

Welcome!

Welcome to summer and the festive season edition of Action Change E-zine. December 5th is International Volunteering day, so why not make your holidays even merrier this year by donating some of your time to a worthwhile cause? Wishing all the AC readers safe, peaceful and happy times.

Christine Butler
Editor

In This Issue...

GLOBAL CHANGE

THE ACTION CHANGE/NECO ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GUIDE

This year we team up with Neco to bring you seasonal green hints, and ideas for Christmas giving.

PERSONAL CHANGE

WRITE YOUR OWN PERSONAL YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Take some time out this month to review all the things you've achieved this year.

THE GOOD NEWS GLOBAL ROUNDUP

From Australia and around the globe, the world is full of good news.

WORLD WIDE FIVE-MINUTE ACTIONS

This month take action on human rights, climate change, and bunker fuel use.

BITS, TIPS AND HITS

Inside there's info on air con, green electricity, organic spirits and screen savers.

HUMOUR AND FICTION

A jolly ho ho ho and a he he he, and a Christmas Cake recipe to remember...

EVENTS AND LISTINGS

All the major events around Oz and internationally.

Global Change: The Action Change and Neco Guide to a Green and Peaceful Christmas

This year with the help of the Neco we look at tips and gifts to help make your Christmas green and friendly.

Neco's Top Five Green Gift Tips for Christmas

1. Make sure it doesn't end up in the bin!

It may be the thought that counts, but giving something they'll only throw away is not a very nice thought and not a very nice gift either! Only give gifts of value - something they will use and enjoy - not throw-away items.

2. You get what you pay for

Buying cheap goods can sometimes mean they have been manufactured in "sweat shops" or simply made from poor quality materials. Investing a little extra money will result in finding a high quality gift that ensures whoever made it was paid fairly and your friend will enjoy the gift for longer.

3. Think about your packaging

Choose products with as little packaging as possible. Present your gift in re-used wrapping paper or gift bags and make sure that whatever you put it in is recyclable. Another idea is to make the packaging part of the gift itself, such as wrapping the gift in a scarf or enclosing it in a beautiful box that can be kept.

4. Consider the environmental credentials of gifts

There are simple questions we need to ask about everyday purchases as well as gifts: What is it made from? Is it recycled? Is it recyclable? How far did it travel to get here? Buying from a credible eco store will provide as much information for you to assess a product's green credentials and its suitability.

5. Give a carbon offset

Consider a gift of carbon offsets for a commuting colleague or a frequent flying friend. It's a quirky and thoughtful gift that gives twice! Your friend may never have thought about the carbon impact of their activity before.

Visit Neco's website at www.neco.com.au for lots more info on greening your home and business.

A Few Gift Ideas to Get You Started

For Her: The BOD Princess Pack

For the Princess in your life, the Bod Princess Pack is full of gorgeous goodies to make her sparkle and shine - naturally. The pack includes



• hydrating body oil (130ml) • hydrating shower gel (250ml) • vanilla smooch lip balm (10g) • princess bath salt (125g) \$54.95 AUD

For Him: Souls Massage Thongs

Classic Aussie thongs made even better with recycled rubber materials. Very comfy, as they mould to the shape of your feet with wear. With aerated bubbles to give a therapeutic massage as you walk. \$17.95

For the Kids

Ethical footballs: This Fairtrade AFL Ball is a full size training-quality football designed to be used on all surfaces. It is a high quality fairtrade certified footy and a great gift for the kids. \$44.99



Educational Books: Neco has many great educational books including The Lorax, A Worm's Eye View, and a range of Ekidna Club books.

And to Wrap Them All Up...

Neco can also supply your Christmas stationary needs:

- The Earth Greeting range of Recycled paper and handmade paper from the Nepalese Himalayas, all \$4.05 per sheet.
- Biodegradable sticky tape manufactured from cellulose film, a wood based product of regenerated pulp \$2.25
- Gift tags printed with vegetable inks on 100% post consumer recycled paper in a set of 8 for \$5.35.
- Christmas cards, designed and printed in Australia, printed with vegetable inks on 100% post consumer recycled paper. Cards come with 100% post consumer recycled envelopes, in a set of 10 for \$11.65



Neco has many more Christmas gift ideas for friends, family and business. Visit their online shop at <http://www.neco.com.au/default.asp> or in person at their showroom at 94-96 Cooper Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW.

For more tips on trees, wrapping and gift ideas, see last year's Action Change Christmas Guide in Issue 10. Go to the website at www.actionchange.com and click on Back Issues.

Personal Change: WRITE YOUR OWN PERSONAL YEAR-IN-REVIEW

By Christine Butler

Now that we're winding down the year and getting set for holidays, thoughts turn to all we've achieved this year. How did you do? Was 2007 everything you hoped for? Did you reach your goals and keep those New Year's resolutions? Maybe right now you're thinking you had a largely unproductive year? Well, sit down with yourself for an hour and you'll realize just how far you've come. It will not only give you a sense of completion on the year, but will stand you in good stead for planning 2008.



A good first step in doing your year-in-review is to take the different areas of your life and think about all that's happened this year. Jot down some points as you go along, then write in journal form about what you've achieved this year and how you feel about it. Are you proud, honored, ready for more? Keep your review in the positive and give yourself a pat on the back for the leaps and bounds you've made. There will always be more you'll want to do, or different ways you want to try things, and you can implement these in your plans and resolutions for 2008. For now, just focus on your successes no matter how small they may seem, and by the end of this exercise you'll have a list of all the great things you've done, and a list to truly feel grateful for.

If your mind needs jogging on the events of this year...

- Look through your work diary from this year and record the events and wins
- If you write a personal journal go through it and highlight accomplishments and when you did things that felt good and positive
- Photo albums can also trigger good times and events to celebrate - work dairies,

These will all help you to see....

- The highlights,
- The accomplishments,

- The important events,
- The big decisions,
- The small changes in the right direction,
- The big life changes and
- The inspiration you've had throughout the year.

To make sure you cover everything and spend time on each facet of your life, make sure that each section has at least three 'events' of the year from the above list. Look at all areas of your life individually...

Develop goals in the 8 areas of life:

Social and Cultural

-
-
-

Health and Physicality

-
-
-

Personal Development and Education:

-
-
-

Spiritual and Ethical Development:

-
-
-

Relationships, Family and Home

-
-
-

Career and Finances:

-
-
-

Social and Cultural Development

-
-
-

Service to Others:

-
-
-

The questions to answer...

- What were your goals?
- How far have you come with them?
- How did you do it?
- What did you like about what you did?
- What would you do differently next year to achieve even greater results?

The Good News Global Roundup

AUSTRALIA: Australia elects prime minister who wants to ratify Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol climate treaty may soon welcome a new industrialized country to the fold. Australia's newly elected prime minister, Kevin Rudd, has announced he will act in the next few weeks on a campaign promise to have Australia ratify the Kyoto Protocol, which would make the United States the only industrialized country in the world not to agree to making mandatory reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions under the treaty. Showing just how eager the new prime minister is to get busy reducing greenhouse gases, Rudd met with government officials about ratifying Kyoto the day after his decisive electoral victory over the conservative outgoing Prime Minister John Howard on Saturday. Rudd has also promised a gradual withdrawal of Australia's 550 troops from Iraq and has indicated he intends to formally apologize to Australia's aborigines for the country's policy of separating children from their families to speed the assimilation process from the 1930s to the 1970s. Not to be outdone, President Bush, um, pardoned two turkeys ... before sitting down to eat a different one. www.grist.org

AUSTRALIA: Australian Scientists Decode Whale Sounds

Australian scientists studying humpback whales sounds say they have begun to decode the whale's mysterious communication system, identifying male pick-up lines and motherly warnings.

Wops, thwops, grumbles and squeaks are part of the extensive whale repertoire recorded by scientists from the University of Queensland working on the Humpback Whale Acoustic Research Collaboration (HARC) project. Recording whale sounds over a three-year period, scientists discovered at least 34 different types of whale calls, with data published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America.

"I was expecting to find maybe 10 different social vocalizations, but in actual fact found 34. It's just such a wide, varied repertoire," University of Queensland researcher Rebecca Dunlop told Reuters.

The researchers studied migrating east humpback whales, as they traveled up and down Australia's east coast, and recorded 660 sounds from 61 different groups. Researchers attached audio transmitters to buoys near the whales and monitored the whale interaction from the shore. Many of the whale sounds could overlap in meaning, said Dunlop, but some had clear meanings.

A purr by males appeared to signify the male was trying his luck to mate a desirable female. High frequency cries and screams were associated with disagreements, when males jostled to escort females during migration, she said.

A wop sound was common when mothers were together with their young. "The wop was probably one of the most common sounds I heard, probably signifying a mum calf contact call," said Dunlop.

Dunlop stopped short of defining the whale communication as a language, but said there were clear similarities with human interaction.

<http://www.enn.com/sci-tech/article/24332>

AUSTRALIA: MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL UNDERWAY

A new Midnight Basketball tournament is now underway on Saturday Nights at Alexandria Basketball Stadium.

Organised by Midnight Basketball Australia with the support of the City, the Midnight Basketball program was successfully launched in February 2006 as a key initiative of the Redfern-Waterloo Community Safety Plan. The first such program in Australia, it has since been replicated in Woolloomooloo, Bendigo and Cairns. The Glebe Youth Services After Dark Program is also fielding a team in the current tournament.

The program is designed to meet the needs of young people in the Redfern and Waterloo area, encourage their participation in their local community in a safe, positive environment and divert them from crime and anti-social behaviour. All participants in the tournament are required to attend a life-skills workshop before each game.

The current tournament consists of five rounds, followed by semi-finals, with the grand final on Saturday 15 December. Teams from the Redfern-Waterloo and Woolloomooloo competitions have been invited to play each other during the half-time break in the Sydney Kings Game on Friday 2 November.

Information

* Midnight Basketball Australia: phone 8208 6248, fax 9924 7721 or email webresponse1@midnightbasketball.org.au

* www.midnightbasketball.org.au/

GLOBAL: UN passes global moratorium on death penalty

A landmark resolution for a global moratorium on executions was passed by the UN General Assembly on Thursday 15 November. We are extremely pleased with this development, which is a major step towards the abolition of the death penalty worldwide. (*Amnesty Australia*)

INDIA: A Bank for Street Kids

We've reported on programs run by banks in the Netherlands and the US that were focused on 'kidpreneurs'—teaching children basic lessons about money and starting a business. A related and less carefree spotting came in from New Delhi, India, where more than 1,000 street children have joined together to create a bank that helps them manage the small sums they earn each day. Launched in 2001 by a volunteer aid group called Butterflies, the Children's Development Bank aims to empower children in several important ways.



Like any other bank, CDB pays interest on the deposits that New Delhi's street children make. That interest can be a vital incentive to kids who might otherwise spend their daily earnings on cigarettes, candy or other items—or worse, have their meager profits stolen. Money for the interest comes from the repayment of micro loans made to kids 15 years and older. But interest on income is only part of the picture. While adults stand at the ready to help, CDB is managed by children, helping them gain valuable work skills.

Some might argue that children shouldn't work at all. But CDB's adult patrons maintain that the economic circumstances in New Delhi and other parts of the world with large populations of street children provide no alternative and that CDB gives these children better control over their lives and earnings. And their idea appears to have legs. Besides India, banks have been organized in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. CDB also has some heavy-hitting international sponsors, including HSBC and Comic Relief. Proof that entrepreneurialism can bring positive change in even the most challenging circumstances.

From www.springwise.com

Website: www.childrensdevelopmentbank.org

USA: Bill Clinton, Green Building Council Launch Effort To Green US Schools

Today at the world's largest green building exposition in Chicago, Greenbuild 2007, former President Bill Clinton announced a joint commitment to green all of America's schools within a generation.

Earth Day Network (EDN) – a Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) and Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) partner – and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) joined former President Clinton in making this announcement to the American public and media. Today's event formally kicked-off Earth Day Network's national Green Schools campaign, which includes three major initiatives: greening all new and existing school structures within a generation; developing and building healthier play areas and recreational facilities for all students; and working to greatly improve the

food children eat in K-12 schools. Along with USGBC and the Clinton Foundation, Earth Day Network will expand the green schools movement through legislation, education, and corporate and community volunteer greening efforts.

“Earth Day Network is proud to be a leader in the national green schools movement and to work with President Clinton and the Clinton Foundation to green America’s schools,” said Earth Day Network President Kathleen Rogers. “Today’s announcement is a major step forward towards providing every child with a healthy learning environment.”

For the past three years, Earth Day Network has aggressively promoted the greening of the nation’s K-12 schools. With an emphasis on low-income communities and focusing on greening school construction bond initiatives as well as greening school and outdoor recreational facilities, EDN has conducted a number of pilot projects in major US cities to test different models for greening U.S. schools. EDN draws on our organizational assets: community-based organizations, teachers, local and national corporate partners, green architects, and others. The success of the pilot projects and long history of working successfully with teachers, PTAs, and school administrators, led EDN to develop a long term national campaign to green all of the nation’s K-12 schools.

http://www.enr.com/green_building/article/24318

SIBERIA: The Amur Tiger Offers An Encouraging Word: Success

In a world where many animals are under siege, the Amur tiger -- popularly known in the West as the Siberian tiger -- offers an encouraging message: the population of the huge cat is showing signs of recovery.

During the past 100 years, the Amur tiger population of the Russian Far East was decimated by forest destruction, trophy hunting and poaching for tiger body parts for use in traditional Chinese medicine. By the 1940s the number surviving had dwindled to an estimated 50.

Thanks in part to \$611,131 in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants that, combined with partner donations and in-kind contributions, push the total to more than \$1 million, the big, distinctive cats appear to be rebounding in Russia. Recent surveys indicate that between 331 and 370 adult tigers and 100 young -- about 450 tigers in all -- are living in the Russian Far East, home to 95 percent of all Amur tigers in the world.

Service wildlife biologist Fred Bagley, long associated with Amur tiger conservation efforts, said a spike in tiger poaching in the early 1990s was subsequently met by a Russian government crackdown, and the intensified anti-poaching efforts have paid off.

The Amur tigers is one of five tiger subspecies in the world; of eight that once roamed the earth, three became extinct in the 20th century. While the majority of Amur tigers live today in the Russian Far East, a much smaller number are known to inhabit

China, and a few may occur in North Korea. Some estimates place the global tiger population in the 3,900 to 5,100 range, down from perhaps 100,000 more than 100 years ago.

<http://www.enn.com/animals/article/24313>

USA: NBC Broadcast Major Green Themed Shows

NBC Universal launched more than 150 hours of environmentally themed content encompassing all of their programming divisions across multiple platforms for the week of Nov. 4 - 10. The big media company is taking it a step further and greening its own operations worldwide. www.enn.com

LEBANON: Habitat for Humanity Lebanon Chairman to receive prestigious Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award??

In recognition of his efforts to advance Christian-Muslim relations and provide care for those in need, Bishop Salim Ghazal of Lebanon will receive the 2007 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award. The award will be presented to Bishop Ghazal November 4 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. ??

Ordained a priest in the Order of the Savior in 1958, Father Ghazal was assigned to an area near Sidon, Lebanon, in 1961. There he taught religion to both Christian and Muslim students. Though Fr. Ghazal's area of instruction was Christianity, he arranged with the sheikh leading Islam classes to learn and teach each other's material — thus illustrating the potential for inter-religious cooperation.

In 1990, Fr. Ghazal and like-minded Muslims and Christians founded the Center for Dialogue and Development, which arranges symposiums, lectures, conferences and weekly discussion groups to encourage inter-religious cooperation. The organization also supports a retirement home, works with Habitat for Humanity to offer no-profit homeownership loans and offers computer training and Internet access. Additionally, the bishop serves as Lebanon's national chairman for Habitat for Humanity.

Bishop Ghazal has served as the national chairman for Habitat for Humanity Lebanon (HFHL) since its inception in 2001. Over the last five years HFHL has sheltered thousands of displaced Lebanese families in more than 60 mixed communities in south Lebanon by providing the necessary support through provision of material financial, and technical assistance, which enables families to reconstruct, repair, renovate or complete their homes and make them decent, healthy and safe. Working in partnership with volunteers, faith groups and the new homeowner families, HFHL has played an important role in renewing the concept of development in a country that has focused primarily on economic growth since its civil war.

www.habitat.org/newsroom

NICARAGUA: Six Nicaraguan farm workers compensated for pesticide exposure, six cases dismissed

Six farmworkers who became sterile after working on a Nicaraguan banana plantation three decades ago were awarded a total \$3.3 million from Dole Food Co. and Dow Chemical, after a judge agreed that the corporations "actively suppressed information about" the "reproductive toxicity" of now-banned pesticide DBCP. Six other plaintiffs with a similar claim had their cases dismissed, allowing a Dow lawyer to look on the bright side: "Dow Chemical is pleased that this jury concluded that six out of 12 plaintiffs were entitled to no recovery whatsoever." Dole's not-quite-so-diplomatic vice president declared his company will appeal: "Dole will not be intimidated by ugly accusations, fraudulent claims, junk science, or threats from U.S. trial lawyers, and is prepared to fully litigate each and every case of workers over the last 30 years." Lucky for litigation lovers, four more similar suits against the two companies are pending. www.grist.org

JAPAN: Honda: Solar Production Begins

Though Honda has been mass producing solar cells since October, and has begun sales of them, the opening of Honda Soltec's production facility in Kumamoto, Japan makes it official: Honda's in the solar business. As you'd expect from the cutting edge car company, the product is state of the art. Honda is using thin-film, copper, indium, gallium and selenium (CIGS) cell technology - a technology still trying to gain footing against tried and true silicon solar. But Honda says that overall, in the big picture, grand scheme of things, CIGS is greener than silicon solar. The company says CIGS use 50 percent less energy to manufacture, start to finish, than conventional silicon crystal solar cells. www.enr.com

USA: Midwestern Governors Sign Greenhouse-Gas Reduction Pact

The governors of six Midwestern states and the premier of Manitoba signed on to the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord last week, the first such multi-state program in the U.S. Midwest. For those of you keeping track at home, along with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in the Northeast and an agreement among West Coast governors, about 48 percent of the U.S. population is now represented in some form of regional GHG reduction program. The Midwest agreement commits Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Manitoba to setting up a regional cap-and-trade system for trading emission credits. Credit trading would begin in 2010, but no reduction goal has been established yet. Indiana, Ohio, and South Dakota also signed on, but only as observers. At the same conference, 12 Midwestern governors agreed to various other goals, such as aiming to have 30 percent of the region's electricity come from renewable sources by 2030, and working to increase the use of biofuels. www.grist.org

World Wide Five-Minute Actions

SUBMIT A COMMENT ON THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS



The newly elected Federal Government has a responsibility to ensure the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are upheld. Amnesty International Australia will be engaging with the new Rudd Labor Government to pursue many human rights issues in Australia. Federal Labor has indicated that it will pursue key human rights issues including violence against women, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the use of the death penalty.

We will continue to push for these and other human rights issues to be recognised as priorities for now and into the future.

To post a comment, go to

http://news.amnesty.org.au/comments/new_federal_government_has_an_opportunity_to_make_human_rights_gains/

SEND A LETTER TO KEVIN RUDD ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE BEFORE HE MEETS THE UN IN BALI

Biswanath Yadav, from Haspura village in India, is the head of the village disaster preparedness committee. Biswanath says: "It did not used to rain so much 10-15 years ago."

"The climate back then was beneficial to us, but now the changing climate is detrimental for us. It rained continuously for five months. This has never happened in our village. Many people lost everything. We put together a village disaster preparedness committee to discuss ways of coping with rains and the floods." Biswanath is taking action in his community to fight the impacts of climate change. He has also joined the global chorus asking that the United Nations (UN) takes action to fight climate poverty.

Write a letter to the Australian government before it meets the UN on Climate Change in Bali this month. To sign the letter, go to

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/campaigns/climate-change/take-action/letter.php>

(OXFAM AUSTRALIA)

SIGN A PETITION TO END BUNKER FUEL USE

On November 7, a container ship crashed into the San Francisco Bay Bridge and spilled an estimated 58,000 gallons of bunker fuel -- a tragedy of immense proportions that creates both immediate and long-term threats to marine life in and

around the bay. Today, Friends of the Earth is calling on Congress to ban the use of this dirty fuel forever. Will you join our call?

Bunker fuel literally comes from the bottom of the barrel. It is the asphalt-like gunk that's left over after crude oil is refined into gasoline for cars and is especially damaging when spilled in accidents.

Even when used as intended, though -- to power cruise and cargo ships -- it is extremely harmful. Indeed, a study released just last week found that more than 60,000 people died from shipping emissions in 2002, due in large part to the use of bunker fuel, which is more than 1,000 times dirtier than the highway diesel used by trucks and buses. Its reliance on this dirty fuel is also a key reason that the shipping industry is a major global warming polluter. Friends of the Earth's Clean Vessels Campaign has been leading the fight against shipping pollution for years, at the local level, nationally, and in the international arena, and phasing out the use of bunker fuel has been one of our key aims. Now, this dirty fuel has led to a disaster in the San Francisco Bay. Let's ensure that this tragedy isn't repeated and phase out this dirty fuel forever.

Please sign our petition calling for an end to bunker fuel use today.

The petition can be found at: http://action.foe.org/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=816
(*FOE international*)

Bits, Tips and Hits

NEWSY BITS

Advice on Air Con

If you're choosing air con for your home this summer, check out www.fairair.com.au. The site has calculators for size, noise and energy.



Green for All

Green For All launches at the Clinton Global Initiative Green For All, an important new campaign working to bring “green collar” jobs to urban areas, launched at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York on September 26, 2007. The group, created by Van Jones, co-founder of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, seeks to capitalize on the exploding green economy while ensuring that the coming green economic wave lifts all boats.

Green for All has a simple but ambitious mission: to help build a green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty.

Check it out at

<http://www.greenforall.org/>

Advice on Green Electricity

Check out <http://www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au> to find out what each green electricity company offers, their pricing, and how green they actually are. As usual, Origin Energy comes in first.

Summit Calls for Peace in All Nations

(From Positive News Issue Oct 31, 2007)

The 3rd Global Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace has taken place in Kisarazu and Tokyo, Japan. This extraordinary meeting began on the International Day of Peace and Global Ceasefire and brought together delegations from 21 countries from all six continents. The purpose of the event, sponsored by the Global Alliance and hosted by Japan United for Ministry of Peace (JUMP), was to further a global movement for creating peace departments in every country.

Speaking with one voice while representing diverse cultures, nations, ages and languages, participants called on governments to work hand-in-hand with private organizations to prevent and reduce violence the world over.

During the summit, delegates benefited from inspirational speeches, reports from each country and practical training towards the formation of Ministries and Departments of Peace within their respective governments. These ministries would be dedicated to preventing violence of all kinds, through education and investment of resources as well as non-violent conflict resolution and creating a culture of peace within and between countries.

Nepal and the Solomon Islands already have such bodies. It was resolved that within the year, at least two more countries should follow suit. Costa Rica, which abolished its army in 1949, is predicted to declare next.

One very positive outcome was the emergence of the African Alliance for Peace, initiated by delegates from Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda.

Japan was selected this year to be the third venue because it is one of only 2 countries with a peace constitution. After the conference, about half the delegates went on a peace tour to Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Okinawa to learn from Japanese experiences.

Summit delegates came from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Italy, Japan (host), Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom, and the United States. Unfortunately, delegates from Cameroon, Ghana, Iraq, and Sierra Leone were denied visas by the Japanese government so were unable to attend. The next summit will be held in Australia in 2008.

Contact: www.mfp-dop.org

PRODUCT HITS



If you're looking to stock up on the Christmas Spirits this year, consider the environment in your choices, and go organic on wine, beer and spirits. There's a good directory of Australian organic wines in The Eco Directory at...

http://www.ecodirectory.com.au/index.php?option=com_mtree&task=listcats&cat_id=230&Itemid=29

At Original Foods in Melbourne, you can buy organic gin, vodka, rum and whisky.

http://www.originalfoods.com.au/bev_spirits.html

Otherwise, buy organic wine and spirits online at

<http://www.organicwine.com.au/WineList.aspx?NID=29&att=4>

GREEN TIPS

Screen Savers

Screensavers use almost as much energy as when the monitor is in use. Change your settings to place your monitor to stand-by instead of using screensavers and save energy and money.

Eco-hint provided by 1001 Ways You Can Save The Planet by Joanna Yarrow

<http://www.todae.com.au/comersus2/store/healthyhints.asp>



THE WIT BIT

CHRISTMAS HUMOUR. HO HO HE HE HO....

CHRISTMAS CAKE RECIPE

You'll need the following:

- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup of sugar
- 4 large brown eggs
- 2 cups of dried fruit
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- Lemon juice
- Nuts
- 1 bottle of whisky



Sample the whisky to check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check the whisky again. To be sure it's the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again. Make sure the whisky is still OK. Cry another tup. Tune up the mixer. Beat two leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fired druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it goose with a drewscraver. Sample the whisky to check for tonsisticity. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whisky. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon the sugar or something. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window. Check the whisky again and go to bed.

http://people.cornell.edu/pages/bs16/christmas_cake.htm

A FEW VERY BAD JOKES TO MAKE YOUR SEASON MERRY

What do sheep say to shepherds at Christmastime?
Season's Bleatings!

Why should Christmas dinner always be well done?
So you can say "Merry Crispness"!

Knock Knock.
Who's there?
Mary.
Mary who?
Mary Christmas!

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has "no EL"!

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What happens if you eat too many Christmas decorations?

You get "Tinsel"-itis!

What's the best thing to give your parents for Christmas?

A list of everything you want!

What's the favourite Christmas Carol of new parents?

Silent Night.

(FROM http://www.emailsanta.com/jokes_Christmas.htm)

Events and Listings

1 December 2007

Event: World AIDS Day. (UNITED NATIONS)

http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/aids1.asp1

2 December

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (United Nations)

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/slavery/index.html>

3 December

Event: International Day of Disabled Persons. Organisation: United Nations

www.un.org/events/calendar/

3 - 9 December

Event: Australian Giving Week. www.ourcommunity.com.au

www.givingweek.com.au

3-9 December

Event: Coastcare Week. Organisation: Landcare Online

www.landcareonline.com/news_details.asp?sType=campaigns&news_id=145

5 December

Event: International Volunteer Day 2007.

Organisation: Volunteering Australia

www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/default.asp?nav_cat_id=208&nav_top_id=55

6 December

Friends of the Earth Forum: Climate Action '08. Edinburgh Gardens Community Room, Brunswick St, North Fitzroy. 6: 7pm. More info: FoE 94198700

<mailto:cam.walker@foe.org.au>

7 December

International Civil Aviation Day (United Nations)

8 December

Friends of the Earth Solutions to Climate Change community festival. Learn and share practical knowledge about low impact lifestyles, renewable energy, and simple D.I.Y solutions to climate change. The afternoon will involve talks by climate change specialists, amazing workshops (for big and small), stalls, FoE's foodie delights, and some fine rhythms! The festival is taking place in Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill, from 1-5pm.

www.melbourne.foe.org.au



9 December:

International Anti-Corruption Day (United Nations)

10 December:

Human Rights Day (United Nations)

11 December

Event: International Mountain Day. Organisation: Mountain Partnership

www.mountainpartnership.org/default.asp

18 December:

International Migrants Day (United Nations)

19 December:

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (United Nations)

20 December.

International Human Solidarity Day. (United Nations)

25 December

Christmas Day. Tips on Christmas Giving, click here

<http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/christmasgiving>

26 December - 31 January

Event: Cards For Planet Ark. Organisation: Planet Ark www.planetark.com?

THE END!