

Surf Coast Energy Group News

May 2011



EVENTS

Friday 6th May 7pm SCEG Film night.

Wildness

Surfworld, Beach rd. Torquay

This film follows the story of two of Australia's great wilderness photographers, highlighting their passion for nature and their philosophy That 'if people could see the beauty of Australia's wild places then they might be moved to save them'.

Entry to the film is by donation and will include supper and speakers to give us a local perspective on the importance of biodiversity. [About Wildness](#)

Our Speakers:

Graeme Stockton a founding member of SCEG, chairperson of SANE and committee member of Jan Juc Coast Committee.

He completed a degree in horticulture at Burnleigh in 1985 and has been owner and operator of West Coast Indigenous Nursery specialising in the flora of the Belarine peninsula and Torquay.

Bronwyn Sparke is president of Friends of Point Addis and a SCEG member

Mandy Coulson from Surf Coast Inland Plains and Landcare Network SCIPN

SCEG FILM SEASON 2011

We plan to hold a film night on the first Friday of the month for the next few months, so book those dates in your diaries and keep an eye on this newsletter for forthcoming films or get involved with the film organising group and have an input into the films which get selected for this season. Contact Jill Hyslop jillhslop@hotmail.com

TORQUAY 2040

You can view the proposed plans for the growth of Torquay for the next 30 years and submit your comments:

<http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/2040.htm>

SCEG is not supportive of growth to the west of Duffields Rd. The area provides important habitat for a wide range of species and we consider that any ambitions to maintain and improve levels of sustainability will only be harder to achieve should this area be developed.

ANGLESEA AIR ACTION

Over 150 Anglesea residents and visitors picnicked at Anglesea Air Action's Family Information Session on Easter Saturday to publicly voice their concerns over the future of the Anglesea mine. The event saw three speakers outline their key concerns about the proposed 50 year extension of the mine and coal-fired power plant operations.

Anglesea Air Action was formed by concerned Anglesea residents and supporters who do not support the State Government's plan to renew the Alcoa Anglesea mining lease for a further 50 years.

Anglesea Air Action is calling for:

An inquiry into the health concerns of Anglesea residents

A shorter 'transitional' lease period

An environmental impact statement on the mine's potential expansion into sensitive heathland as a condition of the lease renewal

see videos of our speakers and sign the petition at AlcoalIMPACT.org.

Thanks to all SCEG members involved for their great support.

DECKCHAIR DEMOCRACY

Support climate action group L.I.V.E. With their peaceful action. If you are in Melbourne go along to Parliament House to hear a speaker every day at 1pm

During May LIVE is hosting a month long vigil on the steps of the Victorian Parliament House. We'll be there, from 11 am to 3 pm, every day in May, including weekends. Each day there will be a speaker at 1 pm. [LIVE Daily Speakers](#)

100% RENEWABLE CAMPAIGN

This campaign has two days of action this month:

Monday the 16th of May: Make a Call on Renewables Day. People from across the country will be calling some of the key politicians on this day to let them know that there is high community support for investment in renewables. [Register](#)

Saturday May 28th :National Door Knock day to complete the 20,000 surveys being collected nationally. contact carohawk@exemail.com.au if you can join us on this day.

HERITAGE HEATHLAND OR A COALMINE? By Margaret MacDonald

A letter taken from the Angair newsletter with permission.

ANGAIR Inc. (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna) is angered at the possible extension of the Alcoa Anglesea coalmine within the Anglesea Heath, an area that is listed on the Register of the National Estate. Such an extension will result in the irreversible destruction of pristine heathland of outstanding environmental significance.

ANGAIR members have been helping to care for the Anglesea Heathlands for forty-two years, and during that time, have become aware of the natural values of the area that have led to its inclusion in the Australian Natural Heritage Listing. ANGAIR was one of the community groups that took action to have this area placed on this important register. The heathlands are widely recognised as having flora and fauna biodiversity values of international significance, including many rare and threatened species. The lease area includes one-sixth of the state's flora. Fourteen of these species are classified as rare, as is also the endemic *Grevillea infecunda*. Terrestrial orchids abound in the district with over fifty per cent of the State's orchid flora growing there.

Alcoa Australia has had a mining lease of 7000 ha, and has operated an open cut, brown coal mine in the area for fifty years, since being granted this lease in 1961. Three hundred hectares of internationally significant heathland have disappeared into the coalmine since that date. ALCOA has made genuine attempts to revegetate some of its mined areas, but it is impossible to recreate a heathland. It is unbelievable that the Victorian Government may extend the lease for a further fifty years, which may result in the loss of another 300 ha of intact heathland.

Alcoa has indicated, that should the period of the lease be extended and coal is required in the future, there is an option of going deeper into the existing mine, rather than extending the boundaries into the surrounding heathland. This would provide adequate coal until 2022. ANGAIR considers this to be the *only* acceptable option, and that it would give time to explore the use of alternative energy, if the Point Henry aluminium smelter is to continue operating.

We have expressed these concerns to many members the Victorian Parliament, both

government and opposition, and also to Alcoa Australia, Parks Victoria, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Surf Coast Shire. We have also sent this article to the local papers. We encourage our readers to take any individual actions that they feel may be worthwhile, such as writing to local papers or to members of Parliament. We believe the community is the only body that may influence this decision.

SCEG MEMBER PROFILE

Sue Roberts

As Producer and Director of Luminescence Films, an Anglesea-based video production house, I feel truly blessed to be living in such a beautiful natural environment and my surroundings provide me with a constant source of creative inspiration. Like so many of us I am deeply concerned about the enormous challenges we and precious 'mother earth' faces as a result of climate change. I see it as my duty and responsibility to stay well informed of all the debates and issues around the subject of climate change. I believe it is up to all of us to change the way we live right now, so that we can start to take care of the planet and ourselves. I am a committed advocate for the promotion of living a simpler and more sustainable lifestyle.

I see video as a powerful educational and promotional tool to inform people about these important issues. I hope by producing these DVD's I am contributing to a change in thinking and action around this critical issue.

View at <http://vimeo.com/sueroberts>

For more about Luminescence Films: www.luminescencefilms.blogspot.com

PLASTIC BAG FREE TORQUAY

sign the petition at

<http://www.gopetition.com/petition/39880.html>

For petitions, stickers or postcards, contact:

Stacie Bobele GreenMums 3228 Co-ordinator
vicsurf@bigpond.com

SCEG Twitter: @SCEGinfo

SCEG Web: www.sceg.org.au

SCEG Contact: info@sceg.org.au

or PO Box 160, Torquay, 3228