

## **Bellingen Climate Action Group Meeting Summary – May 2, 2007**

**Guest Speaker:** Andrew Turbill, environmental educator and naturalist, gave a talk about an alternative theory of the cause of global warming. While it is true that carbon emission is a serious problem that needs addressing urgently, rainforest deforestation may be just as crucial to address, if not more. Andrew based his talk on an article that can be found on the CSIRO Sustainability Network website, which is accessible to everyone at:

<http://www.bml.csiro.au/SNnewsletters.htm> - select #64 for original article and #65 for reviews by Dr. Tim Flannery and Dr. Mary White.

It was an extremely informative and interesting discussion and we urge everyone to educate themselves on this issue.

Andrew would like to form a scientific working group /think tank in the MidNorth Coast region to work on global warming related issues. If you are interested in joining, please contact Andrew at [drewpen@westnet.com.au](mailto:drewpen@westnet.com.au).

### **Business:**

Steering Committee: The steering committee has developed a “Management Plan”. After some discussion, we agreed that the steering group has three main goals.

1. To provide and hold the space for the group to function, both in cyberspace through the website, and in real space through monthly meetings.
2. To facilitate communication among members, and between members and the community, through the website, use of media, and regular meetings.
3. To stimulate and support community action, by holding educational monthly meetings, and then supporting individuals, workgroups and projects through a “steering committee buddy” system. (That means that if anyone has a project, a steering committee member will “buddy” the project to help facilitate communication and provide information/resources etc.)

Website: is still in process. The name is currently under discussion. If you have any ideas please contact Laurie at [laurie@fairytaletoours.com.au](mailto:laurie@fairytaletoours.com.au) or Martin at [poet@bellingen.com](mailto:poet@bellingen.com).

EcoSong 2007 environmental song writing competition is up and running, thanks to the vision and hard work of Jane. You should start seeing the posters around town, or go to the Geckoz website at [www.geckoz.net.au](http://www.geckoz.net.au) for more information. Thanks very much to Caroline at Geckoz, and to Brad her website designer for helping us out with this.

Powermate electricity measuring device . Andrew explained that this is a small portable unit that can be used by anyone to measure their electricity usage. He suggested that the BCAG purchase one for use by its members and the general community, especially businesses. Steven Doyle is able to purchase one wholesale through his business, and David Wallin volunteered to purchase it, use it, then donate it to the group. Thanks for your help, Steven, and thanks for your generosity, David! You can read more about this device at

<http://shops.bizarsoftware.com.au/ATAShop/catalogue/category16/category93/product238>

Climate Change public education. Thea is still collecting a list of people who would be willing/prepared to speak to the general public on various topics connected to climate change. She is also collecting articles of the same nature for a "Climate Change Column" in the paper. Please contact her at: [enquiries@thea.com.au](mailto:enquiries@thea.com.au) if you can contribute.

#### Announcements

Dr. Helen Caldicott is speaking on Saturday, May 12 in Kempsey. A flyer was circulated.

A "Junior Climate Change Action Group" is forming. The first meeting will be held on Friday, May 25 at 4:00 at the Bellingen Environment Centre. If you know of a young person (high school age) that would be interested, please let them know, or contact Lisa at [las@westnet.com.au](mailto:las@westnet.com.au).

The "Renewable Energy Fair" will be held on Saturday, June 9 at the Bellingen Showgrounds. Volunteers are still being sought, especially in regards to publicity. Please email Martin at [poet@bellingen.com](mailto:poet@bellingen.com).

A Deep Ecology workshop is being held on Sunday, May 13 in Thora. Please see flyer attached.

**Deep Ecology Workshop**  
**The Heart of Climate Change**  
One day workshop with Olivia and Georgina  
based on the teachings of Joanna Macy.

We will be using various tools with the purpose of exploring and sharing with others our responses to the present condition of the world. This day will be an opportunity to transform the pain we feel into empowerment and effective action and to experience a deep sense of interconnectedness in the web of life.

Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May  
In the Thora Valley

Cost: 40 \$, 30 \$ conc. in support the Bellingen Climate Action Group

For more information please call Olivia on 66558620

NEXT BCAG MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 7:30 at the Bellingen Environment Centre. See you there!