



KEEP WINTER COOL

FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING WINTER'S SHORT ENOUGH ALREADY

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BE A HERO, SAVE THE SNOWMAN

Children at Falls Creek have been given the opportunity to be amongst the first in the world to go online and find out ways they can save the snowman.

Falls Creek Primary School yesterday helped launch a new free online computer game to help children understand ways they can reduce their impact on climate change and continue to enjoy snow activity well into the future.

The game has been developed as part of the "Keep Winter Cool" climate change initiative which is a partnership between the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council (ARCC), the Australian Alps Liaison Committee (AALC), and the Australian Ski Areas Association (ASAA).

Chairman of the ARCC, Andrew Fairley said "Keep Winter Cool" recognises that climate change will affect alpine resorts.

"Unchecked, climate change and global warming will result in shorter seasons, less snowfall and less skiing days," Mr Fairley said.

"As individuals we are all able to make a difference but we need to act now."

Mr Fairley said the game "Keep Winter Cool or the Snowman Gets It" will help children understand that every time they use energy they are producing greenhouse gases which add to global warming.

"The game is really engaging, kids think it looks cool and best of all it helps them develop a connection between the causes and effects of climate change while having fun playing the game," he said.

The game has been developed by a team of computer animation undergraduate students at Swinburne University and was made possible by a partnership with the Victorian Government's Energy Saving Campaign, better known as the 'black balloons' campaign.

Peter Ciszewski, Program Coordinator of Multimedia and Games at Swinburne University said the student designers have incorporated educative elements into animation and game play techniques to produce the game.

"We have designed this game to appeal to late primary school and early secondary school students, but I think lots of adults may also enjoy playing it," Mr Ciszewski said



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“The game requests the player to be a hero and save black balloons by performing a number of energy saving actions such as switching off lights and appliances before the snowman melts because of the effects of climate change.

“The designers are university students and only a handful of years older than kids who they are designing the game for – I think this has given them invaluable insight about what appeals to kids.

“The game really gives kids the understanding and empowers them by letting them know that their individual actions can reduce their impact on climate change.”

‘Keep Winter Cool or the Snowman Gets It’ is available to play free online at www.keepwintercool.com.au.

For further information please write to:

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Authorised

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