

Surf Coast Energy Group News

January 2011



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This new year climate action groups like ours are needed more than ever. Environmental action from the grassroots! In keeping with our weather, sorry but we couldn't keep away from this month's watery theme!

SCEG MEMBERS SURVEY

In order to ensure we are representing you and meeting your needs we have prepared a short survey, which should take about 5 minutes to answer. Please go to

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VQ7G37W>

SCEG EVENTS

Sun 16th Jan 10 – 4pm

SCEG stall at the Cowrie market in Torquay

A great opportunity to find out more about Grow It and meet our Project Officer. *Unfortunately we have just heard that Cowrie market is canceled this month due to the sodden ground.*

Wed 19th Jan 9 am

SCEG committee meeting, Bellbrae Heart Space old tennis clubrooms, Great Ocean Road, Bellbrae All welcome.

OPPORTUNITIES AND PROJECTS

GROW IT!

Our Grow It! programme is up and running. Funding has been received and in December we appointed Patrick Blampied as the Project Officer for 12

months. The programme aims to assist people that are interested in growing their own vegetables and meeting like-minded people.

Each bed will come fully installed and ready-to-grow, and be supported by a host of workshops and fun events. Patrick is currently undertaking the planning of the project, with the full range set to be launched in February.



Expressions of interest are now open at

www.growit.org.au

Click subscribe on the homepage and enter your details. The first round of boxes will be available from January 19th.

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR ESTUARY

The Spring Creek Estuary Watchers are locals who monitor the estuary each month using simple techniques through a programme developed by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. This involves about an hour of water quality monitoring, weather and tide recordings. This helps us and future generations work out how healthy our estuary actually is! We provide all training and equipment, no experience is necessary and all new members are VERY welcome!

please contact Matthew Khoury, the EstuaryWatch Co-ordinator on 5224 9402 or email matthew.khoury@ccma.vic.gov.au

NEWS

Look out for:

The Transition Town Torquay Local Produce Brochure and **Plastic Bag Free Torquay** stickers are now available.

SCEG LIBRARY

Fridays 3.30 – 5.30pm. Heart Space, Bellbrae. Please fill in our survey which includes a question about access to the SCEG library. We have asked for your ideas about the best time for Heart Space to open so that you can access the library. When results are received we'll let you know the new open time. Meanwhile Heart Space will be open from 4.30 – 5.30 on Friday January 21st.

MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have 158 family memberships and 105 single memberships. Why not mention us to friends who may be interested. The more people we represent the more influence we have.

FLOODS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

What the scientists say

While scientists emphasize that individual extreme weather events should not be attributed to climate change alone, the floods in Queensland are consistent with climate scientists' forecasts.

Professor David Karoly, University of Melbourne's School of Earth Sciences:

"Australia has been known for more than a hundred years as a land of droughts and flooding rains, but what climate change means is Australia becomes a land of more droughts and worse flooding rains... On some measures, it's the strongest La Nina in recorded history... we also have record-high ocean temperatures in northern Australia, which means more moisture evaporating into the air. And that means lots of heavy rain."

Ref: 'Fates conspire to concoct a recipe for disaster', *The Age*, 12 January 2011 <http://www.theage.com.au/environment/fates-conspire-to-concoct-a-recipe-for-disaster-20110111-19mp7.html>

Professor Ian Lowe, Emeritus Professor of Science and Technology, Griffith University, and president of ACF:

"The Queensland floods are another reminder of what climate science has been telling us for 25 years. As well as a general warming and increasing sea levels, it predicted more frequent extreme events: floods, droughts, heatwaves and severe bushfires. The decline in rainfall in south-western WA and the increasing rainfall in the tropics are exactly what the science has been telling us to expect. If we don't want to see more events like the 2009 Victorian bushfires and the floods now happening, we need a concerted program of action to reduce greenhouse pollution."

Ref: Australian Conservation Foundation website, 12 January 2011 http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=3281

DARREN CHEESEMAN MP WARNS ON SEA LEVEL RISE

New Climate Change Maps Show Massive Impacts on Greater Geelong Region

New maps which identify the future impacts of climate change on the Greater Geelong Region, show there will be massive impacts right across the region on both a medium level, or high level sea level rise. The maps show severe impacts to transport infrastructure, public facilities, private housing

Key impacts include:

- Point Lonsdale becomes an island, with half the township (hundreds of homes) inundated and the region between Point Lonsdale and Ocean Grove completely inundated, transforming to a series of small islands.
- There will be a loss of housing and the caravan park in Ocean Grove.
- Transport routes to Point Henry are also cut, with the site becoming an island.
- Dozens of local roads will be inundated.
- The Geelong Grammar and facilities used by the school (the rowing shed, yacht club facilities, tennis courts) will also be inundated along with the Lagoon Boat Club and Corio Bay Yacht Club facilities.
- Transport routes to Barwon Heads are cut, with Barwon Heads virtually becoming an island also, with Breamlea also cut off.
- The Eastern parts of The Sands estate in Torquay will also be inundated.
- Portarlington, Indented Heads and St Leonards will see foreshore inundation, including inundation of caravan parks.
- Broadscale foreshore inundation will occur across the Surf Coast and the whole of the Bellarine Peninsula.

Darren Cheeseman said "It was now recognised this region would be one of the worst affected across Australia." "This new data provides scenarios covering low levels, medium level and high sea level rise, and we have major risks whichever way you look at it. The maps show that we must act to tackle climate change, and establishing a value on carbon pollution right across the economy must be our highest priority." "The maps provide useful initial information to decision-makers to prepare for potential risks from rising sea levels in coastal areas. I urge Councils and planners to act on this, and I believe the State planning authorities must now prohibit development in vulnerable areas so that private and public investment is protected." The maps are available online via the OzCoasts website www.ozcoasts.org.au

Join **SCEG**

Visit us online at www.sceg.org.au

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