

FORESTS, CLIMATE AND WOODCHIPS: THE BURNING ISSUE

“The burning issue” is the theme of a top level public forum on forests, climate and woodchips on the far south coast to be held on 1 August. The South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA) will sponsor the forum at Merimbula on 1st August 2009.

Acclaimed local singer Damon Davies will perform for guests from 12.45pm to launch the afternoon.

SERCA spokesperson, Ms Prue Acton said that SERCA is thrilled that a musician of Damon's great talent has agreed to perform at the forum. “He has been described in the national media as ‘one of this country's most accomplished blues songwriters and guitarists’ and his huge fan base in our region do not need to be reminded of that.”

Expert speakers (from 1.30 pm) are Dr John Kaye (Greens MP who was an electrical engineering academic before he entered Parliament) and Dr Walter Jehne, former CSIRO Scientist.

Ms Acton said that the two speakers will deal with different aspects of forests and climate change, including carbon sequestration, soils and rainfall.

“They will address a range of consequences of woodchipping in this region and the new threat of burning native forest wood for electricity.”

“A particular concern for us right now is the wood fired power station that is proposed for the Eden woodchipmill.”

She said that the WildArt group will also display works of art and videos on environmental themes.

The forum will take place at Twyford Hall, cnr Market and Beach Streets, starting at 12.30 pm. Entry is free.

More information is available from the SERCA website at:

<http://www.serca-online.org/>