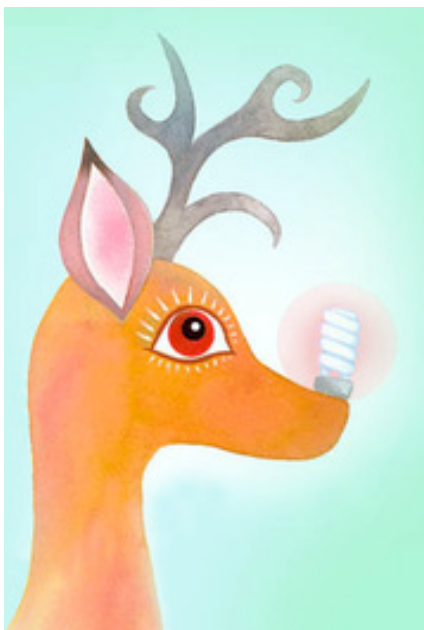




ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

Newsletter Christmas '08

THE ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND - VICTORIAN DIVISION



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Welcome to the mini Christmas Edition of the EIANZ Victorian Division newsletter!

In this issue we have a survey for our Victorian members, with two lucky participants taking out special Thank-you gifts.

In the lead up to the Festive Season we also take a look at how to have a sustainable Christmas, and suggest some sustainable gifts.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and Festive season and look forward to hearing what you want to see from your Committee, and your membership, in the New Year.

Do not forget if you have a case study or article which would be of interest to our members please e-mail your submissions to: vic-events@eianz.org.

MEMBERS' SURVEY

Here is your chance to have your say in exactly what type of events you would like to see in 2009 from the EIANZ Victorian Division.

We have put together a quick survey which should take you a couple of minutes to complete, and you'll go into the draw to win one of two beautiful prizes from Sustainable Gifts - **Priceless**, by Bradley Trevor Greive, a stunning pictorial journey into the habitats of our most endangered species, or a 100% cotton canvas **Aboriginal Artwork** featuring the artist's name and a description of the painting.

Entries close Tuesday 23 December and the winners will be selected at random,

and announced in early January, together with the results of the survey.

Click here to enter the survey.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Members Networking and Drinks – January 09

Stay tuned for more details.

Sustainable Living Festival – February 09

The Festival is a celebration and showcase of progressive social and ecological sustainability and is produced by the Sustainable Living Foundation, a community-based not-for-profit organisation. At their last event earlier this year, Federation Square management estimated 129,000 visits to the Festival and are gearing up for an even bigger event for 2009. The Festival dates for 2009 are the 20 - 22 February 2009.

The EIANZ has applied to be part of a friendly environmental debate with Young Engineers Australia - as soon as we receive confirmation of our time slot we will advise you of all the details.

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE FESTIVE SEASON

[Choice Magazine On Line](#) has come up with ten tips for a more sustainable Christmas – so we can all be kinder to the environment whilst still enjoying the festive fun.

1. Re-use your tree

Opt for a living Christmas tree, instead of a cut tree. A potted tree can be decorated for the festive season then enjoyed all year - you can even use it again next Christmas.





2. Feast sustainably

Your festive feast will be better for the environment if you opt for sustainably managed seafood. Unfortunately, inadequate labelling means it is not always easy to identify, but it is worth looking out for the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) sustainable fishing logo or use the Australian Marine Conservation Society's [Sustainable Seafood Guide](#) when buying seafood.



If there's leftover food at your work Christmas party consider giving it to a charity that will redistribute it to the needy. Services such as [OzHarvest](#) can help.

3. Choose LED lights

If you can't go without decorative lights, choose energy-saving LEDs. Or if you are going to swaddle your house in lights and have been thinking about making the switch to green power, now might be the time. To find the cheapest accredited GreenPower deal for your home, click on the CHOICE Green icon on the home page of the CHOICE site and see our [GreenPower](#) price comparison survey.

4. Use renewable tableware

To cut down on waste going to landfill, avoid using throwaway plates and cutlery. Be green by using disposable plates made from renewable materials, such as corn starch or sugar cane, marked compostable and/or recyclable.

5. Minimise waste

As the season of consumption, Christmas creates a lot of waste. Try to minimise yours by focusing on the quality, not quantity, of presents and in preparation for receiving lots of gifts, why not make room for them at home by donating pre-loved, good, working items to charities?

In the festive afterglow, recycle your containers, compost leftover food and store paper, ribbons and decorations for next year. Investigate how to properly dispose of electrical and other household items.

6. Green gifts

Go green with your gifts. Vouchers for movie tickets, massages or facials can be easier on the environment than physical presents, or give the gift of your time to spend with loved ones or a worthwhile charity.

Try to avoid gifts with too much plastic and packaging, and look for handmade items that use recycled materials. Shop on sites such as [Madeit](#) for locally made presents.

- ★ Buy fair trade or ethical gifts, such as T-shirts and diaries from [Greenpeace Giving](#).
- ★ Clothing and bags from [Friends of the Earth](#).
- ★ Coffee and tea from Oxfam shops or [online](#).
- ★ [East Timor Women Australia](#) sells a range of hand-woven products.
- ★ [The Smith Family online](#) has a 2008 Christmas Gift Guide.
- ★ [WWF Australia](#) sells wine, eco-gadgets and donation vouchers.
- ★ [Amnesty International](#) has books, cards and T-shirts.

7. Choose rechargeable batteries

Christmas is a time of giving - gadgets, toys and electrical devices that can chew through loads of batteries that might contain toxic metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead, which can be harmful to the environment when disposed of in landfill. By choosing rechargeable batteries you can save money in the long term while helping to reduce waste.

8. Choose the Greenhouse Friendly logo



The Greenhouse Friendly logo, which is starting to appear on products, tells you that a product or service meets the standards set by the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO), a federal government initiative. The emissions from the manufacture of certified products have been offset, or balanced out,

by other activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. See [Carbon Offset Watch](#) for more on reducing emissions.

9. Reuse/recycle gifts & decoration

Check out local centres that resell or recycle consumer, business or industrial leftovers that can be used for making decorations or gifts. A good example is Reverse Garbage in Sydney, which has an [online shop](#) selling packs of recycled materials.

You can register with [Freecycle](#) to find homes for your unwanted items or locate useful freebies in your local area.



Planet Ark and Australia Post have a card recycling program - get a free reply paid envelope from any post office to send your cards to Planet Ark. Last year the scheme saved more than 575 million Christmas cards – more than 100,000 trees. See [Planet Ark](#) for information.

10. Make your own

Cut down on paper and make your own cards, reuse saved wrapping paper or make your own decorations with items you already have. For ideas on how to reuse household items to make decorations go to [Planet Ark](#) and click on Cards 4 Planet Ark.

Use your computer to create personalised cards in Microsoft Word or Publisher that you can send via email. If you're buying Christmas cards, go for charity cards that support a worthy cause. If you can't find them in stores, shop online at UNICEF or [charitygreetingcards.com](#) sells cards from a range of charities, including the Cancer Council, Heart Foundation and the RSPCA.

Here are some more gift & wrapping ideas

Try [www.growinggifts.com.au](#) for a native tree (as seen at the EIANZ Annual Conference Gala dinner)

- ★ 'Re-gifting' is OK - there is much discussion about etiquette behind the trend to 're-gift', that is, to pass on a gift you received but do not need. What's to discuss? Re-gifting makes perfect sense. If you receive something you really don't need, look for ways you can reuse this gift by passing it on to someone who can use it. Of course, re-gifting needs to be done with care so as not to offend the original giver, but keeping a gift you don't need is wasteful



- ★ Avoid buying glossy foil or metallic wrapping paper - this kind of material is difficult to recycle.
- ★ Reuse gift wrap where possible - large wrapped presents usually have large enough unincreased sections to be reused for wrapping small gifts.
- ★ Use tape sparingly, or not at all - if you're going to use ribbon to finish off your wrapping, you may not need to use tape. By not using tape, more of the wrapping paper can be reclaimed, and it's easier for the recipient to save the wrapping for reuse.
- ★ Choose alternatives to commercial gift wrap - there are many options which are cost-free, attractive solutions. Gift bags can be made using fabric scraps, or wrapping can be made using comic strips from the paper, old calendars, maps, posters and more.

Source: [www.eartheasy.com](#)

DECEMBER INTAKE FOR THE CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Year-End Intake Closing Approaches - 21st December!

Please contact Melissa Grant at info@cenvp.org if you need an extension for your application.

The Certified Environmental Practitioner (CENVP) Program is inviting suitably qualified practitioners to participate in this important initiative for the environmental profession. Don't miss this opportunity to apply for CENVP status and be recognised!

There are already over 220 practitioners certified across Australia and New Zealand and the number is steadily growing, with the June 2008 intake applications due to add another 30+ practitioners to the scheme.

Amongst the reasons people have given for joining the program is the belief that environmental practitioners should have equal standing to those from other professions engaged for example in developmental projects, and also giving assurance to stakeholders that environmental practitioners are competent in their field and have a recognised high standard of ethical conduct.

Completed applications including application fee and referee reports should be submitted to the CENVP Registrar prior to the closing date. As the process is rigorous and the application thorough, be sure to get started now.

EIANZ members and fellows receive significant discounts on application and annual certification fees.



Please review all application materials and requirements prior to submitting an application. If you have any questions regarding the requirements or your eligibility, the Registrar would be happy to speak with you to determine whether you should apply during this intake.

Please post signed hard copies of applications to:

CENVP Registrar

c/- EIANZ

GPO Box 211

Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia



Digitally scanned copies can be emailed to:

applications@cenvp.org

For more information, please direct enquiries to:

registrar@cenvp.org

FACEBOOK

Don't forget to check out the EIANZ Facebook page! You can become a fan of EIANZ, read about upcoming events, as well as the CENVP program, initiate discussions with other members online, read wall posts and view photos from our latest events.

Click [here](#) for the link to the Facebook page.



We hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas. Hopefully we see you all in the new year at one of the great events the Victorian committee will organise for its members.

CONTACT DETAILS

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