



## ***Newsletter***

# **The Grove - Transition Initiative**

#2 - September 2009

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August was such a busy month, we seemed to have stepped into a fast moving stream. Hopefully if the second month of The Grove – Transition Initiative we can be a little more focused and selective about where we apply the energy. Our main focus must be to build up the local community network.



Early in September a bunch of transitioners appeared in the city, equipped with bicycles, for a photo opportunity to go with an article by Graham Redfearn the Courier-Mail's environment blogger and full-time feature writer. There's no doubt that the mainstream media are becoming increasingly aware and vocal about the growing public concern over sustainability.

On 3 September I met with Enoggera Ward councillor Andrew Wines to introduce our Transition Initiative. Andrew is quite aware of the Transition Towns movement and very supportive. He was significantly involved in the Hillbrook Sustainability day. We agreed to keep in contact as things develop in The Grove.

One of the speakers at the Hillbrook Sustainability Day was Richard Sanders, Ecological Economist speaking on "Sustainability as if the World Matters". This presentation looked at what we need to understand if we are to take sustainability and the survival of civilisation seriously. Richard argued that our culture's myths of endless economic growth, the magic of the market and our faith in technology and human ingenuity to solve all problems blind us to the realities of how the world works. The disconnection of our ideas, concepts and institutions from biophysical reality threatens our survival. Richard dispelled our myths and presented some insights into how the world really works. On 6 September the St Johns Wood Sustainability group hosted a meeting with Richard to discuss his ideas and develop some plans for positive action, particularly leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen on December 7 to 18. These are complex and challenging issues to come to grips with and it is helpful to meet and discuss them at length. There are links on our web site to some of the background information.

The on 9 September, Anne attended a meeting of D3SJ (Doctors and Scientists for Sustainability and Social Justice) at which the guest speaker was Andrew McNamara, past Queensland Minister for Sustainability speaking on "The Politics of Sustainability 2009". Andrew has a great deal of experience and some valuable insights about how to bring about change.

On 11 September I attended a meeting at the electorate office of Geoff Wilson, State member of Ferny Grove; and Minister for Education. Unfortunately other commitments prevented Geoff from being present, but his office has been extremely helpful and supportive, particularly with photocopying leaflets for circulation around the neighbourhood. Hopefully Geoff will be able to attend some of our meetings in future, to provide our members with an opportunity to express their concerns to their local parliamentary representative.

One of the biggest investments most of us ever make is in our family home, and this provides a great opportunity to make sustainable choices. The annual Sustainable House Day is an "open house" event that allows the public all over the country to view private homes built with a commitment to sustainable practices. This year it was held on 13 September. While there were several homes on display in Brisbane, we took the opportunity to visit the Currumbin Eco-village where we were able to see several sustainable homes in one location. It was a most interesting and encouraging day and worth noting in your diary for next year.

We have been to a couple of meetings of the Alternative Technology Association. On 24 September their meeting was on the subject "Electric Cars Unwrapped" Following on from their recent meeting on "Smart Wheel" technology, this meeting focused on the current state of play and the tantalising future prospects for electric cars in Australia. A panel of speakers included representatives from the newly-formed Electric Vehicle Association of Queensland and from the embryonic electric vehicle industry, taking a practical look at both retrofitted and new electric cars in Australia. Several electric cars were on display.

During the month the web site for The Grove Transition Initiative has evolved further. Please check it out at [http://www.tennock.com/j\\_data/TTFG/](http://www.tennock.com/j_data/TTFG/)

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