



### From the Chairman ...

Just a quick note from the Chairman.

We had a very productive meeting with the Department of Environment and Resource Management pertaining to the new Landfill Levies. Members were able to express their concerns and also to ask questions of Kylie Hughes and Peter Collins from DERM. Thanks must go to Kylie and Peter for their input and interest and also for their ongoing support of LAWMAC.

I must stress that all member councils should put in their own submissions to the strategy and levies and endorse the LAWMAC submission.

The August meeting and AGM will be upon us shortly and I would urge all members to attend.

We always appreciate the input from our associate members and it is always pleasing to see them at meetings and workshops.

– Cr Greg “Tommo” Thomsen

### Schools embrace Earth Smart Science initiative

As part of the State Government Q2 Earth Smart Science initiative and in conjunction with Tablelands Regional Council, schools on the Tablelands are looking closely at the waste they produce and how they can reduce, re-use and recycle.

Tolga State School students recently conducted an audit of the rubbish they generate at the school with assistance from Council staff.

Council personnel had an initial meeting with the School's Student Council with the proposal of conducting the audit to identify the types and quantities of waste generated.

The audit was scheduled for the afternoon of their usual waste collection day and by special arrangement, the garbage truck visited the school after the audit was finished to pick up the wheelie bins of waste.

Council supplied the audit resources of tarps, disposable gloves, tongs, fishing scales and recycle bags to weigh the waste. Council also created a record template sheet that was supplied to the school prior to the audit which they altered to suit their needs.

The students took great delight in doing the messy task of separating the rubbish and were quite surprised at the findings. Some Mum and Dads would also be surprised and disappointed with whole untouched pies, sandwiches, tubs of yoghurt and fruit thrown out.

The Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre (TEEC) is co-ordinating the Earth Smart Science program with schools who are required to prepare a School's Environmental Management Plan (SEMP).

The waste audit assists in setting a benchmark and waste reduction target that can be written into the SEM. TEEC are also ordering recycle bins for placement in schools with Council providing support to source bin stickers and other educational materials.

Atherton State School have also taken the initiative to clean up the nearby Priors Creek. This creek is located behind a local supermarket and is prone to have shopping trolleys



■ Tolga State School children sort out their rubbish to determine what could be re-used or recycled.



■ Students from Atherton State School removed a number of shopping trolleys from nearby Priors Creek.

through into it. The students took great effort to drag the trolleys up the creek bank along with plenty of other items of litter.

For their effort, Tablelands Mayor Tom Gilmore visited the school during a morning parade to congratulate the students and award them with certificates.

Tableland Regional Council looks forward to supporting more schools throughout the year with similar projects.



## Bike path makes use of old printer cartridges

The Australian National Park Service has found a creative alternative to letting E-waste end up in landfills.

Repeat Plastics Australia has recently opened a new bike path made entirely out of excess plastic materials from discarded printer cartridges.

Since 1992, Repeat Plastics has been making high quality, affordable recycled plastic products in Australia, branded Replas, using recycled plastic from the domestic and commercial waste streams.

The 17-kilometre (10.6-mile) bike path stretches between Alice Springs and Simpsons Gap in the north-west territory of Australia and sees over 120,000 visitors every year.

According to Parks and Wildlife Minister Karl Hampton, the bridge echoes the Australian Government's commitment to sustainable development, "saving landfill, trees, and ensuring a longer life with less maintenance".

The bridge is certainly a refuge for local residents and tourists looking to enjoy the outdoors, but everyone can appreciate the money saved in using recycled materials – the entire bike path, complete with a viewing platform, cost the city \$330,000 to complete.

## Landfills bursting at the seams with e-waste

***This news item was posted on the ABC Radio website on 5 June, 2010***

In Australia, more than 17 million televisions, computers and other electronic products are thrown away every year.

The desire to keep up with the latest technologies means current models are ending up on the scrapheap in ever increasing numbers, and what is going into landfill contains dangerous toxins.

A recycling scheme was proposed a year ago to deal with this potential crisis in what is called e-waste, but it is nowhere near being implemented.

Meanwhile, Jane Castle from the Total Environment Centre says Australian landfills are bursting at the seams.

"We are buying more and more every year and we're dumping more and more every year," she said. "We have over 250 million toxic products either in landfill or on their way there every year, and there are many millions going into landfill every year."



## Old trucks learn new tricks

Three used kerbside collection trucks have taken on a new innovative role for Townsville Waste Services as stationary compactors for cardboard collection thanks to funding received from the National Packaging Covenant.

This initiative is the first of its kind in North Queensland, and is expected to divert an additional 189 tonnes of domestic cardboard and 3,138 tonnes of commercial cardboard from landfill in its first year alone.

The first compactor has been converted and is on site at Hervey Range Transfer Station where it is undergoing a trial process.

Once successfully operational, the subsequent two compactors will be moved to the Jensen and Stuart Landfills.

The project will use the same recycling contractor but change the collection and delivery method to enhance recycling capacity.

It will contribute approximately one percent to the National Packaging Covenant's target of diverting 405,100 tonnes of paper and cardboard from landfill by 2010.



■ One of the three former collection trucks which is now being used as a stationary compactor for cardboard.

E-waste contains hazardous materials, such as lead, airborne mercury and plastics with flame retardants. The goods end up in landfill or, more rarely, go to dedicated facilities.

Australia's largest e-waste recycler was opened by Environment Minister Peter Garrett two years ago in the Sydney suburb of Villawood.

It takes 10,000 tons of e-waste a year and has the capacity to double that amount.

It is not in place yet, but last November the Federal Government said it would support a product

stewardship scheme.

In exchange for a small increase in the cost of new electronic goods, companies would arrange for recycling at the end of the product's days.

John Lawson from Global Renewables says the cost would range from just a few cents to around \$30, depending on the type of object and what it is made from. "The more valuable materials that go into that object, the more it is likely to cost less to recycle," he said.

# News from the Packaging Stewardship Forum

Over the last 18 months, the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council (PSF) has been working on a number of significant projects within the LAWMAC region focusing on airports, universities and TAFEs, stadiums, major entertainment venues and remote and indigenous communities to reduce littering and improve the recovery of our members' packaging.

## PUBLIC PLACE RECYCLING

Townsville and Mackay Airports are soon to launch their new Public Place Recycling (PPR) systems. The airports will provide recycling opportunities for the first time to nearly 3 million passenger visits each year (Townsville: 1.7 million passengers and Mackay: 950,000 passengers).

■ Cairns Airport has recently completed installation of PPR systems (pictured below) which will service around 4 million passengers each year. Systems focus on the recovery of PET bottles and aluminium cans in particular. Cairns Airport is expected to recover over 50 tonnes of commingled recyclables each year.



■ New PPR bins at Cairns Airport

■ James Cook University's (JCU) PPR systems have been installed at their Cairns Campus and will soon be installed at the Townsville Campus. The JCU project is a partnership with the PSF and the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM). The PSF provided all bin infrastructure, with DERM providing artwork and signage. This project provides away from home recycling opportunities for up to 14,000 students, 2000 visitors and 3,800 staff per year.

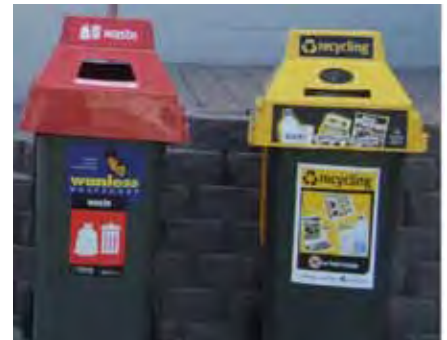
■ Tropical North Qld TAFE PPR and Resource Recovery project is progressing well. PSF is working with Cairns Regional Council to develop education materials for the collection of waste and recyclables. The PPR bins and signage will provide away from home recycling, opportunities for up to 15,000 students and 400 staff.

■ Cairns Convention Centre PPR systems have been in place for over 12 months with recycling systems being introduced to both front and back of house. Positive results have been achieved with increased recycling rates and reduced contamination rates. On average the Centre is collecting 1 tonne of commingled recyclables per month. The PPR systems will all carry the PSF/DERM call to action to the community ...

***"Do the right thing - use the RIGHT BIN"***

## DAIRY FARMERS STADIUM TOWNSVILLE

Dairy Farmers Stadium in partnership with the PSF and DERM introduced PPR in March 2009 by the PSF. Recycling rates have increased substantially since the introduction of the system with the stadium now achieving a 29.2% diversion rate from landfill.



## REMOTE AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

### Aluminium Can Recycling

PSF is working with Sheils Barra on the Cape York Peninsula Aluminium Can Recycling project. Six drop off facilities along Cape York Development Road and in Cooktown provides aluminium can recycling opportunities to both community members and visitors in the region. All monies received from the processing of cans are donated to the Royal Flying Doctors Services.



■ Aluminium Can Baling Bags are working well

## HAMILTON ISLAND GLASS REPROCESSING AND BALING INFRASTRUCTURE

The PSF, in partnership with DERM and Hamilton Island, has funded the installation of new infrastructure to enable glass to be reprocessed for reuse on the island and for other recyclables to be baled prior to transport to the mainland. It is estimated that the project will save Hamilton Island Enterprises an estimated \$10,000 per month in waste management costs as they no longer will have to ship materials such as glass to the mainland at great expense. Since commissioning of the new glass processing plant in April 2010, 33 tonnes of glass has been processed for use in service trenches as bedding medium.

Recycling systems have also been put in place for staff and residents on the island to facilitate the sorting of materials front and back of house. The next stage of the project is the installation of a baling machine to achieve greater transport efficiencies.

## SIGNAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The next PSF signage support program will now be released in early September 2010. All LAWMAC members will be advised via email.

## Date Claimer

### The Tenth Australasian Permaculture Convergence to be held at Kuranda

September 24-27, 2010

### and Post-Convergence Tablelands Tour

Tuesday, September 28.

In the heart of the rainforest at Kuranda, Far North Queensland, with special guest and Gala Dinner Keynote Speaker Daryl Hannah, one of the world's foremost environmental campaigners.



The Permaculture Convergence is more than just talking about soil. It will cover all aspects of Sustainability including waste management, emergency and disaster management, energy reduction and heaps more. Gerry Gillespie from the City to Soils project and President of Zero Waste Australia will also be speaking.

Go to [www.apc10.org](http://www.apc10.org) for more information.

## Composting Trial – Update

Progress is really happening on the Composting Trial taking place at Mareeba.

Recent milestones include signing of the Composting Trial Agreement between Tablelands Regional Council and Good Earth Projects Pty Ltd and gaining Resource Entitlement approval from DERM.

The past few months have seen a few changes of plans. The Mareeba landfill will be expanded in 2010 which affected the viability of the originally proposed composting trial site therefore a new site was decided on, still within the Mareeba landfill parcel of land.

As it turns out the new site will greatly improve efficiency of composting operations, site amenity and security – sometimes things happen for a reason.

Earthworks for the composting site are expected to commence in the first week of August.

Upon receiving the Resource Entitlement, Council were able to complete the submission to DERM's Eco-Access for the ERA 53 Composting and Soil Conditioning approval.

This approval and the site preparations are the only two items on the "to do" list prior to making compost.

I look forward to providing the next update.

– *Kirsty Lamperd, Tablelands Regional Council*

## Stuart Landfill goes solar

Solar panels have recently been installed onto the roof of the gatehouse at the Stuart Landfill, Townsville, using funds obtained by the sale of advertising space on the side of the waste truck fleet.

The energy generated by the panels will be fed into the power grid and any surplus will go towards reducing the power bill for the site.

This initiative provides an example of how Townsville Waste Services is trying to reduce its environmental impact.

## Update on draft Waste Strategy

On 5 July 2010, the Queensland Government released a draft waste strategy for public consultation and announced the introduction of an industry waste levy from 1 July 2011.

One of the key initiatives over the next 12 months is the "levy ready" project.

The highest priorities for this project will be infrastructure improvements to enable levy collection. The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is currently working with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to provide assistance to local governments in assessing their infrastructure needs.

For further information on this project please contact Mr Stephen Murray of DERM on (07) 3330 6042 or email [stephen.murray@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:stephen.murray@derm.qld.gov.au)

## New face for *drumMUSTER*

The recent resignation of well known identity Mr Bill Davis from his role of Regional Consultant for *drumMUSTER* and Chemclear in North Queensland brings a new face to the position.

Bill has been a wonderful ambassador for both programs during his nine years with the program. His jovial and extremely pleasant attitude along with his wealth of local industry knowledge will be missed by many.

The programs have seen considerable advancement during Bill's reign and the challenge for all stakeholders is to keep the momentum going.

His replacement, Colin Hoey (pictured), will endeavour to continue the advancement of both programs in the region. Colin has been involved in the south of the state with *drumMUSTER* and Chemclear since 2003. Colin has completed the first of many visits to the north recently with Bill, meeting stakeholders and gaining a clearer picture of the program in the area. He looks forward to the challenge of continuing Bill's efforts to "GET EVERY DRUM FROM EVERY FARM." Colin can be contacted on 0428 964 576.



## LAWMAC meeting

The next LAWMAC Workshop, AGM and GM scheduled for **5-6 August** in Townsville.

Note that the venue for the Thursday Workshop is the **Riverway Meeting Room at the Riverway Centre Thuringowa** (not the Tony Ireland Stadium at the centre but the Meeting rooms near the public pool area).

The venue for Friday's AGM & GM is the **Parks & Waste Meeting Room, Bamford Lane Depot, Kirwan.**