

The Editorial Advisory Committee

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

Alexandra de Blas
Communications Strategist,
de Blas Communications

Andrew Campbell
Managing Director, Triple Helix Consulting

Mike Smith
Research Director, The Natural Edge Project

Professor Peter Raven
Director, Missouri Botanical Gardens,
St. Louis, MO, USA

Dr John White
Managing Director, Global Renewables Ltd.

Associates

John Elkington
Director, SustainAbility Ltd., London, UK

Dr Andrew Johnson
Group Executive – Environment, CSIRO

Dr Steve Morton
CSIRO Group Executive
Manufacturing Materials & Minerals

Graeme O'Neill
Science journalist, Science Ink

Phillip Toyne
Director, EcoFutures Pty. Ltd.

Dr Thomas E. Lovejoy
President, The Heinz Centre for Science,
Economics and the Environment, Washington, DC

Karlson 'Charlie' Hargroves
Executive Director, The Natural Edge Project

Fast forwarding solutions

In putting together this issue's Focus on options for rapid global CO₂ drawdown (page 14), it became obvious that what would once have seemed an outlandish topic was now pertinent.

Given the support the topic received, it struck me as surreal that the international community now has to examine an unprecedented scenario, and plan for it: under rising greenhouse gas emissions, where are the potential solutions for an 'emergency stop' – ways of rapidly withdrawing CO₂ (and probably other potent greenhouse gases) from the atmosphere?

The fact that thinking is already concerted being applied to this scenario is a measure of the high risk margin against which international agreements must now be working.

There are many independent developments occurring along this new frontier, but in providing an overview that examines both man-made and natural solutions for CO₂ drawdown, the picture emerges that the latter holds the most promise. Only nature can provide the capacity to withdraw CO₂ on Earth faster than it is being emitted. Fortunately,



through agricultural and forestry reform – which will bring many other benefits to ecosystems – this capacity is relatively accessible.

On page 22 Niall Byrne reports on near neighbour

Papua New Guinea's efforts to measure and control logging and land clearing. Understanding the rapid rates of change has been a first step.

Alexandra de Blas (page 12) also reviews new thinking on the role that dingoes could again play in maintaining native ecosystems, and sheltering small mammals. Early research suggests dingoes counteract the significant impacts of feral foxes and cats and allow life back.

Enjoy your reading.

James Porteous
Managing Editor

Win a Wild Earth experience

We have five sensational Wild Earth 3-DVD box sets (valued at \$49.95 each) generously provided by Hopscotch Films to give away.

The films *Travelling Birds*, *Earth From Above* and *Microcosmos* are classics that showcase nature's fragile wonder in brilliant cinematography. The collection will amaze, inspire and enthrall all ages. See www.hopscotchfilms.com.au.

For a chance to win one of these sets and receive our free online issue Contents Alerts, email ecos@csiro.au with 'Wild Earth' as the subject line.

Entries must be received by 5 pm on 31 March 2009.



istockphoto/Cara Maria

Next, in issue 148

In April–May's issue we report on how the island nations of Tuvalu and Kiribati are living with climate change effects. We also focus on the latest car and truck technology, and the role buildings and infrastructure can play in emissions reductions.