

# NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

July 2003



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## **Stormwater Ambassadors take to the tip + take messages back to school**

Stormwater Ambassadors from the Clarence Valley now have a better understanding of how waste is managed in their area, after attending tours and workshops in Grafton and Maclean this week.

The NEWF joined forces with the Stormwater Ambassador program run in the Clarence, giving the primary and secondary students a first hand experience of the recycling and waste processes at the recycling centres and landfill site.

On Tuesday, students from Grafton, Copmanhurst and Pristine Waters Council areas attended the Grafton Waste Transfer Station, followed by the Grafton Regional Landfill. On Thursday, students from Maclean Shire visited the Maclean Waste Transfer and Recycling Centre.

Both groups were treated to a Litter Puppet Show and workshop following the tours.

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## **Landfill Operator Training**

The 2003 NEWF Landfill and Transfer Station Operator Training Course held at Casino in July was a great success.

14 operators came from a wide area encompassing Tweed, Bellingen and Nundle. All staff were eager to learn, willing to actively participate and share their knowledge and experience with their colleagues. The success of the training was largely due to their interaction throughout the course.

Many expressed an interest in attending potential future NEWF hazardous waste training. We hope to have more participation from the office based managers next year, for the session discussing individual site LEMP's, and to provide general feedback to managers. It was requested that next year the NEWF include information on public liability issues. Thanks to Richmond Valley Council for their assistance with the venue, the EPA and Area Health Service for presentations and Murray Cullen for presenting the course.

## NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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**Litter Grants available for community groups**

RNSW, in conjunction with Keep Australia Beautiful is offering up to \$5,000 for Local Litter Prevention Education Projects, developed and implemented by community groups. For more information go to [www.kabnsw.org.au](http://www.kabnsw.org.au) Applications close 15/8/03.

**EPA Environmental Trust Grant**

In June this year the NEWF submitted an application for an Environmental Trust Grant in the Environmental Education Program (State and Local Government) section. The submission was for a sustainable living program to be designed and implemented across the region to increase understanding of sustainability issues and change behaviour to reduce impact on the environment. The program was to be run in conjunction with other government agencies and community groups. According to the Trust committee the Expression of Interest process was very competitive, with only 16 of the 92 submissions being considered for further development.

**Landfill Open Day continued....**

The workshop was designed specifically for the students to develop a 10 minute presentation to take back to their schools and give to their school communities. In doing this the messages about waste reduction and correct recycling habits can be spread through the school community in a format that is appealing to the students. Thanks to Ken Wilson (Grafton) and Richard Roper (Maclean), for conducting the tours. They were assisted by a street performance group, 'The Clouds', who gave the students a chance to take part in a 'recycling quiz' to test their understanding of what can and can't be recycled in their area.

**RNSW Litter Grants available**

RNSW has released the guidelines for the 2003 Litter Grants as part of the *Don't be a tosser* campaign extension program. Amounts of up to \$15,000 are available to regional groups of councils and up to \$5,000 for individual council programs. The NEWF will submit an application for a regional program. For more information about the grants contact Darryl Stuckey (RNSW Project Officer) on 02 8837 6027 or [darryl.stuckey@resource.nsw.gov.au](mailto:darryl.stuckey@resource.nsw.gov.au) Applications close 25/8/03.

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