



From the Editor

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In mainstream Western society it is easy to forget that everything comes from somewhere and everything goes somewhere. With huge amounts spent in the advertising industry each year, consumers are continually hounded with the message that we all need more! But the combined impacts of the global climate emergency, the global financial crisis and the prospect of peak oil have brought about a change in thinking for people around the planet. Where has your latest purchase come from and where will it end up at the end of its life?

Eco-efficiency is a phrase that means doing more with less. It looks at how we are able to combine ecological principles of resource conservation with economic benefits. Indeed, the pioneers of many communities had to make do with what they had. In contrast to times gone by, we can now see the consequences of not looking after our home on a global scale.

So with a growing number of sustainable and eco-efficient initiatives happening throughout our communities, now is a great time to take up the challenge of reducing your carbon footprint one step at a time. I hope you find at least one great idea to commit to in this month's newsletter. Enjoy the read and good luck with your challenge.

Warm regards,

Kirsten Kennedy
Editor and Co-Chair,
Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

Oh, and by the way, if you print this newsletter out, please pass it on to another reader who will pass it onto another and another. Give it a second, third and fourth, etc life before recycling!

Renewable is Do-Able!
Sustainable is Attainable!

What's the problem with waste?



Each Australian household produces an average of 1.14 tonnes of waste per year. The majority of this waste ends up in landfill or as litter. Either way, household waste is an environmental problem.

Almost all products take water, energy and materials to produce. What we send to landfill is a waste of those resources. Built in to the manufacturing and retailing of these items is the burning of fossil fuels through production techniques and transport. Even recycling processes consume some resources. To address the waste problem, we need to consider the entire product cycle and focus on reducing consumption, as well as reusing what we already have. In doing so, we are limiting the amount of greenhouse gasses released during the manufacture, transport, and landfill/recycling processes.

To learn more about how you can reduce, re-use and recycle, visit the following websites...

Australian Conservation Foundation Green Home Campaign

http://www.acfonline.org.au/default.asp?section_id=86

Planet Ark – working to show people and businesses the many ways they can reduce their day to day impact on the environment - at home, at work and in the community.
<http://planetark.org/>

Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/waste/waste_minimisation/reduce_reuse_recycle/

Plastic Bag Reduction

Planet Ark led the National Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign in Australia from 2002 to 2005. Since then, annual usage of single use check out bags has dropped from around 6 billion to 4 billion per year, and millions of Australians have embraced the use of reusable bags as part of their regular shopping habits.

Whilst this is great, there still is room for improvement! Australians currently use 4 billion plastic bags annually - that's over 10 million new bags being used every day.

[Visit the Planet Ark Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign web site](#) to find out all about plastic bags, their effects on the environment and wildlife; the Planet Ark Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign from 2002-2005; how towns



and communities across Australia went plastic bag free; what other countries are doing to deal with the problem of plastic bags, and more!

Green Hints for the Month

What you can do to go plastic bag free

- 1) Re-think
Reconsider your shopping habits and keep the next 4 steps in mind.
- 2) Refuse
Say no to single use plastic bags! Be loud and proud and let retailers know you are looking for an alternative.
- 3) Reduce
Reduce the number of plastic bags you bring home by being prepared with re-useable bags or ask if there are boxes available. You can also cut down on the amount of packaging on your bought items by choosing products in their natural state (farmers markets are great for this!) or select items that have recycled or recyclable packaging. Ask yourself the important question – “Do I really need this?”
- 4) Re-use
Before you toss something into the bin, consider how it could be given a second life. Does it need minor repairs or alterations to be functional once more? Or can you transform the elements on hand into something new? The following short video shows how the ubiquitous plastic shopping bag is re-born into a functional laptop carry bag.
<http://www.5min.com/Video/How-to-Fuse-Plastic-Bags-into-a-Laptop-Case-101244143>
For larger items check out your local Reverse Garbage co-op (Brisbane residents can access the great one at West End), Freecycle <http://www.freecycle.org/group/AU/Queensland> or even the “Treasure Markets” at your closest refuse/transfer station.
- 5) Recycle
If you still end up with packaging and single use plastic bags after taking the first 4 steps, you can take your unwanted plastic bags to selected retailers who collect and recycle them. Look for the recycle stations outside retailers such as Coles and Woolworths.

One Million Women Unite for Action on Climate Change

Get Involved

One Million Women - daughters, mothers, sisters and grandmothers inspiring climate action.

Join this new campaign today to collectively cut 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas pollutant triggering climate change.

Every woman who joins has a personal goal to cut 1 tonne of CO₂ from their daily lives within a year of joining.

You don't need to be an expert on climate change, they will guide you every step of the way.

[Click here to join.](#)

“We can change the way the world works with our everyday decisions – what we buy/drive/eat/do for fun. Giving 1 million women the facts on how these actions affect the planet helps us make choices that will slow climate change, and send a big “clean up your act” to our leaders.”

Bernie Hobbs - Science Presenter and Judge, ABC Radio and The New Inventors



Pine Rivers CAN August meeting

Time: 7pm start
Thursday 20th August 2008

Come along for and hear special guest speaker Harry Johnson from Kingfisher Recycling Centre speak about how we can all reduce, re-use and recycle.

Old Catholic Church,
Corner of Camp Mountain Road and Samford Road, Samford.

Discuss local sustainability issues, and meet like minded people in your neighbourhood.

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

At My Place

As I make my way to work on a Tuesday morning I notice all the wheelie bins in the neighbourhood placed along the nature strip, waiting to be emptied. A number of them exceed their 240-litre capacity, the lids unable to be closed. Recyclable materials are clearly visible as the recycling bins are also filled to capacity. And this occurs week after week. The truck comes along and takes the contents. The problem has gone away... And the process starts again.

I put my recycling bin out for collection about once every three months and my general waste bin about once every four.

I put my recycling bin out for collection about once every three months and my general waste bin about once every four. I would like to reduce my waste output by as much as I can. I will outline some of the methods I use to deal with waste with some comments along the way.

In the Garden

Decomposable matter should not go to landfill. This includes vegetation, food waste, timber, paper and cardboard. Modern landfill sites exclude air and water which inhibits decomposition. Materials can remain inert for hundreds of years. Having said this, in parts which contain large amounts of moist organic matter, anaerobic decomposition can take place leading to the production of methane, a greenhouse gas 26 times more efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide. Some landfill sites tap this methane for use and justify their existence by this, but I think these materials should be diverted from the waste stream in the first place. I have never placed garden waste into my garbage bin. Everything goes back into the garden.

In the garden, the ideal situation would be to have no lawn. There would be no need to use a polluting lawn mower. The next best options would be to mow without a catcher or to use the clippings for compost or mulch. My last option would be to take the clippings to the green waste facility at a landfill site.

Waste Management

Feature Article written by
Paul May PRCAN Member



Tip: If you have kerbing and channelling along the nature strip, sweep up any grass clippings and leaves (removing any nicotine-laced, non-biodegradable cigarette butts!) to reduce the quantity being washed into watercourses. For branches and prunings I have a shredder/mulcher. I take any branches too large to shred to the green waste site at the dump to be converted to mulch.

No weed is ever wasted at my place

Weeds often grow in areas lacking in trace elements. They will seek out the tiniest amounts and bring them to the surface. It is therefore important not to lose these elements. No weed is ever wasted at my place. They are mowed or composted. **Tip:** If you are concerned about the spread of weeds you may be interested in making weed tea, an infusion of weeds in a barrel of water to make a rich organic fertiliser.

I keep a number of pets including birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. Everything from them ends up in the garden – food waste, feathers, excrement, floor coverings and ultimately the animals themselves. Most is composted or fed to worms. Bird waste is thoroughly composted in a tumbler set up (anything containing seed inevitably attracts the attention of rodents in a non-sealed situation!).

Tip: Never feed discarded birdseed to wild birds, as it is a potential source of disease transmission. Newspaper used as a floor covering is also composted when soiled. I have composted hundreds of newspapers.

Aquarium water goes straight onto the garden to water the plants. **Tip:** Never let aquarium water enter a watercourse.

On the subject of pets, since the introduction of strict rules for dog owners one positive outcome has been reduced quantities of dog faeces on our streets and footpaths. People walking their dogs can be seen carrying their plastic bags to remove the offending waste. Unfortunately this has led to more organic waste (and plastic bags!) going to landfill. Claims that these bags are biodegradable are untrue. I have tested this by placing some into compost and worm farms. After many months, long after everything else is unrecognisable, the bags are perfectly intact, the writing on them clearly readable. Paper dog-waste bags are available (though not moisture-proof!). When it comes to disposing of the waste itself, special worm farms are available for this purpose. A colleague of mine has two of them and swears by them. And he has two well-fed Rottweilers! **Tip:** Do not use the resulting compost on edible crops!

Vacuum cleaner dust is not placed into a plastic bag and thrown into the garbage, it is emptied onto the garden. **Tip:** Don't do this if you've used carpet powders or other toxic substances. I've also disposed of gyprock sheet off-cuts by breaking them up with a hammer and letting nature do the rest. The occasional road kill has also helped nourish my plants.

In the kitchen

When I've told others I put my bin out for collection every four months the response has often been one of disgust. However, no putrescibles go into my garbage. It does not smell. I have not thrown an item of food into a bin in over 20 years. This is one area in which recycling can take place in the home. I use both composting and worm farming to dispose of the ex-edibles. In addition to food scraps, eggshells, teabags and coffee grounds a number of other items can be disposed of by this method – paper towels, napkins/

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Waste Management

serviettes, cellulose sponges, wooden toothpicks, paddle pop sticks and matches, hair, finger- and toenail clippings etc. Another method, which I haven't used, is the Bokashi system. Apparently this can deal with items such as meat and seafood scraps and used tissues. May be worth a try! Tip: When composting paper towels etc, open them up instead of scrunching them up. They will decompose faster.

If I have food scraps at work I take them home to feed the worms. Food waste going to landfill either:

- 1) Doesn't decompose
- 2) Contributes to methane production, or
- 3) Feeds rodents, birds etc leading to artificially high populations.

I've often wondered how many of those calling for an ibis cull dispose of their organic waste responsibly!

Plastics

To reduce packaging, I use sealed containers for my food instead of cling wrap. I also take a drinking glass to work to avoid plastic bottles. I've often thought how inane the production of single use containers is. Plastic, glass and aluminium bottles and cans are used once and discarded. The result is a permanent reminder of a very temporary use. For the past few years I've used reusable shopping bags instead of the plastic ones supplied by the stores. Prior to this, since 1988, I've returned the plastic shopping bags to the stores for recycling. Even today it seems almost impossible to avoid them completely so I still do this (along with any other bags made from High Density Polyethylene HDPE). (These should be used at least once more before they become landfill or litter). I have heard from some sources that these are simply being dumped. I hope my efforts over the years haven't been wasted. I would appreciate some insight on this. As for "biodegradable" plastic shopping bags, I have yet to find any that really do break down.

Plastics are a problem because of their indestructibility. The "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" in the North Pacific Gyre is a result of this. An area twice

the size of Texas forms a trap for plastics from throughout the Pacific Basin. The concentration of plastics is said to be seven times that of the zooplankton. Although the plastics are broken down by photodegradation, they still remain as polymers. Millions of creatures, including whales, fish, turtles and seabirds, are impacted by ingesting this material and either choke or starve as a result. Organic pollutants are also absorbed onto the particles leading to poisoning and hormone disruption. Eighty percent of the plastics are from land-based sources. No area of the planet has escaped the impacts of plastics with even tiny sand fleas having their digestive tracts blocked by microscopic particles.

Paper

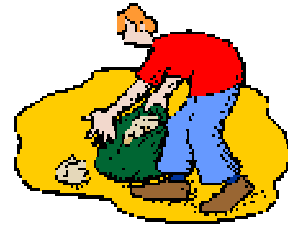
At home and at the office I collect and reuse paper that has been printed on one side. I also purchase recycled paper and print double-sided for most uses at work. At home, any items that have personal details or are too small to recycle, such as receipts, I put through a paper shredder. I also shred paper items such as can and jar labels. Shredded paper makes an excellent addition to compost and worm farms. Tip: If using a compost tumbler, add about one third shredded paper by volume to two-thirds green matter. It's on a par with untreated wood shavings. I purchase recycled paper disposable items such as kitchen towels, tissues and toilet paper.

I put steel cans into my recycling bin. Apparently most people don't

Metals

I never purchase aluminium cans. I don't believe the resources and energy that goes into making them can be justified for what they're used for. I do however collect them from work and when I find them lying around. I used to give them to an organisation that sold them as a source of funds. This has now fallen through due to the fall in commodity prices.

I put steel cans into my recycling bin. Apparently most people don't, which I think is a waste of resources. Tip: If you wish to recycle steel jar lids, bottle caps etc put them in a steel can and crush the opening so they



Now, every day has become Clean
Up Australia Day for me

won't fall out.

Clothing

I'm definitely no fashion victim. I wear my clothes until they fall apart. It would be no good me donating my used clothing to a charity shop. It's fine to do this, but remember these organisations need buyers too. My natural fibre garments (cotton, hemp, wool etc) eventually become worm food. I have disposed of many shirts, t-shirts, shorts, jeans, undergarments etc this way. They break down remarkably quickly, sometimes within weeks.

Electronic goods

Most of us have goods around the house that no longer work. They are composed of a variety of valuable metals and toxic substances. Once or twice a year, some of the local councils will host an "e-waste" collection. I hope the materials are recycled and disposed of responsibly and not sent to China, India or Nigeria to become someone else's problem. I really don't know.

For most years over the past 16 I have taken part in "Clean Up Australia Day". I have always left with some satisfaction about having contributed to a slightly cleaner environment. I am, however, always disillusioned by the fact that there should be no need for such an occasion. Those that make the mess are unlikely to be among those that clean it up. Now, every day has become Clean Up Australia Day for me. Whenever I am out and about I collect the litter I see lying around. Anything recyclable is, of course, placed in the recycling bin. Also, due to an absence of recycling facilities at my workplace, I bring a lot of items home with me. An audit of my bin contents would reveal a lot of items I do not use. Most of my garbage is, in fact, generated by others.

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Waste Management

Before I conclude this essay, may I, dear reader, bore you with a number of issues that peeve me:

- 1) Lifestyle programs and infomercials that show the cleaning out of pantries and laundry cupboards, dumping all the contents into the garbage. Not a good example to set. Apart from being a waste of resources, a step forward may be to at least throw the containers into a recycling bin and the food into a Bokashi. Also, the number of products advertised to remove offending odours from bins. No need at my place!
- 2) The lack of interest by the general public about waste disposal issues. General waste bins in public places are always full of recyclable items. Recycling bins always contain contaminants, which may compromise the recycling process. This is laziness. Tip: If going to a tip or transfer station, please separate your items

beforehand to reduce the amount going to landfill. My local tip has facilities for paper and cardboard, metals, bottles and cans, chemicals, batteries, tyres, concrete, timber, oil, garden waste, clean fill, reusable items and others. It's a step in the right direction but we still have a long way to go.

3) Excess packaging.

Clearly we generate too much waste in our society. This uses a huge amount of resources and energy. Recycling rates are going up but so are consumption rates. The system cannot cope with this excess. Recycling also uses a great deal of energy in transportation and sorting. It also often leads to "down-cycling" where the product becomes of less use than the one it was made from. I long for the day when everything is reused, recycled, biologically or chemically decomposed, used for other purposes such as fuel, or not made at all. One can only hope.

Suggested Reading:

How good are you? : Clean living in a dirty world
Lee, Julian.

The world without us
Weisman, Alan.

The ethics of what we eat
Singer, Peter

High tech trash : digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health
Grossman, Elizabeth,

What are you doing in your home, workplace, school or neighbourhood to make a difference? Please write in and tell us! Email your piece to pineriversCAN@gmail.com by the first of each month.

Green News from Australia and around the world

New Report Shows Risks of Climate Change

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, has released a new report which found that climate change is happening faster than earlier thought and the risks are more serious. Prepared by Professor Will Steffen, Executive Director of the ANU Climate Change Institute, 'Climate change 2009: Faster change and more serious risks' draws on the science of climate change since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 Fourth Assessment Report. Key findings of the report include:

- The climate system appears to be changing faster than earlier thought likely.
- The need for effective reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is urgent, to avoid the risk of crossing dangerous thresholds in the climate system.
- Once thresholds in ice sheet and carbon cycle dynamics are crossed, such processes cannot be stopped or reversed by human intervention.

To download the report, visit the Department of Climate Change website at www.climatechange.gov.au.

[Act now on climate change or pay later: expert](#)

The Climate Change Institute in Canberra has warned that Australia must think beyond the emissions trading scheme, if it wants to have an impact on global warming

[75 million to flee climate change: report](#)

A new report says climate change could produce 75 million refugees in the Asia Pacific region in the next 40 years.

[Samsung to spend \\$4bn on eco-tech](#)

Samsung Electronics, Asia's biggest producer of chips, flat-panel screens and mobile phones, announced plans to invest Won5,400bn (\$4.3bn) by 2012 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. London Financial Times, England.

A great climate change article on India and Australia
<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/global-warming/the-mucky-country-we-outsource-our-pollution-20090722-dthu.html?page=-1>

From the ACF Newsroom:

1. [Essendon vs Carlton: AFL Green Round](#)
2. [Climate change is a human rights issue](#)
3. [Call for carbon emission funds to improve ecology and health](#)
4. [Decisive climate leadership needed to unleash clean energy jobs](#)
5. [Olympic Dam expansion to blowout SA carbon targets](#)

Film Review – ¡Salud!

¡Salud!, 93 minutes, is produced and directed by Academy Award nominee Connie Field (*The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*; *Freedom on My Mind*) and co-produced by Gail Reed.

This is a joint USA-Cuban produced documentary describing the Cuban approach to healthcare provision and how it is being 'exported' to other countries. The Americans who comment on Cuban healthcare include ex-president Carter and are all supportive. I think criticisms based on the lack of freedom of choice for healthcare workers could be made.

The Cuban approach seems to be based on a decision taken after 1959 that the provision of healthcare to all was one of the most important first steps to relieving poverty in a country with a great many very poor people who had little or no access to healthcare. There has been a state led drive to train doctors and nurses in large numbers. Also there has been a decision to provide healthcare services to the people in the communities where they live. Doctors live in the slums rather than patients coming to health centres in the larger population centres. The healthcare in Cuba is community based and appears to be of a high standard, especially as the emphasis is on early diagnosis therefore allowing intervention before ill health problems have developed.

Now that Cuba has so many doctors they have been providing them to

other countries and this documentary looks at what has happened in South Africa, Honduras and Venezuela, where this model of community healthcare has been introduced using Cuban doctors and nurses. In S Africa there is a shortage of doctors generally and in poor communities in particular. This is because S African trained healthworkers can and do migrate in large numbers. Cuban healthworkers cannot migrate and many are working overseas while their families stay in Cuba. An example was shown of a Cuban doctor who had decided to stay in S Africa because of the wealthier lifestyle available, but this is rare.

In Honduras large numbers of Cubans came to assist after hurricane Mitch. Eventually the Honduran Medical Association asked that they be removed as they could not compete against free services. Later the Cubans had to be invited back.

In Venezuela there are now thousands of Cuban healthcare workers providing services in and to poor communities for the first time. Again not all Venezuelans approve of President Chavez and his policies including the decision to invite Cubans to work in Venezuela.

In Cuba training is free and open to all

who are selected. However there is the expectation that once trained the healthcare workers will work for the state at very low salaries (about US\$30 per month) in the locations to which they are directed. What would happen if Cubans were allowed to migrate to better jobs overseas as happens in all liberal democracies? Do the benefits to all outweigh the restrictions on the few? Can the interventions of the rich nations in the healthcare problems of the Third World be compared at all favourably with the achievements of Cuba? Does Western development aid help or hinder?

Reviewed by Andrew Craig
PR CAN Supporter

Editor's Additional Notes:

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Global Footprint Network's 2006 report, *Living Planet*, revealed that Cuba was the only country on the planet to have achieved sustainable development. Cuba's rating was based on the fact that it is the only country in the world that has a high level of social development, including good health and education systems, and does not use up more resources than is sustainable. Cuba's achievements are all the more extraordinary because the country, already very poor, has pulled this off in despite the five-decade-long US economic blockade.

Samford Local Growers



Samford Local Growers proved the popularity of locally grown produce at the August Samford Church Yard markets. Fresh fruit, vegetables and

eggs were on sale to the public and generated a lot of interest. Do you have excess garden produce? Contact Peter (number below) to discuss contributing to our monthly market stall. Samford Local Growers are reducing our local carbon footprint, one backyard at a time!

Reduce your food miles and swap, buy and trade garden produce grown in your backyard. No space to grow your own food but you want to buy fresh local produce? Samford Local Growers meets every second weekend in Samford. For more information 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=>



Upcoming Events

August 24-30, 2009	<u>Keep Australia Beautiful Week</u>
September, 2009	<u>Biodiversity Month</u>
September 1, 2009	<u>Wattle Day</u>
September 7, 2009	<u>National Threatened Species Day</u>
September 7-13, 2009	<u>National Landcare Week</u>
September 13, 2009	<u>National Bilby Day</u>
September 22, 2009	<u>World Car-Free Day</u>

Sustainability Day

Hillbrook Anglican School is hosting a community Environmental Expo featuring:

- 76 Green businesses and organizations showcased
- Two speakers programmes featuring 16 presenters who are experts in their field of sustainability
- 16 Foodstalls selling locally grown/sourced/ homecooked food served in an eco-manner
- Recycling initiatives on the day to encourage patrons to bring along all their unwanted garden plastic pots, unwanted bicycles and parts and unwanted computers/e- waste.
- Free entertainment and activities for the kids.
- Photography competition on nature themes
- Come and learn about water and energy saving ideas, transport alternatives, sustainable waste options, sustainable gardening practices and much more.

Free entry and generous prizes to be given away by many stallholders.

When: Saturday 22 August, from 10am - 4pm

Where: 45 Hudcotte St. Enoggera

Kate Jones, MP, Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability and Arch Bevis, Federal Member for Brisbane are opening the event at 10am. 76 market stalls attending, including Brisbane Organic Growers, Transition Towns, Green Street, Ecomotion, Brisbane Energy Audits, BrisLETS, Blissecowear, CityFood Growers, Food Connect, Samford Local Growers, Environmentally Sustainable Initiatives, Buyequip, Sizzling Solar Systems, The Green Paint Shop, [Pine Rivers Climate Action Network](#) and many more. Annette McFarlane, ABC gardening presenter will be available to give free advice.

For more detailed program information, contact Marilena Stanton, Event Coordinator on 0404 010 475 or check out the school website www.hillbrook.qld.edu.au and follow the Sustainability Day link.

Moreton Bay Region Sustainable Living Expo

This year's theme for the Moreton Bay Region Sustainable Living Expo 2009 is the "Future of Food" and is on Saturday August 22. Speakers and workshop presenters will provide informative talks on different aspects of food sustainability for people and the environment. Over 100 exhibitors will showcase sustainable products, the dedicated work of local community groups and environmental initiatives by various levels of Government. A variety of food and entertainment will be provided for all ages.

The Moreton Bay Region Sustainable Living Expo is an Annual event run by the local not-for-profit, Friends of CREEC (Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre) and is the largest "green" expo of its kind in the Moreton Bay Region, with attendance in 2008 estimated between 4000 and 5000. Parking is available on site at 150 Rowley Rd, Burpengary or take the FREE bus running regularly throughout the day from Burpengary train station.

Entry is \$2 for Adults, Children under 12, free.

Kumbartcho Festival

When Sunday, August 30, 2009, 11:00am - 3pm

Where Kumbartcho Sanctuary,
15 Bunya Pine Court, Eatons Hill, QLD

Join us for this FREE family fun day! Climb the rock climbing wall, see the Radical Reptiles Show, get your face painted and enjoy art and music plus much more! Pine Rivers CAN will be there too.

Proudly Sponsored by Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Queensland State Government

Pine Rivers CAN Newsletter

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-ordinator (Temp)
Rebecca Stowe
Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
Howard Nielsen
Solar Neighbourhoods Co-ordinator
Lesley Hughes
IT Support (assisted by Jason Spotswood, Ross Gibbons)

PR CAN meets on the third Thursday of every month. The August meeting will be held at the Old Catholic Church, corner of Camp Mountain Rd and Samford Rd, Samford. 7pm start. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a plate of food to share.

"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...

Everyone who came to the Samford Church Yard Markets on Saturday 8 August to support the Samford Local Growers. Please look out for us again on Saturday 12th September with this great initiative to reduce food miles and enjoy healthy delicious locally grown food.

Green School News...

Earth Charter

Check this out today for a great discussion starter for upper primary and high school students. Visit the website to learn more.

Environmental grants on offer

Information on environmental grants offered during Semester 2 is now available on the Environmental Education for Sustainability website. The grants

are offered by a range of government and corporate organisations in Queensland and nationally. Schools considering projects as part of the 2010 Year of Environmental Sustainability in schools activities may wish to apply for these grants.

www.education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning/sustainability.html

Weekly Green Hints for School Newsletters

As part of the Sustainable Schools Project being developed by Pine Rivers CAN, schools will receive a data base of "Green Hints" suitable for use in their regular school newsletter.

Contact Kirsten Kennedy at PR CAN on (07) 3889 1634 or by email to pineriversCAN@gmail.com to register your school.

There's a very exciting project brewing in Samford.

The Samford Green Streets project is designed to get Samford householders involved in a neighbourly process of becoming more sustainable in the way we live.

The Green Street website (www.greenstreet.net.au) will help people to enter the whole process and get started. It is user friendly, even to those not all that familiar with computers.

The website shows people how sustainable they already are and lets them know what else could be done. Most people find they act more sustainably than they think they do!

There are incentive prizes for households and streets that do extra well in becoming more sustainable so there's a bit of competitive fun involved.

What's more, the whole thing is free!



Starting off a Samford Green Street
You can kick off right now by going to www.greenstreet.net.au and following the prompts.

If you want you can get friends and neighbours involved so that you have a good chance of landing some of the prizes that are on offer to streets that do well on a month by month basis.

Quite a few Samford residents have already nominated themselves as 'Green Street Starters' - people who are keen to be amongst the first in and to also get their neighbours involved. If you'd like to be a Green Street Starter and really help Samford to become more sustainable just contact us as below.

Who's handling the Samford Green

Street project?

Samford Green Streets is being coordinated locally by the Pine Rivers Climate Action Network (PRCAN) and has been endorsed and supported by the Samford Progress and Protection Association. Many other organizations, schools and businesses are expected to come on board for what is truly a community project for all who have aspirations for a sustainable world.

Green Street is a project initiated as a not-for-profit community activity on a wide scale by Howard Nielsen's NAC Consulting company and Caboodle Web, both local Samford businesses.

Wick Adams is acting in a shared coordinating role for the Samford Green Streets project so please contact her on 3289 2170 or wickrob@bigpond.com to find out more. Howard Nielsen, who is the national Green Streets facilitator, is also accessible on 0407 190162 or howard@greenstreet.net.au.