

Inside
GREENPEACE

Australia Pacific

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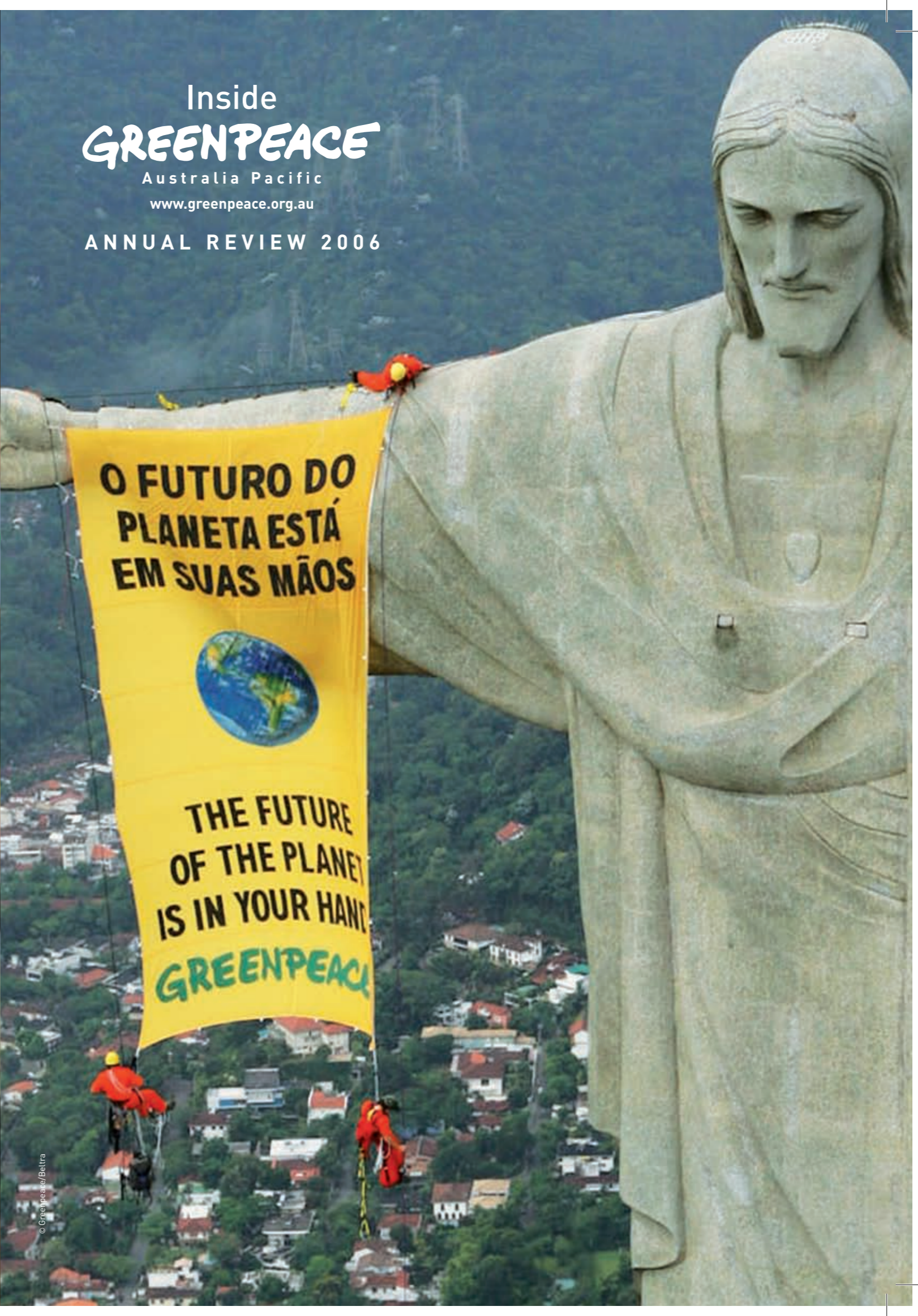
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*Image: Huge crowds of around 50,000 voters joined
the Walk Against Warming in Sydney*
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35 years of Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organisation that uses non-violent, creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and force solutions which are essential to a green and peaceful future.

2006 marked 35 years of Greenpeace – and what an inspirational journey it's been. We have moved from strength to strength as a global organisation thanks to our dedicated family of supporters, volunteers and staff. Our commitment to a green and peaceful future is unwavering and Greenpeace is now present in more than 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific.

Throughout our region Greenpeace Australia Pacific continued to take the lead in creating positive change through action in 2006.

In January the world watched the dramatic confrontations in the Southern Ocean as our activists on board MY Esperanza and MY Arctic Sunrise placed themselves between the harpoons and the whales, saving 82 whales from an unnecessary and untimely death. Back on land our global online activist network forced the financial backers of the whaling fleet, Japanese seafood conglomerate Nissui, to divest their shares in the operation, effectively canceling any non-government support for the Japanese whaling fleet.

Meanwhile across the Pacific in the remote forests of Papua New Guinea's Western Province, Greenpeace and landowners of Lake Murray were busy setting up a base camp called the Global Forest Rescue Station. At the invitation of the customary landowners, forest volunteers from around the world came to help. As a result local communities were able to mark out customary land boundaries and start work on their eco-forestry projects - essential steps in taking control of their land and making a stand against unsustainable logging.

Our GE campaign continued to build on past success when Australia's biggest margarine producers Goodman Fielder and Unilever both committed to only use GE-free canola oil in their products. This decision was announced shortly after Greenpeace activists took non-violent, direct action against a shipment of genetically engineered canola entering Newcastle Harbour.

Nothing could prepare us for the significant shift that took place in the debate about climate change in Australia.

2006 was the year in which climate change went mainstream and Australia's politicians struggled to rewrite policies and catch up with voter demands. The combined impact of the movie, An Inconvenient Truth, the Stern report on climate change, Australia's drought and the work of thousands of active citizens saw the shift we've been working towards for decades now.

Even Channel 7's Sunrise program successfully campaigned to force the Federal Government to extend the solar rebate program, which it planned to scrap in 2007.

Our work is far from over and we will remain firmly focused on the future for generations to come. As part of our ongoing commitment to the legitimacy,

accountability and transparency of the not-for-profit sector, Greenpeace internationally signed up to the International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) Accountability Charter in 2006. The charter aims to promote and garner support for the highest common standards of conduct for NGOs working trans-nationally.

As always our gratitude and thanks go to our spirited and dedicated supporters, hard working volunteers, Greenpeace board management and staff. Together we will continue to inspire challenge and confront.

Front cover image: Greenpeace activists unfurled a banner from the famous Christ statue in Rio de Janeiro to call on governments to protect global biodiversity.
© Greenpeace/Beltra



Main image: Greenpeace vessel 'MY Esperanza' crosses the Western Pacific through Palau's territorial waters.

Inset image: Ann and Steve in front of the Esperanza
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