

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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BOTTLE BATTLE ROYALE

The push for a national deposit-return system for beverage containers is about to bubble over in Australia. Politicians will finally debate a cross-country refund scheme next week after leaving it in the icebox for, some say, too long.

This issue pits the continent's feisty environmental campaigners thirsty for change at Boomerang Alliance against big beverage makers, like Coca-Cola Amatil, Schweppes and Lyon Nathan, and the organization they help to fund, Keep Australia Beautiful. Two of five AU states already add a refund fee payable upon return of the container.

Of an estimated 14- to 15-billion containers consumed each year in AU, eight billion are littered or buried as garbage. Clean Up Australia released its 2013 Rubbish report on Valentine's Day.

Dumped glass on Sunshine Coast was up 11 per cent and cigarette butt litter increased by 10 per cent in one year. Non-alcoholic beverage containers are the top littered item followed by cigarette butts, chip bags and other wrappers, bottles and lids and alcoholic beverage containers.

Clean Up Day in Australia is March 2.

'Litterland' publisher receives award

Sheila White, *Litterland's* editor and publisher, received a 2014 African Canadian Achievement Award for politics Saturday evening at a Black History Month gala in Toronto.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some politicians try hard. Komtar assemblyman Teh Lai Heng promises to scan CCTV footage in Penang, Malaysia. He warns, if he sees people littering, their images will be "Facebooked". In Mombassa, Governor Joho just launched a concerted effort to beautify that city and change the littering culture.

Litterland's Believe It Or Not!

This is for all those people who think recycling is bogus. They would be amazed at the vast range of products made from used beverage containers, such as the PET bottle (right) and the aluminum can (below). The drink containers these non-believers throw away or litter are, in fact, valuable resources that underpin a new and growing economy and job generator.



Posters funded by the beverage industry in Manitoba, Canada show how drink containers become useful items when recycled. Litter is reduced. *Source: CBCRA*



HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 16 - 23)

Some of what made our News Reel this week
litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html

Singapore tightens anti-litter legislative noose (2/18)

The Singaporean Parliament passed a tougher littering law on Monday (17), amending its Environmental Public Health Act to enshrine \$1000-\$2000 fines for first offences and \$10,000 for repeaters. Some MPs called for extra measures for people who litter due to mental illness. Portions of the new bill compel malls and hotels to recycle and prescribe heavier penalties on illegal hawkers.

Parking lots could become ashtrays in New Jersey (2/20)

New Jersey will consider prohibiting tobacco smoking at its beaches and parks, but the ban will not apply to parking lots.

Bucks in UK is looking good bucking litter trend (2/16)

Bucks, UK owns litter reduction bragging rights in the Kingdom. After an egregious illegal dumping incident a decade ago, the town tightened its grip on litterers. After ten years of persistence, politicians in Buckinghamshire can crow about winning one conviction a week for the past five years and returning £500,000 to the public treasury. Thirty-six per cent of their leads came from tips from residents.

Violations for January staggering in Amman (2/19)

Using cameras, Greater Amman cited 4,327 persons for littering last month, raising the five-year total to 340,210.