



Wasted bottles

ELTHAM North Primary School has recently joined the New South Wales town of Bundanoon in its campaign to replace bottled water with tap water and reusable drink bottles, and it seems the concept is gaining momentum.

The impacts of bottled water range from releasing 60,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually to over 50 million litres of oil used to produce, transport and refrigerate the product and the empty bottles are a significant litter item.

The increase in bottled water's popularity has also given rise to major environmental problems.

For one thing, Australia is drowning in a sea of plastic bottles, which create massive amounts of landfill and litter our

streets.

The good news is that Australian's have access to some of the best drinking water in the world which is available from the taps in their homes, so it makes sense to grab a robust reusable bottle and fill up each time you leave the house.

Recently, research company Pure Profile conducted a survey of 1000 Australians on bottled water usage for the Bottled Water Alliance, a not-for-profit organisation committed to reducing the impacts of single use plastic water bottles.

Over 89 per cent of respondents said they believe bottled water is a costly marketing con, with more than 97 per cent saying they believe it is overpriced, in fact in many cases a litre of bottled water can be

more expensive than one litre of petrol.

Filtering your own tap water can cost as little as two cents per litre at home, but buying bottled water cost up to \$2.50 per litre.

Some tips for you include:

- Buy a good quality reusable bottle and refill it from the tap at home, at work or school;
- If you prefer filtered water, buy an under sink filter or filter jug and run your tap water through before filling up;
- Ask for tap water when you are out for dinner in a restaurant or café;
- Provide reusable bottles at your school or workplace with your logo or branding; and
- Make sure you recycle all your plastic bottles.