

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Keeping picturesque Tumut ecologically sustainable

Lying on the edge of the Kosciusko National Park, the picturesque town of Tumut, NSW takes pride in its sense of community and healthy environment. The Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) Waste Forum, the Tumut Shire Council and its citizens are committed to ensuring that their beautiful town is ecologically sustainable for future generations by actively being involved in waste wise initiatives.

Turning the town of Tumut, NSW into smart gardeners is the aim of the Garden Smart Workshops presented by REROC Waste Forum on Saturday July 26th 2008. Climate change has never been more important and the Garden Smart Workshops will show households how they can minimise their long term effects on the environment through reducing waste and water usage in and around the home.

The REROC Waste Forum, one of eight groups within **RENEW NSW**, the waste management experts focussed on improving waste management in rural and regional NSW, is organising the workshops to coincide with Planet Ark National Tree Day activities provided by Tumut Council. Local Radio ABC Riverina gardening expert Kerry Geale will be taking participants through a variety of fun and hands-on workshops aimed at promoting sustainable gardening practices. Mr Geale is also one of three Tree Day advisors who will be on hand to answer questions ranging from the right trees and shrubs to grow in the Riverina location to sensible water use.

"The Garden Smart workshops have been designed to build household knowledge and to promote waste avoidance. We hope that the workshops will bring together interested members of the community to discuss their local environment," said Julie Briggs, REROC Executive Officer.



**REROC Garden Smart Workshop,
Wagga Wagga**

The Garden Smart Workshops run for two and half hours and include 6 sections - compost and mulching, irrigation, how to improve soil, garden design and information on Tumut Councils environmental sustainable practices and facilities for residents. The free workshops will be held in Tumut Councils Administration Building on Capper Street, Tumut from 3-5:30 pm.

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change is on board this year to promote their fantastic initiatives relating to rainwater harvesting, building insulation and water and power conservation in residential and commercial premises. Spectators should also ask how they can receive a cash rebate for installing roof water tanks, converting old hot water systems to climate friendly systems or to insulate ceilings.

REROC Waste Forum organises a number of Garden Smart Workshops at varying locations throughout the Eastern Riverina region. With a string of successful workshops held last year and with over 1000 people participating, REROC Waste Forum aim to attract even more participants this year as community members realise how easy it is to help save the environment from a grassroots level.

Take a step towards a better environment by attending REROC Waste Forums Smart Gardening workshops.

Interviews are available with -

Julie Briggs, REROC Executive Officer
Stephen Sykes, RENEW NSW Chairperson
Kerry Geale, Radio ABC presenter

Further information on **RENEW NSW** visit: www.renewnsw.com.au.

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For further media enquiries, interviews or photo opportunities, please contact Amy Reiha at Niche Product Marketing on (02) 9331 6662 or amy@nichepm.com.au