

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Member Newsletter, April 29th 2010

Key Dates

- *Friday 30th April, 5.30-8pm Castlemaine Town Hall, Solar PV program celebration*
- *Sunday May 2nd, Castlemaine Railway station. 11 Am. 100% renewable energy campaign launch.*
- *Wednesday May 6th, Theatre Royal 6pm. Letter writing group*
- *Sunday May 16th, Town Hall 2.30-5pm Volunteer thankyou concert*

MASG News and Events

Solar PV program celebration

Over 270 families have installed PV systems with MASG and they will be gathering at the Castlemaine Town Hall, April 30th starting at 5.30pm to celebrate the solarisation of Mt Alexander and learn some tips and pointers on operating their systems. We are asking people to bring along a plate to share.

100% renewable energy launch

MASG will be joining with over 70 other community groups from across Australia on Sunday 2nd of May to launch a community lead 100% renewable Australia campaign. We want you to come to the Castlemaine train station at 11am with a banner or notice that states your support for renewable energy. We will then be taking a photo of you all and your signs in front of the "CASTELEMAINE" sign on platform one....100% Renewables arriving soon in Mount Alexander !! These photos will then be part of a montage from across Australia as this campaign gets up and running. See www.100percent.org.au for inspiration.

FREE 'thank you' CONCERT for all our wonderful volunteers on SUNDAY 16 MAY 2.30 – 5PM at TOWN HALL

As a MASG volunteer you are invited to join this great afternoon in recognition of the extraordinary efforts of our community's volunteers.

During the last year MASG has benefited from assistance from over 60 volunteers assisting projects like 350.org, Maines Power, Growing the Harvest Festival, Advocacy and rights, Administration, Wash Against Waste trailer etc... In short, we could not do it without you!

The thank you concert will include some great music, a scrumptious afternoon tea and a certificate of appreciation to all volunteers. We hope that you can attend this great event but if you are unable we would like to give you a certificate of appreciation and small gift so please email info@masg.org.au or ring Helena Read Events Coordinator 54 706978

Events organised by other groups

Rod Quantock in Bendigo with new show "Bugger the Polar Bears"

Bendigo Sustainability Group have organised the show at the Bendigo Capital Theatre tonight Thurs April 29. For details see <http://www.bendigosustainability.org.au/>

Lot 19 Gallery April salon

Lots of great local artists, performances and "blow-ins" from April 17th to May 2nd, for the program see www.Lot19art.com

Shire CEO gives keynote talk at conference

Congratulations to Shire CEO Phil Roland who recently gave a keynote presentation at the Municipal Association of Victoria Environment Conference on Transitioning to a Climate Resilient Future. A copy of Mr. Roland's presentation is available for download from the MASG website at www.masg.org.au

Help get bikes on public transport

Currently there is limited space available for the carriage of bicycles on trains and no space on buses within regional Victoria. The Victorian Department of Transport is trying to better understand the issue of bicycle transport on regional train, bus and coach services and wants you to come to a workshop on Thursday 6 May @ Campbell's Creek Community Centre, Elizabeth Street Campbell's Creek 10:45 am - 1:30pm with Light lunch

A Very Special Weekend with Joel Salatin Wednesday 26th, Friday 28th & Sunday 30th May Daylesford Macedon Produce in conjunction with Lake House proudly present - three very special opportunities to listen to and meet with Joel Salatin, charismatic campaigner, farmer and author of such tomes as "Everything I want to do is Illegal" and "The sheer ecstasy of being a lunatic farmer". To book call **53483329** or info@lakehouse.com.au

Connecting Country Bats talk Thursday May 13th Things that flutter out of sight with wildlife ecologist Lindy Lumsden @ Falder-Watson Hall, 208 Barker St in Castlemaine, at 7.30pm followed by discussion, tea and coffee. Contact: Latarnie McDonald 0466 012 030

3rd Victorian Sustainable Development Conference May 25-26, 2010

At Zinc, Federation Square, Melbourne. See

<http://www.halledit.com.au/vsd2010/invite=0defe60830bd4258-46>

Support a UN 5th World Conference on Women

A UN 5th World Conference on Women (5WCW) would be the most influential and far-reaching women's conference ever held. Grassroots activism and political leadership needs to be mobilized or it won't happen. The 4th conference was held in Beijing in 1995, drew over 40,000 participants, and led to the Beijing Platform for Action. The empowerment of women changes priorities: safety for women and children, nutrition, health and education, and concern for the environment are women's concerns. Add your voice to get the Conference reconvened at <http://www.5wcw.org/>

Get up wants to send a message to Kevin Rudd

If you have not heard, yesterday Kevin Rudd abandoned action on climate change to some distant and uncertain future on climate change. Kevin Rudd told us that "that if every nation makes the decision not to act until others have done so, then no nation will ever act", and yet he just delayed action himself. Kevin Rudd lost the courage of his convictions. He needs to hear loud and clear that he just lost our confidence as a result. If you want to join the Getup letter to Mr. Rudd expressing

your disappointment go to

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/ClimateActionNow&id=1052>

Latest science:

Remote Island demonstrates how polluted Earth is becoming

Consumer waste from the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" is turning a Hawaiian beach "into plastic", Tropic of Cancer presenter Simon Reeve has found.

Conservationist Sam Gon escorted him to the remote Kamilo Beach on Hawaii, where plastic bottles, bags, tyres, rusting petrol cans, and other waste from around the world washes up.

They found more plastic particles than sand, as they dug a hole on what has been described as "the world's dirtiest beach". For video see BBC news

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/8639769.stm

Interesting Information and Links

Women Solar Entrepreneurs Transforming Bangladesh

Dipal Barua is implementing renewable energy solutions that empower women, create jobs, facilitate rural development and protect the environment. He sees his homeland becoming one of the world's first "solar nations". He believes solar and other renewable energies can transform the lives of the 75 million Bangladeshis who have no access to electricity. To achieve this transformation, he wants to train 100,000 women entrepreneurs to set up their own renewable energy businesses by the year 2015. So far more than 300,000 solar home systems had been installed, bringing electricity to more than two million people.

"The solar home system plays a very effective role in bringing 'green' electricity to rural households. Better lighting facilitates children's education and helps women to work and cook", says Barua. "It also enables women to take part in income-generating activities after dark."

In recent years his organisation Grameen Shakti has started a biogas programme to provide cooking gas, electricity, and organic fertilizer, and an improved cooking stove programme to reduce indoor air pollution and the amount of wood needed for cooking fuel. For more inspiration see

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2010/04/women-solar-entrepreneurs-transforming-bangladesh?cmpid=WNL-Wednesday-April28-2010>

Council adopts walking and cycling plan

Congratulations to the MA Shire for adopting the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2010-2020. For details of the Strategy see

http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=992&h=0

Sydney solar plant saved by new owner

The biggest solar panel factory in the southern hemisphere re-opened in Sydney after being rescued from closure by a nuclear research firm Silex which bought the plant from BP Solar last year.

Manufacturing operations at the Olympic Park plant are now under way and it is expected to produce 15MW of panels every year, meeting more than 10 per cent of demand in the Australian solar market. See

<http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2261372/sydney-solar-plant-saved>

Global Rich go Green

This first Sunday Times Green Rich List shows that the enthusiasm among the world's wealthiest for investments in areas as diverse as electric cars, solar power and geothermal energy is unaffected by the recession. The Green List has unearthed 100 tycoons or wealthy families worth £200m or more who have made either serious investment in green technology and businesses or hefty financial commitments to environmental causes. In total, the Green 100 are worth nearly £267 billion. See how Warren Buffet is investing in Wind power or where the smart money is going on the list

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/specials/article5816774.ece>

Quote

While our leaders dither on taking action....let's celebrate those who are shaping a better future...

"If I succeed, Bangladesh will become the land of renewable energy technologies, as it is now the land of micro-credit – a source of inspiration for all. This would be a very positive demonstration of what renewable energy can do for disadvantaged people around the whole world"

Dipal Barua founder of Bright Green Energy Foundation and Grameen Shakti Bangladesh

MASG enews is put together by Dean with volunteer help. To advertise an event or comment on any items, please send to: e-news@masg.org.au or phone 5470 6978.