

ON THE RISE - ASCENT MONTHLY BULLETIN  
July 2007

Dear Early Risers,

"All of the Howard government's central claims in defence to its response to climate change are deliberately misleading" - Guy Hearse, 'High and Dry'

During the last few weeks a number of books have come out strongly criticising the Australian governments attitude and approach to climate change. Guy Hearse, a former Liberal staffer to retired defence minister Robert Hill, released an explosive first hand account of the government's mentality towards climate change. In his book, 'High and Dry' , Hearse argues that the great failure of the Howard government's policy on climate change is that it has allowed Australia's largest polluters to write its cabinet submissions and ministerial briefings, deliberately misinforming the public on climate change.

Hearse's accusations can be seen on an equally damning episode of Four Corners 'The Greenhouse Mafia'. Another book to come out recently is 'Scorcher: The Dirty Politics of Climate Change ' by Clive Hamilton, the executive director of the progressive think tank the Australia Institute. According to the publishers, this book 'blows the whistle on the politics of global warming in Australia' investigating why our politicians have been slow to act and the role of large corporations and the media. Extensive reveiws of these accounts can be easily found on the net.

The allegations in each of these publications merely confirm what a lot of us already know, that current policy is not dealing with the critical issues at hand, and instead distorts and fails to view the future of the earth as more important than a short term economy.

As always, it's been a thick month of media...

If there's anything we've left out, or you think should be covered next issue, feel free to drop us a line at [Cam.Hassard@gmail.com](mailto:Cam.Hassard@gmail.com)

Cheers

The ASCENT crew

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RISING TEMPS

How hot do you wanna go?:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/liberal-and-labor-make-a-call-how-much-heat-can-you-stand/2007/06/10/1181414132498.html>

## PLASTIC OCEAN

Our oceans are turning to plastic. Are we?:

[http://www.bestlifeonline.com/cms/publish/health-fitness/Our\\_oceans\\_are\\_turning\\_into\\_plastic\\_are\\_we\\_2\\_printer.shtml](http://www.bestlifeonline.com/cms/publish/health-fitness/Our_oceans_are_turning_into_plastic_are_we_2_printer.shtml)

## KYOTO POST 2012

Leaders meet in Sweden to discuss future of global protocol:

<http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=12936>

## GLOBAL VISION

World unity is crucial to the climate:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/world-unity-is-crucial-to-the-climate/2007/06/24/1182623736468.html>

No easy way to share the climate change burden:

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,21895313-12250,00.html>

## LEFT AND RIGHT

Greenhouse Doctrine taken as read all over:

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MemuID=54&ContentID=31185>

## POLITICS

Crikey - Liberal staffer throws the book at carbon lovin' Howard:

<http://www.crikey.com.au/Politics/20070702-Liberal-Party-insider-throws-the-book-at-Howard.html>

PM warms to his task:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/pm-warms-to-his-task/2007/06/30/1182624231823.html>

No water tanks here...:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/editorial/saving-water-no-tanks-not-in-our-backyard/2007/06/26/1182623905775.html>

## NEW ECONOMICS

Think globally, manufacture locally:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/business/think-globally-manufacture-locally/2007/07/01/1183228957827.html>

## THE NUCLEAR ARGUMENT

Alan Moran - Nuclear is the answer:

<http://mail.google.com/mail/Alan%20Moran%20-%20Nuclear%20is%20the%20Answer>

... the response:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/business/greenpower-path-irks-incumbents/2007/07/01/1183228957833.html>

## THE YES MEN

Exxon execs pranked at conference:

<http://www.planetwaves.net/contents/exxon.html>

## GROW ME THE MONEY

Grow me the money - Incentive to help businesses achieve carbon neutrality:

<http://www.growmethemoney.com.au/>

## NEW SCIENTIST - ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES

New Scientist - CC:

<http://environment.newscientist.com/channel/earth/climate-change>

## THE WORLD...

USA - Wall Street getting savvy with CC:

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42671/story.htm>

Geneva - the problem with desalination:

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42664/story.htm>

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## EVENTS/GET INVOLVED

\*Become an Al Gore climate change messenger\* - The Climate Project Australia is welcoming Mr Gore back to Melbourne in Spetember 21-23 to train 170 more people and continue the program's valuable work

\*Seminar/Forum\* - 'Climate Change and Human Rights Workshop'. When: Thursday 23 August 2007 04:00 pm - 05:00 pm. Where: Room 920, Level 9, Melbourne Law School.

\*Half Day Convergence\* - 'VIC - CLIMATE CHANGE - The Big Picture'. Date: Saturday July 21st, from 12.00pm – 6.00pm. Venue: St Michael's Convention Center, Rear 120 Collins Street, Melbourne. Register: Visit <http://www.fabian.org.au/985.asp?eventId=2375>. Details: With a pivotal federal election looming, understanding the complexities of climate change and achievable solutions is vital. The Australian Fabian Society has organized a half day conference on these issues. Speakers at this conference are amongst the country's leading thinkers on the major climate change issues and the policies needed to ensure effective action. Amongst the questions to be considered are- \* Do we have to have a sick environment to have a healthy economy? \* How quickly can renewables be ramped up and what are the implications for gas and coal? \* What can to done to reduce emissions through efficiency measures? \* What key aspects of a carbon trading scheme will ensure effective carbon reduction? John Krbaleski - An Effective Emissions Trading System, Philip Adams - Cost/Benefit Case to Act, Barry Hooper - Challenge of Clean Coal, Alan Pears - Politics and Reality of Reducing energy demand, Mark Diesendorf - Designing Renewables into the System, Robyn Evans - Transport:The Forgotten Sector