



## FREE FOREST TEACHER PD for Primary Teachers

9.30am - 3.00pm  
Thursday May 1st, 2025

### TOOLANGI STATE FOREST

Learning will be FUN and ENGAGING, however spots are strictly limited, so don't delay. BOOK TODAY!

MORNING TEA & LUNCH PROVIDED

As educators, how can we address environmental topics in a way that minimises student disconnection or anxiety about these issues while motivating them to take action? Join Anne-Maree McInerney, General Manager of Gould League and a recognised global sustainability advisor, for a day-long exploration in the forest alongside experts in biodiversity, drone technology and fire management. This professional development opportunity is designed to uplift and inspire teachers as they discover the long-term advantages of healthy mountain forests and their critical role in the future for our plants and animals as well as for humans.

This knowledge will be reinforced through an outdoor walk in previously burned forest areas and a hands-on skills session, allowing teachers to experience first-hand what their students would encounter during an excursion.

This day celebrates the magnificent tall trees of the Toolangi State Forest and the river system that sustains us, providing Melbourne's water supply. This innovative approach to real-world learning offers a peek into the future of education, fostering resilience, creating jobs, and making positive contributions to society and the environment.

PROUDLY SUPPORTERED BY: GTAV, Skies Unlimited and Eucalypt Australia as part of National Eucalypt Day Celebrations.



## PROGRAM



9.30AM

### Welcome and Introduction

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" and disconnection to nature. An introduction to Gould League's outdoor programs to deepen student's connection to their natural environment. How Gould League meets curriculum criteria.

10:00AM

### Innovation by Nature - it's worth more than you realise!

This session not only gives an economic value to nature and the ecosystem services it provides, it showcases a range of biomimicry and Blue Economy innovation that's reducing waste, increasing yields in agriculture and aquaculture, how we can now make paper without trees using the waste of mining processes, get inspiration from termite mounds to provide air-conditioning without the need for power, lighting via luminescence and much more.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GOULD LEAGUE [www.gould.org.au](http://www.gould.org.au) or follow us on





**10.45AM** Morning Tea

**11:00AM** Introduction to Gould League's Forest based programs for Primary aged students

**First-hand experience of Toolangi State Forest and it's Ecosystem Services**

This session entails a 2.2km loop walk to the Yea River (gentle grade - easy to walk). Walk amongst the world's tallest flowering plant (Mountain Ash), Messmate, Tree Ferns and other wonders of the forest. We take a sensory exploration of the forest; understanding sounds, experiencing the fresh smells and colours, and feeling the coolness of the autumn air. We also discuss how the forest has transformed over centuries to what it is now; discussing cultural significance to the Taungarong, the early European settlers, current users and the importance of the forest for the future.

**11.15AM**

**12:45PM** Lunch

**Impacts of natural disasters on forests and communities**

All too frequently students see media coverage of intense bushfires and other disasters affecting habitats and communities around the world. Learn how Gould League use disasters of the past such as Black Saturday in 2009 to help us understand impacts on habitats and local communities and what is being done now to protect our special spaces for future generations.

**1.15PM**

**Skills session**

This session will workshop some of the methods and techniques necessary to collect data and information to measure impacts on the forest and will include a drone demonstration to help quantify local changes. You will also have a chance to explore our Discovery Tree learning space to find out more about the unique and endangered animals that live in the area.

**1:45PM**

**Group discussion**

Time to share your successes and limitations to improving engagement and empowerment of children to become more connected to the natural environment. Share your school's journey to improve sustainability performance and share resources you have found valuable in your journey.

**2:30PM**

**Discussion and questions**

**2:45PM**

**End of program**

**3.00PM**



**Licensed Tour Operator**  
**2024-25**



Gould League are proud to be Licensed Tour Operators with Parks Victoria for over 10 years.

**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.



**Janet Chambers**

Jan, who has lived in the Kinglake Ranges for many years, developed a passion for the local forests and their biodiversity. She studied Conservation and Land Management and works as an educator in Toolangi and Warburton, engaging in ecological projects since 2014 with Gould League. Jan loves Australia's unique wildlife and natural horsemanship, leading to adventures like traveling across Australia, being a wildlife carer, visiting Antarctica, and assessing dugong health in Moreton Bay. In her free time, she enjoys bushwalking, nature photography, reading, and playing the piano and cello. Jan is a mother and grandmother.



**Paul Randle**

Get a taste for drone technology with Paul "Digger" Randle, a licensed drone pilot and drone educator with Skies Unlimited. Skies Unlimited specialize in delivering exciting and educational drone-based programs for upper primary to VCE students. Their hands-on activities inspire curiosity and creativity while directly supporting learning outcomes in STEM and geography.

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

# HOW TO BOOK AND HOW TO GET THERE

## FREE EVENT - INCLUDES LUNCH

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  
DUE TO LIMITED PLACES**

**BOOK  
HERE**



This learning program is best suited to educators of mid to upper aged Primary students, co-ordinators of incursions/excursions, green team leaders or other leadership programs.

Please dress appropriately, and advise any physical limitations or dietary requirements.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU  
JOINING US THURSDAY MAY 1ST**

As this is a remote location, we highly recommend carpooling. There is ample parking available. We ask you don't park in CFA response parking spaces or out the front of the station apron, so CFA are able to respond quickly and easily if they get a callout.



**CFA Toolangi  
1683 Healesville  
- Kinglake Rd  
TOOLANGI**

## Discover why teachers come to our PD days...

*"So informative. And enthusiastic and engaging presenters!"*

**Clare - St Brigids PS**

*"10 out of 10. The walk gave us a chance to connect to our environment and presentations gave me knowledge I had never even considered before. I highly recommend others attend Gould League PD days."*

**Samatha - Heany Park Primary School**

*"10 out of 10! I especially loved the field work activities and the application in the classroom".*

**Catherine Ryan - Mentone Grammar School**



PRESENTED by Gould League and proudly supported by GTAV, Skies Unlimited and Eucalypt Australia. Gould League are a Parks Victoria Licenced Tour Operator.



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

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