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NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE
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Business Waste Reduction Project News

Project Expansion

As businesses involved in the first stage of the project continue to receive assistance where needed or requested, other pioneering businesses are now beginning to think about minimising costs and waste. By using the audit and action plan information, waste reduction strategies can be tailored to suit individual business needs. Examples of such businesses are Maranoa Retirement Villages in Alstonville and Lismore. Oasis Resort and Links Holiday Apartments in Byron Bay are also looking forward to involvement in the project.

It is a pleasure to see the project reach this stage, where knowledge learnt is now able to be transferred, expanding environmental improvement across the region. Well done and congratulations to all businesses currently involved in waste reduction on the north coast. You really are helping to make a difference!

Online Information

The NEWF's website is available at www.northeastwasteforum.org.au and can be accessed to peruse summarised information on the Business Waste Reduction Project, as well as other NEWF projects. As projects progress, so does the website. Check it out!

In this issue:
Project news 1
Business partners' progress updates:
Lismore Shopping Square... 1
Byron Central Apartments... 2
Retirement villages..... 2
Grafton Correctional Centre. 2
Casino RSM Club..... 2

Shopping Centre Recycling
Many retail outlets in shopping centres have a high turnover of staff and it can therefore be difficult to ensure new initiatives are communicated to staff effectively. Lismore Shopping Square management, however, have been diligent with their cardboard/paper recycling campaign and it has paid off – their compactor costs have reduced dramatically. It has been a particularly good time to implement their campaign, given that the shopping centre has doubled in size since reopening in September last year.

Richmond Waste have also played a powerful role, monitoring the recycling for contamination levels and providing the Square's retail operators with educational signs to help them in their recycling endeavours.

Waste reduction a hit with Byron guests

In March, a one page 'Byron Central Apartments Environmental Policy' was inserted into the guest room compendiums to clearly illustrate what steps they are taking to protect their complex and environment, and to further educate guests on simple actions anyone can do at home too.

Byron Central management have reported guest recycling has been well received. As guests are able to divide their recycling from their waste in their apartment, the housekeepers can easily place the already separated materials into the appropriate bin. As far as all are concerned, it's a hit!

In March, a waste reduction showcase was held at a Northern Rivers On-site Accommodation Manager's meeting: from left Scott Wanchap of Byron Central Apartments (holding a worm farm food waste bin for guests); Samala Hogg of the NEWF and Cr Jan Barham, Byron Shire Mayor (holding a recycling bin for guest rooms).



Waste Volumes Down for Casino RSM Club

Since commencing cardboard and paper recycling, Casino RSM Club has been monitoring its effectiveness and is pleased with their results so far. By recycling cardboard and paper effectively, the Club can potentially reduce their total waste by 15% – in the first week of cardboard/paper recycling alone, 104kg was saved from landfill that can be recycled into useful products for use again.

If these figures continue, approximately 5.4 tonnes of paper/cardboard will be recycled each year!

Retirement Villages try their hand at cost savings through implementing some smart ideas

Maranoa Retirement Villages in Alstonville and Lismore have taken to waste reduction practices with great gusto! This year, they have managed to:

- Commence recycling plastics and tins from the kitchens in conjunction with support from Richmond Waste;
- Implement better paper recycling through staff education and placement of bins;
- Purchase a bokashi bin in order to reuse food waste on their gardens

Maranoa is also involved in introducing ozone generators in their laundry, reducing the number of wash cycles and therefore saving on water, detergent & power.

Grafton Correctional Centre turns food into liquid plant fertiliser

A bokashi bin trial has proved successful in reducing food waste and increasing plant growth by using the liquid fertiliser produced by the bokashi system—so successful that the gaol has ordered another three commercial sized bokashi bins to further reduce food wastage, hoping to implement a more thorough food waste reduction system into the future.

Signs have been placed on most of their bins to distinguish recycling from general waste and their trade waste bins are currently being monitored to ensure bins are only being emptied when full, therefore saving them money.

Signs used on the gaol's staff room bins



DID YOU KNOW? Apart from saving trees and landfill space, every tonne of paper recycled saves 2.5 barrels of oil, 4100 kWh of electricity and over 31, 000 litres of water!