

BCAG General Meeting Summary: 4 July, 2007

Welcome: 10 members present, 5 apologies.

Announcements:

Greens Get Up party in Coffs Harbour, July 5.

Deep Ecology Workshop with Olivia – see attached

Bellingen Urban Landcare Community Consultation – see attached

Helen Caldicott speaking – July 21, 1:00 at the Uniting Church, Bellingen

Reports:

Steering Committee: Financial situation stable, as we have had minimal expenses so far and have received some donations. Our last committee meeting was devoted to discussion of website, Dr. Mary White event, and planning tonight's meeting.

Talisman Sabre Peace Convergence, Queensland: Irene and Fiona described their experience as part of the peace convergence.

Old Business:

Website: We have begun the actual website design, and received sponsorship for the website. The website will be www.ecobello.org.au.

Dr. Mary White Breakfast event: BCAG has invited Dr. White, the renowned paleobiologist, to speak on the issue of deforestation and climate change. We will hold it as a "Breakfast event" at the Bella BookKafe on Wednesday, August 8. More information to come shortly. (update – the date will now be in September)

New Business:

"REWIRE BELLINGEN" project.

A lengthy discussion was held about all the various aspects of the project.

Fiona from the Bellingen Shire Solar Energy Group gave a report about the projects their group has been working on, which include last month's very successful Renewable Energy Fair, the Solar Registry, and the collecting and evaluating of various models of how Bellingen can "go solar".

A letter from Mayor Mark Troy was read out (with apologies for not being able to attend the meeting) that described some of the environmental actions that the Council are currently working on.

Following are some of the important points that came out of the discussion:

- We need to start with small meaningful initiatives that people can identify with and feel success with – doing energy audits in main street businesses and becoming a plastic bag free town were two ideas put out.
- We need to work with council – to help provide a vision of sustainability, to support what is already being done, and to perhaps help in areas that are lacking due to limited resources (financial and time).
- Other bigger and longer term projects need to be planned for too (along with the solar power on a mass scale that the Solar Group is working on) – one idea put out is to work on the bus systems and carpooling.
- There are already models out there that are working – we don't need to reinvent the wheel. There is a need for researching and information gathering.
- We need to create a strategic plan to get started, which takes into consideration all of the above factors and more!

A STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JULY at Rachael and Laurie's house at 7:00. Ring them on 6655 0270 for directions. All welcome.