



Newsletter Enquiries to:
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June/July 2009

NEWF Review

A process of in depth review of NEWF has commenced. The review, being conducted by member Councils, will consider all aspects of the way NEWF operates including all of NEWF's policies and procedures and NEWF's governance.

Having operated for almost 13 years it is timely that a major review is undertaken to ensure NEWF remains a vital and valuable asset for the regions Councils.

Review of governance and procedures is an essential part of any successful and effective organisation.

Regional Waste Plan (RWP)

The RWP is now available for download from the NEWF website.

Upcoming Events

July 09 - E waste, Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Fluorescent tubes collections commence and will be ongoing.

14th August - NEWF meeting @ Richmond Valley Council, corner Walker Street and Graham Place, Casino

9-12th September - NSW YAPA Conference – presentation of EFYP Project

24 – 25th September - NEWF Hosts RENEW NSW meeting at Tweed Sustainable Living Centre

1 – 2 October - NSW AAEE Conference, Coffs Harbour

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

30th Nov & 1st Dec - RENEW NSW meeting Sydney

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Household Chemical Waste Collection Program is a joint initiative between North East Waste Forum and its member Councils and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). The purpose of the program is to recover hazardous chemical waste from households, including cleaning agents, paints, batteries, fire extinguishers, gas bottles and pesticides. The 2008/09 collections were conducted over late May through June with 12.454 tonnes of chemical waste collected bringing the total to almost 150 tonnes since the program was commenced in 2002. This year's collection was adversely affected by the severe weather and floods.

Landfill Operator Training

North East Waste Forum is assisting DECC and Sustainable Learning Australia develop a statewide Landfill Operator and Training Manual and resources. This is a positive development. After 10 years of running this course locally and regionally the course will be available statewide through the support of DECC.

Regional Waste Audit Findings

The final report on the Regional Waste Audit yields some interesting statistics about the regions "average" waste bin:

- Weight of waste bin contents (kg): Richmond Valley 16.3; Kyogle 15.8; Ballina 14.8; Byron 11.2; Tweed 10.4; Clarence 9.8
- Portion (%) of waste bin contents that is compostable: Ballina 60.5; Byron 48.1; Kyogle 46.3; Tweed 44.4; Richmond Valley 39.4; Clarence 37.8
- Portion (%) of waste bin contents that is recyclable: Richmond Valley 35.4; Kyogle 28.7; Clarence 18.8; Tweed 18.7; Ballina 15.8; Byron 14.4;

These figures are already assisting Councils to make decisions about new waste services. Watch this space for more details....

The New Green House at Duranbah Public School in Tweed Shire





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Education Projects News

- ❖ **The new Green House Waste Education Program** has been successfully completed for this financial year and has received very positive feedback from schools and community events across the region. In May/June the program was delivered to 13 schools including Ballina and Mullumbimby high schools, attended 8 community event days and was involved in a World Environment Day school forum and a Landfill Open Day. Over 2000 people participated and many requests were made for future Green House visits to schools and events. The new 'Living Green with the Green House' school lesson plans for Yrs 4 – 6 and Yrs 7 – 10 were completed and distributed to the schools involved in the program and to NEWF council Education Officers to enable the program to be easily integrated into school activities and learning.
- ❖ **Draft Green House Schedule for 2009-10** will be developed and circulated to councils for comment in July and will incorporate requests that have been received from the community to host the Green House.
- ❖ **Landfill Open Day** was held at the Namoonna Landfill in Casino and was attended by 115 local primary school students. The visit included a guided tour of the site including the tip face and the public recycling area, a demonstration of the garbage trucks and a performance by the Green House.
- ❖ **A presentation on the SUSS Forum:** A Proven Partnership Project in Environmental Education for High School Students, was given at the recent Waste Q Conference in Brisbane as part of the Education Strategies and Case Study stream.
- ❖ **The Eco—friendly Youth Project** will be presented at the upcoming NSW Youth Affairs and Policy Association Conference in September, to youth workers across the state to encourage youth centres across the state to adopt the 6 Steps to an Eco-friendly Youth Centre. The NEWF have also put in a submission to present the outcomes of the Early Childhood Project at the upcoming Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference in Coffs Harbour in October.

Early Childhood Project News

Staff and teachers at Early Childhood Services taking part in our NEWF project have encouraged diverse and creative ways for young children to explore the waste wise message. Early Childhood educators are encouraging children to use art, song, stories, drawing and writing to explore ideas around being waste wise. The wonderful outcome is that these art forms are then shared with parents, carers and the wider community. Bangalow Community Children's Centre displayed a piece of art in a Community Art show recently. The collage was put together by the children and was made from all the unwanted packaging brought into the Centre over a period of time (**see photo**).

One of the children at River Street Preschool, Ballina has spent many weeks focusing on recycling and garbage. His teacher, Kay Price has displayed his work in a portfolio. Many of the Centres and Preschools have put up displays and photos and have encouraged children to share and develop their ideas on reducing and avoiding rubbish.



No More Packaging!
Collage created by Bangalow Preschoolers
Displayed in a Bangalow Art Show May 09

Next NEWF Meeting

Friday 14th August @ Richmond Valley Council, corner Walker Street and Graham Place, Casino



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Business Waste Reduction Project News

The BWRP and Brunswick Chamber of Commerce's recycling business of the month is Brunswick Heads Health Foods, where they consider the health of the planet as well as their customers. This business goes well beyond the regular Byron Shire Council recycling service to also divert all their organic waste from landfill. Food scraps are composted, worm farmed and provided as poultry food. Cardboard is kept separate and taken to Myocum landfill for recycling. Taking organics and paper products out of our waste is vital as it produces greenhouse gases when buried in landfill.

The Health Food store also buys local produce, thereby reducing carbon miles. Eggs, organic fruit and veg, coffee, honey, cereal – even cosmetics are sourced locally. Green cleaning products are used and sold by the business as well as fair trade and local cottage industry goods. The commitment of owner, David Shaw, to the environment is apparent in the 'Earth First – protect, respect and enjoy' signage on display. Well done Brunswick Heads Health Food.



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Waste Wise Events

This year's Casino Beef Week Festival held a waste wise Saturday Carnival Day. It was the busiest day of the week long festival with a crowd of up to 10,000 for the shows and grand parade. Waste stations including comingled recycling bins and a cardboard skip were set up in Barker St which was the hub of the entertainment area with fun rides and food stalls. The current lack of a kerbside recycling service in the LGA made running a waste wise event challenging due to low public awareness of recycling.

17% of the waste generated in the Barker St area was recovered for recycling. This was the cardboard and steel that had been separated and placed in the cardboard skip. The contamination level in the recycling bins was high at 16% and resulted in the recycling having to go to landfill. The event provided a good opportunity to promote the new kerbside recycling service, which will begin in early 2010 and to continue to raise public awareness and participation in waste avoidance and recycling. The Green House was located in the centre of Barker St and was very well attended by festival visitors. The information gathered at the event will assist organisers in reducing waste to landfill at similar future events in the shire.

