

ON THE RISE – ASCENT MONTHLY BULLETIN
July 2008

July is full of opportunities to learn some more about environmental changes, whether in terms of policy or sustainability! Planet Ark's annual Tree Day is a great way to do something on a grass-roots level for the environment, and it's easy for everyone to get involved. You've got all of July to get your friends and family involved, so spread the word and get planting on July 27! It's also the month of the Climate Emergency Rally, when Victorians will be coming together to send a message to the government about the dangers of climate change and the commitment of voters to the environment.

Direct any questions, volunteer interests and feedback to contactascent@gmail.com

In this bulletin:

1. Solar rebate online petition
2. Victorian Climate Change – Fabian Consultative Workshop
3. Climate Emergency Rally
4. Students of Sustainability (SoS) '08
5. City of Melbourne Environment Committee Meeting
6. National Tree Day
7. Climate Change Student Conference

.....

1. SOLAR REBATE ONLINE PETITION:

The Sunrise program on Chanel 7 has initiated an online petition to remove the \$100K means test on solar panels recently imposed by the Federal Government.

Sign the petition at: <http://au.lifestyle.yahoo.com/sunrise/>

2. Victorian Climate Change – FABIAN CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

Event Date: Wednesday, July 02, 2008

Location: Waratah Room, Level 1, St Michael's Convention Centre, at the back of 120 Collins St, Melbourne

Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Phone: 0438213532

Email: vicevents@fabian.org.au

Web: www.fabian.org.au

This electronic workshop will canvass ideas for submission as part of the Victorian Climate Change Summit process. Topics to be considered:

- Reducing emissions in the energy sector
- Positioning Victoria to capitalise on a low-carbon economy
- Assisting households manage consequent rising costs

Discussion papers are available at

http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/summit/Have_Your_Say.html

Places are limited and participants must register and will receive copies of the three discussion starter papers on these topics. A submission will be prepared as part of the Victorian Climate Change Summit process. Admission is free.

3. CLIMATE EMERGENCY RALLY

Event Date: Saturday, July 05, 2008

Location: Melbourne City Square, Corner Swanston and Collins Streets

Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Web: <http://climaterally.blogspot.com/>

On July 5 people dressed in RED will be gathering in the city from right across Victoria to form a gigantic human sign saying 'CLIMATE EMERGENCY' to indicate to all levels of government how serious the state of the planet has

become.

4. STUDENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY 2008

Event Date: Saturday, July 05, 2008 – Wednesday, July 09, 2008

Location: The University of Newcastle

Web: <http://www.studentsofsustainability.org>

The Students of Sustainability conference is a five day conference for anyone interested in creating a more ecologically and socially sustainable world. SoS '08 will be held at the University of Newcastle from the 5th to the 9th of July, with camping on campus or billeting if required. Students, community and Indigenous activists, academics, public intellectuals, environmental educators, social change agents of all stripes and from all over Australia will come and participate in a range of educational, practical and participatory forums and workshops. SoS is about imparting the inspiration, tools, motivation and education required for participants to inspire and educate others when they return to their own communities. As official registration has closed, a surcharge of \$15 will apply to registrants.

5. CITY OF MELBOURNE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Event Date: Tuesday July 08, 2008

Location: Committee meetings are held in the Council Meeting Room on level 2 of Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building, 90 Swanston Street.

Time: 5:30pm

Phone: The Council Business team on 9658 9761.

The City of Melbourne's July cycle of meetings will include the environment committee meeting. Anybody may address a committee or submit correspondence in relation to any item listed on the agenda for that meeting. Generally speaking, submitters are not heard at Council meetings. Written correspondence or requests to address a committee meeting must be received by the Council Business team no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

6. NATIONAL TREE DAY

Event Date: Sunday, July 27, 2008

Location: Everywhere!

Web: <http://treeday.planetark.com/>

National Tree Day, proudly sponsored by Toyota and the AMP Foundation, is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event and a day for all Australians to help out by planting native trees and shrubs at a Tree Day site in their local area.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE STUDENT CONFERENCES

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition *Switched On Schools* program in partnership with local governments are running day-long climate change forums to high school students around Victoria. The local government (council/shire) are organising the venue, catering and students to attend the day, and the AYCC will deliver workshops and presentations for the students.

Dates of climate change forums:

Monday 28th July – Brimbank (in Keilor)

Thursday 31st July – Knox (in Wantirna South)

Monday 11th August – Whittlesea

Tuesday 12th November - Bendigo

Monday 1st September – Frankston (in conjunction with Mornington Council)

Monday 13th October – Horsham (west of Melbourne)

Monday 20th October – Cardinia (in Pakenham)

More information on venues yet to be announced, contact AYCC for more information at www.youthclimatecoalition.org