



waste 2017

Australia's leading Waste
Management Conference

Waste 2017 Conference

Opal Cove Resort
Coffs Harbour NSW
2-4 May 2017

Waste 2017 Abstract Submission Tackling litter - a three-pronged approach

My presentation is relevant to the following topic area(s).

- Circular economy
- Education (inc community engagement)
- State based issues (eg. Fit for the Future NSW)
- Innovative projects (case studies preferred)
- Landfill (inc operations, regulations)
- Litter and/or illegal dumping (inc litter initiatives)

Presenter information

Presenter name: Anthony Hill
Presenter position: Co-founder and spokesperson
Presenter organisation: Travelling Trash Troupe
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Biography

Anthony Hill`s background is in events management, public speaking and entertainment. For over 20 years he ran quiz shows for live audiences, on TV and radio. More recently he has been working as a plastic pollution campaigner and educator in his social enterprise, Plastic Pollution Solutions.

Abstract

Travelling Trash Tour (TTT)

The Traveling Trash Troop addresses litter prevention, waste reduction and recycling across multiple platforms including education, empowerment and ongoing collaborative action. It is the very embodiment of innovation, combining three creative and unique projects:

1. Plastic Pollution Solutions (PPS)
2. Seaside Scavenge (SS)
3. Boomerang Bags (BB)

The TTT aims to raise public awareness about the negative impacts of litter, and engage communities in a number of hands-on, outcome-based activities to reduce this impact. Activities will cover:

- Education - through school activities, community events and workshops (PPS)
- Action - providing a platform for community members to actively engage in litter clean-ups (SS), national litter research and re-useable bag-making workshops. (BB)
- Legacy - workshops that leave community leaders and schools with the tools to implement long-term, solution based programs within their community.

By incorporating activities such as BB re-useable bag workshops into the events, the TTT raises awareness about sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic items that are commonly found as marine debris (e.g plastic bags). Additionally, the events garner more community support for these existing local litter reduction initiatives that are tackling the issue of plastic pollution at its source by fostering sustainable behaviour and providing the tools for the local community to transition away from single-use plastic bags.

TTT is a successful demonstration of how individual and community ideas can grow, flourish and effectively address global problems at a local level.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the tour:

- * To increase community understanding of litter and its negative impacts.
- * To increase rate of recycling in local area and discourage use of single-use items
- * To build on-going relationships between existing Councils groups and organisations and individuals to pave way for ongoing action.
- * To mobilise communities into ongoing and lasting collaboration to tackle litter with practical and satisfying solutions

Organisations involved in the Travelling Trash Troupe are described in further detail below.

Boomerang Bags

Boomerang Bags is a community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grassroots level.

Dedicated schools, community groups, businesses and volunteers get together to make re-useable 'Boomerang Bags' using recycled materials as a means to replace plastic bags. Through Boomerang Bags we start conversations, make friends, up-cycle materials and work towards shifting society's throw away mentality to a more sustainable revolution of re-use - one community, needle and thread at a time.

In the last three years, Boomerang Bags has:

- * diverted 8000 kilograms of waste from landfill
- * established 52 Boomerang Bags communities worldwide and growing rapidly
- * made over 50 000 reusable bags using recycled materials for local communities
- * supported seven Work for the Dole projects
- * developed a secondary school program for Design and Technology students
- * Worked closely with Councils, Correctional Centres and businesses to supply bags for conferences, libraries events and businesses. Boomerang Bags is the only place in Australia that manufactures bags in large numbers.

Plastic Pollution Solutions

Plastic Pollution Solutions has toured Australia and overseas for over three years helping communities transition away from single-use disposable plastic by holding awareness and educational events, presentations and activities. During this time, over 200 events have been held while school & community projects have been initiated aimed at eliminating litter and plastic pollution in public spaces and waste streams. We have networked with individuals, organisations, schools, community groups, waste management facilities, shire councils, Federal and state MPs to discuss and workshop this issue and the solutions available.

Plastic Pollution Solutions has as its goal to provide solutions to plastic pollution at a macro and micro level. We are an ambassador for organisations like Boomerang Bags, Tangaroa Blue, Surfrider Foundation and Bottle For Botol as well as collaborating with Seaside Scavenge, Take 3, The Australian Marine Conservation Society, Ocean Crusaders and more.

Seaside Scavenge

Seaside Scavenge has established a quirky concept where litter becomes a currency. Every 10 pieces of litter that participants collect from the beach and parklands earns them a painted bottle cap. This is the currency used in the market. The market is filled with second-hand clothing and goods that have been pre-donated and priced in pieces of litter by the local community.

We have successfully engaged local pubs and hotels at many of our events to also donate drink coupons. In these cases 20 pieces of litter will earn participants a beer coupon that they can use within the venue. The incorporation of live music, up-cycling workshops and talks from active local conservationists or groups makes the Seaside Scavenge a collaborative opportunity for all.

Case Study: Shoalhaven City Council

The above mentioned activities have been implemented effectively within Shoalhaven City Council communities. Fiona Schreurs, Resource Recovery Projects Coordinator, will co-present at the Waste Conference as a testimonial to the outcomes of these activities for the local community and environment.