

SUSTAINABILITY TAROONA – May 2011 Workshop Proceedings

Sponsored by a Tasmanian Government Earn Your Stars Microgrant

In May 2011, two community sessions were held to establish Taroona's priorities to respond to climate change. This was part of the delivery of the Earn Your Stars Microgrant of \$3000 to the TCA. A group of 19-25 residents participated with Margaret Steadman, local sustainability facilitator, guiding the sessions.

The first session provided an update on the most recent climate science with trained Al Gore climate change presenter, Peter Boyer. The science is chilling; human induced climate change is unquestionable and we need to act now to reduce carbon emissions.

Chris Harries from the Waterworks Valley Climate Connect Project and group has researched household behavioral change and attitudes relating to reducing carbon emissions. Chris gave an interactive presentation on the results of this project, "The things we can do, and why we don't". This project surveyed South Hobart and Ridgeway residents and found that 94% are concerned about climate change but still don't take action to change. Ten big picture barriers were identified.

Visit www.waterworksvalley.com for more information.

The key outcome from the workshops was forming a list of actions which were grouped and prioritised (see table below).

A new group – Sustainability Taroona

The workshop proposed to develop a new group to carry the process forward for sustainability in Taroona. At the current time the group has been named Sustainability Taroona. It was also proposed that the preferred governance arrangement be that it sit under the umbrella of the Taroona Community Association. The TCA committee has accepted this arrangement.

World Café

Three topics were chosen for more detailed discussion in a World Café format, with participants breaking into groups tackling three of the priority issues identified. There was considerable discussion on each of the issues and actions were listed for attention.

Go to the Taroona community website to see the complete details of these discussions.

1. Progressing Sustainable Transport
2. Progressing the Taroona Shopping Centre site in Taroona
3. Progressing Gardens and Food

Identification of workshop topics

The group lastly identified a list of potential workshops to deliver to the community as part of the grant. These included:

- Bike education and maintenance workshop (Bicycle Kitchen)
- Home energy efficiency
- Hold a marketplace for energy efficiency
- Garden tours – TNG
- Growing you own vegetables – biodynamics or permaculture
- Making lifestyle changes – Gwen

If you want to be involved in Sustainability Taroona contact Jill Hickie at taroona@taroona.tas.au

Priority action	Votes
Policies/Politics/Planning/Communication	32
Full width safe cycle way on road to town (and Kingston).	9
Develop a vision for the Shopping Centre	8
Consider improved options for improved urban planning to facilitate the protection of Taroona's character (bushland hills, creeklines, large garden blocks); the integration of cycleways and pedestrian footpaths into the network of recreational links; the retention and protection of public open spaces and parks; and development of improved park-based infrastructure	4
Keep dogs off the beach (owners OK on beach)	4
Facilitate networking between groups that are found in Taroona (process would involve identifying them, contacting them and working with them)	2
Mountain bike track to town over Mt Nelson	2
Establish and maintain a positive and constructive working relationship with politicians and government	1
Regulation for protection of solar access + rebates for retro-fitting households to be more energy efficient	1
Encourage Local Government political representation for Taroona (local to Stand for council)	1
Develop the Taroona website to facilitate improved communication (website done, please add to)	0
Allow dogs + owners on beach	0
Taroona character statements have been developed – they need 'standing' in development applications	0
Gardens and Food (3)	21
Develop a "gardens for food" program encouraging residents to use backyards for growing food; include a program of tours of local food gardens	4
Workshops on vegi-growing/composting etc for non members of the TNG	4
Develop and run a regular growers market which could be based at the Neighbourhood Garden	3
Promote the "Eating with Friends" program	2
Develop and run growers market	2
Develop small groups to bulk buy organic food produce (eg Biodistributors)	2
Develop a community supported food farm (farmed by expert growers)	1
Improve links between Neighbourhood garden and Gardening Forum	0
Expand TNG – wider community involvement	0

Priority action	Votes
Home Technologies/Energy	11
Develop a program to bulk buy solar photo voltaics, hot water systems, insulation; learn how to access green loans and rebates, how to improve energy efficiency in homes cost effectively.	7
Develop and run skills workshops on a range of topics including: improving home energy efficiency; retrofitting houses	2
Run regular sessions on home energy efficiency	1
Regulation for protection of solar access + rebates for retro-fitting households to be more energy efficient	1
Develop a scheme to encourage purchasing and sharing of gear and equipment	0
Sharing of 'Nanna' skills	0
Building Community	10
Desire for more community celebration – build on community spirit	4
Improve pedestrian connections around Taroona, linking schools, creeks, parks, beaches in addition to roadways	4
Building a strong commercial/community hub – general store, arts centre, business centre	2
Promote informal street gatherings	0
Promotion that we have privileged lives; encouraging compassion and generosity for others in the world; and sharing this privilege with others in the world – eg climate refugees;	0
Celebrate our diversity	00
Local Economy (1)	9
A local shop- greengrocer/deli/café + trade ie exchange	6
Develop a vision for the shopping centre	2
Develop register of local skills on the website – see it at taroona.tas.au	0
Investigate the development of a LETS style program	0
Develop a register of community skills to facilitate and encourage local residents to support local businesses.	0
Environmental sustainability centre + shops. Demonstration place for sustainable technologies	0
Solar efficient shopping centre	0
Sustainable Transport	9
Sustainable transportation –program encouraging greater use of bicycles, repair sessions, etc.	6
Trial free bus rides and raise car-park fees to pay for these rides	2
Car pooling to work	1
Car pooling especially to children's activities	0
More bus use encouraged for kids	0
A community car	0
No car parking on bike lanes	0
Energy re-charge hub at Taroona for electric transport users, encouraging more low carbon transport	0
Natural Environment	7
Preservation of wildlife habitat ie trees, penguin burrows, natural grasslands, quality of waterways	4
Focus on improving the natural systems working in Taroona	2
Use creek areas as access links and nature corridors through Taroona, linking with pedestrian links and parks, schools, community centre	1
Walking track – links with Kingston	0
Alum cliffs walking track	0
Link to Hobart along foreshore/ridge tops	0
Community removal of invasive weeds eg boneseed	0
Children and Schools (1)	6
Celebrate the excellence of the schools – leading to building connections with the schools and playgroup	2
Improve education of all including our children – eg program of mentoring, tutoring from the school and links to the Taroona High School Association	1
Empower kids to speak up and take action and be an example to others. It is their actions and future that is going to make the difference	2
Develop connections and embrace elderly ie school students to visit as part of community service	0
Encourage residents to be involved with schools	0