



From the President

March 2011

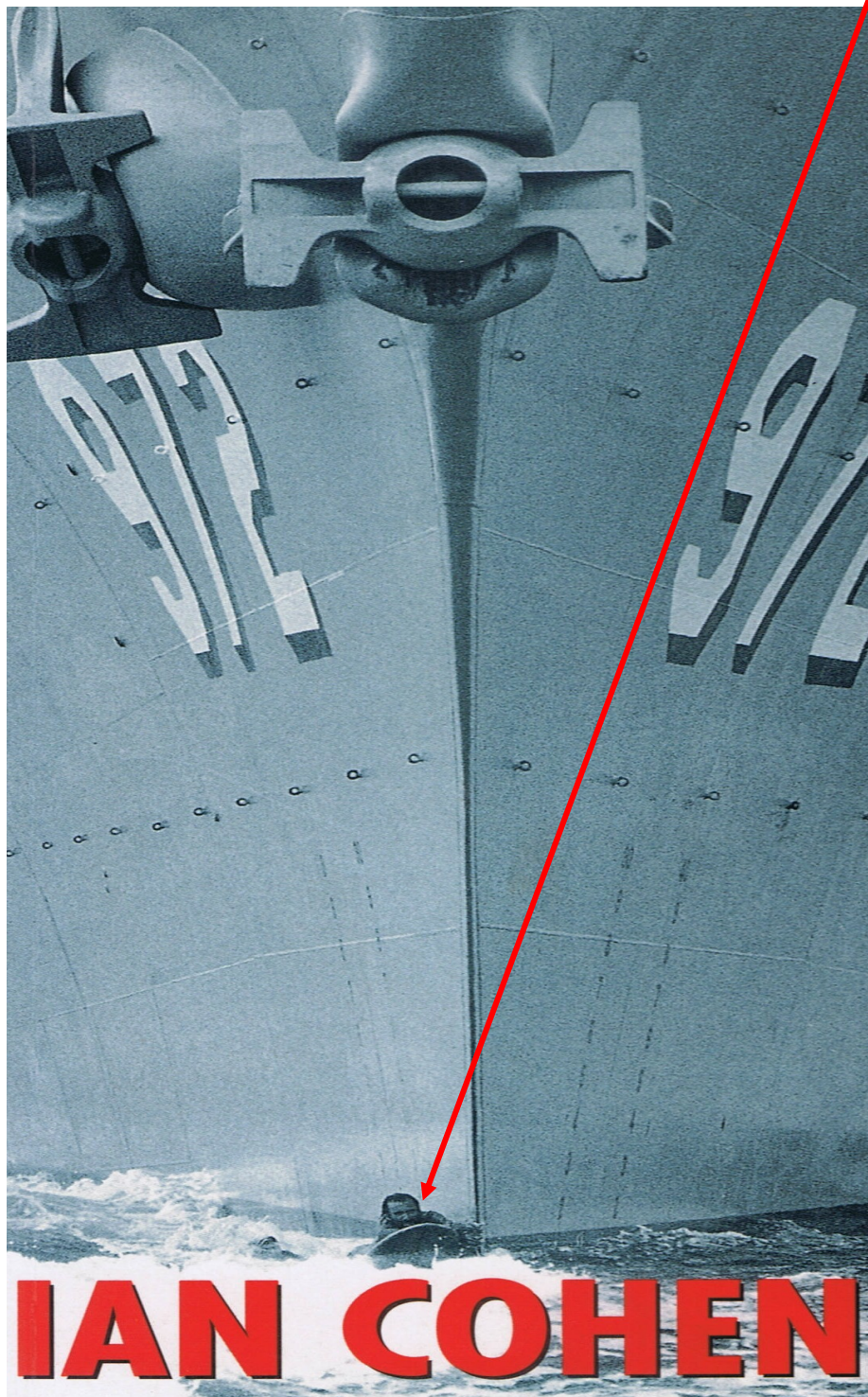
VALLEY WATCH INC

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Creating a sustainable future

How courageous is this man?



Who can forget Ian Cohen's courage in 1986 when he paddled out to confront the *USS Oldendorf* as it entered Sydney Harbour?

Ian will be the guest speaker at our 20th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday April 9, and there are still a few (only a few!) seats left.

We have booked the Riverboat Restaurant for the occasion, and there will be a waiter to take your drinks orders (or use the bar next door).

The cost of the dinner will be \$35 per person for a two course meal (mains and dessert). There will be vegetarian and gluten-free options available if you let us know when you book, and there will be dinner music provided by that accomplished musical virtuoso, Dom Ferry.

Ring me at 6646 1286 or email valleywatchinc@gmail.com to reserve your seat. Ian will have some remarkable stories to tell, and twenty years of advocacy by Valley Watch for the environment and good governance must surely be worth celebrating.

See you there!

Your Committee

President:	Gary Whale
Vice-President:	Athena Batcheldor
Secretary:	Ronwyn Lopez
Treasurer:	David Lopez
Committee:	Gary Brisbane Carolyn Jeckeln Barbara Whale Ros Woodward

We're on the Web! Visit us at clarencevalleywatch.com

Stellaluna in schools

On February 16 and 18 Barbara and I visited all the primary schools in the valley from Tucabia and Lawrence to Iluka to present them on behalf of Valley Watch with a copy of Janell Cannon's beautiful book *Stellaluna*.



Stellaluna is the delightful story of a baby flying-fox who is raised in a nest of three baby birds, and by donating a copy to the schools (with a letter giving details of some useful websites specifically designed for use with the book) we hope to show the students that flying foxes are an important part of the ecology of our area.

We were pleased to find that several of the schools had a copy in their library already, and at every school we went to we were warmly welcomed by the Principal or the Librarian. It was also encouraging to see the environmental awareness at all of the schools we visited. Good PR for Valley Watch!

Linda Wright has been VW's representative on the working party devising the Maclean Flying-fox Management Strategy. She prepared a strong letter to every senator in the week before Luke Hartsuyker's bill which is designed to remove any involvement by the federal Department of the Environment in matters affecting the Maclean flying-fox colony.

Thank you Linda!

What's the latest on climate change?

In July 2010 Professor David Karoly from the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Melbourne and a former lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) addressed a summit of local government representatives from central NSW. This is a summary of his address:

- Warming of the climate system is real and unequivocal
- Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in human induced greenhouse gas concentrations
- Continued greenhouse gas emissions at or above current rates will cause further warming and induce many changes in the global climate system during the 21st century that would be larger than those observed during the 20th century
- 21st century human induced CO₂ emissions will contribute to warming and sea level rise for more than 1000 years because of the long timescales required for the removal of this gas
- It's very likely that hot extremes, heatwaves and heavy rainfall events will become increasingly frequent
- Snow cover is projected to contract. Sea ice is projected to shrink in both the Arctic and the Antarctic
- Storm tracks are projected to move poleward with changes in wind, precipitation and temperature patterns
- Increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations will lead to increasing acidification of the oceans.

How Australia rates

Did you see in last Thursday's *Sydney Morning Herald* that we are the most likely to worry but least likely to act of 10 similar OECD countries? This is how we rated:

- Considering energy costs when buying houses **Last**
- Turning appliances off instead of on stand-by **Last**
- Disposing properly of hazardous household waste **Last**
- Using the car to go shopping **First**
- Use of water per person **Second**
- Recycling plastic, paper and glass **Last**
- Believing individual actions can make a difference **Last**

What disturbed me most of all was the final one - that more Australians than anyone else think there's no point in taking individual action to save the environment.

It was Gandhi who said "Be the change you want to see in the world". That's a responsibility we could all shoulder. As the German poet and playwright Goethe wrote "Let everyone sweep in front of his own door and the whole world will be clean".

Yamba River Markets

As it has done for many years, Valley Watch has a stall at the Yamba Market. We have books to sell and magazines to give away which attracts people to look at our displays and buy a raffle ticket or two.

It really gives us a boost when members and supporters drop by for a chat. Stop by and say "G'day" at the next market on March 27.

Gary