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Case Study: Calypso Holiday Park 2010

Calypso Holiday Park

Calypso Holiday Park is situated near the mouth of the Clarence River at Yamba in Northern NSW. It offers 20 cabins, 20 holiday units, 80 powered and 80 un-powered sites for accommodation to holiday makers. A swimming pool, B-B-Q's and a playground are also featured in the Holiday Park. The Park is a Council owned facility and is managed by Jeff and Karen Tomms.



In 2008 management approached the NEWF seeking assistance to improve their existing waste management system and investigate the potential to introduce recycling. At the time the Parks 50 x 240L wheelie bins were manually emptied into a trailer daily and transported to the Maclean Transfer Station for disposal. The cost of disposal is covered by the Clarence Valley Council.

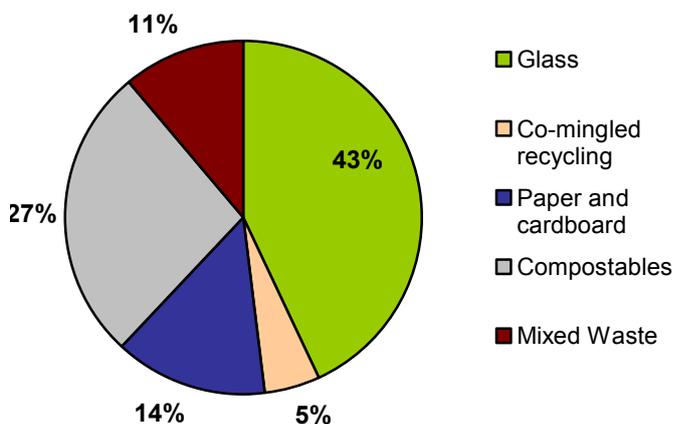
The Challenge

The biggest challenge for Calypso Holiday Park was the lack of access on the site for Council's large waste trucks. High pedestrian activity also presented a safety hazard for the large vehicles. Negotiations with Council and a local contractor resulted in the introduction of a 1.5m³ skip for co-mingled recycling and a 1.5m³ skip for cardboard/paper, collected by the contractor's smaller vehicle. These skips could be picked up on demand and would reduce the weight and volume of waste in the wheelie bins.

Waste Characterisation

Calypso Holiday Park combines units, cabin style accommodation, caravans and camping. 50 x 240L MGB's are located in this shared space with an additional 20 X 55L bins located outside the cabins. At peak holiday periods (25% of the year), these bins are emptied every day. During less busy times the bins are emptied every 2-3 days.

In early 2008 an audit was conducted to characterise the waste stream. Results from the audit (below) showed a potential to recover 62% of the waste stream currently disposed of in landfill by introducing recycling.



62% of the waste stream was made of recyclable material. Glass comprised 43%, with paper and cardboard measuring 14% and plastics and cans 5%. Compostable materials equated to 27% of the waste produced. The large percentage was food scraps with some compostable paper towel and serviettes present. Only 11% of the waste would require disposal through landfill. This material was mainly non-recyclable plastics, plastic film and camping or household items disposed of by visitors. Disposal of organics and sundry items increases at the end of holiday periods when unused food and broken or 'disposable' items are not taken home.

The average weight of the sample of bins audited was 14.8 kg. At peak capacity the park would be producing 741 kg of waste per day with up to 459 kg of this material potentially recyclable.

The audit report recommended:

- ❖ Introducing comingled recycling and cardboard collection
- ❖ Improving access to and positioning of bins
- ❖ Raising visitor awareness of a new system with signage
- ❖ Investigating potential composting opportunities

The Results and Opportunities

Over the past two years Calypso Holiday Park has implemented many of the actions recommended by the waste audit report.

- ❖ Waste stations were established in November 2009 at four locations on the site. Each waste station contains a 1.5m³ recycling skip, 1.5m³ cardboard/paper skip and 6 x 240L MGB's for waste;
- ❖ All recycling bins have stickers on their sides and lids explaining what materials to place in the bins;
- ❖ A separate 10L recycling bin has been located beside the small waste bin in each of the cabins;
- ❖ The 55L waste bins outside of the cabins have been removed, to encourage visitors to use the recycling stations;
- ❖ Information on how to recycle at the caravan park is explained to each new arrival and the location of the recycling stations is marked on the site map;
- ❖ Over the 6 week peak Christmas period of 2009 over 21m³ of co-mingled recycling and cardboard were diverted from landfill. It is estimated that a total diversion of 23.8 ton of recycling will occur every year.



The volume of waste at peak periods can exceed capacity

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Savings and Improvements

Park management are committed to further improving the recycling at the holiday park. By introducing the recycling stations, they have reduced their maintenance time by a third, saving up to \$9 200 per year in labour. In addition, Clarence Valley Council will save approximately 160m³ of landfill space per year. Management are continuing to monitor the new system to improve its performance. Unfortunately, the recycling stations do not have the capacity to contain the skips and waste bins, which has lead to waste bins coping the overflow of waste and recycling.

Improvements for the park to work on in 2010 which will further increase their recycling recovery, include:

- ❖ Extending the recycling stations to fit 2 x recycling skips and up to 8 waste MGB's;
- ❖ Permanent metal signage to be positioned behind the waste, co-mingled recycling and cardboard skips. The signs would identify the items to place in each bin with pictures and words;
- ❖ Locate a chalk board at each recycling station that can have updated information or results for tenants on the recycling system;
- ❖ Install signage at the recycling station, identifying what items you don't except. For example: computers, TV's, broken chairs and tents and gas bottles;
- ❖ Include pictures of items visitors can recycle on their site map and highlight these on check in.

Background

The North East Waste Forum (NEWF) is a collective of local councils in the Northern Rivers region of NSW who take a regional approach to waste management. The Business Waste Reduction Project (BWRP) works with local businesses to assist them in developing waste management strategies that promote waste reduction and resource recovery. The project began in April 2005 and has collaborated with a wide variety of businesses and institutions. An integral part of the project is to transfer information from participating businesses to other similar operations within the region. The project also works with industry organisations, such as Chambers of Commerce, to further disseminate information on commercial waste reduction.