

ON THE RISE – ASCENT MONTHLY BULLETIN
October 2007

Budding Climate Repairers,

Top o' the month to you all! The mornings are getting brighter and warmer, the trees and shrubberies lush and green; the familiar, forgotten scent of spring is permeating the air again and with it, a fresh sense of possibility and potential. Yet the mornings might begin to get seriously uncomfortable...

Hot off the press (perhaps a little too hot) is the latest CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology report, predicting a ravaged, bone dry future for our barren island continent. The odds of a one degree temperature rise by 2030 are great; at present, we remain on the fast track to a very bleak existence. Humankind is undergoing a profound rethink of how it views its relationship with the natural world. Though a grassroots movement is gathering considerable momentum, decisive international leadership and a sense of political urgency continue to lag behind.

The ASCENT web launch and one year anniversary shindig went off with a bang earlier in the month. Massive thanks to all parties involved; the night was a righteous success. www.ascent.org.au is now online, with additional updates and content to come throughout the coming weeks.

And now, the month's media digest. It's a chunky one. Tuck in, get informed, check out the fresh ASCENT website and let us know what's going on in your world.
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[THE EARTH IS OUT OF TIME](#)

The LOCAL CONSEQUENCES

The wake up call:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/NATIONAL/Climate-change-report-a-wake-up-call/2007/10/02/1191091068891.html>

Climate warning issued to Australia:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/NATIONAL/Climate-warning-issued-to-Australia/2007/09/28/1190486491521.html>

Government's new initiative 'inadequate':

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/070923/2/14hup.html>

Gore back Labor's CC plan:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/gore-backs-labors-green-plans/2007/09/23/1190486116091.html>

Dragged by the collar to the well of climate change:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/editorial/a-policy-that-needs-a-burst-of-energy/2007/09/24/1190486223327.html>

KYOTO AND GLOBAL CONSENSUS

UN chief calls for global unity:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/world/global-unity-needed-for-climate-change-un/2007/09/25/1190486308872.html>

The world demands action:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/WORLD/Globe-wants-action-on-climate-change/2007/09/25/1190486274902.html>

Australia backs US push:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/australia-backs-us-climate-stance/2007/09/27/1190486479094.html>

CARBON TRADING

Embrace the low carbon revolution:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/failure-to-embrace-a-lowcarbon-economy-will-imperil-us-all/2007/09/29/1190486632669.html>

WORLD

Arctic thaw becoming critical:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/WORLD/Arctic-thaw-becoming-critical-NASA/2007/09/28/1190486579178.html>

NUCLEAR

Don't mention the 'N' word:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/dont-mention-the-n-word/2007/09/26/1190486391722.html?page=3>

EVENTS/GET INVOLVED

The Big Switch Off (www.thebigswitchoff.org) is an annual invitation to all Australians to stop consuming energy for a full 24 hours totally without power and to become more aware of the energy we use. From 8pm October 6th until 8pm October 7th Australians will be 'switching off'. Already well over 1000 people have pledged to take part.

Climate Protection Bill - In the UK community groups have successfully campaigned to make cuts in greenhouse gas emissions bound by law. Now climate action groups in Australia are trying to achieve the same goal by creating the Climate Protection Bill. To register your support go to www.climatemovement.org.au and click on Climate Protection Act NOW. You can also download a petition sheet from there to collect supporters names. Make it Law! Climate Protection Act 2007.

<http://www.climatemovement.org.au/climateprotectionbill>

Save the River Red Gums - Until October 8th, you have the opportunity to participate in an historic and exciting process that could create Victoria's first Indigenous Jointly Managed National Parks, and protect over 100,000 hectares of Murray River Red Gum Wetlands. Together, let's stand up for Indigenous rights to Country, for the River Murray and for the 400 threatened and near-threatened species that depend on its floodplains. Friends of the Earth have a submission prepared that you can use to make an online submission to VEAC - it takes just a couple of minutes and is easy to use. Together we can do this! Visit <http://melbourne.foe.org.au/letters/index.php?p=letter&l=10>

"Switched On 2007" - Youth Climate Action Conference 2007 - Concerned about climate change? Want to make a difference? Stumped on how to engage people within your school, university and wider community with fresh ideas for serious action on climate change? Then switch on to 'Switched On!' * A four-day conference filled with forums and workshops about the root causes of climate change, the impacts and the solutions. * An honest look at the barriers to real action on climate change, and identifying the opportunities FOR action. * Hands-on learning like workshops to make solar-powered sound systems! * A range of skills training so you get the most out of the conference whether you're already working on climate action campaigning or want to get started. * Find out about existing ASEN and AYCC initiatives like switching schools and universities to renewable energy. Where: Mountain Camp, Katoomba Convention Centre (2 hours west of Sydney). When: 18th-21st October. Who: You! Young people concerned about climate change. Accommodation: Comfortable rooms with bunk-style beds if you'd like to stay on-site. This large-scale Youth Climate Action Conference is the first of its kind in Australia – register today! If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, send an email to the Conference Organising Collective at climateconference@gmail.com. The conference is co-organised by AYCC with the Australian Student Environment Network.