



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 7 November 2003

National Recycling Week: 10-16 November

“Reduce, Reuse & Recycle!”

Auto parts recyclers launch two environmental initiatives.

The Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia Inc (APRAA) has announced two major initiatives, which are aimed to improve recycling activities in Australia and promote the importance of National Recycling Week, organised by Planet Ark.

“APRAA is pleased to be able to support and promote Planet Ark’s National Recycling Week (10-16 November) by announcing two major initiatives” stated Alan Marshall, APRAA’s Executive Officer.

1. Recycling of Old Cars

Planet Ark operates a valuable website www.recyclingnearyou.com.au for the whole community to use to increase the recycling of waste products and materials. “From Monday 10 November, the first day of National Recycling Week, ‘Car Recycling’ has been added,” Alan Marshall noted. “Anyone who goes to this site can select to recycle an unwanted vehicle, known as an End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) in our industry. On selecting ‘Car Recycling’ and entering your postcode, the nearest quality APRAA member’s contact details will come up to assist you to dispose of that unwanted old car.”

“Auto parts recyclers are in the business of de-polluting, dismantling and recycling parts and vehicles, so let our members help you do the right thing by the environment” said Alan. “APRAA is very pleased to be able to assist the good work of Planet Ark, while at the same time promoting our members,” remarked Alan.

2. Waste Oil Recycling

“Earlier this year, APRAA successfully applied for a grant from the Australian Government to improve the management of waste oil by our industry,” said Alan Marshall. “Working with A. D. Edwards Consulting P/L, the leading authority on our industry, APRAA has developed and printed best practice guides to waste oil management and recycling. They will be distributed to all auto parts recyclers, Australia-wide.”

“I warmly welcome this opportunity for APRAA to work with the Australian Government to further improve our industry,” said Mr Marshall. “APRAA has been actively promoting good environmental practice since its inception in 1982.”

In his foreword to the booklets, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, says “I am pleased to be associated with this initiative by APRAA, and to offer my support in bringing your attention to this important resource for the management of waste oil. I would also like to congratulate APRAA for their leadership role in promoting good environmental practice in their industry.”

The two booklets will be mailed out during National Recycling Week, 10-16 November. One is an easy reference guide to waste oil collection and recycling service providers in each State and Territory. The other provides best practice advice for auto parts recyclers to reduce the chance of oil being released to the environment, and to maximise recycling.

“The majority of auto parts recyclers are environmentally responsible,” said Mr Marshall. “However, these booklets provide a valuable resource to help auto parts recycling businesses to re-evaluate their environment practices and safeguards.”

For more information on APRAA, refer APRAA’s website www.apraa.com, contact Alan Marshall at the APRAA National Office. Why not take a look at APRAA’s On-Line Recycled Parts “free” Locating System at the same time.

Alan Marshall, APRAA Executive Officer.
Ph: 03) 9866 6933. Email: alan@apraa.com Mob: 0418 822 939

On-Line Parts Locating “free service” - refer www.apraa.com

Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia Inc. (APRAA).

Level 3, 464 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004. Phone: 61 3 9866 6933, Fax: 61 3 9866 5322.

Established 1982.

‘Quality Auto Parts Recycling Drives Our Future!’

SOME BACKGROUND:

The Australian Government provided funding to APRAA to produce two booklets:

*Waste Oil Management – A Best Practice Guide for Auto Parts Recyclers, and
Waste Oil Disposal Service Providers – A Guide for Auto Parts Recyclers.*

APRAA commissioned industry experts, A. D. Edwards Consulting Pty Ltd, to prepare the documents in consultation with the industry. The 2 documents have been distributed to some 1900 auto parts recycling businesses around Australia.

More than 500,000 vehicles reach the end of their operational life each year in Australia. Auto parts recyclers dismantle vehicles for the re-use of parts. The remaining shells are usually then processed by metal recyclers for retrieval of the metal component (approximately 70% of the vehicle by weight). The other 30% of the vehicle is usually consigned to landfill, along with any oil or other pollutants that have not been removed.

More than 500 million litres of lubricating oil is sold each year in Australia, and over half of this oil is available for collection and recycling. The remaining used oil remains unaccounted for, and poses a threat to our environment. Waste oil contains toxic materials and is harmful to the environment when irresponsibly discarded.

ABOUT APRAA:

APRAA is the peak, national association for the auto parts recycling/dismantling industry (refer www.apraa.com). APRAA is an affiliate chapter of the Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) based in the USA (www.autorecyc.org). APRAA was the dream of a small but visionary group of auto recyclers who wanted to make a difference, to progress the auto industry from 'wreckers' to 'recyclers'. This key group set the foundations to harness an active and passionate industry, to achieve a recognised and respected national representation for auto parts recyclers/dismantlers throughout Australia. APRAA is currently working with the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council to progress a Code of Practice for auto recyclers.

More than 500,000 vehicles are retired from Australian roads each year. Recent reports by both the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage (Environment Australia) found that there are significant levels of pollution and criminal activity resulting from non-existent or inadequate controls on the illegitimate operators in the industry.

Overseas research has shown End-of-Life-Vehicle (ELV) contaminants that enter the environment include fluids such as oil, petrol, brake fluids, coolant etc as well as toxic heavy metals such as lead, hexavalent chromium, mercury, along with PCBs. While the metal fraction of ELVs is generally recovered by metal recyclers, at least 100,000 tonnes of waste from ELVs is generated annually, representing a substantial resource loss.

For a copy of the Commonwealth Government's *Information Paper on the Environmental Impacts of End-of-Life Vehicles*, refer <http://www.deh.gov.au/> .

For a copy of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council's *Feasibility Study into a Code of Practice for Dealers in Second Hand Auto Parts ("Edwards Report")*, refer www.carsafe.com.au under the Publications section.

On-Line Parts Locating "free service" - refer www.apraa.com

Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia Inc. (APRAA).

Level 3, 464 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004. Phone: 61 3 9866 6933, Fax: 61 3 9866 5322.

Established 1982.

'Quality Auto Parts Recycling Drives Our Future!'