

Blue Mountains Gazette - Letters To The Editor

28th July, 2010

Sustainability and Biofuels

Because of impending supply problems, as oil depletion bites increasingly hard, and because of unacceptable emissions from petroleum-powered vehicles, the nature of transport fuels across the planet will change dramatically over coming decades. The change has already started, with ethanol addition to petrol being increasingly common.

A future without petroleum is sure to be one characterised by a mix of fuel types, with the biodiesel form of biofuel as one option. This Friday the guest speaker at the Blue Mountains Conservation Society monthly meeting is Philip Dolan, an expert on biodiesel. Philip's diverse experience includes the design of a 10-star energy efficient straw bale house, after 10 years doing energy ratings, and he designs non-utility water and energy systems for domestic applications.

Philip's talk will cover three aspects of sustainability: financial, social and, most importantly, environmental, as related to biofuels production. He will talk about his journey with straight used vegetable oil and biodiesel, well supported by photographs, and there will be jars of the products to see, smell and touch.

Philip will welcome questions and challenges. It promises to be variously a humorous, serious, frustrating, bewildering and, hopefully, enlightening and inspiring presentation.

All are welcome to join us at the Conservation Hut, far western end of Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls on Friday 30th at 7:30 pm.

Peter Green
Blue Mountains Conservation Society