

For the school 7 June newsletter

The War on Waste at Avondale Primary!

Last year, many school students and their families watched the popular ABC programme, **War on Waste**. This programme highlighted the amount of waste produced in Australia, which is ranked the 5th highest for generating the most municipal waste in the world!

Some of the key facts about waste in Australia:

- On average, each Australian produces 2.7 tonnes of waste in a year
- The average Australian family throws out \$3,500 worth of food each year
- 864,000 kilograms of clothes are thrown out every day in Australia
- Australia uses over 10 million plastic bags a day – which is causing a huge problem in our oceans
- 1 billion coffee cups are used in Australia each year, which are not recycled (that's 100,000 cups every hour)
- Australia wastes 17 billion bottles and cans each year. Less than half are recycled.

Back in March, ten of the Grade 5/6 school captains along with Mrs Roach and a visitor from Environment Education Victoria, conducted an audit of one of the bins out in the yard to determine what waste our school produces.

The results were:

- 64% food waste
- 12% non-recyclable plastic (such as chip packets and museli bar wrappers)
- 7% liquid paper board (juice boxes)
- 6% paper and cardboard
- 4% tissues and paper towel
- 3% plastic containers (such as yoghurt tubs)
- 4% other

In addition to auditing the waste from one of the bins in the yard, these students also did a litter inspection of the school grounds. A total of **192 pieces of litter** were collected and sorted into groups according to the type of waste. Most of this litter consisted of non-recyclable plastics and food waste.

We are all guilty of producing unnecessary waste and with increased effort, we could greatly reduce the amount of waste produced in our school and therefore the amount of waste we send to landfill. In the coming terms, the school will be introducing a series of different initiatives in order to **help Avondale Primary reduce the amount of waste in our school**.

One of the ways that you can help reduce the amount of waste that we have in our school is to pack **'Nude Food'** lunches for your child. Nude food is food that is not wrapped in foil, plastic or commercial packaging. The best kind of nude food consists of fresh food, which is also healthy and nutritious, as well as being environmentally friendly! If you like to pack chips or biscuits for your child, we suggest that you buy a large packet that can be put into reusable containers or a lunch box with separate sections to avoid using individual packaging that creates additional waste in our school. In addition, you could provide your child with a reusable water bottle as an alternative to juice boxes.

By doing so, we hope that we will be able to reduce the amount of waste that Avondale Primary send to landfill, which has detrimental effects to our environment and also represents a saving for the school, which can better utilised on educational resources.

