



newsletter



Welcome to our autumn edition of our Earth Carers newsletter.

Since our last edition we've welcomed another 36 Earth Care volunteers to our group. If you have any suggestions for future editions, contact Peg Davies (contact details below).

Edition 3, April 2009

EARTH CARERS CELEBRATION: ALL INVITED

Join us on Tuesday, 21 April for a very special evening. We will be combining the graduation of our third group of Earth Carers with a presentation from JOSH BYRNE who helped us to launch Earth Carers almost a year ago.

The venue is the Leederville Bowling Club, 78 Cambridge St West Leederville (next to the West Leederville Community Garden). From 5.30- 8.00pm. Dinner provided. Please RSVP to Peg.

EARTH CARER PROFILE: "WORM LADY"

This edition we meet Lyndall, who completed the first Earth Carers course last May. Lyndall has a passion to turn our world into a compost worm sanctuary and has for some time been the queen of all things worm in her local street.

Neighbourhood children and adults gather around her worm farm sharing her delight at the worm antics, and little parcels of worm food are even left at her door.

Lyndall has shared her knowledge by assisting with worm farm and composting workshops at community events and schools, has helped set up a school garden and provides follow-up for the schools which have set up worm farms.

She is delighted when young people show an interest in worms. She is the 'worm lady' in her workplace too.

Lyndall and has encouraged two friends to come along to subsequent EC courses, Di and Karen, both of whom have the same insightful passion about conserving our wasteful world.



Lyndall, "The Worm Lady" (right) and friends hard at work

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Dispose Wisely



For further information, please contact Peg Davies on 9306 6303 or 0422 941 492

RUBBISH FREE YEAR

A New Zealand couple (and their dog and two chickens) challenged themselves to create no rubbish for landfill from 1st February 2008 to 1st February 2009.

They recognised that, despite their best efforts, some rubbish will be unavoidable.

They challenged themselves to keep this to no more than one official council rubbish bag.

The couple managed to limit their rubbish to one kilogram each for the entire year.

Their website www.rubbishfreeyear.co.nz is worth a look especially at the comments and suggestions by other people. With their "year" completed they intend to change the format a little and swap to a more general www.rubbishfree.com web address soon.

EARTH CARERS: BRAD AND LIZ

Earth Carer volunteers Brad and Liz were at a personal point in their lives when they were 'ready to do something'. They were thinking of serious organic gardening, alternative energy investment and EC helped push the action along.

Brad says they have encountered all possible responses to their ideas and thoughts from acceptance that it's a good way to do things to apathy and doubt.

They now have an allotment at the West Leederville Community Garden with Creina (EC) and another friend and have become an important addition to the garden. They frequent City Farm on market days and have become conscious consumers for food purchases.

Brad says they are now more aware of all the 'waste' generated at both home and workplaces. They think carefully of what they put on the verge at throw-out time, being mindful that it generally ends up in landfill.

EARTH CARERS OUT AND ABOUT

Our wonderful Earth Carer volunteers have made a tremendous contribution to the success of our "Roaming Recycler" Waste Education trailer.

If you haven't already "met" the Roaming Recycler; it's our bright green trailer, adorned with Kneedeep our "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" frog.

The display includes lots of useful information, as well as games and activities for the younger members of our community.

Here we are at the Joondalup Festival and Town of Victoria Park open air concert.



To book the "Roaming Recycler" for a community event or school fete or, as a static display at for example, community or seniors clubs, contact Peg on 9306 6303 or 0422 941 492.



ENVIRONMENT THE WINNER AS RRF OFFICIALLY OPENED

The Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Neerabup is now into the commissioning phase after its official opening late March.

The \$80 million household waste treatment plant is designed to produce about 40,000 tonnes of compost annually and divert some 70,000 tonnes of household waste from landfill.

The plant is owned and operated by BioVision 2020 Pty Ltd under a 20-year contract with the Mindarie Regional Council.

The plant employs an aerobic digestion process to convert household waste to compost.

The RRF will play a major role in reducing the volume of waste sent to the Tamala Park landfill by up to 20 per cent each year, with additional environmental and economic benefits.

The compost generated will help enrich Perth's nutrient-deficient soils, reduce the need for artificial fertilisers, and slow and lessen the leaching of chemicals into the groundwater.

On Saturday, 28 March more than 450 people attended the Open Day to tour the RRF and learn more about "reducing, reusing and recycling" with the help of Captain Cleanup and Owen the Ogre; an artwork built of discarded objects by Junkadelic artists Ken Allen and Luke Grey.



Captain Cleanup with Owen the Ogre at the RRF Open Day

'SWAP YOUR STYLE'

Clothes Swap Party

Saturday 2nd May, 6.30-9pm

Karrinyup Community Centre Main Hall

\$20 entry. Bring 5 pieces of good quality clothing or accessories you can't bear to give to an Op Shop to swap for 5 quality preloved pieces. All funds raised will be donated to the Leukaemia Foundation.

Fleur (from our second EC training course) has organised this event. We wish her well and encourage everyone to support her.

Volunteers are sought to help prepare for the event and, on the afternoon/evening to help sort & hang clothes, display Earth Carers information and hand out flyers etc.

For more information, to register your interest in attending or to volunteer please contact Fleur Patterson on 9345 8664 work or 0401 676 681 or at patterson.fleur@stirling.wa.gov.au

South Australia bans plastic shopping bags

South Australia has become the first Australian state to put a complete ban on plastic bags.

The legislation came into effect on 1st January 2009 and retailers have four months to comply with the ban that will come into full effect on 1st May.

Before then, they must provide alternative bags and display signs informing customers of the changes.

South Australia joins China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Rwanda which have banned light weight plastic bags.

When will other States follow?

Clearly what is needed is a national approach. In the meantime, we congratulate South Australia for taking action on this important initiative.

REmida

For those who haven't heard about REmida, REmida is a re-use centre offering a myriad of materials for creative and educational projects.

It's located at 1 Prospect Place, West Perth. Check out their website at www.remidawa.com.au for further information. Details of REmida's April/May Community Activities follow:

Guerrilla Bagging: Thurs 30 April, 6.00—8.00 pm

To encourage others to use reusable shopping bags, the Morsbags international network (www.morsbags.com) encourages people to make bags out of recycled fabrics, and give them out as a statement to the public. Please bring a plate of food or a bottle of wine to share, and a sewing machine and/or sharp pair of scissors. RSVP: 92275576, info@remidawa.com

Art Discovery Series

Cardboard Furniture: Sat, 2 May, 2-4pm

Learn how to create life-size, strong, functional and funky furniture out of cardboard.

Badges and Brooches: Sat 23 May, 2-4pm.

Using 'soluble' we will sew small fragments of fabric and other materials together to make a name badge or brooch.

Recycled Clothing: Sat 6th June, 2-4pm.

Imagine making a raincoat out of bubble wrap, or 'Von Trapp family' style clothes out of curtains. BYO sewing machine, large knitting needles or anything else you'd like to play with.

Industrial Jewellery: Sat, 20 June. Volunteer from 1-2pm & come for free!

Create funky necklaces and bracelets from recycled industrial materials. Cost: \$30 (\$20 members).

SUGGESTION FROM ALAN

A lady called Dawn runs a company called WA BrickMatch for recycling bricks. I have sold unwanted new and used bricks and clay tiles to her. You can also buy from her. Phone no 9359 0035 Address: 27 Hardey Rd, Wattle Grove.

They can also be dropped off and bought at the Recycling Centre, Balcatta and at the Recycling Centre at Tamala Park.

Don't forget Tues, 21 April. 5.30-8.00pm. Special Earth Carers event. Josh Byrne, Perth's own sustainable gardening expert, will present from 6.00pm, followed by the graduation of our latest EC trainees.

SCHOOL FETE DISPLAY

Earth Carer Loni ran a stall at the recent Floreat Primary School Fete.

Loni is a passionate promoter of the Walking School bus and sustainability more generally at the school.

Loni reported a lot of interest from students in the "good lunch box", "bad lunch box" display which was highlighting unnecessary packaging.

"We had a poster up which showed how many kms our local walking school bus saved and converted it into greenhouse gas kg" said Loni.

This was backed up by a map from the Town of Cambridge showing a km radius. The kids could work out how far they lived from the school and how long it would take to walk.

Auntie Mary's Fruit Cake

Mix 1pkt mixed fruit (600gm) with 600mls of orange juice or iced coffee

Soak overnight.

Add 2 cups of self raising flour, mix well and cook for about 1 1/2 hours at 150 degrees.

(It really works and no, I have not forgotten any ingredients!!)