

World Cleanup Day 18th September 2021

Do you know what one of the most pervasive forms of plastic pollution is? Cigarette Butts. It is estimated that 4.5 trillion are littered globally every year! Most cigarette filters contain cellulose acetate fibre – a type of bioplastic that can cause serious damage to the environment.

World Cleanup Day is the world's largest one-day civic action to engage more than 180 countries to tackle global waste crisis. World Cleanup Day is not just about cleanups. It's a strong and unique network of doers who share the vision of the waste-free world and believe that together we can clean up the world from waste. Join the World Cleanup Day on **18th September 2021!**

To get involved individually or as a Club, please email: Melanie.Lewis@socialimpactnetwork.org

Being in lockdown doesn't need to hinder your clean up action – if you'd like more info about conducting a Digital Cleanup to declutter your workspace and contribute to collective action that helps reduce digital carbon footprints, shoot Melanie an email at the address above.

For steps on how to organise a physical cleanup event, click [HERE](#).

For safety guidelines, please click [HERE](#).

Useful Resources

Social media tag: #WorldCleanupDay

Flyer:



World Rivers Day 26th September 2021

**“Rivers are the arteries of our planet;
they are lifelines in the truest sense.”**

— Mark Angelo

In 2005, the United Nations launched its Water for Life Decade, with the aim of increasing the awareness of the need for taking better care of the world's water resources. That same year, the very first Rivers Day was celebrated to remind people that we all have a role in practicing good river stewardship. This year, more than 100 countries will participate – making it one of the planet's biggest environmental celebrations. ***What will you do in your club to celebrate your local waterway?***

Perhaps it's as simple as a toast to one of our country's important rivers. Or use this poem at your meeting to offer a deep reflection....

"Be Like a River"

By Paulo Coelho (Brazilian novelist)

"A river never passes the same place twice," says a philosopher. "Life is like a river," says another philosopher, and we draw the conclusion that this is the metaphor that comes closest to the meaning of life. Consequently, it is always good to remember during all the year to come:

A] We are always doing things for the first time. While we move between our source (birth) to our destination (death), the landscape will always be new. We should face these novelties with joy, not with fear – because it is useless to fear what cannot be avoided. A river never stops running.

B] In a valley we walk slower. When everything around us becomes easier, the waters grow calm, we become more open, fuller and more generous.

C] Our banks are always fertile. Vegetation only grows where there is water. Whoever comes into contact with us needs to understand that we are there to give the thirsty something to drink.

D] Stones should be avoided. It is obvious that water is stronger than granite, but it takes time for this to happen. It is no good letting yourself be overcome by stronger obstacles, or trying to fight against them – that is a useless waste of energy. It is best to understand where the way out is, and then move forward.

E] Hollows call for patience. All of a sudden the river enters a sort of hole and stops running as joyfully as before. At such moments the only way out is to count on the help of time. When the right moment comes the hollow fills up and the water can flow ahead. In the place of the ugly, lifeless hole there now stands a lake that others can contemplate with joy.

F] We are one. We were born in a place that was meant for us, which will always keep us supplied with enough water so that when confronted with obstacles or depression we have the necessary patience or strength to move forward. We begin our course in a soft and fragile manner, where

even a simple leaf can stop us. Nevertheless, as we respect the mystery of the source that gave us life, and trust in eternal wisdom, little by little we gain all that we need to pursue our path.

G] Although we are one, soon we shall be many. As we travel on, the waters of other springs come closer, because that is the best path to follow. Then we are no longer just one, but many – and there comes a moment when we feel lost. However, “all rivers flow to the sea.” It is impossible to remain in our solitude, no matter how romantic that may seem. When we accept the inevitable encounter with other springs, we eventually understand that this makes us much stronger, we get around obstacles or fill in the hollows in far less time and with greater ease.

H] We are a means of transportation. Of leaves, boats, ideas. May our waters always be generous, may we always be able to carry ahead everything or everyone that needs our help.

I] We are a source of inspiration. And so, let us leave the final words to the Brazilian poet, Manuel Bandeira:

*“To be like a river that flows
silent through the night,
not fearing the darkness and
reflecting any stars high in the sky.*

Learn more about the Water Sanitation Hygiene Rotary Action Group

<https://wash-rag.org/>

The new Rotary Action Group Menstrual Health and Hygiene brings attention to eliminating period poverty and capacity building of women and girls to enable them to live a self-determined life with access to education and economic empowerment. They are collaborating with WASH RAG to supply water and gender-based lavatories to schools and villages, and ESRAAG to implement menstruation cups to reduce menstrual waste. *Did you know sanitary pads have more plastic than cotton?* **For an interesting look at sustainable menstruation, watch this Ted Talk:** <https://youtu.be/-ct7Kbm-stw>

The WASH Rotary Action Group dates for your diary

4-8 Oct 2021 - UNC Water and Health Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

<https://waterinstitute.unc.edu/conferences/2021wh>

15 Oct 2021 - GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY

<https://globalhandwashing.org>

24 Oct 2021 - WORLD POLIO DAY

World Polio Day Resources https://www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day?cid=com_wpd20_20200917_eml_na_mem_tkt_adt_en

19 Nov 2021 - WORLD TOILET DAY

<https://www.un.org/en/events/toiletday/>

22 Mar 2022 - WORLD WATER DAY

<http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

Useful Resources

Social media tag: #riversday

Lockdown tune: Lonesome Loser by Little River Band

https://open.spotify.com/track/3OZ40egQbNWeTe0BnR2QKa?si=QzNfs28eQkKdS2_rdzdSpA&dl_branch=1

Official website <http://worldriversday.com/>

Brisbane Symposium <https://riversymposium.com/>

Somewhere to visit: Nine rivers in Sydney that are admired for their picturesqueness

<https://traveltriangle.com/blog/rivers-in-sydney/>

Rotary in action – inspiring stories:

<https://www.anaheimrotary.org/end-plastic-soup-project/>

<https://henleyrotary.club/end-plastic-soup.html>

<https://www.rotary.org/en/way-to-wash-water-clean>