

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

* 2-pager *

February 3, 2019



'Rangoli' proves to be magic answer

To prevent littering and urination on pavement in Hyderabad, the traditional Indian art of drawing colourful floor patterns is coming in handy. In the photo, left, sanitation workers paint a rangoli in areas prone to heavy spoiling. Instead of a mess they find the rangolis attract tourists taking photographs.

Where does litter come from?

Dr. Amanda Valois, a freshwater ecologist with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research in Wellington, NZ, will conduct the first study of its type over the next three years to pinpoint the origins of marine plastics. Inspired by clean-ups, she'll haul samples from Kaiwharawhara Catchment and her analysis will tell the tale. Was the source deliberate littering? Wind lifting out bin contents? Storm water or waste water causing plastic to end up in rivers and lakes where it can begin its damage to water-dwelling creatures in earnest? You can follow Dr. Valois's work on Twitter @whatfishheat.

Newspaper's campaign on a tear

The Daily Mail reports a healthy take-up of 14,000-plus on Day One of the sign-up for the Great British Spring Clean. The newspaper is a major backer of the event. It uses its editorial reach to drum up support for the national event, which will run between March 22 and April 23.

Auckland's mayor has outburst

His city freshly violated by bad tourists who had to be deported from New Zealand for their out-of-control, anti-social behaviours including dumping trash on Takapuna Beach, Auckland mayor and litter clampdown campaigner Phil Goff wasted no words. In a live interview with Radio bFM host Mikey Havoc this week, an angry Goff called members of that family group "a**holes" and "trash". He said under the Litter Act the likelihood of serving them with fines is slim due to the legislated rules for collecting evidence. The family caused disruptions in Hamilton and Auckland, leaving restaurants without paying, being rude and abusive to staff, refusing to pick up their garbage and bin it and becoming aggressive when challenged. Goff began a crackdown on dumping one year ago, prompting 186 being fined now versus 90 then.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 3 - 10)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

A tubful of coffee cups makes him a hero (1/28)

Perth resident Duncan Cameron filled a small bathtub with the single use cups he picked up last year on his regular walks -566 hot and 527 cold drink cups - and made a video of it. Keep Scotland Beautiful, funder of Zero Waste Perth, named him Litter Hero of the Month.

Official puts Kenyan townspeople on notice (1/28)

Increasing litter levels in Manderla Town, Kenya block drains, cause flooding in the rainy season and facilitate the spread of disease, said Deputy Governor Mohamed Arai, warning that anyone caught littering "will be arrested, charged and forced to pay a fine."

He turned a hydrant into a spiritual shrine (1/28)

A man in Bangkok tidied around a fire hydrant where litter and pee tended to collect. Using a doll and some flowers he created a shrine of superstition around the hydrant, "sanctifying" the space, so people would respect it more. For a day or so it worked.

Tracking plastic at the top of the world (1/28)

Arctic waters, ice and snow up to the top of the ice-encrusted North Pole are full of micro plastics and plastic, says new scientific evidence made public at the Arctic Frontiers conference for politicians and scientists this week in Tromsø, Norway's main northern Arctic city.

DID YOU KNOW?

Vermont Clean&Green has initiated a letter-writing effort calling on food companies to end their use of plastic packaging. Sample letters and corporation contact information are provided on the [website](#) along with the important consumer reminder, "Your voice is your influence!"

Urine trouble!

Okay, one last time:
This is not a urinal.



Get caught tossing a bottle of urine and you'll pay \$95. Fines for littering range from \$95 to \$4,000. Remember, Washington State Patrol has eyes out for violators. (Not to mention their noses).

Litter and
it will hurt.

REPORT VIOLATORS
866-LITTER-1

We've run this poster in *Litterland* before, but given that two stories in this issue involve public urination, it bears reprinting. Get caught tossing a bottle of urine in Washington State and you'll pay \$95. State Patrol has "eyes out" for offenders, says the text. The problem involves men urinating in a bottle and hurling it out their moving vehicles instead of stopping to use disposal facilities in a restroom. There's also a product, [Brief Relief](#), a "personal lavatory system", for pissers like these. Roadside pee bottles constitute a significant hazardous waste and roadside litter dilemma on highways and in local neighbourhoods too.

Contest for kids of the Solomon Islands

CLiP, the Commonwealth Litter Programme, is running its Pacific Marine Litter Challenge, a contest for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands students, artists and entrepreneurs. They are being asked to submit inspirational art and creative ideas about how to tackle marine litter. Deadline for entries is February 8. Prizes include a trip to present at a UK conference and cash.



What is wrong with this picture? Duh ... What should be an idyllic scene at the Falls of Falloch in Loch Lomond, Scotland is spoiled by the look of litter. By all appearances, no effort has been made to contain the trash to prepare it for carting home and ensuring in the meantime that it doesn't blow away. Too much plastic, no attention to reusable alternatives, no evident thought to the proper handling and recycling of waste. Use this photo as an example of what not to do.

DON'T BE SURPRISED
Litterland might adopt a more flexible publishing schedule to accommodate the whims of its publisher. Maybe weekly, maybe not.

Asthma pumps show up on coast

A tally of September's coastal clean-up in Cape Town identified asthma pumps as the most prolifically littered medical item in three Cape provinces. In one other, syringes topped the litter list, said John Kieser, a coordinator with Plastics SA. "The main cause of litter on our beaches and in the marine environment is irresponsible human behaviour. The improper disposal of waste and a lack of waste management infrastructure are the two biggest issues that need to be addressed and corrected."

Move made back to public enforcement

After ditching its relationship with a private enforcement arm, Plymouth Council launched a retooled public force of litter police on February 1. The former contract with Kingdom Services Group was controversial, fraught with allegations of sneaky or unfair penalty issuing practices that were driven by quotas and a corporate profit motive. This revamped, public "litter cop patrol" will be equally tough. People caught fly-tipping, littering and letting their dogs foul the streets in this beautiful, English seaside town, face fines of up to £400. Under the new model, the council will adopt full responsibility for enforcement decisions, practices and focuses. For example, more attention might go to dog fouling problems in certain areas, cigarette littering in others, and wholesale dumping in locations elsewhere.