



## World Environment Day

The Green Office Program celebrated WED on the 5<sup>th</sup> June with a day full of activities. A delicious breakfast, overlooking the UQ lakes, was followed by an inspiring and extremely informative talk on climate change and the urgency for action, presented by William Grey (trained by Al Gore as a Climate Change Presenter). During the Green Office presentation, the winners for this year's prizes were announced. Congratulations to Serena Bagley, from the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, who achieved the highest rating as a new area and Maureen McGrath and Cultural Studies who was



from the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies who was awarded the most improved office award for 07/08. The Visy Recycling and Sims E-waste Recycling site tours were exciting. It was an eye opening experience for all who attended. WED also marked the end of Jess Lindsay's time with the Green Office Program. Thanks Jess for all the hard work you have put in to make this program great.



## The Bigger Picture

We talked last month about the little things we can do to make a difference. But why should we bother? Does it really matter? Let's take a look at the bigger picture.

Seeing photos of entire old growth native forests being cut down remind us that we should reduce our paper usage and use recycled paper. Listening to people from Tuvalu about how the high tides flow into their houses and turn their vege patches into salt marshes reminds us that we should save electricity and use public transport instead of driving to work everyday.

Why are the Visy recycling site and Earth Hour so successful? It is because individuals, such as yourself, make that small effort in the first place to recycle and turn off the lights. To us, every piece of paper and every computer left on seems miniscule, but on a broader perspective, when everyone's effort are added together, forests and even countries can be saved!



## Event of the Month

Event of the Month is a new section of the Green Office Newsletter. It will give Green Office Reps ideas on how to get staff involved and more aware of how small changes are easy, while having significant environmental benefits.

Are you ready for the **July Enviro Quiz**? Are you prepared to challenge your fellow staff members in a contest on environmental facts and green practices? Will your knowledge about green offices and sustainability help you win the championship title of Green Office Staff Member of the Month? But then again, its not all about competition. By participating, you might learn something interesting that may also be beneficial to the environment. The questions may require a little bit of research. (Hint: the Green Office and P&F website might be useful).



There will be 3 questions on a certain theme for each week in July. Ask your area's Green Office Rep for the questions and how to participate. Correct answers will be tallied at the end of the four weeks and winners will receive a Unigreen Prize.

## TrueGreen@Work

TrueGreen@Work is worth a read for those wanting new ideas about being environmentally friendly around the office. It is written by Kim McKay, Jenny Bonnin and Tim Wallace. You would be happy to know that most Green Offices already do a majority of the Top 10 TrueGreen@Work tips, such as recycling paper boxes under desks, using recycled paper, joining an environmental group, i.e. Green Office Program.



However there are a few that we can concentrate on to improve. For example taking your own mug instead of using disposable cups at coffee shops, using refillable pens made from recycled plastic and maximising natural light instead of using electrical lights. For more information on the book look at their website <http://www.betruegreen.com>.

## Upcoming Events

- **National Tree Day** 27<sup>th</sup> July
  - <http://treeday.planetark.com/>
  - Plant a tree with work mates at a local rehabilitation site.

*If you have any feedback or questions please contact us at the details below!*

For further information, contact Environmental Services:

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