



# NetWaste

## Education Cards

### for the

# Year

# of Toys

**In Australia, it's estimated  
that nearly 27 million toys  
are thrown out every year**

[www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)





## Recycle Mate 4+

Encouraging better recycling

Adaptation Environmental Support Pty Ltd

#127 in Education

★★★★★ 3.8 • 52 Ratings

Free

If you want to know what can and can't be recycled wherever you are in Australia, then you should download the Recycle Mate App. Scan the barcodes and items to learn the best way to dispose of them safely.

[www.recyclemate.com.au](http://www.recyclemate.com.au)





# Although lots of toys are thrown away, we can make a huge difference through the choices we make....

*To keep toys circulating in the community instead of going directly to landfill waste, repairing toys may be a viable option. Try searching for reputable, trusted toy repairers in your local area. If you have toys with missing pieces, you could consider replacing them with new pieces before passing on the toy.*



Visit - [www.cleanup.org.au/a-circular-economy-for-toys](http://www.cleanup.org.au/a-circular-economy-for-toys)



## Big W runs the Toys For Joy program

Toys that are suitable for another life are given to the Salvation Army for them to sell in their stores. Remaining toys that can be recycled under the scheme are used to make new products. For example, suitable toys or parts of toys may be converted into yarn to make carpets and underlay.

<https://www.bigw.com.au/sustainability/planet/toys-for-joy>





# Fun Toy Fact

The yo-yo has been described as the second oldest toy in history. Children played with them in ancient Greece. In the Philippines it was used as a weapon. Children in Australia have been playing with yo-yos since the 1920s. It was the first toy in outer space.



The Yoyo pictured here is made from recycled plastic using a custom mould made by Precious Plastics in Melbourne  
[www.plastic.org.au](http://www.plastic.org.au)



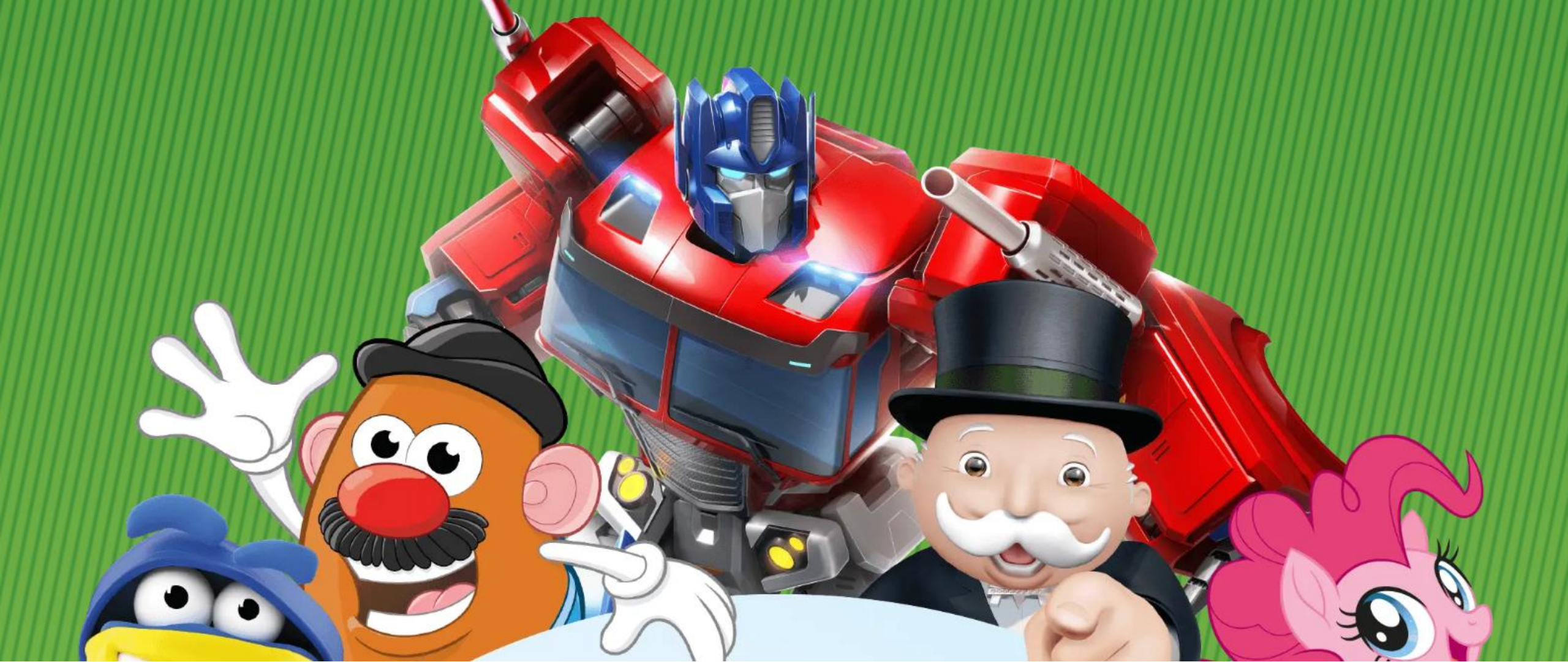
# Etsy

[www.etsy.com/au](https://www.etsy.com/au)

**Sites like Etsy can help you find toy ideas that are sustainable and fun**

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1650080466/glueless-cardboard-off-road-suv-car>





**Hasbro is one of several toy companies that have a Toy Recycling program, check it out online - <https://hasbrotoyrecycling.hasbro.com/en-us/toy-recycling>**

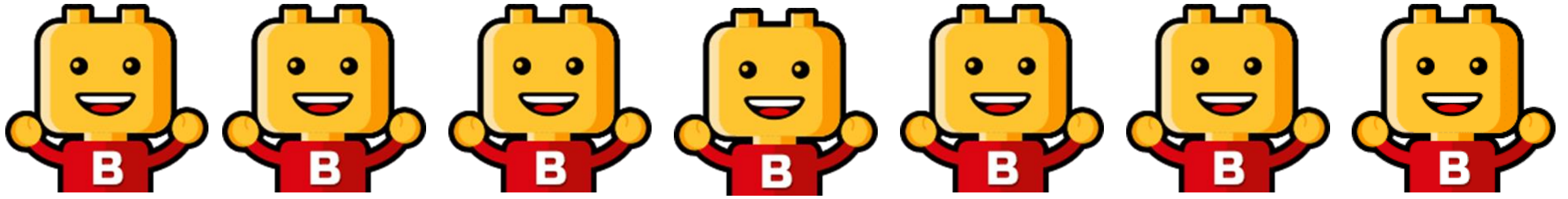


# Have you considered Toy Swapping?

Joy of Giving is an independent, not-for-profit community for exchanging toys for children from all walks of life. Why not connect with them, learn from their experience and events and see if you could run a toy swap.

[www.joyofgiving.net](http://www.joyofgiving.net)





*One company doing a great job of recycling toys is*

# ***Bricktastics!***

*They have recycled over 44,000kg of Pre-Loved LEGO® as of July 2023.*

*Offering Creatively focused LEGO® & Brick Packs enables us to do so much more good in the world than just opening a regular retail store. Damien Azzopardi - CEO*



[bricktastics.com/pages/about-us](https://bricktastics.com/pages/about-us)



# Cloth Toys

*Cloth toys are a great option for parents looking for a safe and gentle alternative for their little ones. Unlike plastic or metal toys, cloth toys do not have any sharp edges or toxic chemicals, they are easy to wash and repair, too.*

*Considerations: When selecting cloth toys, choose those that are made from natural fibers like cotton, wool, or bamboo and have non-toxic dyes. Also, check that any attached parts are age-appropriate for your child.*

[www.seasandstraws.com/eco-friendly-toys.html](http://www.seasandstraws.com/eco-friendly-toys.html)



# TerraCycle's mission is to eliminate the idea of waste

You can order a specialized box from TerraCycle to collect toys you would like to recycle. The toys are sent to TerraCycle who have specialised processes for recycling problem wastes, like toys.

[www.terracycle.com/en-AU](http://www.terracycle.com/en-AU)







***More than 50% of  
toys are discarded  
within 12 months of  
purchase, ending  
their life in landfill.***

**<https://sparkpop.com.au/recycle-your-pre-loved-toys/>**





**Households  
find low-waste  
living  
challenging**

**By making  
small changes  
you can make a  
difference**

<https://www.architectureanddesign.com.au/features/features-articles/households-find-low-waste-living-challenging>





***This is one of the oldest dolls in Australia. It is made of wood. The face is painted and the fabric may have been taken from an old dress. It uses all natural materials and was made in 1805!***

**<https://museumsvictoria.com.au/learning/little-history/australian-toys/>**

Making use of a Toy Library is a great way to save money and cut down on the waste you generate <https://www.toylibraries.org.au/>

# Toy Libraries **AUSTRALIA**

*Take play home!*





**According to UNESCO 80% of marine pollution is made up of plastic.....**

<https://oceanliteracy.unesco.org/plastic-pollution-ocean/>



**90% of the toys on the market are made of plastic. Plastic toys can contain heavy metals such as lead or cadmium or other harmful chemicals such as dioxins.**

**[www.theworldcounts.com](http://www.theworldcounts.com)**





**Jurassic World launched the Ocean Protector Mosasaurus made from 1 pound (454 g) of ocean-bound plastic (plastic that is sourced within 50 km of waterways in areas lacking formal waste collection systems)**



**<https://corporate.mattel.com/sustainable-materials-in-toys>**

# While largely out of sight, embedded lithium-ion batteries are all around us

They power many of our everyday devices such as:

- **toys**
- baby monitors and cameras
- bluetooth devices (headphones, speakers, etc)
- computer accessories (wireless keyboards, mice, etc)
- digital cameras
- electric bikes and scooters
- smartwatches
- tablets
- videogame controllers

Find out more –

[www.cleanaway.com.au/sustainable-future/embedded-lithium-batteries/](http://www.cleanaway.com.au/sustainable-future/embedded-lithium-batteries/)

<https://bcycle.com.au/>





# Visit B-cycle to learn about battery safety

*If battery terminals touch, they can spark and catch fire. To prevent this, tape the terminals of used batteries. Always use clear sticky tape.*

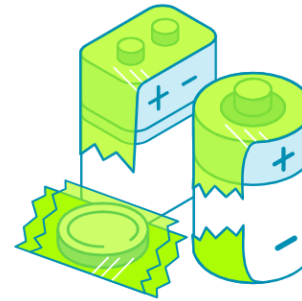


**Three simple steps to help  
protect you and your loved ones:**



**Don't toss them**

in general waste and recycling bins



**Tape them**

using clear sticky tape



**Take them**

to your nearest B-cycle accredited  
Drop off point.

Find out more –

<https://bcycle.com.au/how-you-can-b-cycle/battery-safety/>

# Toys are hard to recycle and can't go in your kerbside (home) recycling bin

They have different materials like different plastic types, wires and metals that can't be broken down in the regular recycling system.

Many toys contain batteries that can't go in any of your bins at home.

<https://www.visy.com/services/household-recycling>





playmobil  
Junior



Spielzeug mit **90 % pflanzen-**  
**basiertem** Material\*

Toy with **90% plant-**  
**based** material\*

Jouet avec **90 % de matière**  
**d'origine végétale**\*

## Play sustainably

Join us on our sustainable mission!  
Each toy is crafted from 90% plant-  
based material. Ready? Let's  
explore a play world that cares for  
the planet.

There are so many good news stories about Toys if you take the time to look. German toymaker Playmobil is using 90% plant based materials instead of plastics!



[https://www.playmobil.com/en-gb/content/sustainability\\_themepage/sustainability\\_themepage.html](https://www.playmobil.com/en-gb/content/sustainability_themepage/sustainability_themepage.html)

# There is an alternative to chemicals in toys

*The toy company LEGO has products made from sugarcane “plastic”. The company has committed to abandon regular plastic completely by 2030.*



<https://www.lego.com/en-au/sustainability/sustainable-materials>





instagram/nswnetwaste



facebook/netwaste



**NetWaste**

## Follow us on socials

Help us spread the word online,  
together we can do the right things  
to reduce our waste.

[netwaste.com.au](http://netwaste.com.au)

# Bibliography and image acknowledgements

- 1 [www.netwaste.com.au](http://www.netwaste.com.au)
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- 21 <https://bcycle.com.au/how-you-can-b-cycle/battery-safety/>
- 22 <https://www.visy.com/services/household-recycling>
- 23 [www.playmobil.com/en-gb/content/sustainability](http://www.playmobil.com/en-gb/content/sustainability)
- 24 <https://www.lego.com/en-au/sustainability/sustainable-materials>