N.E.A.T stands for Northcote Environmental Action Team and we focus on helping and fixing the environment around our school.

Last term, N.E.A.T visited the new senior campus on Helen St and we made some proposals about how we can make it environmentally friendly and, at the same time, beautiful.

We discussed having:

✓ An area dedicated to the Wurundjeri people
✓ Indigenous plants
✓ Water tanks
✓ Vegetable patch
✓ Lots of flowers
✓ Painting the really ugly bin and put our own little touch on it
✓ Planting some trees to cover the fences and give us, and the people who live opposite the senior campus, some privacy
✓ A little bird area with a bird bath and maybe bird seed
✓ And much, much more!
Our logo is trying to represent us and nature working together in an environmentally friendly way. Our logo is on our signs to represent our team. On each sign there is a message. For example, the ‘Do you really need to turn this on?’ sign is asking you if it is really important for the device, lights or technology to be on. The N.E.A.T members have put up signs around our school reminding staff and students to save energy and be sustainable in our school campus. Our school is going to try our best to follow the signs and hopefully become an even more sustainable and an environmentally friendly school.

School Lighting upgrade

Over the 2015 June-July holidays, all the school’s old fluorescent lights were changed to environmentally friendly LED lights. This will save up to 60% of the school’s energy costs. It also means that the rooms won’t heat up as much in summer and we won’t produce as much carbon dioxide. We also won’t have to change the lights as often.

We did this using money from the DET/Sustainability Victoria’s Energy Efficiency grant of $10,000. $1,200 of this money was used for an energy audit through Planetsavers Victoria (conducted with the assistance of the NEAT team in 2014). The rest of the grant, and some generous input from School Council, was used to fully upgrade our inefficient school lights. (Thank you very much School Council!).

The most noticeable improvement to our lighting is in our school hall. Ten old high-bay lights with huge energy-sapping incandescent light bulbs were replaced with 6 modern LED lights that illuminate the hall very effectively, for a fraction of the cost. Also, students and teachers in the 1/2 learning area in the main building can now see what they’re doing because the new LED lights have provided them with an ambience and glow not seen for many years.
**Plant Grant**

NPS has applied for a grant from The Northcote Leader which will help with our refurbishment of our senior campus. If we are successful, we will get $1,000 to help us landscape and use to make our environment a better place for us and the animals around us.

The Northcote Leader will be out on the 5th of August so make sure you vote for Northcote Primary because the public votes and the school with the most votes wins $1,000!


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**Community partnership with CERES**

NPS is strengthening its relationship with CERES in East Brunswick. CERES facilitators are helping us become a ResourceSmart sustainable school. We assist CERES education programs by donating our unwanted shredded office paper to enable students all over Victoria to make their own recycled paper. Our paper waste is being given a new life as part of the CERES ‘The 4 Rs’ program (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink).