

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Member Newsletter, March 31st 2010

Key Dates

- *Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th April Growing the Harvest Festival, Castlemaine*
- *Wednesday April 14th Ray Bradfields Room. 6-7.30pm Members meeting and catch-up*

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, 9.50am Breadmaking, 10.40am Cider vinegar and other fermented foods, 11.30am Yoghurt making.

\$10 per session, \$30 for all 4 sessions

Conc. \$5 per session or \$15 for all 4 sessions

Displays – from 9 – 2 p.m Uniting Church Hall

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 –3.30pm Backyard food production @ 233 Barker St.

Sunday 11th Harvest services 10.30 at Castlemaine Uniting and Anglican Churches, 12.30 Harvest lunch at Anglican Church

Bookings for Workshops from Sally Kaptein on 5470 6340 or walmer@castlemaine.net

MASG LOOKS TO ITS MEMBERS AND THE FUTURE

MASG is in its fifth year and can look back on some great achievements. With a number of major projects recently completed or drawing to a close, the Board sees it as a good time to consider MASG's future direction. To help guide its decisions, MASG is embarking on a major member consultation process. This will be an important opportunity for members to participate in the future of MASG.

The Board also sees this a good time for some new faces and fresh ideas to take MASG into the next phase of development. Two new members, Bronwen Machin and Felicity Faris are joining the MASG Board on an interim basis to help steer the consultation process to completion. Mez Woodward

and Michael McCartney have taken the opportunity to step down from the Board but will continue to give their time to different MASG activities.

Bronwen has been elected interim Chairperson. The Board would love to hear from members with experience or skills in member consultation, perhaps to join it or to provide advice. Contact Bronwen Machin on 0438 867 183.

Membership consultation will be finished in time for the next AGM, thus allowing members to know what skills are needed for the new Board and consider nominating to help lead towards MASG's new future.

Members meeting and catch-up

Ray Bradfields Room, Wednesday April 14th 6-7.30pm. An informal catch-up discussing the Advocacy program with Dean and an outline of the organisational review that is underway and how that will involve our members with Bron.

Dean will be discussing the outcomes and learnings from the Canberra Climate Action Summit and his thoughts and notes from that are up on the web at <http://masg.org.au/>

MASG volunteers moving stuff

Thanks to Phil Larwell, Peter Legge, Neil Barrett and Nigel Wales for donating their vehicles and muscles to move MASG gear from storage.

Events organised by other groups

Walk Against Want Sunday April 18th Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, set off between 11am and noon. You can walk or cycle 2 kms, 5 kms or 10 kms and donate money to support Oxfam Australia to alleviate poverty in Australia and overseas. Soup and bread will be available after the walk/ride.

Floating Horizon

Architect Chris Guest invites comment on his bright landscape mural depicting 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

Hepburn Relocalisation Network benefit gig

April 1st Daylesford Town Hall, 7.30pm. Nearly four weeks ago, on February 27th, Chile was hit by a 'mega-earthquake'. The village of El Manzano, home to 28 families, is the first official Transition Town in Latin America and was in the process of redesigning itself for resilience to disaster. On Thursday April 1st you can hear the fascinating history of El Manzano and more in a talk with slides by David Holmgren at the Town Hall. Suggested donation of \$15 for the village rebuilding efforts. For more see hrn@internode.com.au or 5348 3636

Warbarton Cycle Festival in May

(WAL- a small community group) are holding a cycle fest in Warburton, 1st & 2nd May. They invite people to come and join in the fun with a lot of different come & try events from bike polo, social rides, chariot tournaments to art bikes, as well as road, cyclo-cross, XC, DH, hill climb, Penny Farthings & fixies racing. For more see www.warburtoncyclefest.com.au

Latest science:

Victorian Emissions

This week's (12 Mar to 18 Mar) Victoria Indicator is 1.892 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, the breakdown is as follows

In tonnes; Electricity from coal: was 1.244 million or 66%; Natural gas: 0.143 million; or 7% and Petroleum: 0.506 million; or 27%

Emissions from coal-fired generators, which accounted for 98% of Victoria's generation, grew by 1.7% or 21,000 tonnes, with a generation unit coming online.

This week's Indicator was 0.7% above the same week in 2009 and total emissions to this stage of 2010 are 0.9% higher than at the similar stage last year.

This week's Indicator is 28% above the average equivalent 1990 weekly emissions. For more see www.theclimategroup.org

Interesting Information and Links

Climate change adaptation wiki launched

Australia's first wiki on climate change adaptation for the built environment has been created called The Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation (BECCA) Wiki it is now live online at

<http://wiki.climatechangeadaptation.org.au>

The BECCA Wiki is supported by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, under the Australian Climate Change Adaptation Program as an online encyclopaedia of topics which focus on climate change impacts and adaptation options for the built environment

The Wiki provides detailed information about the following three areas:

1. The supply impacts of climate change on a range of built environment assets, human resources and activities.
2. The demand impacts of climate change for specific industry sectors.
3. The adaptation options that can be used to mediate against or reduce the identified supply and demand impacts on built environment assets.

Farming the Future report released

The House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee tabled its report, Farming the Future: the role of government in assisting Australian farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change, which addresses the challenges facing Australian farmers in adapting to the impacts of climate variability and climate change.

A key report recommendation is the Government invests research funding in high priority areas such as soil carbon sequestration.

Copies of the report can be obtained from the committee's website at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pir/australianfarmers/report.htm>

Quote

The so called Grandfather of Rap and social commentary in the USA has just released a comeback album; here is what he said about challenging injustice...

"Nobody can do everything but everybody can do something"
Gil Scott Heron

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.