

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Member Newsletter Nov. 26th, 2009.

Key Dates

- **MASG end of year function. Dec 17th, Ray Bradfield room
Castlemaine 530 – 8pm.**

MASG News and Events.

Christmas function. Come and join us to celebrate a year of sustainability action and achievements.

Bring a plate to share, a picnic or something to cook on the BBQ. BYO drinks and anything else you require e.g., a rug or chairs. Bring the kids; bring a footy, a guitar or anything else you can play. If there are any members with an inclination to perform, please call us on 5470 6978. Impromptu performances also welcome (No karaoke please). All welcome, plenty of play space in Victory Park.

December 17th, Ray Brads room, 5 to 8pm. See you there!

John Brumby announcement to support community climate initiatives.

Our esteemed Premier specifically named MASG and the Maine's Power project during the announcement of a new \$23M state government program to support community action on Climate change. Here is our press release in response to the announcement.

The Mount Alexander Sustainability Group (MASG), takes this opportunity to congratulate the State Government on it's Climate Communities Initiative.

With a membership of 1200, MASG provides an example of the strength of Climate Action Groups and the committment of concerned individuals within Victoria. MASG has a strong track record of working with it's local community, business, industry and all tiers of Government, with the aim of reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.

This initiative, by the Brumby State Government, recognises the actions of local communities in leading the charge at a grass roots level on Climate Action.

We look forward to working with the State Government on this initiative, the success of which will be measured in the reduction of Victoria's Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Jim Norris (Chair, MASG)

MASG AGM 2009- update for members

The recent AGM was well attended with approximately 60 members present. This year saw the retirement of two long serving committee members in Peter Sansom and Felicity Faris. Jim Norris expressed the thanks of the committee and members for the years of voluntary hard work that they have given to the group. They both remain active and engaged members. New committee members Susie Bourke and Phil Larwill were also welcomed on board, and we look forward to their ideas, knowledge and energy. Subsequent to the AGM, the election of the Office Bearers took place. Below are the current positions on the committee

Office Bearers	Committee members
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Chair: Jim Norris	Heather Barrett
Vice Chair: Mez Woodward	Derek de Vrieze
Treasurer: Michael Mc Cartney	Frank Forster
Secretary: Ron Snep	Susie Burke Phil Larwill

Water Futures: Distributed System Solutions

Wednesday December 16th 2009 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm
Phee Broadway, Castlemaine

Presentation by **Che Biggs** Research Fellow at the Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab [VEIL]*
Presentation followed by interactive session and supper
Gold coin donation

As we pursue new strategies for energy, food, water, transport and local economic development, there is increasing focus on building capacity and resilience through localised solutions using distributed systems.

The event is supported by WiLMA, MASG and Coliban Water in the spirit of stimulating discussion on local and regionally sustainable solutions and emerging innovation in the areas of water security and wastewater services. The partnership between WiLMA, MASG and Coliban Water reflects their belief in collaboration and informed discussion within community as we explore ways of creating a sustainable future. Coliban Water is particularly proud to partner with MASG and WiLMA in hosting 'sustainable conversations' with local community.

In Castlemaine we have an urgent need to secure our water future. This event offers an opportunity to us as citizens, community organisations and governments to better understand the issues and the solutions in order to make informed decisions.

Booking appreciated for catering purposes - **please phone 0418 390 943 by Monday December 14th 2009**

PS Perhaps the power of this partnership has brought the rain????? Get out your life-rafts folks. Is that a breaking drought I hear?

Advocacy Update

Canberra sets real emissions reductions targets...the city, not the parliament.

The ACT government will peak Canberra's emissions by 2013 with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2060.

"We'll be the first city in Australia to put in place this long term target of carbon neutrality, not just for a local government area, but for a whole city area," said Environment Minister Simon Corbell.

For more details go to

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/17/2744715.htm?section=justin>

Mean while, in parliament House...The CPRS 'dirty deal' is done.

While MASG and almost all climate action groups around the nation vehemently opposed the CPRS due to its fundamental flaws, the ACF and the Southern Climate Coalition publicly supported Rudds original legislation.

After the deals done with the opposition this week to further WEAKEN the bill, now even the ACF are disappointed (or perhaps disgusted). See below for an extract from their press release.

The Australian Conservation Foundation says the Government and Opposition's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme deal is an inadequate response to climate change and will hold back Australia's transition to a clean economy." While it is still possible for Australia to cut emissions by 25 per cent by 2020, the transformation to a low carbon economy will be undermined by this deal," said ACF executive director Don Henry.

"The excessive long-term industry handouts will make the shift to a low carbon future slower and risk locking us into a heavy polluting economy.

"The government will now need to have national laws to make the economy highly energy efficient, mandate fuel efficient cars, introduce stronger renewable energy measures like a gross solar feed-in tariff, invest in public transport and protect our carbon-storing forests and savannahs.

"ACF is disappointed with this package and thinks the Senate should not pass it unless it is significantly strengthened. "The science shows Australia needs to be cutting emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020....."Australia still has the opportunity to make a positive difference at Copenhagen by complementing our commitment to a 25 per cent cut by 2020 with support for strong international finance to help developing nations deal with climate change.

In short, the CPRS will prevent Australia from playing a fair role in achieving a safe climate future. Ahem. We told you so. If only the 'big 3' had listened to their little cousins.

Events organised by other groups

Drew Dellinger comes to Castlemaine

Be deeply moved. Be challenged. Be inspired.

Drew Dellinger is a spoken word poet, teacher, author, activist and founder of Poets for Global Justice. His work brings together the ideas of ecology, social justice and cosmology/worldview in a way that is deeply engaging and powerfully relevant. Drew's work is about both desperation and hope. He speaks about the importance of creating a new story for the earth community that is inclusive, one that will change our relationship to ourselves and others. Drew's poetry, performances and lectures have been inspiring people around the world to find their own ways of engaging with and relating to our changing planet and to each other so that all beings can survive and thrive.

December 9th 2009

5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Theatre Royal

30 Hargraves St Castlemaine

Solo performance

Tickets \$10

Enquiries

Theatre Royal [03] 5472

1196

December 9th 2009

7.00 pm

Guildford Hotel

Midland Highway Guildford

Drew joins acclaimed Australian poets Kevin Brophy and Myron Lysenko at the Castlemaine Poetry Reading event - **Poetry at the Guildford**

Gold coin donation

Enquiries

Ross Donlon 0408 552 941

Further information contact **Mez Woodward on 0418 390 943**

A reminder ... Connecting Country - Your photographs, your stories ...

MASG member Deanna Neville is helping a local program called *Connecting Country* with a photo project for people with woodlands, significant trees and wildlife corridors etc. on their properties and neighbouring land. The photos and stories will be collated into a small booklet to show the extraordinary trees and landscapes in our Shire. All contributions will be included so please forward this to others you know who will be interested. Due end of Nov. For more info contact Deanna deanna@focusoncommunity.org or call M: 0428 751 090.

Harcourt Speaks: Drought photo and story collection

Mount Alexander Shire Council drought coordinator Phillippa Calwell and local grassroots worker Deanna Neville invite you to the collection of photos taken by Harcourt farmers, growers, orchardists and other community members that tell the stories of coping with drought and climate change. A moving and gratifying collection that will remind you of why we must support our local food bowl! Castlemaine Market Building from Saturday 28th December to end of January 2010.

International Volunteer Day Event

A picnic and performance in the park, complete with yummy lunch and music. Free food to all volunteers attending.

RSVP to the organisation with whom you volunteer (if it is not with MASG) by **Dec 1st**.

Saturday Dec 5th, 12noon to 3pm, in Victory Park. MASG volunteers can email:

info@masg.org.au or ring: 5470 6978

International Visitors in Castlemaine

Saturday 28 November

Once off opportunity! Please come! Locals needed!

GREENFAITH AUSTRALIA [www.greenfaithaustralia.org Home and Events pages] is hosting a three day journey from the Goulburn, to the Murray to the tributaries of the Loddon Rivers, 27-29 November, exploring issues of drought, meeting local communities and sharing in focussed multifaith and indigenous celebrations. Coming to our Shire are Australian and International participants from 13 countries and all continents, including , India, Israel, Malaysia, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Sri Lanka, UK, USA, who will then attend the Parliament of World Religions, Melbourne 4-9 December].

An exciting informative reflective and engagement program has been arranged for them by the GreenFaith team working with local groups from Kinglake to Echuca, from Shepparton to Castlemaine. They are keen to meet locals. You are invited to join them.

Transition Mount Alexander is auspicing two sustainability events. For further information 0427204524.

For both, meet at the hall verandah behind Uniting Church Lyttleton Street, 1pm sharp please. Gavin Hanlon, Managing Director Coliban Water, with our Mayor Phillip Schier, will be discussing sustainable water futures in our endless drought.

Sustainability facilitated story sharing across cultures and nations about innovative practices in light of climate change and visioning of international-local approaches to holistic sustainability including 'transition towns'. Gold coin donation.

For complete program for Saturday 28 November email intoaction.aus@gmail.com.

To book for cheap rural or youth places on entire greenfaith journey (@ \$160/200 specifying youth/rural) email Jamel "Project Manager GFA" <info@greenfaithaustralia.org>.

For registration for Parliament of World Religions see www.parliamentofreligions.org

Run for a safe Climate

The run began earlier this month in Cooktown. It then proceeded down the coast of Queensland and NSW, along the Murray River to Adelaide, and finally back to Victoria, to finish in Melbourne. You are invited to be part of this event, to join the runners by **RUNNING** with them, or **GREETING** them at the finish line. You can then enjoy the free music, while your kids are entertained

RUNNING

Join the runners for the last 2.8 km of the run. To participate be at Kerferd Road Pier, Albert Park (Melway Map 2J - J10) **at 1 pm on Sunday 29 November At 1.30 pm** the runners will leave to run the final 2.8 km along the sand to St.Kilda Beach.

GREETING

Greet the runners at St. Kilda Beach, in front of the St Kilda Sea Baths (Melway Map 2N - J7). Runners will arrive after 1.30pm. You can then join in the celebrations and free children's' entertainment that will follow during the afternoon *Please join us in celebrating this extraordinary event. Pass the invitation onto your friends and relatives.* RSVP: <http://www.runforasafeclimate.org/get-involved/>

Walk against warming

12pm Saturday 12 December State Library, Swanston Street

Walk Against Warming is Australia's biggest day of community action on climate change. The Melbourne event will begin at 12pm, Saturday 12 December at the State Library, Swanston Street. As World Leaders are gathering to discuss what action they are prepared to take on climate change, we'll be walking down Swanston Street to Princes Bridge, where we'll form a giant human sign to send them a message that Australians want a safe climate future. Details at www.waw.org.au

Blessing of the Trucks.

The local Churches are organising a community rally to show our appreciation and support of the CFA and SES. We will be holding a public prayer service and blessing of the fire trucks on Sunday November 29th at 2pm in Victory Park followed by a BYO picnic in the park. The prayers will be multifaith and ecumenical and will include a blessing of the trucks. Even if you are not a religious person I invite you to come and support our CFA and SES volunteers by coming along. The prayers will take about half an hour or so and then will be followed by a picnic afternoon tea in the park. Fire preparedness material will be available on the afternoon as well.



MASG would like to thank the Strategem Financial Group for their ongoing financial support. Strategem provide our annual financial audit at a reduced rate. They provide a full range of financial services to

cater for all your accounting, taxation and wealth creation needs. You can contact them on 03 5445 4777 or info@strategem.com.au for professional financial assistance.

MASG's E News was brought to you by Dean and Mike, with volunteer assistance. If you would like to advertise an event or comment on any items, please send to: e-news@masg.org.au or PH: 5470 6978. Address. Anglican Church Hall, South of Church at Agitation Hill, No 8. Mostyn St.