



### From the Chairman ...

As chairman, it gives me great pleasure to report on our activities.

Whilst the minutes give the essence of the meeting it is also very important to note that the workshop held in conjunction with the February meeting to discuss and brainstorm the idea of a project officer was most productive.

A range of issues were fleshed out and it was decided that a full-time project officer would not be viable and that the position should be as required.

During the discussions it was decided that our secretary, Mary Field, would ascertain what recyclable quantities were available in the NQLGA area allowing for any current markets and contracts which already exist.

Once this is established, it will then be put out to expressions of interest for research by the likes of James Cook University. Also our website is now going to be maintained on an ongoing basis by Mary. Remember to use the website. We will also be linking many other sites to ours to increase the recognition of LAWMAC.

– Cr Greg “Tommo” Thomsen

### Rossko Memorial Award

LAWMAC is the Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee and is pleased to invite nominations for the 2010 Ross Overton (Rossko) Memorial Award for Excellence in Waste Management in North Queensland.

The Rossko Award allows us to showcase the achievements, success and innovation in the fields of waste management, recycling and environmental awareness, while maintaining the legacy and honour the memory of Ross Overton.

The award will be assessed on a variety of elements which may include, but not be limited to, advocacy of sustainable waste management; contribution to community waste management education; implementation of best practice waste management; demonstrated environmental awareness and stewardship; and vision and innovation in the field of waste management.

Nominations with full supporting information will be required to be submitted to the secretary by 30 July 2010.

The award will generally be made to a person, agency, company or local government which demonstrates performance and commitment. Nominations will be assessed by a selection panel comprising of four nominated LAWMAC members. The award comprises a cash component of \$500, along with a perpetual trophy and will be presented at the November 2010 General Meeting of LAWMAC.

Further information and nomination forms can be obtained from [www.lawmac.org.au](http://www.lawmac.org.au)

Queries related to the Awards are to be directed to LAWMAC Chair, Cr Greg Thomsen on 0408 076 470.

### Wheelie creative bins

Wheeliedesigns.com is a creative Australian business that has pioneered the development of a unique range of designer vinyl stickers for wheelie bins.

Since the product was first launched in late 2008, the company has transformed garbage collection-day into a colourful spectacle, where whole streets in suburbia go on show!

As a result of the company's ongoing success in the marketplace, the product can now be found within boutique stores, as well as in national franchise outlets with Designer, NRL and Cricket Australia ranges throughout Australia.

Wheeliedesigns.com are set to launch their new commercial range of bin stickers in late May 2010.

The commercial ranges are tailored to suit Council requirements and will be available in small and bulk quantities with complete customisation available.

The new commercial range will feature designs that highlight interpretive and regulatory information, positive environmental messages as well as complete sets of recycling stickers for different recyclable items.

The design team has spent the last six months developing the ranges, which include extensive photography of recyclable items and commissioned artworks.

To be sent a copy of the e-catalogue when launched please contact: Ruth Tomas, Chief Bin Lady, Wheeliedesigns.com by phoning 1300 559 008, email to [ruth@wheeliedesigns.com](mailto:ruth@wheeliedesigns.com) or go to [www.wheeliedesigns.com](http://www.wheeliedesigns.com)



### Date Claimers

LAWMAC meeting dates for 2010 are:

**20 MAY** - Strategic Plan Review Workshop  
12 noon at 161 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

**21 MAY** - LAWMAC general meeting  
8.30am at 161 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

**5-6 AUGUST** - Annual General Meeting  
(Venue to be advised)

**18-19 NOVEMBER** (Venue to be advised)



## Public recycling initiative will divert waste from landfill

Wet'n'Wild Water World has announced the rollout of a public recycling initiative that will see more than 1000 bottles diverted from landfill each day. The infrastructure for the recycling initiative has been in place since February 2010 as part of Warner Village Theme Park's sustainability program across its four parks.

The initiative was announced recently by Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading Peter Lawlor MP, at Wet'n'Wild Water World, which has installed 50 new recycling bins throughout the park in partnership with the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, the Queensland Government and Coca-Cola Amatil.

Bob White, General Manager for Wet'n'Wild Water World and Warner Bros Movie World, said: "With more than one million people visiting our park annually, the new recycling bins and the Queensland Government's 'Do the Right Thing, Use the Right Bin' recycling message will have a significant impact on the environment.

"We've now implemented two recycling streams at the park: beverage packaging and cardboard. The recycling bins at Wet'n'Wild will have the potential to divert six tonnes of waste from landfill annually, reducing our carbon footprint by 34 tonnes every year."

General Manager of the PSF, Jenny Pickles, said: "We're promoting behavioural change amongst consumers, which is even more beneficial for the young children who enjoy Wet'n'Wild Water World, encouraging them to adopt positive habits at an early age. We believe that this behavioural change will feed through into other areas including at home and in schools."

The recycling initiative is being implemented across all Warner Village Theme Parks in Queensland. On average, 20 tonnes of beverage containers will be saved from landfill each year from Wet'n'Wild, Movie World, Paradise Country and Sea World. This will equate to a reduction in CO2 emissions of 105 tonnes, equivalent to taking eight cars off the road each year.

## Exciting updates to LAWMAC website

At the February 2010 general meeting of LAWMAC, members acknowledged the creation and technical development of the LAWMAC website by Mr Arnaud Gougeon (Cook Shire Council) and endorsed the future development and inclusion of the Committee's historical background content by the LAWMAC Secretary Ms Mary Field.

Although the LAWMAC website is still an ongoing "Work-in-Progress", the site is now emerging as an interesting recording of LAWMAC events and becoming a valuable source of waste industry information complete with relevant membership and associate links.

Members are encouraged to visit and investigate updates to the site at [www.lawmac.org.au](http://www.lawmac.org.au)

## Composting trial for Mareeba

Tablelands Regional Council was approached in November, 2009 by a group of interested people (now a company called Trust Nature FNQ) to participate and engage in a two-year composting trial.

The composting trial operation will use a scientifically verified and specialised thermo-aerobic process in which compost is used as a medium to grow beneficial soil microorganisms. The process utilises a specific compost turner, the application of compost teas and careful monitoring and handling of the compost to ensure the process maintains the specific temperature, moisture and aerobic conditions required to grow beneficial soil microorganisms.

The objective of the project is to demonstrate the multiple economic, environmental and social benefits of closing the loop on organic waste streams and converting them into a high value compost for use on local farms. Inputs into making the compost product include greenwaste mulch, bio-solids, cardboard, mill mud, agricultural waste products and the special ingredient, compost tea.

Application of the compost on agricultural soils as a soil amendment helps to improve overall soil health, plant health, productivity and achieve reductions in fertiliser application and expenditure amongst other benefits. The compost is rich in beneficial soil microbes (aerobic microbes) that help to break up compacted soils, help soil to accept water during heavy rain events, retain moisture in soils during drought periods and contributes greatly to terrestrial carbon sequestration.

The Mareeba Landfill was identified as the preferred site due to the availability of land, mulch and due to its close proximity to farms for distribution. Tablelands Regional Council resolved at its February meeting to participate in the trial and requested an agreement be prepared between the parties. Trust Nature FNQ and Council staff met and negotiated terms for an agreement which Council approved at its April, 2010 meeting. Council staff and Trust Nature FNQ are now working together to gain DERM approval for an ERA 53 (Soil Conditioning) whilst also making preparations for site works which include an impermeable pad for composting windrows, small leachate capture dam and shed. It is hoped, weather permitting, that production of compost will commence in mid May, 2010.

TRC will provide an update in the next LAWMAC newsletter, otherwise for further information contact Kirsty Lamperd at TRC on 4043 4390.



## Beijing takes unique steps to quell rubbish odour

*This news item was posted on the [bigpond.com.au](http://bigpond.com.au) website on Saturday 24 April, 2010*

Beijing is waging war against the stench of its growing rubbish tips by using giant deodorant sprays to cover the smell as the warmer weather causes more waste to rot.

Employees at the Gao'antun Garbage Landfill Plant, in the city's suburbs, used more than 100 cannons for the job after local officials were forced to apologise for the foul smells coming from the dump.

Officially termed 'high pressure long-range deodorant sprays', they blast a liquid created from plant extract onto waste arriving at the site and can reach up to 15 metres away.

The biological compound neutralises the smell. The fragrance-covered rubbish is then buried under odour-eating covering sheets and further deodorant is sprayed on top.

Other devices also been introduced, including a machine that extracts the foul-smelling gases and uses them to generate electricity.

But waste management experts have expressed doubts over the deodorant scheme.

'The cannons are stench-neutralising tools that should be used under special circumstances. But we cannot keep blasting all day long,' said Nie Yongfeng, Professor of environmental and engineering sciences at Tsinghua University.

'If these cannons keep blasting every day, they will definitely cause noise pollution to the surrounding area.'

Gao'antun landfill is just one of many sites struggling to process the mountains of rubbish produced by China's heaving capital.

Beijing's 17.6 million residents produce 18,400 tonnes of household garbage daily, 90% of which is dumped in the 13 landfills dispersed around the city, according to state-run news agency Xinhua.



## Update from LGAQ

**State Waste Strategy** – We are still waiting for the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) to release the draft Queensland Waste Strategy. There is no known timeframe for the release of the draft but it is anticipated that it will be released soon.

DERM is likely to conduct consultation sessions around the State when the document is released and LGAQ will advise members of local sessions. It is unknown at this time whether a waste levy will be included in the waste strategy.

**Waste legislation** – DERM commenced the process of remaking some of the waste legislation late in 2009 but this has now stalled while we await the release of the waste strategy.

The first part of this legislation remake was to review the current definitions in the waste legislation. John Hogg from Mackay Regional Council is the LAWMAC representative on the working group so if you have any issues with the definitions, have a chat to John and he can make appropriate contributions when the group meets again.

**CPRS** – the Federal Government is not putting the legislation through the Senate again for fear of a double dissolution. It is unlikely that any form of CPRS will be introduced this year at least but LGAQ will keep members informed if any news comes to hand.

– **Christine Blanchard, Environment and Health Policy Advisor**



## Clean Up Day a success

On 7 March, 2010, hundreds of thousands of volunteers around the nation helped celebrate Clean Up Australia Day's 20th anniversary year, donning gloves to clean up Australia's major rubbish hotspot areas and clear the most frequently dropped items, including cigarette butts and recyclables such as glass, plastic and paper.

Approximately 588,000 volunteers across the country took part in the day at 7073 registered sites, which marks an increase of 6 per cent from 2009.

The Great Northern Clean Up campaign was run as a pilot event for Clean Up Australia over the weekend of 3-4 October 2009. The aim was to provide an opportunity for the communities within the northern parts of Australia to participate in Clean Up Australia Day at a time more suitable to their climate. It is to be permanently etched into calendars in Northern Australia following the overwhelming success of the inaugural event.

Close to 90 tonnes of rubbish was removed from beaches, waterways and local parks by the almost 1800 volunteers at sites stretching right across the top end.

The 2010 Great Northern Clean Up will take place over the weekend of 11-12 September. Keep an eye on this newsletter for details of the 2010 campaign.