

Queensland Communities in transition

Barcaldine Cash for Containers Communities benefiting from recycling

The introduction of the Queensland Containers for Change program has been enthusiastically embraced by the Barcaldine region. This is a win – win – win situation with locals getting their 10c per can, Barcaldine Aged Care benefiting from 6c per container and the reduction in recyclable material going to landfill.

Barcaldine Region does not currently have standard recycling services available with all waste in the region going to landfill. The distance to the nearest recycling processing facility is over 3 hours drive making it economically unfeasible for the small community. However, this situation has changed for the better with the introduction of the container program.

Capricorn Plumbing, trading as True Value Hardware, provides a collection point on the main street for locals to drop off their cans and bottles. Barcaldine Aged Care not for profit organisation provides the volunteers to count containers each weekend. They receive 16 cents per item of which 10 cents is passed to returnees and the other 6 cents goes to Barcaldine Aged Care. The local hotels collect their containers and donate their cash to the Aged Care Charity.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Capricorn Plumbing providing collection space and logistics
- Barcaldine Aged Care benefits
- Hotel collecting and donating containers
- 500,000 containers returned in 7 months
- Landfill avoidance of 1,248m³ per year





The program sends around 8 x 3m³ blue bins (pictured) back to Emerald every week. This is saving approximately 1,248m³ of recyclable waste from landfill every year which is the equivalent of 10,400 wheelie bins full a year. Within seven months of starting the program Barcaldine Aged Care has returned over 500,000 containers and raised \$44,000.

This is the only container recycling program in the Barcaldine Region and because they provide cash for the containers rather than a bank transfer, people come from neighbouring regions, such as Jericho, Aramac, Muttaborra, Ilfracombe and Blackall, to cash in their containers. Many children return containers for some additional pocket money. This cash goes back into the community.

Barcaldine Prep-12 State School have benefited from the program by returning their containers. They made \$400 in one term to go towards projects in their school.

Additional benefits include cleaning up the highways with one local reporting:

"We just don't see the bottles on the side of the road anymore"



This case study is part of a series of case studies that have been developed as part of the Queensland Communities in Transition Program. Prepared by The Ecoefficiency Group as part of Clean Growth Choices Consortium with funding from Queensland Department of Environment and Science, 2019 For further information, visit www.cleangrowthchoices.org