

Date: 26 May 2010

Ref: SF090685

**Eurobodalla Community Meeting
26 May 2010, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Summary of Meeting Outcomes**

Introduction

The meeting was welcomed and introduced by Tracey Rich, Project Manager, Sustaining Our Towns (SOT), and her two team members, Kerry Hopkins and Marie Zuvich.

Project Summary

A project to help reduce the ecological footprints of householders and businesses across 13 local council areas in South Eastern NSW. This project is funded by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust and is coordinated through SERRROC.

Participating Councils

Bega Valley, Bombala, Boorowa, Cooma-Monaro, Eurobodalla, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Harden, Palerang, Queanbeyan, Snowy River, Upper Lachlan, Yass Valley, Young

Project Partners

- South East Resource Recovery Regional Organisation of Councils (SERRROC)
- Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA)
- NSW Dept Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW)
- Clean Energy for Eternity (CEFE)

Meeting Purpose

To provide a forum where the community could discuss how the Sustaining Our Towns project can best support the Eurobodalla community in engaging people to live more sustainably.

The meeting used a collective decision making process which was divided into three parts. Participants were asked to brainstorm ideals; then to describe the facts of what currently exists including their supporting and inhibiting factors; and then to formulate ideas for action in response to the question:

What can be done to engage people in Eurobodalla to live more sustainably?

1. Ideals

- Questioning the basics of consumerism
- Living within your means

- Think 100 years from now
- Long term view

- Live locally
- Local energy generation
- Micro-power generation
- Locally manufactured goods
- Food, energy & water resilience for our local area
- Food self-sufficiency
- Closed loops

- Happiness for everybody
- Drive less

- Less/no waste

- Sharing skills – talk to friends and neighbours about what one is trying to do
- Education for the masses; marketing campaign; include everyone; Communication

- Protect and conserve local ecosystems

2a. Facts with supporting and inhibiting factors

FACTS	SUPPORTING	INHIBITING
Slow Food Celebration Celebrating value of local food	Chamber of Commerce Business driven movement – jobs and keeping people in the community Community support Sponsorships looking to support sustainability Event location Meeting need in community	Volunteer managed Same people involved Lack of local / regional producers
Bio-dynamics local teaching facility	Cheap way of gardening & agriculture Gaining international interest Linked to SAGE	Relatively unknown entity Little funding
SAGE	Community support 60 paid members Accessible Suitable Demonstration & hands on Education component	Money & funding Mostly donations Time Government regulations Needs more people

	National publicity Council support Knowledge & skill base	
Seedsavers group	No bureaucracy No grants Local group Sharing info and resources	Small group Only converted are there Closed network of people
Moruya Public School kitchen gardens project	Link to other environmental initiatives in the school Community support / parent group Introducing ideas to kids early	Bureaucracy in schools Communication issues between levels
Individual premises doing things esp. businesses e.g. Natural Healing Centre	Reaches variety of people Demonstrates things	Don't publicise things as not core business Don't collect data to quantify impact
Tuross Website & newsletter	Single hub about place 500 subscribers / inclusive Progress Association Includes sustainability Celebrates history and change Other initiatives coming out of this now Community voice	Embryonic Same volunteers doing it
Council programs	Lost of them Successful	Need champions
Forest protection/Forest carbon stores	Forest forum LEP biodiversity protection	No CPRS Skeptics
Moruya high school project	Partnership Passing on knowledge	Time
Moruya Markets	Wide participation Open Free	
Conservation of urban bushland	Landcare Weed control private land	Development Funding Poor land management
Food co-op	25 years Passionate people Food a good issue	Volunteers Moves around so people cannot follow it Critical mass
Federal & State government rebates	Hip pocket Different groups of people	
Business Treading	Funding	One industry at a time

Lightly	Project team Larger businesses & larger scale	Community communication of results
Renewable Energy Precints	Encourage takeup of renewable energy	

2b. Sustaining Our Towns Facts

Over the whole 13 local govt areas:

Reductions: 2,740 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions; 76,000 Kl water; 274 tonnes of waste.

Increases: 5,000 native plants in backyards

Targets: 2,500 homes; 120 businesses; 135 training sessions; 13 innovative local projects

Three project areas:

i) Homes:

Home and garden sustainability assessments; home sustainability workshops; library resources. (SOT currently seeking home assessors/trainers)

ii) Businesses:

Sustainability Advantage (large businesses over 40 employees); Small Business Energy Efficiency Program (50% rebate for small businesses on efficiency measures instituted after doing an energy audit); Business Treading Lightly. (SOT currently seeking business assesors)

iii) Communities:

Support for innovative local project/s of \$10,000; support for community leaders (networking; regional events/forums)

3. Actions for Eurobodalla

IDEA	WHAT/WHY	RESOURCES /WHO
SAGE – paid coordinator. Shelter for education and to provide place from which to harvest rainwater	Strong group – needs support.	
A sustained marketing campaign	Recognised logo for participating businesses	
School garden and kitchen at Moruya; eventually connecting with SAGE and also to	To reach beyond the usual suspects	

Youth Cafes		
	Need to engage with the unengaged but how??	
Mothers' groups? Playgroups?		
Roaming speakers program	Using existing programs and online tools (eg "Love Food - Hate Waste" DECCW program; ...) to go out to sporting, social clubs etc to speak.	Could cover speakers' travel costs perhaps?
Rejuvenate Landcare to increase membership of younger people	Set up demonstration sites at 3 major towns, eg on roundabouts	\$\$ for plants and planting
Using waste water from sewage plant for gardens		