

CIRCULAR

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WELCOME!

Welcome to AHRWMA's second edition of *In the Circular*.

Welcome to the October edition of our quarterly newsletter, '*In the Circular*', in which we are proud to share our work and keep you abreast of updates to our industry. If you have been watching the ABC's '*War on Waste*' you will know that waste management is an important topic to Australians.

We were thrilled to see several enterprises across South Australia highlighted as examples of good practice. South Australia continues to lead the way in sustainable waste management and AHRWMA is proud to be a part of it.

In this edition we will be introducing you to two new CEOs of our Member Councils and an environmental champion who works tirelessly to redirect recoverable goods from landfill.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

EXTENSION OF CELLS 8 AND 9

Progress on Cells 8/9 is in full swing, and we are anticipating their completion later this year. Our estimations indicate that Cells 8 and 9 will provide approximately five years of 'air space' for the disposal of waste that cannot be reused or recycled.

We are currently focusing on constructing the 'compacted clay liner'. The liner (along with drainage pipes) prevents 'leachate' from travelling into groundwater. Leachate is liquid that is composed of rainwater and liquids produced by putrescible waste as it decomposes. The required depth of the clay liner depends on the rainfall and water table level.

STATEWIDE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECYCLING

AHRWMA has responded to the request for submissions by the SA government's 'Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics and other Recycling'. Our submission described the negative impact that the collapse of REDcycle had on our region and our hopes for opportunities to recycle soft plastics in the future. We also expressed our support for reductions to soft plastic in packaging design and manufacture.



LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

BEK AND THE BRINKLEY RE-USE CENTRE VOLUNTEERS

The word that I would use to describe the atmosphere at the Brinkley ReUse Centre, is warm. As warm as the coffee that Bek makes for me as we sit and chat in the ReUse Cafe. I ask Bek what a normal day at the Centre looks like but soon realise that a list of tasks doesn't do justice to the work that Bek and the volunteers do. Bek describes the role of the ReUse Centre,

"We save products from landfill, we make sure that people can buy at a price that they can afford and we want to make people happy."

Bek and her volunteers go out of their way to find homes for donated goods.

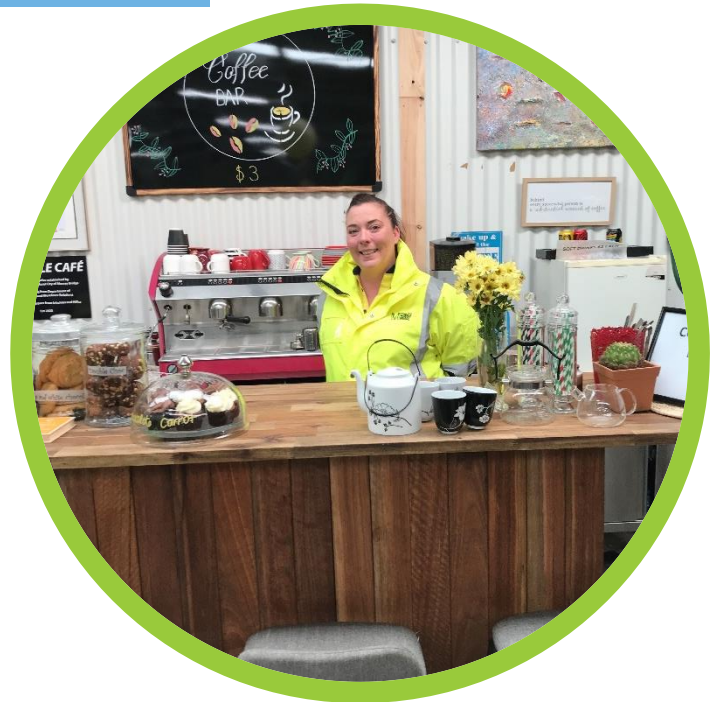
"A little while ago a person came in who had just moved to Murray Bridge from interstate. They were looking for items that would help them set up their new home. They told us how much they liked a chair on display but that they would not be able to afford it. We helped them by delivering recycled fencing sheets so that they could keep their dog safe and then we surprised them by giving them the chair as a 'Welcome to Murray Bridge' gift. They were so happy! And the chair will be loved for a long time."

Metal scraps are given new life by a local artist. LPs and art supplies are gratefully received by youth and art groups in Murray Bridge. Wool, buttons and craft materials go to Dementia SA. Every second Tuesday (10am to 12pm), there's live music in the cafe as another way to add value to the Centre. People can come in, look for something useful or special, have a coffee, a sing-a-long and feel welcome.

The Brinkley ReUse Centre sits right next door to the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility, not too far from Murray Bridge.

"We just make small differences", says Bek, "These items get another life and they make people happy".

It's evident that those small differences add up into something much larger.



PAINTBACK

Both the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility and the Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre are proud to be Paintback Collection Points, providing a convenient drop off point for the residents of our Member Councils.

Paintback is a voluntary, industry led producer stewardship scheme. It is funded by a 15c/L levy that is applied to paint products (between 1 and 20L). Customers can bring unwanted paint products to collection points, free of charge.

Paintback recycles containers, solvent paints are used as an energy source and acrylic paint is separated for use in a variety of industrial applications.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

A meeting of AHRWMA's Board and representatives of Member Councils has assisted greatly in the progression of AHRWMA's 10 Year Strategic Plan towards its final form. Discussion on the day included agreement that the Authority will continue in its endeavours to reduce waste to landfill and to increase diversion of resources for reuse and recycling. Activities will include continuing to support the community through Disaster Waste management; implementing a Regional Education Strategy; continuing to develop sites operated by AHRWMA to facilitate resource recovery and inclusion in the circular economy.

REGIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

A Regional Education Strategy is currently in draft form. The strategy aims to provide opportunities for our communities to increase both their knowledge and engagement in reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling rates.



DO YOU KNOW...

WHERE DOES E-WASTE GO?

Both the Brinkley and Heathfield sites accept eWaste at no charge to customers. Televisions and computers are covered by the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, mobile phones by Mobile Muster but other items such as whitegoods, toys, power tools and solar cells do not currently have an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. Instead, our staff harvest any accessible copper for sale to metal merchants. Remaining items are trucked to an electronics recycling company. The average Australian produces 20kg of eWaste per year (compared to a global average of 7kg) totalling 511,000 tonnes per year across the country. On average, only one third of the value of the products is recovered. This means that potentially recoverable material to the value of approximately \$430 million is sent to landfill each year. These materials include gold, silver, copper, nickel, silicon, and palladium. eWaste is also notorious for containing potentially toxic elements including lead, cadmium, and mercury. None of these elements belong in landfill! Australian researchers are developing technologies to extract the elements from decommissioned solar cells. This process is potentially lucrative with the nano silicon used in solar cells retailing at \$45,000/kg!



WELCOME CEOS!

We extend a warm welcome to our new CEOs of the Rural City of Murray Bridge and the Adelaide Hills Council, Heather Barclay and Greg Georgopoulos.

Heather was most recently the General Manager for Assets and Infrastructure at the RCMB and brings extensive experience in Local Government leadership and in leading great outcomes for communities. Greg has joined us from Kangaroo Island where he was also the Council's CEO. He brings skills in strategic thinking and planning with a focus on community benefit.

"RCMB is committed to circular procurement, having been a participating Council in the LGA Circular Economy Project in 2019-2020. Since that time, RCMB has continued its focus on circular procurement in areas such as fixed assets and road construction. Our procurement process prioritises longevity of design, reuse of existing materials and the regeneration of the natural environment." Heather Barclay, RCMB CEO

"The Adelaide Hills Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill. The Council will commence trials of alternative kerbside services in three locations across the Adelaide Hills in October. This will involve providing FOGO bins to rural areas that have not traditionally had them. In addition, there will be changes to the collection frequency of FOGO and general waste bins. We will use the data that we collect from this trial to inform our future actions." Greg Georgopoulos, AHC CEO

FROM OUR MEMBER COUNCILS

AHC A MOBILE MUSTER MASTER!

The AHC has been recognised by Mobile Muster as a 'Top Collector' for collecting a whopping 87kg of unwanted mobile phones for recycling! The Council hosts drop off points for mobile phones in the Coventry Library (Stirling), the Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre and the Gumeracha Library and Service Centre.

RCMB'S SIXTH STREET MARKET

November's Sixth Street Market will be a waste-free event with all packaging products being either compostable or recyclable. 'Bin Buddies' will be in attendance to guide market goers in ensuring that their waste ends up in the correct bin.

ALEXANDRINA'S ACTION PLANS

Alexandrina Council has released its Draft Environmental Action Plan and Draft Climate Emergency Plan for public consultation. Both plans assist Council and the community to act now to tackle the challenges of a changing climate, to protect and enhance nature and to create a better built environment and a brighter future for all in Alexandrina.

HARD WASTE COLLECTION IN MBDC

MBDC has introduced a Residential Hard Waste Collection, utilising the services of Orana. Orana is a social enterprise that supports people with disabilities to develop their skills in a work-based environment. The collection system utilises a 'user pays' model open to all residents of the Mount Barker District. Their service is built on a strong commitment to diverting waste from landfill, with the collection provider utilising methods of reuse and recycle ahead of disposal to landfill.

