

Senator Ursula Stephens

NSW Country Labor
Senator Stephens



The Inconvenient Truth about our changing climate

An Inconvenient Truth, the new film by former Vice President Al Gore is a provocative piece of social commentary, as well as promoting the salutary message that climate change is here to stay. It should be compulsory viewing. Gore has been a vocal advocate of the need to cut alarming increases in emissions and use energy more efficient for over thirty years. He was an environmental warrior long before it became fashionable.

In the 1990s, Gore strongly pushed for passage of the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The countries that have ratified this protocol have committed to reducing their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases. Unfortunately, he couldn't persuade his own government to do so.

In 2005, Australia was the biggest emitter per head of population in the world! That is an astounding statistic for a nation that prides itself on its environmental credentials. Prime Minister Howard has refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol, arguing it would cost Australians jobs.

It is a perplexing situation for other signatories, that the Australian Prime Minister has blocked every serious initiative to reduce carbon emissions. This government has said 'no' to emissions trading, 'no' to the Kyoto Protocol, 'no' to increasing the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target and 'no' to Labor's target of a 60% cut in greenhouse pollution by 2050.

Climate change is an inconvenient truth for the Howard government. Its own experts in the CSIRO, the Australian Greenhouse Office and the National Water Commission express their concerns about the rapidly growing impact of climate change. Scientists around the world, industry and communities acknowledge that something is amiss; yet, Mr Howard prefers to listen to his Industry Minister, Ian Macfarlane's, persistent denials that humans are changing the earth's climate.

As Al Gore points out in his film any government that fails to take action on climate change is mortgaging the future for all children in the world. Our children and grandchildren will be left with a hefty social, economic and environmental bill. The consequences of climate change are very real, and very imminent – more severe weather patterns, reduced rainfall, extended droughts and the loss of our great natural icons, such as the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu.

Australia desperately needs a national climate change strategy.

In 2004, the Pentagon commissioned a study into the potential security implications that might arise due to global warming. The report concluded that "substantial global warming" could lead to a breakdown of warm ocean currents caused by reduced salt in the ocean. That, in turn, would produce a drop in global temperatures of as much as 6 degrees, creating catastrophic cold weather and environmental calamities. As human populations struggle with the changes to the environment, "tensions could mount around the world, leading to two fundamental strategies: defensive and offensive."

Although the report is speculative, the possibility that abrupt global climate changes could lead to wars over food, water and oil, and leave planet earth in a new ice age, is a real possibility.

Gore also highlights the potential role climate change could play in helping to spread diseases. Erratic weather changes that result in flooding and drought could lead to changes in the incidence of infectious diseases. Europe has already started to experience diseases not normally seen there.

The climate change threat is one of the biggest issues confronting Australia. The climate change solution is one of the biggest differences between a forward-looking Labor Party and a complacent Howard Government.

Australians want a government that puts the preservation of our environment before its own political self-preservation. Protecting Australia from the threat of climate change also protects Australia's future prosperity.

No government with courage and foresight can turn its back on the treat to our kids and grandkids posed by climate change. No political leader with courage and foresight can ignore the threat to our future economic prosperity posed by climate change. Sadly, John Howard lacks this courage and foresight.

If Al Gore's film teaches us nothing else, it is that one person can make a difference to climate change. People power can overcome vested interests. If we are waiting for a change in policy from the Howard government, we might be waiting until climate change freezes hell over. Change is possible. Every individual makes a difference.

*Dr Ursula Stephens is a Country Labor Senator for New South Wales,
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Science and Water
and Chair of Labor's Water Taskforce.*



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By Paul Alessi

palessi@tpgi.com.au

Catching The Tree Scribblers

As mentioned in a previous Wild Windellama article very little is known about Scribbly Gum moths so CSIRO are setting up some traps this season to catch a few larvae. I was asked if I would like to participate and given instructions and materials to set up a trap in Windellama. I chose a Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*) on a hilltop that had a lot of scribbles already, a section of the tree for about 2m high was wrapped in a finely open weaved nylon material, this was secured tightly around the base and the larvae should either fall into the bottom or become stuck in the webbing of the material which will be removed carefully after the bark has been shed early next year. The insects will unfortunately be donating their bodies to scientific research but hopefully much will be learned from their sacrifice about the relationship between Scribbly Gum Moths and the particular few species of trees that are their only home.



What's that bird nesting in your shed?

At this time of year many species of birds will be making new nests, some of these will unfortunately be in your sheds, more commonly they will be Welcome Swallows (for all you John Cleese fans I'm not sure if they can carry a coconut) but if you have a grey bird that is about 20cm high that is nesting under some sort of cover at home it is probably a Grey Shrike Thrush (*Colluricinclla harmonica*).

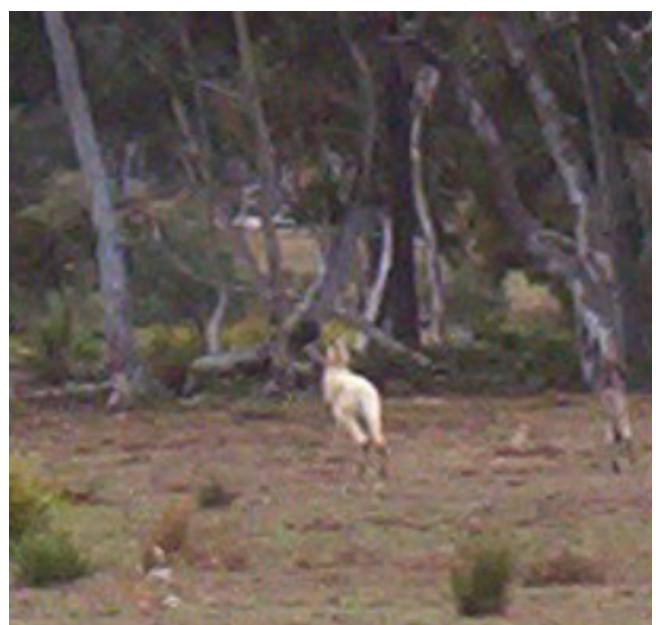
Grey Shrike Thrush are a robust bird with a number of attractive calls, the most distinctive being a single "Shrike ! " but their other calls are very melodious. Nests are usually strips of stringybark laid in a circle and they prefer some sort of small box or circular feature to build in.

I've seen one nest in the top on a 40kg LPG cylinder that was under a verandah before and another in the upturned base shield of a whipper snipper inside a garden shed. This season one of these Grey Shrike Thrush has attempted to build its nest on the rear tray of a Toyota Landcruiser in our shed, obviously not a good idea. I've since managed to move her on and she is now nesting behind a cardboard box on top of an old wardrobe in this same carport.

They are to a small degree tolerant of humans about, but often leave the nest at the last moment of an approach in a panic and scare the hell out of you if you don't know they are there. They don't leave as much mess as a pair of Swallows and probably scare them away as well, so we are happy having a Grey Shrike Thrush nesting in the shed instead.

Whitey

Spotted quite a few times recently in Windellama is a white kangaroo, there have been a number of light coloured roos about over the years and these usually end up being picked off by hunters. There is also another one around with a two tone pale coat but Whitey stands out like a freshly shorn sheep rendering his mates almost invisible by comparison, I managed to get just the one photo from a distance before he hopped away into the bush.



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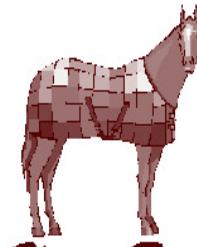
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Horse-ing Around

By Sandy Wooderson



Horse care for Spring

Spring is here and your horse will be losing its winter coat. If it's been rugged over winter the hair needs to be removed from the rug as well as the horse. I use a mare and tail brush on the rug and a currycomb or a 'magic block' on the horse. It will take a while to remove all the hair but if you intend to show your horse this season you need to work on its coat now.

Now is a good time to worm your horse. Buy a wormer that does all worms and change brands yearly as worms tend to build up a resistance to the same wormer. Mares in foal will sometimes abort from a wormer so read instructions or buy a wormer that excludes bots. If you have trouble or are not sure how to give it to the horse ask someone who handles horses to show you how and the next time have a go yourself. Some horses are difficult to do and may need a twitch on. Be aware that the odd horse will strike with their front legs so don't stand directly in front. A strike can cause serve injury like a kick so never put yourself in harms way. Horses are unpredictable and respond to fear and pain.

Teeth need checking at least once a year I have all mine done in September and any new arrivals at time of arrival. Bad teeth cost poor health and money. If your horse suffers from any of these; drops food from its mouth, has bad breath, is poor in condition or is 'hating' the bit, pulling, excess chomping, blood in the mouth it may more than likely need the 'tooth fairy'.

Insects are a burden of the warmer weather. Some horses are allergic to bits and stings. An allergic reaction needs vet attention as it can kill. Lice are active at the present. A pour such as "Switch" is the easiest way to rid them but powders and washes are also good. Remember to clean and powder the rugs and wash all brushes as well. Skin infections like ringworm, rain scald, mange and Queensland Itch are more prevalent in warmer weather so check skin when grooming your horse as early detection is easier to treat. The flies annoy their eyes and cause infections. Bath twice a day with salt water. Use clean cotton wool on each eye as infections spread. Pat dry with a clean cloth and apply an eye cream (Orbenin Eye Ointment, available from your vet.) Fly veils and netting help to keep the flies down but some horses spook with them so put on in a small area and led the horse around first to see if your horse is ok with it. Never use veils if the horse is left unattended for more than a day. Like rugs they can move and rub and halters can get hooked on fences or such leaving the horse stranded or panic and injury it self.

Mares are starting to cycle and some are moody (yes guys, just like us women.) So your usually quite mare may be out of sorts. If your mare is really bad there are herbs and vitamins that can help or medication from the vet. Or you can make her happy and put her in foal. Foaling is a great experience but can be costly and a lot of work so do some research first and make an informed decision.

Laminitis, commonly known as Founder is most likely to occur in spring. There are several causes but most common cause is the horse over eats the flush of nice sweet grass this reacts in the system and causes acute lameness. In severe cases the horse's pedal bone in the hoof will rotate and descend through the sole of the hoof. Needless to say your horse will need to be destroyed. Founder is to be avoided by keeping a close watch on your horse. It mostly affects ponies. If body fat is high and the crest of the neck hard then put your pony on a diet! Put it in a yard and feed small dry feed with a little green or a yard by night with no feed and a short graze by day. There is a food additive called Founder Guard, which is very good, or you can attach a muzzle to your horse for some of the day this allows the pony movement around the paddock and to drink but limits grazing. Exercise your pony often. Yes the pony will 'tell' you its starving and it will make you feel mean but the old saying is you have to be cruel to be kind is true. Founder is very bad! Avoid at all costs!

Happy horse – ing around, bye for now Sandy.

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Advancing Burrinjuck

In 2003 the NSW Labor Government cut the Country Timber Bridge Program and promised to replace it with an inferior Regional Road Timber Bridge Program. Funding for this regional program never eventuated and many timber bridges in rural NSW have fallen into increasing states of disrepair. Investigations by The Nationals revealed that this program has been postponed indefinitely. No funding for country timber bridges was allocated in the State Labor Government's 2006/07 Budget.

The Nationals have unveiled the Country Timber Bridge Replacement Program, which will provide \$60 million over four years to upgrade timber bridges in country NSW. The Country Timber Bridge Replacement Program is a vital part of The Nationals' plan to rebuild country infrastructure after 12 years of Labor neglect.

Across regional NSW there are 2,300 timber bridges that will benefit from this initiative by The Nationals to improve country roads.

Due to Labor's neglect some timber bridges are in a serious state of disrepair and weight limits have had to be imposed. Some like the Gundaroo Bridge had to be closed to traffic for urgent unscheduled repair or remain closed like the Greenethorpe Road Bridge in Cowra Shire. The residents of regional NSW deserve better than this. Within six months of being elected a Coalition Government will conduct an audit of all NSW timber bridges to prioritise bridge upgrades based on safety and economic criteria. A Liberal/Nationals Government will seek matching funding from NSW councils, working closely with the Local Government and Shires Association and local councils. This will allow us to clear Labor's backlog within two terms of Government. If elected to Government next March, The Nationals will give timber bridges the attention they deserve.

This month I attended a community meeting in Cootamundra and opened the South East Regional Women in Business Forum at Canberra Racecourse. In Goulburn I attended a Police College attestation and I also attended the opening of the Grenfell Show. I addressed the Australian Tourism Export Council about the Liberal/Nationals approach to reversing State Labor's disastrous handling of tourism and I presented a land care award at Harden Murrumburrah Show.

In Jindabyne I held discussions with tourism business owners and then attended the Cowra Show. I also presented prizes and spoke at the Regional Landcare Awards in Murrumbateman then went to Cowra to discuss local issues with residents. I attended a dinner with the Federal Minister for Defence, Dr Brendan Nelson, at the Young Service Club and in Yass I attended the blessing and opening of the refurbishment program at Mount Carmel School.

I have held constituent interviews in Young, Cowra, Yass, Goulburn and Grenfell this month.

Parliament

In Parliament this month I spoke about the need for an additional Police Driver Training Track at the NSW Police College and the need for upgrading Police Stations at Yass, Gundagai and Tumut. I also spoke as a Matter of Public Importance about the effect the prolonged drought is having on rural NSW. During the speech I highlighted

Freecall: 1800 00 2580

Katrina Hodgkinson MP

State Member for Burrinjuck

For enquiries about State matters or to arrange an interview with me, please phone the above number or 6226 3311, fax 6226 3345 or write to me at PO Box 600 Yass NSW 2582 email the Burrinjuck Electorate Office at Burrinjuck@parliament.nsw.gov.au or visit www.burrinjuck.com.



the lack of rainfall across the entire southern and Central Slopes and Tablelands and called for increased State Government assistance for farmers and rural small businesses that are doing it really tough.

I also spoke about the exclusion of horse riding from the Kosciuszko National Park, and the impact that insufficient safety inspection stations have on heavy vehicle operators. In Parliament I condemned the NSW Labor Government for their refusal to waive the 2004-05 fixed water charges on irrigators in the Cowra area, despite the fact that the Labor Government was unable to provide the water for which the irrigators pay these fees.

I have also raised local concerns about health cuts, rail trails in the Tumut area, the OJD industry Assistance Program, the Murrumburrah High School, pathology services, horse riding in the Kosciuszko National Park, staffing of local police stations and transport for the frail elderly.

Senior's Week

In 2007 Seniors Week will be held from 11-18 March. The NSW Senior's Week Achievement Awards recognise seniors across the State for their contribution to the Development of the community and their leadership and initiative. The awards provide an opportunity to formally thank older people for the contributions they make to the quality of life in NSW. Nominations for the 2007 Senior's Week Achievement Awards close on 6 October 2006. More information about the awards or how to nominate can be obtained by phoning Ms Rebecca Nelson on 8270 2459 or from the Senior's Information Service on 131244.

Review of Mental Health Act

A draft exposure bill for the Review of the Mental Health Act has recently been tabled in the NSW Parliament. Submissions are being sought from members of the public and will close on 3 November. The Bill will then be debated in the Parliament. Please contact my electorate office on phone 6226 3311, fax 62263345 email burrinjuck@parliament.nsw.gov.au of freecall 1800 00 2580 if you wish to obtain a copy of the exposure bill or make a comment about the draft.

2007 National Quality Schooling Awards

Nominations for the National Quality Schooling Awards are now open and will close on 16 October 2006. The national awards recognise and reward teachers, principals, support staff and schools which, in their different ways, make an exceptional contribution to their school community and to outcomes for students. The awards build a better understanding and greater appreciation of the work done in Australian schools, and are a way of sharing good ideas and practice among school communities across the country. More information on the awards can be obtained from my office, on the internet at www.teachingaustralia.edu.au or freecall 1800 131 323.

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In Your Garden

From Irene Turner



This is our busiest time of the year for the home gardener. All the trees should be flowering or flowered, including the Prunus. Nectarine, plums, peaches, apricots should have flowered; pears and apples just coming into leaf bud and then flowers.

Spray apples and pears this month for Codling moth with Lebaycid, then every 2-3 weeks from petal fall. If Cherry Slugs are a problem on your cherry or plum trees, you can spray with Carbaryl this month. Derris Dust sprinkled over the leaves can also help.

Vegetable Seeds:

Carrots, parsnips, beetroot, peas, cabbages, silver-beet, radishes, cucumber, marrow zucchini can all be sown.



Melons, rockmelons and watermelons can be planted (I have not had success with these); they need good fertile soil and plenty of water.

Pumpkins – they need to germinate early, not to get a frost on them; so protect them if you can. When growing pinch out the runners so they will flower earlier. Squash need the same as pumpkins.

Capsicum and tomatoes can be grown in the same bed, cover them if any sign of frost. Locals often don't plant tomatoes until after the Melbourne Cup.



Sweet corn – build the soil up with compost and a dressing of complete fertilizer before sowing the seeds. Corn loves the heat to germinate and flower; grow in blocks close together to help with forming the corn cobs. When the stalks are growing, cover with straw or hay to help keep the moisture in the soil.

Beans – both climbing and dwarf can go in now, but a frost on tender young shoots will kill them.

Celery – being a heavy feeder needs lime and a very fertile soil with regular watering. Watch for slugs and snails, they love to hide in this plant.

You can purchase seedlings of tomatoes, capsicums, silverbeet, cucumbers, cabbages, parsley, etc., but growing from seed is slower but cheaper.

All vegetables will benefit from a dressing of complete fertilizer and compost before sowing.

Flowers:

Seeds of alyssum (sweet alyssum), asters, balsams, cosmos, nasturtium can be sown direct into the garden beds. Seedlings of carnations, dianthus, gypsophila, larkspur, linaria, lobelia, liverstone daisy, marigolds, pansies, petunias, phlox, portulaca, snapdragons, verbena can be planted this month.

Dahlia – seedlings can go in now. Dahlia tubers can also be planted, these will need to be staked, dahlia like a sunny but not too windy a position.

When Spring bulbs have finished flowering, feed them with complete fertilizer, this assists the bulbs for the next year flowering. Do not cut off the leaves of the bulbs, let them die down naturally.

Garden to get fit:

Healthy living begins with a good diet and exercise, and gardening provides both. Gardening is widely accepted as a great form of moderate exercise. Such exercise for around 30 minutes each day can lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Regular gardening activity can also help prevent serious illnesses such as Type II diabetes, heart disease and strokes.

The more energetic the activity, the more calories you will burn. 30 minutes of digging or shoveling will burn between 200-360 calories; while raking and weeding will burn about 50 calories.

Using gardening tools, lifting a wheelbarrow, pruning trees and shrubs all improve muscle tone and growth. You can also make your activities more physically challenging by using manual tools instead of power equipment.

Before you start a gardening session do a few simple warm-up exercises and spend a few minutes cooling down at the end of your session too. Take regular breaks to stretch and drink plenty of fluids. Be careful to always bend your knees and keep your back straight when lifting and digging.

Break up your gardening session into small chunks of time, even 15 minutes will benefit your health and fitness levels, also your garden.

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Lincoln tractor pac welder; 3.25KVA Honda generator; air compressor; Stihl chainsaw; Husquavana chainsaw; Karcher pressure cleaner; 12 volt posthole auger and drill; 240 volt stick welder; 14ft timber/steel workbench; Honda pump; hose reels; truck tarps; turfer; large qty shelving; cement-mixer/seed bowl; pipe bender; 200L barrels; 1000L tanks; numerous tools elec.& hand; Stuart meatsaw; coolroom; butchers' blocks.

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