

MEDIA RELEASE

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SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL

Melbourne & Beyond 12 – 27 February 2011

David Suzuki with the Force of Youth kicks off Australia's largest sustainable event's BIG WEEKEND

World renowned scientist, environmentalist and educator David Suzuki was joined today by Victorian Minister for Education Martin Dixon in welcoming 300 budding environmentalist from across Victoria to kick off the 2011 Sustainable Living Festival's BIG Weekend.

David Suzuki with the Force of Youth Education Day saw 300 students partake in the exclusive screening of Force of Nature: The David Suzuki Movie, as well as "Create a Campaign" workshops where the students put ideas into action plans for their school and at home.

"Through his books, radio programs, films and television series David has inspired a generation of people around the globe to take a more active interest in their environment," Mr Dixon said.

"One of the ways we can learn more about sustainable living is by coming to special events like this, and learning from internationally recognized experts or participating in master classes and workshops."

"In our everyday lives, I believe it is important that our schools play a part in educating our young people on how best to look after the environment."

"Victorian schools have outstanding teachers and principals who present exciting programs and activities around the issue of environmental sustainability."

"By finding ways to live more sustainably, we can ensure that our natural treasures are preserved for generations to come," Mr Dixon said.

Force of Nature: The David Suzuki movie is in the words of Dr Suzuki is his "last lecture ... a distillation of my life and thoughts, my legacy, what I want to say before I die."

Dr Suzuki hopes from today's Force of Youth Education Day, that students will frame ideas, ones that they think are important to pass onto other youths. Dr Suzuki acknowledged that it is the youth of today that has the power to simulate the message and take it viral, as they are experts, not he.

"I'm really excited about this, I want to thank the people that formulated this idea for this event, thank you for doing it, for giving me this opportunity because if this works I really want to take it back to Canada to see how we can duplicate what you teach us, when I get back to my country," said Dr Suzuki

It is definitely an exciting day for the Festival with Victorian students kicking goals in the name of sustainability.

The Sustainable Living Festival's BIG Weekend runs 18-20 February 2011

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Principal Partner



Event Partner



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development