

# AWARE



April 2003

**AWARE Information:**

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**VICE PRESIDENT**

Stan Vermeeren

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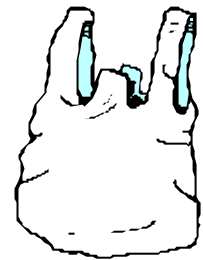
## **Plastic bags– The Great Debate**

Last December, Environment Ministers asked retailers and the community to work towards a number of plastic bag targets, including cutting plastic bag litter by 75%, achieving a 50% rate of recycling and a 50% reduction in the number of plastic bags used by the end of 2004.

The AWARE executive decided to take on the challenge and organised a Plastic Bag Forum to look at the how educators could assist meeting these targets.

On the advice of EcoRecycle, AWARE executive decided to postpone the popular Plastic Bag Forum until the outcomes are clear on the retailers' Code of Practice and the intended National Plastic Bag Summit expected to be convened in Victoria in the near future.

AWARE executive would like to thank Karen for the hard work that she put into getting the program together for the forum.



An estimated 6.9 billion plastic bags are used in Australia every year

*Continued  
page 2*

## **Sustainable Schools program and Water Education Program at CERES**

A special AWARE meeting was held at CERES on 27 February. Eric Bottomley took AWARE members on an inspiring tour of CERES, pointing out the features of the new *Urban Water Conservation Project*. Of great interest, as usual, was the Low Energy and Low Water House.

Pat Armstrong and Eric Bottomley spoke about Sustainable Schools program, a new initiative of the Gould League and CERES. This exciting pro-

gram builds on the experiences of the Waste Wise Schools program, providing an holistic approach with modules on waste and litter, energy efficiency, water efficiency and biodiversity. The program is being trialled in 50 schools across Victoria over the next twelve months.

For further details about the program, please contact Pat on (03) 9532 0909 or Eric on (03) 9387 2609.



PURCHASING FOR A  
SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE

*“What is going on in  
the environment field in  
April?”  
Click onto  
[www.nrwmg.vic.gov.au](http://www.nrwmg.vic.gov.au)  
to find out more!*

## **Buy Green 2003 Conference and Expo**

The final stage of a successful recycling process is the buying back of products made from recycled materials.

In order to raise awareness of how we create a more sustainable future by supporting recycling, the Municipal Association of Victoria and EcoBuy are presenting the **Buy Green 2003 Conference and Expo**.

Over 2 days, the conference will showcase the latest products made with recycled content available on the market, as well as hear addresses from experienced industry

and government representatives.

**When:** 1st and 2nd May, 2003

**Where:** Carlton Crest Hotel

**Programs and bookings:** Information is available from Impact Environmental Conferences, phone (02) 9570 1577  
Email: [buygreen2003@impactenviro.com.au](mailto:buygreen2003@impactenviro.com.au)  
Website: [impactenviro.com.au/buygreen2003](http://impactenviro.com.au/buygreen2003)

## **Environmental Events Calender**

The NRWMG website is currently attracting over 10,000 hits a month with the recently released **Enviro Calendar** page in the Top 10 pages receiving hits during February and March.

People working in the environmental field are encouraged to visit:

[www.nrwmg.vic.gov.au/geninfo/](http://www.nrwmg.vic.gov.au/geninfo/)

[calendar/calendar.html](#) for information on upcoming environmental events, festivals and conferences.

If anyone would like to add events, workshops or seminars, then forward the date, event, name and place and contact details (person/phone/email &/or web for more info) to: [stan@nrwmg.vic.gov.au](mailto:stan@nrwmg.vic.gov.au)

## **Plastic bags– The Great Debate (cont)**

*Continued from page 1*

Some members expressed concern that the forum didn't include the issue of a Plastic Bag Levy. They have asked us to rethink the content of the future forum so that it will allow open discussion of the full range of options including a levy and any education needed leading up to a levy.

**If you would like to provide comment on this issue and make suggestions as to the format of the future Plastic Bag forum please send me an email to the address below.**

**Gayle Seddon, AWARE President**  
[gaysed@citywide.com.au](mailto:gaysed@citywide.com.au)

## **President's Report**

It seems incredible that we are already into April 2003. The *AWARE Calendar of Events* is shaping up to be very exciting. There are many hot issues on the agenda for waste/resource educators this year. We invite your ideas and feedback on the development of the *AWARE Calendar of Events*.

### **Education for Sustainability**

The *Education for Sustainability* forum held at CERES in February was well attended and provided members with the directions being taken in the Sustainable Schools program and the Urban Water Conservation Demonstration and Research Facility being set up at CERES.

### **Waste/Resource Education Strategy for Victoria**

The Waste Educators Working Group (a joint initiative of *AWARE* and Waste Management Association of Australia) are planning a workshop for 27 May that will provide input into the development of a Waste/Resource Education Strategy for Victoria. Notification of this event will be emailed as soon as the details are confirmed.

### **Conversations for Social Change Seminar Series**

A seminar is being planned for June with a possible focus on Sustainable Consumption.

### **Local Education Strategy Course**

The final workshop of the *Local Education Strategies* course provided by Randall Brouillette and supported by *AWARE* was held on Thursday 10 April at the City of Yarra Municipal Offices in Richmond. Feedback from participants has been very positive.

### **EcoRecycle Excellence in Waste Wise Education Awards**

EcoRecycle is currently finalising details for presentation of the Excellence in Waste Wise Education Awards. It is likely there will be a statewide presentation of awards in Melbourne on 29 April 2003 at about 5:00-7:30pm, and a presentation of the rural award at a rural location in early May. The presentations are being planned as both a formal recognition of the successful applications and also as an important networking opportunity for all applicants and others interested in local waste education. As one of the judges for the awards I was very impressed with the quality of submissions and look forward to the forthcoming presentations.

I look forward to meeting up with you all at future events and encourage you to 'bring a buddy' along with you. A Membership application information is included so please pass this newsletter on.

*"Education is not the filling of a pale, but the lighting of a fire"*  
William Yeats

## **Spreading the AWAREness!**

**Welcome** to our new members:

Kate, Amanda and Kevin from NevRWaste, Graeme from Tredex, Tania from ECO-Buy and Sandy, Christine and Marion from SERWMG.

We hope you get a lot out of being members of *AWARE*. Please email any suggestions about anything more we can do for you to [judith@leastwaste.com.au](mailto:judith@leastwaste.com.au)

Our current campaign to increase our membership is "**Bring a Buddy**". We would like you to ask around and bring an interested colleague or friend to *AWARE* events and/or meetings.

## **AWARENESS 2002/03**

**Contributions for AWARENESS Journal 2002-2003 are required by the end of MAY!**

AWARENESS provides an opportunity to view a 'snapshot' of the range of waste and resource education initiatives, programs and projects that have been developed during the year. It's also a vital record of the great work being undertaken by waste educators and a chance to share lessons and experiences. The Journal will be available again at the Annual General Meeting – free to members and at a charge of \$10.00 for non-members. Additional copies are available for \$5.00 to members.

### **Contribution requirements**

The layout for the stories remains the same as last year, one page per article. The copy should be **edited and spell checked and provided in a print ready format**. Contributions should be approximately 350 words in length, hard copy of photographs are preferred or high quality digital images

(300 dpi / 3.2 mega pixel). Please include:

- an electronic copy of your text, in WORD no formatting (no more than 350 words in length)
- digital copy of a logo of your organisation/group and
- hard copy of photos or high resolution digital images.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:  
FRIDAY 30 MAY 2003**

**Contributions should be emailed to:  
Gayle Seddon at [gaysed@citywide.com.au](mailto:gaysed@citywide.com.au)**

**Or sent on disk to: *Gayle Seddon, Environmental Affairs Manager,*  
Citywide  
GPO Box WW 4969  
East Melbourne 3001**

## **Towards Zero Waste – A Materials Efficiency Strategy for Victoria**

EcoRecycle Victoria has released the **Towards Zero Waste - A Materials Efficiency Strategy for Victoria and the Solid Industrial Waste Plan** as a consultation draft which can be found on EcoRecycle's web site: [www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au](http://www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au).

AWARE will be putting a formal response requesting that the Strategy include the development of a Waste Education Strategy for Victoria.

AWARE members will be joining with the Victorian Branch of the Waste Management Association to prepare a submission

to EcoRecycle Victoria. Accordingly, you are invited to a two hour workshop **on Monday 28th April at 8.00 am at Golder Associates at 50 Burwood Road, Hawthorn** which will be used to assist in the preparation of the submission.

At the commencement of the Workshop EcoRecycle Vic's CEO, Ian Coles will provide an overview of the Strategy.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

**YOUR  
CHANCE TO  
HAVE A SAY—**  
*AWARE will make  
a submission  
regarding  
EcoRecycle's latest  
strategy*

# **AWARE VICTORIA**

## **MEMBERSHIP 2003/2004**

ABN 735 313 08124

### **Invoice**

**Membership Category:**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | \$35.00* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate membership  | \$60.00* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student membership    | \$25.00  |

TOTAL - (NO GST APPLIES) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **MEMBER DETAILS:**

**Name:**

**Organisation:**

**Position:**

**Postal Address:**

**Street Address:**

**Phone:**

**Fax:**

**Mobile:**

**E-mail:**

**Website:**

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*\*Corporate members are entitled to nominate three people to attend workshops and meetings.*

### **MEMBER 2**

**Name:**

**Organisation:**

**Position:**

**Postal Address:**

**Street Address:**

**Phone:**

**Fax:**

**Mobile:**

**E-mail:**

**Website:**

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### **MEMBER 3**

**Name:**

**Organisation:**

**Position:**

**Postal Address:**

**Street Address:**

**Phone:**

**Fax:**

**Mobile:**

**E-mail:**

Send your payment to:

Association for Waste and Recycling Education, PO BOX 975, South Melbourne, 3205