

Suddenly relevant

More quality bubblers kinder to environment

TEN years ago we could never have imagined that a simple water dispenser known more commonly as a "bubbler" could become such a controversial subject.

However as water restrictions continue and society becomes more aware of the environmental impact of recycling, suddenly bubblers are under the spotlight.

The Bottled Water Alliance is a not-for-profit initiative started by Planet Ark Founders Jon Dee and Pat Cash.

Last week the alliance released figures which show that two thirds of Australian would buy less bottled water, and reduce the impact on the environment, if more bubblers were available.

The Hills Shire Council has a total of 129 bubblers in parks throughout the district, according to council's group manager of services delivery Michael Lathlean.

"Council has no intention of removing existing bubblers and would continue to provide them where appropriate in nearby parks," he said.

However it appears to be one of the few providing bubblers at new developments.



Hills Shire Council is one of few that still supply bubblers in parks.

John Dee says they have almost disappeared in many locations.

"The lack of uniform signage for bubblers and the concerns that people have about the upkeep and quality of public bubblers are significant – they're two of the reasons why Australians are spending half a billion dollars on bottled water every year," Mr Dee said.

"In a move to get Australians drinking from bubblers again, the Bottled Water Alliance is calling on councils to spruce up their existing bubblers for summer.

"It's also calling on councils to upgrade and

install modern hi-tech water bubblers that match the convenience and quality of bottled water."

Manly Council recently installed six designer water bubblers on the Manly Corso and beachfront. In an Australian-first, all the bubblers have been fitted free of charge with hi-tech Culligan Water filters. This makes the water coming out of the bubblers as good, if not better, than bottled water.

Mr Dee said this could stop the use of 250,000 plastic water bottles every year.

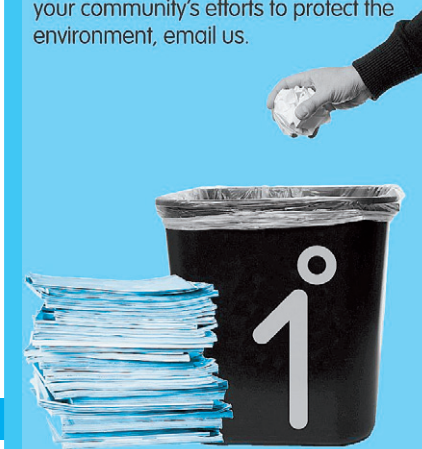
To find out more about the Planet Ark campaign visit www.bottledwateralliance.com

Your check list

This week's checklist for you to help reduce your carbon footprint:

- Fit water-saving tap filters
- Insulate your hot water pipes
- Install energy-efficient lighting
- Insert automatic door closers
- Switch office lights off at night
- Don't turn air con up too much
- Maximise buildings' natural light
- Install internal blinds or curtains
- Install a rainwater tank

Every week we will be running a check list of different initiatives and ideas for you to try at home or in the office. If you want to tell us about your and your community's efforts to protect the environment, email us.



Know someone who deserves a mention? Email us at editor@rousehilltimes.com.au

STATIONERY WORLD HAS MOVED



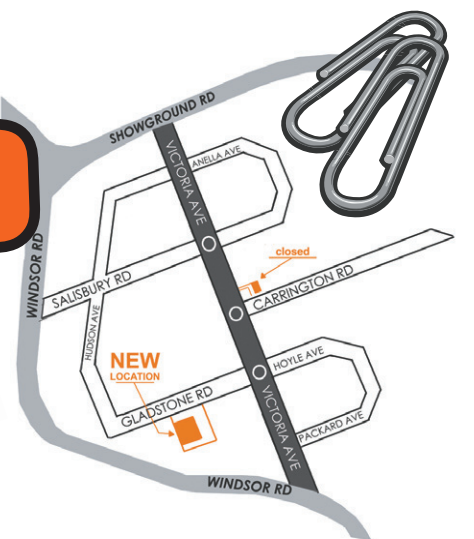
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