

FROM THE EDITOR

The impacts of climate change are looming large in these times of financial crisis. Affordability of petrol and food, erratic temperature and rainfall patterns, declining river health, and rising electricity and gas prices all have main-stream Australia now thinking about sustainability issues. At last! Now the important part is for those thoughts to transform into real and positive action, and the opportunity to pull ourselves out of these difficult financial times lies with "green industries".

When SE Qld'ers faced the water crisis of the last 2 years, we showed that we could make changes to our lifestyles and get our dam levels back up again. As we continue to head towards crisis point with dangerous climate change, many Australians have risen to the challenge to reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels. However, we are a long way from success. National icons such as the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu, the wet tropics, the Australian Alps, and the Murray Darling Basin are at risk from climate change. We need strong leadership from our governments - federal, state and local - to set strong targets for emissions reductions and show initiative and innovation with environmental management, town planning, energy and water efficiency, and mining. These are great challenges but also the key to a healthier and more sustainable planet and economy.

Changing a lightbulb can make a difference in your own home, but changing a government's policy can make the world of difference. Community voices are strongest when they are sending a united message. So get the message of sustainability out into your neighbourhood by setting a good example to follow; contact your local Councillor or MP to demand real and positive national and international action and to promote local sustainable projects like community food gardens and recycling programs through your work, school and community networks. Don't wait for somebody else to do it for you, now is a great time to get started!

Yours, as we work together towards a greener future,

Kirsten Kennedy

Co-Chair, Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

WORLD NEWS...

Climate change refugees to be resettled in PNG

Source: ABC November 5, 2008

The world's first climate change refugees will be relocated from their Pacific island home to Papua New Guinea by March next year.

The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation says 40 families from north of Ontong Java in the Solomon Island's Malaita Province will be relocated to Bougainville.

Flooding has made parts of their islands completely uninhabitable and the islands are expected to be fully submerged by 2015.

The relocation is estimated to cost the Autonomous Bougainville and PNG Government millions of dollars over the next six years.

One third of the 1,500 residents have refused to leave the islands.

IN THE COMMUNITY...

The Birth of St John's Wood Sustainability

Earlier this year I was itching to be involved with sustainability and the climate change movement. The nearest group was Samford so I attended several meetings in the little church. I knew it wasn't sustainable to travel that far for sustainability meetings but I needed to see it in action.

I didn't know anyone in my suburb who had a similar passion but the Ashgrove school has a permaculture garden. They had an open day on 25th May and there I met a neighbour, Sue, who shared the vision.

So on 3rd August we held our first neighbourhood gathering and 25 people came along. From there we've contacted every home in the suburb, including by door-knocking, led by David and Ian. We are now organising sub groups for people interested in different issues from backyard gardening, various food activities, a skills directory and of course political engagement.

Our growing steering group meets fortnightly and a lot is happening.

So thanks Pine Rivers CAN for the lead you gave. We are now well and truly launched.

Sandra Bayley

From Australian Conservation Foundation

Food and farming re-think needed to avoid crisis



'Business as usual' is no longer an option for Victorian farming and food, as a rapidly changing climate, increasingly expensive oil, and declining land and river health threaten to undo the state's impressive productivity and prosperity.

A new report released today by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) – *Paddock to Plate: Food, Farming & Victoria's Progress to Sustainability* – finds we must re-think not just the way we produce food, but also the way it is hauled, stored, processed and consumed if we are to avoid a serious food crisis.

“Consumers are already feeling the pressure of escalating petrol and food prices, and with climate change looming, if we don't change direction the strain on hip pockets and our environment will only intensify,” says ACF's Rural Landscapes Campaigner, Corey Watts.

“The good news is that we can turn crisis into opportunity and position the state as a world leader in premium foods with trusted clean, green credentials – bringing greater returns to farmers, health dividends, innovation, new exports and new regional jobs.”

For full article and access to the *Paddock to Plate* report, visit the ACF website

www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=2043

BRISBANE ORGANIC GROWERS INC

One of the best ways we can address sustainable eating is to grow as much of our food as we can. Brisbane Organic Growers Inc. is a terrific group of gardeners who meet regularly to advance their knowledge of, and to share ideas about, organic and sustainable gardening.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at Peace Hall, 102 McDonald Road, Windsor.

The next meeting will be held on the 4th of December at 7:30PM. Visitors are most welcome.

Telephone: 3357 3171

www.bogi.org.au

Did You Know?....

SAVING WATER AND ENERGY – THE LINK

Wasting water also means wasting electricity and burning fossil fuels. It is vital to avoid over-watering gardens and wasting water: treating and pumping water uses energy and generates up to 0.6 kilograms of greenhouse gas per kilolitre for treatment and, in hilly areas, up to two kilograms of greenhouse gas per kilolitre of water for pumping.

Source: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website

www.environment.gov.au/settlements/gwci/food.html



Green Hints for the Month

This month's Green Hints looks at ways we can reduce our carbon footprint through conserving water (and therefore electricity as well!)

1. **Put a bowl in your sink to wash fruit and vegetables. The water can then be used on the garden.**
2. **Re-use your cooking water (once it has cooled down) for other kitchen uses or on the garden.**
3. **When boiling water on the stove, always keep the lid on the saucepan. It will save electricity (or gas) and water.**
4. **Make use of a timer to keep your showers short. You can save up to 20 litres for each minute less you shower.**
5. **Mulch around your plants to save water and prevent evaporation, as well as the growth of weeds.**
6. **Water the roots of plants, not the leaves, as water will evaporate easily from the leaves.**
7. **Keep a bucket in the shower for the first run off before the hot comes through, tip it in the washing machine ready for the next wash.**

Source: *A Lighter Foot Print – A practical guide to minimising your impact on the planet* by Angela Crocombe

Win A Great Prize and Help Save the Planet!!!



Buy your tickets at any Pine Rivers CAN meeting until December to be in the running to win this beautiful hand-made blanket or toy box which has been lovingly made by PRCAN supporter Frank Fiedler. It really is a special piece of furniture anyone would be proud to own and it's made from fully recycled materials - old window frames and salvaged wood (Silky Oak and

Tassie oak). He's even left a little bit of painted frame on the inside to show that it's recycled. Size: 1200 long by 500 wide by 600 high.

This lovely piece of furniture will go to one lucky PR CAN supporter for only \$2. Raffle will be drawn on **Wednesday 17th December 2008** at the Pine Rivers CAN meeting.

Please contact Kirsten Kennedy on 3889 1634 or 0418 870 060 if you can't get to a meeting but would like to buy raffle tickets or take a book to sell to your friends and family.

Local Food Co-Operative For Samford

Interested in joining the movement for locally grown food to be more accessible in the Samford/Dayboro area? Come along to the next meeting of the newly formed Samford Local Food Group on Sunday 23rd November from 9-11am at 203 Wights Mountain Road, Wights Mountain. Discussion topics include



ive, group name and Bring some produce to swap/sell and a plate of goodies for morning tea. Contact Peter Kearney for more details on (07) 3289 3602 or

peter@cityfoodgrowers.com.au

You can find out more about this group by visiting our Google Group page <http://groups.google.com.au/group/samford-local-food-group?lnk=src>.

Recommended Reading

The following books on topics related to simpler, healthier and greener lifestyles are a selection of those available from the Moreton Bay Regional Council libraries. Often, the easiest way to source the books is to check out availability on-line and place a hold on books not located at your nearest library. Another great source for books on sustainable living is the Good Life Book Club which can be found on-line at

www.goodlifebookclub.com

Every Last Drop by Craig Madden and Amy Carmichael

The authors present a total picture and a practical guide: facts about water, saving water at home, where our water comes from and how we use it together with resources: products, programs, suppliers and rebates. Learn how to harvest rainwater, recycle greywater and manage house and home to minimise your carbon footprint.

Waterwise House and Garden – A Guide for Sustainable Living by Allan Windust

This is a practical guide for sustainable living. It will help you reduce the environmental impact of everyday living, and dramatically reduce your household and garden water use in the process.

Watch this space for more great books next month.

Faye Benjamin

Pine Rivers CAN Member

Case Study of the World's Only Sustainable Country

Film Review

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, few predicted that the poverty and hunger faced by the people of Cuba would be replaced by a remarkable transformation into sustainable agriculture, transport and urban planning that is now part of the Cuban way of life in the twenty-first century.

The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil is an inspirational film that explores the crisis that forced a country to find solutions for the short term and the long term. The people of Cuba have learned to live with severe restrictions on imports of fuel and food by many means, most impressively by converting rooftops and backyards into organic food gardens. Over 80% of Havana's food supply is now from urban agriculture.

Now recognised by the World Wildlife Fund as the world's only sustainable country, Cuba is now a model we can all learn from. *A highly recommended film.*

Kirsten and Lesley

Roberto Perez



Queensland Climate Movement Summit

I recently attended the summit held in Brisbane as a representative of Pine Rivers CAN. There were at least 60 attendees from Ethos Foundation, Friends of The Earth, The Wilderness Society, Queensland Conservation Council, Oxfam/Make Poverty History, St Johns Wood Sustainability Group, Australian Student Environment Network, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Engineers Without Borders, Greenleap Strategic Institute (Philip Sutton), Environmental Law Publishing (Chris McGrath), Green Cross, Save the Mary and many others.

There was an initial session where we all introduced ourselves, the groups we represented (if any) and the activities we were engaged in. Following that was an open discussion and after lunch we gathered into “workshop” groups which focussed on particular topics in which we joined according to interest. I attended a session on food and climate change where we agreed that a vegetarian diet could really help the environment, as could growing food at home and buying locally produced food. I also checked out Friends of the Earth’s new campaign against the proposed *tripling* of Queensland’s Coal production – no wonder the government wants to invest in “Clean Coal” with this ridiculous proposal. FOE will be campaigning and meeting residents, farmers and miners in coal mining areas for the next few months. A Climate Camp, similar to the one in Newcastle, is proposed for 2009 - possibly in Gladstone.

In another workshop Philip Sutton and Graeme Taylor expounded their latest initiative – a proposal for a Safe Climate Coalition (see right). They believe that the planet is facing an emergency which should be tackled with extreme urgency. The current targets, even if not watered down by governments, and even if they are met, will still result in at least 3 degrees of warming. The proposal is to remove numbers and urge action to produce a **safe climate** i.e. returning it to the safe level of the 1980s. They are asking organisations and individuals to sign and support the *Call for Urgent Action* and join the coalition. Philip Sutton then went on to outline the idea of a covenant that individuals, councils, communities, industries and even countries can join. It would be a real treaty, not government led. The idea is to take control away from politicians who are failing to take effective action and put it back onto “us”. Philip is calling for support and ideas:

www.green-innovations.asn.au/CCR.html#gsc

On a lighter note, Stan and Jane spent the day showing anyone who was interested, how they could build themselves a solar cooker and use the free energy of the sun to cook. Unfortunately I missed out on this but picked up leaflets and will be setting my husband to the task (he just doesn’t know it yet). Email stan@sizzlingsolarsystems.com for leaflets or check out www.solarcooking.org for other plans.

It was a long, but very interesting day and it will be exciting to hear the outcomes.

Lesley Hughes
Secretary, Pine Rivers CAN

Proposal for a Safe Climate Coalition

Richard Sanders, Philip Sutton and Graeme Taylor,

October 18, 2008

A global call for emergency action to prevent catastrophic global warming

Humanity and all of life is facing a planetary emergency: the threat of runaway global warming. We call on communities and governments in every part of the world to take immediate action to reduce average global temperatures to safe levels in order to prevent the catastrophic collapse of ecosystems and human societies. It is time we made an emergency commitment to the reestablishment of a safe climate.

The principles of the Safe Climate Coalition

- 1) The planet must be brought back within its safe biophysical operating limits as a matter of extreme urgency.
- 2) In order to do this we will need to transform our ecologically unsustainable economy so that it operates within the Earth's carrying capacity.

Who is the Safe Climate Coalition

We are a coalition of organizations working to develop viable solutions to the threats posed by climate change. The primary role of the coalition is to encourage and support participation, education, dialogue and cooperative action.

The coalition will seek to strengthen the role of civil society on climate change issues. Our organizational objective is to build as large and active a movement as possible through encouraging the linkage and expansion of existing campaigns, the identification and filling of gaps and an inclusive approach that reaches out and involves all sectors of society. The coalition will simultaneously work on local, national and global levels.

Some specific campaigns will target key events: e.g. the international conferences on climate change scheduled for Poznan in December, 2008 and for Copenhagen in December, 2009. Other campaigns will act to directly begin the process of creating a safe-climate economy.

All individuals and organizations are encouraged to sign and support the *Call for Urgent Action*. Individuals and organizations that agree with these principles are invited to join the Coalition. Participation in the coalition in no way limits the rights of participants to make other agreements and engage in other activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Queens Park Brisbane

12.30pm Saturday November 15th

Join thousands of families, workplaces and communities in a walk for renewable energy and a safe climate future for our children. With vital decisions being made this year, we will Walk Against Warming to ensure the Australian Government supports strong, urgent action and justice for developing nations affected by global warming.

Brisbane's walk is a uniquely colourful umbrella parade. Come rain or come shine Brisbane Walkers are sheltered from our tempestuous climate.

This year will be a celebration that we are *finally* under the Kyoto umbrella - the first step towards sheltering us from dangerous Climate Change.

Now the hard work must begin. Brisbane Walkers will be highlighting what we need to do to **Save the Reef** from the ravages of dangerous Climate Change.

We will also emphasise what's needed to **Save the Region** by helping to shelter our neighbours in the Asia Pacific from the sea level rise and wild weather that's already locked in to the warming climate system for the next few decades.

Take a step in the right direction,

**Walk the Walk
on Saturday 15th November!**

PINE RIVERS CAN NOVEMBER MEETING

Come along to the November meeting for Pine Rivers CAN and hear one of the most important future challenges that will result from the previous September meeting on "Australia Pumping Empty: The Looming Peak Oil Crisis". What will happen to the transportation and supply of fruit and vegetables with the decline in oil supply?

Will our future food be close to the populations of south east Queensland?

The market history of two rivers and their other agriculture areas.

Special presentation by **Ian Smith**, Vice-President of the Pine Rivers Catchment Association.

Ian's family grew up on farms and in the fruit and vegetable industry in south east Queensland. He was one of the first agricultural students at Corinda High School and has two masters in botany. Ian was a previous Principal Conservation Officer (EPA) and was directly involved with approved development of housing areas in past farming land. His interest was always in farming. As a RAAF pilot from 1966-1970 he saw the farming in New Guinea, Bali and Malaysia and saw the bombing destruction of the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. He is deeply concerned about future farming and training and educating the young people to look after their future.

Time: 7pm start

Wednesday 19th November 2008

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

*Have you eaten mangoes this week that have travelled
3,200 kilometres?*

NOVEMBER IS... THE MONTH TO REMIND YOUR FRIENDS AND WORKMATES ABOUT RECYCLING.

Visit Planet Ark's website for National Recycling Week (10-16th November) for some great information, resources and events details: <http://recyclingweek.planetark.org>

DECEMBER IS... THE MONTH TO SWAP YOUR TRASH FOR TREASURE! The December meeting for Pine

Rivers CAN will be a **SWAP 'N' SAVE PARTY** to finish 2008 in true sustainable style. Start thinking and dig through your cupboards now for items you no longer need, or items that need a new home. Clothing, books, CDs, kitchen items, linen, toys, potplants, seedlings, garden produce, and more. Wednesday 17th December, Old Catholic Church, Samford, from 7pm. Call Kirsten for more information 0418 870 060.

Organic Local Food Market

The Permaculture Caboolture Organic Farmers Markets is held on the first and third Saturday of the month. Check out www.creec.org.au for more details.

CAN ANYONE HELP US OUT?

Pine Rivers CAN is looking for individuals and 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.

For more news on climate change and the environment, visit the following links:

Terra Madre notes: Vandana Shiva rocks the house
<http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2008/10/25/904/94558>

Tom Philpott, Gristmill, 26 Oct 2008

A food/climate manifesto presents new visions for responding to climate change

Green industries could create 'almost a million jobs'

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/30/2405778.htm>

ABC News, Oct 30, 2008

The ACTU says almost 1 million jobs could be created in the next 20 years if the Federal Government promotes green industries.

Green jobs paper

http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res/Green_Gold_Rush_final.pdf

Interested in seeing the film *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil?* PR CAN has a copy and it's available for members to borrow.

Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

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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

**PRCAN meets regularly on the third
Wednesday of every month**

"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.

PR Can Wishes To Thank...

Peter Kearney from City Food Growers for his hard work in setting up the growing movement towards a Samford Local Food Co-operative. See article on page 3 for details of the next meeting.

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