

# **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2009**

## **EARTH FIRST**

**By Nick King**

### **About World Environment Day**

World Environment Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 to mark the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

Commemorated annually on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, World Environment Day is one of the principle vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The day's agenda is to:

- Give a human face to environmental issues
- Empower people to become active agents of sustainable equitable development.
- Promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues
- Advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

### **This Year's theme**

The theme for World Environment Day 2009 is **Your Planet Needs You-UNite to Combat Climate Change**. It reflects the urgency for nations to agree on a new deal at the crucial climate convention meeting in Copenhagen some 180 days later in the year.

Combating climate change and preserving ecosystem services that underpin our economies is an issue for everyone. Every individual's efforts, no matter how small, can contribute to the sustainable development of our economies and communities around the world.

On this day, individuals, non-government organisations, community and youth groups, business, industry and the media organise activities to renew their commitments to protect and develop the environment.

### **World Environment Day Community Arts Competition**

ECCO Orange and Orange City Council have combined to invite the Orange Community to participate in a community arts competition to celebrate World Environment Day 2009. Both organizations would like to give Orange community members an opportunity to reflect their concern about the environment and the effects of climate change through artistic expression.

All members of the Orange community are welcome to enter. Entries can include a wide range of media, such as painting, calligraphy, photography, poetry, poster art, collage, music, sculpture, waste to art and many more. All entries need to reflect the

theme “Your Planet needs you – Unite to combat climate change.” Entry forms available at Orange city library or Book City.

Entries will go on display at the Orange city library.

The closing date for the competition will be Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. All entries must be delivered to the library with entry form attached, or name, category and phone number failing the inclusion of an entry form.

Entry categories are primary school student, secondary school student, adult, group or organization.

Prizes will be awarded to outstanding entries with winners announced at the library on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY.

### **Other ways to celebrate World Environment Day**

- Write to or email your political representatives urging them to take political action against climate change.
- Google the World Environment day 2009 website to find daily ideas and tips to help you combat climate change. There are many things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint, save money and lead a healthier lifestyle. World Environment Day is a good time to make a start, if you have not done so already.

**Next environmental Event: June 5 – World Environment Day Community Arts Competition.** Deliver your entry to Orange city library by 5pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.