

# Friends of the Earth Australia

Annual Report 2008-2009



**Friends of  
the Earth**

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**This report covers the 2008-2009 financial year.**

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## Who we are

Friends of the Earth (FoE) is the Australian arm of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), the world's largest grassroots environmental network. FoEI has national member groups in 77 countries. In Australia, we are a federation of independent local and affiliate groups, stretching from Perth to Melbourne to Kuranda in far north Queensland.

### Our Vision

Our vision is of a world where everyone's needs are met in a way which safeguards the future of the environment. We work for a world where environmental protection, social justice and economic welfare for all people go hand in hand. Through our local, national and international networks, we work with the community to achieve practical, sustainable change at a local scale, to communicate, raise awareness, put forward alternatives and take action.

FoE operates from an environmental justice perspective. This means working towards a situation where all people live in a healthy environment and where the benefits and costs of economic activity are shared equally, including between nations and generations.

FoEA supports Indigenous sovereignty and works at the local level with specific Indigenous communities as well as participating in debates and campaigns at the national and international level.

FoE understands that in an era of globalisation and international environmental problems an international and co-operative response is required. FoEA seeks to develop strong relations with environmental and social justice movements in all parts of the world.

### Our objectives

The objectives of FoEA are:

- The conservation, restoration, and rational use of the ecosphere;
- To stimulate a movement of social change towards an ecologically stable and self-managed society;
- To preserve the natural environment in Australia;
- To promote public awareness of environmental issues in Australia through public awareness activities and the production of leaflets, booklets, films and other educational materials;
- To assist in the maintenance of resource centres, production of newsletters, magazines and communication with like-minded national and international organisations interested in these objectives.

## Campaign Highlights

In 2008/9 Friends of the Earth Australia continued to campaign for the interests of people and the planet on issues including climate change, agrofuels, renewable energy and against nuclear power, nanotechnology and the use of dangerous chemicals. Here are some of the highlights of our activities over the past year.

### *Campaign Profiles*

#### **Anti-nuclear & Clean Energy (ACE) Campaign**

FoE's Anti-nuclear & Clean Energy (ACE) campaign has played a leading role in the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA). The Alliance brings together Aboriginal custodians being targeted for uranium mines or nuclear waste dumps with environmental and medical and public health NGOs. Our work with ANFA has included helping organise the national Alliance meeting in August 2008 near Darwin; FoE having a representative on the national committee of the Alliance; and coordinating research and campaigning to highlight the adverse impacts of the uranium/ nuclear industry on water resources.

FoE's alliance-building work is also reflected in our involvement with the Energy Science Coalition which brings together academics and others with expertise in energy and mining issues. <http://www.energyscience.org.au>

FoE's ACE campaign has continued to highlight the serious flaws associated with the nuclear safeguards system. We were pleased to be involved in the research that helped the federal parliament's Treaties Committee decide to recommend against uranium sales to Russia.

We have continued to work hard on the proposal to turn the Olympic Dam mine in SA into the world's largest uranium mine, highlighting the potential for ongoing mining of copper but not uranium, and the indefensible exemptions the mine enjoys from Aboriginal heritage and environmental laws. Our environmental education work helped the SA government decide not to take further water from the Great Artesian Basin for the mine. In early 2009, we collaborated with a mine worker to publicly expose ongoing leaks from the radioactive tailings dams at Olympic Dam.

We are working to support Aboriginal communities in the NT who have been short-listed for a national nuclear dump, with FoE campaigners travelling to Tennant Creek and other NT sites regularly in recent years.

The annual Radioactive Exposure Tour, held from May 15-24 2009, was one of the best ever. Over 40 people participated in this year's trip and most were enthusiastic about joining in the struggle for a nuclear-free future after witnessing the adverse environmental and social impacts of the uranium industry.

In December 2008 we said goodbye to Michaela Stubbs who is moving on after four years as the coordinator of the ACE collective in Melbourne.

More information: <http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear>

## ***Some highlights from our year***

### **July 2008. Climate Justice Seminar**

This seminar, a collaboration between FoE, the Development Studies Program of the School of Philosophy, Anthropology and Social Inquiry (University of Melbourne); Western Region Environment Centre; and a range of community and climate action groups brought together a large audience to consider the human rights and social dimensions of climate change.

### **July 2008. Climate camp – Newcastle**

Climate camp was an inspiring gathering of hundreds of people who travelled from around Australia to take peaceful direct action aimed at shutting down the world's largest coal port. This marked a new phase for the grassroots climate movement, which is increasingly dissatisfied with the slow rate of political movement at enacting climate change policies which are commensurate with what climate science tells us is necessary.

## **August. Ride Planet Earth**

Kim Nguyen set out on his journey by pushbike from Australia to Copenhagen, raising awareness about climate change and collecting messages along the way from communities in the Developing World affected by climate change.

He aims to arrive in Copenhagen in time for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2009. <http://www.rideplanetearth.org/>

## **September. New consumer guide - Bisphenol A in plastics: does it make us sick?**

According to our report, 'Blissfully unaware of BPA: reasons why regulators should live up to their responsibilities' regulators need to act urgently to protect consumers. Australian regulators continue to down play the harmful effects of a chemical called Bisphenol A (BPA), which is extensively used in plastic consumer products.

The report reveals that despite scientific consensus about the health hazards of BPA, Australian authorities are shirking their responsibilities. The report shows that BPA, which is found in consumer goods such as baby bottles, plastic microwave food containers and canned food linings, has proven links with a wide range of health disorders from infertility, breast and prostate cancer, to thyroid malfunction, attention deficit syndrome and recurrent miscarriage.

<http://www.foe.org.au/resources/publications/chemicals>

## **September. Organising the climate movement online**

Online tools offer climate change activists and groups some excellent opportunities and strategies to build the movement. Websites, egroups, blogs, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr and other applications are being used extensively by community organisers ... but how well?

Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace Australia Pacific commissioned The Change Agency to examine how online tools can be harnessed most effectively to recruit, engage, energise, strategise and sustain grassroots climate change activism.

The full report is available at <http://www.thechangeagency.org>

## **October. 96% of public want tests on potentially toxic nanoparticle food additives**

A poll of 1,010 people commissioned by FoE shows more than 9 in 10 Australians want safety checks on potentially toxic tiny food additives called nanoparticles, and mandatory labelling of nano-ingredients. The poll was carried out by Essential Research.

Georgia Miller, FoE nanotechnology project coordinator, said the poll showed there was overwhelming public support for precautionary management of nanofoods and mandatory labelling, and a reluctance to purchase nanofoods.

<http://www.foe.org.au/resources/research-papers/nanotechnology>

## **October. Building Bridges, Organising Globally! International Indigenous Solidarity Gathering**

After a break of almost ten years, FoE worked (this time with the Latin American Solidarity Network and a range of other groups) to hold another Indigenous solidarity gathering. This was well attended, with a wide range of Indigenous representatives from Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand), North America, Melanesia and the Pacific Islands, and Latin America.

## **November. Year 1 report: Labor fails nuclear test**

One year into its term in office, the Rudd government is in danger of failing its nuclear test.

FoE has examined federal Labor's performance across a range of nuclear issues to mark the first anniversary of the election of the Rudd government. The examination is part of a wider push to hold the federal government accountable for delivering on key election and policy commitments.

## **December. Chemical castrating herbicide used in swimming pools**

Friends of the Earth Australia called for bans on the use of Simazine in swimming pools in Australia. Simazine is a herbicide, registered for use by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association (APVMA) for a number of uses including swimming pools. Simazine also kills algae in swimming pools, dams, troughs, ponds and freshwater aquariums. The US EPA banned the use of Simazine in swimming pools in the United States in 1994.

## **December. Top sunscreen brands pledge to avoid using high risk nano ingredients**

Friends of the Earth released Australia's first consumer guide to avoiding high risk 'nanoparticle' ingredients in sunscreens. 25 of 68 Australian brands surveyed for the guide have claimed that their sunscreens are now free of nanotechnology ingredients.

In a significant break through, iconic 'nano-sunscreen' brands such as Invisible Zinc, previously endorsed by model Megan Gale, have changed their formulations to go 'nano-free'. Among the nano-free brands listed in the guide are Amcal house brand, Banana Boat, the Cancer Council, Coles house brand, Le Tan and The Wiggles.

<http://nano.foe.org.au/node/286>

## **December. New Red Gum Parks a historic decision for Victoria**

Environment groups applauded the Brumby Government's announcement to create a chain of new River Red Gum National Parks along the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens rivers in northern Victoria. Groups described the commitment as one of the most significant in Victoria's history.

The Victorian Government's decision to create the River Red Gums national parks follows more than four years of independent investigations and public consultation, and will see a significant reduction in ecologically damaging logging and grazing.

FoE worked for almost 12 years to help secure this fantastic outcome.

## **January 2009. Climate summit**

In February, community climate action groups from across the continent and other concerned Australians joined together for Australia's Climate Action Summit in Canberra, the weekend before the first day of the 2009 Federal Parliament.

More than 500 people from around the country gathered to produce a national, unified set of objectives for the community campaign of climate action for the crucial year ahead.

During the summit, the community Climate Action Groups agreed to campaign on the following:

- prevent the carbon pollution reduction scheme (the CPRS) from becoming law, as it will fail to make emission cuts necessary to stop the climate emergency;
- build community-wide action to demand green jobs, a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers and 100% renewable energy by 2020;
- aim for stabilisation at 300ppm CO2 and strong international agreement in line with what science and global justice demands.

More than 2,500 people joined hands around Parliament House in Canberra on February 3 to call for urgent action on climate change.

Australia's Climate Action Summit was sponsored by Friends of the Earth Australia and Greenpeace Australia.

<http://www.climatesummit.org.au>

## **January. Forests the new front for climate solution: Australian forest and climate alliance launched**

Over seventy representatives from forest groups around Australia met in Canberra to form the Australian Forest and Climate Alliance (AFCA) and call for federal leadership on forest protection to mitigate climate change.

Peak environment groups, local and regional forest protection groups, young people and NGOs called on the Rudd Government to secure Australia's climate future by protecting native forests from logging, woodchipping and burning.

## **April. New group in Wollongong**

Friends of the Earth Illawarra is the newest addition to the FoE Australia network. We are a grassroots group developing projects in community gardening/ permaculture, sustainable food, climate change and Indigenous rights.

## **May. Olympic dam mine expansion to blow out SA greenhouse emissions**

A technical assessment by Monash University engineering lecturer Dr Gavin Mudd revealed that the proposed Olympic Dam mine expansion will make it almost impossible for South Australia to meet its legislated target of a 60% reduction in greenhouse emissions. The technical assessment – which finds that emissions from the mine will rise from one million tonnes to 4.5-6.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually – is being released today to coincide with BHP Billiton's release of an EIS for the mine expansion.

Dr Mudd said: "South Australia has a legislated target to reduce greenhouse emissions by 60%, limiting total emissions to 13 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually by 2050. Yet the Olympic Dam mine alone will produce one-third to one-half of that total, making it almost impossible for South Australia to meet its target".

### **May. Climate Displacement Coalition**

We are faced with a climate emergency. Already global warming has affected millions of people around the world, with storms and hurricanes, droughts and water shortages, melting ice and burning fires contributing to disaster and displacement. We now know that this is just the beginning and that climate change will cause substantial and dramatic changes to people's capacity to maintain human security. As many as 200 million, and possibly up to 1 billion people may be displaced by climate change by the middle of the century unless we take urgent action now to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It is, therefore, crucial that we begin to put in place a process for assisting those displaced by climate change. To this end, FoEA initiated the Climate Displacement Coalition. It will:

- campaign for the Australian government to allocate adequate resources to assist with relocation and resettlement in climate affected communities;
- promote new migration pathways, for people facing climate displacement, particularly for Pacific Islanders;
- campaign for the government to establish a specific migration program and visa category for those displaced by climate change;
- campaign for Australia to support a new international convention or protocol that will establish a framework for recognition and assistance to those displaced by climate change.

<http://www.foe.org.au/climate-justice/activities-and-projects/climate-refugees/climate-displacement-coalition/>

### **May. Community Dialogues on Coal**

The Six Degrees collective and Friends of the Earth Brisbane released a report examining the vulnerability of farming communities in Queensland's ever-expanding 'coal country'.

The report was based on a two week listening tour of Queensland, and provides a snapshot of regional attitudes to the coal industry. It provides a unique insight for those interested in a just transition for Queensland away from coal, to a future based on clean energy and green jobs.

<http://www.sixdegrees.org.au/content/six-degrees-releases-community-dialogues-coal-report>

### **May. Industrial Charcoal (biochar) - just a dangerous technofix?**

Industrial charcoal, otherwise known as biochar, has been receiving increased attention within scientific, government and NGO forums, with suggestions that it will, in the words of Tim Flannery, "allow us to address three or four critical crises at once: the climate change crisis, the energy crisis, and the food and water crises."

Some environmental groups are actively supporting the development of industrial charcoal processes, and promoting it as if it was proven, safe and useful. However, there is currently little evidence to support such claims, and even less critical assessment of biochar's supposed benefits.

Friends of the Earth produced a short primer to critically investigate the claims around industrial charcoal, or biochar, and draw attention to their serious shortfalls.

<http://www.foe.org.au/resources/publications/climate-justice/FoEA%20Biochar%20Briefing.pdf/view>

### **June 2009. Nano silver: extreme germ killer presents a growing threat to environmental and public health**

As part of Friends of the Earth's ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the environmental and public health risks of nanoparticles, we released a feature report on the growing use of powerful antibacterial nano silver. Our Nano Silver report evaluates the growing scientific evidence of nano silver's threat to environmental systems and to public health.

Our report also exposed the huge number of consumer applications in which nano silver is found, including children's toys, babies' bottles, cosmetics, textiles, cleaning agents, chopping boards, refrigerators and dishwashers, available in Australian shops.

<http://nano.foe.org.au/node/332>

### **June. Time for Plan B on climate**

Friends of the Earth joined other leading national and state environment groups to come together to make it clear we do not support the Federal Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) in its current form. We are concerned that the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are already above safe levels and that the CPRS will not effectively reduce carbon pollution.

The groups collaborated to put together a 'Plan B' of measures that could be enacted in the next two years and which would set Australia up to meet the vital target of halving our greenhouse pollution over the coming decade.

[http://www.foe.org.au/resources/publications/climate-justice/Plan%20B%20Report\\_Lores\\_FINAL.pdf/view](http://www.foe.org.au/resources/publications/climate-justice/Plan%20B%20Report_Lores_FINAL.pdf/view)

## **Other works**

### **Palm oil**

Palm oil is a form of edible vegetable oil obtained from the fruit of the African oil palm tree (*Elaeis guineensis*) which is commonly used in a wide range of consumer goods, including food, cosmetic and bath products. Increased demand for palm oil – which can be grown only in tropical environments – is fuelling destruction of the rainforest habitat of Sumatran and Bornean orangutans, pushing those endangered species even closer to extinction.

We continue to work to encourage importers, food manufacturers and other companies who are currently using palm oil to implement a range of positive initiatives, including the implementation of policies to ensure the labeling of products containing palm oil. We are urging the Australian government to:

- implement policies to ensure the labeling of products containing palm oil
- work for an independent and transparent certification system for sustainable palm oil, and regulation to prevent the import of non-certified palm oil or palm oil which is

- certified through systems lacking in credibility
- support the Indonesian, Malaysian and Papua New Guinean governments in their efforts to halt forest destruction.

### **Forest Stewardship Council**

FoE is one of the founding members of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in Australia. FSC is an international not-for-profit membership-based organisation that brings people together to find solutions to the problems created by bad forestry practices and to reward good forest management.

FSC is a stakeholder owned system for promoting responsible management of the world's forests. Through consultative processes, it sets international standards for responsible forest management. It accredits independent third party organisations who can certify forest managers and forest product producers to FSC standards.

Over the past year a key development has been the initiation of a process to build consensus around a definition of high conservation value forest for use in FSC accredited systems within Australia.

### **On ground conservation work**

A number of FoE local groups continue to be involved in both new revegetation/ restoration programs and the protection of pockets of remnant indigenous vegetation.

For some groups, such as FoE Stawell, based in the Victorian Box – Ironbark belt, such work is a major focus. In 2008/9, FoE Melbourne continued to develop its relationship with groups working to restore the lower Merri Creek catchment in Melbourne's northern suburbs and a project on the Little Yarra River east of Melbourne.

FoE Adelaide has maintained a volunteer work program in conjunction with the Adnyamathanha community in Nepabunna, near the Flinders Ranges. Tasks include working in the community's bush tucker garden, saving seed of local species and helping with local eco tourism ventures.

## **New members & news from the network**

### **FoE Illawarra**

As a new member to the FoE Australia network, FoE Illawarra has been primarily concerned with establishing itself in the region. Our launch, held on the 19th of April 2009 was a great success, drawing some twenty-five people who were all eager to get involved. We are forging positive relationships with the local Aboriginal Lands Council, Wollongong Climate Action Group, student activists, community workers and volunteers, permaculturalists, and several other progressive organisations in the region. So far we have been involved in organising Wollongong's Climate Emergency Rally and helping out with Climate Camp NSW.

### **Chain Reaction**

Chain Reaction is the national magazine of FoE Australia. Issues over the past year have included:

1. #103: mining & sustainability
2. #104: responses to climate change
3. #105: forests

In 2005, an advisory board was appointed. The board provides big picture thematic and

political advice to the CR editors, advice on themes for future editions, as well as helping to ensure that a broader range of sectors/ constituencies are represented in the articles. The current advisers are:

1. Karen Alexander, biodiversity campaigner [Vic]
2. Greg Buckman, author/ researcher [Canberra]
3. Jo Immig, National Toxics Network [Bangalow, NSW]
4. Binnie O'Dwyer, FoE representative [Lismore, NSW]
5. Alison Tate, ACTU - International Officer [Melbourne]
6. James Whelan, co-director of the Change Agency (activist education), FoE representative and board member of EDO Qld [Brisbane]

Jim Green continued as editor of the magazine. Natalie Lowrey has continued as the designer.

## **Reverse Garbage**

Reverse Garbage is a not-for-profit workers' co-operative in Brisbane that collects high quality industrial discards, diverting them from landfill to sell them at low cost to the general public.

Set up in 1998 to support Friends of the Earth - Brisbane, Reverse Garbage sells a wide array of interesting and ever-changing materials for re-use. Industrial and commercial offcuts, overruns, left-overs, outdated stock and seconds that are currently sent to landfill can be re-used by schools, artists, craftspeople, home handy-people and the general community. Re-use opportunities are limited only by imagination.

Reverse Garbage aims to keep materials cycling within the economy, reducing the demand for "new" raw materials as well as reducing the environmental impact of waste.

For further information: <http://www.reversegarbage.com.au/>

## **Partners and alliances**

FoEA places considerable emphasis on working in alliances with other progressive sectors of Australian society and is currently a member of the following networks and organisations:

- The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) <http://www.acfid.asn.au/>
- Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET) <http://www.aftinet.org.au/>
- The Beyond Nuclear Initiative (BNI), a collaboration between FoE, the ACF and Poola Foundation (Tom Kantor Fund)
- The Boomerang Alliance. The Alliance is made up of Australia's leading environment groups, is committed to work for zero waste in Australia. <http://www.boomerangalliance.org/>
- The Refugee Council of Australia <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/>
- Australians for Just Refugee Programs <http://www.ajustaustralia.com/home.php>
- Climate Action Network Australia (CANAN) <http://www.cana.net.au/>
- Fair Trade Association Australia & New Zealand <http://www.fairtrade.org.nz/>
- Mittagong Forum (a grouping of national and state-based environmental groups) <http://www.environment.org.au/>
- The Australian Environment Network (AEN) - the formal conduit between the federal government's Department of Environment and Heritage and peak green organisations
- The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition <http://www.asoc.org/>
- Inland Rivers Network (composed of the ACF, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, National Parks Association of NSW, Coast and Wetlands Society and FoEA) <http://www.irnsw.org.au/>
- FoE acts as the secretariat for the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (formerly the Alliance Against Uranium). Further details at <http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/alliance>
- We are a founding member of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in Australia. <http://www.fsc.org/en/about>
- With a number of other environmental groups, FoE is a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with The Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN).

- MLDRIN is a confederation of Indigenous Nations or traditional owners in the lower southern part of the Murray Darling Basin. <http://www.mldrin.org.au/default.htm>
- We are active members of the Make Poverty History climate change campaign <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/>
  - FoE is a participant in the Civil Society Dialogues organised by the ACF, ACTU and ACOSS
  - In 2008 we became a member of the No Pulp Mill Alliance, which is working to stop the pulp mill planned for north eastern Tasmania
  - In 2008 we joined the Global Forest Coalition <http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/>

## ***FoE's environmental performance***

Since its creation in 1974, FoE has always pioneered thinking and practises that link personal and collective behaviour with good environmental outcomes. FoE has always sought to incorporate sustainable behaviour into our work – to 'walk the talk', often long before such action has become mainstream. In the 1970s this was as simple as promoting renewable technology, placing solar hot water systems on our buildings, using 'ecolabels' so envelopes could be recycled and promoting 'no junk mail' stickers. All these are now considered mainstream activities.

We also developed a number of community businesses which pioneered a low impact approach from their creation. A bulk food store and cafe set up in Melbourne in the 1970s composted all vegetable waste for reuse in food production, and has such high recycling rates that it continues to produce waste in only one 60 L rubbish bin a week.

In recent years we have sought to formalise some of our actions through the creation of policy. Apart from supporting green power, using non CCA treated timber, 100% post consumer waste paper and maintaining stringent recycling systems in our offices we have also joined a carbon offset program for unavoidable air travel. We encourage the use of public transport wherever possible for intra and inter city travel. Our magazines and all other public materials are published on post consumer waste or bagasse sourced paper.

# FoE Australia structure and governance

FoE Australia is composed of independent member groups. Each group is self-managing in terms of its campaigns, decision making structures and fundraising. Each group must also meet certain membership criteria which are assessed on an annual basis. In addition to their local work, groups co-operate on specific campaigns at an appropriate and sustainable level. The regional contacts represent the FoE network in areas where there are currently no local groups.

Communication between local groups is facilitated by the National Liaison Officers. FoE Melbourne currently hosts the national liaison office. The National Campaigns Reference Group (NCRG) is composed of representatives of local groups and national representatives and aims to provide advice on national campaigns, the work of the national liaison officers and general issues of organisational development and political positioning. A Committee of Management is appointed at the AGM and has been taking on a much stronger role over the past year. The International Liaison Officers are responsible for communication between FoE Australia and FoE International (FoEI).

National spokespeople are nominated by local groups and are approved to speak on behalf of FoE Australia on specific issues.

Decisions are made at two national meetings which are held in January and June. Various communication structures keep groups informed during the year. FoEA places great value on participatory decision making systems and internal information sharing.

## **Friends of the Earth Australia Committee of Management**

Figure in brackets indicates number of years service on committee.

- **Derec Davies** [4] (chair, Brisbane). Derec is currently employed by the Queensland State Government, Department of Natural Resources and Water. Derec sits as Director with Friends of the Earth Brisbane Co-op Ltd (4 years) and the West End Housing Co-operative Ltd (two years) as Policy Director. Derec also actively contributes to the Brisbane Housing Amalgamation Project, providing policy support, which is a multi-million dollar cooperative housing development project within Brisbane suburbs.
- **Mara Bonacci** [2] (Public Officer, Melbourne) is an environmental scientist with experience in remediation and natural resource management. She is currently the finance manager for Friends of the Earth Melbourne and Australia.
- **Natalie Lowrey** [2] (Perth) is a graphic designer and social and environmental activist with many years experience. She was employed as the bookshop coordinator at Friends of the Earth Melbourne for several years. She is currently employed by the WA Conservation Council
- **Steph Long** [1] (Brisbane). Steph was employed as the national co-ordinator of the FoEA climate campaign for several years. At present she is one of the co-ordinators of the FoE International climate campaign.

## **FoE Australia national campaigns reference group**

- Derec Davies (Brisbane). Derec is currently employed by the Queensland State Government, Department of Natural Resources and Water, Project Officer Social and Economic Unit.
- John McKenzie (Brisbane)
- Marisol Salinas (Melbourne)
- Nat Lowrey (Perth)

# Financial Report 2009

These figures represent the financial statement for the accounts of the national liaison office (NLO) of Friends of the Earth Australia.

The NLO is hosted by, and receives substantial logistical and in-kind support from FoE Melbourne, including the part time allocation of two staff members to national functions. The finance manager at FoE Melbourne manages the national accounts. This keeps overhead costs extremely low. In particular, almost all costs associated by processing donations for overseas work is absorbed by the office budget of FoE Melbourne, ensuring an absolute minimum of funds donated for overseas projects are used for administration.

The following is a summary of the financial report for Friends of the Earth Australia for 2008-09. Copies of the full audited financial report are available upon request. Please email <Cam Walker: [cam.walker@foe.org.au](mailto:cam.walker@foe.org.au)>

## Income Statement for year ending 30 June 2009

### REVENUE

Merchandise Sales	\$0.00
Publishing Income	\$13,767.00
Subscription	\$830.01
Donations	\$245,792.10
Campaign Income	\$262,082.09
Grant Income	\$50,863.20
Bank Interest	\$4,287.46
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,366.71
Administration Income	\$13,295.24
Legacies and Bequest	\$0.00
Fundraising	\$0.00
Royalties	\$0.00
	<hr/>
	\$592,283.81

### EXPENDITURE

Grant Expenditure	\$1,224.00
Publishing Cost	\$23,146.15
Wages and Assoc. Cost	\$238,047.31
Administration Expenses	\$86,209.20
Subscriptions	\$8,840.85
Telephone and Fax	\$6,966.17
Campaigning Cost	\$39,455.77
Bank Charges & Fees	\$5,289.86
Consultants	\$23,572.48
Insurance	\$20,843.01
National Meeting Expenditure	\$5,747.58
Audit Fees - Audit or Reviewing the Financial Report	\$629.20
Donations Expenditure	\$60,383.22
Travel Cost	\$76,199.86
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$11,316.67
Depreciation	\$1,154.29
Printing, Postage and Delivery	\$0.00
Write-off of Assets (Computer)	\$1,521.16
	<hr/>
	\$610,546.78

### OPERATING SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)

(\$18,262.97)

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash on Hand and at Bank	\$236,122.73
Investments - Term Deposit	\$46,329.93
Receivables	\$1,230.50
Inventories	\$0.00
Sundry Debtors	\$192,773.66
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$476,456.82</b>

#### NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Plant and Equipment	\$3,259.06
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,259.06</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$479,715.88</b>

### LIABILITIES

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payables	\$0.00
General Creditors	\$56,708.32
Grants/Income received in advance	\$228,986.00
Employee Provisions	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$285,694.32</b>

#### NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Borrowing's	\$0.00
Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc.	\$0.00
Other Creditors	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$285,694.32</b>

#### NET ASSETS

\$194,021.56

#### RETAINED SURPLUS

Opening Retained Surplus	\$212,284.53
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(\$18,262.97)
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$194,021.56</b>

### Statement of Changes in Equity

	Retained Surplus	Other	Total
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2007</b>	\$253,099.66	\$0.00	\$253,099.66
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(\$40,815.13)	\$0.00	(\$40,815.13)
Transfer to/(from) during the year	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2008</b>	\$212,284.53	\$0.00	\$212,284.53
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(\$18,262.97)	\$0.00	(\$18,262.97)
Transfer to/(from) during the year	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2009</b>	\$194,021.56	\$0.00	\$194,021.56

**Statement of Cash Flows for the Year ended 30 June 2009****2009****\$****Cash Flows from Operating Activities**

Merchandise and Publishing Income	\$13,215.00
Payments to Suppliers	(\$23,146.15)
Subscription receipts	\$830.01
Administration income	\$10,940.40
Administration expenditure	(\$85,238.98)
Donations receipts	\$245,792.10
Bank interest	\$4,287.46
Bank charges	(\$5,289.86)
Miscellaneous receipts	\$1,366.71
Subscriptions expenditure	(\$8,840.85)
Wages and associated payments	(\$238,047.31)
Other miscellaneous payments	(\$145,274.97)
Grant receipts	\$176,888.72
Grant expenditure	(\$1,224.00)
Project/Campaign Costs	(\$39,455.77)
Donations Expenses	(\$60,383.22)
Transfer from FoE Entities	\$262,082.09
Legacies and Bequest	\$0.00
Fundraising receipts	\$0.00
Royalties receipts	\$0.00

**Net cash provided / (used) by Operating Activities** \$108,501.38

**Cash Flows from Investing Activities**

Plant & Equipment Purchases	(\$1,652.85)
Proceeds on Sale of Plant & Equipment	\$0.00

**Net cash provided / (used) in Investing Activities** (\$1,652.85)

**Cash Flows from Financing Activities**

Proceeds from borrowing's	\$0.00
Repayment of borrowing's	\$0.00

**Net cash provided / (used) in Financing Activities** \$0.00

**Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash held** \$106,848.53

**Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year** \$175,604.13

**Cash at the end of the Financial Year** \$282,452.66

## ***Statement by Members of the Committee***

In the opinion of the members of the committee the financial report:

- represents a true and fair view of the financial position of Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Mara Bonacci, Collingwood, Victoria

## ***Audit Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with the accounting policies described in the notes to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, of the financial position of Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and the results from the operations for the year then ended.

Janet L Collyer, J L Collyer & Partners

Level 1, 63 Kingsway, Glen Waverley, VIC 3150

# FoE Australia International aid and development activities 2008-09

## ACFID Code of Conduct Compliance

FoE Australia is a signatory of the ACFID Code of Conduct. This is a Code that sets out standards on how organisations are managed, how they communicate with the public, and how they spend the funds they raise.

Further details on the code are available at: <http://www.acfid.asn.au/code/code.htm>

## International aid and development activities 2008-09

<b>Revenue</b>	
Donated funds	\$4689
Grants	\$0
Other Income	\$0
Total Revenue	\$4689
<b>Expenses</b>	
Overseas Projects	\$4454.75
Community Education	\$0
Fundraising Costs	\$0
Administration	\$234.25
Total Expenses	\$0
<b>Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>\$4689</b>

## Table of Cash Movements July 2008-June 2009 (International Aid & Development)

	Cash available at beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at end of year	Comments
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4689</b>	<b>\$4689</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	Friends of the Earth Australia has been supporting Mukwano to work with the Katuulo Organic Pineapple Cooperative to build, staff and maintain a health care centre in Katuulo, a remote rural community in Uganda. It is also supporting a range of environmental initiatives in the region. It joined FoEA as an affiliate in July 2008

## **A note regarding our international work**

As part of an international federation active in 77 countries, FoE Australia often seeks funding from Australian sources in order to support projects by FoE groups in other parts of the world. These sources include government programs, donations from members of the public and support from Australian-based philanthropic foundations. In many instances, FoEA simply acts to connect potential donors with worthwhile projects in the global South, meaning funds raised are not processed through our accounts. This saves on administration costs within Australia, thereby maximising the effectiveness of donations or other support received.

In the case of funds provided through Australian government programs, these allocations are channelled through the FoE Australia accounts to ensure reporting to Australian government standards.

All FoE International member groups must ensure effective management of funds received and appropriate reporting. This is overseen by the FoEI executive committee and the FoEI secretariat, based in Amsterdam.

## Supporters

FoE Australia gratefully acknowledges the following for their valued support of many aspects of our work and campaigns:

- CAF Australia
- City of Sydney
- DFACS
- Environment Centre NT
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Friends of the Earth International
- Global Green Grants
- Gorman Industries
- Greenpeace Australia Pacific
- Sisters of Mercy
- Sydney Energy Co-operative
- The Poola Foundation
- The Wilderness Society Inc.
- Uniting Church in Australia

Many individuals supported our work. We want to specifically acknowledge Dave West for his substantial in kind support for our fund raising and campaign capacity.

We acknowledge the federal Department for Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for it's support through the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) program.

### **Global context and connections**

Friends of the Earth Australia is the national member of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), which is the world's largest federation of national environmental organisations.

Friends of the Earth International now has 77 member countries and 15 affiliate groups representing almost 2 million people. This means that Friends of the Earth's impact and solutions can be felt globally.

FoEI aims to:

- protect the earth from further deterioration and repair the damage inflicted upon the environment by human activities and negligence;
- preserve the earth's ecological, cultural and ethnic diversity;
- increase public participation and democratic decision-making. Greater democracy is both an end in itself and is vital to the protection of the environment and the sound management of natural resources;
- achieve social, economic and political justice and equal access to resources and opportunities for men and women on the local, national, regional and international levels;
- promote environmentally sustainable development on the local, national, regional and global levels.

FoEI has a democratic structure with autonomous national groups which comply with the guidelines established by the federation.

FoEI member groups are united by a common conviction that these aims require both strong grassroots activism and effective national and international campaigning and coordination. They see Friends of the Earth International as a unique and diverse forum to pursue international initiatives, taking advantage of the varied backgrounds and perspectives of its members.

More information about the work of FoE groups around the world and copies of the FoEI annual report can be found at: <http://www.foei.org>

## **FoE Australia Campaigns Team & Contacts**

FoE has groups in Adelaide, Bendigo (VIC), the Blue Mountains, Bridgetown (WA), Brisbane, Kuranda (Qld), Maryborough, Melbourne, South West WA, Stawell (Vic), Sydney and Woolongong.

FoE has offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

Affiliate members:

- Cycle Against the Nuclear Cycle (CANC);
- Food Irradiation Watch (QLD);
- Katoomba and Leura Climate Action Now (NSW);
- Mukwano (supporting the Katuulo Organic Pineapple Cooperative, Uganda);
- Reverse Garbage (QLD);
- Ride Planet Earth;
- Sustainable Energy Now (WA);
- West Mallee Protection (SA).

FoE has regional contacts in Perth, northern NSW and Tasmania.

National campaigns, projects & spokespeople

Friends of the Earth Australia has national campaigns, projects and spokespeople in the following areas:

1. Arid zones
2. Climate justice and climate refugees
3. Environment and population
4. Food irradiation
5. Food sovereignty
6. Forests/ timber certification
7. Groundwater
8. Indigenous issues
9. Indigenous Land and Rights (Asia Pacific region)
10. Nanotechnology
11. Nuclear issues
12. Nuclear weapons
13. Trade and investment