

Martinette Pieterse

From: Tony Battersby
Sent: Wednesday, 23 November 2016 11:56 AM
To: Martinette Pieterse
Subject: FW: Waste and Recycle Conference

From: Bill Adams [<mailto:cryptic4.28@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, 1 October 2016 10:53 AM
To: Tony Battersby
Subject: Waste and Recycle Conference

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to attend.

I was requested to put together a few words by way of a report on my attendance.

Wednesday was taken up by a field trip to three metro/near metro waste facilities (in this day and age "tip" does not fit the bill, altho' the Shire of Harvey still issues tip passes).

It could pretty much be summed up by saying that we saw a comparison of the way forward and doing things as they were in 1950.

We at BHRC are doing things well.

A clean and orderly site, separation of waste streams, "op shop" (altho' we have a way to go in presentation), helpful staff on site.

Our three bin operation where it applies is certainly the way to go to produce an A grade compost product and cut down on green house gas emission.

Daily cover offered several options, but rolling out a carpet does not seem to feature as a real alternative to daily cover.

The removal of obnoxious gases from the composting process from the enclosed composting site was very complex and one which we would have to consider before going down that path - however, the raw material going into the process would play a large part in this.

What struck me most I think was the obvious pride that several of the shires/cities had in their waste services.

Clean and bright trucks with the local authority motto boldly displayed, messages on the sides of these trucks such as "bringing new life to your waste" or some such wording - not a scruffy looking truck advertising the Warren Blackwood or Cleanaway going nowhere in particular and just picking up a bin full of your rubbish.

I really believe this approach would make a hell of a lot of impact on a community and certainly be seen to impart a positive message towards recycling.

Two days spent in the classroom and viewing trade stands.

Again, three bins the way to go, with some tight control of what goes in which bin.

Presentations on reverse vending with the plan by our state govt. to introduce a container levy. There is a lot to do before this can be brought into being, and there does not look to be too much of a future for glass bottles other than road base following crushing.

I am particularly interested in the future of the one use, thin supermarket shopping bag, and was pleased to see compostable bags being promoted - I think the community as a whole is taken in by "degradable" bags. A front end sorting system would certainly go a long way to improving our landfill %, but automated is a very expensive way to go, and hand pickers probably hard to attract.

Quite a bit was made at one particular site about the recruitment of staff, and equally their training.

In 2016 there is much more to working at a waste treatment facility than being a tip worker. We could improve the image of the industry a great deal, and one way of doing this is pride in our infrastructure such as trucks that promote the positives of recycling.

All in all positive and informative and 3 days well spent.

"Take away " message - we are well on the right track and should continue to promote three bins and persuade participating shires to carry these positive messages with regard to reusing/recycling . Recommended that our council members consider attending a field trip or attendance at a couple of sessions next year if the opportunity arises.
Bill Adams,