



# ROUND-UP

The very latest news & reviews from Kurrajong Recyclers



Clean Up  
Australia Day  
March 5th

February 2006

Issue Twelve

## Are You A Tosser?

Litter statistics show that 27 people out of 100 litter in public places in the city and 36 people out of 100 litter in regional public places.

Cigarette butts are the most littered item constituting more than 50% of all litter. An example of this comes from EcoRecycle in Victoria where 350,000 butts are washed in Port Phillip Bay each day through the storm-water system. As previously reported in Round-Up this has a major environmental impact due to the fact that the butts take 5 years to breakdown and contain over 4000 chemicals which become a hazard to marine life and water quality.

Other litter items include beverage containers, paper, plastics, takeaway packaging, organic matter such as food and dog poo and chewing gum which in particular

costs Councils dearly to remove from public walkways.

Littered items are a lost resource, they end up in the waste stream instead of being recycled. As well as having a social impact litter more importantly has a significant financial impact for the community with Councils paying up to \$22,000 per day to remove dumped rubbish and road-side litter.

An early childhood memory is passing rubbish through to Mum in the front seat of the Datsun 240K so she could place it in the 'Do The Right Thing' bag hanging on the window winder with stern warnings from Dad that if we threw anything out the window we'd be walking back to get it! The 'Do The Right Thing' campaign ran between 1979 and 1989 and

reduced litter by 70%. It was widely acclaimed as the most successful behavioural-changing campaign in Australian history. The focus of all litter reducing campaigns is to build community awareness and change attitudes towards litter and the environment.

Research has shown that there is no such thing as a stereotypical litterer. Young people don't litter any more than others unless in a group, older people seen littering are less likely to admit to it when challenged and women litter less than men and are more likely to use garbage bins.

Littering, although easy to fix seems endemic within our society, let us dear readers resolve to be part of the few that change the minds of many.

Source: EcoRecycle Victoria & NSW EPA

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## Skills Options Clean-Up Crew



Since October last year Skills Options have had a crew cleaning up litter from areas around Willans Hill.

Scott Lea, Corey Sly and Skills Supervisor Fernando Whittaker Roa (pictured) don their outdoor protection gear each Tuesday morning and set off with a bag each.

Corey came up with the idea and told Round-Up how most of the litter they find consists of bottles, cans, takeaway packaging and paper.

Congratulations guys - what a great example of community spirit and environmental awareness.

## From Geoff's desk



Slowly we are increasing the availability of recycling in the region. Some time ago we purchased a cardboard press and forklift from Bland Recycling in West Wyalong. We have now relocated the press to a yard owned by Anderson's Transport. The press has been modified to

provide for our safety requirements and is ready for operation. Two staff at SPINS have also recently gained their forklift tickets, ready to be the operators of the press.

What we now have to do is have a development approval passed by Bland Shire Council to allow us to commence pressing cardboard and paper, keeping it out of the landfill. Long term we plan to have the operation relocated to the landfill itself as the best location to capture all cardboard and paper that comes from the West Wyalong area.

We are also planning to develop cardboard and paper recycling in Narrandera. Narrandera had a recycler many years ago. The business was family run and the operator had a number of bouts

of illness that disrupted his ability to process the cardboard and paper. Unfortunately this experience is long remembered by the residents of Narrandera.

Kurrajong have identified a block that would be suitable for the processing of cardboard and paper. The block is located on the Barellan Road on the way to the Narrandera landfill.

Geoff and Alan Larcombe have been negotiating with Narrandera Shire and have also made a presentation to a public meeting involving the local residents. Again the process awaits completion of requirements for Council's development approval. Visy Recycling have provided us with a press to locate in Narrandera to supply material to their cardboard recycling operation.

## Depot News

### Farewell

### Graham Rudd

After a return of three years at Recyclers Graham has left us again to take up a job in Sydney.

We wish him and his family, Shirley, Laura and Michael, all the very best in the 'big smoke'

### WELCOME TO RECYCLERS

<b>Phil White</b>	<b>Colin Neyland</b>	<b>Graham Wilson</b>
<b>Bruce Bailey</b>	<b>Anthony Luff</b>	<b>Paul Horneman</b>
<b>Mitchell Smith</b>	<b>Jason Swift</b>	<b>Arthur Webster</b>

**Welcome to the recycling team and a big thankyou for helping out during our busiest summer season ever!**

## Recyclables Coming Out Of Our Ears!



Cardboard Processing



Container Processing

Christmas may leave some of us a little overwhelmed and a bit thicker around the waist, but that's nothing compared to us here at Recyclers. We are literally bursting at the seams. The holiday period has found us inundated with cardboard and containers.

We haven't been able to close the front gates since before Christmas.

Traffic around our site has been nothing short of chaos. We've had a couple of minor accidents on site involving our vehicles and there have been two more serious accidents involving customers entering and leaving our site in Chaston street.

Recyclers are now receiving large 20 metre skips in from various landfills around the region such as; Batlow, Adelong, Tumut, Gundagai, Talbingo and Yerong Creek, Holbrook with West Wyalong

starting shortly. This has increased the processing volumes of recyclable containers especially during the peak summer season.

This is a timely reminder to us all that we need that new depot!

We've run a number of overtime shifts during the week and put in extra hours of a Saturday in an attempt to clear the backlog, however February has arrived and there's still no relief in sight.

2005 saw Recyclers break the 10,000 Tonne processing mark with such a choc-a-block start to 2006 we look set to break even more records.

## Meet your friendly recycler – Michael McCabe

- How long have you worked at Recyclers

**I returned to Recyclers in 2001**

- What do you like best about your job?

**Just to work here**

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

**Gardening & going to the club on the weekends for a few beers**

- What's your favourite TV show?

**Blue Heelers when it's on & A Current Affair**

- Who's your favourite footy team?

**St George**



## Happy Retirement Bob!

Bob Price retired from Recyclers in January after 15 years of service.

Over the years Bob worked in every section of Recyclers and was most recently the supervisor in the compactor truck servicing our smaller

cardboard recycling customers.

Bob and his wife Gloria are moving to Stafford in Victoria in March.

Have a great retirement Bob and keep in touch!



## Excellence in the Environment Awards 2004-2005

**Wagga Wagga City Council** took out the Community Sharps Waste Management Category Award at the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW annual Excellence in the Environment Awards. The Awards presentation took place at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour on 1st December 2005 and Geoff Pym was there to accept the award on behalf of council.

A key element of the Council's "DisposalSafe Project" was the active involvement of the Wagga Wagga Sharps Action Group (of which Geoff is

the chairperson), which has wide community participation, and which worked closely with Wagga Wagga City Council to improve the management of community sharps in the LGA.

The project provided a range of disposal options to cater for all community sharps generators, including people who are required to self-inject to treat a medical condition, pet & livestock owners, and injecting drug users.

The Council has developed a database on community sharps disposal to record the incidence of syringe litter and inappropriate disposal, and to monitor the effectiveness of its safe

disposal program. Some of the resources that have been developed to promote the safe disposal of community sharps include a telephone Infoline, safe disposal brochure and poster, recycling bin sticker, disposal facility location maps and information posted on the council website.

By direct negotiation with pharmacists the Sharps Action Group now has every chemist shop in Wagga Wagga as a free sharps drop-off facility.

The quantity of sharps collected six months to December 2003 was 45kg, in the six months to December 2005 the amount was 230.5kg!

### Environment News

California has become the first US state to declare passive smoke a toxic air pollutant putting tobacco fumes in the same category as diesel exhaust, arsenic and benzene because of its link to breast cancer.



## Naty Nappies

Australians throw away 2.2 million disposable nappies every day. This has a huge environmental impact given that nappies are only around 20% biodegradable.

Good news arrives in Australia from Scandinavian company Naty with the introduction of Nature Girl and Boy nappies which are 70% biodegradable.

The nappies outer surface is made from 100% GM free

corn maize and has an inner layer of natural chlorine-free pulp with a special channel design reducing the use of super absorption chemicals by 50% compared with other market brands.

The nappies are available from Coles, K-Mart and Target and are said to match premium brands in performance and price.

The business of nappies is huge globally and using

products like this one can change the course of market trends and help in developing more efficient and environmentally friendly products.

Nobody likes seeing nappies discarded in car parks, gutters and parks so please remember to place used nappies in a bin (**not** your recycling bin) and help reduce litter in your community.

More info: [www.naty.com](http://www.naty.com)



## Bertha and the Silver Suit

A delightful book for the whole family written & illustrated by Skills Options Wagga & Leeton

Order a copy now from Skills Options or drop in to Chauncy Cottage & pick one up



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## Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is the most common chronic disease of the central nervous system among young Australians. The affects of MS on individuals varies with no two people sharing the same symptoms. MS is not contagious, but it is progressive and unpredictable. As yet there is no cure for MS. Treatments are available to ease symptoms and modify the course of the disease.

MS occurs when the protective sheath (myelin) around the nerve fibres in the brain and spinal cord becomes damaged, causing random patches called plaques or lesions. The patches distort and interrupt the messages that are sent along these nerves. 'Sclerosis' means scar and the disease is labeled 'multiple'

because of damage usually occurs at a number of points.

MS symptoms first appear between the ages of 20 and 50 years, 70 per cent of people with MS are female and 98 per cent are Caucasian. Between 10 and 20 per cent of people with MS have a relative with MS suggesting a possible genetic link.

Some of the more common symptoms of MS are; blurred or double vision, numbness or pins and needles, loss of balance, weakness of the limbs, extreme fatigue, loss of coordination, continence problems, hand tremors, loss of mobility, speech difficulties or slurring, tendency to drag one foot, problems with or changes in memory functioning.

Some people with MS may

become seriously disabled and others may have one or two attacks and then remain symptom free for the rest of their lives. The frequency and severity of attacks cannot be predicted.

The cause of MS is still unknown however it is thought that genetic and environmental factors are involved.

Source: [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

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After you've read it of course

