

FROM THE EDITOR

Spring at last! Things are warming up and looking fantastic in my veggie garden already, and it's matching my enthusiasm for our newest venture – a Farmers' Market / Food Co-operative in Samford! What a great way to reduce our food miles and make use of the fertile and productive land around us. This fantastic initiative came out of discussions after our special film screening of "Australia Pumping Empty: The Looming Peak Oil Crisis" in early September.

Our staggering reliance on fossil fuels for transport, plastic based products, fertilisers, and electricity production permeates every facet of our Western lifestyles. Yet supplies of oil, coal and gas are not unlimited. What has taken our planet millions of years to create has taken mankind only 150 years to plunder, and we are looking down the barrel of demand outstripping the potential to supply. This is the phenomenon of Peak Oil.

This edition looks at issues surrounding Peak Oil and a variety of ways we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels in our daily lives, from the food we eat to the way we travel.

I wholeheartedly agree with Clive Blazey, founder of the Diggers Club, who states "Industrial food which creates huge carbon emissions, pollution of our rivers, and declining personal health will only continue if its users are totally ignorant of its consequences... Good healthy food will only be grown if we demand it. We don't want multi-national organic or cross country organic but simply organic food that is regional."

So stay tuned for news on how our new Farmers' Market / Food Co-op project is progressing, and I urge you to get in touch with us at pineriversCAN@gmail.com if you want to get involved with this or any other of our exciting projects.

Yours in hope for a greener future,

Kirsten Kennedy

Co-Chair,
Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"If the peak comes and we can't get our act together fast enough to make up for it, you will end up with people all over the world burning coal as fast as they can just for the space heating and primitive industry. Such a large scale switch to coal could produce global warming so severe that life on planet Earth would cease to exist."

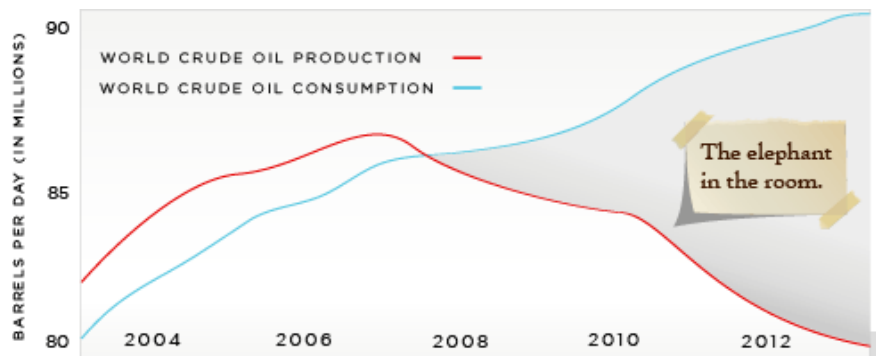
Dr David Goodstein, Ph.D., Vice Provost and Professor of Physics at Caltech

"Oil is running out; the climate is changing at a potentially catastrophic rate; wars over scarce resources are brewing; finally, the most shocking of all, we don't seem to be having enough ideas about how to fix any of these things."

London Times 2005

"The amount of energy is finite, up to now in relation to demand, and competition for access to energy can become the life and death for many societies."

Henry Kissinger, Financial Times article *Kissinger Warns of Energy Conflict*



Check out the link below for a useful article on steps we can take to deal with the consequences of Peak Oil. Author is based in SA, but info is relevant and practical and references are valuable for further information on Peak Oil.

www.aspo-australia.org.au/References/Phil/PeakOil_WhatYouCanDoAboutIt.pdf

Did You Know?....

Possible effects and consequences of Peak Oil

The widespread use of fossil fuels has been one of the most important stimuli of economic growth and prosperity since the industrial revolution, allowing humans to participate in takedown, or the consumption of energy at a greater rate than it is being replaced. The impact of Peak oil will depend heavily on the rate of decline and the development and adoption of effective alternatives. If alternatives are not forthcoming, the **products produced with oil** (including fertilizers, detergents, solvents, adhesives, and most plastics) would become scarce and expensive. At the very least this could lower living standards in developed and developing countries alike, and in the worst case lead to worldwide economic collapse. With increased tension between countries over dwindling oil supplies, political situations may change dramatically and inequalities between countries and regions may become exacerbated.:

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peak_oil

Want to know more about Peak Oil?

For a good intro to peak oil (and links to other resources)

<http://www.energybulletin.net/primer>

Check out www.ASPO-Australia.org.au for the Australian Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas. ASPO Co-ordinator for Brisbane is Stuart McCarthy, guest speaker at our recent film night and featured in "Australia Pumping Empty: The Looming Peak Oil Crisis".

You can see an excerpt from "Australia Pumping Empty: The Looming Peak Oil Crisis" online at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAizQUaf4Vs

You can purchase your own copy of "Australia Pumping Empty: The Looming Peak Oil Crisis" at www.aquilaproductions.com.au

PINE RIVERS CAN SEPTEMBER MEETING

Come along to the September meeting for Pine Rivers CAN and hear more about reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Time: 7pm start

Wednesday 17th September 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

Green Hints for the Month

This month's Green Hints looks at ways we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

FACT: One barrel of oil = 159 litres. Australia burns up more than 850,000 barrels a day (Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2005).

ACTION: Car pool, walk, ride or catch public transport, holiday closer to home, and make sure you are driving the most fuel efficiently. More importantly, you could write to your local MP or the newspapers about the ridiculous subsidies and tax breaks for company cars and excessive freight transport which encourage vehicle use and dependency on road transport.

FACT: Australia produces around 60 per cent of its domestic fuel needs but imports are on the rise: from 10 per cent in 2000 to an estimated 60 per cent by 2010. The annual oil import bill is predicted to rise from under \$4 billion to more than \$20 billion by 2015. This trend exposes Australia to any potential international supply shortages (Source: ABC, Four Corners).

ACTION: Reduce your "food miles" by buying locally produced food. Fruit and vegetables from your local greengrocer is likely to be fresher, has travelled a shorter distance, had less packaging, refrigeration, storage than the produce you find in large supermarkets which has often been picked weeks and even months earlier and travelled across the country to finally reach you. Reduce your consumption of fossil fuels and increase your consumption of local food instead!

FACT: If the planet's population continues to consume at the current rate (including China), we would need another 3 Saudi oil fields to meet the needs of world consumption by 2020 (Source: Australia Pumping Empty).

ACTION: Reduce, reuse, recycle!!!

Solar Neighbourhood in Samford Valley

This is an urgent call for all who have had their homes inspected successfully for solar panels to deposit their \$8000 in the Pine Rivers CAN Trust Account. After deposit your funds will be released in instalments to BBE as the work is progressed on your solar installation. When the final instalment is paid (after successful installation of the system) that will trigger a rebate process from the government enabling funds to come back to you. Please make sure you enter your name and reference number so that it will appear on the account statement. This is very important as we need to know for sure from whom each \$8,000 is received.

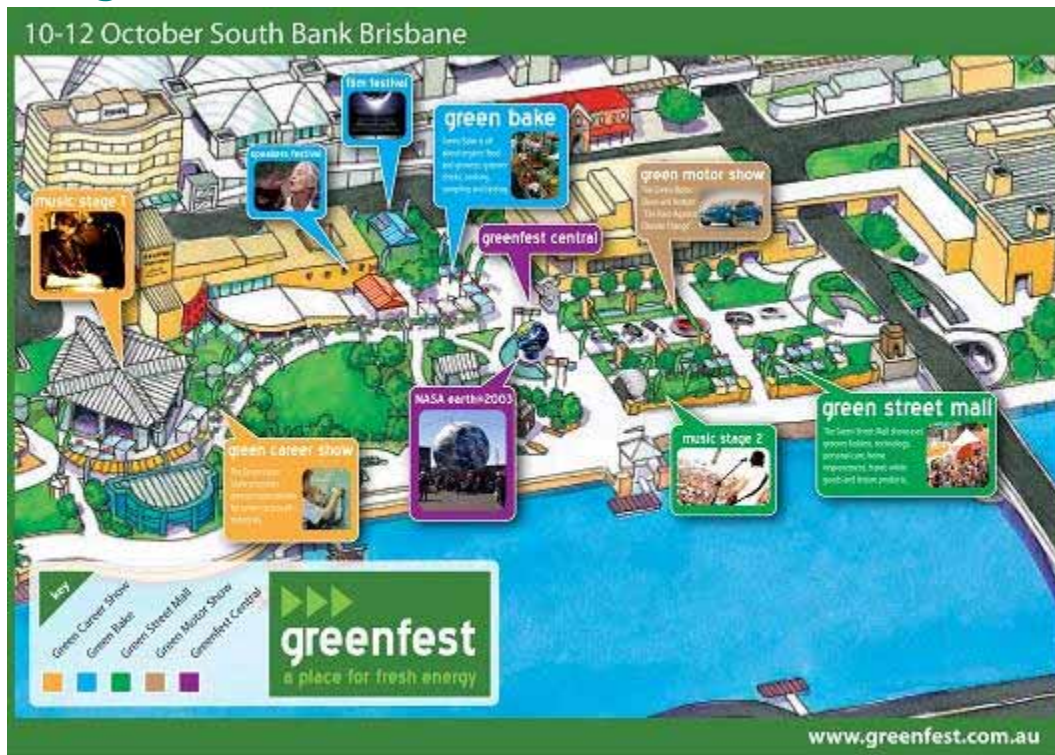
Howard Nielsen

Co-ordinator, Samford Solar Neighbourhood

Email: howard@nacconsulting.com.au

Phone: 0407 190 162

Forthcoming Events



GREENFEST 10, 11, 12 OCTOBER 2008

A Place for Fresh Energy

The Greenfest experience is about sharing creative energy in a blend of fresh music, visionary speakers, film, photography, organic food and the latest industry leadership for greener cars, clothes, careers, home improvements, fashion, travel and more; all in one place at one time in a large open, outdoor, free environment!

Greenfest is about attracting a critical mass of positive energy in one place at one time through creativity, innovation and working together to win the race against climate change. *Get into Greenfest!*

An emerging green generation may be our first psychographic generation, a grouping of like minds from many ages and origins, committed to finding a new consensus that protects diversity of life on earth.

The knowing of this feeling however, is most unthinkable and uncompromised in the art and music of younger people. Greenfest provides a stage for this very fresh energy to engage all of us, around inspired consumer products for a greener future and respected speakers taking a fresh approach.

Greenfest is free, outdoors, participation based and experimentally presents tomorrow's leaders to share the stage today. It's a formula for resonance between different elements of the community and by just turning up you will have taken action for a greener world.

The festival also meets current best practices in green event management through:

- Use of green power
- Recycling and waste management
- Green printing
- Fair trade uniforms
- Minimizing production beyond function
- Carbon neutral event

VOLUNTEER AT GREENFEST

Want to make a difference and reach out to people all over Brisbane?

Go to the link below for the online application form which will offer a brief description of each position and allow you to select your preferred option.

The more detail you can give the better the festival will be for everyone so jump onto the link below and let them know what you'd most like to do. The festival is less than a month away and more volunteers are needed to help make the event a roaring success. Let all your mates know about it. It'll be a great way to meet people and make a positive difference.

www.greenfest.com.au/volunteers



CLIMATE EMERGENCY WEEK September 22 - 29

WEEK OF ACTION

Mon 22nd: Forum - Building a movement for the Climate Emergency
Wed 24th: Uni of QLD: QUT;
Thu 25th: Griffith Uni - Carmel 0423 461652
Fri Sept 26 - Critical Mass - Cyclists meet 5.15pm, Queens Park
Monday Sept 29 - Protest "COAL TECH 2008" conference, 9am @ Marriott
Organise your own event!

No new Coal mines, phase out existing coal!

Public transport, not roads and tunnels!

Invest in renewables, carbon trading is no solution!

For a just transition to green jobs!

Sustainable water use!

CLIMATE CRIMINALS TOUR

Sunday, Sept 28
2pm Parliament House, George St, City

MARCH to Centenary Place
for Climate Festival, Music, Stalls, workshops, under the stars!



Endorsed by: Australian Student Environment Network; Carbon Equity; Coal Free Queensland; Coal Friction Coalition; Community Action for Sustainable Transport; Friends of the Earth Brisbane; QUT Environment collective; Resistance; Socialist Alliance; UQ Environment Collective.

(TO ADD YOUR ENDORSEMENT OR FOR MORE INFO, VISIT...)

Web: <http://climateemergencyqueensland.blogspot.com>
Email: climate.emergency@gmail.com; Contact: Paul 0410 629 088, John 0405 433 550

WALK TO WORK DAY

FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2008

WHAT IS WALK TO WORK DAY (WTWD)?

WTWD is an event to promote regular walking and physical activity. It is an annual, national event in which the community can become involved in a healthy and environmentally friendly activity.

The aims of Walk to Work Day are:

- To promote regular walking as a healthy activity (better physical, mental & social health)
- To reduce the reliance on the private motor vehicle (reduce car-dependency)
- To promote and improve the use of public transport (less traffic)
- To improve air quality by reducing unnecessary vehicle emissions (reduce global warming)

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

You can be a Walking Class Hero on Friday 3 October 2008 by simply walking all or part of the way to work. Use public transport and get off the bus, train, tram or ferry a few stops earlier and walk the rest of the way. Or take a half-hour walk at lunch-time. And where possible, walk up stairs. But, PLEASE, leave the car at home. If you have to drive, leave the car at least a kilometre or two from your destination and walk the remaining distance.

WHAT EMPLOYERS CAN DO

All employers and managers are urged to set an example by participating and encouraging all employees to walk as part of commuting to work. They can start promoting the event by linking their website to the WTWD website: www.walk.com.au Active transport (walking and cycling) and work-place physical activity programs have been shown to greatly reduce sick leave and increase productivity. Fact sheets and other material about the benefits of walking can be obtained from the WTWD website.

And don't forget...

Ride to Work Day

15th October 2008

www.ride2work.com.au



BRISBANE ORGANIC GROWERS' FAIR

Sunday 5 October 2008

Stalls selling organically based fresh produce, seeds, fruit trees, herbs, preserves and more!

The Annual Fair will be held at The Peace Hall located at 102 McDonald Road, Windsor, Brisbane. The Hall is situated directly under the Albion overpass near the Albion Railway Station.

Check out www.bogi.org.au

RECOMMENDED READING

Thanks to PR CAN Member Paul May who has provided reviews for this month's recommended reading.

Half Gone: Oil, Gas, Hot Air and the Global Energy Crisis by Jeremy K. Leggett.

Published by Portbello Books, 2006. 322 pages. ISBN: 1846270057

Jeremy Leggett, a former geologist, then oil consultant, then chief scientist for Greenpeace, is now, among other roles, a member of the UK Government's Renewables Advisory Board. This excellent book outlines two of the major problems facing the world today – peak oil and global warming. In summary, it advocates increased efficiency and reduced energy use, and is a call to alleviate our economic dependence upon oil.

This book was also published in the U.S. as: *The Empty Tank: Oil, Gas, Hot Air, and the Coming Global Financial Catastrophe.*

Crude: the story of oil by Sonia Shah.

Published by Allen & Unwin, 2005. 231 pages. ISBN: 174114597X

From its origins millions of years ago to its all-pervading presence in our modern lives, this book covers all aspects of this important mineral substance. It outlines its use in fuelling our vehicles, providing our electricity, and producing fertilisers, plastics and bitumen. It covers its history of discovery and uses throughout the ages and its role in modern world politics. *Crude* covers all sides of this important substance we may one day have to live without.

Watch this space for more great books next month.

Paul May

Pine Rivers CAN member



Kirsten and Lesley were kept busy on the PR Can stall during the recent Lowlands Festival

USING OUR PUBLIC VOICE

Community advocates blast Government's timid climate response

*Parramatta Climate Action Network ** Great Lakes Environment Association ** Pine Rivers Climate Action Network ** Ink Orchestra ** Association for Berowra Creek ** Lower Clarence Climate Action Network ** Australian Student Environment Network ** Rising Tide Newcastle ** Hills Against Global Warming ** The Courthouse Group – Newtown Climate Action Pittwater ** Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle ** Climate Action Newcastle ** Climate Action Coogee ** Wollongong Climate Action Network ** University of Queensland Climate for Change ** Bathurst Community Climate Action Network ** Adelaide Hills Climate Action Group ** Darebin Climate Action Now*

Nineteen community climate groups have joined forces to write a response to the Federal Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper, calling for major changes to the scheme.

A network of local, community action groups has grown rapidly across the country in the last five years but this is the first time they have teamed up to criticise Government policy. The groups' submission rejects the notion that Australians care more about their lifestyles than about the planet and its people and blasts the Government for compensating polluting industries at the expense of the climate, the people and the planet.

Georgina Woods, from Rising Tide Newcastle said, "Polls repeatedly show that the majority of the public want decisive

action on climate change and are aware that our lifestyles will need to be modified in order to make the transition to a carbon free economy. We are ready if the Government is."

"The Federal Government needs to get its act together and stop providing money and excuses to the coal industry to emissions-intensive export industries like aluminium. We can't afford to waste time."

Jenny Curtis from Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle said, "Our groups have a combined membership of thousands and represent the aspirations of many thousands more. We call on the Government to match the public's commitment and make the difficult decisions required now to secure a safe climate for the future.

Duncan Jinks, of Climate Action Newcastle said, "We need to start to base our decisions on science and the limits of our planet, not on the dirty politics and economics in Canberra. The world's poorest people will be the worst hit by climate change, and they can't compete with the lobbying power of Australia's big polluters"

"We won't get another chance to avert runaway climate change. Prime Minister Rudd and Minister Wong must not let us down."

Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

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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**

Contributions from PR CAN supporters are always welcome for our monthly newsletter. Send them to pineriversCAN@gmail.com.

"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.

Thanks to:

Mr Geoff Wilson, Member for Ferny Grove, and State Minister for Mines and Energy; **Mr Stuart McCarthy** from the Australian Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas; and **Mr Jeffrey Bean** from Aquila Productions for their attendance and participation in our very successful film screening of Australia Pumping Empty on 4 September in Samford.

The **Samford Progress Association** for their generous contribution of funds from the aluminium can recycling station to PR CAN's work for a community education and a more sustainable way of life in our district.

Pine Rivers Rotary Club for providing the film projector for the screening of "Australia Pumping Empty" at the Farmers' Hall in September.