

# NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE



Newsletter Enquires To:  
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## NEWF NEWS

Welcome back to Samala Hogg, Business Waste Reduction coordinator who has returned from adventures in Central America – we look forward to hearing more about the waste systems in countries she visited!

Linda Tohver, Education Coordinator, is taking maternity leave from August to November. For enquiries about The Green House, contact Karen Rudkin. For enquiries regarding other Education Projects, contact Bernadette Thomas.

## Events July – September 2006

4<sup>th</sup> August 9.30am – 12.30pm  
NEWF Meeting, Ballina Shire  
Council, Cherry St, Ballina

4<sup>th</sup> August 1.30pm  
Regional C & D Network Meeting  
Ballina Shire Council, Cherry St  
Ballina

10<sup>th</sup> August 10am – 1pm -  
Northern Rivers Group of  
Environmental Educators  
(NRGee) meeting – North Coast  
Water Office, corner of River St  
and MacNaughton Streets,  
Maclean

21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September  
Voluntary Regional Waste  
Groups Meeting,  
Wagga

## Eco-friendly Youth Project – Stage 2

The first year of the Environment Trust funded Eco-friendly Youth Project has seen many successful outcomes for Byron Youth Services and the Youth Activities Centre, who have been piloting the first year of the project. BYS and the YAC have undergone a 6 Step approach in becoming an Eco-friendly Youth Centre, which has involved commitment through the development of an environmental policy, waste, water and energy audits, a focus group and surveys with young people, developing and implementing an environmental action plan and integrating waste, water and energy reduction activities into the Centre and into the Centre Programs.

This 6 Step approach is adaptable for other Youth Centres in the region as part of Stage 2 of the project and will be promoted through a toolkit currently in development. The toolkit comprises of an interactive CD-ROM with the 6 step process, a poster and a DVD which has been produced in conjunction with young people in Byron Shire. Other youth centres in the region will receive training in how to use the kit and support in becoming an eco-friendly Youth Centre as well. For further information on the project, please contact Linda Tohver or check out the NEWF website [www.northeastwasteforum.org.au](http://www.northeastwasteforum.org.au).

## NEWF Strategy 2006 – 2009

The NEWF has been successful in gaining \$150,000 sponsorship funding from the Department of Environment & Conservation for each of the three years to assist with the implementation of the NEWF strategy. The NEWF will continue to develop & implement a range of programs and projects that cover all waste streams – Construction and Demolition, Commercial and Industrial, Education, Municipal, Organics, Hazardous Waste & Reuse. The strategy will continue to focus on waste avoidance & resource recovery.

In addition to the many projects that the NEWF has developed & refined over the years, a number of new projects will begin – Council Sustainable Purchasing & Waste Reduction will focus on reducing the waste generated through council activities & purchasing; Waste Wise Events will assist event organisers across the region to reduce waste generated; the Regional Education Plan will begin implementation & a new project targeting a specific group within the community will be developed and implemented.

More detailed information about each project will appear on these pages in the coming weeks.

## Project updates

### Waste Management Project Updates:

- Byron Shire and Tweed Shire Council recently held Hazardous Waste Collection days in June/July.
- A Regional Tyre Waste Disposal Contract is being finalised with all four councils, and will begin in the coming weeks. The contract will ensure that all councils receive a high standard of service and a competitive price for this work. Over 90% of the tyres collected will be reused or recycled.
- A Reuse Centre Model project is underway, with a consultant working on behalf of councils to determine a number of good practice models for councils to follow when developing a Reuse Centre at landfills or transfer station sites.

### Waste Education Project Updates:

- Second Hand Saturday 2006 – this year almost 500 garage sales were registered for Second Hand Saturday with all five NEWF member Councils participating in the campaign. Despite prevailing weather conditions for the weeks preceding the event, there were still many treasure-hunters and fossickers visiting the garage sales across the region. The evaluation surveys sent to participants will be recorded and a report on the outcomes of the event will soon be available on the NEWF website.
- The Green House has visited 27 events over the last year, from community events such as PRIMEX & North Coast National to locally organised events such as Recycling Week & World Environment Day to primary schools in the region. Contact Karen Rudkin for further information, or to book-in your events for the year.
- The Landfill Open Day held at Namoonna Landfill, Casino on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June was a very enjoyable and informative day had by all involved. More than 90 students from local primary schools attended the open day with presentations, tours of the site and demonstrations.

## Business Waste Reduction Project

The Business Waste Reduction Project has begun in earnest this month, with a new selection of businesses and additional resources available for all businesses across the region.

This year councils will provide intensive assistance to one business each of the following type – a caravan park; a high school; a hospital; recycling co-operative for clubs/hotels. These businesses will receive the full NEWF treatment with waste audits being conducted, preparation of waste reduction action plans, and assistance in implementing changes, staff surveys, reporting and advice.

In addition a series of case studies based on the results of stage 1 and a toolkit for businesses are being prepared and will be available on the NEWF website very soon. These resources will allow businesses to work through the process of reducing their waste will minimal assistance. For more information contact Samala on 6685 8016.

Landfill Open Day held at Namoonna Landfill, Casino



### NEWF Meetings

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am  
Ballina Shire Council, Cherry Street, Ballina

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am  
Clarence Valley Council  
Maclean Office, River Street, Maclean