



*For immediate release*

## **Australians encouraged to re-use this National Recycling Week**

During this year's National Recycling Week, rather than rubbish your useful items, Planet Ark is encouraging residents, workplaces and schools to consider re-using them.

In addition to keeping quality resources in use and materials out of landfill, reusing items is something we can all do to to save water and energy, and reduce carbon emissions.

Activities such as the **Friday File Fling** and **Big Aussie Swap** headline an exciting list of new initiatives which individuals, workplaces and schools are urged to participate in.

"Truckloads of high quality office paper is currently stored away in the filing cabinets of Australian workplaces never to be used again," says Planet Ark spokesperson Rebecca Gilling. "**The Friday File Fling** encourages workplaces to set-aside time on Friday 13 November, to de-clutter their filing cabinets and give unused paper another life, either by placing it in their recycling bin or reusing single-sided paper to make an office notepad."

Also encouraging reuse, the **Big Aussie Swap** will see a series of public swap parties staged in cities and towns across Australia. Individuals are invited to join-in by hosting their own event by following the specially designed online swap party guide that Planet Ark has prepared.

"At a swap party, participants exchange their unwanted possessions for tokens and once all the items are displayed, participants browse and swap the tokens for items brought by other people," says Gilling. "Not only does swapping old possessions have a positive environmental benefit, it's a great way for people on a budget to update their wardrobe, book collection or children's toy box without spending any money."

In addition to these new and exciting initiatives, Planet Ark and Australia Post are working together to ensure recycling return rates of existing programs remains strong.

Australia Post makes it easy for all Australians to dispose of two of the more common e-waste (electronic waste) items - printer cartridges and mobile phones.

"We encourage all Australians to get to their local Australia Post outlet to recycle their mobile phones and printer cartridges," says Deb Spring, Australia Post National Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility. "Australia Post has helped to recycle over 45,000 mobile phones through MobileMuster and more than 2 million cartridges through the Cartridges 4 Planet Ark program."

National Recycling Week is also giving Australians the chance to win one of 20 green starter packs containing a variety of sustainable solutions for the home. Simply test your recycling knowledge with the **Recycle Right** interactive quiz at [RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org](http://RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org) to be automatically entered into the draw.

For further information about any of Planet Ark's National Recycling Week initiatives, to host your own Friday File Fling or swap party, or to find your nearest Big Aussie Swap event, visit **[RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org](http://RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org)** or call the **National Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712**.

National Recycling Week is kindly supported by **Orange Power**, '**Cartridges 4 Planet Ark**', **Australia Post** and **The Aluminium Can Group**.

**##ENDS##**

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