

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Member Newsletter, March 18th 2010

Key Dates

- *Saturday 27th March. 8pm. Earth Hour Cafes and Hotels go candlelight.*
- *Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th April Growing the Harvest Festival, Castlemaine*

MASG News and Events

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

A weekend of workshops, displays and celebration of the Harvest.

Saturday 10th morning workshops @ Uniting Church Hall, 9am Bottling and drying food, 9.45am Breadmaking, 10.40am Cider vinegar and other fermented foods, 11.30am Yoghurt making.

Saturday Lunch @ Harvest Cafe @ Uniting Church Hall, 12.15-2pm with demonstrations of making Olive Oil and a bicycle powered flour mill.

Saturday Afternoon 1.30pm -3pm Backyard food production @ 233 Barker St.

Sunday Harvest service and lunch, 10.30 services, 12.30 lunch at Uniting and Anglican Churches. Bookings for Workshops from Sally Kaptein on 54 706340 or walmer@castlemaine.net

Earth Hour Café's and Hotels

Saturday March 27th. As part of the largest environmental event in the world the following café's and Hotels will be operating on candlelight for one hour from 8pm. SUPPORT THEM and have delicious candlelight meal with a sustainability message. Participating venues are ; **The Good Table; The Albion; Theatre Royal; Saffs; Run Sushi Run; The Cumberland and The Railway Hotel**

Many thanks to MASG member Alex for coordinating this !

You can join these venues and others around the Shire on Earth Hour at home by switching off your lights for 1 hour on Saturday March 27th from 8pm. For details see <http://www.earthhour.org.au/>

Recycling of compact fluorescent globes

MASG has a box in our Hargreaves St office where you can drop off your non functioning compact flouros for recycling. They should not be put into the tip. It might be a good idea if other groups/shops/council offices in town did the same !!.

Events organised by other groups

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.

Castlemaine Landcare Working Bee Sunday, March 21st, A seed collecting workshop run by Frances Cincotta of Newstead Natives collecting Yellow Box seed and looking at other worthwhile seeds to collect along the Happy Valley track. Starting at 10am at the start of the Walking Track on Happy Valley Road.

Floating Horizon

Architect Chris Guest invites comment on his bright landscape mural depiction of how our populated landscape might involve more life in our living. Having taken two years of full time work it is plainly designed to inspire beyond words. Phee Broadway Foyer, 26 March-13 April 2010

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**

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@inet.net.au

Sunday 18th April – Walk Against Want – annual fundraiser for Oxfam (formerly Community Aid Abroad). Starts at southern off-street carpark of Castlemaine Botanic Gardens (near Lake Joanna). Choose between 3 routes: 2, 5 or 10km. Soup and bread available at walk's end. Friends of Box-Ironbark walkers will head off at 10am on the 10km walk, but everyone else is starting between 11am and noon. Sponsor books available from Lynda Evans phone 5472 4190, or turn up on the day and make a donation.

Latest science:

Climate change is real and is human induced !!!.

The CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology has released a summary of the latest climate changes in Australia. The 4 page report notes increases in temperatures, major changes in rainfall patterns and increasing rates of sea level rise. It notes that the current CO₂ level of 387 ppm has not occurred on Earth for at least the last 800,000 years.

It clearly demonstrates that climate change is real, that human activities have caused most of the global warming observed since 1950.

The report is available at <http://www.csiro.au/files/files/pvfo.pdf>

Interesting Information and Links

Wind power builds to supplies 14 % of total Spanish Electricity.

In 2009 Wind has taken over 3rd position in contributions to the Spanish grid and supplied 14% of total electricity up from 11% last year. The Spanish plan to generate 25% of their electricity from wind by 2020. The Spanish grid is about the same size as Australia, and the wind resource in Australia is better. For more details see

<http://www.aeolica.es/userfiles/file/notas-de-prensa/100105-NP-Wind-Energy-has-consolidated-as-the-third-technology-of-the-power-system.pdf>

And Portugal gets on with the job of a clean renewable energy future.

Portugal expects to generate 31% of all its energy from clean sources by 2020. This means lifting its renewable electricity share from 20% in 2005 to 60% in 2020. In less than three years, Portugal has quadrupled its wind power, and is investing in flagship wave and photovoltaic plants. Firms are expected to invest £10bn in renewables by 2012 and up to £100bn by 2020. For more see

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jun/06/renewableenergy.alternativeenergy>

Cutting emissions by 25% would cost households \$4 a week.

From the AGE on March 16th: The most ambitious greenhouse gas target flagged by the government - a 25 per cent cut by 2020 - is achievable at a cost to households of less than \$4 a week, a detailed study has found. It challenges claims that tackling climate change would trigger an exponential rise in the cost to consumers.

More see <http://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/25-emissions-cut-at-4-a-week-possible-20100315-q9nb.html>

Quote

“Did you ever stop to think, and forget to start again?”

Winnie the Pooh by A.A Milne

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.