

# Waste Management UPDATE



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Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group

## BLINKY BULB Recycle Your Tubes and Globes!



Blinky Bulb recycling is here! Directors Leo Tellefson, David Quayle, Neville Goulding and Geoff Curnow with Karen at the launch of the new campaign to recycling fluorescent tubes and globes around the region.

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Used lighting products are the largest source of mercury contamination in municipal landfills. Mercury is the most toxic pollutant, after radioactive substances.

Over 10,000 tonnes of mercury contaminated waste every year goes into landfills across Australia. Mercury from fluorescent tubes can convert to methyl mercury; this toxic and volatile gas can easily escape into the environment.

To combat this problem the BlinkyBulb Recycling Project was created by Rotary International District 9780 Preserve Planet Earth (Water & Environment) Committee and the Highlands Regional Waste Management Group. The program welcomed partners from the Central Murray, Grampian, Barwon and Desert Fringe Regional Waste Management Groups to help spread the key recycling message as widely as possible.

"As part of the project, we have established collection points at landfills and transfer stations and also local businesses for residents to bring their used CFL globes and fluorescent tubes where they will be boxed for collection." Karen Fazzani from the CMRWMG said.

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# From the Group

Central Murray RWMG Chairperson, Neville Goulding (left) and Executive Officer, Karen Fazzani (right)



It's the start of a new financial year and the CMRWMG has set out a challenging new Business Plan with a variety of objectives designed towards helping us achieve our regional targets.

The Group continues to set the benchmark in its commitment to reducing its environmental footprint and Karen and Donna are to be commended for their effort in becoming the first Gold certified Waste Wise RWMG in Victoria. The CMRWMG joins an elite group of 4 other Gold certified Waste Wise organisations.

*Neville Goulding*

After launching the Blinky Bulb program across the region, we've already collected one full box of tubes from Kerang. We look forward to seeing more people take advantage of the free drop off program over the coming months.

The results are in and its very pleasing to see that our recycling diversion continues to climb. The 2007/08 data shows that we have increased our recycling rates to 37%. While we still have room for further improvement, we are certainly heading in the right direction.

Congratulations also goes to the businesses that obtained silver Waste Wise certification.

*Karen Fazzani*

## Recycling Rates 2008/2009

Recycling rates have remained constant across the region with all member Councils operating best practice kerbside collections. Recycling rates are the same as 2008/09 — 37 %.

Our recycling figures have increased from 290.94kg to 298kg per household which is considerably higher than the 2007/08 non-metro average of 259kg per household.

It is anticipated that recycling and waste data collection figures will be more accurate during 2009/10 with new contractors committed to provided audited and weighed data and as a result will demonstrate a further increase in diversion figures. New recycling programs are also in place for 2009/10 which will also lead to an increase in recycling.



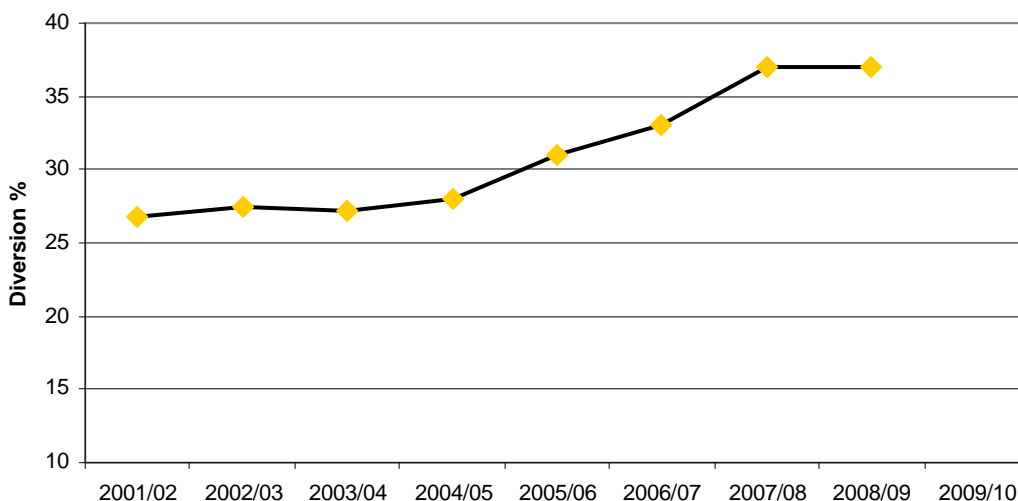
Rotarian Kester Bains with Karen, Phil Clingin (HRWMG), Dory Russell (GRWMG) and Brian Klem (DFRWMG) at the launch of the Blinky Bulb campaign in Ballarat.

## Blinky Bulb cont...

Collection points around the region include the Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Swan Hill and Wycheproof Landfills, the Cohuna, Kerang and Sea Lake Transfer Stations and also participating businesses - Donald Learning Centre, Boort Newsagency, Charlton Foodworks and the Quambatook Store. For more information, you can visit [www.blinkybulb.com.au](http://www.blinkybulb.com.au)

The program was officially launched on the 5th of June in Ballarat as part of World Environment Day celebrations.

CMRWMG Diversion Targets



# EDUCATION NEWS

with Donna Wardlaw  
Regional Education Officer



## Gold, Gold, Gold for the CMRWMG!

At a recent gathering of the Association of Victorian Regional Waste Management Groups, the CEO of Sustainability Victoria Anita Roper presented our Chair Neville Goulding, our Executive Officer Karen Fazzani and myself with our gold certificate and welcomed us as the fifth gold Waste Wise organisation in the state.

We have reduced our carbon emissions by over 50% since introducing a Hybrid vehicle in the fleet which has fuel consumption of 5 litres per 100 kilometers, compared to the 10.9 litres per 100km used by the previous 6 cylinder vehicle.

Other steps we have taken to reduce our environmental impact includes:

- Recycling 90% of our waste
- Being a member of EcoBuy and purchasing over \$20,000 of green products in 2008/09
- Travelling by train and car pooling wherever possible
- Offsetting our carbon emissions for the vehicles, electricity use and waste disposal
- Supporting the purchase of green power



CEO Anita Roper presents Karen, Neville and Donna with their gold Waste Wise certificate.

## Get It Sorted!

A new campaign to help improve recycling rates at local transfer stations and landfills will be launched in the Central Murray region in October 2009. The new campaign will feature a TV commercial starring "Sammy" the trailer, who encourages everyone to sort their waste before they head off to their local landfill or transfer station and help save the environment.

The campaign is funded by the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund and the AVRWMG and will run across Victoria during October and November 2009.



## IDHS Silver Certified!

Inglewood & District Health Service has increased the amount of waste they recycle by over 8 tonnes in two years and has been recognised for their achievements by becoming a silver certified Waste Wise organisation.

CEO Mike Parker and Infection Control Coordinator Jenny Boromeo were presented with their silver certificate by Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group Executive Officer Karen Fazzani on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2009.

Some of the achievements of the Health Service including 6 tonne reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill and a significant improvement in their recycling diversion from 11% to 35% since they joined the program in 2007.



Karen presents CEO Mike Parker and Jenny Boromeo with their silver WW certificate.

# Council News



The Steering Committee of the Living Green In Gannawarra & Surrounds project held their first meeting in July to discuss the roll out of the new program which had been given the go-ahead by the DSE.



**GANNAWARRA  
SHIRE COUNCIL**

Advertising for a project officer has commenced and it is hoped that the position will be filled by the start of October.

The program, which is made up of a series of workshops held across the Gannawarra, Buloke, Loddon and Swan Hill Shires throughout 2010 and 2011. More details about the program will feature in the December issue of Waste Update.



## Buloke Shire Silver Certified

Buloke Shire Council has increased the amount of waste they recycle across all offices by over 5 tonnes and has been recognised for their achievements by becoming a silver certified Waste Wise organization.

Staff from the Donald, Charlton, Wycheproof, Birchip and Sea Lake Offices were involved in a series of presentations highlighting their achievement since 2006 and received their silver certificate from Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group Executive Officer Karen Fazzani on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Each office has committed to removing internal desk bins and replacing them with dual waste and recycling bin stations.



Top: Gaynor Doreian together with Adele Allcock receive their certificate from Karen, Bottom: Karen presents Paula Yourston from the Charlton Office with their certificate



Barry Robinson from drumMUSTER presents Loddon Shire Councillor Geoff Curnow with their 100,000 drum certificate.

## Loddon Shire receives drumMUSTER Award



Farmers and landowners across the Loddon Shire are to be congratulated for contributing to the collection of 100,000 used chemical drums as part of the drumMUSTER program.

drumMUSTER representative Barry Robinson presented Loddon Shire Council with a certificate recognising the fantastic collection result and the Councils continued support on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2009.

The drumMUSTER farm chemical drum collection program has been running in the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group area for a number of years and has had particularly strong support from landowners in the Loddon Shire.

Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group Executive Officer Karen Fazzani commented "We are impressed with the results we received not only from Loddon Shire, but from the rest of the region too."