

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group Member Newsletter Dec 10th, 2009.

Key Dates

- **Vigil for a safe climate. This Friday. 830 -9pm, Market building steps Castlemaine.**
- **Members and others post Copenhagen debrief and catch up. Monday 21st 5pm at the Theatre Royal.**
- **Water Futures presentation and workshop. Dec 16th (see below for details).**
- **MASG end of year function. Dec 17th, Ray Bradfield room Castlemaine 530 – 8pm.**
- **MASG office closes on Dec. 23. Re-opens Jan 11 2010.**

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, 5:30 to 8pm. See you there!

Solar program 2 reaches the 'century' milestone! (And not out)

Congratulations to Steve Breheny and his team who have worked hard in wind, rain, hail and then hot sun to complete the first 'batch' of PV system installations before Christmas. Also thanks to Jayson Burhap who has worked closely with Steve to co-ordinate the essential administration side of the project. Over one hundred systems have been done, with the second batch of 85 systems to go up in the New Year. Keep your eyes open for new panels on houses in your neighbourhood.

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.

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

MASG Office closing for Christmas.

The MASG office will be closing at 4pm, Wednesday the 23rd of December.

Re-opening on Monday Jan 11th 2010 at 1:30pm

If we don't see you on the 17th, have a relaxing and peaceful Christmas.

Advocacy Update

Vigil for a safe climate and 100 % clean renewable energy

Friday 11th December 8.30pm-9pm on the Market Building Steps.

Wear blue, bring a candle, a photo of someone or something you love that you want protected from the dangers of a runaway climate catastrophe and show your support to the negotiators in Copenhagen trying to get a real and safe agreement.

Vigils are being held right across Australia and the world with over 1450 vigils in 110 countries this middle weekend of the Copenhagen negotiations.

For details see <http://www.350.org/vigil> or contact Dean on 54706978 or dc@masg.org.au

What happened at Copenhagen and what does that mean to me ?

Members and others post Copenhagen debrief and catch up. Lets talk about what really happened in Copenhagen and not just what was in the newspapers/TV. What does it mean to me and how do I feel about it.

Monday 21st 5pm at the Theatre Royal. For more details contact Dean on 54706978 or dc@masg.org.au

Saturday Walk against Warming...in Bendigo or Melbourne

Walk against warming: State Library, corner Swanston and La Trobe St, Melbourne CBD 12noon, Saturday 12 December, 2009

Walk against warming: Australia's biggest day of community action on climate change, family friendly event, world music and talks by climate change experts and community members.

More Info: www.waw.org.au or call Victoria on 03 9341 8112

Bendigo's own walk against warming

10 am Saturday 12 December meet at Rosalind park rotunda, Bendigo

*Join us to hear inspiring speakers followed by a short walk through the CBD and optional picnic lunch. **Speakers:***

Linda Beilharz, polar explorer: *Ice-caps, a mirror to local issues*

Nic Kimberley, 2009 Bendigo Citizen of the Year: *A Youth Perspective*

PLEASE WEAR BLUE. Banners, musical instruments (or something to make a cheerful noise) also welcome!

Show your vote to tackle climate change on line via MASG website

MASG is hosting a virtual ballot box on our website allowing people to register their support for sealing a fair and effective climate deal at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen.

The ballot box has already been embedded on the [United Nations](#)

[Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC), [COP15](#) and [Earth Hour](#) websites.

COP15 is name given to the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference and is seen as the critical venue for forging a global deal to reduce carbon emissions.

A Google Map embedded into the tool lets users zoom in and out to view the number of votes by country, state, city and even postcode. A "learn" tab includes the company's visualisations, using Google Earth, of the [potential impacts](#) of climate change.

"There is no silver bullet to solve climate change. However, we might have found the 'bullet' for consolidating all Copenhagen campaigns and to visualise the world's voices on a single platform with Justin's Show Your Vote project," said Alexander Saier, climate change secretariat at the UN.

Register your vote on our website www.masg.org.au

Public Health Impacts of Producing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Climate Change threatens the health of millions of people worldwide. In the first major study of its type, an international team of researchers from the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), India, Spain, Australia, and the World Health Organization has modeled the health effects of different policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in high- and low-income countries. Case studies examined in this research focus on four key sectors that produce greenhouse gases: power generation, transport, household energy, and food and agriculture. Another paper addresses the health effects of short-lived greenhouse pollutants.

The results of these findings were published as (6) research papers in the <http://www.lancet.com> *Lancet* on November 25, 2009. Due to the importance of the study results for people worldwide, the release of the findings was a combined US and [UK event](#) (<http://www.wellcometrustevents.org/climatechange>) on Wednesday November 25 2009 at the National Press Club.

Papers and comments are available at the following links on [The Lancet's Health and Climate Change](#)

[website](http://www.thelancet.com/series/health-and-climate-change) (<http://www.thelancet.com/series/health-and-climate-change>):

*"At the moment every country arrives at climate negotiations seeking to keep their own emissions as high as possible. This is the logic of the madhouse, a recipe for [collective suicide](#). **We don't want a global suicide pact. We want a global survival pact.**"* President Mohamed Nasheed

Buy solar lighting for a village in East Timor

Give the gift of light this Christmas! Over the past six years volunteers from the Alternative Technology Association's (ATA) International Projects Group (IPG) have traveled the length and breadth of East Timor installing 354 solar power systems, and providing lighting for 260 households.

The installation of clean green energy by giving:

- A solar panel for an East Timorese family \$50
- A whole solar system for an east Timorese family \$150.

For more details about the village lighting scheme see

<http://www.ata.org.au/international-projects-group/projects> and how to gift a light see

http://shop.ata.org.au/cart.php?target=category&category_id=332

Events organised by other groups

**Bendigo's own Walk against Warming (See Above).
Walk against warming Melb. (See above)**

Map2020 Network

The next AGM and Formal Meeting for Map2020 is:

Monday 14th December

AGM: arrive at 6.45pm for 7pm start

Formal Meeting: 7.30-9.00pm

Campbell's Creek Community Centre, Elizabeth St, Campbell's Creek

Castlemaine Artists Market

The market is situated in the brick courtyard garden of the Theatre Royal and Showcases work from local artists, designers and craftspeople. The focus is very much on sustainable products using salvaged and recycled materials. There will be an extra market on December 18, from 5-9pmwith live music, open bar, face painting and wonderful art and ambience! They encourage our community to shop locally and with conscious consideration regarding consuming and reusing.

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.

The Sustainable Living Festival will be on again next year from 19-21 February 2010 at Federation Square. Put this date in your diary and stay tuned for details closer to the date.

DREW DELLINGER CD AND BOOK AVAILABLE – WOULD MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT:

I was lucky enough to catch Drew Dellinger at the Theatre Royal last night for some of the deepest and inspiring poetry I have ever experienced. For those who weren't able to make it, he has a CD and book available at

www.drewdellinger.org

At \$15 each they would make a great Christmas present.



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.

