

Earth's hour



WHAT'S NEWS

80 Year Old Coathanger

ONE of Australia's most iconic structures turned 80 years old on March 19. The Sydney Harbour Bridge, nicknamed "the coathanger", celebrated this special milestone. It was 80 years since NSW premier Jack Lang opened the world's widest long-span, steel-arch bridge which had taken six years to build. The opening ceremony was interrupted when Francis de Groot, dressed in military uniform and riding his horse, slashed the ceremonial ribbon with a sword before Lang could cut it. Eight decades later the bridge still plays a huge role in Sydney's life and even though an octogenarian, is as busy as ever. It is crossed by more than 160,000 vehicles every weekday and is climbed by many thousands of tourists every year.

Queensland Votes

QUEENSLAND voters made their voices heard in the State Election. The majority wanted a change and that's what they got. The Liberal National Party is on track to win 78 seats out of 89 according to the latest results. The LNP, led by Campbell Newman, wiped out the Labor Party. Mr Newman was sworn in as the Premier of Queensland on Monday.



There is little doubt that Earth needs protection and that we must take positive action to address environmental issues. With a simple flick of the switch on Saturday, you could be part of a worldwide campaign to raise awareness

Beyond 60 minutes

IT should be more than just giving up an hour of light. It's about making energy efficiency a daily habit.

Saving energy at home is an important thing you can do to fight climate change.

Your home uses energy every day – keeping you warm in winter and cool in the summer. It uses energy to run appliances and home electronics, to provide you with light, and hot water. To meet and maintain daily electricity needs, without compromising the energy needs of future generations, we must learn how to put our energy sense to good use. It is important not to waste energy as some of the sources from which we generate electrical energy won't be available forever. Share these tips with your family:

- ▶ Use ceiling fans instead of air-conditioners.
- ▶ Wash clothes in cold water instead of hot or warm.
- ▶ Use a clothes line instead of a dryer.
- ▶ Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- ▶ Turn off computers when not in use.
- ▶ Don't open the refrigerator

DID YOU KNOW?

EARTH Hour started in Sydney in 2007 when WWF Australia encouraged Sydneysiders to show support for action on climate change. It has since become a world-wide phenomenon.

EARTH'S REPORT CARD

The State of the Climate 2012 report produced by CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology provides a summary of observations of Australia's climate and the factors that influence it. Some of the key points from their analysis are:

- ▶ Australian annual-average daily mean temperatures have increased by 0.9 °C since 1910.
- ▶ Global-average mean sea level for 2011 was 210 mm above the level in 1880.
- ▶ Sea-surface temperatures have increased by about 0.8 °C since 1910.
- ▶ The concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere in 2011 was 390 parts per million – higher than at any time for the past 800,000 years. The main cause of the observed increase in CO2 concentration in the atmosphere is the combustion of fossil fuels since the industrial revolution.
- ▶ The warming around Australia is consistent with the global pattern and cannot be explained by natural variability alone. Human activities have influenced ocean warming, sea-level rise, and temperature extremes.

door unnecessarily.

- ▶ Turn off your game console when you finish playing.



NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC:
Fire Safety

TASK TIME ONLINE



GO online by visiting your newspaper's website. You'll find the address on the front page. Look for the NiE logo at the top of the page and click! This will link you to APN's NiE webpage.

Saving Electricity

How much electricity does your family use around the home? Do you find ways of saving electricity? Try some of the activities online. Calculate the cost of the electricity used in the home, identify sources of electrical energy and do some editing in these activities online.



QUIZ TIME

Each week we will test your knowledge on what's been happening in the news. For the answers visit NiE online.

- 1 WHERE is the Australian cricket team currently playing?
- 2 WHICH film based on a book of the same name was released last week in Australia?
- 3 WHICH Federal tax passed through the Senate last week but may be challenged?