

# Staying cool in summer

Campbell's Creek resident Lee Fox was excited to register with Castlemaine 500, but it took her five days to sit down with her partner and go over their Home Energy Action Plan.

Developed during a Castlemaine 500 Home Energy Assessment at their home, the action plan listed important energy saving actions for the house.

"My partner asked me a few times when might be a good time to have a meeting about the contents of our Castlemaine 500 Assessment and Action Plan, but still I found it difficult to make any firm commitment to it," Lee said.

"We'd already begun to swap our light globes for the more energy-efficient ones, but I wondered how much more were we going to have to do and how much money we were going to need to spend."

To Lee's surprise and relief, their Home Energy Assessment wasn't as bad as she'd imagined it would be.

"Sure, we weren't in

a position to retrofit the house with all the latest energy efficient technology," she said.

"But there was a lot we could do; things like topping up the insulation in the ceiling, draught-proofing the doors and windows, and making sure we ran our fridge and hot water service at the recommended temperatures.

"And we've also turned off the outside fridge we keep on just in case we needed cold drinks for unexpected visitors."

## AWARENESS

When asked about the impact that Castlemaine 500 has had, Lee said her awareness about energy use had increased dramatically.

"We've found that the small changes in our daily habits have not been difficult or costly, and that the biggest challenge was to shake ourselves out of our own complacency.

"Although the issue of climate change is still of concern we feel much less bur-



Turning off appliances when they're not in use can save an enormous amount of electricity.

dened by it because we've found simple ways to save energy in our home."

Geoff Brown, a Castlemaine 500 Team member, said that Lee's story was becoming a common one as more and more households register with Castlemaine 500, learn about their

own energy use and start saving energy.

"The Castlemaine 500 Home Energy Assessment Team will be visiting 50 homes in January and February," he said.

"Any household in Castlemaine, Chewton or Campbell's Creek can book an assess-

ment on the Castlemaine 500 website, or by calling the project team on 5470 5934."

The dates of Home Energy Assessments are January 18, 19, 24, 25 and February 1 and 2. Places are limited to 50 homes.

You can read more about Castlemaine 500 and register

online by going to: [www.castlemaine500.org.au](http://www.castlemaine500.org.au) or by visiting the project display at the Castlemaine Library.

Castlemaine 500 is a community project run by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance and Mount Alexander Shire, and funded by DSE.