



Zootz Kitchen Bar Directors Kym Hewitt and Bec Paris-Hewitt

SNAPSHOT

Zero Waste SA Industry Program

Zootz

KITCHEN BAR

Zootz Kitchen Bar celebrates rapid green progress

A couple of surprises were in store for Zootz Kitchen Bar when it joined a new industry sustainability and waste management program in Adelaide.

First was a realisation of just how much food waste the restaurant was sending to landfill and the second was how quickly it was able to improve its recycling performance.

The Henley Beach restaurant is part of a new partnership between Zero Waste SA and Restaurant & Catering SA (RCSA) to improve sustainability in the hospitality sector.

Zootz Kitchen Bar was given specialist advice under Zero Waste SA's Industry Program to help it implement new waste management systems and to qualify for Green Table Australia certification (www.greentable.com.au).

Bec Paris-Hewitt and her partner Kym Hewitt have been running the restaurant

and takeaway food bar since 2003 and in the past everything except cardboard and bottles went to landfill.

"Following the waste assessment by Zero Waste SA we introduced comingled recycling and organic waste collection and the improvement was dramatic," says Kym. "Our recycling rate immediately jumped from an estimated 45% to 79%."

An 1100-litre general waste bin has been replaced by a 600-litre bin and smaller bins installed for comingled recycling and food waste which is collected by Jeffries for composting. These smaller bins have overcome issues of space.

"It was a big surprise to us just how much food waste was being generated – everything from leftovers and coffee grinds to peelings from food preparation," says Bec. "It all adds up – and in the past it all went to landfill."

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Eliminating food waste to landfill has been a priority for Zootz Kitchen Bar because it creates the highly potent greenhouse gas methane. The restaurant is introducing various other initiatives to minimise its environmental footprint including:

- low-energy LED lighting
- signs to turn-off lights in customer bathrooms
- dual-flush toilets
- paper bags rather than plastic for takeaways
- green chemicals for cleaning
- in-house training for staff.



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Zootz Kitchen Bar has overcome issues of space to install a comprehensive bin system for various waste and recycling streams back of house. Duty Manager Alex Den Hartog walks past some of the new bins.

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Industry support

Zootz Kitchen Bar is one of 10 restaurant and catering businesses in Adelaide which are being given support under the green partnership between Zero Waste SA and RCSA .

Eight of the businesses were given help in gaining Green Table certification while two others have won direct funding under the Industry Program to develop environmental best practices.

Improvements in their performance are being measured over the next 12 months to demonstrate the benefits of running a sustainable business to other RCSA members.

Bec Paris-Hewitt is currently studying a diploma in sustainability and is using her experience to assist the RCSA in rolling out the Green Table program to other members.

Zootz Kitchen Bar

Zootz is a busy café, restaurant and takeaway bar that opens seven days a week from breakfast through to late night events. The restaurant and staff have won various awards including 2004 Small Business of the Year in the restaurant category and it has twice been a finalist in the SA Catering Awards.

www.zootz.com.au

Zero Waste SA

A South Australian Government agency that advances improved waste management policies and the development of resource recovery and recycling. The Zero Waste SA Industry Program advises and supports companies to achieve sustainability goals in waste, water and energy.

www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au

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