

23/8/2011



Great [Canberra action](#) yesterday as part of an international day of action for the Amazon, focusing in particular on requesting the Brazilian government to reverse their decision to build the [Belo Monte Dam](#) on the Xingu River in the Amazon Basin.

Many Australian's had seen the [60-minutes programme on the issue](#) a couple of weeks back and we found lots of support for our action both in Canberra and in Sydney. As well as Australia, people all over the world rallied to this cause with actions in

[17 countries and 6 US cities](#). In most of those places [Facebook](#) was used to organize and network the actions.



Our action was organized by Cecile van der Burgh who did all of the media work from Melbourne (with the help of Jane Salmon of Salmon Gum Media) and Mal Fisher and Daryl Morris of The Wilderness Society in Sydney who painted the banner and placards and got a minibus to carry them and the Sydney crew to the action. Thanks also to Jemma Bailey from Senator Lee Rhianon's office for help with media releases.

Because of the support of Avatar director [James Cameron](#) and star [Sigourney Weaver](#), we had Avatar = Amazon as our theme and the day started with Canberra facepainter Chris Durkin ably assisted by students Lauren Kimpton and Amanda painting up out three Pandorans – Julie Melrose, Wenona Matthews and Denis Cairney.





We were cordially received by the Brazilian embassy and the ambassador invited myself and two of the Avatars to sip coffee and Brazilian sweets, present him with a [letter for the Brazilian government](#) and give us his views about why we should support the dams. He had his photo taken with the Avatars and accompanied us to the front door to rejoin the protest outside.



Most of the media was otherwise occupied with a huge convoy of trucks that had descended on Canberra from around the country to protest this that and the other and to unseat the government.



In search of more media we headed for the forecourt of Parliament House and sure enough the ABC and one other TV crew found us on the outskirts of the truckies protest.

WIN TV had a story that night and the [Canberra](#)

[Times ran an article](#)



Robin Davidson shot video at the embassy and uploaded a [few minutes to youtube](#). A splendid day was had by all and hopefully, as part of a worldwide chorus was heard all the way to Brasil.

Lots more pictures on [Julie Melrose's](#) and [Celia van der Burgh's](#) Facebook pages.

