

Bogong Outdoor Education Centre



■ Every student, including these pictured from Templestowe and Emerald secondary colleges, that visits the Bogong Outdoor Education Centre's Bogong Campus in the **Hume** region participates in Zero Power Hour. Based on the Earth Hour model, students go without power for one hour, learning about reducing power use and renewable energy alternatives.

Energy Watch students check that all the lights and heating are off before heading outside to enjoy a picnic dinner under the stars.

"Dining on a low-energy meal, that does not require the use of bain maries, a dishwasher or stove, represents an energy saving of approximately 57kW – the equivalent of 350 hours of LCD TV watching," says the education centre's teacher/sustainability coordinator Michelle Forrer.

"It is acknowledged that there is still some power required to run the fridges and emergency systems, but it certainly creates some good discussions among the students about the use of energy. They also learn about the use of the centre's 6kW solar photovoltaic energy system and solar hot water system as well as the reasons behind the school's commitment to purchasing 100 per cent renewable energy," she says.