



# CLIMATE CHANGE, DESPAIR & EMPOWERMENT

With Ruth Rosenhek

**Climate change is the most serious issue facing humankind.** The scientific community has released alarming evidence over the past 12 months with predicted increases in temperatures, sea level rises and the increase in frequency and intensity of storms.

These multi-media presentations will help communities to understand our role in a “climate changed” world and empower us with a renewed sense of commitment to the actions required to address global warming.

The roadshow aims to:

- Catalyse, invigorate and support a dynamic and strong climate change movement across Australia, including a network of Climate Study/Action Groups.
- Address the hopelessness, apathy and despair that many people feel and provide tools to transform these feelings into empowerment and effective action.
- Unveil the false and "business as usual" solutions being touted by the major political parties such as so called “clean coal” and nuclear power.
- Raise awareness and inspire political action towards the ‘real’ solutions.
- Provide resources for the **many** things that we can all do to turn the situation around.

**The evening forums will include:**

- a **multi-media presentation** including video footage of Al Gore speaking about the huge impact Australia could make by developing strong policies.
- a discussion on **how the feelings of** helplessness, hopelessness, despair, what can one person do anyway, its too late etc. can be the fuel for inspiration and empowerment. This addresses Gore's insight that many people move straight from denial to hopeless despair about this issue without leaving any space in between for effective action.
- A **look at the real solutions** that acknowledge the full scope of what's ahead including changing consumption habits, the need to conserve natural systems that regulate climate, the relocalisation of food, support for renewables such as solar, wind, geothermal, moving 6.5 billion dollars of annual subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables.
- a discussion on the importance of direct democracy, grassroots involvement and movement building and how each of us now needs to awaken those around us to the urgency of understanding and action.
- Where no **climate study/action group** currently exists, the group will be invited to form one there and then. If one already exists, representatives from the group will be invited to give an update on their group's direction.

Ruth Rosenhek, MS in Organisational Management, is Director of the Rainforest Information Centre in Lismore (NSW). Ruth is an international environmental activist who organizes and campaigns on behalf of forest protection, land rights and global justice and teaches deep ecology. See [www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/rosenhek.htm](http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/rosenhek.htm).

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