

THE SIN BIN

The 12 waste free ideas of Christmas



1 Make your own Christmas decorations and cards from recycled materials.

2 Feed all your food scraps to the worm farm, place them in a composting bin or feed them to the chooks.

3 Make gift bags from coloured christmas material that you can use for your presents year after year.

4 Upcycle trash into thoughtful Christmas present ideas. Hop on-line, there are hundreds of ideas. Or how about a gift card - that way people won't need to throw away unwanted gifts.

5 Buy rechargeable batteries and a battery recharger for your Christmas toys, or better still buy toys that don't need batteries to run. They are just as fun!

6 Buy a real Christmas tree so it can be recycled in your green bin. Or how about making a tree out of an old branch from the backyard?

7 Having a Christmas party? Make sure there are well signed areas for people to place their recycling.

12 Share too much time with your family rather than too many gifts. Less is more or so they say.

11 Buy a thoughtful gift that doesn't cost the earth. Buy a BPA free 'Bottle for Botol' and one is donated to a student in Bali.

10 Remember to recycle everything that you can. If your bin is full, make sure you store your excess for the next pick up.

9 Reuse any wrapping paper, cards, boxes, ribbons, and bubble wrap. Use a reusable tie or ribbon instead of sticky tape so paper can be used again.

8 Don't waste food. Only open what you need and use all your leftovers. Invite the neighbours over to share if you have too much!



QUEANBEYAN SCHOOLS ENVIRO EXPO

Around 400 eager students headed to the Queanbeyan Showground on the 16th October to take part in a fantastic day organised by the Queanbeyan City Council. Students were entertained by the Eaton Gorge performance 'Radical Recyclers'. Following this students participated in some 'hands on' activities with a range of organisations including Bournda and Illawarra Environmental Education Centres. The 'waste relay' was heaps of fun, with students racing against each other to sort their waste. Positive feedback was given from students and teachers on the day. Well done to everyone involved!



Bob from BEEC sorting the results of the 'waste relay' with Queanbeyan Public School students (left) and Eaton Gorge performing 'Radical Recyclers' for the students (right).



GREEN GLOBE AWARDS

Winners of the 2015 Green Globe awards have been announced with City of Sydney winning the 'Excellence in energy, water and waste efficiency' award. Their Zero Waste Program includes the installation of four reverse vending machines that accept empty aluminium cans and plastic bottles in return for rewards such as movie tickets. What a fun idea for the school playground! See [here](#) for more details.

SNOWY RIVER SHIRE COUNCIL RECYCLING WEEK EXPO

The Snowy River Shire Council embraced National Recycling Week by holding their fifth annual Expo. The local community had the chance to learn about recycling, worm farms, composting, solar energy and more.



Edwina Lowe (SRSC) gardening with kids at the Expo (photos by Tobi Varcoe)

Articles from around the world...

- A company in Texas gives away [free electricity](#) because wind farms are generating excess.
- Scotland spares landfill 650 million bags and raises over \$10 million in just one year of a [plastic bag ban](#).
- How could robots change the [economics of waste](#)?
- Watch these two amazing machines - one transforming [plastic bags into fuel](#) and the other [plastic bottles into brooms](#).
- When will the world wake up to the potential of [poo power](#)?
- Africa's [fastest solar power project](#) is lighting up Rwanda.
- Christmas tree uses 2000 plastic bags to make consumers [rethink holiday shopping](#).

NEED SOME MORE IDEAS? Why not subscribe to the [sustainable schools newsletter](#) to receive regular updates.

We are always looking for **good news stories or trash talk** to add to the next edition of the Sin Bin. If you have anything that you would like to share or are particularly proud of, get in touch with us here at Bournda EEC:

bournda-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Don't forget Clean Up Australia's 'Schools Clean Up Day' for 2016 on Friday March 4th.

What a great way to start some discussions about waste at your school! To register and receive your free kit and Schools Clean Up day webpage [click here](#), or to access the Schools Clean Up curriculum tool kit [click here](#).



TRASH TALK... CONVERSATIONS ACROSS THE REGION

Yass High School meeting - Doug Reckord (Bournda EEC) travelled to Yass to work with teachers Brendan Roberts and Emma Ventrella (Yass High School) and students on their In-School Waste program. Yass Shire staff Kym Nixon and Carina Martin gave the students a short talk about the role of Council and provided some material on recycling. This was followed by a waste presentation by Doug and some outside games to get the students thinking about waste in an active way.

Snowy River Council - The Snowy River Council ran their major annual education event 'National Recycling Week Expo' at the Jindabyne Memorial Hall on November 14th. The aim of the week was to increase the environmental benefits, including greater tonnage and less contamination, of kerbside recycling. The event included live performances, demonstrations and a focus on kids activities. (see previous page for photos and more info from this great event)

Queanbeyan City Council - The Queanbeyan City Council have provided the following feedback from teachers and students after the Queanbeyan Schools Enviro Expo in October: "I really enjoyed the day and so did my students", "Very interesting", "All children were entertained while learning worthwhile information", "A very engaging way to get the students interested in the environment and recycling". (see previous page for more info on this worthwhile event)

Goulburn Mulwaree Council: Trinity Catholic College has now partnered with Council to offer a recycling service within the school. This means all three high schools in the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area now have playground recycling bins.

Two welcomes: Sarah Davison, the new SERRG Coordinator and Jules Donne, Bournda EEC
We would like to welcome our new SERRG co-ordinator, Sarah Davison who has recently been appointed. We all look forward to working with you Sarah. We also welcome Jules Donne who is the BEEC replacement for Ally Madden while she is looking after her new twins. Ally has welcomed two baby girls into the world, Greta and Wren. We all wish her the very best and look forward to her return some time in the future.

Wishing you all a very Merry waste-free Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a safe and relaxing holiday season.

We would like to thank all the readers, contributors, teachers, students and Council staff that have been involved in the SERRG Regional Waste Education Program for their fantastic efforts in 2015.

