

GERMINATE




issue 2 2009

The Australian Student Environment Network and the Germinate Collective recognise and pay respect to the Indigenous nations and traditional caretakers of the land.

More than 500 Indigenous nations shared this land for over 40,000 years before invasion. We express solidarity and continued commitment to working with Indigenous peoples, both in Australia and around the world, in ongoing struggles for land rights, self-determination, sovereignty and the recognition of past injustices.

This magazine was compiled on the land of the Pambalong, Worimi, and Awabakal people. Submissions have come from all over the continent.

Sovereignty was never ceded. If you are reading this you are standing on Aboriginal land.

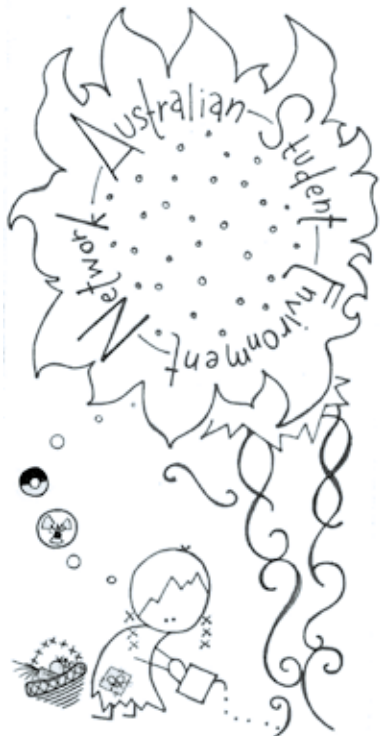


IN A
CRISIS,
IT IS **VERY**
IMPORTANT
TO BE THOUGHTFULLY,
CALMLY AND LOVINGLY
DISOBEDIENT

Welcome to the Germinate that **ATE MY BRAIN!**

in this issue of germinate, we cover the looming threat of nanotechnology, bougainvillean activists reflect on their successful anti-mining campaign, and we get an australian perspective on gazan community life. vin diesel speaks on the tactics of non-violence, we hear from various climate campaigners, and examine the importance and tensions of non-aboriginal activists working on solidarity campaigns. we also cover other challenging, inspiring and informative updates and ideas within the environmental movement.

this is for matt.



germinate is a bi-annual publication of asen. germinate informs on issues and campaigns, and reflects on our movements for change. it facilitates communication between grassroots student organising and environment collectives throughout australia and beyond.

love tillie alex teishan rosh zoey



THE AUSTRALIAN STUDENT ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

asen is the national network of students active on environmental issues. we are made up of state networks, which are made up of campus enviro collectives and community activists. because we are a non-hierarchical grassroots network, asen is constantly evolving. asen was created and continues to be organized by young activists committed to change.

students use our networks to organise local campaigns, share information and resources, embark on national campaigns and work alongside indigenous peoples in their fight for sovereignty and to end genocide.

NATIONAL CONVENERS

kristy walters *based in Brisbane*
kristy@asen.org.au 0423 478 757

lian sinclair *based in Perth*
lian@asen.org.au 0421 132 044

asen.org.au

contact your
national conveners
to get in touch with
your local group.



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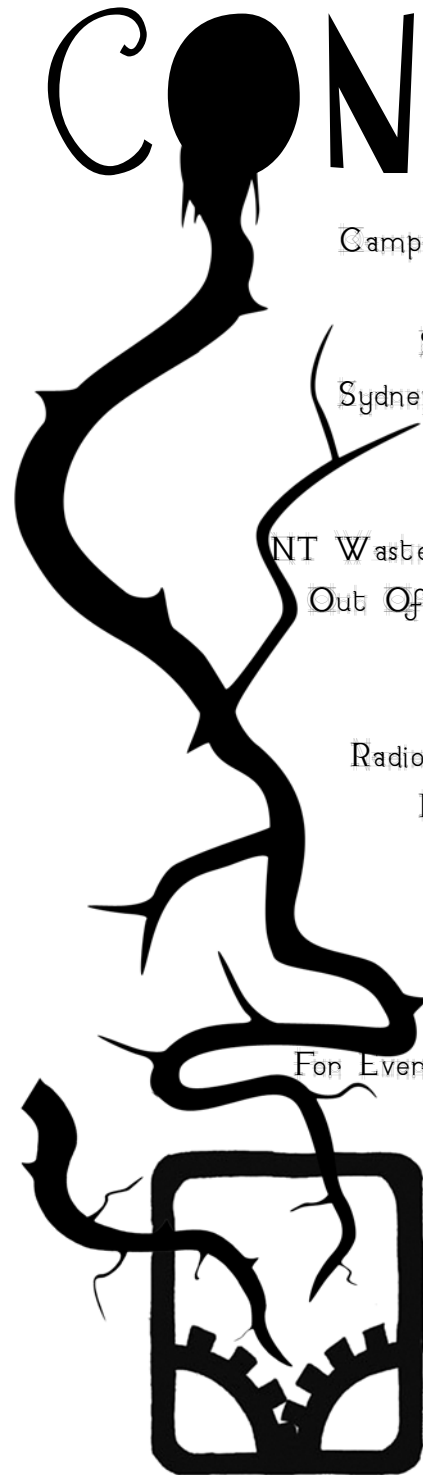
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CAMPAIGNING ON SOVEREIGN ABORIGINAL LANDS

A set of principles, guidelines when campaigning on country, sovereign lands never ceded:

From the beginning.

You live, work, depend on and are trying to save Aboriginal Land, *always was always will be*. Do you know its name, nation, history? Are you on a massacre site?

Where be the Aboriginal People, Land Owners *always was always will be*? Find them. Introduce yourself. *Yarn*.

Aboriginal People hold the history, the stories, *the experience, the knowledge* and spirit of these lands. Aboriginal identities, cultures, societies, economies, kinship relationships are intrinsic to these lands. Connections that can never be erased. Vital connections that must be recognised, honoured and maintained.

Sovereignty. Climate change. Climate change. Sovereignty. Inseparable.

Environment related campaigns always enjoy *increased power* (legally and politically) when in partnership with Aboriginal People. This affects the level of broader community acceptance/ support for the campaign given by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, communities, societies.

How.

Establish relationships, *collective and personal*, with Aboriginal People that are guided by principles of respect, *sincerity* and a genuine desire to learn and exchange trust. *Listen. Share. Confront despair.* Confront history, legacies, your legacy. *We must look back before we look forward.*

Yes you have a specific issue that you'd like to raise? Business-Take time. *Trust takes time.*

Open mind. *Flexible* too. Try different styles, creative organising. 1. 2. 3... 9. 6. 0. 2. 5. 9. 7. 4. 8. 3. 1.

Ask *why it is how it is?*

Fresh air. Open air meetings. Sit in a circle.

Partnerships formed with a *universal blueprint of respect and an understanding of self determination and sovereignty*. We need to support it now, be it now. Time is running out...

Ask questions, difficult questions. Difficult questions of ourselves. Conscience. Conscious.

Humility. Universal inclusivity.

Such partnerships are *political armour*. Survival.

Such relationships are mandatory on Sovereign Aboriginal lands. *Reciprocal*/relationships.

These relationships can build trust, sustain movements and facilitate the transition to a better society.

They are very intimidating (politically, legally, culturally) to the capitalist colonial system.

221 years of legal and political fallacies. Terra Nullius. Brutality. Continues...

Climate change cannot endure 221 years of wilful blindness.

Government's are paralysed and paralyse through control. We (grass-roots) need to mobilise.

Rise like the tides - uprise...

by Liv.

Bougainville: an Interview with Joanne Dateurantsi and Waratah Rosemary Gillespie

*Hannah and Libby from
3rd Degree Radio Interview
Joanne and Waratah on the
Bougainville Mine.*

JOANNE: ...I'm Joanne
Dateurantsi from Bougainville
[Island]... in the north of the
Solomon Islands... where
the mining company BCL –
Bougainville Copper Limited –
affected.

There was a war, and that war
closed by the indigenous people
and that was because there was
lots of environment destructions,
and because the women are
land owners, and that land is for
Bougainville women because
the land is passed down from
mothers to daughters and
women are the leaders and
decision-makers.

LIBBY: Could you tell us what
the land in Bougainville is like,
and about where you come
from?

JOANNE: Where I come from is
just beside the mine site where
the Bougainville mine was,
and where I come from is the

rainforest. There's lots of rain all
year round, the place is really
green everywhere and there's
lots of life; the people are happy
and most of the people depend
on the land. We grow our own
food, vegetables, everything. The
land itself is really fertile, you just
plant anything without using any
chemicals and they just grow.

LIBBY: And can you tell us more
about the mine?

JOANNE: When the mine was
started my people didn't agree
about the mine. My uncle was
bashed on because he was
stopping the mining from doing
its operations, and others were
knocked down by the police.

HANNAH: People who were
protesting? What happened to
them?

JOANNE: My people were
trying to stop it, but the mining
company wanted the mine to be
hewn.

WARATAH: Bougainville is... part
of the Solomon Islands group...
When Australia took over
Bougainville in WWI it legislated

that all the minerals below the
surface of the soil belonged to
the Australian Government,
totally contrary to the traditional
and indigenous laws of the
people where the landowners,
the women, owned everything
below the surface of the soil and
everything above as well.

After WWII... they forced the
mine on the Bougainvillians
against their will. Now, the
Australian Government was
working hand-in-hand with CRA,
the Australian subsidiary of Rio
Tinto called Consinct Rio Tinto
Australia.

Only this weekend we were
at a get together of former
wharfies, and one of them told a
story about how the Australian
Government wanted the wharfies
to load tear-gas canisters on the
boat, and of course the workers
refused, but you know they
sent the stuff to another port.
When I was in Bougainville last



I remember being told about
Australian police firing tear gas
canisters in the villages and
picking people up, bashing
people up just for resisting the
mine.

LIBBY: Waratah, how did you get
involved, and how did you come
to meet Joanne?

WARATAH: I worked my way
through law school... and one
day one of the immigration
lawyers rang me up and said that
there was this Bougainvillian
woman in detention... the
Australian Government called
her for an interview within
months, when most applications
lie dormant, to pick her brains
as to what was going on in
Bougainville.

In just over nine months, they
refused her refugee status
application. When I was looking
for material to back up her case,
I couldn't find anything – there
was no public information about
Bougainville at all. We're talking
about 1992...because of the
blockade...reporters can't get in
and... people were dying from
lack of medicines, thousands of
people had died... Four children
had died within the space of a
week in one hospital due to lack
of medicines, and that was how
I discovered Bougainville. The
beautiful people and a beautiful

place, under blockade and suffering terribly.

LIBBY: Joanne, do you remember when you met Waratah?

JOANNE: I met Waratah Rosemary, she came to my village because that was the heart of the war in Bougainville, with my village, the Chiwaba village...

HANNAH: What happened during the war?

JOANNE: During the war, when the blockade was imposed lots of woman died giving childbirth because there wasn't enough medicine, and the children and of course old people, because we were running here and there in the bush. It was very hard for small children to move around, to have food just in the morning, sometimes we would go around just without anything.

WARATAH: Are you talking about when you had to run away from the helicopters? The Australian supplier Iriquoy Helicopters started attacking her village, spraying her village with bullets.

JOANNE: I was in the village at that time and was told that there would be helicopters flying over my village. It was in the morning... and [we] were, you know, trying to cook up

breakfast, and this helicopter came along. It was spraying at the people in the village, everywhere.

I just took off into the bush and my poor children were there in the village... The biggest one was eight years old and the second one was four, almost five... I came and I was looking for my children. They were there so I grabbed them and ran again into the bush!

It was so horrible. We just flew without anything, we didn't take any clothes or anything.

LIBBY: How long did you have to stay in the jungle for?

JOANNE: Two weeks, two weeks in the jungle where there wasn't any house...

HANNAH: With your two kids?

JOANNE: That's right, and other village people. I was lucky because I only had two children, but the other families they had lots of children so it was very hard for them... The B.R.A. boys, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, they were very helpful... when they think that it's safe, they can tell us to go back to the village, we can pick a few things from the village and take them back into the bush...

WARATAH: Do you want to tell them the story about your sister, who had to give birth to a baby while on the run?

JOANNE: She was my sister Rose, Rose Dateurantsi, and at that time she was in Wakunai, the West Coast of Bougainville... [S]he was nine months pregnant and this Papua New Guinea army came along to the village... and they were spraying the bush [gunfire] so she has to run through the bush with a big belly and in the bush she gave birth to a child, she was still running! She has to run, with a child, for two months. That baby didn't have enough clothes to wear and she didn't have enough food for her or her baby, and they stayed there for two months.

Then they arrived in the village along the beach, and lucky there was some B.R.A. boys there. They helped them, so they took them to Panguna... [though] there was no food there because there were no people there at that time because the war was still going, so I formed up a group where I can feed those people, because there were 25 families and children.

HANNAH: And so how did you help them?

JOANNE: I formed up a group,

because in Panguna we have this vegetable choko, you know choko? It grows really well along the rivers. So I said as from now, each family must pick up the choko and you can have, say, 10 or 20 bundles each, so I can take them and sell them for food like sweet potatoes... we would exchange choko for all kinds of food and that's how I helped those people because there wasn't anything for them to eat. I told them you have to start your own gardens, because in Panguna I tell you, it takes about 8 months for your food to be ready, so I did that all those eight months.

LIBBY: When was this? How long ago did this happen?

JOANNE: That was 1992.

Libby: What's been happening since then?



JOANNE: After they felt that the war was over, they went back to their villages, they went back to Wakunai, and my sister Rose she is there with me, now looking after my children when I am here.

HANNAH: Big thanks to your sister!

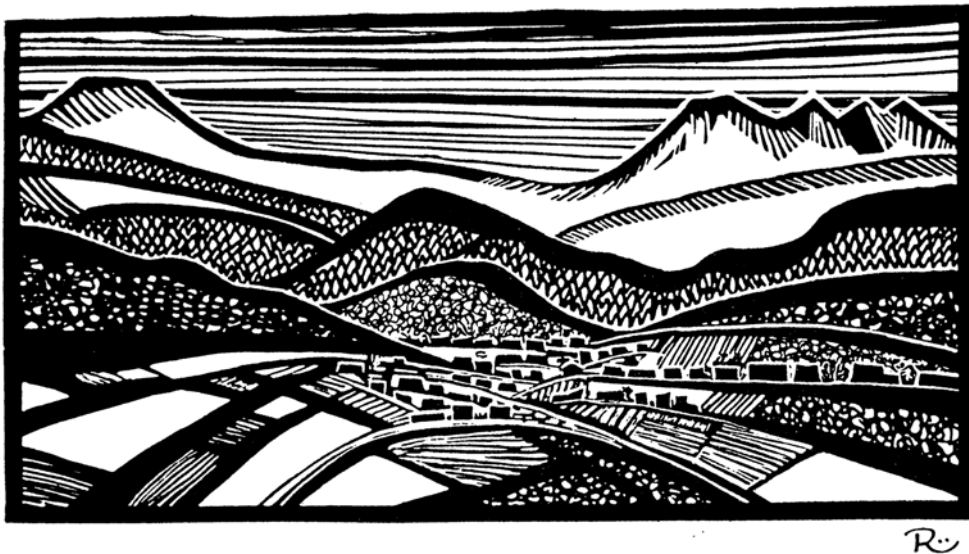
JOANNE: That war, it's still there, we will never forget it.

WARATAH: And what is the mining company trying to do now?

JOANNE: At the moment, the mine has been closed for twenty years.

WARATAH: Twenty years in May. World first!

JOANNE: They wanted to go back to re-open the mine. I don't want my people to suffer again because we had enough already so I think the mining company should just leave us alone and we can live peacefully like we used to be.



Sordid Canberra Clean Coal Scandal!

EXCLUSIVE PICS!!!

**Krudd caught in bed with
ex-World Bank Boss!!!**

There have been scores of developments in the Australian 'clean coal' push over the last month: a bunch of encouraging media and business commentary; but little from us, the climate movement.

We know Australia is the world's largest coal producer - and we're massively expanding this polluting industry with dozens of new coal mines in various stages of approval across Australia.

Globally, Australia is leading the charge in the dangerous distraction of 'clean coal': sinking hundreds of millions of dollars of public money into new institutes and organisations; to demonstration projects; to 'clean coal' activities and resources for school students. Australia will likely be leading the push at the December 2009 Copenhagen climate negotiations to include 'carbon capture and storage' in the already ineffective, unjust and corrupt Clean Development Mechanism.

Earlier this year, Kevin Rudd launched the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute, a Canberra-based body, appointing James Wolfensohn as Chairman of the Institute's advisory panel.

James Wolfensohn has a dirty history as former President of the World Bank from 1995 - 2005; leading policies that were responsible for and exacerbated the Asian financial crisis; enforcing privatisation of services, land and water; approving and financing greenhouse intensive and environmentally destructive infrastructure projects such as mega dams; and tying loans for 'development' with unjust and unreasonable conditions. 'Clean coal' already has its problems, without the Rudd Government appointing the globe's chief architects of pollution and injustice to lead the push.

Sixteen national Governments, five Australian state governments, and more than 40 major polluting corporations have already signed on to the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute; including Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, Mitsubishi, Toshiba, BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, and Xstrata Coal. Other members include the Australian Coal Association, the World Coal Institute, the Clinton Foundation, and the Asian Development Bank. The World Bank is a collaborating participant.

Similarly, Victorian Government has sunk millions into the 'Clean Coal Victoria', an organisation designed to "maximise the value of Victoria's brown coal resources". Clean Coal Victoria are pushing for new brown-coal power stations in Victoria and talking up the 'successful' demonstration project in the Otways ('Greenhouse Burial Trial a

success: scientists', The Age, April 20, and 'Carbon Storage could save Latrobe Valley Jobs', The Age, April 27).

In early April, the Minerals Council of NSW held a secret seminar for their members on 'clean coal' and emissions trading. Community activists from Friends of the Earth Sydney, Climate Action Newtown, the Australian Student Environment Network, Citizens Climate Campaign and Sutherland Climate Action Network quickly organised a small picket of the meeting, distributing 'permits to pollute' with the chants: "They say clean coal, they mean more coal" and "They say emissions trading, they mean money-making".

Writing of the Minerals Council of Australia 'clean coal' meeting, SMH journalist Marion Wilkinson said,

"[T]he coal industry and, more importantly, Australia's politicians, should come to grips with the reality that it is beginning to lose its social licence to operate in Western democracies. And the strategy of holding up clean coal as the Holy Grail for the industry's greenhouse problem is not working." ('Clean coal remains a faraway dream', Sydney Morning Herald, 6/4/09)

Well beyond writing submissions and visiting local politicians, community actions that expose and confront the myth of 'clean coal' and polluting industries are needed!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON "CLEAN COAL", READ OR DOWNLOAD THIS EXCELLENT RISING TIDE NEWCASTLE BOOKLET: [HTTP://WWW.RISINGTIDE.ORG.AU/CLEANCOAL](http://www.risingtide.org.au/cleancoal) SHARE IT WITH YOUR LOCAL GROUP!

Holly, UTS Enviro



**Unprecedented Emergency:
Unprecedented Action**

Climate change puts human lives, species and ecosystems at enormous risk. Scientists agree that if we do not act urgently, drought, famine, mass displacement and extinction are imminent. Yet still our leaders refuse to adequately confront the issue.

Climate Justice Fast! 2009

Concerned citizens are planning a hunger strike against climate inaction; a historically powerful mechanism for creating change.

Confronting the Complacency

The concept of the fast will shock many. But this is precisely the rationale behind the action. To achieve the changes required by the climate crisis, we need a radical shift in public awareness about the urgency of the issue. This is a way of creating it.

Get Involved:

Climate Justice Fast! 2009 requires a dynamic support network. Assistance required includes media support and management, fundraising, medical, IT or logistical aid, and of course as many participants in the strike as possible.

Contact climatejusticefast@live.com or 0400777622

Update from the Sydney G20 Solidarity Collective

Trials of the three remaining arrestees from the anti-G20 demonstrations in Melbourne 2006 will begin on June 30 at the Melbourne County Court. We urge people to come to Melbourne to show their support and political solidarity to the arrestees.

These trials do not mark the first of such kind, but more importantly, they do not mark the last. We need to build a strong culture of providing meaningful political solidarity to those targeted by the state.

About the trials

The first person to face court is a mother from Melbourne – all the prosecution are saying she did was wave a flag and yell, and she is fighting riot charges, as well as charges of affray and criminal damage. Her trial begins on June 30.

On July 13 two men from Sydney go to trial. They are facing charges of aggravated burglary, which can carry a 25 year jail term, for allegedly walking into offices on 'Corporate Engagement Day' with nothing more than glitter and water pistols.

One of them then has another trial after that for allegations of assaulting police.

All of these trials will be in front of a jury in Melbourne Magistrates Court.

What were the G20 protests?

In November 2006 the G20 (the finance ministers from the 20 richest countries) met in Melbourne. Protests against them began on Friday with 'corporate engagement day,' which targeted offices including defence force recruiting, a company called Tenix, which is a military contractor, and branches of ANZ bank, which is profiteering



from the occupation of Iraq.

The next day thousands of people defied police intimidation to protest in the streets of central Melbourne for a variety of reasons, including opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and to the neoliberal agenda being pushed in the Pacific through agreements like PACER. A few hundred people diverged from the rally, ran around a bit, dismantled some barricades and smashed the windows of a police van.

Arrests began the next day. All up 28 people were charged. One person, Akin Sari, is currently in jail serving a 28-month sentence. Most of the other arrestees pleaded guilty to reduced charges and got fines, suspended sentences and/ or community based orders.

Regardless of your opinion of the protests, it is important to realise that the police response and the severe charges given were unprecedented and out of all proportion. It was an attempt to isolate and intimidate people and discourage political activity.

Solidarity

With people coming together for the trials, we want to take the opportunity to talk to one another. One afternoon on the weekend of July 18th and 19th, there will be a discussion about developing and

improving a culture of political solidarity in the face of state repression, using the current example arising post-G20 2006. Following this, a similar discussion will happen in Sydney during August. The dates and locations are yet to be finalised: please contact us for more information.

Please come to support people in the courtroom if you can. If you have money, please donate to the solidarity fund so we have money if it's needed for legal and other support costs.

These political prosecutions are part of a much broader attack – and their outcomes, and how we deal with them, will affect all of our abilities to act on our opposition, whatever tactics we use.

For more information email:

afterg20@gmail.com or call Lou on 0413 556 590.

To donate to the solidarity fund:

Melbourne University Credit Union Limited
Account name: G20 Arrestee Solidarity Network
cuscau2sxxx (only if transferring from overseas)
BSB 803-143 A/C number: 13291 (all transfers)

Feeling Hardy In My Cardy

by Danny Chivers

Feeling hardy in my cardy,
Armed with insulation foam
I pit my wits against the cracks and splits that fill my leaky home.
With a mighty laugh I block the draught beneath the kitchen door
Just another night of fighting in this endless eco-war.

I boldly scout my shopping out
I am the type of buyer who researches every purchase for the dirt
on the supplier
Because I know the corporate foe cares how I spend my days
And by avoiding all the bad things
I can make them, go away...

And so I cycle,
I recycle!
I have more faith than George Michael that getting my own
lifestyle right is the only way to win this fight,
Even though my friends and neighbours – strangely unmoved by
my labours
Keep taking reckless flights; leave their TVs on all night; defend
their god-given right to... 60, 000 christmas lights...

Until. One day's moral tussle: local or organic mussels?
Pushed guilt-fatigue to new extremes.
That night I had the strangest dreams.

I dreamt that Martin Luther King was standing by my compost
bin
And told me with impassioned words which method he preferred
To keep the fruit flies out and the kitchen peelings in.

But, while he gave my crazy paving speech after noble speech
Of his dreams for different compost schemes (with pros and cons
for each) –
He wasn't firing up americans on justice, class and race
And without his flame, the world became, a sadder, darker place.

That vision burst, I fell head first into another scene,
Where Chris and Sylvia Pankhurst, their mother Emmeline and a
thousand other suffragettes
Sought recognition and respect – but not with shouts and chants
and chains and hunger strikes to stake their claims;

They sought the same effect
By being sure,
When at the store,
To only choose kitchen products guaranteed to be: empowering to use.

Then I saw Ghandi getting handy with a pair of bathroom pliers
To defend his independence from the British occupiers
Not by mobilising peasants into peaceful mass resistance;
But by fixing leaky taps and putting bricks inside their cisterns.

And the abolitionists –
Instead of fighting slavery,
They stayed at home and put a bit less sugar in their tea;

Whilst Che Guevara, avoided the Pelavera ever was he a hero or
merciless killer;
Staying indoors,
Down on all fours,
Launching attacks on skirting boards with eco-pollyfilla.

I woke up with a start, with pounding heart, my body aching,
And my belief in the observer's lifestyle plight badly shaken.
Even I could see that eco-piety is great for scaring off speed-
dates, but it won't change society.

I should be the change I want to see;
Try to avoid hypocrisy,
But – taking one car off the road won't make more cars and buses
run;
Stopping up one leaky home still leaves 12 million to be done.

If I want to be noticed by the people in power
Shall I join a mass protest, or... fit a new shower?
And getting in a panic if my balsamic's not organic is less useful
and more draining than just doing some... campaigning!

So. While I've got people all around me I would otherwise have
missed:

Young, old, often well-respected, unexpected activists
Fighting the problems at the top; building solutions from below
Humour, hope and energy and this is how I know:
you want to stop the tails of climate doom coming to pass?
Yes, reduce your carbon footprint...
Then use it to kick some arse!



B L O C K A D E

C O P E N H A G E N

We are Australian climate justice activists; involved in a wide range of networks, from community climate groups, to networks of coal-dependent communities, to student networks and anti-capitalist ones. We don't claim to represent 'our' movement; but we have thought deeply about the issues at stake. We hope to open up avenues of communication and solidarity with people from all over the world.

We are writing to, in a small way, contribute to discussion at the June 20th organising meeting. A blockade of the Copenhagen climate summit would be inspiring and relevant to our own movements and struggles. We've been thinking about how we can act in solidarity with such an action from here (such as through disrupting the

transport of the Australian delegation to Copenhagen) and communicate the story of a blockade with people in Australia. We are also interested in exploring the possibility of co-ordinated global shutdowns of polluting infrastructure in the final days of the COP15 and in the days, weeks and months after. There have been arguments from some in the Australian climate movement and abroad about how Copenhagen is "the most important meeting ever" or "our last chance to save the planet" and that opposing it is putting "ideology" over science. However, we are deeply concerned about the attempt to de-politicise responses to climate change.

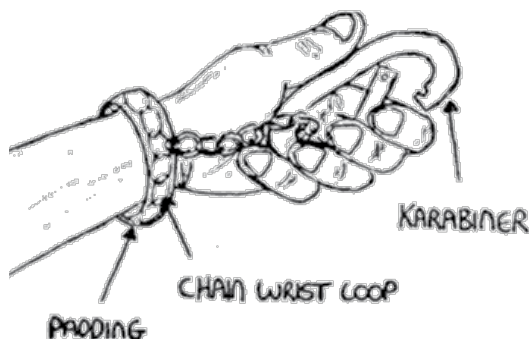
We know from history that states will not grant favors through us asking nicely: the only gains we make will come through struggle. It's hard to list all the ways in which the Copenhagen summit is flawed - from the false solution of emissions trading schemes to the dangers of geoengineering to the injustice of offsets and the Clean

Development Mechanism to an overarching 'green capitalism'... You know the deal.

Arguments like these are accessible and relevant to ordinary people as well. Climate change is related to people's daily lives: through false solutions imposed by governments, connections to issues like public transport, health and so on.

A blockade could resonate widely; sparking off a cycle of struggles, and feeding into those that are already going on. A serious disruption of the COP15 meeting could assist in delegitimising emissions trading: also the dominant scheme in Australia, a proposal hundreds of community-based climate action collectives are rejecting outright and trying to prevent its passage through Australian Parliament. Similarly, these struggles are an opportunity to legitimise action that enable, rather than disable, the real solutions to climate change.

A blockade in Copenhagen would help show that climate change is a social issue, linked to flows of capital; not a technical



problem that can only be solved by states. It would be an incredible step forward for us all.

Holly Creenaune, member of Friends of the Earth Sydney Collective, Australian Student Environment Network.
Tim Briedis, member of the Mutiny collective.
Clare Towler, member of Six Degrees, Friends of the Earth Brisbane Collective.
Emma Kefford, member of Climate Action Canberra, Australian Student Environment Network

You can contact us at
hollycreenaune@gmail.com,
tbriedis@hotmail.com,
clare.towler@gmail.com,
emmakef@hotmail.com

NT NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP CAMPAIGN GROWING STRONGER

July 15 will mark four years since the Howard Government announced plans for a federal radioactive waste dump in the NT.

The Rudd Government has continued to push forward with this plan, despite clearly promising to repeal the Howard Government laws that force the dump on the Territory, the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act.

When Resources Minister Martin Ferguson was allocated the radioactive waste portfolio, alarm bells sounded. Yet people hoped that pre election commitments and ALP Party policy would be enough to push even pro-nuclear Ferguson to act.

After all, no one can argue that the current NT plan involved an "open, transparent process that allows access to appeal mechanisms", as promised in the national ALP policy on radioactive waste management.

Traditional Owners, affected community members,

stakeholder organisations, the NT Government, national environment and health groups have all written time and time again to Mr Ferguson asking when the dump laws will be scrapped and the four site nominations revoked. The answers received are now simply cut and paste from one reply to the next.

Apparently the Minister "will not take piecemeal steps or decisions on radioactive waste management," which has involved taking no decisions and keeping a shut door and zipped lips on this issue for the past 18 months.

Marlene Bennett, a Traditional Owner from the Muckaty Land Trust, one of the targeted sites, summed it up giving evidence at a Senate Inquiry last year; "I would just like to question why Martin Ferguson is sitting on this issue like a hen trying to hatch an egg".

While the letters from Ferguson espouse that "no decisions will be taken without appropriate

stakeholder consultation," he was quoted on ABC on April 30 saying, "I'm not going to go around this country wasting taxpayers dollars having consultations about a potential site that has not been determined." He said that there would be proper consultation after a recommendation for an 'appropriate site' had been made.

With ALP policy and promises decaying significantly faster than radioactive waste, its no wonder communities are worried that the NT sites will still be targeted. More and more people are starting to speak out and demand action.

Traditional Owners and community members from the targeted sites have continued to travel around the country, speaking at public meetings and to media, to give the dump campaign a more national profile.

There has been increasing support from Trade Unions, which is crucial to building pressure on the Government in the lead up to the ALP National Conference at the end of July.

On June 4, the Australian



Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) Congress voted to support NT communities and workers fighting the proposed dump.

The ACTU motion, which passed uncontested:

1. Demands that the federal government immediately repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA 2005/06) in accordance with clear pre-election commitments.
2. Demands that all four NT sites currently under assessment for the federal radioactive dump be removed from consideration when the CRWMA legislation is overturned.
3. Calls on the federal government to initiate an independent and comprehensive public inquiry into radioactive waste

management in Australia.

4. Supports the actions of Traditional Owners, communities and trade unions that have refused to cooperate with implementation of the current dump policy.

The ACTU now joins a broad range of environment and public health groups,

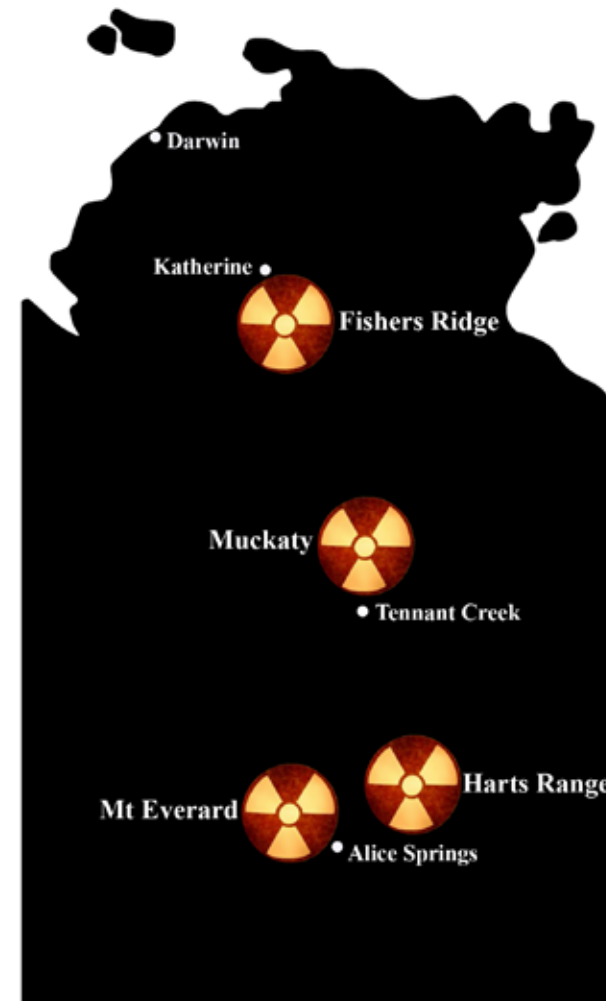
Indigenous organisations and local governments concerned by the federal government's lack of responsible and inclusive action on this issue.

On July 15 targeted communities and supporters will be calling on Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to immediately drop the NT waste dump plan and to drop Minister Ferguson from the radioactive waste portfolio.

The campaign opposing the waste dump in South Australia was a ten-year battle, but was won through community resilience and perseverance. People from targeted areas, living along potential transport routes and supporters nationally must maintain unwavering and vocal opposition to the NT dump plan to achieve the same result.

Contact:
Natalie Wasley,
08 8952 2011,
natwasley@alec.org.au.

www.beyondnuclearinitiative.wordpress.com



Out of Sight, Out of Mind, Out of Time.

Climate Change and the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: why no uranium, no nuclear power should be a central demand of the Australia Climate Action Movement.

A pro-proposal.

climate change. A global threat. Climate Action Campaign. A global campaign

consider global context:

What are Australia's trading relationships? Which economies depend on Australian mineral resources?

What is the political nature of those relationships beyond demand and supply?

What is the political strategy of the government in forming those relationships?

What is our political strategy and how will we win?

only PEOPLE Power In nity Renewable Energies Only.

'The solution to Climate Change is Green Clean Nuclear Power' say the corporate marketing companies and governments. Nuclear power is being proposed as the global 'solution' to climate change. Nuclear reactors are being commissioned at alarming rates worldwide.

Nuclear power is an inevitable disaster not a solution. It is dangerous, expensive, carbon intensive, toxic waste that will live beyond our civilisation... 500 000 years. more. never safe to store.

and uranium is another nity resource. Logic of in nity.

Whilst the threat of a domestic nuclear power industry isn't immediate, Australia plays a very significant role in the Global Nuclear Fuel Cycle. Australia has 31% of the world's known uranium deposits. Rudd and Ferguson want

to see Australia as:

'the world's largest miner and exporter of uranium'.

ALP abandoned its 'no new uranium mines' policy in April 2007. uranium mining sector expanding expanding expanding...

We will stop it. Preventing mines is easier than closing existing mines that support local economies, families... Prevention and transition our mission.

Australia is a signatory to the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership in which it commits to: Export uranium-raw material. Import highly toxic radioactive waste. Dump it on Country. Dump it on communities. Radioactive racism. Radioactive genocide.

A National centralised remote waste dump is proposed for the NT. Risk of becoming world's first high-level long term radioactive waste depository. Danger. Alert. We will stop it. We have

no other choice.

Nuclear power. Nuclear waste. Nuclear weapons.... a militaristic agenda at play. Be terri ed.

Australia. We. Global responsibility to STOP uranium mining and export. Global in uence.

Nuclear must be defeated if Renewables are to succeed it. Globally.

Furthermore, the nuclear cycle depends on fossil fuels. Expansion of uranium mining = expansion of coal mining. Coal makes nuclear possible. Nuclear demands coal. We will remove that demand.

Australia has a legacy of erce and successful nuclear-free movements.

Communities, students, unions, organisations, even Labor party. Foundation strong. Reconnect. Lets Resurrect!

Sun. Wind. Waves. You. Me. We. Infinity... strong and unstoppable

Comments, ideas, interest in fighting nuclear industry. Contact Liv 0401 955 405

Nanotechnology

What it is and how corporations and governments are using it

NANOTECHNOLOGY, THE MANIPULATION OF MATTER AT THE SCALE OF ATOMS AND MOLECULES, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BOTH AS THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND AS THE OPERATING SYSTEM FOR A NEW ERA OF CORPORATE AND STATE CONTROL.

Nanotechnology will fundamentally change the world we live in. It provides a powerful universal toolkit with which to shape and manipulate all matter, living and non-living. It has the potential to radically transform many sectors of industry, from pharmaceuticals to computers, from energy to chemicals, from agriculture to defence.

Billions of dollars a year is being invested in nanotechnology by the world's most powerful governments (led by the US, EU and Japan) and richest corporations (including IBM, Nestle, Pepsi Co, DuPont, Syngenta, Exxon, Pfizer, L'Oreal and Kraft). In 2006 the United States government spent 33% of its \$1.3 billion National Nanotechnology Initiative Budget on military applications.

Nanotechnology is already

happening. The race to secure patents at the nano-scale and to bring nano-products to the market has already started.

As with other revolutionary technologies, nanotechnology is set to have far reaching social and environmental impacts, from novel forms of nano-toxicity to economic disruption caused by nano-commodities, from ethical issues around nano-enabled human 'enhancement' to privacy issues around surveillance from nano-enabled sensors. As yet there is no regulatory framework anywhere in the world to deal adequately with nanotechnology.

This article is a brief introduction to the issues around nanotechnology, what it is now, what it may be in the future, how corporations and governments are using it, what is already on the market and what some of the areas of concern are for Friends of the Earth Australia.

What is nanotechnology?

When thinking about nanotechnology, it is useful to contrast it with another

'revolutionary technology', biotechnology. The 'bio' part of the biotechnology refers to what the technology is dealing with, i.e., bios or life, whereas with nanotechnology the 'nano' refers not to a thing but to the scale at which the technology takes place.

Put simply, nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter at a size so small that it is measured in nanometres (one billionth of a metre), the scale of atoms and molecules.

What are its potential applications? And why is the nano-scale interesting to corporations and governments?

The basis of nanotechnology is the ability to see, understand and accurately control and manipulate matter atom by atom and molecule by molecule. This ability unlocks a world of new possibilities where the tools and techniques of nanotechnology become a powerful universal toolkit with the potential to shape and manipulate all matter, living and non-living.

Nanotechnology opens up a whole new world of possible applications and products opportunities across all sectors of the economy: smaller and faster computers; drugs that permeate the body more effectively and can target specific cells; catalysts (used to

speed up chemical reactions, including oil-refining processes) can be made more reactive; sensors that can monitor everything with much greater precision; stronger, lighter materials (such as aeroplanes, submarines).

What is going on?

We are in the very early days of the commercial applications of nanotechnology. Nanoparticles are already incorporated into a wide range of products including household appliances, cosmetics, clothing and agricultural inputs. An example of a new nanoparticle is titanium dioxide. At the conventional 'macro' or bulk scale a particle of titanium dioxide is white and very good at reflecting UV light. It is widely used as the active ingredient in many sunscreens in Australia (see www.nano.foe.org.au/node/286 for a list of those that do not). However, if manipulated to form particles only 20nm wide, the properties of titanium dioxide change. It keeps its UV light scattering properties, but becomes transparent and provides the basis for making sunscreens invisible on the skin.

What products are already on the market in Australia?

THE FIRST NANOPRODUCTS TO BE RELEASED COMMERCIALY ARE TARGETED SQUARELY AT WEALTHY

CONSUMERS IN THE GLOBAL NORTH, INCLUDING:

- anti-wrinkle cosmetics and transparent sunscreens.
- stain, moisture and odour repellent clothing.
- superior display screens for computers, televisions and mobile phones
- premium coatings for luxury cars; and self-cleaning windows and bathrooms.

What are the problems?

TOXICITY

Just as the nano-scale has opened a whole world of potential commercial applications, it has also opened a new world of risk. Profit motivated corporations have rushed into commercialising the first generation of nanotechnology based products (nanoparticles) before adequate safety testing procedures, let alone regulations, are designed and in place to deal with them. Given that nanoproducts are already on the market, alarm bells should be ringing.

There is a growing body of scientific opinion which claims that a unique set of problems are associated with the toxicity of manufactured nanoparticles.

The concern is two fold: Firstly that by being reduced to the nano-scale materials become more reactive and

therefore potentially more toxic. Secondly our bodies have not evolved to recognise nanoparticles. Prior to their deliberate manufacture as nanoparticles, relatively few particles of this size existed in the world. As our result our bodies' protective filters, from the skin to the lining of the lungs to the blood/brain barrier, do not recognise and filter out nanoparticles. Nano-foreign bodies therefore have the ability to reach the places other foreign bodies can't reach with potentially dangerous effects.

Despite nanoparticle based products already being on the market, there are very few studies on the toxicology of nanoparticles. Those studies that have happened have shown problems, for example fish exposed to carbon nanoparticles quickly develop brain damage.

Even the traditionally pro-technology Royal Society - the world's oldest scientific institution - has called for the need for:

- Full safety assessment of all products that contain nano prior to market release;
- All nano ingredients to be labelled;
- Environmental release of nanomaterials to be avoided as

far as possible; and

- Factories and research laboratories to treat nanomaterials as if they were hazardous.

EXACERBATION OF EXISTING INEQUITIES

Friends of the Earth also sees that at a time when there is already massive economic and social disruptions, elite, resource intensive technologies which are being driven by profit and military priorities are not the solution. Social and environmental justice needs freedom from giant corporations and their toxic products. This has become even more necessary in the context of climate chaos and the end of cheap oil. Until communities takes back their right to participate in creating the future that they want to see, including socially and environmentally useful technologies, policies that negatively affect to most marginalised and poorest on the globe will continue.

In coming months Friends of the Earth's Nanotechnology Project plans to keep building public awareness of the new health, environmental and social challenges associated with nanotechnology, and political pressure for its precautionary management.

WE ARE A TINY TEAM AND WE NEED YOUR HELP! IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED OR EVEN JUST WOULD LIKE US TO COME OUT AND GIVE A TALK TO YOUR COLLECTIVE/ GROUP WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

PLEASE CONTACT
NANOTECHNOLOGY CAMPAIGNER
FIONA THIESSEN

(03) 9419 8700

0422 171 121

FIONA.THIESSEN@FOE.ORG.AU

OR DROP INTO THE FOE
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A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ORIGINAL
VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE CAN BE
FOUND AT
WWW.CORPORATEWATCH.ORG.UK BIG
THANKS TO THEM FOR THIS!

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S THREATENED WEST

The west mallee comprises over 4 million hectares of pristine wilderness in South Australia that in recent years has become vulnerable to mineral sands mining exploration. Within this area is one of the most unique ecosystems on the planet - the stunted mallee forest.

The conservation value of this area is on par with World Heritage sites such as the Wet Tropics of Northern Queensland and Tasmania's Wilderness. This area is culturally significant to the Kokatha Mula who use it for hunting, rockhole restoration, bush food and medicine collection. Many significant sites occur within the bounds of the conservation area but are now at risk due to mining.

"It seems the government only comes to talk to our indigenous communities when it comes to resource exploitation, and they sell it to us as economic development. There seems to be no support from the government if we want our future to go a different way," says Simon Prideaux of the Kokatha Mula Nation FWDAC.

Following many generations of Rockhole Maintenance, in 2005 Kokatha Mula Nation began working with 'greenies' and running Rockhole Recovery trips to maintain the ecological health and cultural value of significant sites in the West Mallee. The union has also successfully blockaded bulldozers from entering into the area. In 2007 well known Aunty Sue Coleman Haseldine was awarded for her achievements in cultural and environmental conservation by winning the prestigious SA Natural Resource Management Premiers Award. Aunty Sue believes "It is a place for everyone to experience nature in its pure form."

However recent mining

activities have been increasing. On the past two rockhole recovery trips participants have documented desecration of significant sites by heavy machinery. Iluka Resources is the major company involved in the mining exploration in the West Mallee. Iluka are currently awaiting final approval for their proposed Jacinth/Ambrosia Zircon mine, 150km nth of Ceduna. The open cut mine will extract Zircon, commonly used in ceramics. Aside from concern over water use and land clearing many locals are worried that "minerals recovered during mineral sands mining have trace amounts of uranium and thorium" (Pg 16 Jacinth/Ambrosia EIS), which are both radioactive materials.

Get involved with the West Mallee Protection group to work with community to protect this ancient wonderland. Check it out at www.kokathamula.auspics.org or email: westmallee@gmail.com, and/or come on a Rockhole trip. Watch out for the travelling Ngaligu Munda Exhibition at SoS in Melbourne and later in the year in Brisbane.

Caleb Lilley (ECOS Adelaide Uni) &
Cat Beaton (FOE Melbourne)
Members of West Mallee Protection
Collective



RADIOACTIVE EXPOSURE TOUR 2009

A REFLECTION

By Ania

As a student living in Perth, I found myself remarkably lucky to have made it out to the South Australian desert for ten days in May on the Friends of the Earth Radioactive Exposure Tour. The radtour is a unique experience allowing people interested in learning about the nuclear industry to go out on country to see uranium mines and to meet people directly affected by the nuclear industry past and present.

Tackling the nuclear industry can be an overwhelming experience, mostly because there is no end to the amount of information on the issue; from uranium mining, nuclear reactors, waste issues, to nuclear proliferation, it's easy to get lost in the information. And there's also the added factor of the multi-million dollar mining companies we're fighting, not to mention the governments siding with them.

The big picture can be rather scary, but actually stepping out onto uranium mines,

onto country, and making connections with people who have for years been directly affected by these mining operations makes it easier to understand. It's no longer some abstract mine in some landscape you can't imagine, affecting some people you've never met before; these are real people with the real deal on their doorstep.

That abstract image of a mine in the back of your head becomes the physical site of the ugly and protruding Olympic Dam uranium/copper mine, or the hundreds of white pipes sticking out of the ground at Beverley uranium mine where they practice in-situ leach uranium mining. Those people become real when you hear the stories of Arabunna Elder Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Maralinga veteran Avon Hudson and Adnyamathanha custodian Jillian Marsh. Their personal stories, dating decades back, make the issues more human, more accessible.

When BHP Billiton took us on

a tour of Olympic Dam - which takes 35 million litres of water daily from the Great Artesian Basin for free - it was hard to believe some of the things they had to say. According to the BHP employee giving the tour, the mine had less of an environmental impact than pastoralism would have, and the nuclear industry was alleviating people from poverty by providing poor countries with power. It was difficult not to get hostile and emotional hearing that somewhat bent rationale for the existence of such an unsound industry. There was an answer to every one of our questions and the tour bus was filled with suffocating negative energy, lie after lie.

For me, Heathgate Resources' Beverley mine was even harder to stomach because of the propaganda which included giant placards covering an entire wall concerning their ongoing relationship with Aboriginal communities in the area and showing pictures of Aboriginal kids smiling. When in fact, in May 2000, local Aboriginal communities were at the gates of Beverley protesting and were subsequently put in a shipment container and capsicum sprayed by the SA police. An 11-year-old local Adnyamathanha girl was capsicum sprayed.

BHP Billiton really seemed to believe what they were saying, they were proud of what they were doing. In comparison, the PR chump at Heathgate Resources was a blundering boy behind a company t-shirt. He didn't answer questions properly, referring mostly to reports he hadn't seemed to have read, and it felt like he had something to hide. When asked about the shipping container episode, he refused to comment.

Both companies claimed to have excellent relations with Aboriginal communities, but after listening to Jillian and Uncle Kevin talk, it seemed more like mining companies were deliberately creating an ongoing war of attrition amongst Aboriginal communities who are not consulted properly, and are instead split over whether to take a mining company's money. If resources are needed in a remote community, people living there shouldn't have to have a uranium mine (or a waste dump for that matter) in order to have health care and infrastructure. These are basic human rights and Aboriginal communities shouldn't have to settle on corporate sponsorship and give up land rights for health and housing.

Aside from the heavy nature

of what we were doing, life on tour was a lot of fun. As a group of 40 people with a range of ages, levels of experience, and approaches to the issue, it was what some called a social experiment. It was particularly lovely having a few children on the tour to emphasise the importance of the issues. Each night a different group helped set up dinner and campfires, and slowly the swags would surround the fires and the stars would come out at full capacity. Music was around all the time, singing tunes on the bus, off the bus, while the bus was bogged, while tyres were flat, while the bus wouldn't start, while falling ...

And while we were out in the desert it was interesting to see the newspapers filling with related stories; with BHP announcing its proposal to the federal government for a uranium mine at Yeelirrie in WA, followed by the nuclear bomb test in North Korea. While North Korea gets a slap on the wrists from the UN, BHP in WA gets a tidal wave of anti-nuclear groups on its ass. This spells out to me that it's better to stop them before the mines get going, because the safeguards against nuclear proliferation aren't safe, and while they're not we shouldn't be touching uranium (amongst other reasons to leave it in the

ground).

Seeing such amazing country, meeting so many beautiful people and seeing the mines for what they are was an inspiring experience, and thanks to this opportunity I feel a lot more equipped to do whatever I can to make sure uranium stays where it belongs - in the ground.

If you'd like to register interest in coming on the April-May 2010 radtour, contact jim.green@foe.org.au.

See inset for photographs.



LAKE COWAL: A FARMERS PERSPECTIVE

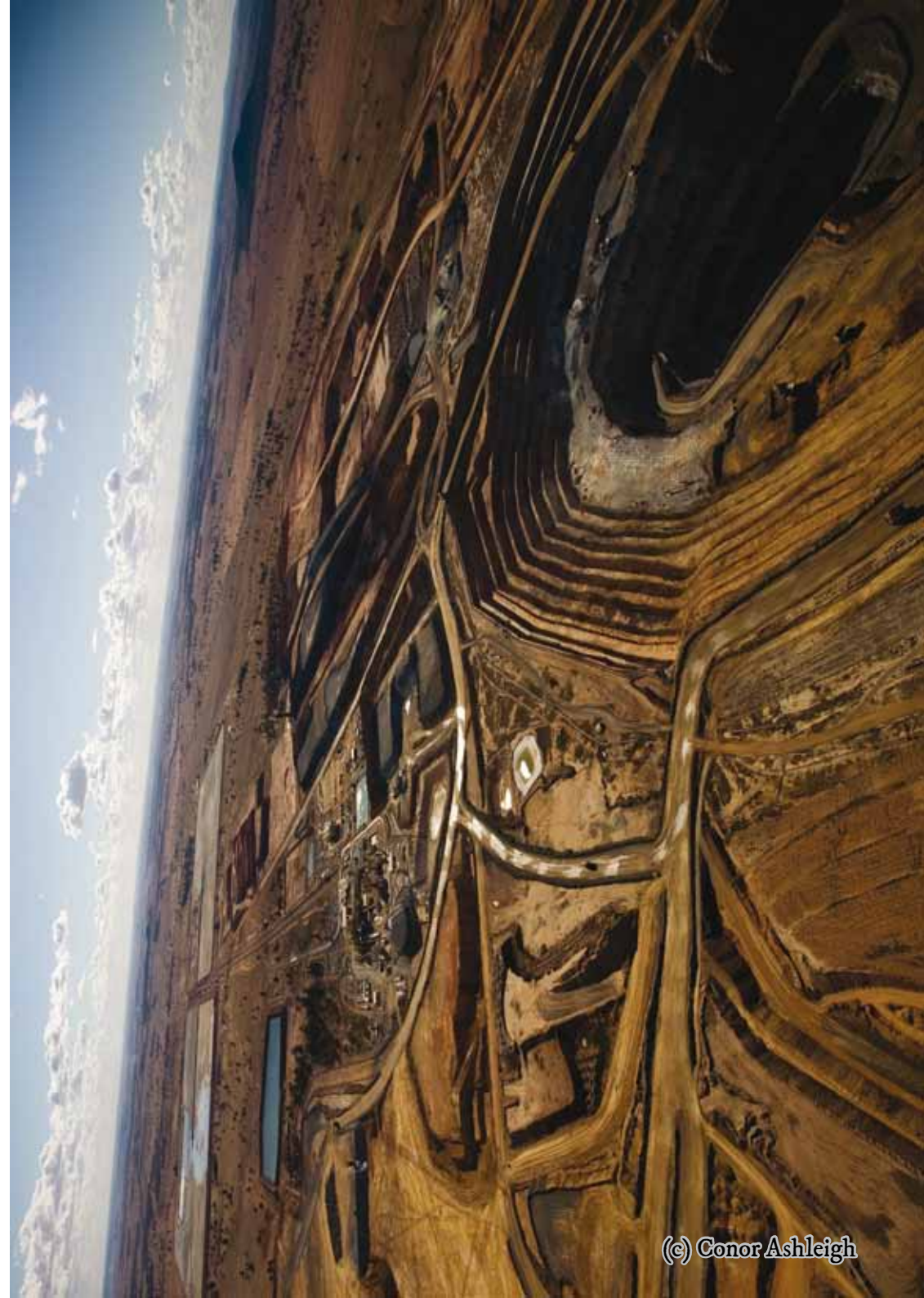
LAKE COWAL, THE “SACRED HEARTLAND OF THE WIRADJURI NATION” IS LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL WESTERN NSW REGION OF THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN. BARRICK GOLD HAS BEEN OPEN CUT MINING THE LAKE FOR GOLD SINCE 2006, THOUGH THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST IT HAS BEEN RUNNING SINCE THE 1990S. IT IS DIRECTLY OPPOSED BY TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE WIRADJURI NATION AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS. ABORIGINAL ARTEFACTS THAT WERE FOUND ON THE SITE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED OR KEPT BY BARRICK GOLD. 3650 MEGALITRES OF WATER A YEARS IS USED IN THE MINE, DESPITE THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS. CYANIDE LEACHING IS USED TO EXTRACT THE GOLD, WHICH IS KEPT IN A TAILINGS DAM AND CAN EVENTUALLY SEEP INTO THE SOIL AND WATER SYSTEM. A CONVERGENCE FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS HELD IN THE APRIL LONG WEEKEND.

WE SPOKE WITH CONOR, A PHOTOJOURNALIST WHO WAS AT THE CONVERGENCE, WHO ALSO SPOKE TO FARMERS IN THE REGION.

PHOTOGRAPHS COPYRIGHT OF CONOR ASHLEIGH.

Conor: I spent time with a farmer whose land backs on to the Lake Cowal gold mine, he's a second generation farmer... I saw lots different examples of the effect of drought. He didn't particularly talk about the mine and the lack of water [Barrick Gold has been granted water licenses to pump 17 megalitres a day of groundwater a year from embargoed areas, where farm and domestic usage is restricted], we did discuss that, and his view along with that of the other farmers I spent time with is that the mine is paying a premium for the water they are using. However we did talk about the general drought... if it continues for another two years he's going to have to sell up... he said “this land is dead, I'm not sure how much longer I can last out here”.

There is clearly tension then between the farmers needing the mine for work and the environmental impacts - the risk of cyanide leaching from the tailings dams into drinking water, migratory birds being poisoned by the mine, and the stealing and destruction of Aboriginal land and artefacts. Barrick refuses to release an inventory of collected artefacts, or tell Traditional Owners what has happened to scar trees that have been removed.



So it seems like there is a conflict and tension between the farmers really needing rain, but then the whole issue with the tailings dam overflowing...

C: I went to the Bircher Pub... the little town just outside Lake Cowal... There was about ten of the local farmers... I said "what do you think would happen in a flood? And I said you know look at those tailings pits, it's only compact earth. You know, it's only clay, and their thing was, "the tailings dam will never flood". And I said "but you know it's on the lake bed, you can see where it runs through the lake bed." And he said it will never flood. And I said "Come on Howie", his name's Howard, "Come on Howie, you can't tell me this will never flood". And he said "hey, I saw them come out here with the bulldozers, you know, that will never flood"... So there wasn't even a process of talking about what would happen in the event of a flood.

C: The mine is meant to be finishing in a couple of years... I think the current lease runs out in 2012 and the mine is currently appealing to have that extended by another 9 years. And I asked them how that would impact long term, how's it going to impact on you guys if the mine does close down? And his response was "well, we're gonna lose all the young fellas"... He seemed to see it as a negative thing that it would be closing down.

C: I said "what do you think about the mine?" and he said "I don't like the mine any more than any greenie out there, but the reason I support it and the reason other farmers I know support it is because it allows farmers who are trying to survive on their land to work in the mine, make money which is enough for them to buy feed for their cattle, buy enough pesticides and fertilizers". And he said the only reason his two sons were still in the area... is 'cause they are able to work in the mine for three months a year... so in a way the mine is a cash crop... So for him it's more of a social reason.

HOWARD, THE FARMER CONOR SPOKE TO, WAS AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN AND THE INDIGENOUS CAMPAIGN, AND KNEW AND RESPECTED UNCLE CHAPPY, BUT WAS AT THE SAME TIME ALSO FACED WITH THE REALITY OF NEEDING TO MAKE A LIVING. THE DEMAND FOR WORKERS IS WHAT HE PERCEIVED AS SUSTAINING THE COMMUNITY. CAMPAIGNERS AGAINST THE GOLDMINE OPPOSE BOTH THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND SOVEREIGNTY ABUSES OF BARRICK GOLD BOTH AT LAKE COWAL AND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LAKE COWAL CAMPAIGN, GO TO SAVELAKECOWAL.ORG.



(c) Conor Ashleigh



(c) Conor Ashleigh

Seeing Through the Empire's New Clothes: Extending Strategies For Anticapitalist Struggle Against The Current Crisis [conference]

Our political and economic context is defined by a state of crisis.

The stories we are usually told about the crisis place it beyond our control – it is intricate hedge funds and sub-prime mortgages, it is a lack of regulation, it is greedy bankers, it is extreme capitalism. The 'solutions' that governments and the media are pushing, such as stimulus packages and false promises of 'saving jobs', remain in a capitalist logic.

We need something more. This could include struggles, on our own terms, against unemployment and increased work rates, racism, and the escalation of sexualised and gendered divisions of labour. We must place the current crisis within the ongoing struggles of people across the planet.



This means asking questions. *What are the origins of the crisis? How is it affecting workers? What is the relationship between the current crisis and earlier times of working class resistance? What is the capacity for resistance and solidarity now? How are they being organised, and how can they be strengthened?*

The only real crisis that capitalism faces is the refusal and resistance of ordinary people, in our daily lives.

This conference aims to critique the current wave of responses to

capitalism's current predicament. It is an opportunity to collectively analyse its 'new clothes'. As ordinary people ourselves, it is a chance to strategise together for solidarity with emerging and ongoing struggles for workers autonomy and control, peoples' freedom of movement, sustainability, sovereignty and self determination.

www.crisisconference2009.wordpress.com

10am-5.30pm September 12-13@ the Twenty10 space
45 Bedford St, Newtown.

Contact us: crisisconference2009@gmail.com

BST: BREATHING SERVICES TAX

privatising the air

Is it just me, or is the idea of putting a "price on carbon" to stop climate change as stupid as it sounds? Just think about water - it's something that we all human beings need to survive, but we all have to pay for it. It's hard to find any evidence that a "price on water" has prevented the pollution of the world's fresh water, but it has hurt the world's poor while having almost no impact on the transnational corporations that are the biggest water vandals. Putting a price on carbon to stop climate change seems to make as much sense as charging people to breathe.

For some reason, movements against carbon trading are seen as "radical". It's hard to see why. At the moment, the atmosphere is public, so privatising the atmosphere would be a radical change. It's an idea that hasn't been around for very long and isn't actually that popular. The idea was designed by heavy polluters to stall action on climate change, not to speed it up. The global campaign against carbon trading is a campaign to keep things as they are - the atmosphere

belongs to everybody, and the right to destroy it should not be sold to companies like Rio Tinto and BHP.

People are resistant to action on climate change because they see it as a "war against ourselves" that is going to make their lives more expensive and make the cost of petrol go up. The villain in the climate change debate is no longer the greedy multinational oil company but the middle-class suburban mother of three who drives an SUV. The world is full of well-meaning people and organisations who say things like "it's all very well to blame corporations, but we're the ones who consume their products and so we are the ones to blame."

Statements like this are not only based on faulty assumptions about the way the economy works, but they are also incredibly unhelpful because they erode the public support for action on climate change, which should be based on our rights to life, a safe climate and collective control of our own environments.

A good example of this came from a conversation I recently had with my arresting officer at a climate change action at Tomago Aluminium. She said "I understand what you're trying to do, but I think there are other points of view. Tackling climate change is going to make life more expensive." It was a bizarre statement to make, because we were protesting against billions of dollars of public money being given to multinational companies like Rio Tinto in free permits to pollute. Once I explained to her that I agreed that carbon pricing was stupid because ordinary people were being asked to pay for a problem we didn't create, she changed her point of view.

The main objection of most people I meet opposed to action on climate change is



the cost impact that reducing emissions will have on their lives. A large religious charity that looks after poorer people in Australia (the Brotherhood of St. Laurence) joins the fossil fuel lobby in being one of the most visible opponents of action on climate change. Politicians make bizarre claims that we should burn even more coal so that we have the money to spend on climate change, as if we can buy a new earth, or buy cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

People who think that ordinary people are to blame for climate change should take a trip to the Upper Hunter, or to any other coal-affected community in Australia, where people complain of heavy metal poisoning, intellectual disabilities in children, job losses from the growing coal monopoly and a loss of community life. Or they should go to Bagua in Peru, where dozens of Indigenous people have been shot for protecting their ancestral lands from destruction by multinational logging and mining companies. If local or Indigenous people were allowed to choose whether or not to destroy land to make way for mining, there would be no coal mines.

Carbon pricing comes from the idea that environmental problems are caused by

"consumerism". If we bought less crap, so the argument goes, we wouldn't have as many problems. If there was a price on carbon, people would be less likely to cause climate change with their consumption.

The problem with this argument is that it isn't consumers who make the decisions about the economy. McDonald's wasn't invented because a group of consumers had a craving for Big Macs. The demand for Big Macs is pushed by McDonald's, not driven by consumers. They aren't building more McDonald's because they're so popular, but because McDonald's wants to expand their market.

When people consume electricity, they can't be blamed for the fact that it comes from coal. It's not as if there is a big push from consumers to make electricity in the most polluting way possible. They just want electricity, green or black.

Carbon trading is already having horrible effects on the world's poor, particularly on Indigenous people. In many situations it is actually leading to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, and people are making millions through speculating on the price of

carbon or cheating the system. A great analysis of carbon trading and its impact on the Global South can be read at http://www.dhf.uu.se/pdf/filer/DD2006_48_carbon_trading/carbon_trading_web.pdf.

All of this leads us to the question - if we don't have a carbon price, then how are we going to stop climate change? There are two answers to that question. The first is that carbon trading is slowing down action on climate change, not speeding it up. A carbon price makes it cheaper to invest in more efficient coal burning than in renewable energy, whose costs are mostly upfront and which becomes viable over decades, not years. More efficient burning also means that overall production and emissions rise (according to the Jevon's Paradox).

Carbon pricing means that public money is being poured into multinational mining companies like never before. It also deludes the public into thinking that action is being taken on climate change, when in fact companies are just being paid to pollute less than they otherwise would have, and we are being locked into unsustainable practices.

The other response is that there is not one "big picture"

response to climate change. Climate change is caused by a whole lot of different corporate practices, including mining and burning coal for electricity, expansion in the aviation industry, making cement, clearing land for cattle and building roads. The solutions are things like renewable energy, local food production and public transport - all things that people have been campaigning on for decades. Climate change can be solved by letting communities have what they want instead of forcing mines and industries on them.

If the idea of a "carbon price" is defeated and we stop seeing ordinary people as the enemy, the climate movement can only grow bigger and maybe we can stop climate change. Perhaps we need to stop seeing ourselves as one "climate movement" and instead a bunch of movements against mining, for Indigenous land rights, for public transport and for food rights united by the common threat of climate change.

If we do end up with a global carbon price, there will probably be so much resistance to action on climate change (both from middle-class Western consumers and from people suffering from

trading schemes in the Global South) that we will never be able to avoid all the tipping points into climate chaos. But the climate belongs to all of us and needs to be protected.

The idealist in me says that if we do stop climate change based on environmental rights, maybe people will also start asking themselves why we pay for water and food, which comes from an earth we all share and which isn't used to being divided and traded by greedy bastards.

Food Co-Op Action In Cassie

Some of you may have read in a 'germinate' about 3 or 4 years ago about grand plans to build a sustainability centre and food co-op at the University Tasmania in Hobart, to make it easier for lower income people to access to ethical and environmentally-responsible food, and all the other good things that food co-ops and sustainability centres bring.

So, 4 years and lots of hard work later, I thought I should inform germinate readers that we are seeing those grand plans coming to fruition under the name of Source community Wholefoods.

The centre is located on a small parcel of university land that was previously covered in introduced trees, infested with jack jumpers and unused. The university will lease us this land at a nominal rate. In 2007 we were successful in receiving a large grant from the Tasmanian community fund to construct a sustainably designed straw and earth building to house the food co-op. This was completed in February this year (2009). It is a 6X9m structure, built with locally-milled macrocarpa timber (an introduced weed),

straw and earth from the site. We used an old earth render recipe which involved using fermented fruit juices to strengthen the render. This meant that we didn't need to use any concrete. We have received another grant to fit out this building as a shop, which will be completed later this year. We also constructed a large-scale composting center, which receives waste from one of the uni's food outlets (volunteers collect and empty compost bins every day) and a large wood-fired pizza oven to be used for fundraisers, working bees and community events. A community garden based on permaculture design principals has been designed for the site and in February this year we started building the raised garden beds on the site. Several garden beds will be rented out to students to grow their own vegetables, whilst some beds will be used to grow 'cash crops' such as garlic to sell in the co-op and raise funds for the centre. This winter we hope to establish a community orchard on the site and build a herb spiral in spring.



So, although it has been 4 long years of hard work and there is still plenty obstacles to negotiate before we can open up shop, it has been very rewarding seeing our project happen. Source is an entirely volunteer-driven initiative. Several dedicated people have volunteered countless hours doing all the boring tasks such as going to meetings, writing grant applications, preparing our constitution, negotiating a lease with the university, trying to get a grey-water system approved, plus many other tasks! We've also had some fun hands-on working bees building the strawbale walls, the pizza oven and the garden beds. Overall, it has been great to be involved in such a positive, solutions-oriented and community-based project, and I can really see Source becoming a vibrant and exciting place in Hobart.



for students and the wider community. As well as the food co-op and community centre we also hope to host courses in sustainable food production and preparation and other important skills to increase the sustainability and resilience of our urban environments.

I also think this project also ties into the theme of this year's SOS "doing it for yourself". When a bunch of us dreamed up this idea, most of us had no experience in any of the tasks involved in getting this project happening. Running meetings, writing grant applications, building strawbale buildings, managing our finances and preparing greywater design, for example, have all involved learning as we go, and contacting people in the community who could help us. What has really driven this project along is a belief in what we are doing and a lot of dedication and hard work. So don't let the excuse 'but I don't know how to do it' stop you either!

For more information about the project, please email source.wholefoods@gmail.com and come for a visit if you are ever in town!

Jenny Calder
Secretary and co-founder
Source community wholefoods

THE SPOONING OF THE STATE

NON-VIOLENCE RHETORIC AND THE STATE ARE SPOONING: THEY ARE MEETING AT A POINT BUT NEITHER ARE PUSHING. IT'S QUITE A COSY RELATIONSHIP COVERED BY A DOONA OF MIDDLECLASS PRIVILEGE. BUT IN THE FACE OF VIOLENT SYSTEMIC MASS EXTINCTIONS AND GENOCIDE, OCCUPATIONS OF POLITICIAN'S OFFICES AND PACIFIST PROTESTS SEEM A LITTLE LACKLUSTRE.

I was at an occupation of my local member's office today. The occupation was to draw attention to the new carbon trading system the government is going to implement, to show how its purpose is to let big polluters of the hook. There was probably around 25 people there, and we had many encouraging horn honks from passing cars and buses. The local TV channel had also shown up. Unfortunately, the member's office was closed. Not due to our lack of planning, but due to them not telling us (in our numerous liaisons) the local show demanded greater attention. A few people spoke anyway, and we resolved to return on Monday when the office was open. But I wondered, why did we think

that they would listen to us at all?

I wondered why we put so much of our energy into these things. Maybe it's just been the activism that I've been involved in that has lacked a long term strategy, but efforts like office occupations seem ineffective and disempowering. Are we so unimaginative? Do we do these things because it is safe and easy? Because we won't get in much trouble?

We know that huge demonstrations have failed to bring the agenda of the state to a halt. The Iraq war saw 150 000 people take to the streets in Melbourne alone, with thousands and thousands more taking to the streets in other cities. Hundreds of thousands more in other nations. The people of Iraq were still slaughtered for access to oil.

Do we believe that having invested so much into gaining control of these sources of energy and capitalist power, turning up to our local ALP member's office, grilling them, and writing on their wall is going to change this?

We need to abandon the idea that the state is our friend, even some of the time, and remind ourselves of this. For me it can be easy to forget. Remember it is not a coincidence that only some (read: white, straight, middle and upper class) people get to think the state is their friend. Our local members, despite living in Newcastle and being quite accessible compared with K. Rudd or other business elites, DO NOT CARE ABOUT US. They do not care about the environment. They do not care about children or animals or you and me. They do not care about anything, except their commitment to destruction and economic growth.

If you doubt that the people that make up the capitalist project are so uncaring and committed to death, think on this: In order to secure access to this growth, via Iraq's oil, the Axis of Good used (in addition to conventional weapons) irregular weapons such as cluster bombs, napalm and depleted uranium shells¹. Cluster bombs are dropped from the air and contain hundred or even thousands of bomblets, each of which split into hundreds of pieces of shrapnel. 5% to 30% of bomblets fail to ignite and will sit as landmines for many years, typically exploding

immediately when touched.

Depleted uranium (DU) tipped shells are a great disposal method as well as a great way to contribute to growth - DU is what's left from natural uranium after it has been enriched to produce fuel for nuclear reactors. DU tipped shells easily penetrate steel, 70% of which then is vaporised into dust which travels for many miles. Usage of DU in the First Gulf War has since seen leukemias and cancers rise in some locales as much as 700 percent². Birth defects have also been rampant. At the Basrah Maternity and Children's Hospital one writer was guided past photographs of children "born without eyes, without brains. Another had arrived in the world with only half a head, nothing above the eyes... [and another photo showed] a little girl born with her brain outside her skull." With a half-life of 4.5 billion years, DU will kill forever.

Our local members and all elements of capitalism will not halt the atrocities they commit, as they rely on them as a source of power. In light of this the kind of non-violent protest that characterises environmental and anti-capitalist organising seems a little misplaced, if not downright insane. It is very

comforting for the politicians and CEOs to know that most activists have a blanket and unwavering commitment to a non-violent response. That we won't sacrifice moral points to defend what needs defending if it requires a certain amount of risk or blood or effort or uncomfortableness. It is good for them to know that they have the monopoly on violence. Every time we refrain from defending ourselves, our and others' communities in any meaningful way we legitimise this monopoly. Defence will require violence.

But violence, some will say, will alienate the mainstream, when at this crucial time we need to be broadening the movement to include as many people as possible. I say we need to abandon the mainstream. Better yet we need to abandon the idea of the mainstream. We need to instead appeal to what is relevant in people's lives. If we want to fatally disable a power station because its use is going to raise the sea over some of Newcastle, then we say that. If they don't get it, then we need not worry too much. We are not fighting for some fictional and doctored legitimacy granted to us by the press (press being CEOs, with their own economic interests). In countries like Bangladesh and

India rising sea levels and lack of economic power will displace and kill millions. What we are fighting for is the survival of these people. Five years ago it was reported 1 in 10 land species will become extinct by 2050. We are fighting to keep species loss at this number and no greater.

One reason perhaps for our reticence to make more than symbolic attacks on capitalism is that we know the capitalist state punishes threats to its hegemony on life and on way of life. We see this in the genocide of Aboriginal nations, and the war against the Zapatistas and countless other examples. But why should it be the most impoverished that will go to gaol, that will be murdered? It is a privilege to have the choice to not fight back, and to not be already affected by climate change or oppressed by capitalism. The middle class of Australia can move the physicalness of climate change from their lives, but most of the world doesn't have that choice. Their choice is not whether they can be a green consumer; their choice is around where can they move their family where they won't be affected.

We also have another choice. A choice between blanket non-violence towards the state

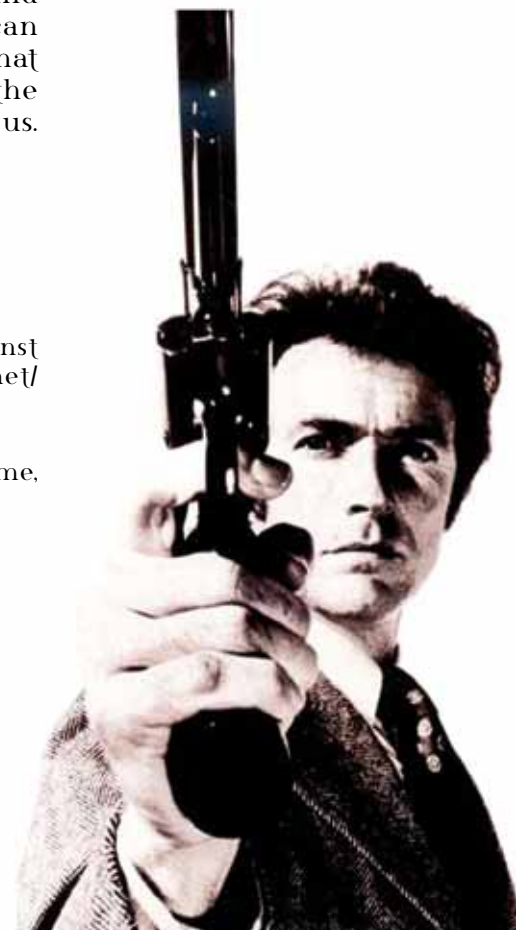
(because this often means allowing state violence) or between a consideration of all tactics. We need to consider this when supporting climate refugees without food and shelter, when faced with sustaining ourselves and growing food in a changing and degraded ecosystem, and when we haven't even begun to prepare for all this. We can't expect the state to care for us.

This civilisation will crash, and if it's with our help, this can only be a good thing. What happens next is not up to the government. It is up to us. Bring on the apocalypse!

BY VIN DIESEL

¹ Irregular Weapons Used Against Iraq <http://www.zmag.org/znet/viewArticle/10635>

² Jensen, Derrick (2006), Endgame, Vol. 1, p63.



FOR EVERY EVICTION A THOUSAND NEW SQUATS! CHARLIE'S GALLY: THE STORY OF A PERTH SQUAT

Come Party!

For the last six weeks we have been squatting and building a social centre. Our dreams for this space were large, but our capacity to realise those dreams was not. Squatting has long disappeared from the radical scene in Perth. Before we started this project we were told it was impossible. Though we didn't achieve all we wanted to, we managed to change people's perception of possibilities.

Six weeks ago we squatted a beautiful old house on Charle's St, North Perth.



After having long weeks of discussion about the name of our new social centre, we decided to call it Charlies Gally after the Whydah Gally. We wanted to use this space to provide a house for those who needed shelter, a space for activist organising, a radical library and free shop, a bike workshop, a permaculture garden, rad community building events, rad movie nights, food not bombs, and more stuff. We wanted to create an anti-authoritarian and capitalist free space. We also wanted a safer space for everyone, where even activists could be called out on their oppressive behaviours. As a community we tried to take responsibility for our problems.

Half of our projects made it out off the white board. We never had a conflict big enough to test our rad resolution processes, but we still built a strong and supportive, if small, community. We also met a bunch of new people. For many people who were

getting involved this was the first time they heard of the concept of political squatting. We also made some mistakes, we think that we didn't make it as public as possible so we failed to gain more support and involvement from other people. This is something we want to fix next time. We also didn't have enough people sleeping there; we could've helped more people who needed shelter.

For those short six weeks we interrupted the flow of capitalism, we challenged the right

to private property, we created a temporary autonomous zone and we gained experience on what squatting in Perth is like. Though it's only been six weeks, the impact on ourselves and our friends will last our lifetimes and the impact in the Perth rad community has been to demonstrate that the impossible is possible. What else do you think is impossible that could be proven possible tomorrow?

After this experience we only have one thing to say, "for every eviction a thousand new squats!" We'll be back and next time and it will be bigger, longer and more effective.



COAL: THE DRUG OF THE NATION, RELEASING EMISSIONS AND CAUSING DEGLACIATION

Resistance to the coal industry in the Hunter Region

Newcastle is the largest coal port in the world; of 170 million tonnes of coal produced annually in NSW, 100 million are exported through Newcastle's coal loaders. As if this wasn't enough, construction on a third coal loader and expansion of existing loaders is set to more than double this amount to correspond with an expansion in mining throughout the region. The resulting emissions will be three times greater than all of NSW's domestic greenhouse gas emissions, eclipsing any other source of greenhouse gases in the state.

The only rationale behind this expansion is greed; let's try to make as much money as possible from Coal before it becomes politically unacceptable. Fuelled by massive demand from other nations, the logic is no different to that of arms dealers; if we don't sell it to them, someone else will. The flimsiness of this argument is shown by one of the basic tenets of economics; if you decrease supply prices will go up. An increase in the price of coal would encourage investment in alternative energy sources worldwide, as it becomes increasingly economically and politically untenable to use.

The expansion of the coal export terminals is just the tail-end of a major project in the Hunter to open up the coal chain; they are mining more coal then they can load into ships and they are doing everything they can to increase the flow of this polluting fuel. This delay is clearly visible to Novocastrians, we just have to visit the coastline to see the massive crowd of ships waiting to be loaded, with the queue sometimes reaching upwards of 60 ships. This delay can cost exporters up to a Million dollars a day in fees charged to coal companies by ship-owners. It is obvious then that the expansion of these facilities will only give coal exporters greater profit margins and hence more incentive to continue ripping up regional NSW in order to fuel the world's fossil fuel addiction.

COAL
IS REALLY
...CRAP



This is incredibly empowering for direct action; by delaying coal exports we can directly hit the back pockets of the companies that are responsible for exporting climate chaos. Every minute, hour, or day that they aren't shipping coal is costing them money, and also delaying the combustion of the coal and emissions release. Every day that they aren't shipping coal means more time for the planet.

It is in this spirit that direct resistance to the coal export industry has been occurring for years in the Hunter region. Since 2005 local grassroots activist group Rising Tide has been initiating creative direct actions against the coal industry, including kayak blockades of Newcastle Harbour, walk-ons at the site of the new coal-loader, and mall-theatre at the local temple of consumption. The blockades of the harbor have been growing year by year; in November 2007 a mass of kayakers nearly blocked the one coal ship that actually tried to leave the harbor, out of six scheduled for the day. In March 2009 hundreds of kayakers, several catamarans and various other vessels spent a glorious day on the water; having learnt their lesson previously, the port corporation stopped coal ship movements for the day. This was a clear response to the display of people power gathered in the harbor. Other recent actions have included a lock-on at the Tomago Aluminium smelter to protest the federal government's



decision to give heavily polluting industries 90% of their carbon credits for free; and a mini-fleet to delay dredging at the site of the third coal loader. In a sign of the cynicism and hypocrisy of the coal industry, it was recently revealed that the low-lying site of the new third coal loader in Newcastle has been built up by three metres in order to cope with projected storm surges and sea level rises. How about don't export the coal, don't build up the island (which by-the-by included filling in a marsh that was habitat to the endangered green and golden bell frog), and maybe the effects won't be as bad.

The impacts of mining are widespread in the Hunter. Although open-cut mining is banned in the local government area of Lake Macquarie, mining

companies are still trying to slip mines through loopholes in the legislation. A proposed open cut auger mine by Centennial coal is less than a kilometre from residential areas of Awaba, Blackalls Park, and Fassifern. Auger-mining results in massive pits at the head of the mine which destroy the soil structure and result in loose dust being deposited in the surrounding area, as well as altering groundwater flows. Despite this Auger-mines are not covered by the open-cut ban and so this classification is a sneaky way around the state legislation. This project is being opposed by a range of community groups from surrounding areas. Centennial representatives were surprised by a showing of over 200 people at their first 'community consultation' (read: Here's what we're doing, got a problem with that?) meeting. There is continuing resistance with an ongoing lobbying campaign, media interest, coalition building amongst local residents, and potential legal action with the help of the Environmental Defenders Office.

A little bit further around the shores of Lake Macquarie lies Eraring power station. The NSW government has recently committed to double the generating capacity of this power plant, creating emissions equivalent to a whole new power plant. This power station was the site of many climate protests and

direct actions last year, and may be a site of further resistance in light of this development.

Many other mines across the mines across the Hunter are being quietly expanded or constructed. Haven't heard much about Anvil Hill lately? It's probably because it's cynically been renamed 'Mangoola' with early site preparations beginning this year. The mining industry is also moving outwards; as they exhaust their social capital and despoil the remaining coal fields of the Hunter, they are beginning to explore the fertile farmlands of the Liverpool plains.

Extensive groundwater research over ten years conducted by the University of New South Wales concluded that coal-mining in the area will adversely impact groundwater flows and aquifers that are essential to farming in the area. Given that this is such an important food bowl for NSW it seems ridiculous that its water supply would be jeopardized, especially given the unpredictable effects climate change will have on agriculture. The Caroon Coal Action Group has blockaded exploration by BHP at one site, as well as held hundreds-strong rallies outside state parliament and mining conferences in Gunnedah. Comprised mostly of farmers, members of the CCAG are disgusted at the lack of consultation inherent in the mining industry, as well as the

potential despoliation and seizure of their homes and farms.

In response to the insanity of continuing to pursue a coal economy, the inaugural camp for climate action was held in Newcastle in 2008. Hundreds of participants camped out at Wickham Park for a week to learn about sustainable living, grassroots action and collective organizing before a day of direct action at the Port Waratah Coal Service loaders at Carrington. This awe-inspiring rally saw a thousand people from all walks of life gather at Islington park before setting off for the coal loaders at Carrington. Once there a carnival-esque atmosphere prevailed, with troupes of clowns, radical cheerleaders and speakers entertaining the crowds. Throughout the day, individuals and small groups of concerned citizens made their way across the fence and onto a loaded coal train that had been stopped by the rally, with 57 activists arrested by the end of the action. Covered in coal dust, exhausted but exhilarated, all were released by the end of the day to rejoin their friends at the camp and celebrate the shutdown of the railway line for the day.

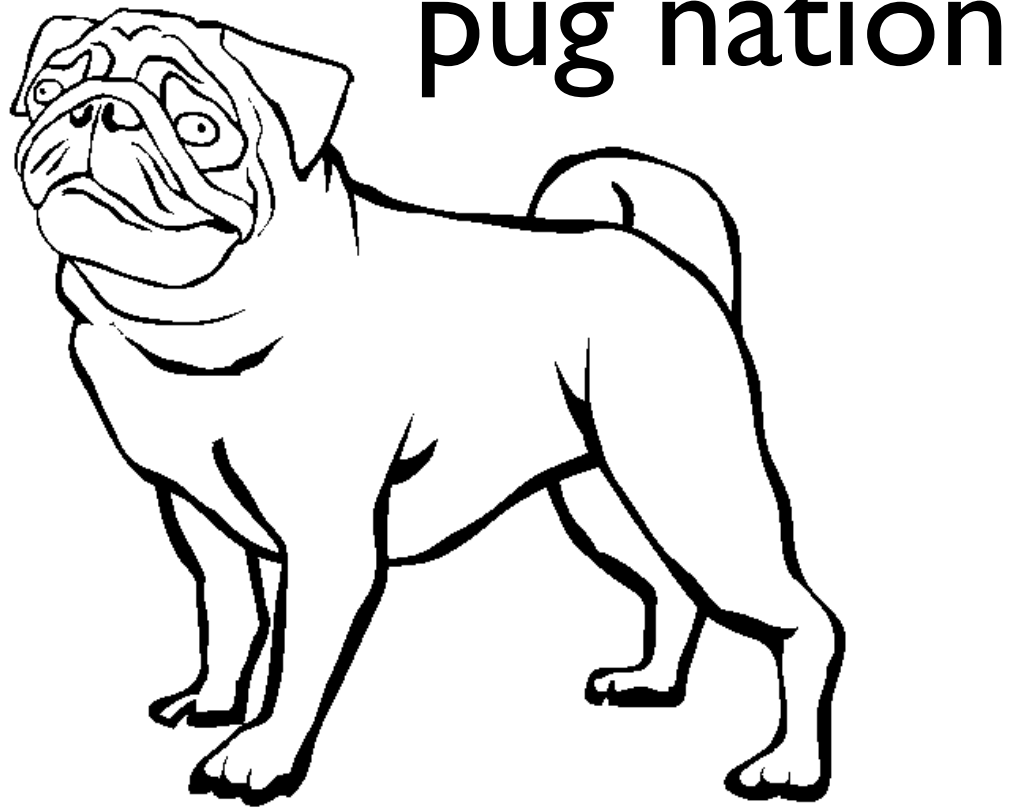
Those still pushing the barrow of polluting industries will often cite the money, jobs, and economic benefits of selling coal. But they fail to see the true cost; is it worth losing millions of species; millions

of people; as well as changing the very surface and atmosphere of our planet for an indeterminable amount of time.

These are all things that no amount of money could bring back or repair; gaia doesn't accept dollars, euros or yen... we can throw said currencies into increasingly complex attempts to regulate the environment, hoping that we can come up with a viable life-support system for the planet before it's too late.. or we could just step back from the brink and take on a way of life closer to the norm of homo sapiens throughout most of history, rather than the ever-accelerating lifestyles of homo machinus.

LIAM OAKWOOD





pug nation

(don t forget to riot)

Taking responsibility...

Roshni Sharma

I find it disturbing, to the point of being disillusioning, that what seems to be the overwhelming majority of people in this day and age hold such a strong anthropocentric worldview. What is worse is that this is not something that they have chosen, at a deep level of thought, to hold, but rather it seems to be a mindset that is passed down and strengthened from generation to generation. That it is socially constructed gives some element of hope, as it gives rise to the possibility that it can also be socially deconstructed, however unless one has awareness, one cannot make a move towards change.

I recently flew from Sydney to Vancouver, with stopovers at Fiji and Hawaii on the way. Besides being a gruellingly long and lethargic journey, it gave me a snapshot view of how much Western society has conquered the world

- glinting by day, shining bright at night, high-rise buildings and sprawling suburbs everywhere. What really struck me, however, was the attitude of the success of human civilisation being measured by the conquerment of nature. While the exponential increase in the global population makes the expansion of cities and towns effectively inevitable, I find it hard to accept that the value of nature, of old growth forests and native bushland, of native flora and fauna species, is considered from an often extremely biased anthropocentric mindset. Even though there exists legislation for the protection of the Australian environment, it is largely focussed towards still facilitating economic growth, which is the mortal enemy of environmental conservation. When do we consider these factors and the influence we have over them in our everyday lives? Our societal

capacity for, consciously or unconsciously, ignoring things that we feel we might be powerless to take action against, or that may require more effort and energy than we feel we can give, is remnant from past generations. So is our view of nature as something to be conquered.

With the effects of climate change and peak oil becoming increasingly urgent for individuals and families, as is evident most obviously in rising fuel prices and food costs, I feel that there is a rather urgent need for a change in the way we view the environment, which will facilitate a change towards more environmentally friendly lifestyles.

Indigenous communities around the world have, prior to interference from Western civilisation, lived in relative equilibrium with their local environment. Although it is effectively impossible to live somewhere and not modify the local environmental conditions, it is possible to reach an equilibrium

and negate your long-term impacts. This was the case with the Australian Aborigines, who lived in relative harmony with the Australian environment until the late 1800's, when European people first visited our shores. The violence of European colonisation has committed genocide on those people, whose only 'sin' was their belief that they were part of nature, and who refused to give up these beliefs. Indigenous people in Australia, and in all other corners of the land, have objected to being forced into the Western capitalist system focussed on economic growth and private property. Anthropocentrism, or the possession of a worldview that is centred around humans and their wants and needs with the fundamental belief that we are the crux of all life and have the right to exploit nature and other life forms to fulfil our wants and needs, is a very Western view, and a very recent one at that. Until approximately 200 years ago, the vast majority of the world's population

had animistic worldviews, where nature was seen as wholesome, as something that humans and other life forms were part of, and not as something to be exploited unsustainably. As European colonialism ruthlessly swept over the world, this animistic worldview was destroyed and transformed into the 'views of the devil', with women and men who persisted with their beliefs prosecuted as 'witches' and 'devil worshippers' by the Church. As the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions occurred, the seeds of scientific thought and reliance on machines and technology instead of nature and human skills were planted in our society, destroying community relationships and isolating individuals in this new idea of 'independence'. The commoditisation of the natural world was further fuelled with the Great Depression, and economic recessions looked to globalisation as the answer, subjecting poor people in developing countries to

exploitation to fuel the growing riches of the first world.

With global warming occupying newspaper headlines around the world, we are all as individuals now faced with the likely, if not absolutely certain, reality that our children and grandchildren will not be able to enjoy the same luxuries we do today due to the lack of forethought of past and current generations. It is up to us, now, to recognise that we have a voice, that we can make a difference, that we can facilitate change and repay the Earth the debts of tremendous injustices that are owed to it. It is up to us, as the generations faced directly by the impending global environmental crisis, to take action and the moral high ground, and not let this injustice to nature and to indigenous people continue.

We only have one chance to do this right.

BROWN MOUNTAIN: IT'S BLACK AND WHITE

The logging of Australian native forests has long been a blatant affront to morality. However Victoria can't seem to rid itself fast enough of its fundamental natural heritage with over 70% of the state's native forests clear-felled and a staggeringly large proportion of our native wildlife rendered rare or endangered.

Brown Mountain is a spectacular area of dense native forest located in East Gippsland. It is the headwaters of the Bonang River and is the sole bio-link (connecting forest) between the Snowy River and the Errinundra National Park. The region is home to an area of native old growth known as 'The Valley of The Giants', a sublime meeting of lush rainforest and awesome trees, hundreds of years old. My first thought upon stepping into the midst of the staggering gums (some up to 13m in



circumference!) was that I was entering the belly of a giant creature. Ducking

amidst the ancient tree ferns and walking on a bed of damp bark you realize everything around you is so alive and all part of something greater. The beauty of such a place is truly an experience you will keep with you forever.

With the logging of native forests still rife in Victoria it came as a relief to all when during the 2006 state elections the ALP made a promise to "Immediately protect remaining significant stands of old-growth forest currently available for timber harvesting by including them in the National Parks and reserves systems". It didn't end there either; they also pledged to set up an 'Old Growth Walk' at the Valley of The Giants in Brown Mountain, thus generating a greater number of far more

long term jobs than logging in the area would produce. (In fact only 2% of employment in East Gippsland comes from logging).

However come

July of the following year things had changed. The Brumby government approved

the addition of three new coupes in the heart of the Valley to the logging schedule. It became clear that the Victorian people had been taken for a ride and, as the region mapped for the Old Growth Walk was now to be logged and burned, that too was now nothing but political smoke.

Stopping the logging currently taking place in Brown Mountain has long been an issue of immense urgency; being home to countless rare and endangered species including the Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl, Spotted-tail Quoll and the Long-footed Potoroo, as well as ancient tree ferns and old growth; Brown Mountain is well known as one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. In fact it was marked as a National Estate area by the Commonwealth Heritage Commission in the 1980s. Logging of

heritage land began shortly after in 1989. The race is on against the timber industry for Brown Mountain. They know the immorality, illegality, and pure insanity of logging such a significant carbon bank and habitat for so many native endangered species and are thus clamoring for their trucks and dozers

and pressing forward with this conversion before anything can be done to stop them. They have already completed logging in coupe 20, wiping out a large section of the Valley of The Giants and significantly crippling the Old Growth Walk's dreams of going ahead.

So what's being done to stop them? In order to reclaim this area, environmentalists must use the law in our own favor. With the Brumby government compromised by ties to the logging industry,



locals and volunteers remain the only upholders of law and justice in the region.

We know this area is critical habitat to a number of species of glider and owl but no surveys had been taken so we could not prove this fact. So, under threat of arrest, volunteers and amateur surveyors took fauna surveys which recorded over threshold numbers for the area to be legally protected. Professional surveys followed which backed up these figures. These are currently being officially confirmed by

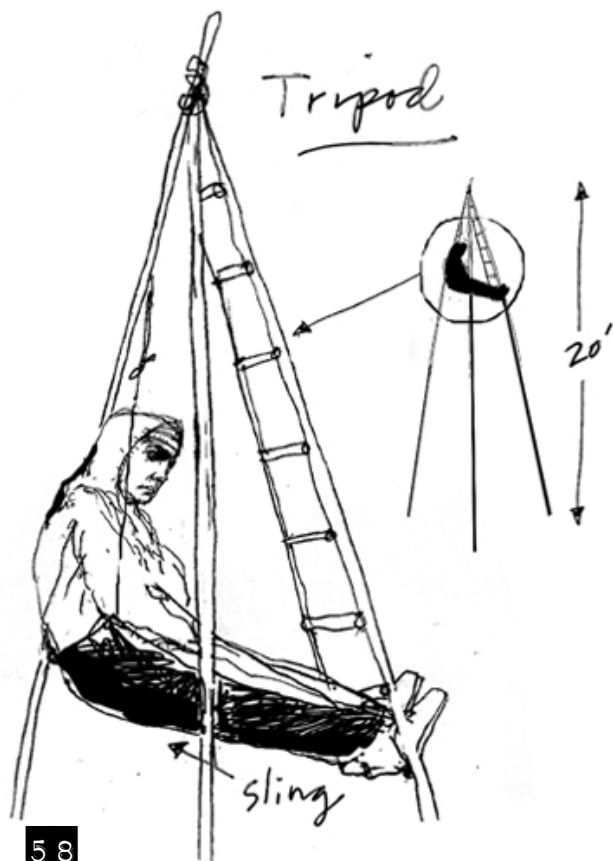
government biologists and could result in a halt in the logging. This new evidence is great as it is blatantly illegal to log the habitat of endangered species, so there is a reprieve on logging this coupe at Brown Mountain, for now.

While surveys take place, and legal avenues are pursued, is vital to also have people on the front line halting this illegal felling until the case is through. This is where local group Goongerah Environment Centre (aka.

GECO) are involved; carrying out tree sits, locking themselves to dozers and, often quite literally, standing in the way of the logging in Brown Mountain.

Brown Mountain is crown land; it is held by the government on the people's behalf. It belongs to all Victorians, yet, in a recent poll, 80% of Victorians were opposed to the logging that is currently taking place there. Democracy is failing.

Jonathan Earley.



Gaza, Habibti

by Danya



It's difficult to know what to put down, in which order, or with what emphasis when writing about Gaza. Its all too easy to fall

into that trap that shows only snapshots of horrific destruction with no context of the everyday lives that continue despite the madness, of the beauty that persists, of the laughter and culture that refuses to disappear. But without that context, maybe it's hard to see what the loss really means, how wasteful the destruction really is. Gaza is not a wretchedly hopeless overpopulated prison, devoid of life and destined to violence and misery. It's bustling with life, it's gripping to what's left of normality, its students in exam time, its young people laughing at the beach, its rap shows, its colourful markets, its shady tree-lined avenues, its brimming urban farms. And it's also fear, anger, incomprehensible destruction, arbitrary violence & death, poverty, powerfully calculated restrictions on freedom and economy. Perhaps Gaza is slowly falling to its knees, but its not there yet, and the struggle to stay standing is everywhere.

Here are some stories...

We start talking amidst the chaos of 40 people being assigned to a dozen or so young Gazan's for homestay over the coming days. "Hi" "Hi" "I like your style, I hope you're with me" she says, smiling.

I'm flattered, thinking my fezza hair would be ridiculous by Gazan standards. But it's only the start of preconceptions slowly shifting into seeing pieces of Gaza's reality. We are in luck, and a few minutes later my 17-yr-old emo-punk host is impatiently shouting arguments at our groups Hamas security entourage holding us up at the hotel gates. She rolls her eyes and says they're really dumb, I laugh amazed, a few minutes later she gets her way and we're off.

In the taxi she tells us, kind of ashamed, that they have a problem with the electricity at her house - its been cut since the attacks and they rely on a generator which doesn't always work. We reassure her that its fine, taken aback that she is explaining this out of concern for us. As we arrive at her apartment building she points to the empty block on the other side of the (dirt) road, "it was destroyed in the last war". Peering in the dark I notice the concrete remnants. Her house is nice, normal, if it had a yard and wasn't on the 8th floor it could well be the inside of small suburban home. Except that all the windows on one side of the house are missing, shattered in the attacks and now patched up with plastic.

Her family are unbelievably lovely, almost like in the brady bunch. The siblings - a funny one,

a shy one, a smart one, and a helpful one. Her mum smiles, jokes with the funny one and laughs at our miscommunications. She won't hear of us going without second dinners. Her father - perhaps a little shocked that we actually showed up - is warm, friendly and clearly excited to have foreigners to talk his perfect english to. First he explains the windows - they have the money to fix them but theres no glass in Gaza to do it with. The economic blockade enforced by Israel, with Egypt's complicity, means no building supplies get in, no glass, no concrete, no bricks. He is a surgeon, used to work in Jerusalem, but originally from Gaza. Their family has land here - grape vines, olive trees, chickens, tomatoes, he says he'll bring eggs for us tomorrow.

Then, naively, the question I need to confirm - can they leave? "mm, if you get permission from Egypt or Israel, have the right papers and a passport, a medical certificate and evidence of the appointment, maybe you can go" As if the question of leaving Gaza for any reason other than medical necessity is irrelevant, it doesn't enter the realm of possibility. "What about to visit family in the West Bank?" "No way! No way. Look - my wife had an appointment with an Egyptian



doctor, a specialist, she tried for 4 days to leave, everyday she went, and eventually she succeeded, she got through but it took 4 tries and she was lucky".

In the morning I look out the window over the stunning Gazan coast line, yellow sand and blue sea, scattered with apartment blocks amidst amazingly productive urban farms - rows of olives, vegetables, orchards, shade-houses. It gives me so much hope. And that's something I never expected to wake up to in Gaza. This city-sprawl has so much potential.

We visit Northern Gaza - the areas most devastated by the attacks. A faint smell of burning rubber, later explained as explosives residue, a donkey and its calf taking cover in the rubble of a flattened international school, a mangled plastic slide, english and math exercises blowing in the wind, wrought iron and electricity wires dangle loose from smashed up concrete, barely recognisable as the remains of walls. I think - maybe I sat next to the guy who flew the plane and pulled the trigger on my way to work in January, drank beer next to the officer who ordered it, ate hummus with the intelligence guy that made the decision to destroy it. A flood of memories from life in Tel Aviv during the attacks comes back, flashing against the reality before me, the

sunny afternoons at streetside cafes, drinking fresh-squeezed orange juice, evenings tipsy by the beach, the jam-packed trains carrying soldiers to and fro. And I see this street how it was then, dust blowing, plane screaming, people running, nowhere to go, earth shaking, building falling.

I snap back and approach the group crowding around the school's principle "... absolute lie that the school was ever used for rockets, its completely ridiculous. We teach openness, free expression, the American curriculum the same as you, absolutely unbelievable that it was targeted. I think the reason is that the Israelis want to maintain the image of Palestinians as the militant holding a machine-gun. We have students who study at Harvard, at other US universities. This doesn't please the Israelis, they want to maintain that image and fear of Palestinians... We haven't yet received a single dollar, not from the government in Gaza, not from the government in Ramallah, not from USAID... It was intentional not a mistake. The Israeli's didn't deny that they bombed it - they said it was targeted because weapons were stored there and rockets launched from there. The \$10 million question is why they bombed the school. Its completely insane. This question you should ask the Israelis."

A family living in the bombed

out ruins of their former home offer us tea off their 44 gallon drum fire. It feels ridiculous taking anything from these people who have lost everything. Even the tent city that rose out of the rubble here has succumb to the 3-month continuation of the blockade, now just remnants - wisps of material, barely standing, slowly drowning in the sands of Gaza. And yet, still, nothing has been rebuilt.

Our group is invited to Parliament House to be addressed by Gaza's Hamas Government. Parliament house is completely bombed out, its possible to climb the stairs and enter the lobby, but the main hall is a pile of plaster and concrete rubble. Instead we are greeted in the makeshift parliament - a large white aid tent in the courtyard of former parliament house. I don't know why but I expected the leaders of a resistance movement to be different from other politicians. Whatever their politic - less evasive, more genuine, something like that. Well thats not true. He may as well have been Tzipi Livni or Bill Clinton. An expert in saying whatever he wanted to say and not answering any questions. The point he sought to get across was that Hamas were democratically elected, and therefor the legitimate government of Gaza. Nothing more and nothing less. A series of questions, quite unrelated to this topic, were greeted with

repetitions of this line. He'd probably be a great candidate for Kadima if he wasn't Palestinian. But I was heartened to feel that familiar level of disenchantment with government from many people I spoke to - politicians are liars, they make trouble, people are good and can make peace.

I look out the window at night with my host mother as the sound of gunshots echoes from the sea. Lights line the horizon - at least 50. Israeli navy ships. They fire randomly at fisherman, arbitrarily. Sometimes when they are 100m from shore, sometimes at 1 km, sometimes at 3km. I am told 14 fisherman have been killed since January and many more kidnapped for several days at a time. This brutal harassment has meant that those remaining in the industry are forced to over-fish the spawning grounds close to shore - these days the fish are getting smaller and less plentiful.

I ask my host mother if its okay to take a photo. Reluctantly she agrees but no flash. "They are watching, they see everything at night". She looks nervous as I get my camera out and fiddle around. She starts explaining that during the last attacks her relative, a

photographer, was doing exactly this - he was taking photos out his apartment window and was targeted by a sniper, killing him and his mother-in-law. Shocked, I gasp and cover my mouth. My camera goes back in its bag.

A plane screams overhead, my host sister shrieks, she covers her ears and cowers into a ball on the couch trying to make herself small. Her mother tells her to stop it and be strong. The apparent domestic normality of the scene is disconcerting.



A friend is organising a hip hop show with live video link-up to Ramallah - 15 Palestinian hip hop artists will rap one song each and two breakdancing crews will compete. We arrive as 2 laydees are on-screen rapping live from Ramallah. The crowd's pumped and as Gaza takes over, city-pride erupts in chants with the MC at the lead. Some technical difficulties interrupt the second show, and half-way through the third people start exiting in droves. No-one around me really knows what's going on. The rapper keeps rhyming, people keep leaving, quickly, quietly, eventually only our side of the stage is still seated. Before the rapper can finish the sound

is cut, video out, we get up and move out. 9 people have been killed in the last few days from infighting in the West Bank and we're not sure if its about to start here, or if the show is somehow politically aligned or what. My 12 year old host sister is scared. We stand out front waiting for the taxi, Hamas men on the edges, watching. A uni student who's friends with my host family tells us in hushed voice that Hamas don't like rap shows, they regularly shut them down. My heart is racing. We make it home.

The next night we go to visit Black Unit Band - one of the crews that rapped along with Ayman who hosted, he's a member of PR - the most famous of the Gazan hiphop artists. They explain how they've been invited to rap overseas but can't get out, how one of them was arrested and badly beaten after a show; accused of touching a girl's shirt. How the blockade means that PR make songs now via the internet - one member in the US unable to get in, two stuck in Gaza unable to get out, and another in Egypt. How Ayman lost his father in the last attacks, despite being well-known Fatah supporters their apartment was specifically targeted and completely burned out. But how despite all this, even if he had the choice he wouldn't live anywhere but Gaza. Khaled from Black Unit tells me "words

can destroy more than bullets or rockets, words are our nuclear weapon".

I walk into the kitchen sleepy-eyed, I see my host father on the phone worried, trying to get information while the family stand around tense. Their sister's father-in-law was shot while working his land close to the border. The father rushes off to hospital. When he gets back a few hours later he explains how lucky he was - the exit wound was millimeters from the spine. He says the hospital is terrible - lack of nursing care, no pillows, no air conditioning in Gaza's 35 degree sticky summer-heat. He dressed the wounds himself. Israel dropped flyers a few weeks back stating that anyone within 300m of the border was within firing range. That 300m zone comprises about half of Gaza's most arable farmland. Now farmers and landless laborers working for as little as \$5 a day are forced to chose - abandon your livelihood and relinquish your land or risk being shot. A group of internationals doing farmer accompaniment work tell us 3 farmers have been killed and 15 injured just since the "ceasefire".

The time comes for me to leave despite ongoing protests from my host mother convinced I should marry and stay in Gaza. I arrive at the border at 12.30pm after a Gazan friend who does

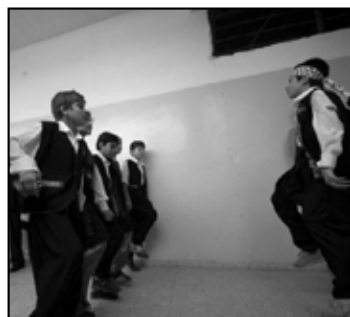
youth peace organising arranged my crossing from the Palestinian side. There are two French people also trying to exit. Our passports are stamped immediately and we sit in the Palestinian terminal with five Hamas security for several hours waiting for the other side. They keep assuring us that the Egyptians have agreed that we can cross, they just told us to wait. The clock ticks over. At 6 they get out some phone numbers and tell us to call them - some Egyptian bureaucrats, too late for them to help. 6.30pm the borders will not open, our exit-stamps are canceled, we return to Gaza city hungry, frustrated and enraged by the Egyptian's abuse of power & process. Perhaps a very minute taste of what it's like for a Gazan. My host mother laughs and tells me again that I shouldn't leave.

The next day I have more luck. The French embassy in Egypt applies pressure, we all pass in less than 3 hours despite a couple of hiccups by way of my non-French presence. The Australian embassy does nothing despite my repeated requests and report me to the embassy in Israel who call after I'm through and tell me I shouldn't have gone to Gaza, never to go back "because, because, [thinking of PC reason] because you might get stuck there for a very long time."

Finally I get back home to Jaffa, exhausted from the circular

journey that took a day and half to travel 60km as the crow flies. I work up the courage to call my family, tell them I'm back and explain where I was for the last week. This is the hardest part. Harder than listening and seeing what's going on over there, it's explaining it to people here. And people I want to maintain relationships with. I visit for dinner, my aunt tells me "next time you go there instead of building playgrounds you should ask them to apologise for the cracks in my wall from the gassams". I'm horrified. Stunned, I do nothing. I think to myself - maybe with time, maybe they'll agree to look at my photos, maybe they'll see my Gazan friends through facebook, maybe they'll feel - even for a moment - their humanity.

I chat with a friend from Gaza that night and tell him about what my family said, he replies - with "1450 killed, and 4 700 injured, and for all houses that were destroyed, we need more than sorry."



Dabka, Children's Centre, Gaza.

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

upside-down-world.org

UPSIDE DOWN WORLD is an online magazine covering activism and politics in Latin America. Made up of work from writers, activists, artists and regular citizens from around the globe, UPSIDE DOWN WORLD seeks to provide an alternative resource for information about the achievements and challenges of "Latin American social movements and governments that have refused to prostrate themselves to the interests of corporate globalization."

engagemedia.org

EngageMedia is an independent online video sharing and uploading site focused on social justice and environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific. EngageMedia works with independent filmmakers, video activists, technologists, campaigners and social movements, as well as provides support for free and open media technologies.

rollbacktheintervention.wordpress.com

The ROLLBACK THE INTERVENTION site provides information on the actions of the The Intervention Rollback Action Group, a group of volunteers from community groups and organisations who meet regularly to discuss issues that arise from the impact of the Northern Territory Intervention. The group supports individuals and community groups to deal with those issues and take appropriate action. The website has ways to get involved in the campaign.

[3rd Degree Radio](http://3rd-degree-radio.blogspot.com)

The 3rd Degree is a community radio show covering environmental and social justice issues. Podcasts of past episodes can be found at climateradio.blogspot.com. The 3rd Degree is broadcasted all across Sydney on Thursday mornings 9-9.30 am on 2SER 107.3FM, and live online at 2ser.com

Barrick Gold in Papua New Guinea

On the 27th April soldiers and police burned down more than 300 homes as part of a forced eviction operation in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, an area leased from locals by Barrick Golds Porgera Joint Venture mine. Police allege people living in these homes were squatters responsible for illegal mining. Over 1000 people have been left homeless without alternative accommodation. PNGs Security Minister has reportedly attempted to extend the police deployment in the province for a longer period. The Australian Government, a major source of funding for the PNG government, has declined calls by villagers to intervene.

For more info www.protestbarrick.net

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtORVi7GybY>

Repression of Protestors in Peru

For two months more than 30 000 indigenous inhabitants of different provinces of the Amazon and the Highlands in Peru have protested exploitation of natural resources by government and corporations. On May 9 a state of emergency in seven provinces was called, meaning "the constitutionally provisions on freedom and security of persons and the immunity of accommodation are temporarily suspended, and that there is a ban on gathering". On June 5 between 30 and 84 deaths have been reported when security forces, firing from helicopters on protestors armed with spears, tried to break up a roadblock.

Taken from <http://upsidedownworld.org/main/content/view/1896/1/>

Autonomous and social justice camps popping up everywhere!

This year social justice, environmental and autonomous conferences and camps are popping up everywhere. Climate Camps, challenging the root causes of climate change are to be held in South Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia, Aotearoa, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands/Belgium, France, Wales/Cymru, England, Ireland and Germany. The anarchist camp in Switzerland and the CrimethInc. convergence in the U.S. aim to allow the "possibility to try and live our ideas from a domination-free life and try and develop them". The CrimethInc. collective see opportunities in the economic downturn in urban centres, with the conference attempting to open up spaces "that could become new sites of autonomy and struggle". Sometime this year the annual queercore festival Queeruption is planned.

Protest In Palestine

In Bil'in, Palestine, weekly non violent protests have been held against a wall that has been built between the village and its farmlands, as part of the Israeli Gaza Strip Barrier and Israeli West Bank barrier. Farmers are concerned their crops will die due to the inconsistent and slow permit system that is supposed to allow land access. In June one hundred and sixty Palestinians and Israelis marched to a gate at the wall and attempted to engage with the soldiers, as well as chanting and calling upon the soldiers not to shoot. Demonstrating escalating state repression, the soldiers fired countless tear gas canisters and rubber-coated bullets, forcing most of the demonstrators to fall back. The action was supported by Anarchists Against The Wall, from which a member described the wall as "one of the greatest threats the Palestinian population has known over the last century."

For further info: <http://www.ainfos.ca/ainfos14432.html>

Columbian State Murders

Two teacher trade unionists have been assassinated within days of each other in the conflict-ridden Colombian region of Arauca.

The Colombian state continues its policy of targeting trade unionists, Indigenous people and social movement activists. Both victims, one of whom was shot dead in the classroom where he worked, were members of the ASSEDAR trade union.

Since early 2007 over a hundred trade unionists have been killed.

Justice for Colombia will shortly be publishing a comprehensive chart of all of the trade unionists murdered in the country since early 2007 - a number which is now well over the one hundred mark.

www.justiceforcolombia.org

<http://upsidedownworld.org/main/content/view/1625/>



NEWS FROM

OVER THE SEA

Submit To Germinate

The deadline for submitting to the next edition is 1st December.

We want articles, thoughts, letters to the editor, stories, poems, art, prose and more.

Send submissions to
anikant@gmail.com



This edition of Germinate was sponsored by:

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