



Newsletter Enquiries to:
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August/September 2009

Farewell Gordon Fraser-Quick

It is with sadness that I inform our readers of the NEWF coordinator, Gordon Fraser Quick, leaving the organisation at the end of October. Gordon has been invaluable in initially setting up the NEWF 10 years ago and in the role of coordinator over the past 18 months. In particular he was instrumental in writing the Regional Waste Strategy 2009-2012 and securing E-Waste and CFL collections in NEWF member Councils. His vision and dedication to sustainable waste management will be sadly missed by the NEWF team and member Councils. We wish Gordon all the very best in his new endeavours in the renewable energy industry.

Ongoing E-Waste Collection underway

NEWF Council's now provide ongoing services for recycling of electronic waste at local waste management centres. Publicity about the E-waste service is occurring throughout local and regional media outlets, and signage has also been produced for the E-waste containers. The first loads of E waste from the new ongoing service have already been sent to Sims E Recycling in Brisbane for reprocessing, with more than XX tonnes collected already. Watch this space for further updates about the service.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Fluorescent Tubes

Ballina Shire, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire Councils now accept Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL's), Fluorescent Tubes, Mercury Vapour Lamps, High Intensity Discharge lamps and Sodium Lamps for recycling and reprocessing at their waste management centres. This is also an ongoing service, with promotion occurring in the relevant areas.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 24th September, Friday
25th September
NEWF Hosts RENEW NSW @
Tweed Sustainable Living Centre

1 – 2 October, NSW AAEE
Conference, Coffs Harbour

Friday 9th October, NEWF Meeting
at Clarence Valley Council, Prince
St, Grafton

November 7 – 14, National
Recycling Week

Nov 18th – CVC Landfill Open Day
for local students at Grafton

November 17th – Green Cleaning
Training, Ballina (to be confirmed)

Thursday 30th November and
Friday 1st December RENEW NSW
meeting Sydney

The Beach Café in Byron Bay has successfully implemented a recycling system as part of the Business Waste Reduction Project.





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Education Projects News

- ❖ A presentation about the Eco—friendly Youth Project was held at the NSW Youth Affairs and Policy Association Conference, to youth workers across the state to encourage youth centres across the state to adopt the 6 Steps to an Eco-friendly Youth Centre. This Project is in its second stage of funding from the NSW Environmental Trust and in early 2010 more intensive workshops will be conducted across the state. See www.ecofriendlycentre.com for further information.
- ❖ The NEWF have also been successful in presenting the outcomes of our Early Childhood Waste Education Project at the Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference in Coffs Harbour in October.
- ❖ Southern Cross K-12 recently approached the NEWF in assisting them in development and implementation of their waste management plan, as a result of the previous SUSS Forums. Recently students and teachers conducted a waste audit independently which demonstrated the need to manage their organics appropriately and investigate options for recycling.
- ❖ Five new A-Z fact sheets are being developed for the NEWF website. These fact sheets will cover the following topics: Sustainable Schools, E-Waste, Green Purchasing and Batteries. Should you have any other suggestions regarding topics for fact sheets, please let Linda know.
- ❖ The Green House is being showcased to other regional waste group representatives and to Lindisfarne Primary School, at the RENEW NSW meeting held at Tweed Sustainable Living Centre. The unit has been busy visiting a variety of new events across the region including: the Deadly Days Indigenous Festival at Kingscliff TAFE; the Fox St Pre-School Carnivale in Ballina; and the Big Scrub Day in Bangalow as well as Wilson Creek Primary School at Mullumbimby. The newly designed Green House is proving to be more popular than ever with the North Coast community and the schedule for 09-10 is filling fast.

Early Childhood Project News

We recently have visited some Early Childhood Services who are connected to other community organisations. Two examples are Bilambil Preschool Tweed Heads, who also run an After School Program from their building and Alstonville Baptist Preschool who uses the same kitchen and bin system as their church. In both these cases, our waste wise focus has been extended to the connecting organisations, increasing a broader community awareness and actions.

We are now using a wonderful parent/carer display. The purpose of the display is to allow children to talk with their parents and carers about worm farming, avoiding waste, recycling, low waste lunches and green cleaning. The display has been primarily made out of organic hemp, timber and water based printing inks and will be rotated throughout Services.

A **Green Cleaning** workshop for Early Childhood Services will be held in Ballina on the 17th of November. Bridget Gardener from Melbourne has developed a specialised Early Childhood Training course after running a research project in four Childcare Centres. Details of the course to be run in Ballina will be distributed to EC Services. It is also intended that a Council train the trainer course will be run in the afternoon.



The Early Childhood Project's parent display hangs in a prominent place for children and staff to show parents at Bilambil pre-school. Feedback about the display has been very positive and highlights the project's success in extending its education impact to parents and wider community.

Next NEWF Meeting

9th October NEWF meeting @ Clarence Valley Council, Prince St, Grafton



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Business Waste Reduction Project News

The Business Waste Reduction Project has started the new year with a focus on Cafe's and Restaurants. The Sandbar in Ballina Shire has become involved in the project to try and find a solution to organic waste disposal, an issue for many hospitality businesses. The owners are passionate home composters and wish to investigate possible on site worm farming or composting options for their restaurant. In Byron Shire the project co-ordinator recently addressed a Cafe and Restaurant group from Byron United regarding the recycling services available and their opportunities to reduce waste and purchase sustainably. As a result the Byron Beach Cafe has now introduced a recycling system, installing four wheelie bins to divert their glass and plastic from landfill. Signage was attached to internal collection points and staff were more than happy to comply with the new system. The project will now focus on raising awareness with other hospitality businesses in the area.

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Waste Wise Events



The Repco Rally Australia was held in the Tweed and Kyogle Shires in early September. The organisers worked with the NEWF in the development of a Waste Wise Management Plan. Recyclables were collected across the region and NEWF audited the waste streams from the Kingscliff Service Park and spectator points to determine how it had worked. 15.4m³ of materials were collected for recycling from the Kingscliff Service Park and Tweed spectator points. This was about 15% of the total waste generated at these locations. Data and information from the Waste Report will assist the organisers with future waste management planning for the event, to achieve a greater diversion from landfill.

Being Eco Friendly was all part of the fun at the Ballina Fox St Pre-School Carnivale, which was held on Saturday 19th September. The school committed to being waste wise, which fitted in well with the Carnivale theme of 'One World for Everyone' and the NEWF Green House paid a visit to further raise waste awareness. Only recyclable or bio-degradable packaging was used. All recyclables including the organics were collected. A diversion from landfill of 472 litres, which was 62% of the total waste generated, was achieved by sorting the waste at the end of the event, as 58% of the waste bin contents was recyclable. Contamination in the recycling bins was very low at less than 2% and there was no contamination in the organic bins. A great result for the pre-school.