

# Just One Cool Day could change everything

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## Opinion

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**Tell us what you think.**  
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Wollongong Climate Action Network has organised an expo at Smith's Hill High School on Saturday, called Cool Day Out.

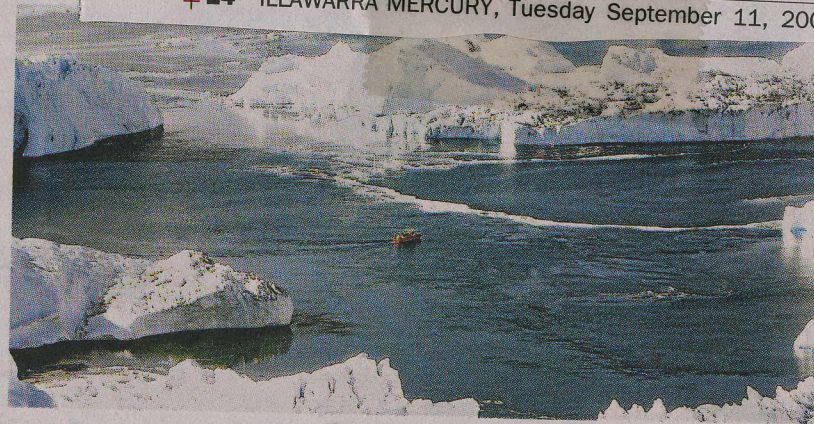
The expo will help people reduce their climate-change impact.

The majority of expert opinion (including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) is that climate change *is* real and it *is* a severe threat.

To me, the scientific consensus seems a more credible source than the opinions of individual sceptics.

Imagine you are on a pedestrian crossing. You hear a truck coming around the corner. Do you "wait to be sure" before you move off the road? Or do you manage the risk and move quickly? Climate change poses a similar challenge of risk assessment and action.

Climate-change science is underpinned by well-established physical laws which say that the more carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide in the atmosphere, the hotter the earth's surface will get. These gases have been increasing since the industrial



A boat makes its way through the icebergs in Disko Bay, Greenland. Scientists say the vast icy landscape is thinning, and many blame global warming.

Picture: JOHN McCONNICO, AP

revolution. And it's been getting hotter. Strong evidence.

Perhaps this is a coincidence. Perhaps the laws of physics have suddenly changed. Perhaps the reports that the icecaps are melting are fictitious.

Perhaps the truck is not coming. But it's foolish to risk being run over.

We have organised Cool Day Out because our responsibility, on the balance of evidence, is to act to secure our children's future. I don't want to

spend the rest of my life thinking, "I could have done more, but instead I just spent my time trying to get richer". There are many people in Wollongong who feel the same way.

We decided we should run an event that would involve the community and provide information to help people reduce their climate change impact. We want to boost climate-friendly businesses, strengthen the climate-action network, involve the school community, meet people and have fun.

People can pretend that they are too busy, or that there is nothing they can do, or that it's someone else's problem. But we all can help. Feeling powerless leads to frustration. It's better to get involved. Students have a special interest in this, because they will be living with the consequences of what we do now.

*The Cool Day Out is organised by the Wollongong Climate Action Group, a group of people, not connected to any business, government body, religious organisation or political party.*