

## **UNI-VERSE POET-TREE entrants 2008**

Poems addressed the theme of the 2008 World Environment Day; "Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy".

In Alphabetical Order

### **REPAIR NOT REPLACE**

**By Mrs Lynne Clements, Faculty of Informatics**

Sea level rising  
Weather extreme  
Droughts and heatwaves  
What does it mean?

The planet is warming  
A blanket is formed  
The sun is still shining  
The people are warned.

The habit needs kicking we're constantly told,  
We've all got a part to play, young and the old.

Take up alternatives for energy sources,  
do something positive for our limited resources  
get on your bike or the bus or the train,  
Use low energy light bulbs, again and again.  
Buy local produce, repair not replace.  
Holiday locally – forget about space!  
Insulate your home, your body and feet,  
Forget about heaters and walk the beat.

So here's a suggestion or three or four,  
We can all kick the habit,  
... let our world live far more!

### **CARBON BEAST**

**By: Mr Tom Hunt, Buildings and Grounds**

We had an ice age did you know?  
Just twelve thousand years ago  
One of several in  
    Earth's long long history  
It seems our climate's not so stable  
And we can change it, yes we're able

We found that buried carbon beast  
Inadvertently released  
Was a trick of nature  
    cleaning up our air  
A billion year storage plan  
Wrecked by a few short years of man

Is it too late to make it stop  
The steady warming of our lot  
The ice is melting  
    by degrees  
Eventual 70 metre seas  
And flooding all the worlds cities

Energy abounds inside Earths core  
And from the Sun there's even more  
There are alternatives  
    We have the money  
Lock what remains up in the ground  
Short term wealth is just not sound

It is the only home we know  
We've got no other place to go  
Should we continue just to row  
Just to row, row up the creek  
Should we continue to be meek

We can each do something to conserve  
Slow down the mining of reserves  
But consider dealing  
    with the human plague  
Speed's not so much the big concern  
It's more the direction that we turn

We love our warmth, we love our cool  
We love our cars, we are such fools  
The pain to motivate  
    is still a lifetime away  
To get out of this comfortable rut  
We need leaders with foresight and guts

### **MY LITTLE GREENIE MESSAGE**

**By A/Prof Nigel Mackay, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**

I sent an email to "all staff"  
But on the way I lost it:  
The Uni Censor picked it up  
And put it in her pocket  
She was truckin' on down the avenue,

Without a single thing to do  
She was peck-peck-peckin without fail  
When she spied it in the mail  
I sent an email to "all staff"  
And told them that our flying  
Would stuff our fragile climate up  
And see the planet dying  
She took it, she took it  
My little greenie message  
And if she doesn't bring it back  
I think that I shall die  
(Was it brown?) no,no,no,no,  
(Was it red?) no,no,no,no,  
(Was it blue?) no,no,no,no,  
Just a little greenie message

### **CARING**

**By Mr David Moore, Faculty of Informatics**

Plant more trees whispers the breeze,  
PLANT more trees says the ocean,  
PLANT MORE trees yells the mountains,  
PLANT MORE TREES ROARS the sand as it encroaches upon the green land.  
Put the carbon back into the ground tumbles from the waterfall, Use less plastic  
grumbles the waves as they break upon the shore, Use less plastic repeats the bush,  
Voices rise and CRY out to our uncaring world "DO THIS & we will look after you  
and your children".  
Silence then reins for a time until the next breeze reminds you of the call.....

### **UNTITLED**

**By Dr Patricia Mowbray, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**

We are losing our birds, bees and flowers  
We are losing our plants, trees and animals  
We are losing our snowfields and rivers  
Our fish, plankton and coral reefs  
But we are trying  
We are trying  
A little bit of tenderness will save the earth!

### **TOWARDS LOW CARBON ECONOMY**

**By "mystery" author, Faculty of Informatics**

Once there was a clean universe  
Provided to clever people with many ideas Many innovations made it worse Leaving  
the world with much tears

A new world is being hoped  
When wasting energy we now say 'nope'  
Greenhouse gas emissions are being coped  
Low carbon economy is the best we can  
hope

### **TREE OF YORE**

**Under Pseudonym, Faculty of Science**

There's carbon in the atmosphere, it's rising as we speak  
It's past three eighty parts per mil, and heading for a peak  
It's higher than it's ever been, than we've ever seen before  
Says old air trapped in ice, from an Antarctic core.  
The Arctic ice is melting, and the sea is on the rise  
We've got to slow emissions; we've got to stabilise

It's burning coal that's done it, and oil and gas and peat  
Those fossil fuels of yesteryear; our transport, power and heat  
It's time to turn to cleaner fuels, the wind, the waves, the sun  
They've been around for long enough, but their use has just begun  
Sequester C O 2 away, or pump it underground  
We've got to curb emissions, and turn the trend around

You can help to lock some carbon up, if you plant a tree  
It's just a little gesture, but it helps posterity  
It seems a little seed at first, but it germinates and shoots  
And stores the carbon that it breathes, in branches, twigs and roots  
So when your grandchild asks you, 'what was there you could do?'  
Show the tree you planted, and say 'I planted it for you'

Ptolemy

### **A FUTURE**

**By Ms Anne Werner, Faculty of Arts**

When I look deep into the eyes of my amazing child,  
Like any parent, I am filled with love, awe and hope.

Yet I am devastated.

The challenges she will face  
- all children will face –  
to rebuild our broken world and  
balance the devastation  
wrought by those  
    too greedy  
        too thoughtless  
            too busy to try  
to salvage our home.  
The most beautiful gift:

A world nothing short of a miracle.

CONSUME! CONSUME! CONSUME!

We are told.

With no regard for the cost

(not monetary, but environmental, ecological, spiritual)

we blindly obey.

What will it take to change our ways?

Surely

the *future*

the *home*

the *spirit*

of an amazing child

should be enough.