



PENINSULA VOICE

News

**Welcome to the
Peninsula Voice
Newsletter.**

In this edition:

- Learn how to reduce your bills and have a more comfortable home by booking in some time with an energy volunteer mentor.
- Mental Health First Aid Course Dates
- Helping small business manage a big issue
- Community Climate Group

Learning • Conversation • Engagement

Peninsula Voice works to help build a more resilient community on the Mornington Peninsula. We shine a light on the issues that impact us, bring together experts to share evidence, knowledge and lived experiences, and we support conversations that promote positive, community-led solutions.



We are so pleased to have held a very successful Climate Change forum on 29 February 2024.

With tangible support from the Mornington Shire, we gathered experts to share their expertise and knowledge with us.

It was reassuring that we had 200+ people attend and we trust the content and knowledge gained was of value to our audience.

Anecdotal feedback since the forum has been very positive in terms of both content and delivery.

Our community forum on climate change focused on facts. Peninsula Voice sought to deliver information from reputable speakers to underpin our knowledge base about a subject that simply isn't going to go away.

The forum emphasised a commitment to fostering change by encouraging partnerships between local businesses, academic institutions, and government agencies. Whether it's promoting green technologies or supporting eco-friendly initiatives, the forum sought to gather the collective expertise and resources of the community to drive positive change.

In an era where the dire consequences of climate change loom ever larger, the imperative for collective action has never been more urgent. The forum was a platform for diverse voices, comprising concerned citizens, activists, scientists and local leaders. It provided an opportunity for open dialogue, fostering a rich combination of ideas, experiences, and expertise.

Perhaps most importantly, the forum instilled a sense of hope and optimism in the face of daunting challenges. In an age of cynicism and despair, it reminded us that the fight against climate change is not futile but eminently winnable.

By coming together as a community, we tapped into a wellspring of resilience and creativity, rekindling our faith in our collective ability to shape a better world for generations to come. As the famous football coach Ron Barassi stated..."if it's going to be, it's up to me". It is at a local level that change can and will be forged.

As we reflect on the success of this event, we need to redouble our efforts in the ongoing struggle for environmental balance. Ultimately, the battle against climate change will not be won in conference rooms or legislative chambers but in the hearts and minds of ordinary people in our community who are united in a common cause.

In a world dominated by environmental crises, we trust that the Peninsula Voice Climate Change forum stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us that by working together, we have the power to shape a better tomorrow.

In this edition of the newsletter we have included a number of useful links to enable access to more information concerning actions you can take to help reduce your carbon footprint and save money in the process.

Presentations from the Climate Change event are available on our website [here](#).

Media Release

For immediate release

4th March 2024

Climate change – our home, our future

Taking action now to reduce the impacts of climate change is good for us and good for the planet.

This was the key message delivered at the climate change event hosted by Peninsula Voice on Thursday February 29 in Mornington. While this advice may sound simplistic, there's a lot of evidence behind it and to help set the scene, the beautiful voice of local musician, Brigit Alan filled the Peninsula Theatre as hundreds gathered to hear from international experts and local speakers.

Spectacular images brought home the full force of nature when local photographer and filmmaker Yanni showed his video of storm images across the Mornington Peninsula before David Karoly, honorary Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne and a councillor on the Climate Council presented some of the cold, hard facts about global warming. This included an overview of the current and predicted scenario related to increased surface temperatures, noting that since 1850, we've seen a rate of warming that has been unprecedented in the past 2,000 years.

In quoting the UN Secretary General, he noted that while the planet will survive climate change, many species may not. 'We've reached a Code Red for humanity' he added.

The good news is that a lot can be done, and much of it is already underway. We can switch to more efficient use of energy and increase use of low carbon energy sources such as solar and wind. We can also improve places to store carbon through better forest management and tree planting and employ lifestyle and behavioural changes.

With so much of the impacts of climate change being linked to our health, Assoc. Professor Angie Bone, from Monash University's Sustainable Development Institute, noted that impacts are most especially felt by those who are marginalised, whether its extreme heat causing heat attacks, other severe weather events leading to injuries and displacement, air pollution triggering asthma attacks or widespread illness relating to poor water or food quality. However we're all negatively impacted by climate change.

'This may all sound rather gloomy' she said, 'but the good news is that there are steps we can all take to protect ourselves, and what we do to reduce

emissions is not only good for us, it's good for the environment.' Examples included managing heat health, protecting against bushfire smoke and preventing bites from disease-carrying mosquitoes.

'We can also reduce the impacts of climate change on our mental health by learning more, staying connected and getting involved in using and driving sustainable practices' she added.

The message about reducing our climate anxiety through action was again brought home by local man Sam Lundberg. As an activist volunteering with Zero Positive, Sam is working with Peninsula Grammar to reduce their emissions and hopes to support all local schools. They've introduced a metering system to show electricity use around the school and just having that knowledge, has allowed them to reduce energy consumption equivalent to taking 60 cars off the road each year.

Addressing 'eco anxiety' in youth is the focus of the 'A2A' (Anxiety to agency) movement, where knowledge about how climate change can be addressed is helping them move from fear to action. Sam's advice is simple – 'go out and get your hands dirty'.

And that's already happening on the Mornington Peninsula.

Repower is a local group helping individuals and businesses reduce their carbon footprint. They offer tips and resources to locals wanting to transition to cleaner energy.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is also striding ahead with their 2020 climate emergency response plan, with 90 per cent of the 172 actions either underway or completed. The plan aims to ensure the Mornington Peninsula has net zero-emissions by 2040. As well as looking at better management of council land, they're offering support to residents with information about energy efficiency, solar panels on roofs, community batteries and grants to support local innovation, while also continuing important lobbying to state and federal government.

Many other groups were represented at the event, demonstrating everything from plant regeneration and bird conservation to coastal management.

Peninsula Voice convenor Peter Orton said, 'It was an information-packed night so anyone who missed it will be able to access the presentations and all the links to further information on our website – www.peninsulavoice.org.au'

To keep in touch about other events, subscribe to our newsletters or follow us on social media.

RELEASE ENDS

For media enquiries:

Meredith Cameron – 0409 383 152 or Peter Orton 0407 887 864

Good to know



Learn how to reduce your bills and have a more comfortable home by booking in some time with one of our volunteer energy mentors.

The free consultation can cover a range of energy saving initiatives in your home, such as:

- insulation
- draught-proofing
- energy efficient heating and cooling
- hot water systems
- electrification
- solar and batteries and much more.

Here's a review from one of our happy customers:

"I've been wanting to talk with an independent advisory about the energy deficiencies of my home for years. All tradies or builders I've talked to about renovating have said "it all helps". But I cannot afford to do it all, I needed someone to help me with the priorities that will give us the best return for our expenditure. The consultant put me in the right direction for this and I am extremely grateful. We have been uncomfortably cold in our home for three years now, and I finally feel confident in making real changes that are right for us."

The consultations can take place in our libraries or via video link.

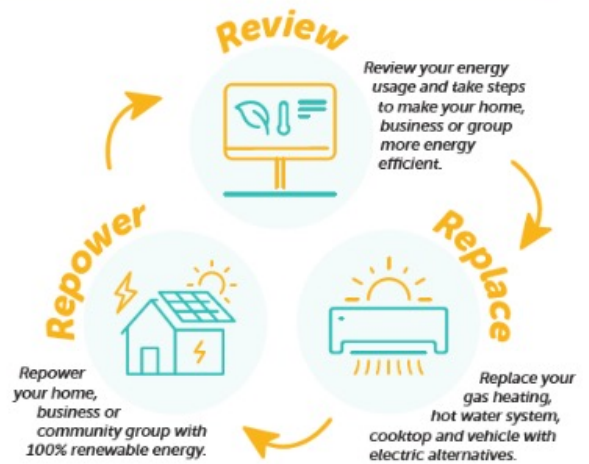
Don't delay in saving money on your energy bills! [Click here to find out more.](#)

Our energy heroes are waiting to hear from you!

A very useful guide below from one of the organisations who contributed their expertise at the recent Climate Change forum.



How to REPOWER your home, business or community group with 100% renewable energy.



REPOWER is a volunteer-led not-for-profit association working towards reducing carbon emissions in our local communities. Visit repowermornpen.org.au to find out more.

Mental Health First Aid Course Dates

Register for Upcoming Sessions

The Mental Health First Aid Course is a practical and skills-based educational opportunity that empowers individuals in the workplace. Designed to equip adults with the skills and confidence necessary to recognise, respond, and provide initial support to a co-worker or another adult facing a mental health challenge or crisis. Register for upcoming sessions.

[Register today!](#)

Images from the recent Peninsula Voice Climate change forum



Young Australians are still struggling

A new report into the mental wellbeing of Australia's youth, written by the University of Adelaide, has shown young people across the country are struggling with their resilience and mental health.

The finding was published in the 2023 State of the Nation Report, with data collected from the annual Resilient Youth Australia Resilience Survey of around 140,000 students in Grades 3-12, across every state and territory.

Responses showed 27.4 per cent of primary school students and 35.9 per cent of secondary school students report high levels of anxiety, depression, or both.

[Read more here.](#)

As you go through life

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life;
And even when you find them,
it is wise and kind to be somewhat blind
And look for the virtue behind them.
For the cloudiest night has a hint of light
Somewhere in its shadows hiding;
It is better by far to hunt for a star,
Than the spots on the sun abiding.

The current of life runs ever away
To the bosom of Gods great ocean
Don't set you force against the rivers course
And think to alter its motion.
Don't waste a curse on the universe
Remember it lived before you.
Don't butt the storm with your puny form,
But bend and let it go over you.

The world will never adjust itself
To suit the whims to the letter.
Some things must go wrong in your whole life
long,
And the sooner you know it the better.
It is folly to fight with the infinite,
And go under at last in the wrestle;
The wiser person shapes into fates plan
As water shapes into a vessel.

Anon

Helping small business manage a big issue



Recently, legislation was introduced which supports employees at risk of or experiencing family and domestic violence. For small business owners, it's important to understand your legal obligations. *Small Business, Big Impact* - a podcast by Lifeline - gives you that information. It can also help you be more informed on how to support employees who might be experiencing family and domestic violence.

[A link to listen is here.](#)



Community Climate Group

The Mornington Peninsula Shire is serious about tackling climate change, and know the community share their determination. They are now recruiting community members to their Community Climate Group.

The new group is set up to focus on solutions for right now and into the future as an advisory role only. The group will provide input on targets and actions, localised climate change issues, priority tasks and programs based on science. Mornington Peninsula Shire value community perspective and insights on local climate change issues and our climate emergency response. Group members will have the opportunity to share thoughts and concerns on local climate change issues.

The group is not responsible for the day-to-day operational issues at the Shire, is not a decision making committee, and has no responsibility for the Shire Budget.

They want a diverse representation of our community and where possible, draw on the skills in the community to help drive climate action. Council need to recruit nine members in total, and are looking for community members who:

- have skills and experience relating to climate change mitigation or adaptation
- represent a key sector or demographic of the community, including First Nations people, young people, industry, health, agriculture, transport, education, tourism, conservation and town planning and/or community volunteer organisations.

Mornington Peninsula Shire value community perspective and insights on local climate change issues and climate emergency response.

How to apply

Fill in the quick questionnaire online and upload your CV and brief cover letter outlining why you're the perfect person for the role. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed. Successful candidates will be required to meet four times per year. Applications close 29th March.

Register your interest

Timeline

29 February – 29 March

EOI open

8 April – 3 May

Interviews

6 May – 20 May

Candidates appointed

July, October, January, April

Meetings

Documents

[Terms of Reference \(PDF, 199KB\)](#)

Contact

Phone
1300 850 600

Email
climateemergency@mornpen.vic.gov.au

**We don't have to engage
in grand heroic actions
to participate in the
process of change.
Small acts, when
multiplied by millions of
people, can transform
the world.**

- Howard Zinn

Cover photo by Harry Cunningham on Unsplash

For all enquiries about Peninsula Voice please contact:

Peter Orton — Chairman, Peninsula Voice

David Corduff - Editor, Peninsula Voice

info@peninsulavoice.org.au

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