



Paperless Monthly News



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

The BSG needs YOU...

It's another jam packed edition of our paperless news – plenty of opportunities to participate, be involved in, learn from and be inspired by.

Believe it or not lots of things have been happening behind the scenes at the BSG including preparation for a Beyond Carbon Bendigo Business project; the success of obtaining funds to run a Women's Leadership in Sustainability Program; the success of the CVGA obtaining funds for a program titled "Retrofitting the Regions" of which the BSG will be involved in; the review of our office space; a new BSG logo (big thank-you to Dale Harris from Studio Ink for this); and the development of a BSG 2010 strategy. All very exciting stuff – we'll keep you posted as these and more develop further!

Thank-you so much to all those who have contributed tirelessly over the last couple of months to support the numerous events and activities we have on the go.

Warm Regards, Karen Corr
BSG President

BSG Operations

BSG committee vacancies

Want to learn more about the behind the scenes happenings of the BSG? Want to gain experience on being on a board of a very exciting and expanding not for profit organisation? Then how about nominating yourself for one of the two committee positions currently vacant. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with the BSG. The committee meetings are once a month and committee members will have an opportunity to attend some governance training too. Please contact Lisa Mahon on 5468 1784 or Karen Corr pres@bendigosustainability.org.au if you are interested or want to know more about what's involved.

Funding campaign – call for member involvement

As you know, BSG are doing lots of great things; from food to comedy, the activity is amazing. But we really need to build up our funding base so that we can fund action groups and pay a person to 'sustainably' coordinate and support action on sustainability. So please come along to make a plan for getting some dollars in the bank, at a meeting on Monday May 10th at 7pm. at our Wills St. Office. For more information contact Claire Flanagan-Smith at clairef@mcg.com.au or call 0427 679 044.

Successful First Community Farmers Market

There was an amazing turnout for the very first Bendigo Community Farmers Market on April 11. Despite the rain, over 2000 people attended and the market was a sell out. It was a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and buy delicious, regional and seasonal food. **The next market is this Saturday 8th May, from 9am-1pm.** Tell your friends and bring your basket or bag!

A great night out with Rod Quantock!

A great night was had by all (about 250 of us) at Rod Quantock's *Bugger the Polar Bears, this is Serious*, at The Capital last Thursday night. Rod was so quick with his satirical quips, his whiteboard (re)drawings of the globe and applying his own art of articulating climate change 'factology'. It became very clear very quickly just how learned and passionate Rod is about human induced climate change!

Following his show proper Rod moved us seamlessly into the draw of the Big BSG Autumn Raffle where 8 great prizes were won. Our gratitude to The Food Garden, Bendigo Community Telco, VicSuper, Planet Power and Strategem for supplying the prizes. Also a special thanks to the CoGB for covering The Capital hire through a Community Grant. With this assistance we expect to clear around \$3000 from the event, so it has been a significant fundraiser for us.

And we appreciate the efforts to all the BSGers that made it happen – the success of the event has now given thought as to what we might do next!

100% Renewable Campaign

Thanks to all those who came to the Bendigo Tourist Information Centre on Sunday for the Launch of the National *100% Renewable Campaign*. We had over 20 people turn up which was a good effort considering we only put the word out there late last week. The event attracted local media including an interview on ABC radio and local newspaper. The BSG joined with over 70 other community groups around Australia on the day. It's worth checking out the [campaign facebook page](#) to see some of the other photos.

We'll keep you posted on this campaign. For more information see www.100percent.org.au In short the campaign brings together community groups with one voice to create a rapid transition to renewable energy for Australia. It is designed to grow an inclusive movement that leaves no-one behind, that focuses on a vision for structural and technological change that will create a safe climate for future generations.

By the way, if there is anyone interested in helping organise future campaign related events, please let us know, there's so much going on in this space, we just don't have enough hours in the day to do it all!

BSG Conversations for Change

Join us on the third Friday of each month for fantastic conversation, a bottle of something and some supper. Everyone's welcome. Entry by gold coin donation, BYO bottle of wine, tea and coffee provided. 7.30 – 9.00 pm - venues will vary. Bookings essential, call the BSG on 0422 605 156.

Upcoming topics:

May 21st – LOCAL FOOD: Growing, Sharing, Eating! Venue TBA

Jun 18th – CREATING A THRIVING BENDIGO: People, Planet & Profit. Venue TBA

Jul 16th – SUSTAINABLE CRAFT Venue TBA

Aug 20th – SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION IN BENDIGO Venue TBA

Sep 17th - STORY TELLING: CONNECTING TO THE EARTH Venue TBA

Oct 15th – A 2011 BSG BIG THINK Venue TBA

Bulk-buy of Solar Hot Water and Solar PV systems

For a quote on solar hot water or solar PV (electricity) systems from a supplier that offers a special deal to BSG members, please contact Colin on 0417 561 903 or email pv@bendigostustainability.org.au

Or, alternatively take advantage of the **Central Victoria Solar City's Household Solar Electric Package where big price reductions are now being offered**. Prices now start as low as \$6,831, (incl GST and REC rebate) for the 2kW solar electric system. This price includes an exclusive Central Victoria Solar City 10% discount. And remember, as well as being eligible to apply for the Victorian Premium net Feed-In Tariff (PFIT) you'll receive the project's annual gross feed-in tariff and a \$250 performance bonus as part of the project. All participants currently signed up and awaiting installation through our project can access these great new prices. To receive a quote for your system call Origin Solar on 1300 791 468, but remember to mention the Central Victoria Solar City project to ensure your 10% discount!

Even better, you can directly support the BSG by expressing interest in the Solar City offer via the BSG, ie. contact Colin on pv@bendigostustainability.org.au or ph 0417 561 903.

BSG Sustainable Food Group happenings

Monthly Produce Exchange

Our monthly produce exchange is changing to the **4th Sunday of the month** starting 11.00am at Gravel Hill Gardens, Bramble St. Come and share your home grown produce, seeds, ideas and energy, or home cooking – you don't need to have a veggie garden to participate! For more about the Sustainable Food Group, contact Suse on Suse on 0400 051159 or email shayes80@hotmail.com

And a reminder that now is a great time to be planting broadbeans, cabbage, lettuce, mustard greens, and peas...

Congratulations to Linda Beilharz and team

A huge congratulations to Linda Beilharz (our BSG secretary!), partner Rod Rigato and Canadian Sarah McNair-Landry, for their unbelievable effort making it to the North Pole on Monday after travelling 780kms over 55 days through treacherous conditions. Linda has become the first Australian woman to trek successfully across both the south and north poles. Linda is a true testament to the attitude that anything really is possible when you put your mind to it and she is an absolute inspiration to us all!

Greater Bendigo Freecycle Group

**** Get stuff for free – give stuff for free ****

**** Clear your clutter without adding to landfill ****

Have some paint left over from decorating? Old furniture? Children's toys? Food you can't eat before you go on holiday? Unwanted presents? Don't dump it, offer it on Freecycle!

Just moved house, and short of a few basic things? Looking for a kitchen table? Old material? A radio for your workshop? Bathroom tiles? Ask on Freecycle!

All you need is an email address. There's one rule on Freecycle: EVERYTHING IS FREE!

Members post "wanted" and "offered" emails to other members in their area. Out of hundreds of people, someone nearly always wants it, or has it.

Google "bendigo freecycle" or go to:

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/GreaterBendigoFreecycle/>

Be part of it...Freecycle has 6.5 million members worldwide!

Other Local Events, Activities and Opportunities

Useful information

Free climate change workshop for rural women

Find out everything you want to know about climate change! Climate Change 101 is a workshop for rural women being held in Bendigo at 6.30pm this Thursday May 6th. This workshop is free, and includes a light meal, but bookings are essential through Jenny Pendlebury on 5434 6479 or at j.pendlebury@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Transition Town training in Castlemaine

The Transition Town concept is predicated on the fact that when we look at climate change and peak oil, we need a systems rethink. Our approach is underpinned by the philosophy that wisdom and knowledge abounds within each of us and when we group together we can achieve what is required to transition our communities to resilience. We explore a variety of community engagement models, groupwork techniques, the industrial growth system and our role in it, deep ecology processes, timelines and envisaging a future we actually want to be a part of.

A weekend, *Training For Transition Castlemaine* is to be held May 15-16 b/w 9.30-5.30pm @ Castlemaine Community House, 27 Lyttleton St Castlemaine. Cost is \$100/\$80conc. Call 5472 4842 or email info@cch.org.au to enquire or book. At the end of the weekend it is aimed that folks have new skills around engaging their communities, to be inspired and to be connected to an international grass roots movement.

North Central Biolinks Forum

This forum seeks to bring together key stakeholder groups and community representatives to explore the role of biolinks in landscape scale conservation. It will provide an opportunity to improve our understanding of landscape connectivity, present the North Central Biolinks concept and look for opportunities. Thursday 20th May 2010 5.00pm – 8.30pm, Banquet Room, The Capital Theatre. Bookings essential. Please contact Ben Kroker, ph 5434 6000 or email b.kroker@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Local sustainability on the radio

Don't forget that PhoenixFM brings its listeners a regular BSG segment on the second Wednesday morning of each month at nine o'clock as part of the Wednesday Talk show. PhoenixFM is a new community operated radio station dedicated to assisting individuals and community groups communicate their message to a wider listening audience. Talks Convener, Geoff Morris, is keen to hear from any member with a topic of interest to discuss. Contact info@phoenixfm.org or call Geoff Morris on 5446 9716. PhoenixFM broadcasts full time on frequency 106.7FM or it is streamed via www.phoenixfm.org

Key dates for the diary ...

See above for all details on the following.....

Fri 6th May **Workshop: Climate Change for rural women**

Sat 8th May **Bendigo Community Farmers' Market**

Mon 10th May **BSG funding planning meeting**

Fri 21st May **Friday evening conversation: LOCAL FOOD - Growing, Sharing, Eating!**

Regular Dates

3rd Friday of the month - Conversations of Change, from 7.30pm, check locations

4th Sunday of the month - Produce Exchange, Gravel Hills Gardens, from 11.00am

BSG Committee Meetings

The next BSG Committee Meeting is at 7.30pm 24th May at the BSG Office. Anyone is welcome to attend and be part of the committee discussions. Meetings are usually held the 4th Monday evening of each month.

And, a final something to ponder

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Harold R. McAlindon

We appreciate the assistance of all our sponsors and supporters



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