

## AUSTRALIAN FIRST FOR VICTORIA'S SURFCOAST!

BIG4 Anglesea Holiday Park, a 140 site caravan park at Anglesea on Victoria's Surf Coast has been recognised as the nations' leader of environmentally sustainable tourist operations. A family owned and operated business for the past 20 years, in the summer months the Holiday Park accommodates up to 600 people.

International environment bench marking Green Globe 21 has recognised BIG4 Anglesea as the first caravan park in Australia to achieve benchmarked status under their rigorous environmental checking process. Green Globe is the global certification and improvement system assisting the international travel and tourism industry to attain environmental sustainability.

BIG4 Anglesea director, Tim Bone said, "Initially, we embarked upon a critical analysis of our current environmental practices. Then, we implemented many changes to our operations to make a difference and set about educating our clientele in environmental care. Not only are we contributing significantly to the economy of the local town, but we are providing an educational experience.

"We made a long-term commitment to the program to ensure that each year our results will improve. It is important that these types of accreditations are not seen as a once off, but rather as a long term project that is constantly being monitored for improvement"

BIG4 Anglesea Holiday Park has benchmarked its energy and water consumption, waste production and disposal as well as implementing an integrated environmental and social policy. Chemical usage is assessed for the percentage of biodegradable products used and paper consumption is also carefully monitored for both its consumption rate and opportunities being used for recycling. These measures will deliver ongoing reduction of non-renewable resources, extensive cost savings and secure a sustainable commercial and ecological future.

The holiday park has implemented an independent recycling regime as well as placing compost bins throughout the property. Worm farms provide fertiliser for the gardens and lawns, while a mulcher is used to redirect green waste destined for landfill. Trees and branches are routinely fed through the mulcher and returned to garden beds.

Cathy Parsons, Chief Executive Officer of GGAP International says, "BIG4 Anglesea Holiday Park is an inspiration to all those people committed to environmentally sustainable tourism. The commitment they have shown in signing up to participate in the Green Globe program and their achievements set an example for other businesses to follow."

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