

# Treemail

NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER



1000 march in a call to action to end logging in Warburtons backyard - home to Melbournes water supply.

## November/December edition

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This newsletter is running a little late but never short on content. As I sit in my office watching log truck after log truck roll out of our magnificent native forests, my familiar sadness is for the first time slowly being transformed as I can hear the faintly detectable first beats of our victory march. Along with others I can sense change in the wind as we receive the latest president of the United States Barack Obama, as scientists globally step out of their laboratories and into the light to demand immediate action on the environment and locally to experience our own, once afraid, community uprising in Warburton I feel the concept of global metamorphosis maybe underway as simply and predictably as changes in the common caterpillar.

The genesis of a caterpillar’s transformation begins with the appearance of what scientists have termed “imaginal” cells. Researchers have no idea where these cells come from, or why they appear. They are termed ‘imaginals’ because scientists can only hypothesize that their purpose is to ‘imagine’ something incredible that is about to happen. At first, the imaginals are fought off and destroyed by the immune system of the caterpillar organism but the imaginals keep coming back and eventually form clusters of cells to strengthen their domain.

Soon the clusters form bonds where they pass genetic type information to one another. The clusters resonate at a different frequency to their host and begin changing the physical make-up of the caterpillar.

At a certain point in time, the long string of clumping and clustering imaginal cells switches gears from simply being a group of like-minded cells into the programming cells of the butterfly. They literally reach a critical mass of influence where the caterpillar’s destiny is altered to become a butterfly.

What is happening amid this clump of goo is old caterpillar cells transforming into wing cells, into antenna cells, into digestive tract cells, and so on. A new consciousness being born...

*Sarah Rees*

<b>Contents:</b>	
Calendar of events	2
State of the Environment Report	2
Brown Mountain	3
Warburton Rally	4
Christmas ideas	4

**National Forests & Climate ANU meeting January 29-30 Canberra**  
 To all those forest and climateers interested in attending the National Forests & Climate meeting. The program and further venue and meeting room details will be available in the coming weeks. To register interest in attending please email [forestsandclimate@gmail.com](mailto:forestsandclimate@gmail.com) or call 0433 927 066

## Calendar of events

Highlight of the calendar:

### Forests & Climate Meeting Canberra ANU.

## December

14

SUPPORT PIPELINE RALLY  
When: Sunday, December 14

Where: Meet at 11am SHARP at the corner of the Melba Highway and the Healesville - Kinglake Rd (Melways Key Map, Page 10 P2 or Day Tours Page 910 Q11)

25

Christmas- CONSUME LESS and always buy/do green - hints below

## January

29-30

FORESTS & CLIMATE  
Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
After hours campaign footage and discussions.

Venue: Australian National University, Canberra.

## February

14

Valentines day - Action on forests - info coming soon.

## State of the Environment Report - A change in the wind.

Victoria's First Comprehensive State of Environment Report

Although several single subject reports have previously been published, the 2008 report currently being developed by the Commissioner is Victoria's first report on the state of the environment which addresses the full breadth of environmental issues. Most other Australian states have prepared full SoE reports since the early 1990s, so Victoria has both the opportunity to learn from their experiences, and also the challenge of creating a product that is innovative and truly useful to both decision makers and the community.

### • Points of special interest for forests:

The Victorian Government should assess the merit of removing logging from Melbourne's water supply catchments, to maximise catchment yield and water quality.

Victoria's undisturbed native forests store much more carbon in forest biomass and soil than estimated by the IPCC, meaning that the importance of undisturbed native forests in mitigating climate change may be greater than previously thought.

The Victorian Government should re-state the role of natural forests in climate change mitigation in light of recent findings that undisturbed forests are more efficient in carbon sequestration than harvested forests, and encourage the conservation of undisturbed forests.

Production of timber products from Victoria's maturing plantation estate should also be encouraged.

The full SoE report can be downloaded here -

<http://www.ces.vic.gov.au/CES/wcmn301.nsf/childdocs/-FCB9B8E076BEBA07CA2574F100040358?open>



Christmas means different things to different people. For this young Colombian girl it means more work for her in January as all the 'crap' we fortunate folk discard will mean more hours a day she will be forced to work the dump.

The earth is full to the brim of our 'crap' and its time 'Christmess' was renamed 'Christless'. This year, think about what you give and what has 'built in redundancy'. Consider the Kris Kringle approach where one person gives a more valuable gift. AVOID two Dollar Shops and wrapping paper - Use recycled packaging and tie a flower or ribbon to the gift.

This months best eco tips and purchases for Christmas:

Our monthly guide to what you can do to help the planet.



### 1. Christmas ME Inc. membership gift

What's in the prezzy from ME Inc? Free tours of the forest through out the year, e-updates, monthly newsletters and being part of a team of progressive environmental advocates making the world a more sustainable place - [CLICK HERE](#) We will send a beautiful card to your gift recipient with a 12 month membership.

### 2. Seeds, fruit trees and natives;

The best and safest way to capture carbon in the atmosphere is to suck it out via natures natural systems - trees and plants. Buy friends, colleagues and family indigenous trees. They are designed to grow here and most are drought tolerant. For the kids, vege gardens are the best way to teach great nutrition and the process of life. Growing gardens whether its in balcony planters or in a patch, children and adults alike will be moved by your concern for their well being and that of our planet.

### 3. Buy a gift on Karma Currency

Karma Currency is where you'll find 100's of charities, 1000's of gifts and millions of ways to share good karma. We're a non profit organisation that believes that the perfect gift is one that can save lives, find cures, rescue animals, protect forests and more. So join the karma club, send a gift voucher, start a gift registry or simply send to a friend and watch the good karma flow.

Latest design in tree sits for forest protests



## Updates from Climate Talks in Poznan, Poland Enviro Groups Slam Wong's Forestry Stance

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/06/2439588.htm>

ABC: Environment groups say the Federal Government is taking a hypocritical position on forestry at a climate conference in Poland.

The Australian Conservation Foundation's Lindsay Hesketh says the Australian Government supports the current Kyoto deal which rewards the chopping down of old growth forests to grow plantations.

"Those forests could soak up 24 per cent of Australia's annual human-induced emissions if they are recognised for the carbon store that they are," he said.

"Ninety years is the mean life cycle for wood products - 90 per cent of it is in paper that will only last for three years.

"Why would the Federal Government be pursuing this, to try to make out this is some sort of abatement measure for climate change? It is not, because that carbon dioxide will be back in the atmosphere, in the main, in three years time."

Mr Hesketh says it is verging on the hypocritical that Australia supports payments to Third World countries to stop forest destruction, but does not apply the same rule at home.

Humane Society International says a new climate mechanism must reward any country keeping forests in the ground.

Federal Environment Minister Penny Wong was not available to comment.

### Walk/Hike of the month

#### Melbourne's Water catchment walk from Donna Buang to the Acheron Gap

Starts at the car park at Mount Donna Buang in Warburton . The walk takes in some of Australia's tallest forests and ecosystems as old as Gondwana land.



# The 2008 Top 12 enviro & socially meaningful Movies Songs and Books

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The Herd<br>Summerland<br>'Emergency'                  | 5. Michael Franti &<br>Rebel rockers<br>'Hey World'                     | 9. Blessed Unrest<br>Paul Hawken                                      |
| 2. Cat Empire<br>So Many Nights<br>'No Longer There'      | 6. Nifin Sawhney<br>Prophecy<br>'Breathing Light'                       | 10. The 10 Commitments<br>by CSIRO publishing                         |
| 3. John Butler trio<br>Grand National<br>'Gov did nothin' | 7. Wall E - Film<br>Deals with waste for kids                           | 11. Green Carbon Report<br>ANU -Mackey, Keith,<br>Lindenmayer, Berry. |
| 4. MGMT<br>Oracular Spectacular<br>'Electric Feel'        | 8. The Happening - Film<br>Scary flick - Where the plants<br>fight back | 12. Social Investment Guide<br>Greenstone Group                       |

## 'Tis The Season To Be Conscious

### Eco-Friendly Gifts

#### The Anti-Gift

Don't give gifts this year. Have a party, do something nice for someone else, help a friend with a project. Give your time rather than your money.

#### Gift Certificates

Give a gift certificate or cash so that you know your loved ones will get exactly what they want. Save the waste created by having to return a gift or throwing something away.

#### Make a Donation

Give a donation to an environmental charity or group in your friends' names. Not only will you be helping a good cause, but you will also connect your friend to the organization. They might forward valuable information along!

#### Buy an Acre

You can help environmental organisations by 'buying' an acre of rainforest or natural land. The person you buy it for will receive neat collectables like a deed, a photo and an information package about the area they are supporting. Your money goes to supporting the maintenance and protection of these areas. Your friends' names might be inscribed on a plaque to recognize their involvement.

#### Information

Purchase books or group memberships for your friends to learn about the eco-friendly lifestyle, art, music, or any subject your loved ones enjoy.

#### Living Gifts

Help your loved ones make their space greener. Plants, trees and seeds make great gifts. A terrarium will make the perfect start for your friends who haven't developed their green thumbs.

The eco-market has also created a number of creative products that fit the environmentally friendly lifestyle. Help save the planet and teach your loved ones about the environment with these unusual products:

### Eco-Products

#### Composters

The latest composters come in cool shapes and colors and can easily fit into the smallest of yards. Include a book on what to compost and how to use compost to make the gift meaningful.

#### Recycled Jewelry

Creative artists have started using unexpected materials to make their jewelry. You can get bracelets made of typewriter keys, belts made of seatbelts, and even necklaces made from bicycle chains! They are unusual and make use of objects that will typically end up in a landfill.

#### Eco-Baskets

Make up a basket of environmentally friendly household products including light bulbs and cleaning products, as well as books or pamphlets about how to make homes a little more "green".

#### Organic Chocolate/Cheese & Wine

Fair Trade Chocolate, organic cheese and a good organic/biodynamic wine will satisfy the fussiest of Christmas guests, just think you can indulge and everyone benefits.

## Throw the kids outside... and why not join them yourself

Christmas is a time of great family bonding and sometimes it can result in crisis when a little booze and over eating is thrown in. To avoid any skirmishes, after your meal, grab the kids (leaving their Wii's and DS's), the dog and all the extra's and take a walk. Breathe in the air, wander through the park and give thanks for the earth. Remind everyone that this wonderful planet has not been given to us to exploit but rather is on loan from our children.

Most of all resolve to stop and smell the roses a little more in 2009. Take care and see you all next year. ME Inc Team.

## Warburton Forest Rally 2008



### 1000 March in a bid to stop the logging of Melbourne's water catchments

Many thanks to everyone who bravely attended a landmark stand against the logging of our water, with special thanks to Tracy Bartram, Aunty Joy Wandin-Murphy, Mayor Tim Heenan, Cr Samantha Dunn, and Jamie Catlin.



### Environmentalist of the year

We have decided to nominate our very favorite enviro geek of 2008. Newly re-elected in a landslide victory is Cr. Damantha Dunn. All of us at the ME inc. team wish you the best for the next 4 years. <http://crdunn.blogspot.com/>

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