



Paperless

Monthly News



Bendigo Sustainability Group: towards a vibrant, connected, ecologically effective and delightful Bendigo.
www.bendigosity.org.au

Such a thing as an end-of-year wind-up...we don't think so!

The launch of the **Beyond Carbon Bendigo** project 2 weekends ago kicked off what is shaping up to be a very busy period leading up to Xmas. Before the end of the year we are holding an end of year picnic in the park to coincide with our **AGM**, as well as a **Walk against Warming** event. There are also numerous **Action Group events** and other local sustainability happenings.

Another point of note is that thanks to the kind sponsorship of **Bendigo Community Telco** the BSG now has a dedicated phone no. **0422 605 156**.

Warm Regards, Karen Corr
BSG President

Getting involved in the BSG

Our office has been opening on Thursday mornings so feel free to drop in and say hello between 10am and noon. Anyone wishing to assist being a BSG face for these hours please contact David on 5439 6469.

However there are many ways to get involved with the BSG - attending events, becoming creative in an Action Group or just volunteering to help keep the BSG wheels turning. Some specific assistance is currently required in the following areas:

- We require a couple of hours from a volunteer to help type up some notes from the Beyond Carbon Bendigo (BCB) launch (see below) so we can get them up on the website for all to see.
- We are also in need of volunteers to help keep our webpage updated (there are simple instructions available - its a Joomla site if this means anything to you) and develop other communications material. Even to help pull together this newsletter on a regular basis
- Writing grant applications

Please contact Beck at beck@bendigosity.org.au if you have some time and skills to share.

End of year celebratory picnic and AGM

From 1.00pm **Sunday 29th November at Rosalind Park** (near the Children's playground) we are having an end of year **celebratory picnic**. So bring your family, a food plate to share and of course your good cheer!

Following at 2pm is some important business - our **AGM**. As well as reports on how we fared as an organisation during 2008-09 the committee is up for election. There are 8 positions needing to be filled. There is good interest from a number of existing committee members in renominating, but we will need more people and it would be good to see some fresh faces - please consider nominating.

Contact Secretary Linda at beilharz@inet.net.au / 0409 940 184 or other BSG committee members for further information about the roles, or BSG Returning Officer, Janine Heislars at janine@bendigosity.org.au

Successful Beyond Carbon Bendigo Launch and Energy Futures Conference Report

Last Sunday at the Capital Theatre the Beyond Carbon Bendigo (BCB) project had its official launch as part of the Energy Futures Conference. Representatives from local government, business, community and even one State MP attended and all participated in discussion about our vision for Bendigo to become a sustainable city. The project was officially launched by every single person in the room (which was about 40 to 50 people). There is now a BCB Scroll which has signatures of all those that attended on the day who committed to joining the journey of creating a sustainable city. This scroll will be located at the Bendigo Sustainability Group office (108 Wills Street) where the BSG will continue to collate signatures of people wanting to be part of this journey.

This is just the start of a long journey ahead and it's very exciting to have so many people and so many organisations on board with this. BCB is an exciting project exploring how Bendigo will create employment, a thriving economy and a progressive, internationally attractive city through the development of an ecologically effective city.

The BSG would like to thank the Bendigo Business Council, the City of Greater Bendigo, La Trobe University and everyone from business, government and the community who have attended and contributed at an event related to the Beyond Carbon Bendigo project to date.

If you would like to know more or if you are interested in being a part of this project contact ianmcburney@impulse.net.au There will be more information on our website soon.

Listen to Ian McBurney speak to Jonathan Ridnell about the Energy Futures conference and the Beyond Carbon Bendigo initiative:

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2009/11/06/2735246.htm?site=centralvic>

Some of us were lucky enough to attend the Energy Futures Conference in Bendigo by winning a ticket through an ABC Central Victorian Radio competition. Part of the deal was to let others know what happened at the conference by reporting on a blog through the ABC website. You can check out the blog at the following link. It's worth a read to find out what really went on at the conference! A big thankyou to the ABC for giving us this opportunity.

<http://blogs.abc.net.au/victoria/energy-futures>

1000 Members Campaign

Congratulations everyone - we are now nearing 250 memberships which equates to around 600 members! Welcome to all members who have joined the BSG recently and thanks to all existing members for their continued support and for getting the word out there. But it's time to ramp up our '1000 Members Campaign' so we can reach our target by the end of the year! Why 1000?.....this is equivalent to 1% of our regional population and if we reach 1% we think we are doing OK. Also people and organisations are astounded when they hear how many members we have gained in such a short space of time. We are building up momentum in Bendigo and the more members we have the more our voice will be heard.

Here's a thought - what if each of us could aim to secure another 5 members by our AGM on 29th Nov.....could be as easy as sending this newsletter to all your friends and encouraging them to register online. Surely we can build a membership base to beat the likes of Castlemaine (MASG) and BREAZE (Ballarat)! (Not that it's a competition of course!)

Click [here](#) for membership or contact Janine at janine@bendigosity.org.au

The Little Things Diary - BSG Christmas fundraiser

The Little Things Diary 2010 has a sustainability tip for each day of the year - not just a diary but also a guide to sustainable living. It's a great Christmas gift idea.....the cost to BSG members is \$15 a copy (\$20 to non- members). Drop into the BSG office on a Thursday morning to pick-up your copy or a batch to distribute, or alternatively call 0422 605 156.

Farmers Market Fun-draisers!

Two great fundraisers to look forward to:

Thursday 26th November – **Julie & Julia** night at the Star Cinema

French two course meal, and superb movie all for \$40. Support the Star and the Bendigo Community Farmers Market, bookings essential on 5446-2025.

Saturday 28th November – **Reclaim the Night!**

Dance like you used to. Dancing extravaganza at the famous Goldies from 9.30pm. The place has been booked out, so party with all your friends before the Christmas season gets silly. Tickets \$10, and make sure you request your favourite groovin' greats - contact michelejmartin@hotmail.com. You need a night out!

BSG Bulk-Buys

Solar Hot Water

There have been a few teething problems in the first few months of operation but we're working hard to resolve these with Energy Matters to ensure an enduring BSG bulk buy solar hot water program that you can have confidence in. If you haven't already done so email your EOI to solarhotwater@bendigostustainability.org.au or click [here](#) (the SHW tab on the BSG website) for more information and to register online.

PV's

A new Solar PV Bulk Buy to generate your own electricity is coming soon. To register your early interest send an email to Colin Lambie at pv@bendigostustainability.org.au

Sustainable Food End of Year Gathering

A formal evening in the Gardens... Thursday 17th December 5.30 pm onwards. Bring a gourmet plate to share and dress formal. All welcome.

And just a reminder of our regular events:

During daylight savings the food group is meeting at Gravel Hill Gardens (Bramble Street, Bendigo)

- every Thursday from 5.30 pm. All welcome. Please bring a plate of food to share
- the 2nd Sunday of every month for a produce and ideas exchange and gardening activities

We also hold regular pot-luck dinners. For further details about food group activities, please contact Suse Hayes: shayes80@hotmail.com or on 0400 051 159.

Bendigo Walk against Warming

Watch this space.....we hope to gather the masses on Saturday December 12th and help send a strong message to world leaders meeting in Copenhagen!

The “Sustainability Now” presentation

This 45 minute presentation looks at the links between the changing economy, the state of the planet and the biggest movement in human history. It puts the case that we can, we must and we are creating a diverse, connected, ecologically effective and delightful Bendigo, and that the time to jump on board is now. Book this presentation for your business or community by contacting Beck beck@bendigostustainability.org.au or 0409 661311.

Other Local Events, Activities and Opportunities

Launch of Central Victoria Solar City project and opening of Solar Parks

Help celebrate the opening of the Solar Parks and launch of the Central Victoria Solar City Project at the Plug into Solar Community event. Plug into Solar is a vibrant community event where you can: take a guided Solar Park tour; get information on how to sign up for the Parks and other Central Victoria Solar City packages; pick up free energy tips and tricks from experts in the field;

enjoy great local food and entertainment; plus be in the running to receive giveaways. Tours of the new Solar Park include information on how the PV panels operate, how the Solar Park works, and how renewable energy can be used to help meet your energy needs. Saturday 21st November, 12.30-3.00 pm at the corner of Wallanjoe Rd and Adelaide Hills Rd, Huntly (next to the livestock exchange). For more information visit www.centralvictoriasolarcity.com.au or call 03 5479 1900. RSVP to info@centralvictoriasolarcity.com.au or the phone number above.

Dear Sam... A Fundraiser for North Pole Expedition

In February, local identity and **BSG Secretary Linda Beilharz will be travelling to the North Pole** to take ice samples to test algal levels as a climate change biomarker. A fundraiser will be held on Thursday 3rd December to help fund this trip. Activities include live crosses to other team members, inspiring speakers, visioning activities, an auction of various items and a fantastic dinner. For more details contact Linda on 0409 940 184 or beilharz@inet.net.au You can also purchase tickets (\$30) at Market News, Bendigo Market Place

Green Loans program now available in Bendigo

The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is currently running the Green Loans program that will allow households to assess the energy efficiency of their home for free, and receive a list of suggested actions to make the house more sustainable. If you wish to proceed with any suggested actions the program will allow for an interest free loan for up to \$10,000. There are many local assessors to help you with the programme. Phone 1800 859 076 to book a free assessment or for more information have a look at www.environment.gov.au/greenloans

Weed Workshops

Interested in knowing more about weeds? The following workshops are being held at Bendigo TAFE:

- What does your garden grow? Train the trainer workshop, Tues 24th November
- What pesky plant is that? Wednesday 25th November

Each course (including lunch) is \$200.

For further details, please contact Annette Beer: annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au or (02) 6938 1671

Wonderful Wellsford Photo Competition

Over 450 primary school students have participated in the Wonderful Wellsford Photo Competition. A presentation evening will be held at Dudley House, View Street on the 17th November at 6:00pm where children, their parents, representatives from the City of Greater Bendigo, local politicians and members of the public will gather to view students photos and witness the giving of 6 major prizes and 10 highly recommended certificates. The public is also invited to view the exhibition of student's work at Dudley House 10.00 a.m. till 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th November, and 10.00-noon on Thursday 19th November. Entry is free. For further information please phone Wendy Radford on 54 395 339 or Stuart Fraser on 5443 1326.

Loddon Mallee Iconic Trails Strategy survey

As part of the Loddon Mallee Iconic Trails Strategy, there is currently a survey open to the public to find information such as: what makes a trail significant; what features are required to attract trail users; some details on trail user visitation and spending patterns; and some ideas on which natural and cultural features are likely to be of interest in this region to potential trail users. Follow this link if you have used regionally significant walking, cycling, canoeing or horse riding trails in Victoria or Australia. The survey will be active throughout November.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=gkNYhDUMjAbxHJIG0rd_2fcQ_3d_3d

Key dates for the diary ...

Thurs 26th Nov - Julie & Julia night at the Star Cinema (Farmers Market Fundraiser)

Sat 28th Nov - Reclaim the Night Golden Oldies Dance (Farmers Market Fundraiser)

Sun 29th Nov - End of Year Celebration Picnic and AGM

Sat 12th Dec - Walk Against Warming (Bendigo)

Thurs 17th Dec - Sustainable Food End of Year Gathering

See above for all details.....

The BSG Friday Breakfast Chats

We've been gathering each Friday morning to have some more informal chats around the BSG and sustainability. Come along one Friday (usually from 8am) and join in. All are welcome. Phone 0422 605 156 for the venue for the week.

BSG Committee Meetings

Next BSG committee meeting: Tuesday Nov 24, 5-7pm BSG House

And a final something to ponder

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

Charles Darwin

We appreciate the assistance of all our sponsors and supporters



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