

Lismore MRF leads way in war on waste



Photo courtesy Lismore Council

by Cr Elly Bird, Lismore Council

Plastic Free July is over for another year and it's been heartening to see how committed our community is to reducing the amount of plastic being thrown in the bin, and to see habits and behaviours changing.

I put forward a successful motion at our July meeting to continue Lismore Council's leadership in waste management by phasing out single use plastics at events by 2020.

One of the simple actions that will be done quickly as part of my motion is that Council will purchase water tanks that can be used at events for people to fill their own bottles.

Plastic water bottles are one of the biggest capitalist con jobs that has ever been played on people with access to safe drinking water.

Tests have shown that the quality is questionable with levels of bacteria present that don't meet drinking water standards; that the plastic leaches into the water; and that the water is full of micro-plastics.

A recent study found that globally we are using a million bottles a minute with most of them ending up in landfill or in the environment. We urgently need to change our habits.

By providing water tanks to event organisers, we by-pass the need for single use water bottles at events

completely. It's a no-brainer.

Council is a leader in recycling and waste management, but there is only so much that recycling can do to address the plastic crisis we are currently experiencing.

Policy change urgently needs to happen at the State level, with Federal support, but in the absence of that policy change, behavioural change is happening at the individual and community level.

Plastic is deeply embedded in so many aspects of our daily lives that it will take time to reduce our consumption, but with community commitment and pressure we can turn the plastic crisis around.

The first part is to reduce how much we use, and the second part is to recycle what we do use properly.

In 2017, China's policy changes basically saw the country put a stop to receiving the world's waste and governments across Australia have had to find new solutions for recycling including on-shore processing and re-manufacturing.

Council is now sending its recycling to processors in Australia that require a very high-quality, clean recycling stream.

Council has implemented technology improvements to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre to try and ensure recycling streams are kept clean.

This includes installing an optical

sorter to better sort plastics as well as slowing down the whole MRF so staff can pull out as much non-recyclable waste as possible.

Council also needs the community to help and is asking residents to follow these simple rules to keep your recycling as clean as possible.

Most things that are fairly clean are fine, like an empty beer bottle for instance, but if something has lots of food in it, give it a rinse. Do not put anything into your recycling bin that cannot be recycled.

Keep it simple: aluminium, steel, glass, hard plastic, bagged up soft plastic, paper and cardboard.

Do not put anything smaller than a business card size into your recycling bin. Keep stuff like hoses, pipes and anything that has a combination of materials out of your recycling bin.

Keep waste out. The main offenders are: dirty nappies, clothing, shoes and anything that can get tangled up such as rope, hose and fairy lights.

Lismore is currently working with other councils from around the region on a new education campaign to make recycling easier for everyone.

You can help us understand people's recycling habits and inform this new education campaign, by completing the North East Waste Recycling Survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Recycle_NEW

Scouting Centenary

The Lismore Scout Troop was registered in 1917, though it is thought that local scouts started meeting long before that, even by 1909, the year after scouting started in Australia.

The Centenary celebrations due last year were postponed because of the floods, but now scouting families and friends from across the region are invited to help celebrate the Centenary of 1st Lismore Scouts on Saturday 1st September.

When the then NSW Governor, Sir Walter Davidson came to visit Lismore in June 1918, Lismore Scouts formed a guard of honour for the civic reception.

He was so pleased with the rescue work done by the senior scouts during several floods, and their fundraising for WWI troops comfort fund that he gave the



Lismore Scouts 60th birthday in 1977, attended by Edgar Stratford, a member of the 1917 troop.
Photos courtesy The Northern Star

troop the honour of being "his own troop", and it is still named "1st Lismore, Sir Walter Davidson's Own".

The troop has a long history of community involvement.

The commemoration will consist of two events on the day:

- 12-4pm: Youth Activities Day at Blair Oval, Magellan Street (adjoining Scout Hall) with an historical display in the hall.
- 6.30pm: Centenary Celebration Dinner at Lismore Workers Sports Club, Goonellabah \$30 /\$10 kids' platter. RSVP by 15th August to: lismorescouts@gmail.com



Lismore Scouts assisting in the 1917 Lismore floods

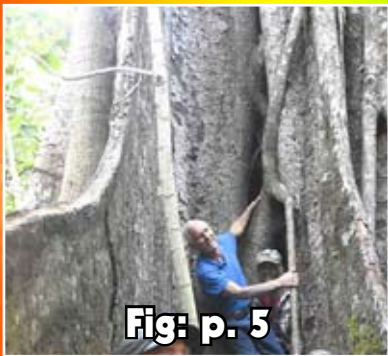


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