

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

August 21, 2016

## #tidyaussie *Keep Australia Beautiful Week*

"Do the right thing" is 2016's slogan for Australia's big, beautiful week Aug. 22 - 28, #KABWeek. This year's public enemy number one will be cigarette butts, littered at a rate of 20 million a day or 7 billion annually across the nation, making up 43 per cent of all litter, according to KAB's [website](#). Exciting litter developments are sprouting in AU. Western Australia has just announced its intention to hop aboard the beverage container deposit-refund scheme that Queensland and New South Wales also plan to uncork by 2018 and South Australia and Northern Territory already have. The [Hey Tosser! campaign](#) in NSW continues to get EPA funding. A recent grant to Canberra Region Joint Organisation went to stepping up efforts to stop littering at highway off-ramps and on-ramps in high traffic locations. A statewide litter app makes it easy to report incidents.

LOST & FOUND



**FROM FLIP-FLOPS TO BALL CAPS.** In Vernon, British Columbia [concern mounts](#) over the downgraded state of popular Shuswap River. Enderby Chamber of Commerce received the above photo from a resident showing items people left in the water. The business group believes littering has worsened in recent years and touts a pack-in, pack-out message to visitors.

### Western Australia takes a kick at the can (and bottle) with deposits

Under the plan announced this week by the Barnett government, the cost of select beverages will rise by 10c to cover the refund. "This has a strong focus on roadside litter, on park-side litter, on beach litter," Environment Minister Albert Jacob [told ABC News](#). Only soft drink, water and beer containers are covered under this redemption plan, to involve the use of recycling depots and reverse vending machines. Bottles and cans of domestic wine and spirits are exempt as are milk and juice containers.

#### QUESTIONS TO PONDER FOR KAB WEEK

Why doesn't every country have a strategy and a designated agency for attacking litter? Why isn't the litter index universal? What can be done to help people care about the environment so that they will no longer contribute to spoiling it?

### DID YOU KNOW?

If Chicago Park District didn't have to spend \$4 million a year cleaning up litter, it could redirect the funds to plant 6,000 trees, rebuild 30 playgrounds, rehab 130 basketball or tennis courts and 80 baseball diamonds, or build four new artificial turf football and soccer fields, [a spokesperson said this week](#).

### HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (AUG 14 - 21)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

#### Pokémon players still in the news (8/15)

Pokémon Go game players continue to attract news attention for either creating litter or cleaning it up. In Trinidad, players were warned against littering, but in Llanelli, Wales and Hougang, Singapore Pokéfans were reportedly cleaning up litter in public areas.

#### Cocoa Beach draws line in sand (8/16)

Florida likes its beaches clean. Cocoa Beach City commission voted Thursday to hike fines for littering to \$250 from \$100.

#### Shrewsbury gives fair warning (8/15)

In Shrewsbury warning letters, rarely fixed penalties, go to people who litter and dump. Only two of 800 fly-tipping complaints received over three years led to convictions, freedom of information documents from Shropshire Council revealed. Said cabinet member Mal Price: "A written warning will often change an individual's behaviour and reduce the likelihood of them re-offending in the future, which is the main intention behind any enforcement action taken by the council."

#### Chicago gunning for clean, inviting rivers (8/17)

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel rolled out "Our Great Rivers", his dream plan to revitalize city waterways and have "fully litter- and odor-free rivers" by 2040.