



National Water Week: 2026 Poster Competition

www.nationalwaterweek.com.au

Educator's Guide

National Water Week (October 19 – 25) is a special opportunity to reflect on the essential role water plays in our lives and the importance of protecting this vital resource for a sustainable future. This year's theme, "**Water Heroes: Make Every Drop Count**", encourages students to become champions of water conservation by taking action and inspiring others to protect our precious water sources.

To celebrate, Victorian urban and regional water corporations are excited to once again host a poster competition for early learning, primary and junior secondary school students. This competition encourages creativity and engagement with water conservation through art, offering students a platform to express their ideas while vying for fantastic prizes for both themselves and their schools.

This guide, along with the provided worksheets, is designed to support educators in helping students explore the National Water Week theme. By encouraging meaningful discussions and creative expression, these resources will assist students in developing impactful posters that highlight the importance of making every drop count and becoming **Water Heroes** amongst their peers and within their communities.

Theme Explained: "Water Heroes: Make Every Drop Count"

This year's theme celebrates **everyday actions** that help protect and conserve water, and the **heroes** who make a difference through small, consistent choices that add up to a big change.

Who are Water Heroes?

Water Heroes are people of all ages who:

- take **responsibility** for how they use water
- **encourage** others to care about water too
- find creative ways to **use less** and **waste less**
- help protect our rivers, oceans, and water systems.

Students, families, teachers, and even entire communities can all be Water Heroes!



What Does “Make Every Drop Count” Mean?

It means that **every single drop of water matters**, and that even small actions add up to lasting impacts.

Whether it’s turning off the tap when brushing teeth, using the small flush or fixing a leaking tap, every choice counts towards a more sustainable future.

Why It Matters

- Water is a **precious, limited resource**.
- Not everyone in the world has **easy access** to clean water.
- Saving water helps keep the **environment healthy**.
- It teaches us to **respect natural resources** and be part of creating a sustainable future.

Benefits of participating

By participating in the **National Water Week Poster Competition**, students will gain a deeper appreciation for water and their role in protecting it. By embracing the theme “**Water Heroes: Make Every Drop Count**,” they will be inspired to take real action in their daily lives and encourage others to do the same, shaping the next generation of **Water Heroes!**

How to Get Involved

1. **Introduce the Theme:** Discuss what it means to be a **Water Hero**. Encourage students to think about everyday actions that can help save water, such as turning off taps, having shorter showers, using the half flush button, reusing water and fixing leaks.
2. **Use Activity Sheets:** The provided worksheets will help students explore key water related concepts and extend their understanding of the theme.
3. **Inspire Creativity:** Encourage students to depict themselves or others as Water Heroes in their posters, showing actions like protecting rivers, reducing water waste, or promoting clean water access.
4. **Submit Entries:** Ensure all posters meet the competition guidelines before submitting them by the deadline. Check the National Water Week poster competition website for specific details on entry requirements and submission deadline.
5. **Celebrate and Share:** Showcase students’ artwork in the classroom or school community. Recognise their efforts and share their messages about water conservation to inspire others.



Helpful Tips for Poster Creation

- Include Water Hero characters in the poster - students can draw themselves or others taking action to save water.
 - Use **bold colors** and **clear messages** to make the poster stand out.
 - Keep the design simple but impactful, focusing on strong imagery and key messages.
 - For impact, include a **call-to-action**: “Join me – make every drop count today!”
 - Consider using recycled materials or digital art to promote sustainability.
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Classroom Implementation Ideas

To bring the theme to life and maximise learning:

- **Conduct a school water audit:** Use free data from the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP) to measure real water use, identify leaks, and track savings. Students can create “before and after” posters showing their school as a Water Hero community.
- **Incorporate Indigenous perspectives:** Explore Traditional Owner knowledge of water management and caring for Country to deepen cultural understanding and connection.
- **Calculate water footprints:** For older students, track personal or household water use and design posters highlighting easy ways to reduce their footprint.
- **Link to real-world action:** Have students develop a class or school “Water Hero Action Plan” (e.g., shorter showers campaign, leak-reporting system, or greywater reuse project) and illustrate it in their posters.
- **Go sustainable:** Use recycled materials to create entries, reinforcing the sustainability message.
- **Cross-curricular projects:** Combine poster creation with science experiments (water cycle in a bag), geography mapping (local catchments), or civics advocacy (writing letters to the school community).
- **Secondary extension:** Older students can turn posters into social media campaigns, persuasive presentations, or proposals for school policy changes, turning art into leadership.

These ideas transform the poster competition into a whole-school water-saving movement.



Key Learning Areas and Curriculum Links

This competition aligns with the **Sustainability cross-curriculum priority**, as well as multiple areas of the curriculum, including:

- **Science:** Understanding the water cycle, human impact on water sources, and conservation efforts.
- **Geography:** Exploring local and global water challenges, water access issues, and sustainability solutions.
- **Art:** Encouraging visual storytelling, creativity, and artistic expression of environmental themes.
- **Civics and Citizenship:** Empowering students to become Water Heroes by taking responsibility for their water use and advocating for conservation.

Additional Resources

- **Song: Water Saving Superheroes with the Wiggles:**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAffbXpRZWo
- **Activity Book: Water Hero early learning program:**
www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/151253/BW_AB_Kinder_WEB.pdf
- **Song: Every little drop:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY0Gnune0sY
- **Sesame Street: Short animation on saving water:**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtcZbN0Z08c
- **Animation: Save water to help Earth:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=r10YiZjTqpw
- **Website: Kids and Teachers - Smart Water Advice:**
www.smartwateradvice.org/water-saving-tips-for-kids-and-teachers/
- **Schools Water Efficiency Program:** www.myswep.com.au
- **Natural Water cycle Factsheet:**
www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/natural-water-cycle-fact-sheet
- **Natural Water Cycle Game:**
www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/natural-water-cycle-game
- **Water Efficiency Guide For Schools:**
www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/water-efficiency-practical-guide-for-schools
- **Water For Our Future Video:**
<https://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/water-for-our-future-video>
- **Water Live It, Learn It:**
www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/water-learn-it-live-it-curriculum

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- **Water Sources Game:**
www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/water-sources-game
 - **Water Use Factsheet:**
www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/water-use-fact-sheet
 - **Melbourne Water Teacher Toolbox:**
www.melbournewater.com.au/teachertoolbox
 - **ResourceSmart Schools Water Module** (Sustainability Victoria) – curriculum-linked activities, lesson plans, and school audit tools:
<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do/resourcesmart-schools/modules/water-module>
 - **Water Education Portal** (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) - secondary-focused videos, career stories, and water management resources:
<https://www.water.vic.gov.au/about-us/school-water-education-resources>
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