

LODDON MALLEE WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY GROUP

Newsletter

May 2017

From the Chair



Welcome to the LMWRRG's latest newsletter and my first as Chair. I am looking forward to working with my fellow Board Members and staff of the LMWRRG to have a positive impact on waste and resource recovery in the region. The Board have recently developed a three year rolling Business Plan with some ambitious targets set at 25% reduction in waste to landfill, 170kg waste to landfill to capita and a 50% kerbside recovery rate for 2019/20. Achieving these targets will require collaboration and goodwill from our key stakeholders.

Jennifer Anderson
LMWRRG Chair

From the Executive Officer



I am pleased to advise the new composition of the LMWRRG Board, the new Chair is Jennifer Anderson along with new members Lorraine Learmonth and Daryl Warren joining existing members Geoff Curnow, Russell Anderson, Julie Green, Jennifer Grigg and Helen Millicer. The three retiring Board Members Barry Lyons, John Arnold and Neville Goulding are recognised for their huge contribution as founding members of the LMWRRG. This edition of the newsletter will provide highlights of some the programs we have implemented over the last couple of months and planned events until June 2017.

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Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Board

Three new Board Members including a new Chair were recently announced for the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group (LMWRRG).

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio announced that Jennifer Anderson (new Chair), Lorraine Learmonth and Daryl Warren would join five continuing members on the Board Geoff Curnow, Russell Anderson, Julie Green, Helen Millicer and Jennifer Grigg.

The LMWRRG is responsible for undertaking waste and resource recovery infrastructure planning across the Bendigo, Buloke, Gannawarra, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mildura, Mount Alexander and Swan Hill local government areas.

Retiring Board Members Barry Lyons (former Chair), John Arnold and Neville Goulding are acknowledged as playing an important role in the formation of the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group and in setting the strategic direction of the Group going forward with their fellow Directors. Barry, John and Neville's passion and contribution to waste and resource recovery in the region has been recognised.

New Chair Jennifer Anderson said she was looking forward to working with the other skill based Directors of the LMWRRG to reduce waste to landfill, increase resource recovery and create jobs and new reuse and resource recovery markets.

One of the first tasks of the new look Board will be to adopt the three year rolling business plan and to oversee the delivery of the 10 year strategic plan which will guide waste management and resource recovery infrastructure in the Loddon Mallee region.

Further information on the role and function of the LMWRRG can be found at www.lmwrrg.vic.gov.au

Loddon Mallee Waste Info App

The Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group in conjunction with its eight member Councils are excited to announce the launch of the Loddon Mallee Waste Info App.

The App has been developed to help residents make quick and simple waste and recycling decisions with the aim to reduce contamination and increase recycling levels.

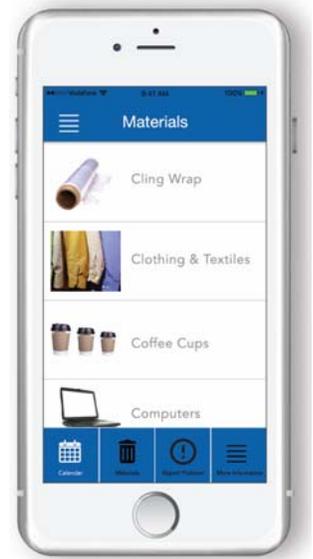
Features of the Waste Info App include:

- Personalised bin collection calendar for residents, with optional reminders
- A-Z list of materials and images showing which bin to put materials in
- Further information, hints and tips to help with waste management
- Information about Council's waste and recycling services and facilities, including contact details, opening times and maps
- 'Report a problem' form allowing residents to send feedback direct to Council
- Push notifications letting residents know changes to collection dates, events and programs

Residents within the following local government areas will have access to the FREE Waste Info App:

Buloke Shire Council, City of Greater Bendigo, Gannawarra Shire Council, Loddon Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Mount Alexander Shire Council and Swan Hill Rural City Council.

Download the FREE Loddon Mallee Waste Info App through the App Store or Google Play.



Industry Networking Lunch

Over 60 people attended the first Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group Industry Networking Lunch, held in Bendigo on Friday 17 March 2017. Guests were entertained by Ian McBurney who spoke about the importance of considering waste as a major part of a business.

The Group also launched the Loddon Mallee Fund, a grants program aimed to improve recycling and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill from the commercial and industrial and construction and demolition sector.



Just Eat It - Film Screenings

The LMWRRG has been running a series of screenings of the food waste documentary Just Eat It. The film follows food lovers Jen and Grant as they dive into the issue of waste from farm, through retail, all the way to the back of their own fridge. After catching a glimpse of the billions of dollars of good food that is tossed each year in North America, they pledge to quit grocery shopping cold turkey for six months and survive only on foods that would otherwise be thrown away.

Our final screening will be on Wednesday 7th June at Rex Theatre, Charlton. Tickets are \$5 which includes the film, refreshments and a guest speaker. All money from ticket sales will be donated to Victorian food rescue charities.

Sustainable Building Information Session

The Group recently hosted two information sessions in Swan Hill and Mildura for those in the building industry. The sessions provided information to reduce construction and demolition waste to landfill, legislative obligations in regards to waste disposal and transportation as well as a look at building more efficient homes and the future trends in the building industry. Guest speakers included the Environmental Protection Authority, Master Builders Association of Victoria, Ellwaste, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and Mildura Rural City Council.

Battery Recycling

The LMWRRG is supporting many host organisations across the Loddon Mallee region to reduce the volume of batteries going to landfill. We are currently in the process of providing each host organisation with purpose built battery collection units to assist with responsible disposal of household batteries.

Following a review of our battery collection program, LMWRRG is pleased to be offering host organisations not only with a purpose built battery collection unit free of charge, but also provide annual statistics for reporting purposes on corporate environmental efforts.

Currently, less than 3% of all batteries purchased in Australia are recycled, the rest going to landfill. This equates to over 14kg of batteries destined to landfill each year. Australians use approximately 10,000 tonnes of domestic batteries every year, approximately 70% are single-use batteries and most end up in landfill. If not disposed of correctly, batteries can contaminate soil, groundwater and other waste streams. Thank you to all organisations who are participating in the program. If your organisation would like to be involved please contact 54943711.

Member Council Report

Buloke Shire Council

Rehabilitation works for closed landfill site at Culgoa are progressing. The Culgoa landfill was closed in December 2016 and infrastructure on the site has been decommissioned and removed. Reshaping works to achieve final profile on the site have commenced. On completion of reshaping works, capping of the site will be undertaken as per EPA BPEM guidelines for rehabilitation and aftercare of landfills exempt from licencing.

Council will soon begin work developing a master plan for Birchip landfill. With the closure of Culgoa and Charlton landfills in the last few months, Buloke Shire has two remaining landfills. A landfill airspace report undertaken last financial year indicated a life span for Donald landfill of approximately 15 years while Birchip landfill has airspace for a further 35 plus years. The master plan for Birchip will include items such as offices, weighbridge, shedding for landfill plant, site drainage, covered storage of e-waste, connection of power and a recycle centre.

City of Greater Bendigo

Smart City Solutions have installed a 'Clean Cube' solar bin near the BBQ shelter and public restrooms at Lake Weeroona. The solar bin will be trialled at the Lake for one month and will provide the same capacity as 8 240lt wheelie bins.

The solar panel powers compaction when required and sensors within the bin trigger notifications to be sent when the bin is at 70% capacity and collection is required. The online monitoring system provides real time data on the bin and allows for predications of waste volumes of up to 24hours.

Smart City Solutions also provide sensors that can be attached to existing bin infrastructure that monitor how full the bin is and send alerts when collection is required. This ensures that drivers aren't sent out to empty bins that aren't full.

Three sensors are also being trilled at separate locations, Elmore, Marong and Bendigo in hope that increases in efficiency can be achieved.

Gannawarra Shire Council

The Gannawarra Shire Council has been successful in obtaining the Sustainability Victoria Litter Innovation Grant.

The grant is in conjunction with the Murray River Group of Councils, Parks Victoria, Loddon Mallee and Goulburn Valley WRRG. MRGoC include Loddon, Gannawarra, Campaspe and Moira Shire Councils, Mildura and Swan Hill Rural City Councils.

The grant, from Sustainability Victoria will fund the development of a digital tool to direct Park users to the closest and most appropriate waste disposal infrastructure and will allow the reporting of illegal dumping. The project will also deliver consistent signage at park entrances and exits along the length of the river reminding visitors to "do the right thing" with their rubbish and directing them to the new digital resources.

Loddon Shire Council

Loddon Shire Council's conversion of the Inglewood landfill to a transfer station is now completed and operational. The project was part funded by Sustainability Victoria's Rural and Regional Landfill Support Program.

All six of Council's waste facility sites no longer accept loads exceeding 4m³ as a part of the new 2017/18 Fees and Charges which was approved at the April Council meeting other changes to the fees include charges for green waste and recyclables.

Member Council Report

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is currently working on upgradation of Resource Recovery Centres, as they are now called, involves introducing EFTpos and receipting systems, new improved signage, surveillance cameras, tip resale shop (subject to 2017/2018 budget process) and better data management. These changes will cater to the need to have efficient waste services and better service delivery at the Shire's Resource Recovery Centres. Council has recommenced leachate extraction and continues to complete capping of closed landfill at Kyneton.

The public place recycling trial at sports facilities is running successfully and Council is planning to extend public place recycling to other public places such as shopping precincts and leisure centres.

Mildura Rural City Council

On the 30 March 2017, the Murrayville Transfer Station was officially opened. Council received funding from Sustainability Victoria through the Rural and Regional Landfill Support program for \$148,500 to build a transfer station at Murrayville Landfill. The day also incorporated the planting of the phytocap for the Murrayville landfill where over 700 of the 1,000 plants were planted on the day.



Mount Alexander Shire Council

Mount Alexander Shire Council has resolved to stop sending waste to landfill at the Castlemaine Waste Facility when the currently operating cell is full in 3-4 years' time. The move will see Council transport non-recyclable household waste to a larger facility, capable of accepting waste and processing it more efficiently, instead of constructing another multimillion dollar landfill cell at the Castlemaine site.

As a result of this decision, council will commence the design and construction of final capping for temporarily capped cells, waste facility masterplan revision and investigate options for the collection and processing of waste materials post 2020.

Swan Hill Rural City Council

Council's Waste Contractor Ellwaste has notified Council that they have sold their business to Veolia.

Veolia commences operating on the 1st of June and will continue to manage all Council's waste management operations.

Rawtec have completed the Organics Waste Recovery Strategy and have presented the results to Council.

Swan Hill Council was notified by Sustainability Victoria that the annual mobile detox your home program will now only be carried out every two years in Swan Hill. The next collection is scheduled for June 2018.

Kerbside Pride Business Program

The Kerbside Pride Business program has become very popular over the past year.

The LMWRRG is now working with over 20 businesses to address their waste management issues, reduce waste to landfill and, crucially for a commercial enterprise, reduce costs.

Over the past three months alone the Kerbside Pride Business team has worked with two Health Services, a number of cafes and restaurants, a community swimming pool, shopping centre and a scout camp.

Each business underwent a comprehensive waste assessment and was provided with a report, recommendations and an action plan that, if followed, will result in each business meeting their individual waste management objectives.

Lansell Square, a shopping centre in Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo, is one of our success stories. Before the assessment little recycling was taking place beyond paper and cardboard, the bin area used by staff was disorganised and confusing and all organic waste was going to landfill.

After assessing current practices, talking to shop owners and looking through their waste bills a series of recommendations were made that LMWRRG worked with management to implement.

Over the past few months all shops have been provided with a recycling bin, the waste area used by staff has been reorganised and colour coded, making it easier for staff to know where to dispose of waste, and an in-vessel organic waste composting facility is soon to be installed.

The LMWRRG will reassess Lansell Squares waste management practices once all recommendations have been implemented and we are confident that improvements will be seen and savings made.

If you are interested in participating in the Kerbside Pride Business program please contact Rachel McConville on 0419106461.

Entries open for Premier's Sustainability Awards

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is encouraging businesses and government organisations active in environmental protection to enter the 2017 Premier's Sustainability Awards.

EPA sponsors the Environmental Protection award which acknowledges leadership and excellence by an organisation in the conservation and protection of the environment.

Entries are open for small to medium enterprises, large businesses and state and local government organisations and close at 5pm on Wednesday 21 June. Finalists will be announced in late August and invited to attend the awards event on Thursday 26 October.

Entrants have the opportunity to be profiled as a sustainability leader, enhance their reputation and share their achievements with the wider community.

EPA encourages prospective applicants to learn more about the selection criteria for the Environmental Protection award at an information session. To register your attendance, or for more information on the 2017 Premier's Sustainability Awards, visit www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au.

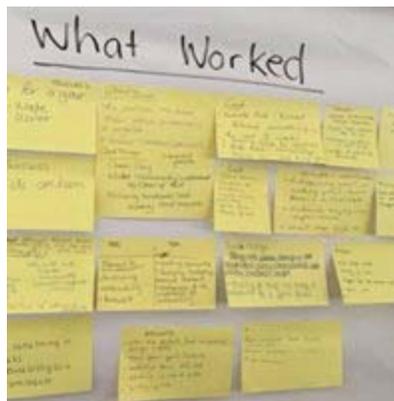
ResourceSmart Schools

Two workshops were held in February and March in Bendigo for ResourceSmart Schools. More than 40 teachers and students across 30 schools attended to learn more about embedding sustainability into the classroom, and building sustainability teams in schools. The next workshop will be held at the end of May in Bendigo. A combined workshop was held in Mildura on May 15th and 16th, with all 7 ResourceSmart schools attending. These schools will get together again in late June.

Good news from the budget is that the Victorian Government have continued the funding for ResourceSmart Schools to 2019. Details of the delivery and coordination are currently being worked out but it is good to see that the program continues to be supported.

A number of schools have been nominated to progress their star level. These nominations are still being assessed, but look out for an opportunity to congratulate a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 star school in your area.

The ResourceSmart Schools Awards are now open. Two new categories have been included, including School of the Decade, as the program has now been running for 10 years. For more information, go to <http://awardsonline.net.au/2017/resourcesmartawards/>



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