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Leading Environmentalists to Speak at Daylesford

Nationally-respected environmentalists Rob Gell and David Holmgren have demonstrated their support for the Hepburn Wind community wind farm project by agreeing to speak at Daylesford Town Hall on 2 December.

Rob and David will discuss the catastrophic climatic and environmental changes that are already starting to become evident around the world and in Australia as a result of rising levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

The event – co-sponsored by the Hepburn Renewable Energy Association and the Hepburn Relocalisation Network will be hosted by recently appointed AI Gore Climate Change Ambassador and well known journalist Tracey Curro. The forum will commence at 7.30pm sharp and entry is free.

Rob Gell and David Holmgren have built enviable reputations as environmental commentators and speakers. They believe that the Hepburn Wind project must go ahead as a way of showing communities across the country that significant and meaningful action to slow climate change is possible if concerned individuals act together.

“Many people are living in denial,” said Hepburn Wind Founder, Director and local resident Per Bernard, “hence the global non-action on critical issues such as climate change and peak oil.”

“We want this Action Night to re-invigorate local interest and support in our wind farm by reminding residents of the community pride and excitement the project will create, as well as the financial benefits to the local community and shareholders.” Bernard added. “While the environmental situation facing us is dire, we hope people will leave the meeting inspired to act in whatever way they can. There is much that each of us can do – investing in our project is just one option.”

Following the presentations, Tracy Curro will facilitate an information update of the Hepburn Wind community wind farm project via an interactive session between the audience, keynote speakers and Hepburn Wind Board members.

For more information about Hepburn Wind visit www.hepburnwind.com.au. Copies of the Hepburn Wind Share Offer document can be obtained by calling 03 9429 5629, or by direct download from www.hepburnwind.com.au.

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SPEAKER CVs

Tracey Curro

Across her 20 years in the media, journalist Tracey Curro has reported for 60 Minutes, Beyond 2000 and National Nine News, presented news on the Nine and Ten Networks, been a feature writer for Australian Women's Weekly, and presented Mornings and Drive on 774ABC Melbourne. She spent two years at Sustainability Victoria from 2006 as the General Manager of Communications, and in 2007 was selected and trained as an Al Gore Climate Change Ambassador.

David Holmgren

David Holmgren is best known as the co-originator with Bill Mollison of the permaculture concept following the publication of "Permaculture One" in 1978. Since then he has written several more books, developed three properties using permaculture principles, conducted workshops and courses in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, South and Central America, Japan and North America. Within the growing and international permaculture movement, David is respected for his commitment to presenting permaculture ideas through practical projects and teaching by personal example. He shows by example that a sustainable lifestyle is a realistic, attractive and powerful alternative to dependant consumerism.

As well as constant involvement in the practical side of permaculture, David is passionate about the philosophical and conceptual foundations for sustainability, which are highlighted in his book, Permaculture: Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability. With this book already on its third print run, and his increasingly prominent profile as a public speaker, David provides leadership with his refreshing and unorthodox approach to the environmental issues of our time.

This year David produced Future Scenarios, an extended web essay on the cultural implications of peak oil and climate change (<http://www.futurescenarios.org/>). David lives with his partner Su Dennett and son Oliver at "Melliodora", a one hectare permaculture demonstration site at Hepburn Springs.

Rob Gell

Rob is a coastal geomorphologist by training; he taught Environmental Science and Physical Geography at tertiary level, then for twenty-eight years he has presented television weather. In his professional life he works as an environmental and communications consultant and is Chairman of Access Environmental Pty Ltd. He is also a company director, and a published author and a photographer. He is the President of Greening Australia Victoria, Chairman of the Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd. and a member of the Victorian Coastal Council.

For ten years Rob served as a Victorian Councillor of Australia's peak national environmental group, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF). In 1998 Rob was invited to become an inaugural Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia. He has served as a Councillor of the City of Doncaster & Templestowe.

Rob Gell is well known as a television weather presenter, however his greater interest is in his work as an active campaigner for our environment. His company Access Environmental Pty Ltd is working to assist companies increase the success of their business through cooperative application of innovative environmentally sustainable business strategies incorporating the principles of the 'triple bottom line'.