

BCCAN MISSION

A community based network of organisations and individuals that work together to promote action on climate change & equitable & sustainable development.

BCCAN AIMS

To involve the Bathurst Community & liaise & communicate on their behalf with Council.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Achieve sustainable & equitable development in the Bathurst Region

Adoption of renewable energy technologies throughout the Bathurst region

Bio-sequestration of CO₂

Raise public awareness of associated problems



this issue

BCCAN's Spark Tank Project	P.1
Upcoming Events	P.2
Another Angry Summer	P.2
Climate Change in Antarctica	P.2
The Bathurst Kangaroo Project	P.3
A BCCAN planning day	P.3
Elm Leaf Beetle – an update	P.4
Bathurst Sustainable Living Expo	P.4

BCCAN's Spark Tank Project



The workplace training centre, Skillset, has started Spark Tank, an initiative to promote and fund projects that save energy and make a difference to our environment in central and western NSW.

People and groups can pitch their bright ideas to the Spark Tank Energy Experts and win money and support to help progress their ideas.

BCCAN has put in an application with Spark Tank for its 2017 grant to promote and organise an electric car race at Mount Panorama which if successful will be held later this year. BCCAN members Bob Hill, Sally Neaves and Tracy Sorensen have all been working on the grant application, and BCCAN could play a part in getting the idea moving, allowing Bathurst to visibly and confidently move into the future as a low-carbon race town.

The Spark Tank grant winners will be announced later this month.

For more information about Spark Tank visit sparktank@skillset.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

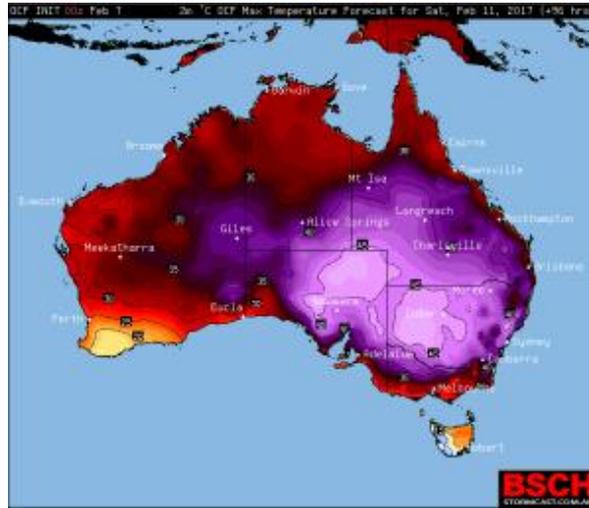
Bathurst Sustainability Expo and Farmers Markets

Saturday 25 March 2017
Bathurst Showground
BCCAN will have a stall at the Expo

Next BCCAN steering committee Meeting

21 March 2017
Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre, (BINC) Russell Street at 4:30 for 5pm start

Another Angry Summer



Above a weather map for 11 February 2017

Here are some of the record breaking numbers: The state-wide mean summer temperature in NSW was 2.57°C above average. Sydney recording a mean temperature 2.8°C above average and Brisbane 1.7°C above average. The city of Moree in NSW experienced 54 consecutive days of Temperature above 35°C, a record for the state.

In NSW, prior to the 10th of February, the state had never had a February day above 42°C degrees, but on the 11th of February the average temperature touched 44.02°C degrees. Most of the state exceeded 12°C degrees above the norm for February top temperatures, with Richmond reaching 47°C and White Cliffs reaching the highest overnight temperature ever recorded in the State with 34.2°C.

Flora and Fauna have also been stressed by these weather events, with piles of dead turtle hatchlings lining Queensland's Mon Repos beach as the heatwave has pushed the sand temperature to a record 75°C. And in NSW Thousands of flying foxes died in the Richmond Valley and in the Upper Hunter Valley due to heat stress as the temperature climbed above 45°C.

Meanwhile, the soaring use of air-conditioning has put the country's power networks to the test. Businesses and households were urged to curb their power consumption and there was a temporary shut-down of the Aluminium smelter at Tomago and deliberate timed blackouts in South Australia to prevent overloading the power grid.

Politicians have clashed over the reliability of power networks and the merits of phasing out coal-fired power for renewable energy as Australia pursues its commitments under the Paris climate deal.

And whilst some politicians don't look past coal and seem unable to make the link between fossil fuel consumption and the extreme temperatures we are experiencing (and which their policies would be aiming to address), the recent talks between the South Australian Premier Mr Weatherill and the Prime Minister Mr Turnbull with renewable energy entrepreneur Elon Musk from Tesla, about battery storage for renewables do give us hope that sensible heads will prevail.

Climate Change in Antarctica



The effects of Climate Change are also being felt in Antarctica where the process of the breaking off of the Larsen C ice shelf is underway. The rift in the ice shelf, which scientist had predicted in 2004, and which began in 2010, has continued to expand throughout the early month of this year. As of February 2017 the rift is 110 miles long

Left aerial view of the rift in the Larsen C ice shelf

(cont.)

and affects an area larger in size than the size of the US state of Delaware. The breaking off the Larsen C section of the ice shelf off Antarctica would not affect sea levels per se, as the ice mass floats on water, however the breakup will leave the remainder of the shelf more vulnerable to future collapse. If all the ice that the Larsen C shelf currently holds back were to enter the sea, it is estimated that global waters would rise by 10 cm (3.9 in).

The Bathurst Kangaroo Project

Since the Middle of last year Helen Bergen and Ray Mjadwesch have been leading an unprecedented project to get a mob of kangaroos off Mt Panorama to new digs away from racing cars and horses. The project has consumed most of their time and a lot of their own money. Many volunteers have also been involved in this project which has had popular support and also some international attention. After a series of lows and blows, there was a high point at the Council meeting last month when Councillors voted unanimously to continue paying the bill for the project which is now seen as a humane alternative to the culling which has occurred in the past.



Above a kangaroo in the temporary enclosure

Bathurst council has agreed to pay for the fencing of the temporary enclosure which will hold the roos until the animals can all be successfully relocated to safer premises on a rural property on the outskirts of Bathurst.

Then on 2 March there was a heavy storm which brought down the temporary fencing and some of the Kangaroos escaped from the enclosure. The few volunteers who initially attended the scene felt overwhelmed by the task of trying to push the fence back up to contain the roos Inside the enclosure and recapture those which had escaped, but after several phone calls

many volunteers turned up on what was a wet Thursday evening and worked together to fix the fence and retrieve the animals. BCCAN president Tracy Sorensen who was among the volunteers that evening said 'It was a wonderful moment that showed what can be done – almost effortlessly – when people are committed to a cause'. To support, volunteer or find out more about The Bathurst Kangaroo Project go to:



A tranquilised roo (with face covered) awaiting relocation

<https://www.facebook.com/bathurstkangaroo-project/>

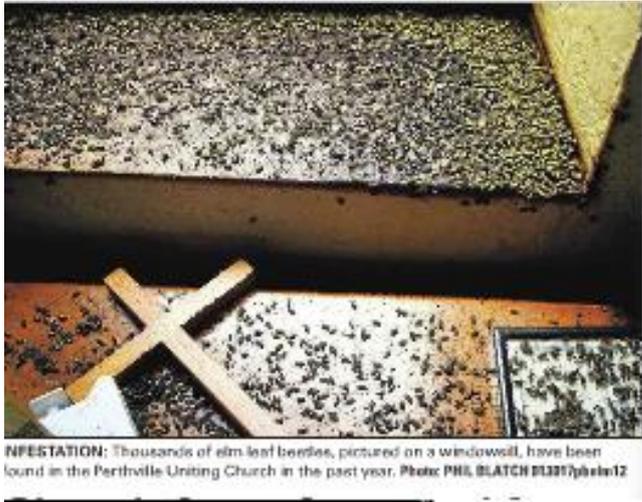
<https://www.gofundme.com/BathurstRooProject>

The above item contains extracts from an article written by Tracy Sorensen

A BCCAN planning day

BCCAN will be having a strategic planning day to set our priorities for the rest of 2017. A date, venue and agenda for the planning day will be set at the next BCCAN meeting on 21 March 2017 and as always all BCCAN members are welcome to attend.

Elm Leaf Beetle – an update



INFESTATION: Thousands of elm leaf beetles, pictured on a windowsill, have been found in the Perthville Uniting Church in the past year. Photo: PHIL BLATCH B13017/ptah12

Above Perthville Uniting Church beetle infestation

BCCAN's Tracy Sorensen and Sally Neaves attended a gathering at the Uniting Church in Perthville to look at the havoc wrecked by elm leaf beetles at the church. The elm leaf beetle is on the march in Australia, having arrived on the continent in 1989, and has no natural predators in our country. Warmer weather (and climate change) may not exactly be causing the current infestation but it can

certainly be expected to be making things worse. In Australia, we now know that up to 4 generations of beetle breeding can occur over the spring-summer period. Buildings located near heavy infestations of elm leaf beetles often suffer the immigrations of overwintering beetles, or second or third generations invasions as the current infestation appears to be, often in plague proportions. Infestations can be greater when strong winds dislodge adults and larvae (caterpillar-like stage) who then seek shelter nearby.

To prevent building from becoming infested by the beetle, it is recommended sealing all cracks that allow entry, caulking areas around window moulding, and minimizing entry points at door openings is an effective control measure. Screens should be in place where windows can be open and shut. Some increase in control is possible if sealing is accompanied by spot insecticide treatment of the building exterior. Several household formulations of pyrethroid insecticides containing permethrin, bifenthrin and related compounds are available for this use from nurseries and similar outlets.

Regular vacuuming is most effective for beetles that are found within a building. This is best done during warm periods when most of the beetles are active and mass on windows or walls. During cooler periods, the overwintered beetles often return to sheltered areas.

Elm leaf beetles do not reproduce in buildings nor do they feed on household foods and furnishings. However, they can leave yellowish stains on walls and curtains.

The above contains extracts from an article written by BCCAN member David Goldney

The Bathurst Sustainable Living Expo

The Sustainable Living Expo is Coordinated by Bathurst Council to provide information about sustainable living, including green design and construction, solar power, gardening and wildlife. This year the Expo will feature some very special guests: the Gourmet Farmer Matthew Evans and Celebrity Chef Colin Fassnidge, along with the Shoalhaven Zoo to You and King and Queen of Green, so there will be something for eve member of the family to enjoy. The Expo also features a variety of stalls by local businesses and environmental groups and is held in conjunction with the Bathurst Farmers Markets. The Expo will be held on Saturday 25 March 2017 from 8am to 12noon at the Bathurst Showgrounds and entry is via a gold coin donation to gain access to both the Expo and the Farmers Markets.

Contact BCCAN

Website:
www.bccan.org.au

e-mail address:
bxclimateaction@gmail.com

BCCAN President
Name: Tracy Sorensen
Email:
tsoren@tpg.com.au

BCCAN Vice President
Name: Marianne Larsen
Email:
bxclimateaction@gmail.com

BCCAN Secretary
Name: Sally Neaves
Email:
educator@rahamim.org.au

BCCAN Treasurer
Name: Maria Liu
Email: meilinl@hotmail.com

BCCAN Public Officer
Name: Jock Roxborough
Email:
jro02437@bigpond.net.au

BCCAN Newsletter Editor
Name: Laurana Smith
Email:
davidlaurana@gmail.com