

SustainAbility Stars

 An EW Tipping Foundation Project

Edition 31, 31 May 2011

Wonthaggi Respite has a vegie garden too!

Our respite house in Wonthaggi has joined the ranks with the addition of a fabulous new vegie garden. Team Leader, Jenny, has shared their story:

“The raised garden bed was built late last year by Paul (a staff member at the time) who purchased the materials using the small sustainability budget, then built it with the people we support.



Since the garden beds were built, the residents and staff have helped to maintain it. Tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, strawberries and various herbs have been planted from seedlings. Potatoes have been grown from their own seeded potatoes and they were beautiful to eat – as were all of their vegies. Back in March, we were still harvesting from the tomato plants.”

This house has also recently had a rainwater tank installed, which will be very handy for watering the vegie garden. See the next story for more details.

Every drop helps but there's still a long way to go

With all the steady drizzle and rain we have had, it was recently reported that nine of Melbourne's dams



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In Other News

World Environment Day (WED) on the 5th June

WED is about the power of individual actions; and our greater power when these actions are combined. We are all encouraged to find an activity or action that can be done at home, in the workplace or your neighbourhood to celebrate World Environment Day this Sunday.

Check out this [A-Z list of ideas](#) and register on their [website](#). This year's theme is 'Forest – Nature at your service'. An example of one way to help prevent logging of forests is to reduce paper consumption. Think about what you can do to save paper.

National Tree Day Sunday 31 July

Planet Ark is calling on all green

are at least 60% full and two are 100% full. Melbourne Water has also reported that in April dam levels increased from 53.6% to 53.8%, which equals an extra 3.1 billion litres – the first April increase in 15 years. But Melbourne’s largest dam (the Thomson), which accounts for 60% of Melbourne’s water capacity, remains below 40% full, with a long way to go in its recovery.

There are many benefits of installing a rainwater tank and their use can supplement existing water sources or provide an alternative and renewable source of water to households. We are happy to report that the installation of rainwater tanks at all of our HomeChoices houses is almost complete. Three more Gippsland houses will get their tanks this week while the Swan Hill, Horsham and Drouin houses will soon receive theirs as well.

If your HomeChoices house recently had a tank installed, read this [FAQ](#) that should answer most of the questions you might have.

Reading usage on the new Smart Electricity Meters

In [Ed 12](#) of SustainAbility Stars, we wrote about Smart Electricity Meters. By 2013, every Victorian residence will have its meter changed to a Smart Meter.

Each meter has a different register/ID number that will appear on the display panel. Each register measures and records a different aspect of your usage. There will be a scroll button to toggle between the different register displays. Your new meter will also have a sticker that tells you which register records your household consumption.

You will still be able to measure your usage on the new Smart Meter. Simply note the household consumption (in kWh) when



thumbs and gardening enthusiasts to coordinate a tree day activity site with their friends, family, work colleagues or community groups. Whilst many people like to get their hands dirty planting trees, you can register to run a number of activities including bush regeneration, seed collection, educational seminars or a simple bush walk. More details can be found at www.treeday.planetark.org.

Cooking and Gardening courses at CERES

CERES, with funding support from Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) is offering a number of [short courses](#) that are aimed at connecting with the environment through sustainable gardening and cooking. These courses are specifically designed for all abilities, are appropriately paced and provide opportunity for hands-on involvement. ACFE concession rate applies to the people we support.

SustainAbility Star-ter Kit

For more information about EW Tipping Foundation’s SustainAbility Project, the SustainAbility Stars program, or to download our free SustainAbility Star-ter Kit, go to www.tipping.org.au or email sustainability@tipping.org.au

you look at the register and then check again on another day.
Subtract the first figure from the second to figure out how
much electricity you used during that time.

