



North-West Environment Centre

### NEWS FLASH

#### NWEC General Meeting

**When: 5.30 pm  
April 6, 2009**

**Where: Rees  
Campbell's home  
12 Pellisier St  
Somerset**

#### Everyone is welcome to join us!

There is always some nibbles, laughs, and good work happening. If you are interested in bringing seeds, seedlings and/or produce for a swap please do so. See you there!

Please send RSVP & agenda items through to Rees [reescampbell1@bigpond.com](mailto:reescampbell1@bigpond.com)

For more information and directions see Page 5

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# NWEC Newsletter

APRIL 2009

*Inspiring a new perspective on our relationship with the environment and each other so that we may all act to create a socially harmonious and ecologically sustainable future*

## Project Updates

**CSA Project** by Robin Krabbe  
It has been an exciting time for the CSA project, as we won first place in one of the categories of the "Me-Change" competition (run by the ABC and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal), which was aimed at improving the health of local communities. They want to come to Tasmania, probably in the second week of May, to have an 'in-depth look' at how the project will work – this is part of what they said about their visit "Not only will this be a chance to highlight the CSA project to a national ABC audience, but it will allow our program teams to highlight the region and some of the local issues. The broadcast would involve two of our flagship programs, BushTelegraph on Radio National, and the Tasmanian Country Hour on ABC Local Radio,

who would be on-air between 11am and 1pm. It's also likely that representatives from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal would come down to hand over the cheque (the most important bit!)" Since Bonnie, our erstwhile newsletter editor and social events organizer was planning our first social event for around this time, it will be a good opportunity to combine them both. Stay tuned for more details!

#### **Sea Spurge Project** by Matty Campbell-Ellis

The NWEC's new boat has been serviced and had a safety check completed. David Henderson has performed a test drive of the boat in the relatively safe waters of Lake Barrington in mid March. Dave felt that the boat handled well but that it needs a few modifications to suit our purposes and these works have since begun. We are now looking forward to taking the boat out into the Hunter Group as soon as some of

these works are completed. Discussions with land managers in the Hunter Group continue as to the threat of Sea Spurge to island ecosystems and strategies for its control are being developed.

#### **Penguin Organic Growing Centre** by Matty Campbell-Ellis

The Tasmanian Organic Farming and Gardening Association have offered the Penguin Organic Growing Centre to the NWEC on a "walk in, walk out" basis. Since the offer was first made I have been working with Graeme Stevenson, Robin Krabbe, Bonnie McGee and others to put together a proposal for the Central Coast Council for the NWEC to take over the lease of this iconic site of organic growing. The proposal being developed will see the site continue with its organic gardens and annual festival but will also enable a range of new activities to be undertaken on and from the site. If you have any ideas for the Organic Growing Centre or would like to become involved please contact Matty [mattce@gmail.com](mailto:mattce@gmail.com).

## Creating a Community Centered Consciousness

 by Robin Krabbe

Following on from last months' article on voluntary simplicity, Fritjof Capra (in *The Turning Point: Science, Society and the Rising Culture*) sets the broader scene relating to ecology and social movements. "The last decade saw a proliferation of citizen movements formed around social and environmental issues, following the pioneering efforts of Ralph Nader. In recent years there has been a convergence of these movements and a

tendency to go beyond single issues to address fundamental systemic concerns. The political strength of these movements is considerable and opinion polls have shown that the overwhelmingly majority of the population considers them a positive social force. Closely related to their efforts are the activities of organizations collectively referred to as the ecology movement. These groups maintain information centres and publish newsletters on

environmental protection, organic farming and so on. Citizen and consumer movements are also the source of counter-economies, also known as 'informal, dual or convivial' economies. These cannot be centrally planned and installed but have to grow and develop organically, which usually involves a great deal of pragmatic experimentation and requires considerable social and cultural flexibility. The new emphasis on dual economies is based on

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Rethink, Reduce,  
Reuse, Recycle!

## WEBSITE LINKS

If you are an www user, there are many web-sites to access research on the topic of recycling. Here are some of the useful links:

**Sustainability  
Victoria:**

[www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au)

**PlanetArk:**

[www.planetark.org](http://www.planetark.org)

**Cleanaway:**

[www.cleanaway.com.au](http://www.cleanaway.com.au)

# Recycling Matters! Part 2 by Netty Schrammeyer

## What happens with what you recycle?

Here is a brief outline of what most councils in Tasmania recycle. There may be some variance from one council to another. If you are unsure, enquire at your local government. Technology is rapidly improving regarding processes for recycling, so it is important to keep yourself up to date with what your council offers.

For example, polystyrene is not being collected by Tasmanian councils as there are few places that recycle this plastic. However, expanded polystyrene is totally recyclable, and trial programs are being undertaken to recycle especially hot drink cups and fruit and vegetable transport boxes. It is expensive to do, and the market is small, so action is limited.

Here is an abbreviated description of materials collected in Tasmania for recycling, how they are processed for recycling, and what they are recycled into. Most Paper, plastics, glass, aluminium and steel are recycled within Australia.

**Paper:** after sorting, baling and transport to a paper-mill, paper is washed,

de-inked and pulped. It is recycled into - \*cereal boxes \*fast-food bags \*cardboard containers \*newspapers \*writing paper \*wrapping paper \*tissues and towels \*insulation

**Plastics:** Most plastics are recyclable. After material separation into plastic type at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), it is baled and transported to a reprocessing factory. Here plastic is flaked, melted, and made into pellets, which are used by manufacturers to make - \*bags \*benches \*bottles \*brooms \*bicycle racks \*carpets \*compost bins and worm farms \*garbage bins

**Glass:** Glass bottles and jars are 100% recyclable. From the kerbside they are taken to the Material Recovery Facility, where they are sorted into colour. It is then taken to a plant where it is again sorted, crushed, cleaned and sized. It is at this stage that the glass is again sorted to be sure it is not contaminated with impurities such as Pyrex, ceramics, ovenproof glass, light bulb glass, windscreen glass, wine and drink glasses, window glass, or spectacle glass. Then it is melted down, mixed with cullet (crushed glass) and re-moulded into new glass bottles and jars.

**Aluminium:** After material separation, cans are baled and transported to smelting plant where they are shredded, cleaned, melted, and blended

with other metal in the furnace. The aluminium is moulded into ingots, rolled through a mill into sheeting to make - \*aluminium cans

**Steel:** Steel cans, cars, fridges, washing machines, and building steel such as roofing iron and re-inforcement, are collected by steel recyclers, dismantled, and sent to steel mills for detinning and shredding to make new steel for - \*steel cans \*cars \*fridges \*washing machines \*nails \*bicycles

**E-waste:** Collected electronic waste is manually dismantled. The saved materials, such as printed circuit boards, cabling, glass and plastics, are recovered and can be used to produce new products.

**Batteries:** Councils in Tasmania collect car batteries, mobile phone batteries and fire alarms. Collected batteries are sorted by type and chemistry. Plastics, Cadmium, ferrous and non-ferrous metals are recovered and used to manufacture new batteries. **Some Australian Post Offices offer a collection service, possibly behind the counter, so you may need to ask.** Retailers who sell electronic merchandise that need batteries will often provide a used battery collection service. If the retailers you use does not offer this service, why not ask for them to provide it, or alternatively take your business to one who does!

## Community Consciousness *Continued from page one*

the realisation that these informal, cooperative and non-monetised sectors are predominant in the world's economies, and that the institutionalised and monetised sectors grew out of them and rest upon them, rather than the reverse. There has been a growing interest in household economies based on use value rather than market value, and a significant rise in the numbers of self-employed people. Household economies are ideally suited to develop small scale soft technologies and to practice the various crafts now being revived in many countries. All these activities enhance the autonomy and security of families, households, and neighbourhoods and improve social cohesion and stability. Another important contribution to the recognition of economic patterns come from worker-participation and self-management movements.

The new vision of reality is an ecological vision in a sense which goes far beyond the immediate concerns with environmental protection. **Deep ecology has now emerged which recognises that ecological balance will require profound changes in our perception of the role of human beings in the planetary ecosystem.** In short this will require a new philosophical and religious

basis. It involves the idea of the individual being linked to the cosmos, which is in fact expressed in the Latin root of the word religion, religare (to bind strongly), as well as in the Sanskrit yoga, which means union. Among the great spiritual traditions, Taoism offers one of the most profound and most beautiful expression of ecological wisdom. The deep ecology movement is thus not proposing an entirely new philosophy; what is new perhaps is the extension of the ecological vision to the planetary level, which has led to the maxim "Think globally and act locally". This new awareness is being generated specifically by numerous individuals, groups and networks in 1976 a study by the Stanford Research Institute estimated that **4 to 5 million adults had drastically reduced their incomes and withdrawn from their former positions in the consumer economy in favour of a life style embracing the principle of voluntary simplicity the shift from material growth to inner growth is being promoted by the human potential movement, the holistic health movement, the feminist movement, and various spiritual movements.** While economists have seen human needs in terms of material acquisitions and have postulated that these needs are in principle insatiable,

humanistic psychologists have concentrated on the nonmaterial needs for self-actualisation, altruism, and loving interpersonal relationships. Transpersonal psychologists emphasise the value of direct, experiential understanding of oneness with the entire human family and the cosmos at large.

In the regular pattern of rise, culmination, decline and disintegration, which seems to be characteristic of cultural evolution, the decline occurs when a culture has become too rigid – in its technologies, ideas or social organization – to meet the challenge of changing conditions. This loss of flexibility is accompanied by a general loss of harmony, leading to the outbreak of social discord and disruption. While the transformation is taking place, the declining culture (big business etc) refuses to change, clinging ever more rigidly to its outdated ideas; nor will the dominant social institutions hand over their leading roles to the new cultural forces. But they will inevitably go on to decline and disintegrate while the rising culture will continue to rise, and eventually will assume its leading role. As the turning point approaches, the realisation that evolutionary changes of this magnitude cannot be prevented by short-term political activities provides our strongest hope for the future".

## Community Theatre Review *by Rees Campbell*

Is the latest Scott Rankin Big hArt play "This Is Living" an example of brilliant community theatre highlighted by the powerful evocative performances of trio Anne Grigg, Lex Marinos and Bruce Myles, or is it a powerful evocative drama overly complicated by parallel worlds dramatised by skateboarding local kids and whispering elderly witnesses?

Unarguably though, the play was beautifully held together with tender ballads played by the quartet called the Dunaways, and sung on a clean stream of emotion by Anne Grigg.

Scott Rankin's play about the interwoven intimate lives of small town people certainly held a sell-out crowd crammed into the old Wynyard Theatre transfixed. So much so, that the 'young people moments' created in many the indignant moment of fear so often felt in reality when an elderly person is confronted by the energy and vitality of the young. The crowd came in intending to be pleased by a quality performance being held in their home town, involving many of their young and not-so-young residents. They cheerfully chatted on the pavement for the additional half-hour it took before the doors were opened. They sat uncomplaining in their cramped plastic seats for the duration, and streamed out full of pleasure at having been entertained for two hours - living proof of the value of community theatre.

The complexity of This Is Living is enormous. The central tableau is frequently paused while (almost too) subtly connected side platters are presented. A group of memories from our common past offer a garnish to the present. This is portrayed by older people from the local community, clad in newspaper printed washed out clothing, whispering their lines which have been taken from reminiscing interviews. Sometimes, enormously effective, sometimes an untimely halt to the fascinating unfolding of the lives on stage. Some of the older members of the audience were visibly moved by voices which could easily have been from their own pasts. Data projections both back stage and on the side walls, and complex moving light effects added even more sensory stimulus and further complexity was introduced by appearances by local skateboarding enthusiasts. Their presence was heard, though never through spoken lines, but through the resounding crashes, scapes and bangs of the boards, and the loud music. Marvellous parallels of small town life, but often too invasive to allow some of the audience the luxury of staying with the magic. A fascinating evening, and a performance worth attending, perhaps as much for its positive effect on small town culture, as for the stage performance.

# Calendar of Events

## NWEC General Meeting

**When:** 5.30 pm, April 6, 2009

**Where:** Rees Campbell's place  
12 Pellissier St Somerset

There are lots of changes afoot for the NWEC this year, Mechange funding, the Organic Garden Centre, Matt and Chris' paid positions finishing etc.

Please send agenda items through to Rees on [reescampbell1@bigpond.com](mailto:reescampbell1@bigpond.com) and an RSVP would be appreciated.

**Directions:** Turn south (away from the water) at the only set of traffic lights at Somerset up Falmouth St. Turn 3rd street left into Pelissier St, then immediate right into small cul-de-sac. My house is the boring brown render with a high deck. Contact 0409 006 170 for inquiries.

## Permaculture Design Course

**13-27 April 2009 - Penguin, TAS**

This residential course is taught by Rick Coleman from Southern Cross Permaculture. Design your own garden or farm. Learn how to lead a self-reliant lifestyle. Grow your own food. Equip yourself with practical knowledge and life skills. Qualify to consult in Permaculture design solutions for others. For more info contact Hannah on 6224 6845

## Earth Day April 22nd

<http://www.earthday.net/>

## Arbor Day April 24th

<http://www.arborday.org/arborday/index.cfm>

## Permaculture Gatherings

Have you taken a course in Permaculture design or read about it and are keen to develop your knowledge and skills? If yes, then you will be pleased to hear that the Permaculture Association of Tasmania have begun organizing Permaculture gatherings in the northwest to provide opportunities for you to connect with others who wish to expand the application of Permaculture in the area. For more information please contact Chris 6437 1137 [chrimitchell63@gmail.com](mailto:chrimitchell63@gmail.com) or Nick 6435 4559 [nj\\_towle@tassie.net.au](mailto:nj_towle@tassie.net.au)

## President Report by David Henderson

It has been a couple of months since I have written for the newsletter, so I thought I would give members and supporters an idea of what I have been up to. As most of you know I represent the NWEC on the Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management Committee and it has been a busy few months as the staff and committee members develop a bid for funds for the Australian Government's new Caring for Our Country business plan. I am pleased to say that there is going to be more opportunities for NWEC members and supporters to access resources to undertake priority natural resource management activities in partnership with Cradle Coast than ever before. I think that the new rules will allow greater opportunities for small groups like us to access funds. I have also been involved in the NRM State Council's review of the NRM act. There are going to be no major shifts in

the NRM world as a result of the review.

The Tarkine Road debate has arrived and it is very interesting to see the debate surrounding the road. Our position on the "Road" is that we support a Tarkine National Park and don't support any activities that will have a detrimental impact on the Tarkine's environmental and wilderness values. I would like to make some personal observations regarding the 'Road'. My major issues with the development as I understand it are a) the opportunity costs of allocating scarce resources in such a narrow fashion, b) the impacts that the new road will have on biodiversity through weeds, disease, road kill and hooning and vandalism and c) the flow-on impacts on the 'Tarkine Coast' that delivering thousands of extra people onto a delicate and effectively unmanaged coast line. Matt Campbell Ellis and I have been un-

dertaking research on the nature of community involvement in the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area and the results are startling in terms of the way the area is being managed. We will hopefully be publishing our results in the coming weeks. On another note, I am very excited about the prospects associated with Penguin Organic Growing Centre. The volunteers putting together the proposal are doing great job and there is real excitement about the potential. While in back patting mode, a very big well done to Robin Krabbe for the Me Change win. How good is that I hear you ask?!

Over the next few months I'm looking forward being amazed by what a dedicated bunch of great people can achieve.

## Grants Corner

If you are going to submit a grant application through the NWEC you MUST first seek approval by the committee members

### Caring for our Country funding

The closing date for submission of proposals is 3 April 2009.  
[www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/index.html](http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/index.html)

### Recognising Woman Farmers & Next Gen Farmers through DAFF

Applications now open and must be received by 9 April 2009 5pm  
[www.daff.gov.au](http://www.daff.gov.au)

### Small Grants for Small Rural Communities

There are two rounds of Small Grants per year. Closing dates are 31 March and 30 September 2009.  
<http://www.frrr.org.au>

### Community Recreation Grants Program

The Community Recreation Grants Program is continuous and applications will be accepted at any time until 30 April 2009. Applicants will be advised of outcomes within three months of lodging their application.  
[www.development.tas.gov.au/](http://www.development.tas.gov.au/)

The **Wild Earth Quilt** project is happening again!

We are looking for people who would like to help make a beautiful quilt, inspired by our shared passion and love for the Earth's wild places. The final quilt will be displayed at a fundraiser exhibition for Tasmanian forest defense campaigns in June 2009. For entry requirements and more info look for "Wild Earth Quilt" on facebook or email [tasquoll@gmail.com](mailto:tasquoll@gmail.com)

NWEC news is the newsletter of the North-West Environment Centre Inc. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the NWEC.

Members and supporters are notified each month when the current newsletter is posted on to our website. [www.nwec.org.au](http://www.nwec.org.au)  
If you are not receiving this notification email, but would like to, please let us know by emailing: [info@nwec.org.au](mailto:info@nwec.org.au)

## NWEC Info & Contacts

Visit our website [www.nwec.org.au](http://www.nwec.org.au) to read future newsletters and keep updated on our current projects.

### Executive members

**President** - David Henderson

**Vice President** - Niko Campbell-Ellis

**Treasurer** - Carol Donaghey

**Secretary** - Rees Campbell

**Publicity Officer** - Robin Krabbe

**Public Officer** - Andrew Jordan

### Contact for committee members:

[coordinator@nwec.org.au](mailto:coordinator@nwec.org.au)

### Newsletter Contributions

Please share some relevant stories, recipes or any events that are upcoming. To submit your contributions, please contact Bonnie McGee: [bonniecolleenmcgee@hotmail.com](mailto:bonniecolleenmcgee@hotmail.com)

### Volunteers Wanted!

The NWEC is always looking for volunteers to simply get involved and lend a hand. If you are interested, contact Matty Campbell-Ellis: [coordinator@nwec.org.au](mailto:coordinator@nwec.org.au)



### Membership Details:

First Name: .....

Surname:.....

Address: .....

.....P'code: .....

Date: ..... / ..... / .....

Email:.....

### Membership Type (please circle):

Individual:           Waged   \$10

                          Unwaged \$5

Family:               Waged   \$15

                          Unwaged \$10

Other:                 POA

[ ] I/we prefer member communications printed and posted at \$5/year.

[ ] I/we also wish to donate: \$.....

[ ] I enclose a cheque/money order for membership fee, donation (if applies) & service fee (if applies), payable to:

### North-West Environment Centre

PO Box 999, Burnie Tasmania 7320

### Please note:

For schools, business, community organisations please provide a contact person. If you require a tax invoice, or wish to pay by electronic funds transfer please contact Carol Donaghey on 03 6445 1025 or email [ricardo@bordnet.com.au](mailto:ricardo@bordnet.com.au)

Most member communications are sent by email. If you do not have an email address, posted communications are available for a small service fee of \$5/year.

The NWEC Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse membership.

### Membership is renewed annually from 1 January.

Those joining between October and December receive the following years membership inclusive 15 months membership.

### Contact Us:

Ph: 03 6431 6561

Email: [info@nwec.org.au](mailto:info@nwec.org.au) or

[coordinator@nwec.org.au](mailto:coordinator@nwec.org.au)

Post: PO Box 999  
Burnie TAS 7320

Web: [www.nwec.org.au](http://www.nwec.org.au)