

ECO ACTION TEAM

Students and staff unite to help the environment one challenge at a time

IF you ask the students and staff at South Australia's Golden Grove High School, they'll tell you there's more than one 'I' in sustainability.

Aside from having excellent spelling skills, Golden Grove takes a whole school approach to keeping the earth healthy for future generations to enjoy.

An Environmental Action Team is behind a plethora of positive changes made at the school, and involves everyone from the principal, to the groundskeeper, finance officer, teachers, student reps and HASS and Sustainability Coordinator Kirsty Denison.

Some of the team's initiatives include a three-bin waste and recycling system, 'tree planting' and 'zero-waste days', an environmental newsletter and 'mobile musters' where old phones are collected for recycling.

This year, the team have decided to involve staff in monthly challenges.

"Our first challenge was to participate in a Vegan Challenge in which students were required to educate the school community about the environmental benefits of this lifestyle.

"Most members of the Environmental Action Team went vegan for 2 weeks to show their sup-



port," Denison explains.

"Another challenge was our 'Plastic to Landfill in May – No Way!' challenge. We asked all staff throughout the school to create a soft plastics bin in their offices and/or classrooms and collect all soft plastics for the month rather than putting it in their waste bins."

Denison says it's important for youngsters to see action happening at the top.

"We all have an impact on the environment and our environment can only be sustained for future communities if we work together to instill sustainability practices in the minds of the youth of today.

"When staff are passionate and enthusiastic about working towards a more sustainable future, students get more involved and see more value in what we do as a school."