

## POPULAR STOCKS

AMP	5.29	+0.08
ANZ	23.24	-0.35
BHP Billiton	44.58	-0.86
BlueScope	1.645	+0.03
Brambles	6.85	+0.02

CBA	52.63	-0.04
Fairfax	1.125	-0.015
Fosters	5.45	0.00
IAG (NRMA)	3.52	+0.03
NAB	27.78	+0.77

Qantas	2.16	+0.07
Rio Tinto	79.57	-1.52
QBE	18.13	-0.24
Singapore Telecom	2.31	-0.04
Tabcorp Holdings	7.76	+0.01

## RBS Morgans

Telstra	2.97	+0.01
Westpac	23.92	+0.19
Westfield	9.06	+0.10
Wesfarmers	33.00	+0.20
Woolworths	26.95	-0.02



**Passionate people:** Severin Atty, Alison Perizi and Godbertin Wema enjoy coming to work each day to recycle e-waste. Picture: GREG TOTMAN

## What I'm hearing



By Business Editor GREG ELLIS

### Businesses share innovation stories

ILLAWARRA businesses have the chance to hear what has worked from other businesses across the state at a Regional Business Excellence Showcase this month.

The May 17 event, hosted by RDA Illawarra, AusIndustry and Enterprise Connect, will link Wollongong Innovation Campus' Ocean Room with other major regional centres such as Newcastle and Coffs Harbour, where businesses recognised as leaders in innovation will tell their stories and answer questions.

The statewide business community hook-up will profile two businesses in each region live to each of the venues, as well as a keynote speech from Neville Sawyer AM.

Invitations are being sent out, but the interactive and informative webcast is open to anyone in business.

More information is available from RDA Illawarra or at [www.rdaillawarra.com.au/innovation](http://www.rdaillawarra.com.au/innovation)

# Initiative good for health and planet

By GREG ELLIS

WHEN Renewable Recyclers business manager Alison Perizi starts work each day, she feels good to know everything about the social enterprise in Ralph Black Dr, Wollongong, is positive.

It is also one of the reasons why the organisation recently won the Illawarra Women in Business Best New Business Award.

Renewable Recyclers was established in March 2010 with five employees, but now boasts a team of 15 focused on reuse, recycling and recovery.

During the last year they have diverted more than 200 tonnes of toxic electronic-waste (e-waste) from landfill, provided 122 refurbished computers to the community and planted 360 trees.

Established with the help of jobs funding from the Federal Government, the enterprise is an initiative of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Australia (PRA) which believed many jobs could be created with an e-waste recycling facility.

Since 1955 the not-for-profit organisation has helped people with mental illnesses regain a valued place in society by providing a range of services to help them live, learn and work in their communities.

In Ralph Black Dr it is creating employment opportunities with a service to reduce the amount of e-waste going to landfill.

"E-waste is the fastest growing waste stream in Australia and the world," Mrs Perizi said.

"It is growing at three times the rate of normal household rubbish.

"About 70 per cent of the chemicals found in landfill are from e-waste."

Renewable Recyclers has created work for mature-aged workers and long-term unemployed and provided a work-for-the-dole opportunity for up to 10 people.

The smiles on the faces of Severin Atty, of Togo, and Godbertin Wema, of Burundi,

also show it is a workplace of opportunity for refugees.

Mr Wema was so delighted when he was offered a job tears flowed down his cheek as he thanked everyone he could find.

"Most of my work is dismantling. I really enjoy it," he said.

Renewable Recyclers is also helping to improve statistics that have revealed only 25 per cent of Australians with a psychiatric disability are in work.

All waste earmarked for recycling at Ralph Black Dr is manually disassembled into base materials and components.

Also, all employees are trained on the job in waste management accreditation, through TAFE.

"We are trying to upskill our people and give them the best chance to progress in the waste management industry," Mrs Perizi said.

Kiama Municipal Council, Liverpool City Council and the University of Wollongong were among the first to support the new social enterprise.

"Kiama Municipal Council engaged our services to manage its first ever e-waste collection ... and collected 37 tonnes last November during National Recycling Week," Mrs Perizi said.

"We also won a tender with Liverpool City Council and managed their first e-waste collection day and collected 60 tonnes in 24 hours. The University of Wollongong signed up to the first ever renewable recyclers membership."

Renewable Recyclers offers competitive rates for collection and recycling services, has its own truck and driver and donates a tree in a carbon neutral revegetation project every time a collection is booked.

E-waste includes televisions, toasters, phones, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, kettles and air-conditioners. Their components are being used to make everything from plastic pallets to fencing posts, and home and office decor items.



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