

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Member Newsletter, February 4th 2010

Key Dates

- ***Friday 26th February: What you can do in 2010 Advocacy action for members. Ray Bradfield Room 6-8pm***
- ***Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th April Growing the Harvest Festival, Castlemaine***
- ***Saturday-Monday 13-15th March. National Climate Summit Canberra.***

MASG News and Events

What did you do in 2010 ?

Ray Bradfields next Friday the 26th. 5pm for 6pm – 8pm. If you have 5 minutes, 1 hour or 5 days to spare this year then join with others as MASG advocates for a 100% renewable energy Australia.

Individual Australians have made significant efforts to tackle climate change, but individuals taking personal action are not enough while government and industry continue to promote, subsidize and support the use of fossil fuels to provide our energy requirements.

We want you to join with others as MASG does its bit in the national campaign for 100% Renewables, and we want you NOW as 2010 is an important year with both National and State elections due to happen.

Come along on the 26th and find out how you can help with whatever time you have by joining one of the advocacy teams.

You can get involved in Letter Writing, Election Team, Street Theatre Team, Information Stalls, Switch of Coal, Delegation Team, Youth Team, Power Industry team. For more information on the advocacy plan see our website www.masg.org.au or ring Dean on 54706978

BYO food, a family friendly event.

Thank yous and farewells

I would like to thank Mike Hall who will be leaving MASG on the 24th of February, ending his 12 month contract as Exec Officer. During his time Mike managed the large SV funded project which included the Solar Display House, the CRAGGERS project and the Newstead GreenEnergy project. With over \$100,000 in funding there was the project management to deal with – that was the ‘fun bit’ with volunteers and project workers Fran, Deanna, Dean and Jayson and then there was the ‘not-so-fun’ bit involving detailed reporting and documentation. Well-done Mike! Other projects successfully concluded since Mike has been EO have been the Maine’s Power Project and a number of community solar projects. We also started part 2 of our Solar PV. And we’ve moved ‘home’ twice!!

On behalf of the MASG committee I would like to publicly thank Mike for his efforts and to wish him and his family all the best. We hope Mike stays actively involved in the MASG community.

At the same time I would like to thank Jim Norris who is standing down as Chair of MASG. Jim has been Chair since October 2008. As MASG Chair Jim has spent a great deal of time networking and tirelessly advocating on behalf of MASG. He has led the charge for this region on the issue of gross-feed-in tariffs, has been very supportive

of Mike in the new and challenging role of MASG exec officer and recently ensured we have found a 'home' at Hargraves Street. Jim has expressed his keenness to stay involved in the MASG journey but in a way which is more conducive to a sustainable family life. Thanks for all your efforts Jim.

We must also thank Frank Forster who *steps off* the committee after 2 years as he *steps into* the very important role of Convenor of the MASG Wind Project Steering Committee.

Phil Larwil is also leaving the MASG committee – Phil has been on the committee a relatively short and has decided he would like to work for MASG on projects that take less on-going time commitment. We look forward to his involvement in a different role.

Heather Barrett, Acting Chair On behalf of the MASG Committee of Management

National Climate Summit

March 13-15th, Canberra. MASG will be organizing transport to this important and inspiring event. Join with hundreds of others from across the country and learn, share and be inspired. We will be travelling with our friends from Ballarat and Bendigo. For more details see the conference website at [or](#) contact Dean

Getting in touch and SMS reminders

As part of the Friday the 26th event we will be trialing an SMS reminder service to our members. In the next week we will send out a reminder by SMS to our members with mobile phones. Let us know if this is useful for you or if you find this a problem.

Drop into the Hargraves St Space

MASG is now in our cool and very spacious new office at 37 Hargraves Street, Castlemaine. We are very pleased to be sharing the building with Connecting Country, and invite you to drop in to see our new digs...

Growing the Harvest Festival: 10th & 11th April.

There will be gardening and food workshops but the full program has not been decided yet. If you would like to assist with organising this event please contact Heather on 54 723094, 0409 327791 or e-mail heather@box311.biz

Events organised by other groups

Sustainable Living Festival - 19, 20 & 21 February: this nationally recognised festival is supporting the Transition Decade program. This is a collaborative project between large and small sustainability focused organisations, to transition to a safe climate future within a strategic timeline by 2020... Very exciting indeed! Contact janet@consentric.com.au or 0400 050 399

Sustainability Design Course: a group of volunteers in Ballarat have run a highly successful accredited 12 month Permaculture course that has been running since March 2009. It has and are doing it all again in 2010. More info <http://ballaratpermacultureguild.org/> or call to find out more - Simon Reid from BREAZE on 0434-76-97-22.

Tree project –Retree scheme The Tree project is looking for volunteers to propagate indigenous seedlings for farmers and landcare groups in rural Victoria Contact Amanda Sheehan 96509477 or go to www.treeproject.asn.au

Sister organizations:

Bendigo: PepperGreen Farm, the Bendigo Sustainability Group and the City of Greater Bendigo are holding a festival celebrating community sustainability on Saturday 13th March. Exhibitors are needed. Please contact Natalie Marwood, 0419 519 101

Castlemaine Community House Survey

Castlemaine Community House believes that environmental sustainability and encouraging people to live in a sustainable manner is an important response to the concerns of our community around climate change.

To establish what others think about our role we are conducting a **short survey**. The survey will take just a few minutes of your time and we would appreciate the input of MASG members.

By completing this survey you will be assisting us to plan for our future activities and work towards a connected and resilient community that can face these challenges.

The survey can be found at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C9WGFY8> if the link above did not work. If you have any questions or require assistance in answering questions, please call Lucy Young at the Castlemaine Community House on 54724842 or email at lucy@cch.org.au.

Interesting Information and Links

2009 second warmest on record in the hottest decade on record

2009 was the second warmest year for Australia and 2009 ends Australia's warmest decade on record, with a decadal mean temperature anomaly of +0.48°C (above the 1961-90 average).: Information from the **Bureau of Meteorology** indicate that Australia's annual mean temperature for 2009 was 0.90°C above the 1961-90 average, making it the nation's second warmest year since high-quality records began in 1910. High temperatures were especially notable in the southeast during the second half of the year, with Australia, Victoria, South Australia and NSW all recording their **warmest July–December** periods on record. For the facts see http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/hqsites/site_networks.cgi

China Leading Global Race to Make Clean Energy

China is now the largest manufacturer of Wind turbines AND solar panels in the world. The Renewable energy industry in China is rapidly adding jobs, reaching 1.12 million in 2008 and climbing by 100,000 a year, according to the government-backed Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association.

China's top leaders are intensely focused on energy policy: on Wednesday, the government announced the creation of a National Energy Commission composed of cabinet ministers as a "superministry" led by Prime Minister [Wen Jiabao](#) himself.

Regulators have set mandates for power generation companies to use more renewable energy. Generous subsidies for consumers to install their own solar

panels or solar water heaters have produced flurries of activity on rooftops across China.

For more information see the New York Times story on

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/31/business/energy-environment/31renew.html>

Quote

"WE all stand on trial my lord, for by our actions we have denigrated our country and jeopardised the future of our children: as we subscribe to the subnormal and accept double standards, as we lie and cheat openly, as we protect injustice and oppression"

Ken Saro-Wiwa

Ogoni leader during his treason trial 1990

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 phone 5470 6978.

New Address. 37 Hargraves Street, Castlemaine, 3450.