



MEDIA RELEASE
[For immediate release]

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“DOG POO PROJECT RECIPIENT OF AWESOME GRANT”

A new Melbourne project, *Poo Power!*, which uses discarded dog waste from parks as a renewable energy source is the latest recipient of the Awesome Foundation, Melbourne Chapter. The grant will be awarded to Duncan Chew who developed the project after watching people readily scoop their dog’s poo in plastic bags only to send it to landfill but wanting to find a more sustainable way.

Duncan Chew discovered there is over 1, 350 tonnes of dog waste to be disposed of every day in Australia - nearly half a million tonnes per year. Using this un-tapped resource, the project involves building a digester to convert the dog waste into a biogas. It will then be used in a Melbourne park in a public lighting installation as a community meeting place for use by dog owners and other visitors.

“In researching the scope of the project we were intrigued by the strong sense of community amongst dog owners that congregate at these parks,” says Duncan Chew. “We want to nurture this relationship and build a biogas fueled ‘campfire’ where people can come together at this unique meeting space.” The \$1000 grant will be used to contribute towards the cost of building the poo-powered campfire.

According to their website, the Awesome Foundation is “a worldwide network of people devoted to forwarding the interest of awesomeness in the universe” by distributing monthly \$1,000 grants to projects and their creators. Discover more at: www.awesomefoundation.org.

Further updates on *Poo Power!* will be posted on the website: www.poopower.com.au.

Poo Power! is supported by Yarra Energy Foundation. For more information about other YEF projects visit their website: www.yef.org.au.

Duncan Chew would like to thank Liam Fennessy, Soumitri Varadarajan and Chris Herman from RMIT Industrial Design for their contributions to *Poo Power!*

Duncan Chew is the proud owner of two boxers: Sally (12) and Diesel (5).

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