

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[www.litterpreventionprogram.com](http://www.litterpreventionprogram.com)

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Canberra can't bear to see litter. Above, a splashy vehicle, pamphlet and litter bag are elements of a regional campaign to deter 'tossers.'

## Women's march a real mess

Republicans had a field day in the aftermath of the historic women's march in Washington last weekend, deriding participants for the mess they left behind. Protesters deposited their placards and banners and other trash in a bevy of public spaces like on sidewalks, fences and pedestrian plazas. One social media image showed a man wearing a Make America Great Again cap picking up some of the mess afterwards. Other photos highlighted overflowing litter bins and the costly cleanup job that lay ahead for the city. Organizers of the crowd, estimated to number 500,000, failed to orchestrate "bring it, take it home again" policies for waste at protests, likely didn't even think about it. Come on, women, wake up!

## Ex-army men may be sought to enforce Bengaluru litter law

Bengaluru may open up jobs in litter enforcement to ex-army personnel. City Commissioner Manjunath Prasad has proposed bringing on retirees as Clean Up Marshals in every ward and with police-like powers to levy penalties. BBMP Standing Committee for Health will look at the idea of salaried officers, two or three per ward, as recommended by the High Court. The officers would be on the lookout for those who litter or defy the city's ban on plastic bag use, which many do, both shopkeepers and consumers alike. Marshals would deposit penalties in a dedicated bank account whose funds would go to pay their salaries and solid waste management expenses.

**A flowering achievement:** Bengaluru's Lalbagh Botanical Gardens flower show we told you about last week blossomed as a litter-reduction success story, lowering the amount by 70% from last year.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Carter Rutledge, a Grade 10 student from Cookeville, Tennessee won the Keep America Beautiful annual prize for best litter prevention video. It shows a litterbug and all the surrounding litter being vacuumed up by a garbage can like a reverse tornado. Definitely worth the [view](#).

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 22 - 29)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Order from top: deal with littering in forests (1/25)**

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko has issued an order to "enhance the accountability for the littering in forests" as the nation faces mass timber exploitation.

### **Memphis puts money into smart vision (1/24)**

University of Memphis will soon unveil results of five civic research projects funded by the Memphis smart city initiative. Five professors each received \$10,000 grants from the city to pursue ideas surrounding crime, litter, blight and efficient government, or a new idea.

### **Rubber hits road as butt bill moves along (1/26)**

A Washington state law specifying cigarette butts as a form of litter narrowly squeaked through a House committee with bipartisan support. Next stop: the full House, then to the Senate and finally the Governor.

### **He can't sweep this one under the carpet (1/26)**

Wouldn't want to be the driver of the Hyndburn Council sweeper filmed driving past litter-sodden shoulders of a roadway he was supposed to be cleaning. Council had to apologize after residents did the job themselves, filling 12 bags. The worker was due to be admonished.

### **Europe sees recycling as job creator (1/21)**

European legislators see 867,000 future jobs created in the 3R sector of reduce, reuse, repair as a means to employ one in six youths and tackle marine litter.