



Green-e-News

November 2008 Issue 6

Gosh it's a strange thing to be back in the office after being abroad for so long! Both Melbourne and Christchurch conferences were highly inspirational—find out more inside. November is an exciting month for UWA, the campus is undergoing the first phase of an energy audit, the final report of the waste audit is in. In this issue we will look at the LED trial initiated by the Armadale city council and explore the ecological benefits of eating Kangaroo, Enjoy!

PS. Stay tuned for the new look Green-e-news in UWA visual identity.

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Distant Campus Inspirations

Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management, UWA

The Albany-based Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (CENRM) strives to fill many of UWA's Green Office principles as part of its working philosophy. Areas where we have made considerable achievements have been in paper and printing, recycling and transport.



The purchase of a Prius hybrid car this year has been a great success. After initial training on how to drive the car, staff are delighted with the choice and the low running costs. Our other two fleet cars, a Toyota Hilux and a Toyota Prado are run on bio-diesel as much as is practical. We have purchased carbon credits to offset our 3 vehicles through Carbon Neutral and we expect to offset over 13 tones of carbon emissions this year through the planting of native trees.

Within our offices we use recycled paper in printers and photocopiers and generally re-use, rather than discard, paper that has printing on only one side. We also recycle all our printer and photocopier cartridges through Planet Ark.

As CENRM is remote from the central University campus we don't benefit from the campus-wide recycling program but we do have our own recycling bin for plastic, cans, cardboard and paper. A local firm shreds and recycles our confidential printed material.

Our short to medium-term aim is to tackle the question of energy use within the office.

As CENRM staff work in the area of Natural Resource Management we are all aware of the environmental issues in our community and through our actions we take a proactive role in being part of the solution rather than contributing to the problem.

So next time you are in Albany drop in and see us at CENRM and talk to us about our green office.

Alexandra Macgregor (CENRM Office Manager)

Green Offices at UWA

- Centre for Advancement of Teaching and Learning
- Currie Hall
- EDFAA Library
- Facilities Management
- Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (Deans Office & Student Office)
- Faculty of Education
- Finance and Resources Directorate
- Financial Services
- Governance Services
- Graduate Research & Scholarships Office
- Human Resources
- Information Technology Services
- Medical and Dental Library
- Organisational & Staff Development Services
- Reid Library
- School of Animal Biology
- School of Environmental Systems Engineering
- Student Administration
- Student Services
- University Club
- University Theatres
- UWA Childcare Centre
- Vice-Chancellery
- WA Institute of Medical Research
- Perth International Arts Festival
- School of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
- AIMS

Conferencing Abroad

SB08—World Sustainable Building Conference 2008, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre 22nd-25th September

This conference was unbelievable! 9 concurrent sessions, 3000 delegates, biodegradable cornstarch water bottles, a personal written welcome from Arnold Schwarzenegger, and incredible gourmet food sourced from within 100 miles of the venue.

Due to the overwhelming amount of information I was spoilt for choice. However, the common thread of all dialogue was maintenance of resources and natural patterns in the built environment. There are some truly innovative things happening out there, and the Germans are definitely forerunners. Keynote, Prof. Thomas Lutzkendorf from the University of Karlsruhe (Germany) spoke very seriously about innovations in German sustainable building, concluding with a song from a sustainable nightclub in the Netherlands which he complimented by doing a very funky dance. He successfully caused roars of laughter to rise from the very big audience.

I discovered that I enjoyed Peter Garrett's stage presence better when it included song. His material was good, but he appeared uncomfortable in speech. Prof. Bill Rees from the University of British Columbia has been a forerunner in the fields of human ecology and ecological economics. He suggested that we need to quit clinging to green gimmicks for solution and get real about sustainability. He encouraged all to look at realistic sustainable solutions, suggesting that if we all got hybrid cars the planet would not be able to sustain them!

Biomimicry in building was a prevalent theme at SB08, making me realise that humans need to humble themselves and go back to nature for learning. PhD student Maibritt Pedersen Zari, spoke of architectural innovations made through observing the water harvesting behavior of desert Tenebrionid beetles. Bruce Rauhe relieved the information rich atmosphere with his talk on sustainability at Disney Studios, making us remember that delight and pleasure were the best motivators for change.

Due to the size of this conference, I found networking difficult and resigned to use the opportunity for information absorption rather than relationship building. The experience has definitely inspired me to lift my head higher in sustainable thought and deed.

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), Christchurch New Zealand 1st-3rd October 2008

Arrive in Perth From Melbourne 9pm Thursday 25th, Depart for Christchurch 12am Monday 29th, arrive Christchurch 2.30pm Monday 29th September. Yes I was a wreck! So much so, I was glad that my horse riding tour was cancelled for Tuesday Morning. I regretted this later though.

ACTS was a fantastic relational and intimate conference, consisting of about 100 delegates. Registrants were passionate sustainable practitioners representing tertiary institutions in Australia and New Zealand. We ate vegetarian food, drank pinot noir and organic beer: Talk was of recycling; Vice Chancellor support and green offices. We all marveled at the coal fired power station located at the University of Canterbury used to supply electricity to the campus alone. Despite the chilly air and my windowless hotel room, I managed to emerge inspired and with a great bunch of new sustainability mates. There are some very dynamic and progressive teams who are making sustainability an active reality on Australian and NZ tertiary campuses.

ANU Green have a student internship program where students are paid \$15 000 a year to design and implement a sustainability project on campus. One notable project was a 13 week bike to work campaign. Thirty participants agreed to ride to work at least three days a week for 13 weeks. Some continued on to ride after the 13 weeks, and one woman even sold her car. Canterbury university has a permaculture garden that is maintained by staff and student volunteers. Christchurch Polytechnic Institute has installed a very successful coloured rubbish bin system for recyclables and general waste.

A young exchange student from the University of British Columbia did a brief talk on sustainability at his home campus. The UBC sustainability department is completely funded by financial savings made through reductions in resource use. They have a \$2million annual budget! I pondered for a while on what UWA could do with that.

This was a very relevant and worthwhile conference.

A Reason to chew Roo!

For years we've heard talk about the impact of cloven hooved livestock on soil erosion. Kangaroo meat was the solution for those of us unable to give up our addiction to red meat, however consumers have been slow to take up the offer. Market research reports that only one in twenty Australians eat kangaroo on a monthly basis, though more than half of us will at least give it a go once per year.

But now there's a new reason to chew a roo. Yes, eating kangaroo meat instead of beef or lamb will reduce your Methane gas emissions... well, rather the animal's emissions. Cattle and sheep are notoriously gaseous, producing methane in such quantities that they are responsible for 11 percent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Comparatively, kangaroos produce much less methane than traditional livestock.



UNSW researcher Dr George Wilson has suggested that we could reduce Australia's total Greenhouse emissions by 3 percent by choosing kangaroo meat over beef or lamb. Such an effect would require large scale change, reducing livestock numbers by one third.

Half the battle seems to be convincing consumers to try kangaroo, and increasing confidence in how to prepare meals with roo meat. Given the current trend for the organic, free-range foods, it's surprising that kangaroo meat hasn't taken off. It doesn't get much more free-range than roo!

Kangaroo with sweet potato mash & pepper gravy

4 kangaroo fillets (approx 180-200g each)
 750g sweet potato
 1 tbs butter
 Milk
 1 tsp Rosemary, finely chopped
 2 garlic cloves, crushed
 1 tsp cracked black pepper
 2 tbs olive oil
 2 tbs plain flour
 2 cups milk
 2 tbs butter
 1 tsp fresh black cracked pepper
 Salt to taste



In a bowl, combine olive oil, rosemary, garlic and cracked black pepper and marinate kangaroo fillets for an hour minimum (best if you can marinate for longer). Set aside.

Peel and chop sweet potato and put in to lightly salted boiling water, continue to boil for 10-15 minutes or until tender. Drain and mash with butter, milk and a pinch of salt.

Heat BBQ or pan to high, spray lightly with olive oil spray, and sear fillets for approx 5 minutes on each side (depending on thickness of meat, should be cooked to medium rare). Remove from heat, wrap lightly in foil and allow to rest for approx 5 minutes.

In the same pan, whisk flour and milk together, add butter, pepper and salt. Cook on medium heat until thickened, lower heat, simmer gravy for 10 minutes.

Slice kangaroo across the grain, serve on top of sweet potato mash and drizzle with pepper gravy. (or serve fillets whole). Source <http://www.macromeats-gourmetgame.com.au/Default.aspx>

LED Street Lights

BRIGHT sparks at the City of Armadale have begun an innovative sustainable street lighting trial that could become the model for the rest of the Perth metropolitan area.

The two-year trial will test measures to reduce energy costs and CO₂ emissions and is in partnership with Western Power, Synergy and Sylvania Lighting.



The project is part of the South East Regional Energy Group's (SEREG) award-winning Switch Your Thinking program and will assess the performance of two new sustainable technologies, 42W compact fluorescent light globes (CFLs) and 50W twin-arc high pressure sodium lamps, on four streets in Armadale and Kelmscott.

New generation LED technology is also being trialled by another SEREG member, the City of Gosnells, although it is expected that further improvements in LED technologies may be needed before these can meet standards.

Street lighting currently accounts for up to 50 per cent of WA local governments' annual energy expenditure and corporate greenhouse gas emissions equalling about 90,000 tonnes of CO₂. The two new technologies are expected to use up to 33 per cent less energy.

The trial will also enable Western Power to ascertain the economic viability of retro-fitting street lights in the metropolitan area and assess the performance of the two new technologies in WA's unique environmental conditions.

Under the trial, the CFLs and high-pressure sodium lamps will replace the 80W mercury vapour lamps that constitute up to 80 per cent of WA local governments' public lighting stock.

Regardless of the outcome of the trial, Western Power has given in-principle support to phasing out 80W mercury vapour light globes from WA's public lighting stocks over the next five to 10 years.

If the two trialled technologies prove successful, they may be added to Western Power's street lighting range within two years, enabling all WA local governments to choose the new, efficient technologies.

Nilsens Electrics will monitor the light levels of the new streetlights on a quarterly basis and residents of the streets involved in the trial will also surveyed on the quality of the new lights.

<http://www.blackle.com>

For an energy saving search engine and potential home page check out the Blackle site



Ideas wanted from you!

Got any other energy saving or environmental ideas or issues fit for reporting? Then contact the Environmental Officer at elisha.ladhams@uwa.edu.au or 6488 7391.