



Essential reading for everyone!

JunkMail

Issue No 1 ~ August 2005

Introducing

Waste Wise Willie and Junk Mail the quarterly newsletter from the Highlands Regional Waste Management Group

The Highlands Regional Waste Management Group (HRWMG) is a State Government Statutory Body reporting to the Minister for Environment. It is one of 16 regional waste management groups in Victoria and is responsible for planning and facilitating waste management and resource recovery within its region.



Waste Wise Willie

The Board of Directors is made up of Councillor's from its 6 member municipalities – Ballarat, Central Goldfields, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Moorabool and Pyrenees. The

HRWMG employs an Executive Officer and a Regional Education Officer (REO).

Our Vision

To lead our community to a future of zero municipal waste to landfill by 2015.

In this context zero waste means that the municipal waste stream will be subject to resource recovery (recycling) before a small inert residual is sent to landfill.

Our Mission

To foster sustainable use of resources and best practice in municipal waste management in order to protect and enhance the environmental values of the Highlands Region as we move to a zero waste society.



Highlands “Say NO to Plastic Bags Campaign”

Over 6 billion plastic are used in Australia per year. That is nearly 1 plastic bag per person per day. Plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to break down in the environment. They are unsightly litter and dangerous to animals.

The HRWVG’s “Say NO to Plastic Bag Campaign” was developed to create public awareness and to provide resources to assist both the public and retail traders to take affirmative action to address this serious environmental issue. Resources developed include the plastic bag sculptures Farmer Theodorus Bagg and Calf with the assistance of students from St. Augustine’s PS Creswick; reusable woven bags, fridge magnets, stickers and shopping lists.



The Creswick community and Hepburn Shire Council received a \$2000 grant from EcoRecycle Victoria to take up the Plastic Bag Free Challenge. The HRWVG has assisted this project by providing resources to the Creswick businesses that have taken up the Challenge.

Businesses in Bacchus Marsh are also joining the “Say No” campaign with a launch due in September. Congratulations to all traders in Creswick and Bacchus Marsh for supporting this initiative.

Waste Wise Works

Masterfoods Ballarat became a Waste Wise Business. Implementing strategies aimed at Reduce, Reuse, Recycle they have reduced their waste to landfill by over 65%.

If you would like to find out what Waste Wise can do for your business or organisation contact the Regional Education Officer Rosemary Angus on 5333 7770.



Waste Wise is a program of EcoRecycle Victoria.

www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au

Highlands Regional Waste Management Plan

The HRWVG has recently reviewed its current Regional Waste Management Plan. A new plan will be developed during 2005/06 to provide for the future strategic direction for the management of municipal waste. An update on this process will be provided in the next issue of **Junk Mail. Issue No 2 in December 2005**



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