

Issue 9 ~ Summer 2008



A Season of Waste Wise Events

The long hot summer has spread into Autumn and seen a number of events participate in the Waste Wise program.

The **Golden Plains Festival** in Meredith (the new kid on the block at the Meredith Music Festival Amphitheatre) set itself the ambitious target of diverting more than 50% of waste from landfill. Final results are not yet available but preliminary information suggests success. A couple of key actions that have made this achievement possible are the employment of a manager for the waste and recycling - this shifts the work load off the event organisers, and ensuring that data is collected (including contamination levels). The business adage ***what you can't measure you can't manage*** is true for events as well.

A similar event in Beaufort the **Rainbow Serpent Festival** is still learning the ropes as it moves from the concept of large skip bins for everything to recycling and litter management. A participant at this year's Festival noted that *"the front of house bin system was a big improvement, there were thorough litter cleanups and that a four day camping festival seems to create crazy amounts of waste."* So, well done to the committee for their efforts to date.

On a smaller scale the **Ballan Autumn Festival** attracts a crowd of around 2000 and has been Waste Wise for several years. This Festival combines Arts & Crafts with entertainment and helps to foster a sense of community.

Three certificate presentations have taken place this year St. Francis Xavier (Ballarat) and St. Augustine's (Creswick) Primary Schools and Peter Lambert Design. All these were announced in the last newsletter.



Peter Lambert and Cr. Stephen Jones

The new kid on the block is **McPherson's Printers Maryborough**. Waste Wise has prompted them to identify the type, source and amount of waste generated at the printing plant. Source separation and the appropriate bins, bales and compactors have enabled Peter Carey and his team to implement an Environmental Management System that not only covers waste and recycling but also energy and water. This EMS identifies communication and staff training as key success factors.



Have a great long weekend and don't forget these waste free tips* for Easter!

> The average 200g chocolate egg comes with 54g of card and 2g of foil.

Reduce and reuse

- > Choose Easter gifts with less packaging.
- > If entertaining, get loose fruit and vegetables and only buy what you need.
- > Save Easter foil and cellophane wrappings to create your own greetings cards.

Recycle

- > Break up Easter egg packaging, and recycle the card and foil in kerbside recycling bins.

* Easter tips from [Scotland Friends of the Earth](#) via Pam at Sustainability Victoria

The ResourceSmart certification framework

What is ResourceSmart?

ResourceSmart has been developed by Sustainability Victoria as a single call to action for all Victorians to conserve energy, materials and water - at home, at work and out & about. And to deliver the practical assistance they need to make the necessary changes in their lives to become ResourceSmart.

The ResourceSmart Program for Change, Tools for Change and the 5 star certification scheme have been developed to assist Victorian organisations to implement the changes required to manage and minimise their own environmental impacts.

The *Program for Change* provides a continual improvement framework. Participants are guided through the steps to a successful environmental change program integrating ResourceSmart behaviours into everyday practices.

The *Tools for Change* offers a broad range of self help tools, resources, networks and support to assist with implementation of a wide range of sustainability initiatives across energy, water and materials.

The *5 star certification scheme* recognizes good sustainability practices and rewards high achievement and leadership.

The ResourceSmart Program for Change builds on and expands the successes of the Waste Wise program. Waste Wise has demonstrated success in helping hundreds of Victorian organisations to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste for the past 10 years. The new program addresses environmental sustainability and climate change by integrating materials, energy and water efficiency.

Sustainability Victoria and our partners work with all major sectors of the Victorian community – industry, offices, state and local governments, schools, event managers and community groups to:

- > Build strategic partnerships within sectors and organisations with high environmental impacts and significant influence.
- > Meet state targets for delivering sustainability outcomes.
- > Enable organisations to effectively bring about and manage change.
- > Demonstrate real financial, social and environmental benefits.
- > Provide ongoing support for participants, with particular focus on problem solving, maintaining momentum and continual improvement.

Contact the Regional Education Officer for advice about Waste Wise, ResourceSmart and other information mentioned in this newsletter.



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