

31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

## Media Release

### You don't have to be a Super Hero to Save the World

People often feel that they have to do something exceptional to bring about positive change especially in regard to the challenges of climate change. **However this Friday evening at 5.30pm at Fradgley Hall, Park St, Burleigh Heads**, Gecko Environment Council will present a **Climate Change for Good Forum** at which a range of Gold Coasters, will present their work in meeting these challenges to the community. The focus is squarely on the positives of climate change and the Actioneers as the presenters are known want interested community members to come along and join in the discussion.

Lois Levy, Coordinator of the Climate Change for Good Actioneer Hub, said “We have moved beyond the ‘changing the light bulb’, but often people do not know what else they can do to reduce their emissions and live more sustainably. Over 70% of Australians want effective action on climate change and this Forum will outline some projects they can support or give them help in setting up their own project.”

Gecko’s Climate Change for Good Actioneer Hub forum will be led off with two young speakers from the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Hannah Mitchell (QLD state organiser) and Marina Hou (Gold Coast organiser), who will outline the work they are doing in advocacy, to government and the youth community, for effective action on climate change.

The AYCC speakers will be followed by short presentations on six projects that are community based and intended to engage the community in discussion and involvement to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change and actions every person can take. The presentations are as follows

A Sustainable city strategy – Jason Byrne, Senior lecturer in Planning at Griffith University. Jason will present his research into community and local government action on climate change which will lead into community focus groups in 2018 to apply this knowledge to each Council division.

A Gold Coast Green Business Directory – Adrian Nathaniel, Argonaut Financial Services. If you want to buy “green” products they can be hard to find. This Directory when complete will make sustainable purchasing so much easier for Gold Coasters.

E-Waste Recycling – Cate Ware, Gecko volunteer. Too much e-waste ends up in landfill when it could be repurposed or recycled. Cate is advocating for easy to use e-waste bins in every library and community centre.

“Rising Blue Line” Art Installation on Sea Level Rise - David Paynter, Gecko volunteer.

David is planning an art installation to raise awareness about the impact of sea level rise on the Gold Coast and give residents ideas of how they should plan for this.

Biodiversity and Climate Change - Lois Levy and Rose Adams, Gecko Campaigners. Lois and Rose have a range of solutions everyone can take to protect our unique flora and fauna.

Stop Adani campaign - Matt Ross. Many young people feel passionate about preventing the start of the Adani mine which would create as many emissions as the whole of Australia. Since it is their future at risk Matt is giving some ideas of how they can help with a transition from fossil fuels to renewables.

The evening will start at 5.30pm with warming refreshments with the speakers starting at 6pm. Fradgely Hall is on the bus route and is opposite the Burleigh Heads Bowls Club. People can register on Eventbrite or ring Gecko on 5534 1412 between 10am and 2pm or just turn up.

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