

# 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

February – March 2007

## NEWF NEWS

**A warm welcome to Jeanie McKillop, who is joining the NEWF team and will be working on the Business Waste Reduction Project from 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

**Jeanie's contact details are e: [business@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:business@northeastwasteforum.org.au) and p: (02) 6687 4945.**

**We continue to send our warmest wishes to Samala and her family – the twin girls, Sunshine and Apple were born on the 28<sup>th</sup> January at 26 weeks. The girls have their mother's strength and resilience, both their parents' good looks and are improving their health and getting bigger every day. You can check out their blog at [www.applesunshine.blogspot.com](http://www.applesunshine.blogspot.com)**

## NEWF Events

Landfill Operator Training  
15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March, Grafton

Clarence Valley High Schools  
Environment Forum - 20<sup>th</sup> March,  
South Grafton High School

Voluntary Regional Waste  
Groups Forum  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March, Tamworth

NEWF Meeting  
30<sup>th</sup> March,  
Clarence Valley Council, Maclean  
Office, River Street, Maclean

North Coast Early Childhood  
Centre Conference  
31<sup>st</sup> March

Hazardous Waste Training  
2<sup>nd</sup> April, Grafton

## Early Childhood Centre (ECC) Waste-Wise Project

This is an exciting new project that the NEWF have designed as part of the Implementation of the NEWF Regional Waste Education Plan 06-08. The aim of the ECC Waste-Wise project is to assist and support ECC centres in NEWF Council areas to reduce their waste through provision of training and support for implementing simple waste reduction measures in their Centres - reduce paper waste, reduce organic waste, increase recycling and resource recovery.

The objectives of the project are to:

- increase awareness of waste reduction practices in ECCs;
- build staff capacity to implement sustainable waste practices;
- support the implementation of simple waste reduction measures;
- integrate sustainable waste practices into ECC activities.

This program will build on existing resources already available including the Lady Gowrie ECC environmental education program and the ROUS ECC Water-wise program, and on NEWF projects such as the Business Waste Reduction Program and Eco-friendly Youth Project.

A project coordinator will begin implementation of the project in April. For further information about the project, contact Angie Stringer, Projects Coordinator on 6629 1413 or email: [projects@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:projects@northeastwasteforum.org.au) or Linda on 6685 3651 or email: [education@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:education@northeastwasteforum.org.au)

## Council Waste Reduction & Sustainable Purchasing Project.

Waste Assessment Reports have been completed for Clarence Valley Council (both Grafton & Maclean Admin Offices) and Richmond Valley Council and include recommendations for both immediate and longer term waste reduction initiatives. The next steps will be to begin implementation of simple measures to avoid and reduce waste and to increase reuse and recycling rates and also to prepare a 'Waste Reduction Action Plan' (WRAP) to assist council to achieve their agreed goals. The reports for Byron Shire and Ballina Shire Councils are in progress and will be completed shortly.

Byron Shire and Clarence Valley Councils have agreed to progress membership of the LGSA Sustainable Choice Program through their executive and are in the process of doing so. A similar request has been made to Richmond Valley and Ballina Shire Councils.

At the last count, Sustainable Choice had 10 new council members committed to the program including 5 non-metropolitan councils. The program's database of sustainable goods and services is due for completion in April 2007.

For more information on the project contact Project Coordinator Karen Rudkin on 6687 4090 or [greenhouse@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:greenhouse@northeastwasteforum.org.au)



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## Project updates

### Waste Management Project Updates:

- A **Waste Not DCP Working Group** has recently been formed and will meet in March to develop a program for developing and implementing development control for Waste Minimisation. This project will bring consistency for the construction and demolition industry across the region and will assist in increasing the total of construction and demolition waste being reused and recycled on the north coast.
- Councils have recently signed a regional **Metal Waste Collection Contract** ensuring a very high price for all scrap metal waste collected by councils. The contract will run for the next two years.

### Waste Education Project Updates:

- **Students Undertaking Sustainable Strategies (SUSS) Project** - an environmental forum which will assist high schools in implementing their environmental management plans, has been confirmed to run on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May. South Grafton High School are also coordinating a one day environment forum on the 20<sup>th</sup> March with funds from the CMA, and with the participation of Clarence Valley Council and the NEWF.
- **The Green House Waste Education Trailer** will be getting a make-over! New interactive static displays on waste avoidance, product cycle and reuse and composting demonstrations will further improve the trailer.
- As part of the **Eco-friendly Youth Project**, staff training sessions are being run in the 6 Steps to an Eco-friendly Youth Centre Toolkit – CD-ROM and DVD. These will occur during April in conjunction with Ballina Youth Services, Casino Youth Services and Neighbourhood Centre, Grafton Neighbourhood Arts Centre, and Community Connections, Lismore. For further information on any of the above contact Linda Tohver on (02) 6685 3651.

### Household Chemical Collection Days

Once again the NEWF is co-ordinating household chemical collection days for councils in the region. To date over 13 tonnes of hazardous chemicals have been collected and disposed of safely. This project has been assisted by additional funding from the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation.

Council Area	Collection point	Collection Days
Tweed Shire	Stotts Creek Waste Depot, Ledday's Creek Road, Eviron	10 <sup>th</sup> March
Byron Shire	Myocum Landfill, Manse Road, Myocum	17 <sup>th</sup> March 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Ballina Shire	Ballina Waste Management Centre, Southern Cross Drive, Ballina	24 <sup>th</sup> March
Richmond Valley	Namoona Landfill, Dargaville Drive, Casino	31 <sup>st</sup> March
Richmond Valley	Evans Head Transfer Station, Evans Head/Broadwater Road, Evans Head	1 <sup>st</sup> April

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Clean Out Hotline - 1800 502 300.

### Recovering Resources at Bangalow Market

The Bangalow Market, one of Byron Bay's most popular markets attracting up to 4000 people each month, will introduce waste separation and resource recovery strategies at the 27 May market. A recent waste audit conducted by North East Waste Forum found the front of house waste to comprise 62% compostable materials, 28% recyclables and 10% waste. The three most common materials by weight were food waste (33%); compostable packaging 23%; liquid paper board (13%). We are currently investigating composting options, to allow three way separation of waste.

### 'Wipe Out Waste' at this years All Girls Surf Comp

The All Girls Surf Competition held over the June long weekend in Lennox has embraced the waste wise events initiatives. Waste avoidance strategies include printing calico bags for competitor's bags and selling promotional, re-useable, stainless steel travel mugs. Recycling will be separated using 2 bins at each bin station. With help from the Lennox Longboarders Association we aim to recover 40% of the waste for recycling from this year's event.

For more info on the Waste Wise Events Project contact Natasha Morton (02) 6684 3864.

### NEWF Meetings

30<sup>th</sup> March, Clarence Valley Council  
Maclean Office, River Street, Maclean

8<sup>th</sup> June, Richmond Valley Council  
cnr Walker Street and Graham Place