

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

June 2003



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Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

The 2003 Household Hazardous Waste collection days are scheduled to start in Tweed Shire in September and move south through the NEWF and MidWaste regions. The NEWF has prepared the tender documents for both regions with the help of the Northern Inland Regional Waste Group. The tender was advertised on July 5 and close on August 1. A schedule of dates will be negotiated with the successful tenderer. Resource NSW have committed to contribute \$50,000 to the NEWF towards the cost of this project.

'Trip to the Tip' not wasted on local students

One local primary school took the opportunity to explore the Nammoona Landfill up close and personal on Monday 30 June in the second Landfill Open Day to be held in the region in 2003.

Students, teachers and parents from Ellangowan Public School toured the landfill site. The aim of the day was to provide a first hand look at how the landfill site operates. The tour provided a valuable learning experience for the students, by immersing them in the daily activities of a working landfill site. Students were able to see and hear first hand the employees, the machinery and the smells and sounds of the landfill. Schools will again be offered a chance in term 3 to take part in the tour.

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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Waste as Art Workshops

The NEWF is working with the Adult Community Education group based in Byron to run two Waste As Art workshops in the region, at Yamba and the other in the north of the region.

The workshops will be advertised through ACE for the term starting 2 August.

Inaugural meeting of Northern NSW WMAA Sub-Branch

The meeting was held at Armidale at the University of New England on Thursday 10 July. After introductions from both UNE and WMAA staff, Tim Rogers spoke about Resource NSW and regional waste issues. The group decided to continue to meet as an informal sub-branch of WMAA. Meetings will be rotated around the three waste group areas (NEWF, NIRW and MidWaste) with meetings ideally co-inciding with waste group meetings, to take advantage of numbers, guest speakers etc.

2002/2003 Funding Overview

Already received:

- \$70,000 – EPA funding from 2001
- \$150,000-RNSW for 'milestone' projects
- \$50,000 – RNSW hazardous waste stores construction
- \$15,000 – EPA litter education grant

Also committed:

- \$50,000 – RNSW household hazardous waste collections
- \$60,000 – RNSW stage 1 of regional organics management project

TOTAL - \$395,000

Plastic Bag Awareness Campaign

The NEWF have given 3,000 calico bags to councils for distribution as an alternative to plastic bags. The bags have the following, **Reduce waste say NO to plastic bags** printed on both sides, sending a clear message to shoppers to find alternatives to accepting plastic bags when shopping. The bags will also feature the names of all member NEWF councils as well as the Tweed Shire Council.

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