

NEWF News

Karen Rudkin will begin work on the **Students Using Sustainable Strategies** project in February. This project is a joint initiative of the Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators. The NEWF has responsibility for overseeing the co-ordination of the project on behalf of the project steering committee.

LGSA Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards- Winners!

December was an exciting month for the NEWF winning the LGSA Local Government Excellence in the Environment (Environmental Education category) Award for the Eco- Friendly Youth project. The project helps and supports youth service providers in the region to become an Eco-friendly Youth Centre through a 6 Step Approach. Well done to the Project Co-ordinator Linda Tohver and to the project partners and participants. More information on the project including the Eco Friendly Youth Centre toolkit is available at: www.ecofriendlycentre.com/

Clarence Valley Council (CVC) also did extremely well in the LGSA Local Government Excellence in the Environment (Local Sustainability) Division. CVC were the overall winners in this category for their Clarence Valley Sustainability Initiative. As a result of this initiative there has been a fundamental change in the way CVC do business, resulting in a solid move towards creating an organisation with a culture of sustainability. Well done CVC!

NEWF Events

26th Jan
Waste Wise Australia Day
Lance Ferris Park
Ballina Shire

8th February
NEWF Meeting
Byron Shire Council
Station Street, Mullumbimby

March & April
Hazardous Waste Collection
Days

26th March
Early Childhood Workshop
River Street Preschool
Ballina

27th & 28th March
RENEW NSW Meeting

9th April
Waste Wise Events Training
Clarence Valley
9.30am - 3.30pm

Early Childhood Services Waste Wise Education

A **combined workshop** with Barb Jensen, Education Officer with Rous Water who co-ordinates an Early Childhood Water awareness program is being planned for March 2008. The focus of the workshop is to network with early childhood staff in the region and promote conservation of resources in our local area. We will look at everyday routines, teaching practices and ways of working with families which promote education for the environment in Early Childhood Services. Please phone Barb Jensen on 66233827 or Georgie Piper on 6681 3968 if you would like further information on this workshop.



Two of the most difficult issues faced by Early Childhood (EC) Services with regards to Waste are disposable nappies and compost. This is especially the case for Long Day Care Centres where up to 12 kg of disposables and compost are generated daily (see photo). Firstly, effective separation of materials is required, secondly, it would be difficult for services to compost up to 12kg of material per day on site, using simple compost bins or worm farms. These are two issues which we hope to work through with EC services during this project to find creative solutions.

December/January 2008

Business Waste Reduction Project Update

The Business Waste Reduction Project enters the new year with a number of additional businesses using our advisory service. The Calypso Holiday Park in Yamba and the Riverside Caravan Park in Iluka are gearing up to improve their waste minimisation and recycling practices for 2008. Caravan and tourist parks face unique challenges in waste management - access to their sites, pedestrian traffic and seasonal fluctuations all make collection and sorting difficult. In December a site meeting was held with the Park managers, Clarence Valley Council officers and the NEWF to develop possible solutions to waste management problems at Yamba. A waste audit will be conducted in January to establish the composition of the Parks waste stream before any new systems are implemented. At Iluka new recycling signage was introduced to help holiday makers over the Christmas period easily identify where their recycling should go. With parks providing well signed, efficient systems and education opportunities most people will be able to 'do the right thing' while on holidays in the Northern Rivers, as well as at home.

Tweed Shire businesses will also be able to make use of the Business Waste Reduction Project's advisory service in 2008. A number of businesses have been approached to participate in the project.

All businesses in the region are able to access the project's web based, email or phone support. See www.northeastwasteforum.org.au under business for self-help toolkits and information.

Business Waste Reduction Project

Since being involved in the BWRP the Angourie Rainforest Resort at Yamba has initiated a number of changes to reduce the amount of waste they are sending to landfill. Giving guests the choice to reduce the number of room services during their stay has minimised the amount of individual toiletries that are disposed of on a daily basis in many resorts. Dealing with organic waste on site also contributes significantly to the environment by reducing the production of leachate in landfills.



General Manager Colin Quick displays the newly reinstated worm farm at Angourie Rainforest Resort at Yamba. The 'resort size' worm farm will help it dispose of the organic waste produced on the premises

Council Waste Reduction & Sustainable Procurement Project

Follow up office waste assessments have been completed at the Ballina, Byron, Grafton and Maclean Council Administration Centres and summary reports provided for feedback to staff. Overall there have been some encouraging improvements particularly in the separation of recyclables (co-mingled items and organics) from kitchen garbage streams and in the double sided printing or reuse (for notes) of paper.

The momentum will be maintained through 2008 as WRAP's are progressed. In addition waste reduction initiatives will be implemented at other council buildings including the Ballina Works Depot, the Copmanhurst & Westlawn Buildings in Grafton & the North Coast Water, Community Services & Short St Buildings in Maclean.

Tweed Shire Council have been provided with 40 new desk bins to assist in the separation and recycling of office paper in their newly refurbished Natural Resources Section and two Bokashi bins for organic recycling in the staff lunch rooms.

NEWF Meetings

8th February 9.30am – 1.30pm
Byron Shire Council, Station Street, Mullumbimby

11th April 9.30am – 1.30pm
Tweed Shire Council, Tumbulgum Rd, Murwillumbah

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

Newsletter Enquires To:
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December/January 2008

Waste Wise Events Update

The last Waste Wise Event held in 2007 was the Salt Carols Under the Stars event in the Tweed Shire. An unexpectedly large crowd of up to 2,500 people attended the event resulting in a shortage of bins to cope with the waste and recycling. Regardless, 125kg of recycling was diverted from landfill and Salt event organisers gained experience in waste management planning for future events.

In January 2008 I will meet with the Tweed Jockey Club in Murwillumbah with the aim of introducing recycling at future race days. Also in January, Ballina Shire will stage a Waste Wise Australia Day. For the first time, the council has arranged for printing of brochures on recycled paper and paper flags for give away on the day.

The next Waste Wise Events Training day has been scheduled for Wednesday 9 April from 9.30am to 3.30pm in the Clarence Valley. The training targets event organisers, council event and waste management staff. For more details contact Tash 6684 3864.

The focus of the project in the next 6 months will be Waste Wise Event policy development with each of the councils. Tash will meet with Tweed Shire, Clarence Valley and Byron Shire by the end of February.

Hazardous Waste Collection Days

Hazardous Waste Collection Days will be held across the region again for residents to dispose of their household chemical waste.

Council Area	Collection point	Day/s	Date 2008
Tweed Shire Council	Stotts Creek Waste Depot, Ledday's Creek Road, Eviron	Saturday	8 March
Byron Shire Council	Myocum Landfill, Manse Road, Myocum	Saturday Sunday	15 March 16 March
Ballina Shire Council	Ballina Waste Management Centre, Southern Cross Drive, Ballina	Saturday	29 March
Richmond Valley Council	Namoona Landfill, Dargaville Drive, Casino	Saturday	5 April
Richmond Valley Council	Evans Head Transfer Station, Evans Head/Broadwater Road, Evans Head	Sunday	6 April

Call Bernadette on 0427 150 422 for more information.

Reuse Directory – www.reusedirectory.com

The online *Reuse Directory* continues to go from strength to strength. In 2006/2007 the website received approximately 6,000 visits – confirming that the reuse industry is alive and well on the north coast. Karen Rudkin has been visiting some of the businesses as part of the annual update, and this should see the listing expand even further in 2008. The addition of categories to include sustainable products has also begun.

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