

Queensland Communities in transition

Orchid Travellers Park – Waste Management Cooktown

This case study is part of a series of case studies that have been developed as part of the Queensland Communities in Transition Program. For further information, visit www.cleangrowthchoices.org¹

The Cooktown Orchid Travellers Park is host to thousands of caravaners and campers each year and is a popular destination for domestic and international visitors alike. Running a caravan and camp ground is not easy, particularly when trying to educate tourists on the best way to dispose of their waste. Park Managers, Elizabeth & Will Peck, are well aware of the impact and value of day to day waste. They have excelled in putting in place waste management systems that encourage park users to 'do the right thing' during their stay.

The park managers have set up clearly labelled waste stations which help guide the public on the correct bins to use. Their efforts have earned them a CCIQ ecoBiz waste star rating for Best Practise in waste management. The campground generates in the order of 147,000 litres of solid waste per year. Of this, around 45% is separated for recycling. It is a challenging task in educating the public on the correct waste disposal routes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 45% of total waste is recycled
- Clearly labelled waste stations help educate park users
- CCIQ ecoBiz Waste Star Partners²



“Recycling is important. We hate to put all that material into landfill. Almost all of it is just packaging and containers and is made from materials that are cut down or dug up. Think of the time, energy and money going into creating more landfill.” – Elizabeth and Will Peck, Managers Orchid Travellers Park

Cooktown Orchid Travellers Park have put in place the following initiatives:

- Two separate waste stations at different parts of the camp ground.
- Clearly marked bins for cardboard, plastic, aluminium cans, tin cans and general waste
- Bottles, aluminium cans and clear plastic bottles are separated and picked up by Lions Club and taken for recycling.
- Milk bottles, tin cans etc are separated and taken to the Cook Waste Transfer Station by management.
- Cardboard and green waste are transported by management to the Waste Transfer Station. The cardboard is recycled in Cairns and green waste is mulched and sold back to the community. It takes approximately one month to fill the cage with cardboard (approximately 1 m³).
- There are about 5 x 100 litre metal bins (pictured) which are for food scraps and other non-recyclable waste and these are transferred by management to the 240 litre bins for kerbside service.

