

Training of the mind: March 2007 Steve attends Leading from the Heart and Despair to Empowerment workshops.

I attended a workshop put on by the Rainforest Information Centre and another by OzGreen. These were very informative but at times quite confronting when dealing with the sadness and despair that some people feel.

This all part of the journey I guess. It is not much good just using engineering analysis when dealing with real people. Hopefully I have learned something but that remains to be seen.

Without wishing to get too philosophical about everything, in summary the way I see the world is this. What we are doing is not sustainable. There are plenty of calculations to show this. With something like our water resources it does not make a lot of sense to allocate more water than falls from the sky. It does not make a lot of sense to export produce that requires more water than falls on the ground. But this is what we do.

There is no doubt that we will survive even if we turned the whole Darling basin to desert. The big question to me though, is will we survive with what we are doing to the world climate. Will this just be the big one that brings us undone?

If we adopt sustainability as our goal, how does the burning of fossil fuels fit in? The CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development seems to me to have some problems that really demonstrate governments' warped thinking. We can keep developing forever? We can make our coal last forever? What does sustainability mean to them? Sustainable but only for now? Their ultimate holy grail is to geosequester CO<sub>2</sub>. The nuclear guys can get rid of their waste in 250,000 years. The CO<sub>2</sub> will be there forever.

I must admit, the OzGREEN philosophy fits very neatly with my beliefs. You can find it on their website [www.ozgreen.org.au](http://www.ozgreen.org.au) but I have copied it below.

Oz GREEN works with youth, communities and business in rural and urban settings to:

Engage	<b>Connect</b> people with their place and with one another.
Equip	<b>People</b> to investigate their place, voice their concerns and understand their living world.
Enable	<b>People</b> to envision a better world based on the principles of ecological sustainability, social justice and equity. Galvanise people to act in their lives, with their community and beyond, to care for their rivers and land.

At both workshops I met some really committed people who have no hidden agenda, who just want to do good, who are well educated and concerned. So I have some new friends.