



# Science Teachers for Climate Awareness

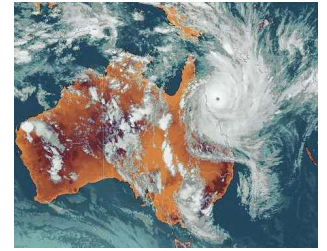
## A Workshop for Science Teachers Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011



All the indicators suggest that climate change is happening even faster than scientists had projected. While the need for action becomes more urgent, our politicians, and the public, just seem bogged down and confused. And yet the science is clear:

*"I'm frustrated, as are many of my colleagues, that 30 years after the US National Academy of Sciences issued a strong warning on CO<sub>2</sub> warming, the full urgency of this problem hasn't dawned on politicians and the general public."*

Stefan Rahmstorf, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany



### THE SCIENTISTS NEED OUR HELP!

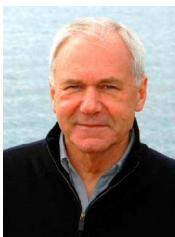
As science teachers we are the one group in the community who can help to bring this critical message from the scientists to the general public – and hopefully, through them, to the politicians. We can not leave it either to the scientists alone or to the 'activists'.

*"The climate-research community would do well to use a diverse set of voices when **nature** communicating with policy-makers and the public."*

*Climate of suspicion* Editorial, Nature , January 2010

### What better 'diverse set of voices' than science teachers?

The Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) (Vic) Education Committee and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) (Vic) Chemical Education Group invite you to participate in a Climate Change Workshop the aim of which is to help and encourage science teachers to speak to the community about the need for urgent action on curbing greenhouse gas emissions. This workshop will help you to understand both the science of climate change and the science behind mitigation strategies. There is GOOD NEWS here. We COULD reduce emissions to almost zero within a couple of decades – given the political will. Many people are frustrated by the constant stream of bad news about the climate. By focussing on the GOOD NEWS perhaps we can help to encourage people to demand real action.



The workshop will open with a talk by prominent climate scientist Dr Graeme Pearman who was Chief of the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research from 1992 to 2002. He contributed over 150 scientific journal papers, primarily on aspects of the global carbon budget. He is now a private consultant contracting to both private and public sector organisations and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with the School of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University. Many of you will know Graeme as one of the most outspoken scientists on climate change. With considerable controversy surrounding the suggestion of the introduction of a 'carbon tax', Graeme will also talk to us about the effectiveness of such a tax and/or 'trading schemes' and why these will not be enough. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion, questions and answers around these topics.

After morning tea we will look at and discuss presentations on climate science and mitigation strategies. Discussion will continue after a lunch break – very tasty food supplied!

### Workshop Details

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at VSSEC -- Victorian Space Science Education Centre, Strathmore HS (near the intersection of Bell Street and the Tullamarine Freeway)

Cost: FREE (Including lunch). A travel subsidy may be available for country participants.

• If you would like to be part of this initiative, please contact the AIP at [scitca@optusnet.com.au](mailto:scitca@optusnet.com.au) giving your full contact details, and also a short statement about why you would like to be involved.