

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

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A WORD FROM THE CO-ORDINATOR

- NEWF has submitted Development Applications for two permanent facilities within the region, to provide safe and secure storage of household hazardous waste pending disposal. It is expected that the two DA's will be on display for two weeks during February.
- NEWF is currently working with a local consultant reviewing the costs and charges associated with waste management in the region, with the goal of ensuring the full cost of waste is factored into costs and charges structures.
- A local consultant is looking at the needs and problems in relation to organic waste management within the region. Low cost, low technology solutions suitable for the region are being developed.

Bag Yourself a Better Environment

Clean Up Australia is promoting a month of action in March, (starting after Clean Up Australia Day) to raise awareness about the environmental, social and economic impacts of plastic bags.

They are encouraging councils, consumers and retailers to reduce the quantity of plastic bags used during March (to reach a 50% reduction target), by refusing plastic bags and using alternatives. Environment Australia is funding most of the program. The program has been prompted by the recurring presence of plastic bags in the annual Clean Up Australia Day events. Councils who want to get involved can contact Clean Up Australia on 1800 024 890 or download information from their website at www.cleanup.com.au For a Federal Government Plastic Bag Working Group report see: www.ea.gov.au/industry/waste/ieu/plastic-bags.html

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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PHONES 4 PLANET ARK

Planet Ark and the Mobile Phone Industry are running a mobile phone recycling program. Old mobile phones and batteries can be dropped off at one of nine stores across the region in Ballina, Byron, Grafton and Lismore. Call 1300 730 070 or check www.phonerecycling.com.au for a list of participating outlets.

The NEWF Online!

The NEWF website has been running smoothly since its launch a couple of months ago. The NEWF Co-ordinator, Heather Cook has been working hard at keeping it looking good and updating information as projects change and evolve. So, if you haven't yet had a look at NEWF online, go to www.northeastwasteforum.org.au and check out all the latest photographs and media releases, find the links to other related organisations (including council websites), and keep abreast of what is happening across the region.

Litter Update

The Litter Education Program will end with the final puppet show and performance by the Repsyches at The Channon Markets on Sunday 9 February. The 'don't be a tosser on holidays' campaign has reached all parts of the region. Activities included: cinema advertising (Yamba, Ballina, Lismore), media articles (all regional and local papers); puppet shows (8 across the region); Repsyches Environmental Education Troupe at events and community markets; the Holiday Fun Pack for children sent to caravan parks and tourist information centres; litter banners at Driver Reviver sites during Christmas/New Year. Feedback so far from event organisers, participants and other stakeholders has been positive.

AND FINALLY....

The NEWF has been instrumental in initiating the establishment of a North East branch of the Waste Management Association Australia in NSW. It is expected that the first meeting will be held in March at the University of New England in Armidale.

Happy New Year

The NEWF looks forward to working with you all in 2003.

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