



REUSE, RECYCLE, CLEAN UP!

Time to clean out garden sheds, laundry cupboards and under the kitchen sink

SHOALHAVEN City Council will again be hosting the annual Household Chemical CleanOut on Saturday, November 23 in Ulladulla and on Sunday, November 24 in Nowra.

Drop off sites for residents to bring their unwanted chemicals are at council's Ulladulla Administration Building car park on Saturday and the Nowra Administration Building car park on Sunday.

The CleanOut event allows residents the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted or out of date household chemicals such as pool chemicals, garden chemicals, household cleaning compounds and solvents, as well as a range of other hazardous household waste including gas cylinders, batteries, paint and fluorescent tubes.

Residents with any concerns as to the contents of a pre-existing bottle, jar or packet are advised to bring it in to the CleanOut days to ensure correct disposal.

Residents can dispose their chemicals free of charge between 9am -3.30pm both days while there is a maximum limit of 20 litres or 20 kilograms of chemicals disposed per household.

Residents are urged to take advantage of this annual event as it provides the only safe method of disposal, at no charge.

Chemicals are not accepted for disposal by council at any other time during the year.

Further information on the Household Chemical CleanOut can be obtained by ringing the CleanOut Hotline on 131 555.



The annual household chemical CleanOut is a great time to get rid of all that old waste for free.

it's time to **cleanOut** your household chemical clutter **AND IT'S FREE**

Only household quantities accepted

Drop off your old or leftover

- paints
- fire extinguishers
- gas bottles
- oils and fuels
- batteries
- solvents & household cleaners
- pesticides, herbicides
- acids and alkalis
- pool and hobby chemicals
- fluorescent tubes

AT THESE LOCATIONS BETWEEN 9AM-3.30PM

Saturday, 23 November
Shoalhaven City Council Admin. Centre car park
Deering Street, Ulladulla

Sunday, 24 November
Shoalhaven City Council Admin. Centre car park
Bridge Road, Nowra

For more dates and locations call the
Environment Line on
131 555
or visit www.cleanout.com.au



Green revolution grows

By Clive Hopkins

A REPORT that provides a snapshot of 25 years of recycling in Australia is a "call to action for individuals and businesses", says environmental organisation Planet Ark.

The Recycling Revolution was put together by Planet Ark to coincide with National Recycling Week, which runs until November 17.

So where are Australians winning the battle over recycling and what challenges are we facing?

"We're doing pretty well at home," Planet Ark recycling programs manager Janet Sparrow said.

"Ninety-five per cent of Australians now have access to council recycling and we recycle 60 per cent of house packaging, which is up from 40 per cent in 2003."

Only 46 per cent of commercial and industrial waste is recycled, though – mainly, Sparrow believed, because businesses have to be more proactive than households to be effective.

Recycling, however, can be financially beneficial for companies, she said.

"There are easy wins in the workplace," said Sparrow.

"Paper and cardboard represent 22 per cent of landfill from businesses, but office paper is of high quality, and is a high-value resource."

Online databases for local business recyclers are making workplace recycling easier.

Small batteries represent a big challenge for the future.

While 82 per cent of car batteries are recycled in established programs, only 4 per cent of smaller batteries are recycled.

Batteries have been identified for possible inclusion under product stewardship legislation that governs e-waste.

Other challenges include what to do with the 100,000 tonnes of plastic food packaging that Australians throw away each year, along with the 3.3 billion plastic shopping bags that find their way into landfill.

Televisions, computers and computer accessories are the fastest-growing waste stream.

Last year, the federal government enacted product stewardship legislation, whereby manufacturers and importers must join an arrangement to fund the recycling and disposal of these products at the end of their life cycle.

"In the first year, we've gone from between 10 and 17 per cent of TVs and other e-waste recycled to 30 per cent," said Carmel Dollisson, chief executive of TechCollect, a nationwide recycling service for e-waste.

"These products didn't end up in landfill, which is a great outcome, both for the community and the environment."

According to Dollisson, the regulator is delighted with the 100 per cent compliance from the manufacturers, who themselves pushed for the legislation.

"At least 90 per cent of the products is recovered, and goes back as a raw material into the manufacture of new products," said Dollisson.

Planet Ark estimates that more gold can be recovered from one tonne of computer e-waste than can be found in 17 tonnes of gold ore.

With an estimated 95 per cent of Australians unaware that

these products can be disposed of and recycled for free, there's still a lot of work to be done in raising awareness – especially with analogue TV signals being switched off progressively by the end of the year.

But Dollisson saw the 40,000 tonnes of TVs and other e-waste collected in the first year of the scheme as a great outcome.

"All the right people are doing the right thing. It's a very successful and sustainable program."

Recycling mobile phones in Australia has been one of the success stories of recent years, with a product stewardship program funded by handset manufacturers and carriers.

Unwanted phones can be dropped off at one of 4000 collection points or posted in a pre-paid satchel.

"The Australian operation is very successful," said Rose Read, manager recycling at MobileMuster, which organises the program.

"We collect 50 per cent of what's available, which is the best collection rate in the world."

All the recycled metals – many of them very rare – go back into the manufacturing process, while the plastics go to make products such as fence posts.

"The challenge is getting people to understand the importance of recycling the materials in phones," said Read.

"People don't make the connection that if it's not recycled, someone has to dig up more stuff."

For the future, Read sees opportunities to integrate with batteries and other small electronics – sharing the costs between the industries, and making it easier for the consumer.