

Apollo Bay P-12 College - Educating For Sustainability

Apollo Bay P-12 College has received **Waste Wise Certification** through Barwon Regional Waste Management Group. Peter Geekie, Apollo Bay's Sustainable Schools Coordinator for the Aussi Vic Program, said that, "Waste minimisation practices are an integral part of the school's operations. Environmental education is a part of our curriculum and is strongly supported by our day-to-day Waste Wise activities."

The overall aim of the school's waste minimization program is to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. To achieve this, the school recycles office paper, cardboard, bottles, cans and cartons. Food scraps are fed to the chickens and worms. The school also acts as a drop off centre for old mobile phones that are then sent off to be recycled. Students and staff are encouraged to bring lunches and snacks in reusable containers and to bring 'nude food,' i.e. fruit wrapped in its own skin.

Other aims include reducing the amount of paper purchased through reducing and reusing paper from photocopiers and printers and reducing litter in the school grounds. Students designed and implemented Waste Wise in the school over the last 3 years with teacher support. Their primary students set an outstanding example to the rest of the school and wider community as their nude food day results have consistently shown. Many students across the school have been and continue to be involved in these somewhat 'normalised' practices.

Articles in the school's newsletter inform students and parents about the school's Waste Wise activities and provide tips for implementing actions at home.

"The school's waste minimization program not only provides an excellent way to reduce litter, waste and associated disposal costs, but also provides the opportunity for operating practices and curriculum to be integrated to provide real life learning experiences," stated Cr Peter Mercer, Colac Otway Shire and Director, Barwon Regional Waste Management Group.

Apollo Bay P-12 College also recently participated in the very successful Human Sign Project which saw students form the words "Act Now" on the school oval whilst Otway Aviation flew a plane with a photographer over to take photos.

As well as receiving its Waste Wise certificate, the school was also presented with a specially framed print of the Act Now photo by ORCA representative, Peter Bourne,



Photo: Back row L-R Kingsley Love, Director, Barwon Regional Waste Management Group, Jennifer Bryant, teacher Apollo Bay P-12 College, students Oscar Lalor & Julian Bourne and teacher Apollo Bay P-12 College Peter Geekie. Front row L-R students Stefani Van Santen & Anna Tibbits