

**LEARN AND ACT TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE**

*Earth Carer Kids 'Resource Rescuers' and Advanced Earth Carers have something in common .... they all have really good ideas for reducing waste in their communities and the enthusiasm and knowhow to get these things happening through projects, large and small.*

**Kids Teaching Kids**

The **KAPOW (Kids About Protecting Our World)** group at Weld Square Primary School are among the latest children to take up Resource Rescue. They know that litter and waste detergents, fertilizers and pesticides etc are all bad news for our waterways so they're spreading the word as wide as they can. They're relaying the message locally and through their Kids Teaching Kids Conference presentation in Melbourne in October.



That's too much waste!

**Year 6s Set the Lunch**

The Year 6s at Victoria Park Primary School are also about to embark on their project of tackling food and food packaging waste at school through organising their '**Low Waste Lunches Challenge**' and follow-up activities to make the changes stick!

**BIKES TO SHRED E-WASTE?**

MWAC information bulletin – July 2012

Electronic and electrical waste is the fastest growing type of waste in the world. In Ghana alone, approximately 40,000 people depend on the income generated from recycling of this waste. Current low cost technologies are limited and inhabitants of developing countries often resort to burning this material to separate copper for resale.

Royal College of the Arts (UK) graduate Hal Watts has developed an alternative, 'Esource' - a bicycle-powered electronic waste shredder. The bike is mounted on a frame so that the user just pedals to power the orange shredder as it grinds the wire into a mix of plastic and copper.



From there, the mix goes into a metal separator, that uses water to remove the plastic and leads to a yield of 98% pure copper, which can be sold for 20% more than copper that has been burnt. And this way, the plastic particles can be used as an alternate source of income.

The machines were designed so they could be manufactured and maintained locally, and the designs will be made available to local workshops who can produce and sell them.

Source: [www.smartplanet.com](http://www.smartplanet.com)

Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle

**NATIONAL TREE DAY AT TAMALA PARK**

MRC held its second National Tree Planting Day at Tamala Park on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Earth Carers once again contributed to this worthy day with over 580 native local species being planted in 5 different operational areas. All the volunteers hard work was rewarded with a BBQ at our education centre. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you next year!



**Volume 13**  
**September 2012**

**Welcome to the new Spring edition of our Earth Carers' newsletter.**

**Since our last edition another 15 Earth Carers have completed their course and will graduate on 17th September.**

**We are entering the busy spring season so will be out and about at lots of community events over the next few months. We would love to see you there!**

**For a full list of these events, please see page 4.**

**If you have any suggestions for future editions, contact Peg Davies (contact details below).**

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Make waste work

For further information please contact  
Peg Davies on 0422 941 492  
Email: [pdavies@mrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:pdavies@mrc.wa.gov.au)



# EC activities

## Sue's back yard project: A Vege Garden Can Include a Dog

My family and I have recently completed putting in two garden beds for both vegetables and herbs. The garden is located in an elevated retaining wall which was built to support an old limestone wall along the back boundary. It's great because it positions your crops at an easily accessible height, so you don't have to break your back tending to them.

We have a worm farm too and, to improve the soil condition, I mixed in the castings that have been breaking down for the past twelve months. My daughter loved to touch and look at all the worms that were in the castings. We managed to collect quite a few to put back in the new tray we started in the 'worm cafe'!

The only issue was with how to keep our two dogs out of the garden and eating some of the herbs. Basically we created a cover to protect the plants from the dogs and other pests. Three lengths of retic pipe created the curved structure. They were nailed to a length of timber at either end and the star pickets were in the middle to create height. We then just stapled fly screen to the retic pipe. The front panel was curved at the top and I stapled some old timber floor edge trim to the straight side and that piece weighs down the front so animals can't get in. To access the plant you just lift the flap and rest it on top of the curved structure.

Another great thing is when watering with a hose you can just water straight through the fly screen and the screen creates a spray - so you don't need a watering can. For the small herb patch, we just stapled the flyscreen to four small offcuts of the retic pipe.



What did we plant? Herbs: Dill, Rosemary, Cilantro (Coriander), Basil, Oregano, Italian Parsley, Curly Leaf Parsley, Common Mint and Onion Chives.

Vegetables: Lettuce, Baby Spinach, Beetroot, Baby Carrots, Cherry Tomatoes, Snow Peas and Red Capsicum.

And, for good measure, a couple of Strawberry plants.

Here are the photos of our new garden including one of my daughter, Karina with our mischievous Jack Russell, Dougal.

by Sue A



## Rack 'n Ruin or Recycle?

*Robyn C, Earth Carer, shared what she's done with two CD racks that she no longer used. One was a bit weathered so it's outside growing plants and the other one has been painted and screwed to the wall in her loo so she now has heaps more room in the linen closet (where the loo paper used to live).*

*After attending an Introduction to Interior Design course and being taught that we should "store it where you use it" she's implementing what she's learnt in a creative way!*



A new look and purpose for an old CD rack

## Any Takers for Takeaway Containers?

Earth Carer, Val let us know that there are about 400 used food containers being thrown away each week at Weld Square, Beaufort Street, Perth.

Six days a week, volunteers in the city provide meals to people homeless or lacking income for food.

Previously, meals were prepared in a nearby café but the group then opted to make meals elsewhere and drive them the park to hand out the meals.

From a waste point of view it doesn't seem to be the best option but the work is done by volunteers, who probably already have enough to do and don't want to wash dishes or containers as well.

## Advanced Earth Carers

The **Advanced Earth Carers** are meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September at the City of Joondalup offices to discuss their projects. Bring some food to share with your ideas!

# EC Events

## Christmas Gift Making Day

There is nothing nicer than being the recipient of a homemade gift made with love and care so we are having a 'Make Your Own Presents and Wrapping' day on Saturday 3rd November between 9am and 1pm at Henderson Environment Centre, Star Swamp, North Beach.

It is not that long until Christmas will be upon us and soap and puddings need time to mature .... and we need less opportunity to panic, and getting organised early is the plan.



We are on the search for all your hidden talents that could be transformed to beautiful gifts, either to be made on the day or, demonstrated for a less embarrassing attempt at home. It may be designing your own cards, making children's fairy and dream catcher stuff, soap and chocolate, or creating a jumper for the cat - the possibilities are only limited by your imagination!

## reSHOE Your Shoes

30 million shoes end up in Australian landfill each year, many of which are still in reusable condition.

reSHOE is a not-for-profit, microfinance project which sends used shoes from Western Australia to developing countries, where small shoe vending businesses will sell the shoes to the locals.



Students from the University of Western Australia in the 'Students in the Free Enterprise' (SIFE) program are taking part in a reSHOE project. Shoes collected will be sorted and packed by UWA students and Western Australians with disabilities so providing them with a source of income and a

forum for positive social interaction.

Once sorted, the shoes will be shipped to Ghana to be distributed, in conjunction with a SIFE partner, to impoverished locals on credit, who can then set up their own shoe vending businesses.

This will create not only a source of income for those vendors, but also a supply of affordable footwear for those who may not otherwise have the resources to buy shoes for their children and themselves.

If you have any questions, or are interested in getting your office, school, club or university involved in this project, please contact [reshoe@sifeuwa.org](mailto:reshoe@sifeuwa.org) or visit [http://sifeuwa.org/wp/?page\\_id=77](http://sifeuwa.org/wp/?page_id=77)

## October Night Stalk Volunteers Required



*If you ever wished you could have joined Bindi Irwin or Bear Grylls in the wild, then here's your chance to look for animals after dark in the bush.*

**When:** Thursday 18th October 2012

**Where:** Mindarie Regional Council

**What Time:** 4.30pm –8.30pm (includes tour of facility & subway roll and drink)

**To Bring:** A spotlight or powerful torch  
A pair of binoculars (if you have them)  
Covered shoes, jackets (make sure you dress for the outdoors and leave only foot prints behind)  
A chair

**Supplied:** Red cellophane for your torch  
A map of the area  
A spotter's log, pen and board  
Small first aid kit  
Subway roll and drink

**What we will be doing:** Groups of three or more will be driven or walked to a pre-set location within the park where known animals traffic. Animals sighted by the group will be recorded on the spotter's log. This will include animals sighted during the trip to and from the pre-set location.

**Results from the night:** Each spotter's log will be tallied on to a main spotter's log and entered onto the online database called Tiwest Night Stalk, which is run by Perth Zoo. Once all data is collected from around Western Australia a report will be published on the species found.

### "Quotable Quote"

*"People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do." - Apple Computers*

**If you're interested in getting involved with events & activities there are opportunities for volunteering on Page 4 or you can contact Peg on 0422 941 492 or email at [pdavies@mrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:pdavies@mrc.wa.gov.au).**

## FLAT TYRE

MWAC bulletin – July 2012

Despite efforts from the Federal Government to introduce a Product Stewardship Scheme for Tyres, a new report reveals that the amount of whole bailed tyres exported from Australia is accelerating. This finding is revealed in the study into domestic and international fate of end-of-life tyres, completed by Hyder Consulting for the COAG Standing Council on Environment and Water.

The study quantifies the volume and fate of end-of-life tyres in Australia. Findings show there were approximately 48.5 million tyres Equivalent Passenger Units (EPU) entering the waste stream in 2009-10.

Of these tyres, approximately: 66% were disposed to landfill, stockpiled, illegally dumped or cannot be accounted for, 16% were domestically recycled, and 18% were exported.

Source: [www.ben-global.com](http://www.ben-global.com))



## FUTURE EVENTS

### Central Park

City of Perth  
10th -21st September

### Waste and Recycle Conference

Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle  
12th - 14th September

### Boulevard Centre

Town of Cambridge  
15th September, 10am - 3pm

### Earth Carers Graduation:

Vic Park Admin Building  
17th September, 6 - 8pm

### Brighton Community Garden:

next to East Butler Primary School,  
22nd September, 11am -2pm

### Spade to Table:

West Leederville Community Garden  
78 Cambridge Street  
23rd September, 11am -3pm

### Perth Royal Show:

Conservation & Landcare Section  
29th September - 6th October

### Night Stalk:

Tamala Park  
18th October, 4.30 - 8.30pm

### Moreton Bay Fig Festival:

John MacMillan Park  
East Victoria Park  
21st October 12 - 4pm.

If you would like further information on any of these events please contact: Peg: 9306 6303 / 0422 941492 or Irenie: 9306 6348

## Doggy Poo Worm Farm Offer

*If you have dogs and want to start a doggy poo worm farm with a classy, look the City of Joondalup is offering a FREE cut down bin to any Earth Carer.*

*Contact Peg Davies on tel: 9306 6303 if you would like one.*



## Spring Cleaning Tips

### Scouring Powder

1 cup bicarbonate soda  
1 cup Borax  
1 cup salt

Blend and store in labelled container, out of the reach of children.

### Furniture Polish

1 cup vegetable oil  
½ cup lemon juice

Pour oil and juice into jar. Stir to combine. To use, dip dust cloth into oil, blot by folding the cloth together, then clean.

### Weed Killer

4l White vinegar  
1 tablespoon dishwashing detergent

Mix well. Spray on to weeds to kill. This is very effective so only spray the things you want to kill !



## SNAPPY SNIPPETS



- ◆ Australians waste over 4 million tonnes of food per annum. That's equivalent to 178 kilos per person every year (Source: Foodwise.com.au)
- ◆ Australians use more than six billion plastic bags per year – if these were tied together they would stretch around the world 37 times. Plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to break down in the environment. (Source: planetkids.biz)

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.mrc.wa.gov.au](http://www.mrc.wa.gov.au)**

Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle

Make waste work

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