

# CAM

## COAL ACTION MURIHIKU

### News Update No 1 June 2012

#### RAISING THE PROFILE

Three posters featuring a painting by local artist, Wallace Keown, are drawing attention from passers-by on the main street of Gore. The art work, which compares the past and present attractions of the Mataura Valley with the future 'attractions' (courtesy of lignite mining), was created – wait for it – more than 30 years ago. What goes around, comes around?

CAM's monthly meetings show that members have no shortage of bright ideas for ways to make their point about lignite mining. Supporters with a sweet tooth will be hoping that suggestions featuring cup cakes with a 'No Mines' message or chocolate-coated 'lignite' will meet with the group's approval.

In the near future, the planned opening of Solid Energy's briquetting plant near Mataura will undoubtedly be a focus of protest action – CAM just isn't going to go away.



#### CATCHING UP WITH AUSTRALIA?

Let's not! It's almost impossible to believe what the Australian fossil fuel industry has planned for the iconic Great Barrier Reef: coal and coal seam gas projects on the coast, dredging and oil pipelines at sea. GetUp have made a brilliant, deceptively simple 3-minute video to get the message around Australia, 'Save the Reef!' [www.getup.org.au/savethereef](http://www.getup.org.au/savethereef)

#### WE NEED YOUR NEWS!

Please send to Jane Young by July 10.  
[janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz)

#### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Jenny Campbell is the Southland contact for both CAM and CANA (Coal Action Network Aotearoa)  
[jennycam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jennycam@xtra.co.nz) 027-351-0180

If you would like to make a donation to local or national campaigns, cheques may be sent to:

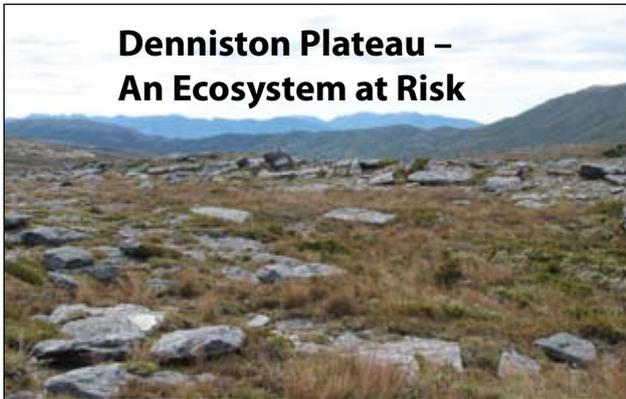
John Purey-Cust  
203 Campion Rd RD4 GORE 9774



#### FRESH AIR AND EXERCISE

CAM, Forest & Bird and Greenpeace members of all ages got together for a working bee spent chopping and splitting wood that will be sold as a fundraiser. Robina and Alan Johnston took people up to a vantage point from where they could see the huge swathe of farmland that Solid Energy is proposing to destroy with an open cast lignite mine.

Another working bee is planned for later in the year.



## Denniston Plateau – An Ecosystem at Risk

To add your voice to the thousands of people trying to stop coal mining on the Denniston Plateau go to:  
[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/No\\_coal\\_mine\\_on\\_the\\_Denniston\\_Plateaux/?cl=1804493449&v=14235](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/No_coal_mine_on_the_Denniston_Plateaux/?cl=1804493449&v=14235)

## “Global Suicide Pact – Why Don’t We Take Climate Change Seriously?”

Richard W Miller is a theology professor rather than a climate change super-star, but he shares Jim Hansen’s concerns about the world we are creating for our children and grandchildren. In this hard-hitting article (<http://commonwealmagazine.org/global-suicide-pact>) he describes the world in store for his young sons:

“Two decades from now, when my sons are in their twenties, CO<sub>2</sub> levels are projected to reach 450 ppm. At that point the Southwestern United States, Southern Europe, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, and Western Australia could be dustbowls. Social stability will be rocked by refugees ... fleeing drought conditions and sharp reductions in crop yields—reductions that will extend across the tropics and subtropics, where most of the world’s poor live. When my sons enter their thirties in the 2040s, the destruction of the world’s coral reefs from warmer and more acidic oceans caused by CO<sub>2</sub> absorption will be well underway ... once-thriving coral gardens that supported the greatest biodiversity of the marine realm will become red-black bacterial slime.”

Jim Hansen describes the current situation as a ‘planetary emergency.’ Reading Miller’s article, it would be difficult to disagree.

## Have you read?

*Lignite and Climate Change: The High Cost of Low Grade Coal* Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 2010

If you worry about the next generation, this is essential reading.

### How you get it:

Ask your local library, the Gore District Council or Solid Energy. To get your own (free) copy contact “The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, PO Box 10 241, Wellington 6143, or [pce@pce.parliament.nz](mailto:pce@pce.parliament.nz).

## Solid Energy Information Stations

### When:

Wed 27 June ◊ Wed 25 July ◊ Wed 29 August

### Where:

9am – 12 pm James Cumming Wing Gore  
 1 – 4 pm Mataura RSA

### What are they all about?

Go and see, and ask a few questions.

## Background Reading

Lignite – Where it is and how it got there:

*Geology and Lignite Resources of the East Southland Group*, NZ New Zealand Geological Survey Bulletin 101. 1990 Michael J Isaac and Jon K Lindqvist  
 Includes a very good map (NZ Geological Survey, miscellaneous series map 20 “Lignite Resources of Eastern Southland”)

### How you get it:

Ask your local library (for a first look). To get your own copy go to “Publications. GNS Science, PO Box 30368, Lower Hutt” or [sales@gns.cri.nz](mailto:sales@gns.cri.nz). The bulletin (including the map) costs about \$70. You can get the map separately for about \$20.

### What it’s about

This is the bible on the Eastern Southland lignite, based on the Liquid Fuels Trust Board and other surveys done in the ‘70s and ‘80s. Some pretty impenetrable geological language at times but the general reader can worry their way through it. Details of each of the 8 fields including vertical transects showing the lignite bed distribution down to 100m below sea level and much extraneous (but interesting) information on the shell fish that occupied the beaches and estuaries when the peats that became the lignite were laid down 15-20 million years ago and lists from pollen analysis of the vegetation of the time. The map shows the ‘economic’ spread of the fields, including the thickness of lignite present. You need your own copy if you are at all interested.

John Purey-Cust



“The Times They Are A Changing”

[www.flickr.com/photos/sepponet/1283960824/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sepponet/1283960824/)