

“Conserving our Landscapes in a Changing World”

A Shire of Yarra Ranges Forum in Yarra Glen 6 June 2008



Katie Jacobson

Katie Jacobson, Yarra Ranges Landcare Facilitator organised the Community Forum

After the welcome Alison Laing, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems (Canberra) spoke about the changing climate and of the many alternative management practices we will need to adopt.



Alison Laing

During the morning we heard Dr. Roger Jones, Principal Research Scientist with the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate change, concluding with immediate actions which should be taken:

- Identifying shared risks between climate, fragmentation, hydrology etc.
- Expert mapping of change pressures on large systems,
- Active monitoring, testing and observing change processes
- Large scale re-vegetation such as direct seeding
- Change from conservation to stewardship model
- Significant new investment in knowledge and management
- Invest in biodiversity in a planned manner .



Dr. Roger Jones

Dr. KS Tan and Carolyn Tsioulos, Melbourne Water, Urban Water Planning team, spoke about water and sewage management. Their adaption proposals were:

- Monitoring waterways
- Fencing waterways
- Provision of shade refuges and habitat along waterways
- Improved bank stabilisation
- Review wetlands design requirements
- Investigate more water efficient land management practices
- Decentralised or underground water quality treatment
- Research into impacts of bio-diversity.



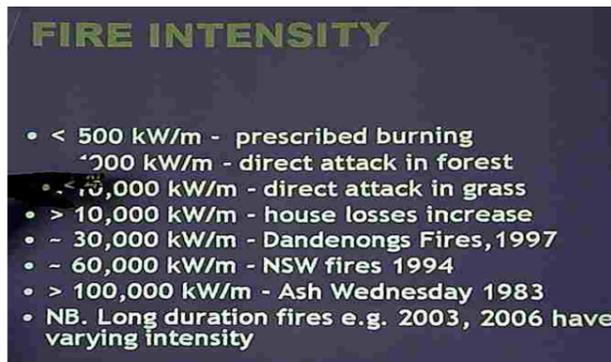
Dr KS Tan



Carolyn Tsioulos

Owen Gooding CFA, Community Safety team and Anthony Hester, Parks Victoria, spoke about Fire Ecology. They listed the following challenges for the future:

- Will we need to increase prescribed burn off?
- What are we trying to protect?
- What are the risks of burning to not burning?
- Do we have to put out all fires?
- Do we need an acceptance of fire as normal?

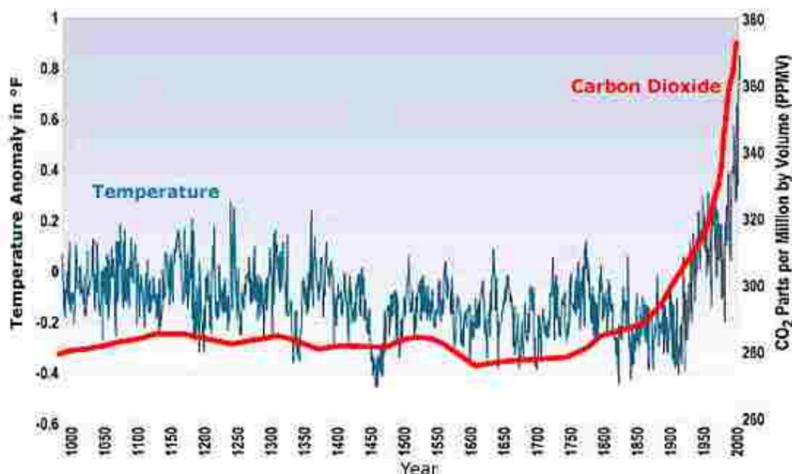


Owen Gooding



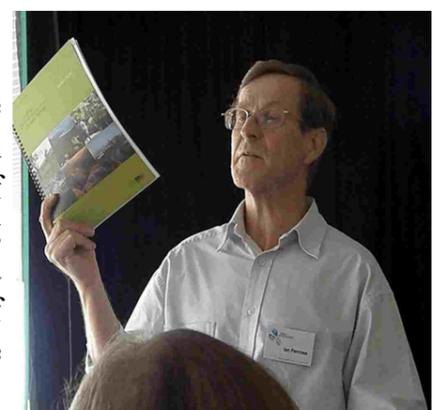
Anthony Hester

All graphs shown global warming linked to increases in Greenhouse gases at an alarming rate (see below).



The lunch break in the Club Room with its picturesque panoramic view (see above) was a relaxing interlude in the feature-packed schedule of the day. It also gave an opportunity to mingle and a chance to discuss the various issues with the presenters and other participants.

The afternoon session began with Ian Penrose, Yarra Riverkeeper Association, talking about the Yarra. Our precious Yarra is suffering from urban expansion, polluted waters and loss of flows. Ian’s aim is to improve our understanding of the problem, and an appreciation of the Yarra – its delights as well as its plights, so that all of us can look after it better. “Go out and enjoy the river, treasure and value it, tell other people of your passion for the river”.



Ian Penrose

During the Forum Workshops “The Next Steps”, Ian Penrose’s theme proved a good start: Be passionate in your efforts to defend the bush, the environment, the cultural heritage or whatever you are volunteering for. It is a motivating way to pass on your message about your concern for the environment. In seven groups the participants debated individual concerns and filled numerous butcher-sheets with notes.

The Friends of Kurth Kiln sincerely thank the Shire of Yarra Ranges for organising the friendly and highly informative forum.