Body Image Breakthrough

LOVE YOUR BODY, ENJOY YOUR LIFE
GREEN STORE CO-OPERATIVE

Celebrity chef Aldo Zilli recently joined schoolchildren to re-open the Co-operative, a food store in the UK town of Louth. After undergoing a $1,000,000 revamp, the store now features a fair trade coffee bar, low-flow toilets, eco-refrigeration and organic foods.

CHEAP TRENDS

Buying cheap clothes and replacing them when a fashion trend has passed is creating a “landfill nightmare”, according to a report from the Council of Textiles and Fashion Industries of Australia. The report on the “throwaway clothing” trend suggests that teenage and young women are the biggest culprits, with women under the age of 30 buying an average of 102 clothing items each in 2007.

SPAIN ELECTRIC CAR

Spain is the latest European country to establish ambitious plans to reduce its energy consumption and oil imports. The country aims to have 1,000,000 electric or hybrid cars on its roads by 2014.

ADVENTURE RACE

Australian Formula One racer Mark Webber is raising money to support breeding facilities for the endangered Tasmanian devil at Australia Zoo. The Challenge is an adventure race covering more than 350km of terrain and includes hiking, kayaking, mountain biking and a few “mystery” challenges for good measure.

WASTE NOT RUBBISH REDUCTION

The University of Auckland is doing its bit to reduce waste, with staff replacing personal rubbish bins in favour of a smart sorting system. The new system minimises the amount of rubbish thrown out, with a desktop tray for paper and a cube for non-recyclable rubbish. “Reducing waste is a priority for the university. Last year, our rubbish filled enough wheelie bins to reach all the way from the university to the airport and most of the way back,” says Dr Lesley Stone, the university’s Environmental Co-ordinator.

NATURE BIRD’S-EYE VIEW

Researchers who slipped painted eggs into birds’ nests found that song thrushes can identify eggs of “rogue” species, such as cuckoos, that are notorious for fooling other birds into hatching their eggs. The song thrushes rejected the foreign eggs, particularly those with differences in reflecting ultraviolet or short-wavelength light. “Birds have a very different visual sense. For example, they can see ultraviolet wavelengths where we cannot,” says Dr Mark Hauber of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland.

“Our research shows that the peculiar ability of birds to perceive broad-spectrum colour is vital to recognising their own eggs, and means that they can identify small differences and wavelengths that humans wouldn’t be able to distinguish.”

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