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Collecting crabs by Kazi Riasat Alve, Satkhira, Bangladesh. High salinity has rendered the land unsuitable for farming. Photograph: Kazi Riasat Alve/Courtesy of Atkins CIWEM Environmental Photographer of the Year

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2015/jun/03/atkins-ciwem-environmental-photographer-of-the-year-2015-in-pictures>

Five reasons why soil is key to the planet's sustainable future

It may look plain but soil is a natural resource essential to sustaining life on Earth



© Agricultural employees harvest cotton in a field in Benha, Egypt. Photograph: Bloomberg/Bloomberg via Getty Images

It may not be as visually striking as a green forest or appear as vital as fresh water, but plain-looking soil is a natural resource just as essential to sustaining life on Earth. Soil provides nutrients, water and minerals to plants and trees, stores carbon and is home to billions of insects, small animals, bacteria and many other micro-organisms. Yet the amount of fertile soil on the planet has been diminishing at an alarming rate, compromising the ability of farmers to grow food to feed a global population that is projected to top nine billion by 2050.

<http://www.theguardian.com/fao-partner-zone/2015/feb/10/5-reasons-why-soil-key-to-the-planets-sustainable-future>



BARBARA UNMÜSSIG

Barbara Unmüssig is President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

APR 22, 2015 3

English  

Save our Soils

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BERLIN – The United Nations has declared 2015 to be the **International Year of Soils**, and April 19-23 marks this year’s **Global Soil Week**. Such events, though not exactly glamorous, do not receive nearly the amount of attention they deserve.

Intact soils are an invaluable and irreplaceable resource, one that performs myriad functions in achieving the international community’s main development and environmental goals. And now they are in urgent need of protection.

Healthy soils are crucial to human nutrition and the fight against hunger. We rely on them not only for food production, but also to create new drinking water. They help to regulate Earth’s climate, storing more carbon than all of the world’s forests combined (only the oceans are a larger carbon sink), and are essential to maintaining biodiversity: a handful of fertile soil contains more microorganisms than there are humans on the planet. Two-thirds of Earth’s species live beneath its surface.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/save-earth-soil-by-barbara-unmuessig-2015-04>

Infographic: Soil, where food begins

The current rate of soil degradation is threatening the planet's capacity to meet the needs of future generations



📷 Much of our planet's arable soils is used for family farming Photograph: FAO/FAO

Our soils are in danger because of expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management practices, pollution, overgrazing and climate change. The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations.

<http://www.theguardian.com/fao-partner-zone/2015/feb/09/infographic-soil-where-food-begins>

Why warmer storms could lead to more flooding than expected

AUTHORS



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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Ashish Sharma receives funding from the Australian Research Council, the Department of Industry and Science, Engineers Australia, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and Sydney Catchment Authority.

Conrad Wasko does not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has no relevant affiliations.



Increasingly erratic rainfall patterns could worsen flood risk. AAP Image/David Mox

As the climate changes, we can expect more frequent and more extreme weather events, which will put pressure on our current infrastructure. It has been **suggested** that increasing temperatures will intensify rainfall, indicating that we are likely to endure bigger storms and more dangerous flooding in a future warmer climate.

<http://theconversation.com/why-warmer-storms-could-lead-to-more-flooding-than-expected-42825>



Symphony of the Soil

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BECOMING SOIL CONSCIOUS

This fall I will be completing my new feature length documentary, *Symphony of the Soil*. Along with this exploration of soil, I am creating several short films: *Sonatas of the Soil*, each of which goes deeply into one soil-related topic like dry farming grapes, as is depicted in *Portrait of a Winemaker*; John Williams of *Frogs' Leap*. Yes, I have become a soil freak or soil geek or soil lover or all three. How did this happen?

Several years ago I made the film *The Future of Food* that helped kick start the food movement. I spent years travelling around the country and the world showing the film and speaking about food and agriculture. That film was very well received and had a positive impact on a lot of people's lives, so I decided to make another film in the same realm, a film about soil. Knowing little about soil before I committed to the project, I soon realized how incredibly complex soil is. How could I make a film that does justice to this fascinating substance, which is in fact a living organism? After all, if you just look at soil, there seems to be no action, no action at all. But if you are in the know, you marvel at what has gone into creating that soil, what is going on in it, the billions of organisms and

What's New | Join E-list

- Deborah Koons Garcia celebrates soil on Capitol Hill
- Deborah Koons Garcia at the US Congress
- Nature is Speaking – Edward Norton is the Soil
- Symphony of the Soil in the Green Room
- Symphony of the Soil at the Merwin Conservancy's Green Room

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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«May»						Jul»

<http://www.symphonyofthesoil.com/learn-more/blog/tag/commentary/>

From agribusiness to subsistence: high-tech tools now available to all

Devised for industrialised farms, precision agriculture now has the potential to increase the yields of smallholder farmers



GPS-equipped sensors on tractors enable to measure and respond to soil variability across vast tracts of land. Photograph: Mike Fiala/AP

Precision agriculture is closely associated with technology and its application to large-scale farms in developed countries. GPS-equipped sensors on tractors, for example, enable farmers to measure and respond to soil variability across vast tracts of land, and dispense the right amounts of fertiliser and water exactly where it's needed.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/jun/04/subsistence-farming-precision-agriculture>

Soil erosion threatens to leave Earth hungry

Arable land is turning to desert or to salt at an ever-faster rate, lessening the hope that we can feed our booming population.



Borderline ... farmers in northern China struggle to eke out a living on the fringes of the Gobi desert. Photograph: Frederic J Brown/AFP/Getty Images

Within 40 years, there will be around 2 billion more people – another China plus India – on Earth. Food production will have to increase at least 40%, and most of that will have to be grown on the fertile soils that cover just 11% of the global land surface.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2010/dec/14/soil-erosion-environment-review-vidal>

Here's what a real infrastructure plan looks like

OPINION

By [Everaldo Compton](#)

Posted 3 Jun 2015, 8:23am Wed 3 Jun 2015, 8:23am



Photo: We must give priority to developing a world class freight railway.

I have a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan that will not only revive Australia's pioneer heritage but also future-proof our nation - and barely a cent will be spent on new roads, writes Everal Compton.

To find Australia's last nation building venture we must go back two thirds of a century to the Snowy River.

We have to take our minds back the same number of years to discover a nation builder, Flynn of the Inland, the man on our twenty dollar notes, who founded the Flying Doctor Service, Pedal Radio, School of the Air and two dozen bush hospitals in very remote places.

[Everal Compton](#) is a research fellow at Per Capita, a progressive think tank. He is a veteran of ageing and infrastructure policy, and has advised every Australian

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-03/compton-heres-what-a-real-infrastructure-plan-looks-like/6516952>

The new yuppies: how to build a new generation of tech-savvy farmers

If the highest calibre of young people become farmers it will improve food security and help solve the unemployment crisis. Can tech make farming cool?



📷 Farmers in rural Kenya can use an app on their phones to check crop prices in Nairobi Photograph: Sven Torfinn/Panos

As farmers age around the globe - I estimate that the average age is 55 - we need to make sure that young people see the food system as a viable career option. These farmers are the future of food. They can help to mitigate and potentially reverse climate change, curb unemployment and provide more nutrient-dense crops to the world.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/jan/28/youth-farming-technology-new-generation>

Woodchips sound unsustainable, but they're not as bad as you think

AUTHOR



Cris Brack

Assoc Professor Forest measurement & management at Australian National University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Cris Brack regularly engages in consultancies for State and Commonwealth Government agencies on the methodologies and quality assurance of Regional Forest Agreements, forest inventory and management, Carbon Farming Initiatives and national carbon accounting. He is a member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and a Senior Fellow in the Higher Education Academy.



Don't tread on woodchips. Rick Kinpes/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

One of the byproducts of the haggling over the new, scaled-back **Renewable Energy Target** is a renewed focus on woodchips, with the federal government's **draft legislation** seeking to include wood from native forests as a certified source of renewable energy.



<http://theconversation.com/woodchips-sound-unsustainable-but-theyre-not-as-bad-as-you-think-42760>



Kill all the bees

▶ Listen now ▶ Download audio □ show transcript

Sunday 31 May 2015 7:45AM

Want to raise the tax base, grow the economy and fix the unemployment rate? Paul Sutton suggests killing every bee.

In a way, it makes economic sense: if honeybees were to go extinct we would need to find some other way to pollinate honeybee-dependent crops—perhaps armies of taxpayer-funded people wandering from plant to plant with small pollen-covered paintbrushes.



IMAGE: AUSTRALIA'S TAX BASE COULD BE RAISED IF WE KILLED LITERALLY EVERY BEE. (GETTY IMAGES)



Sundays 7:45am

Presented by Robyn Williams

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/a-modest-proposal-kill-all-the-bees/6501638>

Why U.S. East Coast Should Stay Off-Limits to Oil Drilling

It's not just the potential for a catastrophic spill that makes President Obama's proposal to open Atlantic Ocean waters to oil exploration such a bad idea. What's worse is the cumulative impact on coastal ecosystems that an active oil industry would bring.

BY CARL SAFINA

When it comes to the Obama administration's recent move to open portions of the Atlantic coast to oil exploration, I'm a bit out of synch with environmentalists who are worried about the big spill. They warn of another *Deepwater Horizon* or *Exxon Valdez*-type fiasco coming to the Southeast. But to me, it's just about the day-to-day business of chasing oil, the wrong-headedness of it all.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carl Safina, a marine biologist, is the founding president of The Safina Center (formerly known as the Blue Ocean Institute) and a research professor at Stony Brook

University. In previous articles for *Yale Environment 360*, he has written about the tons of trash covering the remote shores of Alaska and what is needed to save the bluefin tuna.

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/why_us_east_coast_should_stay_off-limits_to_oil_drilling/2849/

Humanity beware!

By [Murray Hunter](#) - posted Friday, 29 May 2015

Due to rapid population growth over the last 50 years many parts of Central Africa, South Asia, and SE Asia are reaching unsustainable population densities. The wealth and affluence gap between North and South is a magnet attracting anybody who is able to travel outside their impoverished regions to seek better lives in any accessible developed country.

Without any local sustainable economy and economic opportunity, moving from these desolate overpopulated, and/or war-torn areas is the only hope and dream available to impoverished people. Survival is one of the highest forms of motivation within the human psych.

Murray Hunter has been involved in Asia-Pacific business for the last 30 years as an entrepreneur, consultant, academic, and researcher. As an entrepreneur he was involved in numerous start-ups, developing a lot of patented technology, where one of his enterprises was listed in 1992 as the 5th fastest going company on the BRW/Price Waterhouse Fast100 list in Australia.

Murray is now an associate professor at the University Malaysia Perlis, spending a lot of time consulting to Asian governments on community development and village biotechnology, both at the strategic level and "*on the ground*".

He is also a visiting professor at a number of universities and regular speaker at conferences and workshops in the region.

Murray is the author of a number of books, numerous research and conceptual papers in referred journals, and commentator on the issues of entrepreneurship, development, and politics in a number of magazines and online news sites around the world. Murray takes a trans-disciplinary view of issues and events, trying to relate this to the enrichment and empowerment of people in the region.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=17383>

How modern crops can ensure food security in a heatwave

AUTHOR



Nigel Paul
Professor of Plant Science at
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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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The Conversation UK,
lancaster.ac.uk/

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India has been sweltering recently – but plants can cope better than people. Sanjiv Daid / EPA

India's heatwave again highlights just how seriously extreme weather conditions threaten our ability to put sufficient nutritious food on all our plates. Headlines have focused on the human deaths – **at least 2,500** at last count – but a heatwave can hit farming too. There are reports of **scorched crops** and livestock struggling to survive in temperatures of 40C or more. More than **17 million chickens have died** so far, leading to rapid price increases.

<http://theconversation.com/how-modern-crops-can-ensure-food-security-in-a-heatwave-42789>

Voters want renewable energy, not more hot air

Opinion

The Drum

By Peter Lewis and Jackie Woods

Posted 27 May 2015, 2:42pm Wed 27 May 2015, 2:42pm



Photo: As the other measures are stripped away, the RET takes on greater political and public significance. (timo29570: user submitted)

Political debate has created division and confusion when it comes to how best to address climate change, but support for renewable energy is an area most people can agree on, write Peter Lewis and Jackie Woods.

For a profession so anchored in bright lights and hot air, politicians should be all over climate change.

But while there is demand for urgent action to tackle global warming, policy responses are more confusing than ever.

Peter Lewis is a director of Essential Media Communications. Jackie Woods is a communications consultant at Essential Media Communications.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-27/lewis-woods-voters-want-renewable-energy-not-more-hot-air/6501160>



The Big Waste: Why Do We Throw Away So Much Food?

*Every year, a staggering 30 to 40 percent of what is grown and raised in the United States is thrown away. In the first of a two-part e360 video series, filmmaker Karim Chrobog looks at food waste in America — a problem with major human and environmental costs. The video focuses on Washington, D.C., which has taken steps to make sure food ends up with those who need it rather than in landfills. | **WATCH THE VIDEO***

<http://e360.yale.edu/feature/the-big-waste-why-do-we-throw-away-so-much-food/2874/>

Joan Kirner united farmers and conservationists to care for the land

AUTHOR



Andrew Campbell 

Director, Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Andrew Campbell does not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has no relevant affiliations.



Mixed farming country near Binalong, New South Wales. Andrew Campbell, Author provided



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cdu.edu.au

The **plaudits** for Joan Kirner, who died on Monday, highlighted her achievements as a teacher, education activist, feminist and politician. It is also worth noting her pivotal role in the development of **landcare in Australia**.

<http://theconversation.com/joan-kirner-united-farmers-and-conservationists-to-care-for-the-land-42746>

Feeding Africa: why biotechnology sceptics are wrong to dismiss GM

Calestous Juma argues that advocacy groups are clinging to ideology and ignoring the potential of genetically modified crops



GM crops cannot solve the challenges related to access to food, but their role cannot be dismissed for ideological reasons. Photograph: Alamy

Biotechnology sceptics have a right to question the role of biotechnology in global food security. But they are wrong to ignore the growing evidence of the potential contributions the biotechnology and new challenges such as climate change that require new technological responses.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/may/27/gm-crops-food-security-calestous-juma-africa>

Our oceans in peril

Reese Halter ABC Environment 27 May 2015



Our oceans sustain life for millions, yet are in dire need of care. *Credit: MiguelAngeloSilva (iStockphoto)*

The world's oceans are fundamental to human survival. They are also in peril. It is time to stop the plunder and preserve this vital resource.

THE HEALTH AND wellbeing of our oceans is vital to life as we know it on our planet. Irrespective of where you reside on the globe, three out of every four breaths of air come from the phytoplankton in our oceans. Frighteningly, Earth's oceans are desperately ill. The time is now for each of us to lend a helping hand. Let me tell you why



Conservation biologist Dr Reese Halter's latest book is Shepherding the Sea: The Race to Save our Oceans. The article courtesy of the May/June edition of Organic Gardener.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2015/05/27/4242777.htm>

Oasis at Risk: Oman's Ancient Water Channels Are Drying Up

Since pre-Islamic times, Oman's water systems known as aflaj have brought water from the mountains and made the desert bloom. But now, unregulated pumping of groundwater is depleting aquifers and causing the long-reliable channels to run dry.

BY FRED PEARCE

It was 47 degrees Celsius. Make that 117 degrees Fahrenheit. In mid-May, the desert of northern Oman may have been the hottest place on the planet. But in the shade of the oasis, the temperature was dramatically cooler. Ali Al Muharbi, in his white robes and beard, beamed as he showed me around the date palms. All were irrigated by water gurgling down a channel dug many centuries ago to tap underground water in the nearby Hajar mountains.



Ali Al Muharbi (right) says the flow in the water channels he uses to irrigate his date palms in the Omani desert has been decreasing. (Photo credit: Fred Pearce)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fred Pearce is a freelance author and journalist based in the U.K. He serves as environmental consultant for *New Scientist* magazine and is the author of numerous books, including *The Land Grabbers*. Previously for *Yale Environment 360*, he has written about the challenges of establishing a global carbon budget and conservation efforts for Kenya's mountain forests.

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/oasis_at_risk_omans_ancient_water_channels_are_drying_up/2880/



Autumn in the Adelaide Hills

Captured at the Bird in Hand winery on 12 May 2015

Photograph: [FloGabriel/GuardianWitness](#)

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/guardianwitness-blog/gallery/2015/jun/02/weather-view-your-may-pictures>



Copyright: Frederic Courbet / Panos

Speed read



- In many places, soils are being lost faster than they are being naturally made
- Rises in rock phosphate prices may cut the availability of inorganic fertiliser
- More efficient food distribution and nutrient recycling are needed to end hunger

<http://www.scidev.net/global/farming/news/soil-erosion-threatens-global-food-security.html>

Why the biggest threat to Leadbeater's possum remains

David Lindenmayer ABC Environment 26 May 2015



While logging persists, this possum remains under threat. *Credit: David Lindenmayer (supplied)*

The biggest threat to Leadbeater's possum is the continuing logging of its mountain home. Unless this stops, any other attempt to save the species will be futile.

THE CREATURE PICTURED right is Leadbeater's possum. This critically endangered animal lives hollows in the tall mountain ash forests to the north-east of Melbourne and is Victoria's faunal emblem.

David Lindenmayer is a professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University. He is the world's foremost expert on Leadbeater's possum and Victoria's mountain ash forests.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2015/05/26/4241991.htm>

Water, water, everywhere: did the CLP throw a life ring to one of its own?



BOB GOSFORD | JUN 11, 2015 1:00PM | EMAIL | PRINT

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Questions are being asked about the approval process of a water licence granted to the owner of a Northern Territory property, who also happens to be a Country Liberal Party candidate.

Water is a precious resource in the Northern Territory, and the Country Liberal government's decision to allocate a water licence to an otherwise unviable farm that just happens to be owned by a CLP candidate for office has raised some eyebrows. With the now-irrigated property rumoured to have recently sold to a commercial operation, questions about power, influence and who

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<http://www.crikey.com.au/2015/06/11/water-water-everywhere-did-the-clp-throw-a-life-ring-to-one-of-its-own/>

Shell's Arctic drilling is the real threat to the world, not kayaktivists

Oil firm has created a 'safety zone' to keep protesters out of its drilling sites but its unblinking, destructive quest for profit must be addressed by Obama and others



📷 Activists protest against the Shell drilling rig Polar Pioneer in Seattle, Washington, on 16 May 2015. Photograph: Jason Redmond/Reuters

Shell has one or two rivals for the title of Planet's Most Irresponsible Company, but it's definitely the most ironic.

The grand irony, of course, is that, having watched the Arctic melt as global temperatures rose, Shell was first in line to drill the newly melted waters for yet more oil which would raise the temperature some more.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/09/shell-oil-greed-undeterred-by-science-climate-change-bill-mckibben-naomi-klein-annie-leonard>

Australia in the spotlight at climate talks, for all the wrong reasons

AUTHOR



Don Henry

Public Policy Fellow, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute at University of Melbourne

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Don Henry has previously been the CEO of the Australian Conservation Foundation.



Provides funding as a Founding Partner of The Conversation AU.
unimelb.edu.au



Australia has faced tough questions over whether it is doing its part to cut greenhouse emissions. CSIRO/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

Australia yesterday received a **grilling** at the United Nations' midyear climate negotiations in Bonn. **Detailed questions** were asked about its emissions reductions ambitions, its fair share of global effort, and whether the government's domestic policies can deliver.

<http://theconversation.com/australia-in-the-spotlight-at-climate-talks-for-all-the-wrong-reasons-42882>

Counterpoint

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Dust to Dust

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Monday 25 May 2015 4:40PM

Did you know that it can take up to 50 years for a body to decompose once it's buried and that's a problem because cemeteries around the world are simply running out of space. In some countries that means renting a space for a few years until the body is decomposed and in others they reuse the same grave every few years. Israel has announced that they will be building multi-storey underground burial tunnels for their dead.

In more populous countries cremation is



IMAGE: BAWERLY CEMETERY IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS OF SYDNEY. IT CONTAINS THE GRAVES OF MANY FAMOUS AUSTRALIANS INCLUDING HENRY LAWSON AND DOROTHY MACKELLAR. MOST FUTURE FAMOUS AUSTRALIANS PREFER TO BE BURIED WENDY HARMAN/ABC/R



Monday 4pm

Presented by Amanda Vanstone

IN THIS PROGRAM

25th May Monday 25 May 2015

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China update

4:00 PM

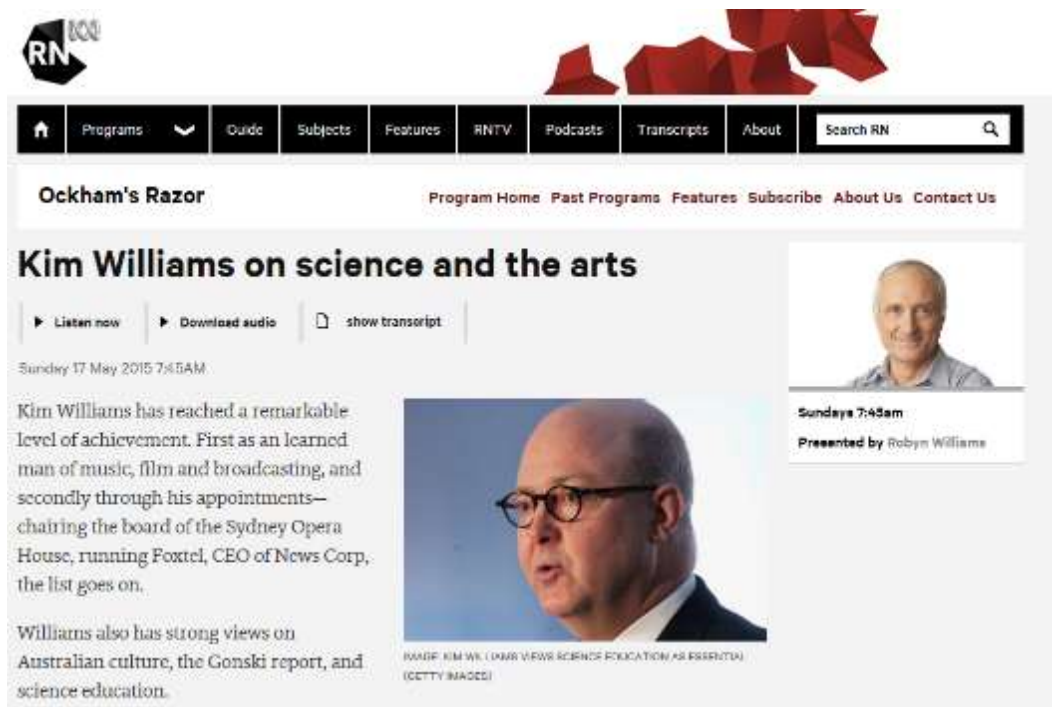
Australia's job future

4:20 PM

Dust to Dust

4:40 PM

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/counterpoint/dust-to-dust/6484518>



The screenshot shows the ABC Radio National website interface. At the top left is the RN logo. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Programs, Guide, Subjects, Features, RNTV, Podcasts, Transcripts, and About, along with a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Ockham's Razor' and includes links for Program Home, Past Programs, Features, Subscribe, About Us, and Contact Us. The featured article is 'Kim Williams on science and the arts', dated Sunday 17 May 2015 7:45AM. It includes buttons for 'Listen now', 'Download audio', and 'show transcript'. The text describes Kim Williams' achievements in music, film, and broadcasting, and his roles at the Sydney Opera House, Foxtel, and News Corp. A large image of Kim Williams is shown, with a smaller inset image of Robyn Williams. A caption below the main image reads: 'IMAGE: KIM WILLIAMS VIEWS REFINED EDUCATION AS ESSENTIAL (CCTV IMAGES)'. A sidebar on the right indicates the program is broadcast on 'Sundays 7:45am' and is 'Presented by Robyn Williams'.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/kim-williams-arts-and-science-funding/6466314>

Climate Consensus: Signs of New Hope on Road to Paris

After years of frustration and failure, a more flexible approach to reaching an international strategy on climate action is emerging – and it could finally lead to a meaningful agreement at climate talks in Paris later this year.

BY DAVID VICTOR

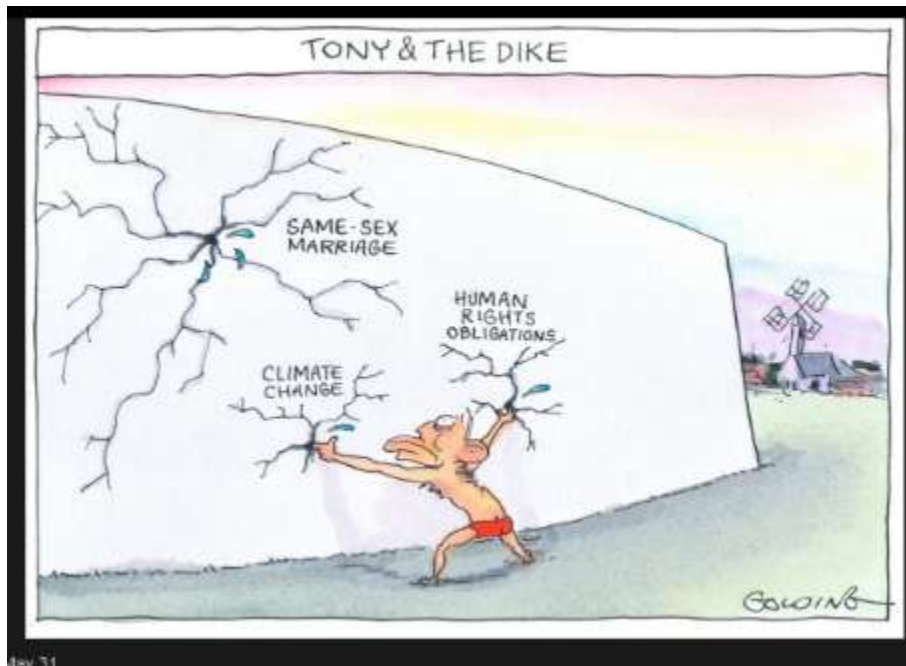
Once again, the world is on a sprint toward a new agreement on global climate change. The last time this happened — in 2009 — the sprint ended in acrimony in Copenhagen. This time, the signs are more auspicious. As someone who has been writing for nearly 25 years about the difficulties of making serious progress on climate change, I am more optimistic today than I have been in a very long time. When governments gather in Paris late this year, I believe they are likely to adopt a watershed strategy for slowing climate change.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Victor is a professor at the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California, San Diego, and a leading contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Victor is the author of *Global Warming Gridlock*, which examines why the world hasn't made much diplomatic progress on the problem of climate change and explores new strategies that he believes would be more effective.

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/climate_consensus_signs_ofnew_hope_on_road_to_paris/2843/



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/matt-golding-20090907-fdh2.html?selectedImage=1>



Nicaragua Canal: A Giant Project With Huge Environmental Costs

BY CHRIS KRAUL

Work has already begun on a \$50 billion inter-ocean canal in Nicaragua that would cut through nature reserves and bring massive dredging and major ship traffic to Central America's largest lake. Scientists and conservationists are warning that the project is an environmental disaster in the making.

Comments | [READ MORE](#)



Lake Nicaragua, looking toward the Concepción volcano on Ometepe Island. The proposed \$50 billion Nicaragua Grand Canal would traverse the lake and require massive dredging, with potentially severe environmental consequences. Construction of the inter-ocean canal could introduce invasive marine species into the lake, Central America's largest. (Photo credit: canterbury/Flickr)



The canal route would cut through Nicaragua from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea. (Map credit: *Yale Environment 360*)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chris Kraul is a Bogotá-based freelance writer who covered Central America and South America for nine years for *The Los Angeles Times*.

Previously for *Yale Environment 360*, he has covered controversies over mining operations in South American páramos and over using primates in medical research. His work on this article was supported by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/nicaragua_canal_a_giant_project_with_huge_environmental_costs/2871/

A MATTER OF OPINION

Media stunts hang us out to dr

Posted By: Gregor Heard on 23/04/2015 4:00:00 AM | Comments (0)

🖨️ A+ A-

🗨️ Comments

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SINCE when did it become so popular to bash the Australian farmer?

In recent weeks, we've had PETA's disgraceful stunt claiming the shearing of sheep is cruel, there's been calls to eliminate drought support, along with the continual moaning about the advent of so-called 'industrial farming'.

<http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/a-matter-of-opinion/media-stunts-hang-us-out-to-dry/2729919.aspx>

Washing away soil erosion worries

By Wu Yilong | May 16, 2015, Saturday |  PRINT EDITION

THIRTY-EIGHT years ago, torrential rains swept masses of soil and sand from the bare hills above Lan Linjin's new house, destroying the building and throwing his family into destitution.

It was a common tragedy in Changting, a county in southeast China's Fujian Province known for its severe problems with soil erosion. Nevertheless, it prompted the then 15-year-old Lan, whose heartbroken father died soon after, vowed afterward to fill the barren hills with trees and stop the terror of flooding.

Lan is now pushing toward meeting that pledge. Even after he lost both hands and his left eye in a quarry explosion, Lan has managed to plant over 100,000 tea-oil trees on the once-barren Hongqiling hill since 2010.

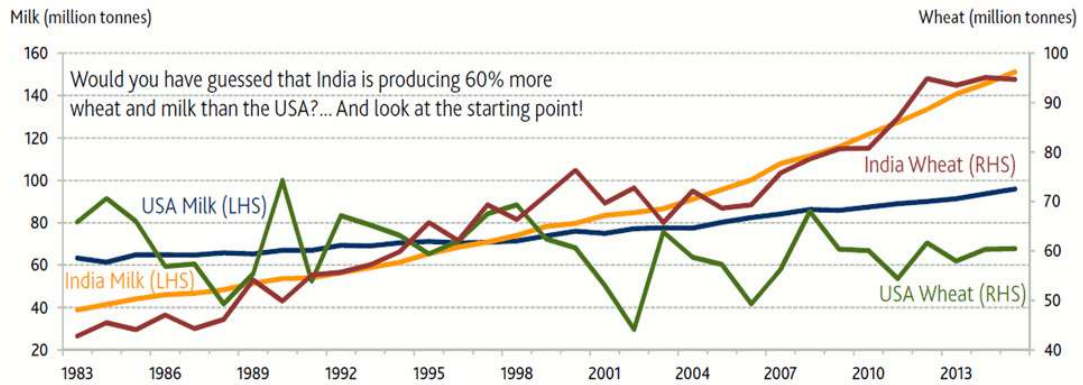
<http://www.shanghaidaily.com/feature/news-feature/Washing-away-soil-erosion-worries/shdaily.shtml>

The most amazing graph of 2015

By [Chris Golis](#) - posted Thursday, 4 June 2015

Just occasionally you see an image that completely blows your mind. This graph appeared in the Platinum Trusts Quarterly report for March 2015. The source is reliable and the overlaid comment by the Platinum management team is well worth noting.

Milk and Wheat Production – USA versus India



Source: OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2014-2023

Chris Golis is Australia's expert on practical emotional intelligence. He is an author, professional speaker and workshop leader. His site is www.thehumhandbook.com.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=17399>

Amber Rudd, don't destroy the wind power industry

The onshore wind industry has achieved remarkable success, don't wreck it on behest of backbenchers who hate the appearance of wind turbines



📷 The onshore wind industry employs 19,000 people and generates 5% of UK's electricity needs. Photograph: Adrian Dennis/AFP/Getty Images

A government comes unexpectedly to power. Now it must implement brave manifesto commitments or risk backbench revolt. Those backbenchers are important to its 12-seat majority. The government is riding a tiger. And the tiger may get too hungry for an individual minister to dismount.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/01/amber-rudd-dont-destroy-the-wind-power-industry>



The Devil's gold by Luca Catalano Gonzaga, Indonesia. Alpan, 27, a sulphur miner for 10 years, looks for sulphur slabs under the toxic fumes. Inside the womb of the Ijen Kawah volcano, in eastern Java, Indonesia, the miners go deep in search of the Devil's gold, as sulphur has always been known. Photograph: Luca Catalano Gonzaga/Courtesy of Atkins CIWEM Environmental Photographer of the Year

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2015/jun/03/atkins-ciwem-environmental-photographer-of-the-year-2015-in-pictures>



“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.”

— [Mahatma Gandhi](#)