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Nha Dep - Creating Beautiful Homes

Community volunteers help out at the launch of Nha Dep in Footscray.

Environment Victoria has teamed up with the Vietnamese community in Western Melbourne to promote sustainability in the home.

The program will engage members of the community to help people lower the amount of greenhouse gases, save water, and reduce their household wastes. Simple and effective actions taken around the home not only help the environment and save money but improve household comfort as well.

The *Nha Dep* ('Beautiful Home') program was launched at the Vietnamese Moon Lantern Festival in Footscray on September 26. Over one hundred people signed up to the program, indicating there is significant interest in the Vietnamese community about sustainable living. The team distributed Nha Dep packs, which proved to be very popular with festival-goers. Each pack included a calico bag containing information about water, energy and waste conservation in Vietnamese, an energy-saving globe and extra goodies to make conserving energy easy.

Kids were entertained at the Festival stall with a colouring-in competition, giving parents an opportunity to talk with Nha Dep organisers about how they can save water, energy and money in their home.

Michele Burton, Nha Dep Program Co-ordinator, says the team were overwhelmed by the response. "It's great to see that so many people in the Vietnamese community are interested in sustainability. We're looking forward to working with those households that are keen to get involved in the Nha Dep program."



Water, Waste and Energy reduction

We are currently training up some members of the Vietnamese community, who have generously volunteered their time to learn how to conduct household audits. In time they will visit all of the households that have signed up to the program and will conduct an energy, water and waste assessment on their homes and advise on changes that can be made.

We are very excited to be working with different communities and we are eager to learn new things.

For any information about nha dep please call Michele Burton on 9341 8120

Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday, March 6, 2005

We have partnered with the 'Vietnamese Community in Australia - Vic chapter', to organise a Clean up Australia Day for members of the Vietnamese community between 10am and 1pm at Cranwell Park in Braybrook (Melways ref 27 D10).

BBQ and refreshments provided on the day. If you would like to attend please contact Michelle Burton or Jane Sayers on 9341 8100.

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