

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Rubbish Rangers: Free Educational Program for Canberra Students

Local clean up group, [Trash Gather](#), are developing a fun, hands-on educational program for Canberra students, empowering them to become environmental leaders in their communities. The program, called **Rubbish Rangers**, deep-dives into a systems-view of waste, rather than just how best to deal with it at the end of the line.

**Rubbish Rangers** will take students through the “life-cycle of rubbish”, putting an emphasis on reducing and reusing before recycling. This approach was inspired by the recently released documentary, [The Story of Plastic](#), which shines a light on the global issue of waste, and that recycling is far from the perfect solution. “We’ve been led to believe that our overwhelming waste issues are purely a result of bad management”, says **Trash Gather** founder and 2020 ACT Young Australian of the Year, Maddie Diamond. “But we can’t hope to manage all of our waste by recycling. 91% of plastic ever produced has not been recycled. This is a problem that needs to be addressed at the source, and our young people need to be aware of the bigger picture.”

**Rubbish Rangers** includes a 1.5 hour in-school workshop, starting with a life-cycle lesson, followed by a school clean-up, and wrapping up with a discussion about how students can become Rubbish Rangers in their homes, schools and communities. “We need to invest in our young people, not shelter them from the oncoming storm. Younger generations face huge environmental challenges now and into the future, and the very least we can do is equip them with the confidence, knowledge and skills to take on those challenges. And of course, have fun in the process.”

**Trash Gather** is a youth-led volunteer group that meets every month in Canberra to pick up rubbish and connect like-minded people. Interested teachers and educators can organise a visit from the **Trash Gather** team by emailing [trashgatheraus@gmail.com](mailto:trashgatheraus@gmail.com), or calling schools coordinator, Bailey Lutton, on 0422 562 829.

• DON'T BE TRASH •