

changing times

Community Newsletter

Changing Times
A community newsletter for Bellinghen Shire
Issue 1 August

What we can do about inflation

which the rate of production – and well as affordability – starts to remain. If we're still locked into an oil economy, the price of all the essential goods and services will be high. And that day might be a lot closer than we'd like.

The point here is that we don't just have to be done with it. It is essential for a way of doing things, independent of what the government does or doesn't do, we can take action right now. That's what the Bellinghen Shire Transition Initiative is about.



Grow your own

During a recent meeting with our members, we had a discussion about how to grow our own food. The local food network is a great way to do this. We can have a meeting with local foodies to discuss this in February/March next year.

- Hosting film and discussion evenings (e.g. the Local Food Film Festival with local foodies in February/March next year).
- Gardening workshops with local biodynamic and permaculture teachers, including how to raise seedlings and make a veggie garden in your backyard.
- Food as Medicine talks and Local Food dinners with local practitioners.
- Working with the Bellinghen Shire Council to establish a model community garden that will become a community hub and resource, building relationships between growers and consumers (Community Supported Agriculture).

Core Values

- to recover and uphold the tradition of genuinely independent investigative journalism
- to provide a space for alternative voices and issues that are not seen as 'newsworthy' by mainstream publications
- to link the global with the local
- to support business, community and government initiatives that work towards the goals of genuine sustainability and resilience
- to retain genuine editorial independence at all times

Mission

To provide a vibrant alternative media for stories and issues relevant to residents of the Bellinghen Shire and beyond, with a particular focus on initiatives related to the key emerging topics of sustainability, resilience and re-localisation.

History

Changing Times was first published in August 2008 as a two-page A4 newsletter, drawing the community's attention to the major issue of Peak Oil and highlighting the existence of the Transition Initiative and the Bellinghen Local Food Network. Since then a further five issues have been published and the newsletter has expanded to 8 A4 pages. It has covered a wide range of local and global stories, including features on the Seeds Savers and Community Garden groups, threats to the survival of the Landcare movement, alternative measures of societal well-being and progress, the re-emergence of the racist far-right in Eastern Europe, profiling the local growers' market, an examination of the fragility of the current debt-based monetary system, and looking at the growth of the Local Food Futures Alliance. We have invited, and received, responses and contributions from the local community.

People

Changing Times is currently operated as an editorial collective with three members. The editor, Craig Nelson is an experienced journalist,

accomplished editor & prize-winning poet. The artist is Beth Gibbings, whose background includes experience in layout and artwork for various newsletters. The general coordinator, Nick Rose, comes from a background of community activism and project management in Central America and England as well as Australia.

Support

Changing Times is currently supported by 8 local businesses and one community group, which allows it to cover the basic costs of paper, ink, distribution and folding costs, approximately \$325 per issue.

Our aim is to increase our level of support to \$1000 per issue, with four issues per annum, i.e. a quarterly publication, possibly expanding over time to 12 pages. We would like to offer the following options for support:

- A business-card sized ad, \$50 per issue
- The sponsoring of a story / page, \$60 per issue
- General sponsorship of the publication, \$50 per issue / \$200 per year

During the past year Changing Times has achieved a good level of recognition and presence in the town as a publication with a strong focus on the need to build a sustainable future for Bellinghen and beyond. We urge you to give us your support as we carry this community initiative forward. For more details, please contact Nick Rose, nick.rose4@bigpond.com, 66559442.



- Independent journalism
- Issues that matter
- Global to local
- Humour and sport