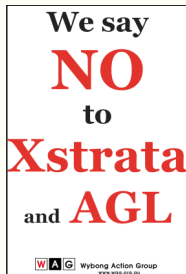


'WAGE' ASSISTS WITH WEBSITE & POSTERS

Wybong Action Group has been fortunate to receive the assistance of Karyne and Sean Gough and Peter Firminger of Wollombi Valley Against Gas Extraction Inc (WAGE) with the setup and hosting of our soon to be unveiled website (www.wag.org.au) and design of our poster and logo. Caroon Coal Action Group are also assisting our fight to preserve our Wybong. Many thanks to our brother and sister Australians who believe that by working together and remaining united we can achieve real gains for the Environment in which we live and want to continue living.

POSTER AND STICKER FOR DISPLAY

The poster and sticker below are expected to be available in the very near future. We hope as many people as possible will display the poster to indicate to Xstrata, AGL, politicians and the public that we are united in opposition to their city based plans to turn our rural homes in Wybong into toxic chemical factories and coal mines, washeries, tailings pits and dumps.



The Wybong Ecological Database

The website contains a database where anyone can record sightings of any of the native animals, plants and aboriginal heritage that they see or have seen in the Wybong area. The database is needed because we as Australians have in the past taken the existence of native species and aboriginal heritage in our daily lives for granted—that having always been there, they will always be there. Unfortunately this is not the case and the lack of records has put the continuing existence and habitats of our native animals, plants and aboriginal heritage at high risk of extinction by human actions such as broadacre clearing for mines. **PLEASE** add your knowledge of the Wybong species to the database so that all of the species can be recorded in the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Atlas. Only you really know the diversity of native animals, plants and aboriginal heritage that exists on your property.

Local Representatives

Congratulations Keith Campbell

Muswellbrook Shire Council and Xstrata Mangoola P/L have selected Mr Keith Campbell as a Community Representative for the Xstrata Mangoola Coal Community Consultative Committee.

Councillor Continues in Office 2009 despite fire bomb attack

Cr Christine Phelps continues in Council in 2009 as a councillor elected in 2008 and more importantly resides in the Wybong area and is determined to bring local Wybong and environmental issues to the forefront of Councils thinking and operation.

Additionally, 2008 Council candidate, writer and President of Wybong Action Group, John Shewan, has been selected by Council to serve on the Muswellbrook Shire Council Environmental Committee. With such representation it is hoped that 2009 will be a year for the Environment in Muswellbrook Shire.

FREE DVD'S INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER



Rivers of Shame II

For those who did not see Rivers of Shame this is a sequel that discloses the damage being done to waterways in NSW by longwall mining and coal seam bed methane gas extraction. A very informative and detailed DVD.



A Current Affair Investigation

Not so long ago Sydney Gas moved into the Yarralong and Duralong Valleys of the NSW Central Coast with a plan to drill and establish large scale coal seam bed methane gas extraction. The ACA investigation reveals the way Sydney Gas works to deceive and divide communities and investors. A must see for anyone who wants to know what exactly

what coal seam bed methane extraction is, whats involved and the downsides. Note that the people of the Central Coast were successful in holding off the Sydney Gas threat.

WAGE

This is a DVD presentation of a public meeting held at Laguna NSW in 2008 featuring Coal Bed Gas Experts, Environmental Legal Opinion, Local Politicians and residents against coal seam bed methane gas extraction. Again a greater understanding of what coal seam bed methane gas extraction is and how a community is fighting

against it. PLEASE PASS THE DVD'S AROUND.



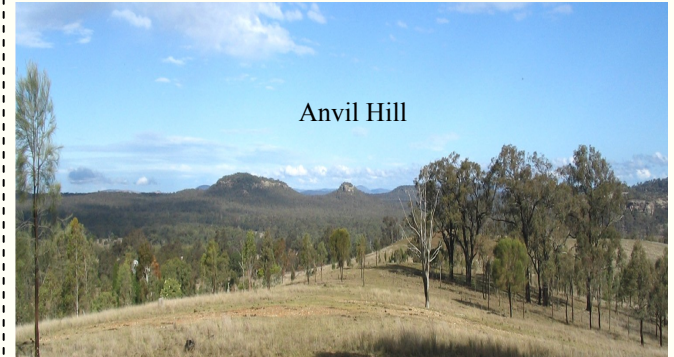
Wybong Action Group

Incorporated

Newsletter 4, Dec 2008– Jan 2009

INSIDE: (from the Presidents Desk)

- NEW** Dealing with Xstrata (Ridglands Coal) & AGL/Sydney Gas Access & Exploration.
- NEW** Wybong Action Group Website— www.wag.org.au
- Local Representatives elected to Council Committee's
- DVD's included with newsletter—pass them around your 'hood
- Display Poster available !
- The Wybong Ecological Database
- Xstrata, Glencore and Marc Rich
- Action Wybong Membership Form



Anvil Hill

ACTION WE CAN ALL TAKE

To stop the destruction of the old growth woodlands and the environments we live in we can object the issue of the Mining Exploration Lease Tender to:

The Hon. Ian Macdonald MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 33, 1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt, MP
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 30, 1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

The Hon. George SOURIS MP
Member for Upper Hunter
98 Bridge Street,
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

XSTRATA - IN THE NEWS & DOWN THE DRAIN ?

SMH, 11 December 2008 - Within 3 weeks of completing a \$110 million open cut pit development and river diversion at its McArthur River Zinc Mine in the NT XSTRATA has laid off 206 workers and cut production due to falling demand and zinc prices. The value of shares in Xstrata have fallen 82%. **Xstratas market value of near \$USD 60 billion has fallen near 90% in the past 2 years to \$USD 8 billion and is eclipsed by its net debt of near \$USD 16.5 billion.**

The Australian, 16 December 2008—XSTRATA suspends longwall mining at the Oaky No 1 underground coking coal mine in Queensland because of a slump in demand. **The Anglo-Swiss miner lays off 190 contractors and 40 permanent positions.** The suspension is in response to "reduced market demand and sales for hard coking coal, resulting from the continuing global economic crisis and downturn in the steel and manufacturing industries," Xstrata said. Demand for Coking Coal has fallen sharply in recent weeks as Asian steelmakers revise production schedules downwards sharply with **billions of tonnes of unsold steel stock and stocks of raw materials growing.** Several large Asian steelmakers have also reduced output capacity and their employees have been forced to take leave. **Demand for thermal coal (similar to the Mangoola product) has also begun to fall as electricity consumption falls some 14% in China.** James Rickards (Xstrata Coal Aust.) said although XTA has started Early Works at Mangoola **"it had yet to commit most of the spending on the project. XTA has not made public a planned operational date for the Project, planning to open the mine ONLY when the market was willing"**.

Miners hit by poor coal price forecast

By Neil Hume Financial Times UK
December 20 2008 02:00

Anglo American , BHP Billiton , Rio Tinto and Xstrata all came under pressure yesterday after UBS slashed its coal price forecasts. Coal is a very important cash generator for the UK's big four mining companies, especially Xstrata and Anglo American.

Because of a combination of falling demand from the steel industry and lower power consumption in China, UBS expects the price of thermal and coking coal to plunge next year. It is now targeting a price of just \$USD 60 a tonne for thermal coal and \$USD 85 for coking coal, which is close to the marginal cost of production. UBS said the ramifications for Rio, Xstrata and Anglo were significant because of their high debt levels and repayment schedules **over the next three years.** **In fact, UBS reports that Xstrata could breach its banking covenants and will be forced to axe its dividend.** With that warning ringing in their ears, investors dumped Xstrata.

Xstrata Shares Shed near 90% of value

5 December 2008, MineWeb. Xstrata's stock price has declined nearly 90% from its peak, marking a decline in market value from USD 60bn to the prevailing USD 7.7bn.

Xstrata Credit Downgrade

Xstrata has been downgraded by Standard & Poors to 'BBB/A-2' as has its 35% major shareholder Glencore which is now rated at 'BBB-/A-3'.

Who is Glencore?

Glencore is a predatory Swiss based commodities trader with activities in almost every minerals and agricultural market in existence. Glencore owns 35% of Xstrata. Glencore and its founder, the exiled American corporate criminal Marc Rich were instrumental in creating Xstrata which set about a debt based expansion strategy, buying surplus and second rate mining operations supported by the market manipulations conducted by Glencore. In the current global credit meltdown Glencore and Xstrata continue offering and then leveraging debt to annex and asset strip junior mining companies—a high risk strategy dependent on full recovery of minerals and agricultural prices before Xstrata and Glencore debts become due. Lets hope the gamble fails.

Marc Rich (Reich)

Who is Marc Rich? Answer. An expatriot German Jew whose family escaped the Holocaust to the United States in the 1930's. Marc Rich became a powerful stock, equities and minerals broker during the Cold War and a CIA operative. During the Iran Hostages Affair he bought and sold oil from Iran via secret and illegal deals while illegally structuring American oil sales to avoid \$USD millions tax. After being charged with criminal offences of tax evasion he fled the US, minus daughter and wife, by remaining in Switzerland. He was pardoned for his criminal tax evasion by President Clinton on the recommendation of a White House official. Most recently President elect Obama has been called on to explain his elevation of this official.

MEMBERSHIPS OR DONATIONS

[Like to become a Wybong Action Group member?](#)

Ordinary Membership is \$2 per person single or \$5 per family, pa. Affiliate (Business) Membership is \$20pa. Donations accepted with thanks. A receipt is provided for all contributions and membership fees.

[To Join the Wybong Action Group or make a donation:](#)

Send the section below with the correct membership amount to "Wybong Action Group, 740 Ridglands Road, Manobalai NSW, 2333". Write "Donation" for any donation amounts.

Name	Address	Amount	Phone	email

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