



24 OCTOBER 2009

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION

Media Release

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Sydney Opera House event kicks off World's Biggest Climate Change Event, 5,000 activities (and counting) world-wide

SYDNEY -- On 24 October, a 350.org event on the steps of the Sydney Opera House will kick off thousands of similar events in iconic locations in over 181 countries worldwide drawing attention to the number 350 – the number scientists say we must get back to for a safe climate future.

At 2PM on the Opera House forecourt steps, thousands of Sydneysiders took part in Australia's 350.org flagship event with music by Felix Riebl of the Cat Empire, The Beautiful Girls and the choir Café of the Gate of Salvation.

At 3.15PM, attendees took part in spelling out a giant "350" on the Opera House steps – one of the first of some 4,500 "350" images to be staged internationally. (At 3.50pm, Sydney's Northern Beaches will follow, with humans spelling out 350 at Dee Why, Manly and Mona Vale Beaches).

Expert speakers at The Sydney Opera House include the ABC's Robyn Williams and climate scientist Prof. Ann Henderson-Sellers.

Sydney and NSW are hosting more than 33 events for 350.org day and more than 230 events took place nationally on SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER.

Thousands of similar events in iconic locations in countries worldwide drawing attention to the number 350 - the number scientists say we must get back to for a safe climate future. In true Australian style, events here range from the dignified to the iconic, including:

- A tall ship emblazoned with 350 on the masts cruised Sydney Harbour
- Mass bike rides happened in Melbourne and Adelaide, to show how transport can be clean and green
- 350 Frisbees were tossed simultaneously in Brisbane

350.org Australia

International: [350.org](http://www.350.org), Australia: <http://www.350.org.au>

- A samba band snaked through Sydney to draw attention to protecting forests for the climate
- Kites and kite surfers took to the air to raise awareness in on the WLD Sunshine coast
- Church bells rang out in Sydney and Brisbane to show solidarity with the cause
- People made a human tide-line in Darwin, with their messages on fishes of what kind of climate future they want
- Wearing desert colours, people gathered in Alice Springs make the call for 350 from the red heart of Australia.
- Melbournites sent their messages to a cardboard cut-out Kevin Rudd in Federation Square and in 350 Kayaks on the Yarra River
- In Perth people gathered at State Parliament to ask for 350 to be our target
- In cities all round Australia families gathered at talks, picnics, community days and cupcake bakes to spread the word in their local area.

The rest of the world is waking up while Australians are getting into post-event celebrations, from the Eifel Tower to Times Square, Antarctica and the Himalayas, Great Wall of China to the Taj Mahal.

Everyone wants the same thing: strong climate action at the next crucial United Nations meeting in December in Copenhagen.

The majority of expert scientists are now calling for a reduction emissions from our current 385 parts per million (ppm) to 350 ppm, 350.org is calling for our political leaders to agree on a target of 350 ppm of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

In the days before Oct 24 the number of registered events just kept growing by the hour, sitting at more than 5,000 actions in 181 countries at 5PM Friday (Australian EST), less than 10 short of every country in the world.

“We are simply astonished at the viral growth of this movement in Australia and the world in the last two weeks,” said 350.org CEO Blair Palese. “Everyone from mothers groups and students, labour organisations, the head of the Greens party, to Frisbee champions and deep sea divers want to add their voices to the call for a move to 350 ppm as we head toward Copenhagen.”

350.org is an international climate change campaign calling for a strong global climate change treaty. According to leading scientists, 350 ppm is the safe upper limit for greenhouse gases in our atmosphere in order to avoid runaway climate change.

350 photos from Australia and around the world are available for media from:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/350org/collections/72157622578664388/>

For more information, see: www.350.org/media, www.350.org/australia and www.350.org.

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