



ROUND-UP

The very latest news & reviews from Kurrajong Recyclers



April 2006

Issue Thirteen

Recycling Narrandera

At a recent cleanup of the future cardboard recycling site in Dalgety Street over 7.5 Tonnes of scrap metal was removed for recycling!

Computer Recycling Creating More Opportunities

With the rising production of computer recycling resulting in increased volumes of processed materials, Kurrajong Recyclers have been able to access new markets for plastic re-sale.

William Chen from HH International Trade based in Sydney contacted Kurrajong Recyclers after discovering the success of the E-Waste computer recycling team to discuss the purchase of the processed computer plastic.

After initial contact with William he forwarded on some pictures of his factory in China, to demonstrate the amount of materials they were looking to secure for export. When we received the photos of William's factory it was amazing to see not only the quantity of ABS plastic (computer plastic) stored on site, but the enormous amount of alternate plastics that were once considered non-recyclable and are still

referred to as such by most recycling facilities in Australia.

With China's raging bull economy and dwindling resources they have had to develop technologies to recover and re-use all available materials not only nationally but internationally.

For Australia this provides endless export opportunities, some of which have had a very positive effect on our Recycling industry, such as increased re-sale prices due to more competition in the market. With this increase in re-sale price there are now more types of plastic that have become valuable enough for Kurrajong Recyclers to initiate methods for their recovery.

The process for recovering this material is very similar to computer recycling in that it can be very labour intensive, but once trialled, as with all new processes undertaken by our experienced and skilled

staff, faster and more efficient ways are soon developed.

New recyclable items will include old air conditioners, fridges, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, switch board brackets, bumper bars and certain types of fruit containers. Although some of these items are already being recycled, there are often valuable components being lost through current processing methods. Some of these items also make up the list of contaminants that arrive unwanted in our 24hr drop-off area!

With the prospect of our new site becoming more of a reality every passing week, the investigation of new recycling processes such as this will play a major role in boosting the diversity and success of what we expect to be one of the leading Materials Recovery Facilities in Regional Australia!

Story contributed by Jeremy Kelleher

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Pressed Computer Boxes



HH International's Yard in China

From Geoff's desk



As this newsletter goes to press I have been preparing a tender for Tumut Shire Council for the Haulage of Waste to the Regional Landfill, Supervision of Transfer Stations and possibly the processing of kerbside recyclables. The time and effort required to present our case in a professional manner and to ensure that we make money

out of the contract is critical when the tender is for ten years plus.

We propose to work with existing local organisations and staff where possible to increase our linkages with the community. This capacity building enhances our presence in the region where we have recently commenced services provided by Kurrajong Early Intervention Service.

The professional part of our proposal includes recent developments that we have seen with demand for materials that we have not processed in the past – namely woven polypropylene and polystyrene. The more materials that we remove from the waste stream the less it costs the ratepayers for waste disposal. It also means that we can employ people to perform the tasks and the wealth derived from the materials remains in the

community rather than being buried.

We have also been advised that our deliveries to Visy during the last quarter of 2005 showed the greatest growth compared to other Visy Agents. This has resulted in our winning a \$1,000 bonus to be enjoyed at a function for all the staff and employees at Recyclers in recognition of their good work. More details soon.

While it has taken a long time to find it a good home we are about to ship our old shredder to Melbourne. We have received an offer from Manborin Enterprises a disability service operating in Melbourne that has just commenced a security shredding service and already need to get a bigger shredder. We trust that they have a long and profitable use of the machine.

Depot News



New Cardboard Conveyor

At the end of March we installed a new conveyor for the back shed which will improve our cardboard processing ability.

The new conveyor has been designed to suit our current press however with our move to a new site it will be of even greater benefit when we hook it up to a new super cardboard press.

Skip Dipping

A small but growing number of well-educated urban dwellers, often in well-paying jobs, is challenging the socially-sanctioned revulsion around by engaging in 'skip dipping'.

Essentially, skip dipping involves sorting through the contents of publicly located skips for items which are still useful. Many participants see this practice as a personal and political response to the mountains of good quality items thrown out as waste each year in Australia. In today's consumer driven society many perfectly good products are discarded, adding to the increasing volumes of waste to landfill.

Interviews with skip dippers conducted by The Australia Institute discovered that many skips contain a large amount of goods which could be either recycled, reused or composted. Feedback was varied and ranged

from 30 to 100 per cent for super-market skips and 'minimal' to 80 per cent for construction/demolition industry skips.

Interviewees listed some items they found discarded in skip bins;

Food: full boxes of cans, jars or other containers where one was broken and had leaked onto other labels, biscuits, muffins, lollies, chocolate, chips, cheese, dips, butter. Tofu, jelly crystals, rice, pasta, pet food, fruit & veg, herbs, spices, sugar, wine and beer.

Personal Items: clothing, books, toys, golf clubs, bicycles, shampoo & conditioner, baby oil, baby wipes, handwash, tissues and soap.

Household Items: kitchen bins, desks, sandwich toaster, crockery, chairs, flowers, rubber gloves, laundry powder, light bulbs.

Building & gardening material: wood of all sorts, stainless steel, chicken wire, garden hoses, insulation batts, hardiplank and gyprock cut-offs, PVC pipe, half bags of cement.

Where once such practices were inspired by thrifty individuals during times when resources were scarce, the driving force now comes from people who are concerned by the social and environmental impact of today's wasteful society and are using skip-dipping as a conscientious objection to consumerism

A Melbourne interviewee described his involvement as being "responsible, progressive behaviour, a tidal change against sickening capitalism".

Source: *The Australia Institute*

Meet your friendly recycler – Leonie McLean

- How long have you worked at Recyclers

I came here from The Clothes Basket in October last year

- What do you like best about your job?

Meeting people, shredding paper and learning new things

- What do you like to do in

your spare time?

Go to clubs, dancing, bingo and eating out. I also attend sewing classes at TAFE

- What's your favourite TV show?

I don't watch TV but I enjoy watching comedy and family DVDs with my boyfriend Len and my nieces and nephews



- What sort of music do you listen to?

**Country and Gospel music
- I love Slim Dusty**



Recycling Money

In 1996 Australia became the first country to completely replace paper money with polymer notes.

Polymer notes last at least four times longer than the old paper money, three years as opposed to six months for the old ones.

Polymer notes survive a good wash cycle as well as the more practical application of frustrating potential counterfeiters.

Once serious fold lines or tears are detected the notes are shredded, granulated and used to construct new plastic products such as plumbing fittings, compost bins and garden furniture.

Every year in Australia there are more than 18 billions cash transactions.



RECYCLING FACTS

According to **EcoRecycle Victoria**, each week the average Australian household saves through recycling:

- ◆ Over three kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ Enough electricity to run a 40 watt light bulb for 72 hours
- ◆ Air pollution equivalent to 4.5kms of travel in a post-1985 passenger car
- ◆ Over 90 litres of water
- ◆ 3.6 kilograms of solid waste

Clean Up Australia Day Results

The 2006 Clean Up Australia held at the beginning of March broke records with over 700,00 volunteers removing more than 9,000 tonnes of rubbish at 7,527 sites across the nation.

"2006 has been our most successful campaign yet sending a strong message to government and industry that the environment is a priority for us all," said Ian Kiernan AO.

Volunteers spent the equivalent of 62,700 days removing 1800 skip bins of rubbish from a record number of 1551 roadsides, 1336 parks and 1373 waterways and coastal areas. Rubbish removed ranged from large items such as car bodies to cigarette butts and bottle tops. The most common rubbish items found were plastic bottles, glass bottles, soft drink cans and cigarette butts

Following the trend from previous years the most polluted sites were roadways, followed by parks, waterfronts and coastal areas.

Some of the more unusual finds were a Hills Hoist, a \$100 note and a cash box from a church.

In Hobart a pastor filled the church and instead of his weekly sermon he asked that they all go out and collect rubbish. They collected 28 bags full.

8 million Australians say they are concerned about the environment but don't have time to get involved with Clean Up Australia Day. There is no longer an excuse for inaction with the introduction of the True Green campaign.

Everyone now has the opportunity to do something for the environment by becoming a True Green Supporter and help make a difference every day of the year.

As a supporter you can help address the critical issues in the areas of waste, water and climate change through financial donations.



For more information:
www.truegreen.org.au
www.cleanup.org.au

Doggy-Doo Power

There is nothing new about converting animal waste into energy, although San Francisco has gone a step further initiating a study into utilising dog poo!

Animal faeces make up nearly 4 per cent of residential waste in San Francisco. Self imposed goals to further reduce landfill waste by 2020 now see animal waste being scrutinized to see how it might be reused or recycled.

Over the next few months Norcal Waste hopes to place biodegradable bags and dog-waste carts in one of the city's busiest parks. The waste will be collected and placed into a

methane digester, which is basically a tank where bacteria breaks down the waste creating methane in the process.

The methane produced can be piped directly to gas stoves, heaters or anything else powered by natural gas.

Dog and cat waste usually ends up in a landfill, where it is mummified for generations in plastic bags. Of more concern is the waste left where it falls, dissolving into the ground where it flows untreated into the storm water, creek and river systems. Due to pathogens contained in animal waste it is generally not a good idea to dispose of it into

home composts bins.

Considering that American dogs and cats produce 10 million tonnes of waste each year this small scale study could have far reaching potential.

Imagine having a methane digester to supply energy to your house in much the same way as solar power units.

Waste experts say that until a methane project becomes feasible the most ecologically sound way to dispose of animal waste is by flushing it down the toilet, where it can be treated in the sewage system.

Cash-for-Cans

Kurrajong Recyclers are the regional recycling centre for ALCOA Aluminium Products

Recycle your cans



and get

\$0.85/kg

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MURRUMBIDGEE TURF CLUB



Disability Information - Spina Bifida

Meaning 'split spine' in Latin Spina Bifida refers to a range of birth defects called neural tube defects (NTDs) that affect the spinal cord. It involves damage to the bony spine and the nervous tissue of the spinal cord. During foetal development the vertebrae of the spine don't close properly and the spinal cord's nerves don't develop normally. At birth, the nerves protrude through the gap left in the vertebrae instead of growing normally down the bony spine.

Nerve signals to most parts of the body located below the level of the 'split spine' are damaged and a wide range of muscles, organs and bodily functions are affected.

Spina Bifida has varying effects ranging from minor to severe. Generally defects higher on the spine produce a greater risk of

paralysis and other debilitating complications. Associated problem typically include;

- Reduced sensation in the lower body, legs and feet
- A degree of paralysis of the lower body and legs
- Degrees and types of urinary and bowel incontinence
- Sexual dysfunction
- Learning difficulties
- Abnormal joints
- Deformities of the spine ie. Scoliosis

Approximately 1 in every 1000 births are affected by spina bifida. It is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Inadequate metabolism of folate in early pregnancy is a significant factor in the occurrence of this condition. There is no cure, treatment options range from aids such as

walking frames and wheelchairs to surgery of various types.

Recent studies have shown that the vitamin folate can prevent up to 70% of spina bifida cases when taken one month before conception and during the first three months of pregnancy.

Well over 90% of spina bifida cases can be detected during a good ultrasound at 18 weeks. If present specialist gynaecological care occurs until birth.

Please dispose of this newsletter thoughtfully
After you've read it of course

