It may be that the land has been sold by Shoalhaven City Council as we go to press, settlement having been delayed.

Some controversy surrounds the selling of the Comberton Grange property by the council. Some have expressed concern about the council's management of environment and heritage assets while owning the property. The property contains a deposit of bluemetal which means there could be a valuable quarry there. And there have been some who have questioned how the deal was done and price set for the Shaolin Temple.

These are separate issues, local issues, separate from the merits of the Shaolin Temple's proposal.

The new Shoalhaven Mayor, Paul Green, with his background as Fred Nile Christian Democrat federal and state candidate expressed during the elections his reservations about having people of different faith come here and alter the character of the Shoalhaven. He has not spoken in such terms, though saying there needs to be a Social Impact study, since the elections. It is worth noting that the Local Government Act contains at Section 8 a Charter for Councils which includes this:

8 The council's charter
(i) A council has the following charter:
• [third point] to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism

...this project is of immense potential importance to the economic future of the Shoalhaven and the business of engaging us better with multiculturalism and modern Australia.

Pagoda Forest, Henan, China
Shaolin Temple: The Ancient Order of Monks

by Patrick Pang, Director, Shaolin Temple Foundation (Australia) Ltd

THE Shaolhaven community has been buzzing with excitement about the proposed tourist development project by the famed Shaolin Temple. The Shaolin Temple located in Dengfeng, Henan province in China is the birthplace of Chan (Zen) Buddhism, known in Japan as Zen Buddhism and Kung-Fu. It attracts more than 3 million paying tourists annually.

The current Abbot (like the Pope appointed for life) Shi Yongxin has a vision of introducing the Shaolin culture to the world. Why he chose Australia as his first overseas choice is not a secret. Australia complements China in many ways and China has a lot to learn from Australia in how we take care of the environment. Australia has a very stable government and is China’s best friend among the western nations. Australia, geographically is located along the same time zone as Asia and China, being the most populated country in Asia is well placed to extend a hand. The Abbot hopes to assist in the development of the tourist industry in Australia, creating jobs, opportunities and prosperity by attracting local and international tourists through many international activities and conferences that the Shaolin Temple will initiate.

A brief introduction to the Shaolin Temple is in order here. The Shaolin Temple was founded in the year 494 and the belief system is the combination of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. The basis of Buddhism is called Chan (Zen) Buddhism, a world heritage. The Temple in Dengfeng, Henan province had been destroyed and parts of it reduced to ruins. Under the leadership of Abbot Shi Yongxin, much of the Temple has been restored and a new wing (Meditation Hall) added. However, the confines of the present Temple are too small for the many activities that the Shaolin Temple is involved in, which brings us to Australia.

The Abbot’s vision is to build the Temple as originally intended but on a larger scale that will fulfill our proper requirement. He has engaged China’s foremost architect on ancient buildings who is also an expert in feng shui (Chinese geomancy), the business of selecting the best possible location, orientation and building design. Doing this here will be quite a novelty as Australia is on the other side of the equator. It will be a challenge and perhaps create a new perception in the area of geomancy to Australia.

The Shaolin Temple, has been a great influence on Chinese culture. It has been the friend of the good and righteous, helping the poor and always called to be the arbiter of differences. The discipline, wisdom and values system of the Shaolin Temple is passed down from master to pupil. The pupil started as early as 4 years old. The Master will teach his pupil everything he knows only if he is convinced that his disciple believes and abides by the strict code of conduct of the Shaolin order. In contrast to other martial art forms today Shaolin Kung-Fu does not have a grading system.

The monks practice Kung-Fu as a form of discipline in achieving a higher state of being. The practice of Kung-Fu to defend themselves against harm is a form of art and it is quite a novelty as Australia is on the other side of the equator. It is a form of discipline in achieving a higher state of being.

The proposal qualifies as a major tourism project in Shoolhaven as it will be a huge undertaking by Shaolin Temple to transplant its 1,500 years of culture to a western country. Though Kung-Fu is synonymous with the Shaolin Temple, the Abbot wants the world to know about Shaolin’s meditation, philosophy and medicine which can help everyday persons in their own lives in a very practicable way.

The Shaolin Temple is a transparent religious order that is highly sympathetic with the environment and strictly vegetarian. They value good health, high personal ethics, peace and harmony among fellow men.

The proposed Shaolin style tourism project will be a long term investment that will create jobs and attract new investment to Shoolhaven as the opportunities unfold. It is hoped that the project will enrich the multiculturalism that exists in Australia today and help in the understanding and tolerance between people of different races and religions.

A proposed $370 million tourist and residential development at Comberton Grange has been declared a major project by the State Government.

The Minister for Planning has authorised the lodgement of a concept plan for the site, which is the first step in the assessment process for the projeet. There are many other steps still to take place, including public exhibition of the proposal, before a determination is made.

Director-General’s requirements for the concept plan to be included in the proponent’s Environmental Assessment report will be issued shortly.

The Shaolin Temple Foundation – which represents an ancient Chinese order of Buddhist monks – lodged a revised application with the Department of Planning on 4 June, which satisfied the recommendations made by the South Coast Sensitive Urban Lands Review.

In 2006, this independent review identified that, due to the environmentally sensitive nature of the site, the residential component of any proposal at Comberton Grange should be limited and be truly integrated with the tourist facility.

Department of Planning Director-General Sam Haddad said that previous versions of the Shaolin proposal had failed to satisfy these provisions, but that the most recent request received just this month could now be assessed by the Department.

The 1,250-hectare Comberton Grange site, approximately 12 kilometres south of the Nowra CBD, requires careful planning as it is in an isolated location and has a number of environmentally sensitive features. For instance, it includes large tracts of native vegetation, a number of important wetlands and forms part of an important local habitat corridor.

Currambene Creek, which adjoins the site, has been declared a Sanctuary Zone within the Jervis Bay Marine Park and is listed on the Commonwealth Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

The area also contains a number of sites of important Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage significance.

The proposal qualifies as a major project under the State’s major projects assessment system for two reasons – being a tourist facility with a capital investment value of more than $100 million; and being a tourist facility that employs over 100 people.

The proposal comprises:

- Buddhist temple sanctuary complex (including residential accommodation for the Abbot and monks);
- Kung-Fu academy;
- 500-bed 4-star hotel;
- 27-hole golf course and club;
- Permanent residential development (including 300 self-contained villas for adaptive housing); and
- Commercial shopping and community centre.
Democracy... truly? The Huskisson community versus Shoalhaven City Council. The story continues...

DEMOCRACY can be defined as action taken in accordance with the collective will of the majority of the people. At the recent Local Government elections the majority of people in the Shoalhaven voted to elect representatives who would listen to their views and put in place planning, social and environmental policies and plans that protect and enhance our way of life.

Many communities across the Shoalhaven have worked hard to get Development Control Plans that will enhance the vibrant and progressive nature of our communities. By example, if we look at polling in the local government elections on 13 September, in Huskisson 79% of votes were in opposition of the continued overdevelopment strategy being carried out by the previous council, (82% in Vincentia/Blysam beach).

However, in the period since the election it would appear some developers have been swayed to take pro-developer decisions totally in opposition to the sentiment expressed by the community at the elections.

DCP54 (the development control plan for the commercial centre of Huskisson) has been the two most contentious issues in the Jervis Bay area. The outcome will leave an indelible mark on the future of Huskisson and be a precedent for future development on the shores of Jervis Bay in general. We all know that big buildings are a perpetual reminder of bad planning decisions.

A motion to bring a non-conforming Development Application in Owen Street back to Council so that its variation from DCP54 could be considered by the new Council was lost 7 to 5. The determination of the DA will be made by staff. Whatever the outcome an appeal to DCP54 adopted by Councillors on 22 July. The DA seeks a bonus fourth storey not to comply with DCP54 Huskisson Town Centre in regard to a high degree of pedestrian movement and a high degree of articulation as well as DCP18 Car Parking Code in that the DA fails to provide sufficient on-site parking for residential units.

Approval of this bonus fourth floor to a non-conforming DA will make the task of having DCP54 changed to meet community expectations extremely difficult. Future developers will be able to claim that a precedent exists.

In 1985 the Shoalhaven City Council created three Planning Statements to cover the 3(g) Foreshore areas of Huskisson. These statements set the development at medium density and also stated that higher density developments would be considered. While the question of a medium density tourist development, was adopted for a fourth 3(g) foreshore zone, no other DCP’s have been created for the remaining three 3(g) zones in the ensuing 23 years. DAs for 4 storey residential flat designs in prominent locations in each of the three 3(g) Foreshore zones have been approved.

The Garnaut reports ignored increasing emissions, namely the environmental impact to, such as unsustainable resource depletion, this new phenomenon are crying out for action. The answer lies in population stabilisation based on the principle of living within our means. In other words we need to aim at matching the demands on the environment with what is locally available and can be used sustainably. We should not, for instance, steal someone else’s water. The main factor in population growth today in the countries where growth through natural increase has stabilised is immigration. The Australian Conservation Foundation has since the late 1970s advocated a nil net migration approach. The current version of this policy calls on Australian Governments “to progressively reduce immigration so that the annual target for immigration will be equal to the permanent emigration of the previous year and will take account of a politician’s commitment to accept refugees”.

Perpetual economic growth is an unsustainable proposition with an continuing increase in the production and consumption of goods and services and greater stress on our natural resources and the environment with population growth. The term is of course an oxymoron and the notion that we can produce and consume more than we make is self-defeating. Our environmental resources are finite but just ask a politician who he believes economic growth might end.

The Garnaut reports ignored the environment – something the community sentiment evident in the recent election.

The most recent approval in a 3(g) zone was given by our newly elected Councillors contrary to the will of the people of Huskisson and the Bay and Basin area who were very influential in electing the new Mayor and changing the Councilor grouping that existed in the previous Council. Getting development plans right is a great opportunity for the newly elected council to raise the bar from the previous Council’s decisions – a chance to work with the whole community in an effort to keep Huskisson and Jervis Bay true unique by protecting and enhancing its qualities for residents, holiday-home owners and tourists. This also means that Council can provide a level playing field for these vibrant and progressive future.

Alan Burrows & Leslie Lockwood, Co-Chairs Huskisson Woolumla Community Voice

Let us liberate those elephants!

by Geoff Mosley

NOTICE any elephants recently? Your Government hopes you haven’t or, at least not those of the ‘elephant in the room’ variety. The Wikipedia Encyclopedia describes them in the room’ as an idiomatic expression for “an obvious truth that is being ignored or goes unaddressed” and goes on to say that it involves ‘a value judgement that the issue ought to be addressed’. They are, in other words, the big issues which government and its advisors are not addressing and hope they never will have to, such as unsustainable population and economic growth and the environmental impact of our coal exports. ‘Sacred cows’ is perhaps the only way of describing them, or, you could say, it involves ‘the ostrich factor’ – there is a veritable menagerie of possible metaphors. What it all adds up to is that population growth, for instance, is taken as a given that we do not touch it. You do not go there.

To bring these issues into the realm of public policy discussion, would, involve some really hard thinking, undermine core beliefs and upset the eyes of government open up a Pandora’s box. So they remain in the dark basket. Surprisingly, the media and the main environment groups are generally not too keen on pressing debate on these fundamental matters either. Is this because they think there is no real chance of change, or would such matters take the players into realms outside their comfort zones? Or, maybe, in the case of the media, it is so embedded in the status quo that it cannot see the bounding box. The reasons for this phenomenon are crying out for serious consideration.

As things stand at present there is plenty of reference in government discourse to measure and monitor our ‘climate change’, and yet little reference to the underlying causes of the continuously increasing emissions, namely the ever growing levels of population and consumption. The Garnaut reports ignored both population stabilisation and reducing Australian coal exports as part solutions to global warming.

Each of these unmentionables deserves a thorough probing, particularly when we regard their connectedness to each other and to local and worldwide environment and social degradation. They deserve a place in the national debate alongside such issues as energy use, water and governance. Military food production, energy use and governance. Military based security would be made redundant by environmental security.

I mentioned Australia’s coal exports as a third elephant in the room because our coal is a prime example of something which is helping to increase global carbon emissions and economic growth but whose environmental effects are ignored by government. Australia is the World’s largest exporter of coal. As a result the resulting emissions are greater than our domestic emissions but we do nothing about it. The Federal Government has the constitutional power to eliminate this trade. Between 1938 and 1960 it banned the export of iron ore initially to avoid providing raw materials to Japan for weapon manufacture. Today the case for phasing out coal exports is even stronger – they are helping fuel a war on the global environment. Again the policy of the Australian Government shows a way forward. It involves ‘pressing for a timetable for the phasing out of coal exports and opposing the expansion of coal exports’. The notion that if we give up exporting coal some other supplier will simply take our place is a nonsense. Being responsible for a third of the World’s exports Australian coal is not readily replaceable.

What hope is there for change? I suggest there are two preconditions: leadership and an informed community. Significantly, the letters columns of the daily press demonstrate that an increasing number of people are bailed by the myth that leadership comes from...
Affluence from effluent

Peter Hudson

The commissioner of the Conjola Regional Sewerage System (CRSS) heralded a new era for the small villages of Manyana, Bendalong, Conjola, Malric, and Stawell. An era with some unexpected consequences, at least for the locals.

With the sure knowledge that the CRSS was to be built starting in 2004, several large developer consortia quickly moved in to stake a claim on land zoned for urban use and in some cases that which was only zoned for rural purposes.

The current village size is about 920 houses comprising some 830 permanent residents. The proposals by Kylor P/L, Malbec P/L, Vacinta P/L and others would see an increase of a possible 2475 lots.

The residents of these villages fought for and won the transfer of Conjola State Forest to Conjola National Park in January 2001 and with this buffer it was thought that any growth would be both moderate and commensurate with building on a rare and beautiful coastline. However, this pipe dream appears to be far from the truth.

The CRSS has limited capacity, utilizing technology which is well over 100 years old. It uses in that sand dune exfiltration: it ‘dumps’ highly treated effluent into sand behind to Conjola Beach. This area is a known flood plain, has a high water table, and is immediately adjacent to sand dunes - just the very sort of spot one would choose to have millions of litres of waste water dispersed to the nearby lake, lagoon and sea. All of the specifications for CRSS fail to consider any form of allowance for climate change. This was not a problem for the previous administration which eagerly encouraged developers to submit their plans; who wouldn’t with a System that started at $27m and has now cost $68m. The State provided some of the funding but Council was left holding the can to determine how it was to make up the additional costs.

Both Kylor and Malbec, the developers, are seeking to dramatically increase lot density. Kylor was a beneficiary to Mayor Watson’s 2008 campaign with a generous donation of $8000 reported to the state government for the period to June 2008 – donations after 1 July not reportable till February 2009. Kylor is seeking to rezone its land to increase lot density from 162 houses to well in excess of 500 lots. Malbec for its part, having already been granted 182 lots on a an area already zoned urban saw fit to purchase rural zoned land for the express purpose of creating a large subdivision. Malbec provided Council with a comprehensive plan for the “New Manyana Township” comprising some 330 lots. Not content with this the same Company lodged an application to have a 75 lot caravan park approved for the same land. The caravan park of course isn’t one but a subdivision in disguise using manufactured homes for the site – sound familiar?

Only recently has the Director of Shoalhaven Water, Carmel Krogh, been successful in putting a measurable cap on CRSS capacity and therefore the amount of development that would be commensurate with this capacity. Unfortunately the same administration has approved sewerage/water supply capability to developers whose proposals sit outside the frame work for designed capacity; wherefore the concern for public interest in that action?

There is indeed much affluence to make from effluent!

Peter Hudson is president of the Community Consultative Body for Bendalong, Manyana and Conjola. The community has a significant victory. Malbec’s plans for a 75 lot caravan park have been rejected by Shoalhaven City Council.

The Milton Ulladulla Times on 19 November 2008 reported that “A composed Mr Hudson told the Development committee of council that Manyana had no schools, limited public transport and already had ‘sufficient urban-zoned land for development, where we will accept’.” He told the committee Malbec had originally purchased the land with the proposal for “one home on a rural lot”. “This is an ill-conceived plan,” Mr Hudson said.

Council received a total of 126 written submissions objecting to the proposed Malbec development. Manyana has 360 permanent residents. Power and wisdom of community prevails.

The Bush Tele and the future

We welcome contributors from all sectors of community. We will like the New Bush Telegraph to have a strong future integral with the development of a strong community movement in the Shoalhaven. We will like to be thought by you to be part of community, not on the outside in any way.

This paper is an entirely volunteer effort, depending on readers to come up with good material. In this issue we have views on the environment, on nature, politics and society, written and art. We are very open to new directions and contributions.

Write to PO Box 2205 Tomerong NSW or go to our website www.newbushtelegraph.net and use the link to send an email.

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We prepared for the coming boom?

By Chris Gilbey

A re prepared for the coming boom in property in Shoaehaven? "The coming boom", I hear you say. "You must be kidding, after everything that has happened in the middle of the most incred-
ifiable financial meltdown down here. And on top of that we have the global financial turmoil that has driven the state to the edge of bankruptcy and are so inept that, frankly, they should all be thrown out on their ears, and you are talking about a boom?"

Oh, so hear me out. It's a boom born from adversity, but you take what you can get these days.

Don't think about what is happening in Sydney or in New York. Think of the more localized concentrations of effects. Though the economic turmoil has been global, the real turmoil that has been forced to manage through the crisis is that which hasn't stopped those people, who have owned their houses for ten or twenty years, from outstripping supply.

There are a number of existing and new programs in the area that are already expected to generate demand for tradespeople. The incoming new population will ensure much bigger growth in demand for tradespeople as a result of housing renovations and building work. It will also probably produce a positive impact on real estate prices at the top end of the market, which should help stabilise prices at the bottom end of the market as many more skilled tradespeople move into the area following jobs, or for some of the things that you can do, we can't stop progress, but I believe, thanks since I was a boy, that made me think about the way that insect change creeps up on us while we are busy doing the stuff we associate with modern life. These are the things we are pre-occupied by a lot of people with climate change. Some are climate change sceptics and some are what I think of as real- ists. The point is that while the arguments go back and forth increasingly, we need to take place. Change that we find hard to discern over the space of one or two years, but which is very clear when you look at it through the lens of age.

We need to replace our consumerist vision splashed with endless consumer wealth and more sustainable model. Its time for us to look at trends, and work with them creating communal advantage – rather than being observers of an emerging trend.

After all it is really about people. How they respond to the fundamental forces in their lives is the key. And the major demographic sector in this country, the baby boomers, will be the significant driver. They are influenced by what they read in the papers and watch on TV, and more particularly what they read online.

Those cashed up baby boomers are already poised to act. As they sell their places in Sydney they are focusing on Shoaehaven.

They are considering the impact of climate change; thinking about peak oil. They are looking at what will drive real estate values, because they don't want to make a bad investment. It all becomes pretty quicky... The best place to be is one where there is good rain- fall (ticky), one where there is an existing rail link (ticky), and one where there is a good local community (ticky). The results are in: The more upmarket areas of the Shoaehaven – all the areas on the ocean side of the village adjacent to the Moyne Hill Reserve. Most days, along with the dog, we walk along the bush track that leads over the hill. It's one of the most delightful bush walks into the area following jobs.

It is a real pity because the presence of insect life is part of what attracts birds, and the bird species on Moyne Hill are many and varied. You realise how Australia must have been to the first settlers hundreds of years ago. In fact the area is prime real estate for a huge amount of wild life: wombats, rabbits and hares, echidna, kangaroo, the odd diamond python, and a peacock have all made their way into the area following jobs.

We need to engage in discus- sions with all the people in the area who are at the coalface and work to generate a solution. We realize that it will affect us in many ways.

For example, the effect of framing time in numbers of decades is that it calms us down, but keeps us informed. That is the way that bureaucrats like to plan things. We are in the knowledge but we are calm and comfort- able in the knowledge that it is outside of our own life time, so we stop feeling the need to do anything. But none of us can complain in the future that we weren't warned.

It is only when something happens like seeing the swarms of butterflies that made me real- ise that something that was there is no longer there. Something is missing in our natural environment.

We can't stop progress, but I believe that it is useful to reflect on the realities of the immediate morpho- ization that we exist in. If we want our children and grandchildren to experience the things that we are inspired by in reality and not just on YouTube, we need to be aware of the current state of incre- mental change to our natural environment.

Wouldn't it be great if our children and grandchildren in the cities could see butterflies every summer?

By Chris Gilbey

by Chris Gilbey

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Burrflies

by Chris Gilbey

My wife and I moved out of the big smoke and into Shoaehaven, a couple of weeks ago as we were walking we quite suddenly saw a huge swarm of butterflies. It will continue to be a by-product of all the climate change issues that are about to be faced with.

It was a boom in New Orleans and London, fifty years ago the air in summer was full of red butterflies, together with the fact that hundreds of gently fluttering butterflies have all made their way into the area following jobs.

...and while the national economy slows in response to the current and certain prospect of global recession, grey buying power will bring a lot of good for this part of the world.

Unfortunately every boom has within it the seeds of a bust too. This influx of older people is going to put significant pressure on health and aged care services, which are already suffering from the state government's inability to run a chook raffle, let alone a health service.

The Shoaehaven hospital is reportedly already under stress financially. We have to start operating as a community to fix the problem.

We need a strategy and an action plan that will enable us to head off what we fear is an inevitable failure of our local health service to deliver what the community needs – whether it be your washing or your health.

We need to engage in discus- sions with all the people in the area who are at the coalface and work to generate a solution. We realize that it will affect us in many ways.

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Wouldn't it be great if our children and grandchildren in the cities could see butterflies every summer?
Vindication

Elections on 13 September, there was a significant change in the Shoalhaven City Council's elected council, with the sweeping from power of the party calling itself Shoalhaven Independents. The community voted for change. Mr Greg Watson, leader of the Shoalhaven Independents, lost the direct ballot for mayor, his third time out of such office. Once President, three times Mayor, three years in the major, since 1977, Mr Watson still sits on the council.

In our last issue, New Bush Telegraph 101, we set out the history of the concerns of many about the way the former council leadership did business in a number of areas, particularly in relation to the proposed sale of the ‘Nowra Hotel Site’ at the entrance to Nowra, where contrary to widespread public opinion, it was proposed to build a high-rise hotel. We reproduced a letter from the Department of Local Government and Housing about its dealings with a business called Huscorp... This company does have some development interests in Huskisson but is not the preferred purchaser. The DLG letter speaks for itself.

As we go to press, the Department in response to the matters raised by the Department in its letter Council was asked not to sell or otherwise alienate the Nowra Hotel site until it had been reclassified as operational land.

The Department has now completed its preliminary enquiries into this matter.

The Department also recognises that certain decisions will be attendant with degrees of risk. Risk management is an extremely important factor in many decision making processes. However, the Department considers that Council’s reliance on the principle of indefeasibility of title, as enunciated by the NSW Court of Appeal in the City of Canada Bay Council v F & D Bonaccorso Pty Ltd and Others (2007) NSWSC 351, as grounds for either making or justifying its decision to sell the land falls below the standard of what the Department would expect of a responsible council in conducting its affairs.

In summary, Gadens’ [lawyers] advice was sought and provided in the context of a selection process that had become wanton in regard to fairness, probity and transparency. The advice provided Council with an opportunity of restoring probity and transparency, yet Council chose not to avail itself of that opportunity.

“The Department considers that Council’s failure to heed Gadens’ advice fell well below the standard of what is expected of a responsible council in conducting its affairs.”

“First Concern

The lack of a documented account as to why Council invited Huscorp to present its proposal when it did not have any expression of interest by the advertised deadline

The Department accepts that the proposed sale was not a matter that fell within the ambit of section 55 of the Act and therefore Council was not bound to follow the tendering requirements set out in Part 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. Nevertheless, Council could, as a matter of good practice, have adopted those requirements, particularly given the scale, prominence, and likely public interest in the development. It is noted that in your report to Council on 29 June 2004 Council was advised that the “Preferred purchaser of the land. It is accepted practice for a local government to contain no record of the telephone conversation of 5 December 2005 that led to Council inviting Huscorp, by way of letter dated 7 December 2005, to present a development concept and proposal to the Committee early in 2006. Further, there appears to be no documented reasons as to why Huscorp was extended such an invitation. This is particularly unsatisfactory having regard to the seriousness of this type of conversation. This course of action, at the very least, lacked transparency. We are currently not in keeping with the advice given in your report to Council on 29 June 2004 that Council must ensure “openness” with any decision to develop the site.

It was noted that Council appears to have commenced a process and then arbitrarily resiled.

Second Concern

There does not appear to be any documented account of the basis upon which Council selected Huscorp as the preferred purchaser of the site

It is evident that the Committee did not have delegated authority to select the purchaser of the land. It is apparent that its role was to hear the presentations and then make a recommendation to Council as to which developer it considered Council should enter into a contract with for the sale and development of the land. The decision as to who was to be the successful purchaser and developer rested with Council itself.

After hearing the presentations, the Committee made two recommendations to Council. They were considered by Council at its meeting on 28 February 2006. Council adopted those recommendations.

The Committee provided Council with a summary of the presentations of the two companies, the summaries of the presentations of the two companies, the presentations, the Committee early in 2006. Council resolved to have the tender process. The report stated that the model was based on what ICAC considered to be the best course of action from a probity perspective in this type of situation. It is of concern that Council chose not to adopt that recommendation.

There was nothing in Council’s ‘Expressions of Interest’ documentation to indicate that Council would accept expressions of interest after the specified closing time of 3pm on 2 November 2005. It was reported to the Local Government (General) Steering Committee (“the Committee”) on 23 November 2005 that no development submis-
sions had been received and would be submitted for consideration. It was reported to the Committee that Macquarie Bank was preparing a submission which was expected to be received and given consideration by the month (November 2006).

The information supplied to Council did not contain the model of the
Vindication

Good governance requires that the Committee also provide reasons for any other recommendation that it may wish to make.

It is quite unacceptable for a council to simply adopt or “rubber stamp” the recommendations of a committee without being provided with the reasons upon which those recommendations were made.

It makes no difference that either all or a majority of council members were present at the meeting when the presentations were made, either as members of the Committee or as observers.

Again I refer to your report to Council of 29 June 2004. It recorded general advice given by ICAC to the effect that whatever course of action a government agency took in such circumstances “...it should ensure that it had clearly documented the reasons for its decisions and the process followed.”

It is the Department’s view that Council’s decision making process in this regard was flawed.

Third Concern

There does not appear to be any documented account as to why Council is prepared to sell Council owned land at a substantial discount to market valuation.

The Department notes the response given in your letter of 22 August 2008 indicating that the reason as to why Council is prepared to sell the land at a discount price and that this is linked to the original aim of achieving a hotel development on the land.

The Department, however, points to the fact that this is not evidenced by the relevant documentation supplied by Council. The statement contained in the report entered by the Committee of 3 March 2008 that:

“Council resolved in February 2007 to accept the discounted sale contract price of $900,000 to ensure a hotel was built and to Council’s standards - viz a minimum four star hotel”.

This, to say the least, rather scantly states the case. However, it is apparent that Council had a discount to the market value of the land as assessed by Walsh and Monaghan.

It is also noted that that market value centred upon the particular development that Huscorp proposed for the site. One of the assumptions upon which the valuation was based was that the site was “a staged development may take many years to sell”.

“The staged development” no doubt referred to the apartment complex not the hotel. Consequently the valuation may not necessarily have specific relevance to the proposals put forward by the other persons who submitted expressions of interest.

It is noted that the General Manager’s report of 29 June 2004 had drawn Council’s attention to advice provided by ICAC to the effect that whatever course of action a government agency took in projects of this type “...it should ensure that if it had clearly documented the reasons for its decisions and the process followed.”

The Department considers that Council has failed to adequately document the reasons for its decision to sell the land to Huscorp for the price agreed. In this regard it considers that Council has failed to ensure transparency in the sale process.

Fourth Concern

There does not appear to be any documented account as to why Council is prepared to grant Huscorp an easement over the city administrative centre without passing at least a valuation report indicating that the value of the right of way is substantial.

The Department notes the response given in your letter of 22 August 2008 indicating that:

In Council’s response it is said:

“A perusal of documentation could not evidence that ever contemplated that the successful propo- nent, - whom ever that may be - would need to purchase the right of way or other means of access, as this was a core and fundamental requirement of the project”.

However, this appears somewhat at odds with the statement in your report to the extraordinary meeting of Council on 11 March 2008 that:

“To establish the current market value of the site, regard was taken not only of the area (9,517 square metres) and zoning, but also the proposed access arrangements over Council land. Council staff will arrange for this valuation.”

In the following paragraph of that report it is stated:

“...Council needs to be clear on the reasons for its decisions.”

On 27 May 2008 Council resolved:

(a) Not seek compensation for the Right of Carriageway (Access Road) from Bridge Road to Gadens Street. Nowra included.

In passing this resolution Council has not provided any reasons for its decision to sell the land to Huscorp for the price agreed. In this regard it considers that Council has failed to ensure transparency in the sale process.

Fifth Concern

Council appears to have failed to heed its legal advice to consider obtaining further valuation advice, inviting those who had lodged an expression of interest to consider lodging an amendment to their proposals in light of Council’s decision to expand the site area, and to appoint a probity manager to oversee the selection process.

The Department acknowledges that Council was not legally bound to follow any of the recommendations provided by Gadens in their letter of 9 July 2007.

In regard to Gadens’ first recommendation that Council should consider commissioning at least one independent valuer to provide an assessment of the fair price for the site, the Department acknowledges that Gadens had obtained a valuation from Walsh and Monaghan on 16 November 2006. That report should have included the value of the proposed access over Council land given that, as you have said, it was a key element of the proposed development since inception of the project.

Gadens’ second recommendation was that Council should consider whether or not it was appropriate to apply Part 7 of the Regulations and appoint a probity manager to govern the tender process to ensure that the process was perceived by the public to be at arms length. The Department considers that there were compelling reasons for Council to have adopted this recommendation.

In the Department’s view the process adopted by Council in selecting Huscorp as the preferred developer lacked integrity in that Council had:

• accepted an expression of interest from Huscorp despite it being notified to Council over a month after the advertised closing date, 10 February 2008.

• continued to negotiate with Huscorp despite Huscorp, in making its presentation to the Committee on 10 February 2008, having failed to address the key issues specified in the invitations sent to the submitter on 10 February 2008, and

• continued to negotiate with Huscorp despite the concerns expressed by Council’s Director of City Services in his internal memorandum of 16 May 2005.

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preferred developer lacked transparency, fairness and probity, and was not at arms length.

In summary, Gadens’ advice fell well below the standard of what is be expected of someone who is standing up to represent the community. I am surprised by the number of people who said they did not know who they would be voting for. Most of all the community particip-
ates to hold their representatives accountable.

We are really very lucky on the South Coast and maybe we take our Councillors and Council for granted, demanding a lot from Council staff while not taking responsibility to provide the staff with quality leadership.

Liam O’Sullivan, Yuendumu
25 October 2008

A Different Kind of election, in Central Australia

Liam O’Sullivan has taken a year’s leave from youth work for the NSW Department of Housing on the South Coast to work on community capacity building in communities in the western Desert, in the Northern Territory. He has also provided the accompanying press release "Lifting Regional Australia out of Dependency" which, while focused on remote Aboriginal communities seems quite relevant to life in the forty nine towns and villages of the Shoalhaven.
Lifting regional Australia out of dependency

Dennis Argall

O BM has won. How improbable. A man who eps a Wall Street job in his twen-
ties to take a tiny wage to go to South Chicago to teach women to be strong, to organise and get social and community improve-
ments, becomes president of the world in his forties.
The earth has shifted.
The most expensive political campaigns ever, which have been funded not by the rich but by vast numbers of ordi-
inary people. And the change in expectations relates to that community connection.

In the end of the 80s we had a global shift: walls coming down and democracy rising. in the 00’s we have had, since 9/11, a run of attacks on democracy, which is reinforcing our burgeoning tendency to build larger houses, shut our doors and consume more.

How astonishing if we had now the chance for a global community empowerment movement.

What is it? I know no other direction from which we can begin to face the twin challenges of climate change and economic involution. This is not only remarkable it is essential.

In March 2008, in New Bush Telegraph issue 98, I reflected on the prospect that if the world changed under Obama and if the Federal Government was serious about its social inclusion policies, the Shoalhaven needed to be careful. The left behind on the Shoalhaven can go forward and up, or just slump.
The Shoalhaven can go forward and up, or just slump.

We can be a positive commu-
nity and a great regional centre, or be bogged in social problems.

MALL communities in regional Australia now face the possibility of becoming too dependent on governments or they risk becoming highly faltering and infec-
tive, warned renowned American thinker and writer Meg Wheatley today at the Desert Knowledge Symposium in Alice Springs.

“Worldwide, we have created deepening dependency that can take years, and a lot of patience and effort to pull a community out of this way of thinking. “People have to be engaged in their own lives and in creating benefits for themselves; otherwise we will continue with dependency.”

The Wheatley’s presenta-
tion to over 350 delegates from
desert regions across Australia and the world described how we should use our desire to be

in a community as a vehicle to create change.

“We should use community as the leader and the resource rather than waiting for a heroic department to come in and say I’ll fix it for you.”

Ms Wheatley, who has worked with Indigenous people from all over the world, said the Federal Government Intervention as an example of the blanket ‘fix it’ approach.

From what I see, the Intervention has been a disaster; you can tell it is going to be a disaster when you don’t engage with people and it is probably not even working on the right issues, but is simply applying a blanket over the issues.

“We also need to focus on what has been working and what is possible; not what is wrong.”

Ms Wheatley also shared her experience of working with New Orleans residents after Hurricane Katrina and the need to be creative not responding in time.

“We can learn a lot about community after a natural disaster. It is human nature for neighbours and strangers to rush in and help each other. Self organisation is a basic human drive, and we should draw on that strength to mobili-

ise our communities in any situation.”

Meg Wheatley recommended that audience members consider 12 basic principles when trying to create a healthy community:

1. People support what they create.
2. People act most responsibly when they care.
3. Conversation is the way humans have always thought together.
4. To change the conversa-
tion, change who is in the conver-
sation.
5. Expect leadership to come from anywhere.
6. Focus on what is working
7. The wisdom we need is in us already.

That era is ending in the wider world.

We will be left behind without leadership that sees broader issues and builds community rather than working constantly to divide. Do you have the courage to pursue change? Send us ideas for our 100th issue? Can you get people together to consider what is the 50 year plan for the [Shoalhaven City Council].

“We seem stuck in a situa-
tion where thrills are secured by petticoat and mob-leading. That era is ending in the wider world.

“We will be left behind without leadership that sees broader issues and builds community rather than working constantly to divide. Do you have the courage to pursue change? Send us ideas for our 100th issue? Can you get people together to consider what is the 50 year plan for the [Shoalhaven City Council].

or so I wrote in March, before I was moved to stand for council myself, my own pocket, assisting change, not myself being elected...

We have had a change of local government, of member-
ship and control of Shoalhaven City Council. Though Watson Lockwood, the Shoalhaven Independents are still in the council and on the airwaves, debating their record, attacking critics, waiting for power again.

Is it far from clear whether the new team on the council

understands the need for funda-
mental reform.

I am staying away from council issues for a time for several reasons, including that as an unsuccessful candidate for mayor negative comments from me may simply be seen as sour grapes (though I am more than pleased in fact to have my freedom). And because the new team needs time to show what it can do.

I am concerned that Mayor Green said to me (several times) during the campaign that he did not understand management issues, and Deputy Mayor Gareth Ward, with immense power and authority, seemed still more preoccupied with poli-
tics of adversarialism and popu-
list issues, building support thus rather than reforming the coun-
ic’s operations and building community collaboratively. I hope I am wrong. I would love to have Gareth prove me entirely wrong and I would also like to see Paul Green lead a process to open all the doors and windows of this council and see which an organisation has been distorted by a way of doing business – from the top – which has diminished morale, made poor advice and made recruitment difficult.

Let the staff have a major role in reform. The Local Government Act allows councils immunity from civil suit to run them- selves effectively independent. As I write, the Department of Local Government, which has a monopoly to supply reports submit to the Shoalhaven City Council its long awaited Better Practice Review.

Meg Wheatley today at the Desert Knowledge Symposium in Alice Springs on November 3-6, 2008. It is sponsored by Desert Knowledge Australia, the Desert Peoples Centre and the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre. See: http://www.desertknowledge2008.

tom

To view brief abstract of each presentation topic go to http://www.
desertknowledge2008.com/abstracts.asp

4 degrees

David Lockwood

AN August 8th report in The Guardian suggested that the UK should prepare for temperature increases of 4°C. Professor Bob Watson, chief scientific advisor to the UK government, said: “The 2 degrees of climate change the world has had since the Industrial and Food and Rural Affairs, told The Guardian that we don’t know in detail how to limit greenhouse gas emissions to realize the 2 degrees temperature target set by the EU. We should prepare to adapt to 4 degrees.

According to the Stern Review (under a 4 degree temperature rise) 300 million people would be impacted by coastal flooding each year. South Africa and the Mediterranean would have 30-50% less water. Africa would see a decline of 15-20% in crop yields and 20-50% of animal and plant species could face extinction.

A 4 degree increase in tempera-
ture will create a new climate regime according to Professor Neil Adger from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. He has suggested that we need to do everything possible to avoid 4 degrees because the impacts are so severe that the only real adaptation strategy is to avoid that level of increase. Such increases would require evacuating some parts of Bangladesh: “A 4 degrees world could not be defended against future sea level rises.”

Alluding to the 1960’s moon land-

ing, Professor Watson proposes an “Apollo type programme” to build 10-20 new “new Gaols” per country to store the CO2 and prove the technology. He also said that as sulfur pollution is removed from coal fired power stations, warming effects among OECD countries to develop a “Apollo type programme” to build 10-20 new “new Gaols” per country to store the CO2 and prove the technology. He also said that as sulfur pollution is removed from coal fired power stations, warming offset is equivalent to some warming. This offset is equivalent to 1000’s of cubic CO2 and would disappear if China and India follow the lead of the US and Europe in limiting sulfur emissions.

One large unknown is the tipping point threshold for the northern snow from the Greenland Ice Sheet. It is possible that a 4 degree increase in temperature may be enough to trigger runaway melting at both poles.
Life Changing, the APHEDA Way

Dallas Hall

Picture if you will, a 40 something bloke, single, self-employed and bored with the routine of his life. “Fulfilment”, meant too many beers at the end of a hard working week! Then one day, he finds himself working for a couple who are actively enjoying life to the point of being too busy to scratch themselves let alone be bored.

Something to be learnt here I thought.

Well I learnt quite a few things over the years from this dynamic couple, however the activity which they introduced me to that has engaged me now for over four years has been the work of the South Coast Branch of APHEDA. APHEDA (Australian People for the Health Education and Development Abroad) is the overseas humanitarian aid arm of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). Also more simply know as Union Aid Abroad. Focusing on sustainable assistance, APHEDA works with local aid agencies in twenty countries throughout the world.

The south coast branch organises fund raising events in the Illawarra. Comprising a diverse range of people, the eight or so active committee members have welcomed me into their midst and by example have shown me just what can be achieved when determined people put a little time and energy into something worthwhile. For example our recent annual dinner funded the construction of a pre school room for children living on a Manilla rubbish dump. This enabled the parents who earn their living scavenging the dump to have a safe place to leave their children during the day.

Through APHEDA I have found an activity which enables me to feel fulfilled in terms of helping to make the world a slightly better place. I have developed friendships and met some unique and inspiring people, Sekai Holland (Zimbabwe political activist and now member of that government), Tom Uren and Jack Mundey to name a few. I have also volunteered in the Sydney office of APHEDA (doing mundane but none the less crucial work – stuffing envelopes…!) and therefore have witnessed myself the activities and dedication of the staff there.

So what does this fifty year old do now when he feels the old twinge of boredom creep in (or is that arthritis?), he volunteers of course!

If you are interested in the work of APHEDA or would like to donate go to www.apheda.org.au

Dallas Hall is a builder and craftman woodworker and a member of the Illawarra Support Group of APHEDA. We seem to have no APHEDA support group in the Shoalhaven. Easy to correct that! Contact APHEDA and see what can be done. Let us know if you are starting something.

Caro Coffey

Caro Coffey of Vincentia is a working artist who has been in the Shoalhaven for four years. These paintings represent Caro’s concerns about the environment and social justice issues.

“War on the Environment” [oil on paper] with two dolphins and a military aircraft heading across the bay towards Point Perpendicular, speaks of the incongruity of continued bombing of the Beecroft range on the northern headland of Jervis Bay.

“Under a Bushell” [acrylic on oil on paper] was exhibited in a one person show at Laura’s Garden Cafe in Sanctuary Point in November 2008. See the artist’s explanatory note.

Caro’s work will also appear in the “2008-09 Under 500 Exhibition” Group Exhibition of Artworks by Members of Jervis Bay & Basin Arts Inc, December 13th 2008 to January 26th 2009

Venue: Main Gallery, Lady Denman Heritage Complex, Huskisson
A catchment approach to retaining a quality of life

Terry Barratt, Chair, Bomaderry Creek Landcare Group

Much has been said and done over the last decade to protect the Bomaderry Creek Bushland including threats by the Shoalhaven City Council to dissect it with housing and road projects, and the community’s fight to stop such insane obsessions.

On the positive side some progress has been made in achieving the Bushland’s protection through reserving a third of its area under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Conservation works are also underway, principally by the National Park and Wildlife Service and the Bomaderry Creek Landcare Group, to control weeds and feral animals, restore habitats and improve recreational facilities.

Previous editions of The New Bush Telegraph have documented the Bomaderry Creek saga in a lot more detail.

The Landcare Group has now taken the initiative of promoting a wider range of environmental protection measures throughout the Bomaderry Creek catchment and beyond. In addition to the more traditional focus on the Bushland itself, the Landcare Group has adopted a broader landscape approach whereby better land management of the rural properties, remnant and linking of natural habitat along protected and planted corridors is being advocated as the basis for community engagement in a catchment management plan to link the Cambewarra Range to the Shoalhaven. Such a plan will enhance the biodiversity attributes of the catchment, reduce erosion and improve water quality. By providing corridors for movement of wildlife and native plant life it will enhance the Shoalhaven’s level of biological resilience in the face of global warming.

Restoration and revegetation works within the rural lands of the Bomaderry Creek catchment were carried out by the Tapitallee Creek Landcare Group during the 1990s. Even the Shoalhaven City Council has carried out some revegetation work along Bomaderry Creek in recent years. But a great deal more of these undertakings are needed throughout this and adjacent catchments to meet the environmental challenges of the future.

Retention of the natural settings of the Bomaderry Creek Bushland is a crucial part of this landscape planning and management initiative. It is essential that all of the remaining public and private land within the Bushland be reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and destructive road and housing plans abandoned. Clearing of the remaining natural areas earmarked for housing in the North Nowra and Bungaree localities should be avoided and urban growth restricted to cleared lands such as those planned for development adjacent to Moss Vale Road. Even here, significant areas of land should be set aside as open space for retention of landscape values and for establishment of habitat corridors. Council can bring this about through the development approval process.

The catchment approach to retaining the values of our landscapes and natural areas is a positive approach to retaining quality of life for the community and preferable to the mad rush to develop and destroy our natural heritage in an illusionary dream of “progress”.

Can we trust the food we eat

Berne Clarke, Sussex Inlet

Alarm bells rang after recent deaths of four babies and renal failure of 50,000 others after consuming milk products containing melamine. Melamine is a chemical used in manufacturing plastics, fertilizers and industrial adhesives was added after consuming milk products to give a protein rich appearance in industrial adhesives was added after consuming milk products to give a protein rich appearance. Cherries are widely used because of their preservation qualities. Cherries in syrup can be soaked in a cocktail of preservatives so they can withstand a long period in fridges and freezers, on supermarket shelves or in overseas, but none has tested to contain traces of melamine, sodium benzoate, which is associated with ADHD and can affect children’s development, being sold in shops and school canteens including a popular brand of slushy. The drink’s flavours contain either tartrazine (102), sunset (110), quinoline (104) or carmoisine (122). Following research published in the highly respected medical journal The Lancet which concluded that the effects on some children’s development from the food colourings could be as detrimental as lead, the British authorities have initiated a gradual ban between 2005 and 2010. A brand of slushy sold throughout NSW contain four artificial food colourings which are permitted in Australia are banned in the US, European Union and Scandinavia because of their link to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Drinks promoted as 99 per cent fruit contain syntheticflavouring and preservatives including sodium benzoate, which is associated with ADHD and can affect children with asthma.

In defending the sale of products in school canteens, Jo Gardner, manager of NSW School Canteen Association agrees some children might react adversely to some food colourings and preservatives.

The question of what percentage of kids is it ok to harm?

Shakes are sold with no labeling and no warnings. The problem lies with the nation’s food ministers who have failed to enforce warnings on all products containing dyes. The regulator and the Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, said a ban is unnecessary, arguing that existing labeling of ingredients equips consumers with enough information to make a decision. What is the consumption safety limit, do we fully understand the labelling criterion.

Glutamate, sometimes referred to as “Chinese Restaurant syndrome”, an extract from tapioca is considered to be the king of additives: one which will retain water and absorb any flavour and mini-mises loss during the cooking process. Glutamate is known to cause neurological disorders due to excess glutamate in sausages that nausea and migraine may occur.

Anyone allergic to white wine can suffer the same symptoms (often resembling urticaria nettle rash) caused by the high level of sulphites in this type of wine.
Financial meltdown

by Patrick Thompson

O NE possible outcome of the present world
crisis is that people will have a
chance to save the planet. Some
leading world scientist have made
the point that if we agree to do so
leaders can come together with
such resolve to solve financial
problems then it gives rise to some
hope that we might be able to
do the same with meeting the
challenge of Climate Change.
Financial meltdown is a very
different kettle of fish. It goes to the
very heart of capitalism. Its threat
is immediate and like it or not,
capitalism is what makes the
world go round – the future of the
planet is merely of passing
interest to those that rule in
Capitals. It might be that history
will tell us this has all
happened before, only arguably,
it has never occurred on such a
grand scale. History also tells
us that inevitably follows
great booms are great busts.
Capitalism, I am just an observer
as these great events unfold and
like most I have trouble under-
standing why what seems
exponential and with this came
the opening up of China and
India which has led to boom
times for all. China and India have
after all captured a fraction of
what they once were. America
with low rain-fall and poor soils
has a dreadful environmental
record and what we are witnessing in the Murray-
Darling Basin is another example of
it. We all know the story but
are we willing to face it?

Clearly we are not. Our
tellers tell us we need growth.
Capitalism as we know it needs
growth. Economists are telling
us that unless we continue to
grow we will all be ruined.

Indeed economists are saying
that China’s growth falls to a mere
5% which is not without
cost. We must get the economy
growing again.

Now you don’t have to be a rocket scientist to be a little
concerned with this scenario, when we
marry it with the other emerging
times of our times, and
that is the little matter of global

This is growing
worry for nearly all of us. With
the pace of global warming there is
a new optimism abroad
that we may yet be willing to face
this issue. Economists tell us it is going to be tough but
with good will and a determined and
coordinated effort, the challenge of
climate change can be met.

Apparently this can be achieved
without undue economic hardship.
Some are saying that this of
fate of the Earth. The speed of
melting of the ice sheets has
turned a global problem
that is needed, could be economically
beneficial.

What then is the nexus between
economic growth on the
one hand and reducing
carbon emissions by 90% on
the other? It should be pretty

We all need to put to
work reducing our carbon emis-
sions and at the same time we
need to keep growing. China
and India’s economies need
to double in size over the next five
years and presumably double
again in the following five years and
this way the rest of the
economies of the world should
remain healthy. Certainly the
Australian economy with
its huge foreign debt is
depending on it.

Does this all sound a little
pricey? Well, is curvature all
plausible? Could it be that
capitalism or the modern market
economy, call it what you will,
is in fact on a collision course
with global warming? Is there
any hope for our planet and
our children’s future?

One of the extraordinary
tings to my mind is that
the present debate is that no one,
things are suggesting that we could
all learn to live more simply. This
is not without cost. We are
told we must go out and spend
our money, we must borrow
more, we must get the economy
growing.

Of course, most people in the
world today still live simply. We
talk about ecological footprints
and it is safe to say that most of
the world’s populations still have
meagre ecological footprints.
They don’t own cars, don’t
fly long distances and they
have no electricity. They live on
a few dollars a day and they live
relatively happy lives. It is those
people that the market forces
want on board. They too can be
told to live simpler lives like the rest
of us. They are the future targets
for corporate growth.

One has to search hard for
this book, “In search of
Happiness”. John F Schumaker says:
“ For all the words that
are written and spoken it seems
little attention is given to
developing a critique that can serve
as a guiding formula for life. Most
are content to strive for happy-
ness; whatever that may mean.
If happiness, is the best outcome
then we all should have some
answers to what it is and how we
should go about achieving it.”

Happiness”, John F
Schumaker goes on to argue
that we were meant to be far
more social, spiritual, loving
and psychologically engaged that
we are being programmed to be
by modern consumer culture.
Schumaker would agree with this
sentiment, yet we choose
to do everything about it.
We give up working longer and
longer hours being encour-
aged to become more and
more productive for
what, so that we may have more money
to spend and thereby in all like-
lihood increase our ecological
footprint. It is madness – plan-
etary madness, and those that
are the worse offenders are our
leaders and the executives of
businesses with their obscene
salary packages, continually
exhoriating us to increase our
productivity and follow their
lead.

We wish you a Merry Christmas

By David Lockwood

RECENT data from Greenland
suggests that the predictions
from the most recent IPCC
reports may be under-
states. Some of the
islands has become a barometer for climate
change because of its sensitivity to
climate changes in the arctic.
Sea level rise would flood
the Nile delta in Africa and
the Ganges Brahmaputra delta
between Bangladesh and India.
These areas are home to
millions of people living in
Bangladesh, Indonesia
and sub-Saharan Africa
would also inject large amounts
of cold freshwater in the northern
oceans which may disrupt
the Gulf Stream. This is the
ocean current, that gives Britain a
climate 9°C warmer than it
should have at that latitude.

Meltwater from Greenland
glaciers (along with the West
Antarctic ice shelf) are the
largest potential contributors
to sea level rise. What happens
there will decide the fate of the Earth. The speed of
melting of the ice sheets has
accelerated and we now have to
face this issue. The GHG’s
that we are now putting in the
Earth’s atmosphere could
be a major factor in this.

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