

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

June/July 2007

NEWF News

A big welcome to Tweed Shire Council, who join the NEWF as members this year. We look forward to working with staff & the community on a range of projects over the coming year. The NEWF will be hosting a celebration to thank all partners & participants involved in NEWF projects over the past twelve months & to celebrate the past achievements of the NEWF. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter!

We have an extra page for our NEWF newsletter to provide you with more photos and articles on our projects. The NEWF team contacts are located on the back page should you need to contact anyone regarding their project.

NEWF Events

12th and 13th July, RENEW NSW Forum, Sydney

27-29 July, Grafton Hockey State Tournament Goes Waste Wise

1st and 2nd August, Local Government Week – The Green House @ Clarence Valley Council

10th August, NEWF Meeting, Ballina Shire Council

29th August, Waste Wise Events Training, Ballina

22nd September, Waste Wise Events Training, Byron Bay

Students Using Sustainable Strategies (SUSS) Forum 2007



More than 60 students and teachers from 11 High Schools in the upper NEWF region & Lismore City Council participated in the 2 day SUSS Forum which aimed at motivating students to implement sustainable initiatives in their schools. Evaluation of the Forum indicated that 98% of participants had a better or much better understanding of sustainability issues & when asked to list one environmental action they will be following up in their schools, 48% noted actions related to waste – including recycling and composting. **News just at hand!** The steering committee for the Forum (which includes the NEWF) have been successful in acquiring a \$16,000 grant for post-forum school support and to coordinate next year's Forum! Congratulations to National Parks for coordinating the grant application and watch this space for further updates....

Waste Wise Events Update

Through the introduction of Waste Wise Management Practices into the four events listed below more than 3 Tonnes less waste went to landfill in June/July.

The BANGALOW MARKET in Byron Shire has reduced waste to landfill by 70% per market by introducing a three bin system to separate organics and paper and recyclable drink containers from the general waste. This initiative will lead to over 6 Tonnes per year diverted from landfill.

The BILLY CART DERBY, also held in Bangalow, introduced recycling bins for the first time. The one day event produced 110kg of recycling which represented 30% of the event's waste.

The ALL GIRLS SURF COMPETITION held in Lennox Heads in Ballina Shire diverted 40% of the event's waste for recycling. Competitors were all given WIPE OUT WASTE stickers to spread the message beyond the event.

Cardboard and aluminium recovery was implemented at PRIMEX in Casino. Approximately 26kg aluminium and 740kg of cardboard and paper were recovered.

In July, the Grafton Hockey Women's Veteran State Competition, which will host 4000 people over 3 days, will introduce recycling of drink containers and cardboard with the assistance of Clarence Valley Council. To learn more about how to run a Waste Wise Event, come along to a one day training being held on 29th August in Ballina or 22nd September in Byron. For more info contact events@northeastwasteforum.org.au

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Project updates

Waste Management Project Updates:

- Green Waste Processing Contract - Ballina Shire, Byron Shire and Richmond Valley Councils have signed a contract for processing green waste on council landfill sites. The contract will run for the next two years.

Waste Education Projects Updates:

- Influencing and Motivating Change – A Workshop about Behaviour Change: the NEWF recently coordinated a professional development workshop for environmental educators, funded through the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Catchment Management Association. Twenty two participants from the region enjoyed a full day workshop facilitated by Grahame Collier.
- The A-Z of Waste Fact Sheets have recently been updated and reloaded to the NEWF website. The fact sheets cover topics from Avoidance to Zero Waste and are an ideal resource for Councils in NEWF and beyond to refer community and school queries to – go to www.northeastwasteforum.org.au .
- The Green House had another successful year during 06-07 with performances at 29 school & community events throughout the region and with approximately 2300 people participating in its activities. This year 16 Green House events have been scheduled amongst participating member Councils. It is also currently undergoing improvements to make it easier and safer to set-up and pack-up.
- Don't forget to check out the Reuse Directory at www.reusedirectory.com , promoting reuse businesses in the region. The directory was recently updated & amended with another 15 new businesses joining with more to come. There are now more than 225 reuse and recycling businesses listed.

Early Childhood Services Waste-wise Education Project

The Early Childhood Waste Wise Project is well underway. Four childcare centres and preschools have had their initial waste audits completed. These services have all booked in for a staff/parent information session. Two other services have booked in for initial waste audits with several other services expressing interest.

During information sessions, staff and parents will focus on the following issues:

- Environmental Sustainability – Can early childhood staff make a difference?
- Waste reduction and the relationship to sustainability
- A closer look at "Rubbish". Are we throwing out valuable resources?
- Your waste audit and action plan. What are your goals?
- Linking the action plan to environmental education
- Your action plan and partnerships with parents and the community
- Low waste lunches
- Composting and recycling
- Sustainable purchasing
- Non-toxic cleaning
- Activities and resources to incorporate environmental awareness into the everyday culture of the service.

Eco-Friendly Youth Project



New initiatives at the New School of Arts Neighbourhood Centre at South Grafton include new gardens & a worm farm.

NEWF Meetings

Friday 10th August, Ballina Shire Council, Cherry Street Ballina

October Meeting & Celebration - details to be confirmed



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Business Waste Reduction Project Update

All businesses involved in the project have now been audited and are developing or implementing their Waste Reduction Action Plans (WRAP's). In June a waste audit was conducted for the Eco Point Angourie Resort in Yamba. The next phase for this business is to develop a waste reduction action plan and implement new waste reduction initiatives into their current operations. Staff at the resort responded enthusiastically to the survey conducted and contributed some great ideas to help the resort improve its waste management practices and environmental credentials.

St Mary's Catholic High School in Casino is well underway to reducing the amount of waste they generate and contribute to landfill. Paper and cardboard were identified as a major area of concern for the school with usage and waste both targeted. An action plan has been developed in collaboration with teachers, the librarian and administration staff. A number of new initiatives have been planned and staff training will take place this term. The new waste management system will be implemented in Term 4.

The project is also extending its reach this month in an effort to influence the management practices of more businesses in the region through the local Chambers of Commerce. A presentation on how business can minimise its waste will be delivered to the next Ballina *Business before Breakfast* Meeting on July 18th.

NEWF Contacts

Bernadette Thomas
NEWF Co-ordinator

p: 02 6687 7066
f: 02 6687 5318
m: 0427 150 422

Email: coordinator@
northeastwasteforum.org.au

Linda Tohver
Education Co-ordinator

p: 02 6685 3651
f: 02 6687 5318
m: 0427 770 198

Email: education@
northeastwasteforum.org.au

Jeanie McKillop
Business Waste Reduction
Project Co-ordinator

p: 02 6687 4945
f: 02 6687 5318

Email: business@
northeastwasteforum.org.au

Karen Rudkin
Education Projects Co-ordinator
&
Council Sustainable Purchasing
& Waste Reduction Project
Co-ordinator

p: 6687 4090
f: 6687 5318
m: 0401 941 330

Email: greenhouse@
northeastwasteforum.org.au

Natasha Morton
Waste Wise Events Project
Co-ordinator

p: 6684 3864
f: 6687 5318
m: 0435 022 717

Email: events@
northeastwasteforum.org.au

Eco-friendly Youth Project

Links to learning co-ordinator, Colleen Kennedy from the South Grafton New School of Arts Neighbourhood Centre has implemented a number of the actions identified at the Eco-friendly Youth Project Training Workshop held earlier in the year. A new community garden, worm farm and recycling system have all been established. Next the Centre will be targeting improved signage, new bins and water auditing.

The students involved in the Project are now moving on to new ventures. Due to their involvement and Colleen's efforts they will leave with a better understanding of the importance of waste, water and energy conservation and management.

Georgie Piper
Early Childhood Waste Wise
Education Project
Co-ordinator

p: 6681 3968
f: 6687 5318
m: 0429 813 968

Email: childhood@
northeastwasteforum.org.au