As highlighted in the April newsletter we have entered the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable development, or DESD, (2005-2014) with the UN’s practice of designating International Decades, that began in 1985 to draw attention to major issues and to encourage international action on questions of global importance. With the world facing a multitude of ongoing problems and challenges, it seems timely to focus on sustainability, and in particular education for sustainable development.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Join the ECA Vic Branch special Interest Group that will commence in July 2006, meeting 4 times each year at Swinburne University’s Child and Family Studies department in Prahran. Tracy Young will convene the SIG and is keen for any interested people to become involved. You do not need to be using environmental sustainable practices or be knowledgeable about the key issues. A keen interest is the major requirement.

*Contact Tracy*
*Tel: 9214 6114*
*email: tryoung@swin.edu.au*

Check out your ecological footprint. This simple on-line exercise is a useful tool in behaviour change and increasing awareness. The average Victorian uses 8 this equates to the amount of resources of 4 planet earths if the whole world were to live like this.

The reason that Victoria has a higher rate than the rest of Australia is because we burn brown coal to produce electricity and this has a higher percentage of water, and therefore requires more energy to burn.

*Children feeding the worm farm.*

*Children creating a productive garden.*

*Sorting materials for recycling.*