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# Moving in the right direction

*Ecos 130* was rewarding to edit. Good news came in from many directions. In particular, the issue presents five feature articles with insight into some inspiring efforts and developments across the sustainability spectrum.

*Rivers reborn* on page 16 highlights Greening Australia's ambitious nationwide efforts to restore the vitality of the country's major river systems. Their progress so far, pretty much against the grain, is testament to the organisation's driving spirit and faith that real progress can be made through community engagement. Efforts like this rub off on everyone.

On page 10, Nicholas Montgomery describes the exciting research and financial momentum building behind the burgeoning 'cleantech' industry. The growing pressure from both the need to reduce global greenhouse emissions and spiraling fuel prices is resulting in rapid innovation in environmental efficiencies. New industries are blossoming to meet the demand, bringing with them obvious financial promise. It signals the mainstreaming of environmental technology, and Australia is well placed to take advantage of the new wave.

Our Profile article on Steve Morris' success with Close the Loop, and now eWood (pages 8–9), should make good reading. His story exemplifies the sort of can-do attitude that is lighting the way to more efficient and rewarding practice across industry. Especially where waste is concerned, one of our greatest current challenges, Close the Loop is another company finding rich return from working in the environment's interest.

The Focus on pages 20–23 update Australia's progress on education initia-



tives under the UN's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Under the guidance of research work by ARIES, the federal government is getting on

with leading the roll out of new learning for change across our education levels. Many school children are already enjoying learning under the Sustainable Schools Initiative, and adults too, across tertiary and industry training, should soon get a chance to think more fully about sustainability priorities.

Finally, Brad Collis has provided poignant reporting (pages 24–27) of the highly personal joint efforts by Australian and Armenian researchers to safeguard the precious botanical collections held by Armenia's struggling Institute of Botany. Within its dusty rooms, and across local grassy plains, are potentially vital genetic clues to how many of our integral food crops might find a way to adapt to climate change. The lack of a mere \$20 000 in financial support threatens the Institute's historic collections. We hope Brad's article results in that assistance being found; *Ecos* will help coordinate enquiries.

Enjoy your reading.

**James Porteous**  
Managing Editor



## Next, in issue 131

Issue 131 will feature a Focus on the latest international Green Building advances, and an assessment article on the impacts of the growing Antarctic tourism boom.