

# NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

Newsletter Enquires To:  
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December 2006 – February 2007

## NEWF NEWS

Happy New Year from all the NEWF team. We are looking forward to further success in our projects in 2007, striving to achieve increased resource recovery and waste avoidance in the region.

**Samala Hogg who has been the Co-ordinator for the Business Waste Reduction Project since its inception in April 2005, is leaving the NEWF. Samala has made a valuable contribution to the NEWF in building relationships with businesses and assisting them to find their way through the waste reduction maze. The NEWF team will certainly miss her. We wish Samala and her growing family all the very best.**

## NEWF Events

**Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators Meeting** – Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> February  
Linnaeus Byron Bay

**NEWF meeting**  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Byron Shire Council,  
Mullumbimby

**Haz Waste Training**  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Clarence Valley Council, Grafton

**Landfill Operator Training**  
Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> & Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Clarence Valley Council, Grafton

**Haz Waste Collection Days**

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Tweed Shire     | 10 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Byron Shire     | 17 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Byron Shire     | 17 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Ballina Shire   | 24 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Richmond Valley | 31 <sup>st</sup> March |
| Richmond Valley | 1 <sup>st</sup> April  |

## Waste Wise Events Project Update

With six events already on the North Coast keen to take on the challenge to be Waste Wise in 2007, we are in for some fun.

Bangalow Market in the Byron Shire, has begun implementing packaging guidelines that require the use of compostable packaging and in February we will conduct a waste audit to determine the type and quantities in the waste stream. The Billy Cart Derby also held in Bangalow, will introduce waste separation for the first time at the event in May.

At Beef Week in Casino we will work with school groups to look at waste avoidance at the event and Mara Seeds Compost Facility has volunteered to take the manure and straw from the street parade which last year went to landfill. I am in early discussions with Primex event organisers, who stage a field day in June, with 40,000 participants also in Casino. We are currently looking at recovering the aluminium cans and cardboard.

Clarence Valley Council have recently nominated the Ulmarra River Festival in September and The Grafton Hockey Associations State Tournaments to participate in the project. Early discussions are sounding positive.

For further information on the WWE Project contact Natasha Morton on 6684 3864 Or 0435 022 717.

## Council Waste Reduction & Sustainable Purchasing Project

The project is progressing well with waste assessments completed at Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley (both Grafton & Maclean) and Byron Shire council buildings. The assessment involves an inspection of general waste & recycling systems & gathering information on resource reuse and green purchasing initiatives. Staff surveys were distributed around the same time as the assessment, to gauge staff interest and attitude to waste reduction at work and to collate staff ideas on how current practices could be improved. Access to purchasing records for CVC and RVC through their supplier's web based purchasing record reporting system is proving to be an effective mechanism for reviewing current purchasing habits and costs and will assist in the future successful integration of sustainable purchasing into existing policies and programs. Information has been sent out to all NEWF councils inviting them to join (free of charge) the new sustainable purchasing program 'Sustainable Choice', which is designed to help council meet ESD obligations and triple bottom line objectives. For more info check out [www.lgsa-plus.net.au/SustainableChoice](http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/SustainableChoice).

For further details on the Council Waste Reduction & Sustainable Purchasing project contact  
Karen Rudkin on 6687 4090 or 0401 941 330.

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## Project updates

### Waste Management Project Updates:

- **Hazardous Waste Collection Days** will be held across the region during March and April. Check local papers or the NEWF website for details on dates; times and venues.
- The successful **Landfill Operator Training** course will be held again in conjunction with **Hazardous Waste Training**. Grafton has again been selected as the site for the training with waste management staff from councils and the NEWF facilitating the training workshops.
- **NEWF Website** – don't forget to check the NEWF website – [www.northeastwasteforum.org.au](http://www.northeastwasteforum.org.au) – for more detailed information about each of the projects in the newsletter.

### Waste Education Project Updates:

- **Students Undertaking Sustainable Strategies (SUSS) Project** is a joint project between the NEWF, National Parks, Catchment Management Association, Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre, Rous Water and Marine Parks Authority and the high schools in the region. Representatives have been coordinating an environmental forum (SUSS) which will assist high schools in implementing their environmental management plans. It is intended that the forum will be run in April/May this year with a strong focus on waste avoidance and resource recovery.
- Angie Stringer is assisting Linda with the coordination of NEWF education projects. Angie will be working with Linda on the **Early Childhood Centre Waste Education Project**, the **Reusable Bag project** and updating the **A-Z of Waste** fact sheets. Angie is available on Tuesday's on (02) 6629 1413 or email [projects@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:projects@northeastwasteforum.org.au).
- **The Green House 'Living With Less Waste'** primary school education program will begin again in earnest, with the start of the new school term in February. An additional event funded by Byron Shire council will also be organised for the Brunswick Head (and possibly Byron) Scouts Association.

### Photo of the ultimate paper-less desk (NOT!)



### Construction & Demolition Waste

NEWF councils are currently working through a number of recommendations about how to improve the management of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste across the region. Of highest priority is to develop a standard classification system for receiving C&D Waste at landfill and transfer station sites, so that all councils are reporting in a consistent way; conducting C&D Waste Audits at each landfill and transfer station site to quantify the volumes currently being received by councils; and reviewing the Waste Not DCP developed by Lismore City Council for use across the region by other councils. Councils will continue to implement a range of recommendations over the coming two years.

### Waste targeted for improvement in 2006 State of Environment report

Waste reduction has been highlighted as one of the environmental issues requiring the most effort over coming years in the State of the Environment 2006 report. "Continued and greater reductions in net individual consumption and waste are required through significant increases in recycling and reusing critical materials," it says, pointing specifically at construction and demolition waste. While supportive of advances in recycling some forms of urban waste, such as paper and glass, it says these improvements "do not offset the environmental costs of net consumption".

### NEWF Meetings

9<sup>th</sup> February, Byron Shire Council,  
Station Street, Mullumbimby

30<sup>th</sup> March, Clarence Valley Council  
(venue to be advised)