

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING 13

Spring 2007 Randwick South Ward Enviro News from Botany Bay Explorers, www.laperouse.info

Social Change not Climate Change

INTERNATIONAL BUY NOTHING DAY

START THIS ELECTION DAY BY SAYING NO TO AFFLUENZA AND TAKE A LAST LOOK AT THIS UNIQUE SLICE OF NATURE SURVIVING BETWEEN AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST AIRPORT AND SECOND LARGEST CONTAINER PORT:

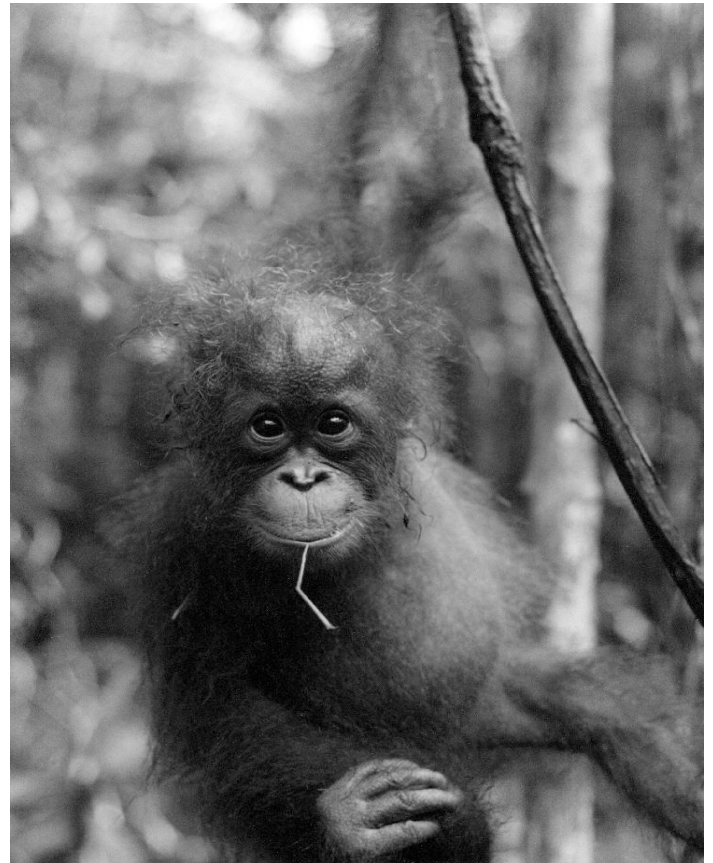
Saturday 24th November 8-11am Penrhyn Boat Ramp, Penrhyn Road, Port Botany



For Birdwatching and Photography and contemplation....**27% of Sydney's 'trade' = the export of empty containers.** The majority of greenhouse pollution is embedded in the goods we buy and transport. A third container terminal, intermodal terminals, tunnels and other \$multi-billion infrastructure are being built in Sydney to accommodate the export of empty containers and other 'trade' that congests Sydney but some of which would provide opportunities if located elsewhere in NSW.

For a no nonsense commentary on why we should 'shift to thrift' read Richard Glover at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/richard-glover/desire-and-the-green-cure/2007/10/18/1192300941282.html> Glover says that *"The really radical response to global warming - the one you won't find in any of the glossy green magazines - would be to rehabilitate the concept of thrift. The advertisers would hate it, but we could once more celebrate it as a virtue - in just the way it used to be celebrated by generations of Australians."*

ALTERNATIVE FUELS NOT ALWAYS GREEN



VOPAK & NATURAL FUELS BIODIESEL MANUFACTURING AT PORT BOTANY

The NSW Greens have publicly called on the State Government to say no to plans by Natural Fuels to build a \$30 million biodiesel plant at Port Botany because it will be fed by palm oil.

The following information has been extracted from a Sydney Morning Herald article of 13/10/07 by Marian Wilkinson, titled *The race for clean energy may be doing more harm than good*

The palm oil boom is proving to be an ecological disaster in Indonesia and Malaysia, which produce more than 80 per cent of the world supply. The trade has helped drive Indonesia's spectacular rate of deforestation and the burning of its peatlands. Early this year, the United Nations released a report on the crisis, finding that the explosion in palm oil plantations "is now the primary cause of permanent rainforest loss" in Indonesia and Malaysia. As the forest disappears, local environmentalists estimate that up to 50 orang-utans are dying each week.

Greenpeace International has recently launched a "Forest Defenders Camp" in the Indonesian province of Riau, where swathes of orang-utan habitat have been cleared by felling and fire for lucrative palm oil plantations, the "oil for ape" scandal hit Australia.

COSTA BELIEVES HE CAN COST US OUT OF COMING CRISES

The NSW Treasurer, Michael Costa, in response to questions about Peak Oil in Parliament this month repounded with*The Stone Age did not end because we ran out of stones; it ended because we found a new technology. The Iron Age did not end because we ran out of iron and the hydrocarbon age will not end because we run out of hydrocarbons.....*

The main game concerns the decline in natural resources on which our life depends -fertile land for agriculture, clean water, clean air, rich biodiversity (to maintain stable climate). As Jared

Diamond writes about the decline of the Easter Islanders: <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/24/042.html> In just a few centuries, the people of Easter Island wiped out their forest, drove their plants and animals to extinction, and saw their complex society spiral into chaos and cannibalism. Are we about to follow their lead?



**STARTS 1pm Domain: further details
(02) 92792466 and/or
www.walkagainstawarming.org**

BLAST FROM THE PAST

October 1969

Little Bay under Wrap by Christo & Jeanne-Claude

It took one million square feet, metres of erosion control mesh installed in lengths of 11.6x183 metres or 22x91.5 metres and 56 km of polypropylene rope of 3.2 cm circumference to tie the fabric to the rock. 25,000 charges of ramset gun fasteners, threaded studs and clips were used to secure the rope. Australian artist and designer John Kaldor was the project coordinator and a retired major in the Army Corp of Engineers, Ninian Melville, was the site coordinator. It took over 17,000 manpower hours over 4 weeks using 15 professional mountain climbers, 110 labourers, students from Sydney University and East Sydney Technical College as well as Australian Artists and Teachers.

The site remained wrapped from 28 October 1969 for 7 weeks and was then restored.

In 1985 Christo and Jeanne-Claude wrapped the Pont Neuf in Paris. This was less than half the size of Little Bay. On the same scale as Little Bay was the Reichstag in Berlin which was wrapped in 1995. There was some suggestion that the Sydney Harbour Bridge would also be wrapped.

Wrapped coast, one million square feet, Little Bay, Australia 1969
Gift of John Kaldor, 1982. National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.



Kooloora characters John and Bill in Clean Up at Little Congwong



Various groups on the La Perouse Headland came together during August and September to clean up Congwong Bay. They made a good start with the following materials recovered:

Little Congwong Beach

310 lts of plastic/glass/aluminium
1 very large/heavy ice box (removed by one of the teenagers singlehandedly)
700 lts wood
200 lts bottles and broken glass
1500 lts green waste
1 plastic crate

Congwong Beach :

70 lts of plastics/aluminium/glass

Mixed Rubbish for landfill:

Little Congwong:

360 lts
1 broken office chair

Congwong:

120 lts

We also conducted water testing at the Happy Valley stream that empties onto Congwong Beach and for the first time tested Little Congwong Beach. There we found excellent water quality eg. dissolved oxygen at 120%, Faecal coliforms at 14 per 100ml, Turbidity at below 10.

New Authority proposed for Airport/Port Botany Precinct

Think Redfern-Waterloo Authority and you get the drift of what this is about. Read the full proposal published in June 2007 by none other than Lisbet Spanjaard. Lisbet was employed by the Department of Planning, working in a group of 4 on the Commission of Inquiry submission for DIPNR, then for Laurie Brereton on the Railing Port Botany Containers and then for Professor David Richmond on the Review of the Railing Port Botany Containers. She now works for a private consulting firm - Saha International - and sits on the Freight Logistics Taskforce, along with Joe Tripodi; Vince Graham(RailCorp CEO), Sam Haddad(DG Dept Planning); Chris Oxenbould (CEO NSW Maritime and former CEO Newcastle Ports); John Robertson(Unions NSW); Terry Tzaneros(Austate Logistics Terminal); John West(Dangerous Goods Logististics); Les Wielinga (CEO RTA); Geoff Farnsworth(Chairman of the Sea Freight Council).

The key recommendation from the report

Creation of an Advisory Board which could include major stakeholders• (e.g.the Port and Airport, transport infrastructure providers, representatives from the three tiers of Government, the private sector and the community; or

Creation of a Statutory Authority or Commission, along similar lines as the• Redfern Waterloo Authority or Growth Centres Commission, where there is legislative backing, Ministerial responsibility and dedicated resources for planning and implementing recommendations; or

Bureaucratic responsibility for coordination of the precinct under the Coordinator General(Professor Richmond) or similar office. Multiple precincts could emerge and be administered and/or coordinated from a single point.

KOOLOORA UNDER FIRE THREAT

The fire that swept through the adjacent UNSW site during the recent school holidays has left many areas scorched. Luckily for Kooloora there was a north-easterly wind blowing and not a southerly. It will be interesting to watch over Spring and Summer the recovery of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub.

BACKYARD BUDDIES

Blue-tongues love: A warm spot in a sunny part of your yard, near shelter. Even beside your water heater!

A safe place to hide, usually in gaps between rocks or bricks, a wood pile, or in a clay pipe.

Food – especially snails, slugs, caterpillars and beetles.

Shrubs and rocks, which provide safe paths around the garden and protection from redators



But they don't like:

Snail and slug bait, which will poison them when they eat contaminated snails or slugs.

Cats and dogs, which frighten or even attack them.

Being handled, as they dislike losing contact with solid ground.

For further information on any of these items contact: Lynda Newnam, BotanyBayExplorers@hotmail.com October, 2007.