



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 12th September 2011

Baw Baw Shire Council wins community grant from Keep Australia Beautiful to increase beverage container recycling

Baw Baw Shire Council has won a \$10,000 community grant to increase beverage container recycling in the area and reduce waste being sent to landfill.

The Keep Australia Beautiful grant, funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation, will enable the Baw Baw Shire Council to purchase the infrastructure needed for a paired recycling and waste management system at the Shire's three largest recreational reserves; Buln Buln, Ellinbank and Trafalgar.

The focus of the \$170,000 nationwide Community Grants Scheme is on increasing away from home recycling, through practical projects that leave a legacy and do not duplicate existing recycling activities. Project results must be measurable and show how recycled materials are being collected and diverted from landfill.

Baw Baw Shire Council was awarded a community grant, along with three other Victorian community projects, so that they could purchase the infrastructure to install four sets of the paired waste systems at different locations around each recreational reserve.

Scott Lyall, Keep Australia Beautiful National Executive, said "Baw Baw Shire Council was selected to receive a grant as their project provides a clear and tangible outcome for increasing the recycling rate of beverage containers in public places."

"With only just over half the total waste produced in Australia each year being recycled, this project provides an option for the public to recycle their beverage containers when they are out and about."

Mayor of Baw Baw Shire Councillor Diane Blackwood said "We are delighted to receive this grant from Keep Australia Beautiful and The Coca-Cola Foundation."

"We are keen for our community to play a role in increasing the recycling rates of beverage containers and this grant will help assist with providing the infrastructure and recycling education needed to engage the public in this process," said the Mayor.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

What: Cheque handover with Baw Baw Shire Council and CCA representatives

When: 2.00pm – Monday 12th September 2011

Where: Buln Buln Recreation Reserve, Station Street (off Sale Rd), Buln Buln, VIC, 3821.

For media enquiries please contact:

- **Debbie Wilson**, Community Information Executive Officer, Baw Baw Shire Council on 0427 887 661 or debbie.wilson@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
- **Quentin Fogarty**, Media Communications Manager on 0421 084 089 or quentin.fogarty@sustainability.vic.gov.au
- **Alexandra Davy**, KABNA Publicity Assistant on (03) 9592 4001 or media@kab.org.au



Editor's Notes:

Results from the 2010 Beverage Container Recycling Grants

In 2010, 26 projects were awarded funding. Those that have reported results so far show that a total of \$130,016.03 in grants resulted in 215,440.08 kilos of recycled material at an average cost of 60c per kilo.

The success of the grants program is not only measured by recycling figures, but also takes into account the increased awareness and promotion of away from home recycling and the ongoing recycling outcomes in the long term due to increased infrastructure and facilities for the local area or event.

About Keep Australia Beautiful

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. National programs include the Australian Sustainable Community Awards consisting of Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities; the National Litter Index (results released in August) and Keep Australia Beautiful Week (22-28 August in 2011).

About The Coca-Cola Foundation

The Coca-Cola Company is a local business on a global scale. As our business has expanded over the years, so our community support has grown to create and support projects most relevant to local communities around the globe. We are committed to investing our time, expertise and resources to help develop and maintain vibrant, sustainable and local communities.

Established in 1984 (and wholly funded by The Coca-Cola Company), The Coca-Cola Foundation helps keep that commitment every day by partnering with organizations around the globe to support initiatives and programs that respond in a meaningful way to community needs and priorities.

More information on The Coca-Cola Foundation can be found at <http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/foundation.html>