

SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

No 1 Spring 2010

Welcome to Sustainability Speaking. After 6 years of Environmentally Speaking we've shifted the emphasis to a live local sustainable theme with the first issue featuring a middle-page spread on Kooloora's proposed permaculture garden.

Lynda Newnam, 9/2010

www.laperouse.info

Social Change NOT Climate Change

STINGLESS NATIVE BEES *Trigona carbonaria*



A special addition to the Permaculture garden will be stingless native honey bees. Very appropriate for the location because Bilga is recorded as an aboriginal word meaning "nest of bees".

Trigona carbonaria are the species best suited to our area. Unlike the solitary Teddy Bear and Blue-banded bees which are often seen buzzing around, the *Trigona* is social.

We can observe these gorgeous little creatures at work, show them off to visitors, and even extract some sugarbag honey from the special honey box that comes with the hive. The *Trigona* is much smaller than the regular honey bee (see photo above – *Trigona* on left and honey bee in middle) but these native stingless bees are great pollinators within a 500 metre radius so ideal for the permaculture garden, orchard and native trees.

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION SOUTH WARD'S BOTANY BAY NATIONAL PARK



Walking, fishing, whalewatching are just some of the activities available in Botany Bay National Park. To make it easier for locals and visitors it would be helpful if National Parks could open the toilets at Cape Banks and provide information on the tracks and lookouts. Signs could be located at key features describing the Henry Head fortifications, Endeavour Lighthouse, Cape Banks fortifications, Bent-wing bats, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, Whales, Penguins and other marine birds, Marine research, the Wreck of the Minmi.

Since the map above was published a coastal walking trail shown here as the LOOP WALK has been closed restricting access for walkers and fishers. If the money's not there to get the work done perhaps local groups could be encouraged to apply for Commonwealth grants. It's time to open up the park so we can be sustainable and get active locally.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH & GIFTS

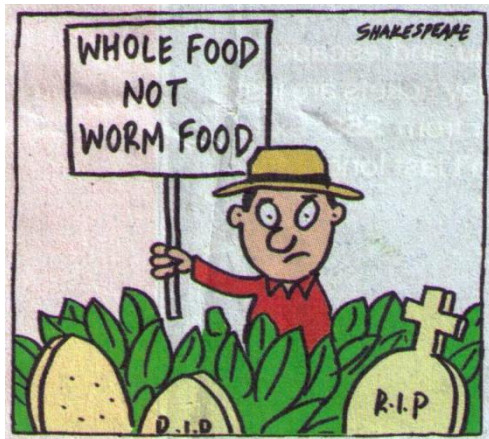


As retailers get ready for the Christmas shopping sprees the number of container trucks around Port Botany increases.

The greenest gift of all is giving someone your time.

A close second is a gift already gifted - give something you may have treasured for years and now can release to let the next person enjoy it. Or give something edible that you've made yourself. You could also consider vouchers for massages, drama or music lessons. There are many ways of growing the economy which don't involve more container loads of stuff.

UNSUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLANNING?



SOULS v SHIPPING CONTAINERS

The Southern Courier recently ran a headline “Souls v salads” with Father Scoutas from the Greek Orthodox Church suggesting that the Historic Chinese Market Gardens in Phillip Bay should be turned into burial plots. The Gardens are located on floodplain unsuitable for burial while higher land adjoining the cemetery is now used for port related activities, like stacking shipping containers.

Fresh food prices to soar

At a food security summit in Brisbane this week the audience heard that prices are expected to increase by up to 50 per cent over the next 10 years, making fresh food unattainable for some people.

SUSTAINABLE TOURIST ATTRACTION



Special Exhibition of the Cann Family's Snake memorabilia is on display at Bowen Library until the end of February 2011. (John Cann pictured speaking at opening)

UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ORICA'S PROPOSAL FOR FLOODPLAIN SOUTHLANDS



On October 6 it will be a year since public submissions closed on this project proposal. In the 3 years of consultation prior to this the traffic and flooding issues remained unresolved. The Major Projects section of the Department of Planning is still considering its verdict. Last month the Planning Department released its NSW Coastal Planning Guideline: Adapting to Sea Level Rise.

UNSUSTAINABLE TRADE?



Nyrup Rasmussen, former Danish Prime Minister(1993-2001), pictured above, has spoken out in opposition to the importation of Orica's HCB waste into Denmark. He suggests the Danes could provide advice on a new Kommunekemi to be built in Australia. Kommunekemi is the plant in Nyborg which will be processing the Orica waste from Botany. From 1200-1430 Nyborg was the royal capital of Denmark, and it was in Nyborg castle in 1282 that Eric V granted the first Danish constitution. Australia is the 6th largest country in the world with a land mass of 7,692,024 km² - Denmark ranks at number 134 at only 43,098.31 km². Sydney to Nyborg is approximately 16,054 km/8668 nautical miles.

Upcoming Events

30 October – Memorial Park Open Day 10-2pm free sausage sizzle put on by Little Bay Scouts.

27 November – International Buy Nothing Day

6-12 December - Coastcare Week see www.coastcare.com.au