

Double Glaze Matters

DECEMBER 2011

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Sustainable Living Festival

Visit me at the Sustainable Living Festival at Federation Square on Feb 17th-19th.

Its FREE!

Merry Christmas!

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

It has been a rather rocky road for the environment over the last 12 months. We did end up with a carbon tax (which I think is great) but I am not sure how long it will survive.

But we have also seen some big pushes to expand the use of fossil fuels, with the plan to build another power station in Gippsland and the push to develop Coal Seam Gas extraction. As Ian Dunlop pointed out at a recent Climate Alliance conference, humans are investing millions in look-

ing for more fossil fuel reserves when we cannot burn those we already know about without risking runaway climate change.

Surely this money would be better spent on renewable technologies.

I also recall the comment from David Attenborough in his series on the Arctic and Antarctic. Global warming now means it is much easier for countries to recover the fossil fuels which were previously trapped under the Arctic Ice Shelf.

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Franciscus Henri—wishing you a Green Christmas

Letting the Sun in During Winter.

I saw a very interesting modification to a house recently to increase the winter solar gain.

The owner had north facing windows in the kitchen. The eaves meant there was no summer heat on the glass, but in winter when the sun was lower, the eaves still blocked out half of the sun.

He wanted removable eaves. What he did was to remove the first two rows of roof tiles, plus

the cement sheeting under the eaves to allow the sun better entry. He replaced the tiles with perspex, so that the heat and light still got through, but the rain still ran down to the gutter. He also extended the wall vertically to keep birds out of the roof.

In summer he replaces the cement sheeting to ensure the summer sun does not get in.

While eaves on the North are good, removable eaves are even better!

DIY Double Glazing Course

Sat Mar 21st

*Eltham Living &
Learning Centre*

What Happened at Durban?

The Climate talks in Durban finally delivered something after working overtime, but exactly what is harder to say.

It was good to see that countries finally decided that we have to have a legally binding agreement between all the major countries and that should be reached by 2015 and implemented by 2020.

However the disconcerting thing is that if it is taken this long to agree that we need to agree. How long will it take to agree on what we need to agree?

If you were an optimist, you would say "great... everyone is now heading in the same direction and progress will be more rapid". If you were a pessimist, you would say "the big polluters (including Australia) only agreed because they knew the next stage of a binding agreement will never be achieved".

In reality, now is when the hard work starts. Scientists have stated what the overall cuts need to be. The hard part is dividing that up between each country.

The reality is that every 1 percentage point that Australia agrees to cut its output corresponds to around 6 million tonnes of CO2 per year. If we were to achieve that at a price of \$25 per tonne (as suggested by the carbon tax) that is \$150 million a year. A 10% cut would be \$1.5 billion a year. And the more we cut, the more expensive it becomes to make the next cut.

What's more, the cost is actually on going—\$1.5 Billion a year for the first 10% of cuts. More for the next 10%.

So it is clear that Australia, and every one else, will try to minimize their own reductions. It doesn't look good.