



The Victoria Naturally Alliance – a shared vision

MEDIA RELEASE

4 February 2010

Saving Victoria's nature in a changing climate

A free community forum being held at this year's Sustainable Living Festival on Sunday, February 21, 1-2.30pm, BMW Edge theatre, Federation Square.

This year is the UN International Year of Biodiversity. The Victoria Naturally Alliance is kicking off the year by holding *Saving Victoria's Nature in a changing climate*, a key forum at this year's Sustainable Living Festival.

The forum will take a close look at implications of climate change for Victoria's biodiversity and what can be done.

According to CSIRO, 44% of our native plants and more than 30% of our animals are already either extinct or threatened with extinction. Climate change will only make this situation worse.

Among the speakers will be **Professor Will Steffen**, Executive Director of the Australian National University's Climate Change Institute. He will tell us that climate change is happening faster than expected and is turning up the heat on Victoria's already stressed natural environment.

Dr Paul Sinclair, Healthy Ecosystems Program Manager, Australian Conservation Foundation will discuss what needs to be done across the state for our precious animals and plants and how we can all help.

Karen Baker and her husband have been replanting bushland for the last 20 years because "it's just what we love to do". She will talk about her work and the exciting *Connecting Country* project in the Mount Alexander Shire, showing what can be done by everyday people caring for the natural environment.

This event has been organised by the Victoria Naturally Alliance, which is led by the Victorian National Parks Association and includes the Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Victoria, Greening Australia (Vic), The Wilderness Society, Invasive Species Council, Trust for Nature, Bird Observation & Conservation Australia and Bush Heritage Australia.

What: Saving Victoria's nature in a changing climate

When: Sunday 21 February, 1-2.30pm

Where: BMW Edge, Federation Square

For more information contact Carrie Deutsch on 0438003037, or email carried@vnpa.org.au



sustainablelivingfestival



The Victoria Naturally Alliance wants to see Victoria's native plants and animals protected from threats including climate change and habitat loss. For more information go to www.victorianaturally.org.au.