

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

September 2002



Heather Cook
Co-ordinator
p: 6685 5866

Newsletter Enquires To:
Bernadette Thomas
Education Co-ordinator
p: 6687 7066
e: newfeducation@hotmail.com.au

WELCOME TO THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

This is the first edition of the Newsletter of the North East Waste Forum – designed to inform, update and promote the many and varied projects and programs that the NEWF and its member councils are involved in.

The newsletter will appear monthly, packed full of information, and designed to keep you wanting more! Send any ideas for stories or information you would like to see in the newsletter to: Bernadette Thomas, Education Co-ordinator, newfeducation@hotmail.com.au or call 6687 7066. The newsletter will be distributed to all NEWF councils, Regional Waste Groups, Resource NSW, NSW EPA and community groups.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND CHEMCOLLECT – A REGIONAL SUCESS STORY

Congratulations go out to all council staff for their great effort in assisting with the recent household hazardous waste collections and ChemCollect. Feedback from Waste Service NSW suggests that the NEWF area had the greatest response from the community when compared across the state. Ballina Shire topped the state with 305 cars over two days. Lismore collected the most chemicals of any council area at 20,802 kgs (only Moree Council collected more with 39,000 kgs from a single cotton farm plus 6 kgs from the community). Collection staff from Cleanaway were kept busy by the 1,171 cars that passed through the collection gates, disposing of over 70,000 kgs of chemicals. This was made up of approximately 41,566 from household chemicals and 27,726 from ChemCollect. This response from the community means that correct disposal of hazardous waste is a choice they will make when given the opportunity. Our thanks go to the community who supported NEWF and councils so well in this initiative.

NEWF website

The NEWF website has moved beyond the first stage of development with the design now completed. A consultant is currently working on inserting the background information. The site should be completed soon. Stay tuned for the launch date.

A word from the Co-ordinator

Congratulations to Bernadette for producing this, NEWF's first newsletter. The Forum is going from strength to strength. Working on the solid planning that was undertaken early on, we are now starting to see firm results with many successful projects currently running. As a demonstration of the belief in the on-going success of the NEWF, the forum co-ordinator position is now a 3 year appointment, through to September 2005. I look forward to seeing the Forum develop with increasing co-operation between councils.

3 year sponsorship

The NEWF office is currently working on a draft application for 3 year sponsorship from Resource NSW, running between March 2003 and February 2006. The sponsorship application will outline the proposed NEWF projects for the coming 3 years, including budgets and timelines. We intend to present a draft at the October NEWF meeting (9:30am Friday 11 October Ballina Shire Council) to get your feedback. We ask everyone to make a special effort to attend the meeting, to ensure you have a part in the future direction of the NEWF. If you have any ideas or suggestions before then, please give Heather a call.

NEWF Employs Education Co-ordinator

For the last three months the NEWF has been home to an Education Co-ordinator, doubling the number of staff working for NEWF on behalf of member councils. Bernadette Thomas has previously worked for Resource NSW, the Southern Sydney Waste Board and local government. Bernadette will work on regional education programs - all programs will be outlined on the soon to be launched NEWF website. She is contracted to NEWF for an initial period of 12 months, ending June 2003.

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

1/40 Ruskin St
BYRON BAY NSW 2481
northeastwasteforum@hotmail.com
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