



## Welcome

It's Smart Living Newsletter time. Check out all the latest sustainability news and Smart Living Events coming up in 2013.

## Captains Corner

The windy Warrnambool winter has well and truly arrived, and most of us are feeling the cold (as well as the increase in our energy bills!).

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Households make a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 26% of total energy use in Australia. Wowsers! In the average home, the largest proportion of energy use (38%) comes from heating and cooling. Here are a few small changes you can make to decrease your energy use and make a difference to your energy bill:

- Close the doors to unused rooms to reduce the area you need to heat
- Keep curtains and outside window shades closed to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat rooms
- Rather than heat your bedroom, add another blanket to your bed or use an electric blanket or hot water bottle.
- Turn off your heating overnight and when you are not home

According to the State Government, if everyone on the planet lived like the average Victorian, we would need more than FOUR planet Earths to support us! If you are interested in knowing your ecological footprint and how many planets we would need if everybody lived the same lifestyle as you, visit [www.epa.vic.gov.au/ecologicalfootprint](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/ecologicalfootprint) and complete the survey to see how you compare and what you can do to lower your footprint on our planet!

Over and Out – **Captain Sustain-the-'Boo!**



## Sustainability Events Coming Up in 2013

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an informal get together of people working in, studying, volunteering in or just interested in enviro-sustainability stuff. Bring a friend and come along and have a chat. It's fun, friendly and free (unless you buy a drink). 5.30-6.30pm at the Last Coach Bar (corner Timor and Kepler Sts)

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August – Clean up day at Merri Marine Sanctuary

Are you fed up from seeing discarded litter in and around Warrnambool harbour? Rubbish being washed into our sanctuary having severe consequences on our local wildlife? Those of us at Friend of Merri marine sanctuary certainly are, that's why we are holding a clean up day, on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm! We would love some extra pairs of hands! If you're interested meet us at the Viaduct Rd toilet block at 10am, we will supply you with all the gear! Feel free to check out our Facebook page for more details, hope to see you there!  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfMerriMarineSanctuary>

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September – Sustainable House Day

Do you know someone who has retrofitted their house to make it more energy efficient? Or perhaps built a "green home" from scratch? Warrnambool Environmental Action Group (WEAG) is looking for inspiring examples of residents who have embraced renewable energy, recycling and other practices in their own home to showcase on Sustainable House Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. Last year over 200 homes across Australia participated, providing a fantastic opportunity for people seeking to make their homes and rental properties greener. Contact Adrian Collet on 0422278505.





## (More) Sustainability Living Events

### Saturday 12 October – Dirty Weekend

Come and get your hands dirty at Warrnambool's sustainable gardening expo! Come along to the Warrnambool Community Garden (cnr Grieve St and Grafton Rd) between 10.00am-2.00pm for lots of fun activities and workshops, such as composting, worm farming, chooks, bushfoods, permaculture and more. Explore the community garden, visit member plots, enjoy a gourmet BBQ and purchase produce from the garden.

### Photography Competition!!

The Merri marine sanctuary is an astonishing place of incredible biodiversity, from lobsters to penguins and even giant underwater forests! With breath taking views and dramatic landscape, from the rocky shores to the high seas! To honour and celebrate this natural beauty Friends of Merri marine sanctuary is holding a photography competition, with the most beautiful 12 photographs to create a 2014 calendar, and the top 3 to win great prizes! Entries are unlimited and are now open until Oct 31st. To enter, simply e-mail your image(s) to [friendsofmerriphoto@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmerriphoto@gmail.com). Please restrict your images to in/of the sanctuary. Make sure you 'like' us on Facebook for more information, <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfMerriMarineSanctuary>



## Interview with an electric bike rider!

Lyndon works for Warrnambool City Council and commutes daily on the Council electric bike. This is what he has to say about his experience as an electric bike rider.

### How does the electric bike work?

It looks just like any other bike except it has a battery that powers a little motor that is built into the rear wheel. When you pedal, the motor kicks in and powers you along. When you stop pedalling, the motor stops. When Captain Sustainable rides it, the top speed is faster than a normal civilian, but for most people the top speed is 27km/h.

### What is the best thing about being an electric bike rider?

No matter what course you take there are no hills.

### Has the electric bike made you more popular amongst the girls?

That might be a good question for the girls. I suspect the answer is yes.



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# SMART LIVING

July 2013

## Warrnambool Environmental Action Group – new faces, new projects!

With the second half of the year in full swing, WEAG has hit the ground running with memberships on the rise and prospective projects a plentiful. 2013 has seen the arrival of some new, motivated individuals and you are sure to be hearing and seeing the waves of fun, environmental activities washing through our community in the summer months to come.

The group has welcomed the reinstatement of the newly elected chairman Adrian Collet, who has returned to the area bringing background knowledge in horticulture and building construction.

WEAG aims to promote sustainability by:

- Thinking globally, acting locally
- Initiating and participating in practical local environmental projects that create positive long-term behavioural changes in the people of South West Victoria
- Facilitating increased public awareness of environmental issues through community education projects which are useful, objective and informative
- Monitoring and reporting to relevant authorities regarding environmental problems and issues.

In addition to the continuing administration of Sustainable House Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, WEAG has a number of other upcoming projects including the creation of our own environmental film society. Members will have access to regular movie nights showing informative films of an environmental nature (as well as the chance to meet some nice, friendly people). Other project include the development of a regular e-newsletter and some informative flyers for the community, enhancing some local noticeboards and an exciting recycling initiative.



So now is the perfect time for you to come along, get involved and meet some new WEAG friends! Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at the Pavilion. Contact Adrian Collet on 0422278505.

## South West Soils Conference

The 2013 South West Soils Conference is coming to Warrnambool on **4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September**. It will focus on soil health and how agricultural activities can impact on the productive and economic potential of farms. It will provide practical and hands-on information to assist farmers and service providers to work towards improved soils. It is being organised by a group of natural resource management organisations including Heytesbury District Landcare Network, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Corangamite CMA, Dairy Australia's Dairying for Tomorrow program and the Department of Environment & Primary Industries and Moyne Shire Council. Call (03) 5598 3755 for more information.

## Seeking nominations for inspirational sustainable thinkers in the community

Do you know someone who is passionate about the environment and doing their bit? The Warrnambool Green Guide is being renewed and we are seeking success stories of individuals who have made a difference. It can be as simple as an interesting

backyard project or a successful workplace initiative, or as complex as driving a city-wide community project. So whether you want to nominate yourself, your boss or your neighbour, get in touch and tell us about it!



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SMART LIVING





## Bits 'n Pieces from the Community Garden

Want to get your hands dirty, learn some great gardening skills, reduce your grocery bill and meet some energetic and enthusiastic people? There are lots of exciting events and activities coming up at the Community Garden in the next few months, so get your gardening gloves on and get involved!

- David Long will be hosting a Drystone Rock Walling workshop at the Dirty Weekend (12 October). David will construct the wall, demonstrating a near-forgotten craft. It will act as a retaining wall and will close a historical loop with one of our first funding bodies, the South West Community Foundation. The late Josie Black from Noorat was connected to that organisation and was also a member of a small group of Western District Rock Wall enthusiasts.
- We are about to build a shelter in the main plot area and have engaged the services of Fiona Golding from Live Architecture to assist with the design and associated drawings. It will be a functional and welcoming space with features that are responsive and sympathetic to the immediate environment
- The new greenhouses are taking shape and the regular plot holders, the Work for Dole crew and other members are participating in a range gardening and cooking activities

So whatever your interest is, come along and join in the gardening, or join a "POD" working committee (task-oriented volunteer group). Visit the website or get in touch for more information.

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## Community Development Fund - Applications now open!

Are you a club or organisation with a great idea for an environmental project? The Community Development Fund provides grants (of up to \$3000) to local clubs and organisations to help them with sporting, recreational, cultural or environmental sustainability programs, projects, activities or events within the City. Under the "Environment and Sustainability" category, projects will be considered if they result in one or more of the following outcomes:

- Protection or enhancement of remnant vegetation including linkages or increasing the quantity and quality of native vegetation.
- Improvements to water quality
- Reduction in energy use
- Reduction in water use
- Reduction in waste (by reducing, reusing and/or recycling).
- Education of community about environmental and sustainability issues.

Applications must be received by close of business **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August**. See the Council website for more information or contact us on the details below

## Contact us

If you would like more information on any of the items in the newsletter or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list please contact **Lisa Rankin** (Sustainability Officer) on [lrankin@warrnambool.vic.gov.au](mailto:lrankin@warrnambool.vic.gov.au) or **(03) 5559 4876**

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