



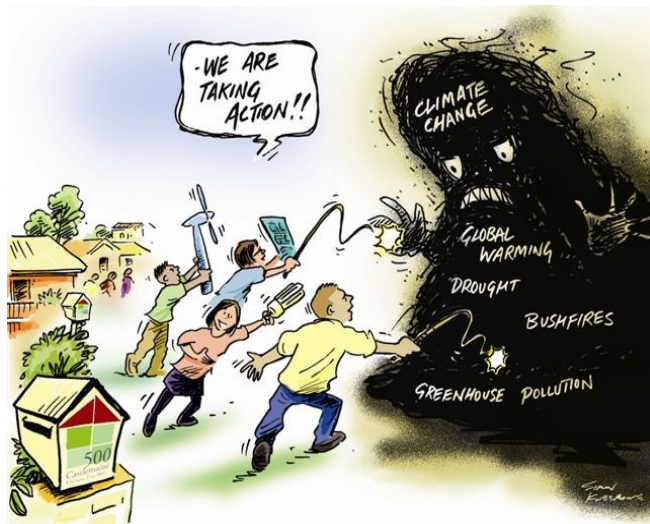
Castlemaine 500 Watt Matters Most in February 2007?

For more information about the Castlemaine 500 project, please contact Geoff Brown on 0403 763 660 or visit our website: www.castlemaine500.org.au

To all Households and Partners

February has slipped by and Castlemaine 500 is gearing up to a huge **Community Conference this Saturday!** Hopefully most of you will have received a personal invitation by now. **Remember to RSVP** if you plan to come along.

We have 3 great community events to plug in this update, along with some C500 news!
Read on ...



Event #1 Reminder!!

The **Castlemaine 500 Community Conference** is on this Saturday.

Campbell's Creek Community Centre

10am start for a 3pm finish

Please RSVP by Friday 12 noon to allow us to cater and feed you!

Phone 5470 5934 or info@castlemaine500.com.au or reply to this email.

Event #2 Sustainable House Tour by the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

If you want to learn more about energy smart building design to help retrofit your own house ... then this is the tour for you!

Sunday March 18th: Start 10am ... finish 3pm

- You will visit 3 properties ... 1 new ... 1 new'ish ... 1 retrofitted
- Get detailed notes and info packs to add to your C500 kit!
- Lunch & arvo tea provided
- Places are limited so hurry
- Booking and pre payment is essential - Cost = \$60 per person (all inclusive and ensures we make this event Carbon Neutral!)
- Contact Peter Sansom to book: Phone - 5472 2403 or email - bundara@netcon.net.au

Event #3 Straw bale building experience: Here is a chance to learn on-the-job!!

Castlemaine 500 participant Bernard Tonkin and family would appreciate help to prepare their straw bale walls for rendering. They are having a working bee on **Sat 3 & Sun 4 March** in preparation for rendering on **Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 March**. The house incorporates many energy efficient features. Come whenever you can over the weekend or help with rendering on 5 & 6 March.

- RSVP if you can on 5472 4234 or 0400 940 237 or just turn up.
- Snacks and lunch provided.
- 16A Vanstan Road, Castlemaine.

Castlemaine 500 The News that Matters Most!

1. Energy Smart Workshops assist another 50+ households to reduce energy!

Once again the workshops at the Theatre Royal were very well attended. Congratulations to everyone who participated and good luck with your Action Plans!

2. Power Mate "Back from the Dead"

After the C500 *Power Mate* died in an unfortunate accident with a high voltage appliance, it will be again on loan at the Castlemaine Library from Thursday 8th March. So for anyone wanting a nifty gadget for 3 days that works out the annual running costs of any 240V appliance (eg. Fridge), then this an opportunity not to be missed!

We tested a few "beer-fridges" on home assessments in January that were costing over \$280 per year to run!

3. Community Development Training has started and grassroots projects are on their way

18 people from all over the Castlemaine area (and as far away as Maldon) have started their unique Community Development Training. Days 1 and 2 were a big success with Day 3 happening this Friday.

Already, participants have been contributing to the Castlemaine 500 project by assisting with the recruitment of new households! In 2007, our focus will be to support the community to get on board Castlemaine 500 and recruit friends, neighbours and family to join you in action!

4. The online Workshop is here!!

The C500 website now has a fully functioning, online workshop to help new households to:

- assess their own home and energy use behaviours
- develop a plan of action to stop wasting energy and help tackle climate change



Warm Regards

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