



Monday 14 July 2009

### > Enjoying Dinner with Al Gore.

Geoffrey Gourley, Sustainability Leader and an Al Gore Climate Project Connector, was privileged to attend an intimate dinner with the Honorable Al Gore on Sunday 13 July 2009, during Mr. Gore's recent visit to Melbourne as part of the Asia Pacific Climate Summit. Geoffrey was seated along side Senator Christine Milne - Greens Tasmania, Don Henry and Danny Vadasz from Australian Conservation Foundation and approx 100 other fascinating guests.

Al Gore spoke for 30 min about his climate project, the Asia Pacific Summit and training he is delivering to 300 participants from across 19 countries including China, Singapore, New Zealand, Fiji and Indonesia.

Mr. Gourley said, "This is the first time people from the Asia-Pacific region have been brought together to be trained by the Honorable Al Gore". Mr. Gourley went on to say "it is inspiring to hear Al Gore speak so passionately about The Climate Project". The summit enables them to communicate directly with their communities about generating a combined effort to insist, as a region, on the best possible outcomes at Copenhagen later this year.

The trainees represent a diverse group including diplomats, doctors, chief executives, students, economists, school principals, a fruit grower, a fire-fighter, climate relief workers and an associate professor of philosophy. One in 75 Australians have now seen a presentation delivered by the 250 Al Gore-trained Climate Project Presenters working throughout communities in Australia. "This really is the time to build a groundswell of public support in favor of strong action at Copenhagen," said Don Henry, Executive Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, which is helping to organise the training sessions.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyable with roving performers greeting guests upon their arrival, before we moved into the great hall, with its illuminated colored glass ceiling, to enjoy dinner, conversation and networking. A set of 3 songs was performed by Katie Noonan accompanied by a string quartet and guitarist. Climate Project ambassadors, Merrick and Rosso, provided their own humorous and unique presentation on climate change which included a short spin around the gallery on a fold up bike.

A number of items were donated and auctioned to raise funds for ACF Copenhagen campaign featuring an \$8,000 Intrepid overseas travel voucher, Akubra hat signed by Al Gore and many other great gifts.

As the evening drew to a close we walked away with an inspired and motivated vision to keep promoting and communicating the outcomes we seek to achieve in Copenhagen come December 2009.