

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Member Newsletter, February 4th 2010

Key Dates

- *Sat-Monday March 13- 15th, National Climate Summit, Canberra*
- *Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th April Growing the Harvest Festival, Castlemaine*
- *Saturday-Monday 13- 15th March. National Climate Summit Canberra*
- *Saturday 27th March. 8pm. Earth Hour.*

MASG News and Events

Farewell from the Executive Officer.

After a touch more than 12 months in the 'hot seat', the time has come to finish off, hand over the laptop and phone, and enjoy some peace for a while (young children notwithstanding), and some time to work with my hands rather than my head. My journey with MASG has been both exciting and challenging, with so much to learn, so much to do, and some rugged 'mountains' to scale along the way. However, It has been a shared journey, with great support from many people from the past and present committee, from the past and present staff, and from many volunteers and members. A special thankyou to Jim Norris, who walked the journey with me and has been a great support. Also thanks to 'the Professor' Dean Bridgfoot, for his irrepressible optimism, extraordinary equanimity, and cheerful determination.

Above all, the awareness, dedication and involvement of this community is what has kept me going more than anything else, especially when state and national governments seemed to be getting it so wrong with regard to climate change action. It has been a privilege to work with you and for you to strive for a safe climate future. We should take heart that while Australia stumbles, other countries are running at full tilt toward a renewable energy future! (See last weeks e-news or come along on Friday to find out more on this).

Gerry and I plan to remain part of this dynamic community, and remain committed to working for a sustainable future. Though the challenges are not over for MASG, I am confident that the organisation can, with your support, continue to strive and thrive toward its ambitious goals. I hope to see you at a MASG event in the near future.

Regards

Mike Hall

Helena starts at MASG

A warm welcome to Helena Read who has commenced working at MASG as a part-time Events Coordinator. We have successfully gained some short-term funding to employ Helena in this role. Many of you may know Helena as an active volunteer at many of MASG events over the last few years. Helena's primary role is to ensure the smooth running of events which this year will include The Growing the Harvest Festival (April), a Sustainability Expo/Festival (October) and a number of key speakers throughout the year. Ideas afloat also include member forums/information nights on topics of you want. Helena can be contacted at the MASG office or on helena@masg.org.au

What did you do in 2010 ?

Report from the Ray Bradfields Friday the 26th

Over 30 people attended our supermarket of effective advocacy and signed up to various themes or teams for 2010. Our letter writing team is up and running with their first event on Wednesday at the Theatre Royal. We invite those who couldn't make it on Friday to 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 or to get involved in one of the teams see our website www.masg.org.au or ring Dean on 54706978

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 <http://www.climatesummit.org.au/> or contact Dean

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

A weekend of workshops, displays and celebration of the Harvest. Growing our own food and preserving it helps lower our carbon-footprint. Workshops include : Saturday from 9 a.m. Bottling, bread making, yoghurt making, fermented foods. Then there will be the Harvest Café and launch of a Local Produce Guide. In the afternoon gardening presentation of 'techniques for a dry climate'. Displays will include bicycle powered olive crushing machine, flour grinding and the local produce exchange and much more. Watch out for further details other workshops, displays and presentation in the next e-news. For workshop booking information please contact Sally Kaptein on 54 706340 or If you would like to assist with organising this event please contact Heather on 54 723094, 0409 327791 or e-mail heather@box311.biz

Free Home Sustainability Assessment up and running again.

After a few recent hiccups, the federal government has re-launched the Greenloan program. Please note: the interest free loan associated with the free home sustainability assessments is only available for a short period and is to be discontinued. If you or any of your friends are interested in having a free home energy assessment either contact MASG on 5479 6978 or book yourself on 1800 895076. For information on the program please visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/>

Wash against Waste Trailer

Is out and about reducing waste and making events more sustainable. This weekend it will be at the Taradale Mineral Springs Festival. Supported and staffed by volunteers it is a great way to make a difference. Call the MASG office for more details or to volunteer on the trailer.

Events organised by other groups

Earth Hour

Saturday 27th March, 8pm. Switch off your lights for a sustainable world for 1 hour. Join the largest environmental event in the world. For details see <http://www.earthhour.org.au/>

Newstead Rocket Science and Paul Sinclair

Sunday 28th March (DIG Café at 3.30pm) featuring **Dr. Paul Sinclair**, Healthy Ecosystems Program Manager with the Australian Conservation Foundation. Visit

the Rocket Science blog at <http://rocketscience2.wordpress.com> for details of this and future sessions planned for 2010.

TRANSITION TOWNS creating a low energy community Info session March 15th
Janet & Jacinta Castlemaine Community House 54724842

Applefest: there is something for everyone in this at www.harcourtapplefest.org.au

Permaculture Demonstration Property Tours

This Sunday: Melliodora Permaculture Tours, Hepburn. Sunday March 7th, 2 Tours:
House 10-12.30, Garden 2-4.30 \$25pp/per tour, must book (call 53483636)

Castlemaine Permablitz!!!!

An informal group of people living in and around Castlemaine who meet regularly to create or add to edible gardens and permaculture systems. Permablitzes are free events, and open to the public see www.castlemainepermablitz.com/blog/ or contact us castlemainepermablitz@gmail.com

Mount Alexander Community Land Ltd

This invitation from MACLL is to attend our first BUSINESS BREAKFAST on Friday 19th March 2010 from 7am - 9 am SPEAKER Dr Louse Crabtree Urban Research Unit at the University of Western Sydney on "Community Land Trusts and how they benefit local people and economies"

Please RSVP by Monday 16th March 2010 Entry is \$10.00 with breakfast supplied

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.

Living In Heritage Houses Today- New Free Lecture Series For Mount Alexander Shire And The Wider Region A free four part lecture series will take place in Castlemaine's Phee Broadway Theatre on Wednesday evenings at 7.15 pm on April 14th, 21st, and 28th and 5th May The series will focus on residential heritage housing. contact mashab@iinet.net.au

Sister organizations:

Newham Sustainability Expo.

Saturday 13th March, 9am - 5pm Newham Mechanics Institute & Primary School. Just 1.5 kms north of Hanging Rock. Smart ideas and sustainable solutions come together in a sensational program of speakers, displays, demonstrations and activities. This is an exceptional array of expertise gathered together for one day. "A rare gathering of environmental heavyweights that are sure to be in demand." FREE event For more details see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~newhamse/> or Email - rsvp@newham.vic.au Phone - 5427 0909

Pepper Green Farm Community Festival Celebrating Sustainability

Saturday March 13th, 40-44 Thunder St Bendigo: PepperGreen Farm, the Bendigo Sustainability Group and the City of Greater Bendigo are holding a festival celebrating community sustainability with loads of family events and information and activities see www.bendigoecoliving.com.au

Appeal for donations to fund BZE Stationary Energy plan - final stages. The Beyond Zero Emissions Zero Carbon Australia 2020 (ZCA2020) plan is nearing completion. It has already had a great deal of publicity but needs financial support to be distributed. The Executive Summary is available at <http://media.beyondzeroemissions.org/preview-exec-sum14.pdf> and see if you wish to donate to this important project

Interesting Information and Links

Castlemaine independent news

New independent news service for Castlemaine and district featuring news and events from the local to the global from an independent and non corporate point of view. Free subscription from independent@vic.chariot.net.au or see the paper at www.castlemaineindependent.org

Exploring the Fifth Kingdom - An Introduction to Fungi

Fungi are a fascinating group of organisms and our local forests exhibit some of the richest fungal diversity in the country. If you want to know more you may like to join a workshop this autumn in Daylesford, Trentham or Woodend. See www.alisonpouliot.com or alison@alisonpouliot.com

Quote

“How many things I have no need of!”
Socrates (469-399BC)

MASG's E News was brought to you by Dean and 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.