

Ideas for action 2

1. Help out at an animal shelter

Thousands of animals are abandoned every year in Australia. The RSPCA alone receives over 140,000 animals each year and of these 30-55% can not be saved or rehomed and are euthanised. The RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League are the two largest animal shelters but there are also many other shelters around Australia. All depend on the work of volunteers. To find your local RSPCA branch, visit: <http://www.rspca.org.au/help/contact-us/state-societies.html>.

2. Buy nothing day

Tired of our conspicuous over-consumption? *Buy Nothing Day* draws attention to the harmful effects of over-consumption by industrialised nations (such as Australia, North America and Europe). It's a day of peaceful, often humorous actions and activities to confront the shopping audience with the consequences of over-consumption and the influence of advertising on our daily lives. Get

some inspiration from past activities: <http://www.buynothingday.co.uk/>.

3. Adopt a beach

There are 60,000 *Coastcare* volunteers in 2,000 *Coastcare* groups around Australia, tackling problems like dune erosion, loss of native plants and animals, storm water pollution, weeds and control of human access to sensitive areas. Join an existing group or start your own: <http://www.coastcare.com.au/>.

4. Create a Reuse centre

Create a centre that can be used to redistribute items within your school for use in arts, crafts, science, and technology projects. Or you could set it up as a profit-making business, selling items to other schools, community groups and individuals. For inspiration see the *Reverse Garbage* website: <http://www.reversegarbage.com.au/>.

5. Use ethically-made sports balls at school

About 80% of footballs used in Australia are made in Pakistan. Workers earn very low wages and some workers are children. But you can buy sports balls that are fair trade accredited. This means there is no child labour used, workers get paid a fair wage (about twice as much as for stitching a non-fair trade ball) and the community benefits too. Do some research and present a case to your school and sporting club to get fair trade sports balls when they need to buy new equipment. To find out more and purchase online: <http://www.etiko.com.au/>. Balls are also available at *Oxfam* shops.

