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Dear <<First Name>>

We hope the start of 2023 has been good one thus far. We're looking forward to a new year of projects and activities as we keep pushing forward to improve the sustainability and environment of our region.

Meet John Day, General Manager Environment, Systems & Operations at North East Water

We'd like to invite all members to attend a meet and greet with John Day from North East Water, in Bright on **Saturday February 4, 12pm.**

Part of John's role is overseeing North East Water's emissions reduction strategy and circular economy opportunities; and he is currently working on strategies to decarbonise the NE water infrastructure.

In particular, he is looking at the feasibility of installing solar panels around the water storage dam just outside Bright plus extra panels to feed back into the grid. John is also interested in meeting our group members and learning about SUO's role in the community.



When: Saturday February 4, 2023

Time: 12pm

Where: Bright Brewery

RSVP: Brian Edwards for numbers by email [here](#).

Cost: Free. Drinks and lunch at own cost.

REDcycle – Recycling of Soft Plastics Update



For those of you who have been diligently saving and recycling the soft plastics I am sure, like me, it has come as a great disappointment that the REDcycle system has failed and had to be suspended for the time being. You can go to their website to understand why but basically it is because we have been doing such a good job at recycling the soft plastics that the system has been overwhelmed.

The ACCC are involved and say that "Major supermarket retailers will form part of a Soft Plastic Taskforce to explore solutions to address the immediate effects of REDcycle suspending its return-to-store soft plastics recovery program. They will investigate solutions for the storage, transport, processing, recycling and management of soft plastics to minimize the volume that may end up in landfill." This Taskforce will be Chaired by The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

As of 28 November, public consultation process begins and 19 December is the last day for submissions from interested parties. The final determination is expected in April 2023.

For now, I suggest continuing to collect your soft plastics as before but place in the GENERAL WASTE (RED) BIN then hopefully when collections resume after April we are still in the habit of recycling it. PLEASE DO NOT PUT SOFT PLASTICS IN THE RECYCLING (YELLOW) BIN.

I intend to push for the soft plastics from businesses to be included in this Taskforce if possible or certainly for their needs to be considered.

Halve Waste Cloth Nappy Rebate Reusable & Menstrual Product Rebate 2023

As part of Halve Waste's campaign to reduce waste in landfill Halve Waste is once again running a Cloth Nappy and Reusable menstrual product Rebate for 2023.

Residents living in the Halve Waste council areas (including the Alpine Shire) are eligible for this rebate (unless successfully received in previous years).

Cloth nappies purchased between July 1st 2022 to June 30th 2023 will be eligible for a rebate of half the purchase cost up to \$100 dollars (Spend \$200 receive \$100 rebate).

Applications will be accepted from January 1st 2023. To apply and see the full terms and conditions [visit here](#).

Reusable menstrual products purchased after July 1st 2022 are eligible for a rebate of half the purchase cost up to \$100 dollars (spend \$100 receive \$50 rebate). Applications will be accepted from January 1st 2023 until funds are exhausted.

To apply and see the full terms and conditions [visit here](#).



PlasticWise
Party Hire

The Plasticwise Community Party Box contains a selection of children's and adult plates, cups (including wine glasses), cutlery, BBQ tongs, salad servers and platters that are perfect for picnics, little kids and big kids parties! The large plates are biodegradable, and the box contains cloth napkins and beeswax wraps to cover leftovers, helping you to reduce waste.

The Plasticwise Community Party Box is available to hire for a nominal fee of \$5 (with a \$50 deposit).

For more information please contact Anne Heuperman 0419 340 190.



Community Business Hero Of The Month Bright Laundry

Within our community, we have some wonderful, hardworking and dedicated organisations that are doing great things to help reduce their environmental impact and help fight climate change. Sustainable Upper Ovens would like to recognise these unsung heroes in our "Community Business Hero Of The Month". This month's award goes to [Bright Laundry](#).

[Bright Laundry](#) has not only been trying to do its part by 36 kilowatts of solar panels (increasing its solar capacity by 300 per cent) but "are also working with clients to reduce the use of plastics where possible". They have been thinking of innovative ways to prevent their stained and ripped bedding going into landfill by giving it to several charities to 'recycle' the material. These include the making of handkerchiefs to be put into backpacks for school children which are filled by the Bright Uniting Church and given to Pacific Island school children, a charity in Melbourne making bags which are filled with essentials for refugees and the local compound and RSPCA in Melbourne to be used for bedding for animals. SUO congratulate them for what they have done.

Next S.U.O General Meeting 4pm Sat Feb 24

Bright Community Centre. All welcome!



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