

Sunday 4th October
7pm

Carbon Weevils

Director: Tim Britton United Kingdom 2007 (7 mins)

A view at breakneck speed of the evolution of one particular species- the Carbon Weevil,- whose purpose and role is to excavate the earth's carbon deposits and convert them into carbon dioxide.

Swing

Director: Dawn Tuffery New Zealand 2007 (6 mins)

As a small creature swings through the trees, alien property developers go to work. Everyone finds out about the soil stabilising properties of trees the hard way, in this captivating claymation.

Tara - Journey to the Heart of the Climate Machine

Director: Michael Pitiot France 2008 (91 mins)

An extraordinary tale of a scientific mission to gather data crucial for understanding climate change, Tara is the story of how a large multinational scientific organisation led by New Zealander Grant Redvers deliberately strands the 'Tara' (formerly Sir Peter Blake's 'Seamaster') so it will drift with the Arctic pack ice throughout the Arctic winter. During the expedition, daily life for the crew focuses around two things: the scientific equipment and its accumulating data, and sheer physical and psychological survival. Unexpected fragmentation of the ice, giant pressure ridges, polar bears, blizzards and the unrelenting extreme cold threaten the mission and sometimes the lives of the crew. Rescue is impossible in the polar night; self-reliance is survival. New scientific discoveries combine with drama to deliver an educational and gripping film.



Monday 5th October
5.45pm

Garbage Angels

Director: Pierre Trudeau Canada 2008 (6 mins)

Disregarded everyday items take on a life of their own on the dump. Watch beautiful garbage as you've never seen it before and appreciate its tale of our society, where everything seems to be disposable.



Crude

Director: Joe Berlinger USA 2009 (104 mins) www.crudethemovie.com

A classic but as-yet-unfinished David-and-Goliath story, Crude documents the battle between indigenous Ecuadorian communities, represented by two attorneys, and the giant multinational Chevron corporation with annual revenue of \$US200 billion. Under dispute is Chevron's part in one of the world's greatest environmental catastrophes. Sometimes described as "The Amazon's Chernobyl"— the contamination in this case isn't nuclear, but oil and the by-products of drilling. Pablo Fajardo, a young attorney who grew up in poverty in the Amazon, and free-lance attorney Steve Donziger claim that over three decades Texaco, which merged with Chevron in 2001, systematically polluted one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth, poisoning the water, air and land and leaving a toxic legacy that manifests as increased rates of cancer, leukemia, birth defects, and a multiplicity of other health ailments, and in the process destroying the cultures and ways of life of the indigenous and colonial communities. Predictably, Chevron denies everything, claims it's a fabrication and blames state-run PetroEcuador for any problems. After 10 years of legal wrangling, Chevron managed to get the suit transferred to Ecuador, where the documentary takes up the story as the antagonists battle bitterly. Filmed in true documentary style, with both sides given ample opportunity to state their cases, Crude is a deeply moving, gripping film likely to evoke strong emotions and vigorous debate. One of the festival's top films.

REEL EARTH
2009
5TH ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL SEASON

HAMILTON
Bookings from Victoria
Cinema ph 8383036
Tickets \$12

reearth.org.nz

Sunday 20th, Sunday 27th September
Monday 28th September
Sunday 4th and Monday 5th October

Organised by Hamilton Environment Centre, Waikato Branch of Forest and Bird and Continuing Education, Waikato University.



**Sunday 20th September
7pm.**

Lessons from a Melting Icecap

Director: Jinty MacTavish
(Jinty works for EnviroSchools in Hamilton) New Zealand 2008
Winner: Spinning Planet Award for Best New Zealand Film (38 mins)



In mid 2007, three Dunedin school girls won a nationwide contest and found themselves journeying first to London then to Greenland to encounter a 1.8 million square kilometre icecap. Told through the travel log of three naïve yet enthusiastic schoolgirls, Lessons takes the huge, often intangible issues of climate change, sustainability and our reliance on oil, and gives them a human face.

Whetu Rere - The Sea Lion and the Comet

Director: Kat Baulu and Alastair Jamieson
New Zealand 2007 (24 mins)
Best New Zealand Film www.sealionfilm.co.nz

On New Zealand's Otago coast, the world's rarest species of sea lion is making a tentative comeback to the mainland. Whetu Rere is a quietly told, poignant tale of a Mum's latest pup, whose grasp on life is tenuous and fragile.

Karearea The Pine Falcon

Director: Sandy Crichton
New Zealand 2008 Winner: Reel Earth Awards Director's Merit Award
Runner Up: Spinning Planet Award for Best New Zealand Film (49 mins) <http://karearea.com>
From the moment Karearea begins, one senses this film will be something special. It delivers on that promise, with spectacular footage of wild New Zealand falcons that reveals behaviour not previously known; with an emotional appeal that puts the anthropomorphic excesses of many "wildlife" documentaries to shame. It's all the more remarkable because it was filmed by one person, Sandy Crichton, whose energy does justice to the wildness

Sunday 27 September 7pm

Feral Peril

Director: Andrew Sully Australia 2008
Nominated for Best Feature Film (53 mins)
Set as a detective thriller, Feral Peril investigates whether foxes really have invaded Tasmania. Producer Ian Walker was "intrigued by the idea that there was a lot of money being spent in Tasmania to set up a very high-tech bunch of people who were dedicated to eradicating foxes, but their dilemma was that they couldn't find one". Feral Peril explains why foxes would be such an ecological catastrophe for Tasmania, and explores why the iconic Tasmanian devil may have an important role to play—if it can survive an unrelated and gruesome threat to its own survival. Several issues have great relevance for New Zealand, - excellent filming and slick editing make this a fascinating and entertaining film.

Grandma Builds An Earthship

Director: Kent Gunnufson
USA 2008 (58 mins)
Who says age and inexperience are barriers to accomplishment? She might be 67 years old with a cardiac problem, but Pascha dug the trenches, placed the timbers, wired the outlets, milled the cabinets, trowelled the walls, and did most of the other work to build her home in the mountains at 3000 metres. And, as if the Colorado Rockies weren't hard enough, she overcame a mountain of regulatory barriers to build her home using alternative construction methods and energy sources (it's completely off the grid). But the challenges of building her dream home also built her inner spirit, and the film inspires not just by showing possibilities for alternative building but by showing the power of imagination, determination, and humour.

of the birds. But Karearea is more than a film about falcons. It's a film about relationships—among the film maker, the birds, the loggers trying to accommodate the falcons while pressured to meet production targets, and aging wildlife photographer George Chance, who three decades ago set the standard for still photography of these iconic New Zealand birds. Beautifully photographed, Karearea is a beautiful, informative and moving film, excellently presented with drama, humour and poignancy. Clearly one of the festival's top films.



**Monday 28th September
5.45pm**

Herbal Pathways

Director: Anna Hickman
New Zealand / Vietnam 2009
(22 mins)



Filed in the stunning mountainous Sa Pa region of Northern Vietnam, 'Herbal Pathways' shares a quietly intimate and informative account of the Medicinal Plants Innovation Project (MPIP). MPIP brought NZAID and the hill tribe people together on a quest to fulfil two objectives—poverty alleviation and plant conservation. Intellectually engaging, Pathways combines stunning cinematography with the hugely positive story of the conservation of important medicinal plants and of the communities that rely on these plants.

So Right - So Smart

CO Directors: Justin Maine, Leanne Robinson-Maine, Guy Noerr & Michael Swantek
Producer: Leanne Robinson-Maine Executive Producer: Guy Noerr USA 2008
"I was a plunderer of Earth; stealing my grandchildren's future. And that is not the legacy one wants to leave behind." One of the slickest, most professional films submitted to this year's festival, So Right So Smart tells the story of how, in an epiphanal moment, Ray Anderson, founder of the hugely successful Interface Corporation, realised the implications of his company's way of operating. Describing it as "like a spear in the chest," Anderson accepted the ethical imperative to ensure Interface no longer imperilled but in fact contributed to a sustainable future. The decision, he believed, was "So right." As his vision turned into action, he realised sustainability was also "So smart"—it helped, not hindered, his business goals. So Right So Smart also shows how ecologically sound business practices foster better business in general, and the narration by Daryl Hannah links the various aspects of the film to help create a truly inspirational film that should be required viewing for all our politicians and captains of industry.
Highly recommended.