



## From the President

February 2011

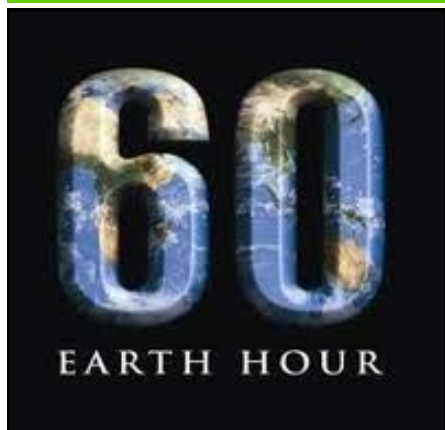
### VALLEY WATCH INC

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Creating a sustainable future

## March 26 - Earth Hour



Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney when 2.2 million individuals and more than 2,000 businesses turned their lights off for one hour to take a stand against climate change. Only a year later and Earth Hour had become a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating. Global landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, CN Tower in Toronto, Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and Rome's Colosseum, all stood in darkness as symbols of hope for a cause that grows more urgent by the hour.

In March 2009, hundreds of millions of people took part in the third Earth Hour. Over 4000 cities in 88 countries officially switched off to pledge their support for the planet, making Earth Hour 2009 the world's largest global climate change initiative.

On Saturday 27 March 2010, Earth Hour 2010 became the biggest Earth Hour ever. A record

128 countries and territories joined the global display of climate action. Iconic buildings and landmarks from the Asia Pacific and Europe to Africa and the Americas switched off. People across the world from all walks of life turned off their lights and came together in celebration and contemplation of the one thing we all have in common – our planet.

Earth Hour 2011 will take place on Saturday 26 March from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. But how about starting a little earlier and finishing a little later? For instance, Barb and I invite friends and neighbours each year to a candlelit "Earth Hour dinner" where they get the environmental message in a convivial, social setting. Try it - it's great fun!

This Earth Hour, consider going beyond the hour so that, after you switch the lights back on, you can think about what else you can do to make a difference? Together our individual actions add up.



How good does the Harbour Bridge look like this?

#### Your Committee

<b>President:</b>	Gary Whale
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Athena Batcheldor
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ronwyn Lopez
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Lopez
<b>Committee:</b>	Gary Brisbane Carolyn Jeckeln Barbara Whale Ros Woodward



Sunday March 6 is the 21st anniversary of 'Clean Up Australia', the nation's largest community participation event.

In 2010, more than 588,000 registered volunteers across Australia pitched in at over 7,000 Clean Up Sites. This year, as part of the 21st anniversary, Clean Up is calling for the support of all Australians to do their bit by joining others for the annual Day.

Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia, urges all Australians to take part. "Every individual can make a difference to the health of our environment. All we ask is for each of you to take to your street on this one day of the year and be part of your community," he says.

So March offers you two opportunities to 'do your bit' and involve friends and family as well. The challenge, then, will be to keep the momentum going throughout 2011.

We're on the Web! Visit us at [clarencevalleywatch.com](http://clarencevalleywatch.com)

## Valley Watch 20th Anniversary Dinner

You are invited to a celebration dinner on Saturday April 9 to mark twenty years of Valley Watch activism in our valley on behalf of the environment and good government.

Our guest speaker will be recently retired Upper House Member of Parliament, Ian Cohen, who will talk about some of his campaigns on the Franklin, in the Daintree, Northern Washpool and Chaelundi.



The cost of the dinner will be \$35 per person for a two course meal (mains and dessert). There will be vegetarian and gluten-free options available if you let us know when you book, and there will be dinner music provided by that accomplished musical virtuoso, Dom Ferry.

We have booked the Riverboat Restaurant for the occasion, and there will be a waiter to take your drinks orders (or use the bar next door).

The restaurant has a capacity of 40, so you'll need to book early. To make your reservation, please ring Gary or Barbara Whale at 6646 1286. To ensure that nobody misses out on this special occasion it will be necessary to arrange payment when you book - either by posting your cheque to Valley Watch, PO Box 637, Yamba 2464 or by visiting our stall at the Yamba market on February 27.

### Meet the candidates

The N.S.W. state election is coming up on Saturday March 26. But who do you vote for?

It's so easy to think of reasons why you mightn't want to vote for any of them!

Whichever party comes to power will have made numerous promises including promises about the operation of local government and about the environment and their commitment (or not) to it.

Yamba Chamber of Commerce is arranging a "Meet the Candidates" forum in Yamba on Tuesday February 22. It is expected that Steve Cansdell (National), Janet Cavanaugh (Greens), Colin Clague (Labor) and Richie Williamson (Independent) will all be there, ready for you probing questions.

Watch the papers for details of time and venue. Let them all know your concerns!



Email and  
snail mail



Most of our members receive their newsletter by email which is great for the environment (no printing or paper) and for Valley Watch finances (no postage costs). What's more, you get it in full colour and days earlier.

Some of our members don't have email, so we're happy to send your newsletter by post, but some of our members with email still ask for the newsletter by snail mail.

If you are one of those, would you reconsider whether you need it posted? **We cannot continue to post the newsletter after March 1 to members who are not financial.**

If you are happy to make the change, please let us know at [valleywatchinc@gmail.com](mailto:valleywatchinc@gmail.com)

### The Valley Watch trailer

The venerable VW trailer does yeoman service each month ferrying material to and from the market - but what do you do with it in the meantime?

For ages it has lived at Lyn Tunbridge's and we thank him for storing it, but that space is no longer available.

What to do? Store it outside and watch it deteriorate?

To the rescue came Hec and Jill Doughty, long time members of Valley Watch, who are now storing it for us in their garage between markets. Thank you, Hec and Jill.

Books  
and  
magazines  
wanted for  
the VW  
Market  
stall



Valley Watch depends on the monthly Yamba River Market to raise money for campaigns and just our day-to-day running.

The stall is very much about educating the community on council and environmental matters but we need to attract people to the stall. The Orchid Raffle (yes, it's back!) is one way, but books (in good condition) and magazines are another, particularly if the magazines have an environmental slant such as *Habitat* or *Ecos*.

We invite people to take the magazines for free (good PR) and invite them to make an offer for the books. Any contributions you could make would be greatly appreciated. It really helps!

Come and visit us at the stall in February and say "g'day". It will be great to see you.

*Gary*