

Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre



26 Koala Drive
Koonwarra
Ph: 5664 2461

Email: kscc@koonwarra.vic.au
www.koonwarra.vic.au

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008

Koonwarra is Changing the Dream

On Sunday April 13, a group of Gippsland residents gathered to participate in the Changing the Dream Symposium. The Symposium was run by Kongwak resident Carolyn Rowson who had undertaken the leader training in order to share the experience that Changing the Dream has to offer in Gippsland.

The Symposium is a event that creates dialogue between participants relating to the environmental problems currently being experienced on the planet. This is an extremely moving part of the program where participants connect with the earth and the amount of damage caused by humans to our natural eco-systems. Alison Taylor, Manager of Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre said that "the meditation undertaken as part of the Symposium created in me a deeper understanding of our role as humans in destroying the many and varied eco-systems that support us all. Whilst I knew that this was already happening, the Symposium enabled me to connect with these massive changes to earth in more meaningful way."



Participants at the Symposium

After the morning session, participants were treated to a beautiful home cooked lunch by local Kongwak resident Becky Banks. The lunch featured two beautiful soups, local cheeses and home made bread and was appreciated by all. During tea breaks the group was lavished with home made cakes.

After lunch the group resumed discussion about the ways in which they could change the path that we are on. The emphasis of the afternoon was local action that could be undertaken to connect and inspire people towards living more sustainably. Of great interest to many people at the Symposium was the hundred of thousands of small groups working on local issues. Alison Taylor mentioned "Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre is one of these small groups working in the community to raise awareness of the need to live more sustainably and also resource people in the community to be able to do so."

Due to the success of the day, many of the members have joined an online group called Gippsland Dream Changers which aim to connect people interested in Sustainability. For more information on this group contact Alison Taylor on 5664 2461

Future Sessions will be run for anyone interested in participating.

100 Mile Education Program Launched for kids

A new program is currently being developed for school children to learn about the 100 Mile food principal. The program will give children information about food miles and the carbon cost attached to them and be run from the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre. Koonwarra is an ideal venue to run a food miles program because of the principals relating to organic local foods which are promoted throughout the Koonwarra village. This is an exciting new program being offered in conjunction with South Gippsland Environmental Education and Interpretation. For information on the program contact us on 5664 2461 or Rosemary on 5674 3748



Kongwak - Waste Wise and Plastic Bag Free

On Sunday 4 May the town of Kongwak celebrated its achievement of becoming Waste Wise and Plastic Bag Free. For the past few months, the business owners and market have worked on reducing their reliance on plastic bags by creating their own recycled fabric bags and encouraging patrons to bring their own bags when shopping. They have also set up a system of bins at the market and can now take litter, recycle and collect food to compost. Alison Taylor, Manager of the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre stated that "by raising awareness of the need to recycle and reduce our waste of people coming to

the town, Kongwak contributes to our development towards a sustainable society." The project has had a unique character because of the market which is renowned for great second hand clothes, local food and great coffee.

The project was funded by the Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group and run by the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre (KSCC). KSCC saw the project as a great opportunity to be able to connect with other towns in Gippsland and highlight the achievements that the centre has already made in raising awareness of

the need to use less resources and dispose of our waste thoughtfully. Present at the launch were shop owners from Kongwak who received certificates for becoming waste wise, Councillor Bob Newton from South Gippsland Shire Council, Alison Taylor, Manager of the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre, Neil Smith from the Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group and Jane, Manager of the Kongwak market.



Meeting Space for Rent

Are you looking for space to hold your meeting or event? Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre has a range of spaces to offer you amongst picturesque grounds. Space can be hired by the day or hour and reasonable rates apply.



Gippsland Freecycle Goes from Strength to Strength

Gippsland Freecycle remains a valuable asset to the local community trading unwanted goods to new homes. Interesting items exchanged include fencing materials for our local wildlife carer Jacqui, a Saba lounge suite, a futon, a whole bag of baby's clothes, photocopier, pin boards, violin bow, trumpet, wooden folding chairs, a home gym, dressing table, plants and even bath crystals! The group now has 468 members and to date 740 messages listings have been made.

Freecycle plays a valuable role in diverting waste from landfill and also distributing goods between households.

Alison Taylor, Manager of Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre says "I managed to get a wonderful new BBQ from Freecycle and it has been great over summer. It only needed a bit of a clean up and its been great to have stopped this useful and working item going to landfill."

If you would like to join Freecycle contact the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre or go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southgippslandfreecycle>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RUN A COURSE OR DO A CLASS? LET US KNOW AND WE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ORGANISE ONE FOR YOU!

Kitchen Garden

The kitchen garden is looking for love! Yes that's right, if you are interested in meeting some people and doing some gardening, we are looking for people who may be interested in meeting once a fortnight to learn about organic gardening together.

Work would involve planting out crops, growing seedlings, preparing beds and harvesting produce.

The group could meet at a time convenient to them and would be assisted where possible by the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre.

If you are interested in being a part of the group, give us a call on 5664 2461



Gippsland Sustainability Festival

The inaugural Gippsland Sustainability Festival was held on the 9th and 10th May at Kernot Hall, Morwell. The festival included guest speakers, information stalls, school group activities, demonstrations and an art installation. The festival was a showcase of the range of technologies, products and groups in Gippsland that can support people to live more sustainable lifestyles.

The Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre was a stall holder at the festival. Helen Guy manned the stall for the two days and said that there was some good interest in the centre. Some people did not know where Koonwarra was and many people had not heard of Freecycle. The stall also gave information to the schools on the waste wise trail and the programs that the centre can offer for schools.

The stall also promoted other businesses in the Koonwarra area and was great at raising awareness of the great work in the area of sustainability that is being undertaken by the Koonwarra community.

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Sustainable Gippsland Website Launched www.sustainablegippsland.org.au

A new website created to promote sustainability in Gippsland. The website www.sustainablegippsland.org.au is designed to be a place for information regarding sustainable living in Gippsland. Over time the website will build a list of businesses and resources available to the general community that offer services aimed at improving households ability to live more sustainably. The website will also become a meeting place for people interested in sustainable living

in Gippsland and also advertise events related to sustainable living around Gippsland. The website is a wonderful opportunity to connect people in Gippsland as well as promote the range of sustainability initiatives happening around the region.

If you are interested in being a part of the website, please contact the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre on

5664 2461

Thankyou...

The Board of Management of the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre would like to thank the recent generous donation of Murray Goulburn to the centre. The donation will assist us to continue to provide a centre for sustainable education in Gippsland.



Visiting Koala to the centre

Office Space for Rent

We currently have office space for rent for community groups at a low cost. Space includes access to kitchen, meeting space, internet and phone connections and sheds.
Phone 5664 2461

We receive ongoing support from Regional Farmers Markets For information on sponsoring the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre please contact



Gardening Working Bees

1st Tuesday of the month 10.30 - 12.30

Come join us once a month and share in the growing success of our kitchen garden. Working bees are open to anyone interested in organic gardening and are a good way to meet other like-minded people, learn about different gardening methods and contribute to the Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre. Bring some tools and your gardening gloves - we look forward to seeing you there!

Become a Member of KSCC

The Koonwarra Sustainable Communities Centre receives no ongoing funding and relies on your contributions for its ongoing survival. Become a member, join our community and contribute to the sustainable development of Gippsland!

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Membership Fee:	Individual \$25	Family	\$50
	Business \$60	Not for profit member	\$40
	Student \$10		

Please make cheques payable to KSCC inc and post to PO Box 75, Koonwarra Victoria 3954 or contact us for other payment options

