



# CONSERVATION NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Volume 22, No. 5, June, 1990

Registered Australia Post Publication No. VBH 1752.

## SUSTAINING THE 'NINETIES



**“do unto  
the next  
generation  
as you  
would have  
the past  
generation  
had done  
unto you”**

□ Illustration by Matt Fisher

### INSIDE

Population and Environment ....	2
Sustaining the 1990s .....	3
Libs back Mallee Parks .....	4
Greenhouse Energy Strategy ...	5
Recycled newsprint – a global demand .....	7
Landcare, Aborigines and Pastoralism .....	8-9
Eco-peace in Tibet .....	11



## OPENING PANDORA'S BOX

seeking a balance between population growth and ecological sustainability



### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Phillip Toyne

Recently I attended my first National Population Council meeting in Canberra, prompting me to address the issue of population and its impact on environment.

It goes without saying that this is a vexed issue and many environmentalists are adamant that Australia's population is now too large to be ecologically sustainable. They argue that ACF should be campaigning for a reduction in the present level of immigration which now stands at 140,000 per annum.

Our Forward Plan acknowledges concern about the growing level of population in Australia and the need to move towards a sustainable population level. One cannot disagree with the fact that the staggering increase in global population is placing an appalling burden on our planet, and that this can be directly linked to expanding deserts, shrinking forests and declining species diversity. This population explosion is occurring primarily in Third World countries where the prospects are indeed frightening.

But there is an interlinked problem — that of exploding materialism and its consequent rise in per capita resource use. The World Watch Institute tells us that 20 per cent of the world's population, those in the developed world, consume 80 per cent of the world's resources. We now see the entire globe as a huge resource base available to supply the industries of those nations wealthy enough to have them. If the

80 per cent of the world's population were to consume at the levels we do in the developed countries there can be no doubt that non-renewable resources would be quickly exhausted and would face what Pope John Paul II has recently described as 'imminent ecological collapse'.

Sustainable levels of population both globally and nationally will depend on both population numbers and per capita consumption of resources. That is, we may sustain large numbers of people if we consume and pollute less or, conversely, smaller numbers if we continue present levels of consumption. On this basis I am deeply troubled by those who unquestionably argue for economic growth without thinking through the consequences. The economic growth argument somewhat dismissively suggests that smarter technology will overcome our existing environmental problems.

They ignore the huge inequities in the distribution of global wealth, where the 'developed' nations get richer and the 'underdeveloped' nations get poorer and more populous. They provide no mechanism for reducing poverty in the Third World which is unarguably linked to increasing population. There has been an appalling lack of commitment on the part of rich nations to contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product to foreign aid. Australia has consistently failed to meet this goal and much of our aid has gone on environmentally and socially destructive projects.

Of all the arguments on environmental sustainability and population growth in this country, immigration is possibly the most contentious. Firstly let me express

dismay that ecological justification has been picked up by some to argue against immigration when it seems the core of their objection is the ethnic origins of those entering Australia. We must never allow our deliberations and processes to be hijacked by those with that agenda.

Secondly, I believe we must act from a sound factual basis if we seek to argue a particular figure for immigrant intake. To arbitrarily set a number and justify it by pointing to increasing environmental problems is simplistic and will hold us to ridicule. Much inappropriate land use, degradation and pollution was put in train when Australia's population was much smaller. The answer must lie, in part at least, in insisting that the environmental impact of numbers of people be measured when calculating an appropriate intake. We must continue to challenge the simple assumptions which under-pinch of this debate and the decisions of Government when setting immigration policy.

Lastly and most importantly, we must retain our compassion and humanity. ACF's Forward Plan also speaks of striving for a society which promotes 'equity and social justice for all'. We cannot embrace all people who may wish to relocate here. But nor can we turn our backs on recommended numbers of refugees or those seeking to be reunited with relatives already here. To do so would justifiably have us branded as inhumane zealots.

This issue is important on both a social and ecological level. So that it can be discussed in a humane and constructive way I will be inviting some key people to contribute their thoughts in future editions of Conservation News. □

## In Search of a Sustainable Definition

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development promises to become the environmental catch-phrase of the 1990's. It also promises to become a political slogan wielded by the different sides of the environmental debate.

For this reason many environmentalists are suspicious of the term itself. Indeed the ACF has chosen to use the phrase 'ecological sustainability' to underscore its belief that human society can only be sustainable in the long-term by conserving the environment. In spite of this uncertainty of meaning, the fact that the concept of sustainability has moved to the centre stage of political, social and economic debate is a very significant measure of the environmental movement's success.

Definitions abound for sustainable development. The World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Report) defined it simply as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs..." This definition contains two key concepts: 'needs' (in particular the essential needs of the world's poor to which overriding priority should be given); and 'limitations' which are imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. The WCED report also emphasized that sustainable development was a process of change in which painful choices would have to be made and that its ultimate success depended upon political will.

A cursory reading of newspaper coverage of recent months indicates that in Australia 'sustainable development' has been interpreted to mean almost whatever suits a particular interest in the least 'pain-

ful' way. For example, the Australian Mining Industry Council believes that sustainable development involves the relaxing of mining and exploration restrictions on national parks. At a more sophisticated level, politicians, from both ends of the political spectrum in Australia, maintain that sustainability is only possible in the context of continued economic growth. They point to the Brundtland report to support this view.

Ecologists on the other hand believe that economic growth which entails further expansion in resource consumption is unsustainable and that we need to redefine our societal objectives in terms of qualitative growth in human welfare whilst achieving a decline in the level of material resource consumption.

In this context environmental groups around the world are now asking how do we deal constructively with the sustainable development debate; how do we ensure that the focus is on ecological sustainabil-

ity? And how will we avoid losing political momentum for reforms in the environmental arena whilst actively participating in what must be a complex and time-consuming process to achieve ecological sustainability?

Just as a domestic political debate over 'sustainable development' is unfolding in Australia with the Federal Government's commitment to community discussions, a huge international process is building momentum to ensure a full United Nations General Assembly debate in Brazil in 1992. The UN Conference on Environment and Development promises to be of immense, if not unparalleled, political significance. Timed to occur 20 years after the Stockholm UN conference on environment in 1972, (and, incidentally, 500 years after Columbus began a process of European colonization which ecological ramifications may be felt for millennia to come) UNCED 1992 will become the focal point for a host of international problems and issues surrounding development, poverty, and the environment.

Although the importance of the UNCED 1992 debate is not denied by many in the environmental movement, there is a concern that by becoming too deeply involved in the process, the movement could lose valuable momentum on issues such as climate change, the race to stop destruction of the rainforests and a wide range of other issues. The sceptics point to exercises such as the World Conservation Strategy and the National Conservation Strategy for Australia as examples of processes which produced little fundamental change in spite of the input of much time and energy.

On the other hand however, the opening up

continued page 5



□ cartoon Patrick Cook

## SUSTAINING THE 1990s

ACF has launched an appeal for the development of a "Greenprint for the Future". We need your support.

Please give what you can and encourage others who may wish to support this vital campaign. Send your donation to ACF's appeal, to Sustain the 1990s, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065. tel: (03) 416 1455 (toll free (008) 338 928) for credit card facilities.

CONSERVATION NEWS, June, 1990 - 3

### Australian Conservation Foundation

340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065, tel: (03) 416 1455, fax: (03) 416 0767, toll free (008) 338 928.

President—Peter Garrett • Director—Phillip Toyne • Editing and Layout—Merrill Findlay, Angela Brennan Assistance—Deirdre Lawrence

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Contributors note that it is the policy of Conservation News to use non-sexist, non-racist language.

### STATE OFFICES

- NSW: Suite 306, 3rd floor North Wing, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, NSW, 2000, tel: (02) 247 1497 • ACT: PO Box 2699, Canberra City, ACT, 2601, (Griffin Centre, Bunda St, Canberra, ACT, 2600), tel: (06) 247 2472 • Tasmania: 130 Davey St, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000, tel: (002) 34 9366
- Queensland: 308 Edward St, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000, tel: (07) 229 7715
- WA: Louerites House, 79 Stirling St, Perth, WA, 6000, tel: (09) 220 0669 • SA: 120 Wakefield St, Adelaide, SA, 5000, tel: (08) 232 2566



## Conservationists applaud Vic Liberal support for Mallee Parks

In an historic decision for the conservation of remnant mallee lands in Australia, the Victorian Liberal Party has given their full and unconditional support to the Cain Labor Government's Mallee Parks legislation.

The legislation establishes the 630,000 ha Murray-Sunset National Park, a 220,000 ha extension to the Wyperfeld National Park and various flora and fauna reserves (see Conservation News, April, 1990). Stock grazing will now be phased out of all conservation reserves by 1996 and broombrush harvesting will be terminated on Mallee public lands by June 1991.

The State Government deserves great credit for putting up such far-sighted legislation to protect an area about which the community has become increasingly concerned.

We acknowledge the role of the then Minister for Planning and Environment, Tom Roper, in ensuring that the legislation adopted and in some cases, improved upon, the Land Conservation Council recommendation for the Mallee.

The Liberal Party also deserves recognition for having demonstrated that they are prepared to make informed decisions to



Sunset country wilderness, Mallee, Victoria. □ Photo: Ros Jamieson

protect the natural values of Victoria's environment. Liberal Party environment spokespeople, in particular Geoff Coleman and Mark Birrell, have always been accessible and willing to listen to the conservation viewpoint. We acknowledge their role in the Party's strong stand on this issue.

Victoria's system of national parks is one of the best and most representative systems of conservation reserves in the world. (National parks now constitute 12 per cent of the State's landmass). However, in recent years, the integrity of the

national park concept has been jeopardised by a few decisions which have allowed exploitative activities, detrimental to conservation values to continue within park boundaries. An example of this is ongoing cattle grazing and once-only logging in Victoria's Alpine region.

The support of both major parties for the LCC's recommendations for the Mallee is a welcome reversal of this trend, and a reaffirmation of the importance and value of the national park system as a whole.

Rodney Waterman  
The Wilderness Society

## Bruno Manser in Australia for the Penan

Bruno Manser, Swiss illustrator and advocate for the Penan people of the tropical forests of Sarawak, in Malaysia, is giving a series of public meetings in a number of Australian cities this month. Bruno lived with the Penan people for six years, and is endeavouring to raise funds and increase awareness about the destruction of their homelands by logging operations.

The aim of his meetings is to impress on Australians the necessity to halt the import of tropical rainforest timbers from areas where the lives of the indigenous and local people are adversely affected by

the industry, and where the timber comes from unreplaceable sources.

The Australian Cabinet is due to debate this issue during forthcoming weeks. Please strengthen this cause by writing to the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, (both c/- Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2601), urging them to halt tropical forest timber imports to Australia, and to support Bruno Manser's recommendations to help save the homelands of the Penan and other indigenous peoples of Malaysia. □

### Meeting dates

For information regarding venues and times ring the relevant number below.

**Brisbane 11th June; tel: (07) 229 4533, Lismore 12th June, tel: (066) 217 931; Sydney 14th June, tel: (02) 281 6799; Melbourne 15th June, tel: (03) 417 7450, Perth, 16th June (09) 321 2269; Canberra 17th June (06) 257 5807.**

For further information on ACF's tropical forest campaign contact Felicity Wishart, at ACF's Melbourne office, tel: (03) 416 1455. □

## How can we stop the greenhouse juggernaut?

Greenhouse Energy Strategy  
Sustainable Energy Development for Australia.

By Deni Greene Consulting Services  
A report prepared for the Federal Department of Arts, Sport, the environment, Tourism and Territories  
February, 1990

Until now, most scientific and technological work on the greenhouse effect has involved monitoring and computer modelling the earth's atmosphere and exploring the impacts of climate change on the weather, on society and on plants and animals. A recent report prepared for DASETT by Deni Greene Consulting Services offers a refreshing change in tack by exploring the opportunities available in Australia for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and hence slowing down greenhouse warming.

The ACF's Forward Plan proposes that Australia achieve a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emission by the year 2000, moving to a 50 per cent reduction by 2015, based on 1988 emission levels.

But using traditional assumptions, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) has projected that our carbon dioxide emissions would actually be 53 per cent greater in the year 2005 than in 1988. This would involve burning up annually an additional 13,000 million litres of automotive fuel and building additional power stations with generating capacity of 20,000 megawatts.

How can we stop the juggernaut?

In the short term, the cheapest and fastest method of reducing carbon dioxide emis-

MAKING WOOD YOU LIKE YOUR FOOD WITH NO WITHOUT CARBON DIOXIDE? THERE'S AN EXTRA CHARGE FOR THE CARBON DIOXIDE



□ Deni Greene Consultancy Services

sions is increasing the efficiency with which we use energy. With sensible planning, energy efficiency can buy us enough time to implement renewable energy sources.

Deni Greene takes the ABARE scenario as given (although she is rightly critical of the forecast) and calculates the energy use and carbon dioxide emissions in 1988 and 2005. She then applies improvements in efficiency and fuel substitutions and calculates the energy use and carbon dioxide emissions in a new energy efficient scenario for 2005.

For this scenario, energy use in 2005 is 36 per cent below the ABARE level in the same year and 4 per cent below the 1988 level. Carbon dioxide emission in 2005 is 46 per cent below the ABARE level and 19

per cent below the 1988 level. The annual cost of the energy efficient scenario in 2005 is \$6,520 million less than that of the ABARE scenario.

Clearly there is no need for new electric power stations between now and the year 2005. In a nutshell, it turns out that for every \$5 we spend on improving energy efficiency, we save over \$15 which would have been spent supplying energy. Moreover, we reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over one tonne. The benefits of a substantial effort in the short term (over 3-5 years) are much greater than those of a piecemeal effort over the longer term.

The development of nationwide energy efficiency effort will produce new industries and many new jobs. In this way, and by reducing the import of petroleum, it will also improve Australia's balance of payments. It will reduce environmental pollution, reduce disease and health care costs and improve national security.

The report contains a wealth of information but not all this information is easily accessible to non-technical readers. And while measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are outlined in the report, their individual contributions to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions are not given.

Nevertheless, the report is a major resource in the debate over greenhouse strategies. It should be followed up with the rapid implementation of the most cost-effective measures while more detailed studies with a wide range of scenarios are conducted.

Mark Diesendorf  
Program Co-ordinator, Global Change

from page 3

of a structured debate on sustainability provides an unprecedented opportunity to develop new social and political institutions and policy frameworks that could assist in fundamentally resolving the world's environmental crises. From this perspective the failure of the environmental movement to play a central role, either through a conscious decision or simple oversight, would be disastrous.

The ACF is committed to playing an

active role in the sustainable development debate and to working out the most effective strategy for its involvement. An ACF discussion paper on ecological sustainability is being produced which will attempt to set directions on the issues surrounding the debate. From the Foundation's perspective one of the fundamental challenges is to develop policies which could set Australia on a socio-economic trajectory designed to bring our society into an ecologically sustainable relationship with our environ-

ment.

The Foundation's discussion paper, when released, will be open for comments, suggestions and constructive criticisms.

Bill Hare  
Research and Policy Analyst

For a broader understanding of issues surrounding Sustainable Development, a suggested reading list appears on page 13



## Huge advances for Tasmania's World Heritage areas

The last six months under the Labor-Green Accord have seen some great advances for ACF's agenda in Tasmania. The good news is as follows.

● In December the World Heritage Committee accepted the nomination of nearly 1.4 million hectares of Tasmania's wilderness as World Heritage.

● In April, the State Government announced that over 1.2 million hectares of the new World Heritage Area would be national park. The announcement increased the area of national park in Tasmania by over 470,000 hectares to include areas such as Eldon Range, Gordon Splits, Denison Range, Denison River, Lemonthyme Forest, Farnhouse Creek, tall forests, Lower Gordon catchment and parts of the Central Plateau.

● In December, the government announced the declaration of a 16,000 hectare national park on the East Coast, protecting the dry-sclerophyll forests of the Douglas and Apsley Rivers.

● Over summer, the State Government also put an end to the damaging mineral-exploration operation in the Wild Rivers National Park near the Jane River.

The bad news is that the Government is allowing continued mineral exploration and mining within the new World Heritage Area at Adamsfield and Benders Quarry. The latter operation involves extraction of

part of the Exit Cave limestone system, one of Australia's longest.

The Government has also made enormous concessions to "traditional users" of the more accessible parts of the World Heritage Area. Hunting and horse riding will still be allowed on most of the Central Plateau, most of which will now become national park. Similarly, hunting and off-road vehicles will still be permitted in the environs of Macquarie Harbour in deference to over two hundred local residents. The Government has backed away



Prince of Wales Range: one of the recently announced National Parks for Tasmania

## A new green age for NSW

NSW's Premier Nick Greiner's recent environment statement - *The New Environmentalism: A Conservative Perspective* - is the first serious recognition by the Coalition parties that the environment is indeed, a mainstream issue.

In the statement released last month, the Premier conceded that environmental problems required long-term national strategies and national standards and penalties, and that, in relation to environmental issues at least, the States' "obsession with" states rights" was no longer appropriate. Mr Greiner also recognised the need for a bipartisan approach to the environment and for broad community involvement in the debate.

The Premier's statement presents a model which rationally exploits natural resources and solves existing problems with cheaper technology, increased productivity and economic growth,

within the framework of current economic and political structures.

Directly challenging his "develop at all costs" colleagues, the Premier acknowledged that government and politicians must take responsibility for ensuring that available resources are used in the interests of the community. In accepting this responsibility, they must base their decisions on the best available information and on the recommendations of an independent advisory process, the Statement said.

In response to the Statement, ACF Director, Phillip Toyne, said 'the greatest challenge for the Greiner Government will be to achieve an integration of the environment and the economy to put the economy on a firm ecological basis.'

ACF will be carefully monitoring NSW government moves to see whether the rhetoric matches future actions.

Sue Salmon  
NSW State Co-ordinator

## STOP PRESS

Members are urgently requested to write to the Western Tiers Plan, (Forestry Commission of Tasmania, PO BOX 180 Kings Meadow, Tasmania, 7243, to register an expression of interest in the management of the Great Western Tiers, Tasmania. Submissions will be called for at a later date.

from declaring this area a national park, settling instead for the more innocuous status of Historic Site.

Overall, however, there is much to celebrate. With the forthcoming national park declarations, most of the victories set up by last year's negotiations with the Labor Party have been realised.

Geoff Law  
State Coordinator, Tasmania

## WA opts for "dirty" industry to meet energy needs

While the rest of the world is weighing up the problem of how to reduce its output of greenhouse gases, Western Australia is looking to coal-fired power stations for its future energy needs.

Environmental reports for proposals to establish coal-fired power stations at Collie in WA's south-west, and at beautiful Mt Lesueur, 250 km north of Perth, have been recently released.

Needless to say, most of the prized areas of the Mt Lesueur region, an area widely acknowledged as of world class conservation value, would be irreparably damaged by an open-cut coal mine and power station.

The Collie environment faces a similarly bleak future trying to live with what would be the second coal-fired power station in the area. Already much of the surrounding jarrah forest is showing signs of stress due to drawdown of the water table. Local residents are suffering as flyash precipitators have yet to be fitted to half of the

existing station stacks.

The protection of Mt Lesueur has been identified by the ACF as a priority in the Forward Plan. The area has been recognised for its immense biological diversity since the 1950s and has been consistently recommended for National Park status since 1974. Because of deposits of low-grade coal found in the region, this recommendation has been consistently blocked by the mining lobby.

The proposed Mt Lesueur National Park boasts seven gazetted rare and endangered species of plants among over 800 species found within its boundaries. An astonishing 10 per cent of WA's total number of plant species is represented in this area of 12 km x 24 km! The fauna population is accordingly diverse.

Quite apart from the destruction that these coal-fired power station proposals stand to wreak on unique environments in WA, the serious question of greenhouse responsibility must be addressed. Both

proposals intend using conventional (ie old) coal-fired technology, with the usual minimum emission standards.

The coal lobby, (both within government and private enterprise) have attempted to convince conservationists that there are no viable alternatives to coal to fulfil future energy needs. WA has never implemented an energy conservation program. Such a program could delay the need for new power stations for a considerable period, whilst making better use of energy, protecting unique ecosystems, saving money and helping to alleviate the greenhouse problem.

Write and remind the WA Premier, Carmen Lawrence, (c/- Capita Centre, 197 St George's Terrace, Perth, 6000), that WA has a responsibility to the rest of Australia and the world to reduce its output of greenhouse gases, and urge her to reject these "dirty" proposals.

Neil Blake  
State Co-ordinator, WA

## Levy needed to encourage recycling of newsprint

Australia uses more than 650,000 tonnes of newsprint every year. Add to that magazines, junkmail and cardboard and we, as a nation, generate more than 1 billion tonnes of 'low-grade' paper waste annually.

All this paper causes two major environmental problems: firstly, a massive disposal problem and secondly, a huge demand on forest resources.

The obvious solution to both these problems is to recycle this low-grade paper. The community has responded well to this challenge over the past 2 years by collecting an ever increasing amount of paper for recycling. Unfortunately, industry's capacity to recycle paper has not increased accordingly. (Several recycling plants have even been closed down after industry takeovers).

There are now an estimated 50,000 tonnes of used paper stored around Melbourne

and kerbside collection schemes in many municipalities have collapsed. The major cause of this glut is that there is no facility anywhere in Australia to turn newsprint back into newsprint. (Australia is one of the last countries to make all its newspapers from virgin wood fibre.) Australian Newsprint Mills (ANM) has recently announced its intention to build a de-inking plant for used papers in Albury (NSW) but this will not begin operation until late 1992 at the earliest.

In the meantime, the most likely way of solving the supply and demand problem is to export the waste paper to countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines where de-inking facilities are already operating. Unfortunately the glut is worldwide and exports from North America has driven the price on world markets down substantially.

The economics of exporting now mean a small subsidy is required. (Many local government authorities are already subsidising their paper collection schemes.) The Victorian Government proposed a \$3 a tonne export levy to be introduced across the newspaper publishing industry but this was rejected by the publishers.

The ACF has therefore called on the newspaper industry to support the levy proposal or describe an alternative solution. If no response is forthcoming by June 30th, we urge consumers to begin to scale down their purchase of newspapers. In the meantime, ACF members are urged to write letters to major newspapers. These can either be sent to the proprietors or to the editor (for publication).

Peter Allan  
State Co-ordinator, Victoria

### How many trees make a New York Times?

The answer is on page 12 - but you won't want to read another unrecycled paper again once you know. **WE NEED RECYCLED NEWSPRINT!**

CONSERVATION NEWS, June, 1990 - 7



# PASTORALISM

## An Industry of erosion and subsidies



Dead and dying mulga scrub along watercourses near Oodnadatta, SA, following grazing.  
 □ Photo: Jason Alexandra

If you suggested to the Federal Government that it should provide subsidies to allow a form of strip-mining over 60 per cent of Australia's land surface, you would be treated as an economic lunatic. But this is effectively what is happening in the Northern Territory.

The principle cause of land degradation in the arid region of Australia is overgrazing by stock, particularly around watering points. By not encouraging pastoralists to reduce or eliminate stock on degraded land, the Federal Government's National Soil Conservation Program is little more than window dressing. The program addresses the symptoms of land degradation but not the causes. It is analogous to the Government providing a subsidy to CFC manufacturers to produce sunscreens while doing nothing to prevent increased production and discharge of CFCs.

In my opinion, Landcare can be considered just one more subsidy to a marginal industry which is based on low productivity, cheap (formerly Aboriginal) or limited labour, and low capital input. The National Soil Conservation Program's effective-

ness in reducing soil degradation in the Northern Territory will be extremely limited because it is based on southern Australian agricultural models that are inappropriate for the Territory.

### Re-defining 'Community based'

The criteria for funding of Landcare groups through the National Soil Conservation Program stipulates that the groups must be 'community based'. In the Northern Territory, such criteria make little sense because about 50 per cent of properties are owned by overseas or interstate interests, employees are itinerant and the average duration of managers is around three years in most areas. Furthermore the average size of properties is 3,300 square kilometres. A sum of \$20,000 (the maximum grant to individual Landcare groups) is not likely to be of great benefit to a group representing several stations of this size!

Nevertheless one Landcare group based on pastoral interests has been formed already in the Northern Territory and at least one other is being established. Neither group includes Aboriginal representation.

Aboriginal people continue to be marginalised even though they make up the bulk

of the rural population and own 35 per cent of the land. I believe this is because their use of the land and their ability to provide matching funds do not generally fit into the Landcare guidelines which favour non-Aboriginal land use models.

Currently, only one Aboriginal group has had any success in obtaining Landcare funding. This is the group centred on the Jurnkurakurr Aboriginal Resource Centre at Tennant Creek which is the principle rural council and resource agency in the Barkly, Tanami and Nicholson River regions of the Northern Territory. The JARC Landcare group represents 80 per cent of the rural population of the region and owns thousands of square kilometres of land. The land is degraded but not through Aboriginal use. Even so, it took two years to overcome institutionalised and cultural opposition to obtain funding.

### De-stocking the Territory

There are very strong and long standing arguments for completely de-stocking parts of the Northern Territory. Despite a large body of evidence that identified overstocking as a principal cause of soil erosion and pasture degradation, stock levels have increased in some areas to double the levels in the early 1970s, and the Territory Government still maintains a minimum rather than maximum stocking rate.

Given that soils in the arid region are generally poor, deficient in phosphate and other nutrients, have nil effective level of formation (Edwards, 1988) and are highly erosive, it is clear that in many degraded areas, stocking levels should be minimised.

### Rehabilitation Costs

In 1975 the then Federal Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development did a collaborative study stating that 203,000 square kilometres of pastoral land required mechanical treatments to restore land to a stable form and a further 37,000 square kilometres required changes in management practices.

The cost of the mechanical rehabilitation of degraded areas is up to \$30 per hectare in 1979 prices (Keetch 1979). Spread over

200,000 square kilometres, that could amount to a total cost of \$609 million in the Territory alone, not allowing for any further degradation since 1975.

The costs and efficacy of the Government's NSCP must also be considered in the context of the marginal nature of the entire pastoral industry in the Territory.

Historically, the industry has benefited from a range of public and hidden subsidies, including fuel and freight subsidies, cheap rents (as low as a few cents per square kilometre), drought relief, land clearance subsidies, grants and cheap loans.

Although some of these have been stopped many continue and recently the BTEC assistance and NSCP grants have become new forms of subsidies.

If these direct and indirect subsidies were removed, and the industry had to pay all its costs, most pastoral properties would become uneconomic.

In the Northern Territory, the pastoral industry occupies 50 per cent of the total land area but generates only 5 per cent of the Territory GNP. Employment and productivity are low. Only 264 people are employed in the Alice Springs pastoral

district. Stocking rates are as low as one animal per square kilometre.

With such low productivity the costs of improvements, such as fencing and more watering points, which would improve environmental management, are beyond the capacity of most pastoralists.

Apart from the subsidies which the industry receives, it pays few of its real costs. No account is taken of environmental costs, social costs (such as dispossession of Aborigines) and opportunity costs in assessing the viability of the industry.

If a proper cost/benefit analysis of the pastoral industry were undertaken in remote areas, it is certain that the NSCP would be seen to be propping up a damaging and uneconomic industry.

The Federal Government's Landcare and NSCP program has not addressed the issue of which land should not be in productive use at all, nor have land use conditions been placed on land users in receipt of funds.

### Re-think Landcare

Effectively the Government program amounts to giving uneconomic pastoralists subsidised spades to plant a few trees in one area while the same pastoralists con-

tinue to work flat out destroying the land a few kilometres away.

To be truly effective, the NSCP funding and all other Federal grants and subsidies should be dependent on covenants which compel State Governments and pastoralists to remove damaged, fragile or marginal land from exploitative use. That means that in some parts of the Northern Territory, the pastoral industry should be phased out completely.

I believe the ACF should be a prime mover in this process by insisting that all land be subject to a land capability assessment. This would undoubtedly bring the Foundation into conflict with groups representing pastoral interests, but it must be recognised that whilst pastoralists and conservationists share many common concerns, many pastoral landuse practices are incompatible with ecological sustainability.

by Chris Harris

Chris Harris was the Coordinator of the Jurnkurakurr Aboriginal Resource Centre, Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, until February this year.

## ACF promotes land management on land capability

ACF's involvement in forming an alliance with the National Farmers' Federation, which gained substantially increased Commonwealth Government funding to soil conservation has been indisputably successful.

Having now raised public and political consciousness around the issue of land degradation we must now work towards ensuring that those additional funds are being used in the most effective way. To that end in the ACF/NFF National Land Management Plan, and in all subsequent communication with governments and bureaucrats, the ACF has continued to promote land management decision making based on land capability assessment.

Chris Harris' article raises genuine concerns about the applicability of the Landcare model, and its current implementation to Australia's pastoral industries, particularly those in the Northern Territory.

The problem which needs to be addressed therefore is what form of voluntary activity, if any, would be appropriate for Governments to encourage in these geographically, socially and culturally diverse regions.

However, the article goes further and questions the whole economic and ecological basis of the pastoral industries. While the NSCP, and the Soil Conservation Advisory Committee which oversees it, carry a responsibility for ensuring that federal funds are used in an effective way, the larger problems of the long-term viability of particular industries need to be addressed in a wider context.

A Cabinet subcommittee on sustainable development has recently been established and sectorial (that is, agricultural, forestry, fisheries, mining, energy manufacturing and tourism) working groups will soon be set up to address major issues. It is antici-

ated that conservation groups will have direct input into these working groups.

The conservation movement will face major challenges in contributing to the debate on the future directions of our resource based industries. It will involve quite different strategies and tactics from those undertaken in conventional campaigning. Committee work, detailed economic research and extensive consultation with the environment movement will have to become important components of our activities in these areas.

If you are interested in contributing to this sort of work, contact Jo Lin in ACF's Natural Resources Unit, in the ACF's Sydney office. tel: (02) 252 2653.

by Jane Elix

Jane Elix is ACF's Natural Resources Coordinator and representative on the Federal Soil Conservation Advisory Committee.



## NEW BOOKS

Books on Midnight Oil's 1986 tour of the Northern Territory in 1986, food irradiation, Central Australia and the State of the World are on offer from Conservation News this month. Plus a special offer, *Dendrobium Orchids of Australia*, for orchid lovers. If you have any enquiries about these or other books, contact Gary Warrupe, ACF Books Coordinator at the ACF Melbourne Office, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065. Phone (03) 4176 1455 or toll free (008) 338 928.



### Strict Rules

A. McMillan, H & S, 1988, 224 pp, \$24.95  
An account of the rock band Midnight Oil's 1986 tour of Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory with the Aboriginal group The Warumpi Band. This tour educated the band and its media entourage (and the broader Australian community) though the contacts it made with isolated desert settlements and coastal fishing communities. The book also comments on the demonstrations at Pine Gap and the rigid security around the American B-52s in Darwin which the tour encountered.

### State of the World 1990

L. R. Brown et al. AU, 1990, 241pp, \$17.95  
This is the Australian edition of the Worldwatch Institute Report referred to regularly by Dr David Suzuki on his recent Australian tour. The report recommends major reordering of government priorities, including the conversion of military industries into enterprises that promote sustainable society.

Note: we have limited copies of *State of the World 1987 and 1988* to complete your series at \$23.50 each.

### Collins Reference Dictionary: Environmental Science

G. Jones et al: Collins, 1990 473 pp, \$14.95  
Includes over 1800 entries, line drawings and tables and an extensive cross reference system to help put entries into context.

**Food Irradiation: The Myth and the Reality**  
T. Webb and T. Lang, Thorsons, 1990, 224 pp, \$14.95

Irradiation is the latest technology to be offered for food preservation. Five years ago authors Webb and Lang were critical but not opposed to the process; in this edition, they raise serious questions about irradiation's safety and about the effects it has on food quality. The book includes an appendix of what companies are using irradiation, in which countries and on which foods.



### The Complete Guide To Central Australia

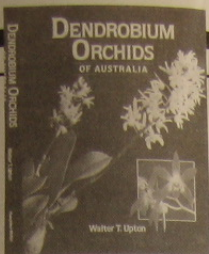
J. & M. Carter: H & S, 1989, 216pp, \$24.95  
The title says it all: whether you're back packing, 4-wheel driving or travelling by luxury bus, this guide explains how to get there, where to stay and what to see. The book contains detailed information on the history of the Centre, its landforms, climate, wildlife and the lifestyles of its people, both black and white. □

To order these books, send cheque with order to ACF Conservation Books, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065. ACF members may deduct 10% discount on books only.

Discounts do not apply to other ACF products.

Please add postal and packing charges to your payment when ordering ACF Conservation Books.

ORDERS	VIC	NSW/ACT/SA	QLD	NT/WA	TAS
Up to \$5.00	\$1.60	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Over \$5.00 up to \$50	4.00	5.30	5.90	6.90	4.50
Over \$50 up to \$100	4.40	6.80	8.40	10.40	5.00
Over \$100	6.80	15.80	23.00	30.00	9.20



## SPECIAL OFFERS

**Dendrobium Orchids of Australia**  
W. T. Upton. Houghton Mifflin, 1989, 237 pp.

Was \$69.95. Now \$55.95

A wealth of information on this orchid genus. The book covers the genus' history in Australia, detailed descriptions of species, the history of hybridisation, and pollination and methods of seed raising.

**Biology of Food Irradiation**  
D. R. Murray. Wiley, 1990, 272 pp \$87.00

This book provides a detailed account of the problems inherent in gamma irradiation of foods in a critical appraisal of scientific literature. Murray, an experienced biologist, considers the effects of the implementation of irradiation, concluding that this method of food preservation could have disastrous consequences.

**The Return of Scarcity: Strategies For An Economic Future**  
H. C. Coombs, CUP, 1990, 171 pp, \$19.95

A series of essays linking environmental management with an analysis of contemporary economic trends. The result is a rich source of ideas about alternative patterns for the future of western societies. □

## WATCHING BRIEF

WATCHING BRIEF is Australia's only national current affairs programme covering peace and the environment. For one hour a week on over thirty public radio stations around Australia, WATCHING BRIEF examines the issues, the campaigns and the political context of the conservation movement.

If you are concerned about the environment, tune in to WATCHING BRIEF.

### BROADCAST TIMES

Cberra	2XXX	Thur 10.00am
Sydney	2SER-FM	Mon 9.00am(1) Tues 9.00am(2)
Albury/Wodonga	2REM-FM	Fri 12.00pm
Bathurst	2MCE-FM	Sun 12.00pm(r)
Bellingen	2BBB-FM	Sun 6.00pm Fri 6.00pm(r)
Lismore	2NCR-FM	Tues 2.00-4.00pm* Wed 2.30-3.00pm
Moruya	2EAR-FM	Tues 12.00pm
Newcastle	2NUR-FM	Tues 12.30pm(1) Tues 9.00pm(r)
Taree	2BOB-FM	Thur 8.30pm(1) Fri 1.30pm(2)
Wagga Wagga	2AAA-FM	check local guide
Melbourne	3RRR-FM	Mon 5.00pm(live)
	3CR	Mon 7.00am(1) Mon 5.30pm(2)
Ballerat	3BBB-FM	Fri 12.00pm
Bendigo	3CCC-FM	Fri 10.30am(1) Fri 7.00pm(2)
Castlemaine		
Inverloch	3MFM-FM	Wed 6.00-8.00pm*
Melton	3RIM-FM	Sun 9.00am Wed 9.00pm(r)
Morwell	3GCR-FM	Fri 12.30pm
Portland	3RPF-FM	Tues 1.00-2.00pm*(1) Fri 4.00-5.00pm*(2)
Adelaide	5MMM-FM	Mon 6.30-8.00pm* Sun 12.00-2.00pm*
	SUV	Fri 12.00pm
Mt Gambier	5GTR-FM	Thur 3.00pm
Perth	6NR	check local guide
	6NRS	Fri 11.30am
	6NUS-FM	100PM
Darwin	10TF-FM	check local guide
	10TFM	Mon 8.30am Thur 6.00pm* Sun 9.00am*
Alice Springs	8KIN-FM	Sun 2.00pm
	8CCC-FM	Sun 7.00-9.00pm*
Hobart	7THE-FM	PMO
Launceston	7LTN-FM	Tues 9.00am(1) Wed 9.00am(2)
Brisbane	4ZZZ-FM	PMO
Townsville	4TTT-FM	Mon 9.00-9.30pm*(1) Thur 3.00-3.30pm(2)

WATCHING BRIEF is one hour long, except: (1) - first half hour only. (2) - second half hour only. (r) - repeat. \* - included in the local programme. PMO (Programme Material Only) - material is played at unspecified times throughout day. WATCHING BRIEF can be contacted on tel: (03) 417 7304.

ACF supports WATCHING BRIEF

## Reclaiming the peace of Tibet



Tibet, a vast high altitude plateau of 2.5 million square-kilometres, remained virtually untouched by the impact of industrialisation until 1959, when it was invaded and colonised by the Chinese. Since then, genocide has been accompanied by an "eco-cide" of appalling proportions.

According to the organisation, EcoTibet, Tibetan wildlife has been decimated by indiscriminate shooting, the land has been severely deforested by logging and pastures have been overgrazed because of enforced collectivisation and disruption of traditional nomadic practices. The transfer of large numbers of Chinese citizens into Tibet and the consequent urbanisation, road construction and careless waste disposal has further contributed to the unrestrained abuse of the Tibetan biosphere.

EcoTibet has been established to alert the world to the regional and global consequences of the ecological devastation that has accompanied Chinese colonisation of Tibet, and to mobilise world action to save and restore the natural Tibetan environment.

Environmental degradation and abuse of the Tibetan ecosystem is felt beyond the plateau and has implications for much of Asia. For example, erosion and increased water runoff have interfered with the natural hydrology of the plateau and caused excessive flooding and silt deposition in the highly populated and critical food producing regions of China,

the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. As well, nuclear testing sites and toxic waste dumps (and possibly chemical and biological warfare testing sites) which have been established in what is an earthquake zone, potentially threaten seven of Asia's major river systems which have their source in the plateau.

EcoTibet reports that the Chinese government is preparing to extract Tibet's rich deposits of gold and uranium as well as strategically important minerals such as copper, iron, lithium and tungsten, all of which will be an added burden on the fragile environment.

The Dalai Lama and his exiled government have developed a far-reaching strategy to ameliorate the degradation of the Tibetan biosphere and to establish a model of social and environmental non-violence for the rest of world. It would become a free refuge where humanity and nature can live in peace and a harmonious balance", he said last year at a conference in Oslo, Norway. According to the Dalai Lama, Tibet would become a Zone of Ahimsa or a peace sanctuary. In keeping with traditional Buddhist culture he hopes the entire Tibetan plateau will be transformed into a centre for sustainable development and the support of the highest humanitarian goals.

For further information contact the Australia Tibet Council, c/- 27/51 Musgrave Street, Yarralumla, 2600, ACT.

by Felicity Wishart



## NOTES

### URGENT ACTION NEEDED

**ACT NOW TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL ESTATE FORESTS OF SOUTH-EAST NSW**

The Federal Government will be faced with key decisions on these forests throughout the next few months.

This is a crucial time in the campaign. Please post the enclosed card to the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, today. Every action counts. Thank you for your support.

## 75,000 trees too many

Do you know how many trees go through the pulper for each Sunday edition of the *New York Times*? 75,000 at the latest count. Newspapers are not worth the wholesale destruction of earth's forests—particularly when recycled newsprint could, or rather, should replace the virgin pulp currently used.

More action is needed on the recycling of newspapers. Newspapers account for 25 per cent of our national paper consumption and use no recycled paper. What is needed is a more responsible industry and legislation to ensure the use of the present glut of old newspapers. Friends of the Earth have organised a

meeting to commence at 9 am Monday, 11th June, outside the GPD Melbourne, highlighting the need to solve the present crisis in newspaper recycling. There will be several speakers, after which the group will move on to city newsagents to hand out leaflets and protest over the newspaper industry's complacency in supporting recycling.

Demonstrate your concern and don't buy a paper on that day. Better still, if you live in Melbourne, don't buy a paper and come to the meeting! For more information, contact Friends of the Earth Recycling Campaign. (03) 419 8700. □



Paper pulp pile mounting up at APM from June 1989

□ Photo courtesy The Age

## ACF Coordinator on SA Planning Review Reference Committee

ACF's South Australian State Co-ordinator, Jacque Gillen, is one of nineteen people recently appointed to a Reference Committee to identify issues to be considered in a two year State Planning Review.

The Planning Review, a pre-election promise of the re-elected South Australian ALP Government, commenced in April [see *Conservation News*, April, 1990]. The Reference Committee will have three months to make its recommendations to the all-male Steering Committee—chosen for their respective expertise in eco-social planning, the economics of natural resources and environmental legislation.

ACF believes that planning for the future requires vision, understanding and co-operation from all sectors of society. Therefore a significant part of the Foundation's task in the Planning Review will be to educate the public on the opportunities of ecological sustainability in South Australia and the limits of our natural resources.

'Involvement in this process has made me aware of how important it is for everyone to think about what they do today and its effect on the environment.' Jacque commented after her first Reference Committee meeting. She added 'we must think also of what we want for our common future and how today's choices will effect our plans into the future'. The ACF has indicated its commitment to the Planning Review to ensure the final outcome establishes a new agenda, not only for the State but for the whole of Australia.

The SA Government has called for public comment and members are urged to express their views on any aspects of the planning process or issues which they believe should be addressed by the Review. Send your comments to Michael Lennon, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Box 2343, GPO Adelaide, 5001. For more information on the Planning Review, contact Jacque Gillen at ACF's SA office. tel: (08) 232 2566. □

## OZONE - OUR FUTURE

### ACF youth ozone conference world first

ACF's National Youth Ozone Conference was a highlight of World Environment Day, on June 5th. Setting a world precedent, young people from Australia's capital cities were linked by video to discuss how they could contribute to strengthening the Montreal Protocol, a global treaty to phase out CFCs and halons.

The conference was launched by the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, in Canberra. In initiating such an event ACF, with the assistance of Telecom, the Federal Department of Environment and Qantas, has pioneered the involvement of young people (between the ages of 17-25) in the negotiations to protect ozone under the Montreal Protocol. The Montreal Protocol is to be renegotiated and re-signed in London at the end of this month.

Up to 100 young participants in each of the cities drafted resolutions on a number of the issues to be discussed at the Protocol meetings and drew up their own Young People's Declaration on Protecting Ozone. Topics raised during the video conference included the phase-out date of CFCs and halons, the addition of other ozone-depleting chemicals to the Protocol list and the establishment of a global fund to assist developing nations join the Protocol.

Students taking part in the Video conference, including a delegate from New Zealand, had already participated in group ne-

gotiations to develop their own local Young People's Declaration on Protecting Ozone and presented the ideas they had developed to the conference.

ACF is now sending eight delegates—one young person from each state—to London to present their Young People's Declaration to the Protocol meetings and put forward the views of young people during Protocol workshops.

The video conference was the brainchild of ACF's Ozone Project Co-ordinator, Dallas Kinear. Its purpose was to ensure that young people had a say in an issue which could have far-reaching ramifications on their lives in the future. 'Young people make up half the world. They will inherit the consequences of this global decision' said Dallas, prior to the conference. She added that leaving the Protocol decision to olds once again will not save the ozone layer. 'A strong statement from committed, articulate youth will attract international media attention. It could well influence the outcome'. □



**2ND INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
Karasjohka, Samiland, Scandinavia  
August, 1990

**They are the most oppressed and forgotten people in the world: Indigenous women.**

'We are invisible in history, even if we have been in the forefront of our people's struggles in defence of our ancestral domain—struggles against corporate mining and logging, against destructive hydro electric dams, nuclearization and against discriminatory land laws imposed on us by colonizers and oppressive governments.' World wide displacement of Indigenous women from natural economies has resulted in unnecessary starvation and pestilence among these ancient communities. The 2nd International Indigenous Women's Conference aims to address these concerns. The inaugural conference was held in Adelaide, in July last year. Funds are still being sought to assist Aboriginal women to be represented at this Conference. For more information, contact Jo Willmot, on (08) 223 1244 or (08) 362 6884 (ah).

## Readings on Sustainability

Sustainability as a social, ecological and economic level is becoming one of the most complex debates in our society. Here is a brief reading-list to assist you reach a broader understanding of this issue. These books can be ordered through Conservation Books at ACF Melbourne office.

**Our Common Future**  
*1990 Australian edition with a chapter by the Commission for the Future – A Sustainable Future for Australia, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.*

**Sustainable Environmental Management**  
*(1988), R. Kerry Turner (ed), Belhaven Press, London.*

**Blueprint for a Green Economy**  
*(1989), David Pearce, Anil Markandya and Edward B. Barbier, Earthscan Publications, London.*

**Sustainable Development: Exploring the Contradictions**  
*(1987), Michael Redclift, Methuen, London.*

**The Return of Scarcity: Strategies for an Economic Future**  
*(1990), H.C. Coombs, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne.*

## Have You Renewed?

ACF membership renewals are now due. Please renew before 30th June so that your mailings will continue without interruption.

If you do not already subscribe to *Habitat* magazine, please consider it with your renewal. *Habitat* is widely acclaimed as Australia's leading full colour magazine for the environment.

For information, contact Trish Braun at ACF's Melbourne office, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

tel: (03) 416 1455 or toll free 008 338 926

CONSERVATION NEWS, June, 1990 – 13



## LETTERS

### SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL: support needed in letter writing campaigns

Carol Warren  
Murdoch University, WA

I applaud the ACF's involvement in the Penan/Rainforest campaign and its recognition of common ground with the support of indigenous people's traditional rights. I would like to suggest that a more coordinated effort on issues which involve both human rights and environmental protection issues would strengthen both movements and double the chances of success.

Would you consider collaborating with Survival International by including information on their letter-writing campaigns as a regular feature of the Conservation News? I enclose a copy of a recent Urgent Action Bulletin regarding the Narmada Dam project in India in which both minority group and environmental interests would be promoted by joint action. Also enclosed is a clipping from a recent newsletter regarding the (momentarily at least) successful campaign against the Scott paper project in Iran.

Regarding the Scott paper project: Scott Paper has dropped its plans to log up to 850,000 hectares of natural forest in the territory of the Marind, Auwyi, Mandobo and other tribal peoples. Scott's intention was to develop eucalyptus plantations

along with a wood chip and pulping plant in the region. The Indonesian government remains keen to see the project proceed with or without a foreign partner. Survival International undertook a persistent letter writing campaign against Scott, and claim credit for forcing Scott to reconsider.

Survival International's current campaign is directed at the World Bank which is supporting an Indian Government project to build a dam on the Narmada River and displace thousands of tribal people. Write to Barber Conable, Director General, The World Bank, 1818H Street NW, Washington DC 20433, USA and Sri V. P. Singh, Prime Minister of India, The PM Secretariat, South Block, New Delhi 110001, India. □

● *ACF liaises with and support the work of Survival International and Conservation News has carried stories such as the Scott Paper project. When applicable we will continue to carry issues of mutual concern. For more information on Survival International, contact Felicity Wishart at ACF's Melbourne office.* □

## Highway travel highlights loss of trees

Tony Fletcher  
Epping, NSW

Christopher Nadolny (Conservation News, March, 1990) rightly draws attention to the deliberate destruction of forests and woodlands in northern NSW and Queensland. Whether caused deliberately or otherwise, it is obvious when travelling the main highways of eastern Australia that trees are dying in alarming numbers.

Prolonged publicity prepares one to some extent for the devastation of the New England area of northern NSW; the reality exceeds the anticipation. But similarly dis-

turbing are the less publicised but equally devastated areas of dead and dying trees which are seen from the Hume Highway around Mt Larcom (central Queensland).

Why have these areas not attracted the publicity of New England?

Between Melbourne and Cairns there are many frightening examples of tree death and distress and few if any signs of natural replacement. If the scene from the highways is representative of the picture beyond the relatively limited horizon of high-



## Welcome to ACF: Kamalda West Playgroup

Jennifer Downie  
Kambalda West Playgroup, WA

As head of the Environment Committee at the Kambalda West Playgroup, I wish to introduce our organisation to you and to voice our support of the Foundation along with our subscription to you.

Being an environmentally aware group of parents, we unanimously voted at our March meeting to become members of ACF. We recognise the vital importance of protecting and conserving the world for ourselves and especially our children. We hope that they will grow up in a safe environment and know the natural beauty of the earth as we do. We encourage our members to observe environmentally friendly practices in the home and are involved in recycling for fund raising projects.

We would like to encourage other groups like ourselves to join the ACF which we believe is an essential key to protecting our environment. □

way driving, then the extent of the problem is unimaginable. Yet between Melbourne and Cairns I can recall seeing only one small area where an attempt is being made to redress the situation by concentrated tree planting.

The Foundation's current emphasis on logging controls is essential but similar attention by conservationists generally must be placed on the loss of trees in private lands, a loss which any frequent traveller on our major highways can attest is gaining momentum. □

We welcome your letters. Your response to the issues we are dealing with and your comments are a valuable contribution to this newsletters. Shorter letters are preferred. We are not able to publish letters over 300 words.

## ACF BRANCHES AND CAMPAIGN GROUPS

### New Deal for Branches under Forward Plan

Branches are about to be given a 'new deal' with ACF's Forward Plan.

In the past it has been noted that ACF Branches did not receive enough attention from the staff or councillors of ACF. This dissatisfaction was one of the main reasons leading to the review of ACF over the past two years. And with considerable consultation, the underlying structure and responsibilities of all sections has now been determined. Now anyone, (including BHP!) can find out how the system works, what their role is and what we are all working towards.

The Forward Plan was passed by Council at the October 1989 meeting. Implementation has been slow as new positions had to be advertised, money to be found and the federal election to be fought.

The Branches are our next priority, assisting them to understand their role and new relationship with the secretariat and councillors. One major aspect of this is the 'forum'. These consist of Branch delegates, state and territory councillors and relevant staff. A feature of the forums will be any new and emerging issues which they believe should be included on the ACF's

agenda. Forums officially occur in April, but we propose that the Branches run an 'interim' forum, or combined Branches meeting, later this year. Hopefully, important campaign issues, as well as workshops on campaigning skills and strategy will play an important part.

Further details are provided in the information letter sent recently to Branches from ACF's Environment Manager, Karen Alexander, and Marketing Manager, Rhonda Morris. For more information, contact Julie Davie at ACF's Melbourne office.

tel: (03) 416 1455 or toll free (008) 338 928. □

### VICTORIA

**Albury-Wodonga**  
Marty Greig (060) 215 837 (bh)  
or Environment Centre (060) 212 627 (bh)  
**Ballarat**  
Barry Golding (053) 456 343 (ah)  
**Diamond Valley**  
Jann Lauri (03) 439 3460 (ah) or  
Gerald Sutton (03) 439 4298 (ah)  
**Gippsland**  
David Haynes (051) 955 462 (ah) or  
Angela Gilbert (051) 746 037 (ah)  
**Mullum**  
For information regarding this Branch please ring Julie Davie (03) 416 1455  
**North East Victoria**  
Geoff Conway (057) 221 737 (ah)

**Portland**  
Max Phillips (055) 233 023 (ah)  
**Sunraysia Mallee**  
Stephen Page (050) 234 554  
**Wimmera**  
Daniel Waffler (053) 823 009 (ah) or  
Barry Clugston (053) 582 831 (ah)

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Bunbury**  
Adrian or Wendy Colley (097) 215 384  
**Collie**  
Paul Lavors (097) 343 512  
**Perth**  
David Bennett, (09) 387 2126  
**South-Coast Branch**  
Lawrence Emery (098) 451 042

### NEW SOUTH WALES

**Blue Mountains**  
Terri Hamilton (047) 82 4554  
**Central Coast**  
Greg Roberts (043) 822 483 (ah)  
**Hunter Region**  
Janet Murray (049) 690 662 (bh) or (049) 57 1126 (ah)  
**Illawarra**  
Cheryl Aldrich (042) 291 625 (ah)  
**Sydney**  
Ian Landon-Smith (02) 487 3411 (ah)  
**Shoalhaven**  
Julie Hilditch (044) 460 314  
**Northern Riverina**  
Wendy Avery (069) 723 093

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

**Central Australia**  
Matthew Guggisberg (089) 526 782 (bh)

### QUEENSLAND

**Atherton Tablelands**  
Virginia Simmons (070) 958 302 (ah)  
**Brisbane**  
Paula Newman (07) 397 0647 (ah)  
**Mary River**  
Magdalena Steffens (071) 29 2211  
**Gold Coast**  
Greg Owens (075) 386 877

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

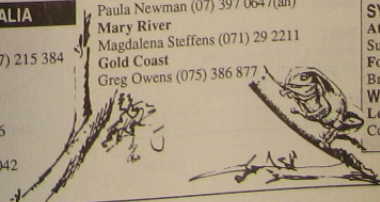
**Adelaide**  
Nele Findlay (08) 276 8652 (ah)

### ACT

**Canberra**  
Kathryn Kelly (062) 825 366 (ah) or  
(062) 893 191 (bh) or Mike McGrath  
(062) 571 860 (ah) or (062) 976 144 (bh)

### CAMPAIGN GROUPS

**Melbourne**  
**Antarctic Campaign Group** –  
David Westlake (03) 416 1455 (bh)  
**Membership Campaign Group** –  
Trish Brawn (03) 416 1455 (bh)  
**Tropical Forest Campaign Group** –  
Felicity Wishart (03) 416 1455 (bh)  
**BRISBANE**  
**Cape York Campaign Group** –  
Mark Horsman (07) 229 7715  
**Coast Campaign Group** –  
Phillip Cossar (07) 341 4440  
**Greenhouse Campaign Group** –  
Tim Easton (07) 378 8364  
**SYDNEY**  
**Atmosphere Campaign Group** –  
Sue Salmon (02) 247 1497 (bh)  
**Forest Campaign Group** –  
Bridget Berry (02) 247 4285  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
**Lesueur Campaign Group** –  
Colma Keating (09) 368 1562





# BEAT THE RUSH FOR BARBARA'S NEW BOOK

Barbara Lord, ACF staff member and best selling author of *The Green Cleaner - How to Clean Nearly Everything*, has written an exciting new book on how to live green. **FIFTY EASY THINGS WE CAN DO TO SAVE THE PLANET** follows Barbara's phenomenally successful *The Green Cleaner*. In this second book she takes us out into the world - to save it. *The Green Cleaner* deals with environmental issues in and around the



by the author of THE GREEN CLEANER

Barbara Lord

WITH FRANK STEAL AND TRENDS EAT



home. It was first published in December last year, and has already sold 60,000 copies. ACF expects **FIFTY EASY THINGS WE CAN DO TO SAVE THE PLANET** to be just as successful. Every small thing we do as individuals has an impact on the environment. These small actions count. In **FIFTY EASY THINGS WE CAN DO TO SAVE THE PLANET** Barbara has outlined ways in which our actions can benefit the world around us.

*Make your actions count.*

Order your copy now through ACF Conservation Books, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065. (tel: (03) 416 1455, toll free (008) 338 928) for \$7.95 (+ \$1.95 post and packing).

## AS A MEMBER OF ACF YOU RECEIVE

- our monthly newsletter *Conservation News*.
- discounted subscription to *HABITAT*, our full colour, national environment magazine.
- voting rights in ACF Council elections.
- opportunity to purchase books and merchandise through ACF Enterprises.
- access to our extensive environmental library.
- contact with like-minded people through ACF Branches and Campaign Groups.
- an active role in protecting the environment.
- satisfaction of knowing you are part of a national body that works to protect the environment.



### I would like to be a member of the Australian Conservation Foundation

Please sign me up:

I choose the following option:

Membership corresponds to the current financial year (1st July to 30 June)  
Membership paid from 1st February, 1990, remains current until 30th June, 1991.

Name

- \$63.00 Membership and Habitat Magazine  
 \$45.50 Concession membership and Habitat (full time student/pensioner/ unemployed)  
 \$35.00 Membership  
 \$17.50 Concession membership  
 \$36.00 Subscription to Habitat magazine only

Address

Plus \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation  
(donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible)

State  Postcode

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 enclosed is cheque/money order  
 OR charge my:  Bankcard  Visa  
 Mastercard

Phone (ah)

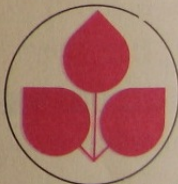
(bh)

Join by phoning toll free 008 33 8928  
 If ringing from Melbourne (03) 416 1455

Card No. (16 digits required)

Date

Signature  expiry date



Send this form to the  
 Australian Conservation Foundation  
 340 Gore Street  
 Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065

