

# Esperance's Waste Revolution

Garage sales are a perennially popular weekend activity, an exciting treasure hunt where you can find unique curios and great bargains. This month, the Garage Sale Trail is back over two weekends, each jam-packed with opportunities to pick up a few treasures or get rid of some excess stuff. This 'Festival of Pre-Loved Stuff' is also great for the planet, keeping unwanted items out of landfill and encouraging a circular economy.

The Great Garage Sale Trail is just one of the ways that the Shire of Esperance's Waste Revolution is encouraging our community to reduce waste and rethink the way we get rid of unwanted items. The Shire has been participating in the Great Garage Sale Trail for a number of years now. This year, as well as creating a new role for a Waste Education Officer, the Shire is continuing to explore ways that the Esperance community can improve our recycling and waste reduction.

Esperance's Wylie Bay Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) celebrates its 20th year of operation this year, recycling a range of different materials. Esperance's Waste Education Officer Zoe Sheffield-van Mierlo notes that this is a fantastic milestone for the facility. "The Wylie Bay MRF is owned and operated by our local government," she says. "It's a facility that our community can be really proud of." Esperance was one of the first regional towns to have a dedicated recycling facility and, as Zoe notes, the town's extensive use of the recycling facilities is a testament to the community attitudes towards waste reduction. Tours of the Wylie Bay MRF can be organised for schools and community groups, which is a great way for people to find out more about this facility.



As the Shire of Esperance continues to explore ways for the community to reduce and reuse our waste, the waste management team is currently conducting a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Survey to assess the best way to recycle organic materials. This survey aims to understand Esperance residents' needs and desires for recycling organic materials. To complete the survey, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/EspFOGOSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EspFOGOSurvey), find the link on the Esperance's Waste Revolution's Facebook page, or pick up a hard copy at the Shire offices. Survey responses will help the Shire make informed decisions about FOGO recycling, so they are encouraging the community to get involved and take the survey. The survey closes on November 12.

As the Waste Education Officer, Zoe gets the opportunity to speak to schools and community groups about the ways we as a community can continue to improve our waste management. There are many ways that we can continue to reduce the waste that we have going to landfill, from being mindful about not buying single use plastics and disposable items, to making sure we sort our recycling correctly.

The latter is especially important as the recycling at the Wylie Bay MRF is sorted by hand by the hard-working team. Zoe notes that Esperance locals are really engaged with this issue, and most people have fantastic attitudes towards waste management, and a desire to participate and do more. It is clear to see that Esperance's Waste Revolution is already in full swing!

## JOIN THE REVOLUTION

The Garage Sale Trail takes place over two weekends, 13 - 14 and 20 - 21 November. To get involved, register your garage sale at [www.garagesaletrail.com.au](http://www.garagesaletrail.com.au). You can also follow 'Esperance's Waste Revolution' on Facebook and Instagram for upcoming events, plus tips and suggestions on waste reduction. You can contact Waste Education Officer Zoe Sheffield-van Mierlo on 9071 0605 or at [wasterevolution@esperance.wa.gov.au](mailto:wasterevolution@esperance.wa.gov.au). And don't forget to fill in the FOGO Survey before November 12!

