



**Zero Waste**  
Magnetic Island

**Newsletter**

April 2024 By Julie Woodlock

Let's acknowledge those who make the effort to protect our Island

### Thanks to the Transfer Station team

Waste management also becomes climate talk, and if anyone deserves an applause, it must be our very own, and loved **Transfer Station** team. We residents had to only handle our own waste, they had to handle everyone's waste! So next time you're there passing through the gates, just remember to give Sue a big wave and smile, and remember to visit the Tip Shop Emporium for some great recycling projects, or visit their [Facebook page](#).

### Great work as kids lead the waste movement on the Island



If you haven't read our [Zero Waste Facebook page](#) you may not know how much our children, parents and teachers do on the Island with regard keeping our Island clean. Well, I think the certificate for last year's contribution deserves another applause!

Getting rid of waste doesn't just happen, as we all know. Life has become more complicated these days with so much plastic packaging and competitive markets. However, the Zero Wasters on the Island have a story that will put a smile on your face.



zerowastemi.org.au

Our magnificent **Magnetic Island Primary School** are champions in sorting out their rubbish and as a result are reducing their waste for landfill. It has taken “a whole village approach” to make it that way. Parents are now embracing the **litter less lunchbox** which has made a huge reduction in landfill.

**Collections for: Containers for Change; Terracycle** for big writing instruments and **Mobile Busters** for mobiles and chargers are open to the community to deposit. Children sort their own rubbish into bins as they eat, and they even have a compost bin for their scraps!

Initiatives like a **kitchen garden** and a **tropical fruit orchard** have assisted the school in skills in gardening, food production and learning how to prepare and serve to the community. The children also enter competitions for recycling and participate in beach clean ups across the Island throughout the year.



This led the Zero Waste volunteers to show their appreciation of all their efforts. When the recycle recovery centre heard about the schools’ efforts they jumped on board too. They wanted to join us and give some fun rewards for the kids.

Julie Woodlock the volunteer coordinator of Zero Waste Magnetic Island (that would be me) presented the certificate, and Amelia Chaplin, the Resource Recovery Projects and Education Officer presented games for the students to play for every classroom. Amelia and I felt so privileged to be attending the children’s assembly with many of the parents and teachers there as well.

As I said earlier, getting rid of waste doesn’t just happen but when systems are put in place we can work together to come to new solutions.

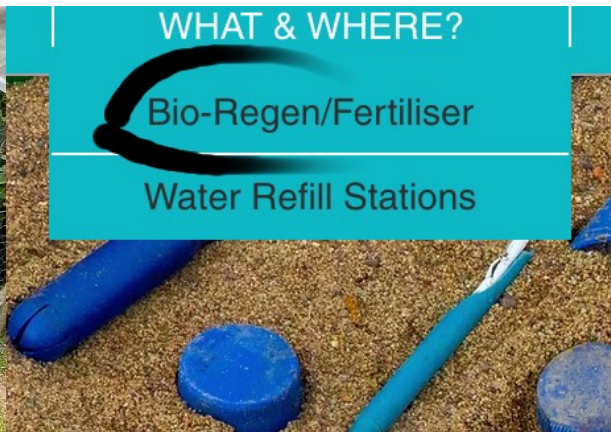
## Want to save up to \$2500 per year? Then read this article!

<https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/news/australias-most-wasted-foods-and-how-to-keep-them-out-of-the-bin>

If you already do it, then move on. But hey! Don’t forget to compost. See the article from Reef Assist in the MICDA newsletter for more information on Island compost.

*PSST you can still drop off your compost **under the old schoolhouse in Horseshoe Bay**. Reef Assist are still making a soil activator called XLR-8 that brings in the local micro-organisms that make healthy soil.*

## I went away for a month and look what happened!



I thought I was preparing my soil for easter to plant but when I returned it grew by itself. Combination of rain, compost, and XLR-8! **If you are interested in joining our trial, just click here** <https://www.zerowastemi.org.au/events-news> , click on the tab scroll down and register.

At the next meeting we will review our pickup points at each bay if you can't make it over the hill to the old school. Once this is confirmed for 2024, we will then post it on our Facebook page and website.

## We're developing a two-way awareness approach with you

If you want to share your knowledge or tell us what your issues around waste are, then go along to the Horseshoe Bay Markets. Jan McCudden is our new Zero Waste organiser and representative for the **Horseshoe Bay Markets**. Jan runs an information stall fortnightly at the Horseshoe Bay Markets creating a lot of discussion from visitors and locals as the catchphrase "**Magnetic Island - Too good to waste**" resonates with the idyllic backdrop of the bay.

Examples are shown for alternatives to plastic and ways to recycle, with an emphasis on the RETHINK cycle of 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 stays to compost their food waste via the Bio-regen Project.

## Listening to climate talk

Climate is a key topic for discussion whether it be: our motivation to do anything; how much our bills are rising; when to get solar; how do we afford it; sea is too warm; storm water is more polluted; rubbish on the beach etc. etc.

You might ask what has this got to do with waste? Quite a lot. Our recent cyclone Kirrily left us without electricity for four days so, we all were forced some way or another to deal with our waste. I guess what I'm getting to, is that it wasn't one household but most, if not all of us, who felt the effects of climate. And wasn't it hot?

## Join our Monthly Zero Waste meetings – Tuesday 16th of April

Lots of ideas are shared and suggestions are recorded and discussed at the MI Zero Waste meetings. If you want to send an inquiry or let Julie Woodlock know if you interested in joining our group, contact her at [zerowastemi@gmail.com](mailto:zerowastemi@gmail.com) - she needs only to know your name and email.

Our next meeting will be held at Julie's place at 40 Armand way, Arcadia on Tuesday 16th of April from 5pm to 6.30. We have a Zoom link which is becoming increasingly popular. Also, not all our members can volunteer their time, but they like to keep in the loop via minutes and agenda - and that's fine to. You can also check on our [Zero Waste Facebook page](#) for lots of information from the community and from us.

## Come to the Resident's Launch of the new Climate Action Plan

Saturday 20th April from 10am to 11.30am at the RSL Hall with morning tea.

This is an open **invitation to all residents on Magnetic Island** to come to the launch of the Climate Action Plan. Please come along to hear all about what is happening this year.