

STEPS FOR POSITIVE ACTION

- Recommended reading is Climate Code Red (see book review in this issue).
- Bring one action/suggestion to our July meeting that you are implementing in your household/workplace that you would like to share with others

"How Many Light Bulbs Does It Take To Change A Consciousness?"

Just *one*, in *your* household, today.

It may seem like a small step to take when we consider the bigger picture and the happenings in the world around us. Rapid economic progress in developing countries, soaring oil prices, population growth at unsustainable levels, and climate related natural disasters are now regular features on nightly news, current affairs programs and other mainstream mass media avenues. Amidst all of this doom and gloom, how can individuals make a difference? The answer lies in the future. Not just future generations, but our own futures too. How we react to what lies around the corner depends on the actions we take today. Making small changes in our lives today towards more sustainable living is essential for adapting to the big challenges which are inevitable in the years to come.

Declining oil stocks leading to petrol rationing, soaring electricity prices, food shortages due to droughts and severe weather events are all very real possibilities in our lifetime. But easing ourselves into small to mid level lifestyle changes now rather than later will help us "acclimatise", so to speak, to a future less processed by big business and less reliant on fossil fuels. If we give up and say it is all too hard when it seems no one else is making an effort so why should we, what

sort of future do our children face on this planet? Pine Rivers CAN is committed to spreading the word about more sustainable living, with practical actions that households, businesses and schools can take TODAY. When these small steps gain a foothold in the collective consciousness of a community, we can achieve great things (like our amazing Solar Neighbourhood Scheme) and be in the right mindset to accept bigger challenges ahead.

So remember that by being connected to our network, being open to change, and believing that individuals *can* make a difference, you are part of that bigger picture where there are many other individuals, communities and even governments that are all headed in the same direction for a brighter future. There are so many great stories that have been in the media in the last month, that I hope you can take heart from our features in this month's newsletter and see the positives and potential springing up all around us.

Yours in hope for a greener future,

Kirsten Kennedy

Co-Chair,
Pine Rivers Climate Action
Network

In the Community

National
Tree Day
PLANET ARK



27 July – National Tree Day

Get involved in Australia's largest community tree planting event! Last year 290,000 volunteers took part in National Tree Day events all over Australia. This year make sure to Get Growing with Planet Ark by registering your own site for National Tree Day on July 27 (Schools Tree Day is July 25) or helping out at a site near you.

For details on local planting sites (Samford, Warner, Eatons Hill, Ferny Grove) see our website

www.pineriverscan.org/page4.htm

To find out more about how to get involved on the day phone 1300 885 000 or visit treeday.planetark.com

"Bumper" Electric Car Special Issue

A Little History of Electric Cars (Did you know?)	Page 2
New Toyota Hybrids (ACF)	Page 3
Electric Car Dreaming (Lila Parry)	Page 4



Image courtesy of Crikey.com.au

Did You Know?....

Between 1832 and 1839 (the exact year is uncertain); Robert Anderson of Scotland invented the first crude electric carriage. A small-scale electric car was designed by Professor Stratingh of Groningen, Holland, and built by his assistant Christopher Becker in 1835. Practical and more successful electric road vehicles were invented by both American Thomas Davenport and Scotsman Robert Davidson around 1842. Both inventors were the first to use non-rechargeable electric cells. Frenchman Gaston Plante invented a better storage battery in 1865 and his fellow countryman Camille Faure improved the storage battery in 1881. This improved-capacity storage battery paved the way for electric vehicles to flourish.

France and Great Britain were the first nations to support the widespread development of electric vehicles in the late 1800s. In 1899, a Belgian-built electric racing car called "La Jamais Contente" set a world record for land speed - 68 mph - designed by Camille Jénatzy.

For more information on the history of electric cars, visit <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aacarselectrica.htm>
Thanks to Shaun Williams for this reference.

For an inspiring story of one Brisbane man's commitment to emission free transport, see Shaun William's conversion of a Toyota Echo into a fully electric vehicle at: <http://electric-echo.com/index.htm>



1902 Wood's Electric Phaeton

PINE RIVERS CAN JULY MEETING

Come along to the July meeting for Pine Rivers CAN and hear more about Greener Transport Options.

Time: 7pm start

Wednesday 16th July 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

FACT: Every litre of petrol saved cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 2.8 kilograms, saving you at least \$1 plus vehicle wear & tear.

If you just can't wait for the car companies to commit to greener transport options, you can do your bit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by putting these strategies into action for July.

- Think ahead about trips you have to make. Try to combine several tasks so that you only have to go out once, as several short trips use more petrol and make your car work harder.
- Don't drive with unnecessary items in your boot. Extra weight, unused roof racks and flat tyres, create extra drag and reduce fuel efficiency. Correct tyre pressure not only increases your fuel efficiency, but also extends the life of your tyres and helps reduce landfill every year.
- Give a friend or neighbour a lift to work, school or do your shopping together. Carpooling is an effective way to cut rising petrol costs and curb greenhouse gas emissions.
- Give your car a break and use public transport, cycle, walk to work or work from home occasionally. You will reduce fuel and parking costs, get fit, lower driving stress and reduce traffic on our roads. A win for everyone!

For these hints on travelling greener and other everyday actions, visit our website www.pineriversCAN.org.

Got some great green travel hints of your own? Come and share them at the next meeting for PR CAN on Wed 16th July

Tickets Still Available – Don't Miss Out!

Don't forget to buy your tickets for a chance to win this lovely time piece.

Valued at \$450 the Citizen Eco-Drive ladies watch uses a revolutionary design to ensure you will never have to change a watch battery again!

www.citizenwatches.com.au

Tickets just \$2

Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 16th July 2008 at the Pine Rivers CAN meeting.



Hybrid cars in Australia a good first step in a new direction for transport



AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

ACF has welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd that Toyota will start building hybrid petrol-electric cars in Australia from 2010.

“The announcement about building cleaner cars here in Australia is important,” said ACF executive director Don Henry.

“We also need strong fuel efficiency standards and massive government investment in public transport to move us away from our dependence on imported oil.

“Australia needs to make big cuts to our greenhouse pollution and face up to the reality of increasingly expensive oil.

“[The government’s] announcement is a good first step – let’s retool our motor vehicle manufacturing industry to produce cleaner cars.

“Second, all Australian-made cars should meet mandatory fuel efficiency standards, equivalent to those already in Europe, to make our cars run cleaner and ease family budgets because we would be using less petrol to get from point A to point B.

“Third, we need to massively increase investment in public transport to reduce our reliance on cars and give people, particularly low income households, better transport choices.

“Federal funding for public transport and rail can help us move to a cleaner, safer, more productive and sustainable Australia,” he said.

www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=1768

Samford Solar Neighbourhood

Thank you to all of the PR CAN supporters who have taken a stance and made their voice heard in relation to the introduction of means testing for the solar rebate. Emails, letters and phone calls from PR CAN supporters have kept our politicians busy and informed them of the Samford Valley Solar Neighbourhood Scheme and the high level of interest in **AFFORDABLE** renewable energy options for householders.

If you haven’t made your voice heard, we strongly urge you to do so in the lead up to a **Senate Inquiry** that has been called for in response to the huge public outcry against the introduction of the means testing.

Comments have been invited on the impact from concerned groups and individuals on how the Budget measure will hurt the environment. Families or people who were considering installing solar panels prior to the means test should also consider making submissions. Solar panel manufacturers, distributors and retailers can also provide examples on how the means test is hurting their businesses and costing jobs.

Submissions to the inquiry are being taken now. Inquiry hearings will be held in capital cities in late July and early August. Companies and individuals hit by the \$100,000 means test will have the opportunity to provide oral evidence in addition to written submissions.

The Senate Committee is seeking written submissions from interested individuals and organisations preferably in electronic form sent by email to: eca.sen@aph.gov.au.

The email must include full postal address and contact details. The committee would prefer submissions by 21 July 2008. The Senate inquiry is due to report by 15 August.

Terms of reference and further information about the inquiry can be found at www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/eca_ct/solar_rebate/index.htm

Kirsten Kennedy

Co-Chair,
Pine Rivers Climate Action Network
pineriversCAN@gmail.com



You can also join Channel 7’s Sunrise Team and the nation in saying no to means testing the solar rebate. Go online and put your name to the 7 Sunrise team’s petition against the means test.

sunrisefamily.com.au/current/petition/index.php

GARNAUT REVIEW – WHAT IS THAT ALL ABOUT?

Due to space restrictions in this issue and publication deadlines, we have had to hold off until the August edition of our newsletter to bring you the details on The Garnaut Climate Change Review Draft Report which was released on Friday 4 July. There is plenty of media coverage of the early directions and findings of the review, so please take some time to check it out and let us know your opinions for publication in the August edition of our newsletter by emailing us at pineriversCAN@gmail.com.

Stay tuned ...

Member's Section

Electric Car Dreaming

My husband rues the day he bought me the award winning documentary "Who Killed the Electric Car?" because I will not stop banging on about it. He begged me to stop "at least for the weekend," so I turn to you, dear reader. I trust you'd be interested to know about an emission-free, quiet car that could have travelled 480 km, averaging 110kmph and costing one hour's electric charge?

General Motors had them, crushed them and replaced them with the Hummer.

Now, I don't want to drone on about company conspiracies (although I'd love to) and vested interests manipulating the market, but by way of illustration, I'd like to mention a documented account of company conspiracy that killed the electric tram system in most cities of America.

General Motors systematically bought up the trams and replaced them with General Motors' buses, using Firestone Tyres and burning Phillips Oil in the east and Standard Oil in the west.

In 1947 the Federal Government convicted General Motors and its partners of Criminal Conspiracy and fined them \$5,000 and its key official who orchestrated the operation, \$1.00. My library fines are more than a dollar. Note: not one Opus Dei albino monk anywhere.

General Motors' electric vehicle (the EV1, 1996-2006) was also destroyed through conspiring interests, along with other electric cars that have dared to show their heads in the Oil Age.

"Who Killed the Electric Car" tells the story of those who developed the EV1, those who tried to save it and those who sought to destroy it. It's a cautionary tale but it ends with energizing optimism because this time technology has to change.

This oil crisis is not like the oil embargo of the 1970s – this time the price of oil is going to keep climbing with its insatiable demand and global warming is coming up



the drive like an unwanted guest who won't go away.

It's hard to believe that 100 years ago there were more electric cars around than petrol cars. Even hybrids were around 100 years ago and amazingly, an electric car as far back as 1834. You don't believe me, but Google electric car history and prepare to be amazed.

The electric car got left in the dust when the automatic starter was invented (tad easier than the crank), oil became cheap and mass production made petrol vehicles a much cheaper option than electric.

Present day high-performing electric cars like the Tesla Roadster are not in mass production and so are not cheap (\$150,000) except they only cost 2 cents a mile to run. (www.teslamotors.com)

The electric car's biggest challenge (apart from competition with old technology) is with the range of the battery.

Battery technology is evolving rapidly however and has come a long way from the short range and heavy, lead acid batteries.

EV1 designer, A Cocconi refers to a battery like those in laptop computers that can go "300miles (483km) on one charge, running about 70mph (110kmph)." Recharging would take about an hour.

There is one cheap electric car, a US designed, Indian made, two-door hatch-back city car, with a top speed of 65kmph and an 80km range, called the Reva.

Adrian Ferraretto, general manager of The Solar Shop in Adelaide tried to start a dealership, but was knocked back by Australia's Design Rules.

Green's Senator, Christine Milne, tried to trial the Reva in Perth but was frustrated by safety regulations despite the car being approved for driving in the US, Japan and the UK. How has the motorbike been approved for safety?

Even if there were mass-produced, family-friendly, all-range electric vehicles ready to be imported, *the law currently states that it is illegal to import and register zero emission electric vehicles* (scooters excepted). How mad is that?

We may not be able to import electric cars yet, but we can import the components to convert a petrol car to electric at a cost of about \$15,000.

Shaun Williams of Mt Gravatt valiantly converted his Toyota Echo (www.electric-echo.com) and now zips around Brisbane emission free, recharging it at night on Green Power. The conversion looks like a Herculean task and daunting for one who only vaguely remembers how to change a tyre.

It's regrettable that 90% of Australia's power is coal-fired and it's this that creates a problem for recharging an 'emission-free' electric vehicle.

Enthusiasts like Shaun stress Green Power and other renewable energy sources. AEVA (Australian Electric Vehicle Association) also point out that off-peak power doesn't 'down-regulate' because it isn't cost efficient, so off-peak power is 'dissipated' if not used. Also, couldn't you just turn off the fridge and stuff for a couple of hours while recharging? I don't hear those recharging critics complaining about the sale of electric ovens or clothes dryers ...

Now for the dreaming - imagine if Australia had its own, grass-roots funded, clean green quiet electric car, (preferably with auto-pilot) called The Davo, in recognition of the David and Goliath battle to create it.

As David Freeman, veteran Energy Adviser, says in the documentary - "We're up against most of the money in the world. We're up against the oil industry, the automobile industry. It's David versus Goliath in a very big way, but if there are enough Davids in the world, we can win."

So, *Go the Davo!*

Lila Parry
PR CAN Member

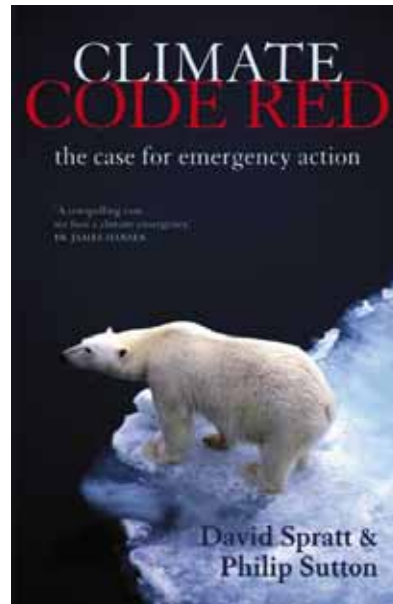


BOOK REVIEW

I had the privilege to be invited to read and comment on the draft version of this amazing new book earlier this year, and am now pleased to see it will soon be published in paperback. Climate Code Red has been available as an online publication for some months and I urge you to visit the website below or order a hard copy which is available now due to outstanding reviews. I highly recommend this book for the very latest on the climate crisis and how it will affect us all. Please see below for how well the publication has been received in Australia and overseas, and where you can get your copy. Editor

"Climate Code Red" is a superb, visionary blueprint for development in a new century which tackles the tough questions of how humanity can, in practice, rapidly secure a sustainable future. But it is also a work in progress, a draft strategy, which is primed to be shaped and developed by those who step up to meet the challenge we all now face."-- Professor Barry W. Brook, Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change, Director, Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability, The University of Adelaide

Climate policy is characterised by the habituation of low expectations and a culture of failure. There is an urgent need to understand global warming and the tipping points for dangerous impacts that we have already crossed as a sustainability emergency that takes us beyond the politics of failure-inducing



compromise. We are now in a race between climate tipping points and political tipping points.

More: www.climatecodedred.net

www.readings.com.au/product/9781921372209/climate-code-red-the-case-for-emergency-action

www.leebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=display_book.asp&bookId=30194

Acclaim for Climate Code Red

'This is a frightening but clear-eyed, well-informed, and sober consideration of the weight of evidence and argument on the imminent and quite possibly cataclysmic impacts of climate change. It is a wake-up call and antidote to the sanitised reporting on the state of the planet and global warming. As a social and environmental psychologist reader, this critical overview is impressive, comprehensive, and convincing.' -- Dr Joseph Retter

'... a compelling case for recognising, as the UN secretary-general has said, that we face a climate emergency.' -- Dr James Hansen, director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Institute for Space Studies

'Climate Code Red applies an uncommon degree of common-sense to the latest climate science, and is a well-researched basis for building a truly meaningful response. It makes it abundantly clear that greenhouse-gas emissions have to stop entirely, and that even this must sit in a larger plan to manage our destabilised earth-atmosphere system.' -- Tim Helweg-Larsen, Director, Public Interest Research Centre, UK

'David Spratt and Philip Sutton have provided a valuable and sobering contribution to the policy challenge of climate change at a pivotal moment, with their key insight that the expectation of failure has become the norm in climate policy. Climate Code Red is a significant contribution which should be read by anyone seriously contemplating how to set greenhouse emission-reduction targets.' -- Senator Christine Milne, Australian Greens Party

More... www.climatecodedred.net/people.html

CLIMATE CODE RED: the case for emergency action by David Spratt & Philip Sutton / Scribe Publications 320 pages, paperback, ISBN (13): 9781921372209 RRP: \$27.95

WATCH THE NEWS FOR THIS EVENT

The Camp for Climate Action will be six inspiring days of workshops, sustainable living and grassroots direct action aimed at stopping the expansion of the world's biggest coal port in Newcastle, from July 10-15th. Climate Camp will culminate in a peaceful direct action on Sunday July 13th at the Carrington coal terminal, where hundreds of people will walk onto

the coal rail line and stop coal exports in their tracks.

How to get to Climate Camp – Wickham Park

The Camp for Climate Action will be on public land at Wickham Park, on the



corner of Maitland Road and Albert Street, Wickham. It has toilets, showers, plenty of space, and soon:

Continued from previous page

hundreds of people, tents, marquees, solar panels and a healthy dose of community climate action. It's just a few hundred metres from Hamilton train station, close to facilities and the Newcastle CBD. Check out the website for directions to the Climate Camp site.

The Camp for Climate Action Program

There are scores of fantastic forums, workshops and hands-on activities organised throughout the Camp for Climate Action. The program includes forums on climate issues such as just transition from a coal economy to a renewable energy future and workshops on refugees and climate justice; a program of kids' activities; hands-on workshops on renewable energy and creative street theatre; and workshops that share skills and build networks for community climate action. Importantly, the program includes workshops to prepare for the inspiring day of action on Sunday July 13th.

Why come to the Camp for Climate Action?

Derek Povel from Clean Energy for Eternity, a community climate action group in Bega, says: "The magnitude and detail of Australia's response will be revealed by the Federal government in the coming months, now is the time to demonstrate your concerns and Climate Camp is ideally timed for maximum impact. See you there."

Peter Kennedy, Hunter Valley coal miner: "I will be at climate camp speaking out against the forever growing cancer called coal mining. We need to be putting pressure on our state and federal leaders to help stop this insatiable demand for coal and move towards green energy. See you at the Camp!"

Anne Hodgson, Senior Manager of a disability service in the Newcastle region, says: "We have a small window of opportunity to make changes to the way we live in order to avert a tragedy, the extent of which this world has never known before. I am going to Climate Camp to demonstrate my commitment to change."

Michael Costa, NSW Treasurer, on the Camp for Climate Action in the NSW Legislative Council on 18th June 2008: "The camp will be held over six days from 10 to 15 July in Newcastle, conducting inspiring workshops and direct action aimed at shutting down the world's largest coal port in Newcastle, just north of Sydney."

Tired of hot air and want to take real action against climate change?

Gather your friends, neighbours, community group, and family and join hundreds of people at the Camp for Climate Action. The Camp for Climate Action is a chance for everyday people to take action for a future free of dangerous climate change. By being a part of it – in Newcastle next week, at the coalface of climate change - you can be part of the transition to a just and sustainable future.

Holly Creenaune and the Climate Camp Organising Collective

www.climatecamp.org.au

info@climatecamp.org.au

(02) 4926 1614 / 0417 682 541

Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

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PR CAN CORE WORKING GROUP:

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*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.

Thanks to **Pine Rivers Catchment Association** and **the Rotary Club of Pine Rivers Daybreak** for inviting PR CAN along to their recent gatherings to learn more about climate change issues and the actions we can take towards a more sustainable future.

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