



BSG eNews: 23rd March 2012

Bendigo Sustainability Group: towards a vibrant, connected, ecologically effective and delightful Bendigo. Visit us on www.bendigosity.org.au or our [facebook page](#).

Contents

News from the President	1
BSG events and news.....	2
Pardon my Carbon review	
Raffle winners	
Join BSG's stand at the PepperGreen Farm Community Festival!	
Jumping into action with the <i>Jump Up</i> primary school program	
From the BSG office	3
It's all about participation!	
Have you paid your membership?	
From Goldfields SolarHub	4
Business launch	
Solar Hub at Wesley Hill market	
From the Sustainable Business Program.....	4
Bendigo businesses making change, saving money and looking to help the planet	
News from the action groups	5
Policy Group	
Towards Zero Waste	
Knotty Ladies	
Bendigo Community Food Network	
Other events, activities and news	7
PepperGreen Farm Community Festival – Saturday 31st March	
Renewable energy for Bendigo – some interesting facts!	
Greater Bendigo, the safe-climate stars!	
Nanya Station outback fauna surveying conservation holiday	

News from the President

It's been a very busy few weeks for me, as no doubt it has been for everyone. I'll be on the BSG stand at the PepperGreen Farm festival during the morning, so pop over and say hello.

I look forward to seeing you there and having a chat.

David Brownbill, BSG President

BSG events and news

Pardon my Carbon review (last Friday, 16th March)

The Rod Quantock show *Pardon my Carbon* was a great night of laughter and food for thought, enjoyed by 120 people. Thanks to all the people helping, especially David H, Janine, Lisa, Margie, Vern, Sara, Ann and Cathie. Thanks also to all the raffle ticket sellers and to our sponsors and supporters: Braemac, Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo Wholefoods, VicSuper, Bendigo Community Telco and Strategem.

Raffle winners

Winners of Bendigo Sustainability Group raffle, drawn Friday 16th March 2012.

- 1st Prize: Tim P** – \$1,500 discount on a Solar PV System, courtesy of Braemac Energy.
2nd Prize: Prue D – Sustaining Friends vouchers valued at \$300, courtesy of Bendigo Wholefoods.
3rd Prize: (Name withheld) – Sustainability Gift Hamper valued at \$250, courtesy of VicSuper.
4th Prize: Teresa R – Nokia 500 Smartphone valued at \$249.95, courtesy of Bendigo Community Telco.
5th and 6th Prize – Maxine P and (Name withheld) – Meal voucher for T’hooff valued at \$50 each, courtesy of Strategem.



Join BSG's stand at the PepperGreen Farm Community Festival!

Don't forget the BSG will be hosting a stand at The PepperGreen Farm Community Festival (Saturday 31st March from 10am-3pm). We'd love to see you there: come along and say hi, or help out on the stand for an hour.

If you'd like to help out let us know ASAP – it's going to be a great fun day! Contact Lisa at the BSG office on 5443 5244 or email eo@bendigosustainability.org.au.



Jumping into action with the *Jump Up* primary school program

The BSG is excited to be partnering with Be The Change Australia, La Trobe University, City of Greater Bendigo and Quarry Hill Primary to trial this award winning new primary school program in terms 2 and 3.



The eight week participatory program encourages community and parental involvement and was inspired by the work of the Awakening the Dreamer Symposium. It directly responds to the New National Curriculum cross priority area of Sustainability and seeks to explore the concepts of sustainability, social justice and personal wellbeing.

Are you passionate about education and community leadership?

Then this exciting opportunity to train as a Jump Up facilitator and assist in delivering an exciting state wide trial program may be just for you. A scholarship is available to assist a BSG member to train to facilitate the program. Applying is simple: just write about why you want to participate – no more than 200 words. You don't need to be a previously trained educator but you must hold a current Working with Children check – we can talk to you about how to get this sorted.

The four day residential training will be held in Hepburn from 10th to 13th April.

For more information contact Helena Read on 0400 062 930 or email helena@jumpup.org.au

For more information about the Jump Up program, as well as some great video clips and photos from the program's pilot, check out the website at www.jumpup.org.au or contact program founder Helena Read on the contact details above.

Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium

When: Wednesday 28th March from 5.30pm until 9pm

Where: La Trobe University, Box Iron Bark Centre

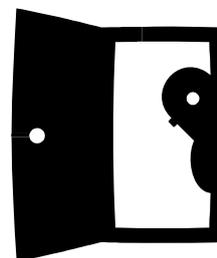
Cost: Donations invited

RSVP: Phone Lee Coller on 0437 341 290

From the BSG office

It's all about participation!

Round 3 of SolarHub is launched and moving forward, the Rod Quantock show was a flying success, and now we're gearing up for the PepperGreen Farm festival!



But it's not just about the BSG stall (although we'd LOVE to see you there!). So many BSG members are taking part in so many different ways:

- Mike from the Goldfields SolarHub will be there to answer questions on installing solar PV systems
- The Zero Waste action group are running a Fixit tent (see the Action group section below for details)
- Sustainability at the Pub are putting together a display on their past and future talks for the BSG stand
- The Bendigo Family Nature Club are giving a talk on attracting birds to your garden
- BSG member Colin Lambie will be giving a talk on the carbon tax and what it means to local businesses
- 100% Renewables will have a 'Let's build big solar' display

... and heaps more!

So come along, join in, and have a great day!

Have you paid your membership?

Is your BSG membership up to date? If not, now's the perfect time to make it so! Remember, BSG membership fees go towards keeping our organisation running.

Go to the [membership page on our website](#) to pay online or to download a membership form.

Lisa Mariah, Acting BSG Program Coordinator

From Goldfields SolarHub

Business launch

The Goldfields SolarHub's business launch was held on Wednesday 7th March at the BRIT Restaurant and was attended by a dedicated group of local businesses. Feedback after the event was very positive – people received the information they were looking for and many registered for a site visit on the night.

The Goldfields SolarHub program is open to households, businesses, schools, community groups – anyone who has a roof they'd like to use to generate their own power. **What better way to take back control of spiraling electricity bills!**

Round 3 pricing is available **RIGHT NOW**, so register your interest on the Contact Us page of our website: www.goldfieldssolarhub.org.au or phone the Goldfields SolarHub team on 5443 5244 (Mondays to Thursdays).

In other news, Lisa Mariah is leaving the SolarHub team to take on another project. "I would like to thank everyone for making my time with SolarHub so enjoyable. It's been a challenging and very rewarding project to work on. I'll still be at the BSG on Thursdays and Fridays though, working on other BSG projects – it's hard to stay away!"

Solar Hub at Wesley Hill market

Mike will be at the Wesley Hill market to answer questions for those who might want to take the leap into solar power but don't know how.

When: Saturday 24th March and also Easter Saturday 7th April

Where: Wesley Hill market, from 9am to 1pm

Cost: Nothing, it's free! Just turn up

Jen Enticott, Lisa Mariah and Mike Reeves, Goldfields SolarHub Team

From the Sustainable Business Program

Bendigo businesses making change, saving money and looking to help the planet.

2012 is in full swing for local businesses participating in the Sustainable Business Program. Time is a resource that many do not have in abundance, however our project managers are seeing committed action from our participating businesses. The aim: to create an environmental management system that empowers businesses to work towards improving efficiency, cultural change and reducing their impact on the environment.

Over the last month **Bendigo Cemeteries Trust** (BCT, Eaglehawk) have held a number of meetings to discuss how to translate a site assessment into action. From this, BCT had their first Green Team meeting to collectively develop their direction over the next year.

Closer to the centre of town, Glenda from **Organise My** has also been working through the program with Josh to successfully establish what her energy consumption has been over the last 12 months. We have



also seen **ePlus architecture** finish the program in record time, the first business in Bendigo to have completed the program!

Finally, new businesses like **Successus** and **Women's Health Loddon Mallee** will be next to meet Josh and Ian to see how they can use the Grow Me the Money resource to create their own environmental management system.

As you can see there are already numerous success stories, but even more importantly, we're growing new working relationships between the BSG and businesses. Each new partnership is facilitating change within a sector that has a critical role in creating a sustainable future.

For more information contact Joshua Lim on 0415 500 824 or email Joshuadavidlim@gmail.com

Ian McBurney and Joshua David Lim

News from the action groups

Policy Group

Big Solar launch in Bendigo takes off!

The launch of the Big Solar campaign in Bendigo held earlier this month was a great success. Despite the cold weather and the threat of rain, about 40 BSG members and friends gathered at the Bendigo Library lawns to show their support for building Big Solar in Australia and in our region.



[Click here for the article in the Bendigo Advertiser.](#)

Over the next two months we'll be hitting the streets and attending various events talking to local residents and asking them their thoughts on building big solar. It's a lot of fun, an opportunity to have real conversations with people in our community, and we get to demonstrate to others the level of support there is for building big solar. If you'd like to join us at any of our upcoming survey days (this Sat 24th March, 31st March, 6th 7th, 14th and 28th April) then contact Anne Denham on annemajella2003@yahoo.com.au.

Are you interested in biodiversity in Bendigo?

Earlier this month, the BSG Policy Action Group in partnership with the Bendigo District Environment Collective (BDEC) held a casual catchup in the park to discuss issues, opportunities and actions we can take to restore, protect and enhance our local biodiversity.

We heard from Dr Jim Radford (landscape architect) and Rod Orr (Bendigo Field Naturalists) on local and regional biodiversity issues. We heard from Stuart Fraser (BDEC and BSG) and Wendy Radford (Bushlinks and BSG) on some of the actions that are currently taking place in Bendigo and ways that the BSG can join in. Following the session we now have a draft policy position (a big thanks to Sara Hill for putting it all together).

We'd love to have your input and see what you think on what we've come up with. If you're interested then please email the BSG Policy Group at policy@bendigosustainability.org.au and we'll send you a copy.

Next BSG Policy Action Group brekky

The Policy group meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting is this coming Tuesday 27th March. We'll be focusing on finalising the Biodiversity Policy document and touching base on some of the other areas such as transport and council planning.

See you there!

When: Tuesday 27th March 8am-9am

Where: Old Green Bean, cnr Mundy St and Lyttleton Tce

Cost: Nothing, it's free, but if you want coffee or brekky you'll need to pay for that!

Karen Corr

Towards Zero Waste

If It's Broke, Fix It!

Don't throw it away! Come and see the Towards Zero Waste action groups Fix It Tent at the PepperGreen Farm festival next Saturday.

Gain skills and confidence to repair or reimagine broken household goods, guided by our innovative 'Fixers'. Bring along your broken items and we will see if we can 'Fix It'.



Small clothing alterations, electrical items to be tested and tagged, lamps with broken switches and items to be reimaged.

A small fee may apply for new parts.

For more information contact Verity Lougoon on 0432 799 802 or email zerowaste@bendigosustainability.org.au



When: Saturday 31st March, 10.00am-3.00pm at the PepperGreen Farm festival

Where: 40-44 Thunder St, North Bendigo

Cost: Nothing, it's free (a small fee may apply for new parts)

Knotty Ladies

Social sustainable stitching! Bring along your hand made project – hand sewing, knitting, drawing or whatever!

When: Tuesday 27th March, 7.30pm start

Where: House of Cloth, Shops 5 & 6, 11-13 Retreat Rd, Bendigo

Cost: Gold coin donation

More information: phone Tamara Marwood on 5444 0678 or email info@tamamarwood.com

Tamara Marwood

Bendigo Community Food Network

The Bendigo Community Food Network exists to help people connected to local food projects to support one another by sharing knowledge and resources. Gatherings are held on the first Thursday of every month. Each month we meet at a different location, share a meal, have a chat, and be introduced to a local food project. If you can't come to the meetings you can still be on our contact list. Just send your details through.

For more information contact Susie Scott on 0458 756 682 or email scott.susannah@gmail.com

When: 5th April from 5.30 to 7.30pm

Where: Gravel Hill Community Garden, Bramble St (off Mundy St)

Cost: No cost, just bring a plate of food to share

Susie Scott

Other events, activities and news

PepperGreen Farm Community Festival – Saturday 31st March

That's next weekend! It is the day Bendigo celebrates our fresh, healthy and local community! Come along to enjoy over 40 stalls of local produce, sustainable beer, wine and coffee, Timboon ice cream and great local products for your home! Lots of great free activities for you and the kids from weaving, to learning about the Bendigo Creek and storm water. Like us on Facebook and watch out for details coming up in the Bendigo Weekly.



When: Saturday 31st March, 10am-3pm

Where: PepperGreen Farm 40–44 Thunder street Bendigo

Cost: Nothing, it's free and fantastic!

More information: Phone Tamara Marwood on 0408 357 952 or email tamaram@accessemployment.com.au . Or visit www.accessemployment.com.au

Renewable energy for Bendigo – some interesting facts!

For those who like numbers... we recently worked out that we need 300MW of solar PV to power Bendigo if we only used this one form of renewable energy. If each of the 40,000 homes had a 3kW solar system on their roof, that would amount to 120MW of solar. If all businesses with roof space had solar PV on their roof, we might have another 80MW, a total of 200MW.

Given the great investment solar PV is, homes and businesses in Bendigo with solar would have more funds for investing or spending on other things, and hopefully a good percentage would stay in Bendigo.

Yes someone is going to 'suffer' – the international companies that profit from the coal fired power stations will have less profit to take out of the country. Of course, some Australian workers are going to have to change career, as did blacksmiths, wagon wrights, etc. a hundred years ago.

For more information phone Colin Lambie on 0417 561 903 or email colin@lambie.net.au

Provided by BSG member Colin Lambie

Greater Bendigo, the safe-climate stars!

So far, the safe-climate actions of 32 people in the Greater Bendigo area are on display in the **One Person Can** result graphs (more than most council areas!).

All 32 avoid food packaging and dripping taps, and have dual-flush toilets and energy-efficient white goods. The scores for minimising clothes dryer and air conditioner use are near perfect, and there's an amazingly high count for composting and growing your own fruit and veg. Way to go Bendigo!



See Bendigo's results at www.onepersoncan.org/graphNat1.aspx?ft=lga.

Unlike most surveys, this one will continue to build results over the months and years ahead. Whenever you come across anyone who might be interested in adding their actions to the Bendigo results, please point them to www.onepersoncan.org

For more information email Margaret Hender at margaret@onepersoncan.org

Nanya Station outback fauna surveying conservation holiday

Join Conservation Volunteers on an amazing ten day Naturewise Conservation holiday at Nanya Station, 135 km North West of Wentworth in far western NSW.

The Nanya experience provides a special opportunity to explore the vast and timeless outback landscapes of NSW while contributing to conservation at Nanya.

At Nanya you will get to wind down to the pace of the timeless outback and enjoy your conservation activities including mallee fowl surveys and mound monitoring, kangaroo surveys, vegetation monitoring, and help put up predator proof fencing to protect precious outback species.

Another gem in your 10 day experience is a visit to the iconic town of Broken Hill and to the Living Desert Reserve. The scenery and landscape within the reserve are breathtaking and include the nationally known Sculpture Symposium featuring Sandstone artworks, which highlight the skyline, all with a story to tell and completed by artists from around the world.

When: Tuesday 17th April to Thursday 26th of April

Where: Departs 420 Hargreaves Street Bendigo at 7am

Cost: \$450 twin share. Significant student supplement available – please call Adam to find out more.

For more info visit: www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/get-involved/holidays/nanya-station

For more information contact: Adam Smolak on 5444 0777 or 0427 507 004 or email asmolak@cva.org.au