

# Event calendar

## NOVEMBER

**Monday 8 - Sunday 14**  
National Recycling Week

**Thursday 11 & Friday 12**  
Buy Green Conference Sydney

**Monday 22**  
Waste > Art & Design arrives in Quirindi

**Thursday 25**  
NIRW General Meeting @ Glen Innes  
Severn Council

## DECEMBER

**Thursday 2**  
Rural & Regional Forum, Sydney

**Monday 6**  
Waste > Art & Design arrives in Gunnedah

# Waste > Art & Design competition 2005

This extremely popular competition, now in its fourth year, will be expanding the categories in 2005. A new categories are > Wearable Art (clothing, jewellery) and a change in the name to Craftworks to Functional Art (furniture, bowls, lighting).

Primary & Secondary Schools will also be invited to compete in all 4 categories. The 2005 Competition categories will be:

Section 1 - Primary School  
2D (Poster/Painting/Collage)  
3D (Sculpture)  
Functional Art (Furniture/Bowls/Lighting)  
Wearable Art (Clothing/Jewellery)

Section 2 - Secondary School  
2D (Poster/Painting/Collage)  
3D (Sculpture)  
Functional Art (Furniture/Bowls/Lighting)  
Wearable Art (Clothing/Jewellery)

Section 3 - Open  
2D (Poster/Painting/Collage)  
3D (Sculpture)  
Functional Art (Furniture/Bowls/Lighting)  
Wearable Art (Clothing/Jewellery)

Gwydir Shire Council (Bingara branch) have kindly offered to conduct the Regional Competition this year

# Sustainable On Farm Waste Management Program

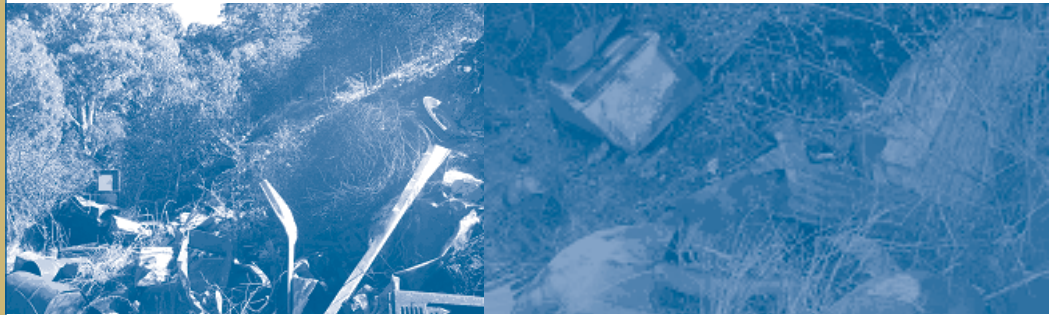
The Sustainable on Farm Waste Management program will be developed to remove farm and household waste, including scrap metal and fencing materials for eroded gullies within the region. The program will include remediation erosion areas, fencing, revegetation and promote intergenerational attitudinal change towards waste disposal and soil erosion.

NIRW will work closely with DIPNR, CMA, Landcare and other stakeholders to develop and implement the project on a region level.

The program will be conducted in a two rounds  
- first round commencing in March 2004.

The first 100 landholders to register will receive funding of \$1,000 towards the rehabilitation of their eroded gully. The \$1,000 will comprise of:

- \$300 for waste disposal
- \$450 for soil works (remediation of gully)
- \$250 voucher to purchase fencing, seed & fertilizer to rehabilitate the remediated area



# Diversion Rates for 2003/2004

NIRW successfully diverted the following waste from landfills:

- 220 tonnes of recycling during the Tamworth Country Music Festival
- 103,000 chemical drums were collected throughout the region under the drumMUSTER program
- 34,000 tonnes of green waste has been mulched
- 2,100 tonnes of metal waste has been collected

- 16 tonnes of chemicals were collected
- Waste Oil Recycling Facilities have been installed in all landfills throughout the region (25 units)
- 69 tonnes of used oil has been collection
- 16,100 tonnes Construction & Demolition, 1200 tonnes of brick and 3,250 tonnes fill material have been crushed in Tamworth.

Waste conference 2004

Members of NIRW attended the recent Waste Conference in Coffs Harbour - "Working Together for Better Resource Management" focusing on future resource management issues and alternative waste technologies. The conference was opened by guest speaker, Susan Hubbard from Eureka Recycling USA. Ms Hubbard gave an overview of the progress and challenges in organics, recycling collections and AWT from a US perspective. Steve Gribbin, Tamworth Regional Council, spoke on Waste Training Options with Pam Keating from Sustainable Learning.



# northern inland regional waste NIRW NEWS

Issue 1 ■ November 2004

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER WELCOME

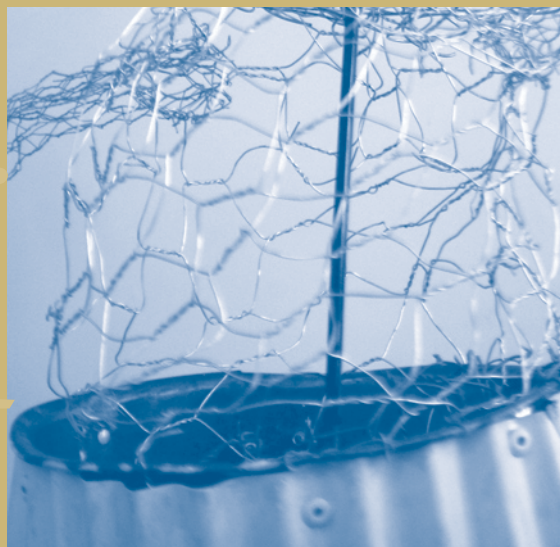
Welcome to the first "official" NIRW News!! It has been a long time coming and we hope that you will enjoy what we have to report inside.

Over the past 12 months our region has seen a lot of change through the local government reform however the NIRW group has continued to deliver regional waste programs for the benefit of our member Councils. I congratulate all those who have continued to support NIRW through these demanding and uncertain times.

NIRW has finalised our Third Year Plan and secured fixed term contracts for the delivery of regional Greenwaste, Metal Waste and drumMUSTER services. We also delivered another successful Chemical Collection Campaign during 2004.

I would encourage all member Councils to have input into future editions of 'NIRW News' so that these newsletters can become an effective communication tool for our organisation. Our Program Coordinator, Vanessa Tiernan, has again produced a quality product with this newsletter but she needs your help in ensuring its success in the future.





develop and implement regional programs that achieve a sustainable balance between the regions social, economic & environmental needs.....

## what is ahead of us in 2004/05

The NIRW Third Year Plan has been finalized and submitted to the Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC). New programs that have been identified for 2004/2005 are:

- Reuse Centres
- Reuse Directory & Network
- Regional Purchasing Policy
- School Education Kit
- 'Reel' Waste Campaign
- Rural Information Kit
- NSW Regional Sustainability Seminar
- Compost Establishment
- Sustainable On Farm Waste Management (read more about this program further on)
- Plastics Recycling
- Grease Trap Waste Disposal
- No Waste to Landfill School Campaign

New partnerships are being formed with the Catchment Management Authorities to help delivery several of the campaigns.

## New Faces in the group

### Megan Cone

Megan commenced work with Uralla Shire Council, in the capacity of Technical Services Assistant in July 2004 and has over 14 years Local Government experience, specializing in Waste Management since 1994.

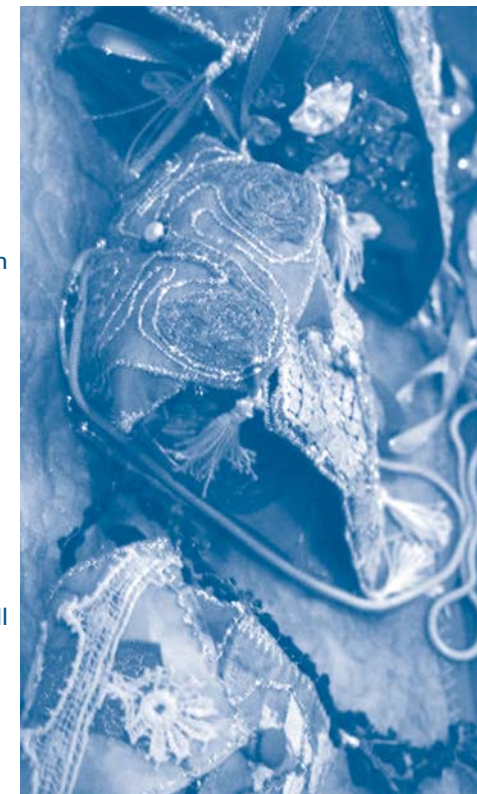
Megan came from Port Stephens Council where she was responsible for the Waste Collection, Transfer, Treatment Contracts and Service agreements.

The Cone family has relocated to the New England Region to enjoy its Unique Climate & Lifestyle.

### Felicity Baker - Involve Consultancy

Felicity Baker has been contracted to NIRW to assist with the development, delivery and promotion of regional waste programs which will include the Mobile Education Trailer, Second Hand Saturday, Reuse Directory, Schools Information Kit and Not Waste to Landfill School Campaign.

For the past 5 years Felicity has managed the Adult Community Education Centre in Gunnedah which has given her an enormous perception and understanding of community needs. Felicity is committed to using innovative methods to improve behavioural change in waste management.



## Did you know?

- Around 91% of parents used disposable nappies, which along with adult incontinence pads can makeup 3.5% of municipal solid waste. They take up 145,000m<sup>3</sup> in landfill each year and can take as long as 500 years to decompose.<sup>1</sup>

- MYPLANET Recycling has begun a fortnightly used nappy collection service from some Melbourne Councils. The nappies will be recycled using technology from Canadian company Knowaste LLC, recovering plastics and wood pulp. The plastic will be purchased by Australian company Repeat Plastics, with the pulp bought by Amcor. Remaining materials will be discharged to the sewer.<sup>1</sup>

- Other nappy news is a Sydney researcher, Associate Professor Bruce Sutton (Uni of Sydney) believes he has found a way to turn nappies into compost. The Professor has isolated the moisture absorbing molecule in nappies and says since it is non-toxic it could safely be used to bulk out and improve compost.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> information provided by WMAA Inside Waste September/October 2004 edition.

## NSW Regional sustainability seminar 2004

NIRW proudly sponsored the NSW Regional Sustainability Seminar held in Tamworth on Thursday 26 August, with over 80 people attending across the region.

The day was kicked off early with a business breakfast at 7am. Mrs Molly Robson, Keep Australia Beautiful National Chairman, spoke to the early risers about the Tidy Towns program and the successful of the campaign since its inception in 1991.



**Far Left:** Molly Robson, National Chair, Keep Australia Beautiful

**Left to Right:**

Fil Cerone, Director Impact Environmental Consulting, Peter Resch, NIRW Executive Officer & Tim Rogers, Executive Director DEC Sustainable Programs Division.

The day's program commenced local case studies presented by Mr Roger Hegarty, Department of Primary Industries, Colin Barry, University of New England and Michael Bryant, Tamworth Regional Council.

Peter Resch, NIRW Executive Officer, was part of the panel to discuss "How are we working towards sustainability?" with fellow industry leaders such as:

- Tim Rogers, DEC
- Jim Thompson, DIPNR
- Ian Higgins, DEUS
- Barry Rothwell, DS & RD
- Bob Martin, DPI
- Jim McDonald, Namoi CMA

## Composting presentation & site visit in Tamworth

Jason Stratford, Senior Waste Officer at Tamworth Regional Council, presented at the recent NIRW General Meeting in August the pros and cons to value adding mulch into lovely rich compost.



NIRW Members

Front Left: Graham Price, Inverell Shire Council  
Front Right: Mike Porter, Armidale Dumaresq Council