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northern inland regional waste  
**NIRW NEWS**

Issue 6 > December 2007

## Chairman's message

The past 12 months have been a productive time for the Group. The dedication and participation of our member Councils continues to make it possible for our group to achieve our objectives. Once again our Annual Chemical Collection Campaign ran very successfully. The collection figures were up 25% from 2006, demonstrating that we still have more work to do in this area. Our Regional contracts continue to deliver environmental and social benefits to our region's citizens with some excellent resource recovery results achieved in the 2006/2007 period. The drumMUSTER contract was extended for a further 12 months, and the Green Waste Processing Contract was recently awarded for a period of 2 years. With several member Councils approaching the timeframe to develop new waste contracts, a collective tender is being developed for the Tamworth Regional, Gunnedah Shire and Liverpool Plains Shire Councils. This project is seen as a significant opportunity to deliver a broad range of sustainable and cost effective waste management systems across the Council areas.

I would like to thank the Executive Officer and Program Coordinator for their hard work throughout the year, as well as the Program Committee who commit additional time to attend meetings and review and implement programs that provide benefits to all member Councils.

Thanks also goes to the Department of Environment & Climate Change who continue to provide funding which ensures the continuance of regional waste management programs. This funding recognises the significant benefits that the collaboration of our member Councils brings to the Region.

Regards  
 Cr Col Murray  
 NIRW Chairman

NIRW WISHES YOU A  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
 A HAPPY NEW YEAR



## NIRW Programs

### 2007 NSW Youth River Health Conference

NIRW were a Silver Sponsor of the 2007 NSW Youth River Health Conference held on 19 & 20 November in Inverell.

A river clean up exercise was coordinated by NIRW and involved students collecting and auditing litter types and making suggestions about ways that we can combat the problem of littering. Information was provided to the students on the harmful environmental impacts of littering.

Overall, over 1,000 cigarette butts were collected and disposed of forming part of the 240L of litter that was collected on the day. 14 shopping trolleys were also removed from the Macintyre River. The students involved are to be congratulated on their efforts, and for their demonstration of their care and concern for our environment.



## Resource Recovery Figures 2006/2007

NIRW seeks to identify and investigate all opportunities for coordinated approaches in the provision of waste management services in the region.

Through the regional contracts in place during 2006/2007, NIRW member Councils have collectively achieved the following resource recovery results:-

* drumMUSTER	137,591 drums
* Green Waste	93,380.95 m3
* Metal Waste	4,627.37 Tonnes
* Batteries	135.98 Tonnes
* LPG Gas Cylinders	6 Tonnes

Plans are in place to establish regional contracts for more services, such as the collection of used oil, E-Waste and the processing of construction and demolition waste.

## Chemical Collection Campaign

During July & August 2007, NIRW conducted its annual household and rural hazardous waste collection campaign in the region.

The first 20kg of chemicals were collected from each user for FREE!

In 2007 20,050kg of chemicals were collected in the region. This is an increase of nearly 25% from the 14,528.55kg collected in 2006.

This campaign has been running for a number of years, and has been very successful in minimizing environmental and health risks for the region.

NIRW will continue the program in July & August 2008.

For more information on any of NIRW's programs - please visit [www.nirw.org.au](http://www.nirw.org.au)

# NIRW Programs

## Landfill Operator Training

NIRW provided a 2 day Landfill Operator training course in Tamworth on the 3 & 4 August. The course was attended by 18 people and was open to all staff from member Councils who work in the waste management area, including Managers, Supervisors and Weighbridge Operators.



Classroom based training was provided on Day One with presentations made by DECC and WorkCover. Areas covered included waste treatments, AWTs, leachate management, and weighbridge operations. Day Two involved site visits to Forest Road Landfill and Bendemeer Small Vehicle Transfer Station.

The training was facilitated by Jason Stratford, Senior Waste Officer from Tamworth Regional Council. NIRW wishes to thank Jason for his time and effort in preparing and delivering an excellent training package.

## Collective Waste Tender

Gunnedah Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council are developing a collective request for tender for waste services. These Councils are each approaching the timeline to develop new contracts and have observed the benefits delivered to NetWaste member Councils through their recent collective tendering process. The tender specifications are currently being developed and it is envisaged that the tender will be advertised in early 2008.

### Member Councils

Armidale Dumaresq Council - Glen Innes Severn Council - Gunnedah Shire Council - Guyra Shire Council - Gwydir Shire Council - Inverell Shire Council - Liverpool Plains Shire Council - Moree Plains Shire Council - Narrabri Shire Council - Tamworth Regional Council - Tenterfield Shire Council - Uralla Shire Council - Walcha Council

## True Cost of Landfilling

NIRW have engaged a consultant to analyse the long term costs of several landfills operated by member Councils. This project will involve assessment of the establishment, operating, closure, rehabilitation and replacement costs.

The objective of the analysis is to establish the total costs to Councils for the disposal of waste in landfill and to determine the annual costs and costs per tonne of providing waste disposal services to the community.

## Waste > Art & Design 2007

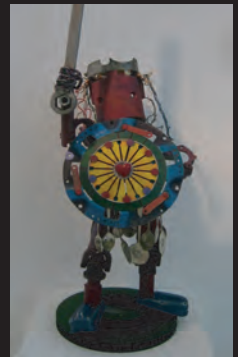
The Regional Waste > Art & Design Competition was a great success this year. Eight member Councils hosted local competitions culminating in the regional final and exhibition of over 40 artworks held at the Crossing Theatre, Narrabri.

An awards ceremony was held for finalists and was also attended by Councillors and staff from the participating Councils. 12 awards were presented, with thanks going to Smorgon Steel Recycling for their generous sponsorship of the competition.

All of this year's entries were of a very high standard, and all entrants have been congratulated on their efforts.



From left: Disc-O-Waste by Gina Goodwin, Hammock by Ashleigh Smith, Heart of a Warrior by Tracey & Tony Button



## NIRW Executive for 2008

**Chairman** - Cr Col Murray (Tamworth Regional Council)  
**Executive Officer** - John Davis (Tamworth Regional Council)  
**Assistant Exec. Officer** - Mike Porter (Armidale Dumaresq Council)  
**Program Coordinator** - Kate Newlan

### Program Committee

John Davis (Tamworth Regional Council)  
Mike Porter (Armidale Dumaresq Council)  
Amy McKey (Moree Plains Shire Council)  
Andrew Croft (Narrabri Shire Council)  
Kate Newlan - Program Coordinator

Next meeting: 14 February 2008, Armidale

## drumMUSTER 10,000,000th Drum Presentation

A significant event for drumMUSTER in 2007 was the presentation of the award for the 10,000,000th drum. The presentation was held at the Ag Quip Field Days in Gunnedah. John Powell, a Cane Grower from Northern Queensland received the award which was presented by the Governor-General Michael Jeffrey. The NIRW Mobile Waste Education Trailer provided the backdrop for the presentation, with Cr Col Murray, John Davis and Kate Newlan attending the awards function on behalf of the Group. NIRW wish to congratulate the drumMUSTER Team on reaching this milestone and thank them for their invitation to take part in this event.

