



ROUND-UP

The very latest news & reviews from Kurrajong Recyclers



CORK FACTS

- The French monk Dom Perignon first used cork as a champagne stopper in 1680
- Australia imports 350 million corks each year of this only 5% is recycled
- Cork can also be found in the nose of the space shuttle
- Cork trees are harvested every 9 years and 50% goes towards making wine corks

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Issue Six

Recycling Cork

Guides Australia initiated a recycling program for cork 11 years ago. Over this time they have recycled 90 million corks across Australia, that's around 30 Tonnes of cork each year. Recycling saves valuable landfill space, around 400 cubic metres every year.

Cork is natural and completely biodegradable. Cork retains unique qualities of flexibility, elasticity and compressibility. It's extremely resilient, impermeable and light.

Cork is harvested from the Cork Oak Tree. Trees are harvested for the first time when they are 25 years old and then every 9 years after that. Portugal have been the leading suppliers of the worlds

cork since the 1930's with cork also coming from parts of Northern Africa and the Mediterranean Basin.

The oldest tree in Portugal called 'The Whistler Tree' was planted in 1789 and is still harvested.

Portugal estimates that their cork groves can supply the world's demands for the next 100 years. Their industry is expanding at a rate of 4% each year.

Cork plantations are important habitats for endangered species like the Iberian lynx and the Spanish imperial eagle as well as rare birds like the booted eagle, black vulture and the turtle dove. The groves are part of a fragile

ecosystem.

Guides Australia have collection points for cork at The Body Shop throughout Australia and in Wagga Wagga you can deposit corks in bins at the BWS bottle shops.

The corks are collected and transported to ACL Comcork in Melbourne where it is granulated and used to produce a variety of products like; engine gaskets, inners for cricket and hockey balls, boat decking, horsefloat mats, kindergarten flooring and 100% recycled interior flooring and tiles.

Isn't it great to know we can now enjoy more wine knowing the corks and glass bottles can be recycled!

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Site Tour by Apex

We have been spreading the good news of Recycling to more members of the community.

On December the 13th Geoff and Jeremy conducted a tour of the facility for the Central Wagga Apex Club.

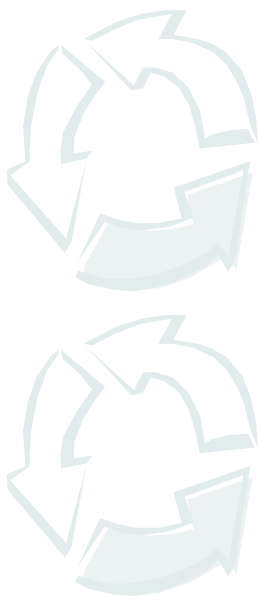
As civic minded members of the Wagga Community the Apex

members wished to increase their knowledge of recycling.

At the conclusion of their tour Geoff answered questions and was able to educate the Apexians about the right way to recycle, and inform them of our future plans for a new site, new products and new ventures.

The evening finished with a BBQ and refreshments utilising the BBQ area at the recycling depot.

Geoff's next speaking engagement is on the 16th February when he will be attending the monthly meeting of the Wagga Wagga Slimmers Club.



From Geoff's desk



With the imminent introduction of Case Based Funding we will see some changes at Recyclers and other employment services.

Case Based Funding is the result of the Federal Governments Reform Agenda for Disability Services.

The changes that occur will be seen in the level of reporting of the support that we provide.


While direct support staff in Employment have had little paperwork to deal with in the past this will gradually change.

The best information is always gained from the source, and in Employment the direct supervisors will have the opportunity to record the results of their efforts in training and support that they provide in the workplace.

The commitment of all staff to embrace this change and provide valuable information will ensure that Nadine can get her job done in the professional manner we expect at Recyclers.

Putting the Factory before the Factory

A new strategy to ensure reduced pollution of waterways has seen legislation in America requiring new industrial developments to draw their own water supply from downstream of their own effluent outfall !



*It takes 75% less oil
to retread old tyres
than it does to
make new tyres*

Zero Waste Group



Kurrajong Recyclers has been involved in the recycling industry since at least 1962.

In recent times groups around the world have been establishing a network of like minded people, businesses and governments to advance the philosophy of Zero Waste.

The old laminex site is being promoted as a Zero Waste facility where the body corporate promotes the

concept and looks to rent space to those businesses that share the same objective of Zero Waste. Our ewaste@wagga operation is currently located at this site.

As the Laminex site manager is a director of the Australian Zero Waste Group they have been able to assemble the resources to bring a number of international champions of Zero Waste to Wagga Wagga to run a workshop on Zero

Waste.

The workshop will be run in March and will be the third only in Australia. One will be run in Sydney and the second in Canberra. This would be an excellent opportunity for senior management and board members to inform themselves of the direction of recycling and waste avoidance generally on the international scene.

RECYCLE ME - PP Polypropylene



Kurrajong Recyclers introduced Polypropylene recycling to Wagga Wagga residents three years ago.

This material is typically cordial bottles but also take away food containers, ice cream containers, plant pots and some margarine and yoghurt containers.

This material is recycled by Australian Plastic Reprocessors. They pelletise the material and on-sell mainly to

producers of plant trays and pots.

Some takeaway and yoghurt/margarine containers are also made from number 6 plastic so be sure to choose number 5/PP products when shopping.

When recycling your PP containers rinse to prevent food waste making your bin smelly, squash to save valuable space in your recycling bin and place in the container side of your wheelie bin (blue lid).



Meet your friendly recycler – Leila Sly

Issue Six

- How long have you worked at Recyclers?

Since May 2004

- What do you like best about your job?

Doing the paper recycling

- What don't you like?

I like everything

- What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like playing on my computer and swimming in the pool at my house

- What's your favourite movie?

Snow White

What are your favourite TV shows?

Home and Away & Neighbours

- What's your favourite footy team?

St George

Leila is looking forward to going back to TAFE where she has been doing a Numeracy and Literacy course once a week.



Tumut Shire Council News

Tumut Shire Council is investigating increasing recycling by the ratepayers of the Shire.

We have provided the Council with an expression of interest to cover supervision of transfer stations, recycling at transfer stations and also kerbside collection services.

Tumut Shire Council will be

transferring all its waste to the Bald Hill landfill commencing in 2005. Tumut Shire have committed to a certain volume of waste over a set time period. Not supplying the contracted volume of waste to the landfill incurs a penalty.

Kurrajong Recyclers believes that with good separation of

recyclable materials and the support of the general community a significant volume of waste can be diverted from landfill.

The wisdom of committing to landfilling, and penalties for undersupply is not environmentally sound and may defeat the wishes of ratepayers.



You can make 20 recycled aluminium cans with the energy it takes to make one new aluminium can from bauxite ore

Security Shredding

Security Shredding is a good part of our recycling business. Every year we shred around 140 tonnes of office paper and send it back for recycling.

Security shredding is performed all day every day, however there are certain times of the year when the material coming in exceeds the capacity of the plant and the staff working in this area.

Some of our customers require that one of their staff monitors the processing of their secure documents.

As part of the requirements of the military, certain levels of security classification require that ASIO conduct a capability assessment of security destruction facilities.

In order to process the backlog of security

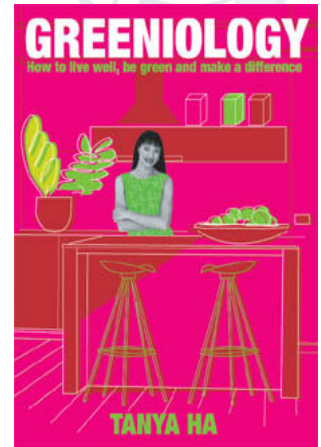
shredding material a roster system has been negotiated to extend the hours of operation of the shredders.

The commitment of staff and employees to clear this backlog highlights their commitment to the efficient running of recyclers.

New book from Planet Ark

Tanya Ha is the Campaign Development and Media Manager for Planet Ark. She has a BA in Chemistry and studied Scientific and Technical Writing, PR and Marketing at university. Her new book *Greeniology* continues Planet Ark's work in showing ordinary people the ways that they can help the environment in their day to day lives.

Greeniology looks at your home, garden, shopping, grooming, lifestyle - even your children, providing information and practical ways that you as an individual or family can live well, be green and make a difference. It's full of small solutions for our planet's problems. *Greeniology* is available from leading book stores.



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KURRAJONG WARATAH

ART UNION

LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS

DRAWN 16TH FEBRUARY

Tickets on sale outside Myer or call (02) 6925 5002

Permit No. AU045-04/0268

Cash-for-Cans

Kurrajong Recyclers are the regional recycling centre for ALCOA Aluminium Products

Recycle your cans



and get

\$0.85/kg

Disability Information - Acquired Brain Injury

Acquired brain injury (ABI) refers to any type of brain damage which occurs after birth. Around 160,000 Australians are coping with some form of ABI, with more men (2.2%) affected than women (1.6%).

The damage can affect one area of the brain (focal) or in more than one part of the brain (diffuse). It can include damage sustained by infection, disease, lack of oxygen or a blow to the head. Most people with ABI can expect to improve with treatment and support.

The specific symptoms or losses of functioning depend on which brain areas are

affected. Some of the causes include:

Alcohol or drugs - which can poison the brain

Disease - such as AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease.

Lack of oxygen - called anoxic brain injury (eg. caused by near drowning)

Physical injury - such as an impact to the head, which may occur in car or sporting accidents, fights or falls

Stroke - when a blood vessel inside the brain breaks or is blocked, destroying the local brain tissue

The long term affects of brain injury are difficult to predict and can range from mild to profound. Many people with ABI experience fatigue (mental & physical) and some slowing down in the speed with which they process information, plan and solve problems. They may experience changes to their behaviour and personality, physical and sensory abilities, or thinking and learning.

www.biansw.org.au

For more information or Fact Sheets on Acquired Brain Injury.



Please dispose of this newsletter thoughtfully

After you've read it of course

