



Zero Waste
Magnetic Island

Newsletter

March 2021

The verdict's out - guilty!

By Julie Woodlock

I think if you have lived sometime between the 1960s and now, you would probably be guilty too. It may have not been your personal preference, or intention, but using plastics, especially plastic bags has somehow crept into your kitchen and shopping world. Let's face it, they were so easily accessible. Well, only we can change that.

However, how often do we really consider the potential damage of just one plastic bag or plastic anything for that matter, getting into our environment. I'm afraid if we really faced that, we'd all lock ourselves up and throw away the key.

Just recently, I met a man on our island who lives at West Point. He's a volunteer for turtle recovery at the Turtle Hospital at Horseshoe Bay. His name is David Ede. David has told me the good and the ugly of working with the rescue of turtles. Some of the major illnesses turtles face come from our partly treated sewerage waste attacking their eyes. Another is the illegal crab pots which the turtles get tangled up in and starve, and the other is plastics which either wash out of the rivers to the sea or are carelessly dropped off boats or left on beaches.

Turtles eat jellyfish so anything that resembles them is eaten by them, which of course goes through their system. That's if they are lucky. Some are not lucky, and the plastic ends up trapped in their bodies with often lethal consequences.

To get out of gaol do any or all of these things:

- Talk about our plastic problems with friends and family - knowledge is power!
- Remember your reusable bag when going shopping.
- Remind yourself (and others) that plastic can take hundreds of years to biodegrade.
- If you wash your soft plastics and dry them, you can take them to Woolworths or Coles to be distributed to companies who reuse the plastic and make other products, such as furniture.
- If you see a turtle not swimming properly or washed up on the shore report it to David. He will then call National Parks to assess and determine whether the vet is called.
- Report to David even if you see a dead turtle. It needs to be noted, photographed, removed from the sea and buried.
- Find out more from Plastic Free Townsville <https://www.plasticfreetownsville.org/>
- Find out more from Zero Waste Magnetic Island <https://www.zerowastemi.org.au/>



zerowastemi.org.au

David has also offered to pick up your 10c bottles or cans weekly. He uses the money to donate to the Turtle Hospital. All *you* have to do is leave a container of them on the nature strip **before 6:00 am every Monday**. Give him a ring and give him your address. He'll drive around the island and pick it up, then leave your container for next time. It couldn't be easier!

David's contact is **0429 784 819**. Put him in your contacts. I have!

Maggie Island's Plastic Free Champions

Plastic Free Townsville has been working with our local cafes to help reduce plastic pollution on the island. We love the work they are doing, and congratulate them for showing the way, particularly:

1. **Scallywags Café:** 104 Sooning St, Nelly Bay.
2. **Shaka:** The food van near the old helipad on Sooning Street, Nelly Bay (between Base and Lilac St).
3. **Cafe Nourish Heart and Soul Food:** On the Esplanade in Horseshoe Bay.

All serve fabulous food, have wonderful staff and offer great service.

Expressions of interest for a Repair Café

If you have any ideas about the concept of opening a Repair Cafe or you are able to offer some skills, please contact **Karen Williams on 0427 858 754**. She is happy to collect your ideas and to put them to the Zero Waste group for plans in the near future. There seems a big need for many of us to learn the art of maintaining our tools and perhaps sharing them with others. Who knows what experienced people will come up with? More on this as it evolves. In the meantime, please contact Karen with your ideas.

Threads is restarting

Phew, it's finally getting cool and dry enough to start our weaving circle again. It's a great time to relax with friends, and to meet new people. Just bring yourself and perhaps a rug to sit on and share. We will provide the materials to get you started. Karen Williams has suggested we meet at the beginning of the pier at Picnic Bay for our first Threads session for 2021 on **Sunday 18th April**. We'll be under the beautiful trees. Kids are welcome. They can play safely around us or join in if they are old enough.

Turn party waste to good causes

Another new concept that's already started is Neighbourhood Collections, for houses on the Island who have AirBnBs and who seem to accumulate those wonderful 10c refundable beauties. If you are one of those neighbours, you could approach your AirBnB neighbours and offer to take the containers off their hands. Then simply deliver them to the Kindy who will share the profit for good causes.

Horseshoe Bay Markets

Zero Waste is planning to be at the Magnetic Island Markets each month in Horseshoe Bay. Our first is **this Sunday 28th March**. Janet and Margaret will be there to take your queries, so please don't hesitate to take time for a brief chat about waste.

New meeting times and dates

We are planning to have open meetings each month on Tuesday evenings where everyone is welcome to join us. The next public meeting will be on **Tuesday 27th April**. The venue will be different each month. If you are interested in joining us, send Margaret an email at margaret.gooch@jcu.edu.au and ask her to add you to her list. She will then let you know where the next venue will be.