

# Conversation starters or “what engages people?”

Here's a collection of buzzworthy ideas from around the world.

## HOW TO USE IT

- 1) Show it to your brains trust.
- 2) Together, brainstorm the engagement tactics for your next project.

Easy!

v20 July 2023

# Anything with food

To start with the obvious... a BBQ, a picnic, a garden party, anything with food in a nice place...



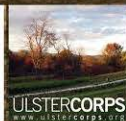


Conversations

A community dinner

Winter  
**COMMUNITY DINNER**  
AND CONVERSATION  
**BREAK BREAD**  
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

FREE FARM-TO-TABLE DINNER FOR ALL!  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 5-8PM**  
BETHANNY HALL OF OLD DUTCH CHURCH, KINGSTON



Hidden Harvest Presents..

MORE TASTE



LESS WASTE

**WINE-ING ABOUT FOOD WASTE**

Tuesday 4th April // From 6:30 - 9pm

@ SIFTERS

Come wine and dine with us over tapas and a hint of food waste banter. All food served will be up-cycled from ingredients that would have otherwise gone to waste.

Tickets: \$20 // includes 3-course dinner & a glass of wine

@ [wine-ingaboutfoodwaste.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.wine-ingaboutfoodwaste.eventbrite.com.au)

FB/HiddenHarvestAustralia  
Instagram: @Hidden\_Harvest




This project was supported by the Environmental Trust as part of the NSW EPA's Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy.






Hidden Harvest presents

# SOUP & FILM NIGHT



From the creators of The Clean Bin Project  
**JUST EAT IT.**  
A food waste story

**SUNDAY, 12TH JULY- 6PM**  
**THIRROUL COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
BYO bowl, spoon and mug



Pay what you feel // \$15 suggested donation  
Follow us on facebook.com/HiddenHarvestAustralia



Hidden Harvest, Wollongong



**nlrw**  
Northern Slopes Landcare  
Present...

Please join us at the Bingara, Northern Slopes Landcare  
**100 MILE NIGHT DINNER**

**SATURDAY JUNE 13**  
6PM FOR 6.30PM  
AT THE ROXY THEATRE BINGARA  
74 MAITLAND STREET  
DRESS: COCKTAIL

*Purchasing Locally Grown Food Has So Many Benefits!*  
In season and full of flavour  
More nutrients and shorter time between paddock and plate  
Less likely to have been in cold storage  
Supports local economy and promotes safer food supply  
Reduces use of fossil fuels from transport and storage  
Helps the environment by maintaining farmland and green space in your community!

**LIMITED TO 100 TICKETS**  
**Book Now!** Through Eventbrite  
[eventbrite.com.au/event/17119026469/](http://eventbrite.com.au/event/17119026469/)  
Only limited tickets available on the night at the door  
Further information please contact  
Tanya 6766 3832 or email [helo@sustainablenorthwest.com.au](mailto:helo@sustainablenorthwest.com.au)  
[www.sustainablenorthwest.com.au](http://www.sustainablenorthwest.com.au)

**TICKETS \$10**

Local Land Services NSW  
Phillip Island Landcare  
Bass Coast Landcare Network

110 folks turned up in March, “with a mad scramble at the end for tables”. According to Joel Geoghegan, one of the organisers, it’s “90% fun and eating and 10% reality, with music, poetry and an expert talk on rabbit control techniques.”

## **‘Bunny Boiler Challenge’**

### **Phillip Island Landcare Group Fundraising Dinner and Rabbit Control Information Night**

Rabbits are our National disgrace – they also taste great!

This is another opportunity for professional Chefs and Home Cooks to present their favourite rabbit recipes and be judged the winners for 2016

**When?** Friday 18th March 2016, 6pm until late

**Where?** Cape Kitchen, 1215 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven

**Costs?** \$25 per head or \$60 per family (pay at door),  
Drinks at bar prices, no BYO.

**Activities!** **Before dinner:** Rabbit control techniques presentation, while children play ‘Pin the tail on the rabbit’ game.

**Dinner:** Sample rabbit recipe entries from competing Professional Chefs & Home Cooks. (Non-rabbit eaters need to mention this when booking)

**After Dinner:** Prize presentation for winning dishes judged by the audience.  
Raffle drawn with prizes donated from local groups and organisations.  
Live local music – Rabbit poems, songs or stories from the audience.

**Chefs register by Friday 4th March to enter your rabbit recipe.**

**Conditions of Entry:** One entry per person. Entry is \$10.00 with 2 rabbits for each entry. Professional Chef and Home Cook competition categories with a \$50.00 prize to the winner of each category. Rabbits and pick-up details will be available on registration. Dishes should be brought to venue heated and ready for serving. No cooking on site. Facilities will be provided for keeping dishes warm.  
Electric slow cookers are ideal to bring your hot dish in.

**No unregistered dishes accepted on night**

**RSVP by Monday 14th March to attend this event.**

Please respect RSVP aspect to ensure catering is to your satisfaction.

**Registrations & RSVP's to Joel Geoghegan by phone on 0409 705 652  
or email [j.geoghegan@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.geoghegan@basscoast.vic.gov.au)**





## Youth Food Movement, Australia



Teach Be the Change You Want To See  
In The World.

better awareness Education Food origin awareness. @2017  
Access to Information better Education Awareness of origin & production  
Roxi Ruzar  
Word of Mouth  
LITTLE STEPS  
GASTRO MY PLEASURE  
Natural Beauty  
Grow Your Own!  
CREATIVE EXCHANGE  
CONSUME CONSCIOUSLY  
Grand & the Grand the table  
CULTURE CREATOR  
FOOD  
Family & Local Life  
POWER TO Start conversations

# THE YOUTH FOOD MOVEMENT

Young people who want good, clean and fair food.

**HELP GROW THE MOVEMENT**



## Anything with coffee or chocolate





## Anything with marshmallows





# Anything with games





Lucerne, Switzerland: “Lucerne Shines” recycling program







## Dots on a pavement...play happens

Scotch Hoppers, Glasgow, an experiment in what happens when you dot a pavement.





or at Adelaide Airport [www.ecocreative.com.au](http://www.ecocreative.com.au)





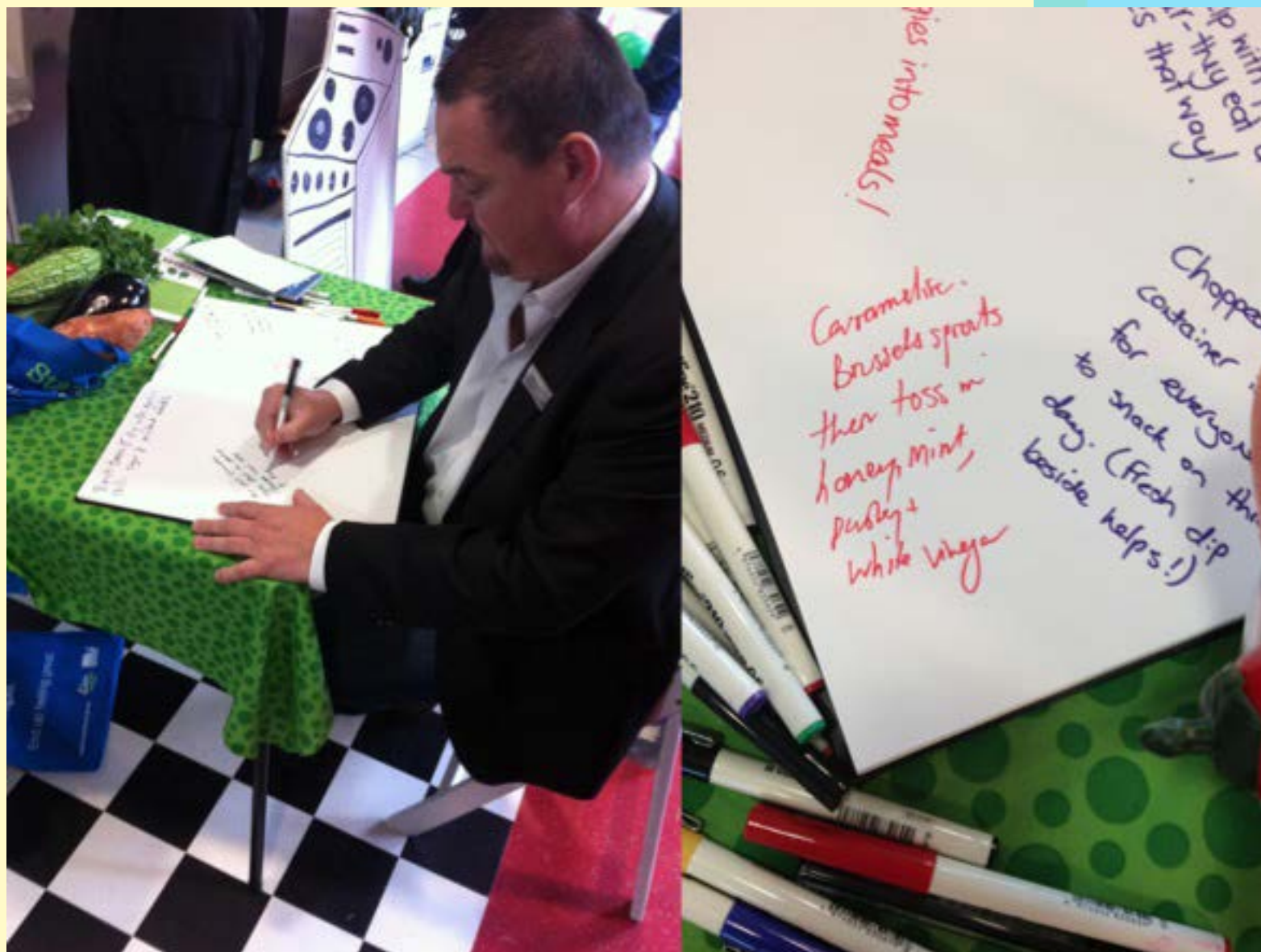
## Give peas a chance (Wyndham City Council)













# Anything with kids activities





Anything that attracts kids,  
attracts parents





# A treasure hunt

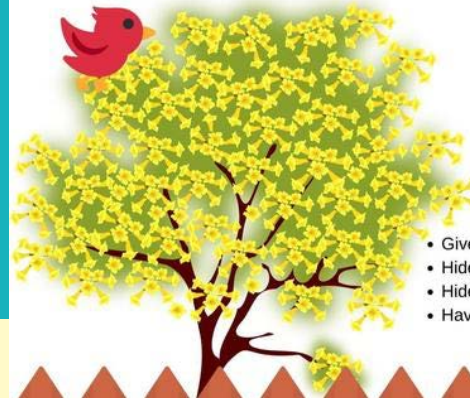


## Outdoor Treasure Hunt for Kids



## Outdoor Scavenger Hunt Riddles

The sun is shining,  
The sky is blue,  
Let's go outside to play,  
And look for some clues!



### How to play

- Give the 1st clue to a child
- Hide the other clues
- Hide yummy treats into the mail box
- Have fun!



# A scavenger hunt

## Nature Walk Photo Scavenger Hunt

Find and photograph as many items on the list as you can.

- wildflower
- bee
- butterfly
- bird
- water
- spider's web
- leaf
- stump
- pine cone
- tree
- bug
- moss
- lizard
- feather
- plant with thorns
- rough object
- smooth object
- animal tracks
- squirrel
- flying insect
- fallen branch
- plant with berries
- mushroom
- tree roots
- log
- dandelion
- bird nest
- round object
- cactus
- frog

manyseasonsofmotherhood.com

## Nature Walk Scavenger Hunt



manyseasonsofmotherhood.com





## A spot of spotlighting





# Anything social







Symphony in the Sunflowers, Mackay (Simon Mattson)





Canapes + Conversations (about food waste)  
Hidden Harvest, Wollongong

# HALLOWEEN *camping* FOREST *weekend*

31ST OCT - 1ST NOV  
TALLEBUDGERA VALLEY, GOLD COAST

HELP CREATE HABITAT. CAMPING. MUSIC. GOOD  
FOOD. GOOD VIBES. MEET AWESOME PEOPLE.  
CREATING COMMUNITY. CONNECTING YOUTH.

\$30 PER PERSON FOR CATERING. BRING A TSHIRT TO  
SCREEN PRINT. RSVP BY 28TH OCT.

EMAIL [GCINTREPIDLANDCARE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GCINTREPIDLANDCARE@GMAIL.COM)

[GOLDCOASTCATCHMENTS.ORG](http://GOLDCOASTCATCHMENTS.ORG)





## Street parties, street takeovers



Coburg Better Block

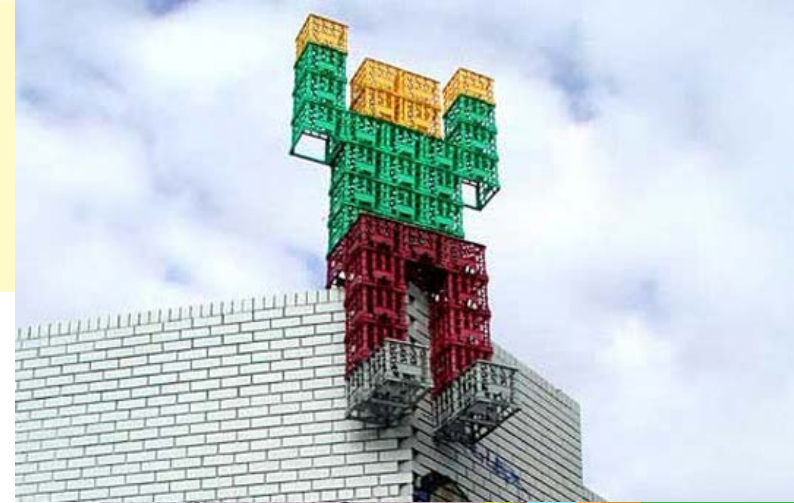


Darebin City Council's Drive With Your Heart program aims to turn streets into loungerooms to slow traffic.



## Google “Tactical urbanism”, “Place making”

City of Belmont





## Chair-bombing





# Speed dating

THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

## SPEED DATE

### A SUSTAINABLE DESIGNER

Are you renovating or building? Do you have ideas you'd like to discuss with green architects and designers? Speed Date a Sustainable Designer matches you up with Australia's leading sustainable architects and designers in a relaxed, 'no obligations' environment.

REGISTER ONLINE  
SDSD.ATA.ORG.AU

SUN 19 FEB  
1 PM - 3 PM  
THE ATRIUM,  
FED SQUARE  
FREE EVENT!

ATA bankmecu responsible banking

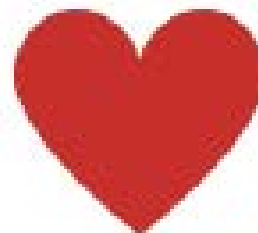


## Speed Planting for Singles

Plant a new plant with a new person every eight minutes and then join everyone for a tasty free lunch.



Could this be you?



## SPEED DATE A SUSTAINABLE WATER EXPERT

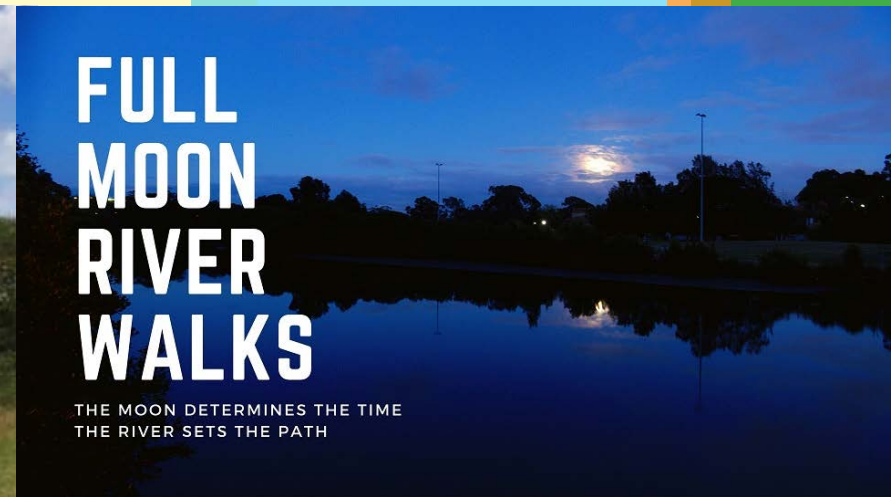
Saturday 3 March, 2pm to 4pm  
Camberwell



WEED DATING  
Common Ground  
Festival



# Taking people for a walk, or a paddle



## FULL MOON RIVER WALKS

THE MOON DETERMINES THE TIME  
THE RIVER SETS THE PATH



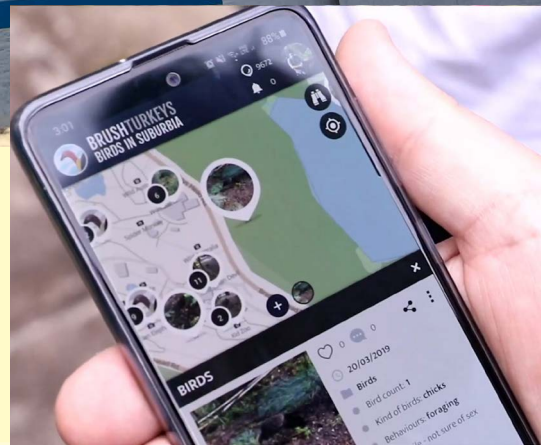


# Or a bicycle tour





# Some citizen science

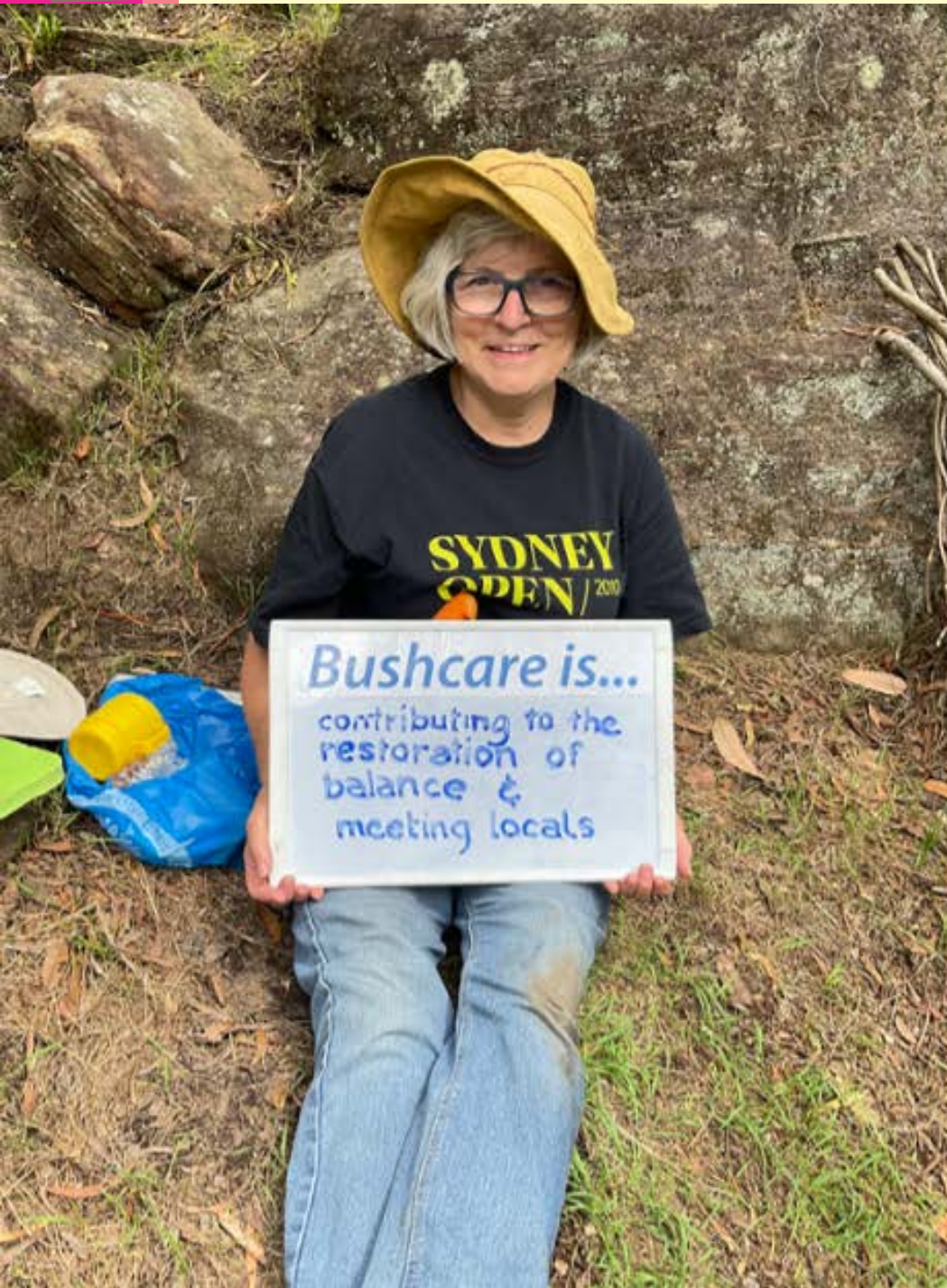




# Unconventional communications





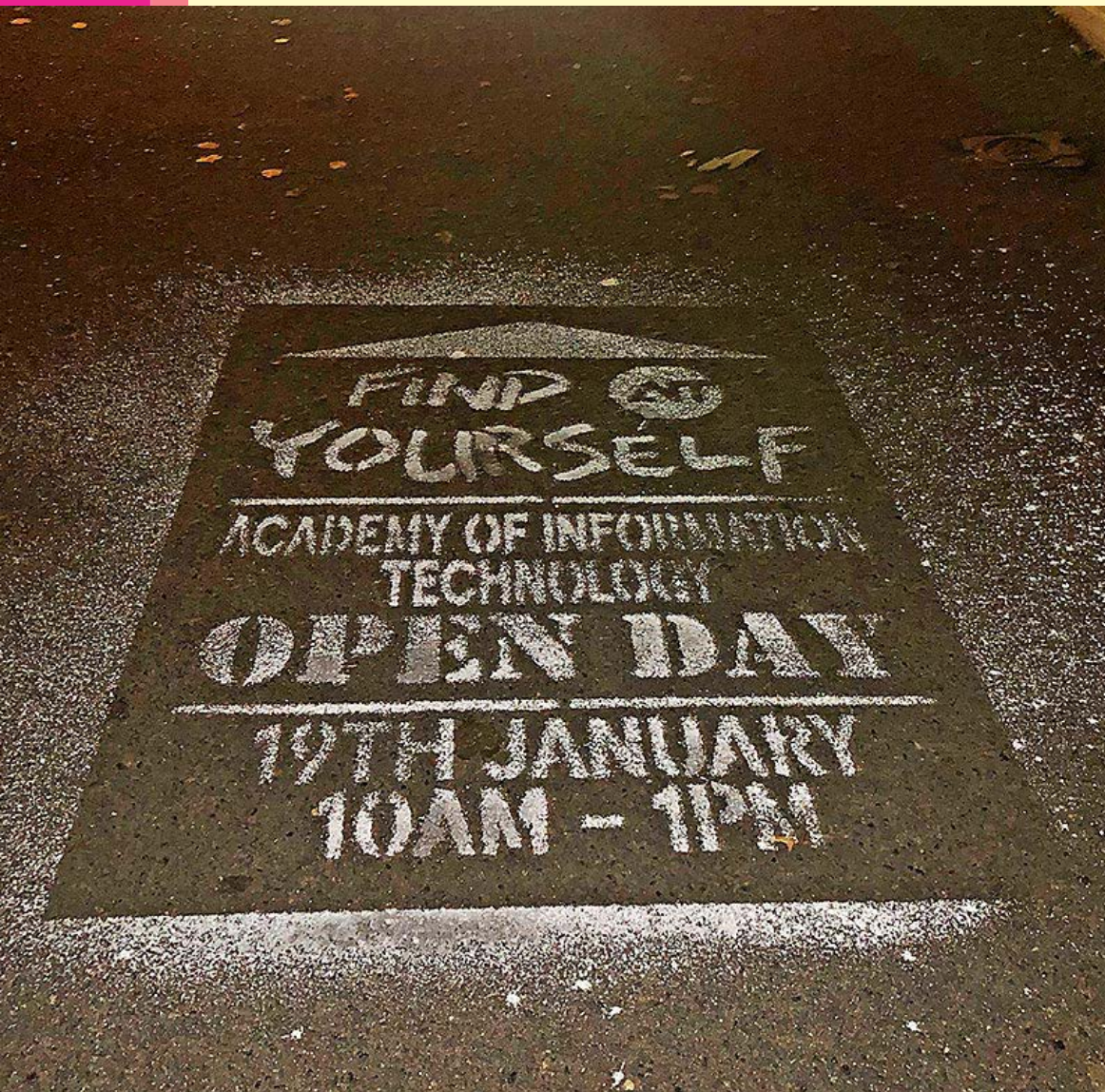








## Let the pavement do the talking









## Let the beach do the talking

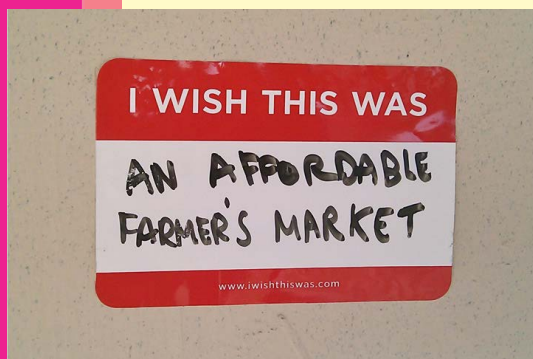


Or why not let the beach speak for itself?





## Stickers with a point <http://candychang.com>





I WISH THIS WAS

HEAVEN

[www.iwishthiswas.com](http://www.iwishthiswas.com)

I WISH THIS WAS

not so scary looking

[www.iwishthiswas.com](http://www.iwishthiswas.com)

I WISH THIS WAS

PROPERLY PAVED

[www.iwishthiswas.com](http://www.iwishthiswas.com)

I WISH THIS WAS

A Safe place  
For my Kids to play

[www.iwishthiswas.com](http://www.iwishthiswas.com)

I WISH THIS WAS

Brad Pitts House



[www.iwishthiswas.com](http://www.iwishthiswas.com)



## Guerilla stencilling <http://candychang.com>





“Before I Die” art project.

A huge public blackboard, inviting comments from passers by New Orleans artist Candy Chang.





## And in Werribee, Victoria





I LOVE MACON BECAUSE

#53 UPS MOLLY 3 CHRIS

20 miles from U.S.

1015 1031

Mr. Harlan

Way Down

E=MC²

Macon

There's only one way to love Macon



# IF MONEY & TIME WERE NOT AN ISSUE, WHAT WOULD YOU CREATE?

A wild animal sanctuary  
A place for every one to dance!  
YO HARIA  
lenaruna piscina con 



I SECOND THAT!

Quality Orphanages for all kids  
→ A HOME For Every Orphan

a life size CANDYLAND



Pokémon

A CURE FOR AGING  
would love eye  
eye. could duck  
rich uncle.

a more practical government  
Pescadores

Pollution Free

NARNIA



A castle for ALL

Princesses!

The Death Star

CREATE A DOG PARK IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD!  
An orchestra  
FREE PAPA RICH CONCERTS FOR ALL  
YES!

ICH WURDE  
die Apparat...  
in der Stadt keine...  
und sie brauchen, um  
alle meine Feinde  
zu bestrafen und töten.

MIDDLE EARTH  
HOGWARTS

The ARDIS









## Anything with chalk





## Chalking our thanks



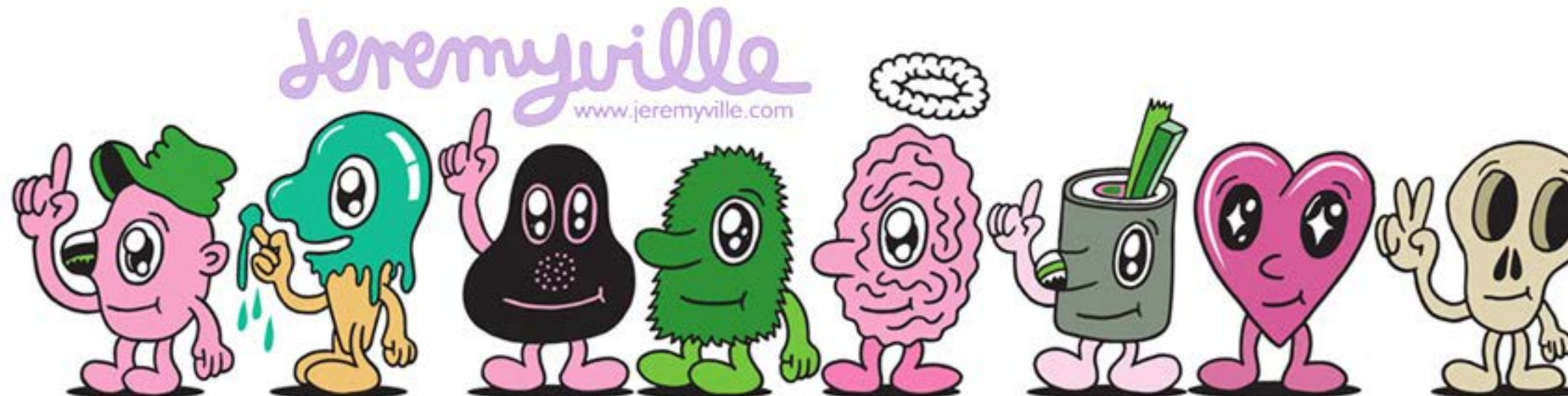




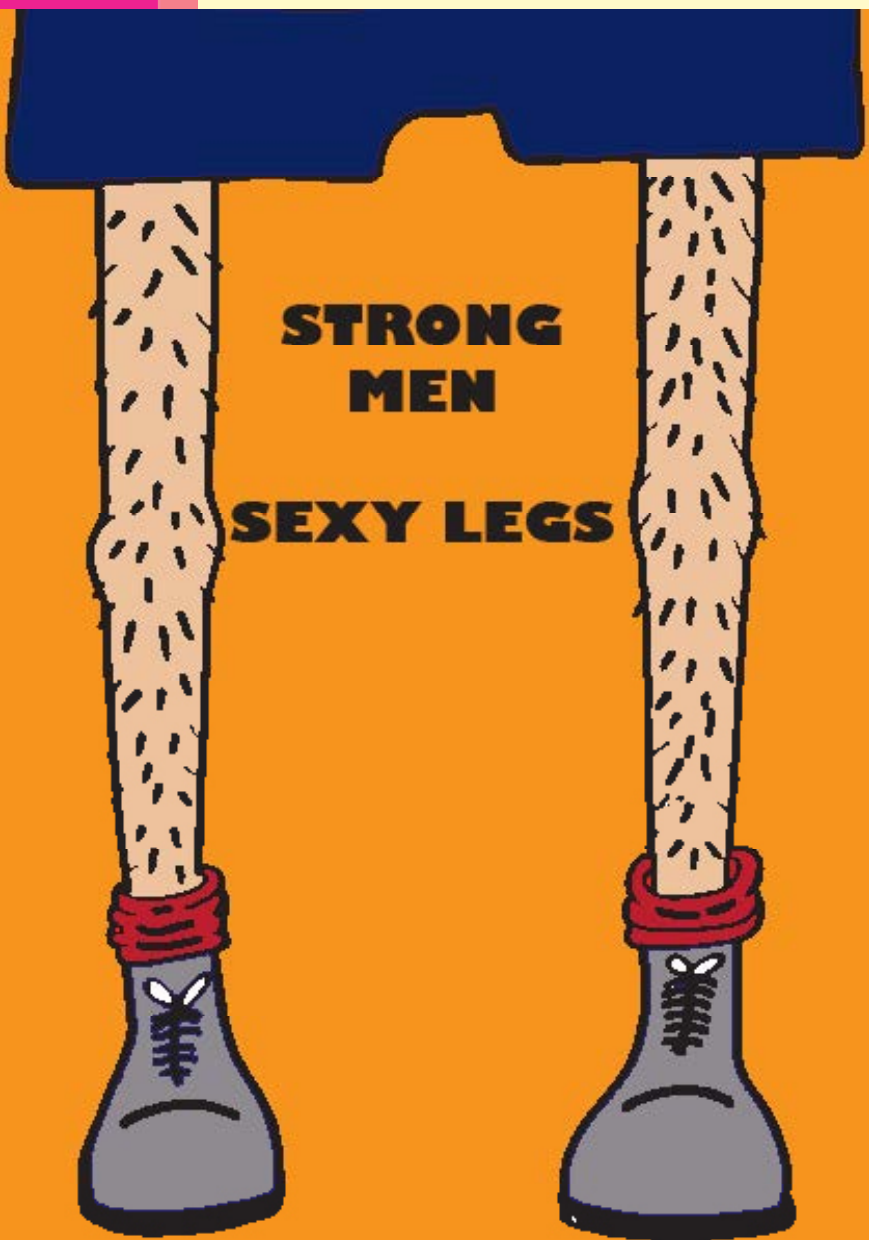


# Or throw out the style guide

Your look can be a conversation-starter in it's own right if it strongly challenges the stereotype. The wackier the better!







Northern Rivers Area Health  
Exercise program for older





## A hiviz logo

Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) makes smart use of its logo, as a reward and badge of approval.





## An iconic colour



The Pink Nose Project. Raising the profile of women surfers, PNG. Thanks Leigh Baker



I SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO  
BE SAFE AROUND TRAINS





## Anything involving nudity

OK. We're paying attention.



## World Naked Gardening Day



## World Naked Bike Ride





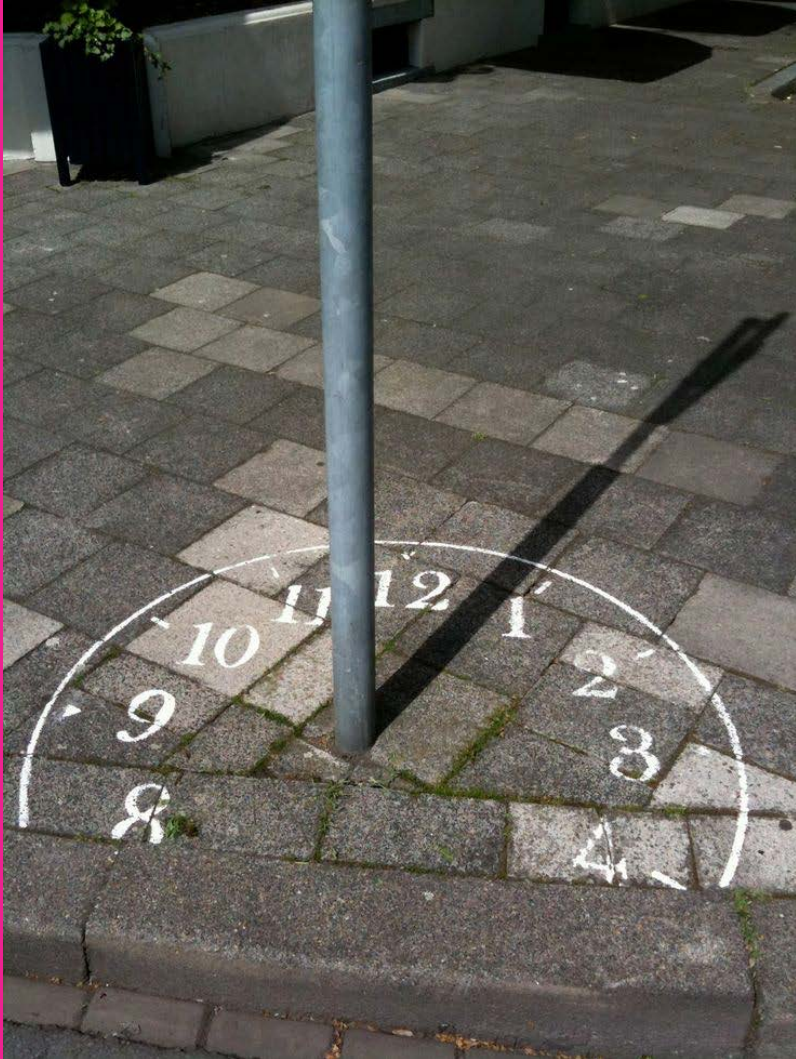
# Anything whimsical or out of the ordinary











[Google images: “guerilla marketing” for ideas.]



Slowing down  
traffic.



Iceland.

Turkey.





Hornsby Council

“A follow-up litter survey at Greenway Park recorded a 60% drop in total litter and an 85% drop in cigarette butts.”

Chalk Art by Zest Events International





Northern Beaches  
Council  
- Plastic Free July

Chalk Art by  
Zest Events  
International.





**City of Sydney's beautiful 'Yuk' installation, made of cigarette butts**

"One of the city's top 10 Facebook posts of all time, no negative comments!"



## Fun street installations





## Iconic sculptures



Little Tern, Hordern UK

Port Macquarie



## A soundscape!

**The Capertee rest stop plays the Regent Honeyeater's call as you walk past**

Thanks Viv Howard.  
This project was supported by Birdlife Australia, Central Tablelands Local Land Services and the National Landcare Program.





## What could you learn from the Gertrude Street Projection Festival?





## Yarn bombing







Queen Anne, Seattle

## Guerilla gardening





## Creative use of litter bins





# Melbourne Water - A litter bin that's also an educational sculpture



and like really look up close at the details of what's inside them.



## Creative use of bins

Lockyer Valley Regional Council







## Talking bin

Part of a behaviour change campaign in Westminster, UK, the talking bin rewards those who do the right thing with a grateful belch or funny sound.





## “Howzat!”

These litter bins use celebrity voices, including cricketer Tufnell shouting: “Howzat!”

<http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/fun/news/a342645/amanda-holden-phil-tufnell-voice-talking-bins.html#ixzz3VXryi0oD>





## World's Deepest Bin

A rubbish bin in Sweden has been designed to sound like the deepest bin in the world. When people put rubbish into the bin, it makes the sound of an object falling a loooong way down, ending with an echoing type 'landing' sound.

According to the designers, the bin collected 72kg of rubbish per day, 41 kg more than a normal bin a short distance away.

<http://www.thefuntheory.com/worlds-deepest-bin>



Who's the  
world's best  
soccer player?  
Opinions?

Hubbub, UK



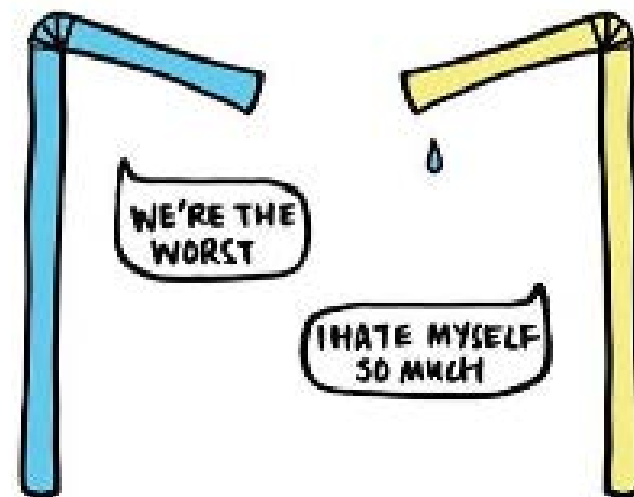


# Humour



## STRAWS SUCK

EPISODE 2  
LINDA AND CON GO ONLINE  
AND SEE IMAGES OF PLASTIC  
POLLUTION.



SCOTT

Take 3 for the Sea





Humour disarms even  
the most resistant  
listeners



South Australia's Motor Accident Commission shows how to do it.



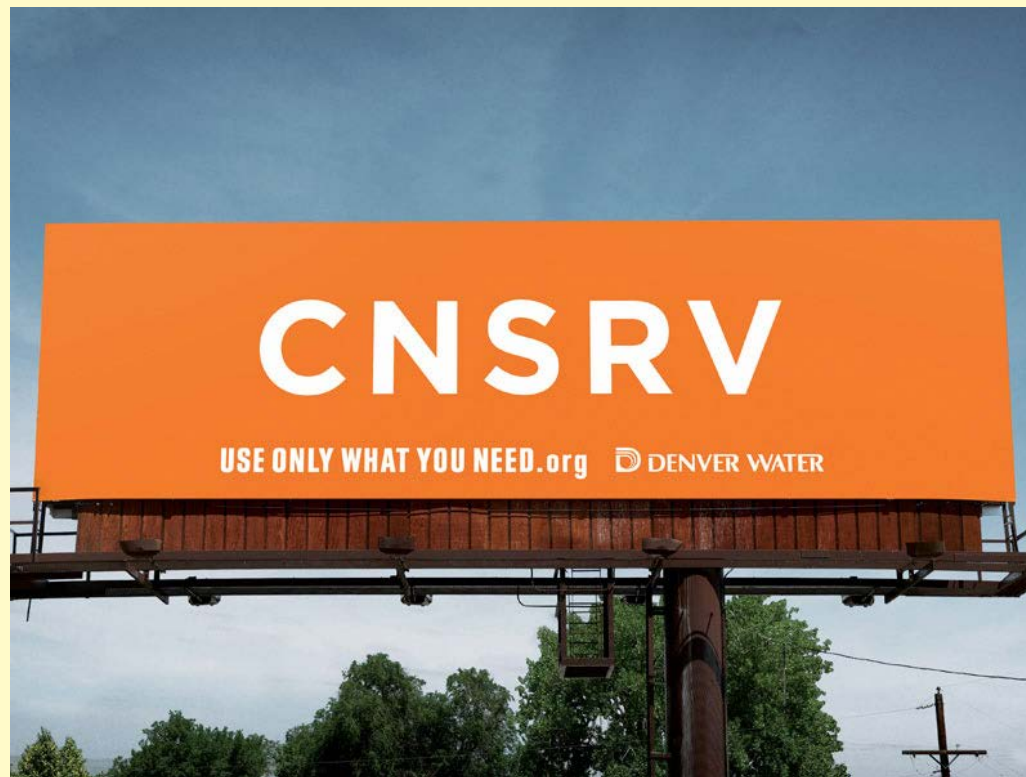




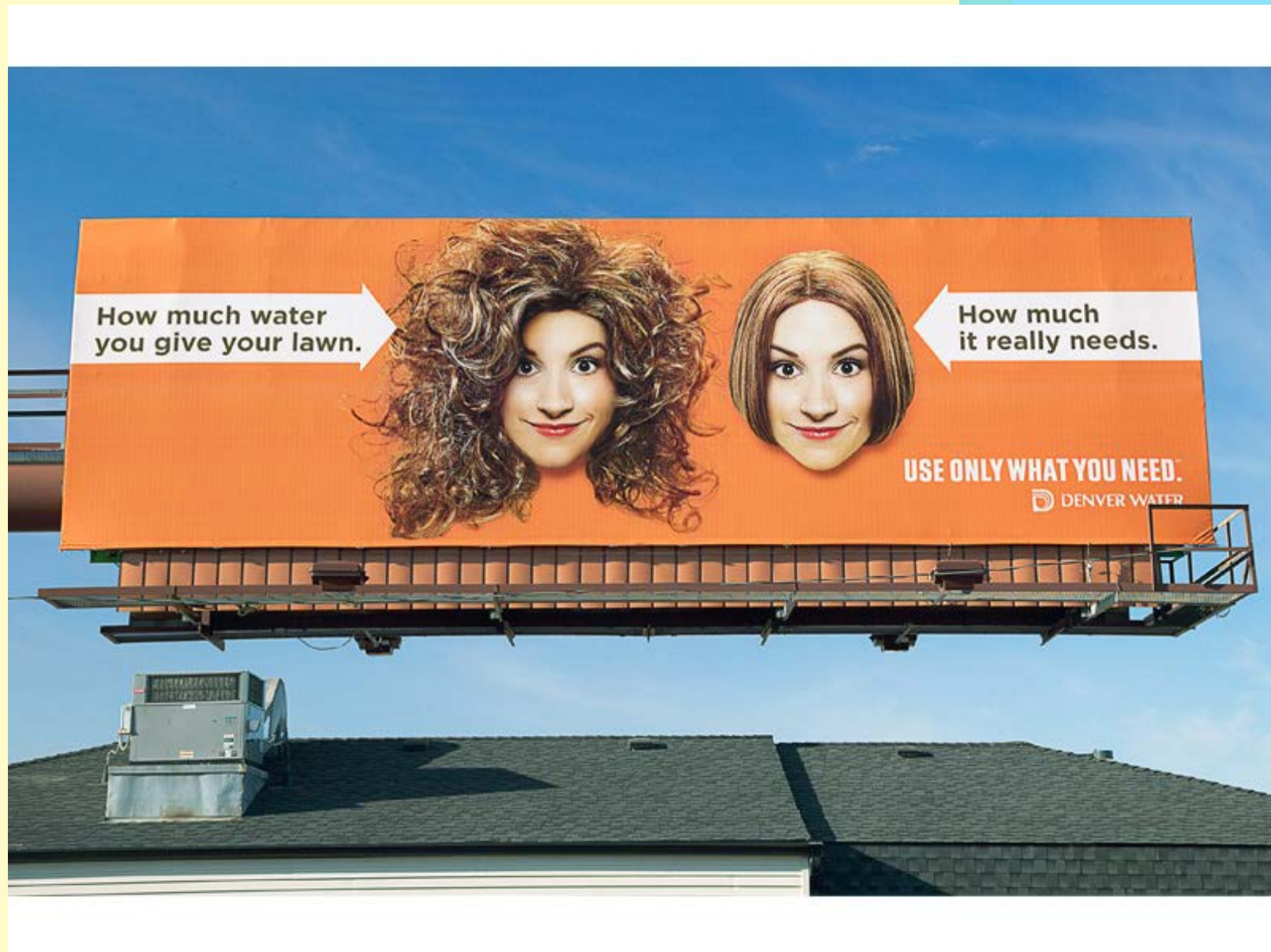




Denver Water's long running 'Use only what you need' campaign is a role model.















ANDIE  
PETKUS  
PHOTO  
GRAPHY

Crapman  
is the star  
of ZooVic's  
Wipe for  
Wildlife  
campaign.





# Gathering places

Where are they? Are they missing?

Let's create some!







## Singleton Council's Wood Smoke installation

"We set up a lounge room scene complete with an electric operated fake log fire and chimney (smokemachine) to create some attention. We approached people and discussed wood smoke and its impacts, and asked people to show us how they set their fire to minimise smoke generation. We didn't stop talking all day."



or lounges...



Lounging on High,  
main street consultation,  
Wodonga City





Boroondara City Council's Pop-up council



bean bags...milk crates  
...hay bales





## PARK(ing) Day

A popular community event that's spreading  
(e.g. PARK(ing) Day Adelaide 2012 on Youtube).









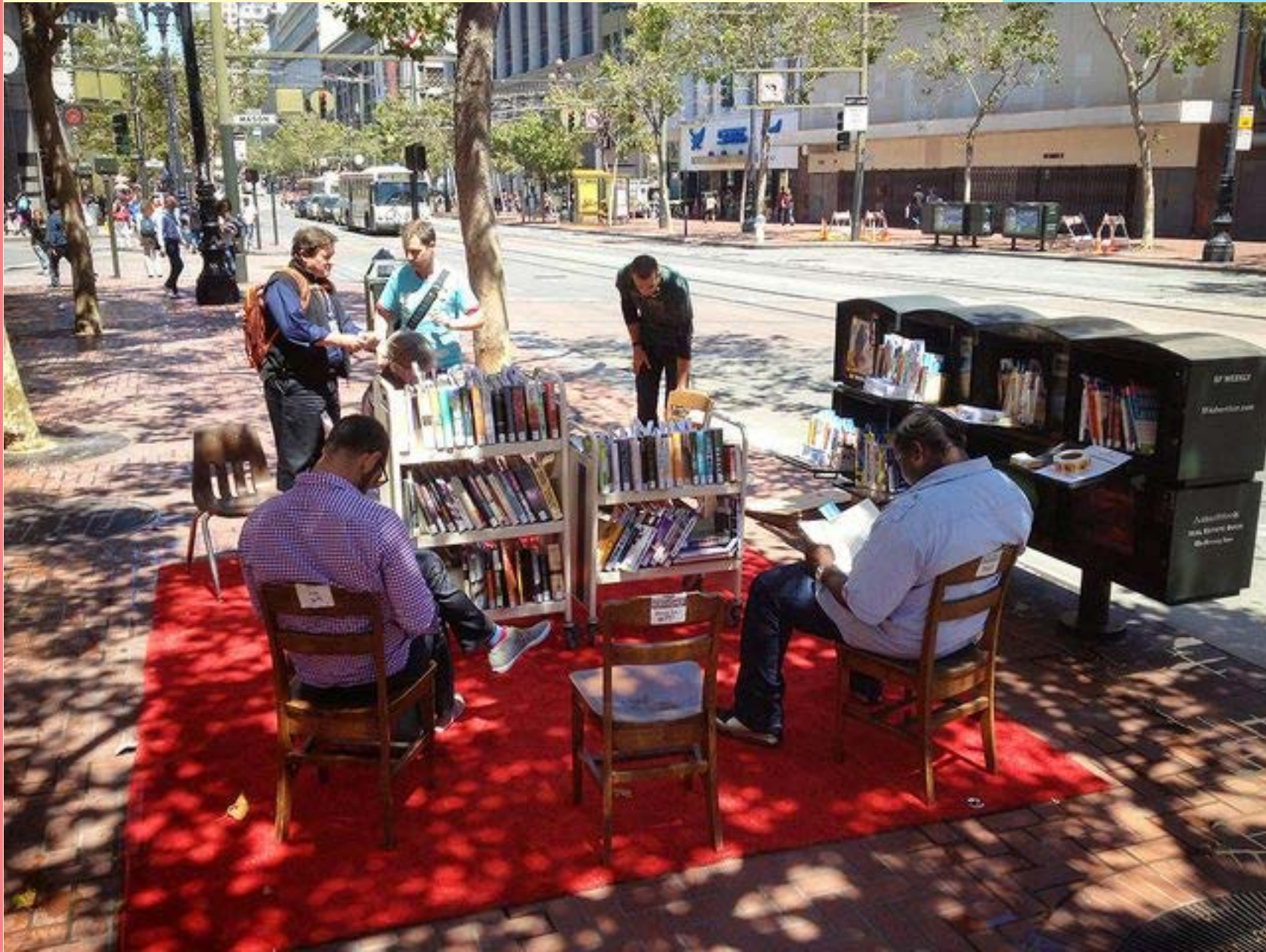
## Better Block Project

Volunteer efforts for rapid street changes and community revitalization. <http://betterblock.org/>





## San Francisco, outdoor reading room and pop up library on Market St.





# Break the rules of community consultation

## City of Vancouver - The Museum of Possibilities

When inaugurating its Quartier des Spectacles, the City of Montréal came up with The Museum of Possibilities — a daylong pop-up installation inviting visitors to share their dreams and visions for the future of the space.

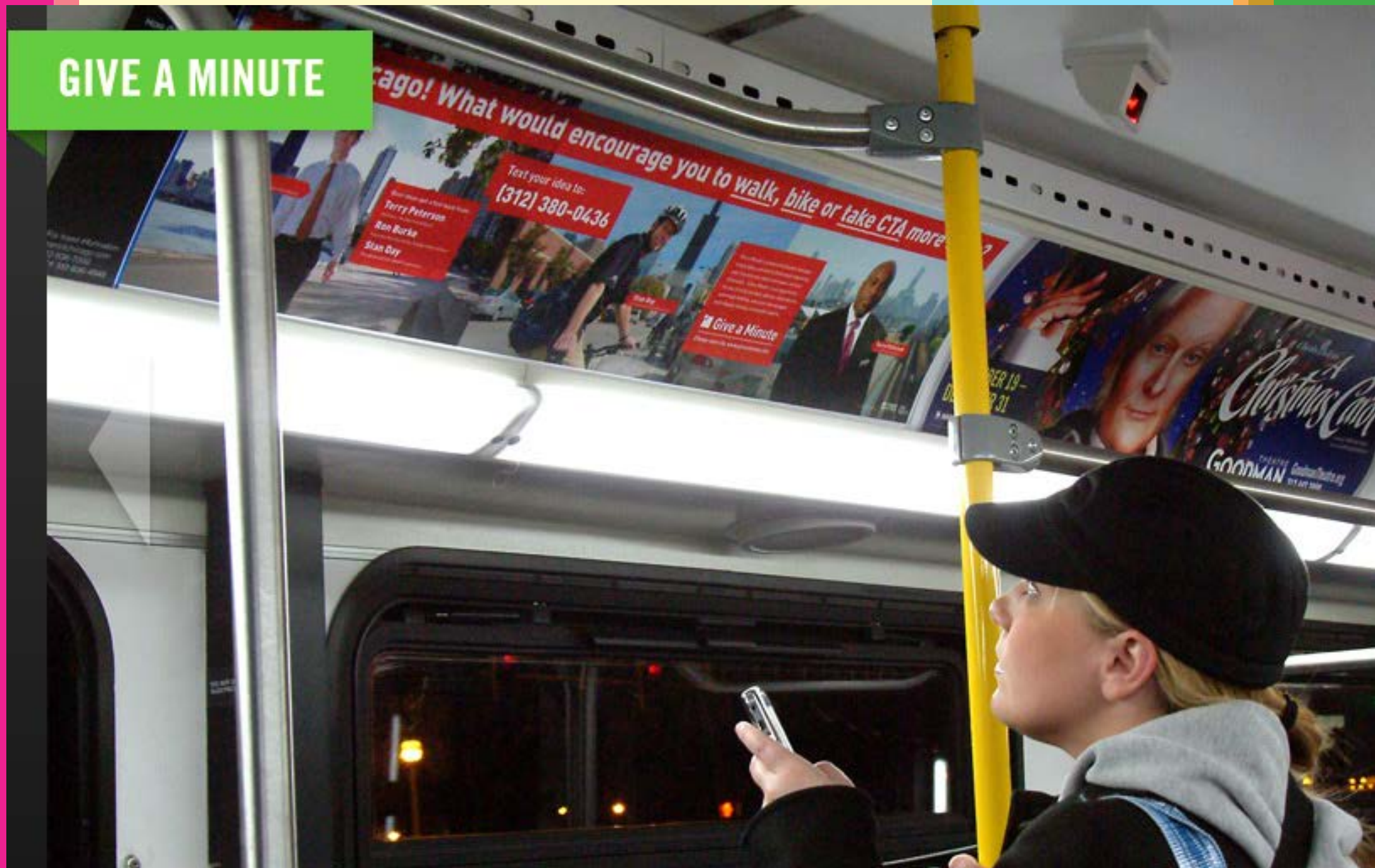




# A one-minute consultation via SMS

<http://localprojects.net/project/give-a-minute/>

GIVE A MINUTE



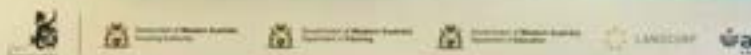






# THE HEART OF BEACONSFIELD

THE HEART OF BEACONSFIELD PROJECT IS A CITY OF FREEMANTLE PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## What will make Beaconsfield an even better place in the future?

We want your help to create a vision and masterplan for The Heart of Beaconsfield. Your ideas around these questions and any other thoughts will help our planning.



## Parent Pride

What about your child's learning year are you most PROUD of?



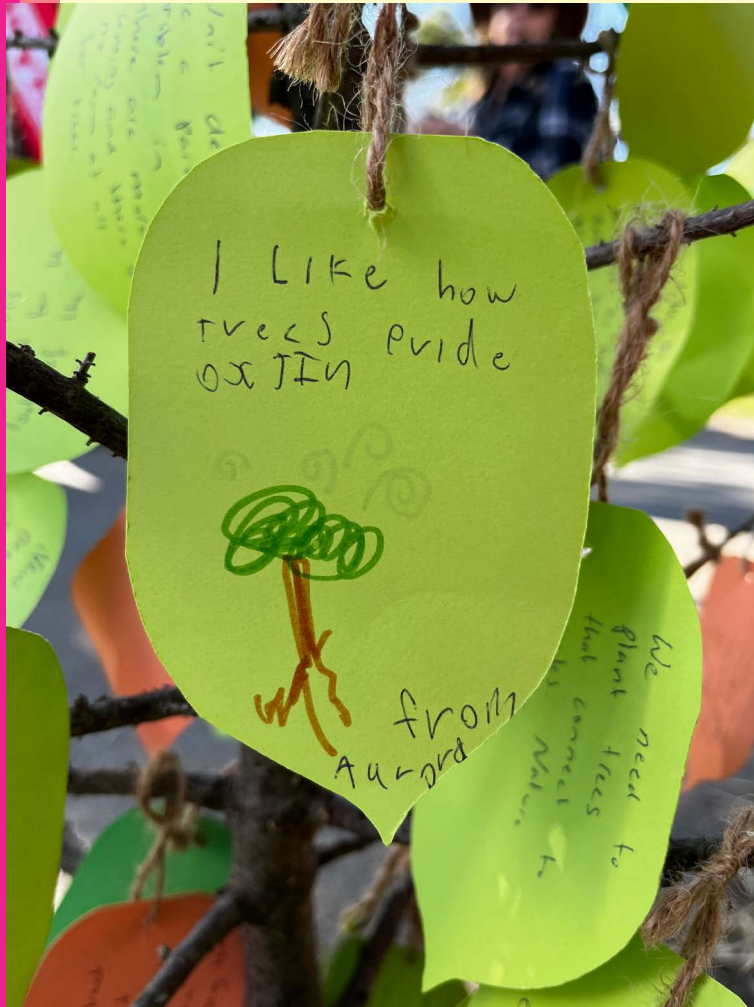


## Love letter box

Loughborough Junction, UK: [www.thehouseinthejunction.com](http://www.thehouseinthejunction.com)







## Leave a leaf

'Talk to us about trees'  
- Mitchell Shire Greening Strategy

Courtesy Amy Brand





## Framing the future

<http://engagingcities.com/article/actions-public-space-framing-lafayette-park>

"On a Saturday morning in late October, a couple friends and I hung five picture frames from trees in Lafayette Park.

"The frames prompt passer-byers to take a closer look at the park and perhaps even take a photo – of friends or the framed view – of a place with few “photo opps.”

"Booklets, hung just below the frames, say “Cheese!” and offer a space to comment on what this green space might be with the prompt: “I imagine this park could be...”





Could it involve  
craft materials?





## Could it involve Lego?





## Could it be game-like?



**'The participants move around small blocks that look like mini-buildings'**



A group of local stakeholders in Cape Town, aim for collaborative solutions by engaging with design of the Khayelitsha Business District, using a game called Play Khayelitsha.

Play Khayelitsha,  
Cape Town

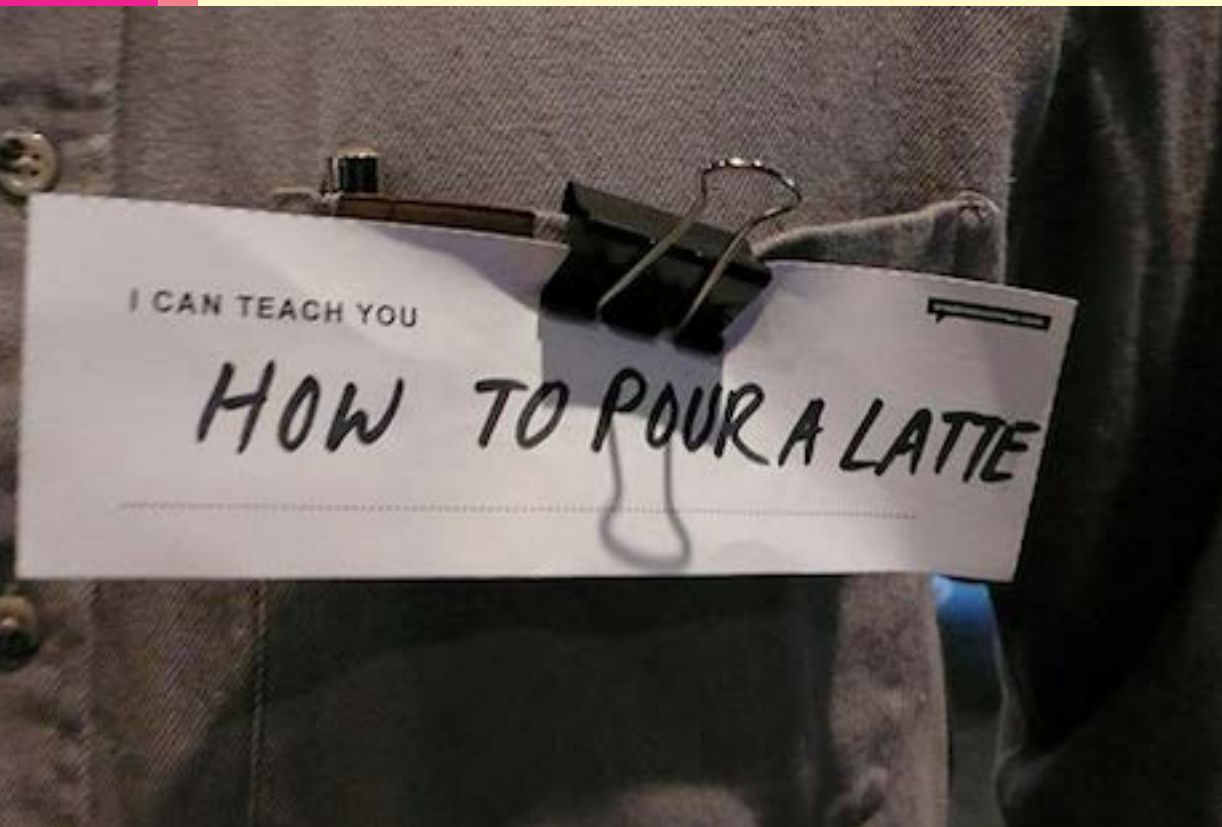


## Could it be like an auction?





And lastly, people always need **someone, or something, to break the ice.**



Icebreaker name tags.



An introducer.

