

SPECIAL EDITION ADVANCED EARTH CARERS



Our Advanced Earth Carers Course

Earth Carers know the thrills and challenges of using their knowledge and enthusiasm to reduce waste at home, at work and in their communities.

In 2012 we developed the first Advanced Earth Carers course. This was in response to requests we had from Earth Carers who wanted a way to refresh their knowledge and find out even more about reducing waste in our city. There's so much happening!

More to See and Learn

The Advanced Earth Carers course provides just that opportunity. The presentations, guest speakers, lively discussions (over shared meals!) and tours cover revision of Earth Carers basics and getting out to explore what's happening in the world of commercial waste minimisation in Perth - an aspect of waste that we don't often get to see or hear about.

Everything from demolition and commercial waste to large scale organics recycling comes under our wise eyes to extend our knowledge and awareness.

'Welcome to this special edition of the Earth Carers newsletter, dedicated to the Advanced Earth Carers course participants - old and new.'



Advanced Earth Carer site tours: 'It's great to know what's happening'.

The Advanced Earth Carers course for 2014 starts on 6th June. Register now! See the details on the back of the newsletter.

Putting Knowledge into Action

The Advanced course is also special because it includes choosing a project to do. Advanced Earth Carers can work alone or in a small group to achieve something that's of particular interest to them to take the 'living with less waste' message even further.

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle



Make waste work

For further information please contact
Peg Davies on 0422 941 492
Email: pdavies@mrc.wa.gov.au

2013 ADVANCED EARTH CARERS PROJECTS

Six Earth Carers completed the Advanced Earth Carers course in 2013. Everyone thought of a project that was manageable for them and that enabled them to work on something they care about.

These are their projects.

Barbara's Project - Craft for Pleasure and Waste Saving

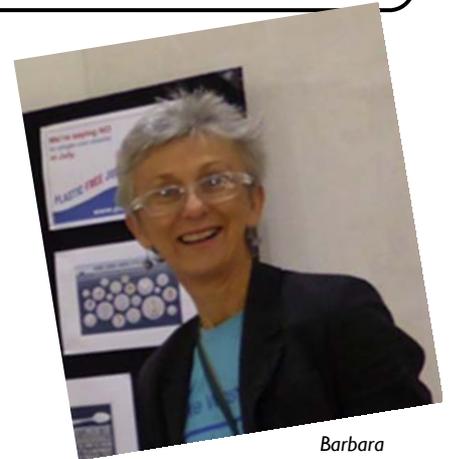
Barbara wanted to 'alert people to the possibilities of what can be re-used without going to recycling or landfill'. She has a very keen eye for waste-saving and an interest in bringing people together to learn these skills and enjoy themselves.

The Karrinyup Eco-Fair in October 2013 - organised by the Eco Faeries - provided a perfect opportunity for her to set up a space where visitors could watch and practice coaster-making using unwanted magazines.

Barbara really made the most of her conversations with people! 'It gave me an opportunity to let people know how they can help reduce so much stuff going to landfill. For instance, many people think they can recycle long life milk boxes or that they don't need to rinse recyclables. I also explained the benefits of reusing materials as opposed to recycling and many people were unaware of the benefits of reducing the amount of energy required in reusing.'

As Barb says... 'As I take pleasure in working with my hands, together with the satisfaction that I am reducing what goes to landfill, I realise that others feel the same.'

These are great messages for people who might not come across them anywhere else. 'Each person's contribution has a positive effect and if I have contributed towards people changing some aspect of their habits towards recycling, I shall be quite satisfied.'



Barbara



Step-by-step coaster-making

Michel's Project: Provoking thoughts about 'Waste to Energy'

Michel did the Advanced course in 2012 and completed his project in 2013 with a presentation to the course participants. He is interested in raising awareness about the amount of waste and about alternatives that can keep waste out of landfill.

Through researching his project, Michel found that 'waste is not on many people's agenda' and that 'an abundance of space makes people careless'.

Michel created a PowerPoint presentation that can be used, along with discussion, to explore some future perspectives around waste, including the option of incineration, sometimes referred to as 'waste-to-energy'.



Waste to Energy plant

ADVANCED EARTH CARERS PROJECTS

Lauren's Project: Plastic Free July inspires Plastic Free Habits!



Lauren wants to encourage more people to use less single-use plastic. She organised a month-long display and some activities at Woodvale Boulevard Shopping Centre for 'Plastic Free July' (PFJ). PFJ is an annual event, initiated by Western Metropolitan Regional Council Earth Carers in 2011.

Lauren was keen to let people know some of the issues of plastics and how using alternatives can save money and the environment.

Her project included:

- An educational and promotional display about PFJ and plastic issues.
- Activities every Saturday morning of the month - with great help from Earth Carer volunteers.
- Information for people to take away.
- A survey to collect waste issues data.
- A raffle for shoppers who brought their own bags, cup, container, or who responded to the survey.

Lauren said... 'The project was Fun! Motivating...and gave a sense of making a difference on an important issue.'



Lauren and Lee spreading the Plastic Free July message

Sam's Project: A Boost to Children's Tamala Park Experience



Sam hard at work

Sam wanted to help teachers and their students make the most of visits to Tamala Park. She has developed a terrific booklet of information and activities.

'To work out what to include, I took a tour of Tamala Park with Peg and we discussed the sorts of activities she did with children at the Education Centre.

Using my teaching experience, I created a document in three sections; for junior, middle and senior primary. Each includes information on pre-visit activities, post-visit activities, online resources books and DVDs. There are many wonderful resources already out there, so I didn't want to 'reinvent the wheel'. I looked for available resources that would suit.

Many of the pre-visit activities are aimed at getting the students to discuss what waste is and how it is generated around home, school and the community. This will hopefully make the tour more meaningful for them. The post-visit activities are designed to consolidate the information from the tour and the visit to the Education Centre.'

Sam's booklet is now available on the MRC website and it is emailed to teachers. It's become a valued part of our resources for schools. Check it out at: www.mrc.wa.gov.au by going to the Educational Tours page in the Schools section.

ADVANCED EARTH CARERS PROJECTS

Tanya's Project - 'Less Waste' and a Fabulous Fertiliser Fundraiser!

At the Advanced Earth Carers course, Tanya was very excited to learn about Harrie Hofstede's compost being made from waste chicken manure. 'More people should know about this waste-saver!' She also thought it could become a good fund-raiser for her daughter's school.

She collaborated with Harrie to make available a LARGE volume of compost (13,000 kg!) to Coolbinia Primary School families and the wider community. This created an opportunity to connect with lots of people to raise awareness about how 'waste' can be turned into useful products AND how we can benefit our gardens through the use of organic materials.



Tanya's skills at coordinating and bringing people along with her enabled it to happen - and she was very grateful for all the support she received to make it a success.



That's a lot of compost!



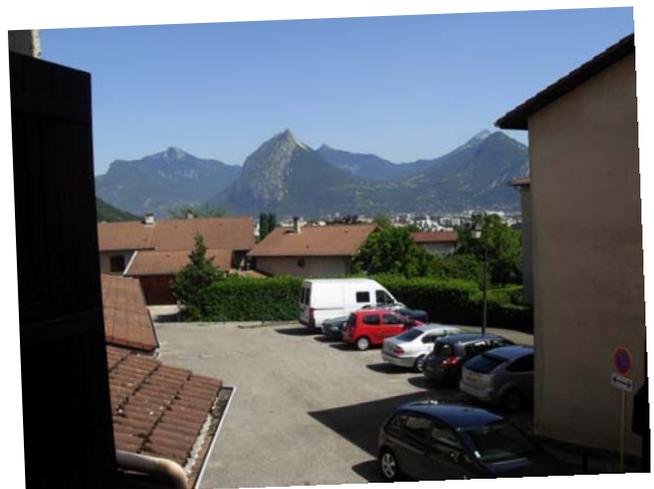
Bagging up the bulk compost

Katya's Project - Earth Caring, Near and Far

Katya was passionate about doing the course to build on her Earth Carers learning. Soon after completing the Advanced Earth Carers course, she returned to France where she is a high school teacher. For her project, Katya wanted to put Earth Carers learning into practice in a French classroom.

She is using her Earth Carers knowledge to raise her students' awareness and build their enthusiasm and ability to waste less - something it can be difficult to get teenagers involved in.

Katya would like to expand this to include on-line means, such as a blog, for her students to interact with others. It's a work in progress.



A French connection: Katya's new environment for Earth caring

ADVANCED EARTH CARERS GRADUATION

In November, the Advanced Earth Carers gathered with friends and families to celebrate their participation and achievements through their projects. The event was held in the Town of Victoria Park function room.

Our guest presenter was Dr Barb Frey - a scientist and science communicator. Barb has a particular interest in the environment, particularly climate change. Her presentation was interesting and empowering. She talked about the challenges people face and encouraged them to be creative in finding solutions.

Graduates then each gave a short presentation about their projects and were awarded certificates. Congratulations to all!



It's all good news! At the graduation, Sam (below) and Tanya (left) share stories of doing their projects.



Left: Geoff, Michel, Sam, Tanya, Barbara, Anne and Barb pictured here at the AEC graduation event

You can read more about the Advanced Earth Carers Course and about the projects that were completed in the first course (2012) by visiting our website at: www.mrc.wa.gov.au and looking at the Advanced Earth Carers page under Community in the Earth Carers section.

What's Next ?

It's exciting to have the Advanced Earth Carers course coming up again this year, beginning on 6th June. The course runs over four sessions. It will be run by Peg Davies and Anne Pettit. The course is a great opportunity for Earth Carers to refresh their knowledge and extend their learning and experience.

Advanced Earth Carers Course 2014

Date/ Time/Venue	Subject	Facilitators
Friday 6 th June 6-8pm Holyrood Pavilion, Cnr Holyrood and Cambridge Street, West Leederville	Revision of waste destinations, categories of waste, disposal options. Project possibilities.	Anne Pettit, Peg Davies Advanced Earth Carers talk about previous projects
Wednesday 11 th June *12-4.30pm (bus leaving from Joondalup Council Offices. Can pick up in City too)	Tour of demolition waste recycling and commercial recycling destinations.	Mark Jones (All Earth –Maddington), Jamie Young (Orora formerly Amcors- Canningvale)
Wednesday 18 th June 6-8pm Holyrood Pavilion, Cnr Holyrood and Cambridge Street, West Leederville	Commercial organics. Background on soil carbon and how this is dealt with commercially. Discussing options for projects	Andy Gulliver (C-WISE) Peg Davies
Wednesday 25 th June 6-8pm Holyrood Pavilion, Cnr Holyrood and Cambridge Street, West Leederville	Collection and possible processing options for commercial materials especially organics and glass. Planning project.	Harry Hofstede (Spartel) Anne Pettit, Peg Davies

* The tour is during the day as this is the only time available at the facilities. On the day of the tour, the bus is leaving from City of Joondalup Offices, Boas Avenue, Joondalup (very close to Joondalup railway station). Parking is usually available but is 'paid'.

An Invitation.....

Have you graduated as an Earth Carer prior to 2014 and have had time to practice your skills at home, perhaps with friends and family, or even as an MRC volunteer?

If so, we'd love you to join us to take your Earth Carers journey even further.

The Advanced Earth Carers course will broaden your knowledge base and inspire you to help reduce this enormous world problem!!

Come along and join us for the ride, contact Peg at MRC pdavies@mrc.wa.gov.au or 0422 941 492.

Can you imagine
what you might
achieve as an
Advanced Earth
Carer?

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle

Make waste work

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