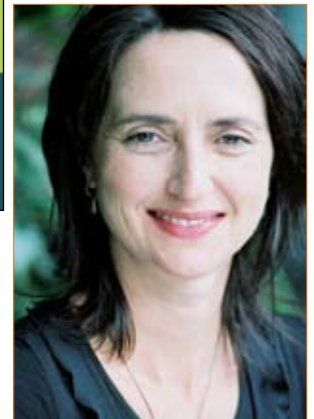


A Lighter Footprint
 ISBN 978 1 921215 59 9
 Angela Crocombe
 Scribe
 236pp
 RRP \$24.95



The Ethical Investor
 ISBN 978 0 670070 46 6
 Anne-Marie Spagnolo
 Penguin
 132pp
 RRP \$24.95

A Lighter Footprint:

by Angela Crocombe

If you have circumnavigated Tim Flannery’s climate change book *The Weather Makers*, and been sobered up good and proper by Al Gore and The Stern Report, you are probably looking for something practical to do.

Just in time comes a book like Crocombe’s which is accessible and allows you to dive into it to obtain all sorts of advice about practical day to day decisions.

How to choose seafood, lipstick, investments; have a sustainable office, save water. It is a good piece of work. The facts and figures are quickly delivered to put you in the picture (without teeth gnashing and breathless exclamations, thankfully).

‘Of all the terrible things going on in the world, I felt that climate change was the one about which I was most passionate,’ says Crocombe of her decision to write the book.

The timing is brilliant – coming out just as the greater community is beginning to realise that global warming has become mainstream reasoning. However it is luck rather than planning that lead to this – Crocombe spent the whole of 2006 working part time on the book (her main job is writing educational books).

Crocombe says she ‘loved researching this book’ and it shows in the concise but intense ‘pocket facts’ she striates throughout the main body of the work. I don’t like being told what to do without a certain amount of logical rationale surrounding it and I like a writer to at least presume I am intelligent as a reader. So the approach of *A Lighter Footprint* gave me enormous satisfaction.

It is manufactured carbon neutral and light and easy to carry around when you do your shopping. It is also up to the minute and I can see this being updated every year (although Crocombe says she is currently working on a children’s book on Climate Change).

The Ethical Investor:

by Anne-Marie Spagnolo

What a great little overview this is! Ethical investment adviser Anne-Marie Spagnolo has written a small but wide-ranging book that introduces all those elements of the Ethical Investment world that ordinarily seem complex.

‘The notion of tax rules and jargon in the investment world is difficult enough,’ says Spagnolo. ‘The added layer of Ethical Investment information seems to create just another barrier to people who have genuine interest.’

And you don’t have to suffer to be good. ‘Profit is not a dirty word. One myth I definitely wanted to dispel was that investing ethically means being charitable and foregoing high returns.’

The book is aimed at the ‘average person’, but according to Spagnolo there is no ‘average profile’ of the person interested in ethical investments. ‘You get the young person first entering the workforce who is aware of climate change and wants to direct their super funds in an appropriate way. Then on the other end of the scale there is the conservative older person who has developed concerns.’

There is no lecturing or badgering which makes the book a nice clean read covering a wide range of ‘ethical’ issues – armaments, uranium, genetic modification and tobacco – without judgment.

‘I wanted to keep it objective,’ says Spagnolo. ‘I provide enough information for people to make up their own minds about where they sit.’

There are case studies that provide good descriptions of the unsimple life we live these days – all looked at from the ethical investment angle. There is a good basic glossary – and the whole heart wrenching territory of ethics seems suddenly very accessible. 