



Zero Waste
Magnetic Island

Newsletter

November 2023 By Julie Woodlock

Months of hard work pay off – in more ways than one!

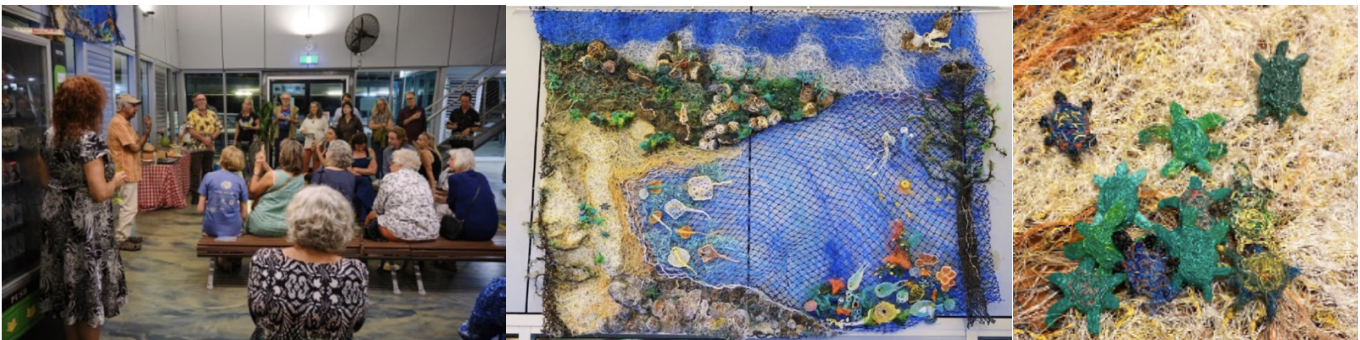
It's November already and the Zero Waste group is still working hard to reduce our Island's waste by making it easy, appealing, and fun to recycle, reduce and reuse.

In this edition we will focus on how we have been working on it.

First, we have the **Ghost Net Weavers** who have done 5 months of weaving and recycling old nets from the sea and transforming them into art about the Island and its natural values.

Then we have news about how our **food waste** which is being processed through a bio-regen process and stimulating the soils natural biology.

Finally, we will give you news about **what our community is telling us** about waste through conversations at the market.



Ghost Net Weavers

These remarkable weavers met weekly to produce '*Geoffrey Bay*' in all its glory over a 5-month period. "We sort of made it up as we went but the natural values are very clear", said Julie Woodlock.

The natural values have been written up for the public by one of our weavers, Bryony Barnett, already well known for her interpretive work on many of our walks. Our elder, Brian Johnson opened our small exhibition. He shared some of the Indigenous stories of our sea. And the best news is that we have just received approval to keep it at the Magnetic Island (Yunbenun) ferry terminal for another year. Let's hope we can expand our gallery of works about our Island home. Please come down to the **ferry terminal** and have a look for yourselves.



zerowastemi.org.au



Food Waste

Did you know?

“Over 7.3 million tonnes of food is wasted in Australia every year - which equates to nearly 300kgs of food per person per year. “

Source: <https://www.cleanup.org.au/foodwaste>

Zero Waste’s Bio-regen machine (a device that turns food waste into liquid fertiliser) is under the management of MICDA, and another success project unique to our Island. Under the Old School House in Horseshoe Bay, the group have processed over 700kg of household food scraps since it began back in May 2023. Not only is this reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill in Townsville, with the associated transport costs and CO2 and methane gas emissions, but the best part is that we are making a soil activator called XLR-8 that brings in the local micro-organisms that make healthy soil.

Figure 4: After one week and one application of 1:40, the capsicums fruited, and the leaf doubled in size.

The first 1000L of XLR-8 produced has been given out into the community and used by the Reef Assist project, and the reports back from gardeners have been glowing.

We’ve set up a **registration and feedback** form on the Zero Waste’s website to help us trial XLR8 on Maggie’s granite soils and work out what are the best ratios to use. All happy gardeners need to register to get their sample of free fertiliser. If you are interested in joining our trial, just click here [https:// www.zerowastemi.org.au/events-news](https://www.zerowastemi.org.au/events-news) and scroll down the page to register.

We have distributors in Picnic Bay, (Dian 0411 267 828) Nelly Bay, (Rose 0437 254 156), Horseshoe Bay, (Bruce 0412 271 177) and Arcadia (Julie 0400 431 019) where you can pick up a free bottle of XLR-8 to start. **Please text them on these numbers if you would like to arrange a mutual time for picking it up.**

The project is funded by Townsville Council, and as we are the only project making XLR-8 in the Townsville region, we are now providing XLR-8 to tree planting projects in Townsville as well. The first project is for the Bushland Beach drain rehabilitation project to activate the soil where over 10,000 trees are being planted next week.

We might be only a drop in the ocean, but we are experimenting for those who can’t or don’t want to compost on their own property. This is a trial only, but we hope to expand.



What our community is telling us

Jan McCudden is our new Zero Waste organiser and representative for the Horseshoe Bay Markets. We have an information stall **fortnightly** at the Markets on Sundays from 9am to 2pm, which is creating a lot of discussion from visitors and, especially as the catchphrase "Magnetic Island - Too good to waste" resonates with the idyllic backdrop of the bay.

Examples for alternatives to plastic and ways to recycle are shown at the market stall, with an emphasis on the **Rethink Recycle, Refuse, Reduce, Recover, Recycle, Re-use, Repair and Re-gift.**

Information is welcomed by visitors regarding the Water Refill Stations on the Island and the safe drinking water in public areas, along with the opportunity for longer term visitors to compost their food waste via the Biogen project. Lots of ideas are shared and suggestions are recorded, and then discussed at the MI Zero Waste meetings.

Monthly meetings

Our next meeting will be held at Julie's house at **5pm on 21 November 2023** at 40 Armand Way, Arcadia.

If you would like to join or know more about our group, please contact Julie Woodlock at: zerowastemi@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/386577161922737>

Happy recycling from the Maggie Island Zero Waste Group.