



NWEC Newsletter

JULY 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

NEWS FLASH

NWEC General Meeting

When: 5.30 pm
August 3rd, 2009

Where: Rees Campbell's home
12 Pellisier St
Somerset

Please send RSVP & agenda items through to Rees reescampbell1@bigpond.com

For more information and directions see Page 3

All 2009 memberships are now overdue. Please send memberships to PO box 999 Burnie, asap. Thanks

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Penguin Organic Growing Centre Roundtable **By Netty Schrammeyer**

The roundtable meeting, noted in the June newsletter, was held on the 19th June and was well attended.

Community members, community service groups, academics and business people, and a Local Government representative were present to present and discuss the possibilities for the Centre's development. The retired, but knowledge rich Penguin Organic Growing Centre group, who have left us the wonderful legacy attached to this centre, was represented by Graeme Stevenson, among others.

Graeme presented the idea of the return of an Organic

Growing Festival – an idea wholeheartedly accepted by the roundtable participants.

Other ideas for action were presented in relation to health, youth at risk, Integrated Pest Management, and training opportunities. And it didn't stop at those. Young and old working together on the site, schools visiting and learning on the site, the unemployed using the site as a training ground, migrants learning about local growing conditions, and 'fair-dinkum' farmers markets were a number of the ideas presented. Each idea was then discussed



by a group of interested participants, to brainstorm the required actions, potential stakeholders, and possible subcommittee members. The ideas were exciting and the group discussions firm and forward-looking.

The roundtable meeting has been recorded and a full report will be presented in the near future.



COAG flags US-style fuel efficiency regulations

ABC News 3/7/09



The State and Federal Governments are looking at imposing US-style fuel efficiency standards on Australia's automotive industry.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to do a study on the costs and benefits of both mandatory and voluntary emissions standards for cars.

Earlier this year the US announced a plan for fuel economy standards for cars and trucks that would cut emissions by 30 per cent by 2016.

Andrew McKellar from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries says the sector is committed to reducing its environmental footprint.

"Provided that review looks at all of those options, then I think that the industry is entirely comfortable with that," he said.

"The industry is committed to take further steps to reduce CO2 emissions from vehicles in the future.

"We can work very constructively with the Government to ensure that we have a strategy."

Mr McKellar says any such move would need to fit in with the Government's emissions trading scheme and Green Car Innovation Fund.

Greens leader Bob Brown says Government leaders should be imposing mandatory emissions standards straight away.

"We shouldn't have voluntary emissions coming out of cars so that those who do the wrong thing get the jump on those who do the right thing," he said.

"It's the wrong way to go and it shows a failure not just of courage by COAG, but a failure of understanding of how a market system should work to reward those who do the right thing, not penalise them."

Senator Brown says Australia is falling behind the rest of the world when it comes to cleaning up the car industry.

"The Federal Government should be ahead of the US generally and up there with Europe, and ensuring that the future cars produced in this country are world leaders," he said.

"They're going to be the cars that have not only the ability to do the right thing by the environment, but they're going to be at the front of the market."

Community Supported Agriculture Project

By Robin Krabbe



Planning for the ABC/Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Grant is well under way, which aims to expand the CSA project across North-West Tasmania. Two main strategies are to look at the feasibility of expanding the produce supplied to the current 20 families and to start another CSA for people currently keen to join in the Devonport area.

We are also continuing to apply for funding, both directly for the CSA project, and for the Penguin Organic Growing Centre (POGC). We have just received a grant of \$9,600 from the Tasmanian Community Fund for a second hand tractor for POGC. One promising area relates to Social Inclusion, which recognizes that there are many people such as the disabled and the homeless who face many barriers to participating in society. Funding is available in particular for projects aimed at addressing barriers for the disadvantaged in engaging in employment, and to create social enterprises to provide longer term employment opportunities. The CSA project is already donating excess produce to the City Kitchen, which recently started providing meals to the estimated 80 homeless people in Burnie. If you would like to be involved in these projects, please contact Robin at rkrabbe@westnet.com.au or Netty at antionette9@mac.com.

Calendar of Events

NWEC General Meeting

When: 5.30 pm, August 3rd, 2009

Where: Rees Campbell's place
12 Pellisier St Somerset

Please send agenda items through to Rees on 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 Pellissier 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.

NWEC Project Updates

Sea Spurge Project

by Matty Campbell-Ellis

Recently three bureaucrats from Canberra came to investigate some of the work undertaken in the Hunter Group Sea Spurge project.

The Canberra visitors piled into Billy Taylor and we headed off to the Wallaby Islands where a small sea spurge infestation had been removed earlier in the year. A small amount of plants had sprouted from the seedbed and were flourishing – evidence of the need for ongoing treatment of this prolific weed. After pushing through the shallows of Robbins Passage, a beautiful sunset painted a beautiful backdrop as we discussed the need for increased NRM funding for the islands.

The team from Canberra were great company and it was a great opportunity to meet the people deciding what activities are funded and who provide such great support for on ground volunteers.

mattce@gmail.com

NWEC Info & Contacts

Visit our website 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:
reescampbell@bigpond.com

Newsletter Contributions

Please share some relevant stories, recipes or any events that are upcoming. To submit your contributions, please contact NWEC publicity officer, Robin Krabbe:

rkrabbe@westnet.com.au

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

NWEC newnewsletter 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 If you are not receiving this notification email, but would like to, please let us know by emailing: info@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@bournet.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:

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