

Of Special Interest

Climate Camp – Newcastle
 in July

Air Travel and Climate
 Change



Embracing Change

Recently I was impressed to see a story on the news about Prince Charles appearing at a green energy summit in Abu Dhabi via *hologram*. While the heir to the British throne may not seem to be the most modern of public figures, his green credentials are noteworthy. Appearing in person at the summit would have emitted around 15 tons of carbon dioxide from his long haul flight.

Air travel is contributing to the world's greenhouse gas emissions, so it is heartening to see public figures like Prince Charles, singer Madonna, Virgin boss Sir Richard Branson, soccer star David Beckham and green crusader Al Gore using new technologies like holographic "virtual" appearances as greener alternatives to flying. And while we all may not have the funds to be able to appear at a distant venue by hologram, we could take a (green) leaf out of the sustainability book and choose video-conferencing or teleconferencing instead.

See the "Did You Know" and "Top Green Hints" section of this month's newsletter for more facts, figures and solutions to air travel.

French President Nicholas Sarkozy has also started to take a greener approach, by putting a freeze on the building of new airports or roads, encouraging more travel by tram and rail. Energy savings of 20% are being targeted for 2010 through double glazing and energy efficient lights being made mandatory. While France's history on environmental issues isn't a shining example (reliance on nuclear power is a separate article in itself), these announcements at the end of 2007 by the French shows that steps are being taken on another unexpected front, which traditionally may have been resistant to change.

I say if Prince Charles and the French President are willing to take action to halt our climate crisis, Australians should be more than ready to embrace change and any opportunity we have to make a difference to the planet, starting in our own homes.

Have you switched to green power? Changed to energy efficient lightbulbs? Switched your washing machine to wash in cold water? Used public transport or car pooled lately? Do it today – **the planet is waiting for you!**

Kirsten Kennedy

Co-Chair,
 Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

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Win a Worm Farm! See next page.



*"Be the change you wish
to see in the world."*

Mahatma Gandhi

Camp for Climate Action

The Australian Camp for Climate Action will take place in Newcastle, home to the world's largest coal port, from July 10 – 15. Focusing on non violent direct action against Australia's coal exports – the country's single most audacious 'carbon crime' – the camp will also be a place for learning, sharing skills, networking and strategising for long term campaigning against the root causes of climate change. Inspired by similar camps in the UK and US in the last two years, the camp will be one of at least six happening worldwide in 2008. The Australian camp is organised by a loose coalition including members of Rising Tide, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Australian Student Environment Network as well as non-affiliated activists.

The camp aims to be an example of sustainable living, using renewable energy, greywater systems and compost toilets. It will be a safe place organised in a non-hierarchical and participatory way. The camp will have a central kitchen providing cheap food, although people are encouraged to be as self-sufficient as possible. There will also be a kids' activity area, first aid and some entertainment, on top of an inspiring programme of workshops and numerous opportunities to take non violent direct action. Camp organisers are hoping that up to a thousand people will come and participate.

To make this happen, there's a lot to be done, and organisers are asking for your help! If you are interested in the Climate Camp and would like more information, check out their website www.climatecamp.org.au, or contact them at info@climatecamp.org.au. If you would like to attend the climate camp, and are looking for others to travel with, contact PR CAN at pineriversCAN@gmail.com to register your interest.

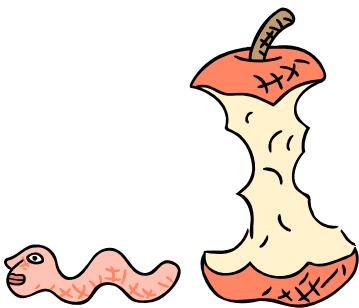
Save the Planet – Feed Some Worms!

Our awesome monthly raffle has been extended so that more of you can buy tickets to win an amazing prize donated by Bunnings Carseldine. For just \$2 you can go into the draw to win a Worm Farm Composting System, complete with hundreds of wriggly live worms!

You can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding food scraps going to landfill, and give your garden a healthy dose of nutrients from the free "worm water" your new household additions will happily supply.

Tickets will be on sale at the next PR CAN meeting on Wednesday 19th March, and drawn at the following meeting on Wednesday 16th April.

Please contact Kirsten on 3889 1634 if you would like a book of raffle tickets to sell in your neighbourhood or at your workplace.



Did You Know...

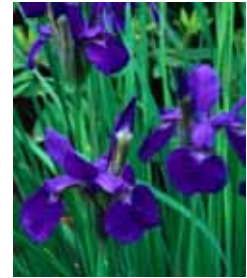
Air Travel and Climate Change

How much do greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft contribute to climate change?

Although aviation is a relatively small industry, it has a disproportionately large impact on the climate system. It presently accounts for 4-9% of the total climate change impact of human activity.

But at a time when we urgently need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, emissions from aviation continue to grow. For example, since 1990, CO₂ emissions from international aviation have increased 83%. The aviation industry is expanding rapidly in part due to regulatory and taxing policies that do not reflect the true environmental costs of flying. 'Cheap' fares may turn out to be costly in terms of climate change.

From the website of the David Suzuki Foundation. Highly recommended!
http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/air_travel.asp



"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we merely borrow it from our children."

Navajo Saying

Top Green Hints for the Month

1. Fact:

Compared to other modes of transport, such as driving or taking the train, traveling by air has a greater climate impact per passenger kilometre, even over longer distances.

Action: Consider taking a vacation closer to home. You'll save money and avoid the stress of airport security, traveling to and from the airport, and sitting in those tiny seats.

2. Fact:

Contrails are the long plumes of exhaust that can be seen in the sky behind airplanes. They may stay in the sky for many hours, and can spread 2 kilometres wide before dispersing. Night flights have the strongest warming impact, because during the daytime contrails actually reflect some sunlight away from the earth.

Action: Fly during the daytime, as studies have shown that flights taken at night have a greater impact on the climate.

3. Fact:

Right now there is no climate-friendly alternative to the kerosene fuel burned by airplanes, and there is no indication that solar or hydrogen-powered aircraft can be expected anytime soon.

Action: Pack light, as lighter planes mean less fuel is burned.

Thanks to the David Suzuki Foundation for these facts, figures and solutions.



Quilting for the forests

The Wild Earth Quilt Project is an initiative of the Huon Valley Environment Centre in beautiful Tasmania which aims to produce a beautiful quilt made from patches produced by people throughout Australia, that reflect your feelings about the importance of the wild places on our beautiful planet. They can reflect your feelings about protecting these places, how wild places make you feel, the importance of the animals and plants in these places, their importance for the future... whatever you are inspired by! The quilt will be exhibited at the Weld Echo 2008 exhibition in Hobart (during May) and will be a fundraiser for forest protection campaigns in Tasmania's Southern Forests.

The deadline for patches is April 1st, and we need many more patches!! So get together with a group of friends, your children, family, or whoever you can muster, and make some patches! Please use materials that are non-toxic, as natural as possible, and even better - recycled! You can felt, weave, paint, embroider, silk screen, or even quilt a patch. If you are going to paint a patch please make sure that the paint is fabric paint.

The preferred size for patches is 20x20cm, with 1cm left clear around the border for stitching.

You can contact Kirsten from Pine Rivers CAN on (07) 3889 1634 for a calico patch, and all completed artwork will be collected by our arty PR CAN member Ady at the upcoming PR CAN meeting on Wednesday 19th March.

Happy patching!

Mark your calendar ... **Upcoming Events**

Wednesday 19th March 2008

Pine Rivers CAN Meeting

**Old Catholic Church Hall,
Cnr Samford Rd & Camp Mtn Rd,
Samford 7~9pm**

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

ENERGY SAVING HINTS

Saturday 13th April 2008

Samford Church Yard Markets

7am – 1pm **weather permitting*

**Come along to the grounds of the Samford Anglican Church and see the Pine Rivers CAN information stall. Drop by for a chat, pick up some recycled paper notepads, or Planet Ark's Little Green Book" for only \$8.
Mt Samson Rd, Samford Village.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: CALL KIRSTEN 3889 1634

In The Community

Rally for the Valley

The Samford Valley Steiner School played host to this year's Rally for the Valley Great Adventure Walk on Sunday 2nd March. The event raised money for the Steiner School, the Pine Rivers SES and the Samford Rural Fire Brigade. Mother Nature provided perfect conditions for a great day outdoors and volunteers at the Pine Rivers CAN information stall were happy to chat to visitors about ways to reduce our impact on the planet by simple and effective changes in our daily lives.



*Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful, committed
people can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that
ever has.*

Margaret Mead

How to Shop Environmentally

The Four Seasons Organic Food Store in Samford is a great place to shop. All the fruit, vegetables and large range of items, including skin care etc in the store are totally ORGANIC, fresh and delicious. You can choose to use paper bags instead of plastic for your purchases, or better still none at all. Your purchases will be packed into boxes if you forget your Green Bags.

Another bonus is that you can take empty containers to refill for your washing liquid, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner and various other items. Honey, flours, rice, nuts and more can also be purchased using your own containers. This is a great way to re-use packaging or washable containers, therefore having less impact on our precious environment.

This sort of store should be totally supported by our community. I love the uncrowded, relaxed shopping atmosphere, and using organic means no chemical pollution of our precious environment. I'm sure as time goes on more environmentally conscious people will purchase their food this way. It might cost a little more but it tastes fantastic, like food should and you know you're eating the way we were designed to.

Ady Hopkins
Pine Rivers CAN Member

**PINE RIVERS
CLIMATE ACTION
NETWORK**

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Renewable is do-able!

PR CAN CORE WORKING
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Fundraising Co-coordinator
(Temp)*

*REBECCA STOWE
Co-Chair, Treasurer, Solar
Neighbourhoods Project
Manager*

*LESLEY HUGHES
Secretary, Web Master*

*HOWARD NIELSEN
Solar Neighbourhoods
Co-coordinator*

*POSITION VACANT:
Fundraising Co-coordinator*

About Pine Rivers CAN



"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.



**Don't forget
Earth Hour
March 29th
www.earthhour.org**

PR CAN WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE OFFERED SUPPORT IN A VARIETY OF WAYS...

**AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
BUNNINGS CARSELDINE
THE SAMFORD VALLEY STEINER SCHOOL**