

GERMINATE

WINTER 2011

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.



## **Acknowledgement of Country**

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

# CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| GERMINATE  | 04 |
| ABOUT ASEN   | 05 |
| GERMINATE NEWS   | 06 |
| ACTIVIST CALENDAR  | 09 |
| ELDER'S STATEMENT  | 11 |
| REBUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP  | 12 |
| SOULMATES  | 16 |
| RECIPES: SILVERBEET TRIANGLES & BAKED SILVERBEET                                 | 17 |
| FOOTPRINTS FOR PEACE   | 18 |
| WA NUCLEAR FREE ALLIANCE   | 22 |
| AN INTRODUCTION TO FREE TRADE MILITARISATION & THE<br>ENVIRONMENT IN THE PACIFIC | 28 |
| SEA SHEPHERD   | 30 |
| THE EVOLUTION OF GREEN NEOLIBERALISM   | 34 |
| WHY THE CARBON PRICE DEAL SUCKS  | 36 |
| RADICAL RADISH - MACQUARIE UNI FOOD CO-OP  | 43 |
| FOOD CO-OP LIST BY STATE   | 48 |
| TOWARDS ZERO FOOD WASTE: BEYOND DUMPSTER DIVING                                  | 52 |
| CROSS BORDERS COLLECTIVE POSTERS   | 56 |
| TREE POEM  | 58 |
| INTERNATIONAL 24 HOURS OF ACTION   | 60 |
| A LETTER FROM THE FORESTS... SE NSW  | 62 |
| POEM: TREE CLIMBING  | 64 |
| TREE ARTWORK   | 65 |
| REFLECTION ON CLIMATE CAMPS & DIRECT ACTION                                      | 66 |
| PEACE CONVERGENCE  | 73 |
| VALEDICTION FOR PETER GRAY   | 78 |
| THANKYOU   | 80 |

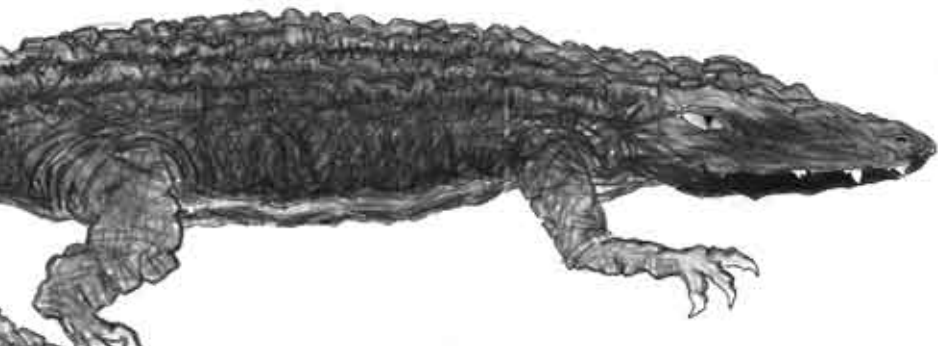
# GERMINATE

GERMINATE IS THE BI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS ENVIRONMENT NETWORK. WE CREATE GERMINATE TO INFORM OF ISSUES AND CAMPAIGNS, REFLECT ON OUR MOVEMENTS FOR CHANGE, AND FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GRASSROOTS STUDENT ACTIVISTS AND ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AND BEYOND.

WE LOVE SUBMISSIONS FROM STUDENT AND YOUTH ACTIVISTS ON WICKED ACTIONS, SKILLS, CAMPAIGNS, AS WELL AS GRAPHICS, PHOTOS, POEMS, RECIPES, COMICS, ARTY STUFF, STRATEGIC CAMPAIGN REFLECTIONS AND ANYTHING ELSE. ARTICLES SHOULD BE LESS THAN 1000 WORDS. THE DEADLINE FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE IS 11 NOVEMBER

ADVERTISING INFORMATION FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATIONS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS AT [GERMINATE@ASEN.ORG.AU](mailto:GERMINATE@ASEN.ORG.AU)

2011 GERMINATE EDITORIAL CREW:  
PHUONG LE, ELSE KENNEDY AND MARK CACHIA





## ABOUT ASEN:

THE AUSTRALIAN STUDENT ENVIRONMENT NETWORK IS THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF STUDENTS ACTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES. WE ARE MADE UP OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENT NETWORKS, WHICH ARE MADE UP OF CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVES.

BECAUSE WE ARE A NON-HIERARCHICAL GRASSROOTS NETWORK, DIRECTED BY OUR MEMBERS, ASEN IS CONSTANTLY EVOLVING, DEPENDING ON WHAT STUDENTS ARE DOING IN OUR COLLECTIVES AND COMMUNITIES. ASEN WAS CREATED BY AND CONTINUES TO BE ORGANIZED BY YOUNG ACTIVISTS COMMITTED TO CHANGE. STUDENTS USE OUR NETWORK TO ORGANIZE LOCAL CAMPAIGNS, SHARE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, EMBARK ON NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE AND NO NUCLEAR, AND WORK ALONGSIDE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THEIR FIGHT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND AN END TO GENOCIDE.

ALTHOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION GROWS AND INJUSTICE THRIVES WORLDWIDE, THESE PROBLEMS ARE FINDING THEIR MATCH IN THE ENERGY OF STUDENTS AND YOUTH WILLING TO FIGHT FOR OUR FUTURE. WE DIRECT OUR ENERGIES, INVOLVE NEW STUDENTS, AND EMPOWER OUR GENERATION TO UPROOT ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE AND CREATE REMARKABLE COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE!

# GERMINATE NEWS

Tasmania

**March 8th 2011:** Conservationists hung a 15 meter banner from the roof of Hobart's Parliament House, calling for a forests moratorium and urgent protection of Tasmania's world class and unique forests. At the same time conservationists from Still Wild Still Threatened occupied logging coupe SX28C in the Styx Valley. These actions were an urgent call for the moratorium on the logging of Tasmania's native forests to be fully in place by the March 15th deadline.

"Tasmania's ancient forests, water catchments and wildlife habitat's are being lost to a logging industry in crisis every day. The global community was looking forward to a moratorium on the logging of the high conservation value forests, due to be in place by March 15 2011. It appears that the full moratorium will not be in place and that is due to the lethargic Tasmanian State Government and an industry that is bent on logging Tasmania's last wild places," said Jenny Weber, spokesperson for the Huon Valley Environment Centre.

more info: <http://www.stillwildstillthreatened.org/>

## Mass arrests at protest to stop destruction of Tasmanian heritage site

Sat 16 Apr 2011. Twenty one protestors were arrested trying to stop the start of construction of a section of a road bridge that will destroy a nationally listed heritage site that contains evidence of Aboriginal occupation of Tasmania going back 42,000 years. The Tasmanian Government claims it is "too expensive" to re-route the bridge. According to protester this demonstrates that in 2011 Aboriginal culture and heritage is still seen as both an impediment to "progress" and disposable.

more info: <http://indymedia.org.au/2011/04/16/mass-arrests-at-protest-to-stop-destruction-of-tasmanian-heritage-site>



NSW

## People Against Coal Expansion (PACE) occupy NCIG coal export terminal on Kooragang Island.

Wed 10th May 2011: Occupying the construction site at 10am, People Against Coal Expansion (PACE) delayed the expansion of the NCIG coal export terminal on Kooragang Island. Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group is attempting to ramp up coal exports, Australia's biggest contribution to climate change, by 25 million tonnes at the third coal terminal, which would represent almost half of NSW's domestic greenhouse pollution from all sources. PACE spokesperson Catrina Sturmberg said the government's support for coal expansion was not only ripping up the Hunter Valley, but committing Australia to continual global emissions increases.



"While politicians are talking emissions reductions, we are walking in to demand real action on climate change," Ms. Sturmberg said. "State and federal politicians talk about climate change, but neglect to mention how many new coal projects have been approved." "We are calling on Australia's governments to show real commitment to curbing global emissions by phasing out coal exports."

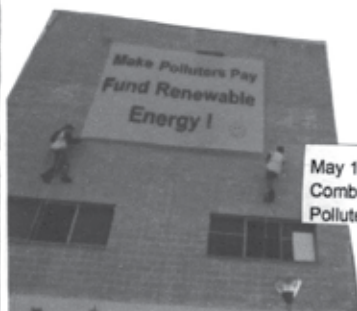
for more info: <http://peopleagainstcoalexpansion.wordpress.com/>

### Newcastle Harbour Blockade



Over 600 people from across NSW peacefully blockaded Newcastle Harbour, successfully stopping coal ship movements for the day, protesting the expansion of Australia's largest contribution to climate change - coal exports.

The vibe on the harbour was fun and positive. Participants at the blockade called for an immediate ban on the expansion of the coal industry in Australia, the many billions of taxpayer dollars spent on subsidies to fossil fuel industries each year to be redirected into clean renewable energy solutions, and a swift phase out of coal, replacing all coal industry jobs with jobs in renewable energy and other sustainable industries.



### Energy Activists mount solar panels on Climate Minister's roof

May 16: Four Rising Tide protestors scaled the walls of Climate Change Minister Greg Combet's electorate office, putting solar panels on his roof and unfurling a banner saying, "Make Polluters Pay, Fund Renewable Energy!"

Conor Ashleigh (c) 2011

more info: <http://www.risingtide.org.au/>

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### The Tour de Flinders

April 18-24: Twenty cyclists took part in a 380 kilometre bicycle ride from Port Augusta to The Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary in an event nicknamed the "Tour de Flinders - Ride for Renewables". The riders raised awareness about the detrimental health, environmental and cultural impacts of uranium mining, calling for the decommissioning of all uranium mines in South Australia and the establishment of a renewable energy industry in the state.

more info: <http://www.adelaide.foe.org.au/>

## QUEENSLAND

### Blockaders claim victory at Tara: Queensland Gas Company in breach of environmental authority

Sun 03 Apr 2011: Blockaders at the Tara residential estate claimed victory in their campaign to stop QGC (British Gas) from building a pipeline on to their estate. The police have packed up and left, telling the protest group this was a "civil matter now". QGC have stopped all work on the pipeline.

more info: <http://lockthegate.org.au/>



# NORTHERN TERRITORY

## Community rally- keep the poison out of Muckaty

Sunday May 8: A vibrant community rally and march was held at Tennant Creek calling for the Muckaty radioactive waste dump plan to be scrapped. The event preceded the Senate vote on the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill, listed for debate next Tuesday May 10.

Muckaty Traditional Owner Dianne Stokes said "the ALP promised to get rid of Howard's waste dump law, but this new law is almost exactly the same. They should throw the old law away. We don't want anything to do with the waste dump in the Muckaty Land Trust. Nothing has been listened to from the Traditional people from this country. We did not want Muckaty nominated and we still want Muckaty to be taken off the list".

more info: <http://beyondnuclearinitiative.com/>



Protesters stage a symbolic blocking of a bridge near the proposed site of the dump. Photo: Angela Wylie

# VICTORIA

February 24th - On the 1 year Anniversary of Muckaty being chosen as the site of a national radioactive waste dump, 7 Ace activists delivered barrels of radioactive waste by rail to the Preston Markets food bowl. The aim was to highlight the seriousness of potentially transporting radioactive waste throughout Australia & proposing to dump it on an unwilling indigenous community at Muckaty in the Northern Territory.

more info: <http://www.acecollective.org/>



## Roof occupation

4th May: More than 20 animal rights activists occupied the roof of the Somerville Egg Farm all day to protest against what they say are appalling conditions within the facility. 15 Activists were arrested. All were bailed to appear in the Frankston Magistrates court on June 15.

more info: <http://www.alv.org.au/>

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Lock on record at James Price Point

June 8: Shane Hughes was arrested after spending 27 hours locked on to a bulldozer near Woodside's proposed LNG precinct at James Price Point, north of Broome. Specialist police had to be flown to Broome from Perth and used an angle grinder to cut him off. More than 75 protesters formed a blockade at the site to stop machinery from reaching the development site, and other protesters formed a human chain across the access road to stop Woodside vehicles from getting through.

more info: <http://www.enviro Kimberley.org.au/>



If you have news snippets you'd like us to include in the next Germinate, send them to [germinate@asen.org.au](mailto:germinate@asen.org.au) by November 30

# ACTIVIST CALENDAR

Upcoming campaigns and events

## July-Sept

Broome locals are running a 'citizen science' land-based whale survey near Broome WA and they are looking for people to volunteer for two week periods - no experience necessary

## 15th - 29th July

Peace Convergence in Rockhampton and Yeppoon, Qld against the Talisman Sabre war games (a weekend of focused, collective 'protest' actions are proposed to be held during the actual exercises: 15-19th July)

## Coming soon - dates TBA

Protect Gulaga Camp, South East NSW Forests. Contact szranh@gmail.com

## 3 -12th July

The Lurujarri Heritage Trail walk

## 11th to 15th July

The National Organisation of Women Students Australia conference at the University of NSW, Sydney

## 21 - 26 August

A group of passionate riders will be riding from Perth to Broome, WA to support the Broome community in stopping the gas hub. Riders and organisers needed - contact thru [biketobroome.org/volunteer](http://biketobroome.org/volunteer)

## 21st August to 30 October

Walk Away from Uranium Mining, WA

## 23 August

Green Market Day at Griffith Uni Nathan Campus, hosted by GU Climate Action Group

## 24-25 September

'Art-ivism' - art based skill share weekend in SA

## November

"Climate, Gender and Food Sovereignty Caravan" in Bangladesh

## 11 November

Germinate submissions deadline

## January 21st - 25th 2012

ASEN Training Camp

## January 26th 2012

40th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra



BY TINKS



## TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

7 FEBRUARY 2011

We are the people of the land. The land is our mother. For more than 40,000 years we have been caring for this land. We are its natural farmers.

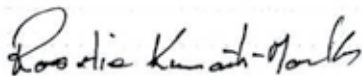
Now, after so many years of dispossession, we find once again we are being thrust towards a new dispossession. Our pain and our fear are real. Our people are again being shamed.

Under the Intervention we lost our rights as human beings, as Australians citizens, as the First People of the Land. We feel very deeply the threat to our languages, our culture and our heritage. Through harsh changes we have had removed from us all control over our communities and our lives. Our lands have been compulsorily taken from us. We have been left with nothing.

The legislation under which we now live does not comply with international law. It is discriminatory. We are no longer equal to other Australians. We are no longer equal to you.

As people in our own land, we are shocked by the failure of democratic processes, of the failure to consult with us and of the total disregard for us as human beings. We demand the return of our rights, our freedom to live our traditional lives, support to develop our economic enterprises to develop jobs and to work towards a better future for all our peoples.

So extreme have been the actions against our people that we must appeal to all people of Australia to walk with us in true equality. Speak out and help to put an end to the nightmare that Northern Territory Aboriginal people are experiencing on a daily basis.




Rosalie Kunoth-Monks OAM, Utopia



Rev. Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM, Galiwin'ku



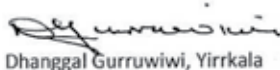
Harry Nelson, Yuendumu



Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM, Nauyiyu



Djapirri Mununggirrit, Yirrkala



Dhanggal Gurruwiwi, Yirrkala



George Gaymarani Pascoe, Mililingimbi

# REBUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP - AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION

The NT Intervention has been a disaster for Aboriginal communities.

Rather than 'closing the gap', government statistics show Indigenous incarceration rates have risen by almost 30 per cent,<sup>i</sup> school attendance is down in many places,<sup>ii</sup> suicide and self harm have increased<sup>iii</sup> and thousands of workers are being put onto Centrelink as CDEP closes down. There are growing crises in urban centres such as Alice Springs as large numbers of people move in from the bush.<sup>iv</sup>

The suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act to seize land, assets and authority has destroyed trust in government and many well run programs. Much of the unprecedented investment of more \$1.5 billion has been wasted on government bureaucrats and contractors.

Alongside the Intervention, the NT government has introduced policies guided by the same approach of paternalism and assimilation including dissolving Aboriginal community councils, effective cuts to homelands and smaller communities, and bans on bilingual education.

There must be an urgent shift from punitive controls to measures which restore community control, rebuild Aboriginal initiative and capacity, and improve shocking living conditions. This must start with repeal of NTER legislation and the clear application of the Racial Discrimination Act to all laws affecting Aboriginal communities.<sup>v</sup>

The government must apologise for the pain and damage caused by the Intervention.

Development must be based on commitment to land rights, self-determination and recognition of the unique strengths and circumstances of each community.

All policies relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must comply with the 46 Articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which Australia now officially supports.<sup>vi</sup>



### **1. Restore Community Governance:**

Urgently rebuild Aboriginal community government councils. Restore decision making power and administration of municipal services to these councils. Transfer all assets seized by the shires to the Aboriginal councils and pay compensation for all other assets sold off by the shires.

Remove Government Business Managers installed by the Intervention.

Repeal Business Management Area Powers which grant the Minister the capacity for total control over the budgets and direction of organisations receiving Commonwealth funding.

### **2. Increase government investment in**

**ALL communities:** Abandon the 'hub towns' model. Rapid improvements in education, housing, health and community services are required wherever Aboriginal people choose to live - in urban areas, remote communities and on homelands.

**3. Jobs with Justice:** Create a new Aboriginal employment program to replace Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) that have been gutted through recent reforms and are exploiting Aboriginal workers. Jobs created must pay at least award wages, with rights to join unions and collectively bargain. The program must be administered by community based organisations, with development needs and priorities set through broad community consultation. All willing workers should be employed.

**4. No to Township Leases:** End compulsory 5-year leases over Aboriginal township land taken through the Intervention. Stop pressuring communities to sign extensions on these leases. Lift the requirement that 40-year leases are signed with the government before housing can be built. Rescind all township leases signed since the Intervention began in 2007.

**5. Housing for All:** Return administration of housing stock from the NT Department of Housing to local Indigenous housing committees attached to the community councils. Funds for housing construction and renovation currently going to the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) run by government and major construction firms must be redirected to the local committees.

Funds for new housing must be available to all communities and substandard SIHIP renovations reassessed for further needs. Employment on housing programs should involve 80 per cent Aboriginal workers.<sup>vii</sup> Train and employ a permanent housing maintenance team in every community.

### **6. Empowerment through Education:**

Lift the ban on bilingual education and allow the expansion of bilingual programs in NT schools where requested. Invest in training and employment of Aboriginal teachers and Aboriginal teachers' aides and ensure they play a central role in curriculum development. Provide resources and employment opportunities to enable schools to become important centres of culture

and community life. Invest in staff, infrastructure and equipment to ensure all remote Aboriginal schools have full time qualified teachers and enjoy the same resources per enrolled student as schools across Rebuilding from the ground up Australia. Stop punitive programs linking welfare payments to school attendance.

### **7. Abolish Compulsory Income**

**Management:** Redirect funding from punitive welfare controls to community based programs. Lift incomes above the poverty line.<sup>viii</sup>

### **8. Community Controlled Social**

**Services:** Fund early childhood programs, youth services, men's programs and women's centres, with specific needs determined through the local councils.

**9. Health:** Implement the recommendations of the Health Impact Assessment by the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (2010), which recognises the importance of self-governance, housing, education and cultural respect in determining health outcomes.<sup>ix</sup>

Adequately fund health services in all communities. Consult with communities and health service providers to ensure programmes are appropriate and not duplicated. Support Aboriginal-managed health services. Fund and train Aboriginal health workers and Aboriginal liaison officers.

### **10. Non-Discriminatory Alcohol**

**Management:** Repeal blanket alcohol bans in Aboriginal communities. Provide resources to allow communities to develop local solutions to alcohol misuse that are driven by and appropriate to the needs of the community. Resource culturally appropriate and accessible alcohol treatment programs in all communities. Broader measures to empower communities, employ Aboriginal people in rewarding work and ensure delivery of basic services are crucial for dealing with problems associated with alcohol.

**11. Justice not Jail:** End all discriminatory laws that have led to increased police harassment and incarceration of Aboriginal people. This includes race-based alcohol restrictions, the capacity to suspend the need for a warrant to enter premises on Aboriginal land, blanket pornography bans, stigmatising signage in Aboriginal communities, and local council by-laws in Alice Springs which target the homeless. Repeal 'star chamber' powers that suspend the right to silence for Australian Crime Commission investigations in Aboriginal communities.

Remove NTER prohibitions on the consideration of Aboriginal customary law in bail and sentencing. Recognise customary law as an important vehicle to empower communities to take responsibility for offending and improve community safety.

i From 699 Indigenous inmates in Sept 2007 to 908 in June 2010, Northern Territory Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics, Issue 21: Sept Quarter 2007 and Issue 32: June Quarter 2010

ii Attendance rates in NTER communities down from 62.3 per cent in June 2007 to 60.7 per cent in June 2010, Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Report June 2009 and June 2010. NT government figures from December 2010 show some significant drops in school attendance, including 23 per cent at Lajamanu <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/northern-territory-schools-stick-to-english-despite-attendance-falls-20110117-19u5d.html>

iii Confirmed instances of suicide and self harm up from 105 in 2006-7 to 162 in 2009-10 Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Report June 2010

iv Walter Shaw, CEO of Tangentyere Council detailed the crisis and its impact on town camp residents in a press release published at <http://caama.com.au/take-a-leadership-role> Rebuilding from the ground up

v Despite amendments made by the Labor government in 2009, the RDA still does not apply in full to Intervention laws. See Human Rights Law

Resource Centre fact sheet <http://www.hrlrc.org.au/files/Fact-Sheet-2-NT-Intervention.pdf>

vi The full text of the UNDRIP can be found at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/drip.html>

vii Health Habitat, an NGO with extensive experience on housing projects in Aboriginal communities, have maintained a successful commitment to 80 per cent local Indigenous workers for the past decade. See [www.healthhabitat.com](http://www.healthhabitat.com) or an interview with director Paul Pholerios at <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/200907/s2635068.htm>

viii A report Impact of Income Management on store sales in the Northern Territory by the Menzies School of Health found that Income Management did not lead to increase in sales of fruit and vegetables. However, these sales did increase, along with sales of all other items, through the three month period following the government's stimulus package. The report is available at <http://www.menzies.edu.au/research/research-news/welfare-quarantining-may-not-lead-healthier-purchases-indigenous-community-st>

ix The full AIDA report is available at <http://www.aida.org.au/viewpublications.aspx?id=3>

### **More info:**

Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, UTS,

[www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/researchareas/alternatives.html](http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/researchareas/alternatives.html)

Use this page to explore video and background research supporting the document

### **Get involved!**

Check out [rollbacktheintervention.wordpress.com](http://rollbacktheintervention.wordpress.com) and [stoptheintervention.org](http://stoptheintervention.org) to get involved with ongoing campaign efforts.

This document puts forward a list of demands that have come consistently from Aboriginal communities since the announcement of the NT Intervention in 2007.

It has been widely endorsed by Aboriginal community leaders, along with the Intervention Rollback Action Group (Alice Springs), Stop the Intervention Collective (Sydney) and 'concerned Australians' (Melbourne).

Research supported by Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at UTS.

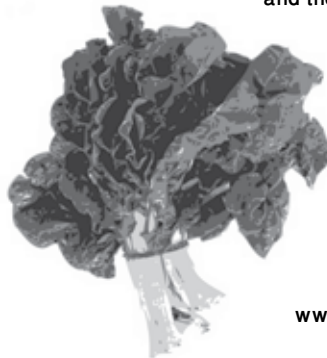
# Soulmates

I bought silverbeet  
and refused a bag  
and as I stepped away from the checkout  
it occurred to me  
that I was holding it  
like a bunch of flowers. But casually,  
as those who are often given flowers do.

And for a moment  
I walked with a jaunty step,  
as those who are often given flowers do.

And I realised  
I had chosen it with care,  
as do those  
who sometimes buy flowers,  
pushing some aside to find the best,  
freshest,  
unbruised bouquet,  
the coldest one,  
the one with the deepest green,  
the deepest folds,  
the juiciest scattering of spray-on dew.

And as I sauntered  
through the autodoors  
into the night  
a man  
stepped into my pathway  
and I thought  
he is going to ask for money



but instead he said  
"Are those for me?"

and I couldn't help but smile,  
because he thought the way I did,  
and for a moment I wanted,  
more than anything,  
to loosen a stem  
and give it to him,  
like some Shakespearean hero  
would give a single rose,  
like people who never give flowers  
do.

But even though he'd made me smile, and  
because I'd expected him to ask for money, and  
because the words were already on my tongue  
and the movements in my legs, I said  
"No, sorry."

and  
skirted him,  
and  
walked away.

© Laura Smith 2008

[www.laurasmithisbeingapoet.com](http://www.laurasmithisbeingapoet.com)

# Silverbeet Triangles

By Phuong Le

*A recipe for all that silverbeet that's growing in the garden over winter. Experiment with mixing in leftovers from the night before!*

## Ingredients:

- 1 whole bunch silverbeet
- A handful of button mushrooms
- A few sheets of puff pastry
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 handful grated tasty cheese (optional)

## Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 220C.
2. Fry onion until golden brown. Set aside to cool.
3. Wash silverbeet well. Dice stalks and leaves into small chunks and divide into four microwavable bowls.
4. Wash mushrooms, dice and place into a mw bowl.
5. Place each bowl into the microwave and zap for two minutes on high until the leaves have turned dark green or the leaves or mushrooms have sweated. Strain the excess water and squeeze as much liquid out as possible. Leave to cool.
6. Separate puff pastry sheets and begin to thaw. Lay out all the prepared ingredients.
7. Start making the triangles by slicing a square puff pastry sheet into four triangles by making two diagonal cuts. Take a triangle and spoon ingredients onto one half. Fold the puff pastry over on itself so the pastry edges meet. Seal edges with a dab of water and press with fingers or a fork. Cut the corners of the folded triangle and stick the excess pastry on top of the triangle to decorate.
8. Repeat step 7 as many triangles as you have ingredients for.
9. Place triangles onto an oiled baking tray and bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Flip triangles over as necessary. Serve hot with tomato sauce and some rocket or other leafy greens from the garden.

# Baked Silverbeet

By Macquarie Uni Food Co-Op

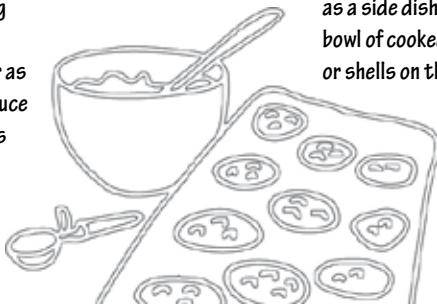
*Great value! You can use the stalks as well as the leaves for this recipe. And it looks so fancy!*

## Ingredients:

- 1 whole bunch silverbeet
- ¼ tbs grated nutmeg (powder will do just fine)
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 100g feta cheese (or another cheese you like)

## Method:

1. Wash the silverbeet well. Slice the white stalks crosswise into 1cm wide chunks, and shred the green leaves coarsely into strips.
2. Put the stalks into a steamer and steam for 5 minutes, then add the chopped leaves on top of the stalks in the steamer and steam until the leaves wilt.
3. Mix together the stalks and wilted leaves, and set aside. (Optional extra: add the nutmeg and ground black pepper to the steamed silver beet).
4. In a saucepan make a simple tomato sauce (you can cheat and use bottled tomato sauce, that's fine).
5. Heat the olive oil, fry the onion until softened, then add the garlic and fry 1 minute. Add the tomatoes; turn up the heat until bubbling, and cook over medium heat for 5 minutes.
6. Preheat the oven to 220°C. In a gratin dish or pie dish, spoon out some of the tomato sauce to cover the base. Top this with the silver beet stems and leaves. Top with the rest of the tomato sauce, then crumble all the feta cheese over the top. Bake for 12-15 minutes, until the cheese starts to brown. Serve as a side dish, or a light meal with a bowl of cooked pasta such as penne or shells on the side.





# Footprints for Peace

Footprints for Peace, is calling on people to gather in Wiluna this August for a 10 week walk to Perth to tell the government, industries and public to walk away from uranium mining as it is an expensive toxic industry which produces radioactive waste and weapons usable material.

Footprints for Peace, a global grassroots group which organises walks, runs and bike rides throughout the world has this year joined with local Perth and national groups in Australia to pressure the government and to stop BHP and other mining companies to prevent mining uranium in Western Australia.

[www.footprintsforpeace.net](http://www.footprintsforpeace.net)

The Western Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (WANFA) made up of Aboriginal Traditional Land Owners from the Pilbara, the Kimberley, the Goldfields, the Great Victoria Desert, the Central Desert, the Gascoyne, Perth and the South West has given full permission and support to the Wiluna to Perth walk. Footprints for Peace is working together with the WANFA group to organise this grassroots awareness raising and action based campaign that recognises and supports indigenous peoples' rights and are committed on the Walk Away from Uranium Mining to respect and be in solidarity with the Traditional Owners of this land. The walk will begin on the 45th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off in which Vincent Lingiari in 1966 led a walk off on Gurindji Land about wage rights and land rights. We will remember the success and struggle that continues today of the fundamental issue about Aboriginal traditional lands.

The Walk Away from Uranium Mining will begin on Sunday 21 August from Wiluna and finish in Perth on Sunday 30 October following a scheduled day to day route from Wiluna south to Kalgoorlie, and then due west to Perth over ten-weeks. The walkers will cover a distance of 20 -25 kilometres a day with a rest day every 5 days. There will be a luggage vehicle that carries each walkers personal items; a kitchen truck stocked with a 1,000 litre water container; solar showers and toilets; and a support vehicle equipped with first aid, food & water and able to carry people that cannot make the full distance each day.

Families and people of all ages, background and cultures are invited to come together and walk the land and live in community sharing responsibilities. All are welcome to join for an hour, a day, a few weeks or the whole way.

A walk involves a lot of logistics. It is basically a mobile community involving food, campsites, water, electricity, administration, media and nurturing of the changing group as the journey unfolds. Come and be a part of this event, even if you cannot walk we still require drivers, kitchen crew, media liaison, video & photographers, musicians, artists and singers and general support for daily events – set up and pack up camp, food shopping, water collection.

Over 70 days, and covering a distance of over 1,200 kms the dedicated international walking community will aim to bring people together in exciting and creative ways through street theatre, music, art, stories, public meetings and nonviolent direct action to educate themselves and

the public on the global nuclear industry. From community to community Footprints for Peace will highlight the deadly and dangerous affects of uranium mining, will notify Federal & State Governments, industry and public that it's time to shut down any option for the nuclear industry to take hold in Western Australia. We will demonstrate that we have the choice to walk away from this costly, toxic industry that, produces radioactive waste and weapons usable material, in favour of renewable energy options.

So please join us:

**GET ONBOARD THE  
PERTH to WILUNA BUS**  
Thursday 18 August to  
Friday 26 August 2011

Footprints for Peace are organising a bus from Perth to Wiluna for the beginning of the walk. Visiting these remote areas allow people who cannot walk the whole way to come to Wiluna and experience the walk for a few days, or a week, to sit and listen to the communities who will be affected by the uranium mine, to see the beautiful country in which Yeelirrie is situated, and to walk to the gates of the proposed BHP Billiton uranium mine.

These remote area experiences and uranium mine site visits keeps the campaign alive and strengthens people's commitment to prevent this toxic industry from operating in Western Australia.

Thanks to Conservation Council for their support towards the Walk Away from Uranium Mining we have set up a tax deductible account under Everyday Hero simply log onto:  
[www.everydayhero.com.au/footprints\\_for\\_peace](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/footprints_for_peace) and support these dedicated walkers and create a nuclear free future.

Alternatively donate by Direct Debit:

Fremantle Anti Nuclear Group  
BSB: 633-000  
Account No: 137443347  
Ref: WALK

For more details visit:  
[www.nuclearfreefuture.com](http://www.nuclearfreefuture.com)

or to REGISTER to walk &/or bus email:  
[nffc@footprintsforpeace.org](mailto:nffc@footprintsforpeace.org)

Phone: Marcus Atkinson 0400 505 765  
Kerrie-Ann (K-A) 0401 909 332





a ten week walk from wiluna to perth, western australia  
for a nuclear-free future

# walk away



# from uranium mining

21st August - 30th October 2011

ALL are WELCOME to JOIN for an hour, a day,  
a few weeks or the whole way.

full schedule details on the website:

[www.nuclearfreefuture.com](http://www.nuclearfreefuture.com)

Email: [nffc@footprintsforpeace.org](mailto:nffc@footprintsforpeace.org)

Phone: 0400 505 765 (Marcus)

0401 909 332 (K-A)

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A DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT



From Wiluna to Perth we will tell the public, governments & industry to

# walk away from uranium mining

It is time to walk away from this costly, toxic industry which produces radioactive waste & weapons usable material. This is a grassroots awareness raising and action based campaign in solidarity with Aboriginal people to ban uranium mining in W.A.

The walk will bring people together from all over the world to walk (or bike ride) from community to community as an effective way to educate ourselves and the public on the global nuclear industry. Families & people of all ages, backgrounds & cultures are invited to come together to walk the land and live in community sharing responsibilities.

It is a nonviolent action that aims to highlight the deadly & dangerous affects of uranium mining & create dialogue with the public to end the uranium cycle, to promote renewable energy resources & to rid the world of nuclear power & weapons.

Footprints for Peace has been organising grassroots walks, runs and bike rides around the world since 1992. We aim to inspire, empower & mobilise people to take action & express their opinions not only through walking or bike riding but also through creative campaigning in street theatre, music, art, public meetings & nonviolent direct actions.

## SCHEDULE 21 August - 30 October 2011

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 20 - 21 Aug | Gather at Wiluna.  |
| 22 - 27 Aug | Wiluna to Yeelrie  |
| 28 - 7 Sept | Yeelrie to Leonora   |
| 8 - 19 Sept | Leonora to Kalgoorlie  |
| 20 - 3 Oct  | Kalgoorlie to Southern Cross   |
| 4 - 22 Oct  | Southern Cross to Chidlow  |
| 23 - 27 Oct | Chidlow to Perth   |
| 28 - 30 Oct | Finish in time for C'wealth Heads of Government Meeting, Perth (CHOGM) |

*support this walk and donate today*

DIRECT DEBIT: Account Name: Fremantle Anti-Nuclear Group  
BSB: 633-000 Account No: 137443347 REF: WALK

*supported by*



## **"We Can't Close the Gap by Digging a Deeper Hole"**

The Western Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (WANFA), made up of Aboriginal Traditional Land Owners from the Pilbara, the Kimberley, the Goldfields, the Great Victoria Desert, the Central Desert, the Gascoyne, Perth and the South West and their allies, met from 2-4 April 2011 on Noongar lands near Perth.

Since the beginning of time, Aboriginal people have been the proud custodians of our land Australia. Still today, with new technology, new ways and new friends, Aboriginal people continue looking after country. In Western Australia looking after country means preventing uranium mining.

### **Uranium mining is not like any other mining.**

Uranium mining poisons water, land and life through releasing radiation. The mining industry and the government are trying to make people believe uranium mining is inevitable. The industry and the government are trying to make people believe it is safe. Both are trying to make people believe that uranium mining is the way to bring economic benefits. We Say No.

WANFA believes that the costs of uranium mining far outweigh any short term cash payment. We can't close the gap by increasing the number of radioactive holes in the ground. Aboriginal people should not have to

sacrifice the country of future generations, for basic health, education and infrastructure. There are far more jobs and opportunities in a conservation and culture economy, and in caring for country.

We have learnt from the experience of the Mirarr people who have paid the price of the Ranger uranium mine which routinely leaks radioactively contaminated water into Kakadu National Park. We have learnt from the hard lessons learned by the Arabunna, Kokatha and Spinifex people who have survived but continue to be displaced, marginalised and suffer health impacts from



the nuclear bomb tests at Maralinga and the Olympic Dam uranium mine in South Australia which divides their community, depletes their water and pollutes their land with radioactive contamination forever.

We acknowledge that the Pilbara and Ashburton people of Western Australia also suffered the effects of the British nuclear weapons tests at Monte Bello Islands.

Like most Australians we are devastated that Australian uranium sold to TEPCO in Japan is likely to be part of the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. WANFA condemns Premier Colin Barnett's proposal to compensate uranium mining companies for impacts on the industry arising from Fukushima as a vulgar misunderstanding that it is the Japanese people who will continue to suffer

for generations, not the industry.

Our job is to stop uranium from our country contaminating people and lands here and overseas. We take this job seriously. We came together to share information, plans and strategies to stop uranium mining companies like BHP, Toro Energy, Mega Lake Maitland, Energy Minerals Australia, Cameco and Mitsubishi that are exploring for uranium on our land, dividing our communities and already contaminating our land, animals and water with drilling for uranium.

**We are determined to stop the poison of uranium mining in Western Australia by:**

- Sharing information and our stories to educate people about the true risks of radiation;
- Peaceful protest to demand the truth from government;
- Challenging the state and federal government mining approvals processes;
- Challenging the Australian Uranium Association's Indigenous Dialogue Group who are representing the industry rather than a true Aboriginal community view;
- Challenging and exposing anthropologists, archaeologists and pro industry consultants that cover up, excuse the industry or silence us;
- Demanding that our Land Councils, Native Title representative bodies, Native Title service organisations, be accountable, transparent and represent our views as they are legally required to do;

**We call for**

- **Governments and the nuclear industry to tell the truth about radiation.** There is no safe level of radiation. Some radiation lasts for thousands of years. Stop minimising and trivialising the dangers. Stop pretending optimism is a scientific method.
- **The WA government to commission an open and independent public inquiry into uranium mining.**
- **The Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke, to block any proposed uranium mining project in Western Australia.**
- **The WA government to immediately act to protect Aboriginal health,** including conducting base line health studies in regional areas and publicly release data, to identify the root cause and address the current

Aboriginal health problems in Western Australia.

**- The Western Australian ALP to stand firm on their prudent and popular policy against uranium mining in our state.** With this clear policy declaration, mining companies must understand any investment in uranium is an unnecessary risk as there is no bi-partisan political support for this industry and it is strongly contested by Aboriginal people.

**- Those who finance the uranium industry to avoid the uncertainty and contamination of this trade and instead invest in renewable, clean energy.**

## **Nuclear Spin and Solutions for Students**

In the wake of the Fukushima crisis, people around the world are protesting the nuclear industry. The earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan was a human tragedy, however it does offer the opportunity to reflect on the role of nuclear power as we move away from fossil-fuel dependent forms of energy production. On reflection, we need to shut down the uranium industry now. Ban it. Where will it end if we don't?

Australian uranium is a

source for the nuclear industry and therefore a starting point for nuclear reactors and for nuclear weapons. However, we have never had a mass movement in Australia against uranium. The Australian uranium industry has continued to flog nuclear spin throughout the Fukushima crisis and remains in denial. Money and power feed the denialism of the nuclear industry and the victims of this game are the people with less power. The true cost of the profits made by corporations trading in



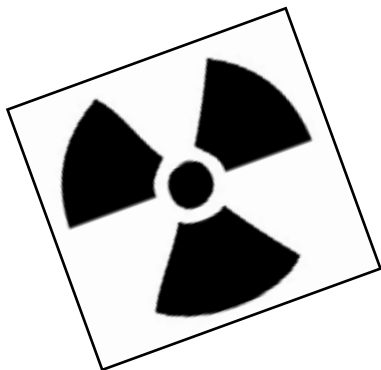
nuclear power and weapons is the lives of hundreds of thousands of people: 66 years ago Hiroshima, 25 years ago Chernobyl, Yesterday Fukushima, today depleted uranium ammunition spread throughout Libya. The dangers posed by nuclear products in the future are very real, and place millions of people's lives at risk. We need people power to balance the spin of the powerful pro-uranium governments and mining companies.

The nuclear spinners are camouflaged within the system. They are in our universities, and they are educating people the wrong way. We have to demand accountability from our academics; there are too many in the university system

with strong yet undeclared links to the uranium industry. Universities should be creating graduates who are more than merely servants of capitalism, graduates who are entrusted with the breadth of knowledge to criticise a rich and powerful industry, and the skills to assess whether we want nuclear products to be a part of our future.

Students have to demonstrate the way out of a nuclear future for the planet. The first responsibility of all humans is to look after their environment where they live, to keep it clean and free, to look after the air, the water and the earth. Our survival depends on these resources and we cannot allow them to be poisoned. We have to get in touch with the environment that supports us, and spread the knowledge to keep it safe.

Nuclear energy is dependent upon uranium, which, just like coal, is a finite resource. Alternative means of energy generation, such as wind, solar, thermal and water turbine utilise renewable resources. Talk of nuclear power as a safe





alternative to fossil fuels should be halted. It is clear that the funding currently going toward nuclear power could be better spent on further research and development of renewable energy sources.

How do we shut down the nuclear industry and avoid any future accidents?

We need to get the truth out there. Protests, solidarity gatherings, education events and talking to people will all bring the power back into balance. We have to get together and think about real solutions to close down the nuclear industry.

Deep in the Northern Territory is a beautiful and sacred place called Muckaty, and it is being considered as the site of a national nuclear waste dump in Australia. ASEN Nuclear Free is actively campaigning against this proposal and supports the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance each year.

Please contact ASEN at [info@asen.org.au](mailto:info@asen.org.au) or your campus environment officer to join the e-list and come along to the next national meeting in August.

# An Introduction to Free Trade, Militarisation & the Environment in the Pacific

by Lian Sinclair

Free Trade, Militarisation and the Environment in the Pacific are intimately linked. When neo-liberal trade policy increases the gaps between rich and poor through commercialising traditional land and exploiting resources, people all over the Pacific have been standing up and demanding their voices be heard. Luckily for regional elites, the Australian and New Zealand military are ready to quell the inconvenient opposition wherever it gets a little serious.

In 2003 John Howard and Alexander Downer popularised the racist 'Arc on Instability' hypothesis referring to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. According to this hypothesis "unstable" states in the Pacific could become "breeding grounds" for terrorist attacks on Australia if not kept 'stable'. Essentially this means that Pacific Island peoples should not be trusted with their own sovereignty.

Using this 'post September-11' rational Australia and New Zealand have sent troops and/or police into the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Nauru, PNG and Fiji .... and have conducted smaller scale training and support operations with

many other countries. The military interventions have mostly been at the invitation of local elites and have helped suppress political dissent arising from vast economic and social inequalities. In the case of the Solomon Islands, the RAMSI intervention has encouraged the same ultra unsustainable logging of forests and exploitation of fisheries that partially contributed to conflict in 2001.

But the military responses are just the extreme extension of a routine intervention into other nations sovereign policy. Under the guise of 'good governance' and 'macro-economic stability' Australia and New Zealand, through their aid and development policy, together with their allies in the Asian Development Bank and the World Trade Organisation have been pushing a free trade globalisation agenda.

When Tonga became the 151st member of the World Trade Organisation in 2007 it agreed to extremely strict conditions. For example, a maximum tariff of 40%. Compare this to the European Union which continues to maintain tariffs at 350% and Japan at 1000%. This has stripped revenue from a small nation already struggling with the demands of







health care and education. It has also undercut domestic food production, putting local farmers out of work, as low quality, below cost and unhealthy food is imported from Australia and New Zealand.

PACER Plus, the new free-trade agreement between Australia, New Zealand and 13 Pacific Island states will exacerbate an already volatile situation. Negotiations kicked off in 2009 and have been making slow progress ever since. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Australia in November 2011. While Pacific Island peoples' could gain from Australia relaxing laws around immigration, labour and quarantine, Australian and New Zealand should relax these arbitrary laws without using them as asymmetric bargaining tools to demand access to local markets.

A report by Oxfam shows how Pacific Island governments could lose up to 20% in revenue if PACER Plus is implemented as proposed. A 20% would be a massive loss to states like Tuvalu, Kiribati and PNG which are some of the places most vulnerable to climate change in the world.

PACER Plus negotiations have so

far been silent on issues relating to climate change. Additionally there are concerns about food security, capital flight, working conditions, environmental protection and more.

Voices from across the Pacific have been speaking out against elements of the agreement from the beginning. A briefing paper prepared by the Solomon Islands Department of External Trade explained that "Australia has made it clear that they are seeking to push the negotiation of a new free trade agreement forward as quickly as they can. Realistically, it is difficult for Pacific islands — many of whom are highly dependent on aid from Australia — to resist this pressure."

#### Further Reading

PACER PLUS and its alternatives – Oxfam  
[www.oxfam.org.nz/newsroom.asp?type=Report&action=view&id=2320](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/newsroom.asp?type=Report&action=view&id=2320)

Aid/WATCH Pacific Watch campaign  
[www.aidwatch.org.au/campaigns/pacificwatch](http://www.aidwatch.org.au/campaigns/pacificwatch)



## Sea Shepherd Ships to Patrol Libyan War Zone for Poachers

From June 2011 two Sea Shepherd Conservation Society ships will enter the waters off the coast of Libya, an area declared to be in a state of war as NATO-backed rebel forces struggle to topple the despotic dictator Muammar Gaddafi, with the goal of intercepting bluefin tuna poachers and freeing any illegally caught fish in attempt to save the species from nearing extinction.

The territorial waters off Libya are a declared a no-fly zone by NATO, which means there will be a distinct absence of poaching surveillance in the region. NATO is not interested in illegal fishing operations, and no European Union or International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) inspectors will be allowed into the Libyan zone. The Greenpeace Foundation is not conducting a bluefin tuna campaign, meaning that the only protection for the highly endangered bluefin tuna will be at the presence of two Sea Shepherd's vessels: the flagship Steve Irwin and the Brigitte Bardot fast interceptor vessel. The only non-military aircraft in this zone will be Sea Shepherd's helicopter the Nancy Burnet onboard the Steve Irwin.

This will be a dangerous campaign but the bluefin tuna are facing extinction within a few years unless they are effectively protected, and Sea Shepherd will not fail them. Last year, during the first Operation Blue Rage Campaign in 2010, Sea Shepherd crew members located and intervened against an illegal poaching operation freeing approximately 800 bluefins.



President of Sea Shepherd France, Lamiya Essemlali, attended a meeting with the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on May 6, 2011. As a result, the commission will follow Sea Shepherd's campaign activities in June; Sea Shepherd will also prepare a complete progress report for the commission at the end of their campaign. Prior to taking action to release any unlawful catches, Sea Shepherd will confer with the commission regarding the potential illegality of the intercepted vessels.

## Will Japan Provide Anti-poaching Support to the Republic of Palau?

Following aggressive pressure from the Japanese government, President Johnson Toribiong of the Republic of Palau has unfortunately decided to withdraw from the agreement made in March 2011 with Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which would have authorized them to patrol Palau's territorial waters and protect the sharks, turtles, rays, and other marine life of this one-of-a-kind archipelago.

The Japanese government has promised to provide Palau with a patrol vessel and financial support as an alternative to Sea Shepherd's involvement. Sea Shepherd is optimistic that Japan's offer to protect the sanctuary is sincere and not merely a ploy to negate Sea Shepherd's intervention against poachers whose unlawful catch in large majority ends up in the Japanese fish market.

Sea Shepherd welcomes the news that Japan will step up and assist Palau to enforce the laws that protect the marine sanctuary of the Republic of Palau and provide the ships and support that will make this possible. Sea Shepherd will of course closely follow the progress of this marine protection campaign. Should support from Japan fail to materialize, then Sea Shepherd will be happy to again offer to support Palau in this important mission.

President Toribiong should be commended for his concern and desire to eradicate shark poaching in his nation's waters. Sea Shepherd applauds the President's courage in speaking up on such matters that other national leaders, especially leaders of powerful nations, refuse to address.

Shark protection remains a major focus for Sea Shepherd and they are already in discussion with several other Pacific islands that are keen to work with them to defend their marine environments. The Bob Barker is currently in dry dock undergoing repairs and maintenance, she will be ready in time to cover the Southern Ocean if the Japanese whalers return this year, but if they do not, then she will patrol the Pacific in defense of sharks.

There is no shortage of poachers in the South Pacific and thus, no shortage of illegal fishing operations for Sea Shepherd to intervene against.

To get involved and find out more about Sea Shepherd's work check out [www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org). Keep an eye on the Australian section of the website for upcoming Sea Shepherd events, including stalls at events where you can buy some of our merchandise, become a member, pick up information, and talk to the on-shore volunteers about Sea Shepherd's campaigns.

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







# THE EVOLUTION OF G

## THE IDEAS MEN

Arthur Cecil Pigou (1932) and later Ronald Coase (1960), John Dales (1968), and Thomas Crocker (1971), offer theories of environmental taxation and pollution trading.

## POLICY WONKS UNITE

Leading economists and policymakers in Europe and US champion market mechanisms over 'command-and-control' regulation for environmental problems.

Big business experiments in trading t in Europe taxation. 'Flexible' 1997 K emissions international the cen international



1930S-1970S



1980S

WHILST POLITICAL SUPPORT HAS MADE MARKET M  
INTO A BIGGER BEAST, THE INTELLIGENCE OF



# GREEN NEOLIBERALISM

## GREENWASH

ness and big ENGOs  
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to foreclose debate  
ope over carbon  
The US secures  
'Mechanisms' in the  
Kyoto Protocol -  
s trading and  
onal offsets become  
ntal platform of  
onal climate policy.

## RELUCTANT STATES

With Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, emissions trading takes off. The EU emissions trading scheme is ineffective, embroiled in controversy from its beginning in 2005. Other northern states dither over the question of climate action, serving up legislation for emissions trading schemes that replicate the failures and inequities of the EU ETS.



1990s



2000s

**MECHANISMS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION  
OF THESE POLICIES HAS REMAINED STUNTED**

# Why the carbon

A few people have expressed some surprise over my complete lack of enthusiasm for the carbon trading deal that has just been reached between the Independents, Greens and ALP, so I thought I'd write up a little explanation why I think it sucks, and maybe offer a glimmer of hope for real action on climate change.

## Who's objectives are being met?

It's pretty obvious what would constitute a not-bad outcome for the climate justice movement in Australia:

- \* Something that reduces carbon pollution
- \* Something that sets us on track to phase out carbon pollution
- \* Something that does all these things in a just way, so that the cost of fixing the problem caused by big corporations is not borne by people who have little responsibility for causing the problem, and so that communities in transition to sustainable industries are supported.

The government's aim so far has been:

- \* Putting a price on carbon
- \* Setting Australia up to be able to trade on the international carbon market
- \* Being seen to act on climate change.





# price deal sucks

BY JONATHAN MOYLAN

The government's conditions have been met, but none of the climate justice movement's minimum conditions have been met, and worse still, the deal will make it harder to achieve our aim of a renewable and sustainable society.

## Polluter pays?

A mantra that has been repeated a lot through this whole debate is the "polluter pays" principle. This seems to line up with climate justice - if we are going to clean up the mess, it should be the corporations that caused the pollution who pays for it rather than the people who will suffer the most from the effects of climate change. But in simplifying that concept to "polluter pays", we've forgotten the point of polluter pays. Ultimately, we want less pollution, not just pollution that is paid

for. We don't want the polluter to pay, we want the polluter to stop polluting. A price on carbon alone is unlikely to stop the construction of new coal-fired power stations or coal mines, but it will allow the coal industry to say "we're doing our bit and we're paying the carbon price". A carbon tax could work if it made the cost of coal-fired power more expensive than the cost of renewable energy, but given that the cost is likely to be \$20-40 per tonne, it will just mean that the cost of coal will increase slightly. Costs for the coal industry have gone up in the past, but haven't stemmed the acceleration of production, because the costs are usually passed straight on to the consumer. It's a roundabout way of doing things - if the point is to stop new coal-fired power stations, why not just ban new coal-fired power stations?



more expensive solution - transition to renewables - now, rather than further down the track. There is a political "lock-in" effect too - the carbon tax/trading system was touted as what the government needed to do to take action on climate change. Now that they have done that, they get greenie points and it is harder to criticise their failure to tackle rising greenhouse emissions.

## **The lock-in effect**

The lock-in effect refers to energy policies that entrench polluting industries, and it has often been used to explain the effect of a low carbon price. The cost of coal-fired power will not be greater than the cost of renewable energy with a carbon price. However, if it's cheaper for a coal company to install a scrubber or make some efficiency gains than to pay the carbon tax, that's what they will do. Millions of dollars that could be spent in renewables research or construction will instead be spent on an industry that has a dead-end. New infrastructure, such as coal rail lines and terminals are constructed, and it is both economically and politically difficult to remove or convert them further down the track rather than now. This is why climate activists have consistently said that it will be cheaper to tackle the seemingly

## **Carbon trading**

Both the deal that has been reached in the multi-party climate committee and the Greens' own policy favours a carbon tax as an interim measure to achieve a "fully-fledged" carbon trading scheme that can trade carbon permits internationally. The international carbon market is dominated by the Clean Development Mechanism/Joint Implementation scheme and the newer Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation schemes. Most of

the CDM permits are awarded for the breaking down of a rare greenhouse gas, HFC-23, which has a global warming potential per tonne (GWP/t) hundreds times higher than carbon dioxide. These gases have very little industrial use and are produced **specifically for the purpose of generating carbon credits**, and not for any other reason. You understood correctly - factories are producing a greenhouse gas just so that they can make money from the global carbon trading system.

In addition, while Australia is committed to reducing its carbon pollution based on 2000 levels, international carbon permits are allocated for avoiding emissions based on a "business as usual" baseline. That means that a company tells the carbon trading company how much it planned to pollute in 20-30 years' time, and how much it will in fact pollute, and the carbon trading company pays it money (by selling permits to polluting industries in richer countries) according

to the difference. The company gets more revenue for investment, and the "business-as-usual" level (and in fact also the actual emissions) are **entirely self-reported**. This is why the international carbon trading market (a multi-billion-dollar industry) is dominated by cheating and fraud. This shouldn't be surprising to anybody who knows the history of carbon trading - it was invented by the global investment firm Goldman Sachs. Additionally, the CDM and REDD schemes are likely to be administered by the World Bank - an institution whose structural adjustment plans and punitive loan schemes have pushed **hundreds of millions of people into poverty** and caused massive ecological devastation (most famously through hydro-electric dam schemes and the like), bringing millions of people out onto the street in the late 90s and early 2000s as part of the so-called "global justice movement".

Given the Greens' values of ecological wisdom, social justice, peace, transparency and participatory democracy, it is surprising that they support global carbon trading, which breaches **all five core values**.




The story with carbon trading gets even worse - in a lot of parts of the world, indigenous communities have been kicked out of their forests to make way for monoculture eucalyptus plantations to generate carbon credits, creating violence and social upheaval. When a forestry company in Brazil, for example, sells a piece of forest for carbon credits, it then moves into the next forest over and keeps logging just as much, again with extra revenue from carbon permits for investment. The bigger question in my mind is **how can a forestry company sell forests for carbon trading when the forests do not even belong to them in the first place?**

The carbon trading deal means that Australian companies will not have to reduce their emissions, since they can simply buy carbon permits more cheaply elsewhere. This contravenes the principle that richer countries should make deeper emissions cuts sooner than poorer countries, and it also contravenes the right of people in the Global South to self-determination over their lands and communities - instead, the carbon market will determine what happens to them.

The details of the carbon trading scheme are not determined yet, but it is such a complex system that so few people can understand that it is almost certain to attract the same kind of horse-trading, rent-seeking and general corporate bullying that happened with the CPRS. Depending on how principled our politicians are, the carbon trading system is either going to be moderately bad, or extremely bad, with windfall gains for polluting industries.

The whole problem is that we have been campaigning against "climate change", which in some ways carries similar contradictions to the "war on terror". We are campaigning against one of the many (albeit the worst) symptoms of a range of different destructive industries, rather than using climate change as support for various campaigns.





Instead of a single “scheme” to tackle climate change, we need a paradigm shift and responsible policies in a range of different industries:

#### Energy

- \* A ban on new fossil-fuel-powered power stations, mines and export terminals
- \* Support for community-owned renewable energy projects
- \* Regulation to drive a reduction in energy use
- \* A gross feed-in tariff
- \* Locally-based support for communities transitioning to sustainability (especially coal communities and communities that depend on polluting industries)
- \* A shift to recycling energy-intensive materials, such as aluminium, steel and cement

#### Forestry

- \* Protection of carbon sinks including native forests and old-growth forests (i.e. a rapid transition away from native forest logging)
- \* Transition into plantations, with support for affected communities
- \* A focus on reducing the amount of paper and timber that is used.
- \* High-quality forest management

#### Agriculture

- \* Education and incentives for farmers to shift away from risky monoculture crops
- \* Encouraging locally-grown food, including community gardens and farmers’ markets
- \* Protecting local farmers from the impacts of export-oriented “free trade” agreements

#### Transport

- \* Replanning cities to facilitate cycling
- \* Public transport systems with no more than 15 minutes’ waiting time
- \* Maintaining existing roads instead of inducing demand by creating new roads
- \* Creating car-free zones
- \* Ensuring that freight is transported by rail rather than road where possible.



These kinds of policies are not enough on their own, but they are a very good start. There are people campaigning on each of these things and they need support rather than trying to lump everything into a single national "scheme".

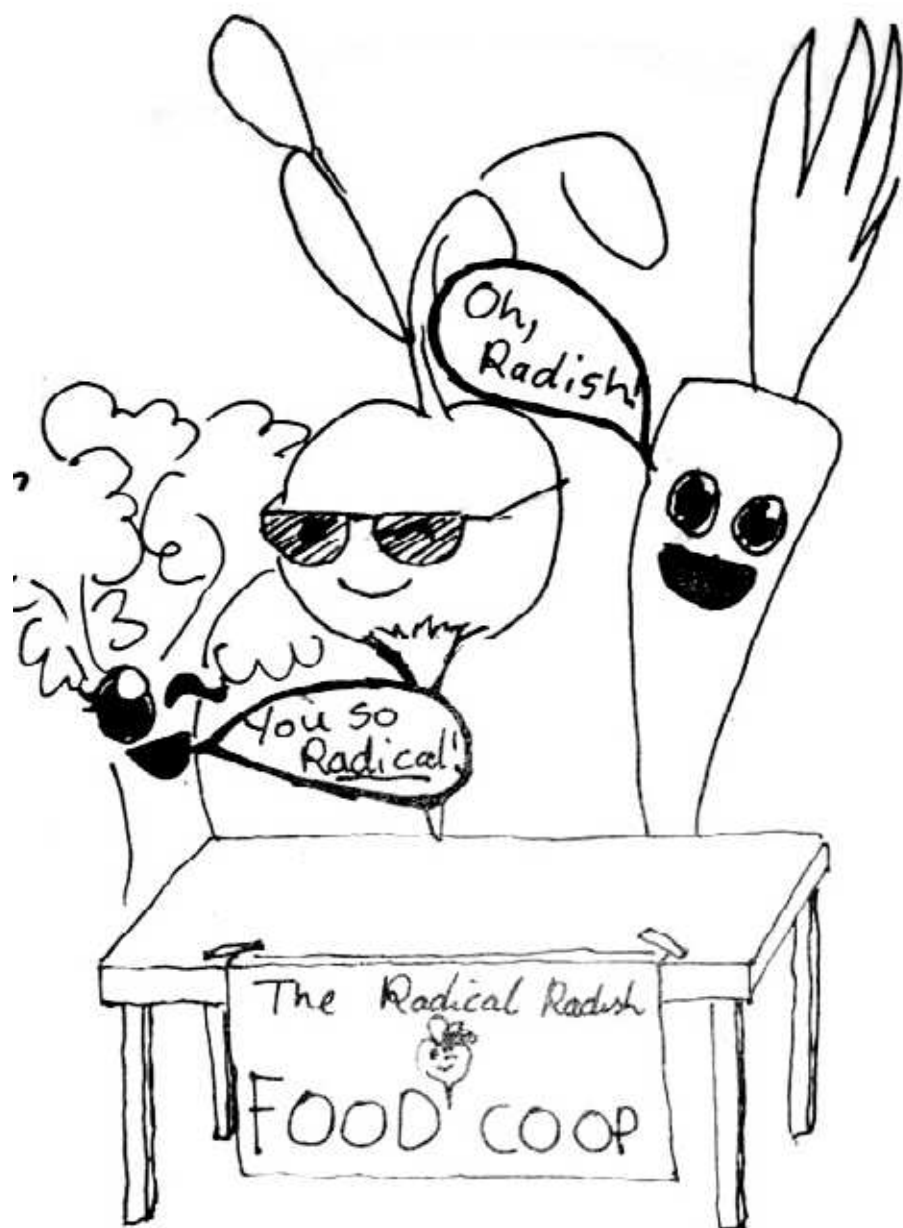
They are also the kinds of measures that can attract public support. A lot of the climate denialism is based on a fear of a carbon price - by pretending that climate activists are pushing for carbon trading, the government has successfully wedged us and played a divide-and-conquer game.

These measures will have to happen regardless of whether or not there is a carbon price. But there is now

extraordinary pressure on on the government to abolish these so-called "complementary measures" - and it seems as if the government is listening.

As to the argument that there will be no funding available for these policies without a price on carbon, it's an argument I don't buy at all. Each election we've seen tens of billions of dollars wasted on tax cuts, and the government is loaded with money that they spend on pork-barrelling, corporate subsidies and militarism. If there really was a funding short-fall there is no reason that would need to be linked to a price on carbon instead, it could come from an increase in the corporate tax rate.





by Stacey Kendall





# turning an idea into reality

## the story

It started with an idea. A single idea of two Arts students and an Environmental Science student and a Sustainability office staff member, who, in 2008, knew that Macquarie University needed to catch up to other Australian Universities who already had Food Co-ops. These three students and staff recognised a need, had an idea and then put their heads together to transform that idea into a reality. Now, over two years later the Macquarie Uni Food Co-op has over 200 members a website and over ten active volunteers.

It is well documented that students are living below the poverty line and that their ability to source and purchase quality fruit and vegetables is impacted by their economic disadvantage. Macquarie University has already committed itself to green friendly programs, including the introduction of fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate products. The idea of a Food Co-op on campus first appeared on the Sustainability@MQ agenda in May of 2008 when it was realised that most other Universities in Australia had a Food Co-Op on campus and we didn't. From there, planning began for a Food Co-Op at Macquarie. However, the Food Co-op didn't have enough student volunteers yet to get off the ground, so it took some time before the Co-op made its first public appearance on campus, at The 2009 Sustainability Fair.

The 2009 Sustainability Fair was a success for the Food Co-Op with a free seedling give-away that enticed passers-by to learn more. The Co-op managed to get over forty people signed up, and over sixty signatures petitioning support for a Co-op on campus. After the Sustainability Fair is when students, Mark Cachia, Alain Ashman, and Michelle Bennett, Mal Karunaarachchi and Sara Kitchener took it upon themselves to put committed energy into making the Co-Op a reality. December 2009 the logo was designed for the Macquarie Food Co-op, The Radical Radish.

One of the barriers faced in the start-up stages of the Food



# of the Macquarie University Food Co-op

BY LILLIAN HAASE & MARK CACHIA

Co-op was one of a location to work from. In the beginning, U@MQ and the Sustainability Office had not been able to provide a space for the Co-Op to operate from, but, instead of letting this stop the Co-op going ahead it was decided that a temporary stall would be set up near the Courtyard on Campus each Friday. So, in February 2010, the first stall of the Food Co-op officially opened. Not long after opening, the Food Co-op was the subject of a News@MQ article, where volunteers Michelle Bennett and Prudence Roberts had their moment of fame being interviewed for the piece. This media attention helped growth of the Co-op on Campus.

How the Co-op stall works is veggie boxes are pre-ordered, either through The Radical Radish website or at the stall, where members can choose pre-packed veggie boxes ranging from \$10 up to \$50. Each Friday a volunteer drives to Homebush to pick up the weekly order from Back To Eden, our preferred supplier, then delivers this to campus, where more volunteers sort the goods into boxes for the members. Sorting takes place in the MUSRA office so as to protect the volunteers and the food from the elements (MUSRA staff have been most patient with the food Co-op using their space on Friday mornings for which we are very grateful).

## Timeline:

**May 2008** first on the Sustainability @ MQ agenda "Every other University has a food co-op except MQ"

**July 2008** Co-op discussed in the Sustainability office. Called the U@MQ Food Co-op but stating it's still in the planning stage. Ben Landsberry is to work with Ruth Tregale and Pip Brook to establish.

**Sept 2009** Ben Landsberry is currently seeking space

**Sept 2009** a stall at the Sustainability Fair offered a free seedling give-away to promote the idea, gain sign-ups, and get signatures for the petition for a space on campus.

**Dec 2009** a logo was decided on, and a name, The Radical Radish.

**Feb 2010** The co-op launched.

**Early 2010** The Food Co-op got a story in News@MQ - helping grow publicity for the group. Michelle Bennett, and Prudence Roberts had their moment of fame being interviewed for the piece. [http://www.staffnews.mq.edu.au/past\\_issues/past\\_stories/2010/radical\\_radish\\_launches](http://www.staffnews.mq.edu.au/past_issues/past_stories/2010/radical_radish_launches)

**Nov 2010** – website launched: [www.radicalradishmq.org](http://www.radicalradishmq.org)



The Friday stall has become a known feature on campus and the member number has been steadily growing. The veggie table on Friday has become a sort of community hub, with students and staff mingling, sharing recipes, discussing ways to prepare the fresh produce on offer that week, and generally socialising. The Co-op also has an active and popular Facebook page as an additional way for volunteers and members to interact. All of this interaction fits with the general premise of a Co-op: an organisation run by the people for the benefit of the people.

Our current struggle is that the outdoor table is not sufficient to hold all the orders which means boxes are left on the ground until such time as there is further space on the table for them to be displayed for pick up. The site is also open to the elements, affecting the volunteers and customers. But we press on. Volunteers and supporters continue to petition for a permanent space on campus to be granted to the Food Co-op. In November of 2010 volunteers of the Co-op put forth a proposal to U@MQ for a permanent space on campus. Having a permanent space on campus would allow us to develop into bigger and better service to provide students and staff with more choices. A shop would enable us to supply wholesale goods to students five days a week, including dry goods, and more choices of fresh produce. We look forward to a shop on campus eventually, so we can provide a better service for not only students, but staff, and the wider community.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of our supporters. Thank you to all our past and present members including Macquarie staff specifically Katherine McClennan, Margaret Levy, Susan Loftus, Jennifer Ruskin, Ben Landsberry, and Hilary Bekmann, whose long-term support and encouragement since the start of the stall has been invaluable. We also thank Kirstin Cummings for your patience and encouragement from the student groups desk at Campus Experience. To the long standing volunteer, Mark Cachia, whose constant participation has kept the stall going through the shakiest times, thank-you. To the volunteers who have helped behind the scenes with ordering, co-ordinating, Alain Ashman, Bridget Kelly, Lyb Makin and Lenny Ohye thank-you. And to all of the volunteers who have helped with sorting the veggie boxes, and running the stall, picking up veggies, and order management, thank-you Prudence Roberts, Eloise and Jenny, Stacey Kendall, Dee Behr, Jen Lui and everyone else who

was involved (there are too many to mention) it was great having you around. We couldn't have got where we are without all of you.

For more information about the Co-op please visit, [www.radicalradishmq.org](http://www.radicalradishmq.org), and our Facebook page, "Macquarie Food Co-op".

#### Challenges faced:

MUSRA, the student representatives, have allowed Food Co-op volunteers to use the office to sort the fruit and veggie orders every Friday. This has put a strain on the team of volunteers as they often feel they are invading office space. The kindness and patience of MUSRA staff has been much valued by the co-op group, without the office space usage the volunteers would have to do all their sorting outside on the pavement each Friday.

We are the first to admit that the road has been bumpy to date. We have not had large enough orders to get delivery from Back to Eden so a driver was needed each week, we have not had a space of our own to work in so we have overtaken the MUSRA office each Friday morning, plus we have had storage issues with out a space, and with students graduating and leaving Macquarie University, we face regular volunteer turnover, which keeps systems in a state of instability. However, we are proud to say that we have come a long way in customer service and organisation, but we also know we still have improvements we can make, which we are working on.

In the beginning the Co-op co-ordinators wanted to make the most of the member's money and a lot of energy was put into trailing different suppliers to find the best deal. The supplier they decided on who had the best value, and the best quality organic food, was Back to Eden in Homebush, who still supply the Co-op to this day.

# INDEX OF UNIVERSITY FOOD COOPS:

\* means a buying group without store front (some may change soon though!)

## Tasmania

Source Community Wholefoods, University of Tasmania (Sandy Bay)

The co-op lives in a beautiful straw and earth bale building on campus. Community garden near as well, with a brick oven!

Ph:           Email: [sourcewholefoods@gmail.com](mailto:sourcewholefoods@gmail.com)

Webbie: [sourcewholefoods.org.au/shop](http://sourcewholefoods.org.au/shop)

FB Group: [www.facebook.com/sourcewholefoods](http://www.facebook.com/sourcewholefoods)

## ACT

The Coop Food Shop, ANU

Ph: 02 6257 1186           Email: [anu@foodco-op.com](mailto:anu@foodco-op.com)

Webbie: [anu.foodco-op.com/blog](http://anu.foodco-op.com/blog)

## South Australia

Flinders Organic Food Coop\*, Flinders University

Ph:           Email: [flindersorganic@gmail.com](mailto:flindersorganic@gmail.com)

Webbie: [sites.google.com/site/crosscampussa/collectives/feag/foodcoop](http://sites.google.com/site/crosscampussa/collectives/feag/foodcoop)

## Northern Territory

Charles Darwin Uni Food Coop, (Casuarina)

Building 31, Casuarina Campus, Darwin NT (STILL OPERATING???)

Ph: 08 8946 7736





## Western Australia

Murdoch Uni Food Coop  
Coming soon?...

## Victoria

La Trobe Uni Food Coop  
Has been closed for a while, but may make a comeback soon!

Melbourne Uni Food Co-operative, Parkville  
Located on the 1st Floor, Union House, University of  
Melbourne, Parkville.

Ph: 03 9347 8716      Email: [yourfoodcoop@gmail.com](mailto:yourfoodcoop@gmail.com)

Web:

FB group: [www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-University-Food-Co-op/151718798174562](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-University-Food-Co-op/151718798174562)

Organarchy (also known as the RMIT Food Co-op), RMIT City  
Level 4, Building 8, RMIT Melbourne

Ph: 03 9925 9791      Email: [foodcoop@rmit.edu.au](mailto:foodcoop@rmit.edu.au)

Web: [www.su.rmit.edu.au/organarchy](http://www.su.rmit.edu.au/organarchy)

Wholefoods Co-operative, Monash Uni (Clayton)

A grocery, café and restaurant that does lunches, plus a  
huge chillout space and balcony! Wholefoods is actually  
a non-heirarchically run restaurant and cafe. There is a  
veggie box co-op that runs out of wholefoods grocery.

Ph: 03 9905 4196      Email: [wholefoods@adm.monash.edu](mailto:wholefoods@adm.monash.edu)

Webbie: [www.wholefoods.org.au](http://www.wholefoods.org.au)



## New South Wales

Broadway Food Coop, UTS (Broadway)  
Building 2, Level 3, Room 25 (at the lifts)  
Ph: 02 9514 1155      Email:  
Webbie: [broadwayfoodcoop.wordpress.com](http://broadwayfoodcoop.wordpress.com)

Happy Bellies, University of Wollongong  
Operations have been suspended as having been moved out of old building :(. Currently negotiating a new place, hopefully will have one soon!  
Ph:      Email: [happybellies@yahoo.com](mailto:happybellies@yahoo.com)  
Webbie: [clubs.uow.edu.au/websites/happybellies](http://clubs.uow.edu.au/websites/happybellies)  
FB Group: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=75703280212&v=wall](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=75703280212&v=wall)

Seasons Food Co-op, UWS  
Hawkesbury Skills offices in Bosworth St Richmond  
Ph: 02 4578 7667  
Webbie: [sites.google.com/site/seasonscoop](http://sites.google.com/site/seasonscoop)

Sustenance, University of Newcastle  
Located in the NUSA (Newcastle University Student Association) building.  
Ph:      Email: [sustenance@nusa.org.au](mailto:sustenance@nusa.org.au)  
FB Group: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=114339538583798](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=114339538583798)

The Radical Radish\*, Macquarie Uni  
Currently running a sweet veggie box scheme and plans to open a shop space.  
Ph:      Email: [mq.veggiebox.order@gmail.com](mailto:mq.veggiebox.order@gmail.com)  
Webbie: [groups.google.com.au/group/macquarie-university-food-co-operative](http://groups.google.com.au/group/macquarie-university-food-co-operative)

Thoughtful Foods, UNSW (Kensington)  
Great coop where you can find almost anything! Located at the Kensington Campus.  
Ph: 02 9385 6097      Email: [info@thoughtfulfoods.org.au](mailto:info@thoughtfulfoods.org.au)  
Webbie: [thoughtfulfoods.org.au](http://thoughtfulfoods.org.au)  
FB Group: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5870220924](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5870220924)

USYD Food Cooperative, Sydney Uni (Camperdown)  
Tucked away up on level 4 of the wentworth building, tiny but mighty good!  
Ph: 02 9536 6059      Email: [admin@coop.org.au](mailto:admin@coop.org.au)  
Webbie: [www.usydfoodcoop.org.au](http://www.usydfoodcoop.org.au)

## Queensland

### ECOBuG, UQ (St Lucia)

Ecobug is a relatively new coop, but the hardworking people have really made a vibrant coop.

Ph: 07 3377 2255      Email: [groups.yahoo.com/group/ecobug](mailto:groups.yahoo.com/group/ecobug)

Webbie: [groups.google.com/group/oxfamug/web/ecobug-food-coop](http://groups.google.com/group/oxfamug/web/ecobug-food-coop)

FB Group: [www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_59049310698](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_59049310698)

### HotBanana Food Coop, Griffith Uni (Nathan)

Located at the beautiful Nathan campus south of Brisbane, the Griffith Uni Food Coop has a proud tradition of about 30 years. The coop showcases beautiful shelves and a bench crafted by members from scrap timber!

Ph: 07 3735 7603      Email: [griffithfoodcoop@gmail.com](mailto:griffithfoodcoop@gmail.com)

Webbie: [griffithfoodcoop.wetpaint.com](http://griffithfoodcoop.wetpaint.com)

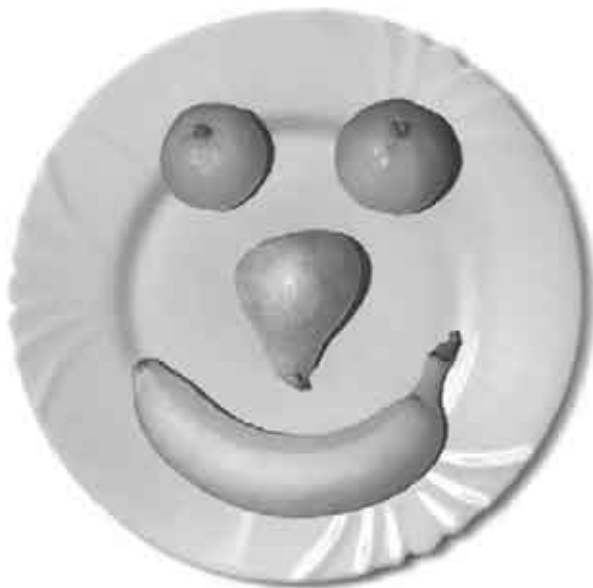
FB Group: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5030702490](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5030702490)

### James Cook University F&V Coop\*, (Townsville)

Organic veggie box buying group, ask at the James Cook University student association or the Corner store.

Ph: 07 4781 3627      Email:

Webbie: [www.jcu.edu.au/studentassoc/theassociation/studentsupport/JCUPRD\\_044437](http://www.jcu.edu.au/studentassoc/theassociation/studentsupport/JCUPRD_044437)



# TOWARDS ZERO FOOD WASTE: BEYOND DUMPSTER DIVING

BY ELSE KENNEDY

I'm standing in my kitchen illuminated by an enormous stage light on a stand in the corner. As I chop a white onion a large TV camera records my clumsy cutting style at close range, then pans out to catch my face and the sizzling fry-pan beside me.

The host of the show asks animated, scripted questions about food poisoning, how often we go dumpstering and what we've found in the bins. Off camera he still talks in sound grabs and a big wide-toothed smile that makes me feel like somewhere a 'recording' button is still red. Our responses are unscripted but guarded. We're a little awkward and tired but we try to play the sound bite game.

## *"So what is Freeganism?"*

the host asks. 'Freeganism is participating in a free economy. It's about getting things for free, and also giving for free' says Ash. Freeganism is an interesting catchword, but one aspect of freeganism is a particularly hot topic in the media. Like many other shows, it is Dumpster Diving that this one is interested in.

Dumpster Diving is an important part of city activist culture. It is an act of consumer defiance and common sense conservation. Food rescued from

landfill is eaten privately in people's homes, or publicly when groups like Food Not Bombs and community kitchens distribute it by donation at street stalls and community dinners.

So who is dumpster diving? What cultures have developed around the space, the resource and the challenge that is the dumpster? How are we communicating about food and other 'wastes' we find? Most importantly, are we fighting the waste culture, or are we in love with it?

In Marrickville late at night I've met old Greek women rifling systematically through the dumpsters with clear mental lists of things they will and will not eat from the mix. In the city I've met recent immigrants shyly grabbing bits and pieces, and all around the inner west I frequently meet people in my friend circle doing the household dive.

Culturally, the communities that I know that have developed around a scavenged food economy are generous, critical and politically active in diverse ways. I think they are right to be proud and to celebrate their culture. However, in our communities I also find a degree of complacency and dependence on the ever-filling pot that is the waste in our society. Often we recount our dumpster missions with the glee and delight of children.



Sometimes this is tempered by incredulity, but it is oh-so-rare to hear sadness in a discovery. Ash's sage response to the host's question "What is the best thing you've found in a dumpster?" was a refreshing antidote to the normal discovery rapture. "Nothing" he says. And this is indeed the rarest thing to find.

To look briefly at the scale of food waste that we are confronted with,

***in Sydney alone, 500 000 tonnes of food waste is sent to landfill by supermarkets and retailers every year.***

This pattern of wastage is repeated in people's homes, with estimates that one third to one fifth of food that people buy ends up in the bin. More often than not, produce is wasted for one hundred reasons other than it no longer being a quality food. These reasons can include over-ordering, appearance, a packaging fault, or its nearness to a questionable best before or use by date.

In a food production and distribution system in which foods are highly packaged, transported long distances, stored for ages, then chosen or rejected based on appearance, waste is inevitable. High levels of waste continue despite food shortages: when banana crops in Queensland were wiped out by the floods, and wheat crops along the Murray river were damaged, Sydney dumpsters continued to be filled with Australian bananas and bread. Meanwhile, worldwide, 925

million people are living in a constant state of undernourishment (UNFAO 2010), largely in the global south.

Food waste is an issue that outrages both conservatives and radicals, and one of the rare topics for which urban activists will find a sympathetic ear in the mainstream media. Since creating the Facebook group 'Dumpster Diving Sydney', my friends and I have been approached by various journalists, from print media to TV and student projects to guide them on tours of Sydney's dumpsters.

Recently there has been a debate over e-lists and at a Sydney community kitchen around the politics of communication on this issue. We have been asking ourselves what do we achieve by taking this issue to the mainstream media? Are we threatening our food source? What will it actually take to move to a zero waste society?

When a commercial media channel produces a segment on food waste they are using the story to draw an audience, and using their audience



to sell advertising for companies that blithely produce waste. Something about the participating in the process of producing commercial TV segments feels like producing waste-porn. We display the bounty for the camera: images upon images of fruit and veg, dairy products, and luxury foods rescued from landfill. It's a bit racy – there's a hint of 'illegality' to what we are doing, we take the cameras to places that other food-waste campaign groups wouldn't dare, and we play up to their desires for scandal, intrigue and confrontation.

The flip side is that commercial media is able to take dumpster diving and provide a cultural translation for their audience that many activists would be incapable of. A supportive producer will take a broad look at the food waste issue and show dumpster divers not as the radical ratbags we think we are, but as concerned everyday people attempting to mitigate a problem. It is also fun to see tabloid media tactics aimed at those who deserve them. In an expose on Channel 7 news a few years ago statements from Coles like "we don't chuck out perfectly good food" were taken and slapped with the characteristically tabloid media stamps - "FALSE" "FALSE" - accompanied by a noise like a stack of evidence papers slamming down on a table.

However are we really suggesting dumpster diving as a solution to the immense quantities of food waste that we are faced with? While sympathetic producers attempt to sanitise what we are doing, dumpsters can be pretty grimy at times, and fishing around in them for food is really only

for the desperate and the politically determined. We can attempt to mitigate peoples concerns by washing food well or flaunting our healthy dumpster-diet bodies, but once food is defined as 'waste', the cultural barriers to utilizing or conserving it are immense. Dumpstering as a solution to the food waste issue can only ever really be one element of a multi-faceted campaign against a wasteful system.

Our solutions need not to foster dependence on the current food system.

*Our activism on this issue is a web of strategic compromises, like sharing dumpstered food as a way to build generous, critical and political communities, and utilizing mainstream media to convey our arguments.*

However when our compromises become the status quo, and we find ourselves afraid of exposing supermarket food waste lest our food source be compromised (such as



one person expressed over a Sydney e-list), I get worried.

It is time to think beyond dumpster diving to engage more broadly with solutions to the issue of 'waste'. Utilising supportive mainstream media to shame food retailers, creating and supporting local and organic food production and food buyers groups and organizing our own events and media around the issue are some of the ways we can do this. Getting active around food waste is fun and challenging! If you have any thoughts or comments I'd love to hear from ya

else.kennedy@gmail.com



Some possibilities for moving forward on a zero food waste campaign:

- Start a dumpster diving facebook group or other public webpage for your city – the media will come to you, and curious and experienced folks can link up, share tips, and distribute excess food
- Be careful not to identify individual supermarkets in print or on screen, as increased security could make access difficult for local divers. Find private ways of communicating on a need-to-know basis
- Take curious people on tours of dumpsters you are familiar with
- Create and support local food production and buyer's groups
- Plan and organize actions and events to shame food retailers and discuss food waste publicly

We don't cross borders,  
borders cross us.

**"The invisible hand of the  
market requires the iron fist  
of the penal state."**

- L Wacquant

# CAGED LABOUR

Forced prison labour has been used in Australia since colonisation to try and control the poor and unruly.

The new South Coast Correctional Centre in Nowra, NSW makes full-time work compulsory for detainees. Prisoners are paid \$20 a week to perform repetitive work that doesn't transfer into meaningful skills outside prison walls.

Private companies are now contracting with the NSW Government's Corrective Services Industries to find new profits in caged labour - lowering the lowest common denominator of working wages and conditions.

Prisons and the exploitation of the people inside aren't solutions to the problems of poverty and violence.

# WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE POPULATION?



20% of the  
world's  
population  
uses over  
75% of our  
resources

20% of the  
world's  
population  
uses only  
1.5% of our  
resources

We don't cross borders, they cross us.



today the roaring chainsaws of the monsters that tear up the air,  
every other day, are lashed in our cable grips

Anon  
Autumn 2011  
From a Tree sit  
Bodalla State Forest  
Near Gulaga Mountain  
South East Forests NSW

... and stilled ...

so hear the stillness of the mountain  
air, and feel a soft flash of paradise  
a gift of a memory of how the forest once stood  
here in quiet for lo n g years

from high up in this solitary spotty gum  
in the folds of her branched arms  
from here i can see the sea sun rise  
in the spaces of these lime coloured leaves

like a story telling through a stain glass window  
here, older by far, than some stone cathedral  
some ancient place of worship  
twinkle of the sea and sun  
dazzle away the chill of my waiting night  
meditate on the folds of imagination  
in this old woman's landscape

I close my eyes in this canopy of yours  
and now I see the war coming in on all sides  
bulldozers, uniforms, cold chainsaw teeth, fattened forged steel  
old white men in suits shaking hands of money  
violence down the line, a patriarchy, a hungry economy,  
surrounding this lonely sad spotty gum and me

This lone sad spotty gum, who stands witness to the killing of the trees  
Her time will come tomorrow, when the policemen have ordered away the people,  
and freed the monster machines from our cable grips,  
and in the forest where no one sees they will tear her out and crash her down  
to lay with her brothers and sisters.

Her life and all her family laid to waste for woodchips  
to be taken from their homeland  
over seas to be pulped  
pieces of paper  
pellets of wood

Just give us a chance to grow old,  
And how we will show the world, and the carbon we will drink and store  
in the treasure chest deep at our feet.





# INTERNATIONAL 24 HOURS for Tasmania's ancient forests



Nantes, FRANCE



Hobart, TAS AUSTRALIA



Somerset, UK



Oslo, NORWAY



Strasbourg, FRANCE



Balingup, W. AUSTRALIA



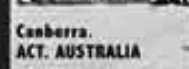
Canberra, ACT, AUSTRALIA



New York, USA



Connecticut, USA



Canberra, ACT, AUSTRALIA



Reunion, AFRICA



Colorado, USA



Marlfield, IRELAND



Dorriggo, NSW, AUSTRALIA



Denbigh, WALES



Melbourne, VIC, AUSTRALIA



Pal, THAILAND



Copenhagen, DENMARK



Edinburgh, SCOTLAND



Brisbane, QLD, AUSTRALIA



Bristol, UK



Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh, INDIA

# ..THE CLOCK



# OF ACTION 14-15 DEC 2010

## mania's forests

A. AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA



Adelaide, SA, AUSTRALIA



Port Vila, VANUATU



Denmark, WA, AUSTRALIA



Dublin, IRELAND



London, UK



Northcote, VIC, AUSTRALIA



Launceston, TAS, AUSTRALIA



Sydney, NSW, AUSTRALIA



Lismore, NSW, AUSTRALIA



Mindo, ECUADOR



Devonport, TAS, AUSTRALIA



Perth, WA, AUSTRALIA



Olympia, Washington, USA



Lake Como, ITALY



Batemans Bay, NSW, AUSTRALIA



Ghent, BELGIUM



Walla Walla, Washington, USA



Walla Walla, Washington, USA



Olympia, Washington, USA



Batemans Bay, NSW, AUSTRALIA



Ghent, BELGIUM



Ghent, BELGIUM



a Pradesh, INDIA

HUON.ORG

# IS TICKING..

# a letter From the Forests...

## South East NSW



by Susannah Fox

Our native forests in NSW are precious irreplaceable habitat for many endangered species. Our forests are the guardians of biodiversity. We have Koalas, Potoroos, Quolls, Powerful Owls, Sooty Owls, Yellow-bellied Gliders, Parrots, Gang Gangs, Flying Foxes, Large-footed Bats and so it goes on.

Our forests are culturally significant for Indigenous people, especially of the Yuin Nation, and others. There are sacred sites and places of ceremony and initiation from the mountains to the coast that have been and continue to be desecrated and threatened by logging.

Our old growth forests are incredibly significant carbon stores, valuable in safeguarding our atmosphere from climate change. The CSIRO recently reported that carbon emissions saved by ending native forest logging Australia-wide would equate to 47 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. For comparison, total carbon emissions from the Transport sector Australia-wide is estimated at 90 million tonnes +. This highlights the significant role native forest management could achieve in cutting emissions in the lead up to 2050.

These are diverse forest ecosystems, supporting diverse species and cultural heritages, that run in a connected system from Victoria to Northern NSW and up into Queensland. The connectivity of these old landscapes has been affected over generations of land clearing, and especially now continues to be threatened by the logging industry.

The potential biodiversity, cultural, climate, and ecotourism/economic values that these forests, protected in a series of connected and jointly-managed national parks with Traditional Owners could realise are huge. These values far outweigh that of the current practice of intensive logging:

- costs include operating at an economic deficit (the NSW government subsidised Forestry NSW approx 14 million dollars in the last financial year to keep the industry economically viable)
- desecration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- another cost is the causing of environmental destruction; erosion of top soils, pollution and sedimentation of water catchments, destruction of critical endangered species habitat, pollution of the atmosphere with high levels of carbon emissions (from machine operations to trucking, releasing sequestered carbon from soils and old trees, and post-logging burning)



- one positive value of the industry is a small handful of jobs in the local area (as logging is heavily mechanised and does not require many workers). However these workers could be transitioned to other jobs or fairly compensated
- the only other value of the industry is the creation of low-value paper, for the profit-making interests of the Nippon Paper Company. There are many alternatives to making paper that do not involve the destruction of Native Forests.

For over 40 years forest activists and Indigenous People in NSW have fought bravely and stood strong for the protection of our native forests. From the bush, in compartments, locked on to gates, at the Chipmill, to offices in cities, parliament meetings, and in local communities. This legacy of activism continues in the face of current Forestry developments.

The main developments underway in NSW are the continued woodchipping of native forests, and the current proposal for a Wood Fired Power Plant in Eden.

To justify woodchipping the industry has maintained the lie, for years, that woodchips are sourced from "forest waste". In fact, 95% of logs harvested from NSW native forests are turned into woodchips. Only 5% is sold to sawmills to create value-added wood products.

Around Australia, environment groups are resisting the development of wood-fired power plants. Burning forests to generate electricity statistically produces more carbon emissions per unit of energy than burning coal, and would guarantee for the Industry the continued logging and burning of millions of tonnes of native forest every year. These power stations would be dirtier and more carbon-intensive than coal-fired power plants!

In the forests of South East NSW we have drunk coffee by roadsides, perched in trees, admired possums sitting atop tripods, locked on to machines, recorded hundreds and thousands of breaches, green policed, exposed the illegal operations of Forestry, bugged up business as usual, camped at the Chipmill, sat in courtrooms verses forestry, road tripped through old growth and regrowth, charged the Forestry office for being Carbon Criminals, made noise, and played cricket on logging roads.

At the Summer Slam this year, many people converged to camp at the Eden Chipmill over a week to slam the forestry industry with a plethora of actions. This is where over 90% of native "harvested" forest is trucked in to be woodchipped, to be stockpiled and to be shipped overseas to Nippon Paper, in Japan. The piles of chipped forest reach as high as the coastal mountains surrounding Twofold Bay.

There have been many blockades from long camps to short day stints in

Mumbulla Bodalla Yambulla Glenbog  
Tallaganda Badja

In the near future Forestry NSW plans to continue logging in breach of their own regulations. We will continue to fight for our forests and endangered species. To get in touch:

Protect our Native Forests  
End Woodchipping Now

Contact:  
[szranh@gmail.com](mailto:szranh@gmail.com)

# - Tree Climbing -

Sometimes we try  
And I wonder why  
What makes us do  
What makes us true  
What makes us you

When all the injustice and the crush  
Our eyes yearning, burning, carrying a cross  
Struggle seems of necessity  
As we keep on climbing this tree  
Our souls yearning to be free  
It's growing more than we could ever be

And of all that we could ever see  
From the crown of this eternal tree  
Our loved defiled and denied  
Our hope returned in reply  
Our endeavours reflected as futile

With our tears trickling down to the roots  
It's growing ever more than what we can do  
Such an exquisitely beautiful and painful view  
Heart outstretched in supplication  
My grip slips beyond my reach

And I'm falling now  
I can see the ground  
I'm beyond all sound  
I can't turn around  
I just let go... and fall... through the crown

And my mind flies away to be safe  
To where I cannot reach it  
Cos it knows where it belongs  
It's known it all along

It recognises me for what I am  
And tolerates who I try to be  
So in the nest of this safety  
I breathe you and you breathe me  
We are all that we can be  
Just let go... and see

And we burst out breaking free  
Letting go and falling in  
Back to where it all begins  
And the stars there in the day  
If we can just remember when  
The way was there... before we knew it

By Rob Catmore





BY TINKS

# Reflection on Climate Camps

## & Direct Action

Some background: below are my rough notes from a presentation at the 'Packing up the tent? The future of climate camp' workshop at the national grassroots Climate Summit, 9-11 April 2011. These thoughts could have and still could do with a massive edit! Nonetheless I've submitted them here in case they're useful for ongoing discussions.

I'm no longer involved in ASEN but was involved 2003-2009, mainly through SEAN. I was involved in the 2008 and Helensburgh 2009 Climate Camp organising collectives, mainly with legal, action and facilitation support. I hope to hear your thoughts and ideas through these pages, online or you can contact me at [crimsonpedals@gmail.com](mailto:crimsonpedals@gmail.com); especially if you're interested in any further discussions in NSW.

WT xo :)

### 1. Starting point – UK Climate Camp (CC) decision

- Decision was made in Feb this year – CC released a statement called 'Metamorphosis'. Basically, ppl decided not to organise another national CC this year, and furthermore not to organise national gatherings as 'CC' in 2011. They created interim working groups to manage the transition, and will have a major meeting in the near future.
- Statement explained essence of decision was to allow for new tactics, organising methods and processes to emerge. They wrote: "With the skills, networks and trust we have built we will launch new radical experiments to tackle the intertwined ecological, social and economic crises we face."

- Bit about context of decision: the CC model started in UK in 2006 at Drax power station. CC's about Heathrow airport expansion in 2007 and a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in 2008 – both developments have still not gone ahead. CC has built the DA movement on climate change in UK and inspired dozens of CC's around the world. So, by any measure the CC experiment in UK can be characterised as a successful tactic and model of networking, skill sharing and action, that has gained wins to stop proposed expansions of the fossil fuel industry.

- I think what's important and exciting about the decision, then, is that UK folks seem to be pushing themselves to keep being relevant, vibrant and successful. To keep building the movement, in ways that will take them to a "new level of participation and action".

- It's important to note what it's not, and they say this themselves: it's not a retreat from organised large-scale action on climate change. Yes this decision does leave a space, but the statement finishes by expressing a desire for more, stronger coordinated action, not less. Particularly, ppl want to link up with the broader DA that has been sweeping across UK, Europe and other parts of the world as I'm sure we're aware of, from the anti-education cuts DA in the UK, and the struggles against austerity measures in Europe because of the costs to people's lives from the GFC; to the people's uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and other parts of north Africa and the Middle East. The statement ends on a note of revolutionary intent: "This is a unique opportunity to work together with others to create a more co-ordinated, dynamic and stronger movement against climate change and its root causes. Now is a chance to team up with the anti-cuts and anti-austerity movements and play a crucial role in the revolutionary times ahead. Anything but co-ordinated action is doomed to fail."



## 2. What this means for us

- Hopefully what I've managed to highlight successfully is what I understand as the context of the UK CC decision: a re-evaluation of the CC model in light of a certain familiarity with the tactic. A desire to push themselves to continue to do what's necessary, not just what they know is possible. The desire to link up with revolutionary tendencies around them so that together they can build the movement from below that can confront the root causes of climate change.
- Turning to Australia, I see that ppl in the grassroots climate movement have also been doing critical reflection about our actions, including in regards to CC. In her intro Moira provided an overview of CC in Australia (eg first CC in Australia was in July 2008 in Newcastle NSW, as part of the grassroots campaigning against coal exports at the site of the world's largest coal port. Four CC's across Australia in 2009 - Helensburgh coal mine in NSW, and Hazelwood, Port Augusta and Collie coal-fired power stations in Vic, SA and WA. There was another CC at Bayswater power station in the Hunter Valley, NSW in Dec 2010.) All up, CC's in Australia have seen about 200 ppl be arrested for their acts of civil disobedience, and 100's more participate in the direct actions, learning, and making connections that have built the grassroots movement against coal in this country.
- In thinking about this q of the future of CC in Australia, I want to highlight a few aspects of the model that I think have been particularly valuable in building the movement for climate action in Australia. I'll then raise a few critical reflections and questions that I'd like to pose for consideration this morning.

## 3. Valuable aspects of CC - a few levels

- 1. CC as a movement space - it brings ppl together. The forums, workshops, stalls and conversations give ppl a sense of who's doing what on climate change and how they can be involved. Also a space for reflection, exchange of ideas and strategic discussions about next steps for the grassroots climate movement. One of few climate events where ppl seem to work quite seriously to acknowledge the

ongoing colonisation of this country, and seek to have CC be an event that supports Aboriginal struggles for land, culture and sovereignty.

- 2. CC as a learning space – from working with Traditional Owners to the learning within skills workshops and tours and about local issues. Learning in the open camp check-in meetings and the spokes councils as experiences of bottom-up, participatory and collective decision-making. Learning in the compost toilets as experiences of sustainable living. The huge process of organising CC, itself a massive learning curve for everyone involved.
- 3. CC as an action space – geared towards giving everyone present an experience of mass collective direct action in a safe, supportive and participatory environment. By and large a successful model of mass direct action in the numbers of ppl involved, the no's of arrests, the experimentations in participatory decision-making on a mass scale, the media around the actions and the legal support before, during and after the actions. I would say that CC's have certainly played a massive role in legitimising DA on climate change within and outside of the climate movement. It's been the vehicle that's given a lot of ppl the confidence and skills to be involved in DA .
- These elements of movement building, learning and action are not necessarily specific to the CC model. But one thing that is unique about CC as a tactic on climate change that I really want to highlight, is that it's about targeting a root cause of climate change. CC literally goes to one of these sites of greenhouse gas production or consumption, whether it's a coal mine or coal port, and says very clearly: this tangible infrastructure that we're camped next to for 5 days – this is what is causing climate change. I suggest that in all the varieties of climate action our movement has taken, from lobbying to rallies to now the debate around the carbon price: CC cuts through all the politician's spin, or a complicated discussion

about prices on an abstract carbon market. CC goes right up close to the fossil fuel industry and says, look at this coal-fired power station – this is what X big power company is doing and this is the harm they're causing. I suggest that especially given the state of the current debate about climate policy, a tactic like CC can just cut through it all and say: the issue is coal. The issue is we need to stop burning more coal. The issue is we need and can have a just transition away from fossil fuels now. Now more than ever, I think that's a very powerful and useful thing for our climate action to do, in a way that doesn't let the issue of coal become an issue about something else.

#### 4. Critical reflections of CC and DA

- Effectiveness of the DA at CC's. The actions are temporary and they generally follow a certain script: start with the mass rally, go somewhere where the ppl that can put themselves in arrestable positions do the DA, they stay for as long as they can but eventually they leave or are arrested for offences like trespass. Generally speaking that's the script, and in the ways that the actions are planned and talked about, I'd say we largely conceive them as 'safe', symbolic actions, aimed at 'sending a msg' to decision-makers and getting 'good media'. I'm not necessarily saying there's not a role for quite planned, largely symbolic mass DA – but I would like to ask and explore, what would like it look like to take DA that isn't limited to the sphere of symbolism? That's not just another form of lobbying, if a much more spectacular form, or a media stunt? What other types of DA can we conceive, that don't necessarily stick to a script, and that continuously raise the stakes for decision-makers when they try to ignore us?
- Another thing to think about is that an aim of CC has been to inspire and skill up ppl to take DA outside of the camps. However I don't think this has really happened in a big way – I'd say there's still fair reliance on the 'usual suspects', like Rising Tide, to continue being the ones that organise DA. Something I'd like to explore is: what would a generalised DA movement on climate change look like? If not CC, how do we build this movement? Who's not involved that we need and want for the movement to be broad, deep and be ready and able to take collective action for climate justice? Like in the UK, what are the

struggles happening around us that we can connect up with to build the movement from below that we need for action on climate change?

- So far I've raised some questions about the DA at CC's. Turning to the CC model as a whole: generally speaking I see that the CC's are largely conceived as single actions, instead of actions that build over time. A colleague described it to me as CC's as single actions or public statements, as opposed to building actions or public storylines. The transparency and momentum in organising over time would then allow public, and media pressure to build as the storyline catches hold.

Essentially, I think it's clear that for the large part in Australia, we've used CC as a tactic, but it hasn't necessarily been part of a broader strategy or campaign. We've used it to mobilise ppl, but have we also been organising ppl? (I think some CC's have been more successful than others because they were part of a planned campaign eg the CC in Newcastle 2008 escalating and supporting the grassroots campaign against coal exports; or the CC in Hazelwood 2009 that set off that ongoing campaign against the Southern Hemisphere's dirtiest coal-fired power station.)

So in reflecting on all the months of organising that goes into CC and assessing it as a tactic, perhaps we shouldn't be asking, was it worth it?, but what is it worth for? What are our broader strategies on coal? What types of action generally may help us to achieve the systemic change that we want to see in order to address climate change?

## 5. Conclusion

- CC's have been a really important development in the climate movement – whoo.
- Huge for personal empowerment and facilitating activists beyond the camps. Has built the movement, and publicly expressed our dissent in ways that have made cracks in the foundations of power and the fossil fuel industry.

When their backs are against the wall, the political elite uses the weapons at their disposal eg the Victorian government introducing laws to increase penalties for offences related to energy infrastructure. Under the guise of 'building energy security', the Vic govt has succeeded in further criminalising protest – because our DA has had an effect.

- In raising some q's about DA at CC and the CC model, please note that my intention hasn't been to fetishise SA – to say that DA is intrinsically 'effective'. But I do see DA as a form of action that is powerful in the way that it moves us and the ppl around us to the core of an issue. It is usually an experience of collective action that is supportive, participatory and an experience of solidarity.

- I see q as not so much what is the future of CC or DA, but, what is the future of the climate movement? Where do we need to go; what type of ppl's power do we need to build; what forms of DA will get us there? Maybe the CC model with work for us. But if not, what new, exciting, inspiring DA will we take? What DA is not just once a year at remote infrastructure, but, connects with and moves ppl's daily lives and struggles?

- Now more than ever, as ppl that find ourselves in or able to be in positions of activism and organising, what visions of action will we offer to build the movement for climate justice and to win?



# Peace Convergence 2011

The background of the top half of the poster features a light, hazy sky. In the upper right, three military helicopters are shown in flight. Below them, the dark silhouettes of soldiers are visible against a horizon line. One soldier stands prominently in the center, while others are positioned further back. The overall scene suggests a conflict zone.

End the lies!  
End the wars!  
End the US Alliance!



Be visible for peace in  
a time of permanent war.

Resist the US-Oz War Games at Shoalwater Bay.  
Gather in Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Byfield,

**15 - 29 July**

More: Graeme Dunstan 0407 951 688  
FaceBook: "Peace Convergence 2011"  
[www.peaceconvergence.com](http://www.peaceconvergence.com)

# Peace Convergence 2011

This July, the Peace Convergence will be gathering against the Talisman Sabre Australian and US military exercises near Rockhampton in Queensland.

War games are not just 'games'. They involve real equipment, real troops, machinery, munitions, vessels, tanks – everything used in a real theatre of war. As such they pose real risks to the environment. And you couldn't pick a worse location to hold war games than in the protected and precious regions of the coast and reef around Shoalwater Bay in Queensland.

Read on for reasons why the Talisman Sabre games should not go ahead, and why you should get involved in the campaign to stop them.

## 1. International Treaties

SWIB is home to endangered dugong and one of only two large colonies in Australia. The Shoalwater Bay/Corio Bay area adjacent to the SWBTA is a Ramsar listed habitat for waterfowl – meaning it is of vital importance for the world, not just Queensland or Australia. It is Australia's duty to protect these areas from any development as signatories to the Ramsar convention.

## 2. Dugong habitat

Shoalwater seagrass meadows form one of the remaining food habitats for the endangered dugong – the use of sonar, turbulence and potential toxic spills put dugongs at risk. The dugong, *Dugong dugon*, is suffering from population decline in many parts of its range. It is found in greater numbers in Australian waters than anywhere else in the world.

In past Talisman Sabre war games, active sonar has been used in the oceans near Shoalwater bay. Sonar is known to effect cetaceans, and dugongs also respond to sonar. Sonar was thought responsible for the deaths of whales and dolphins worldwide, the loud noises frightening the animals, causing brain hemorrhages and 'the bends'.

Shoal water Bay is absolutely vital breeding habitat for the endangered Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*: it has the highest concentration in the world of this declining species, this is their premier breeding habitat. The population of Green Turtles is thought to be declining worldwide. Turtles are sensitive to sonar emissions undersea and could be susceptible to naval use of sonar in the same way as cetaceans and dugong.

## 4. Green turtle habitat



## 3. Sonar





## 5. Fish refugia & other species

Shoalwater Bay is home to many species of fish and its protected situation and extensive mangrove ecosystem makes it an excellent fish refugia and breeding habitat. The Maunsell TS07 Public Environment Report lists 38 endangered and vulnerable species in Shoalwater Bay alone, and over 100 endangered and vulnerable species in the combined training areas used in the Talisman Sabre exercises.

## 6. Other environmental pressures on the region

The reef and other relatively undisturbed marine habitats are already under pressure from global warming and comprise a piece of natural heritage that should be preserved at any cost. U.S. Military vehicles and operations are known to be a source of significant greenhouse gas emissions.

### 7. Record of military contamination of environment

#### - United States Department of Defence

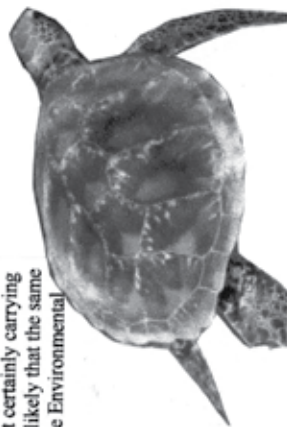
The record of the U.S. military with regards to environmental contamination is abysmal, and yet we propose to let them use one of our most environmentally sensitive areas.

The U.S. DoD has been described as one of the world's biggest industrial polluters, given the toxic legacy that their bases and facilities have created worldwide. Project Censored estimates that "the U.S. military generates 750,000 tons of toxic waste material annually, more than the five largest chemical companies in the U.S. combined. This pollution occurs globally as the U.S. maintains bases in dozens countries." The U.S. DOD has sought exemptions from many important environmental laws in the U.S. including the Migratory Bird Treaties Act, the Wildlife Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Hardly the actions of good environmental stewards.

Perhaps the worst cases of U.S. Military pollution offshore would be the cases of Vieques, Puerto Rico and Clarkson Air Base in the Philippines. In Vieques, Depleted Uranium was used extensively, leading to birth defects and high rates of leukemia. Perchlorate contaminated the water table and ghost nets set adrift by massive naval vessels continue to devastate the fisheries. At Clarkson Air Base, the Philippines government used the land to house victims of the Pinatubo eruptions because they did not know the extent of the contamination, resulting in illness and birth defect affecting hundreds of people.

## 8. Nuclear risks

Nuclear powered vessels, potentially carrying nuclear weapons and almost certainly carrying depleted uranium munitions, were used in the TS05 joint war games. It is likely that the same happened for TS07, yet the war games haven't been deemed nuclear by the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.



## 9. Other military pollution

Some of the chemicals or hazardous materials that have been released into the Shoalwater Bay area in the past by military activities include: intentional introduction of toxic materials such as red phosphorus marine markers, seawater ballast potentially containing introduced species and the intentional disposal of ship-board waste at sea. These events that should not be tolerated in a World Heritage listed marine park, nor in the important Shoalwater Bay.

### *Perchlorate*

Perchlorate, the primary ingredient in rocket fuel, is the chemical causing the most concern worldwide with regards to the U.S. DoD's operations. It has been found contaminating groundwater in 20 U.S. states as a result of its use at rocket test sites, military bases, and perchlorate-production plants. It has been linked to thyroid problems, birth defects and inhibited newborn development. A recent study has found perchlorate is even contaminating the U.S. food supply and that 'safe' level standards are inadequate.

The people of Byfield and Yreppoon are concerned that perchlorate may be leaking into their water supply because the live firing area is part of the catchment for the Yreppoon water supply through Waterpark Creek. They have not been successful in getting local authorities to test the water. It is incumbent on the military to take action on their concerns.

### *White Phosphorus*

White Phosphorus was found responsible for the contamination of the estuarine environment at Eagle River Flats near Fort Richardson base, Alaska, U.S.A. The fishing grounds of local Alaskans were destroyed and thousands of water birds killed, "every year for almost two decades" according to the Military Toxic Project. They also say unexploded ordnance "may exist in, on, and/or under up to 2 million acres of lands and waters outside the current boundaries of the base."

An eyewitness account by a local fisherman at Shoalwater Bay indicates that white phosphorus has been used at SWBTA, which is adjacent to the Ramsar listed Shoalwater/Corio Bay wetlands.

### **Plane crash**

On their return journey from participation in maneuvers in Australian waters in January 2006 a U.S. FA-18 Hornet strike fighter plane crashed in the ocean 200km SE of Brisbane. No attempt was made to retrieve the \$37m aircraft, nor were the public made aware of the potential environmental contaminants contained within the sunken aircraft or its mother ship, the nuclear powered aircraft carrier the USS Ronald Reagan.



Soldiers run through red phosphorus cloud used as a marker, during TS09 at SWB



Image US DoD

## Indigenous Issues



Peace Parade in Yeppoon 2007

## Sexual assault

The SWBTA falls within the traditional lands of the Darumbal people. Despite being the recognized as the traditional owners and Native Title Claimants, the Darumbal have not been given Native Title to their land nor do they have equity in the decision-making process about military activity. They are allowed only occasional and temporary access to Shoalwater Bay, and not fairly represented or consulted on its use.

We believe that access to traditional land, ability to speak for country, and the ability to practice traditional culture is a human right being denied the Darumbal people. Their land should be returned to them to be protected and honoured for the future.

Anecdotal reports indicate to us that there is a significant increase in sexual assaults, drink spiking, crime and public drunkenness in the area where troops participating in war games troops. In 2005 there were 2,374 sexual assaults in the U.S involving military personnel. Punitive action was taken in less than a quarter of these cases. Researchers estimate as many as 67,000 women veterans, 29 percent of those who visited U.S. Veterans Affairs clinics, say they experienced sexual assault in the military. The amount of assaults in the ADF is not made public. The amount of sexual assaults on civilians is unknown.

It is our understanding that rapes and sexual are more often than not, unreported. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs says only 20% of women report, other studies have found that even fewer report. Thus these figures could easily be ten times larger. Substantially more effort should be made to protect women and to reign in the behaviour of troops. We should not be exposing women to this kind of threat.

Written by Kim Stewart, BA, BSc (honsA)  
Friends of the Earth Brisbane

## Get Involved

Individuals and affinity groups will be gathering in Yeppoon and Rockhampton throughout July.

For more info join the Facebook group: Peace Convergence 2011

# Valediction for Peter Gray

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To those that stand up for peace, for biodiversity and the climate, Peter Gray, 30, who died on Saturday morning peacefully at home with his loving wife, Naomi, will never be forgotten.

Pete was a member of Rising Tide Newcastle, and an activist and supporter of the North East Forest Alliance and the Newcastle Branch of The Wilderness Society. Those who have been part of the struggle to protect the vanishing old-growth forest and remnant woodlands of eastern Australia will recognise the names of some of the places that Pete cheerfully joined comrades to defend: the Otways, Badja, Stroud Mountain, Copeland Tops, Jilliby, Myall River, Moira and Millewa. Most of these places are now protected from logging. He was an activist that was not content to merely throw himself in front of the bulldozers for a cause, but would always seek to understand the legal, administrative, biological and strategic background of the problems and threats he confronted.

Rising Tide will never be the same without him. Any of you that have been to one of Rising Tide's flotilla blockades of Newcastle harbour will appreciate that it was Pete that first conceived the idea back in 2006. And of course it was him that dreamed up the elaborate pirate vessels made of rafts and barrels, planks and rope, that caused police (and Greenpeace rescue craft) such headaches at those joyful protest actions. Some of my most cherished images of him show him cheerfully

being arrested for the climate: smiling next to his mum in the 200 strong crowd blockading parliament, grinning with his hands cuffed behind his back during the 1000-strong coal-line shut down during Climate Camp in Newcastle in 2008.

In 2006, Pete challenged the NSW's Government's Environmental Assessment for the massive Anvil Hill coal mine (now re-named Mangoola) in the Wybong area of the Upper Hunter in the NSW Land and Environment Court. His victory meant that all Scope 3 greenhouse emissions of coal mines now have to be assessed in NSW. The impact of the case was huge, since the media adored the David and Goliath tale that had such a clear-hearted and ingenious hero at centre stage. He and Naomi are currently applicants in another legal challenge in the Land and Environment Court, trying to force the NSW Government to regulate the greenhouse pollution of the country's single biggest point source of carbon dioxide emissions, Bayswater Power Station, near Muswellbrook.

The rest of the country know him as the shoe-thrower. Last year, when John Howard appeared solo on the ABC's Q and A program, Pete was in the audience. He stood up and threw his shoes at Howard in a gesture that mimicked the Iraqi journalist who did the same to George W Bush. Explaining his actions, Pete said: "I had an opportunity to express

something that I believe many of the victims of the war would have wished to express themselves - and I felt a moral responsibility to do so." Pete's anguish about the loss of civilian life and shame and anger at Australia's role in that in the current war in Iraq is shared by many, and his gesture of contempt for Howard spoke for them too.

Pete was deeply loved by the activist community in Newcastle and beyond. In all the years that I knew him, I never saw him trespass against another person, or take any action that he knew to be unjust. He was an anti-establishment traditionalist, a shoe-throwing pacifist and an intellectual bon vivant.

Gray could be remembered by the words of Marcus Aurelius: "In the end, what would you gain from everlasting remembrance? Absolutely nothing.

So what is left worth living for? This alone: justice in thought, goodness in action, speech that cannot deceive and a disposition glad of whatever comes, welcoming it as necessary, as familiar, as flowing from the same source and fountain as yourself."

Peter Gray is survived by his wife Naomi, his parents, Bob Gray and Lyn and John Brattan, and siblings John, Sharon, Gideon and Katherine.

We love you Pete.  
xo

George Woods with Harriet Veitch



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

LIAN & GRACE FROM GERMINATE 2010 FOR THEIR HELP

ALL THE PREVIOUS GERMINATE CREW WHO HAVE KEPT THIS TRADITION ALIVE

ALL CONTRIBUTORS OF ARTICLES AND ARTWORK WHO MADE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE

TINKS FOR THE LOVELY HAND DRAWN ARTWORK USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

EMMA CAPP FOR THE VARIOUS TASSIE PHOTOGRAPHS USED

THE INTERNET FOR KEEPING US ALL CONNECTED

AND YOU, THE READER, FOR BEING INTERESTED & MAKING OUR TIME WORTHWHILE

ELSE:

THANKYOU TO THE UNSW WELFARE ROOM FOR BEING  
FULL OF FREE MUESLI AND SNACKS, TO RAD HOUSEMATES  
FOR BRINGIN ME DINNER WHILE I AM GERMINATING, AND  
TO LONG BUSHWALKS FOR TAKING ME AWAY FROM ALL  
THE GADGETS THAT CONNECT US

MARK:

I WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO THANK GOD AND THE AMAZING  
WORLD GOD HAS WATCHED OVER, FULL OF AMAZING PLANTS,  
ANIMALS AND OTHER ORGANISMS AND FOR ALLOWING  
CHALLENGES IN LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL/SOCIAL JUSTICE  
PROBLEMS SO THAT WE NEED TO LEARN HOW TO ACT AS  
A SOCIETY AND WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP THE WORLD  
AND EVERYTHING IN IT SAFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. I  
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ELSE AND PHUONG FOR THEIR  
AMAZING WORK THEY DID ON THIS ARTICLE. I WOULD ALSO  
LIKE TO THANK MY FAMILY FOR PUTTING UP WITH ALL THE  
DINNER INTERRUPTIONS, INCLUDING MY BROTHER FOR THE  
BACKGROUND CONVERSATIONS. FINALLY I WOULD LIKE TO  
THANK THE MQ FOOD COOP (THE RADICAL RADISH) FOR  
KEEPING MY SANITY IN BETWEEN WRITING THINGS AND EXAMS.

PHUONG:

I'D LIKE TO THANK MY MUM & DAD FOR WITHOUT THEM I  
WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY. I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK MOZ  
WHO COOKED & CLEANED FOR ME WHILE I SLAVED AWAY  
ON THIS PUBLICATION & KEPT ME WARM WHEN I CRAWLED  
INTO BED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. I'D LASTLY  
LIKE TO THANK MY BICYCLE FOR KEEPING ME PORTABLE  
FOR WITHOUT IT I WOULD TAKE FOREVER TO COMMUTE  
BETWEEN THE PRINTING PRESS & MY COMPUTER.

THANKYOU