

Fast
NEWS

SCU Climate change workshop explains all

SOUTHERN Cross University academics will join one of Australia's foremost scientists in presenting a one-day climate change workshop in Byron Bay this month. Managing the Challenge of Climate Change is designed to offer managers and executives within the public and private sectors practical advice on how to tackle issues of sustainability as Australia struggles with the environmental, economic and social challenges posed by climate change.

The workshop is being co-ordinated by Southern Cross University and the Ethos Foundation, and will be held on February 25 at the Byron Bay Beach Resort. Bookings are essential. For further information contact Ken McLeod on 0412 871 789 or visit the website www.climate-leadership.net.au

Action group meets

THE next meeting of Bellingen Climate Action Group will be on March 5 at the Bellingen Environment Centre in Church Lane from 7-9pm.

The Coffs Harbour Climate Action Group will be meeting on Thursday, February 28, at the Innovation Centre, Coffs Harbour Education Campus, Hogbin Drive, from 6-7.30pm.

Local food film festival

THE Bellingen Local Food Network in conjunction with Kombu Wholefoods is hosting a local food film festival. The festival will consist of three films run over a four-week period and will culminate with a shared meal of locally produced organic food and a discussion panel. The first film, *The Power of Community - How Cuba survived Peak Oil*, will screen at the Bellingen Memorial Hall on Sunday, February 17, at 7pm. Entry is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Information visit www.ecobello.org.au.

Be in it on March 2

THE Clean Up Australia Day campaign takes place this year on Sunday, March 2. Registrations are now open. Anyone can register a Clean Up site and community organisations to get involved by visiting www.cleanup.org.au or calling 1800 CUA DAY (1800 282 329).

Saturn is bursting with energy

EUROPEAN scientists have discovered that Saturn's moon has more energy than Earth's oil-gas reserves. New findings by the mission to Titan, reported earlier this week by the European Space Agency (ESA), say Saturn's orange moon has hundreds of times more liquid hydrocarbons than all the known oil and natural gas reserves on Earth.

Methane and ethane fall like rain from the sky, forming massive lakes and seas, while complex organic molecules called tholins are believed to make up Titan's oily dunes, ESA said in a press release.

The problem is this massive reserve is at least 1.2 billion kilometres away from Earth, on a tiny inhospitable world where on a warm day it's minus 179 degrees Celsius.



Sustainable education . . . Coffs Harbour Education Campus students Noy Glikzman, Tim Trihey and Jaben Gollege with the campus' new recycling bins.

Coffs' cleaner and greener campus

COFFS Harbour Education Campus is leading the way towards a cleaner environment.

In a bid to cut down on waste, five recycling bins have been installed on the campus.

The reciprocals, which have been in place for two weeks, include both a red waste bin and yellow recycling bin, following on from the system currently used for household waste in the Coffs Coast area.

"Any thing you put in the yellow bin at home, you can put in the yellow recycling bins here," managing director of Source Separation Systems Peter Cruwys said.

"Coffs Harbour is advanced in



KAT MULLARD reports that CHEC is leading the way to a cleaner and greener learning

waste collection and the local population are well educated in recycling. The main thing now will be to educate students who come to the campus from other areas," he said.

Even though it's early days, students are already making good use of the recycling system.

"Most students are very conscious about preserving the environment, and the bins have had brilliant feedback from the stu-

dents," senior college student president Noy Glikzman said.

The recycling bins are a part of a larger campus initiative towards environmental sustainability.

"We already have office paper recycling in place, as well as recycling in our cafe areas. We wanted to expand our recycling to include public spaces," CHEC facilities officer Tony Parsons said.

And it doesn't stop there.

The CHEC is working on a number of environmental projects which include the installation of a thermal heating and cooling design in new buildings, additional facilities for cyclists, and projects to minimise water consumption.

"We received a community water grant to upgrade the toilets to use less water," CHEC executive director Bob Prater said.

"The university, senior college and the TAFE all have their own focus on ecological sustainability and this comes together to create a number of projects. We would like the campus to be a model for the community in regards to environmental sustainability."

Home-grown goodness the winner



Home grown goodness . . . *The Power of Community* will screen in Bellingen this weekend as a part of the Bellingen Local Food Film Festival.

WHEN it comes to sustainable eating, nothing beats local produce.

That's the word from a group of Bellingen residents who are advocating home-grown goodness over food from afar to help cut down on the grocery bill.

The Bellingen Local Food Network developed late last year after concerns were raised over the growing problem of food prices and the problem of global warming.

"The group came about in response to concerns about the rising price of food to do with oil, and beyond that the theory of peak oil and a society based around the endless idea of cheap petrol," member of the Bellingen Local Food Network steering committee Nick Rose said.

"The idea is to look at creating

greater sustainability and resilience for communities in preparation for these events," he said.

As their first initiative, members of the group in conjunction with Kombu Wholefoods have organised a film festival to raise awareness on the issue.

"The idea of the film festival is to offer some positive solutions to making local, organic food affordable," Kombu Wholefoods proprietor Kevin Doyle said.

The festival will consist of three films run over a four-week period and will culminate with a shared meal of locally produced organic food and a discussion panel. The first film, *The Power of Community - How Cuba survived Peak Oil* will screen at the Bellingen Hall on this Sunday from 7pm.