



NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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Newsletter Enquires To:

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August/September 2005

NEWF news

Bernadette Thomas and Samala Hogg recently attended the Regional Waste Group meeting, co-ordinated by the DEC on the 29th and 30th of August. The meeting was held in Orange and hosted by Netwaste. Included was a tour of the Australian Native Landscapes operation, the Orange Resource Recovery Centre and the newly constructed Environmental Learning Facility.

Events**August - September 2005****3rd August****Launch of Eco-friendly Youth Project****2nd & 3rd August****The Green House at Clarence Valley's Local Government Week****5th August****NEWF Meeting
Lismore City Council****21st and 22nd August****The Green House at Herb Festival,
Lismore****25th August****North East Environmental
Educators Group Meeting, Iluka****28th August****The Green House, Evans Head
Market****29th and 30th August****Regional Waste Groups Meeting,
Orange****7th - 9th September****WasteQ 2005 & Landfill Conference
Rydges Southbank, Brisbane****17th and 18th September****The Green House at Rivafest,
Fawcett Park, Ballina****NEWF Plans for 2005/2006**

Welcome to a new financial year and a new three year program of activities designed to reduce waste, recover resources and inform and educate our community. The NEWF prepared a *Regional Plan for Managing Waste and Resources in the North East Waste Forum Region* - a strategic planning document for 2005-2008. For the first year the NEWF has an ambitious program ahead, including continuing our work with businesses to reduce their waste, preparing a regional Education Plan, research into recycling electronics waste, moving into stage 2 of the Organics Management Plan, managing hazardous waste, preparing a Regional DCP to reduce construction and demolition waste, and continuing our focus on waste avoidance with The Green House and our involvement in the Eco-friendly Youth Project.

We'll keep you updated on our progress through the regular newsletters, or you can go to the NEWF website

www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

for ongoing information.

If you need any specific information please call Bernadette on 6687 7066, Linda on 6685 3651 or Samala on 6685 8016.

Business Waste Reduction Project Update

Waste audits for Grafton Correctional Centre, Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre, Byron Central Apartments, Lismore Shopping Square and Casino RSM Club were carried out through July/August and their staff surveys completed. The audit and survey results are now being collated and a first draft of recommendations for waste reduction in each business is being investigated.

Meetings with the participating businesses are scheduled across September to showcase their results and tailored options for improvement. Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village is now firmly on board and will receive their waste audit in the week 12-17 September. Their staff surveys are currently being distributed.

By and large, the potential for diversion from landfill is promising due to cardboard/paper and food waste being the largest materials in waste composition across the businesses overall. All businesses involved appear enthusiastic and interested in the implementation phase ahead. For further enquiries, contact Samala Hogg.

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Waste Management Projects Update

Hazardous Waste Stores – the NEWF has begun a twelve month promotion strategy to raise the awareness of the hazardous waste stores within the community. Advertisements will appear monthly in all local and regional newspapers, Community Service Announcements will be sent to radio, and Councils will assist by publicising the stores in their regular information for the community. An information sheet will be prepared and sent to local community groups, and the NEWF website has a comprehensive outline of Frequently Asked Questions, Materials Accepted, Safe Chemical Handling, as well as photographs of the inside of the stores. This approach will make it easier for residents to access information and assist them to dispose of their hazardous material correctly.

Waste Education Update

1. **Regional Education Plan 2006-2008** – the NEWF is developing a regional education plan – 2006-2008 to facilitate a coordinated and strategic approach to NEWF education projects. The plan will provide an agreed focus for projects, support local government initiatives and provide an evaluation template for future projects. The Education Coordinator will be seeking input from member Councils and NEWF stakeholders including the NEERG group, the DEC and other regional waste groups. For further information contact Linda Tohver.
2. **Reuse Directory** – the new website for the Reuse Directory has gone live – www.reusedirectory.com and now includes a search engine, and business update and listing facility. A media strategy is being developed to publicise the website to businesses and community in the region.

Launch of Eco-friendly Youth Project

The Eco-friendly Youth Project, funded by the Environmental Trust was recently launched by Byron Shire Council Mayor, Cr Jan Barham at Byron Youth Services (BYS) on the 3rd August. The launch represents a commitment to the environment by the Centre, which incorporates the Youth Activities Centre, the BYS and the UNCLE program. Water (ROUS Water), waste (NEWF) and energy (Country Energy) audits are currently occurring with staff at the Centre, and an environmental management plan, and staff training will assist the Centre in implementing environmental practices.

A focus group with 20 young people in the Byron Shire also proved to be very successful in hearing about their awareness, values and practices in relation to the environment. The findings of the focus group together with the 60+ surveys received from youth in the region will assist in engaging with young people through the project and beyond. Contact Linda Tohver, Project Coordinator for further information.

Uncle representative; Paul Spooner, Director of BYS (holding the environmental policy); Cr Jan Barham, Mayor of Byron Shire Council; and Linda Tohver at the Launch of the project.



Next NEWF meetings:

9.30am, Friday 14th October
 Richmond Valley Council

9.30am, Friday 9th December
 Ballina Shire Council