

## Balloons & the Environment

Working Together to Continue the Environmentally Responsible Use of Balloons



## The Pro Environment Balloon Alliance

We are proud and active members of the Pro Environment Balloon Alliance (PEBA). As members we are committed to the responsible use and disposal of balloons.

PEBA is Australia's largest balloon industry association formed in July 2017 to be an advocacy body to promote positive changes in balloon industry practices, community education, corporate governance and to be a consultative body for legislative policy relating to balloons.

We are committed to self-regulation and driving proactive, environmentally responsible change within the industry. **PEBA members are industry professionals who do NOT support, condone or facilitate the organised release of balloons.** 

PEBA also supports us to educate our clients, venue managers and the public, by all possible means in the correct disposal of balloons through their "Don't Let it Go, Pin it & Bin it!" campaigns.

## The Balloon Industry

The industry is made up of small business owners including Balloon Artists, Twisters, Entertainers and Event Decorators who are valued members of Australia's Arts & Entertainment Industry. This profession employs thousands of people across the country providing enjoyment and fun to celebrations.

The typical balloon business is locally owned and operated by mums and dads of which there are several thousand throughout Australia. Many of these are located in small and regional towns. Although small, these businesses provide professional decorating and event styling services and the majority operate to a very high industry standard.

As Balloon Industry professionals we have an obvious vested interest in preventing further job losses. Currently, there are some campaigns calling for blanket bans on balloons. Policies are being made without consultation with the Balloon Industry. We are very concerned about the impact this is having on the livelihoods of balloon professionals.

We are encoraging our customers to consider an alternative solution to a blanket ban on the use of balloons.





### Latex Balloons

Latex balloons are not plastic, they are a plantbased product made from natural rubber. Natural Latex comes from Rubber Tree Plantations which are a renewable resource.

Leading manufacturers source their latex from sustainable Rainforest Alliance Certified and Forest Stewardship Council Plantations

The Rainforest Alliance are an international, non-profit organisation working to build strong forests, healthy agricultural landscapes and thriving communities through creative and pragmatic collaboration.

By choosing to use Balloon Professionals and Artists who use latex balloons as their medium of expression, you are making an environmentally and economically responsible choice.





## Your Choice Matters

By engaging Balloon Professionals, such as Twisters and Decorators, you are supporting small local businesses.

This also assists PEBA to spread the word about the responsible enjoyment of balloons helping to prevent the negative environmental impacts associated with accidental or deliberate balloon releases.

The majority of work created by Balloon Artists consists of air-filled, natural latex balloons. If helium is used, professionals comply with industry standards by keeping balloons attached to weights and never releasing balloons into the air.

Displays and installations can be fixed to indoor structures by Balloon Professionals who can remove and dispose of the balloons safely or who will advise venue staff on "Pin it and Bin it" methods to ensure controlled disposal after the event.

We can also provide flyers, posters and graphics to help you inform the public about the positive aspects of using latex balloons.



Air-filled, latex balloon decor



#### WHAT IS LIQUID HELIUM? AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

Liquid Helium is a chemical element of Helium that exists in a liquid form only at the extremely low temperature of -269°C.

Because Liquid Helium stores at -269°C, it is commonly used in the medical sector as a method to cool down magnets and other high tech machinery such as MRI's & NMR's.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Helium is a non-flammable gas. The gas is inert (doesn't react to anything), it's non-toxic, colourless, odourless and tasteless.



#### **EXPLAINING THE HELIUM RECYCLE PROCESS**

The transportation of Liquid Helium from an ISO into a Supagas Dewar is a very meticulous process. Due to Liquid Helium's sensitivity to warmer temperatures, the majority of the Liquid Helium boils off in the transfer process. Instead of losing this Helium, Supagas captures this boil-off in a large balloon. This lower grade Helium is then recycled and compressed into smaller storage cylinders and becomes a part of our balloon gas supply. If this boil-off were not captured and recycled, a huge amount of Helium would be lost or wasted in the process. Some of the uses for balloon gas include; Helium balloons, weather balloons and more.

Supagas discourage the intentional release of all helium balloons. When using helium balloons please ensure they are tightly secured to a weight, popped and disposed of properly.



## Helium...

#### Did you know?

The helium used to inflate balloons is a by-product gathered during the production of medical grade helium, the sale of which offsets the cost of medical helium.

# Our Commitment to the Community

Although statistically balloons make up a very small proportion of marine debris, the industry is committed to reducing any potential impact of balloon litter on marine life.

PEBA is working with all stakeholders including environmental groups, federal, state and local governments as well as corporate businesses to find a balance between effective environmental management and supporting industry.

Our art form adds fun and happiness to the community and we look forward to helping you enjoy balloons at your events and celebrations.

For more information visit www.peba.com.au

