

## Clearly informing ecological citizens

Hooray. Building on the ongoing success of the permanent *EcoLogic* exhibition at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum that opened back in 2001, *EcoLogic – Creating a Sustainable Future*, is taking the essence of that exhibition further – by popular demand.

For three years visitors to the museum have been impressed by a display which sets out a practical, 'everyday life' context of what ecological sustainability means for Australia, and the role that engineering and design can play in effecting solutions. Exhibition director, and now, author, Sandra McEwan, says organisers of *EcoLogic* have since been overwhelmed by public requests that the exhibition be taken to other parts of the country.

'People were telling us there was a real need out there for this sort of practical, accessible information about sustainable living which explains key concepts and relates them to people's lives. We realised that taking *EcoLogic* on the road wouldn't be practical, and so decided to complement the

exhibition with a book by the same name which could explore the exhibition's concepts in more depth and take them to a wider audience.'

Researching the ways to expand on the success and information in *EcoLogic*, McEwan interviewed a wide cross-section of the community, discovering that everybody 'wanted facts, to be told of solutions, and shown how and what to change.'

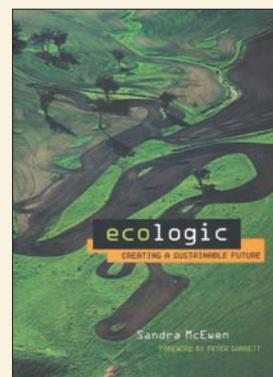
*EcoLogic* has been written,

to that formula, and over eight chapters embedded with good illustrations, gives a national context to natural cycles, industrial cycles, land management, water management, the built environment, managing change, climate issues and lastly, sustainability in the home – where some product advice is provided.

Importantly the book looks at major underlying effects in urban planning issues, the true cost of industry, salinity and



*EcoLogic's* presents a useful range of eco-efficient products.



**EcoLogic**  
*Creating a Sustainable Future*  
by Sandra McEwan

Powerhouse Publishing  
Paperback/112pp  
ISBN 1863170987  
RRP \$35.95

soil degradation, water management and environmental activism. It demonstrates how innovative design at every level of domestic, industrial and architectural life can actually help meet our needs while conserving fragile resources.

*EcoLogic's* fast uptake by schools and libraries is understandable. It's an enjoyable, educational and practical guide that gets to the heart of matters. A copy should be distributed with every recycling bin.

## With the heat turned up

Tom Athanasiou and Paul Baer know how to drive home their dedication to realising a more equitable responsibility for environmental issues, and particularly climate change.

*Dead Heat* is a short, punchy, no-holds-barred pitch to push the 'facts' of climate change, and the associated roll-on of wider environmental and social problems into view.

Athanasiou and Baer feel the climate message is listened to but not being 'heard' – because of privilege structures dominated by the wealthier nations.

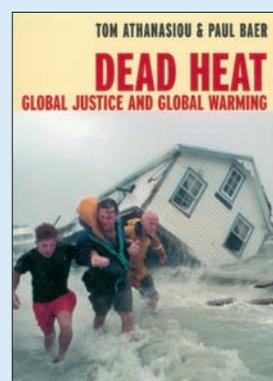
Their central wake-up call,

put rather ferociously, is that 'the battle against global warming is the key to the larger battle for global justice; that its outcome may, in fact, be almost as decisive politically as it will be ecologically.' They argue for the emerging realisation that 'there can be no workable climate protection regime without an *historic compromise* between the rich and the poor nations, one that actually specifies the terms by which we will share the Earth's very limited 'atmospheric commons'.

In an entertaining, pocket-book read that is excellent for

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getting up to speed on climate change scenarios, *Dead Heat* presents compelling scenarios with the latest charts and figures. While the outlined solutions at first seem obvious and a tinge idealistic, the authors challenge us to acknowledge that they must become *realistic*.



**Dead Heat**  
*Global Justice and Global Warming*  
by Tom Athanasiou and Paul Baer  
Seven Stories Press/Open Media  
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