



Waste Authority

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Media Release

Inaugural Waste Awards presented at Waste and Recycle Conference 2010

17 September 2010

A packed room of finalists, friends, family and conference participants celebrated the launch of the Waste Authority's inaugural Waste Awards on Wednesday night. Eleven finalists had been selected by independent judging panels for recognition.

The awards were presented by Acting Chairperson, Ms Jan Grimoldby, at a special function preceding the official opening of the conference.

"In celebrating the achievements of individuals, communities, businesses and government, the awards recognise outstanding efforts in working towards the Waste Authority targets and objectives," said Ms Grimoldby. "The Waste Authority has created these prestigious awards to recognise the significant and often creative contributions made to waste avoidance and resource recovery across the State."

The awards focused on initiatives to reduce waste to landfill. The 5 nominated categories, reflecting the various sectors and communities of interest involved in waste reduction and the finalists were:

- **Waste Reduction & Resource Recovery Initiative**
Instant Waste Management
Lomwest Enterprises Pty Ltd
Hatch Associates Pty Ltd
- **Community Recycling Initiative**
Care for Hedland Environmental Association
- **Local Government Waste Reduction Initiative**
City of Bunbury
- **Waste Wise Acknowledged School For Creativity And Innovation**
West Leeming Primary School
Palmyra Primary School
Wirrabirra Primary School
- **Waste Champion (an individual or organisation)**
Michael Filby
Beckenham Primary School

The range of activities included:

- Recycling e-waste
- Battery recycling at schools
- Remediation of dieback infected soil
- A Green Office Program
- Organic Waste Reduction
- Reusing Tyres
- A personal commitment to litter reduction

A unique award that was not available by nomination was also announced – the ***Recognition of Excellence Award***, which was awarded posthumously to ***Gavin Watters*** - a very worthy recipient.

Details of each award finalist and the judges comments follow.

The Acting Chairperson of the Waste Authority, Ms Jan Grimoldby, is available for interview.

CATEGORY - Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Initiative

AWARD RECIPIENTS x 3 - HONOURABLE MENTION x 1

Instant Waste Management – represented by **Jarrad Green**

- Collects and delivers C& I and C & D waste to the transfer station, diverting from landfill
- The material is subject to several screening processes to produce clean and marketable end products that can be re-used in industry
- They achieve a 65-75% recyclable material recovery rate at their facility
- Currently operate 110 collection vehicles & 2 waste transfer stations in WA

Judges Comments

- *The C & D Industry deals with substantial volume of material and it is good to see innovation and high diversion rates*
- *Finalist shows a proactive approach in developing infrastructure*

Lomwest Enterprises Pty Ltd – represented by **Cliff Strahan**

- Developed the 'T Block' which is an innovative three dimensional moulding system that allows for the consistent reproduction of wall units using recycled products
- T Block is made from recycled tyres and concrete

Judges Comments

- *Very innovative use of car tyres*
- *Good to see a new local use for these products*
- *A great initiative to provide an alternative market for used passenger tyres and to develop better quality walls*
- *Thinking outside the box!*

Hatch Associates Pty Ltd – represented by **Mark Edwards**

- Green Office Program
- A system of 12 different waste streams has been developed in a normal office building to increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill
- Change in staff attitudes and behaviour
- Estimated 60% of landfill shifted to recycle or re-use streams (~16-18 tonnes/year). Cost saving of ~\$3500/year.

Judges Comments

- *A great example of what can be done on a small scale to reduce environmental impact*
- *Potentially applicable to a number of businesses in a range of geographical locations*

Honourable Mention goes to **Encycle Consulting – Recycling Works Toolkit** – represented by **Jenny Campbell**

Judges Comments

- *This is a really good initiative which has the potential for use by the whole building industry.*
- *The linkages put in place with the Green Star rating system offers a great tool to promote the use of the Recycling Works Toolkit.*
- *The challenge will be to continue the use and increase the uptake of this Toolkit*

CATEGORY - Community Recycling Initiative
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Care for Hedland Environmental Association – Cash for Trash Program -
– represented **Heni McGroder**

- Aims to address the issue of broken glass on streets and footpaths
- 10c is paid per whole bottle and \$2 per bag of aluminium cans, paid directly to residents and community groups
- 8 sponsors involved representing Local & State Government, Waste & Other Industries
- Close to 600,000 glass bottles have been diverted from landfill since inception of project
- Noticeable reduction in broken glass and street litter around the town.

Judges Comments

- *Exemplary example of a grass roots initiative*
- *Great potential for take up at local, regional and state level*
- *Innovative initiative in the absence of Container Deposit Legislation*
- *Broad stakeholder base including local businesses and community members*
- *Great public profile for the program through local news etc.*
- *The winning entry addresses a broad waste issue for a community partnership base in a remote regional context.*

CATEGORY - Local Government Waste Reduction Initiative

City of Bunbury - *Electronic Waste Recycling Program* to encourage diversion of e-waste from landfill – represented by **Tony Battersby**

- Conveniently located drop-off point
- Free service for residents, cost charge rate for commercial operators
- Has resulted in 67 thousand tonnes diverted from landfill.

Judges Comments

- *The program was instigated by the LG without assistance from the Waste Authority. It was responsive and cost effective, achieving a diversion of 67 tonnes from landfill*
- *Simple & effective collection program*
- *The motivation for providing the service was as a result of residents concerns*
- *Local solution for local problem*
- *Complex waste stream*
- *Demonstrated initiative*

CATEGORY - Waste Wise Acknowledged School For Creativity And Innovation

West Leeming Primary School – represented by Bruce Hurrell (Principal)

Judges Commend...

- *The high level of community involvement*
- *The daily and weekly audits conducted by students with regards to recycled paper and fruit and vegetable scraps*
- *The dance production centred around the theme of “The Disposable Planet”*
- *The planting of a tree to celebrate every tonne of paper recycled*
- *The student produced newspaper promoting the 3R’s and sustainability*

Palmyra Primary School – represented by Kellie Ker

Judges Commend...

- *The school infrastructure available to the community such as drop off points for Anglicare, aluminium cans, batteries, printer cartridges and mobile phones*
- *Fantastic recycling bin system used at school and at school events*
- *Great use of recycled construction materials*
- *Recycled boat as a garden bed – very creative*
- *The design and production of calico bags*

Wirrabirra Primary School – represented by Nichola Butler

Judges Commend...

- *Whole school participation in Environmental Education on a weekly basis*
- *Excellent community partnerships*
- *Education for sustainability strongly linked to the syllabus and integrated into Science, Maths and Literacy*
- *Environmental monitors speaking at assemblies and playing host to other schools*
- *Passport stamps for parents who spend time volunteering with Waste Wise programs. Stamps can then be redeemed for “Wirrabirra Dollars”*

CATEGORY - Waste Champion

Michael Filby - Nominated by the Shire of Manjimup

- Pensioner and resident of Walpole who collects roadside litter between Peaceful Bay and Middleton Road, a distance of 105km and from connecting roads between Walpole and the highway
- He actively promotes and distributes anti littering information to the public at his book stand at the Tree Top Walk
- Michael has been a catalyst in the creation of Walpole promoting itself as a "Litter Free" town
- He has created a rubbish bag holder attached to the back of his car and works his way along the highway, weekly, filling bags.

Judges Comments

- *Demonstrates determination and personal commitment*
- *Ability to influence decision-makers*
- *Impact on wider audience*
- *A true champion, showing leadership*

Beckenham Primary School - Whole School Sustainability Program

represented by Mike Bettenay (Principal)

- Sustainability plan is an integral part of their School Development Plan
- Students lunch scraps feed worms and compost bins for use in the organic fruit and vegetable garden
- Rainwater tanks provide water to gardens and an ablutions block
- 2009 Recycled Art Show

Judges Commend...

- *Involvement of students in decision-making*
- *Holistic approach to environmental issues*
- *Linking ideas across the curriculum*
- *Creative and inspiring*

CATEGORY - Recognition of Excellence

Posthumous Award recipient – Gavin Watters

Some brief highlights of his work:

- a 37 year career in local government, with the last 17 years as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer at the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
- When he started at EMRC in 1992, there were about 15 staff and a turnover of \$1 million
- When he retired in 2009 there were 95 staff and a turnover of \$30 million
- Gavin was known for his regional vision, innovation, progressive thinking and planning and he participated on a number of committees outside of his work at EMRC:
 - The Municipal Waste Advisory Council
 - Western Australian Recycling Blueprint Committee
 - Treated Industrial Sludge Disposal Working Group
 - Waste 2020 Taskforce
 - Waste Management Board

Gavin's leadership was characterised by integrity, a well developed sense of humour and his delight in seeing staff develop their potential.