

Transition Action Group

NORTH MT LOFTY RANGES

An Independent Incorporated Community Group

N E W S L E T T E R

Issue 4 December 2012

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IMPORTANT DATE

OOOOBY at Sevenhill Market Saturday, 22 Dec.

WELCOME to our newsletter.

AND ... our apologies for not keeping in contact with you during 2012. Here's our excuse.

We're a small group of people, each with various commitments and limits on time, and because the editor of this newsletter (that's me, Des) went absent for most of this year (more on that shortly), the newsletter just didn't get done.

We hope you'll set aside a bit of time to read what's going on.

In 2013 we'll be back to our regular 3-monthly update on happenings about community transitions in our region.

Please pass the newsletter on to anyone who you think would be interested in our happenings. Our purpose is to inform, to take action, and to encourage as many people as possible to transition to a low impact lifestyle.

If you have any articles or comments you would like to have included, please forward these in the 2 month period following this newsletter.

Happenings

Climate Change Adaptation Framework

In terms of transitions that affect our lives, a very important document was completed and made available in August. The consultation period began at the end of 2010.

“Prospering in a Changing Climate - A Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia”

Download the framework at ... www.sa.gov.au/climatechange

There's also the companion document “Government Action Plan for the Climate Change Adaptation Framework in SA”.

Every South Australian should read these documents, because every one of us will be affected.

“Sustainable Farming Practices” inquiry

A state parliamentary committee has been examining this issue for most of this year, culminating in an invitation for submissions by 15 December 2012.

This is a massively important issue for the future of natural resources use and management in the state, more so when it's correlated with the Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

TAG member Des Menz prepared a submission and that can be found at [Sustainable Space](#). It is Des' own view, so if you wish to express another viewpoint make a comment at his blog.

The Issues Paper and further details are at ... www.parliament.sa.gov.au Go to "Committees" then "Select Committees".

“Earth Communities” concept

On Nov. 20, TAG sponsored a community meeting at which Sam Scammell, a co-originator of Earth Communities, gave a presentation about the philosophy and vision of the organisation.

It's a very different community and social model that is being proposed, and embraces an amalgam of Permaculture, co-housing, a new economy focused on local exchange and trading, and an alternative model of property tenure. It's all very interesting, and in some respects quite radical for a society that is captive to the present banking system and debt. So for more information go to the [Earth Communities website](#).

OOOOBY - Out Of Our Own Backyard

See us at the Sevenhill Markets, last Saturday of the month, and especially spread the word to those home gardeners or farmers with excess produce to share. The OOOOBY stall promotes local food production & sharing.

Many thanks and farewell to Jane Holland for all her great help since the inception of OOOOBY in 2010. Jane returned to her native Queensland in November.

We wish her all the very best in her “next life”; we'll miss that sparkle that radiated from her.

SPECIAL NOTE

Sevenhill Market for December (the last for this year) ... **Saturday 22nd**

Stock up with fresh produce for the end-of-year break.

OOOOBY contacts ...

Colin Endean, Joey Duncan

WICKING BEDS

This is another method of vegetable growing. Here are some photos from Colin Endean's wicking beds in Burra.



Wicking beds water plants from below rather than above. Water moves from the bottom to the top of the plant container and then wets the soil that the vegies are growing in. Water is taken directly to the roots where it's needed most. It's a very efficient use of water.

A Wicking Workshop will be held at Burra on 9 February, 2013.

If you would like to attend, please contact Colin ...

kunmanara@internode.on.net

Revegetation & The Landscape

More than ever before our landscape needs native vegetation. Read the Climate Change Adaptation Framework mentioned previously, and form your views. For further reading and understanding of the stress that SA's land environment is experiencing, read [No Species Loss - A Nature Conservation Strategy for South Australia 2007-2017](#) report. The Strategy states that "...about one-quarter (over 1000 species) of all terrestrial vascular plants and vertebrate animals in South Australia are considered to be threatened." "Native biodiversity within South Australia is in decline, yet relatively few threatened species and ecological communities are being managed for recovery."

When this strategy is read in conjunction with the Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and other reports in the public domain (see my site www.SustainableSpace.info for much more information), then it can only be concluded that the situation about the general environment in the state is alarming.

This is why massive revegetation work at the landscape scale is needed.

Action is needed, so every small part we can play will help.

Although arriving back home from the year away (after the Trees For Life annual arrangements were finalised) Leslie & Des Menz have organised some growers to continue the tree planting work at Hilltown.

We have 600 trees and shrubs being grown right now, but the target is 1000. We're still in need of a few more growers, so if you can spare some time to raise 100 seedlings, that would be great.

The sponsor for the work is that erstwhile mob called "The Seedy Lot".

More on them in the next issue.

Contact ... Des & Leslie Menz

88423495 0427351073

A "Gap Year" Story

During this year, Leslie and Des moved away from their property at Benbournie for 8 months - 4 months in Port Lincoln, and 4 months travelling through WA, NT, and returning to SA. Now, this is not going to be a travelogue, except to say that it's an extraordinary landscape that we have in Australia.

But this story is about something that ties in very well with the scope of sustainable and thriving local communities. Having travelled along the 200km "Gold Discovery Trail" north of Kalgoorlie, we then journeyed west to Geraldton. For many years we knew that there was a Permaculture influence there, but there's much more than that. It has a very vibrant arts community, and there's been a lot of renewal in the city.

However, there was one little enterprise that was unique. It was called City Hive. Now, like many towns its size around Australia (and smaller towns for that matter), Geraldton has had its ups and downs over the years. Today it seems to be a thriving hub courtesy of the minerals extraction industry. (What else is WA known for?)

Back to City Hive. This is an initiative of a group of social entrepreneurs and change makers known as "Pollinators" (great name!); one task of "Pollinators" is to provide shared workspace for budding small businesses. The workspaces we saw consisted of renewable and lower cost materials, and included shared desks, wifi, printing, and kitchen. This is a great idea to keep costs down and to encourage new businesses. But what was more impressive was the ethic on which they were founded. It was all about community where business was not for the sake of profit only, but also to achieve a social or environmental outcome.

It got us thinking. Why don't we have "Pollinators" in regional SA? Could our area become a hub for "social entrepreneurs"? Could Clare Town Hall be a pollinator's hub? Could a symbiosis happen between an "Earth Community" and a "Pollinator" group. And there are more questions, but I'm out of space here, so there'll be more on this subject at www.SustainableSpace.info

In the meantime, here are a couple of websites to browse through.

Geraldton's City Hive is at www.CityHive.org and "Pollinators" is at www.wildpollinators.org

This is transition in action. Just what TAG is all about! Solutions at the local community level.

Useful Links

Transition Network ... www.TransitionNetwork.org

Sustainable Communities SA ...
www.sustainablecommunitiessa.wordpress.com

O000BY ... www.o000by.ning.com

National Tree Day ... <http://treeday.planetark.org/>

Greening Australia ... <http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/community/sa>

End Words

There's always something happening in our communities and we know how busy people's lives can be. But if you want to make a difference in another way - no matter if it's a day for National Tree Day, or growing a few trees, or if you have a passion for O000BY - and if you'd like more information about other Transition happenings in our region, then please contact one of us.

Colin Endean - kunmanara@optusnet.com.au

Des Menz - desmenz@aussiebb.com.au

David Spackman - hilltop@aussiebb.com.au ... along with all the other TAG contacts.

STAY ON OUR NEWSLETTER LIST - DO NOTHING.

OPT OUT BY SENDING AN EMAIL WITH "Remove from TAG newsletter" TO ... desmenz@aussiebb.com.au

This newsletter was prepared by Des Menz.

Contributions about Transition topics are welcome.

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IF YOU HAVE ANY TOPIC THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PUBLISHED, PLEASE FORWARD IT TO DES.

We can't make promises it will be published, but we can promise to see if it is suitable for the newsletter.

And now ... the year is coming to an end.



TAG wishes all its readers, members, and everyone the very best for a safe and happy Christmas.

Roll on 2013 ... let's make the change! Light a candle ... show the way.

