



Benalla Sustainable Future Group

Newsletter 11
August 2015

Benalla Sustainable
Future Group Inc.
PO Box 642
Benalla 3672

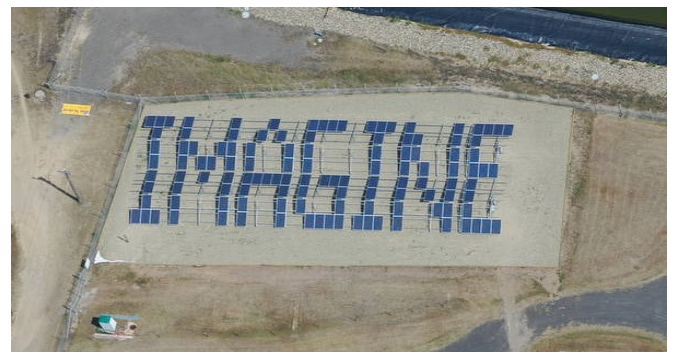
Annual General Meeting

The next meeting of Benalla Sustainable Future Group will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held on

**Thursday 27th August at 7:30 pm
in the Uniting Church.**

The guest speaker will be Dr Nicholas Aberle, the Safe Climate Campaign Manager for Environment Victoria. Dr Aberle will be speaking about the latest report from Environment Victoria, '6 Steps to Climate Leadership: The path to a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous Victoria'.

Since winning the state election eight months ago the Andrews Government has repeatedly said it intends to make Victoria a leader on climate change. This report looks at some of the leadership being shown by sub-national governments around the world and outlines the six steps to climate leadership that Environment Victoria believes need to happen if Victoria is to become a climate leader.



President's Column

When I came across this photo of Australia's first community-owned solar farm at Tathra on the NSW far South Coast I immediately thought that the message spelt out by the solar panels should be the focus of my column for this newsletter. The 30kW solar farm is an initiative of community climate action group Clean Energy for Eternity, Inc. and consists of 120 panels of 250W capacity arranged to form the word IMAGINE.

What better theme could I have?

Imagine - Clean energy for eternity!

Unfortunately in Australia at the moment it is hard to imagine that this could happen with our current Federal Government led by 'yesterday's people' rather than by forward thinking 21st Century leaders.

Imagine if we had a Prime Minister who understood the real dangers of climate change both globally, and for Australia, and was committed to taking real action to minimise the impact of global warming.

Imagine if we had a Prime Minister who took notice of the scientific evidence of global warming rather than relying on ideology and the 'spin' of the coal industry.

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed." - Mahatma Gandhi

Imagine if we had a Prime Minister who actively supported renewable energy rather than one who believes "Coal is good for humanity" and who says that he would have liked to reduce the Renewable Energy Target even further but the Senate blocked him from doing that.

Imagine if we had a government that valued the work of the Australian Renewable Energy Authority (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) rather than trying to close them down.

Imagine - Sophie Mirabella turning Green!!

Now that is hard to imagine but as reported in the *Benalla Ensign* on 5th August, (and on Sophie Mirabella's website), Sophie has spoken with Environment Minister Greg Hunt about encouraging local renewable energy projects in Indi. This is hypocrisy at its worst because the political party she represents has tried very hard to remove the Renewable Energy Target.

Sophie has also spoken to Finance Minister Mathias Cormann about the possibility of Clean Energy Finance Corporation assistance with funding for such a project. Once again this is hypocrisy at its worst because the Abbott government has tried twice to abolish this statutory body. Failing to do this it has imposed restrictions on its operation (see following article).

Has Sophie had a change of heart, or is this just **greenwash** to help her get votes, in her attempt to win back the federal seat of Indi.

The Abbott Government's War on Renewable Energy

The Abbott government has opened up another front in its war on renewable energy by 'pulling the plug' on solar energy investments. Not only has it directed the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to stop funding wind energy projects, it has also put a stop to solar investments other than industrial-scale projects.

The editorial in *The Age* on July 14th headed, **Abbott's wonky meddling in CEFC**, had this to say about the Abbott government:

'You might think a government that espouses free market ideals, innovation and modernisation would embrace the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and its efforts to identify commercially viable, sustainable energy technologies. But when it comes to the Abbott government you would be very wrong.

It is led by a prime minister who hails coal as "good for humanity" and "essential for the prosperity of the world", and who blithely suggests wind turbines are "visually awful", noisy and somehow unhealthy - though there is not a scintilla of evidence to support it.

And there, backing up Abbott, is a menagerie of ministers and a barrow-load of backbenchers who are too miserably timid to contradict the voodoo nonsense their leader espouses. What would it take for one of them to speak the truth, to cite the comprehensive science that shows carbon emissions are having a dramatic and potentially dire effect on our climate?'

The editorial details how the Abbott government has sharply curtailed the work of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. The corporation was set up to provide funding for renewable forms of energy however the Abbott government viewed it as an addendum to the carbon tax and tried to abolish it, but they were blocked by the Senate. The government has now deliberately reset the rules to make the agency's work almost impractical. It has done this in two ways.

First it changed the corporation's investment mandate so that it must now achieve a much higher rate of return without taking on more risk in the projects it backs. CEFC directors told the government that such a goal would be outside the scope of normal market practice.

The second rule change specifically bars the corporation from investing in wind farms of all sizes and small scale solar and specifically directs it away from 'mature and established' clean energy technologies.

The Age says, "This is high-handed and irrational ideological interference by the government. Combined with the demand for the CEFC to hit a higher return on investments, it represents a deliberate attempt to curb the agency's activities."

"The CEFC should be freed of this government's unscientific meddling. The success or otherwise of clean energy technologies should be determined not by politicians' bizarre and emotive diatribes but by reference to their energy efficiency, low rate of emissions, renewable capacity and by their commerciality - as the legislation dictates."

Imagine - Clean energy for Eternity!

John Lloyd

Renewables good or bad is the wrong debate

David Blowers and Cameron Chisholm from the Grattan Institute, writing in *The Age* on 23/7/2015 say, "The fight over renewables is not the fight we should be having."

"Public debate is essential to democracy, but the debate around renewable energy has become so toxic, so heavily politicised, that it is taking attention away from the main game: what is the most effective and least painful way to tackle climate change?"

The authors say that for Australia to play its part in limiting global temperature increase to 2 degrees, our economy must be largely decarbonised by 2050. They argue that this transition is likely to be far from painless and that we should be debating how to reduce our emissions at least cost, rather than the current political obsession on the good versus the bad of renewable energy. They emphasise that any policy that will drive emissions down to the extent that is needed will be more expensive than business as usual, and, lost in the toxic debate around a carbon tax is the fact that the current government's emissions reduction policy also imposes a cost on society.

In conclusion, Blowers and Chisholm state, "Australia needs a sensible, bipartisan emissions reduction policy that can achieve our emissions reduction targets at least cost, a policy that is explained clearly to the country. It is time to end the current damaging debate - renewables are good versus renewables are bad - and get honest with the public about what tackling climate change really means."

Scientists Warn Global Temperatures Hit Critical Point

As 2015 shapes up to be the [hottest year on record](#), scientists warn the world could be halfway towards

surpassing countries' self-set red line of 2C temperature rise.

New research commissioned by [New Scientist](#) (and reported in EcoWatch, by Tierney Smith, 31/7/2015) shows that four out of the five major surface temperature records are set to pass the 1 degree C point this year, measured from the 1850-1899 average.

At 1 degree [climate change](#) is already affecting the [world's poorest and most vulnerable populations](#). Global warming brings escalating sea level rise and more intense and volatile weather extremes.

Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns already increase [heat-related illnesses](#), enhance the spread of disease, reduce crop yields and threaten access to clean water and could result in forced migration, conflict and social disruption.

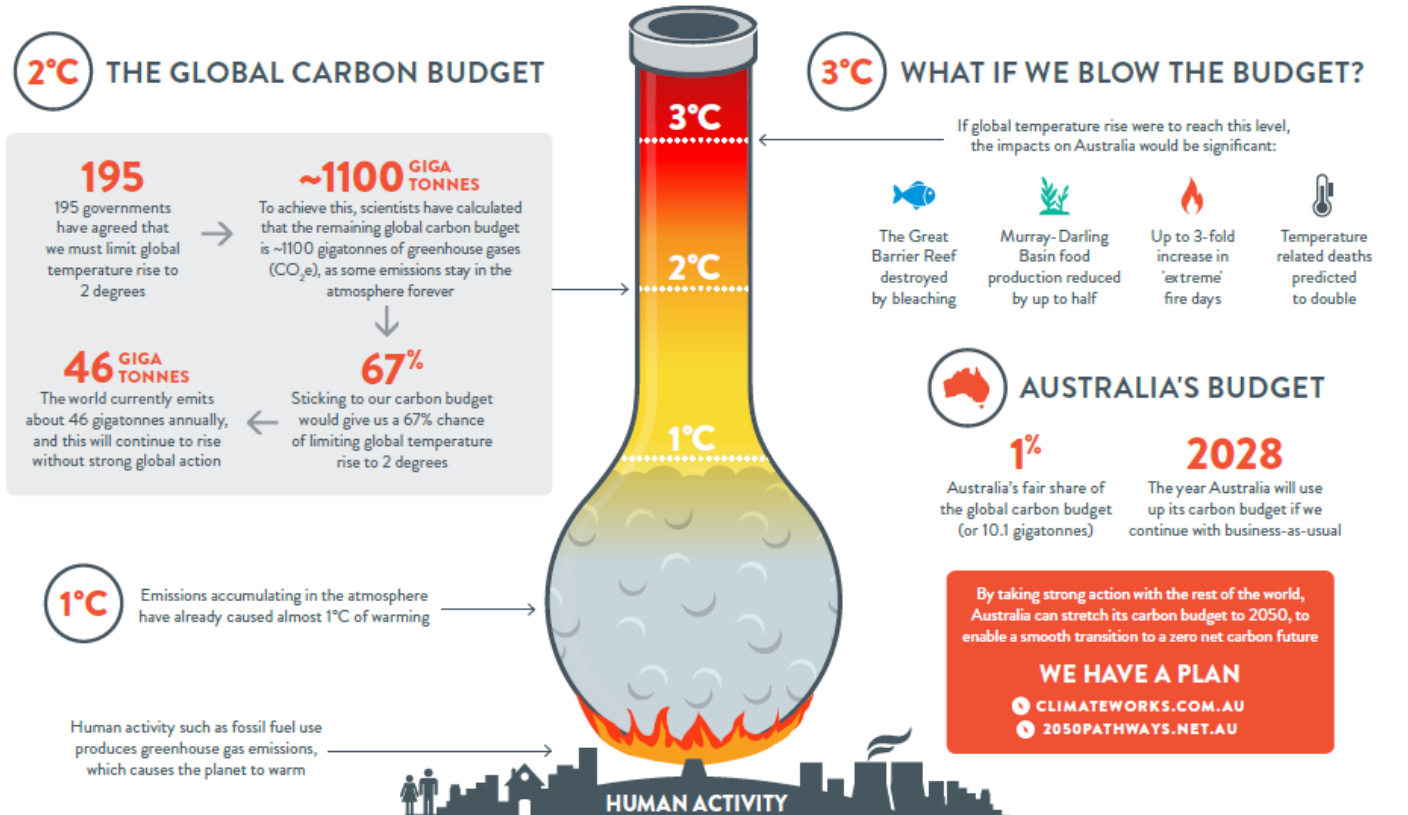
2014 was the [hottest year](#) since records began. Now with an El Nino underway and predicted to intensify, it looks as if the global average surface temperature could jump by around 0.1 degrees in just one year.

And, 2015 is '[shaping up to smash the old record](#).' This latest research underscores the urgency for governments to act.

THE CARBON BUDGET



The carbon budget is the finite amount of greenhouse gases we can emit to limit global temperature rise to 2°C



World Bank Disagrees with our Prime Minister

Suzanne Goldenberg writing in *The Guardian*, 30/7/2015, (*World Bank rejects energy industry notion that coal can cure poverty*) reports that the World Bank said coal was no cure for global poverty, rejecting a main industry argument for building new fossil fuel projects in developing countries.

In a rebuff to coal, oil and gas companies, Rachel Kate, the World Bank climate change envoy, said continued use of coal was exacting a heavy cost on some of the world's poorest countries, in local health impacts as well as climate change, which is imposing even graver consequences on the developing world.

Rachel Kate, speaking at an event in Washington said, "In general globally we need to wean ourselves off coal. There is a huge social cost to coal and a huge social cost to fossil fuels ... if you want to be able to breathe clean air."

Coal, oil and gas companies have pushed back against efforts to fight climate change by arguing fossil fuels are a cure to "energy poverty", which is holding back developing countries. This is the argument taken up by Tony Abbott when he states that "Coal is good for humanity!"

Kate said that when it came to lifting countries out of poverty, coal was part of the problem – and not part of a broader solution. "We need to extend access to energy to the poor and we need to do it the cleanest way possible because the social costs of coal are uncounted and damaging, just as the global emissions count is damaging as well."

The World Bank sees climate change as a driver of poverty, threatening decades of development and has strongly backed efforts to reach a deal in Paris at the end of the year that would limit warming to a rise of 2 degrees.

However, Kate said even that deal would not do enough to avoid severe consequences for some of the world's poorest countries. "Two degrees is not benign," she said. "It is where we put the line in the sand."

Fossil fuel companies have pushed back against the notion that climate change is a driver of poverty, arguing instead that the low global prices for coal and oil are a benefit for poor countries.

The World Bank stopped funding new coal projects except in 'rare circumstances' three years ago after the US, Britain and the Netherlands opposed its decision to finance a new coal-fired power plant in South Africa.

Swanpool Environmental Film Festival 2015 Saturday 13th June

The 2015 event was another resounding success with over 160 people in attendance. The speakers and the films were of a high standard and this year music presented during the dinner break was a much appreciated innovation.



Our sincere thanks to our guest speakers Fiona Armstrong and Prof Kate Auty and to our fabulous musician Luke R Davies. Fiona spoke of the work her organisation, the Climate and Health Alliance, is doing; the concerns they have were well displayed in a short film 'The Human Cost of Power'.

Kate's talk emphasised the need to organise and act in 2015, this critical year leading up to the UN Climate Conference in Paris at year end. Shortly Australia will be submitting its intended contribution towards international carbon reduction for this conference. Based on our government's current record the Australian submission is likely to be totally inadequate and not directly target large emitters. Later Kate interviewed Luke, from the Recycled String Band, with his various stringed acoustic instruments.



The three feature films were 'Planet Rethink', 'Surviving Earth' and 'The Salt of the Earth'. Madman Films sponsored the last film and it was a remarkable visual record of mankind's highs and lows. The closing

scenes were inspiring as Brazilian photographer Salgado plants trees on bare over-grazed land and watches a rainforest grow. It's now a National Park.

Thanks to our sponsors - Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, the Gecko CLaN, Granite Creeks Landcare Network and Benalla Rural City. Winton Wetlands supplied excellent screen footage and are regular advertisers with the cinema. Do take the opportunity to visit the Wetlands and the Mokoan Hub Café.

The event was jointly hosted by Swanpool Landcare and Benalla Sustainable Future Group. Thanks to Swanpool Cinema and Swanpool Hall committees for their support and to the fabulous catering team.

Ian Herbert

Federal Court Overturns Approval for Adani's Carmichael Mine

The Federal Court has overturned the federal environmental approval of Adani's A\$16.5 billion coalmine project in Galilee Basin meaning that Adani will have to re-apply for the coal licence and the federal environment minister Greg Hunt will have to re-approve the application.

Sue Higinson, principal solicitor of the Environment Defenders Office NSW, said that the decision of the Federal Court was "based on a failure by the minister to have regard to the conservation advices for two federally listed vulnerable species" – the yakka skink and the ornamental snake. The lawsuit also alleged a failure "to consider global greenhouse emissions from the burning of the coal".

The Carmichael mine received federal environmental approval in July 2014.

Greenpeace has estimated that the mine, operating at full capacity, would extract enough coal to generate 128 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year, equivalent to about a quarter of Australia's current total emissions from fuel combustion.

An equally significant development is that the Commonwealth Bank has pulled out of its role as financial adviser to the Adani coal mine project. Tim Buckley, from the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis said, "The Commonwealth Bank leaving its adviser role was a major revelation because ultimately when global banks are looking at projects in Australia, they look to the Australian banks who have the on-the-ground knowledge, on-the-ground feel for the project, to come out and endorse a project." (ABC News, 5th August)

"Then the international banks can piggyback effectively off the local knowledge, and effectively, due diligence of the big Australian banks. For CommBank not to be

involved, then by definition they're not endorsing the project, that makes it much, much harder for Adani to then find another global group of institutions who are willing to fund this project."

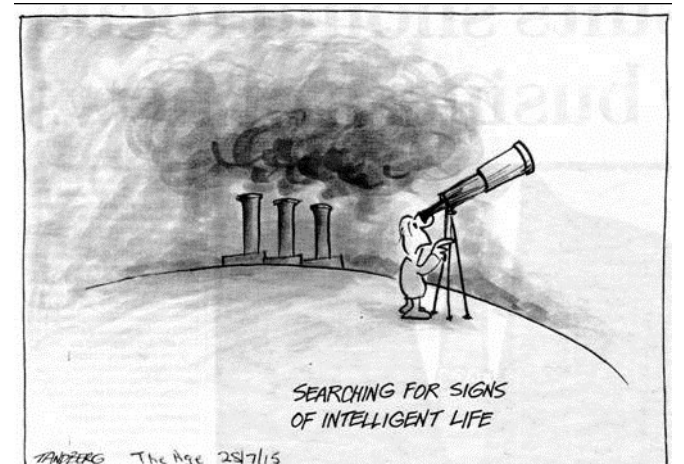
Mr Buckley said he believed the project was commercially struggling. "It's not commercially viable in the current market and to some degree, pressure has been on CommBank to justify their investment in this project, given it's opening up effectively the largest new coal project in the world, at a time when countries like America and China, and France and Germany are rapidly moving in the other direction, and saying the world's got to decarbonise."

New Zealand saying goodbye to coal-fired power generation

New Zealand power generator, Genesis Energy, has advised it will permanently shut its last two coal-burning generators by December 2018 due to plentiful supplies of cheaper renewable energy generation and reduced demand. Genesis said the closure of the coal plants would move New Zealand closer to its 90 percent renewable target by 2025.



Golding



Tanberg, The Age, 28/7/15

Water Management and Environmental Flows

Notes from Strathbogie Voices Forum held at Euroa, 30 May 2015

This was an informative forum with a range of speakers talking about a variety of water management issues. Speakers ranged from the CEO of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), Chris Norman, looking at broad policy issues, to a fish researcher from the Arthur Rylah Institute, Fern Hames, working to improve the breeding success of threatened native fish species.

I found the sessions on environmental flows of particular interest. The GBCMA environmental water plan gives priority to Barmah Forest, other wetlands, the Lower Goulburn floodplain, and maintaining river flows in dry times. Environmental flows have only been operating since 2011, so there is still a lot to learn to make them as effective as possible. River flows have declined since the 1980s in south east Australia. There are fewer floods or high river flow events, so environmental flows are in high demand and need to be carefully targeted. All decisions are based on continual scientific input.

Geoff Earl who is the **Environmental Water Flow Co-ordinator for the GBCMA** explained some of the complexities involved.

What is the best time of year for a particular environmental flow at a particular location? Careful consideration is given to the duration of flow, how much water, steady flow or variable flow. The irrigation season and recent rainfall is also taken into account. Will this planned flow adversely impact a Commonwealth flow that may coincide in the Murray system? Are there any bridge works that may be impacted downstream? Co-ordination with other stakeholders is an important part of the job.

GBCMA endeavours not to exceed half bank full flows, to minimise the risk of bank erosion, to protect farmers' pumps and to provide a margin for error if an unexpected large rainfall event occurs. The millennium drought killed off vegetation on river and stream banks, so there was extensive damage from erosion and falling trees when the 2010-11 floods came. The CMA is giving priority to the re-establishment of vegetation on river banks to minimise erosion, by using controlled and variable flow regimes to encourage natural regeneration of bank grasses and groundcovers.

There are also physical constraints to environmental flows. On the Goulburn River, the biggest constraint is the narrow river channel at Molesworth. Victorian legislation prevents CMAs and the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) from flooding private land.

Dr Janet Pritchard from the **MDBA** is involved on the ground in community discussions about environmental water management in Lower Goulburn floodplain. Negotiation with landholders is a vital part of her project. Communities are generally receptive to concept of environmental water flows, but have trouble thinking beyond their own patch to, for example, the needs of The Coorong near the Murray mouth in South Australia.

Fern Hames, a fish researcher from the **Arthur Rylah Institute**, described her work on endangered native fish. She explained that native fish numbers have dropped 90% since white settlement, especially since large dams have been constructed on rivers. Fern is one of many scientists involved in collecting the raw data that helps Geoff Earl at the GBCMA work out priorities for environmental flows. The aim of environmental flows for fish is to induce spawning which hopefully produces live young.

Fish need to have conditions in rivers and streams which allow them to breed, feed and move. All native fish have differing needs. A galaxia may use 20 metres of river in its' lifetime, a Trout Cod can move 450 kilometres up and down river systems whilst a Golden Perch tagged at Hollands Creek near Tatong was later identified at The Coorong – a distance of 2,500 kilometres. One project in Hollands Creek is aimed at helping Macquarie Perch and another project in King Parrot Creek near Flowerdale supports Trout Cod. Environmental flows have successfully induced spawning of Golden Perch.

Data collection methods. Did you know researchers can age a fish by counting its otoliths (ear bones)? Anglers provide feedback when they catch (and return) tagged fish.

The removal of Redfin from Seven Creeks has helped improve counts of Macquarie Perch. Other positive influences also include – better water quality (eg. decommissioning Lake Mokoan has drastically improved water quality in the Broken River), improving riparian vegetation, closing off sections of rivers to angling and improving streamflows.

Other comments

Australia is recognised as a world leader in water management. Water has always been a government responsibility, so it has been possible to institute water policy over wide areas of the country. Effective water planning and management relies on diverse organisations, water users and communities working together for successful outcomes. A number of speakers mentioned the positive contribution of community organisations such as Landcare. I was impressed by the work of like-minded people in different organisations - MDBA, CMAs, farmers, local

government, Landcare groups, state and federal government organisations, researchers and anglers - working co-operatively to achieve a good outcome for the effective management of water resources. I guess water will always be a source of controversy and dispute, but I was impressed by the positive feel of this forum.

Kathy Costello

Palm Oil and Orang-utans

In April this year I visited Borneo to explore the rainforests, trek the Head-hunter's Trail and hopefully see wild Orang-utans, Proboscis Monkeys, Pygmy Elephant and Rhinoceros, and many other amazing birds and animals.

Staying with locals in villages was a great way to learn about wildlife, culture and how their lifestyles and the land around them is changing. There are few roads and access to many areas is by longboat on the rivers or by air, then trekking in with a backpack for up to 15km to meet the locals who open their home to receive the occasional visitor. A great experience is going out with the women to collect food from the jungle, with a type of fern being most popular and delicious when served with the freshly killed chicken from the family food store.

While staying in a tiny village near the World Heritage Area of Gunung Mulu National Park I saw the stark contrast between the rainforest and the "developed" areas and the difference between how people lived. Those who lived in small hut houses in the rainforest mostly gathered fruit, herbs and nuts, and raised their own chickens and occasional hog for meat, were so fit and healthy it put us trekkers to shame. Other supplies are obtained on an as needs basis with some travel (on foot), especially for rice and other dried goods. The forest provides almost everything including medicine and especially clean water.

In stark contrast to this, staying in a village of long houses (about 400 people) was a very different experience. The people were generous and friendly and very proud that their families had lived in the long houses for about 300 years in the area. They were excited to show us that they had power, flat screen TVs, 4WD vehicles and in some cases a toilet, running water and a washing machine.

Their lifestyle had changed dramatically in the last 10 years. The Chinese palm oil companies had come to town, offered many jobs and economic development that would drag them out of their simple life of poverty. Land had already been granted by the

government and a plantation of oil palms would make them rich and happy. Even though many elders had concerns, the jobs were accepted, the income received, the goods purchased and life improved - for a while!

Once the hard slog was done and the trees planted most of the people lost their jobs with only a few retained for the harvest. The wildlife was gone, the forest food was gone, the water was polluted and malaria and dengue fever was killing people more than ever. Forest birds, frogs and bats were no longer there to keep the mosquito populations down and the pooling of water in plantation tracks provided ideal breeding grounds.

The forest had previously provided much of the natural food, but with it gone people needed to earn money to buy food elsewhere. Getting to the big towns for a lot of supplies became troublesome because there was no money for fuel for the 4WD and the roads could only be used by plantation workers in plantation vehicles. The economic development bubble had burst within 10 years. The water was no longer clean enough to drink and rainwater tanks had to be purchased for the community. Now they are in abject poverty. Before they were poor in monetary terms but had most of what they needed.

This is only the human side of the story. The wildlife side is devastating. While all wildlife is affected, our closest relation, the Orang-utan is the iconic species that we focus on. The single greatest threat facing orang-utans today is habitat loss. Up to 2010 the annual rate of loss in Indonesia was 498,000 hectares. This continues, although it may now have slowed (not much left). The expanding palm oil industry is a huge contributor to deforestation. The plantation areas is expected to be near 13 million hectares by 2020. That is a lot of habitat to be lost!

There are many Orang-utan rescue groups that operate to try and save as many as possible and translocate them to suitable habitat or rehabilitate orphaned babies or those kept in appalling conditions as pets. Borneo Orang-utan Survival (BOS) Australia sees the result of the palm oil industry expansion every day. Orang-utans that are displaced from their habitat are rescued and released as often as possible. Those unable to be immediately released are cared for until they learn to live naturally and released after many years of support in reserves and other facilities.

Palm oil accounts for 35% of world edible vegetable oil production with 85% sourced from Indonesia and Malaysia (USDA, 2013). According to BOS, the majority of palm oil is used in the food processing industry. It is contained in foods such as ice cream,

chocolate, chips, cereals, frozen foods, margarine, biscuits, cakes, breads and even fruit juices. It is also contained in a variety of cosmetics, soaps and detergents.

It is notable that many of these foods do not actually need palm oil. Cadbury Australia does not use palm oil in their chocolate, but Cadbury Indonesia uses large amounts. The chocolate still tastes much the same.

There is an emerging Certification of Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) program that requires the production of the oil to meet a set of environmental and social criteria designed to ensure the rights of local communities are respected and that no new primary forest or high conservation areas are cleared for plantations.

A number of major retailers and manufacturers have committed to moving to the CSPO program, including Coles and Woolworths in their banded products, Unilever, Arnott's and Nestle. Sufficient consumer pressure will help continue this trend and reduce the impacts on habitat of orang-utans and thousands of other wildlife species of insects, birds and mammals.



What Can You Do

Check the ingredients, if the product contains palm oil (usually labelled as vegetable oil or fat) check to see if it has the CSPO Logo. If not you can contact the manufacturer to find out the source of their oil and tell them why you won't buy it.

A list of palm oil free products is available at:

<http://www.orangutans.com.au/Orangutans-Survival-Information/Helping-you-buy-responsibly-Palm-oil-free-alternatives.aspx>

http://www.wwf.org.au/our_work/saving_the_natural_world/forests/palm_oil/?gclid=CL_2nrWd8MYCFQwAvAodU5MOBq

<http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/shoppingethically/palmoilfreelist.aspx>

Find out about certification of sustainable palm oil production at:

<http://www.sustainablepalmoil.org/standards-certification/certification-schemes/>

You can join a campaign for truth in labelling at:

<http://palmoilfree.planetark.org/about/labelling.cfm>

You can donate to a number of orang-utan conservation groups by adopting a baby that has been rescued at:

<http://www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk/adopt>

<http://www.orangutans.com.au/Orangutans-Survival/Orangutan-Adoptions.aspx>

<https://redapes.org/adopt>

Wendy Sherlock

How Hot, How High and When?

At the July meeting of the Swanpool Landcare group I took the opportunity to launch a new website that I have compiled on the subject of climate change.

You can find the website at

<http://www.howhighwhen.com/>

As it says in the introduction, the website follows on from a couple of articles I wrote for local newsletters, including the BSFG newsletter, some time back on the basic physics behind the greenhouse effect and how it leads to global warming.

More recently I delivered a couple of lectures on the subject to interested people in Yarrowonga. At the conclusion of the lectures I stated that it was not a question of 'if' but one of 'when' and 'how much'. This website further explores those questions.

My quest now is to get the message out there that Climate Change is real and that we need to act now and not wait for some time after 2020.

So now I am targeting politicians and asking them where they think it is heading. Even my 'very best' scenario doesn't make good reading. Somehow the message is not getting through. It's time for our leaders to stand up and tell the public how it is.

2015 is the 'critical year'. We have just one last chance to avert disaster and we needed a meaningful submission by Australia to the UN Climate Conference.

But, as we go to press, the Federal government has just announced Australia's INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution) on our behalf. The pitiful target of a 26% reduction of emissions on 2005 figures by 2030 was to be expected. That it's 'business as usual' for the coal industry is simply deplorable. The international community now has a right to challenge us on our selfish attitude, our lack of leadership and our immoral conduct towards future generations.

Ian Herbert

Cut \$\$ on Energy Costs for you Business

Benalla Rural City Council, on behalf of the Hume Business Champions Network, ran a session for Local Business's back in June for saving on energy costs.

As the session was based purely on savings that could be made, it was very interesting to note just how much of it was straight out of our Sustainability Policies notebook.

The main Speaker was John Dee (*Planet Ark, 20 Million Trees, Ban Plastic Bags, Do Something*). He has written a book, 'ENERGY CUT', developed a web site and held a publicity tour, with Federal funding from the Department of Science and Industry. It does NOT mention Climate Change and just concentrates on savings, BUT it covers all the usuals:

- adjusting thermostats
- insulating
- putting timers on drink 'fridges
- replacing fluorescent lights and downlights with LEDs (and saving food spoilage and fabric fading?)
- changing 'fridges to ones using 'Natural Refrigerants' (one company has them and is claiming they are 37% more efficient)
- getting rid of any 'fridge over 15 years old (current ones are 40% more efficient)
- solar panels and hot water - and so on.

We were supposed to get a copy of his book, but due to a printing fault we only got a digital copy - which is available to anyone interested.

The rest of the day consisted of local business's explaining what they have been doing. Most impressive was Rick Grubissa Chief Engineer for Benalla Health. They are using Triple Bottom Line accounting, and energy-wise are really well advanced. They have:

- 96 kW of solar panels installed and are intending to double them!
- all lighting is LEDs
- a heat reclaiming system on their air conditioning
- air-cooled cooling towers replacing the old water cooled ones
- artificial grass around the building with a one metre deep water collection system which keeps the ground water table stable and stops buildings cracking

I think our Hospital is very advanced!

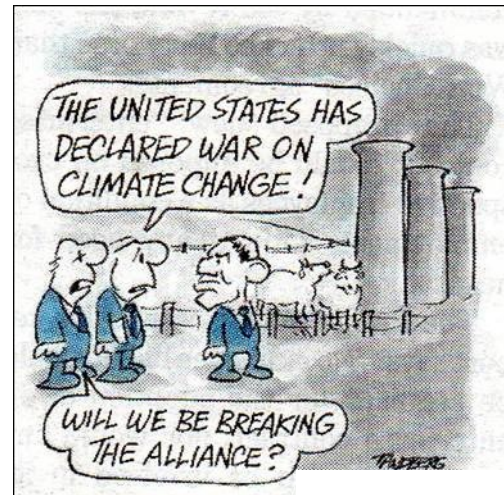
Also Ryan McNulty Sawmills have advanced to the stage where there is NO wastage - everything is used or sold, water is recycled and much value-adding is incorporated (even if some of the finishing is done in China)!

It is really good to see economics driving reform ,even if Climate Change is not being recognised!!

Kevin Smith & Cath Marriott



Tanberg, The Age, 14/7/15



Tanberg, The Age, 5/8/15

Contact Details:

BSFG President

John Lloyd
5765 2476
andrewslloyd@iinet.net.au

Vice President

Wendy Sherlock

Secretary

Peter Maddock
0418 135 330

Treasurer

Peter Holmes
0438 625 638
chrispeth@bigpond.com

Committee Members

Christine Holmes Kevin Smith
Wendy Baker

Coordinator Benalla Food Co-op

Christine Holmes
chrispeth@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor

Ian Herbert
limaeaster@bigpond.com



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