

# CIRCULAR

ISSUE NO 5 2024

## WELCOME!

***We want to celebrate collaboration within our region and across South Australia by sharing our FY23/24 in data...***

**5,000 T of green organic material processed into mulch and compost**

**155 T of mattresses collected**

**40 T of eWaste saved from landfill**

**56,000 m<sup>3</sup> of clay excavated for the new landfill cell**

**1,700 hours spent in the hook trucks**

**41,000 customers served at the Brinkley and Heathfield Resource Recovery Centres**

**43,000 T of waste deposited in the Brinkley Landfill**

**86 linear metres of leachate collection pipe laid**

**10,000m<sup>2</sup> of geotextile fabric used**

**50 visitors given tours of the Brinkley Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre**

**184 T of metals recovered for recycling**

***AND MUCH MORE!***

## SITE DEVELOPMENT

### CELL 8/9 OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The image (right) shows the first load of material to be deposited in the new cell.

Constructing a landfill cell is a complex and demanding feat of engineering.

Heavy rains prior to Christmas caused technical difficulties but thanks to the diligent work of AHRWMA employees, overseen and assisted by Operations Manager, Ben, this cell is now open for business.

AHRWMA will endeavour to make the 'airspace' of this cell last as long as possible through sorting, compaction and community education to reduce material sent to landfill.



## BRINKLEY BUS TOURS

Brinkley has hosted 50 people to date via bus tours of the site including the Mt Barker Lions Club, representatives of KESAB, scientists from (Environmental Health) Flinders University and Chemistry teachers from Heathfield High School and the Australian Science and Maths School. The tours have focused on a range of topics for exploration, 'Where does your waste go?', 'What practices do landfills use to protect human health?' and 'How do the properties of materials determine their recycling or disposal pathways?'

Do you know a group that would benefit from a Brinkley Bus Tour? Contact [c.stone@ahrwma.com](mailto:c.stone@ahrwma.com)

### WHAT BIRD IS THAT?

#### THE SINGING HONEYEATER

The Singing Honeyeater can be found in the shrubbery around the Brinkley Re-Use Centre. They live in small, communal groups and feed on nectar and insects. They are busy, noisy and boss the feral birds around!



### PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FROM BUS TOURS

*"Our visit to the landfill was an awesome peek behind the curtain of the complex systems that allow our society to flourish. There were so many education layers (chemistry, physics, biology) as well as the fascinating finances of the recycling industry. You'll never look at your rubbish the same again!"*

*"Really eye opening to see the extensive thought and scientific effort put into every aspect of landfill management."*

*"That was the most interesting thing I've learnt about in ages. I feel really positive now!"*

Dear Carl, Ben and Bec,  
Thank you so much  
for showing us around the  
waste dump. It was the  
best excursion ever!  
From the env. health  
lab

# RECYCLE HUBS

## ALL SYSTEMS GO IN AHC AND RCMB LIBRARIES!

Residents of the Adelaide Hills (and soon Murray Bridge!) have a convenient drop off point for a range of recyclable materials in their local libraries. Batteries, eWaste and XRays contain materials which can be recovered but when placed into landfill, are potential contaminants of soil and groundwater. Batteries are recycled through the BCycle Product Stewardship Scheme, eWaste is transported to Electronic Recycling Australia for deconstruction and XRays are taken to EcoCycle for mercury recovery. The Recycle Hubs are a collaborative project between the AHC, RCMB and AHRWMA.

In the first two months, **25 kg of mobile phones, 53kg of eWaste, 94kg of XRays and 48kg of batteries** were collected across the Hubs.

Read more here: [Recycling Wall Hubs now available • Adelaide Hills Council \(ahc.sa.gov.au\)](http://ahc.sa.gov.au)



# BIOCHAR WORKSHOP



Biochar is a hot topic in the waste industry, reported to have demonstrated soil enhancement and carbon sequestration properties. Home production of biochar could have the benefit of reducing the volume of organic material entering the Resource Recovery Centres whilst also providing an alternative burn method which produces a useful product and less smoke. AHRWMA was pleased to collaborate with 'Maccy Biochar', a community organisation based in Macclesfield, to host a 'Biochar Basics' course in May. Participants enjoyed time around the fire pit as they learnt the techniques that prevent ash and smoke formation. Feedback from participants was uniformly positive with comments including:

*"We are planning to make biochar from garden waste instead of taking loads to the green waste days... We have also been talking to our neighbour about making biochar using the green waste they normally burn in a large bonfire."*

*"Definitely keen to continue to do this. It's a better way to deal with prunings and other wood scrap and I can already see the difference in my garden bed. It's taking more water on. Over time I expect it will improve the beds considerably."*

