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Wordy news

TRASHY: - of the nature of litter; rubbishy or worthless.



Did you know?

Since 1990, Clean Up Australia Day volunteers have donated more than 31 million hours removing more than 331 thousand tonnes of rubbish.

Clean up your act

ANY material that is disposed of incorrectly is garbage, litter, rubbish or waste. Whatever you want to call it, it's unwanted, especially in places it's not meant to be. Whether dropped on the ground, thrown out of a car window or dumped on the side of the road, deliberately or accidentally, litter is a visible sign of pollution.

Our waterways, parks, beaches and streets in local communities become polluted when rubbish is discarded incorrectly. This rubbish can spread germs and disease, contaminate water, kill animal life, injure people and cause visual pollution.

Not only is it ugly, litter can be dangerous and has significant

environmental, social and economic impacts on communities. Rubbish not disposed of correctly can give the impression that no one cares or is responsible.

Why litter?

We all know littering is wrong. So why do it?

People come up with countless excuses for not disposing of their litter properly: can't find a rubbish bin or it's too far away; the area is already messy; other people do it; it's just one piece of rubbish; the bins are full.

The list could go on forever but the real reason for littering is laziness.

There are several ways in which people litter. A study identified, grouped and named certain types of littering behaviours.

Wedgers: stuff or wedge their litter in small places, such as a gap between seats, so it will not be seen.

Undertakers: cover or bury their litter under soil, sand or leaves.

Foul-shooters: aim for the bin, miss and leave the object on the ground.

Clean sweepers: People who sweep litter off tables and leave it on the ground.

Flagrant flingers: People who throw objects away without even trying to conceal their actions.

Inchers: People who check that they aren't being observed, then slowly inch away from their litter.

Clean ideas

■ Always make sure you properly dispose of your garbage.

■ Recycle all that can be recycled and put all other rubbish in the proper containers.

■ If you see a friend throwing something on the ground, ask them to put in a rubbish bin.

■ If you see a piece of litter, pick it up and throw it away. But remember never to touch anything that you're not sure of-it may be sharp or be a hazardous material.

■ Take your rubbish with you if no bin is available.



IN THE NEWS

Clean it up

FOR the past 26 years communities around Australia have been part of an organised event that started with one man's idea.

Shocked by the amount of rubbish he saw in the waterways while sailing around the world, Ian Kiernan decided to do something about it and began what has become our nation's largest community based event - Clean Up Australia.

The idea of the campaign is to motivate people to enhance the quality of their local environment by targeting an area and removing the rubbish found in it.

This year's theme is: When the rubbish is gone, nature can carry on.

Dates for 2017:

Clean Up Australia - Sunday, March 5
Schools Clean Up - Friday, March 3

CHECK IT OUT

Interesting stats

ACCORDING to the Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index 2015/16 results:

★ Cigarette butts, beverage containers and takeaway food packaging represent two-thirds (67%) of all litter counted across the country.

★ The count at 983 sites across all states and territories shows litter has reduced by 9.1% across the country.

★ Highways, industrial and car park sites contribute to the highest proportion of litter, due to the mobile, "throw away" consumer, and uncovered and unsecured vehicle loads.

★ Queensland and Victoria made the biggest contributions to the reduction in litter.

NEXT WEEK: A good leader

IS YOUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY MINDED?



To find out how your business can help provide an educational resource to your local schools contact at The Chronicle on 4690 9434 and become a part of our community minded program.



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