

Group	Date	Place	Contact	Phone
Friends of CREEC	19 Apr	CREEC	Wayne	3888 8751
Caboolture Koala Care & Rescue	18 Apr	CREEC	Anika	34253820
Caboolture Permaculture	18 Apr	CREEC	Jenny Carol	5495 4227 5496 6996
Elimbah Herb Society	6 Apr	Hist Village	Ruth	5496 7649
Friends of Lagoon Ck	2 Apr	St Peters	Elinor	5495 3753
Society for Growing Australian Plants	10 Apr	CREEC	Sue	3888 4126
Wildlife Preservation Society	14 Apr	CREEC	Brian	3886 7400
Pumicestone Region Catchment Assn	28 Mar	Aquaculture Bribie Island	Bob	5493 0090
Bribie Is Environmental Protection Assn	26 Mar	Bongaree	Beth	3408 3082
Neighbourhood Watch	4 April	CREEC	Janice	5428 7687

Sausage sizzle for CREEC volunteers 16 April at CREEC. All welcome

All of these organisations welcome new members to become involved in their special activities. Please contact the above persons for more details of events and meeting times.



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

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.

We thank the Caboolture Shire Council for their assistance.



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Friends of CREEC
Winner of Excellence in Business Award 2005

C.R.E.E.C.



March 2007

ALL THE TWENTIES

The 27 European countries have just resolved to move to a post-Kyoto stage 2, to advance their mission to better address the causes and impacts of global warming.

By 2020, they will reduce carbon emissions from all of Europe by 20%, and provide 20% of their power needs from renewables. They haven't worked out how to do this, or how much it will cost.

In 1920, Australia's CO₂ emissions were just about one tonne per head, but were 5 times this in 2000. With population growth, our total emissions increased almost 20-fold over that time.

What is your 2020 vision? Come to the **Sustainable Living Fair** on 2 June at CREEC to find out more about what you can do to reduce your impact and save money.

* * *

About 12 million tonnes of organic waste (6 m tonnes of carbon) go to landfills in Australia every year. Half of this could be composted.



Newsy Bits

The ABC has just released “true green – 100 everyday ways you can contribute to a healthier planet”, compiled by Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin, directors of Clean up Australia.

It presents ways in which simple changes to your lifestyle can make a positive difference to the environment. It invites readers to accept challenges to put the various tips into practice at the family level – similar to Suzuki’s Nature Challenge in Canada.

Some of the figures are obviously incorrect, so follow the words rather than the numbers. Don’t get hung up on the various uses of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon emissions, carbon dioxide emissions (3.6 times C) in different places in the text, just follow the good suggestions where you can. The Sustainable Living Fair in June will be a good opportunity to see and hear more about these.

The world average for the amount of CO₂ emitted per person has remained fairly constant at 1 tonne per year for the last 35 years. For Australia, the figure has increased from 3 tonnes, in 1970 up to 5 tonnes now. As our population increased by 75% over the same period, our total CO₂ emissions have increased by 195%. No wonder Australia is one of the targets of the have-nots, for reform of our energy use habits.

Did You Know?

The normal disposable nappy can take 300 years to break down in landfill. Each year about 1 billion nappies are thrown away in Australia. They contain about 60% wood pulp (i.e. made largely from cellulose). A new polymer fabric disposable nappy which will degrade in 6 – 8 months is on the market. Which type is the most CO₂ friendly? The one that breaks down quickly, or the other one?

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40% of Australia’s carbon dioxide emissions come from electricity generation. Transport and food production each contribute about 30%. To save the planet, stay home, turn off the power and stop eating!

Our Forests Rely on Foxes that Fly

Why are flying foxes constantly in the news in urban areas of Australia?



If you live near a bat camp you will know why few people want them in their backyard. They are smelly, noisy and in large numbers are far from ideal neighbours.

However the health of our eucalypt forests depends on them. Their favourite food is the nectar from the blossoms of eucalypts. They have a sense of smell, their eyes are adapted for night vision and they can travel up to 50 km a night in search of food, spreading the pollen that sticks to their faces as they feed from tree to tree across large distances.

Many of the eucalypts release the bulk of their pollen at night while most of the nectar-eating (and pollen-spreading) birds and insects are active during the day.

Flying foxes are therefore a vital link in the reproduction of many of our native trees. Without them, many of our eucalypt forests would not survive.

Most of the problems with large noisy bat camps are due to land clearing which has greatly reduced suitable sites for camps so that more and more bats are forced into fewer and fewer sites. If we want to keep our forests we must learn to live with flying foxes, and stop clearing trees wherever we can.

Eileen Rigden

A motor vehicle emits its own weight of carbon dioxide each year with “normal” use.

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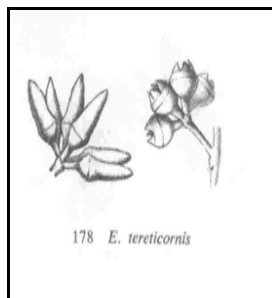
USA burns 45000 litres of oil every second

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The Amazon rainforest absorbs 20% of the world’s CO₂ emissions each year. Its growth depends on its linkage to El Nino rainfall.

The Queensland Blue Gum

This 30 – 45 m high tree is also known as the Forest Red Gum, because of the colour of the timber. It was misnamed as *Leptospermum umbellatum* in 1788, but was given its current botanical name of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* in 1793. The species name refers to the cylindrical tapering (terete) horn (cornus) or cap over the flower bud.



Blue Gums grow, mostly along the coast and nearby ranges, from Cooktown to Gippsland. In the first edition (1934) of WF Blakeley's "Key to the Eucalypts" (he described himself as a botanist and eucalyptologist) Burpengary and Caboolture are both mentioned as locations for them.

Blue Gums are often the dominant tree on alluvial flats, but they are also fairly common on fertile soils at higher altitudes. They are drought and pest tolerant, grow in sandy or clay soils and don't mind poor drainage.

The smooth bark peels (decorticates) in irregular blotches or patches which are white, grey and blue, all on the one tree, from base to top, the colour depending on the age of exposure of the bark.

Flowering occurs in winter to late spring (June – October). The flowers are usually white, sometimes pink, and they attract large flocks of honeyeaters and lorikeets, as well as possums, fruit bats, bees and other insects. The pollen is of major importance to European bees, the honey less so.

The red timber is hard, strong, heavy and durable in the ground – valuable for railway sleepers and fence posts. Blue Gums are of enormous significance for wildlife as a food source and as habitat. Koalas, greater gliders and several insects eat the leaves, while yellow-bellied gliders lick the sap. The hollows in older trees provide nesting sites and day shelters (42%, i.e. 95 species, of all Australian mammals use hollows, 55% of our arboreal mammals "nest" only in hollows).

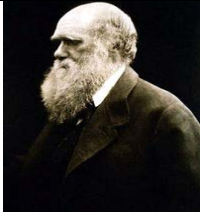
Blue Gum flats are at risk from further development and in some areas, remnants are being lost to insects, drought and grazing animals. Beaudesert Landcare has a major regeneration project, looking into the fencing-off of some areas to allow seedlings to recover from grazing pressure.

Person of the Month

My wife described the February Newsletter as "dismal, to say the least". This month's character has been described by his biographers as someone who "cut himself off, ducked parties and declined engagements. He even installed a mirror outside his study window to spy on visitors as they came up his drive. Day after day, week after week, his stomach plagued him". So not much joy on this page, either. See how long it takes you to tweak who he was.

- One of my grandfathers was "blasted by smallpox, crippled and corpulent, with a fatal attraction for women". He sired a dozen children by a pair of wives and two more by a governess.
- My other grandfather owned a pottery. He subsidised the experiments of Joseph Priestley, who discovered the gases oxygen, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and ammonia.
- My mother was in her 44th year when I was born. My wife was born when her mother was 44. My wife had 10 children (4 girls, 6 boys), the last when she was 48.
- My doctor father told me 'you care for nothing but shooting, dogs and rat-catching, and you will be a disgrace to yourself and all your family'".
- I started my medical career with several patients when I was 16. I studied medicine in Edinburgh for a year, but found a greater interest in geology and natural history than anatomy and surgery.
- When I was 27, I walked from Sydney to Bathurst – it took 5 days. Saw a platypus, shot by my host.
- My impressions of Sydney. "The climate was splendid, but intellectual stimulation was nil. On the streets, every other person is sure to be somewhere between a petty rogue and a blood-thirsty villain. An immoral slave-run economy".
- I published my first book at 51 and a second 15 years later. Both changed the way the world thinks. Society would never be the same again.
- Altogether I published 16 essays and monographs on my travels, on coral reefs, fossils, volcanic islands, climbing plants, plant genetics, finches, pigeons, orchids, and earthworms.
- I was buried in Westminster Abbey, next to the monument to Sir Isaac Newton.

See over



A memorial committee unveiled a statue of me in the Natural History Museum in Kensington, three years later. The Prince of Wales was there. The Queen and PM Gladstone did not attend my funeral service.

JP

Peri-urban Development

The fastest growing regions in Australia are around the edges of our urban areas. Locally these areas account for about 25% of the gross value of agricultural production, being sources of vegetables, strawberries, cut flowers, mushrooms, turf and nursery plants, together with prawns, poultry, cattle and racehorses as well as recreation and tourism facilities.

There has been concern that the continuing advance of urban development from the edges into the peri-urban areas is a threat to food production, as well as increasing energy consumption, degrading natural resources, threatening biological diversity and scenic amenity, putting extra stress on infrastructure and the provision of services.

Managing population growth and balancing the changes associated with social, economic and environmental pressures needs to be coordinated, rather than take a business-as-usual approach. How far should interventionist regulatory processes go?

The Office of Urban Management has provided a SEQ regional plan which, among other things, aims to protect the landscape and rural production area, one of the five defined land-use categories. The plan prevents the further encroachment of inappropriate development (urban and rural residential) into productive rural areas.

The diversity of values held by those living in peri-urban areas, and the number of different land uses there, are two issues that can lead to conflict between landowners. A major research project is in progress to investigate the requirements and priority advice needed to achieve conditions for a sustainable future for peri-urban agriculture. Concurrently, on-ground practical

See over

activities which assist growers to be more conscious of soil health and water quality issues are being demonstrated. The Ningi Catchment Project, managed by the Qld Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, has investigated better management practices for turf farmers, nurseries and pineapple and strawberry growers, as well as such social issues as producer attitudes, perceptions and barriers to change, especially in relation to environmental pressures.

The project area is being extended to cover the Pumicestone Region, building on the information from the Ningi Catchment, so as to include forestry, fruit tree crops, vegetables etc in the Sustainable Production Systems Partnership.

JP

Global Warming Bits

Australia's crops and pasture lands contain about 2 billion tonnes of carbon - equivalent to 7.3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. The aim is to keep as much carbon as possible in the soil as residues, while organic matter is broken down to form humus.

* * *

Biofuels are not the alternative to fossil fuels for transport use. Their production from cane or corn competes with food crops for soil, water and nutrients. We can't have the rich burning the food of the poor.

* * *

The world's long term capacity to supply nutrients for food production is in question. Worldwide, nutrients are being lost from agricultural soils by wind and water erosion at a rate 80 times current fertilizer usage. Nutrients will have to be recycled from cities, farms and rivers much more and faster than occurs today if the world is to be fed.

* * *

Urban ozone will poison crops more than increasing carbon dioxide will grow them better.

* * *

A one degree rise in night temperature will cut rice yields by 10%.

* * *

Most of the power needed for incandescent light bulbs is wasted in producing heat, not light.

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