



Fill 'er up ... a filtered drinking station in Bundanoon.

Bottler of idea as town doesn't go with the flow

BOTTLED water disappeared from shops in the southern highlands town of Bundanoon yesterday in what is believed to be a world-first ban.

The ban - organised by environment action group Do Something and resident Huw Kingston - followed an overwhelming vote of 355-1 by locals in July.

Do Something founder Jon Dee said: "The environmental impact of extracting, transporting, bottling and disposing of bottled water is very significant, particularly so when you think of the alternative which is just to turn on the tap and drink the water.

"Bottled water is a menace and a marketing con that's been visited on

Australians by the bottled water industry and what we are trying to do is expose that con for what it is."

Yesterday Bundanoon turned on four new free filtered public drinking stations. The local primary school has also installed a filtered water station for students.

And from yesterday, local shops will sell only refillable water bottles (a basic bottle carrying the label "Bundy on Tap" will cost \$3.50) and reusable bottles can also be refilled in stores without charge.

Mr Kingston said: "It is extremely heartening that our small town has become an international role model for grassroots action."

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