



Small Actions, Big Waves

Following an incredible start to 2026, February has been a month of connection across the EcoMarines network. It's inspiring to see passionate students already planning, collaborating, and identifying environmental challenges in their very own backyards, and stepping up as voices for change!

This month, we are thrilled to feature Elanora State High School in our School Spotlight to see how they are championing sustainability, and how their dedicated team of EcoMarines Ambassadors are leading the charge for creating real change.

We would also like to thank everyone that came to our online induction sessions and made them such a success!



We're also looking ahead to Clean Up Australia Day and Global Recycling Day, highlights of our calendar that prove what we can achieve when the whole community comes together.

Thank you for being part of this growing wave of environmental leadership!

Clean Up Australia Day



On the 1st of March, EcoMarines is celebrating Clean Up Australia Day alongside our friends at Urban Utilities and Tangalooma Island Resort!

We'll be at Wynnum Foreshore Whale Park conducting our yearly organised clean-up with support from surrounding EcoMarines schools and volunteers!

If you can't observe or participate on the day, register anyways!



Clean Up Australia Day can be registered for any day of the year, and you'll even receive a free Clean-Up-Kit from Clean Up Australia!

When attending an organised clean-up, communities, schools and businesses all work together to focus on a dedicated area, recording the results of their clean-up to measure how well we are all keeping Australia clean!



EcoMarines had a triumphant showing at our organised clean-up last year, with ever-appreciated help along the way from the **Brisbane City Council**, **Urban Utilities**, **Tangalooma Island Resort** and **Clean Up Australia** staff! But we plan to go even further in 2026 during our quickly approaching Wynnum clean-up!

School Spotlight: Elanora State High School



Elanora State High School isn't new to taking sustainability to the next level; their team of dedicated environmentalists has been making sure of it! Their goal?

"Making Elanora Environmentally Aware!"

A strong slogan that fits the school's consistent efforts to better the surrounding area and create real, lasting change.

In 2025, Elanora SHS aimed to reduce consumption, manage resources and waste responsibly, and reduce single-use plastics. Elanora State High School's Environmentalists are practically professionals, with their program refining and improving each year, with the school following a wide array of environmental events.

Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day, and Keep Australia Beautiful Week are only a handful of examples that the team of Environmentalists push to celebrate each year. An innovative solution to getting kids involved at school is running many of these events as "House Challenges", creating a sense of pride in their accomplishments, but also showing their competitive spirit, alongside positive results!



Take a look at Elanora State High School's Sustainability overview video by clicking the button below to find out some specific stats about their efforts, as well as their ongoing projects.

[Watch Now](#)

Teacher Spotlight: Shelby O'Neil

Caravonica State School has shown us what dedicated EcoMarines Ambassadors can do to make real change for their school environment, with bright ideas and hard work. But as motivated as our EcoMarines Ambassadors are, the EcoMarines teachers behind the scenes, help to support, inspire and educate, ensuring Ambassadors can make real change. One of our most inspiring EcoMarines teachers is none other than Shelby O'Neil from Caravonica State School, who was proud to introduce the school's 10¢ container recycling program, as well as "Waste-Free Wednesday".



Both of these sustainability initiatives have helped to reduce Caravonica State School's footprint and has given its students the opportunity to think more critically about waste. We had the pleasure of speaking with Shelby for our 2025 edition of Ripples, where she shared exactly how she inspired her dedicated EcoMarines Ambassadors throughout the program.

"Just start small, be consistent, and involve the students in every step! Celebrations of

your efforts along the way, no matter how small, encourages momentum and pride in the work being done."



Shelby said, when asked about how to engage students with the EcoMarines program. She went on to describes how EcoMarines supports, motivates and provides the right tools in order for EcoMarines schools and Ambassadors to reduce their environmental footprint, as well as allow for their ecological education to be more hands-on, meaningful and engaging.

This has resulted in Caravonica State School proving themselves as a school championing sustainability efforts through their team of dedicated EcoMarines Ambassadors and amazing support crew!

Adventure Days - Shaping the Leaders of Tomorrow!



Being an EcoMarine, whether you're a student Ambassador, a dedicated teacher, or part of the vital support crew, is about more than just "going green." It's about joining a wave of change across Australia. It's about sustainability belonging to everyone!

Through the EcoMarines program, we provide the resources and community connections to turn passion into action. Across Queensland, we are creating life-changing moments that empower schools and local communities to protect our planet, one piece at a time.

The highlight of the EcoMarines journey? Our Adventure Days!

We are constantly expanding these immersive experiences to give our EcoMarines Ambassadors front-row seats to conservation efforts in action.

At an Adventure Day, EcoMarines Ambassadors aren't just sitting in a classroom, they're learning first-hand with exciting workshops, connecting with experienced industry experts, and building a network of like-minded peers.



With EcoMarines, education meets exploration, where our leaders of tomorrow find their voice through actions today!

Global Recycling Day - 18th of March

While Clean Up Australia Day focuses on removing litter from our beautiful shorelines and parks, Global Recycling Day asks us to look at "rubbish" in a whole new light. It's a day to celebrate the circular economy, ensuring that resources are reused and repurposed rather than ending up as pollution in our oceans.



At EcoMarines, we know that every bottle saved from a landfill is a victory for our marine life. This day is a global shout-out to the Recycling Heroes, individuals, schools, and organisations, who prove that small, everyday actions can create massive waves of change.

Make sure to remember:

"Don't think waste. Think Opportunity!"

How Will Your School Take Action?

Global Recycling Day is the perfect time for EcoMarines Ambassadors and teachers to lead the charge. Whether it's auditing your school's recycling bins, starting a compost hub, or educating the community on the dangers of "wish-cycling," every effort counts.

This 18th of March, how will your home, school, or workplace make a difference?

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