

Waste Wise Events Project – Case Study **Fox Street Pre-school Carnivale 2009**

The Event

The Fox St Pre-School Carnivale is held each year and is the school's main fund raiser. A large colourful mural created by the children using recycled objects on a recycled canvas was on display and highlighted the Carnivale theme of 'One World for All'.



Recycled Artwork 'One World for Everyone'

Activities included kids games and craft, performances by students, a silent auction, secondhand clothing, homemade food stall, sausage sizzle, raffles and a fossil dig. The 'Living Green with the Green House' Education Unit was also invited to take part in the carnivale to help raise awareness of the school community and carnivale visitors about avoiding waste and living with less waste. This year the pre-school raised \$4,200.00.

The Challenge

The amount of waste generated at community/public events can be significant (about 1 litre/person/day), creating an unpleasant mess and substantial clean up costs for event organisers and 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.

Outcomes & Opportunities

A Carnivale Waste Wise Management Plan was developed which focused primarily on the reduction of non-recyclable packaging and the capture of recycling and organics. Outcomes for the Carnivale included:

- 62% of the total waste generated was recycled;
- 8% was organics which was home composted;
- Contamination in the recycling stream was less than 2% indicating that most people placed the correct materials in the recycling bins;
- Most stall holders avoided waste and used biodegradable catering items;
- Event organisers are now aware of the procedures required to conduct a waste wise event;
- Community awareness was raised through signage, exposure to the Green House unit, the 'One World' theme and promotion on the local radio station;
- Many items from last year's carnivale were reused and items were borrowed rather than bought new;
- The increased cost of biodegradable packaging was offset by the lower cost of emptying recycling bins.



What Next with Waste?

Recommendations for future events include:

- Include the waste wise event message in all Carnivale advertising and programs;
- Encourage alternative biodegradable packaging to replace polystyrene plates and meat trays;
- Make the 'Organic' bins more visible to encourage better use, by having bins with lids and clear signage;
- Provide separate facilities for the collection of cardboard boxes;
- Wash and reuse or recycle plastic containers used for craft paint & reuse or recycle the stones from fossil dig;

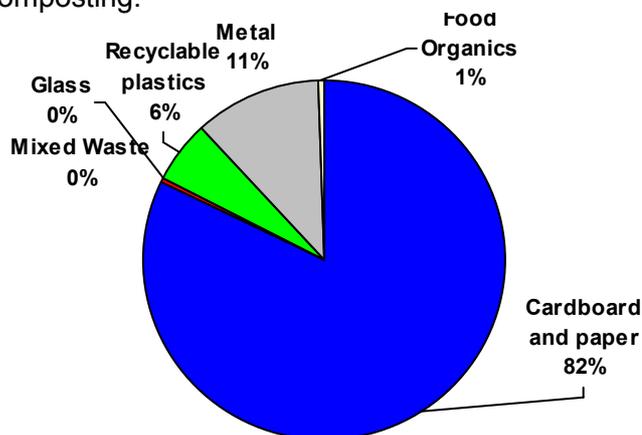
The organisers thought the event was a success & were very pleased with the waste wise outcomes. They intend to contact the 'NEWF Early Childhood Waste Wise Education Project Coordinator for assistance on becoming more 'environmentally friendly'.

Results

A total of 760L or 48Kgs of waste and recyclables was generated at the Fox St Pre-school Carnivale. An estimated 62% of this total was diverted from landfill for recycling and composting. All of the bins were audited:

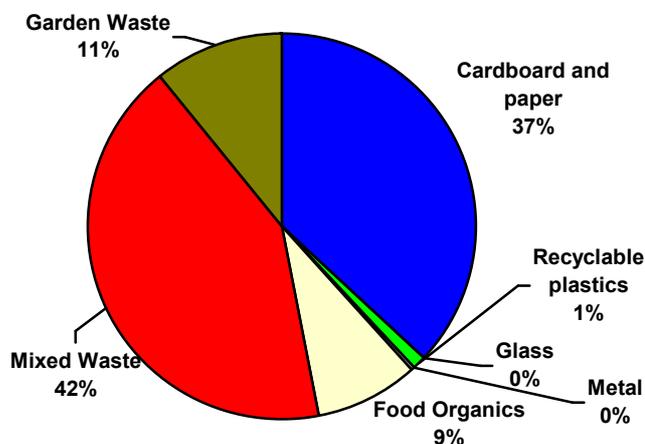
Recycling Bins

Cardboard and paper were the main component of the recycling bins at 82%. The remainder of the recycling stream was mainly metal and plastic containers. The contamination level, at less than 2% was very low and was mostly food scraps which were separated out for composting.



Waste Bins

Recyclable materials comprised 58% of the waste stream, predominantly cardboard and compostables (food & garden waste), which were recovered during the audit.



Background

The North East Waste Forum (NEWF) is a collective of local councils working together to help avoid and reduce waste going to landfill in the Northern NSW region. The forum provides support for participating local Councils, as well as advice and information to businesses and the general community in managing waste and how best to implement the sustainable practices that reduce waste generation and promote the recovery of recyclable resources. The Waste Wise Events (WWE) Project was initiated by NEWF in Oct 06 and focuses on reducing waste to landfill by implementing Waste Wise Management Plans (WWMP's). So far over 20 Waste Wise events have been organised across the region, including agricultural, sporting, family, food & music festivals with crowds ranging from 2,000 to 38,000.

Waste Wise Management Plan

A Waste Wise Management Plan incorporates recycle & waste avoidance objectives into each stage of the event planning, sets achievable targets and assigns roles & responsibilities. Targets set for this event included:

Packaging:

- All stalls asked to minimise packaging; use recyclable packaging for food and drink.

Promotion of the recycling systems:

- Guidelines outlining packaging requirements & recycling facilities provided to all involved;
- Promotion via flyers, program & in media;
- Signage on all bins;
- Council's Waste Wise Event signs displayed at the festival entrance & by food stalls;
- Council's Green House Education Unit attended the event to raise awareness;
- PA announcement by the Green House performer during event to ensure correct use of the bin systems.

Recovery Targets:

- Recycle bins: cardboard & paper, aluminum cans, plastic containers;
- Organic Bins: food scraps and compostable packaging e.g. serviettes, palm leaf plates.

Equipment & Bin Management

- 4 bin stations with 1 yellow lidded recycling bin with fitted rosette lid and lock & 1 waste bin;
- Organics Bins were located at two of the bin stations (those closest to the food stalls);
- Monitor stallholders to ensure they are aware of the recycling facilities and use correctly.



Contacts

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