

# NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

April 2003



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## Meeting of Regional Waste Groups Resource NSW, Sydney May 5

Councillor Joy Matthews (NEWF Chair), Heather Cook (NEWF Co-ordinator) and Bernadette Thomas (NEWF Education Co-ordinator) travelled to Sydney this week to attend a 'forum' and information sharing day for Regional Waste Groups staff and Executive, organised by RNSW. Two separate sessions were organised with Joy and Heather attending a forum, where they were able to discuss issues relating to the Regional Waste Groups including data collection efficiencies /consistencies and share program information. The group also heard presentations from Boral regarding reuse of C&D material in regional areas, Phil Smith (Sustainable Schools Program, RNSW) and David Baker (Health NSW).

In a separate session, Project Officers were able to speak to key Resource NSW staff about current RNSW projects (Sustainable Schools Program; Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy; Hazardous Waste Collections; Wood Waste; Illegal Dumping and Littering; Best Practice Resource Recovery and Jurisdictional Recycling Group).

The day also provided an opportunity to meet and network with staff from all the Regional Waste Groups. There are currently seven (7) Regional Waste Groups across the state.

Joy, Heather and Bernadette also met with Tim Rogers (RNSW CEO) and Janet Hayes (RNSW Board) to discuss the current and future relationship between the NEWF and RNSW including funding 'sponsorship' needs.

## NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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### **Landfill Open Days**

In conjunction with each NEWF member council a series of landfill and transfer station open days are being organised across the region. Lismore (May); Richmond Valley (June); Maclean/Grafton (July); Ballina (August). The days will provide the community with an opportunity to take a closer look at what happens at their landfill or transfer station.

### **Household Hazardous Waste collections**

The NEWF are talking to Midwaste about collaborating on efforts for a combined Household Hazardous Waste collection, starting in the southern part of Midwaste and working north through the NEWF region, ending in Tweed Shire. We are anticipating at this stage that the collections will begin in the NEWF region during August (at the same time as the successful household hazardous waste collections run in conjunction with ChemCollect in 2002). The collections will be run annually.

### **Household Chemical Waste Storage Facilities**

NEWF have submitted Development Applications, including Statements of Environmental Effects, to both Lismore City Council and Pristine Waters Council. Consent is being sought for Regional Household Chemical Waste Storage Facilities at Wyrallah Road Waste Facility and Grafton Regional Landfill. The DA's should be on public display during May. NEWF will cover the cost of construction (with assistance from RNSW) and operation of the stores. Individual councils will pay for waste taken to the stores by residents from their area. It is hoped the stores will be approved by June so that construction can start in July.

### **Toner Cartridge Recycling**

Planet ark have recently launched a toner cartridge recycling program allowing the public to drop off their used cartridges in specially marked boxes at participating Australia Post and Harvey Norman outlets. The cartridges will be sorted and then either remanufactured for reuse or broken down into parts and recycled. A full list of collection outlets are listed at [www.recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au)

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