

# Treemail

NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER



'Climate change and water issues are two sides of the same coin' - Penny Wong, on the Murray Darling basin

## September edition

Thank you all for being so patient with our newsletter system. After much experimentation, we have reached the conclusion that our newsletters will be posted online and an alert will be sent to all our members when a newsletter is uploaded.

Good news, we can finally report that all paper work is official with MyEnvironment Inc. being fully recognised by the federal government as an environmental entity. We are looking at candidates for the MyEnvironment committee of management and looking to set up a metro office in Melbourne at the office of Bleyer lawyers.

The seasons are warming and the days are getting longer, whilst this brings a natural heightening of our spirits, it also heralds the beginning of the catchment logging season. With forests front and center as a solution to our rapidly warming planet, more than ever we must act to stop the destruction.

MyEnvironment campaigners will be traveling to Canberra this week for scientific training on climate and forests with Prof. Brendan Mackey, author of the Green Carbon report. We will then be available for presentations to schools, institutions and businesses. MyEnvironment will be publishing our first annual report this year which is very exciting for us.

Our new website is being built as we speak. A very generous in-kind donation has been made by a company to enable this to happen, thank you from the ME team. Other donors have generously supported our work, including this email system and we wish to extend our warmest gratitude to all of them.

Yours Kindly,  
Sarah Rees

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### Torch Frenzy

The Warburton community came out to support Getup's torch of concern relay as it headed to the forests of the Central Highlands. Local government, TWS and the community called on the state and federal government to stop logging our mighty carbon banks.

## Calendar of events

MyEnvironment has redeveloped its newsletter to bring you a list of events over the next

### September

4

Climate Torch Relay

Healesville Railway station 12.00 noon

[Click here](#)

5

EPBC submissions due

[Click here](#)

7

National Threatened Species Day

[Click here](#)

### October

4

[IUCN Conference](#) and the appointment of our new Australian delegate - looks like it will be a strong science voice on forests!

10

VICTORIA'S NATURE-BASED TOURISM STRATEGY 2008-2012 launched

11

Forests at CERES 8 Lee street Brunswick commencing from 10 am.

[Click here](#)

### November

16

Launch of LEGACY the book and exhibition. Venue to be confirmed.

26

30

Logging commences in Melbourne's water catchments

## Except from the Monthly (September)

Around this time last year, Geoffrey Cousins, businessman and former advisor to John Howard, was in the middle of a very public campaign against the then environment minister, Malcolm Turnbull. After reading Richard Flanagan's May 2007 Monthly essay, "Out of Control: The Tragedy of Tasmania's Forests", Cousins printed thousands of copies of the piece and delivered them to the households of Turnbull's electorate, Wentworth. It was an unusual display of citizen activism from a man who already had the prime minister's ear. The murky relationship between government and big business in Tasmania's forestry industry became a national issue that wouldn't disappear.

Last night, at a ceremony in Melbourne, Flanagan was presented with the 2008 Victorian Premier's prize for best journalism. In accepting the award, he called for a royal commission into the links between Gunns and government, saying: "Your taxes are ... used to destroy native forest unique in the world, to prop up a failing company whose environmental record would shame a Third World country." (Read the full [acceptance speech](#) .) We congratulate Richard Flanagan on his courageous and independent journalism, and his beautiful writing. If you missed the May 2007 issue of the magazine, which has sold out, you can read [the essay](#) free - or visit a friend of the Monthly in Wentworth.

*ME Editor's note: Does rewarding the messenger mean the premier is actually rewarding the message?*

## Launch of Social Investment Guide book

The Greenstone Group is launching their first investment guide for philanthropies in Melbourne tonight. MyEnvironment have a project registered in the book called Project ARC roadmap. Other projects include Climate Code Red by Friends of the Earth and the Red Gums project by Vic. National Parks Association. To read more about this exciting project [click here](#)

## Government entities take up fight on water

16 Victorian councils have passed a resolution to end catchment logging. Four ALP Branches have also joined the fight to end catchment logging . Pressure is building as the state governments own water reports states that logging is costing a Tarago dam full of water every year. The pristine Melbourne catchment - Cement creek will be logged this summer! For a sample of this forest visit the Mount Donna Buang Skywalk at Cement Creek, 9km from Warburton at the junction of the Mount Donna Buang Road and the Acheron Way.



[Become a member](#)

[Write a letter](#)

[Come on a tour](#)

## This months best tips for the planet:

### Our monthly guide to what you can do to help

1. Have a presentation night at your home, work or school.

Information sessions are a great way to join up with people in your area on topical issues. MyEnvironment can come and show a presentation on climate, water and biodiversity. We can also discuss how to build campaigns using effective social change techniques.

2. Meet with your minister.

Have you ever felt like you were so far from being able to change the world that you just didn't bother - well you can! Make an appointment to see your local MP and let them know your concerns about the way our country is being managed. Make sure you see all your parliamentary reps. both federal and state.

3. Take a few days off and go and investigate your country.

Too often we hear concerned conservation groups calling for action on things we know nothing about. Go and see for yourself to make up your own mind. Some of our suggestions for experiencing would be the Redgums of the Barmah Forests, Cement Creek in Warburton, Goolengook in East Gippsland, Mt Bullfight Reserve in the Central Highlands and the Thomson catchment off Mt Baw Baw.

## Walk of the month

Armstrong Creek Catchment  
**Camberville Tall Tree Walk** -5km  
East of the Lake Mountain turn off, on the Marysville Woods Point Rd. Melways reference 628 A3



## Cool Rainforest in Southern Australia



## Gunns to export wood for Japanese furnaces

Tasmania is backing moves by controversial timber giant Gunns Ltd to export Australian wood to Japan to fuel power plants.

Bob Gordon, the boss of Forestry Tasmania, the government body managing the state's forests, said generating power from wood rather than coal was part of the solution to climate change.

Mr Gordon said he supported the use of wood from sustainably managed forests as a renewable energy alternative to the burning of fossil fuels.

"Unlocking the stored sunlight in wood for the production of renewable energy has taken off across the globe, with good reason," Mr Gordon. Forestry Tasmania considers what it calls "fuelwood" as being of a lower standard than pulpwood and would normally be part of a forest regeneration burn off.

*ME Editors note: This is how the 'pulp wood' industry began in Victoria in 1936, it is now the number one driving force behind forest destruction through out Australia. Make no mistake, this 'fuelwood' proposal is the most insidious and destructive outcome, both economically and environmentally, for native forests in this country. As soon as something is called a 'waste' product, its benchmark practice for retrieval is lowered, its impacts are no longer measurable by current policy and employment around this product will be almost nil.*

## Red Gums Dying As Brumby Stalls (Age excerpt)

WHAT do you do when, after a three-year investigation, experts you appointed tell you many of northern Victoria's river red gum forests risk being lost forever and need to be locked up in five new national parks?

If you are the Brumby Government, you hand-pick a new panel to tell you how much you should listen to the first lot of experts.

This was the blunt analysis of frustrated sections of the conservation lobby this week after the Government did not immediately accept recommendations that it protect 103,000 hectares of stressed red gum forests, mostly along the parched Murray River.

The \$2 million river red gum forests investigation, by the government's Victorian Environment Assessment Council - created to independently investigate public land use issues - estimates up to 75% of red gum forest is dead or dying in some stretches.

After holding community forums and analysing 9000 public submissions, the council called for the new parks to save threatened species along the Murray, Ovens and Goulburn rivers.

Controversially, it includes the creation of a new national park in the internationally recognised Barmah Forest wetlands, which would close down most local forestry. Overall, the amount of timber available for harvest would be slashed from 37,000 hectares to about 10,000, costing an estimated 80 jobs.

The final council report also calls for a boost to environmental water flows, but omits a draft recommendation to flood the wetlands with 4000 billion litres of water every five years, instead leaving the figure up to the Government.

Last year Premier John Brumby warned the recommendation would be "emphatically rejected" if it was included.