

Murrindindi Climate Network News July 2011

Welcome to the mid-year edition of the MCN Newsletter for 2011. Everyone at MCN hopes you are well and staying warm this winter.

MCN 2011 MEMBERSHIP

It's the end of the financial year, which means it is time to renew your MCN membership. Still only \$15 for an individual and \$30 for a family or corporate. A membership form is available on our website at:

www.murrindindiclimatenetwork.org.au

GREEN CODE OF BUSINESS PRACTICE

In 2010, MCN was approached by the Economic Leadership Group of Marysville & Triangle to assist local businesses with the establishment of a Voluntary Green Code of Practice. This document should act as a guideline to help businesses raising their environmental profile and help promote the area as an environmentally sensitive tourism destination.

MCN proposed to add an interactive component to this project in the form of free green business audits, and offered to chase up the necessary funding. Based on this hands-on experience, participating businesses will then be in a better position to establish realistic goals and implementation plans for the Voluntary Green Code of Practice.

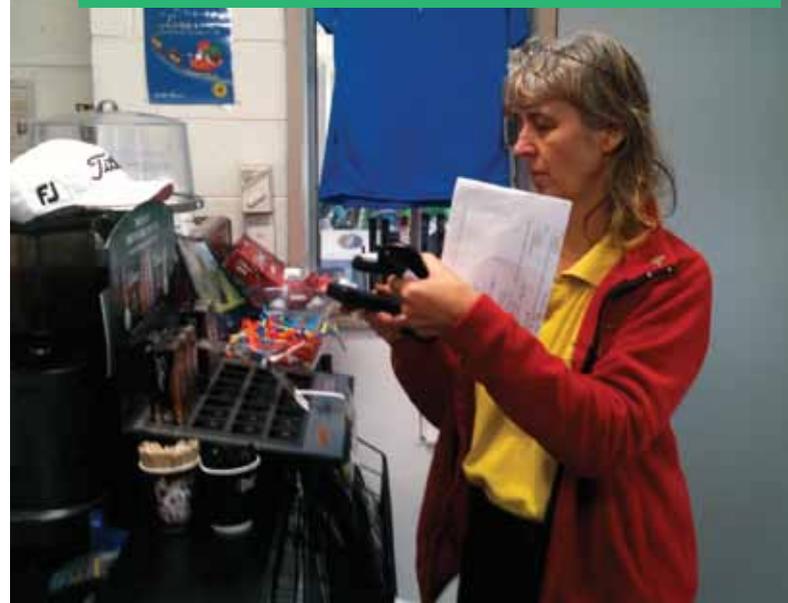
Following a successful grant application with the Environment Protection Authority Victoria, a training program for green business assessors was established in partnership with the Moreland Energy Foundation Limited, Resource GV and Fresh Green Clean Ltd. Following a call for expressions of interest in April 2011, eight local individuals with an interest in sustainable technologies and two staff from Murrindindi Shire Council were trained over five days in June. The training covered the domain of energy saving, waste management and recycling, green procurement and non-toxic cleaning products and processes.

Peter McKernan, green business assessor trainee and expert in electrical engineering demonstrates various types of lamps and explains their features.



Currently involved in test runs to refine auditing procedures and the underpinning electronic documentation programs, the MCN assessor team will soon be ready to offer free business audits for the pilot areas of Marysville&Triangle and Yea&district. A business audit involves a one-hour site visit of two assessors, who in a conversation with the business owner establish an inventory of current practices. Based on this information, the assessors then generate a report with recommendations for environmental solutions, including costs, payback periods and financial savings. Interested business owners in the pilot areas of Marysville&Triangle and Yea&district can send us their expression of interest including name and type of business, contact person and contact details to PO Box 246, Alexandra, VIC 3714.

Ngarie Butterfield, green business assessor trainee is using the lux meter to establish light intensity in the counter area of a business.



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ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY GARDEN

Interested in your own "garden space"?

Raised garden beds are located on the grounds of St. John's Parish Church in Downey St. Alexandra. A small number of individual plots are still available for families or individuals of all ages and abilities to grow their own food with the support and company of others. Annual fee will apply: \$20 (\$15 concession) or \$5 for child's mini plot.

For more information or to register your interest please phone Sue McNair on 0408 021 164

Garden built with funds from Regional Development Victoria

Garden Workshop Series – Workshop Two: Pruning fruit trees: covering fruit tree anatomy & pruning principals- including why prune, when to prune & practical demonstration of how to prune.

When: Saturday 30th July at 10 am – 2 pm

Speaker: Peter Raymond. Peter has extensive horticultural training and experience and is a wealth of information when it comes to pruning your fruit trees.

Cost: Free. Light lunch provided.

Venue: Alexandra Community Kitchen Garden, St. John's Parish Hall, Downey St. Alexandra

RSVP: Chris Wasley on 0417028100 or Sue McNair on 0408 021 164 by Thurs 28th July

CLIMATE CHANGE - SCIENCE & SOLUTIONS

On Friday, May 13 at the Alexandra Shire Hall nearly 50 people participated in a "Climate Change – Science and Solutions" event. Speakers included Prof. David Karoly from the School of Earth Sciences, Melbourne Uni and the Lead author of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and Matthew Wright, Executive Director of Beyond Zero Emissions and Environment Minister's Young Environmentalist of the Year 2010.

Professor Karoly discussed "What is needed to minimize dangerous climate change" and Matthew Wright discussed "Zero Carbon Australia – How to decarbonise and secure Australia's climate and energy future". The presentations were followed by a lengthy question and answer time, which was informative and enlightening.



Above photo: Panel discussion at "Climate Change - Science & Solutions" facilitated by Julian Browne.

Right photo: Prof. Karoly discusses climate issues with workshop participants.



CHANGING THE DREAM SYMPOSIUM

MCN Board member Lee Coller will be conducting another "Changing the Dream Symposium", Saturday, 3 Sept 2011 from 12– 6 pm at CEACA, Alexandra. Participants in workshops follow a journey to search for a society that relies on environmental sustainability, social justice and spirituality. A fee of \$10 (\$5 concession) is charged to pay for the use of the CEACA classroom. For more information and to register interest please contact Lee, email leeroyb69@yahoo.com or phone 0437 341 290.