Climate change, will it mean change in retail design?

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The debates on climate change in Copenhagen at the end of last year failed to provide any concrete guidelines on how we should be developing the world over this new decade. Retailing in 2010 and beyond will change and local authorities will need to grasp the opportunities that come over the next decade, but what changes will we need to address?

Shop local will increase

The majority of consumers are aware of how their actions affect the world. Food miles and carbon footprints, although unheard of a few years ago, are now being understood in the community. This means that ‘emotionally’, customers will want to shop locally and community shopping hubs will become increasingly important. The mix of shops within that community will also be important. Selecting the right anchor stores and the associated retail mix will result in success or failure.

The days of landlords just filling retail space are rapidly disappearing. The retail mix of a community retail hub will become more critical to its success.

‘Pop-up’ retailers will pop-up more

‘Pop-up’ retailing as a term has been around for a few years. This is where a retailer sets up a shop for a given period and then dismantles it and moves to another venue. Markets, in all their forms, are a great example of ‘pop-up’ retailers. Markets may have been around in Europe for hundreds of years but they have now found a place in the minds of Australians. This means that town retail planning needs to provide space within the retail hub for ‘pop-up’ retail activities. Within this space, we will find ‘pop-up’ retailers appearing in school yards, parks and other places that may not benefit the whole of the community. ‘Pop-up’ retail space within the retail hub will be part of town planning from now on.

Shopping centres .... big boxes or retail communities

Over the last 26 years, we’ve seen large ‘retail box’ shopping centres appear in most urban centres. These air-conditioned environments were the way of the future. Over recent times we’ve seen the re-emergence of purpose built ‘village’ shopping experiences. Bidford Village in the UK, Easton in Columbus, USA and Rouse Hill Shopping Centre, NSW are examples of this movement to village-style shopping experiences. I believe the shopping village concept will continue to develop as consumers look for a more intimate shopping experience.

The designers may argue that shoppers want a more controlled shopping environment, but I have just come back from Canada where shoppers were actually enjoying shopping in the snow; nostalgia is coming back into a real retail experience.

For further information, visit www.johnstanley.com.au, or email info@johnstanley.com.au.
Burnie Waterfront Claims Two Keep Australia Beautiful Awards

Burnie’s waterfront claimed two awards at the 2009 Keep Australia Beautiful Awards.

Burnie City Council won the Clean Beach Award for its waterfront development and is now a national finalist. Winners of the national awards will be announced on 25 March. Council also claimed the Certificate of Excellence Award in the ‘Community Action’ category for the North Terrace Streetscape project.

In accepting the awards, Mayor Alvwyn Boyd said...our waterfront is the envy of towns and cities across Australia, we have something special that we should all be proud of.

Judge, Barrie Muir, highlighted what an exceptionally clean beach Burnie has, boasting modern facilities which cater for all ages.

“Improvements made to the streetscape along North Terrace makes it a real pleasure to visit the area,” he said. The judge also recognised the great work carried out by the Burnie Surf Life Saving Club.

Burnie Surf Life Saving Club President, Jeremy Norton (back left) and Burnie City Council Mayor Alvwyn Boyd (front centre) showcase Burnie to Keep Australia Beautiful Judges David Moy (front left), Ken Stewart and Barrie Muir.

FOX ERADICATION PROGRAM
Activity Update

Evidence shows fox activity in a number of areas in Tasmania, including around the urban areas of Devonport, Burnie and Wynyard.

Recent DNA analysis of fox positive scats has identified five individual foxes in the state. This includes 3 males and 1 female in areas along the north-west coast.

Please report all fox sightings or any possible evidence of fox activity to the 24hr hotline:

1300 FOX OUT (1300 369 688)

All calls are strictly confidential and you may provide vital information.

For more information about the Fox Eradication Program and foxes in Tasmania (including organising briefings for interested groups) phone (03) 6336 5426, contact Fox.Enquiries@dpiw.tas.gov.au or visit www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/fox

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March 2010 LGAT News
RED Program
Helping Communities to go Green

Reusable polypropylene shopping bags (supermarket green bags) are a popular choice for many consumers as they are affordable, lightweight and durable. Each supermarket green bag replaces three plastic bags every time it is used. But what happens to these bags when they are no longer useful?

There are millions of used supermarket green bags lurking in households across Australia - but, until now, there has been no simple way to discard them responsibly.

In theory, municipal recycling facilities can accept back polypropylene plastic for recycling but only in rigid form (e.g. containers or bottles). However, polypropylene in the form of a bag cannot be sorted in most Australian facilities so, currently, used polypropylene bags are sent to landfill.

To help address the problem, a new and innovative recycling initiative called the RED program has been developed by the Green Bag Company to educate Australians and assist councils by providing a sustainable disposal solution for used polypropylene supermarket shopping bags.

Under the initiative, primary schools are encouraged to host an annual Green Bag Drive for their community. In the lead-up to the agreed collection day, the schools will encourage local residents to drop off their used polypropylene bags at the school. The collected bags will then be recycled into brand new items including sturdy playground furniture, and signage and traffic control products suitable for school use by program partner Replas, a leading, Australian manufacturer of recycled-plastic products.

Participating schools are rewarded for their efforts with a credit voucher to put towards (or even cover the cost of) their selection of products from the Replas range. The more polypropylene waste the community has collected, the greater the value of the voucher and the more useful items the school will be able to purchase. The Replas recycled-plastic products (manufactured from the school’s own collected waste) will then be delivered back to the participating schools.

Councils across Tasmania have been quick to appreciate the value of the program as a neat solution to the very real issue of keeping these fully recyclable products out of landfill. The program has the added benefit of educating Tasmanians that supermarket green bags can be recycled into new products.

For more information on how Local Government can participate in the program, email Liz Kasell at elizabethk@greenbag.info, or phone 1300 786 019.
Glass is a packaging material consumed by millions of Australians every day. We’re great at recovering significant tonnages of glass through kerbside, but each year around 30 percent (or 130,000 tonnes nationally) can’t be recycled due to breakage and/or contamination.

This is why it is so important to start thinking outside the square and look to alternative uses for glass. In an environmental first for Australia, Tasmanian local government body Clarence City Council, has designed, developed and managed the construction of a car park using a break-through recycled glass product.

In partnership with Veolia Environmental Services, Hazell Brothers Group and the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, Clarence has constructed a new car park at the Rosny Park Tennis Club using 53 tonnes of recycled glass sand – equivalent to nearly 300,000 stubbies! The recycled glass sand was used in the pipe bedding, asphalt, sign pole footings, concrete footpath, kerbing and guttering.

This application of recycled glass has avoided the mining of 53 tonnes of virgin sand from southern Tasmania’s rapidly depleting natural sand reserves and has given new life to glass that previously would have gone to landfill.

Using recycled glass as a substitute for sand may be new to Australia, but it’s not so new to places like the UK, US and our neighbours in New Zealand. In fact, New Zealand now uses more than half of its recycled glass in alternative markets. Australia has been the laggard – that is until this project.

This project is the result of work that started in 2008, when the PSF, Veolia and Hazell Brothers formed an alliance to investigate the viability of developing alternative local markets for recycling glass bottles.

Veolia in association with Hazell Bros successfully applied for funding from the National Packaging Covenant which was granted in 2009 and new infrastructure was in place before the end of the year. From there it was a matter of getting a progressive council, Clarence City Council, to trial the use of glass sand in a major project.

Councils have a great opportunity to save money by reducing landfill costs and “close the loop” by using more recycled materials in their day to day operations. With the assistance of local companies like Veolia and Hazell Brothers, Tasmanian Councils are now well placed to bring together this kind of engineering and project management expertise.

The PSF is working to build on this and other projects currently underway to develop a solid business case for the use of recycled glass in alternative markets. This includes the development of a national specification for recycled glass sand which expected to be completed in May 2010.

For more information on how your council can take advantage of recycled glass sand please contact Peter Bennett at peter.bennett@hazellbros.com.au or on 0488 672 522.

For information on the PSF and projects in glass recovery and recycling please contact Chris Jeffreys at chris.jeffreys@afgc.org.au or on 0403 486 454.
Top Dogs to get a Whiff of Fox Eradication Program

DPIPWE’s Fox Eradication Program is asking the public to be vigilant for foxes during the dispersal season (summer - autumn) when juvenile foxes may be on the move in the landscape.

Alan Johnston, Manager of the Fox Eradication Branch, said that most evidence of fox activity had been collected in the north of the state but recent physical evidence confirms foxes are also a serious threat to southern Tasmania. “Evidence confirms foxes are present in a number of locations in the south, with fox positive scats being collected near Cygnet, Geeveston, Bushy Park and Campania during the past year,” said Mr Johnston.

European red foxes (Vulpes vulpes) breed during winter, with parents rearing the cubs during spring and into summer. By late summer, juvenile foxes begin moving away from den sites, resulting in foxes being most visible in the landscape at this time.

Planning is currently underway to target all areas in which fox activity has been identified, as well as areas of core fox habitat, with fox baiting programs. Local communities in target baiting areas will be contacted well in advance of on-ground operations and members of the public will be invited to attend information sessions planned for each area to find out more about foxes, the Fox Eradication Program and to have their questions answered. The sessions will also provide an update on the implementation of recommendations from the recent independent review of the Fox Eradication Program by international pest eradication experts that will improve our chances of fox eradication in Tasmania.

Among the recommendations currently being implemented, is to obtain dogs to train as scent tracking dogs. The dogs will take about a year to train and will be used to track and locate individual foxes so that the fox can then be destroyed. Previous attempts to use scent tracking dogs to locate foxes in Tasmania have failed due to the abundance of wildlife scents with which the dogs were not familiar. It is anticipated that careful selection and training of the tracking dogs in the Tasmanian environment will help to overcome the problem. The dogs are scheduled to complete their training and be ready for work in the field by early 2011.

All fox sightings and possible evidence of fox activity should be reported to the 24-hour Fox Hotline on 1300 369 688. For further information about the Fox Eradication Program or fox activity in Tasmania, visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fox.
In Brief

REDMAP Keeps Track of Roving Marine Species

REDMAP (Range Expansion Database and Mapping Project) is a new, interactive website designed to collect data from the community about how climate change may be influencing the distribution of marine species in Tasmanian waters. Many species are undergoing range expansions or shifts in their distributional range, with those more often associated with mainland waters being more frequently caught or seen by local fishers and divers in Tasmania. There are also species that are usually present in the north of our state moving much further south. The REDMAP site allows the local community to record scientific data by logging sightings of species that are caught or observed outside their usual or known range. To sign up as a member and receive the quarterly online newsletter, log on to REDMAP at www.redmap.org.au. For further information, contact Fiona Brodribb on (03) 6227 7267, or email enquiries@redmap.org.au.

Forest Clearing Policy Revised

The State Government will progressively phase out broad-scale clearing and conversion of native forest on private land by 2015. An annual limit of up to 40 hectares of conversion per property will be imposed until 2015, after which only small-scale clearing of 20 hectares over any five-year period will be allowed. A policy has been in place since 1997 to regulate how much native forest must be permanently retained and how much can be cleared and converted to other uses. The policy was last revised in 2006 to provide an approach to phasing out broad-scale clearing and conversion of forests in Tasmania. The provisions under the existing policy to allow clearing for essential infrastructure and routine agricultural activities remain unchanged. The new policy provisions will apply to all new applications for clearing and conversion of native forest to be lodged with the Forest Practices Authority. The revised policy can be viewed at http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/forests/permanent_native_forest_estate_policy.

Rogue Devil Cell Revealed

Researchers have isolated cells that are the source of the deadly facial tumors that have devastated Tasmanian devils in the wild. Tasmanian scientists has discovered that Schwann cells, in a sheath that protects nerves in the devils’ mouths, are the source of the disease - ending theories that the tumors were a genetic condition passed down through generations, or that they originated in organs in the devils’ bodies before metastasizing in the mouth. The discovery also puts an end to speculation that in-breeding is involved in the outbreak that has forced the devils on to the nation’s list of threatened species. Although the search for a cure is now a step closer, scientists don’t yet know why the Schwann cells are mutating. One of the roles of the cells is to protect nerves from infection and the reason they are failing is still unknown.

Heads Up for Serrated Tussock

Northern Tasmanian farmers are encouraged to be on the alert for any infestations of serrated tussock - a Weed of National Significance and a declared weed in Tasmania. Prompt action is required to prevent serrated tussock from dominating a pasture. Last year, an infestation of around 100 plants of serrated tussock was eradicated at Macquarie Settlement, between Cressy and Campbell Town. Another larger and older infestation has been found at Lake River. Serrated tussock has also spread to the Southern Midlands, with a roadside infestation of about 1,000 plants found at Spring Hill on the Midlands Highway. Serrated tussock has a thin, cylindrical leaf and produces multiple florets during the summer months. For more details, visit www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/RPIO-4ZV3UE?open.

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