

BCAG General Meeting summary: September 5, 2007

12 people attending, 3 apologies

Announcements:

1. Bellingen Urban Landcare Working Bee – Sunday, 9 September, Market Park
2. Plant Fair – Saturday, 8 September, Market Park
3. Global Carnival Forum: Jen is working on this – it sounds very interesting!!

“this year's Forum is called 'Grassroots in the Rubble: From Hierarchy to Panarchy', and is about community-based responses to the climate crisis. The aim is to avoid the 'expert panel and staged discussion' format that stifles the very creativity that's we need at times like this. The format draws on the work of veteran eco-activist Joanna Macy, and will use an ecological way of looking at the world to frame conversations about the possibilities opening up as hierarchical power structures struggle to 'maintain control'. The two-hour event will be held on Sunday 30 September. For more information, and links to relevant websites, check the Global Carnival website:

http://www.globalcarnival.com/html_2007/special_events_07.html

Reports:

“Leading for the Future”: Jen gave a report about a forum she attended last month in Brisbane which was sponsored by the Ethos Foundation. Thomas Homer-Dixon was the guest speaker. Please see the website www.ecobello.org.au for notes from the seminar.

Nuclear-Free Alliance: Fiona discussed the recent formation of the Mid North Coast Nuclear-Free Alliance (including Macleay, Kempsey, Hastings, Scotts Head, Bellingen), and would like the BCAG to support it. After a short discussion, it was decided that we would devote some time to this issue at our next general meeting – by either having a short study session or by inviting a “guest speaker”.

EcoBello website: Beautiful work has been done by Colin and the website is now available at www.ecobello.org.au. The launch will be at the Mary White event on September 26. Stickers (also designed by Colin) with the website address are being printed to get the address out into the community, and should be ready by the launch.

We really need input from everyone for resources, links and events – to make this a living, viable website that turns into an important resource for our community!! Please send anything appropriate to col@ecobello.org.au.

EcoBello Carpool: Karen has done heaps of work to prepare brochures, flyers, posters, etc to get people to join the carpool network. There will be a direct link from the ecobello website. The Car Pool will also be launched formally at the Mary White event.

Old Business:

Evening with Dr. Mary White – Wednesday, Sept 26 6:30 at the BellaBookafe.

Everything is progressing as planned. We need a bit of help setting up, welcoming people and taking donations, and cleaning up. SEE FLYER ATTACHED- please spread the word!!

Business Challenge: Thea gave an overview of some ideas to start involving Bellingin businesses in assessing and improving their ecological footprints. The ideas include holding some sort of Business Forum to introduce the idea of “sustainable business”, helping businesses to carry out self-assessment of their energy use, water use, etc., and possibly guiding businesses towards some sort of “green accreditation” program.

A discussion was held about the steps necessary to move in this direction. Lisa has been invited to attend a meeting with the Bellingin Shire Solar Energy Group and Council representatives. It was decided that this was a good first step to exploring the options of working with the business community and Council. Lisa will report back after the meeting. In the meantime, more planning work on a business forum type event can be done.

New Business

Global Carnival table: We have requested a table at the Carnival, and have kindly been granted a space for no charge. We are looking for volunteers who will be attending the festival and are prepared to sit at the table for an hour or two sometime during the weekend. The table will be set up between 1:00 and 6:00 on Saturday and Sunday. [Please email Lisa at steeringcommittee@ecobello.org.au](mailto:steeringcommittee@ecobello.org.au) if you are willing to help.

Environmental writing: Leif told us that he helps write for the “Living with Nature” column in the Coffs Harbour Advocate – and that anyone who would like to write a 400 word article about an appropriate topic would be welcome to. Contact Leif at thordale@westnet.com.au.

Walk Against Warming “The Big Switch.com.au” is organizing a national “Walk Against Warming” two weeks before the Federal election. We would like to have a Bellingin walk. So keep your ears open!

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 19 September 7:00 pm

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, October 3. 7:00 pm at the Bellingin Environment Centre.