

# SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

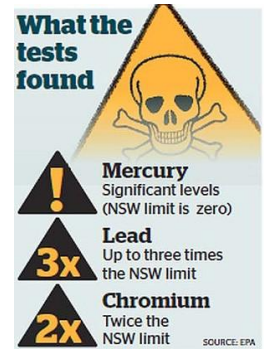
No 16 Sprummer 2014

## WELCOME TO SPRUMMER



A fresh look at Australian Seasons from Tim Entwisle, Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. (Source metoffice.gov.uk; almanac.com, brambuk.com.au)

## EPA UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY



On **October 13<sup>th</sup>**, the Hillsdale and Eastgardens Resident Action Group will appear at the NSW Upper House Inquiry into the Performance of the EPA. Their submission to the Inquiry raises questions about the Bunnings Development which is on a Hazardous Goods Route and contamination in Grace Campbell Reserve. Submissions and Hearing details at

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/committee.nsf/0/743BDB8875807D85CA257CFC002142D1>



**QUESTABIRD** is an outdoor adventure game where players compete by photographing birds in the wild. Join quests, earn gold, buy supplies, gain levels, build your collection – and help document and protect Australia's biodiversity. [www.questabird.com](http://www.questabird.com)

On Saturday November 1, beachgoers in NSW will see volunteers along the coast in an awareness-raising campaign to gather public support and action to keep litter off our beaches and out of our oceans. Be part of the action at [www.takethepledge.com.au](http://www.takethepledge.com.au)

[takethepledge.com.au](http://www.takethepledge.com.au) - sign up and turn up at your local beach

## BIRD FAIR

October 25-26 is a weekend designed for bird lovers at the Bird Fair, Bicentennial Park Homebush. Full details at [www.birdfair.com.au](http://www.birdfair.com.au)



Every 10 years the International Union for Conservation of



Nature(IUCN) holds a Worlds Parks Congress. Previous Congresses were held 1962(Seattle), 1972 (Yellowstone National Park), 1982 (Bali), 1992 (Caracas), 2003 (Durban). This decade it is being held at Olympic Park, Homebush. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November is the Congress Open Day. From 10.30 to 8.30 there will be something for everyone eg. Discovery Bush Rangers – come and meet the rangers from around the world who look after our National Parks; Bio

Blitz – become a Citizen Scientist for the day, recording wildlife at Sydney's largest Bio Blitz; Taronga Zoo Mobile & Featherdale Wildlife Park; Beach Teach – education on waterways, including a marine touch tank; Adventure Bush Therapy – Bushcraft workshops; WilderQuest – become a WilderQuest Ranger and discover new places to explore; Reverse Garbage – turn your trash into treasure; Bike and Blend – make your own pedal powered smoothie; Rock climbing wall - more details at [http://worldparkscongress.org/involved/social\\_planetfest.html](http://worldparkscongress.org/involved/social_planetfest.html)

## NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL (NCC) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2014 Nature Conservation Council(NCC) Annual Conference is to be held on **Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November** at the Sydney University Law School, Camperdown Campus. You can now register to attend the conference and nominate candidates for the 2014 Environment Awards through the NCC website [www.nature.org.au](http://www.nature.org.au)

## TOP NSW BUREAUCRAT NO SLOUCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

Blair Comley was one of the architects of the emissions reduction programs as secretary of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, before moving to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. He was sacked the day the Abbott government was sworn into power in September 2013. A year later Premier Mike Baird has appointed him Director-General of Premier and Cabinet, noting that he is an “outstanding public servant who has a track record of leading and delivering major policy reforms in areas including taxation, energy and climate change”. On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 Comley appeared at two sessions at the Menzies Hotel in the CBD to answer questions on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper. After a presentation question time followed for an hour 20 minutes – until the audience were exhausted. During the lunch break Comley engaged directly with audience members. He was willing to listen and was candid in responses, admitting that it would be a ‘steep learning curve’.



## FREE SOIL TESTING - VEGSAFE



Over the past year, residents from around 500 Sydney households have dug up their veggie patches and sent soil samples to the Macquarie University’s VegSafe program for testing for metals and metalloid contamination. One year in, project leader Professor Mark Taylor has identified some of the most at risk neighbourhoods. The two main sources of soil contamination are old paint used from the late 1950s and from petrol used in motor vehicles from 1932 to 2002. Professor Taylor is after more samples. Details on

the program <http://research.science.mq.edu.au/vegSAFE>

## CONGWONG BEACH THE CLEANEST IN RANDWICK AND BOTANY BAY

While both Clovelly and Congwong were rated Very Good, Congwong levels of enterococci contamination was well below Clovelly. The worst beach in Sydney was Foreshore. The Beachwatch Annual Report – more details <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beach> (Congwong c1900)



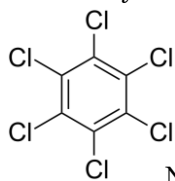
## BATHING BIRDS

With 1,105 citizen scientists taking part and over 47,000 individual sightings recorded, the first Bathing Birds survey was a resounding success. Developed by the National Parks Association in association with the University of Sydney and Birds in Backyards Program, Bathing Birds was run to determine what types of birds use our birdbaths and how different gardening habits influence which species are present. The survey will be run again from 27 January - 27 February, 2015, to ascertain what impact time of year has on which species use birdbaths. To keep informed about the

summer survey, ‘like’ the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/bathingbirds](http://www.facebook.com/bathingbirds)

## HCB STOCKPILE – WHEN WILL AUSTRALIA TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?

It’s over 2 years since the Chief Scientist of Australia declared the HCB an unacceptable risk in Botany.



Orica and the Federal and State Governments are no further advanced after the 3<sup>rd</sup> failed export attempt. While the French option is not officially dead, there could be a conversation about how to deal with this in Australia. Over 25 years ago the Australian Federal and NSW State Governments were committed to destroying this waste and at

the Federal level \$25million was allocated to building a publicly owned facility. There was leadership then which is now lacking. Would a state of the art facility, located at an acceptable distance from human settlement and ecologically/agriculturally sensitive areas have the impacts of Coal Seam Gas or Open Cut Coal Mines? Why carve up agricultural land for coal and lose marine areas to coal loaders while at the same time exporting our own waste as well as the jobs and expertise that could be generated if a facility was built in Australia?

