

TOSSERS CAN BE BINNERS

TORONTO AREA SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

JUNE 2013-MARCH 2014

Presentation to Sustainable Neighbourhoods 'Success Stories' gathering – 15 May 2014

A COOPERATION BETWEEN TORONTO AREA SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP, TORONTO TIDY TOWNS, TORONTO WORKERS CLUB, KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL AND LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL.

PREMISE: Toronto shopping area is being trashed!





INITIAL SURVEY: 4 TASNG MEMBERS INSPECTION

- May 2013 inspection of Toronto Shopping area between Woolworths and Aldi including Council carpark
- Found extensive litter, overgrown gardens, massive graffiti, overflowing single bins without lids
- Spoke to previous Woolies Manager about plastic bag and docket litter. He was concerned about the amount of cigarette rubbish.
- Decided on a campaign called "Tossers can be Binnars"(John Gill)-applied for two grants:- Keep Australia Beautiful Grants and Clubs Community Grant (administered by Combined Clubs of Lake Macquarie)
- Keep Australia beautiful grant cosponsored by Toronto Tidy Towns which had already put in twin bins near Coles, mounted a campaign to make Toronto bag-free and wanted to site twin metal garbage/recycling bins along the Boulevard.
- We succeed in winning both Grants:-
 - ☐ KAB-----\$5,000
 - ☐ CLUBS GRANT-----\$8,000



THE BIG PICTURE

1. Consumerism-last 20-30 years of packaging, littering and the “take-away”.
2. People treating the environment as a “garbage dump”.
3. Fauna/flora, lakes, oceans are “dying” from this garbage.
4. Nothing can be done-eg.Toronto supermarkets try to go plastic- bag-free.



PROBLEMS:

- Cash-flow problems KAB-perhaps due to pressure from the beverage container companies-did not receive grant for 5 months and then had to ask for extension of time.
- *TASNG and Toronto Tidy Towns had 2 meetings with Council Officers-Sandie Pitter, Sustainability, Lindy Bowen, Waste Services, and Council Properties. Confusion for months till Rachelle McConville coordinates.....our “super agent”
- *Some issues are just too difficult-eg reconstructing pavements/crosswalks as queries arose about what the Council actually owned.
- *Advice received that Newcastle Council's cigarette bins in the vicinity of Darby St are extremely smelly-anyway, who would clean them out!
- *Bins, especially twin metal bins, are extremely expensive and, also, there is the concrete slab and installation.
- *Wheelie-bins are open to vandalism-even the Aldi skiff bin is burnt as we are deciding.
- *Best position for one of our twin bins is next to the main traffic area-near Aldi laneway. But, Council truck can't travel on the private Aldi carpark.
- *Supermarkets weren't very helpful-Aldi still hasn't covered its bin and took down signs. Woolies wouldn't put up any helpful inside signs and its staff still smoke in the 4 metre zone.
- Signs are expensive-\$600/4 signs from Hi-Vis.



FINALLY LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL:

KAB Grant arrives in

November.....gardens are replanted.....2 sets of twin metal bins' order is all set on Xmas Eve: one set outside Woolies/ one set on Brighton Ave outside Council carpark...Council pick-up!!

TASNG does Eco-Angel event on Sept 21:

7 FULL BAGS OF TRASH-Mostly wrappers, plastic bags, drink containers, cigarette wrappers and butts.

Gardens are fixed-lomandras (rubbish collectors) are trimmed and internal garden newly mulched and replanted with natives.

“Do the Right Thing” metal signs with fines are put up-rangers couldn't come to give out warnings.

Bins “could” be in by February!

FINAL STRETCH!

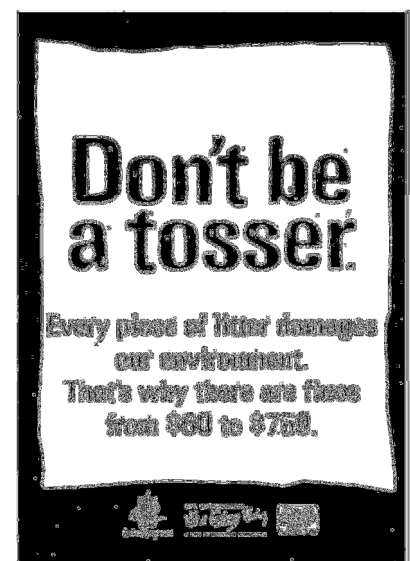
FIX THE GRAFFITI:

Plan originally was to maybe use young people to cover the graffiti with designs-----lack of time!! so got permission to paint over the graffiti and cover it with Haymes Anti-Graffiti Clear Coating which can be cleaned off with Zinnser Stripper/Cleaner.

MAKE THE MESSAGE STRONGER:

Need a mural with the message-“Tossers Can be Binnars”. Find a local Graffiti-style artist who does an excellent job with the slogan and our TASNG Lake Logo. (Graffiti Dan 0405544968 or 49588316 email-xode73@yahoo.com.au)

Mural is controversial but the High School kids like it!



A LAUNCH DAY-MARCH 1 2014:

Important to publicise our cause-could be good for clean-up Australia Day! Greg Piper cuts the ribbon on the bins with the rain pouring down? Article in The Lakes Mail. Photos displayed.

GIVE AWAYS:

300 GREEN BAGS WITH TASNG LOGO

50 STRING BAGS

100 BUMPER STICKERS

20 FOLD-UP BAGS

100 NO-BUTTS CIGARETTE BUTT
HOLDERS

ASSORTED RECYCLING PAMPHLETS



FINALLY

- ☐ Eco-Angels March 1 count of ½ bag of rubbish (7Kgs down from 42 Kgs in previous Sept)
- ☐ 7 Drains are stencilled-This drain goes directly into Lake Macquarie!
- ☐ Near Zero tolerance for littering.
- ☐ Now it's a much more pleasant place to shop.
- ☐ Reports back to KAB and Toronto Workers Club about their grants being completed draws favourable feedback.
- ☐ Still work to be done to win over the big Supermarket Chains and the Fast Food Outlets.
- ☐ Information/Coordination needed re the different Council departments in a project with a high council interest.
- ☐ Education needed about what can actually BE RECYCLED!