

## Ferry Update

Feedback from the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) for funding a bay-side sustainable transport study and program was that our application represented a "fantastic project with a bold vision" but that it did not fit within the LETA guidelines. Again we would like to thank the AGO staff for their assistance.

A second meeting with a leading environmental organisation has continued the discussion on a joint project to improve transport on and around Port Phillip Bay. The joint study is likely to have a much-increased emphasis on land side sustainable transport initiatives.

## Spreading the Message

Recently the ferry topic has been mentioned to:

- ◆ **John Brumby**, State Treasurer (Vic) & Minister, State & Regional Development
- ◆ **Gavin Jennings**, MLC (Melbourne)

## News

There were two forums and three workshops held in Melbourne earlier this month around the subjects of Peak Oil and Climate Change. The evening forums were well attended, the first with Lester Brown from the US and the second with George Monbiot from the UK (both on video link). It was good to see a number of council officers and at least one State Government minister in the audience. The three, all-day workshops covered *Transport*, *Food Production* and *Innovation*, seeking ways to counter the inevitable changes that will be caused by Peak Oil. The general message is that we know many of the solutions, that we probably have time if we start to act immediately, but the problem is that we are not starting to act with anywhere near the degree of urgency required.

George Monbiot suggested that Australia needs to reduce greenhouse gas output by 90%. The consensus at the workshops was that if we are aiming for 90% we may as well go for 100%. This means that every new urban development must be carbon neutral (and hopefully carbon negative). Not possible? Do we have a choice?

A separate afternoon workshop, *Re-imagining the Australian Suburb*, with a strong transport focus was held at Melbourne Museum yesterday.

Tomorrow, I'm guest speaker at the *Surf Coast Living Green Industry Forum*. I will mention the (tram like) Guided Bus, proposed to link Torquay with Avalon Airport, via Geelong (and with any luck via the Geelong Wharf.)

## US / Canada Trip in November

Our overseas cousins have been particularly welcoming with invitations for presentations on ESD. The planned workshops are for:

- ◆ Portland Office of Sustainable Development
- ◆ BC Provincial Government, Vancouver Island
- ◆ City of Vancouver / Simon Fraser University
- ◆ Port Moody City Council (British Columbia)
- ◆ Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ City of Sebastopol (California)
- ◆ San Francisco Department of Environment

Thanks to all those people who provided contacts.

## Is Our PT System at Capacity?

I'm constantly being told that we have plenty of capacity on our public transport system yet I'm intrigued by the number of people who are saying that they would prefer to catch public transport but are forced to drive.

One person who lives at Seddon (south of Footscray) and travels to Docklands (right next to Southern Cross Station) drives every day because she simply can't get on the evening trains home. As she reported: "It's not that there are just no seats, I simply can't get in the doors."

Another would catch the Hurstbridge line train but the evening services were reported as being too unreliable and too crowded, so she drives and helps to clog the 'Eastern Free-Car Park'.

I caught a bus around 6pm from the Melbourne Museum to Flinders Street Station on Tuesday evening, October 17. The average number of commuters was just four, which is not surprising as I could have walked the distance faster!

## Know Your Bay?

Is this structure in your municipality?



(Answer in the next newsletter. The picture in Newsletter #6 was of the pier at St Leonards, Bellarine Peninsula.)

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