



# Media Release

Wednesday 10 August 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Responding to Climate Change through the Visual Arts

Art, sculpture, film and other visual arts can be very effective in expressing thoughts and feelings about climate change in ways that yet more words cannot. Given the confusion and scepticism in the community about climate change a new way to examine the issues is very timely.

Gecko's next Guest Speaker on Wednesday August 24<sup>th</sup> is Ros Taplin, local artist and Professor of Environmental Management at Bond University, to present responses to climate change from artists exhibiting at recent Australian and international art exhibitions.

The introduction to the world of the concept of greenhouse gas induced climate change occurred in 1985 when scientists from twenty nine countries attended a joint conference of the United Nations Environment Program / World Meteorological Organisation and International Climate Science Union. Driven by aesthetic and activist goals, visual artists and curators have responded strongly to the issue.

Over the last decade, visual art responses have raised questions of ethical and human caused responsibility in climate change, as well as exploring oil, energy and science themes. One compelling aspect is contemporary artists' interpretation of the language of political responses to climate change, in particular the massive amount of words generated in emails, agendas, speeches and scientific reports. Professor Taplin will discuss examples of climate change art that incorporate this avalanche of words in the generated text.

Professor Taplins' research interests include impacts of climate change and adaptation strategies, and international and Australian policy regarding the issue. She has over 20 years experience as a researcher and consultant in the fields of international and domestic environmental management and climate change policy.

Join us on Wednesday the 24th of August, upstairs at Gecko House, 139 Duringan St, Currumbin for drinks and snacks from 6:30pm, then Professor Taplins' presentation from 7 to 8pm. BYO questions!

*Gecko presents a free guest speaker night on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. For catering purposes and to prevent waste, RSVP by 3pm on the day before the event to [speakers@gecko.org.au](mailto:speakers@gecko.org.au) or call 5534 1412. For more information, visit <http://gecko.org.au/guest-speaker>*

*A gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. Alternatively, Gecko encourages the contribution of vegetarian/organic/environmentally-thoughtful food options at all of its events.*

### ENDS

Information for media:

Guest Speaker	Prof. Ros Taplin	07 5595 2179
Gecko Secretary	Lois Levy	0412 724 222