

Sustainable Businesses

A great example of what a business can do towards reducing their waste with very little expenditure, a lot of imagination and dedication by staff, recently came to light in the Tweed Shire. **The Cabarita Beach Sports Club** have undertaken a number of new initiatives including recycling, reusing their organic waste and reducing their consumption of electricity and water.

The Club's greens keeper, after completing a sustainable agriculture course, installed 9 worm farms, made from donated bath tubs, to process the Clubs 60-80 kg per week of kitchen scraps. The farms are unobtrusively located behind the gardens where composting also takes place. The compost is available to patrons, as are the herbs now grown on the grounds. Plastic cups are reused as seedling pots and even the bowling greens are kept fungicide free with the application of natural micro-deterrents produced at the club.

All recyclable materials are collected, including kitchen oil, and some are reused in the Kids Club for craft activities. Bar and kitchen staff separate plastic, aluminum and glass at the source making the system operate effectively. To reduce water wastage the gardens are drip irrigated from bore water and rainwater is collected from the roof. A rain sensor has been installed so gardens are not automatically watered during rain periods. Inside the club low flow basins and dual flush toilets have been installed.

To reduce power consumption sensor lighting in fridges and cellars have been installed and air conditioners are on timers. The Club Manager, Phil Mallon, is now investigating options for heat pump or solar hot water.

Many of these changes have been made possible through a commitment by management, a dedicated staff, donations from patrons and the pursuit of funding and the assistance from government agencies. It's great to see this club operating as a socially and environmentally responsible member of the community and their efforts should be celebrated and emulated by other Clubs across the region.

*Dave the greens keeper and coordinator
Jeanie Mckillop with worm farms*



Reusing cup as seedling pots



Fungicide free greens



Business Waste Reduction Project News

The Business Waste Reduction Project (BWRP) is a NEWF project that offers local businesses across 6 council areas the opportunity to implement sustainable practices and minimize the waste they send to landfill. Participating businesses are given a site analysis, a waste assessment or audit; advice regarding waste minimisation and sustainable purchasing and on going support – all for free. The project also provides advice and training to business, Chambers of Commerce, industry groups and educational facilities.

Each business is unique and requires a different approach to waste management. The BWRP approach is flexible and allows for variation in individual operations. If your business would like to be involved in the project or needs advice on waste management issues please contact Jeanie McKillop at business@northeastwasteforum.org.au or ph6687 4945

Waste Wise Events

In the first quarter of 2009 three waste wise events were held across the region. The Lennox Head markets operations became waste wise with stall holders using more sustainable products and waste been separated for disposal, recycling and composting. The three bins system made it possible to divert 551 litres of recycling and 350 litres of organics from the market every month. This equals 67.5 % of the total waste produced and contamination rates were very low at 2%.

The Kites and Bikes Festival was held in Brunswick Heads in March. The event bins (pictured below) were distributed over three sites throughout town capturing 1338 litres of recyclable materials.



Finally, Cranfest was on during Evan Head Youth Week. Unfortunately heavy rain reduced participation in the event and very low volumes of recycling were captured.

Project Businesses

The Gallery café in Ballina has opened its doors and has adopted a number of sustainable practices. Recycling, worm farming and composting are integral to their operations, as well as more sustainable purchasing practices. Mandy, Mal and Kylie (the operators) are sourcing products made from recycled materials and products from the local region feature on their menu.

The management and residents of **Casino Village**, a motor home and van park in Richmond Valley, have now combined forces to get recycling underway. Management installed a three bin system for residents and volunteers take the recycling to the local landfill when required. There is no kerb side collection in the Shire and their efforts to implement this initiative are commendable. Well done Julie James and residents at Casino Village!



New recycling bins at Casino Village

CAPACITY BUILDING and NETWORKS



The Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce is backing the initiative to reduce plastic bag use in the Village. A sub-committee has formed and the **Lennox by the Sea – Plastic Bag Free** campaign is underway.

The main focus of the campaign is to encourage the use of existing reusable bags in the community and to raise community awareness. Local businesses have been supportive of the campaign and many have already introduced measures to encourage customers to buy or bring reusable bags.

Plastic bags pose a severe threat to marine life, so its not surprisingly that the campaigns logo is a turtle.

OUR WEBSITE

We have many useful resources on the NEWF website so log on to www.northeastwasteforum.org.au click the link to *Business*, and improve your businesses operations.