

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE



Newsletter Enquires To:
Linda Tohver
Education Co-ordinator
P: 6685 3651 M: 0427770198

PO Box 340 LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478
coordinator@northeastwasteforum.org.au
education@northeastwasteforum.org.au
www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

October/November 2006

NEWF NEWS

Welcome to Natasha Morton who will be working on the Waste Wise Events project and Karen Rudkin, working with the Council Sustainable Purchasing and Waste Reduction Project. See over page for more information on these new projects.

Welcome back to Linda Tohver and congratulations on the birth of Elvis.

Business Waste Reduction Project update

The Business Waste Reduction Project's second stage will have five months up its sleeve by the end of November. Waste composition analyses have been performed on both Wollongbar TAFE (Ballina Shire) and First Sun Caravan Park (Byron Shire), with staff surveys currently being completed. Casino's potential pubs/clubs recycling cooperative is moving slowly, mainly due to time and staff demands within these small businesses. However, Casino Golf Club appears to have taken the bull by the horns and is following in Casino RSM Club's waste reducing footsteps as Casino's second largest Club. Maclean Hospital has already appeared to smooth out their waste reduction needs, with Clarence Valley now selecting a new business focus.

The Business Waste Reduction toolkit has assisted the NEWF in reaching a range of businesses that are able to use the case studies from the project's first stage. Across the duration of the project, a total of 31 businesses have now been contacted.

The planning and logistics of the project were also recently presented at the NSW Waste Management association Conference & Expo held in Sydney, with a considerable amount of interest generated. For more details on the project, contact Samala Hogg on 6685 8016.

Events

November – December 2006

18th December, Sustainable
Christmas w/ Green House –
Ballina

19th December, Sustainable
Christmas w/ Green House –
Lismore

3rd December, Sustainable
Christmas w/ Green House –
Ocean Shores

8th December
NEWF Meeting, Clarence Valley
Council

14th and 15th December
Regional Waste Groups Meeting,
Sydney

Waste Wise Events

The Waste Wise Events Project will facilitate event organisers in the NEWF region to achieve measurable waste reduction outcomes & reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill. A Waste Wise Event is defined as an event that takes responsibility and plans for the effective management of waste by adopting sound purchasing and packaging policies. This includes addressing the management of waste and recycling services and clean up practices.

The 12 month project will see the Project Co-ordinator, Natasha Morton work with one market and one major community event in each NEWF council to achieve waste reduction outcomes. The project will also include developing a regional Waste Wise Events Policy and a toolkit for event organisers on how to run a Waste Wise Event. Natasha will work with individual event organisers to implement Waste Wise Events policies into their organisation and Waste Reduction Action Plans (WRAP) at the events.

For further information on the Waste Wise Events Project contact Natasha Morton on 6684 3864 or 0435 022 717

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Project updates

Waste Management Project Updates:

- **Construction & Demolition Operations** – a final report into the operations of C&D across the region has been received, with a number of recommendations for councils to consider. An implementation plan is currently being developed for consideration at the December NEWF meeting.
- **Hazardous Waste** – the NEWF has received \$40,000 funding for Hazardous Waste Collections for 2007.

Waste Education Project Updates:

- **National Recycling Week** ran from the 6th November to the 13th November. Local and regional press ran special supplementary features advertising and promoting recycling.
- **The Green House** - Students at Teven Tintenbar, Brunswick Heads & South Grafton Public schools have all had a recent visit from the unit & its resident waste experts PET & Mary Go Around. The focus was on keeping organic waste out of landfill & bringing waste free lunches to school. The unit has also attended the Alstonville Agricultural Show & the Mullumbimby Show. Next on the schedule are the 'Sustainable Xmas BBQ' events organised through the Cities for Climate Protection program and a trip to the Evans Head Market.
- **Landfill Open Day** – Year 6 students from South Grafton Public school learnt all about waste minimisation, resource recovery & good landfill management, when they visited the Grafton Waste Transfer Station & Recycling Centre in October.

Council Waste Reduction & Sustainable Purchasing Project

The main objectives of this project are to achieve measurable reductions in the amount of waste disposed of to landfill from council office activities. The reductions will be achieved through improved purchasing processes and a focus on waste avoidance and increased resource recovery through reuse & recycling.

The 1st stage of the project will involve the collection of baseline data and information on current purchasing & waste practices for each of the NEWF member councils, including a site analysis, waste assessment and a review of purchasing records.

Richmond Valley Council has agreed to be part of an initial pilot, the results of which will assist in the further development and implementation of the project.

An initial site visit to each of the councils & the site analysis & waste assessment at RVC will be completed by early December.

For further information on the Council Waste Reduction & Sustainable Purchasing Project (WRAP) contact Karen Rudkin on ph 6687 4090.

Waste Smart Businesses Rewarded



On 13th October, businesses who had actively participated in the Business Waste Reduction Project's first stage were congratulated and acknowledged with the presentation of Waste-Smart Business certificates. Pictured from left are: Mike Cossio from Grafton Correctional Centre; Peter Crane from Maranoa Retirement Villages; Cr John Felsch, NEWF Chairman; Samala Hogg, Project Coordinator; Scott Wanchap of Byron Central Apartments and Geoff Gooch from Lismore Shopping Square.

NEWF Meetings

Friday 8th December, 9.30am
Clarence Valley Council

Dates for 2007 to be advised.