

Climate Justice Taranaki Newsletter

23 February 2012

Tena koutou katoa,

welcome to another newsletter from CJT. This time we have an invite to a public meeting in Stratford, some more great Hive workshops, some good news and some feedback on two climate justice related events. Just a reminder, please sign the petitions if you haven't - the Greenpeace one is almost at their target of 150,000 and the fracking one is gaining momentum. Woohoo.

**STDC councilor Michael Self invites you to a:
PUBLIC MEETING - Stratford War Memorial Hall
7pm Wednesday 29th February 2012**

To discuss:

Oil and gas company regulations. Are our councils doing enough?

Why are the consents for oil drilling/fracking publically non-notified?

Calling on our local councils to implement a moratorium on fracking – just as 3 other NZ local bodies have done.

All welcome - please come and support!

"Huge amounts of damage have already been done in Taranaki by the oil and gas industry. The way things are going vast areas will soon be unsuitable for farming and living. We need to protect our land, water, and air so future generations can enjoy our bounties. The Taranaki Regional Council seem to just let the oil and gas industry do what they want." - Mr. Self.

HIVE WORKSHOPS:

Feb 26 - organic weed control with Nelson Lebo
www.theecoschool.net

Mar 1st & 2nd - Living Systems Workshop (Open to all.
Cost = koha)

Organic leadership and tools to help grow proactive communities. Based on the Living Systems Thinking described at www.projectmanagement.co.nz. It particularly suits grassroots groups taking a pro-active whanau ora perspective for a rich future, as well as other community led, social, economic environmental or cultural initiatives. Contact 760-6008
bee@hivetaranaki.co.nz

Mar 6 - Creating a Food Forest with Dee Turner
www.avonstour.co.nz

Third NZ council calls for fracking moratorium and ban to deepsea oil drilling:
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/6446189/Council-wants-moratorium-on-fracking>

Campbell Live's story on fracking last week:
<http://www.3news.co.nz/Rural-Taranaki-horrified-by-fracking-risk/tabid/367/articleID/242319/Default.aspx>

State-owned coal miners Solid Energy forced to shut unsafe mine:
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/6452111/Meeting-over-shut-down-mine>

(This company is running a coal seam gas fracking operation just north of Whangamomona).

Feedback from the Waitangi Weekend event in Waitara:

The weekend event hosted by the Friends of the Waitara River Group was very successful with many locals attending and fun camping overnight at the Marine (Outfall) Park. Highlights were the historic walk with Ray Watembach looking at the sites of maori pa destroyed in the 1860s to secure land for settlers and the changes then made to the river which reduced river transport from 100km inland to just 7km now. The speakers forum and discussion on Sunday was very informing covering the state of the river from industry and sewage pollution; to terraquaculture that can massively increase food production sustainably through land-use diversification; to really scary global warming sea changes and hopeful international activism for

indigenous rights. It is hoped to hold the event again next year.

Feedback from the Coal Action Network Summer Festival:

"The Festival was the biggest event we've organised so far... [resulting in] a big upsurge in local and regional group activities, much of it sparked off by the Festival.

"About 150 people registered to attend, many of whom were there throughout the Festival, and in addition, up to 100 further local people joined festival-goers for our Community Day at the Maitua Community Centre, where we heard from a range of speakers on the effects of large-scale coal and lignite mining on the climate, on health, and on rural communities."

"Just how difficult it must be for [Maitua farmer] Mike to hold out is made plain when you see a map of the Maitua valley with his land surrounded by what, if Solid Energy have their way, will become a very, very large opencast lignite mine.

"Of course, Mike isn't the only beleaguered farmer, either in New Zealand or overseas. Queensland farmer, Sid Plant, got a standing ovation from a packed audience in the Maitua Community Centre when he described how his family had stood up to the mining company, New Hope, despite suffering enormous stress as neighbour after neighbour was bought up by the company.

"The mining companies all say 'we will make it better than it was' but they destroy the land – it can never be rehabilitated. I've witnessed the desecration of the best quality farmland where I live – just as Solid Energy is about to do in Southland. You can never get it back," Mr Plant told the meeting.

PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITIONS!:

<http://www.greens.org.nz/sites/default/files/GreensFrackNoPetition.pdf>

<http://www.change.org/petitions/the-parliamentary-commissioner-for-the-environment-in-new-zealand-impose-an-immediate-moratorium-on-fracking-in-nz>
<http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/en/take-action/Take-action-online/No-New-Oil-or-Coal/>

We also held a great info stall at WITT's orientation week last week. We will also be holding a stall at next month's Seaweed event. If you want to help run stalls for us please let us know!

Nga mihinui
Climate Justice Taranaki

<http://climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com/>
http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205878806095057
<http://nodrilling.wordpress.com/taranaki/>