

## A focused year

This issue carries the first two of our forthcoming *Ecos* focus topics, planned to cover what are seen as some of the most important current national subjects by our newly appointed Editorial Advisory Committee. More about the EAC later. The first two focus topics are **Fisheries & Marine Research** and **National Year of the Built Environment – 2004**.

The Federal Government's dedication of 2004 to the Built Environment is a positive national initiative drawing attention to the roles of both construction practice and built areas in our lives and environment. Australia is among the most urbanised countries in the world, and we are still building at a cracking pace. This year is important in drawing attention to what needs to happen to ensure urbanisation is in tune with emerging environmental and social imperatives. Pages 8–13 have a selection of articles on this landmark year.

Perhaps no other subject has engaged thinking about sustainability longer than fisheries management. The oscillating and controversial discussion about the treatment and handling of fisheries probably stretches back to the discovery of the rich Northwest Atlantic fishery in the 1490s. In Australia, it is now building to a crescendo as more undeniable signs of excess fishing pressure emerge. We must put the future before money, and

do a better job at controlling and understanding sustainable use of our invaluable fisheries. Marine research is of course associated, and crucial given that it is central to knowledge of fisheries' dynamics. On page 20, Australia's Japan Prize winner, Keith Sainsbury, gives Wendy Pyper his vision of Australia's fisheries, and later, Karen McGhee covers the political and scientific tensions of the fraught Southern Bluefin Fishery.

Given Ethanol has seemed a confused issue for some time, Steve Davidson, on page 14, provides a welcome overview of the issues.

### The Editorial Advisory Committee

*Ecos* is evolving to bring readers a cross-section of sustainability topics from the region. Working with us on that vision, and endorsing the role *Ecos* can play in encouraging change, is an eminent Editorial Committee. We are delighted to announce our Committee members here, and privileged to be taking the magazine forward with them.

### Enviro '04 Launch

On March 29 in Sydney at Enviro'04, Australia's premiere sustainability and environmental technology event, *Ecos* officially launched its new direction. Chair of the Editorial Committee,

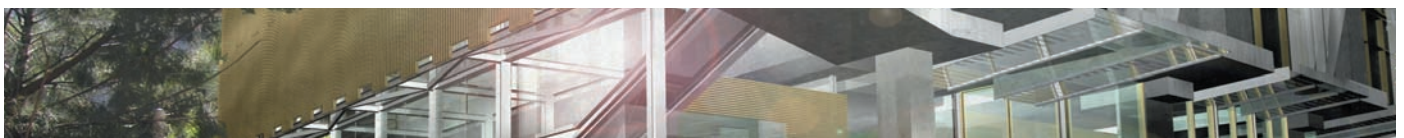


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Molly Harriss Olson, opened proceedings, and we were fortunate to have recognised international sustainability pioneer, Hunter Lovins, currently touring the region, speak to acknowledge the magazine as timely and essential, both in Australia and further afield.

Enjoy the issue.

**James Porteous**  
Managing Editor



### The *Ecos* Editorial Advisory Committee

**Molly Harriss Olson** (Chair)  
Director, EcoFutures Pty. Ltd.

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**Emeritus Professor Edward O. Wilson**  
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