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Eligible beverage containers from Bam Bam Italian help fuel Emerald SES – and cut restaurant costs!

In a world where sustainability and community engagement are increasingly important, businesses are finding innovative ways to give back to their local communities while reducing their environmental footprint. One example is Bam Bam Italian's inspiring partnership with Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme in collaboration with the Emerald SES (State Emergency Service).

Bam Bam Italian, a forward-thinking restaurant in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges, has teamed up with the Emerald SES to participate actively in the state's container deposit scheme. This partnership promotes environmental stewardship and supports the crucial services provided by the SES to the community.

The initiative is straightforward yet impactful. The Emerald SES has established a dedicated container deposit location in Emerald, operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly. Here, community members can return eligible containers and receive a refund of 10 cents per container. Additionally, Emerald SES gets 3 cents per container deposited at its collection point. The funds generated from this initiative are allocated towards covering the SES's annual running costs, including fuel, amounting to approximately \$90,000. In the five months since starting the collection point on the 1st of November 2023, Emerald SES has earned almost \$15,000 from processing 310,000 containers – a vital fundraising stream toward its operating costs.

Bam Bam Italian plays a pivotal role in this collaboration by facilitating the collection of eligible containers from their venue. Upon clearing tables, restaurant team members separate eligible containers by placing them in designated bins in the bar area. These containers are then stored in crates until the Emerald SES collects them weekly on their collection round. Back at the collection point, Emerald SES volunteers count Bam Bam Italian's returns, with half the value going to the venue owners and the other half deposited by the SES. A contribution the venue owners are happy to donate in exchange for not having to manage the dropping off of containers. It's also a great way to audit the number of containers deposited across the year to understand the true savings and contribution for the venue.

The impact of this collaboration extends beyond environmental benefits. By participating in the scheme, Bam Bam Italian has significantly reduced its waste removal costs, saving approximately \$3,000 annually. This cost reduction aligns with businesses' current economic challenges, making the initiative even more beneficial.



However, the true essence of Bam Bam Italian's collaboration lies in their commitment to giving back to the community. By supporting the Emerald SES, the restaurant acknowledges and appreciates the invaluable services emergency responders provide during challenging times. The financial contribution to the SES serves as a testament to their dedication to community welfare. And they're not alone; fellow local venue Emerald RSL was the first organisation to pilot the collaboration with Emerald SES and, upon its success, shared the idea with other local venues.

For customers of Bam Bam Italian and like-minded venues, dining at the restaurants becomes more than just a culinary experience; it becomes an opportunity to contribute to a local, worthy cause. Every beverage container returned helps fuel the local Emerald SES, reinforcing the notion of community support.

Bam Bam Italian encourages other hospitality venues, both locally and beyond, to be inspired by their collaboration with Emerald SES. By doing so, businesses can demonstrate goodwill and achieve significant cost savings and environmental benefits.

In conclusion, Bam Bam Italian's engagement with Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme exemplifies the power of collaboration between businesses and community organisations. Through its partnership with Emerald SES, the restaurant not only reduces waste and saves costs but also actively contributes to the well-being of its community. It is a shining example of how businesses can positively impact the community while fostering sustainability and community spirit.

For more information on this initiative, interested venues, businesses, and community groups are encouraged to contact Belinda at Bam Bam Italian (eat@bambamitalian.com.au) or the Emerald SES. Together, let's build a more sustainable and supportive future for our communities.

In collaboration with Emerald SES, written by:

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