



Issue 2  
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NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE  
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**Business Waste Reduction Project News**

The second newsletter of the Business Waste Reduction Project aims to showcase the various waste reduction actions taken over the last two months. Given that this period covers the 'silly season' of Christmas and New Year, I write this newsletter with pride and enthusiasm at such a varied and innovative array of waste reduction practices.

*Secondary audits*

Each business will have their second waste audit carried out in the next month. The audits are conducted in order to gain insight into whether the new waste practices implemented have indeed made a difference on the waste to landfill, and if so, to what extent.

*The project continues*

The first stage of the Business Waste Reduction Project is due for completion at the end of March. Therefore in the next two months a number of things will happen. Remaining action plan activities will be completed where possible; secondary audits will take place; audit data will be analysed and presented to businesses and councils; and business successes will be showcased to relevant audiences and media.

**Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village**

The retirement village has a green waste programme up and running, where residents are able to leave their prunings/clippings outside the front of their homes to be collected by the maintenance officer. These are then taken to a designated location where at a later stage they can be composted and placed on their extensive gardens, helping to make the village more water efficient.

## Byron Central Apartments Moves through their Waste Reduction Actions

Byron Central Apartments have been gradually implementing their actions to improve the waste management of their complex. Since the last newsletter, Byron Central Apartments have:

- ✓ Encouraged better cardboard recycling by exchanging their trade waste bin for a cardboard recycling bin in the complex's waste depot - retail operators and guests still have access to garbage wheelie bins scattered around the complex;
- ✓ Placed signage on their cardboard bin asking people to flatten boxes prior to placing in the bin;
- ✓ Introduced small and recyclable fresh milk cartons for guests to replace single use and throw-away UHT portion control packaging;
- ✓ Placed an educational poster above their worm farms to help guests understand the system;
- ✓ Inserted relevant information on worm farming into their compendiums offering guests the option of using the worm farms;
- ✓ Written waste reduction practices for their staff induction notes
- ✓ Reduced disposal of cloths by using washable, reusable ones.

The complex continues to implement more sustainable practices to their business.

*BCA: worm farms with educational poster above*



*GCC: Wayne Ringland displays a composting technique employed by the correctional centre*



## Grafton Correctional Centre Works on Recycling Logistics

Grafton Correctional Centre is enthusiastic about implementing practices that they will benefit from in the longer term. This enthusiasm is beginning to pay off-

- ✓ Thirty two wheelie bins have been purchased and placed around the correctional centre's complex in order to provide easier recycling for staff and inmates alike. These bins were purchased primarily to increase cardboard/paper recycling and for commingled recycling (glass, plastic, steel, aluminium);
- ✓ A new large cardboard recycling cage has been built and placed in a central location where the new bins can be wheeled for recycling ease. When full, this cage is then transported to the recycling transfer station;
- ✓ An area has been located for aluminium recycling and the washing out of food trays; the centre can sell the material and earn money from their efforts;
- ✓ Staff are being encouraged to use their own ceramic mugs and paper cups have been purchased for guest use to replace non-recyclable plastic ones;
- ✓ A commercial-sized bokashi bin has been purchased for the trialling of food waste recycling;
- ✓ A mulcher is being used to compost green waste from around the correctional centre's gardens.

## Lismore Shopping Square Drastically Improves Contamination Rate

Lismore Shopping Square's waste reduction priority was to reduce contamination of their cardboard compactor to ensure their cardboard and paper is recycled and their waste system managed more effectively, therefore saving them money. The shopping centre focused on communicating with their retail operators, explaining the negative effects involved with contaminating the cardboard compactor with other materials (for example, increased fees for having to landfill the compactor contents and wasted recyclable materials).

In recent weeks, the shopping centre's waste service provider has been monitoring the contamination of their cardboard compactor and the results are overwhelming. While the waste audit carried out in July 2005 showed the contamination level to be 46%, it is now within the 8% cut-off level used to determine whether it is landfilled or recycled. Their compactor will continue to be monitored over February so let's hope these successful levels remain stable. Congratulations Lismore Shopping Square!

**LSS:** centre manager Geoff Gooch stands in front of their new compactor



**Casino RSM Club:** Staff member Robyn proudly displays the club's reusable bag



## Casino RSM Club recycles Cardboard

Casino RSM Club has steadily implemented many great waste reduction practices and initiatives into their business. Some of these include:

- ✓ Commencing cardboard and paper recycling;
- ✓ Introducing reusable bags as an educational tool for customers – these are used for various activities, for example bingo and meat raffles;
- ✓ Duplex printing in the offices set as default;
- ✓ Providing portion control training for kitchen staff, reducing food waste and benefiting profitability by 5%

Casino RSM Club is also currently looking into other sustainable practices by hiring an energy consultant in order to look toward minimising their energy usage in the years to come. In the past, they have also been involved in the NSW government's Stormwater Education and Assessment project, helping the club to minimise negative impacts on Casino's stormwater system.