



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Recently I was very pleased to be invited to the launch of the Liquid and Hazardous Waste Operators' Certification Council, which was generously hosted by Richard Worsnop in Gisborne. Embarrassed as I am to admit that this was my first trip to Gisborne, I appreciated this opportunity to join a convivial and enthusiastic group to celebrate this launch.

It is pleasing to note that over the last few years WasteMINZ has been steadily working towards adding value to member services, and consequently the development of this particular programme, which was driven by Richard and which has had many contributors of the last couple of years, is a great achievement.

This is a new direction for WasteMINZ but our members throughout the industry have clearly told us they want support to get these types of initiatives up and running. In fact this certification scheme is complementary to those that WasteMINZ is undertaking for the Compost Sector Group and special wastes such as end of life tyres.

With the growth of the sector groups, publishing articles in Waste Awareness has been one of the information highways

used to keep a particular sector group informed. Unfortunately this month there are limited articles in this section; it may be because we are all extremely busy these days but we're always appreciative of any contributions that you can help with, so please don't be backward in coming forward with a news item.

The WasteMINZ Conference is going to be a GREAT success – following on from last year's successful interactive workshops there'll be more of the same, and the technical presentations have been selected for their interest and up-to-date status.

Support from our principal sponsors, EnviroWaste Services Ltd, Transpacific Industries Group (NZ) Ltd, SULO and the Ministry for the Environment, is acknowledged with huge thanks, and our conference sponsors, ChemWaste Industries, MWH, Perry Environmental Waste Services, Titan Group, Tonkin & Taylor, Salter's Cartage, NZ Plastics Recycling Ltd – all these companies assist in a major fashion by their financial support and assist in keeping the registration costs down.

It's not long now until your opportunity to mix and mingle and absorb new ideas and techniques will be upon us and I look forward to welcoming you to the conference.

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## Awards demonstrate progress by the Glass Packaging Forum

By John Webber, Glass Packaging Forum

With completion of the first period as an 'Incorporated' body, the Glass Packaging Forum has assessed its progress and notes as satisfactory its achievements, both in beginning to address the issues of surplus waste glass, and working to ensure the acceptability from an environmental perspective of glass as a packaging medium.

It has become very apparent that, notwithstanding the issues of surpluses and their locations, which have been at the centre of the debate, glass is still regarded as a premium packaging product and it behoves those in the industry to ensure the mechanisms remain for consumers to be confident when purchasing that the related environmental issues are being addressed.

**These efforts have resulted in the Forum being recognised as an outstanding example of product stewardship where an industry sector has itself taken the necessary steps both in effort and finance to address environmental issues.**

Since its inception as the Glass Users' Group within the Packaging Council to the current day, Forum members have, through voluntary levies, raised more than \$2.5million. While this funding was used initially to ensure the continuation of collection programmes, the last 22 months have been devoted to finding



Palmerston North City Council worked with Higgins Aggregates to make this cycle track which uses recycled glass as an aggregate material.

ongoing meaningful uses for those volumes of glass that exceed the requirements of the glass container manufacturer, or are of a quality unsuitable for the remaking of bottles and jars.

These new initiatives have fallen primarily into two broad categories. The first, which will hopefully address the bulk of the tonnage, relates to the use of glass as a substitute for aggregate for use:

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- in road making
- as fill beneath building slabs, or
- in drainage projects.

The second category is aimed at higher value, lower volume uses where the Forum has offered support to the development of new special products. While the Forum has not necessarily financed all the projects, these include:

- work on foam glass for insulation
- material for glass blasting
- the use of flint glass in reflective paint
- glass as a mulch, particularly for wineries.
- Projects still being considered are:
  - a waste glass combined with waste polystyrene to form insulation material, and
  - support for a closed loop refillable bottle system for boutique breweries.

While it was not the Forum's initial intention to supply plant, it has assisted in circumstances that it regards as unique. Accordingly, it has provided funding for the modification of plant to ensure the best options of crushed material are available and has, along with Forum member Lion Nathan, sponsored a mobile crusher. This machine, and the programme supporting it, is designed to address quantities of glass held by those local authorities that do not have ready access to crushing facilities, or would benefit from the processing being carried out on site. With freight costs being a major issue in supplying quality glass to Penrose for the use in O-I New Zealand's furnaces, those glass volumes located in the South Island are of particular concern and it is intended that the machine will initially be deployed there. It is appreciated that the glass crushing is just the beginning of the process, and the Forum is particularly grateful for the support and effort from Transit New Zealand in modifying the specifications to allow for the inclusion of glass in road making.

The Forum is also very appreciative of the Palmerston North City Council's commitment to ensure the use of all glass it collects, including that from surrounding areas. The council is also undertaking research into methodology that will allow for the collection of glass separately in a container specially designed to keep its different contents separate, and decant into a unique truck which also keeps materials separate in its load.

As noted above, efforts are being made to address a number of high value alternative uses, some with the potential to use significant volumes of glass. The Forum appreciates that many of these must be viewed from an R&D perspective, but it is confident that a number will go on to provide viable alternatives to glass making.

So far the Forum has funded 10 projects and there are at least another four that look promising. In order to support the initiatives to date the Forum sponsored the 'Innovative Use of Surplus Waste Container Glass' category in the Packaging Council's 2007 award programme.

There were three recipients:

**Award winner:** Palmerston North City Council for its **Five Percent Crushed Aggregate Project**. This project combined the council's efforts with those of Higgins Aggregates and Fullcircle the collection contractor. The project demonstrated that using five percent glass in aggregate for use in roads, cycle tracks and building foundations is a viable alternative to landfill. One thousand tonnes have been recycled.

**Highly commended:** TerraNova (Christchurch) **Crushed Glass Projects**. These projects find alternative uses for 3-4000 tonnes per annum, particularly 'blast glass' for sand blasting, and FilterCrystal as a filter medium (which is superior to sand). Glass is also supplied for a number of other trial projects.



**Commended:** The Waste Resource Trust (Waiheke Island) **Waste Glass Utilisation Strategy**. This project addressed the issues of the costs of moving recovered glass off the island, and the island's shortage of quality aggregate for buildings, roads, working areas and also for filtration systems.



**It was satisfying for the Forum's steering committee to observe the initiatives a number of organisations were demonstrating, and working to use a material whose previously established market is no longer automatically available.**

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES: PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THIS GLASS SURVEY**

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Forum, TBL Solutions is conducting a comprehensive nationwide assessment of glass recycling and future options in New Zealand. They aim to collate results to define NZ's current glass recycling practises at the local authority level. Your participation is requested. If you haven't received the questionnaire directly please download it at [www.glassforum.org.nz](http://www.glassforum.org.nz).

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