

CASPI: NEWS

Climate Adaptation - Science and Policy Initiative

June 2008



University of Melbourne puts forward climate adaptation research network proposals

As covered in the March CASPI newsletter, June 6 was the closing date for applications to host one of eight National Climate Change Adaptation and Research Networks. After much discussion between different researchers and faculties, a number of proposals for networks hosted at the University of Melbourne were submitted, subject to support from the university's Strategic Research Initiatives Fund. These include one from Dr Jon Barnett of the School of Resource Management and Geography, on the social, economic and institutional dimensions of adaptation to climate change, and one from the Australian Climate Adapted Cities Network, led by Prof Jim Falk, on settlements and infrastructure. Meanwhile Prof Snow Barlow and others from the Faculty of Land and Food Resources are part of an application for a primary industries network, submitted by Land and Water Australia as part of the Climate Change Research Strategy for Primary Industry (CCRSPI) initiative.



Snow Barlow to investigate adaptation of the wine industry to climate change

Professor Snow Barlow is about to undertake a large research project into the opportunities and vulnerabilities to the Australian wine industry posed by climate change, thanks to a grant from the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation. Snow is professor of horticulture and viticulture in the Faculty of Land and Food Resources.

University of Melbourne in Pacific Rim research on climate and water

Professor Jim Falk recently attended the second planning meeting of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies research program, which he is directing jointly with Dr Lisa Schaffer of the University of California, San Diego. The program is part of the Asia Pacific Rim Universities World Institute, and has been establishing proposals for long-term funding. A number of themed research proposals were discussed, for research in the case study cities (Melbourne, San Diego, Tianjin, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Danang and Hanoi). Melbourne University is taking part in research on intergrated water systems and climate change mitigation and adaptation issues associated with water use. For more information, see www.apru.org/awi/cmas/index.html, or contact Jim Falk (jfalk@unimelb.edu.au).



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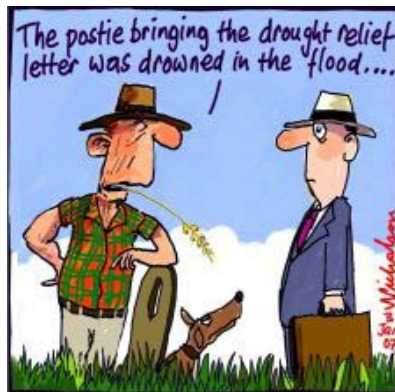
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Climate change and capitalism

Dr Hans Baer of the Centre of Health and Society and the School of Philosophy, Anthropology and Social Inquiry has been researching the anthropology of global warming and its impact on health. As part of his research, he has recently published two papers arguing that global warming is "ultimately rooted in the capitalist treadmill of production and consumption", and that any serious attempt at mitigation will need to involve a new global political economy. To read his analysis in full, see Baer, Hans A. (2008) 'Toward a Critical Anthropology on the Impact of Global Warming on Health and Human Societies', *Medical Anthropology*, 27:1, 2 - 8 and Baer, H. (2008) 'Global Warming as a By-product of the Capitalist Treadmill of Production and Consumption: The Need for an Alternative Global System', *Australian Journal of Anthropology*, 19:1, 1-4.



Cartoon by Nicholson from "The Australian" newspaper
www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au

Lies, damn lies and climate change sceptics: What has caused recent global warming?

Royal Society of Victoria and Geological Society of Victoria Howitt Lecture, featuring Prof David Karoly of the University of Melbourne.
Thursday 19 June, 8pm

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fourth Assessment Report, providing a comprehensive global assessment of climate change. Two of the main conclusions are that warming of the climate system is unequivocal over the last 100 years, and that most of the increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the increase in anthropogenic

greenhouse gases. However, there is still a substantial amount of discussion and misinformation spread in opinion pieces in the media, questioning the role of human activity in recent global warming. The talk will consider many of the arguments that have been used that seek to refute the role of increasing greenhouse gases in recent global warming. It will also briefly present some of the many lines of evidence that support the IPCC conclusions above.

\$15. RSVP by Monday June 16. Booking slip available at www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au.

Events

See the following pages for climate events happening at Melbourne University (plus one in Canberra), organised by CASPI associates and others.

Imagining The Future: Life On A Greenhouse Earth

Conference organised by Manning Clark House in honour of Barry Jones
11-12 June, Australian National University, Canberra
For more information see <http://www.manningclark.org.au/events/conference2008/index.html>



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Events

Monash Law School Costello Lecture: Social Justice and Climate Change

Featuring Professor The Hon. John Thwaites, former Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change and Chairman of the Monash Sustainability Institute

Thursday June 19, 6 - 7:15 pm at BMW The Edge Theatre, Federation Square

To reserve your place please visit www.monash.edu.au/50years/registration or phone: +61 3 9903 4802

Speaker: Mr Arron Wood
Enquiries: Erin Wilson
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RSVP: e.wilson@unimelb.edu.au

Climate Change - A Huge Opportunity... Finally Some Good News!

Wednesday 3 September 2008 @ 05:30 pm - 06:30 pm
Lower Lecture Theatre, Institute of Land and Food Resources (bldg 142), Parkville
Faculty of Land and Food Resources
2008 Dean's Lecture Series



Image by Fir0002, sourced from Wikimedia Commons

What if Australia truly led local action on climate change? What if we truly valued our abilities and reflected this in genuine community involvement? Can what we do in our towns really make a difference to our global climate crisis? Join Environmentalist of the Year Arron Wood, as he answers with a resounding yes! "It is very easy to feel overwhelmed and insignificant, but what we do at a local level really does matter. The future is not out there, but something we create every day with our actions." From Arron's presentation, you'll learn that you can make a difference now and for the future of your kids. His presentation will also touch on the environment as a social science which can unite communities, cultures and countries.

After graduating from a Bachelors in Forest Science from the University of Melbourne, Arron is now the Director of Firestarter Pty Ltd, an environmental communication and education consultancy business driven by his strong interest in getting the community involved in the environment.

Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of this seminar.

This newsletter, its contents and style, are the responsibility of the author and do not represent the views, policies or opinions of The University of Melbourne.

Please forward any comments, contributions and information about related events to:

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