



# SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE OPEN DAY + KINDER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PD

9:30AM - 2PM

FRIDAY 9TH MAY, 2025

FREE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
DAY focusing on how to introduce young learners  
to the Circular Economy and connecting to nature.

Learning will be FUN and ENGAGING.

Introducing early learners to invertebrates is a great way to lay the foundation for understanding the basics of the Circular Economy. Invertebrates, such as worms, insects, and other small creatures, play vital roles in ecosystems by decomposing organic matter, recycling nutrients, and supporting plant growth. Teaching young students about these creatures helps them grasp how nature's processes are interconnected, much like the principles of a circular economy, where resources are reused and waste is minimised. By observing invertebrates in action, early learners can begin to appreciate the balance and sustainability inherent in natural systems, fostering a deeper awareness of how human activities can work in harmony with the environment.

In this program we will work towards removing phobias and stigmas around invertebrates so we can focus more on the incredible roles they play in being nature's recyclers and how they can play an important role in reducing human waste and inspiring us with new ideas.

Join us for a fun and action packed day - we look forward to seeing you there!

9:30AM

**Official welcome**, Acknowledgement of Country, plus introduction of Gould League and how we've inspired generations of scientists, problem solvers and eco warriors for over 100 years.

9:40AM

"Eco Anxiety" is a real concern, and the answer lies in reconnecting with Nature! Gould League's early learning programs aim to enhance students' connection to the natural world, all while fulfilling curriculum requirements.

10.00AM

#### **Warm-Up Activity: Communicating About Nature**

This session focuses on exploring our conversations with young learners about nature and the significance of animals within it, aiming to enhance their connection to their local environment. We will examine how verbal and body language can both contribute to fostering this vital connection.

10.10AM

#### **Group Activity: Say hello to my new buddy.....**

Meet a bug, dig into its quirky life, and introduce it like you're welcoming a new superstar to class! Let's explore how to sprinkle some positivity with our words and body language to shatter those stigmas and fears about our bug companions!

10:30AM

**Morning tea break** and invitation to participate in our "marine waste timeline" activity. There are prizes to be won!





10.45 PM

Explore the complexities of "**The GOOD, the BAD, and the UGLY of Plastics**" as we embark on an innovation revolution driving the circular economy. The choices we make today are vital for shaping a sustainable future. We'll delve into the critical reasons for reducing plastic waste, highlight the transformative potential of recycled plastics, and outline a strategic approach to eliminate single-use plastics from our lives. This is not just a call to action; it's a blueprint for a cleaner, healthier planet.

#### **Cheltenham Sustainability Centre Tour**

Join us for a tour of our amazing facilities where you'll uncover why bugs are the ultimate teachers of eco-friendliness. We'll pop by our Giant Compost Bin to meet its fascinating animal residents, learn how worms are the unsung heroes of zero waste, get up close with our other bugs with the video microscope, and even slip into some dazzling costumes for our minibeast plays!

But that's not all! We'll venture into the garden to uncover the hidden treasures of urban wildlife. We'll help you play detective, spotting species and busting myths that make bugs seem scarier than they really are. This session aims to turn teachers into eco-warriors, making you comfy with invertebrates and revealing the star roles they play in our environment.

12.15 PM

**Lunch and time to swim with whales in our "SodaStream Oceans of our Future 3D Experience."**

#### **Circular Economy and Beyond - Pathways to a Sustainable Future**

Join international Sustainability and Circular Economy expert Anne-Maree McInerney in this fun and engaging workshop. Discover how to achieve zero waste by working with your local community. It promises to inspire, surprise and awaken new possibilities for you, your students and or your community and could inspire your students to show what's possible when we innovate and collaborate to problem solve issues such as waste.

12.45PM

#### **Group Activity**

This collaborative workshop is focused on designing a learning program that can be applied in your workplace. Whether the program lasts for one hour, one week, one term, or even an entire year, we will work together to develop a plan that increases student's connection to their natural environment and work towards the Circular Economy

1.15PM

1:45PM

**Discussion and questions**

2:00PM

**End of program.**

## Meet the Speakers



### **Anne-Maree McInerney**

Anne-Maree is Gould League's General Manager. She is a highly regarded international sustainability thought leader, educator and advisor.

Anne-Maree uses powerful and meaningful stories of transformation to inspire change. She creatively shows us that sustainability is not just an aspiration, it's a practical reality that is sweeping our businesses, communities and governance systems – providing significant financial, environmental and social returns.



### **Rebecca Ceveri**

Bec has been involved in environment education and conservation for almost twenty years. She completed a Bachelor of Science with majors in Marine Biology and Environmental Science. In her 10+ years of experience with Gould League she has been instrumental in delivering and writing our programs from Kinder through to VCE.

Bec thoroughly enjoys the opportunity to introduce students to Victoria's unique biodiversity and influence community behaviour to produce positive environmental change.



### **Greta Muhleisen**

Greta has over 25 years of experience in environmental education in Victoria. She has also worked as an Animal Keeper at Melbourne Museum and Program Coordinator at CERES Environment Park. With degrees in Biology (Marine Ecology), Teaching, and Human Resource Management, she advocates for environmental restoration. Now the Bookings and Volunteer Coordinator at Gould League, she mentors future Environmental Educators and is passionate about urban biodiversity, community engagement, and integrating Indigenous knowledge into conservation education.

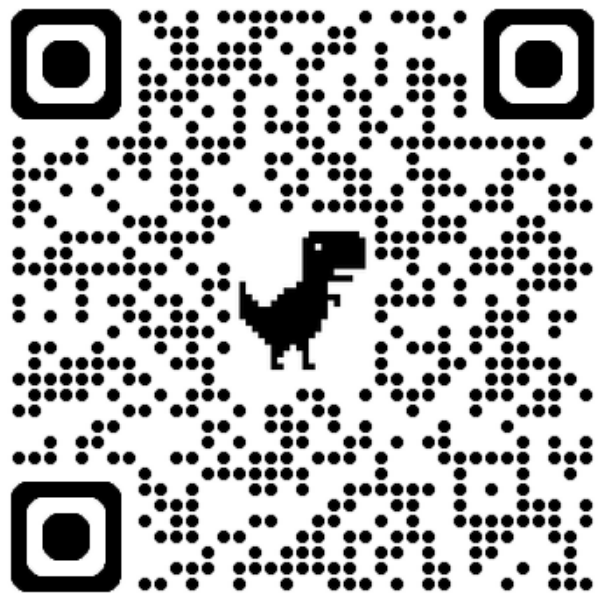
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT [bookings@gould.org.au](mailto:bookings@gould.org.au) / 0431107389**



## FREE EVENT - INCLUDES MORNING TEA AND LUNCH

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  
DUE TO LIMITED PLACES**

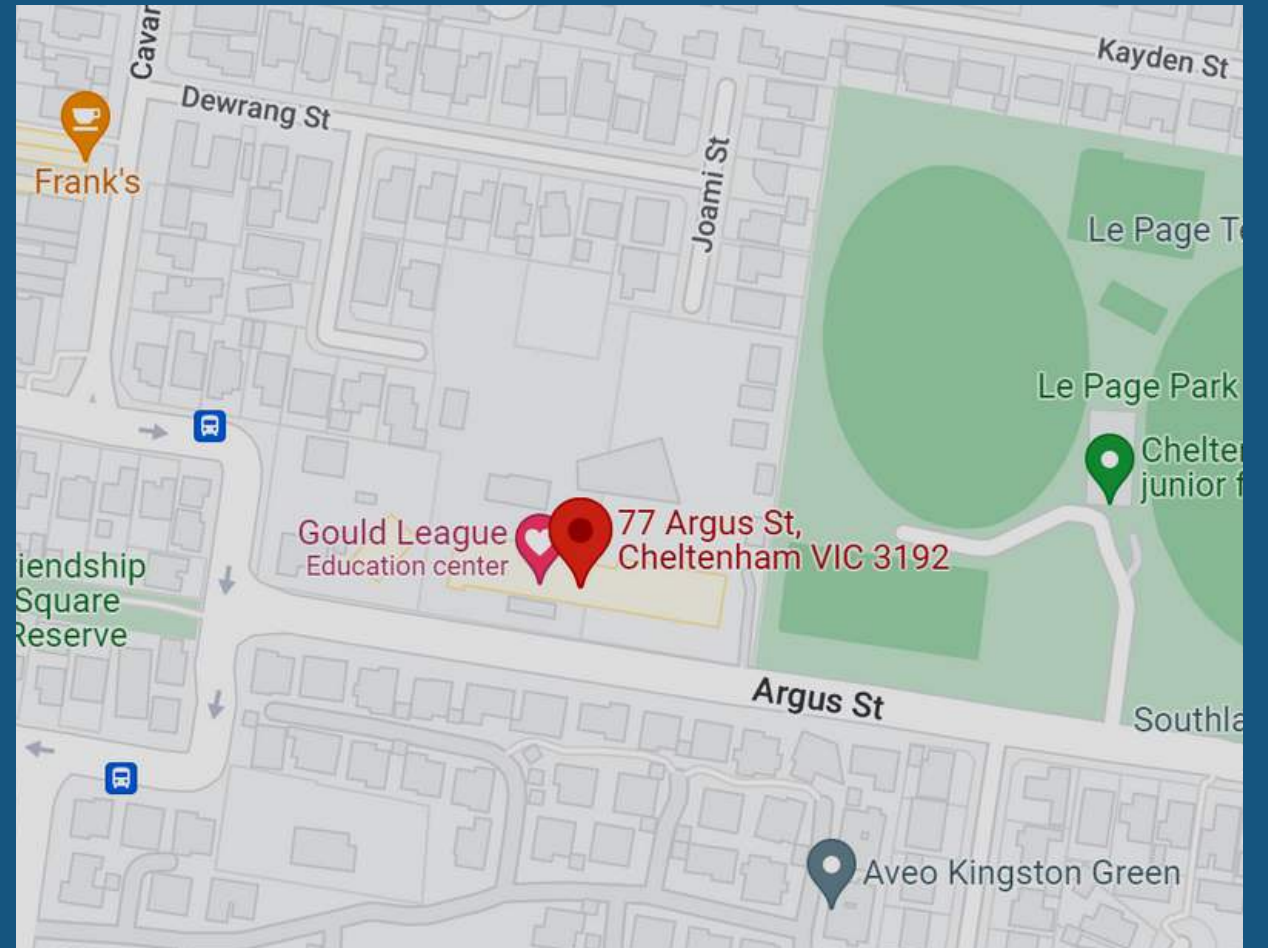
**BOOK HERE**



This learning program is best suited to 3 and 4 Year Old Kinder educators and child care staff, and co-ordinators of incursions/ excursions.

All attendees must hold a current Working with Children Card (Volunteer Cards are fine if you represent a Community Group) or VIT card, as we share the building and facilities with Le Page Primary School.

## GOULD LEAGUE SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION CENTRE 77 ARGUS STREET, CHELTENHAM



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU  
JOINING US FRIDAY 9TH MAY**

### Happy Teachers = Happy Students

Let us provide hands on learning activities linked to the curriculum that MAKES LEARNING FUN, so your kids are not so disconnected from the world in which they live - as the more they are connected to the natural world, the more they they will fight to protect it!

### This is why Teachers come to our PD Days...

*"So enthusiastic and informative about ways we can engage children in looking after our world"*

**Kate - Hampton Community Kinder**

*"10 out of 10. Gave a lot of ideas and examples on how to be part of the solution instead of just showing the problem."*

**Trang - Kanooka Child Care Centre**

*"Was so informative. Got so many ideas to implement them in our kinder room and increase awareness within the children"*

**Thanoshi - Kids on Gallaghers**

**JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TO FIND OUT ABOUT ALL OUR PDS AND EVENTS.**

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