



# Castlecrag Conservation Society Inc

PO Box 42 Castlecrag 2068, <http://castlecragconservationsociety.org/>

Newsletter No 104 *CONSERVATION UP-Date*

Next Meeting **Tuesday 29 November 2016**

**8pm**

Glenaeon School Hall, Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag  
(between Charles and Edith Streets and opposite The Parapet)

## **Xtreme Waste**

### **Documentary film by Aaron Mooar about an inspiring Kiwi community**

Raglan's community recycling organisation. The film tells the story of how a few years ago a group of people decided to start collecting the town's recycling on a volunteer basis and from those extremely humble beginnings founded an enterprising organisation that has brought environmental, economic and social benefits to its community.

Everyone welcome. Supper will follow.



Join the Castlecrag Conservation. Help protect our Native Flora  
and Fauna

**We Wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy  
New Year**

**INSIDE:** Quotes & Sayings – p 2 ; Refugee talk \*Rally— p 3; Biodiversity laws passed — p 4: The Haven  
Amphitheatre— p 6: Various environmental news — pp 4-8

# Quotes & Saying

## A Deadhead!

Senator Roberts denies Climate Change on Senate floor and gets a science lesson from his colleague.

### Leave them in the ground

Obama Embraces Price On Carbon, Leaving Fossil Fuels In The Ground.

### Trump's quotes

Trump's new head of EPA transition said global warming is 'nothing to worry about'. Myron Ebell has long decried global warming "alarmism."

It's no secret climate change doesn't weigh heavily on the mind of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. He has called global warming "a total, and very expensive, hoax" and said flat-out, "I'm not a believer in man-made global warming."

### Climate Change distorted

That Exxon and the Koch brothers distorted the public's understanding of Climate Change;

All the above quotes from e-mail Think Progress

### 2nd biggest arms dealer

The UK is now the second-biggest arms dealer in the world, government figures show – with most of the weapons fuelling deadly conflicts in the Middle East. US signs record \$38 billion in military aid to Israel

*The Independent*

### Light Pollution

Light pollution is one of the most pervasive forms of environmental alteration in most developed countries, the ubiquitous presence of artificial light creates a luminous fog that swamps the strand constellations of the night sky. Generations of people in the USA have never seen the Milky Way. Unnatural light can confuse or expose wildlife like insects, birds and sea turtles, with often fatal consequences.

*Australasian Science* October 2016

### The First Australians Were Among the World's First Artists

Researchers have dated what may be the longest, most impressive rock art sequence found anywhere in the world, in the north-west Kimberley region of Western Australia, and believe it could potentially challenge Western Europe as the site of the world's earliest rock art.

*Australasian Science* October 2016

### Climate Change

Climate change and more frequent and severe natural disasters have affected national development as well as the livelihoods of the people around the world, Dr Phouangparisak noted.

*LaoFAB* 8 October 2016

### Amazing news!

After major community opposition, led by the powerful Great Australian Bight Alliance, BP has dropped its dangerous plan to drill for oil in the Bight!

*AYCC* 11 October 2016

### Weak Malcolm Turnbull suffers humanity bypass with lifetime asylum seeker ban

*Letter,SMH* 1st Nov.2016

## Two more Deadheads!

Overheard two women talking in Castlecrag. One saying "Isn't it terrible the way Trump is being treated" The other agreed, saying "Bloody climate change!"

## Another Deadhead

One Nation's Brian Burston slams ABC, blames immigration for rising crime.

Francis Keany 12 Oct 2016

New South Wales senator Brian Burston has criticised multiculturalism and Muslim immigration in his maiden speech to Federal Parliament.

Senator Burston has told Parliament the public broadcaster is unfairly biased against conservatives and has been the victim of a "cultural Marxist takeover".

ABC News

## Public Parkland v Private Casino

"Our September appeal features our case for Millers Point Fund Inc, which is challenging last minute amendments that will see promised prime public harbour foreshore land at Barangaroo become a private 71 storey casino.

The concept plan for the development of Barangaroo was approved nearly a decade ago. It set aside important harbour foreshore land for a public park. But in June this year the NSW Planning Assessment Commission approved a change that will see the public park swallowed up by James Packer's Crown Casino. Our client says the Commission was wrong to remove public parkland for private profit."

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)13 Oct. 2016

## Who owns Alpha coal project ?

The Alpha coal project is a coalmine and railway project sited 40 kilometres north-west of the town of Alpha in Queensland's Galilee Basin. The \$6.9 billion project is jointly owned by Gina Rinehart's Hancock Coal and Indian conglomerate GVK.

*Abridged from GLW*

**Editorial Note.** Many of the environmental articles in CCS newsletters are sourced from Green Left Weekly (GLW). Because many environmental events are publicised in GLW and are not found in the mainstream media.

## CCS Executive & Committee 2016

President	Mark Crew
Vice President	Chris Hopwood
Secretary	Terese Hayward
Treasurer	Diana Jones
Committee	Richard Blacklock, Gay Spies, Harold Spies

## Planet devastation

Dropping nuclear bombs and burning billions of tonnes of fossil fuels will do that to a planet, as will clearing swaths of forests to make way for food production and supermarket car parks and the like.

*TheGuardian* 22 October 2016

## Refugee Talk and Film Evening



This event on 11 October was hosted by CCS president Mark Crew. He introduced *People Like Us* who presented the talks and films. The two outstanding speakers were Amir Javan, a refugee from Iran and Dr Tien Manh Nguyen, a refugee from Vietnam, who came here in 1980 in a small boat.

During the Q & A and discussion the following points were made:

- Immediate release and settlement for all those suffering at our hands.
- End mandatory detention
- Raise the refugee intake substantially
- Safe and just passage for asylum seekers to Australia, not punishment based on means of arrival
- Give permanent settlement visas and citizenship with full rights, including work and family reunion

It was a very successful night, raising awareness of refugees in Australia among CCS members and other community members.

Quadrangle shopping centre where they were addressed by Anton Pulvirenti, PJLU member, artist and political analyst; Dr Chesterfield Evans, local Federal Greens candidate, and Mark Crew, who drew the connection between abuse of the environment and the abuse of human rights of people seeking refuge.

Along the march many car drivers cheered them on. Many shoppers also appreciated what was being done. The whole event was quiet and peaceful.



## Refugee Rally



This rally was also very successful. Starting at 10.30am on 15 October. Organised by *People Like Us*. About 50 people including CCS members assembled at the the Edinburgh Rd /Pinnacle bus stop with placards and banners. They also carried portraits of some of the people who have died in our detention system. They marched silently along Edinburgh Road to the

## Australia's mandatory detention of young people

Amy Maguire,  
Australia's mandatory detention of young people offshore, as part of its asylum-seeker policies, has been frequently cited as evidence of a failure to ensure children's rights. However, two new reports, from the ABC's Four Corners and human rights group Amnesty International, argue that it is more than a failure. Instead, Australia stands accused of deliberately inflicting grave physical and mental harm on children.

SMH abridged !8 October. 2016

## Crime against humanity

"I want to be there when this bunch of politicians go on trial for crimes against humanity."

Wendy Bishop Lane Cove Letter SMH Nov 2

# Climate change: Global deal reached to limit powerful greenhouse gases

Nearly 200 nations have reached a deal to limit the use of greenhouse gases far more powerful than carbon dioxide in a major effort to fight climate change.

Key points:

- Deal caps and reduces HFCs beginning in 2019
- HFCs are used in air conditioners, refrigerators
- HFCs are the world's fastest growing climate pollutant

The talks on hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, were called the first test of global will since the historic Paris Agreement to cut carbon emissions was reached last year.

HFCs are described as the world's fastest-growing climate pollutant and are used in air conditioners and refrigerators. The agreement caps and reduces the use of HFCs in a gradual process beginning by 2019, with action by developed countries including the United States, the world's second-worst polluter.

More than 100 developing countries, including China, the world's top carbon emitter, will start taking action by 2024, when HFC consumption levels should peak

ABC News, Oct, 2016

## Unions, environmentalists unite against South Australian nuclear dumps

A Flinders University protest against a radioactive waste dump on July 9 last year.

Efforts to halt plans for nuclear waste dumping in South Australia have made important advances in recent weeks, with environmental, trade union, indigenous and other bodies pushing for a joint opposition campaign.

At a September 16 meeting called by the peak labour movement body, SA Unions, and the Maritime Union of Australia, members of at least 14 organisations resolved to work toward forming a coordinating committee “around the common objective of preventing nuclear waste dumps being established in South Australia”.

The meeting endorsed preparations by activists for a major anti-dumps rally to be held on October 15 — the anniversary of the first British nuclear bomb test on the Australian mainland, which was conducted at Emu Field in South Australia’s north-west in 1953.

*Abridged from GLW, Oct 7, 2016*

## Please Help: Our Wildlife Is In Danger!

Mike Baird is about to introduce changes to land-clearing legislation that will result in the death of a million native animals

“The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) is strongly opposed to the Baird Government’s new Biodiversity Conservation laws and we are not alone – Australia’s leading group of scientists have also slammed the proposed laws. The scientists couldn’t be more damning; they say the

changes would result in “more degraded land, more damage to river systems, increased carbon emissions, and the loss of habitat critical to the survival of threatened species.”

The case is clear - if the government gets away with scrapping our conservation laws, the impacts for nature will be devastating. We can’t let these draft plans become law. Show Premier Baird that you don’t support the government gutting our conservation laws by making a submission today.

If they become law, Premier Baird’s plans will:

- Remove the requirement to ‘maintain or improve biodiversity’, lowering the bar for the health of our plants, water and soils.
- Not include any ‘no go zones’. Even Threatened Ecological Communities could be on the chopping block;
- Make a de facto ‘taxpayer subsidy’ of \$240m for those wanting to degrade land;
- Reduce the role of the Environment Minister in important environmental decisions;
- Include more self-assessment for landholders, allowing them to clear trees with little oversight; and
- Increase the use of biodiversity offsets, allowing landholders to clear trees in exchange for paying money into a fund.

Kevin Evans NPA Oct2016

## Update: Biodiversity laws passed

Massive opposition, from environmentalists, farmers and scientists, has meant nothing to the Liberal National Party Coalition led by Mike Baird. The biodiversity bills were passed on 17 November. The push for the disastrous biodiversity legislation is coming from farmers engaged in agribusiness in northwest NSW and supported by the National Party. They are engaged in broad scale clearing, much of it illegal. It was one of these farmers, Ian Turnbull, who murdered Glen Turner, an officer of the Department of Environment and Heritage (OEH), who was investigating such clearing at Croppa Creek, northwest of Moree in July 2014. The circumstances and events surrounding this appalling action are the subject of the film, **Cultivating Murder**. Watch out for it. Ian Turnbull has been jailed for 24 years.

ABC’s Lateline, on Monday 14 November, showed similar land clearing in the Moree area. The farming family concerned was carrying out broad scale clearing and had even cleared and planted a Crown Land Travelling Stock Route. They showed utter contempt for farming neighbours concerned about these activities and who had agreed to be witnesses for the OEH in a prosecution. However the local National MP Kevin Humphries lobbied against prosecution, which was called off and the case closed.

The laws are due to take effect from July 2017. Labour has committed to overhaul them if it is elected in 2019.

Dr Mehreen Faruqi, environmental spokesperson for the Greens, described the passage of the bills as “the biggest act of environmental vandalism we have ever seen in NSW.” “We have no final codes, no biodiversity offset methodology, no native vegetation maps, no codes of practice for managing wildlife interactions, and no urban vegetation policy”.

# Was Sydney's smallpox outbreak of 1789 an act of biological warfare against Aboriginal tribes?

Chris Warren



The invasion of Australia by Captain Arthur Phillip RM at Sydney Cove, 1778

An outbreak of smallpox in Sydney in 1789 killed thousands of Aborigines and weakened resistance to white settlement. Chris Warren argues that the pandemic was no accident, but rather a deliberate act of biological warfare against Australia's first inhabitants. Smallpox infected blankets were given out to the natives. The outbreak decimated most adults and infants between Botany Bay in the south and Broken Bay in the north. Later in the 19th century settlers used rifles and poison to kill offending tribes. Also the Aborigines were affected by starvation, alcoholism and venereal disease. PS Also they were not immune to Flu or Measles. Ed.

Ockham's Razor 2014

## Queensland Court of Appeal rejects challenge to GVK Hancock's Alpha coal mine

The Alpha coal mine will use highly mechanised bucket wheel excavators like these and employ very few workers.

Margaret Gleeson



In a unanimous decision on September 27, the Queensland Court of Appeal rejected the challenge by environment group Coast and Country to the proposed GVK Hancock Alpha coal mine. The appeal was lodged in October last year. Hancock Coal Pty Ltd and the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage, were respondents at the hearing on June 7.

September 29, 2016 GLW

## ACT's 100% renewable energy target safe after Liberals' election fail

Giles Parkinson, 17 October 2016

The Australian Capital Territory will continue to lead Australia in its push to 100 per cent renewable energy after the Liberal Party's attempt to wrest power failed in the weekend's election, delivering Labor power for the fifth consecutive poll. The ACT aims to source the equivalent of 100 per cent of its electricity needs from renewable energy by 2020, and has already locked in the contracts with the solar and wind farm projects that will deliver that target.

Abridged from Renew Economy

## Anthropocene !

Some of the world's most respected geologists and scientists reckon humans have had such a profound impact on the Earth that we've now moved out of the Holocene and into the Anthropocene.

## Unions, environmentalists unite against South Australian nuclear dumps



A protest against a radioactive waste dump at Flinders University on July 9 last year.

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The meeting endorsed preparations by activists for a major anti-dumps rally to be held on October 15 — the anniversary of the first British nuclear bomb test on the Australian mainland, was conducted at Emu Field in South Australia's north-west in 1953.

Abridged from GLW October 7, 2016

## AGL's dirty carbon emissions — not so secret



Protest outside the AGL's AGM on September 28. Photo: Peter Boy Pip Hinman

AGL CEO Andrew Vesey likes to paint himself as a sort of “greenie” who is shifting the company in the right direction in these “carbon constrained” times. But that was contested by about 200 protesters who stationed themselves outside the company’s AGM in Sydney’s CBD on September 28. The protest was organised by Stop CSG Sydney and 350.org, and supported by GetUp!. Their message to the AGL board and its shareholders was that it must accept the science and leave coal and gas in the ground. They called for an immediate shut down of its coal seam gas wells in Camden and a phase out of its coal mines by 2025.

“AGL presents itself as a clean energy company, but it has a dirty secret”, said 350.org campaigner Josh Creaser. “It is Australia’s biggest carbon polluter, emitting 38 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. That is equivalent to the pollution produced by almost half of all the cars in Australia.”

The Australian Conservation Foundation’s 2016 *Australia’s 10 biggest climate polluters* report has AGL at the top of the list, up from third place last year.

Abridged from GLW, Oct 7, 2016

## Adani’s coal mine gains 'critical' status as Queensland Government moves to kick-start project

The State Government has declared Adani's Carmichael coal mine project in western Queensland to be "critical infrastructure" in a bid to fast-track its remaining approvals. More legal obstacles are still possible, Resources Council warns. In a move branded reckless by the Australian Greens, State Development Minister Dr Anthony Lynham said the Government had invoked special powers to help progress Adani's \$21 billion Carmichael coal and rail project in the Galilee Basin.

Dr Lynham said the move would mean less red tape for the project and the Coordinator General can sign off on approvals quickly. *ABC News Brisbane*, Oct. 10, 2016

## Canadian mining giant spews poison into Argentina — again

One year after spilling enough cyanide solution to fill at least 40% of an Olympic-size swimming pool at the controversial Veladero mine in Argentina, Canadian mining giant Barrick Gold owned up on September 15 to another cyanide leak at

the same gold mining operation in the country’s mountainous and river-rich San Juan province.

Barrick announced it had suspended work at the mine to address the leak, caused on September 8 by a damaged pipe carrying dilute cyanide solution used in gold processing. The company claimed a “small quantity” spilled and did not make contact with water sources. The impact of a sliding ice chunk is thought to have ruptured the pipe, according to preliminary company assessments.

Environmental campaigners raised the alarm on September 15 over the new spill, saying it offers yet another reason why



the spill-prone Veladero mine should be shut down. The open-pit cyanide leaching mine, one of the largest gold mines in the world, is the target of a petition urging President Mauricio Macri to clamp down on Barrick and close Veladero once and for all.

“Impunity won once again,” Gonzalo Strano, campaigner with Greenpeace Argentina, said in a statement on September 15. “Macri should close Veladero like hundreds of thousands of people have asked since last year’s spill.”

“This new spill reconfirms that we cannot trust these kinds of companies that, with the complicity of governments in power, lie to and contaminate us.”

The government of San Juan ordered Veladero to suspend operations. However, Greenpeace Argentina said the temporary solution is insufficient in the face of the damage that Barrick has caused and the ongoing threat the mine poses to regional glacier formations

Abridged from *Peace in Columbia*

## Hazelwood brown coal generator may close in next few months

Giles Parkinson 24 October 2016

Hazelwood, the brown coal generator ranked as one of the dirtiest large-scale power generators in the world, could be closed within a matter of months following a decision by the board of the majority French owner, Engie, last week

Abridged from *Renew Economy*

## The Haven Amphitheatre

Passers by will have noticed that the stage has now been demolished. The Conservation Society submitted a joint response with other community groups to the DA lodged by Willoughby Council for the alterations and reconstruction of the Haven Amphitheatre. The response called for a reduction in the scope of the project, in particular a reduction in seating from 350 to 250. It also called that all possible steps should be taken to “step lightly” on the site.

**Harold Reid Reserve** The draft reserve action plan can be viewed on Council’s website. Comment via *Have Your Say*.

## Native forests are worth more unlogged, so why are we still cutting them down?

Caitlin Fitzsimmons

**I spent the first four years of my life living** in the middle of the forest in southeastern NSW.

Our log cabin was at the end of a dirt road, surrounded by stringybark, spotted gum and the sounds of kookaburras and lyre birds.

Wombat holes and lichen-covered boulders dotted the hillside and the creek ran cold and clear, steeped red-brown with tea tree.

After we moved to the city, we returned most years to visit family. Every trip more and more of the surrounding bushland was cleared and replanted with radiata pine.



The plight of the Leadbeater's possum has been a political issue in Victoria. Photo: Justin McManus

Now most of the native forest near my childhood home is gone, clearfelled and sold to the Japanese for woodchip. It still upsets me greatly. As a child I blamed greed, but as an adult I realise the truth is even more galling, because there is nothing economically rational about it.

Australians should be angry about logging of native forests. If you don't care about the environment, what about the fact your taxes prop up an unviable industry that employs very few people?

Now the bottom has fallen out of the woodchip market, you might finally think the gig is up. Instead there's a push to burn the forests and call it "renewable energy".



Illustration: Andrew Dyson

In economics it is considered a market failure when damage to a third party or the environment is not included in the cost. In the case of native forestry, taxpayers are actually paying for the destruction.

Whether it's south-eastern NSW, East Gippsland in Victoria or the Tarkine in Tasmania, it's the same old story.

*Abridged from SMH 6 Oct 2016*

## March on International Human Rights Day

Saturday December 10, 1pm Sydney CBD

## Gamilaraay people fight for their songlines, country in epic anti-CSG fight

Pip Hinman,

Gamilaraay people are engaged in an epic fight for country against coal and gas giants supported by state and federal governments. For Raymond "Bubbly" Weatherall, from the Gunu Gunu clan and the Biridja clan, the fight is about totems — "our water, the environment and the land itself".

Gamilaraay, one of four largest Indigenous nations in Australia, is the new frontier for the fossil fuel industry in NSW. Shenhua wants to set up a mega coalmine at Biridja (Breeza) on Little Big Light country (Liverpool Plains); Santos wants to push through with its Narrabri Gas Project in the Biliga (Pilliga Forest); and Whitehaven Coal, which already operates several open-cut and one underground coal mine, is pushing for more.

Whitehaven Coal is threatening thousands of hectares of the Biliga–Leard State Forest, home to Biliga or Cawubuwan Gunigal, the halfway mark of the Little Big Light, the largest area of remnant vegetation in the Guwaygalla red soiled plains and Banuwa black soil plains (Liverpool Plains). The nationally-listed and critically endangered Bibil (Box-Gum Woodland) is in danger from the encroaching mines.

Along with other Gamilaraay, Yuin and Githabul people, Bubbly has spent a lot of time protesting for his country in the Biliga–Leard State Forest, including successfully halting coal trains travelling from the Maules Creek and Boggabri mines with activists from Frontline Action on Coal. Whitehaven Coal has already destroyed 38 Gamilaraay sacred sites in the Biliga–Leard State Forest, including 10 sites of high significance. Earlier this year, Bubbly and activists from Frontline Action Against Coal tried to stop Whitehaven from smashing Lawlers Well, the last site of high significance in the Maules Creek mine boundary.

"We have painfully witnessed the destruction of our burial sites, sacred women's places, and our sacred crystals. Lawlers Well will be defended by our people. Gamil means 'no', Bubbly said at the time. "We will not stop. We have no choice but to fight, because this is our country, our culture, and the planet we all depend on. To stop mining companies and governments, egos and personalities have to be put to the side. Otherwise our grandchildren will not benefit in the same way that we have with the water and the land."

Abridged from Green Left Weekly, Sept 15, 2016

## Battle heats up to Save Sydney Park trees



Protesters tried to block contractors wanting to chop down trees at Sydney Park on October 7. Photo: WestConnex Action Group

Jim McIlroy,

The battle over the controversial \$18 billion WestConnex tollway project through the inner-western suburbs is heating up.

The Sydney Motorway Corporation has been granted conditional approval by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to commence work in Sydney Park, meaning dozens of trees are set for removal.

On October 7, police forcibly removed protesters who were sitting in front of trucks ready to knock down an initial group of trees in the park. About 100 chanting demonstrators gathered at the fenced-off site on Euston Road, St Peters, but were unable to prevent the truck's entry.

The nearby camp is being maintained by volunteers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An emergency alert text list has been established to mobilise supporters when WestConnex management sends in workers to cut down the trees, the habitat of rare birds such as the tawny frogmouth. Thousands joined the Save Sydney Park Festival on October 1 to support the protest camp and the campaign to stop the tollway. Reclaim the Streets (RTS) and WestConnex Action Group (WAG) organised the five-hour music festival,

“The Save Sydney Park Festival was organised in just eight days”, Ivan Crozier said on October 2. “Such a huge show of support ... shows how angry people are about WestConnex and how sick they are of [Premier] Mike Baird selling us out to his toll road mates.

“Our community is willing to do what it takes to stop Casino Mike destroying Sydney Park and St Peters and ‘replacing’ these losses with the world’s worst park: some green space next to WestConnex’s unfiltered pollution stacks, flyovers and six-lane highways”, said WAG spokesperson Vince Polito.

“Mike Baird is wasting billions on WestConnex while our regional roads, schools and hospitals suffer. [But he] is no longer Teflon Mike: his plummeting approval ratings show the mud from WestConnex is starting to stick.”

The protesters want Baird to halt WestConnex and hold a parliamentary inquiry into how this disastrous project got so far.

*Abridged from Green Left Weekly October 7, 2016*

## Trump: Ugly for world, ugly for climate, ugly for clean energy

Giles Parkinson, 10 Nov. 2016 *Renew economy*

## Shell’s Nigeria ecocide is creating a refugee crisis

Peter Donates

Sixty million people are on the run worldwide, most from countries in the global South. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says one third of the refugees originate from Africa.

, human rights violations, political instability, discrimination, poverty and the consequences of climate change and natural disasters are often named as causes for flight. But there is also ecocide — the destruction of livelihoods through the ruthless exploitation of raw materials and the subsidy politics of industrialised countries in the West.

The ecosystems in many African regions are being systematically destroyed to maximise profits and secure and expand the West’s prosperity.

The peaceful use of ecosystems by the people who live in these areas has almost become impossible. Life has become unbearable in most of the resource rich regions in Africa, so that many people leave their homes in desperation.

Environmental destruction and the destruction of livelihoods in Africa are not new. What is new is that many experts regard the ecocide as the most important cause for flight and migration in light of its devastating consequences.

However, those who flee are not protected by the Geneva Convention on Refugees. They are usually defamed as “economic refugees” — while the consequences of criminal economic activities by western companies are being camouflaged.

Poverty in the oil-rich Niger Delta in Nigeria, for example, is a direct consequence of an ecocide. Oil extraction started in 1958, promised to the population as the basis for future wealth.

But the announced blessing turned into a curse: “Our oil, your prosperity, our death and extinction!”

Indeed today, the 70,000km<sup>2</sup> Niger Delta is one of the most polluted regions in the world. The results are devastation, expropriation, poverty and social marginalisation.

Nigeria, with about 170 million people, is the most populated country in Africa and has the largest African oil reservoir. At 2.5 million barrels a day, the country is the biggest oil exporter in Africa and the sixth biggest of the world.

[Abridged from [Pambazuka News](#). Peter Donatus is a Nigerian journalist and human rights activist forced to flee Nigeria 26 years ago for opposing Shell’s destructive activities.] October 15, 2016

## Bombs Away

There are more than 16,000 nuclear weapons in the arsenal of India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel, with more than 2000 of the US and Russian weapons on dangerously high alert, ready to be launched on warming of a perceived attack.

Ian Lowe, Abridged from Bombs Away, Australasian Science, Nov. 2016