

# Waste management

We must reduce, reuse and recycle to help minimise amount of rubbish sent to the dump

## Donation bolsters library's range

THE University of the Third Age enjoys a huge membership of people looking to extend their knowledge and rate their curiosity on the Northern Beaches and surrounding areas.

U3A has come of age this year, marking its 21st birthday after being founded in 1992.

In Woolgoolga, classes are held at the library, where the volunteer tutors run a great range of courses.

As a thank you to the library for hosting the courses, the organisation donates books each year to bolster the stock on offer.

This year is no different, with three books taking their places on the shelves.

This year the books are:

David Jones, 175 Years;

Napoleonic War - the story

so far



L-R: Geoff Donnan, John Ierrie and Catherine Johns

PHOTO: GUYTON

presented by U3A tutor Elaine Townsend, who has been giving lectures on colonial Australian history.

The other two books were presented to

offered and provide a source of information for interested people.

U3A encourages everyone to take advantage of the opportunities and benefits which a library can offer.

## WORDY NEWS

HAVE you ever come across a word in the newspaper that you haven't seen before or don't know what it means?

This week's word is **BOLSTER**

Definition: to add to, support or uphold

## DID YOU KNOW

● Australians are the second-highest producers of waste, per person, in the world, each of us sending 690kg of waste to landfill each year. The amount of waste placed in landfill each year in Australia is enough to cover the state of Victoria.

Source: [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)

● Landfills are local government responsibilities.

● When old landfills have been sampled, 40-year-old newspapers have been found with readable print.

## QUIZ TIME

Each week we will test your knowledge on what's been happening in the news. For the answers visit NIE online.

- 1 WHICH celebrated American iconic child star died last week at the age of 85?
- 2 WHAT was Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird, posthumously awarded?
- 3 AFTER complaints, the creator pulled which viral hit game from app stores so no one can download it again?

ON rubbish day in your local area, you wheel your bin out to the curb and the council collects the contents in a truck. You don't have to think about that waste again. But have you ever wondered, as you watch the truck pull away where that garbage ends up?

The majority of waste that is not recycled or re-used in Australia is disposed of in the nation's landfills.

## What is a Landfill?

The garbage truck takes your waste to the local landfill – a large open area or hole made up of 'cells'.

A typical landfill cell is lined with a layer of clay and /or a plastic liner. This helps prevent any liquid called leachate from seeping into the surrounding soil and ground water. Any water that leaches through the layers of rubbish and soil to the bottom of the landfill is collected in special pipes and pumped to leachate storage pond.

In order to pack as much rubbish as possible in a landfill cell, the rubbish is compacted by heavy vehicles then covered with a layer of soil. This process is repeated until the hole is filled. It is then closed with a final cover called a cap and another layer of soil.

The gases given off by the slowly rotting material are mainly a mixture of carbon dioxide and methane – called landfill gas. Some of this gas is extracted through special pipes and at some landfills, sent to a special facility where it is used to generate electricity.

## What's the problem?

Even though there are strict regulations that govern where a landfill can be placed and how it can operate, the use of landfills as a form of waste management presents a number of problems.

● can impact on air, water and land quality.

● finding new and appropriate landfill sites is becoming more difficult.

● not sustainable, they do not last forever.

● gas, mainly methane, is produced by decomposing organic waste.

● not designed to break down garbage, merely to bury it. Therefore rubbish stays there for a very long time as there is little oxygen and little moisture. Under these conditions, waste does not break down very rapidly.

● Water moving from or through landfill waste forms leachate which has the potential to contaminate nearby surface and ground water.

● are costly to operate.

● offensive to our sense of smell.

## What can be done?

The large amount of waste being thrown away is putting pressure on landfill sites.

It is therefore important to adopt practices and behaviours that improve the way we manage the rubbish we produce to help minimise the amount of garbage sent to our landfills. Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Refusing are the best places to start.

CHECK IT OUT



## Win a set of iPADS

HERE'S your chance to win a set of 10 iPads for your school. The school with the most tokens at the end of the five-week promotion will be rewarded with these great educational tools. A token will be published in this newspaper every day from Saturday, February 22 until Monday, March 31, so start collecting tokens. All schools stand an equal chance of winning, as entries will be pro-rata across the number of enrolled students to determine the winner. For more information check it out on your newspaper's website.

## News in the Spotlight

Discuss the following topic and let us know what you think.

### RECYCLING RUBBISH

RESIDENTS of Chinchilla and surrounds soon will have their overflowing rubbish tip replaced by a multi-million-dollar waste disposal facility. They also will have a new place to shop, with dumped items that are deemed too good to throw away planned to be on-sold to the public at The Recycling Market.

The market will provide an added boost to the local community with 25% of the funds raised through the sale of goods to go towards non-profit organisations and community groups.

The state-of-the-art Chinchilla Waste and Recycling Centre is due to be completed by mid-2014.

The new facility will provide patrons with a safe and efficient way to get rid of their rubbish as well as more opportunities for re-using and recycling items.

Residents will be encouraged to pre-sort their loads so that they can recycle items like cardboard, glass bottles and jars, newspapers and magazines, cartons and steel and aluminium cans.

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC: FOSSILISED