

Clean Up Australia Day
3 March 2019
Business Clean Up Day
26 February 2019
Schools Clean Up Day
1 March 2019



Change starts with you.

There has never been a better time to take to our streets as beverage container counts in Tasmania far exceed national average

For immediate release 14 February 2019: The 2018 Clean Up Australia Rubbish Report, compiled each year from data submitted by Clean Up volunteers, found that beverage container rubbish was reported in higher quantities in Tasmania than the national average.

Beverage containers and beverage rubbish were the major sources of rubbish reported by Tasmanian volunteers, comprising 48.2% - an astounding 31.9% over the previous year and 16.3% above the national average.

Beverage containers which would have been recovered under a container refund scheme represented 36% of reported rubbish across the state. This was a 23% increase on 2017 – bucking the national trend for a reduction in this type of rubbish being reported [beverage containers reflected 14% of the national count].

Terrie-Ann Johnson, Managing Director of Clean Up Australia, urges Tasmanians to take a stand and lobby your government for the introduction of container deposit legislation.

‘We are seeing positive proof that container refund schemes work – with reported volumes across the country dropping as refund schemes are established.’

“With the majority of these items recyclable, it makes sense to work with government, business and the community to implement a container deposit scheme for Tasmanians where we can capture and remanufacture the wasted resource that is a single-use container.” said Terrie-Ann.

Plastic was once again the # 1 type of rubbish reported, comprising 33% of the major sources of rubbish, a disappointing increase of 8% over the previous year.

Alarmed by this trend, Clean Up warns that plastics, with their inability to decompose, will, unless we take action today, continue to impact our environment, our natural heritage and ultimately human health.

“Thirty years ago, Ian Kiernan AO predicted the problems that single-use plastics would pose. Since then we have seen ever-increasing dependence on plastic as a throw-away item and that needs to

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change. The choice is simple, take action or plastics will continue to be a problem well into the future,” said Terrie-Ann.

Litter directly associated with single use packaging made up 85% of the rubbish reported by Tasmanian Clean Up volunteers.

“Change starts with you – and we need to make smarter choices every day.” said Terrie-Ann.

We need to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce as individuals and take simple actions such as carrying our reusable bags, replacing single use beverage cups and choosing products that are not over packaged.

On a more positive note, local efforts to accommodate smokers seem to be working with Tasmania notable as the only state where cigarette counts are NOT the number 1 item on the Top 10 list.

Most smokers are unaware of how cigarette butts impact our environment.

“The core of most cigarette filters is a form of plastic called cellulose acetate which is very slow to degrade, taking anything from 18 months to 10 years to break up. These filters are also full of toxins, which can leach into the ground and waterways, damaging living organisms that come into contact with them,” said Terrie-Ann.

While beach and coastal areas were the most popular site surveyed in 2018, municipal roadways recorded the highest percentage of total waste and school grounds yielded the highest average number of items across the state.

“We still have a way to go to Clean Up Australia, so remember change starts with you!”

To register or join a 2019 Clean Up site go to: <http://cleanupaustraliaday.org.au>.

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To access the latest Clean Up Australia Day Rubbish Reports, more information, photos and arrange interviews please contact Tracey Wigg on 0419 141 266.

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CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Clean Up Australia is a not for profit community based organisation founded by Ian Kiernan AO in 1989, to inspire and work with communities to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment.

Clean Up Australia is dedicated to developing sustainable solutions and addressing the critical issues that face us in the areas of waste, degrading waterways and landscapes. It provides a practical framework and support for all individuals to make a positive and effective contribution to the health of our environment.

For 30 years Australians have joined together to Clean Up Australia. During this time, over 16 million Australians have donated more than 33 million hours, removing the equivalent of 350,000 ute-loads of rubbish from more than 178 thousand locations across the country.

Since 1993 millions of people around the globe have also heeded the call under the banner of Clean Up the World, the global initiative the United Nations asked Kiernan to create and oversee. This year-round campaign engages an estimated 35 million volunteers in 130 countries annually, making it the largest community-based environmental campaign in the world.

THE TASMANIAN RUBBISH REPORT

- The 28th Annual Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by volunteers across Victoria during 2018
- Data = that returned by volunteers as part of their End of Clean Up Report, recording counts across 82 items
- In 2018, 35 reports were returned, providing valid data across 46 locations [17%]
- 137 bags were sorted by volunteers [20%] of rubbish reported at surveyed sites
- Clean Up Australia shares the data from the rubbish report with the CSIRO which uses it to help map litter hotspots reflecting the influence of weather and other events.

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