**Waste 2017 Abstract Submission**

**The ReSourceful Schools Program. Building rubbish relationships!**

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

🞎 Circular economy 🞎 Overseas experiences

🞎 Collection (inc MUD’s, transient population areas) 🞎 Problem/Hazardous waste (inc asbestos, clinical &

🞎 Container Deposit Schemes medical, ocean plastics, paint, tyres etc)

🞎 Economics (inc business cases, data gathering, 🞎 Product Stewardship

monitoring performance) 🞎 Regional issues

yes Education (inc community engagement) 🞎 Recycling (inc CRC’s, collection)

🞎 E-Waste 🞎 Regulations and levies

🞎 Grants (outcomes and processes) 🞎 Social enterprise

🞎 Infrastructure (inc major waste grants, EfW, organics) 🞎 State based issues (eg. Fit for the Future NSW)

Yes Innovative projects (case studies preferred) 🞎 Technology

🞎 Landfill (inc operations, regulations) 🞎 Tenders and contracts

🞎 Litter and/or illegal dumping (inc litter initiatives) 🞎 Other 🞎 Organics (inc collection, processing)

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** John McQueen and Lisa Siegel

**Presenter position:** Manager and Coordinator

**Presenter organisation:** Cascade Environmental Education Centre

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**Biography**

John McQueen is the principal of Cascade Environmental Education Centre an NSW government public school. He firmly believes that only by fostering a love of the natural world will people want to take action to protect it. As well as conducting environmental education experiences in the rainforest for 20 years John now manages an innovative waste education program for schools on the Mid North Coast.

Lisa Siegel has a wealth of experience in leading change in a variety of settings. Her masters in curriculum development and many years of experience in a range of community organisations enable her to create and implement innovative and engaging programs.

**Abstract Summary**

The Resourceful Schools Program is an innovative approach to solving community waste issues. The program, funded by Midwaste allows for engaging and relevant programs to be conducted to facilitate change in local communities. The key components of the project is building ongoing relationships with schools to support them in developing a personalised, appropriate and efficient waste management project for their school. Providing opportunities for schools to connect and share. Facilitating the schools to empower students top develop waste management plans and strategies.

**Abstract**

*The ReSourceful Schools (RSS) Program aims t*o communicate information and help develop positive skills amongst a wide sector of the community connected through schools, including children, young people, and adults, in order to achieve long term behaviour change around waste management.

The program also aims to establish and maintain an on-going relationship with each RSS School and its local council including professional development, curriculum based classroom activities, conducting practical hands-on activities, follow up support and celebrations to schools and communities - all conducted by locally based, highly professional qualified teachers.

The aim of this presentation is share the findings and inspirations that have been gathered.

Now entering its second full cycle the major findings include:

* There is no easy fix to the issues of waste management,
* Schools are relating and responding well to the ongoing contact with the RSS team. This includes pre-program visits, program conduct, school project development and celebration,
* One off education programs do have some effect but building relationships is key to engaging schools at a higher level and empowering students to make change,

This is an innovative program that effectively utilises public resources, meets organisational needs in regards to collaboration, education and community waste issues.