

Friends of the Earth

Melbourne annual review report to members 2009/10



the earth needs friends

Friends of the Earth
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Friends of the Earth: annual review 2009/10



**Friends of
the Earth**

review

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The following are some highlights of our work over the financial year 2009/ 2010.

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 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 both 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:

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

The following is a summary of some of our significant national and local work over the past year.

Our work around Australia

FoE has offices in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Brisbane.

WA:

campaign by Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest to gain protection for the Warrup forest.

SEN: Sustainable Energy Now Inc (SEN) works to show how a mix of renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, wave, geothermal and biomass, could meet all electrical demand on WA's main electricity grid, called the South West Interconnected System.

SA:

campaign to ensure there is no expansion of the Roxby Downs uranium mine. Under current plans, the Olympic Dam mine will be the largest uranium mine on the planet.
Food: FoE coordinated the South Australian Food Convergence 'From Plains to Plate: the Future of

Food in South Australia', which drew together some 750 participants. FoE helped establish the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance, a growing national network of small farmers, community, environment and health organisations, social and business enterprises to assert the need for a sustainable food policy for Australia.

West Mallee Protection

The 2009-2010 financial year was quiet for WMP in terms of exposure and campaigning. Apart from a very successful information evening in Adelaide in late 2009 and a presence at the Students of Sustainability conference most of WMP activities have been conducted in the bush. WMP, and in particular members who are also from the Kokatha Mula Nation Far West Division Aboriginal Corporation held three, week long 4x4 Rockhole Recovery (RR) Trips. These trips introduced state wide and interstate visitors to Mallee country in SA's far west which is threatened by extensive mineral exploration. Importantly for Kokatha Mula people and Aboriginal youth from Ceduna the trips meant another visit to caretake important cultural sites. Weeding, revegetation, and biodiversity monitoring were some of the additional conservation work achieved. WMP received a Volunteers Equipment Grant (VSEG) for a RR food trailer and a Natural Resource Management (AW NRM) grant which helped fund two RR trips.

VIC:

FoE has been campaigning to highlight the health and environmental impacts of pesticide use in plantations, agriculture and drinking water catchments

FoE ran a strong campaign calling for the creation of a strong, best practice Climate Change Bill by state government

FoE has played a key role in the Victorian climate movement in Victoria, continuing to put demands such as the rapid replacement of the dirty Hazelwood coal fired power station onto the political agenda

on-going monitoring of the forestry operations of Hancocks Pty Ltd across the state working to halt the development of a major golf course on floodplains on the Upper Yarra River The South Melbourne Commons, a new community centre, has taken shape over the past year and will be opened in late 2010

NSW:

FoE hosted public meetings in Sydney, Wollongong and the Blue Mountains to enable Muckaty Traditional Owners to speak about their concerns with the proposed radioactive waste dump plan.

PermaBlitz is an ongoing FoE Sydney project which continued to grow over the past year. PermaBlitzes were held in places such as Alexandria, Newtown and Coogee and a community outreach day was held on Valentines day at Angel St community garden in Newtown.

QLD:

Brisbane:

The 6 degrees coal campaign has deepened its roots with coal affected farming and mining communities across Queensland, especially in the Darling Downs region. Much of their work has focused the protection of two key environmental assets from mining development: agricultural lands and nature refuges.

The year also saw an increased emphasis on building public opposition to coal seam gas and underground coal gasification developments.

The Womens Walk for Peace trekked 1400km from Brisbane to Canberra with a heartfelt appeal for a nuclear-free and peaceful Australia.

FoE Kuranda works regionally for sustainable local planning, improved water quality in our rivers and drinking water, better waste management and campaigns for the preservation of the unique wildlife and the rich endemic plant biodiversity of the Atherton Tablelands.



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“Climate change is still seen by many as largely an environmental issue. However, it is likely to be one of the most significant social justice issues ever encountered by humanity.”



FoE continues its support for traditional owners who are opposing the imposition of a radioactive waste facility on their land at Muckaty Station, NE of Alice Springs.

FoE worked to host the 2010 meeting of the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, bringing delegates from around Australia and providing considerable support to local indigenous communities.

Major successes for the year ended 30 June 2010

nuclear campaign

FoE's Anti-nuclear & Clean Energy (ACE) campaign has played a leading role in the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, which brings together Aboriginal custodians being targeted for uranium mines or nuclear waste dumps, with environmental and medical / public health NGOs. Our work with ANFA has included taking a leading role organising the national Alliance meeting in August 2010 in Alice Springs; FoE having a representative on the national committee of the Alliance; and FoE playing a secretariat role for the Alliance.

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. FoE hosted public meetings in Melbourne, Sydney, Wollongong and the Blue Mountains to enable Muckaty Traditional Owners to speak about their concerns with the dump plan.

FoE has initiated a Nuclear Freeways Campaign to raise awareness about and opposition to the proposed NT dump along the transport corridor from Lucas Heights to Muckaty. In August we spent two weeks travelling the transport corridor speaking to local councils, Traditional Owners, and the media. The trip was very successful and we hope to be able to fund ongoing Nuclear Freeways work.²

FoE organised another successful radioactive exposure tour, giving participants a first hand experience of the realities of the impacts of the nuclear industry on people and landscapes in SA. The annual Radioactive Exposure Tour, held from May 14-23, was a great success with 40 people participating and many joining in the struggle for a nuclear-free future after witnessing the adverse environmental and social impacts of the uranium industry.

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

More information on FoE Australia's ACE campaign is posted at <www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear> or contact FoE's national nuclear campaigner Jim Green <jim.green@foe.org.au, ph 0417 318368.

FoE has been working with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and the Medical Association for Prevention of War, on the 'Choose Nuclear Free' project. The first phase of this project highlighted the nuclear policies of political parties contesting the 2010 federal election. The second phase will involve concentrated work pre-empting the next push for nuclear power in Australia. More information at www.choosenuclearfree.net.

Climate justice

Climate change is still seen by many as largely an environmental issue. However, it is likely to be one of the most significant social justice issues ever encountered by humanity. While developed countries are historically responsible for human-induced climate change, the poor in developing countries are the most vulnerable to its effects.

In seeking climate justice FoE has consistently attempted to add a human rights perspective to the debate and to highlight climate changes impacts on health, food, water, local economies and the sovereignty of people across the world. As a major contributor of greenhouse gases, and a Kyoto skeptic, the Australian government must be pressured to take action to mitigate or reduce climate change, dramatically increase our foreign aid and to accept refugees on environmental grounds. Highlights over the past year have included:

the Big Melt tour

We organised a national speaking tour featuring people from Nepal, who spoke about climate change impacts on the Himalaya.

The tour featured Pemba Dorje Sherpa, holder of the world record for the fastest climb of Mount Everest, and environmental lawyer and activist Prakash Sharma, from Pro Public Nepal (FoE Nepal). The tour visited various cities along the east coast, where we held public forums, did media interviews, and met with government officials, politicians and a range of NGOs.

A report on climate change and food security was launched during this tour. Further details can be found here: <http://www.foe.org.au/climate-justice/media/news-items/archive/2009/the-big-melt-climate-justice-tour/>

Protecting farm land in QLD

FoE has worked in a broad alliance to oppose the expansion of coal and coal seam gas mining onto prime agricultural lands and nature refuges in SE QLD. We recently opened a regional office in Warra (4hrs west from Brisbane) to primarily to provide a regional presence for our agricultural land and gas campaign, but also for the agrofuels work. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)

REDD is an international plan to make forests available as a source of offsets for developed countries to meet their emissions reduction targets. Under the proposed plan rainforest nations, such as Indonesia or Papua New Guinea, will sell 'credits' for the carbon stored in their forests to countries that have emissions reduction targets.

REDD is one of the more controversial aspects of the international response to climate change, Friends of the Earth international is opposed to the current proposals to reduce deforestation through forest carbon trading. FoE is concerned that the rights of the worlds 1 billion forest dependent people will not be recognized in the rush to lock up forests carbon stores. To prevent dangerous climate change and land degradation, conserve biodiversity and safeguard the sustainable use of forests by local communities and Indigenous Peoples, any agreement must be designed to stop deforestation and degradation, not simply reduce or defer emissions. FoE carried out extensive work on REDD over the past year, including launching a report on the problems associated with the scheme. Further information: <http://www.foe.org.au/climate-justice/activities-and-projects/redd>

Copenhagen climate negotiations

At the climate change summit held in Copenhagen in December 2009, world leaders had a historic opportunity to commit to actions that help to protect us from the disastrous consequences of dangerous climate change. Sadly, they failed to live up to the expectations of millions of people around the world.

FoE worked locally in Australia and globally through our international federation, to create support for a broad agenda that would bring down emissions while helping all nations develop robust economies.

The world needs a new global agreement on climate change. This agreement should recognise that rich countries have done the most damage to our climate and they should take action first. In addition, the agreement should:

- Commit wealthy industrialised countries (listed in "Annex I") to at least 40% cuts in emissions domestically by 2020, by using green energy, sustainable transport and farming and cutting energy demand.
- Cuts must not be achieved by buying carbon credits from developing countries or by buying forest in developing countries to 'offset' ongoing emissions in the industrialised world.
- Rich countries must provide additional money for developing countries to grow in a clean way,

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We need deep targets and climate justice at Copenhagen



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and to cope with the floods, droughts and famines caused by climate change. The agreement should ensure this money is distributed fairly and transparently.

Further details on our work in the build up to Copenhagen can be found here.
<http://www.foe.org.au/climate-justice/copenhagen-climate-negotiations/>

- FoE supported a range of community awareness raising events like the annual walk against warming and delivered several hundred talks and presentations to community and service groups across the country
- FoE organised a seven day walk along the eastern shore of Port Phillip Bay (called Port Phillip Rising) from Sorrento to Port Melbourne. Port Phillip Rising was intended to highlight the impacts of sea level rise on people, communities and landscapes along the shores of The Bay. We finished the walk in Port Melbourne on November 27. During the journey we met with many hundreds of people, held forums in Rosebud, Frankston and St Kilda, and raised the profile of sea level rise issues for communities in coastal areas. There was substantial local media coverage of the walk.

ecomarket

The South Melbourne Commons is a new Friends of the Earth Australia project based in South Melbourne. It is located in a heritage listed former Catholic primary school in South Melbourne and our project partner is the Father Bob Mcguire Foundation.

FoE has been working with a team of incredibly diverse volunteers to repair and restore the buildings and gardens to house a number of different social enterprises. These will not only fulfill the highest possible standards of environmental operation but also work to assist the Father Bob Maguire foundation in its work to assist the most disadvantaged members of our society. The social enterprises on site will be:

1. Community cafe; with profits returned to philanthropic causes in the area. Kitchen is utilised by the Father Bob Maguire foundation to support their work feeding the homeless and disadvantaged.
2. Playgroup and kids parties. The space will also make a maternity nurse available.
3. Fruit and Vegie store; carrying 70% of the range of a supermarket, this store will provide products that are organic, sustainable, ethical and locally sourced. The store will provide deliveries for people in the area and customers can claim credit for their volunteer hours through the store. A range of events and workshops will help to educate and empower the local community to take greater action to reduce their ecological footprint and make their lives more sustainable.

Sustainable Forestry

There are two aspects to our forests work – a campaign to ensure adequate protection of native forests which are currently subjected to harvesting operations, and seeking to ensure that the plantation estate is managed in a sustainable manner, with minimal social and environmental impacts on local ecosystems and human communities.

Forests Stewardship Council (FSC)

FoE is one of the founding members of the 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.

For further information: <http://www.fscaustralia.org/>

Barmah – Millewa Campaign

2009-10 brought to a close a decade of campaigning by the Barmah-Millewa Collective with the protection of over 200,000ha of river red gum forest straddling the Victorian-NSW border. Along with the many organisations and individuals who were a part of the campaign we celebrated the passage of first the Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment (River Red Gums) Bill 2009 (Vic) and then the National Park Estate (Riverina Red Gum Reservations) Bill 2010 (NSW).

FoEA Nanotechnology Project

It's been a fantastic year for the Friends of the Earth Australia Nanotechnology Project. After years of our calling for action to close legal loopholes that leave most nano-products effectively unregulated, one of the key regulators has responded. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) has responsibility for regulating industrial chemicals used in workplaces around the country, in addition to cosmetics and secondary sunscreens (up to SPF 15). In November 2009 NICNAS began consultation on proposed reforms to its chemicals regulation, with a view to making new nano-forms of existing chemicals go through nano-specific environment and health assessment before they can be sold. The consultation is ongoing. Meanwhile, in the absence of strong government action to close legal loopholes, support meaningful public involvement in nanotechnology decision making, increasing numbers of companies, especially sunscreens and cosmetics, are making the decision to sell nano-free products.

Calls for action from other groups concerned about nanotechnology's environment, health and social implications also grew in the past year. The Australian Council of Trade Union made a public call for all nanomaterials used commercially to face mandatory registration so that workers, employers and the public can make informed decisions about nano-exposure. This call was supported by the Australian Nano Business Forum, the then nanotechnology industry peak group (it has subsequently disbanded).

The environment risks associated with nanotechnology were also recognised explicitly in the Hawke Review of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Hawke Review noted that the EPBC Act does not adequately manage nanotechnology's new threats to the natural environment and to areas of high conservation value. It recommended that a specific unit be established to take charge of foresight of emerging technologies. It suggested that one mechanism to improve the EPBC Act could be to amend it to place responsibility for nanotechnology's environmental impacts on to the manufacturers of nanomaterials. Thus, the overall environmental impact of nanomaterials' release on natural environments could be assessed, avoiding a 'death of a thousand [nano] cuts'.

The broader social dimensions of nanotechnology's use in food and agriculture, along with its environment and health risks, were finally explicitly acknowledged by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. The FAO held a conference in Brazil to explore the potential of nanotechnology to meet the needs of small farmers, at which FoEA was represented as an NGO expert. We were disappointed at the failure of the conference to make real efforts to involve Southern and small scale farmers in this dialogue, which directly affects them. We were also disappointed at the over-representation of technical scientists, and the failure to invite social scientists and rural sociologists who have a more critical analysis of the role of elite technologies in meeting the needs of small farmers. Nonetheless, we recognise that the conference represents a significant step forward for the FAO who had previously had a very uncritical attitude to the use of nanotechnology to address food security challenges.

The Nanotechnology Project would like to acknowledge the generous support of anonymous major donors and of Clive Blazey from The Diggers Club.

Local group activity

FoE has long been committed to the philosophy of "Think globally – Act locally" and much of the activity of FoE Australia occurs through the efforts of the local groups. This covers an enormous

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range of activity, styles and issues. We profile the activities of one local group in each annual report, to give a sense of the type of local activities are carried out across the country.

Local group profile: Adelaide

Food convergence

In February 2010, Friends of the Earth Adelaide coordinated the South Australian Food Convergence From Plains to Plate: the Future of Food in South Australia. From Plains to Plate drew together some 750 participants from across sectors to discuss challenges and strategies for building a just and sustainable food system in South Australia.

The event was significant in its bringing together of a diverse range of organisations and was instrumental in strengthening alliances across SA for greater food sovereignty. A declaration was produced articulating the shared vision for food and agriculture in South Australia. This declaration has been used by community organisations subsequent to the event, and was presented in parliament for the consideration of the South Australian Government in June.

Visit <http://futureoffoodsa.ning.com> for more.

Farmers visit to Australia

In late June a delegation from the global peasant's network La Via Campesina made an historic visit to Australia. The Adelaide leg of the visit, which also took in Brisbane, was hosted by Friends of the Earth Adelaide, and saw the farmers meet with local farmers, and farming, environmental and community organisations in an effort to establish and strengthen links across the Asia-Pacific region for just and sustainable food systems.

The delegates were farmers from Korea, Japan, Timor-Leste and Indonesia. La Via Campesina is considered to be the largest civil society organisation on the planet, representing the interests of some 300 million small farmers.

National food policy

Some months ago, Woolworths CEO Michael Luscombe made a call for a national food policy. In the pre-election frenzy, then-agriculture minister Tony Burke asserted that such a policy would be developed should the ALP be returned to power, citing Woolworths, the National Farmers' Federation and other large industry interests as the key stakeholders.

In response, Friends of the Earth Adelaide, in collaboration with the Food Connection Foundation and food activists around the country formed the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance, a growing national network of small farmers, community, environment and health organisations, social and business enterprises to assert the need for food policy to be truly democratic and to encompass the full social and environmental implications of our food and agriculture system.

The first public statement from AFSA, a letter to the agriculture ministers of all major parties, attracted well over a 100 signatories, and can be viewed online at <http://foodsovereigntyalliance.org>.

Food film festival

Friends of the Earth Adelaide's new film "An Urban Orchard" had its world premiere at FoE Adelaide annual food and agriculture film festival, Feast of Film 2010.

The film, a short documentary on the homegrown fruit and vegetable exchange coordinated by FoE Adelaide celebrates the traditions of food growing and gathering on the Adelaide Plains, from Kaurna fire-farming to present day suburban veggie patches. The film has already been snapped up for subsequent screenings around Australia and overseas.

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 do not appear in 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.

FoE Australia is active in a range of the FoE International campaigns. Stephanie Long, who previously co-ordinated our national climate justice campaign, has been co-convening the international climate campaign. Further information can be found on the FoEI website: www.foei.org

The Ride Planet Earth Campaign is promoting behaviour change, focusing on sustainable transport and travel, as part of the action necessary to fight dangerous climate change. Fossil fuel based transport and travel accounts for roughly 35% of industrialised nations' carbon emissions. Therefore addressing this issue is key to ensuring a safe and stable climate.

Ride Planet Earth is also raising awareness about the impact of climate change on communities in the non-industrialised world. We believe increased awareness leads to change, as people realise the potential impact their actions can have on vulnerable communities on the other side of the planet.

The Mukwano Australia project supports the Katuulo Organic Pineapple Cooperative to build, staff and maintain a health care centre in Katuulo, a remote rural community in Uganda. The health care centre will be accessed by twenty-five organic farm families who are members of the cooperative, as well as hundreds of people from the surrounding community.

Chain Reaction magazine

Four editions of FoE Australia's national magazine "Chain Reaction" were produced from July 2009 to June 2010.

Issues featured include:

- regular coverage of cutting-edge climate change debates – technofixes, collaborative work between farmers and environmentalists, the politico-legal assault on climate change campaigning, etc.
- an edition focussed on water issues
- an issue focussed on food issues, produced by FoE Adelaide's Sustainable Food and Agriculture Collective
- FoE's nanotechnology campaign
- FoE's anti-nuclear and clean energy campaign
- the wonderful victories enjoyed by Traditional Owners and environmentalists in securing protection and co-management of Red Gum Forests in NSW and Victoria
- and much more!

To read Chain Reaction online, or to subscribe, visit: www.foe.org.au/resources/chain-reaction

In 2005, an advisors 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:

- Karen Alexander, biodiversity campaigner [Vic]
- Greg Buckman, author/ researcher [Canberra]

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- Damian Grenfell, Globalism Centre, RMIT [Melbourne]
- Jo Immig, National Toxics Network [Bangalow, NSW]
- Binnie O'Dwyer, FoE representative [Lismore, NSW]
- 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. Lily Lowrey took over design in the previous year. We want to acknowledge the many years of design work carried out by Natalie Lowrey.

Network development

FoE Australia grew in 2009/10. We welcome the new affiliate member Tulele Peisa (based in Bougainville). Our local groups continue to grow in terms of both membership and profile.

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 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 aimed at reducing the carbon and resource footprint of our campaigns and business operations. Apart from supporting green power, using non CCA treated timber, 100% post consumer waste paper and maintaining stringent recycling systems in our office 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 and bagasse sourced paper.

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>

Details on the FoEI Executive Committee (ExCom) is available at: <http://www.foei.org/about/excom.html>

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);
- Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET);
- The Refugee Council of Australia;
- Australians for Just Refugee Programs;
- Climate Action Network Australia (CANA);
- Inland Rivers Network (IRN is a grouping of environmental organisations, including the Australian Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, National Parks Association and FoE);
- Mittagong Forum (a grouping of national and state-based environmental groups). This was renamed the Futures Forum in the past year
- FoE acts as the secretariat for the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- Make Poverty History

FoE works closely with the following organisations on a range of issues and projects: the Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN), Blue Wedges Coalition (VIC), the Change Agency (QLD), Forest Action Trust (VIC), Goongerah Environment Centre, GEEO (VIC), LinkUp transport coalition (VIC), Melbourne Water Catchment Network (VIC), RMIT Globalism Institute (VIC), Yorta Yorta Nation.

What makes us unique

- Our federation structure means that local groups work in ways that are most appropriate to their local circumstances
- our grassroots and strong volunteer basis means we are able to work effectively with a vast range of groups and community groups
- FoE is acknowledged as being the leanest of the large environmental groups in terms of minimising administration costs and overheads
- we have strong regional and global connections through the FoE International network
- FoE acts as a training ground for many emerging campaigners
- we bring a strong human rights perspective to all our campaigns
- FoE continues to respond to emerging issues and popularise them well before the rest of the environment movement. The most recent example of this is our strong campaign on nanotechnology.

How we work

We are a national federation of groups that works through community engagement, education and mobilisation. We have a strong focus on working in alliances with others in the environmental and social justice movements and with organisations in the broader community. We engage in advocacy, and support community mobilisations and peaceful direct action in appropriate circumstances.

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We manage a range of not for profit social enterprises, including an organic cafe, bookstore, food co-operative and 'reverse garbage' enterprise, which finds commercial uses for materials which would otherwise go to landfill.

We are politically non-aligned and seek to develop working relations with a range of Parties, businesses and others in civil society.

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 fund-raising and needs to meet certain membership criteria. These are assessed on an annual basis. In addition to their local work, groups co-operate on specific campaigns at an appropriate and sustainable level. 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. 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. The regional contacts represent the FoE network in areas where there are currently no local groups.

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.

Mara Bonacci [3] (Public Officer) 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.

Derec Davies [5] (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.

Dr John Mackenzie (Brisbane) [1] is a research fellow in the Socio-Legal Research Centre at Griffith University with expertise in political sociology and the use of social science research methods for policy design, analysis and assessment. His work in this area concentrates on community-based natural resource management, water policy and reform, and social impact assessment. He is currently working with the Northern Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) on Indigenous participation in water planning, as part of the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) research program. John is a volunteer with Friends of the Earth in Brisbane.

Daisy Barham (Brisbane) [1] is a long time community environmental campaigner with a passionate commitment to food sustainability. She was involved in FoE over the last three years working on a range of diverse issues and projects, with a primary focus on building the profile of the organisation in Brisbane. As a fan of outdoor recreation, she enjoys the tropical climate of Brisbane, and the social life of her participation in Friends of the Earth. She currently is employed as a community campaigner with the Australian Marine Conservation Society, where she is helping to build community support for marine protection.

Kathy Whitta (Adelaide) [1]

Kathy Whitta has been working with FoE Adelaide's Clean Futures Collective for the last five years and has been Facilitator of FoE Adelaide's Administration and Strategy Collective for the last two years. She is currently Sustainable Communities Coordinator at the Conservation Council of South Australia and has previously worked for the SA branches of the Environmental Defenders Office and the Environment Protection Authority. She has a Bachelor of Social Science Hons majoring in Environmental Studies.

Financial Report 2010

These figures represent the financial statements of Friends of the Earth Australia.

Friends of the Earth Australia's administrative functions are hosted by, and receive substantial logistical and in-kind support from FoE Melbourne, including the part time allocation of one staff member 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 2009-10. Copies of the full audited financial report are available upon request.

Income Statement for year ending 30 June 2010

Revenue		Expenditure	
Merchandise Sales	\$0.00	Grant Expenditure	\$21,849.00
Publishing Income	\$16,220.28	Publishing Cost	\$16,137.34
Subscription	\$1,084.36	Wages and Assoc. Cost	\$218,621.69
Donations	\$228,630.91	Administration Expenses	\$102,119.13
Campaign Income	\$239,178.79	Subscriptions	\$6,166.10
Grant Income	\$33,033.12	Telephone and Fax	\$7,816.93
Grant Income - GVEHO	\$10,000.00	Campaigning Cost	\$85,439.20
Bank Interest	\$5,871.05	Bank Charges & Fees	\$5,580.03
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,660.63	Consultants	\$51,040.84
Administration Income	\$27,330.28	Insurance	\$9,535.90
Legacies and Bequest	\$229,642.36	National Meeting Expenditure	\$6,227.12
Fundraising	\$1,000.00	Audit Fees - Audit or Reviewing the Financial Report	\$887.41
Royalties	\$0.00	Donations Expenditure	\$45,894.42
Total Revenue	\$794,651.78	Travel Cost	\$46,910.07
		Miscellaneous Expenses	\$12,813.81
		Depreciation	\$1,326.46
		Fund Raising	\$182.97
		Write-off of Assets (Computer)	\$0.00
		Total expenditure	\$638,548.42
		Surplus/(Deficit) For The Year	\$156,103.36

Balance Sheet for year ending 30 June 2009

Assets		Total Liabilities	\$244,865.34
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand and at Bank	\$177,792.95	Net Assets	\$350,124.92
Short-Term Bank Deposits	\$292,490.28		
Sundry Debtors	\$122,774.43	Retained Surplus	
Inventories	\$0.00	Opening Retained Surplus	\$194,021.56
Total Current Assets	\$593,057.66	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	\$156,103.36
Non-Current Assets		Total Surplus	\$350,124.92
Plant and Equipment	\$1,932.60		
Total Non-Current Assets	\$1,932.60		
Total Assets	\$594,990.26		
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	\$57,865.34		
Grants/Income received in advance	\$187,000.00		
Employee Provisions	\$0.00		
Total Current Liabilities	\$244,865.34		
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowing's	\$0.00		
Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc.	\$0.00		
Other Creditors	\$0.00		
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$0.00		

A copy of our audited financial report is available upon request.

Financial Report 2010

Statement of Changes in Retained Surplus

	Retained Surplus	Other Reserve	Total
Balance as at 1 July 2008	\$212,284.53	\$0.00	\$212,284.53
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year attributable to members	(\$18,262.97)	\$0.00	(\$18,262.97)
Transfer to/(from) during the year	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance as at 1 July 2009	\$194,021.56	\$0.00	\$194,021.56
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year attributable to members	\$156,103.36	\$0.00	\$156,103.36
Total other comprehensive income for the year	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer to/(from) during the year	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance as at 30 June 2010	\$350,124.92	\$0.00	\$350,124.92

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year ended 30 June 2010

Cash Flows from Operating Activities		Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Merchandise and Publishing Income	\$16,220.28	Plant & Equipment Purchases	\$0.00
Payments to Suppliers	(\$16,137.34)	Proceeds on Sale of Plant & Equipment	\$0.00
Subscription receipts	\$1,084.36	Net cash provided / (used) in Investing Activities	\$0.00
Administration income	\$27,330.28		
Administration expenditure	(\$100,962.11)	Cash Flows from Financing Activities	
Donations receipts	\$228,630.91	Proceeds from borrowing's	\$0.00
Bank interest	\$5,871.05	Repayment of borrowing's	\$0.00
Bank charges	(\$5,580.03)	Net cash provided / (used) in Financing Activities	\$0.00
Miscellaneous receipts	\$2,660.63		
Subscriptions expenditure	(\$6,166.10)	Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash held	\$187,830.57
Wages and associated payments	(\$218,621.69)		
Other miscellaneous payments	(\$135,232.08)	Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year	\$282,452.66
Grant receipts	\$72,276.85		
Grant expenditure	(\$21,849.00)	Cash at the end of the Financial Year	\$470,283.23
Project/Campaign Costs	(\$85,439.20)		
Donations Expenses	(\$45,894.42)		
Campaign Income	\$239,178.79		
Legacies and Bequest	\$229,642.36		
Fundraising receipts	\$1,000.00		
Fundraising payments	(\$182.97)		
Royalties receipts	\$0.00		
Net cash provided / (used) by Operating Activities	\$187,830.57		

A copy of our audited financial report is available upon request.

Financial Report 2010

International aid and development activities 2009-10

Revenue	
Donated funds	\$62,550
Grants	\$0
Other Income (fundraising)	\$1000
Total Revenue	\$63,550
Expenses	
Overseas Projects	\$59,896.50
Community Education	\$0
Fundraising Costs	\$0
Administration	\$4,687.68
Total Expenses	\$0
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	-\$1,034.18

Table of Cash Movements July 2009-June 2010 (International Aid & Development)

Project Name	Cash available at beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at end of year	comments
Mukwano	\$1,020	\$500	\$1520	\$0	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
Tulule Peisa	\$1,536.68	\$1,550	\$1,536.68	\$1,550	FoEA is supporting Tulule Peisa, a local community organisation in Papua New Guinea that is trying to relocate the whole island community of the Carterets to nearby Bougainville because of the impacts of climate change.
Gaia	\$0	\$61,500	\$61,527.5	-\$27.5	FoEA has been supporting a zero waste project in Alaminos City, Philippines
			Remaining	\$1,522.5	

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 2010 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

Supporters

FoE Australia gratefully acknowledges the many members and supporters who support our local groups and national campaigns.

We want to thank the following for their valued support:

- Ron Gray
- Public Health Association of Australia
- GR Keech
- Andy Eastman
- Senator Scott Ludlum
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- MF Foundation Pty Ltd
- Trish Roan
- Kendall Rumsby
- Christophe Bragard
- NSW Teachers Federation
- Clive Blazey
- APO International
- and a number of Anonymous donors

Grant allocations were received from the following

Friends of the Earth International

AusAID

DFACS (Department of Community Welfare SA)

DWLBC SA (Department of Water)

City of Sydney

Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) program, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The nanotechnology project also acknowledges as well as the numerous generous individuals who made private donations.

FoEA received a substantial bequest from long time member Catherine Mary Kyne.

Inkind support:

We would like to acknowledge all the individuals and organisations who have supported FoEA through in-kind support such as donation of time, skills and food for our campaigns and projects over the 2009-10 financial year.

Bequests

Over the past year FoEA received a substantial bequest from the estate of Cate Kyne. Cate was a lifelong community activist who was involved in many groups and movements during her long life.

Our bequest program

Thank you to our many members who have let us know that they are including FoE in their wills. Every gift, whether large or small, makes a real difference.

If you would like further information on remembering FoE in your will, see <http://www.foe.org.au/about-us/bequest> or call Justin Butler in the Melbourne office: 03 9419 8700 (ext 23) or toll free 1300 852 081.

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), and Sydney.

FoE has offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Melbourne.

Affiliate members:

FoE has regional contacts in northern NSW and Tasmania.

FoEA has national campaigns, projects & spokespeople in the following areas:

anti nuclear and clean energy

climate change

nanotechnology

pesticides

Contact Us

Friends of the Earth Australia

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Postal Address: PO Box 222 Fitzroy VIC 3065

Ph: 03 9419 8700 or toll free: 1300 852 081.

Fax: 03 9416 2081

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ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA) INC**

Report on the Financial Report – INTERNATIONAL AID AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a general purpose financial report, of **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA) INC** which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2010, and the income statement, statement of changes in retained surplus and cash flow statement for the year then ended and a Table of Cash Movements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA) INC** is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

DIRECTORS
JANET L. COLLYER FCPA
LIONEL R. ARNOLD CA B.BUS
RAELENE LAI CPA B.COM



Chartered Accountants

LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED
UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA) INC**

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA) INC's** financial position as at 30th June 2010 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies, and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards.


.....
Janet Collyer
J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

5th November 2010