

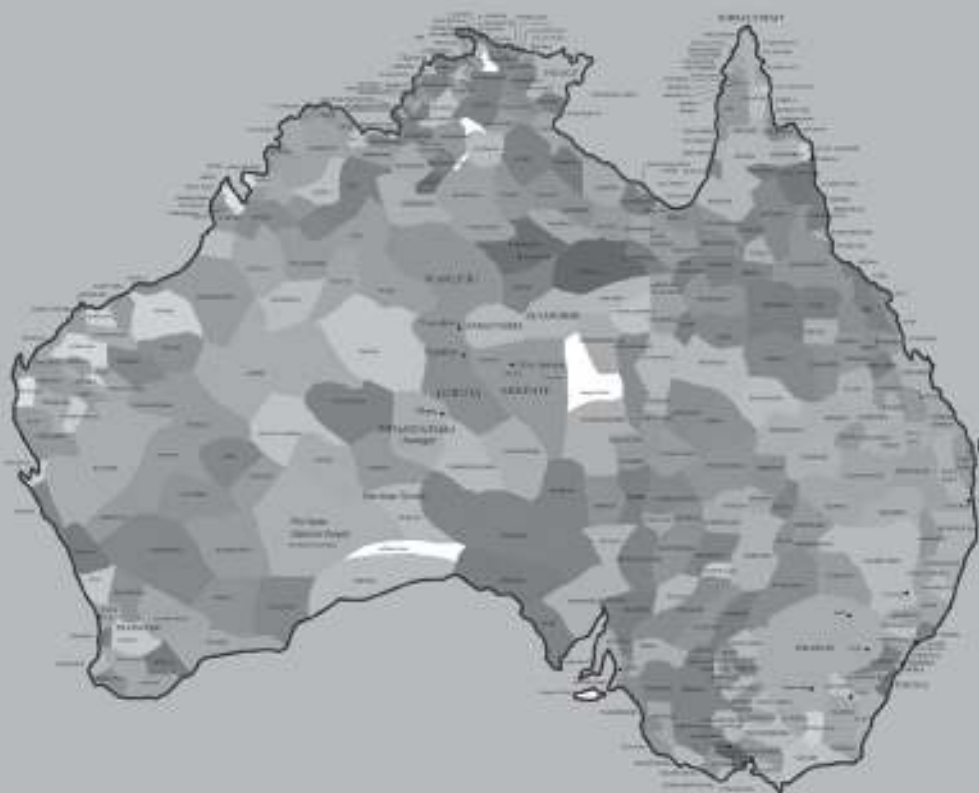
# GERMINATE

SUMMER 2012

Spreading seeds  
of creative  
environmental  
activism



The Big Greenwash ☉ Coal Seam Gas  
Tasmania's Tarkine ☉ NT Homelands  
Woodside Gas Hub ☉ South Coast Logging



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



The Germinate Collective and the Australian Student Environment Network acknowledge and pay respect to the Indigenous nations and traditional caretakers of this land past, present and future.

More than 500 Indigenous nations shared this land for over 60 000 years before invasion. We recognize the sovereignty of every Indigenous nation on this continent.


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. Sovereignty was never ceded.

This magazine was compiled on the land of the Eora and Wurundjeri people, and printed on the land of the Eora people. Submissions have come from different nations all over the continent.

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*Are you committed to a greener, more  
sustainable future?*

*How about seeing action on obvious  
environmental issues?*

*Or are you just looking for a wealth of  
information to start getting involved?*

**Whatever the reason,  
Students of Sustainability 2012 is for you!**

Hosted in the regional city of Bendigo on the La Trobe University grounds, Students of Sustainability 2012 will be an unique experience. The La Trobe University backs onto the local Box Ironbark forest to provide a relaxed and engaging environment.

Come be a part of this student-run environmental conference that provides an open forum for all who are concerned.

Location: Bendigo - La Trobe University  
Dates: 4th - 8th July, 2012

[www.studentsofsustainability.org](http://www.studentsofsustainability.org)

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/  
Students-of-Sustainability/142897342446549?ref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Students-of-Sustainability/142897342446549?ref=ts)

**SoS 2012  
Bendigo**

# EDITORIAL

Hello,

As we cast an eye to the year ahead, we find ourselves analysing the significance of the one that has passed. 2011 saw the reemergence of activism and the occupation of mainstream spaces, 'legitimising' spaces within which activism and social justice advocates campaign, epitomized by Time magazine's choice for Person of the Year 2012: 'The Protestor'.

The protests of 2011 themselves cross continents and mediums of communication. From Los Indignados in Spain to Occupy Wall Street, the movements have been practicing non-hierarchical organising on a mass scale and moving politics from a sport practiced behind closed doors and visible only through the flicker and spin of mass media, to a process that we can all engage with. The Arab Spring, which arguably provided the catalyst for many western protests, continues to change the international political landscape. The 'legitimation' of activism through mainstream media has seen advocates for change, as individuals and part of a broader group, jump cautiously into the spotlight in a debate that all too often speaks about us, not with us.



So we look upon 2012 with a hopeful glimmer of interest.

Around us is a hotbed of societal reevaluations, laying the foundations for a powerful readjustment of discursive spaces. We take responsibility for the compromises, hurdles and competing interests that emerge. What better way to build upon these shifting plates

of societal norms, than with articles that take a critical look at the interconnections, campaigns and jagged boundaries that form the Australian environmental movement?

In this issue Else looks at the connections between the Occupy and environment movements while Jess takes a mythbusting mallet to greenwash in the paper industry. Fergus reevaluates the dissemination of knowledge, particularly of scientific knowledge, as valuable through unconventional mediums. Laura recounts a formative two month walk away from uranium mining. Hanabeth assesses the impact of coal seam gas mining on communities, while Cristel visits the gas hub blockade site at Walmadan, James Price Point WA.

Just like the year past, the last few months for Germinate have →

been challenging and chaotic. Both the Winter and Summer editions of the zine this year began with new Germinate collectives, and for both editions the collective diminished as the semester progressed. For this edition we were unable to find enough funding to print as many copies as we had hoped, so we are asking each Uni enviro collective to help us to distribute more widely by photocopying pages and sharing the magazine online. Just as circumstances have challenged us, they have also pushed us to find creative and unusual solutions. And so you find this edition to be an eclectic mix of design styles, sourced from designers all over the continent who put up their hands at our call for help shortly before our print deadline.

Thanks very much for reading. As always, Germinate welcomes all submissions, expressions of interest regarding sponsorship from socially responsible organizations, and any contribution of time, knowledge, or advice. Find us at: [germinate@asen.org.au](mailto:germinate@asen.org.au).

Enjoy the summer!

The Summer 2012 Germinate Editorial Crew: Else Kennedy and Hugo Unwin.



# What is GERMINATE?

Germinate is the bi-annual publication of the Australian Students Environment Network (ASEN). Through Germinate, we inform readers of issues and campaigns, reflect on movements for change, and facilitate communication amongst grassroots student activists throughout Australia and beyond.

We welcome submissions from motivated and interested individuals on wicked actions, skills, campaigns, as well as graphics, photos, poems, recipes, comics, arty stuff, strategic campaign reflections and anything else. Ideally, articles amount to less than 1000 words.

Customisable advertising features for environmentally and socially just organisations are available on request.

Reach us at: [germinate@asen.org.au](mailto:germinate@asen.org.au)



# CONVENOR'S REPORTBACK

National Convenor, 2011  
Australian Student Environment Network  
Jarred Sferruzzi

This year I've had the ridiculous privilege of being able to travel across the many sovereign nations of Australia visiting, working, skill-sharing and generally organising with collectives.

## I'm trying to...

Support individuals and collectives with campaigns and issues that are important to them. Trying to kick start ASEN's momentum again and (in the most shallowest of ways) promote ASEN while making a complete idiot of myself at the same time. I spent a lot of last year working on ASEN's image within collectives so that they would feel as if it is not some foreign organisation, but is in fact a network to which they belong and indeed have control over.

## I struggle with...

Seeing the ridiculous amount of amazing work people are doing in their collectives and communities but being somewhat terrible at sharing that information with others. I've also been struggling with trying to keep my own

motivation going. As with most people who are involved in grass roots groups, at times in can get quite overwhelming seeing the amount of destruction and injustice that continues to happen yet feeling utterly helpless to stop it.

Last year I also did a lot more reading around environmental movements and the rise of the eNGO 'sector' and have become much more frustrated with the current state of affairs. The level of corruption (both moral and sometimes financial) within mainstream eNGOs has caused me to immediately present a barrier when approached by any large organisations. At times this may have proven useful, however I feel that at other times this created situations where there could have been some genuine critical discussions, but instead communications ended not long after they began.

## I'm inspired by...

It may sound corny, but what keeps me going and gets me inspired is →

visiting and talking with individuals in collectives about love, life and politics. Seeing how much energy they are dedicating to organising without any expectation of reward or congratulations truly inspires me. SoS is also another huge inspiration for me, especially seeing as how this is the second year in a row in which it will be in a non-city campus. Speaking of that as well, getting to spend time in Albury and Bendigo was such an amazing experience. Seeing how these collectives have such strong networks within their Universities, but also within the wider community. I honestly feel/hope that ASEN's future will rely less on the city based collectives and that more influence will come from non-city based collectives.

I finally want to give a big thank you to everyone who has supported me this year. To anyone who let me stay at your house, let me eat your food, picked me up early in the morning, took me out for late night adventures, took semi-naked photos for a calendar, laughed at my poor jokes, gave me a hug, didn't get frustrated at me when I asked too much, came to National Councils, agreed to a dumb idea I had and any other help people have provided me **THANK YOU!** I couldn't have achieved anything without you.

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0434 869 088

## What is ASEN?

The Australian Student Environment Network is a national network of students active on environmental justice issues. Active members are involved in the state environment networks, as well as local environment collectives.

We are a non-hierarchical grassroots network, directed by our members. ASEN is driven by a constantly evolving ethos, determined by members' foci in collectives and communities.

Students harness this dynamic network to organize local campaigns, share information and resources, coordinate national campaigns such as climate change and anti-nuclear, and collaborate with indigenous peoples for sovereignty and an end to genocide.

We direct our energies, involve new students, and empower our generation to uproot environmental injustice and create remarkable communities and social change!





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# Germinate News Australia.

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## VICTORIA

### East Gippsland Actions

17 Nov 2011

Environmental activists staged actions in old growth Forests in East Gippsland protecting important refugia habitats for endangered species. Logging operations on Survey Rd on the Errinundra Plateau were halted by a tree-sit attached to five logging machines and suspended 40 metres up in the tree canopy.

Ms Amelia Young, spokesperson for the conservationists of the Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO) said "In the face of recent Baillieu government moves to weaken the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, conservationists have again taken their message to logging sites where important wildlife habitat continues to be logged for woodchips".

More info: [www.goongerah.org.au/geco](http://www.goongerah.org.au/geco)

### Occupy melbourne

21 Oct 2011

After the brutal eviction from the City Square, 1000-1500 protestors returned defiantly to the CBD for a rally that was called with 12 hours notice. This was followed on October 29th by a re-occupation of the State Library.

[occupymelbourne.org](http://occupymelbourne.org)



Top: cables are tied to logging machinery and trees. Above: Warrup Forest twilight rally. Photo by Gerry Georgatos.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Save Warrup

20 Dec 2011

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Friends of the Forest (BGFF) are worried that the end is near for Warrup Forest. BGFF coordinated a Warrup Forest twilight rally and information tour on Saturday, 10 December. 70 people coalesced at the old Bridgetown railway station and then by a bus and car pools went into Warrup for the twilight event.

More info check out [www.savewarrup.com](http://www.savewarrup.com)

### Yindjibarndi cameras blocked for "safety" reasons

25 Nov 2011

Yindjibarndi elders travelled to Fortescue Metal's Solomon Project mining site, approximately 60 km north of the town of Tom Price in the central Pilbara region to check on the safety of sacred sites in the path of FMG's massive blasting program. When they arrived they were blocked from entering the site with cameras for "safety reasons".

Michael Woodley, CEO of Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, argues that FMG has attempted to trick the Yindjibarndi People into signing a land use agreement that is grossly below industry standards, and which will rob present and future Yindjibarndi generations of meaningful income in return for the compulsory sacrifice

of lands underpinning their culture and traditions.

More info: [yindjibarndi.org.au/yindjibarndi](http://yindjibarndi.org.au/yindjibarndi)

### Court rules James Price land grab invalid

6 Dec 2011

The WA Supreme Court ruled that land acquisition notices issued by the WA government over land at James Price Point are invalid.

The Court's decision means that Woodside does not have secure access to the site where it wants to build a \$30billion gas hub. This is a big setback for Woodside and the other project proponents, and is likely to delay the project significantly. However despite the Court's scathing decision, Woodside and the WA government intend to resubmit acquisition notices to continue with the construction of the destruc-

tive gas hub.

More info go to [savethekimberley.com](http://savethekimberley.com)

## QUEENSLAND

### How to use a bikelock to save the Great Barrier Reef - protest halts Gladstone dredging

09 Nov 2011

Derec Davies used a bicycle U lock to attach himself to a dredger in Gladstone Harbour. The direct action was taken to protect the Great Barrier Reef against the development of Gladstone harbour (Curtis Island) liquefied natural gas facilities to export Coal Seam Gas.

Fisherman and environmentalists argue that dredging of the Gladstone harbour is causing turbidity in the water and illness of fish, effectively closing down



Above: Court rules James Price land grab invalid. Photo by The Wilderness Society.



*Top: Banner reveal. Photo by Chris Niblett. Above: Cooper Creek. Photo by Bill Doyle.*

the local fishing industry. They argue that development is endangering the World Heritage status of the Great Barrier Reef.

### **Queensland Lake Eyre Basin rivers protected**

In a momentous win for Australian conservation, the mighty rivers of western Queensland's Lake Eyre Basin - Cooper Creek, Georgina river and Diamantina river - have been protected under Queensland's Wild Rivers Act.

4.5 million hectares now fall within special buffer zones around major watercourses, lakes, wetlands and floodplains, within which strip mining, irrigated agriculture and other destructive industrial activities can no longer occur.

For more info go to [wildrivers.org.au](http://wildrivers.org.au)

## NSW

### Xstrata Ulan required to offset greenhouse gas emissions

15 Dec 2011

In a landmark judgement concerning climate change, a judge in the NSW Land and Environment Court has given conditional approval for the expansion of the Xstrata Ulan coal mine near Mudgee in Central western New South Wales based on the mine offsetting all of its greenhouse gas emissions generated in mining the coal.

The Hunter Environmental Lobby brought the appeal against the \$1.2 Billion Ulan West project based upon its long term impact of exacerbating global anthropogenic climate change, as well as damage to groundwater systems and clearing of critically endangered vegetation communities. The mine expansion proposal includes a 239 hectare open cut mine and approximately 25 square kilometres of additional longwall mining.

### Occupy Sydney

New Years Eve 2011

Banners were dropped from several unoccupied buildings in the Sydney CBD area and continued hanging into the new year. The activists' objective was to draw attention to the unjust and destructive impact of state protected globalised capitalism.

The content of the banners made reference to



Top: Protest against Xstrata Ulan coal mine. Above: Occupy Sydney banner drops. Banners read: "A.C.A.B. (All cops are bastards)" and "2012 A New Years Revolution: Destroy capital before it destroys us all".

a range of issues that reflect local interpretations of the international movement, including Aboriginal sovereignty, coal seam gas, housing access and affordability, the treatment of refugees, social inequality, and police brutality.

Since the occupation of Martin Place began in October, occupiers have faced approximately 70 arrests, 35

charges and 50 fines (as of January 5).

[occupysydney.org.au](http://occupysydney.org.au)

### Sydney Opera House banner drop protests Harvey Norman forest destruction

9 Oct 2011

Five environmental activists were arrested yesterday for climbing the Opera

House and draping a banner on one of the sails protesting Retailer Harvey Norman's participation in Australian native forest destruction. The banner read "No Harvey No! Stop selling Aussie forest destruction!" and was part of a global 24 hours of action targeting the Harvey Norman business with more than 30 actions taking place in Australia and several overseas.

[thelaststand.org.au](http://thelaststand.org.au)

## TASMANIA

### Still Wild Still Threatened

8 Dec 2011

A group of native Tasmanian animals including Tasmanian devils and quolls moved into the Harvey Norman stores in Hobart.

Eight conservationists from Still Wild Still Threatened rotesting at the store called for Harvey Norman to stop sourcing native orest products. One protestor dressed as a Swift Parrot has climbed a light post outside the store, displaying a banner reading "Stop selling native animal abitat." Inside the store quolls and a tasmanian devil reclaimed furniture made out of their native habitat.

More info: [www.still-wildstillthreatened.org](http://www.still-wildstillthreatened.org) and [www.thelaststand.org.au](http://www.thelaststand.org.au)

*Top right: Banner drop on the Sydney Opera House. Bottom right: Action at Harvey Norman Store in Hobart.*

### Observer Tree

14 Dec 2011

Conservationist Miranda Gibson established herself in the ObserverTree, a platform situated 60m above the ground in an old-growth Eucalyptus Delegatensis tree, in the heart of Tasmania's southern forests. Miranda's upper canopy home is a tree under imminent threat, in a forest due to be logged any day now. She has vowed to stay there until the forest is protected.

The tree top platform is fully equipped with the technology to communicate to the world. Miranda posts a

daily blog about life in a tree sit, commentary on the state of the forest negotiations, updates on flora and fauna monitoring and video footage from the tree sit.

Read the blog here: [www.observertree.org](http://www.observertree.org)





## UPCOMING EVENTS

26th - 28th January  
40 Years of the Aboriginal  
Tent Embassy

Corroboree for Sovereignty -  
Sacred Fire Ceremonial Gathering,  
Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Canberra



11th -12th February  
Big Solar Boot Camp,  
Port hacking river,  
Sydney

[100percent.org.au/  
content/big-solar-boot-camp](http://100percent.org.au/content/big-solar-boot-camp)

15 - 29 February  
Weld Echo exhibition  
(Opening night Friday  
17th Feb)

The Long Gallery, Salamanca  
Arts Centre Hobart. [www.  
huon.org](http://www.huon.org)

March 8  
International Women's  
Day



17 April  
International Day of  
Farmers Struggle

[www.virtualsask.com/via](http://www.virtualsask.com/via)

1 May  
May Day: International  
Workers Day

[www.mayweek.ab.ca](http://www.mayweek.ab.ca)



Campesina



4-8 July  
Students of Sustainability  
conference!

La Trobe Uni, Bendigo Vic  
[www.studentsofsustainability.org](http://www.studentsofsustainability.org)

14-20 July  
The Lizards Revenge-Music/  
art Festival -  
Desert Liberation Front.

Roxby Downs gales of hell, South  
Australia.  
Facebook - The Lizards Revenge

1st February  
Deadline for submissions to  
the Weld Echo exhibition

For more info go to:  
[www.huon.org](http://www.huon.org)

1 Feb - 14 Feb  
Walk for a  
Sustainable Future  
(bringing attention to  
mountain top removal)

Prestonsburg, Kentucky -  
Frankfort, Kentucky, USA  
[www.footprintsforpeace.org](http://www.footprintsforpeace.org)

9 Feb - 8 March  
Walking for a Future

Dalby, Qld to Gladstone, Qld  
Contact June Norman:  
[walk4afuture@yahoo.com.au](mailto:walk4afuture@yahoo.com.au)

**We Can Do It!**



15 March  
Day Against Police Brutality

<http://www.tao.ca/~cobp/index.html>

April  
The Cardshow! Muckaty anti-  
nuclear art show fundraiser

Mori Gallery, Sydney: 56 artists,  
1 deck of cards  
[www.facebook.com/profile.  
php?id=100003332493551](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100003332493551)

May  
Footprints for Peace

Footprints for Peace will be  
walking for 6 weeks through  
Canada and First Nation  
reservations.  
[www.footprintsforpeace.org](http://www.footprintsforpeace.org)

May  
Deadline for submissions  
to Germinate Winter  
2012 edition!

<http://asen.org.au/publications/>



#### REGULAR EVENTS

SYDNEY: Chain Lynx - women's bike club  
Meets fortnightly on Wednesdays from 6pm @  
Omafeta Dutch Bikes, Murrumbidgee, Facebook -  
Chain Lynx

SYDNEY: Cycle Recycle bike club meets on  
Monday & Wednesday nights 5-9pm, 1 Phillip  
St., Waterloo. <http://bikeclub.wordpress.com>

SYDNEY: MediaTrike Sustainable Film Nights  
- solar powered mobile cinema screening in  
locations around Sydney. Facebook -  
Sustainable Film Nights

NT: Food Not Bombs Alice Springs - serves  
free hot food Sundays @ 5.30pm on the  
court house lawns.

# GREENPEACE

## Dirty Banks Reportback

For the past 18 months, Greenpeace Australia Pacific has been taking the fight for climate action to the finance sector, targeting Australian banks and their dirty investments.

We published research into coal finance in October 2010 which revealed ANZ to be the dirtiest Australian bank, having financed more coal projects over the past five years than Commonwealth, National or Westpac.

With the threat of 12 new coal fired power station projects looming on the horizon, just waiting for finance, we targeted ANZ, demanding they *not finance any new coal power in Australia*. By preventing these projects from getting finance, we aimed to stop a new generation of polluting coal power from hurtling us further down the path toward dangerous climate change.

The campaign mobilised Greenpeace volunteers, Climate Action Groups and student environment groups, who collectively started conversations with thousands of ANZ staff and customers. Under mounting pressure, ANZ was forced to review its energy finance policy, however, in November the bank released a vague explanatory document which appeared to commit them to almost nothing.

So in December 2011 we crashed their AGM, polar bears in tow, talking outside with shareholders about ANZ's dirty deals. Inside, Greenpeace campaigner John Hepburn asked why ANZ had spent almost a year writing a new energy finance policy only to publish more green-wash, particularly in light of the transparent policies recently published by big international banks HSBC & BNP Paribas. The chair of the ANZ board responded by saying their policy was "almost the same" as HSBC's but that they wouldn't release it publicly.

This means we have had a serious impact on ANZ since the campaign launched – they now have a policy that follows the framework that we have been calling for. *However, we are still lacking important details and it may not be strong enough to rule out financing new coal power in Australia.* Greenpeace will be following this up in 2012.

### Show me the money!

Targeting finance corporations, which not only make environmentally destructive projects viable, but also profit from them, can be a strategic move in all sorts of environmental campaigning. In the US and Canada, Rainforest Action Network has used this strategy to great effect in their campaigns against 'mountain top removal' coal mining and tar sands projects.



All of the big four Australian banks are helping to finance coal projects in Australia and overseas. An increasing issue is that of coal exports. There are big plans ahead for massive coal mines like those in the Galilee Basin which will have dire ramifications for the global climate.

- Each mine proposed in the Galilee Basin is larger than the biggest existing coal mine in Australia.
- The carbon pollution from burning the coal produced by just one of these mines is equivalent to 16% of Australia's current emissions, 26.9 million extra cars on the road, or 7.6 million additional households.
- Plans include a rail line that would unlock 375m tonnes of new coal production each year on top of Australia's existing 283m tonnes p.a.

For more info see: <http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/en/news/climate/Mega-mine-Mega-disaster>.

Some of the big banks are getting ready to finance these projects. Given the increased corporatisation of tertiary education in Australia, you don't have to look too far to find the banks on your campus. Whether it's the branch that clubs and societies bank with, a stall at o-week giving out branded stress balls, a recruiter at careers fairs and postgraduate expos, a guest speaker in the business and finance department, a sponsored building or a course program. At Sydney University, the student cards are even bank branded debit cards.

We can confront coal power stations and coal exports on campus by confronting the banks that finance it!

For more information see [www.greenpeace.org.au](http://www.greenpeace.org.au) or contact Erland Howden: [ehowden@greenpeace.org](mailto:ehowden@greenpeace.org) or 0408 255 583.





# HOME LANDS

*...the land holds us*

Under the Federal Government's Northern Territory Emergency Intervention and the NT government's Working Future policy, 21 designated NT '**hub centres**' or '**growth centres**' will become "properly planned and designed towns, with services, buildings, facilities and infrastructure like any other country town in Australia. These towns will become the economic and service delivery centres for their regions."

***This development will come at the expense of homelands, which will see a withdrawal of essential services, effectively forcing families to abandon their traditional lands and move into larger towns and cities.***

The following is an edited extract of the foreword from Amnesty International's report 'The land holds us': Aboriginal peoples' rights to traditional homelands by Rosalie Kunoth-Monks (pictured), an Amajere woman from Utopia, NT.

I CAN LOOK BACK over 70 years on this part of the land. There was a richness of the relationships between people so you felt never alone. You felt secure, you felt you belonged. You also felt, from an early age, your responsibility, not only to the flora and fauna but to the song lines which tied you to the land. The land, we always said *pmerel atnyenem*, we never said *pmer nhenh tha atnyenem*. That means, country owns or holds you, not you holding the country and becoming master of the land. The land was your mother, your father and everything else.

Jump forward from that, this country here, it became a cattle station. Aboriginal people lived still on land, they say today, from eternity. They never moved away from here, the songs are intact; the country more or less is intact.

In the 1970s it was purchased by the government on behalf of Aboriginal people. We then became aware of Aboriginal Affairs really having an impact on our culture. People started feeling second grade and degraded. Into this scenario came all the rules and regulations of being funded. Into that came being destabilised for the first time for centuries. Into that came the awareness there were other places, and also came access to alcohol and other substance abuse.

We became aware of the racist attitudes. On this land we had never felt deprived or poor. One of the most remarkable things my mother's sister said to me, in the 1980s when she was visiting Alice Springs for the first time in her life and she didn't like it, she said, 'I feel poor and naked in this town'. →

Somehow at Utopia this seemed to have happened more slowly, simply because the things we needed were still on our lands. We still felt the strength and the security of our law and order, even as late as the 1990s. By this time we had established homelands which we still live on now, within the lease of Urapuntja.

Fast forward to 2007, we had the visit from departmental staff, the army, and the police. I clearly recall the day when the people came and told us we were now under the Intervention.

We didn't know what the Intervention was. Suddenly there was a policy in the Northern Territory that took away our rights, and on top of that they also wanted to take away our land, through what they called a lease. I can still hear Lena Pwerl, one of our ladies, yelling out, 'No lease, no lease, not for one minute, not for one second, no lease, this is our land'.

So 2007 was a huge thing. It was assault. Assault to such an extent that it traumatised all of us, we looked around to see what made sense. What made sense was at all costs to hang onto the land. By 2008 it became so unbearable that I remember absolutely reeling in shock, and it appeared to me like we were made enemies of the state, or of our country. We had not been in an aggressive relationship with anyone throughout the world, let alone in Australia, let alone in the Northern Territory.

As we go into 2012, we realise that the *Racial Discrimination Act* was removed by the government so they could put us under what they termed the Intervention. We see that there are certain Aboriginal communities earmarked as growth towns. Let me assure anybody who cares for the Aboriginal people of Australia that once we are moved from our place of origin, we will not only lose our identity, we will die a traumatised tragic end.

The fact is our body paint cannot be put on by just anyone, or just anywhere or on anybody's country. We only can do that on our land. We cannot have identity if we are put into these reservations that are now called growth towns because we will not only be second-class, we will become third-class, nonexistent human beings.

This is a tragedy that is unfolding through the policies of an uncaring government. We must stop this, and we must remain on our country. It seems sentimental and - I can't find the other word in English - about attachment to the land. It's not attachment to the land, it's survival of a cultural practice that is still alive in spite of what has been thrown at it.

The country is our lifeblood; that land which might just be filled with spinifex has a depth that the majority of Australian brothers and sisters don't understand, and it's so fragile. We need to stop the destruction of the oldest living culture in Australia.



# One Week at Walmadan: Woodside's Western Australian Warzone

Cristel Chambers

Over the September uni holidays, in an act of solidarity with the Broome Community and the Goolarabooloo and Jabirr Jabirr People, 3 of us rAdelaide kids decided to take on an epic road trip to Broome and back. With only the info available on the net and a couple of vague contact details, we optimistically ventured up through central Aus, then west to the Kimberley – determined to help stop Woodside's proposed gas hub at James Price Rint.

A few of us had heard about the increasing industrialisation of the Kimberley over the last few years and the public outcries from musicians like John Butler, Missy Higgins, Xavier Rudd & Dan Sultan. Having visited the Kimberley 14 years previously I knew that clearing thousands of hectares of land for a poisonous gas processing plant was a really shit idea. I also knew how very little local communities (both Indig & non-Indig) gained from massive scale industrialisation – just look at the Pilbara.

Having lived in Broome for a bit with my folks, I knew how special and unique the place and people are. The Broome lifestyle was one that took a bit of getting used to, but is one that so many people abandon their boring home lives feel I couldn't just sit at home in SA & let this place be destroyed. So after 3 1/4 days of slightly speeding through the scrub, we arrived in Broome, WA. As we drove through town, the banners, posters and stickers that read 'Save the Kimberley', 'No Gas at JPP' (and Broome says NO GAS) were plastered on homes and businesses everywhere. We drove out of town along the Cape Leveque road until a procession of signs and banners began to appear in the distance. A 'reduce speed' road sign had been modified to read 'reduce sp QReed'. At the Manari Road turn off, a village of tents and banners occupied both sides of the road, decorated with dozens of banners from locals and visitors alike. We pulled over & tentatively approached the camp. Some welcoming faces greeted us & briefly explained the situation. They had petitions & brochures, and were well armed with information for nosey tourists, or suspicious looking, super pale kids in a shiny new hire car. Once they established our motives, they invited us to camp there, or at Walmadan – about 20kms further up the road, but first check out the action in process at the Woodside compound on the way.

We took their advice and headed to the action. As we arrived, we were confronted by a large closed gate, with a threatening KEEP OUT sign attached. Keep out of what? Crown land? Odd. This was clearly Woodside's [illegal] site. Disregarding the sign, we slipped thru the gate on foot and followed a recently cleared road until we got to a police barrier where 6 cops lazily acknowledged our arrival. We said g'day and skirted around them. As we looked up, a man seated on a swing attached to a bamboo pole, suspended 30 feet in the air greeted us, letting his fellow fezza crew on the ground know that there were some new faces lurking. Immediately a few pindan covered activists approached us, looking suspiciously at our clean clothes and uber-white skin. We introduced ourselves and asked what was going on. The protesters gave us the benefit of the doubt and explained. They invited us back to Walmadan camp to meet Philip Roe, the Goolarabooloo T<sup>o</sup> that was looking after the camp.



As we drove in to Walmadan in our suspiciously shiny hire car a community of about 30 people greeted us with handshakes and offers of dinner. While there was plenty of sizing up going on, the camp was trying to work out if we were Woodside spies or genuine activists – a fellow Radelaidian friend who had ridden a bike from Perth to Broome in support of the cause, spotted us and excitedly assured the others that we were ok. Lots of ecstatic hugs were exchanged, yes – it is a small world after all. After feeding us, Philip invited us to camp on the sand dunes – it is a beautiful view from up there, you can see the sun rise over the monsoonal vine thicket scrub, and watch it set over the Indian Ocean. From the dunes, we could also keep an eye on Woodside's drill rig, accommodation ship and tenders moored 1.5kms off shore. We were also given instructions to watch for any hostiles coming ashore, especially poking around at the burial site of Walmadan himself. Straight away we were assigned roles – lookouts for the camp.

From the top of the dunes, it was easy to see the community of protesters camped on the beautiful Kimberley coast, juxtaposed against the destructive beginnings of Woodside's gas hub compound. Every person at Walmadan had a role to play – some were on communications, some were lookouts, others were on reconnaissance, action strategisers, drivers, photographers, documentarians, cooks, liaisons etc. While there was a warm family-like community feeling at the camp, there was also a surreal military mood, with constant intel reported, rumours of phone tapping, bugs, spies and arson attacks from enemy lines. Phone and radio contact was constantly being interfered with by Woodside's security thugs – Hostile Environmental Services (Hostiles for short). In the evenings, a hearty communal meal was shared in the camp, followed by a casual debrief of the day's events, ending in a very hippy-esque campfire sing along. Noawwww.



Since Easter 2011, a solid group of dedicated locals have permanently uprooted their lives and moved to Walmadai in a desperate but serious attempt to save their Kimberley home. Every few days, some random travellers arrive to spend some time and effort helping however they can – and then they leave again. Many have been so moved by the situation, and shocked by Woodside and their hostile behaviour, that they've left their lives behind on the east coast or Europe and stayed at Walmadai. The same applies to the Manari Road camp – another group of locals and travellers occupy the space to display the presence of opposition to Woodside's unwelcome industrialisation.

Every day at Manari Road, the protesters & protectors of country blockade the road to James Price Point and Woodside's compound, 2-3 times a day when the heavily guarded Woodside workers shift change convoys rumble through. 2-3 actions a day – everyday for over 6 months! Fork! I can't even begin to imagine how emotionally physically and mentally draining this life must be. These amazing folks have dedicated themselves to country – to fight for their homes, lives and futures. A future they want without the toxic impact that Woodside's gas hub would promise to deliver.

To put this in to context in relation to place:

- James Price Point is home to the Goolarabooloo People – the longest continuously living culture in the world.
- The Kimberley is the only place in Australia that hasn't sustained any mammal extinctions.
- Broome has a thriving tourist trade that will be massively impacted, if not destroyed by the gas hub, including the many pearling businesses along the Dampier Peninsula. Pearling in Broome dates back to the 1800s, and provides a strong multicultural link in Broome's beautifully diverse community.
- James Price Point is a know Humpback Whale calving area, as well as home to Green Turtles, Blue Winged Kookaburras, Tata Lizards, Greater Bilbies and many more critters (these are just the ones I saw while I was there).

Just to get the idea, here are some stats about the proposed gas hub:

- It will be the biggest carbon emitting industrial facility in Australia.
- There will be up to 39 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year – a 50% increase on WA's current total emissions.
- It will be the largest emitter of mercury and B-Tox (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes) chemicals in Australia.
- Up to 66,000 tonnes of noxious and carcinogenic gas emissions per year[1]

So here's my request – if you can spare some cash, donate some to the Broome Community No Gas Group, or to Save the Kimberley. Or send a care package to the activists on the ground there's not a lot of resources around. If you can spare a bit of time and effort, head on up to Manari Road and Walmadai to give those troopers a hand. I know I'll be heading back up in 2012 with a crew from SA if the campaign is still in action. Head up and check it out for yourself – without being too melodramatic, it might just end up being one of those elusive experiences that changes your life.

For more information please visit some of the following websites:

- Save the Kimberley: <http://www.savethekimberley.com/wp/blog/>  
Goolarabooloo and the Lurujarri Heritage Trail <http://www.goolarabooloo.org.au>  
Environ Kimberley <http://www.environmentkimberley.org.au>  
The Wilderness Society Kimberley Campaign: <http://www.wilderness.org.au/campaigns/kimberley>  
[1] <http://www.wilderness.org.au/files/jpp-gas-hub-key-environmental-impacts>

# the fabric of existence

By Fergus McDonald



**H**idden in the forests of Madagascar is a particular white orchid. Blooming only at night-time and with a nectary almost a foot long, this is indeed an extraordinary plant. But more incredible than the orchid itself is the story surrounding its scientific discovery, within which lies a message about the very fabric of our existence.

**A**fter a day pacing the path that circled his English home, Charles Darwin returned to his cottage to find a package sent from a fellow naturalist in Africa. Amongst parchments made damp with the Madagascan air and a tin of Rhodesian tobacco, was a pressed and dried orchid. It was an exquisite star-shaped flower that sat on top of slim, foot-long throat, at the bottom of which lay a pool of nectar.

In developing his theory of evolution, Darwin was as much concerned with competition between species as he was with their cooperation – and this orchid fascinated him. Writing in his book *The Various Contrivances by which British and Foreign Orchids are Fertilised by Insects and on the Good Effects of Intercrossing*, Darwin excitedly concluded the segment about Madagascar with an elated uninterrupted paragraph as long as the throat of the flower he was writing about. He surmised that if this orchid had a foot long nectary, at the bottom of which lay its nectar, there must be some insect that had co-evolved to reap its reward for fertilising the plant. Darwin (and later Wallace) concluded that there must be an as-yet undiscovered 'giant moth' with a tongue, or proboscis, at least 25 centimeters long on the island.



Decades later, after the death of both men, the existence of the moth was confirmed by naturalists more capable of sighting the night-time spectacle. Sure enough, both had correctly prophesised the existence of the *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* moth, which was named in honour of their prediction. Their faith in the co-evolutionary bonds of life had been proven correct.

We would do well to remember this moth and its mutually-beneficial relationship with the orchid. The theory of natural selection has for many fostered the false impression that nature is in constant, ruthless competition with itself for survival. After all, you think Darwin, you think 'survival of the fittest' (a phrase actually coined by Herbert Spencer).

Yet if we look around us, evidence of cooperation in life is in abundance. You needn't look further than the closest tree for an example of natural cooperation: a living species composed of a union of billions of individual cells. But what appears today as a single organism is the evolutionary product of a series of miraculous acts of cooperation. Epochs ago, simple free-living bacteria, descended from star-dust at the dawn of time, became chloroplasts – they give the leaves their green colour, and allow for photosynthesis. Over aeons, in the genius of life, these chloroplasts came to exist in a single-celled plant. Eventually, these single-celled plants coalesced to form the union we see in front of us today as a tree.

This tree does not survive in isolation. It is likely that the very tree you are looking at has partnered with various fungi in the soil, which make home on its finest rootlets and improve its access to nutrients. Perhaps the tree you are looking at has flowers, and above these buzzes a bee farming its food and in turn, fertilising the flower – both of these organisms utterly dependent on the other for survival.

While competition may be the motive force of evolution, it has left in its wake a very cooperative world. It is not so much that living things consciously choose to cooperate, but that evolution has made it essential for them to do so.

Life is clearly built on beautifully interdependent and complex relationships. Through our destruction of other species, the health of the earth, and through the cessation of natural cooperation, the very essence that brought our ecosystem into existence, is being eroded, and so too is our future.

In our earliest days, humans lived in relative harmony with the majority of their surroundings. Technologies and an erroneous sense of mastery over nature have seen us 'break free' of evolutionary constraint and the co-evolutionary bonds that lie at the heart of life. But like the moth and the orchid, our destiny has always moved with that of the earth itself. If the moth were to try and survive without the orchid, or the orchid without the moth, their futures would be bleak (and short). Similarly, we will only really survive in a world as complex, biodiverse and interdependent as the one that created us.

If environmental destruction continues at its current rate, a third of the world's plants and animals will disappear by 2050. We are not just endangering the lives of plants and animals, we are, it seems, undoing the very fabric of our existence.

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Fergus McDonald is a Masters student at the University of Melbourne, and works at The Nature Conservancy. He is interested in making the science of our current environmental problems more accessible through storytelling and different mediums.

# REFLEX

paper & the great big

## GREENWASH

By Jessie Mamson

### — WHAT IS GREENWASHING? —

Veteran environmentalist David Bellamy is credited with coining the term 'greenwashing' more than 30 years ago, as a play on the idea of 'whitewashing' – "literally painting over the cracks to cover up inherent faults".

One of the earliest (and most literal) examples of greenwashing, according to Tom Athanasiou, author of *Divided Planet: The Ecology of Rich and Poor*, took place in the US in 1969 when the Pacific Gas & Electric Company was building a nuclear power plant at Diablo Canyon on California's central coast. "As a pristine hillside was scraped away for the construction site, the raw gash in the marine terrace became visible to passing boats and planes. PG&E decided to camouflage it by painting the exposed earth green".

In 2011, it seems not much has changed. From eggs to toothpaste, it's now common for every brand you can think of to stake a claim at 'greenness'. Invariably produced in hues of green, these claims might feature images of nature, statements of environmental 'friendliness' and an emphasis on recyclability but, as we all know, in many cases they amount to little more than hastily applied green 'spin'.

### — THE ETHICAL PAPER CAMPAIGN —

In January 2011, the Wilderness Society launched [EthicalPaper.com.au](http://EthicalPaper.com.au) – a website designed to expose native forest logging in Victoria's Central Highlands forests, some of the most carbon dense forests on Earth.

The largest domestic purchaser of pulp logs from these forests is



The spin:

The site advertises the fact that the makers of Reflex manufacture "around 90% of the recycled and carbon neutral office paper which is sold in Australia each year".

The reality:

This is all well and good but, in purchasing pulp from its current supplier, they are also supporting logging in Australian native forests.

The spin:

The site claims that "almost half of the office paper used in Australia each year is imported from Indonesia, China and Thailand" and that "the majority of this imported paper is made from wood which is not third-party certified for sustainable forest management".

The reality:

This may well be the case but declaring you are 'slightly greener' than the rest is hardly a credible defense when the rest are - by your own admission - pretty terrible.

The spin:

The site claims that "more than half of our total fibre needs are met from plantation wood, recycled pulp and wastepaper from kerbside collections".

The reality:

But the implication of this is that the other half is sourced from logging in our native forests!

The spin:

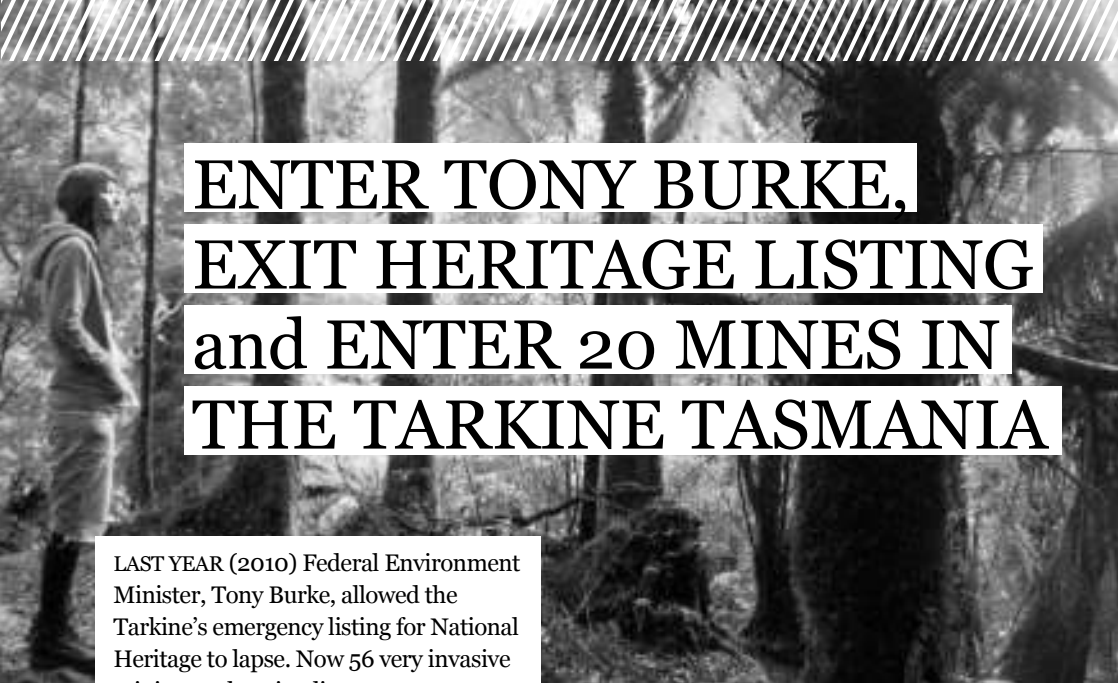
The site claims that the makers of Reflex are independently certified by both the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The reality:

A clause forbidding the use of wood from 'high conservation value' forests means that, as of August 2011, the Reflex brand will no longer carry FSC accreditation. Meanwhile, a visit to the AFS's website reveals that the certifier is far from independent having been formed by governments together with a range of industry representatives including the National Association of Forest Industries, the Plantation Timber Association of Australia, the Australian Forest Growers and the Australian Council of Trade Unions.







# ENTER TONY BURKE, EXIT HERITAGE LISTING and ENTER 20 MINES IN THE TARKINE TASMANIA

LAST YEAR (2010) Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke, allowed the Tarkine's emergency listing for National Heritage to lapse. Now 56 very invasive mining exploration licenses occupy the Tarkine area. On top of that, at least 10 open cut mines are proposed, one of which will include a 3.5km by 3km disturbance area (equivalent of 420 Melbourne Cricket Grounds and a 220m depth being over twice the height of the Sydney Harbour Bridge) as well as an open cut mine 5km long with multiple parallel open cut pits, courtesy of WA's Venture Minerals. Even though historically there has been smaller scale mining in the Tarkine area, it will be NOTHING compared to the large scale Pilbara-style mining that is to come. The Tarkine National Coalition and other groups have lodged another emergency listing for the Tarkine to head off mining and associated damage (ie: roads and heavy vehicles) which may further harm the critically endangered local Tasmanian devil population as well as 55 other threatened species in the area.

Venture Minerals' main open cut site will be at Mount Lindsay, an area of pure

Myrtle and Sassafras rainforest which signifies an environment untouched by fire and logging. They are currently doing diamond tip drilling to collect core samples of the second largest untapped tin deposit in the world. They say that the mine would employ 200 people in its 20 year operation and cost \$150 million to develop. This is dwarfed by the estimated \$4 billion worth of minerals the company seeks to dig up.

The Old-growth rain forest tree species, including Myrtles (growing up to 50m tall, 4m in diameter, and many older than 500 years), Sassafras, Blackwood, Huon Pine (growing by 2mm per year, living up to 10 000 years, making it the slowest growing and oldest tree IN THE WORLD) and many more, provide a dense canopy and open under story habitats. The forests are typically carpeted by a vast array of mosses, lichens, fungi and ferns, resembling exquisite and well-tended botanical gardens. →



# EXIT ENDANGERED SPECIES

THE TARKINE IS home to 56 threatened and endangered animal species, such as the Giant Freshwater Crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*) - the world's largest freshwater invertebrate (growing up to 1m in length and living up to 40 years). The existence of the Giant Crayfish or *Tayatea* as it is known by its Aboriginal name, is highly dependent on undisturbed old-growth forest adjacent to its riverine habitat. Its optimum habitat is deep shaded water clear of siltation and sediment, with a suitable water temperature.

Environmental scientist Professor Hamish McCallum has suggested that roading for the new mining could have a tenfold increase in roadkill of the endangered Tasmanian devil. We can also expect a much faster spread of the deadly Devil Facial-Tumour Disease which has so far claimed 84% of the Tasmanian Devil Population. The Tarkine currently hosts the least affected Devil population.

In the absence of a National Heritage Listing, Minister Burke can legally disregard the impacts of the mines on the rainforest, the 25 watercourses to be disrupted, or the recognised wilderness values of the area in environmental assessments. The Tasmanian Tarkine region is an area of international significance which satisfies all 4 criteria of World Heritage listing for its natural values as well as several cultural criteria. The area's ecological, cultural and tourism values combine to powerfully justify its long term protection as a National Park and World heritage area. Tasmania's Tarkine region could rival

the Kimberley, Kakadu and Daintree as Australia's premier wilderness tourism destination, generating 1100 jobs and \$58M a year within the next decade.

The extensive rainforests, river gorges, buttongrass mountain tops, flowering heathlands and long wild beaches combine to make the Tarkine one of the world's greatest treasures. This extraordinary icon will be lost for ever if we don't take action now. We are at the most critical stage of the process where at least two of the companies proposed mines (Venture Minerals and Shree) will be assessed for approval at the end of 2011-2012.

## SOME OPTIONS TO HELP

- ✂ Talk to friends about the issue.
- ✂ Sign Getup's online petition to call Tony Burke to the Tarkine.
- ✂ Write your own letter to Tony Burke.
- ✂ Write a letter to the editor of local papers in your area about the issue.
- ✂ Look out for campaigns about the issue and help if you can.

by **Karlien Van Rooyen**

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# COAL SEAM GAS

## and Community Action

I BECAME INVOLVED in the coal seam gas (CSG) issue around the time I started a Thesis on social change. I found out about the CSG industry at a Gasland showing in Byron Bay presented by Dayne Prazky, back in March this year. Following the film I felt shell-shocked & incredibly sad, so on the way home I stopped to buy chocolate, where I bumped into Dayne who kindly agreed to an interview and told me to come and see the gas fields for myself.

A few weekends and a six-hour drive later I had the opportunity to speak with many Chinchilla residents watching the Mayday parade, which was followed by a group of about eighty protesters.

I met a young man who had a gas well drilled on his families' land. He stated:

*'Nothing's happened yet, so why should we think that anything's gonna happen to our water?'*

There were several residents who were clearly in support of the protesters. Local resident Miss Kerr described virgin timber including 2m wide iron-bark trees that had been bulldozed against her family's wishes, yet they had been powerless to stop any of the developments. *"I want people to open their eyes,"* she said.

A representative from Chinchilla Rotary Club, Allen Jamison stated that his view of the CSG mining is in *"...a constant state of re-evaluation"*.

It was clear that the CSG mining was already causing divisions within this →

community, and my observation was that all of those supporting the industry were indeed receiving financial benefits. As the parade reached the Town Fete the gates were closed on the protesters, with two mounted police standing behind the gate, and Rotary Club members in front (pictured right).

## Social Impacts in the Northern Rivers

CHRIS ALLEN HAD kept horses and lived on his property in Kyogle for thirty-one years before a gas well was placed across the creek from his property: *"If I wish to build anything on my own land I have to put in a DA which includes a notification to my neighbours. Nobody was notified at all until the well was put there. I can see it from my deck in plain view: it's about 500 metres from my house...*

*This issue is going to divide communities a lot more yet as one neighbour can let them on and then you have a gas well on your boundary. In the early stages there was no education, people did not know what they were letting themselves in for. When you go out and educate yourself it is quite terrifying."*

Another Kyogle farmer Garry Gilliland stated that there had been claims by the companies that there would be no pumping stations precisely where his neighbours had already been approached. He said: *"You can't eat gas, it's that simple. They want to put the pipeline right through our most productive country... This is all about water: our head waters are just up the road here at Lynches Creek, and we depend upon*



*these aquifers for the farms and for the towns... The boring rigs follow the pipelines: that is what has happened in QLD, it is inevitable: the mining companies are lying."*

Uncle Harry and Mally from the Ngrakwal Association expressed dissatisfaction with government handling of Indigenous affairs. Mally said: *"It's communication [about the land] that gets everything confused. It all comes back to communication between people, and from the government. The government does not care at all, they just care about money. We need to hold the government accountable and ensure that there is increased transparency."*

The 'Wordle' diagram opposite shows a summary of concerns voiced in interviews. The larger the word; the more times that the word was used by interviewees.

In the months that followed I watched the movement grow, from what seemed like Dayne standing by himself and a handful of protesters shaking the gate in Chinchilla to 3,000 people marching in Murwillumbah only a month later. The Northern Rivers was now officially aware



The Northern Rivers Alliance held the first regional meeting in August. It was a simple process to set up an email group which could then be used to share ideas, resources and information freely. I facilitated meetings using mind maps for people to share ideas on what would be our most effective course of action region-wide. The key aim of the national day was to have a unified purpose to protect our water, state that we did not want coal-seam gas, and to make it clear that instead we wish for sustainable energy now. It was a huge success, with at least 25,000 people marching nationally.

I focused my own efforts for the national day on a letter-writing campaign to our Premier Barry O'Farrell. I was lucky that Lennox Head Post Office let me buy 1,000 stamps and envelopes, giving me the chance to bring them back if the idea did not come to fruition, but it did. We printed out 1,000 address labels and a basic template which allowed people to write as much or as little as they wished (one person was writing for almost an hour!). Helped by a few friends we managed to get 1,000 letters about CSG written and posted to Barry O'Farrell outside the Beach Hotel at 3pm. We had a great photo published with a story in the Northern Star of all the people holding up their letters together. It is a very visual, accessible and practical way for communities to voice their concerns on serious issues such as coal-seam gas mining, and my hope is that this idea can be used again in the future.

Three weekends later twenty of us from the Northern Rivers Alliance managed to letter-box drop every house

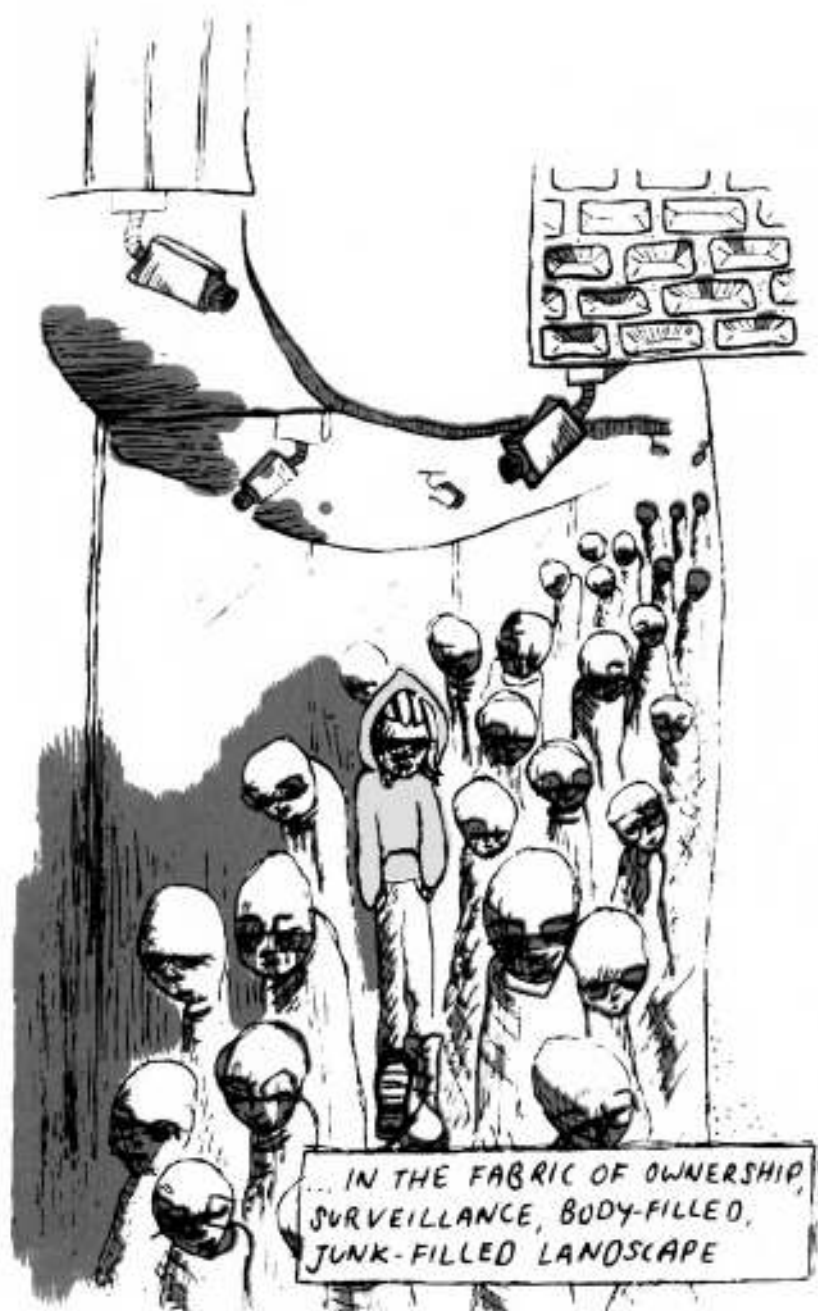
in Casino in just three hours to invite them to an information evening. Once again it was amazing what just a few committed individuals can achieve.

The movement has not been without its challenges. Many of the people involved are fearful about the future of Australia, and fear makes people act in strange ways. They know that the deals have already been made by our governments, however they have deep-seated concerns for the safety of our natural resources; our children's water supply; our land rights and our beautiful Australian Environment. They know it is worth standing up for, and no-one I've seen is showing signs of sitting back any time soon.

I have been most inspired by some of the young people involved who have seen some negative interactions and have stated to me: *'We would love this movement to be positive and empowering, to be about the world we wish to see, not about fear.'*

I have noticed their determination to ensure that at every step we walk the talk and are as sustainable as we can be – that way the movement has true integrity. They have so many great ideas of how to involve people through culture such as art shows and music. These guys are operating from love, not fear, and I cannot agree with this approach more. If we wish to create a sustainable social movement it needs to have a clear vision of what we wish to create, what we are aiming for, and we need to be that change (and why can't a social movement be fun too?).

by **Hanabeth Luke**



... IN THE FABRIC OF OWNERSHIP,  
SURVEILLANCE, BODY-FILLED,  
JUNK-FILLED LANDSCAPE



## 'WALK AWAY FROM URANIUM MINING - TOWARDS ABORIGINAL SOVEREIGNTY'

Wiluna to Perth

1250km

22nd August

28th October

Back in front of a computer hey. I feel a world away from the essays I was madly finishing before this journey.



Coming from Canberra for this walk, I now feel such a strong and sharp affinity for land here in WA - land proposed to be decimated by uranium mines. I remember one of my mates dubiously asking if walking for ten weeks is the most effective way of raising awareness and influencing a debate. I shared some of his hesitation, but felt I needed to understand what the land "over there" was like. Who lives in these communities and what is this land that we are all too ready to dig up and sell?

After walking this land, meeting communities, traditional owners and people from across the globe affected by the nuclear chain, I feel that keeping uranium undisturbed in Australia is more than a local and passing campaign that's taken my interest. It is an experience that has affected me deeply.

Here are some extracts from my journal, to share with you some of the places I travelled in my head while walking...

### **21st August**

Met with executives of Toro Energy, who have a proposed uranium mine near Wiluna. Felt overwhelmed. Daunted. Reason doesn't seem to equate. So frustrated - people can't see past money. There's an 84 yr old on this trip. Imagining them having to watch the world continue committing the same atrocities and mistakes makes me sad. They sat next to me on the bus back to camp and said some interesting things. That in this moment we need to celebrate more. Celebrate each other, our diversity, our strength. That just because we loose a fight doesn't mean we've lost the battle.

### **22nd August:**

This land is alive. Teeming with life. Up at 4.30 to make breakfast, felt good to be up before dawn, stirring a big pot to feed people and welcome them to the day. Two big blisters on my feet already. Hot today. Was really struggling after lunch. Been watching for animal tracks - so many once you open your eyes. Feel like a desert gypsy community. Could fall in love with the sky every morning and every night. Will sleep tonight with my favourite feeling - physically worn out body, inspired mind, full belly. And under the stars. Feel very lucky. This land is worth fighting for.

### **24th August**

All the money in the world can't buy passion. It's not about ownership. It's custodianship, and passing that to future generations. Don't ever think that we can't win. We have time. The mining industry doesn't have time. They're dependant on a small window of 'market opportunity'. We have generations to come.

### **28th August**

Setting up camp. Digging shit pits, setting tarps, collecting and cutting firewood, sorting the kitchen truck, boiling eggs, cleaning spuds and taking care of the Aunties. They are powerful women. Love to chat, and so much tea! Pretty fired up about the current mining proposals on their land.

### **2nd September**

Remembering to breathe deeply while I'm out here. Soak in the spirit this land is sharing. Not sure how I'll cope again in the city. Loving the openness here. I've got a glimmer of what it might feel like to be connected to this land, and a deeper respect for Aboriginals who have nurtured and appreciated its power and gifts for over 40,000 years.



### **5th September**

I'll never forget coming into Leonora (first town for 3 weeks), and seeing the mine on the outskirts, and then every patch of land or vehicle labeled. Claimed. Logos stamped everywhere - on fences, steel drums, cars - all branded with the names of mining companies. It was really stark, the reality of stolen land. Feeling pretty frustrated and overwhelmed. And naive. And uncomfortable.

### **7th September**

Trees again! So many new wildflowers, pink galas flying in pairs, a pink dried salt lake, red dirt, massive bunches of fluorescent green budgies cutting through the air like schools of tropical fish.

### **12th September**

Listening to Uncles talk around the campfire, telling dreamtime stories, pointing out star constellations, explaining skin groups... I have a new realisation of just how short a space of time 220 years is. Such a short time in which we've eradicated so much of an ancient, intricate culture.



### **19th September**

One of the most basic rights of humans is the right to care for country and that has been taken away from all of us by the Government and corporations. What kind of democracy do we have if we can't even speak out against weapons that threaten the whole of humanity and more? One species threatening the existence of one million.



### **1st October**

We've helped to give a voice to some of the Elders, a refreshing and personal boost to communities who've been fighting mining on their land for decades, shared an appreciation of this land with children, humanised the issue of uranium mining and nuclear waste for drivers, truckies, and people in regional towns.

### **9th October**

Aware of ancestors on the wind, the healing coming from the earth. Had a cleansing ceremony with ashes from the Kimberley blockade. Reminded again that we're all connected as stewards of this earth. A lot of us care a lot and we must not forget it.

### **14th October**

Olympic Dam Uranium mine expansion in SA has been granted permission. This news today was a slap in the face. This is serious, this is deadly, it is earth, it is genocide of a culture, happening right before my eyes, right here in Australia. People I love are in deep pain because of what's happening to this land, trying not to die inside or shrivel up due to anger and sadness and frustration because of what's happening.

### 24th October

Sat in the pissing rain. Thought about bush camps, conversations on the road, laughing, insights, Elders, exhaustion, not seeing a single cloud for three weeks, adults acting like ponies to get kids through a hot 27km day in the sand, stargazing, my first sleep in a swag, the first gum trees I saw again...

And I also thought about this nuclear chain that spans across the world and is inconceivably toxic. And the



indigenous people all across the world that are denied the ability to care for their country and their culture. And the children of the future who we can't seem to keep in mind,... But then I started laughing, sitting there in the rain. Because there are loving and genuine people all across the world who believe in nurturing others and the earth. Because I have witnessed the strength of individual people and felt our collective power. Because I have heard kids squealing with laughter everyday. Because I have been moved by the land. Because I genuinely believe that our creativity and passion is a force to be reckoned with. So I opened my mouth to let the water droplets tickle my tongue, and laughed and felt cleansed and refreshed. And that's how I still feel, even though this ending and new beginning thing is a bit strange and bittersweet and challenging and daunting.

**26th October**

Being a witness is important.

We are all powerful individuals and we should not underestimate the strength that we can continue to share with the world outside this community.



Where to from here? Uncle Kevin Buzzacott put it pretty well when he said that the earth blows us to places at particular times, with particular people for a reason. We are meant to be here. Wherever that 'here' is for you. Listen to what it is you are being asked to do and be strong.

Peace,  
Laura

# A GRADUATION OF SORTS

SEAN MUNRO

I just dropped out of university. And it felt fucking great.

I think I've followed to logical conclusion the line of critical thought that this institution purports to inculcate in us. For there are, in truth, few good reasons to continue subjecting ourselves to the absurd ritual that is student life. We are told that human intellect must be quantified and allocated to its appropriate compartment in the bureaucracies. From this imperative spring the endless academic hoops through which we are coaxed. By lecturers. By fear of failure. By the selection criteria of imaginary jobs that will probably never exist. Unfortunately, this obsequious obstacle course is rarely survived by enthusiasm. Exam roll around and fascinating subject matter quickly turns to unbearable impost. Pretty soon, each waking moment is drenched in the dank slough of compulsory assessment. Creativity lies fallow. Meanwhile genuine education, if present at all, is merely coincident with the unquestionable goal to which we all march. That great signifier of intellectual worth: the degree.

But what is this thing, so sought after that we submit to it countless minutes, hours and years of our lives? Does it pave the path to enlightenment? In light of the aforementioned cracks which pepper this estranged road to edification, any critical student has to wonder whether it's the best way to get there. The attaining of a degree certainly isn't fun. Sure, university life presents us with opportunities to socialise and share ideas, but we take advantage of them despite, not because of the institution's attempts to calculate our intelligence. Doubtless, it will open doors to the workforce – after all, the doling out of tickets to high-skilled wage slavery is one thing the university can monopolise – but what solace is to be found in injecting ourselves into the schematics of political and economic elites? Ultimately, it seems, the degree is little more than a conglomeration of efforts to prepare us for a society which tolerates only the realisation of dreams that are congruent with the preservation of the status quo.

Indeed, it is to this end that the university has become enclaved. Even the staunchest romantic can no longer pretend it is a sanctuary of shared inquiry and free association. Nor even an obscure backwater for the exchange of ideas by the rich. No. It is the farm gate through which ever vaster student herds are shepherded into the partitioned office pens within which their intellects are to be extracted, packaged and converted into the currency of markets and government.

"You're burning bridges, closing the door to opportunity."



Earnest pleas of restraint flock frantically like pigeons, tethered to the sorry dogma that a good life comes into being only with the endorsement of capital or the state. But the much heralded 'opportunities' I am apparently foregoing are subject to the same tyrannies which have thus far prevented me from freely exploring the possibilities of critical thought. In the workplace, like the classroom, the autonomy of the worker is hemmed in by the requirements of the employer. I wonder, can we not consider the possibility that an entire world of authentic opportunity remains closed to us until the demands of the economy have been shirked for freedom? Is it so ridiculous to think that each object moment spent amassing HDs and compiling CVs is one stolen from us by the managers? No longer can we squander our fleeting moments of consciousness pondering to the potential demands of future bosses.

Students, I implore you: accept the rhetoric of the institution. Think critically. Interrogate it and yourself. If life can be better explored without the vacuity of systematised learning, leave!

# A LETTER TO

Dear front-liners,

This letter is a criticism of the front-lining method of fundraising for non-for-profit advocacy based organisations, something that is potentially damaging our causes more than it is supporting them.

We need diverse of strategies and organisations, that envision the kinds of change to bring justice to the people and planet oppressed by ideological and institutional destruction.

History tells us that social movements can bring about great changes, fuelled by grassroots momentum that comes from all citizens, not just the educated and ideological.

We know that our movement for justice needs to engage and empower our entire society to bring about a truly democratic revolution of our social, economic and environmental systems. Unfortunately we have been pursuing a strategy of incremental change for the entire life time of the environmental movement.

This may be because many NGOs have become caught up in a sustained strategy of acting within boundaries of what they think possible. As a result, campaign after campaign has pushed for the next baby step for an organisation's focus issue.

Often professional paid activist's work hours easily outweigh its member's work hours, their roles focussing on policy rather than empowering people to take action. Organisations accept volunteers but treat them as office interns, fail to train them and fail to decentralise their movement and the campaigns they run. As a result we don't have a grassroots movement.

Additionally, local groups struggle for funding because they don't have the brand recognition or decades of asset accumulation like the big NGO's. Yet they are doing the most important work of building a movement of organisers, activists and change makers to decentralise and grow our movement.

When we try to raise money by hassling people on the streets



# FRONTLINERS

we are teaching the status quo to avoid us. To avoid the planet that needs our help. This is how people are starting to see our movement: something that wants our money either through donation or government taxes. Who would blame them for their deepening distrust?

People do care but they want to contribute in a way that goes beyond their pocket, they want to have a say and they want the skills they need to make a difference. We could be on the street recruiting people to come to events (they could even be fundraising events), trainings and rallies.

Or even better we could be organising in workplaces, schools, universities, churches and community centres. We need to be seeking change in people's values and practices, not their credit card donation directions.

The majority of front-liners I have met are passionate, idealistic and talented young people. In decades past such young people were the activists leading administrative agitation,

organising in unions, running trainings, presenting in high schools. But all too often front-liners are being taught that front-lining is the best thing they can do to campaign and you can even get paid for it.... bonus!

If you are an idealistic young person that needs a job and is currently working as or considering working as a front-liner please consider the follow questions:

About your organisation:

- What does the money you raise contribute to?
- Is your organisation building a movement?
- Is your organization training people to take action themselves?
- Do you want a job fundraising or do you want to be an activist?

Yours sincerely,  
a concerned activist,

Ahri  
ahriblu@hotmail.com

*Ahri Tallon is an organiser  
for the Australian Youth  
Climate Coalition*

# south coast l o g g i n g - where **size** doesn't matter

*by lisa stone*

On the south coast of NSW thousands of hectares of native forests are being clearfelled or patch clearfelled every year. Eighty five percent of our trees are turned into woodchips, either at the chipmill or, of the 25% that goes to the four saw mills, half of that 50% goes to the chipmill. None of these trees are 'waste'. Native forests are being logged at an unsustainable rate, 'at 5-10 year rotations'. Forests NSW, the state run logging company, say 'regeneration has not been successful in the Southern region', and in the Eden region FNSW 'the remaining multi-age forests resource is coming to an end in the next two to three years'.

Based on the State and Territory listings the largest increases in numbers of threatened species nationally are occurring on the south coast and have as the reason for



this increase 'habitat loss due to intensive timber harvesting'.

Every water catchment bar one is being logged. This reduces water flow, and rivers will cease to flow in dry times. The siltation threatens the \$2M oyster industry. Further, scientific evi-



dence clearly shows that logging catchment increases risk of flood. From the logging of an Aboriginal Place on Mumbulla Mountain to the clear-felled hillsides of Gnupa, native forest logging is causing great environmental and cultural damage. Of note is that much of this logging is unlawful and many operations are in breach of various pieces of legislation.

Climate change and pollution mitigation measures are currently great matters of public interest. Given the evidence on climate change, the adverse impacts of native forest logging's greenhouse gas emissions, the effect on water supply, the loss of biological diversity, the loss of ecological integrity it is difficult to argue logging has positive environmental outcomes, and certainly does not fit the definition of zero emission renewable technologies.

FNSW are arguing that native forest is a renewable resource. The definition of renewable technologies are that they do not release greenhouse gases and use zero carbon resources. The industrial patch clearfelling of the south east is the antithesis of renewable.

The Federal Climate Change Committees Report states we have 8 years left in which to affect change. 'This framework underscores the importance of eliminating harvesting of native forests as perhaps the most important policy measure that can be taken to reduce emissions from land ecosystems.'

The majority of residents on the South Coast are hugely concerned about climate change and deforestation. The latest Galaxy Poll's findings were that 78% of people want an end to native forest logging.

## What does SEFR do?

- We research, audit and survey State forests; The auditing involves documenting breaches of the RFAs, IFOAs, TSLs and EPLs (licence conditions) and other non-licence conditions by Forests NSW and logging contractors. These reports are then sent to OEH.
- We have two motion activated cameras set up in contentious compartments;
- We contribute to newsletters, produce articles;
- We make submissions to Government and lobby the shit out of them;
- We have a website, facebook, myspace and there is the Nippon-Paper website;
- We run spring and summer campaigns, blockades and skillshares.

When there is a logging compartment with a serious breach we do breach report. If there is no action from the regulator we then blockade the compartment and run media.



It is difficult to see how broadscale clearing of native forest can equate to improving environmental outcomes. Or how a logging event can be defined as regeneration. Due to failure to enact principles of ecological sustainability, including principles of inter-generational equity FNSW will have difficulty in meeting any objectives. Further due to current logging practices it is difficult to argue that maintaining

environmental values at or above target levels can be achieved. Given current knowledge on causes and effects of climate change it would be difficult to argue that continuance of logging could maintain these levels given the amount of environmental harm caused. Certainly with regard to climate change and extinction of species it would be very difficult to argue that logging was 'for the common good'.

Political will is crucial to improving forest law compliance and ensuring that measures taken have positive outcomes for conservation that are long-lasting. As there has been no compliance and continuous over-logging, the only positive outcome for conservation would be to end native forest logging. The challenge now for public native forest conservation is to pressure political will to transfer all State owned land to National Parks co-managed with traditional owners.

The anticipation is that, with increasing knowledge of the link between climate change and forest degradation, landowners and Government will cease logging of native forest. Until then species that cannot speak or defend themselves are reliant on political will and the care of developers, farmers, loggers and multinationals.



*Lisa is a mother, psychologist, performer, law student and tireless campaigner for the south coast forests.*

*South East Forest Rescue (SEFR) takes a firm stand on environmental protection of native forests on the south coast of NSW, organising everything from direct actions, activist skillshares and media to lobbying, submission writing, legal cases and more!*

*To find out more and get involved, visit <http://endsoutheastwoodchipping.wordpress.com> or email [sefr@fastmail.fm](mailto:sefr@fastmail.fm)*

# A FRENCH ACTIVIST EXILED IN AUSTRALIA

My name is Tifenn. I'm 20 years old, a student in political sciences, and I left Brittany, France at the beginning of September to intern at The Wilderness Society's Sydney office for seven months.

In France, I was involved with different environmental networks. As one of the 'Young French Greens' coordinators, I helped organize "quirky" actions, like the time the group wore swimsuits outdoors, in three degrees weather, to raise awareness about climate change during the Cancun Climate Summit.

I arrived in Sydney on September 8th, and the first time I met my supervisor he opened the office's door wearing a French maid costume. Half an hour later, I

found myself on the streets, in the same garb, with The Wilderness Society volunteers raising awareness of deforestation in Victoria's native forests and asking Officeworks - a large stationary company that sells Reflex brand paper made from these forests - to "clean up their act".

And I realized that in every part of the world, ecologists should use humor to attract attention.

In France, I was very concerned about the coal seam gas exploration licenses granted by the government in secret to big companies in May 2010. Coal seam gas extraction pumps toxic chemicals deep into the Earth to extract gas caught between coal beds, with little understanding as to the environmental impact or risks involved. One year later, the



issue drew a lot of media attention, protests were organized, and, as a result of this pressure, hydraulic fracturing was finally banned in July 2011. Not all coal seam gas exploration is banned, only those that used this fracturing technique... but, at least, it is a step forward.

In Australia the situation is different because the coal seam gas industry is already well established. Two weeks after my arrival, I was part of a rally against the coal seam gas industry marching through Newtown alongside The Wilderness Society. I found this citizen mobilization really exciting, and wanting to do more, I became involved with The Wilderness Society campaign work in this area. We denounce the fact that coal seam gas mining includes a number of ill-considered environmental consequences such as land clearing, gas leaks, water contamination, and greenhouse gas emissions. One of our campaign activities was to go

to the CSG threatened Pilliga State forest, in northwestern NSW, and see the CSG "test" wells in place there. Eastern Star Gas and Santos plan to dig 1,100 gas wells in this wild place – NSW's largest gas field. We assisted a group of scientists in conducting biodiversity surveys, the results of which show that at least 20 endangered species that live in the Pilliga Forest will become extinct if the state's plans go ahead.

And I realized that in every part of the world, it's a hard fight to protect natural systems in the face of destructive industry action.

In France, my friends and I worked with the environmental association of our university, calculating the uni's carbon footprint and promoting local products for students for instance.

In Australia, I met with a student environment group in Sydney to talk about The Wilderness Society's campaigns and get their support for TWS actions. I was positively surprised by

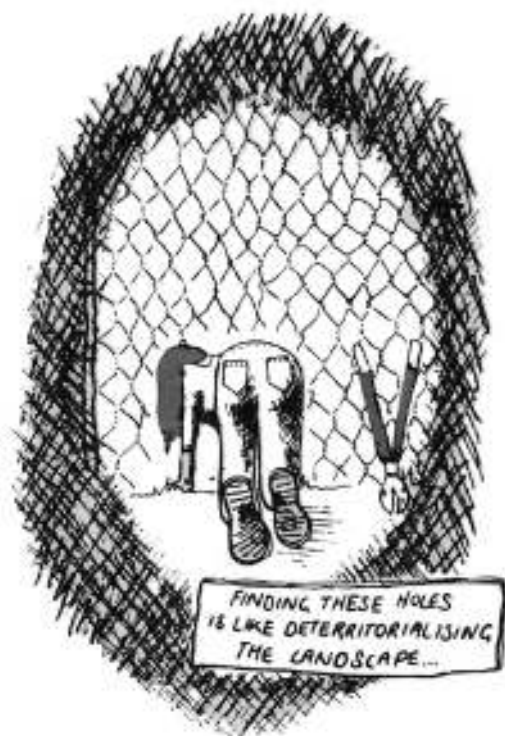
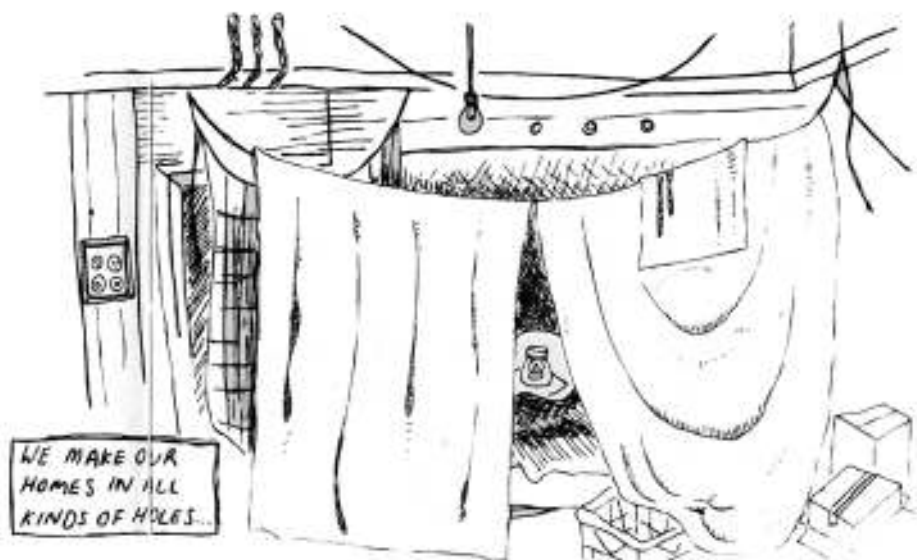
your nation-wide organization - Germinate, such a beautiful project!

And I realized that we can certainly unite our convictions, our values and our strengths in support of environmental struggles across Australia. Perhaps we could even launch an international network with activists in universities all around the world... Environmental activists from South Australia's universities, from The Wilderness Society, from French collectives, from Bangkok, Montreal, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires or even Moscow are all struggling for the same cause: caring for the Earth for a better future.

*...I realized that in every part of the world, it's a hard fight to protect natural systems in the face of destructive industry action.*

Below: Ardeche, a French region which was threatened by coal seam gas industry.





# *the* **GREEN ECONOMY'S ONE PERCENT** *...lesson's from Occupy*

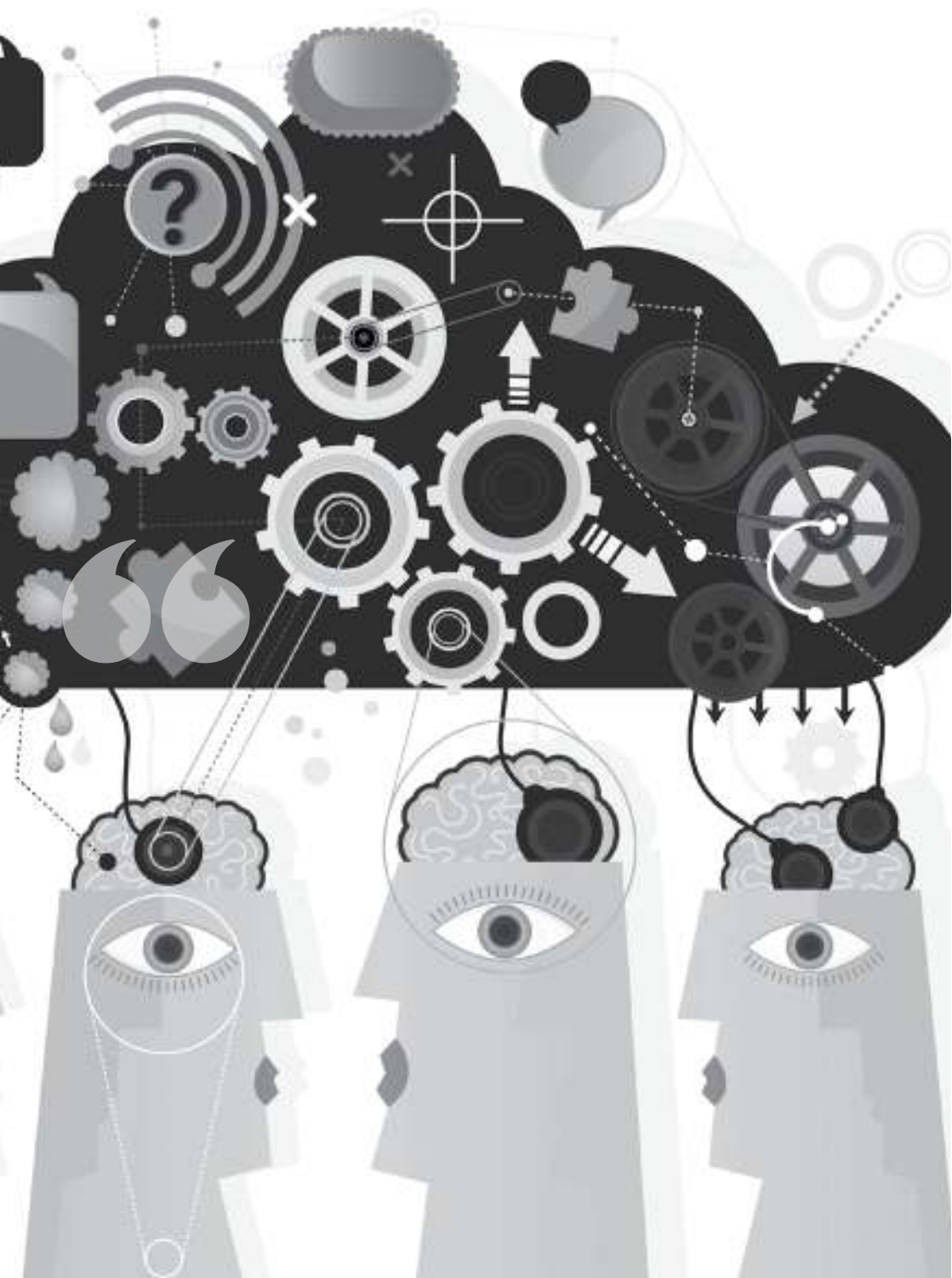
THIS ARTICLE IS an attempt to look at points of convergence between the occupy movement and environment movements in Australia and Internationally. While the movements share members, theories of organising, and common oppressors, other elements of discourse are still attempting to reconcile, and there is much they can learn from each other.

Mark Stemen, professor of Environmental Issues at Chico State University USA, has gained media coverage in the US for his critique on the Occupy movement. "In the context of the biotic community, we [humans] are the 1 percent." He says. "The true 99 percent—the rest of life on Earth—is struggling because of humans".

"The caution on all of this (Occupy movement), is that this is going to focus just on humanity. It's a real concern that we're all starting to think that we can actually solve this problem without worrying about the planet."

However, non-hierarchical organisational structures within Occupy mean that demands and debate within the movement are in a constant state of evolution. In recent months Environmentalists in the US have found →







a welcoming stage for 'Occupy Earth', their take on the Occupy concept. In Sydney, the Occupy encampment at Martin Place has played host to a fortnightly "free school" at which workshops and skillshares on community-owned and DIY renewable energy have been run. And to some extent Occupy Wall Street and the countless other Occupy protests are experiments in setting up off-the-grid encampments with limited finances, though it must be said they have access to 21st-century technology, running water and public toilets.

The interconnections between social justice and sustainability run throughout the occupy discourse. During an Occupy Sydney community renewal energy workshop, Ness argued that Australia's current energy system

"is highly centralized and highly dependent on fossil fuels like coal which means that there is very powerful players that have control over our energy but also over our governments that make decisions around those centralized systems, which is why community energy is interesting and full of potential." Increasing corporate control across a broad range of industries, corporate centralisation, growth fetish and a culture of 'profit above people and planet' are succinctly and powerfully critiqued by many in the movement.

Having unmasked the fallacy of limitless growth, many within the environment movement promote the idea of a 'green economy', a concept by which an economy is considered a component of the ecosystem in which it





OCCUPY SYDNEY PROTESTERS, MARTIN PLACE

resides, typically referring to economic activities that are **low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive**. Apparently responding to our demands, some of the world's biggest corporations are probing at our soft ideological underbellies by investing in the 'green economy'. Yet, as with many positive, social and environmental based concepts, the green economy is easily adopted for the benefit of those making decisions in our name. In challenging the greenwash, we can learn much from Occupy.

The ETC Group's\* new report "Who Will Control the Green Economy?" released in December during the UN Rio+20 preparatory meetings in New York, warns that the 'green economy' like other sectors, is controlled by an elite minority and monopoly

is increasing. Today the top 10 multinational seed companies control 73% of the world's commercial seed market, up from 37% in 1995 (p. 22). The world's 10 biggest pesticide firms now control a whopping 90% of the global 44 billion dollar pesticide market (p.25). 10 forestry companies control 40% of the forestry market (p.31), 10 mining companies control a third of the mining market (p. 29), the top ten energy companies control a quarter of the energy market (p.10) and the list goes on.

New corporate convergences are manifesting across diverse industry sectors as large players position themselves to dominate the Green Economy. DuPont, already the world's second largest seed company and sixth largest company in both pesticides



OCCUPY MELBOURNE, FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

and chemicals, is now a powerhouse in plant-based materials, energy and food ingredients while partnering with the world's third largest energy company BP (pp. ii-iii). DuPont's business plan is not unique. Other major players in seeds, pesticides, chemicals and food – including Monsanto, Syngenta, Dow, BASF and Unilever – are also making strategic investments in risky technologies and forming R&D collaborations in hopes of turning plant biomass into all kinds of high value products – and profit.

Alberto Gomez of La Via Campesina, laments that “Corporate control over our food system threatens peasant farmers around the world. We already produce 70% of the world's food, but our ability to do so in an agro-ecological way is being undermined by...corporate control.”

While the ‘Green Economy’ may evoke iconic images of solar panels and wind turbines, this is not actually where corporate activity is focusing. While non-hydro and non-nuclear ‘renewable’ energy is only a thin sliver (1.8%) of global energy consumption – almost all of this consists of harvesting and burning biomass for energy and fuels and now chemicals. The ETC report shows how the major corporate realignments in the new ‘Green Economy’ are happening around plant biomass (p.8-12, 18-21).

ETC argues that while seductive, corporate convergences and new green techno-fixes are dangerous because they will spur even greater concentration of corporate power and unleash privately owned technologies into communities that have not been consulted about –



My Nan was one hell'uva a baker. School fetes, country fairs... if there was a blue ribbon to be won she'd always come up trumps!

Her recipe for date and ginger slice was my brothers' favourite. Nan'd bake him a tray for school hol's which he'd take to his room and devour in one sitting...glutton! Vegans may want to use an egg substitute and margarine to replace the butter, and gluten/fructose intolerant people use gluten free flour and add a little extra butter.

### Date & Ginger Slice

$\frac{1}{4}$  lb Butter or marg (+ tablespoons)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  " Sugar Brown (1 cup)  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups S.R. Flour  
 1 egg. \*  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of chopped dates  
 Coffee Icing. + Crystallized ginger

Beat Butter & Sugar, add egg, dates & ginger, then  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups SR Flour. Pat this mixture into a greased tin or baking dish (mine is 10x6) & bake in 180 degree oven for 25-30 min. Before it is quite cold ice with coffee icing & cut in slices while still warm.

Coffee icing:- 2 cups Icing sugar, 1 des spoon butter, which you rub into the icing sugar with tips of fingers. 1 tea spoon Coffee Essence a little milk. beat well. Sprinkle nuts on top if liked.

My Nan was never one to waste food... I guess she was an old skool freegan. Nice one! Another fav recipe of hers was bubble and squeak. Good in times of war, economic depression, being a student... Traditionally it's made for lunch from whatever you have leftover from the night before. One main component is mashed potato, which is the glue that holds all the other vegetables together. Simple, tasty and good for a hangover - Nan enjoyed a tipple!

.....

Prep Time: 5 minutes  
Cook Time: 15 minutes

4 tbsp butter or oil  
1 cup onion, finely chopped  
Leftover mashed potato  
Any leftover vegetables, finely chopped  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper



In a large frying pan melt the butter (or heat the oil), add the chopped onion and fry gently for 5 mins or until soft.

Turn the heat up slightly and add the mashed potato and vegetables. Fry for 10 mins, turning over two or three times to ensure the potato and vegetables are thoroughly reheated.

Press the potato mixture on to the base of the pan with a spatula and leave to cook for 1 min. Flip over and repeat.

Ready to eat, enjoy!

# REVIEWS

→ **Whole Lotta Frackin' Going On - Songs about Coal Seam Gas**  
by Various artists

→ **If All The Land Would Rise**  
by Ethan Miller and Kate Boverman

## **Whole Lotta Frackin' Going On - Songs about Coal Seam Gas**

by Various Artists

'Whole Lotta Frackin' Going On' is a compilation album featuring 14 songs, in a range of genres, from musicians keen to alert Australians about the dangers of 'fracking' - a process used in Coal Seam Gas extractions.

Most submissions came from artists in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales - next on the mining companies' exploration agenda in Australia.

The CD is offered at cost as a funds and awareness raiser to environmental groups opposing CSG mining.

**wholelottafrackinggoingon.com**

Gasland lyrics from *Whole Lotta Frackin' Going On - Songs about Coal Seam Gas*, released 12 August 2011.



## **Gasland**

by Rhett Brambleby

*Heed the warning.  
Taste of things to come.  
Gasland is coming.  
Coming soon to a place you love.*

*Behold the beautiful morning.  
Stand up warriors green.  
Battle lines keep forming.  
Come now it's time to lead.*

*Cause we've no time to stall,  
now the market marches free.  
And now the giant's in our town  
Go and test the water now.*

*Fracture and blast her  
Drill down, poison the well  
In the guise of energy saviour  
All stamped with the dollars we hail*

*Oh precious twinkling stream  
Old ocean deep and wide  
Holy places near and far  
Up for sale, sacred life*

*And with no sense to appeal to  
Should we just take that deal  
And will another warning fade  
With all our cries and the money  
that's made.*



## *If All The Land Would Rise*

by Ethan Miller and Kate Boverman

Ethan and Kate's songs and music are gorgeous, heartfelt, gentle and deeply powerful, with the album moving from the riotous to the reflective. They are not just feel-good folk songs; they are educational, inspiring and send a rhythm through your feet that makes you want to dance on the fallen fences and meeting rooms of those making decisions in our name.

Ethan and Kate say "We see our music as ... a spark thrown into the fuel of our collective yearnings for more just, joyful and dignified worlds. Inspired by a long tradition of political singing and songwriting, our songs speak from an ongoing commitment to struggles for social, ecological and economic justice."

Ethan and Kate aren't just singing their politics – all materials were either made from 100% recycled material or printed from vegetable ink (except the CD, of course) and the songs are not copyrighted, so we can sing 'em without paying royalties. You can also download them for free at [riotfolk.org](http://riotfolk.org), a collective of which Ethan and Kate are members. Riot Folk describe themselves as "a mutual aid collective of radical folk musicians,



participating in and supporting movements for social, economic and ecological liberation." Payments for a cd are made on a sliding scale – they ask for between five and 20 dollars and leave it up to you.

### **Clearcut**

*I feel like I'm clearcut  
I feel like my rivers have run dry  
And I'm raw beneath the open sky  
And the rain, when it comes  
Will carry me away in a landslide*

### **White Lies**

*Shame hangs its head and guilt  
tries to run  
But complicity demands we  
undo what's been done  
Name our history, find the  
courage to rise  
Shout it out loud, with bold  
angry cries –  
No more white lies!*



*Clearcut and White Lies lyrics from  
If All The Land Would rise, released in 2005.*



Ollie Butterfield passed away in a tragic car accident Dec. 29, 2011 aged 26. He was the partner of Isabella Brown and a father figure to Bassi. He was the son of David and Helen, brother of Georgina and Tim, best friend of Gearoid, stepson of Sandra and Nicholas and stepbrother of Sam, Vickie, Ben and Tom.

Ollie was a politically charged MC from Melbourne, performing on stage with Combat Wombat (Elephant Tracks), Elf Tranzporter, MC Whisper (Equills), You and your Music, The Liquid Funk Orchestra & The Street Poetics crew (Mantra, Mista Savona). His Debut LP "Navigate the Crosswind" was released in July 2011 and is available at [olliemc.bandcamp.com](http://olliemc.bandcamp.com).

Most recently, Ollie made the news by chaining himself to Woodside machinery at James Price Point WA, the site of Woodside's planned gas hub. ABC News reported: "A disabled hip-hop artist from the eastern states is the latest to join the ongoing protest against the Kimberley gas hub, chaining himself to a Woodside vehicle near the site."

Love and respect to you Ollie.

In Our Hearts Forever.

## RIP Ollie

### THE LOVE THAT YOU BRING

*From "Navigate the Crosswind" by Ollie MC*


Slip out of the ethereal breeze, yeah  
We can make it down the hill with ease, please  
Make the best of these opportunities cos when the real job comes it  
will require unity  
Read the eulogy of a man who passed away,  
Who disappeared after having something to say  
And if you're thinking that you might go that way then pray that luck  
might be with you on your fateful day

So make your plans carefully and pick your words wisely  
Think about what your message is comprising  
And look to the core of your trouble and find the door  
That takes you to your destination, to your ground floor  
What's more – rally support - you might be just one drop in a wave  
Think about all the lives you could save - Be brave  
Life is more than just a wage  
And you knew this was gonna have to happen at some stage

It's the love that you bring  
Judgement ain't no thing  
So if you're with me sing  
Judgement ain't no thing

Judgement ain't no thing  
It's the feeling that you bring  
Hating ain't no thing  
So if you're with me sing  
Hating ain't no thing  
Hating ain't no thing

Why must we all be separate for so long?  
Shouldn't matter where your skin be from  
If we come together all of a sudden we're strong  
One love one world is where we all come from



So support someone who seems misaligned to you  
Embrace the diversity of a life livin' true  
Cos I can't help but wanna get to know you

So too does the world spin for ten thousand things  
Hating. Is the new paradigm they're creating  
Inciting us to come and play in  
But free thought  
free movement  
and free thinkin'  
Your old school conqueror's ship it be sinkin'  
So stick to your guns if you want something bad enough  
Stick to now it's gonna be hard it's gonna be tough  
It's rough stuff tryin' to change your situation but whatever happens  
Don't give in to no intimidation  
Cos

It's the love that you bring  
Judgement ain't no thing  
So if you're with me sing  
Judgement ain't no thing  
Judgement ain't no thing

It's the feeling that you bring  
Hating ain't no thing  
So if you're with me sing  
Hating ain't no thing  
Hating ain't no thing

Don't wanna pretend to my friends like things just getting better  
Don't wanna appear that my fear is affected by the weather  
Acknowledge the knowledge you could be a giver not a getter  
And you don't wanna be a hedge your bets better  
Do more than send a letter

When we look to our brains yeah  
It's plain to see in a refrain that the world went insane  
But we just cruise  
And we barely bruise  
And it's breaking my heart to see us choose what we choose

But

It's the love that you bring  
Judgement ain't no thing  
So if you're with me sing  
Judgement ain't no thing  
Judgement ain't no thing

It's the feeling that you bring  
Hating ain't no thing  
So if you're with me sing  
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It's the feeling that you bring  
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So if you're with me sing  
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# Unfinished Business

While we may have unfinished business to deal with here, there is still even more to be done all over the world. Our people have traveled the globe for many years now, and have brought to many people an understanding of a time now passed. It is up to us, as keepers of the dreamtime and the sacred rainbow spirit, to bring nature back to the people of this Earth. Corporations around the world are eroding what is left of our precious wild world, and turning it into a free market for them to pillage at will. Many multinational companies are based here in Australia, and it is these corporations which we can tackle head on, to show the world it can be done. These companies have taken our land, killed our people and polluted our environment.

It is time to fight back, to take back what is ours, and let them know they can not have our lives for rent any more. If we do not act now, we will never have another chance, and what we love will be lost forever. Our people have seen so much terror, blood, sweat and tears. Our dignity has been taken for so long, that it is testament to our power that some remains, and that we are all here today. For every child that has been taken from their home and forced to live a lie, for every mother that has cried for her child in the night, for every father who was worked to death, we will seek justice.

Justice can bring our joy back, and justice alone will set us free from persecution. Too many people today do not understand why we seek an apology, why we seek a treaty, why we seek our sovereignty. These 'New Australians', who have been arriving here since Captain James Cook first invaded in 1770, now believe that we have taken land from them, that we have attacked them, that we have threatened their way of life. They do not see our history, they do not see our future, and not one of them cares for our present.

**Diane Mospan**

National Elders Council

December 2011

# THANK YOU

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and

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# GERMINATE

LOOK AT ME



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