

# NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

December 2002



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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As 2002 draws to a close, it is important that, as a co-operative group, we look back on our collective achievements for the year. The year certainly has been an eventful one (particularly for the newsletter editor!), and we thank all council staff and elected members for their support and assistance. Some of the major achievements and highlights are listed below.

### ORGANICS:

- ✓ This is the first year that the NEWFW councils entered a joint green waste shredding contract – helping the smaller councils to achieve a better price and service.
- ✓ A NEWFW review of the current organics situation across the region was conducted.
- ✓ A program to investigate low cost technology options for organics was started.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE:

- ✓ Commenced the implementation of

the chosen hazardous waste solution for the region.

- ✓ A hugely successful ChemCollect and Household Hazardous Waste collection in the region – in terms of participant numbers and the amount of chemicals taken out of the system.

### JOINT SUBMISSIONS:

- ✓ EPA draft compost guidelines.
- ✓ ICAC 'Taking the Wiff out of Waste' report.
- ✓ Lobby state government in relation to such issues as orphan waste handling and landfill standards.

### RESOURCE EXCHANGE NETWORK:

- ✓ NEWFW report on establishing a Resource Exchange Network in the region.

### RESOURCE NEW SOUTH WALES:

- ✓ Presentations from Resource NSW CEO, Tim Rogers, and Director Programs, David Hill.

## NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

PO Box 1870  
BYRON BAY NSW 2481  
[northeastwasteforum@hotmail.com](mailto:northeastwasteforum@hotmail.com)  
[www.northeastwasteforum.org.au](http://www.northeastwasteforum.org.au)

### NEW POSTAL ADDRESSES FOR THE NEWF

The postal address for the NEWF Co-ordinator and Education Co-ordinator have changed to:

- ❑ NEWF Co-ordinator –  
PO Box 1870  
Byron Bay NSW 2481
- ❑ Education Co-ordinator –  
PO Box 340  
Lennox Head NSW 2478

### EDUCATION, PROMOTION and TRAINING:

- ✓ Development of the NEWF website.
- ✓ Commencement of monthly newsletters.
- ✓ Increased promotion of NEWF activities in local and regional print media.
- ✓ A new NEWF Education Plan.
- ✓ Second year of Landfill and Transfer Station Operator Training for staff across the region.
- ✓ Successful application for EPA Litter Grants to the value of \$15,000.
- ✓ terra cordis assisted NEWF councils to develop Waste Reduction and Procurement Policies.
- ✓ Two student interns from Southern Cross University completing special projects with NEWF.
- ✓ Presentation to NOROC Planning and Environment Committee.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR COUNCILS:

- ✓ Introduction of a new three bin system for domestic waste, recycling and organics for the four **Clarence Valley Councils**.
- ✓ The **Byron Shire** Draft Waste Strategy endorsed by council, and closure and progressive rehabilitation of the Myocum landfill.
- ✓ Remediation of Lawrence and Mororo landfill sites by **Macleay Shire**.
- ✓ Launch of the **Lismore** Integrated Waste Strategy and 3 year action plan; Launch of 'Resources on Tour' to an overwhelming response by Lismore schools.
- ✓ Construction/retrofit of leachate system into existing **Ballina** landfill
- ✓ **Richmond Valley** council successfully took over operations of Evans Head and Bora Ridge landfills; purchase of specialised landfill compactor for Casino landfill.
- ✓ **Pristine Waters** council completed rehabilitation of Minnie Water and Tucabia landfill sites.

### STAFF/ADMIN:

- ✓ 3 year contract signed with the NEWF Co-ordinator, demonstrating the strength and stability of the NEWF.
- ✓ Employment of an Education Co-ordinator, representing a move towards greater promotion of the NEWF and a regional approach to waste education.
- ✓ The NEWF finances move to Byron Council.
- ✓ New draft 3 year plan and submission for sponsorship from Resource NSW.
- ✓ Investigated the establishment of a branch of the Waste Management Association of Australia in the region.

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