



# 2019 Waste Management Report

## Mullum Cares Incorporated

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### **The Problem with Waste**

*In Mullumbimby, and in many towns globally, we are facing the reality of an excess of waste. The Myocum tip is full and the Shire's waste is trucked to Toowoomba weekly. Landfills pose a risk to groundwater as the liquid that pools at the bottom is a toxic sludge, protected from leaking by a man made bladder.*

*Our recycling system is in crisis since China announced its National Sword policy in 2018. They effectively decided to stop buying the developed worlds recycling materials which was a massive blow to Australian councils who are responsible for negotiating contracts with resource recovery operators who's biggest customer was China.*

### **The Mullumbimby Agricultural Show**

*Founded in 1907, the Mullumbimby Agricultural Show has run annually for decades, celebrating agricultural, horticultural, livestock industries, and the community whose*

livelihoods are centered around these industries. With its many competitions, displays, demonstrations, rides, stalls, exhibitions, and performances, the Mullum Show is an important event for many to share knowledge and experiences. As a non-profit the Mullum Show is committed to evolving with modern day lifestyles, while maintaining beloved traditions for a weekend of festivities suitable for everyone.

## Mullum Cares

Founded in 2015, Mullum Cares is a community organization that promotes and supports the growing consumer demand for conservation by partnering with community groups, council, local businesses and individuals in our community who are keen to reduce their ecological impact and leave the best planet possible for future generations.

In April 2019 Mullum Cares launched a **Library of Stuff** to store and manage assets that assist events to reduce waste and maximise diverting waste from landfill. The Library of Stuff also stocks a broad range of infrequently used items that its general members borrow for 1-2 weeks at a time - like power and hand tools, gardening and camping gear, board games and more:.) See [libraryofstuff.org.au](http://libraryofstuff.org.au)

## Mullum Show Waste Management Proposal & Results

Mullum Cares experience with waste at community events lead to a proposal to reduce the Show's waste to landfill by 90% for the same price as having the cardboard and CDS containers recycled and the rest disposed of in landfill. This result was achieved with sponsorship from the Library of Stuff and MeetPat (who provided 2 water bottle refill and 1 bubbler unit), a team of volunteers and two waste managers who donated ⅓ of their normal fee.



Waste Separation Station



Sasha Mainsbridge & Emily Allen - Mullum Cares Sustainable Events

Mullum Cares effort to manage the 2019 Mullum Show's waste was only possible with the assistance of international students who were in the Shire for November studying sustainability. A call out to the local community only resulted in one person offering to assist with the task of responsibly managing the events waste.

The waste from all wheelie bins was sorted (and recyclable material pulled out of the skips) resulting in the following waste stream volumes:

<b><u>Landfill</u></b>	General Landfill	.645 m <sup>3</sup>	<b>Total Landfill 1.5 m<sup>3</sup></b>  Collected in: 6 x 240l wheelie bins
	Bio Plastics	.055 m <sup>3</sup>	
	Soft Plastic	.8 m <sup>3</sup>	
<b><u>Compostable</u></b>	Soiled cardboard, paper, compostable food containers and serviettes	.9 m <sup>3</sup>	<b>Total Compostable 2.1 m<sup>3</sup></b>  Transported to Conscious Ground Organics farm in Myocum
	Animal bedding	.95 m <sup>3</sup>	
	Food waste	170 kg (full 240l wheelie)	
<b><u>Recycling</u></b>	Clean cardboard	3 m <sup>3</sup>	<b>Total Recycling 7.068 m<sup>3</sup></b>  Transported to Byron Resource Recovery Centre in Myocum
	Glass (non CDS)	.06 m <sup>3</sup>	
	Hard Plastic	1 m <sup>3</sup>	
	Metals	.008 m <sup>3</sup>	
	CDS containers (plastic, glass & cans)	Estimate 3 m <sup>3</sup>	

### Special thanks to the students from SIT

Mullum Cares would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of students from SIT who performed the bulk of the waste sorting.



Mullum Cares is currently seeking funding to assist Not For Profit events in the Shire to manage their waste responsibly in 2020. If this funding doesn't eventuate the budget below for 2020 will be requested.

<b>Waste Management Budget</b>		
<b>2018 ?</b>	<b>2019 - \$924 + skips emptied</b>	<b>2020 - \$1490 + 1 skip</b>
<b>Volume sent to landfill = 15 m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Volume sent to landfill = 1.5 m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Volume sent to landfill goal = .75 m<sup>3</sup></b>

## **Proposal for 2020**

The Mullum Cares Sustainable Events team is passionate about supporting all events in Mullum to minimise their environmental impact. We had to work very hard to achieve our goal to reduce your waste to landfill by 90% but felt very proud when we achieved that and we are very thankful for the opportunity.

Although there are challenges we believe we can further reduce your waste to landfill next year if the elements below are implemented in full - Mullum Cares is keen to assist with making these happen:

## **It's a long list but we'll be with you all the way!**

1. We propose developing a relationship with Mullum High and/or Shearwater to explore the possibility that year 10 or 11 students interested in event sustainability be invited to assist with the Waste Management at the Show.
2. Mullum Cares provided volunteers with \$15 meal allowances in 2019. Is the Show prepared to provide vouchers instead in 2020? They could be restricted to the BBQ, Food Hall and bar. One meal and one drink voucher per shift would be ideal.
3. Introduce reusable cups (for the bar and for the food vendors) with a Wash Station (Mullum Cares managed). Because all take away coffee cups are destined for landfill these are a top priority for events looking to reduce their impact. The Library of Stuff has coffee cups, mugs and access to reusable cold drink cups in 330 and 425ml.

The Wash Station team will ensure the bar and other drink vendors have the cups they need and will also be able to assist the Waste team to wash dirty recycling that would otherwise have to go to landfill.



**Wash Station and Waste Team at the Mullum Music Festival 2019**

4. Food stalls must be directed to only use compostable packaging without bioplastics. There are many options available from local suppliers that fit this directive. Mullum Cares is happy to provide all required information.
5. Collect raw meat from butcher in washable, reusable containers to avoid polystyrene trays and glad wrap. All soft plastic that comes into contact with meat has to go to landfill.
6. Line metal trays (that were used for storing cooked food) with paper towel so the trays don't get very dirty with grease. The paper towels can be composted and the metal can then be recycled without having to be washed.

7. Food sellers will be supplied by Mullum Cares with tubs for food waste and soft plastic so all soft plastic that contained non meat food (onion, coleslaw etc) can be collected (without dripping all over other stuff) and rinsed by the Wash Station team and then recycled via the RedCycle drop off point at Mullum Woolies.

8. We need the potato on a skewer stall to take responsibility for collecting the skewers after use to stop them ending up in the wheelie bins. They damaged all the bin liners, scratched volunteers and damaged our reusable waste collection bulker bags. We would prefer they be required to charge an extra \$1 as a deposit on the skewer and give people their dollar back when the used skewer is returned to the stall and kept in a separate waste container. We can then collect them and take them to be composted.

9. The total of 40 bins need to be upgraded to have: 10 light green lids, 15 yellow and 15 red. Lids cost approx \$20 each but this expense would be highly likely to attract financial support from Council. The impact of not having different coloured bins meant that every bin contained all waste streams including recyclable materials that must be clean to be accepted at the tip. The Mullum Cares team took dirty hard plastic and metal home and washed it so it could be diverted from landfill.

When there are three bins, the sorting process is much easier (and far less unpleasant).

10. We suggest not worrying about having the skips emptied prior to the Show. We will use tape to signify that they are out of bounds but also make sure there is always a set of wheelie bins next to the skips to deter people from needing to break the tape. All the wheelie bins will be left empty and any landfill will be placed in a skip (we'll try to empty two and only leave one that will require emptying) after any recyclable materials are removed.



## Detailed Operations Breakdown

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### Pre Set Up:

- Booked and collected two water bottle refill units, one bubbler unit from Meet PAT in Southport Queensland
  - Booked bins, tubs, tables, gazebos, gloves and other materials to construct the waste sorting depot from the Library of Stuff.
  - Booked trailer for waste collection and transport
  - Advertised and attracted a full roster of volunteers
  - Created risk-assessment for volunteer induction process
  - Built cardboard containment for behind bar
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### Set Up:

- Collected and delivered all items from the Library of Stuff including trailer
  - Set up two water bottle refill units and one bubbler.
  - Lined bins
  - Provided all food vendors with food waste tubs
  - Set up waste station behind bar
  - Locked skip bins
  - Inducted volunteers on waste-sorting process and safety procedures
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### Operation:

- Serviced bins
  - Collecting food waste from food vendors
  - Litter picking in precinct
  - Sorted all waste from wheelie bins
  - The locks we put on the skips were broken off so we pulled out all recycling and organic waste.
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### Post Show:

- Delivered all food and compostable waste to Conscious Ground Organics in Myocum
- Delivered all recyclables to Myocum Waste Depot
- Washed hard plastics, and delivered to Myocum Waste Depot
- Cleaned, packed up and returned all items to the Library of Stuff
- Cleaned, packed up and returned all water units to Meet PAT in Southport
- Organised emptying of 6 full wheelie bins by Richmond Waste