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To new initiatives

Welcome to the final issue of ECOS for 2004, tackling arguably the two most high profile Australian environmental topics this year: environmental flows, and logging and forestry issues.

Loaded with political sensitivities and innately complex from the scientific point of view, both are challenging subjects to dissect in order to present overviews. With wide but only selective media coverage of aspects of these central subjects, we've aimed to present what are hopefully useful summaries. It is particularly encouraging that under both subject areas in Australia, once opposite sides of the spectrum are being drawn to co-operation, by ecological imperatives, on new, sustainable approaches.

The highlight of the issue, I feel, is Karen McGhee's story on page 20 about the initiative of the Esperance community to catalogue the uniqueness of the Recherche Archipelago's marine treasures. It exemplifies how, with simple co-ordination, communities anywhere can effect results on local sustainability priorities.

On page 8, Wendy Pyper covers Unique Planet's audacious plans for a self-powered floating water reservoir off the Gold Coast. A radically new idea for water storage that makes curious sense, it appears to be attracting interest and endorsement at an early stage. I'll be following the project's evolution with intrigue.

Also worth a mention, and relevant given the coverage of environmental



flows in Focus, are Graeme Armstrong's views on page 18 of the controversial Burnett River Dam development in Queensland's south-east. Graeme has

campaigned widely on what he and others feel is an unnecessary and damaging dam planned to service growing regional needs. His article raises the spectre of political expediency overriding legislation, assessed recommendations and public consultation on conservation priorities.

ECOS was represented at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok in November, where many of the most pressing conservation and sustainability priorities were addressed. We hope to bring you some highlights of the Conference outcomes early next year.

In the meantime, as Christmas approaches, why not consider your purchasing and consumption decisions in light of sustainability? Enjoy your reading.

James Porteous
Managing Editor



Robert Kerton

INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH ECOS?

A part-time opportunity has opened at *Ecos* to assist with broadening the national profile of the magazine. We are seeking a dynamic, lateral thinker with good connections and editorial, marketing, and business- or industry-facing experience.

If you would like more information about the role, get in touch by emailing ecos@csiro.au.