



November 2008

WIND POWER FOR NEWHAM?

Recent reports of the community-owned 'Wind Park' in Hepburn has raised local interest in small-scale sustainable energy projects for communities like Newham. Hepburn Wind provides a model of a co-operatively owned renewable energy source and claims its two proposed turbines, with a total capacity of 4 megawatts, will produce enough electricity for 2,300 homes.

But opinions are strongly divided on the benefits, or



A wind turbine on the Jim: eyesore or community asset?

otherwise, of wind turbines. This month, the Arrow presents two views by local residents on this tricky subject.

A Beautiful Alternative

by Bruce Hedge

There is one major problem with wind turbines. They divide communities. That is really the only problem with modern wind generators as I see them.

We here in Central Victoria, are sitting on a gold mine. According to the Victorian Wind Atlas released in 2004, the Kyneton/Macedon/Redesdale area is the second best place for wind generation in Victoria. The average wind speed is well above the threshold for economic wind generation - a fact seized on by the Hepburn Community Wind Park.

After energy conservation, wind turbines represent by far the easiest way to generate clean electricity quickly, as part of a total renewable energy mix. I would love to see grid-connected solar photovoltaic panels on every roof, but they are still expensive; tidal power exists, but only suits certain areas, and geothermal electricity has great potential, but is still decades away.

No other technology can be up and operating in six months, pay back the energy needed to make it in the next year, generate clean electricity for years to come, and be decommissioned leaving little footprint. They also work at night.

Oh, yes, I also think they are beautiful additions to our landscape, and I wouldn't mind living under one. Much better than open-cut coal mines and polluting power stations.

Are Windmills All Wind?

by John Luckock

When the wind blows, it does provide a source of non-polluting electricity. But it doesn't always blow, so other sources of generation must be available. It is not efficient to have generating capacity standing by. Duplicated capacity is wasteful. When wind is available, reduced demand from larger generators means that they operate below their peak efficiency, adding to costs.

Towers, blades and related infrastructure are expensive, and part-time operation means that the resulting electricity is among the most expensive - as much as ten times the cost of the same unit from a base load coal-fired power station. It can only be sold if electricity distributors are forced to take it. When this happens, they will turn off the next most expensive source - often gas, which is relatively less polluting. They will never turn off or slow down coal-fired base load power stations, so wind generation has no impact on emissions from them.

In a time when global warming is top of mind to many people, perhaps wind's economic weaknesses can be accepted. But can small rural communities accept the division that occurs whenever a wind farm is proposed?

Clearly we must reduce carbon emissions. But are wind farms the right way? Perhaps their greatest merit is that they are easily sold by politicians to the public, because the wind is free.



The Paris End Of Town

Newham Primary celebrated International Year of Languages, hosting a 'French Food, Film and Fun Festival' for three small rural schools, (Bolinda, Clarkefield and Darraweit Guim) and Year 9 French students from Gisborne Secondary College. Regional Department of Education personnel also joined in with the festivities and many parents and grandparents as well.

It was a highly successful day with heaps of 'French' style fun for everyone. The school was decorated with French colours, posters, model French houses built by the children. Everyone dressed in French colours for the day. The atmosphere was truly festive with many activities, food stalls and entertainment.

Guests were welcomed with a small performance of French songs and a traditional children's rhyme, before attending a number of activities, including learning to play Petanque from four members of the Woodend Petanque Club and a concert in Newham Hall with French performer Ced Le Meledo - a great, interactive music show, very French and very funny!

French teacher and parent Christine Sullivan was the main organiser who created a wonderful day for all. The day was part of a Regional LOTE grant received at the commencement of the year to re-introduce French to Newham Primary School and enhance French in the other local schools that provide it in their curricula.

QUIVER QUIZ

1. Who are the 3 current East Ward representatives on Council?
 2. In 1862 Newham's first hotel opened at which location?
 3. Hanging Rock is one of two extinct volcanos in the district. What is the other one?
 4. Which 19th century Newham building was known as the Coliseum?
- Answers next issue

LOCALS TO RUN FOR COUNCIL

Two Newham & District residents are standing for East Ward in the upcoming council elections.

Patrick Testa is a 31 year old lawyer with extensive marketing and business development expertise. He is a volunteer with The Way Out Rural Youth Suicide Prevention and heavily involved in work with people with disabilities.

Hilary Roberts is an active participant in community activities such as the Newham & District Landcare Group and MRSC Economic Advisory Group. He is Chair of the Newham Community Planning Group and Treasurer of the Newham School Council.

Both candidates are independent and cite significant experience of financial governance as a critical part of their respective platforms.

Everyone on the voting roll should receive election 'Ballot Packs' in the mail by Nov 19.



We will be celebrating the launch of Brigitte Kny's booklet, *Plants, Flowers, Shrubs and Fungi of 'Kolora'* at Newham Hall on Saturday November 15 from 6 - 8pm.

Beautifully photographed, the booklet celebrates the diversity of our local native plants and will be a valuable reference for anyone with an interest in the native species of the district. RSVP Penny 5427 0795



The stall at the Lancefield Fair was a great success, with a great deal of interest shown in the weed display which included garden escapees as well as native and exotic grasses. Many visitors took the challenge to test their identification knowledge.



Glad For Spring

Most gardeners have a favourite plant and one which is less than favourite.

When once asked to name his least favourite plant, noted British broadcaster and horticulturalist, Alan Titchmarsh, nominated - the gladioli.

But what's wrong with glads? Yes, they do need staking and tying and yes, their flowering period is relatively short. But this seems a small price to pay for a structural plant which is perfect for the back of borders.

If you plant gladioli corms now and continue to plant a few each



Summer isn't here yet but already the Newham Brigade has had its first bushfire.

About 4pm on Sat 11th October the Brigade was called out to a local property where about five acres was burning. It seems the fire was the result of a restart from a previous burn-off that may not have been completely extinguished. Due to the lack of rain, the dry ground provided plenty of fuel and even the humus in the soil was burning. Both Newham trucks attended and we were assisted by a tanker from Lancefield. The Newham quickfill trailer was also deployed and 16 members of the brigade spent about five hours making the area safe. Thanks also to the members of the brigade auxiliary, who attended and supplied the firefighters with much needed coffee, tea, sandwiches and cakes, as we didn't get home until after 9 pm.

ENSURE ALL FIRES ARE COMPLETELY COLD BEFORE LEAVING THEM. If you can't put your bare hand in the ashes you can't leave them. Don't burn off under trees.

Newham Brigade now has breathing apparatus. BA is used to enable firefighters to safely enter a burning building or other area where toxic gasses may be generated such as a car fire or a chemical spill.

Answers to last month's quiz: 1. £211,15.02, Barrie Sutton
3. Cobaw Rd and Brydon's Rd 4. Mt Diogenes

week until the end of the year, you should have a succession of blooms from early in the new year, through to autumn.

Now is also the time to plant dahlia tubers for a dramatic flourish of colour throughout autumn. A range of annuals are now available and can go in to bulk up the flower garden and add to the overall effect.

At this time of year you need to be on the lookout for aphids. This sap-sucking pest can cause havoc to a range of plants, most notably, roses. So they need to be dealt with quickly.

In the veg garden, seed sowing continues apace. Carrots, parsnip, beetroot, beans and corn can all be sown this month. Tomatoes can also be planted now, but make sure they're protected in the event of a late frost. Other veggies to go in, now the soil has warmed up, include capsicums, cucumbers and pumpkin.

During September and October Newham firefighters underwent an intensive nine-week training course in the use of breathing apparatus, and search and rescue techniques. Eight firefighters have qualified as BA operators and one firefighter as a BA controller. We are now better equipped and trained to meet our community needs and to provide assistance to others should we be called upon.

Your help with time or financial assistance will always be appreciated. Drop in at the fire station any Sunday morning.

Brigade Member Profile

Captain Peter HOBBS (Hobbsy)
Occupation - Farmer
Family - Wife Jill and son Tom (both brigade members)

How long have you been a CFA firefighter? 14 years at Newham, Captain for the past two years.

Why did you become a firefighter? I believe if you live in the country you should be a part of the CFA. And I'm no longer bored!

Hobbies? Metal detecting and local history.

Peter is a qualified Crewleader, Strike Team Leader, and Sector Commander for large ongoing incidents. He has attended some of the large campaign fires in NSW and Victoria, and led a strike team of 25 firefighters in the high country fires in 2006.

In November last year, a public meeting in the Hall organised by the Council drew an enthusiastic crowd of 56 residents to discuss the welfare, future, and concerns of our town and surrounding district. The meeting was the culmination of several months of consultation with numerous groups in our community and resulted in the drafting of a number of community priorities and the establishment of a volunteer committee.

A great deal has been achieved in the twelve months since then. This meeting is a great chance to hear about

NCPG members will provide updates to the community at a public meeting to be held in the Mechanics Hall on Thursday 13th. Every Newham resident is invited to attend from 7.30 for an 8pm start.

the community's progress and, most importantly, to join in discussions on what can be done over the next twelve.

This is a great opportunity to voice your opinions on issues of importance to you and your local area - and to act upon them. Many different community groups will be represented at the meeting. There are a number of ongoing projects in which your involvement would be very welcome.

All of the priorities voted on by the community last November will be looked at and you can expect discussions to extend to many other things, including the General Store and the push for a new community tennis court.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council will be providing drinks and nibbles before and after.

Contact Hilary Roberts 5427 0795

COMMUNITY GROUPS

IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday November 13th Newham Mechanics Hall 7.30 for 8pm
Everyone invited to come and contribute. Spirited and interesting discussion expected. Don't miss it.

Newham Primary School's Annual Market/Festival

November 22 from 9 a.m. 1271 Rochford Rd, Newham. Market stalls with fun and entertainment for everyone. Free entry.

Friends of Hanging Rock Wildflower Walk

November 15th Hanging Rock Reserve – meet 10am at the café.
Contact Paul Marmara 5427 0258

BIGGER THAN TEXAS

The Newham Garden Club is once again holding its renowned plant sale to raise funds for the Mechanics Institute Hall renovations. This unique biennial event attracts plant lovers from far & wide.

This year we have expanded the plant range on offer as well as added some beautiful garden related goods; handmade cards, mosaic & painted pots, garden mobiles & locally made preserves. Plants are locally propagated and all products are made by a hardworking group of volunteers.

So if you are after a unique Christmas gift or just some bargain priced flowering plants, vegetables and herbs or potted peonies come along and join the fun.

Tea /coffee/cool drinks & scrumptious cakes will also be available at the Garden Café.

Garden Lotto will be a new & exciting addition to the day

Saturday 15th November 2008 at Newham Mechanics Institute Hall, Rochford Road Newham. 9am - 3pm

For details, contact Jenny Waugh, Newham Garden Club Member on 54270408.

The Newham Arrow is supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. If you are a member of a community group, or have a local event coming up; if there's a local issue you would like to see covered in these pages, or would like to respond to something you have read here, please contact us at:

narrow@exemail.com.au