

The three themes, all involving aspects of sustainable living in the suburbs, are housing, gardens and wildlife. There will be an organic produce market, food stalls, information stands, native plant sales, entertainment and children's activities. Packages are being prepared for persons, groups and businesses who may be interested in Expo sponsorship, providing speakers, entertainment, goods and services, to ensure the day is a great success.

For more information, contact CREEC on 3888 8751

Events:

CABBOS (Bird Watching) meeting at CREEC

8am Wednesday 21 November

All Welcome — Contact John 5478 8748

Burpengary Progress Association

Burpengary Family Fun day will be held on **Saturday**

1 December 2007, starting at 7.00am with a car boot sale then live music with entertainment for the children from 9.00am. Santa will be giving out gifts to all children. A concert will follow in the main hall with children participating. Ring Ruth McDonald on 0417 641 915 or leave a message on 3888 2290

If this is our last edition for 2007

Happy Christmas and an environmentally friendly

New Year to all our readers



7 Months to go...

Caboolture Sustainable Living Expo - Saturday 7 June 2008 - for more information contact **Wayne** at CREEC
Phone - 3888 8751

This newsletter is produced and distributed by volunteers.

We believe in its value in communicating information to members of our community who are interested in the environment and the work of CREEC.

Contributions welcome

Please recycle this newsletter by passing it to friends or neighbours.

We thank the Caboolture Shire Council for their assistance.



Caboolture Region
Environmental
Education Centre

**This Newsletter is
on the web at
www.creec.org.au**

Inside this issue:

Trees and more trees
Page 2

Nobel Prize Page 3

Starting Early Page 4

Going Green in
Greenland Page 5

Don't Mention the Un-
mentionable Page 6

Ladybird, ladybird
Page 7

Sustainable Living Expo
Page 7

Friends of CREEC
Christmas Break Up
Party
Sunday 9 December
1.00pm

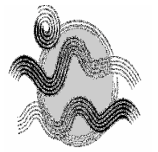
Friends of CREEC Assn Inc

150 Rowley Road

BURPENGARY QLD 4505

Phone : 3888 8751 Fax : 3888 3211

Email : marshw@caboolture.qld.gov.au



caboolture shire

Winner of Excellence in Business
Award 2005

November 2007

Climate Change

It would seem that climate change is real and human activity is a factor. The US president said so, finally.

Ex-president Bill Clinton generated 245 pledges at his annual philanthropic summit, to combat health, poverty, education and climate woes that could potentially help 100 million people. Angelina and Brad were there.

Hillary listened. 69 million hectares of forest would be protected or restored, 50 million people given treatment for tropical diseases, 8.5 million children would go to school, and 567 million tonnes of greenhouse gases would be "stopped" as climate change would be tackled.

The new Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation has promised to have a hybrid vehicle to drive. The government's 10,000 car fleet has 164 hybrids; the EPA has 25% of these.

The Minister said " the global warming and the consequent melting of the Arctic ice cap was brought about by individual actions, far removed and localised.....Bad choices brought us to where we are now; it is time for smart choices and sound planning in government and day to day life". This extends to a recent decision to reduce the recommended speed of family 4WD vehicles along the beach at the top end of Fraser Island – nesting and resting birds will know the difference in vehicle approach speeds.

The comic section of the newspapers is a poor substitute for the real world.

The longer one lives, the more one sees that things really are as silly as they seem!

Trees and More Trees

JP

29 September was a busy morning at CREEC, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints gathered to fill up nine remaining macadamia rows with about 650 trees and shrubs supplied from the Community Nursery.

The project was one of several, aimed at improving water quality in Shire creeks conducted by the Planning and Environment Unit of Council. It was a major effort to rip the row positions, place the mulch by bobcat along the rows, plant the trees and place plastic sleeves and mulch around each. The water truck with treated effluent arrived later in the afternoon to water them in.

In addition to the expected effect on water quality in Burpengary Creek, the planting will provide a show place for some of our local trees and shrubs, absorb some carbon-dioxide and fill up the space made vacant by severe frost injury to the macadamia germplasm area in August 2002.

The recent climate change report found that global greenhouse gas emissions increased by 70% between 1970 and 2004. It noted that a range of technologies will be needed to curb climate change, including nuclear power, renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, and forestry activities (especially a reduction in forest clearing).

- Almost 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from clearing the world's forests – the second largest source after the use of fossil fuels to produce electricity.
- Deforestation generates more emissions than all of the world's transport.

• More than 4.4 million trees are removed each day, or 1.6 billion each year

About 14 million hectares of forest land is currently cleared each year: The area of forests planted compensates for only a small part of the greenhouse gas emissions from clearing of land for food production, housing and fuel.

Reducing the rate of deforestation in developing countries is crucial to reducing global greenhouse emissions. If the world could halve the rate

Ladybird, ladybird

JP

The nine-spotted ladybird was designated New York State's official insect in 1989. An imported seven-spotted ladybird, released to control aphids and scale insects, completed so strongly that there were none of the state's insects remaining in 2006. So the State Assembly voted 149-1 to remove the nine-spotted's status as the official emblem. Luckily the Senate didn't respond the same way.



Last year, parents of a first year college student helped gather insects for an entomology project. You guessed it. A nine-spotted turned up, the first seen along the East Coast since 1992. They haven't found any more since, but are looking. New York State lists 90 ladybird species; almost half have declined in number and range recently.

Six US states have a ladybird as their official insect. In almost every case, school children proposed the designation in the first place. Should we be ensuring our children become nature-searchers, to give us early warnings about loss of habitat and the resulting effect on the 'balance of nature'?

Sustainable Living Expo

Plans are well underway for next year's Expo (re-named from Fair) at CREEC on Saturday 7 June 2008.

The organising committee is making several changes, due to popular demand from this year's stall-holders and those who attended. Longer duration, more stalls, top speakers, a bigger crowd, more things to do and see.

One of the several objectives of the big day is to promote the activities of the member groups who operate from or in conjunction with the Education Centre.

The lesson: What happens in Greenland won't stay in Greenland. (What happens in Australia won't stay here, either). Greenland has a population of only 55000 and can't be held responsible for the melting of the northern ice.

Don't Mention the Unmentionable!

BR

Everyone is talking about climate change, peak oil, sustainability – even the politicians appear to have at last recognised these issues.

However there is one factor which is crucial to all these issues, which no one seems to want to mention. That factor is population. There are many reasons, cultural, political, religious and economic, why people shy away from the population debate, but clearly we cannot sensibly discuss sustainability, energy usage, the management of CO₂ emissions etc, without bringing population into consideration.

So what is the number of people that earth can sustain indefinitely? The answer is that there is no single figure; we can have a range of sustainable populations, depending on what “standard of living” we choose.

For example, if we all want to live like rich North Americans (air conditioning, big cars, unlimited travel, food from all over the world), the sustainable population is probably less than 1 billion. If we choose to live like poor SE Asians (one room house, no power, no running water, cook very basic food on a wood stove, own a bicycle if you are lucky!) then the sustainable population may be as high as 9 to 10 billion.

Given that world population is now 6.5 billion and set to top 8.5 billion within 100 years, it is perhaps time we started to pay some serious attention to the issue. Reducing world population, if it gets too high for a comfortable sustainable life, will be either (a) a very slow and difficult process or (b) a very short and bloody one.

of clearing, it would reduce emissions by three billion tonnes a year, more than five times Australia's total emissions.

Nobel Prizes

Each year about October, we await the announcement of the winners of the various Nobel Prizes for peace, literature, medicine, chemistry, physics etc. This year, Al Gore shared the peace prize with the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), for his commentary ‘An Inconvenient Truth’.

Each year, also about October, the scientific humour journal *Annals of Improbable Research* awards its Ig Nobel prizes for research that cannot or should not be reproduced; or makes people laugh and then makes them think. You will recall that people laughed when Galileo put forward the notion that the Earth goes round the sun.

Some Ig Nobel awards include findings that

- Herrings communicate by contracting muscles around their swim bladders to squeeze bubbles of air through their anus, on purpose, at night, when they congregate for safety in large schools, to deter dolphins and whales
- Certain dung beetles have priorities, preferring horse dung, over sheep, cattle, camel, dog and fox in that order. The priorities vary with species. (There are 9000 species of dung beetle in the world. Australia has 300 of them. The native species were not very useful for sheep and cattle, and have been introduced from South Africa and other countries)
- Chinstrap penguins (and other birds) build up pressure in their bowels so they can decorate their nests. Precise calculations are available for pressure build-up in other avian species, advancing knowledge of fluid dynamics

- Woodpeckers don't get a headache from banging their heads against trees, and their eyes don't pop out because the nictitating membranes acts like a seatbelt to hold the eyeballs in
- Frogs under stress ooze smelly, species-specific secretions from their pores. Odours include everything from grass to nuts, rotting flesh, menthol, and oregano – every herb except coriander. Frogs don't get bitten by mosquitoes as much as would be expected. Do they have a repellent or other anti-predator protection chemicals?

Starting Early

JP

The US author and naturalist, **Henry David Thoreau** (1817-1862) spent countless hours exploring and recording his observations at Walden, his “home in the woods” of 1854. His 30 later journals include the annual flowering dates of hundreds of local plants. A recent Boston University study of Walden and surrounding areas found that plants are now flowering as much as three weeks earlier than 150 years ago, due to “consistently warmer temperatures.”

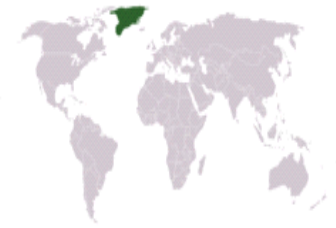


The sugar maples that provide the spectacular red-yellow autumn foliage of New England USA, as well as maple syrup, also appear to be suffering from higher temperatures. Sap production starts a week earlier and finishes 10 days earlier than in the 1960s. Warmer nights are thought responsible.

The tourist trade from autumn visitors to see the colours is over 1 billion dollars in New Hampshire alone. There's local concern about loss of this income. North-eastern states have capped greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and are scaling up their use of renewable sources of energy to compensate.

Going Green in Greenland

JP



After the last Ice Age, around 14,000 years ago, the climate of Greenland warmed up, became cool instead of bitterly cold; allowing low forests to grow. Cold and mild periods followed. Native Americans settled about 2500 BC, declined about 1500 BC, returned, declined and eventually abandoned it before the arrival of Eric the Red from Norway in 984. This was a period of relatively mild weather which lasted to about 1300. Cold conditions (termed the Little Ice Age and lasting into the 1800s) then set in and the Viking settlements were extinct in the 1400s, eventually being replaced by Canadian Inuits with their igloos and seal and whale hunting, and later Danish settlers.

Over the last 20 years, the average temperature of the west coast of Greenland has risen 5°C. The melt area on the ice sheet increased by 16% from 1979 to 2002. As the ice melts, water drains to low lying depressions to form lakes. These have darker surfaces than white ice and absorb about 80% of incoming sunlight (ice reflects about 90% back into space), accelerating the rate of melting. The largest island on the planet (excluding us) is becoming an energy absorber, instead of a solar reflector.

The melt waters flow out of the temporary lakes and drain through cracks in the ice into deeper formations under glaciers. This water reduces friction, allowing the glaciers to slide more quickly into the ocean, creating ice quakes that range from 4.1 to 5.3 on the Richter scale. The number of quakes doubled in the 1990s and has redoubled since 2000. Recently a block of ice 24 cubic kilometres in size slid almost 13 metres in less than a minute.

Summer melting of Arctic sea-ice will cause Greenland ice to melt faster. If that sea-ice disappears completely, three-quarters of Greenland ice will melt too. Sea level would eventually rise over 4 metres. Millions of people in coastal communities would be flooded out. A big “if”, but many believe/predict that the Arctic sea-ice will disappear sometime between 2020 and 2040.