



Shire wins grant to cut waste

Torres Shire Council has won a \$10,000 community grant to reduce waste being sent unnecessarily to landfill by increasing beverage container recycling on Thursday and Horn Islands.

The Keep Australia Beautiful grant, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation, was provided to the Torres Shire Council to implement the Aluminium Can Recycling Program on Thursday Island and Horn Island.

The focus of the community grants scheme is on away from home or 'out & about' recycling, demonstrating practical projects that leave a legacy and do not duplicate existing recycling activities.

Project results must be measurable and show how recycled materials are being collected and diverted from landfill.

KAB Qld selected Torres Shire Council's project to receive a grant, along with four other QLD community projects.

Recycling in the Torres Strait is severely limited due to its remote location and quarantine restrictions. Council has been able to overcome these restrictions by moving the aluminium cans in a sealed container.

The funding will go towards the purchase of two shipping containers to move the baled cans to the mainland for recycling.

Rick Burnett, CEO of KABQ said: "The Torres Shire Council was selected to receive a grant as their project provides a clear and tangible outcome for increasing the recycling rate of beverage containers in public places. With only just over half the total waste produced in Australia each year being recycled, this project will help to increase recycling on the island.

Many of the community grants projects being announced nationally coincide with Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) Week, which kicks off on Monday, 23 August, and runs until Sunday, 29 August. The theme for this year's campaign is focused on encouraging people to recycle their empty beverage containers when they are 'out & about' to reduce landfill waste.

Bernie McCarthy, CEO of the Torres Shire Council said: "We are delighted to receive this grant from Keep Australia Beautiful and the Coca-Cola Foundation. We are keen for our community to play a role in increasing the recycling rates of beverage containers.

"This grant will assist in achieving this goal by a means of overcoming quarantine regulations, allowing the transporting recycled cans to the mainland."

Inaugural Women's Health Forums

Representatives from the Queensland Women's Health Network were recently, for the first time, in the Torres Strait holding health forums.

Romina Fujii, who is the far North Queensland representative, said: "Health issues in the Torres Strait, especially for women, are of high importance and any access to health information is vital for families in this region."

The forums were held on Thursday Island, Hammond Island and Horn Island respectively from July 15-17 and the QWHN committee worked closely with health workers from TI, who also

participated in all three workshops.

They also visited the Primary Health Care Centre and the Thursday Island Hospital.

"I've wanted for a long time to be here to hold a forum and to also visit this region," said Dr Betty McLellan, the chairperson.

About 50 people attended the women's health forum at the Port Kennedy Association hall and the program for the three workshops was:

- Health Issues presented by Qld Health,
- Respectful Relationships presented by Sue Manthey,
- Accessing Health In-

formation on the Internet presented by Martha Power and Maree Hawken, and - What Can Counselling Do for You? presented by Betty McLellan.

QWHN is funded by Queensland Health and its membership is open to women from all areas of the state.

Apart from distributing health information to more than 400 health and community organisations, professionals, politicians and women working in health, QWHN can also lobby on behalf of local women issues concerning them to Queensland Health.



Thank You

