

## Waste Wise Events Project – Case Study Bangalow Billy Cart Derby 2007

### Background

The North East Waste Forum (NEWF) is a collective of local councils that have come together to share resources to help avoid and reduce waste going to landfill in the Northern NSW region. The NEWF collective not only provides support for participating local Councils in managing waste, but also provides support and advice to various commercial sectors on how best to implement sustainable practices that reduce waste generation, wastes landfilled, and promote the recovery of recyclable resources.

An initiative of NEWF, The Waste Wise Events (WWE) Project, began in October 2006 and focused on reducing waste to landfill by implementing Waste Wise Management Plans (WWMP's) for seven events across the NEWF region. A variety of events were chosen with participant numbers ranging from 2,000 to 25,000 people. Events covered agricultural, sporting, family, food & music festivals.

### Bangalow Billy Cart Derby



The annual Billy Cart Derby held down the main street of Bangalow, attracts up to 8,000 people each May. The event is organised by the Bangalow Chamber of Commerce and attracts a mainly local crowd. Cafes along the main street serve food all day, along with six food vendors, a bottle shop and a pub. Races are located in the school grounds. The races include a range of categories; a skateboarding race is also a highlight. Spectators line the main street, setting up chairs for the day which starts at 8am and finishes at 4pm. For the past 11 years the event has sent all waste to landfill.

### The Challenge

The amount of waste generated at community/public events can be significant (about 1 litre/person/day), creating an unpleasant mess and large clean up costs for event organisers & councils. The north coast is host to approximately 300 events and 23 regular monthly markets each year. With many events attracting visitor numbers from the thousands to the tens of thousands the disposal of waste constitutes a major problem for councils. Many events in the region present unique challenges by attracting many visitors from outside the region. Communicating about waste & recycling systems must be simple and easy.

### Waste Wise Management Plan

A WWMP incorporates recycling and waste avoidance objectives into each stage of event planning, sets achievable targets and assigns roles and responsibilities. Targets set for this event included:

#### Packaging:

- Stallholders and participating cafes to use biodegradable packaging for serving food.
- Avoid the use of polystyrene and non recyclable plastic.

#### Promotion of the recycling systems:

- Pre event media releases in local papers.
- Letter to stallholders and cafes outlining packaging requirements.
- PA announcements every hour.
- Advertisement in event program.
- NEWF Green House waste education trailer with two performers.
- Signage on bins designed specifically for event bins. Recycle bins target drink containers: aluminium cans; plastic bottles; glass and (liquid) paper cups.

#### Equipment:

- 12 x 240L yellow lidded recycling bins with fitted rosette lids and locks positioned along the main street, provided by Byron Shire Council.
- 24 x 240L red lidded waste bins located along the main street provided by private contractor.

#### Bin Plan:

- Bin stations comprising one recycling bin and one waste bin located at 15m intervals along the main street.
- Four bin stations positioned in school grounds.

# NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

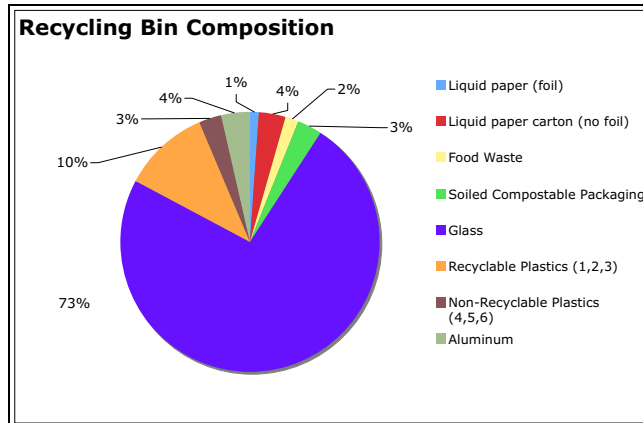


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## Results

A waste audit was conducted at the end of the event. A total of 5 out of the 24 waste bins and all 12 of the recycling bins were audited. The results of the waste audit follow.



### Recycling Bins

The composition of the recycling bins can be seen in the table above. Glass accounted for the majority 59.4kg (73%) of the weight, plastics bottles 8.8kg (10%), aluminium 3kg (4%) and paper cups 2.8kg (4%). The average contamination was 9% which is just within the acceptable level (under 10%) to be received for processing and recycling.

The major contaminants were plastic lids on coffee cups and straws, some plates and food waste and non-recyclable plastic containers.

### Waste Bins

Twenty four waste bins were provided by a private contractor. It was clear from the audit that where there was no recycling bin beside the waste bin there was a higher percentage of recyclables in the waste (78%) compared to only 11% recyclables in the waste bin when a recycling bin was adjacent.

## The Future

The Bangalow Billy Cart Derby organisers are keen to implement recycling at future events.

Recommendations for next year's event include:

- Matching the number of waste and recycling bins at the event;
- A cardboard skip provided for stallholders;
- Including a Waste Wise message in the Street parade.

The North East Waste forum acknowledges the assistance of the Packaging Stewardship Forum with the purchase of bins and stickers and advice on implementation of this project.

## Outcomes

The Billy Cart Derby proved to be a Waste Wise Event by reducing waste to landfill by 30%. Other outcomes included:

- Good media coverage in the local newspapers both pre and post event.
- Bin stickers and rosette lid recycling bins proved to assist with recycling recovery and reducing contamination.
- About 70% of food vendors and cafes used biodegradable packaging to serve food.
- The announcements over the PA were consistent and a great reminder for people to use the right bin.
- The event organisers received positive feedback from the public about the recycling systems.
- Certain bin locations were identified where bins overflowed (near the pub, bottle shop and top end of the street) and other areas where bins were empty.

Whilst there is room for improvement at next year's event, the Billy Cart Derby ran a successful first attempt at going Waste Wise.

## Costs

The event organisers incurred no increase in costs to implement recycling. A local contractor offered the waste services as an in kind donation. The recycling service was offered by Byron Shire Council as an in kind donation to the event.

## Contacts

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