

**NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE**

PO Box 340 LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478  
[coordinator@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:coordinator@northeastwasteforum.org.au)  
[education@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:education@northeastwasteforum.org.au)  
[www.northeastwasteforum.org.au](http://www.northeastwasteforum.org.au)

**Newsletter Enquires To:**

Linda Tohver  
 Education Co-ordinator  
 phone: 6685 3651  
 mob: 0427770198

June/July 2005

**NEWF news**

Samala Hogg has attended the Cleaner Production and Environmental Assessment training hosted by the DEC in Taree. This training will assist Samala in her work conducting waste audits and assessments for businesses involved in the Business Waste Reduction Project.

Linda Tohver and Samala Hogg will represent the NEWF at the WMAA Conference in July. The DEC has donated a stand for use by the NSW regional waste groups.

**Events  
 June – August 2005**

1<sup>st</sup> June  
 World Environment Day Celebrations,  
 Lismore City Council

5<sup>th</sup> June  
 World Environment Day

9<sup>th</sup> June  
 North Coast Environmental Education  
 Reference Group Meeting,  
 Dorrroughby Env. Ed Centre

10<sup>th</sup> June  
 NEWF Meeting, 9.30am, Byron Shire  
 Council, Mullumbimby

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
 WMAA Conference  
 Sydney

25<sup>th</sup> July  
 ESD Workshops for Councillors and  
 staff, Ballina RSL, River Street, Ballina

3<sup>rd</sup> August  
 Launch of Eco-friendly Youth Project  
 Byron Youth Services

4<sup>th</sup> August  
 North Coast Environmental Educators  
 Reference Group, Iluka

5<sup>th</sup> August  
 Meeting of the North East Waste  
 Forum, Lismore City Council,  
 Goonellabah 9.30am

**NEW Regional Strategy for the NEWF**

Over the past 12 months Councils and the NEWF have been developing a document that will guide the NEWF into the future of waste and resource management. The *Regional Plan for Managing Waste and Resources in the North East Waste Forum (NEWF) Region* emphasises the importance of waste avoidance and resource recovery as a means to achieving sustainability.

The plan continues the focus on domestic waste, begun with the original *North East Waste Forum Regional Waste Plan*, but clearly branches out into resource recovery in the Commercial & Industrial and Construction & Demolition sectors. The emphasis on a regional approach to dealing with individual waste types and infrastructure sharing, through regional contracts and marketing, will bring councils a step closer to achieving the NEWF vision of 'working towards achieving sustainable waste and resource management'. The importance of education and communication in working with an informed community to reduce waste and manage resources on a regional basis is highlighted throughout.

In developing the Regional Waste Plan, the process has been assisted by the valuable input by all NEWF Councils, following an extensive process of consultation and feedback from Council Waste Management and Education staff and the assistance from staff at the DEC.

Work on the projects contained within the Action Plan will begin in July 2005. For more information about the strategy contact Bernadette on 6687 7066.

**Business Waste Reduction Project**

The Business Waste Reduction Project has had a successful beginning, with information kits prepared and sent to the larger waste-producing businesses/business type nominated by each of the NEWF council representatives. The businesses that accepted to participate and benefit from the project are: Ballina Shire – Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village; Byron Shire – Byron Central Apartments; Clarence Valley – Grafton Correctional Centre and Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre; Lismore City – Lismore Shopping Square; and Richmond Valley – Casino RSM Club.

Preliminary meetings and site assessments have been completed. It is expected the waste audits and the majority of the staff waste practices surveys (and customer/resident/inmate surveys where applicable) will be carried out over the coming months to identify opportunities for waste reduction. For further information, please telephone Samala on 6685 9128

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**Eco-friendly Youth Project Underway**

Planning for the NSW Environmental Trust grant funded Eco-friendly Youth Project is well underway, with a Steering Committee formed & a planning meeting held; regional surveys being conducted with key youth organisations; waste (NEWF), water(ROUS Water) and energy (Country Energy) audits planned for August, and a youth focus group being coordinated at Byron Youth Services(BYS) and the Youth Activities Centre(YAC) in August. The project will be officially launched on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the YAC. It is particularly encouraging to have the commitment of the BYS, YAC and other programs working out of the Centre, in participating in the project & in recognising the benefits the project will offer both the centre itself and the local youth. It is anticipated that this support can be harnessed in other youth centres and organisations across the region. Contact Linda on 6685 3651 for further information.

**Second Hand Saturday a Regional Success**

With more than 400 households participating in holding their own or joint garage sale, the recently held Second Hand Saturday campaign has proved successful in participating Council areas of Lismore City, Richmond Valley, Byron Shire and Ballina Shire. Evaluation of the project has shown that it has helped to generate community interest in participating in reuse activities; supported diversion of waste from landfill through reuse (approx. 60 tonnes reported); and increased awareness of social, environmental and economic benefits of the campaign. Useful feedback has been received from participants in the campaign, which has largely been positive. This feedback will help to plan future Second Hand Saturday campaigns held in the region. The success of the campaign can also be attributed the ~ \$20,000 advertising sponsorship received from The Northern Star and the wider media coverage that this sponsorship allowed.



**The Green House**

The Green House, our mobile waste education trailer, has recently visited some local community events.

- Beef Week held in Casino– see photo left above of local children pledging to reduce their waste, with Daisy the reusable cow (front) and PETe, the waste expert (Right)
- Lismore City Councils' World Environment Day, where around 100 students from 4 primary schools participated in The Green House activities, including performances, quizzes and pledges (see bottom left photo). The schools that participated rated The Green House as excellent and very good.
- More events are planned for Ballina schools in Term 3, Herb Festival in Lismore, and Local Government Week in Clarence Valley.



**Next NEWF Meetings**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am**  
 Lismore City Council, Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am**  
 Ballina Shire Council, Cherry St, Ballina