



## ***RAN goes to Japan*** ***Paper purchasers urged to*** ***sever ties with Gunns Ltd.***



*RAN meets with Ricoh executives in Tokyo to discuss paper purchases from Gunns Ltd*

In August, RAN's Old Growth and Tasmanian Forest Campaigns headed to Tokyo for the first time since launching our office in Japan late last year. In addition to meeting with allies and other NGOs, the focus of the trip was to conduct a series of meetings with executives from some of Japan's top companies, including Ricoh, Fuji-Xerox, Fuji Film, Toyota, Sharp, and Canon. These companies are all major purchasers of paper products logged from old growth forests in Tasmania by Gunns Ltd. The meetings were aimed at pushing them to make statements supporting forest protection in Tasmania, as well as cutting business ties with Gunns.

Since first engaging over 250 Japanese companies identified in Gunns' supply chain back in April, RAN has already had an enormous impact. Tasmania's Forestry Minister has attributed a 40% downturn of wood chip exports from native forests in Tasmania to successful campaigning from RAN and other NGOs, forcing Gunns to go on the offensive.

In September, Gunns' lead apologists in Australia's Senate actually introduced a motion publicly condemning RAN, with one Senator accusing RAN of "sheer thuggery" and calling our campaign to end old growth logging in Tasmania "un-Australian." These events tend to validate that our market-based work is having a powerful effect, and is ironic considering that over 85% of Australians want Tasmania's old growth forests fully protected; indeed the effort to protect them has become the largest environmental movement in the country's history.

As more Japanese companies begin to demand wood chips that are not sourced from old growth forests, rogue logging companies like Gunns will be forced to change their practices in order to remain competitive in a marketplace that is beginning to demand ethical standards.

## **Ford's Largest MegaDealer** **joins Campaign to Break** **America's Oil Addiction**

On Oct. 11, AutoNation became the first major car dealer to join Plug-In Partners, calling on automakers to manufacture plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and make them available to American customers. PHEVs are hybrid vehicles that dramatically reduce our dependence on oil by plugging into the grid to recharge. PHEVs achieve up to 100 miles per gallon and offer a real-world solution to high gas costs, poor air quality, climate change and over-reliance on oil. AutoNation is linking to Plug-In Partners' web site, where customers can place "soft orders" for PHEVs.

For three years, the Jumpstart Ford Campaign has been enlisting the support of Ford dealers to help persuade Ford Motor Company to stop pushing gas-guzzling cars, trucks and SUVs. In the past year, a series of grassroots activities focused on Ford dealers throughout North America and AutoNation in particular.

This incremental victory is a classic example of how RAN's campaign strategy can leverage market forces within an industry to bring about change. First, the campaign sent a letter to AutoNation, asking them to send a letter to Ford headquarters demanding that they stop producing gas guzzlers. After receiving no response, grassroots activists in Fort Lauderdale and Miami visited local dealerships to engage dealers and increase the pressure. Finally, in a bold action on May 4, Jumpstart Ford activists joined with allies in the peace and justice movement for a non-violent blockade at the entrance to Maroone Ford Dealership in Fort Lauderdale. Immediately thereafter, representatives from AutoNation agreed to sit down and negotiate with the campaign.

After four months of ongoing conversations, AutoNation became the largest dealership group in the country to actively help break America's oil addiction.

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*Photo by Carlos Miller / Magic City Media*

Jumpstart Ford activists blockaded the entrance to an AutoNation-owned Ford dealership in Fort Lauderdale. The action was part of a series of non-violent rolling actions targeting Ford's largest megadealers.



photo by Geoff Law



photo by Robert Blakers

## ANZ: Bankrolling the destruction of Tasmania's forests

Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ) is currently Australia's leading financier of destructive projects. From rampant clear-cutting and human rights abuses in Papua New Guinea to toxic mines in Laos and western Australia, ANZ has a long history of bankrolling irresponsible projects that destroy the world's most pristine environments. ANZ is now considering funding a hugely destructive pulp mill project for one of its most controversial clients: Australian logging giant Gunns Limited.

Gunns, Australia's largest logging company, clear-cuts roughly 44 football fields of native forests every day in Tasmania, including some of the oldest and tallest trees in the world. Gunns is notorious for using napalm to firebomb the clear-cut patches of naked forest and then using a poison called 1080 – which has been banned in many countries – to kill all surrounding native wildlife. All this to make it

easier for Gunns to set up tree plantations after wiping out native forests.

Gunns is planning to build a massive chlorine-bleaching pulp mill that would greatly accelerate the destruction of Tasmania's remaining native forests while polluting the air and local marine environment.

Now is the time for ANZ to decide whether it is really going to adopt more ethical lending practices or continue financing the Earth's destruction.

**Tell ANZ CEO John McFarlane not to finance Gunns' destructive pulp mill project! Write to: 100 Queen Street, Level 6, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia or go to [TreesNotGunns.org](http://TreesNotGunns.org) to send an email.**

## Truth and Consequences for Sakhalin

RAN's Global Finance campaign has been working with local and international partners to challenge Sakhalin II, the world's largest integrated oil and gas facility, based on Sakhalin Island in Russia. The Shell-led project threatens the last migrating population of Western Grey Whales and will irreparably damage Sakhalin Island's fishing communities and Indigenous groups. Environmental violations have been meticulously documented for years, and now, those problems are coming home to roost.

In September, the Russian government canceled a key environmental permit, bringing construction to a halt. Although critics have charged that the government's actions are politically motivated,

they are grounded in a long history of Shell's disregard for the environmental and social impacts of the project. Last week, the Minister for Natural Resources held a public forum on Sakhalin to present evidence of the numerous violations. He stated that several of the environmental violations amounted to criminal offenses and would be referred for prosecution. When a Shell representative said they were not aware of the problems, the prosecutor specifically mentioned the diligent work of Sakhalin Environment Watch and their international allies in exposing the environmental violations. This story confirms that taking action in defense of the environment can make a difference. Thanks for all that you do!

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ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS STATEMENT				
Rainforest Action Network saved the following resources by using New Leaf Sakura 100, made with 100% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free.				
trees	water	energy	solid waste	greenhouse gases
19 fully grown	6,129 gallons	10 million Btu	885 pounds	1,719 pounds
Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense and other members of the Paper Task Force.				
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### ❖❖❖ Jumpstart Ford, continued from cover

AutoNation has huge leverage within the auto industry, owning multiple dealership franchises across the United States. In fact, AutoNation is the largest megadealer in the country (with 283 dealerships) and Ford's largest dealer. So, when AutoNation CEO Mike Jackson says that PHEVs are "a vehicle that I believe the American consumer will not just consider, but buy. We look forward to selling it," it's a message that Ford and the rest of the auto industry can't afford to ignore.

This accomplishment shows that our Adopt a Dealer and megadealer strategy is working. By talking to Ford's dealers and focusing pressure on the most powerful dealership groups, we are changing the debate within the auto industry and creating the momentum to break our oil addiction.

There is no longer any doubt that Ford Motor Company, once a symbol of American innovation, is caught in a downward spiral of oil addiction that is devastating the company's economic future. In this context, the moment is more important than ever to invite Ford's dealers to join the



campaign and send a message back to Detroit.

While American consumers flock to more fuel efficient brands to cope with sky-rocketing gas prices, Ford is deflecting the consequences of its poor planning onto its workforce and dealer network. While new CEO Allan Mulally accepted an annual salary package of nearly \$35 million,

Ford announced it would lay off a third of its workers, accelerate plant closures, and significantly downsize its dealer network — particularly in the "problem areas" of California and the Eastern Seaboard. In other words, auto dealers — who are already struggling to make ends meet as the number of vehicles sold-per-dealership continues to decline — are being forced to pay for Ford's short-sighted choices.

*Please join us in inviting these dealers to be the messengers*

*for this campaign. Ask your local dealer to send this message back to Ford: The only way Ford will regain its market share and ensure its competitive future is for it to lead the industry in fuel economy standards.*



*Visit [JumpStartFord.com](http://JumpStartFord.com) for more information.*

## Plug-In Bay Area propels demand for PHEVs

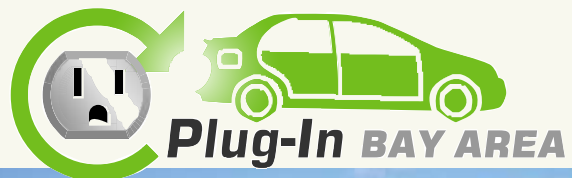
Recognizing that building a viable market for fuel efficient, gasoline optional transportation is a vital step toward breaking our addiction to oil, RAN has helped launch Plug-In Bay Area, an initiative designed to reduce our dependence on oil by promoting the use of Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs). In addition to being the newest chapter of Plug-In Partners, a national grassroots effort, Plug-In Bay Area is aimed at building local demand for PHEVs by soliciting "soft orders" at the grassroots, municipal and corporate levels.

In just a few short months, Plug-In Bay Area has already secured soft fleet orders from the County of Marin and the City of Berkeley, sending a clear signal to automakers like Ford Motor Company that demand for these cars exist and challenging them to mass produce PHEVs and make them available commercially. Other cities such as San Francisco and Alameda have passed resolutions supporting the development and commercialization of these vehicles.

PHEVs, which combine gas and electric fuel, offer an exciting and timely solution to America's dependence on foreign oil, high gasoline costs, poor air quality and climate change. PHEVs are hybrids with larger batteries that can be plugged in to use clean, cheap domestic

electricity as fuel while retaining the extended range of conventional hybrids. A fully charged battery is capable of averaging more than 100 miles per gallon at an equivalent cost of one dollar per gallon. When combined with a flexible-fuel engine that runs on domestic biofuels and clean sources of renewable energy, such as rooftop solar, PHEVs help make oil-free transportation a reality.

*If you're interested in joining the campaign to get more Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles on the roads, visit [PlugInBayArea.org](http://PlugInBayArea.org) today!*



## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# Jon Schledewitz

Interview by Sara Sadeghi

*Jon Schledewitz is an activist and photojournalist from Winnipeg, Manitoba. His photographs help translate the reality of Indigenous resistance to injustices throughout Canada, particularly in remote areas beyond the reach of mainstream news outlets. Living just hours from Grassy Narrows, Jon has been a vital contributor to RAN's ongoing work to end predatory logging by Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi Consolidated on Grassy Narrows' Traditional Territory. Over the course of the last year, RAN has been able to bring Jon's photographs to dozens of news outlets throughout North America, helping to bring the story of Grassy Narrows to mainstream audiences and pressure Weyerhaeuser to respect Indigenous rights in Grassy Narrows.*

### Why did Grassy Narrows speak to you as an artist / activist?

I had been following Indigenous resistance and knew I should find out more about the situation in Grassy Narrows seeing as how it was so close to where I live.

### How can photography inspire action?

Defining a moment with a photograph is different than taking a picture. Images can invoke in some people empathy for others. Photographs help facilitate transmitting information to those who can't be in that situation. One doesn't have to go see a clear cut in person to know that it is virtually a war zone after viewing film footage of a clear cut.

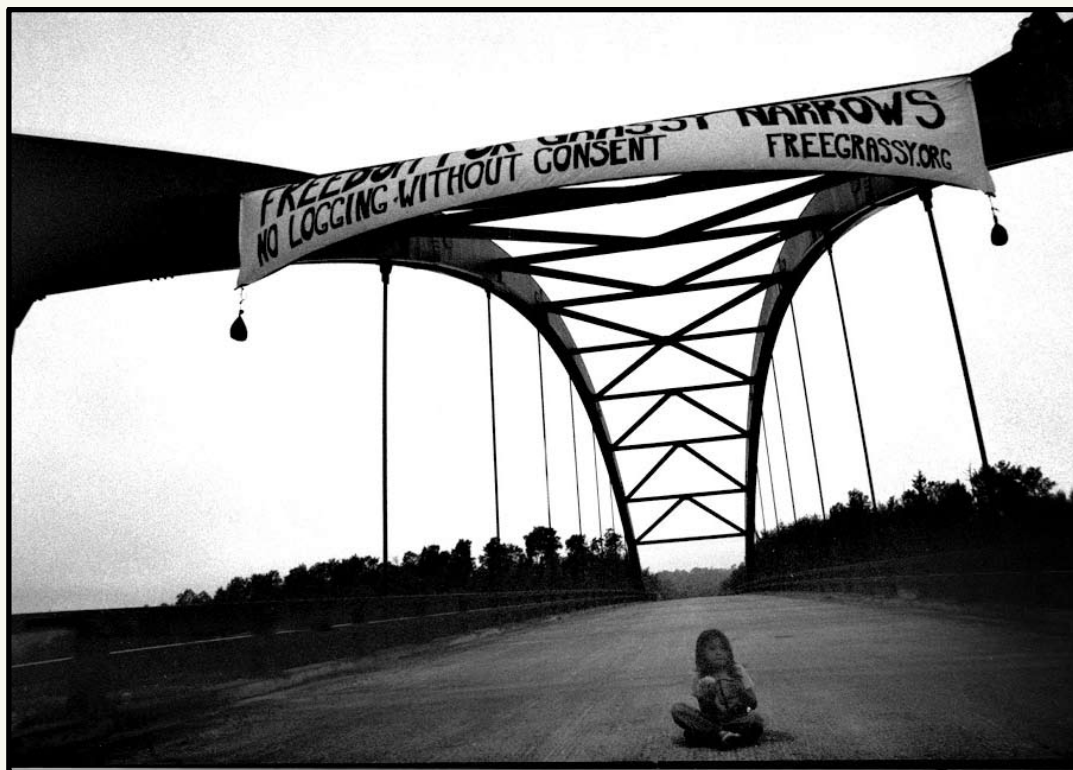
### How do you feel it propels the movement to protect Grassy Narrows from unjust logging?

I would love to think it does.

### What projects can we expect from you in the near future?

Myself and two other Winnipeg based photographers have started a website and are working toward being a Canadian photo agency with the mandate of providing engaging images of crucial subject matter. My next step is to document the historical and current effects hydro (electric dams) have on northern Indigenous communities.

View more of Jon's photos at  
[www.redlineagency.com](http://www.redlineagency.com)







Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi Consolidated continue to log on Tribal Land without the consent of the Grassy Narrows First Nation. Photos by Jon Schledewitz

## Grassy Narrows Grandmothers tour Ontario

RAN's work in support of Grassy Narrows continues both north and south of the border. In November, RAN joined Judy Da Silva, Roberta Keesick, and Barbara Fobister, Indigenous leaders of the Grassy Narrows First Nation, as they embarked on a week-long tour to share front-line stories from the Trans-Canada Highway blockade and the struggle to stop clear-cut logging on their traditional territory. The tour reached hundreds of people in six cities throughout Canada. Highlights included a keynote address by Judy Da Silva at a conference focused on collaborations between Indigenous groups and NGOs called "Re-envisioning Relationships," and the unfurling of a banner on the front steps of the Ontario legislature in Toronto.



Meanwhile, RAN activists in Seattle and Los Angeles continue to pressure Weyerhaeuser homebuilding subsidiaries linked to the conflict in Grassy Narrows. Quadrant Homes is using wood clearcut without consent from Grassy Narrows Traditional Territory to build tract home developments in the Seattle area. Activists from the Seattle Rainforest Action Group set up shop in front of a Quadrant home sales office, educating potential homebuyers that Quadrant homes are built from wood taken from Indigenous land in endangered forests in Ontario. In Los Angeles, activists went door-to-door to talk to homeowners who were misled into buying what they thought were "green" houses from Pardee Homes. These homes were in fact built with wood from Weyerhaeuser and extracted from Grassy Narrows.

## RAN's Grassroots Organizing Team: Building our Movement

RAN's Grassroots Organizing Department works to train and mobilize an extended national network of activists dedicated to confronting climate change, oil addiction and forest destruction in local communities and around the world. Since the department opened in April, it has created a range of new ways for activists to get involved with RAN. Our revamped email list (the Weekly e-Panther) provides updates and ways to make a difference on all of RAN's campaigns. Subscribers can also sign up as "Rapid Responders" for even more insider information on their favorite campaigns.

The Grassroots team is also developing new activism resources for youth from middle schools up through college, launching RAN chapters across North America, and building action-oriented environmental lesson plans for elementary, middle and high school teachers.

*Don't miss an opportunity to get involved in your community! Sign up for the e-Panther at [RAN.org](http://RAN.org) or email [activism@ran.org](mailto:activism@ran.org).*

## World Rainforest Week

RAN kicked off World Rainforest Week on Oct. 16 with a series of empowering activities and actions to help save the world's most diverse ecosystems from clear-cut logging, climate change and fossil fuel extraction.

On **Monday**, more than 2,000 RAN members pledged to take action during the course of the week to bring attention to the primary causes of rainforest destruction all over the world.

On **Tuesday**, 1,162 people chose to make a difference by living tree-free.

On **Wednesday**, 1,053 supported Indigenous communities of the Amazon by sending letters to James Mulva, CEO of ConocoPhillips, asking him to retire all Amazonian oil exploration licenses.

More than 1,000 emails were sent to Wells Fargo CEO Richard Kovacevich on **Thursday**, calling on America's most backward bank to stop financing destructive coal mining operations and investing in global warming.

**Friday**, more than 800 activists took the rainforests into the classrooms by helping to connect teachers in the online Rainforest Heroes Teachers Lounge, a great source of information to empower the next generation to protect the earth.

**Saturday** was the day to Declare Independence from Oil by committing to oil-free transportation, while sending a message to Ford Motor Company to stop building gas-guzzlers and lead the way with better fuel standards and cleaner cars.

On **Sunday**, the final day of World Rainforest Week, we asked supporters to host parties. More than 750 Parties for the Planet helped raise funds for RAN's Protect-an-Acre program and awareness about rainforest related issues like global warming, dirty energy and oil addiction.

## Rainforest Heroes challenge clearcutting in Tasmania

On Nov. 9, more than 4,000 letters and pictures from children around the world were delivered to logging giant Gunns Limited's annual shareholder meeting in Tasmania. Excerpts from the letters were read aloud to Gunns' CEO John Gay and the company's shareholders during the meeting, all calling on Gay to stop destroying Tasmania's ancient forests and wildlife. The letters were assembled as part of an Earth Day Letter Drive launched by Rainforest Heroes last Spring calling on Gunns to protect Tasmania's temperate rainforests. The news of the delivery made headlines across Australia, forcing Gay to defend Gunns' egregious logging practices to future generations.





## REVEL 2006: The Art of Activism

On Oct. 19, 2006, Rainforest Action Network and 500 of our closest friends gathered for REVEL, a benefit party so fun it should have been illegal! This year's REVEL celebrated The Art of Activism to honor the beauty and creativity of RAN's 21 years of direct action for the Earth.

Finally, the party I'd been waiting for all year. The PARTY we'd all been waiting for all year. REVEL. And revel we did! In fact we sold all our tickets and actually had to turn folks away. Plan ahead, I say.

We honored four magnificent environmental heroes from around the planet with our World Rainforest Awards—Vandana Shiva, Gordon Roddick, John Perkins and Australian Green Party Senator Bob Brown.

Guests were treated to a fabulous night of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a seasonal, local, organic three-course dinner by Back to Earth Catering, silent and live auctions, and dancing to afrobeat rhythms by ALBINO! The live auction included a personal portrait by Peter Max, a ride for you and three of your friends in the fabulous new all-electric and fast Tesla Roadster, private drum lessons with The Doors' John Densmore, and a week's stay in a swish Manhattan apartment. We also held an action auction – a chance for folks to support RAN's newest campaign aimed at sorting out the greatest threat to rainforests around the world, Agribusiness production of oil palm and soya for the global food market – and most often – the global junk food market.

This magical evening raised \$210,000 for RAN's critical work. Thank you so much to those that participated and helped to make REVEL such a success. And for those that missed it, you must come next year!

So make your plans now. Next year, REVEL will be on Oct. 18 – again, the night before Bioneers, an annual conference held in Marin that spans Friday through Sunday. Inspiration and food for thought to follow REVEL was the perfect ticket this year – so plan ahead to make sure you can make a big long weekend of it – to charge your batteries and celebrate the work we've accomplished, are accomplishing, and the work ahead.

Thanks so much to our sponsors, to our food and drink providers, and to all those who turned out to make REVEL such a raging success.

With great appreciation for your attendance and your support,



Branden Barber  
Development Director



Clockwise, starting at left: ALBINO! rocks the stage; *Freedom of Speech Award* recipient Senator Bob Brown from Australia inspires the crowd; author and activist Vandana Shiva accepts the *Our World is Not For Sale Award*; looking down at a packed house from above the canopy; activist and co-founder of The Body Shop Anita Roddick helps raise money for RAN's newest campaign aimed at destructive agribusiness. All photos by Susana Millman



221 Pine Street | 5th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94104

also on the web at [ran.org](http://ran.org)

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corporate America to its senses.”**  
- The Ecologist Magazine

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photo by Alex Sirkin

**RAN supporters Whoopi Goldberg and Chris Noth (center) join RAN Board Chair Jim Gollin (left) and Executive Director Michael Brune (right) at a New York City benefit for RAN at The Plumm.**

## Give a Holiday Gift Membership to RAN

If you're looking for an inspirational gift this holiday season - give the gift of environmental activism. We'll notify the recipient with a personalized card announcing your gift. Then throughout the year, they will enjoy all the benefits and privileges of our regular membership, including a one-year subscription to The PANTHER.

***Go to [ran.org/donate](http://ran.org/donate) to give your gift today!***

## Become a part of the solution

RAN works directly with grassroots networks in the environmental and social justice movements, collaborates with indigenous communities around the world, and creates alliances with sustainable business leaders and socially responsible investors. Our relentless market campaigns engage, pressure and inspire big business to behave more responsibly. Our work and our victories are made possible with generous contributions by dedicated supporters like you.

Support RAN today. Together, we are changing business as usual on Wall Street and beyond.

