



## April Newsletter

**April is packed full of events for you to show your support for...**

**Fossil Fuels Day – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.** Fossil Fuels Day is your chance to tell the government that no coal is clean coal! This is our chance to demand that companies stop foolishly polluting and switch to cleaner, greener power! If you are dismayed at the slow slow steps that we are taking towards solving climate change, if you are upset that renewables are not on the agenda in any meaningful way, if you believe that you have a right to live in a world free from climate change, then assert your right!

There will be a pep talk on bush court about 12:00pm. Then at 12:30ish we meet at the chancellery roundabout - Murdoch Guild is providing a bus that will take us to the city.

At 1:30pm, we will meet with others outside Wesley Church in the City. Then we MARCH!!

If you would like to go, please contact Joe Magee, the Guild Sustainability Officer, to reserve a seat on the bus – or meet at Wesley Church at 1.30pm.

**Critical Voice Forum - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 4pm in KBLT.** Save the Children, the Samaritans and ASEN are coming to speak about their campaigns and the power of students individually and as a group to work to make a difference.

**Night of the Enviro Seminars – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 5.30-7.30pm in the Loneragan Building Lecture Theatre.** If you're interested in conservation, don't miss the following seminars – Importance of Fungi in Conservation, Quenda Conservation, Carnaby's Cockatoos on Campus, and the short film Birds v. Bees. Gold coin donation, refreshments provided. For more information contact Caroline Minton – [C.Minton@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:C.Minton@murdoch.edu.au) or Neil Goldsborough – [environment@guild.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:environment@guild.murdoch.edu.au).

**Walk Against Want – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April.** Join hundreds of others at the Walk against Want this year in Fremantle to raise funds for Oxfam Australia's work against poverty and injustice. Meet at Pioneer Park, opposite the Fremantle Railway Station – walk starts at 8.30am. To register call 9335 3104 or email [abolger@iinet.net.au](mailto:abolger@iinet.net.au), or contact the Fremantle Oxfam Shop on 9336 3111 or [shop61@oxfamshop.org.au](mailto:shop61@oxfamshop.org.au).

**Critical Voice Forum - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm in KBLT.** Nick Everett of the Australia Venezuela Solidarity Network will be speaking about the political situation in Venezuela. Hugo Chavez is the democratically-elected President of Venezuela but the US government and other high profile people have declared him a dictator and have called him a “negative force in the region”. His government is incredibly popular in Venezuela and millions of workers, peasants and the poor of Venezuela have mobilised to protect themselves against the US. The US government has attempted to overthrow the Chavez government! Venezuelans have the right to choose their own government and to determine their own future. For more info visit <http://www.venezuelasolidarity.org/>

**National Walk for Values – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April.** Australian of the Year **Dr Fiona Wood** will share reflections on community values in an inspirational speech at the National Walk for Values 2008. The National Walk for Values celebrates the universal human values of **Truth, Love, Right Conduct, Peace and Non-Violence** in Australian society. The Perth Walk will feature a procession of colourful banners and music weaving through the streets of Perth to Forrest Chase where Dr Wood, will be joined by WA Young Australian of the Year, Darren Lomman, and NAIDOC Aboriginal of the Year and Community Services Award Winner, Jim Morrison, to elaborate on what values mean to community spirit. The Walk is free and welcomes everyone. It starts at Alexander Library (James Street, Northbridge) and amongst music and colour will wind through the streets of Perth city to end at Forrest Chase. Please **arrive by 11:30am** for a 12 noon start. For insurance purposes, all participants must register for the Walk. Please [click here](#) to register.

**Critical Voice Forum - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm in KBLT.** Amnesty International will be introducing their China Campaign. There are high expectations that the Games will spark improvements in China's human rights record. When Beijing was chosen as the host city for the Games, both the Chinese authorities and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) spoke publicly of the "unique legacy" it would leave to China and to sport. This included progress in human rights. Although there have been some positive changes since then, such as a reform of the death penalty system and greater reporting freedom for foreign journalists, these have been overshadowed by a deterioration in other areas. The Games are being used as a justification to extend the use of detention without trial in Beijing as part of the city's "clean-up" ahead of August 2008. Meanwhile, human rights activists are increasingly subjected to harassment, house arrest and unfair trials. Come along to find out what Amnesty International are doing to help combat the oppression of human rights in China.

**Critical Voice Forum – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm in KBLT.** Mark Sheehan and Peter Murphy from the Global Warming Forest Group (GWFG) will be coming to Perth to raise awareness of the logging of native forests in WA. Despite the Labor Government's 2001 election pledge to protect WA's Old Growth Forests, they have just announced that 61,410 hectares of native forest will be cleared in the next 3 years. Think of it this way – that area is more than 409 times the size of the Shire of Peppermint Grove!!! And that's just in the next 3 years. GWFG exists for the primary objective of seeing an end to all logging and thinning in Western Australia's native forest. As more and more people are realising the seriousness of climate change on the planet, governments are going to have to stop turning a blind eye to the destruction industry is doing to the natural environment. Did you know that there are areas just outside Perth being destroyed without anyone complaining?? Come along and find out how we can help to end this needless destruction.

**Find the Missing Peace – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at the Murdoch Worship Centre.** Learn about the '3 Laws of Spiritual Success'. This event is hosted by Vedanta Australia, a Perth-based group who help Australians live a life of spiritual health and well being. Vedanta is a philosophy that teaches us how to live life dynamically, with clarity and perfect peace of mind. Gold coin donation. For more info visit <http://www.vedanta.org.au>

### **JET Campaign Update**

"The Labour Party has officially extended JET Childcare Fee Assistance from 1 year, to up to 2 years of study (or the part-time equivalent) as of July this year. This is not just for new students starting Uni in July, but for all existing students also.

However, of course, we still need to push this and get JET reinstated to the full term of 4 years (or the part time equivalent). Not just for ourselves, but for all single mum's. While the extension of another year is a great step it is still disappointing. So we will certainly continue our campaigning this year and fight for what we all, and our children deserve.

We will keep you up to date with any new developments, but for now we have an extra 12 months breathing space so give yourselves a mighty pat on the back! " - Peta, Rebekah and the JET Action Group.

Congratulations to Peta, Rebekah and all of the other students who have fought long and hard for this!

### **SWB updates...**

The Students Without Borders weekly barbecues will begin again this week on Bush Court, from 9.30am on Thursday. There will also be a stall at Market Daze manned by volunteers from local NGOs, to give information and advice on their work and the campaigns that you can get involved with.

The SWB website has a new page with online actions. If you don't have time to get involved with volunteering but you still want to make a difference, this is a great way. You can show your support without even leaving your home! Check it out [here](#).

The first Students Without Borders magazine is coming out soon! It will be available free of charge on campus at Murdoch, UWA, Curtin, ECU and selected outlets around Mt Lawley and Northbridge from early May. It's full of info on everything from the current turmoil in Gaza and Burma to a report direct from Sea Shepherd's ship, the Steve Irwin!

If you know of any events coming up, or you have suggestions of what you would like to see in this newsletter, email the details to [swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au)