

FROM THE EDITOR

I am sure PR CAN supporters will join with me in sending sympathies and support to those affected by the tragic events in Victoria and North Queensland this summer. These recent catastrophic events have given Australians a terrifying glimpse of what climate change looks like on a warming planet. On the weekend that saw Victoria erupting in flames, it was the hottest day on record at 46.4C in Melbourne and 48.8C recorded in Hopetoun, following almost immediately 35 days without rain. This is beyond all lived experience in this part of the world.

Record temperatures and more extreme events are consistent with the projected impacts of global warming. As the number of lives lost this summer due to heat waves, flooding and bush fires is now over 200, and as the Australian public comes together to grieve and to heal, we must make it a top priority to use the best available knowledge to reduce the risk of future severe climate events.

The link between climate change and increased risk and severity of bushfires is well established by climate scientists. It is established science that Australia is getting hotter and drier because of climate change, and there is strong evidence that increased wind speeds are also caused by warming. Climate change sets up the ideal conditions for fire storms, in particular, to be more frequent than ever before.

So what can we do to stop fanning the flames of climate change with our high consumption lifestyles in this country? Yes, we can make changes in our household energy use, but this country's elected representatives need to show leadership in our communities, and leadership on the world stage. A national emissions reduction target of 5%? You've got to be joking. Even the conservative estimates of 20% by 2020 recommended in last year's Garnaut Review would give the planet the chance of avoiding the worst of climate change. Five percent is nothing but lip service Mr Rudd.

Now that Australians have been given a harsh taste of life on a warmer planet, we must urge our politicians to act now to turn around climate change. We simply cannot give excuses and wait for other countries to act first. We need strong targets and fast action, from all sectors of the community. Get involved with PR CAN in 2009 and be part of the solution. We're facing a climate emergency and are running out of time.

Yours as we work together towards a greener future,

Kirsten Kennedy

Editor and Co-Chair,
Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

SOLAR POWERS UP SAMFORD! – with more to come



On Monday morning at 7.00am 12th January 2009 our solar panels were installed.

Apparently we were the first in the Samford project to receive the installation and were honoured by this privilege.

We were very excited to see these solar panels take pride of place on our roof alongside our solar hot water system. They took about 3½ hours to install and started capturing solar power as soon as they were finished.

We have an inverter called a "Sunny Boy" which is imported from Germany. It counts the solar power which it receives and transfers it to a new electricity meter installed by Energex. The solar power that is fed into this meter reduces the standard electricity reading. Every day we check to see how much power is being produced by the sun and the standard reading is about 3-4 kw. On a very hot sunny day we have had a reading of 4.9kw.

The inverter measures how much power we produce compared to what we're using and shows the difference, which is then charged by the electricity provider.

It's a small step in utilising the sun for our energy needs, but a step in the right direction. We are extremely proud to have solar panels capturing some of the sun's enormous power reserves for our Energy needs.

It's exciting to realise that the Samford area will soon be a Solar powered community.

Adrienne Hopkins
PR CAN Member

More stories and photos in next month's issue.

PRCAN would like to thank householders who participated in the **Samford Solar Neighbourhood Project** which we brought to you in 2008. Thank you for your patience, enthusiasm and for spreading news of the success of the project through word of mouth, which has resulted in the second round being offered in 2009. (See story on page 2)

New Solar Panels Offer in Samford



Householders in the Samford Valley and surrounds have another opportunity to be a part of the Samford Solar Neighbourhood. The new offer is a repeat of the very low cost program provided over the past year through the Pine Rivers Climate Action Network and solar panel provider Beyond Building Energy.

The first batch of households which are already a part of the group are currently being installed and the second batch will be following shortly said Co-ordinator of the Samford Solar Neighbourhood, Howard Nielsen.

People participating in the Solar Neighbourhood realize that the solar panels reduce the use of power from coal-fired power grids and they are now seeing their household power costs beginning an annual reduction of up to \$300.

The new offer closes on 28 February so people wishing to take up the offer will need to either:

Apply on-line www.beyondbuildingenergy.com (quoting application code 0777) or call 1300 852 025.

The net cost to householders will be \$495, subject to eligible government rebate under standard installation conditions.

Mr Nielsen said that the \$100,000 means test imposed by the Federal government has excluded a number of people although some affected by it are deciding to purchase panels anyway. He said that a number of retired people, who come under the means test, are choosing to apply so that they reduce their power bill, increase the value of their property and do the right thing by the environment.

For further information please go to the Question and Answer section of the website or call Howard on 0407 190162.

Did You Know?....

California has set itself a renewable energy target of **33%** by 2020. And **China** has a target of **16%** renewables by 2020.

Source: ACF

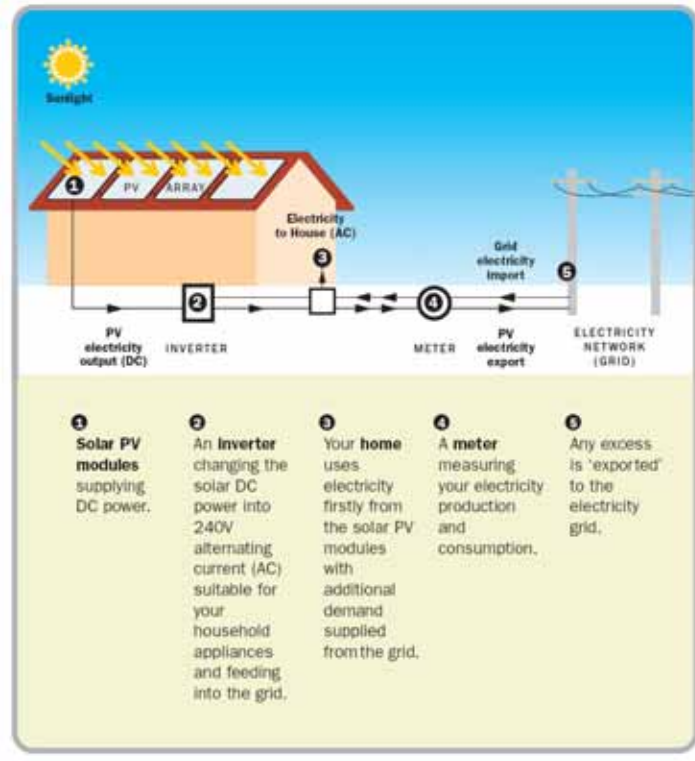
SIMPLE SCIENCE

Powering my home from the sun?



A grid-connected solar PV system is an array of photovoltaic modules connected via an inverter to provide power for your home, with excess production feeding into the grid.

At night, when the solar modules are not producing electricity, the electricity comes to you from the grid. If you export enough energy during the day, it will balance or exceed the amount you draw from the grid at night.



Source: Clean Energy Council

POSITIONING AND SIZING OF SOLAR PANELS ON YOUR ROOF

The ideal position for solar panels in Brisbane is for the panels to be facing **directly North** at an angle of **27.5 degrees** to the ground, at this position the panels will generate the maximum amount of power. Installing panels facing between North-Northwest and North-Northeast with an angle to the ground of between 20 degrees and 35 degrees is OK.

The roof area required for installing a 1KW solar panel array is 7.8 square meters for mono-crystalline panels and 15.8 square meters for Amorphous/thin film panels. Each 1KW of rated power will generate an average of 5.5 KilowattHours per day and save you about \$205 off your bill every quarter (if you limit your power usage during the middle of the day).

In 2007 the average Queensland dwelling used 26.76 KilowattHours/day of electricity. Using more efficient appliances and light fittings and a more conscious use of power, the average Queensland household could comfortably reduce their electricity requirements to 16.5 KilowattHours/Day. Therefore the average household would need a 3KW Rated solar system to produce all their own electricity.

Source: <http://www.australiannaturalenergy.com.au/solar.htm>

Human chain around Parliament House

Australia's Climate Action Summit Jan 31 – Feb 3

As part of Australia's Climate Action Summit, climate activists from around the nation sent a powerful image to our nation's leaders. On the first sitting of Federal Parliament in 2009, 2500 people formed a human chain around Parliament House to send a "climate emergency" message to the Rudd government. It was a peaceful and powerful display of many Australians' intent to put climate change at the top of the political agenda in 2009.

Attendees gathered to peacefully ring Parliament house with a chain of people and banners that stretched the entire 1.7 kilometres around.



On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th February forty delegates from the summit spent the day lobbying members of Federal parliament, demonstrating the strength and aspirations of the national climate movement. The summit is to be a biennial event, and no doubt we will see more action in 2011.

Photos from the day are here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/greenpeaceaustraliapacific/3257331526/in/set-72157613246898138/>

And video here: <http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/>

3 February 2009, Parliament House, Canberra:

Thousands of Australians, young and old, surrounded Parliament with a message that our leaders cannot ignore. With Australian landmarks such as the Great Barrier Reef and Murray-Darling River under threat, now is not the time to be twiddling thumbs. **We need real action. Now.**



"Pine Rivers CAN!" is a Climate Action Network started by a group of concerned local residents who are passionate about taking real and effective action on climate change. Pine Rivers CAN acts locally with residents, schools and businesses to raise awareness of climate change and create a sustainable future for the world, starting at home.

Helping residents to live more sustainably is what the network is about, especially by promoting energy efficiency and supporting renewable green power options, as well as promoting material efficiency through reducing, reusing and recycling.

Renewable is Do-able

Green Hints for the Month

This month's Green Hints looks at ways we can reduce our reliance on **Coal Fired Power Plants**

1. Queensland residents can sign up for Climate Smart Home Service – Qld Govt home energy audit service for \$50. The package includes up to 15 energy efficient light bulbs, a water (and power) saving shower head fitted for you, and a home energy monitor worth \$120. Book in for your visit today.

(Editor's Note: My household had this service in January and I highly recommended it!!!! Well worth it.)

ClimateSmart
HOME SERVICE

www.climatesmarthome.com

2. Be aware of your average daily kilowatt usage. Check it on your quarterly power bill, and compare it to other bills throughout the year. What are your energy use patterns in the changing seasons? Set a family challenge for the household to reduce the daily average by the time the next bill is due. Get the kids involved in turning off lights, appliances on standby, opening a window, having a cool drink or using a fan instead of the aircon – and offering a treat/reward if the challenge is met.



3. Then, when you have reduced your energy usage as much as you can, look at alternative power sources for your home, like solar panels. There is no use getting solar panels if you are still an energy hungry home.

Can anyone help us out?

Pine Rivers CAN is looking for businesses to donate small items for lucky door prizes and raffles at our monthly meetings. Previous prizes have included energy efficient light bulbs, shower timers, energy efficiency guides, books and magazines on environmental issues, organic garden produce, and gardening equipment. Please contact Kirsten on 0418 870 060 or pineriversCAN@gmail.com if you are able to support our endeavours.

Contributions from PR CAN supporters are always welcome for our monthly newsletter. Send your book/movie reviews, seasonal recipes, stories from the community, hints and tips for saving energy/living more sustainably to Kirsten Kennedy pineriversCAN@gmail.com.

Sustainable is Attainable

Recommended Reading



Scorcher – The Dirty Politics of Climate Change by Clive Hamilton

Scorcher is the book to blow the whistle on the Australian politics of global warming. The research in this book is astounding and leaves big questions about Australian journalists and their ability to truly investigate issues. The powerful fossil fuel lobbyists call themselves the 'Greenhouse Mafia'. This book should be the wake up call to all of us — we can't wait for governments to respond to our greenhouse crisis.

Recommended by **Faye Benjamin**, PR CAN Member

Heat – How to Stop the Planet Burning by George Monbiot

This account reveals the seriousness of the global warming crisis and what needs to be done to address this emergency. 'Business as usual' and 'Politics as usual' are incompatible with these imperatives. This book explains why doing nothing is not an option. The author demonstrates that we must achieve a 90% cut in carbon emissions by 2030. This will require the transformation of our homes, power and transport systems, which can be achieved without losing our comfort and security but will only happen, with a "massive program of action, which no government has yet been prepared to take."

Recommended by **Paul May**, PR CAN Member

The Last Generation – How Nature Will Take Her Revenge for Climate Change

A very comprehensive account by one of the best science journalists, this book should not be taken lightly. Take special note of the chapters on the melting of the icecaps and the resultant rise in sea level, the scale of which has only been realised in recent years. As in the previous title, compared to the size of the problem, political action has been ineffective.

Recommended by **Paul May**, PR CAN Member

Insulation to help stave off recession

(Oh, and save 49.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions)

More than two million homes will qualify for free ceiling insulation in a federal government plan to stimulate the economy by creating green jobs. The insulation program will slash electricity bills in 2.7 million households by about \$200 a year, while also tackling green house gas emissions, government sources told The Australian.

The government says that this will help save the jobs of tradesmen in the construction sector and reduce emissions by about 49.4 million tonnes by 2020, equal to taking a million cars off the road, Fairfax reported.

http://bigpondnews.com/articles/Environment/2009/02/03/Insulation_to_help_stave_off_recession_299725.html

Editor's Note – We're keen to see this through Kevin. Let's hope this one happens, soon.

Want to know MORE about what's been in the news?



BUSHFIRES AND EXTREME EVENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Climate Change brings extreme weather

http://bigpondnews.com/articles/Environment/2009/02/10/Climate_change_brings_extreme_weather_301596.html

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Climate change experts have warned that severe weather events are likely to occur more often in Australia as global warming continues.

Fires the deadly inevitability of climate change

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/fires-the-deadly-inevitability-of-climate-change-20090209-8289.html>

Freya Mathews, The Age, February 10, 2009.

The disaster challenges the Government to accept evident truths.

It will only get worse as climate changes

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/it-will-only-get-worse-as-climate-changes/1428048.aspx>

Jonathan Pearlman, Canberra Times, 9 February 2009

Australia faces "a very dangerous decade or decades" as climate change increases the intensity of fires and lengthens the bushfire season, scientists and environmentalists warn.

Fires, floods pressure Australia government on climate

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE5180MF20090209>

James Grubel, Reuters, 9 February 2009.

Australia's deadliest wildfires increased pressure on the national government to take firm action on climate change on Monday as scientists said global warming likely contributed to conditions that fueled the disaster.

Dr Greg Holland and Professor David Karoly join Lateline

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2008/s2486757.htm>

ABC TV Lateline, 9 February 2009

Bushfire Weather in Southeast Australia: Recent Trends and Projected Climate Change Impacts

<http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/images/stories/bushfire/fullreport.pdf>

C. Lucas, K. Hennessy, G. Mills and J. Bathols, Bushfire CRC and Australian Bureau of Meteorology September 2007

Member's Piece

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

From the beginning of time, but more particularly from the advent of the Industrial Revolution, man has attempted to improve on Nature. Mostly his efforts have resulted in the opposite effect. Invariably, each initiative has seemed to offer the promise of a benefit to humanity but experience has shown us that this is seldom the outcome in the long term.

So we now have an over-populated planet that suffers from the many consequences of man's faith in the products of his mind, the worst outcome, so far, being global warming. The current imminence of a financial recession pales into insignificance when compared with the projected final extreme effects of planet-wide climate change.

Yet even this anticipated catastrophe seems soon to be outdone by an even greater threat to the human race. I refer to the ubiquitous, seemingly innocent mobile phone (cell phone). A growing number of sensitive cell phone users have become aware that the side of their head to which the phone is held warms up when it is in use. Yes, the phone operates on a microwave frequency and performs on exactly the same principle as a microwave oven does when heating food.

Microwave ovens heat through the friction of repeated polarity reversals by the food molecules at 2.5 billion, or higher, times per second. This has a disastrous effect on the food, nullifying its nutritional value. Protein molecules, for example, often split open and/or adopt unnatural forms bearing no resemblance to the original molecule. Living organisms cannot stand up to such destruction. A mobile phone held against the head, although of lower power than the oven, is much closer to the ear and the brain and thus produces similarly effects. So what does this indicate to you in terms of the increasing incidence of still-unresolved causes of cancer and brain tumours?

Doesn't it surprise you that governments and the media are still seeking causes of cancer when this one is so patently obvious? This question was raised when cell phone technology was in its infancy. In those early days, the mobile phone industry quickly sprang into action to defend its multi-trillion dollars investment. They produced a stream of test results purporting that cell phones were safe to use and, indeed, the nature of their tests was such that the conditions they chose to examine revealed exactly the answers that the industry wanted.

However, there is a much more significant factor now entering this scenario. And this affects all of us, whether we own a mobile phone or not! Have you noticed the proliferation of tall, concrete towers protruding above the crests of our treetops in Pine Rivers at roughly 10 km intervals? Until recently these towers have been broadcasting their microwave transmissions at relatively low power compared with the increases now being implemented. Whereas the earlier transmissions left many "dead" areas beyond the boundaries of the major towns they

serviced, the current program of upgrading is designed to overcome this handicap from the viewpoint of reliable communication.

Known as "WiMax", the latest higher microwave power, each tower can cover an area of 8000 square kms, or a distance of 20 to 50 kms. depending on the local topography. There are four of these towers now between Petrie and Samsonvale where the nearest one to me is just 3.5 kms south of my home. Thus, no one can escape the reach of WiMax no matter where you live. It is designed to send its powerful transmissions to every nook and cranny on the planet. There are even towers now on the peaks of the Himalayas.

In the USA, many doctors are now concerned that these high-powered microwave transmissions will inevitably lead to an epidemic of cancers, far greater than the number of unresolved cases that humanity now experiences. Their studies show that heating of the head is only one area of the body involved. Cell disintegration begins in the weakest, most exposed areas, particularly in the breasts and genital organs. Apart from these cell tissues, their most alarming discovery is that bodily bombardment by microwaves causes degeneration of the DNA, the body's blueprint for regeneration.

Mal McClure
PR CAN Member

For further information, or to obtain a copy of Being Now, the non-profit magazine he publishes, please feel free to contact the author, Mal McClure, on 07 3289 9392, or by email at <beingnow@acenet.net.au>

PINE RIVERS CAN FEBRUARY MEETING

Time: 7pm start

Tuesday 24th February 2009

First get together for the year! Bring along a plate of food to share for a light supper and discuss plans for 2009.

Old Catholic Church Hall,
Corner Samford Road & Camp Mountain Road, Samford

RSVP appreciated to Kirsten on 0418 870 060 or
pineriversCAN@gmail.com

Gold coin donation encouraged to cover venue hire

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY is ... the month to put some new year's resolutions into action and come along to the first PRCAN meeting for 2009. Pine Rivers CAN will re-convene in February, with nominations for key roles in our steering committee.

MARCH...

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY Sunday 1st March
www.cleanup.com.au/au/

Do your bit to clean up, fix up and conserve the environment.

Pine Rivers Park, Old Gympie Rd, **Strathpine**

Meeting Point: Carpark of park on Old Gympie Road, in front of toilet block

Start time: 8:00 **End time:** 10:00

Site Coordinator Details: Don Connolly mob: 0414876317
 email: Anita.Christian@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Baden Powell Park **Samford**

Meeting Point: John Scott Park

Start time: 8:00 **End time:** 11:00

Site Coordinator Details: Donna Farrell mob: 0402095950
 email: Anita.Christian@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Petrie Scout Den

Meeting Point: Petrie Scout Den Beeville Rd..

Start time: 0700 **End time:** 1200

Site Coordinator Details: Rodger Howitt mob: 0408786425
 email: rbhowitt@virginbroadband.com.au

Williams Street, **Dayboro**

Meeting Point: car park next door to the butcher shop

Start time: 7.30 **End time:** when finished

Site Coordinator Details: Mark Patterson mob: 0420923543
 email: zmpatterson@gmail.com

EARTH HOUR 8.30pm Saturday 28 March

<http://www.earthhour.org/>

Earth Hour 2009 is set to switch off the globe. Already 377 cities, and double the number of countries that participated in 2008, are committed. With hundreds more cities expected to sign up to switch off in the coming months, Earth Hour 2009 is setting the platform for an unprecedented global mandate for action on climate change.

SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP AT KUMBARTCHO 21ST MARCH

<http://kumbartcho.org.au/>

9-11am, Kumbartcho Sanctuary, 15 Bunya Pine Court, Eatons Hill. Make 2009 the year that you not only tread more lightly on this planet but also keep extra DOLLARS in your pocket. A team of experts will teach you the tricks to reduce your home's runnings costs when it comes to energy usage and solar energy, water use and how to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Local Food Co-Operative for Samford

Reduce your food miles and swap, buy and trade garden produce grown in your backyard. The Samford Local Food Group meets every second Sunday 9-11am. For details on venue contact Peter Kearney on (07) 3289 3602 or peter@cityfoodgrowers.com.au or visit the Co-op's Google Group page <http://groups.google.com/group/samford-local-food-group?lnk=>

While you're online, also check out how we can all grow more of our own food to reduce "food miles" and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Visit www.cityfoodgrowers.com.au to connect with others on reducing your eco footprint through gardening.



The group and the produce at the meeting on 2nd February

Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

Phone Kirsten: 3889 1634
 Mobile: 0418 870 060

E-mail pineriversCAN@gmail.com

Website www.pineriversCAN.org

PR CAN CORE WORKING GROUP:

KIRSTEN KENNEDY

Co-Chair, Communications & Publicity Officer, Fundraising Co-coordinator (Temp)

REBECCA STOWE

Co-Chair, Treasurer, Solar Neighbourhoods Project Manager

LESLEY HUGHES

Secretary, Web Master, IT Support

HOWARD NIELSEN

Solar Neighbourhoods Co-coordinator

POSITION VACANT:

Fundraising Co-coordinator

From March 2009 PRCAN will meet regularly on the third Tuesday of every month. (February meeting is Tuesday 24th - see notice on page 5)

Results of Christmas Raffle (drawn at meeting on 17th December) - the beautiful blanket box was won by **Ailsa Andrews** of Upper Kedron. Congratulations Ailsa!!