* by Matt Huynh is an interactive graphic novel that develops students' understanding and respect for refugees

- *K'gari* by SBS is an interactive documentary that explores justice for Aboriginal people through courage and truth-telling. SBS also offers *K'gari Teacher Notes* to support themes of justice across the curriculum
- *The Reading Bill of Rights* by Scholastic includes 8 beliefs that affirm every child's right to read
- *Rights of a Reader Poster* by Daniel Pennac illustrated by Quentin Blake is a beautifully-illustrated poster for the school library
- *40 Picture Books for Young Activists* by Carter Higgin provides a collection of book suggestions that support young activists

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# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Although the school library can create a movement, it takes a team to build a momentum. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals can only be unlocked with inclusive community partnerships and a shared vision that places the planet at the centre. As school libraires are community centres at heart, they are perfectly positioned to foster these essential partnerships with the school and wider community to realise the goals. School libraries can create strong partnerships for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by:

- Fostering partnerships between the teacher librarian and classroom teachers to thoughtfully embed the Sustainable Development Goals into teaching and learning programs

- Welcoming the wider community into the library through informal initiatives, such as Coffee and Chat or film nights

- Raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals through presentations, community discussions and/or performances

- Collaborating with specialist professionals to provide programs and workshops that aim to empower the wider community with the knowledge and skills to achieve the goals

- Proving a variety of resources to all partners in education that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals beyond the school gates, such as the *Global Goals Pledge Cards*

- Contributing to research and professional bodies/associations

## Resources

The following resources may support community partnerships for the goals:

- *Global Goals poster* by World Largest Lesson includes a one page comic for each Sustainable Development Goal that can be displayed in the library

- *Heroes For Change* available on World Largest Lesson is a comic that introduces the Sustainable Development Goals and sparks students to become partners, or superheroes, in the bid for change

- *Global Goals Pledge Cards* by World Largest Lesson offers cards for students and families to write their personal pledges to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at home

- *The Globe Program* – hosted by CSIRO, provides hands-on approach to the scientific method and gain invaluable insight into local environments around the globe through data collected by citizen scientists, who follow global protocols; plenty of classroom activities resources and excellent data source for analysis.

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