



Benalla Sustainable Future Group

Newsletter 14

June 2016

Benalla Sustainable
Future Group Inc.
PO Box 642
Benalla 3672

Next Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on

Thursday 23rd June at 7.30pm
in the Uniting Church Meeting Room
opposite the Coles Car Park,
Carrier Street Benalla

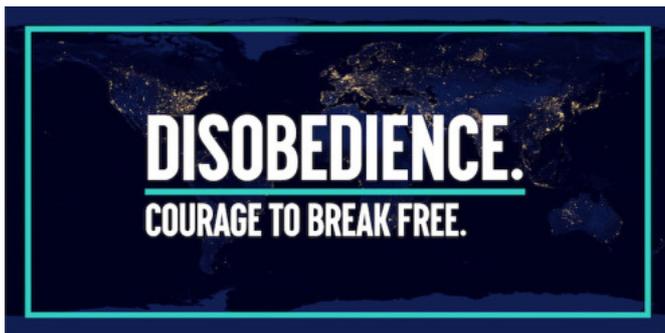
'Disobedience'

At this meeting we will be showing the documentary '*Disobedience*' from climate activist group 350.org.

The film is based on the premise that despite the Paris Agreement political commitment does little to change the tide of global warming in the years to come. Believing that the call for real and lasting change cannot be answered by impotent politicians, the film showcases a diverse group of activists throughout the globe who have taken the fight into their own hands.

In one profile after another, *Disobedience* introduces us to inspiring groups of people who are advocating for a better way of life for their families, their communities and their planet through 'civil disobedience'.

350.org



President's Column

Budget Ignores Climate Change

Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull said in 2010 that climate change was the ultimate long-term problem that needs to be acted on urgently. But in his first budget as government leader, it is as though the issue does not exist.

Climate change was not even mentioned as a word or even an issue - despite Malcolm Turnbull's first budget apparently being about growth and jobs for the future. There was no new money for climate initiatives and the only mention renewable energy got was to confirm that \$1.3 billion in funds would be stripped from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

Professor John Hewson, a former leader of the Liberal Party, told the 2016 Solar Expo conference, "There was nothing in the speech, not a word. The slogan is jobs and growth. I would have thought that one of the most significant sectors for economic and jobs growth is renewables - I am staggered that it didn't get a mention in the speech or in the documents." Hewson said the decision to remove funding from ARENA was an "absolute tragedy." (ReNew Economy, Giles Parkinson, 4/5/2016).

Giles Parkinson says that the budget papers do not include extra funding for the Direct Action plan that Turnbull once ridiculed and dismissed as a 'fig-leaf' for a climate policy and now forms the basis of the government's emissions reductions plan, including the Paris agreement it signed just a few weeks ago.

Once the government has spent the current \$2.5 billion allocation for handouts to polluters to do pretty much what they were doing anyway, there is zero extra funding for emissions abatement.

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed." - Mahatma Gandhi

The budget also 'slammed the door' on renewable energy innovation. The \$1.3 billion of unallocated funds for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency remains excised from the budget papers - even though it remains legislated - while \$1 billion is transferred from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and rebadged as a new Clean Energy Innovation Fund.

Parkinson reports that the Climate Institute was also critical of the budget. CEO John Connor said, "It ignores the fact that if we do not invest in strong, effective action to reduce emissions now, it will simply cost us much more in the not too distant future. The consequences of ongoing failure to tackle climate change will be escalating energy, unemployment and other economic costs over the next few decades."

"Without a plan to end climate pollution with net zero emissions by 2050 the government doesn't have a plan for the future let alone a plan for climate change. This budget of delay is piling up the risks of shocks to electricity prices, energy security and the jobs that depend on both," concluded Connor.

'Sleight of hand' on clean energy investment

Back in March there was significant support for Malcolm Turnbull's announcement that the government would not close down the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. This was a welcome change from the Coalition plans to dump the CEFC as it signalled a potential shift from the anti-renewable policy stance of the previous Abbott regime, but there was more to the announcement than that. Unfortunately most of the environment groups and media commentators just focussed on the retention of the CEFC and ignored the announcement of new plans to essentially de-fund the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and replace it with a new "Clean Energy Innovation Fund."

However Giles Parkinson (ReNew Economy, 23/3/2016) reports that there was 'sleight of hand' involved in this announcement. "The move to de-fund ARENA and create a 'new' fund using money already allocated to the CEFC is nothing but a sleight of hand, and an elaborate ruse by Turnbull to save more than \$1.3 billion and get his new pet-word 'innovation' included in a financing scheme. It may also be designed to meet Australia's Paris commitment to invest 'new money' in clean energy innovation."

"Climate science is not yet settled" say Coalition MPs

Fiona Nash, the deputy leader of the Nationals has joined her cabinet colleague Attorney General George Brandis in claiming the science of climate change is not yet settled.

Senator Nash who is responsible for regional development, regional communications and rural health told Sky News there were 'varying views' on climate science and she was of the opinion it was still up for debate. (Michael Koziol, *The Age*, 23/4/2016)

This followed an earlier statement by Senator Brandis who had told the Senate there were still questions about the nature and causes of climate change, though

he acknowledged he was not a scientist. "It doesn't seem to me that the science is settled at all", he said.

These views extend much wider through the Coalition than these two senators. In March the NSW Liberal Party called on the federal government to conduct a series of public debates about climate change, including whether it is real or not.

The international scientific community may have accepted the reality but the Coalition apparently has not.

ALP promises to slash carbon emissions

A Shorten Labor government would slash carbon emissions by about 50 per cent more than the Turnbull-led Coalition by 2030. Signalling that the ALP is prepared to make climate change a central point of difference from the government, leader Bill Shorten said "the consequences of refusing to take meaningful action on climate change will be devastating for Australia and our economy". (Peter Hannam, *The Age*, 27/4/2016) "While senior ministers in the Liberal government are still disputing whether the 'science is settled' on climate change, Labor knows it is," Mr Shorten said.

Key elements of Labor's plan include a target of reducing Australia's 2005 levels of emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and re-introducing carbon pricing through an emissions trading scheme. Other elements include using federal laws to prevent states like NSW and Queensland relaxing land-clearing laws, and lifting the share of renewable energy to 50 per cent by 2030, or roughly triple the current level. Labor would also scrap the "wasteful, failed Direct Action policies" that are budgeted to direct \$2.55 billion to pay emitters to cut pollution. Other policies would include increasing social access to energy saving measures, so that people's electricity bills would fall even if per-unit costs rose.

John Lloyd

The Adventures of Jobson Growth

- from the Letters Page of The Age

Jobson Growth - born May 3rd, Budget Night

May 6: Christening Treasurer's new friend

A few years ago I taught a little boy who wrote that he liked Jim Nastics. I assumed it was a little Greek friend until I found out he liked exercising. Now I want to meet Scott Morrison's friend Jobson Growth.

May 10: PM drafts a new candidate

In announcing the double dissolution election, Mr Turnbull has obviously realised the old Liberal Party warhorse Jobson Growth will struggle. So he drafted a new candidate, Grothan Jobs, whose family connections to the founder of the Apple empire will enhance Turnbull's high-tech credentials.

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Adani mine approval threatens reef

The giant Carmichael mine project in the Galilee Basin, in north Queensland, is one step closer following the announcement, at the beginning of April, by the Queensland government that it had approved three Adani mining leases for the \$21.7 billion Carmichael coal, mine and rail project.

Premier Annastacia Palaaszczuk said the approved leases had undergone "extensive government and community scrutiny" and were a step towards securing jobs for the region. An Adani spokesman said, with the leases approved, the company hoped to start construction on the mine sometime next year.

Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Anthony Lynham, confirmed that no dredging would take place at Abbott Point until Adani had demonstrated financial closure. The Premier said "stringent conditions would continue to protect the environment, landholders' and traditional owners' interests and Great Barrier Reef".

Considerable concern and even outrage has been expressed about the potential damage to the Great Barrier Reef following this announcement of lease approvals.

Will Adani mine be constructed?

"Adani is not going to happen; the construction, that is, of the leviathan Carmichael mine, the world's largest thermal coal mine in the hinterland of the Great Barrier Reef", says Michael West in the article, *Why Adani is not going to happen*. (*The Age BusinessDay*, 5/4/2016)

"Much is the wailing and gnashing of teeth at the move by the Queensland government to approve the project but this approval is entirely political".

West argues that it is all about the appearance of commitment to jobs, jobs that will never occur unless the coal price doubles, and it is about the government not getting 'bashed up' by the opposition for being anti-jobs and abandoning its election commitments. In relation to the need to demonstrate 'financial closure' before any dredging can take place, West says, "not only is the project 'bankerless' but, apart from the Australian government which is 'energy-policyless', the real world has moved on, quickly".

The head of China's State Grid Corporation, the world's biggest power provider, recently told a US energy conference that the "ramp up of renewable energy and integration of wind and solar power projects into China's grid were gathering pace. A fundamental solution to address power needs and climate change is to accelerate clean energy." The eventual aim was "replacing coal and oil".

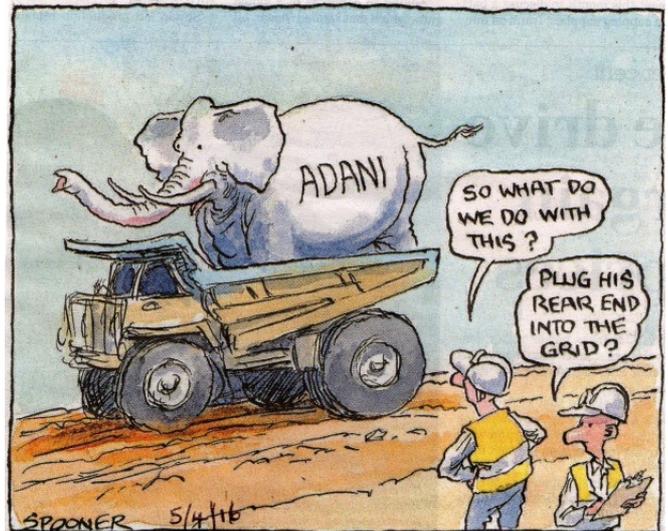
West says that this policy statement, together with an "equally enlightened energy policy in India, lies in stark relief to the utterances of the Australian resources-led regime, whose unwavering commitment to new fossil-fuel projects is quite bizarre, as though it is wilfully ignoring global realities, by flooding an

already depressed market with new sources of supply".

West details the slowdown in construction of coal-fired power plants and the reduction of coal consumption in China as well as the fall in coal prices, making the outlook for 2016 rather grim. Industry experts are talking about the 'silent revolution' of China's electricity markets and drawing the "increasingly obvious conclusion for thermal coal".

"The evidence is compelling. Carmichael is the whitest of white elephants. The thermal coal sector is in serious structural decline. This is not cyclical. Adani will be a high cost mine, the coal is low quality and the capital is not yet raised. It's not going to happen".

John Lloyd



Continued...

The Adventures of Jobson Growth

May 12: The adventures continue

Jobson Growth, Jobson Growth, Jobson Growth. Ring the bell. Ring the Bell. Ring the Bell. Here is our next Pavlovian mantra from the Coalition.

Seems ministers have formed a new cult and are chanting the same mantra. Is Jobson Growth their spiritual leader? Are they disciples of Mammon?

Turnbull can't ditch Jobson Growth, it's his and Morrison's love child.

Malcolm is out to make life easier for this Jobson Growth bloke, but who are the 'Muhammad Dad' investors Barnaby-Joyce is so concerned about?

The success of Jobson Growth is premised on having attended an adequately funded government school.

I'm getting worried about this outbreak of Jobson Growth. Is it like a wart, a pox or a really serious contagion?

... continued two pages on

Our biodiversity crisis is neglected in this election campaign

The following is an extract from an Article on The Conversation by Don Driscoll, Professor in Terrestrial Ecology, Deakin University and Euan Ritchie Senior Lecturer in Ecology, Deakin University

The electioneering has begun. In a campaign set to be dominated by economic issues, the Coalition and Labor are locking horns over who can best manage our finances, protect jobs and make housing more affordable. The Greens predictably decry the major parties, including their cavalier climate-change policies. These are important issues, but are they highest priority on the political agenda? An arguably even greater issue exists that nobody is seriously championing, but which impacts all of us, socially, environmentally and economically.

Our natural heritage – the plants, animals and other organisms that help define Australia's identity – are in dire straits. Yet this biodiversity crisis is barely mentioned in political discourse, nor is it foremost in the public consciousness.

The world economy is losing €50 billion (A\$73 billion) a year through lost ecosystem services. It is predicted to lose €14 trillion per year by 2050 without action now. With potentially 7% of global economic product at stake by mid-century, nature conservation must surely be on the agenda in this election.

Looking at the major parties' platforms, it is clear that nature is not on the agenda. Labor lists 23 positive policies, none of which deals directly with conserving Australia's plants and animals. The Liberal-National Party has done slightly better, claiming to believe in preserving Australia's natural beauty and environment for future generations. However, its federal platform, released last year, shows no evidence of this belief.

Public concern has also shifted away from nature issues and towards other concerns like terrorism, as well as traditional areas of focus such as health care and the economy. This shift can be seen in some surprising places, such as the major grassroots lobby group GetUp – of its ten current campaigns only one, the Great Barrier Reef program, is directly about conserving wildlife diversity.

Environmental riches, but for how long?

The value of biodiversity to humans is well established. Biodiversity reduces stress, crime and disease. It also provides new economic opportunities and many other benefits, from climate control, to flood defence, to the many benefits delivered by birds.

These are just the tip of the iceberg, but like the polar ice they are at risk of disappearing through our neglect.

Despite biodiversity's immense value, Australia's natural heritage is not assured. Good news stories exist, but as a succession of government State of the

Environment reports over recent decades has shown, our natural heritage continues to be squandered.

The reports cite population growth, economic growth and climate change as key drivers of decline. Land clearing and invasive species also lead to biodiversity loss. All must be addressed to reverse the alarming trajectory of our wildlife.

These threats to our natural heritage should be high on the political agenda. But despite recent extinctions, caused in no small part by a failure to act quickly on conservation advice, bureaucrats and politicians have failed to rise to the challenge. Australia's plants, animals and other wildlife continue to be swept aside with an enthusiasm and abandon reminiscent of the 19th-century pioneers.

Turtle In Trouble - We're all throwing matches!

I am daily confronted by reports about the dangerous direction we are heading as a result of our impact on the environment and nature.

Recently I watched an episode of Catalyst on the ABC which looked at the fires in Tasmania threatening pencil pine forest.

There is now an increased risk of fire to potentially destroy these forests which are very old and unique in that many of these trees are clones having grown from suckers. They do not reproduce readily from seed and therefore could be wiped out by fire. And with a warming world and drying conditions in Tasmanian forests the risk of this happening is increasing.

As ABC reporter Mark Horstman commented, "It's incredible to think how much the survival of these ancient forests now depends on the choices that we all make, because their risk from fire is no longer just natural. In a warming world, in a changing climate, we're all throwing matches." Prof David Bowman (University of Tasmania) likens the death of chunks of these forests to the first icebergs crumbling from an icesheet as it starts to disintegrate.

Professor Bowman says, "At what point do we say that the icesheet broke up? At what point do we say climate change caused this? As far as I'm concerned, because I'm so immersed in seeing strange fire events around the world and studying them, when I saw this one, I thought we may as well call it what it is – it's climate change."

David Bowman says, "We can't keep pleading special circumstances when we have experiences like the fires that occurred in the Alps or in Tasmania. We can't keep saying it's exceptional, it's unusual, it's different. We need to acknowledge that it is entirely predictable as that is what climate change does."

I recently saw the final of the Great Barrier Reef documentary on the ABC with Sir David Attenborough

who made an impassioned plea as he closed the series.

"The Great Barrier Reef is in grave danger," he says. "The twin perils brought by climate change; an increase in the temperature of the ocean and its acidity, if they continue to rise at the present rate the reefs will be gone within decades and that would be a global catastrophe."

He speaks of the ecological result of a disappearing reef but more importantly the moral and ethical problem faced by humans who have brought the problem to the reef. "There's surely another reason why we should protect the reefs," he says. "They are among the planet's richest, most complex and most beautiful ecosystems."

"Do we really care so little about the earth on which we live that we don't want to protect one of the world's greatest wonders from the consequences of our behaviour?"

My final confrontation came today, as I contemplated writing an article for the newsletter, from an online article in Australian Geographic called 'Pulling the Plug on Plastic'. A telling comment came in a short video about how marine plastic has resulted in Floater Syndrome where turtles through ingestion of plastic find it difficult to swim under water to graze on feed.

The following text is from the video called Turtle In Trouble:

"This green sea turtle should be at home in the water... but after eating plastic it has what is known as 'Floater Syndrome'. This means it can't dive to feed on sea grass, is more vulnerable to predators, is more vulnerable to boat strike, and becomes dehydrated and covered in barnacles.

One third of all sea turtles in Moreton Bay have eaten marine debris. Most of that is plastic from everyday items.

Sea turtles have roamed our oceans for 110 million years. Now they're critically endangered, because of us.

Unless we make dramatic changes to the way we live, by 2050, it's estimated there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish." (*My emphasis.*)

BSFG has a banner which has the message that local actions have global consequences. Perhaps we need to look closer at the way we live each day and act to reduce our environmental impact.

We're all throwing matches on the fire.

Peter Maddock



The Adventures of Jobson Growth continued

May 13: Married

When will the libs introduce the wife of Jobson Growth, Laura Norder?

Heard Jobson Growth is an old mate of Warren Terra.

May 17: The adventures continue further

Jobson Growth: new reality series on all networks.

So much support from coalition MPs for Jobson Growth. Is he plotting to oust Turnbull?

People are getting very hard on Jobson Growth. He has been the subject of great neglect over the past few years.

Dr Jobson Growth and his esteemed CSIRO colleagues have been sacrificed on the altar of Ignor Amus, the Coalition's patron saint of scientific ignorance.

The relentless push of Jobson Growth has just about destroyed his maternal grandmother, Old Growth Forest.

All the comments about Jobson Growth, Warren Terra and Laura Norder are only going to increase the number of votes for old standby Ian Formal.

Heard that Jobson lives in Withinesmeens. Can't find it on Google maps.

And did you hear that Tac Scutts has made a packet and moved overseas?

May 18: Life is so boring

Jobson Growth doesn't seem to be helping the Libs much. They should revert to their standby friend, Greedan Fear.

Jobson Growth - missing in action.

I hope Jobson Growth has a sister. She'd be a real dole.

Where's Mervin Ford? Is he retired like me?

May 19: Will it ever stop?

All this fuss about Jobson Growth is premature. Malcolm says he will deliver JG after the next election.

Spare a thought for JG's mate in Geelong - Jobson Jeopardy.

Turns out Jobson's the name of Malcolm's pet mouse. A tiny fellow, only grows about 0.1 percent a year.

May 23: Is Jobson on holiday?

It seems Fia Mungering is taking over from Jobson Growth.

May 25: Is he a good candidate?

Can Jobson Growth win the marginal seat of Verity?

May 31: Farewell Jobson Growth, hello Grothan Jobs.

If only Jobson Growth would disappear into the black hole.

June 1: Jobson will never work for Malcolm; he's exhausted by overuse.

The best thing Jobson can do for jobs is to stop spending money overseas.

Degradable plastic bags - be aware!

Next time you accept a degradable plastic bag at a store, think again - you may be doing little to help the environment and adding dangerous microplastics to rivers and oceans, experts say. This warning has prompted a Senate committee to call for a public awareness campaign to explain the differences between degradable, biodegradable, compostable and traditional plastic bags - and how they should be disposed of. (*Education needed on degradable plastic bags, The Age, 26/4/2016*)

"Degradable" plastics, commonly used for shopping and rubbish bags, contain additives that make them disintegrate more quickly than traditional plastics. Some people refer to these products as "biodegradable". While such bags do not remain for decades in the environment as large debris, they can break into smaller and smaller particles until they become microplastics - tiny fragments less than five millimetres in size.

When microplastics enter the marine environment they can choke seabirds, poison wildlife and accumulate up the food chain, turning up in seafood eaten by humans.

Kathy Townsend, from the University of Queensland, told the Senate committee that consumers were largely confused about different types of bags and using the terms "degradable" and "biodegradable" plastic inspired more littering because people wrongly believed it would "degrade and go away". She also said that the rapid disintegration of such plastic makes it "available to animals much faster than it would be otherwise".

It seems that degradable and biodegradable plastic bags are in the end no better than traditional plastic bags and in fact could be more harmful to the environment because of the speed at which they break down. So don't be fooled by the label.

Dramatic increase in bonds for brown coal mines

Victoria's big brown coal mines will each have to put up tens of millions of dollars as extra security for the clean-up of their Latrobe Valley mines following the Andrews government deciding to dramatically increase rehabilitation bonds. (Tom Arup, *The Age, 16/4/2016*)

Responding to the inquiry into the impact of the brown coal industry on the Latrobe Valley and the Hazelwood mine fire Premier Daniel Andrews accepted findings that the bond levels were inadequate and risked taxpayers one day being exposed to the eventual costs of rehabilitating the massive mine sites.

The government will now require the owners of the three big mines in the Valley, Hazelwood, Yallourn and

Loy Yang, to increase their bonds to the full amount of the owners' estimated costs of rehabilitation by next year. That means: Loy Yang increases from \$15 million to \$112 million; Yallourn increases from \$11.4 million to \$68.5 million and Hazelwood will go from \$15 million to \$73.4 million.

Premier Andrews said, "We've had companies for too long that have been allowed to put aside just a fraction of the cost to return those mine sites to the community, to whom they fundamentally belong, at the end of useful life."

In relation to rehabilitation costs for the mines Environment Victoria says that independent experts have given evidence that it is likely to cost more than \$120 million to fix each mine, and as much as \$392 million in one worst-case scenario. (Nicholas Aberle, *Green Action News, Autumn 2016*)

Apparently all the mines are slated to become giant lakes as there is not enough dirt to fill the holes once the mine is finished. Engineers have said all options other than creating giant lakes were unviable, but they couldn't demonstrate the lakes were viable either.

As Nicholas Aberle says, "It's possible the coal mines have created a mess that can't be fixed. If the plans for the lakes remain, nobody knows where the water is coming from."

State royalties from brown coal mines set to triple

From January 1, 2017, brown coal companies will be hit by a dramatic three-fold tax increase, with the Andrews Government insisting the impact on power bills will be "negligible in the extreme". (Josh Gordon, *The Age, 23/4/2016*)

Treasurer Tim Pallas said the increase would bring Victoria's mining royalty rates into line with NSW, Queensland, and Western Australia, warning power companies to think very carefully before attempting to pass on the added pain to consumers.

"The royalty is paid ... for the use and extraction of the resource the mine operator manages on behalf of the community and this increase will basically ensure Victorians get their fair share," Mr Pallas told Fairfax Media. "The (energy) companies will need to be very careful about whether or not they see there is any value in attempting to pass on rather than absorb these negligible increases."

Victoria's brown coal mining royalty rates have not increased for a decade. Under the overhaul, which will anger the three big power producers, the rate charged per gigajoule of energy will rise from 7.6 cents to 22.8 cents. That will bring the state broadly into line with NSW, which charges 25.2 cents, and Queensland, which charges 21.5 cents.

Mr Pallas said a report by the Australian Energy Market Operator had shown that Victoria has the cheapest electricity generation costs in Australia. He predicted this would continue to be the case after this royalty increase.

Community Energy

Benalla Sustainable Future Group has had a small working group investigating the possibility of a Community Owned Renewable Energy project for Benalla. I have previously written about the support available from the Victorian Government through the New Energy Jobs Fund. Community groups, including councils, can apply for funding to conduct a feasibility study and also to assist in the implementation stage.

The working group's aim is to have Benalla become a zero net energy town which no longer relies on non-renewable energy. This would take a number of years to achieve and would certainly require council and community support. An important part of this would be the development of a Future Energy Plan for Benalla.

Recently the working group made a presentation to council about the need for Benalla to move away from non-renewable energy and to take steps to become a zero net energy town. Part of the presentation included references to the following council policy documents, *Environment Strategy 2011-2105*, including the recent review of this document, and the *Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2013-2025*. Both these documents highlight the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to investigate the possibility of renewable energy for Benalla.

The major thrust of the presentation was to seek council support to work towards achieving our 'vision' of a 100% renewable Benalla. We also asked the council to be actively involved in developing an application for funding through the New Energy Jobs Fund to conduct a feasibility study to look at all the options for Benalla to become a zero net energy town and develop a Benalla Future Energy Plan.

For those interested in learning more about the presentation the PowerPoint slides will be available for viewing and/or downloading from the BSFG website.

John Lloyd



Swanpool Environmental Film Festival 2016 Saturday 25th June

The SEFF is an event run in partnership between Swanpool Landcare and the Benalla Sustainable Future Group. It is supported by Swanpool Cinema, the Gecko CLaN, Granite Creeks Landcare Network, Benalla Rural City and the GBCMA.

Booking is essential so please book now on

0498 007 988

and don't miss out. The format is the same as past years i.e. three sessions with afternoon tea and an evening meal between sessions catered for by the Swanpool Catering Group.

Session One 1.00 pm to 3.45 pm Welcome and Introduction Prof Kate Auty

Feature Film 'POLYFACES'

90 mins. Australia/USA 2015 Directors Lisa Heenan &

Co-Director Isaabella Doherty & Andreas

Øverdahl photographer interviewed by Kate

Session Two 4.15 PM to 6.30 pm

Guest Speaker Dr Kerryn Higgs

Uni of Tas. and Author of 'Collision Course'

Feature Film 'ANTHROPOCENE'

90 mins. UK 2015 Director Steve Bradshaw

Session Three 7.30 PM to 9.30 pm

Guest Speaker Prof Michael Clarke

La Trobe Uni Head of School of Life Sciences

Feature Film 'TARKINE IN MOTION'

55 mins. Australia 2015 by Dan Broun

Cost \$20 (cash only please)

including afternoon tea and light evening meal

From the above summary you can see that each session has a different theme. The first session focusses on sustainable agriculture and permaculture. The second addresses limits to growth, environmental and climate change issues. The final session looks at biodiversity with Prof Michael Clarke's talk having the intriguing title 'Ecological Literacy, Ambivalence and Inspiration'.

You can download a detailed program by going to 'Links' on the Swanpool Cinema website:

www.swanpoolcinema.com.au/links.html

Recently the Goulburn and North East Arts Alliance (GANEEA) held an art exhibition, live performances and a film ('Tarkine in Motion') at Swanpool Cinema. Art works from the exhibition will remain on display until after the SEFF. The exhibition is titled 'Love Your Wetlands' and follows on from art days held at Winton Wetlands. Winton Wetlands is an advertiser at the SEFF and Swanpool Cinema and has provided video footage.

So, without hesitation, book now and support this BSFG and Swanpool Landcare annual event.

*"We are the first generation to feel the impacts of climate change,
and the last generation to be able to do something about it." US President, Barack Obama*

Bulk Food Cooperative turns 5!

This month we celebrated our fifth year of operation. As many of you know, the food coop has gone from strength to strength with an increase in membership and products. We frequently review the products and add new ones according to demand. There are currently nearly 80 members and 90 different products. As we approach membership renewals, this will drop back as many members' circumstances change due to work commitment and ability to shop at open hours. We tried to address the issue by offering an extra session and have open times every fortnight, alternating days and session times.

We have a new committee member, Loren Atkinson and we were able to welcome her to the committee, during our birthday party. Riley, who is Loren's son, is doing a great job supplying eggs, which supplement those from Glenys and Don Gill. The eggs disappear in no time.

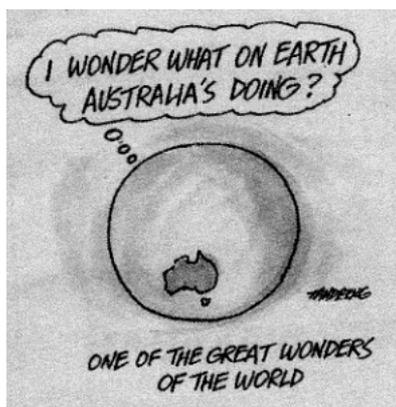
Tanya does a wonderful job with the roster and of course this requires following up volunteers' availability, on a regular basis.

Members are taking advantage of being able to purchase larger quantities and so the amount of product being bought has increased dramatically over the past year. I have to keep a close check on product quantities. As much as I would prefer to do a large monthly order, there are always products that run low and so of late I have needed to order every fortnight, which means we are well stocked and everyone is happy.

Christine Holmes
Benalla Food Coop Coordinator

AND ANOTHER THING ...

The Age, June 3, 2016



Australia has had its hottest autumn on record. I wish climate change was the hottest election issue.

Jenny Smithers, Ashburton

Unable to create clean coal, Greg Hunt has moved on to bleaching the 'r' out of coral, but will it burn?

Anthony Barnes, Narre Warren

Sustainable Housing Forums

BSFG will be conducting two Sustainable Housing Forums this year, one on new housing and renovations, and the other on retrofitting existing homes for energy efficiency.

1. Sustainable energy efficient housing design and renovation

Saturday 9th July, 1 pm - 4:30 pm

Venue: The Hub, Winton Wetlands

Presenters:

Ken Sibley, Building Designer, NRG Systems

Lachie Gales, Builder, Ovens & King Builders

The forum will focus on the basics of sustainable energy efficient housing design and the practicalities of building sustainable, energy efficient homes or renovations.

2. Retrofitting existing homes for energy efficiency and thermal comfort

Saturday 13th August, 1 pm - 4:30 pm

Venue: BPACC

Presenter: *Lyn Beinat from EcoMaster*

This is a preliminary notice. More detailed information will be circulated shortly.

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**Benalla
Sustainable
Future
Group**

www.bsfg.org.au

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead