



# CONSERVATION NEWS

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The recently released Federal and NSW Governments' Report on the Biological Conservation of NSW south-east forests draws the controversial conclusion that 'there is no scientific evidence to indicate that current forestry management practices will result in the extinction of any organism, either plant or animal'.

'Now that is very difficult to see from the data they've got in the report,' says Dr Hal Cogger, of the Australian Museum, 'because something like 95 per cent of the fauna of the area has not been surveyed.' □ full report, page 3

Left: The rare Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) nests in hollows high up in very substantial trees. The owls live in pairs which keep to large permanent territories of 800 to 1000 hectares. Its diet consists of small to medium sized tree-living mammals, especially the Greater Glider and the common Ring-tailed possum. The Powerful Owl is found in the wet sclerophyll forests of south-eastern Australia. Conservationists believe that it is, along with the Long-footed Potoroo and many other species, seriously threatened by logging in the south-east forests of NSW

□ photo courtesy of ARIER.

## INSIDE

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ACF submission on Sustainable Development ..... | 2 |
| BRS NSW forests .....                           | 3 |
| People of Sarawak .....                         | 4 |
| Controls to protect Vic Native Vegetation ..... | 5 |
| Intractable Wastes .....                        | 6 |
| Action on Greenhouse urgent ...                 | 6 |
| Tully Millstream .....                          | 8 |



# Sustainable Development a case of doing more with less



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Phillip Toyne

any policy approach, to name just a few. Both the economic and ecological components of ecologically sustainable development have been comprehensively addressed.

The submission is a quantum leap forward in the debate surrounding sustainability. It clearly exposes the inadequacy of both the Commonwealth Government's and the Business Council of Australia's positions concerning sustainable development.

The approach taken demonstrates the

**'To grow means "to increase naturally in size through the addition of material through assimilation or accretion." To develop means "to expand or realise the potentialities of, bring gradually to a fuller, greater or better state." In short, growth is quantitative increase in physical scale while development is qualitative improvement or unfolding of potentiality. An economy can grow without developing, or develop without growing, or do both, or either.'**

Herman Daley, World Bank

There can be little doubt that the question of sustainable development will dominate much of our time for the rest of this decade. Governments and industries will be taking quite significant new directions as ecological considerations increasingly central to their commercial activities.

A comprehensive paper released recently by the four major national en-

vironmental organisations outlined a greenprint for Australia's economic and environmental development. The submission has been produced in response to the Commonwealth's paper on sustainable development.

The submission, jointly prepared by the ACF, Greenpeace - Australia, The Wilderness Society and World Wide Fund for Nature - Australia, marks the first occasion that these organisations have cooperated to prepare a comprehensive joint response on a major national and international public policy area.

The submission outlines the basic principles of sustainability, including the conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity, inter-generational equity, social equity and an anticipatory and precaution-

ary of the four organisations to transcend the traditional economic framework, and clearly integrates ecological and economic considerations. Increased efficiency in the use of resources and a move to a manufacturing base are keystones to the greenprint.

While the question of growth is considered by the four directors to be a 'red herring', the question of development, that is the type of economic activity our society undertakes, is central to the debate.

We have argued that the real challenge is to do more with less. Australia and the world are facing a major period of structural adjustment. We can plan sensibly for that adjustment. Alternatively, we can wait and be faced with an environmental crisis that will force a rate of change in the future

that has serious implications for the economy of both Australia and the world.

What we are presently doing in pursuit of wealth makes neither good economic or ecological sense. We are increasing the volume of low-value, natural resources, and importing too much, low volume high-value manufactured goods.

Australia and the international community face an ecological imperative - 4,000 Australian species are currently threatened by extinction; global warming and ozone depletion are increasing; unsustainable practices, such as land degradation and energy inefficiency, are costing Australians billions of dollars every year.

The principles of ecologically sustainable development expressed in the submission, if embraced by the community, will result in a human society where prosperity is measured in terms of quality rather than quantity, and where future generations live in an environment less degraded than our own. □



# Scientists, fiery response to forests report

NSW SOUTH-EAST FORESTS

Australian scientists and conservation groups have strongly criticised the Federal and NSW Governments for their long-awaited Joint Scientific Committee Report on the Biological Conservation of NSW south-east forests.

The report draws the controversial conclusion that there is 'no scientific evidence to indicate that current [forestry] management practices will result in the extinction of any organism, either plant or animal.'

This conclusion prompted a fiery response from six eminent scientists, who aired their concerns on ABC National's *Earthworm* program, in early August. (Available from ABC Radio Tapes.)

Dr Hal Cogger, Assistant Director of Scientific Research at the Australian Museum said, 'they draw conclusions that there's no scientific evidence to indicate that current practices will result in the extinction of any animal or plant. Now that's very difficult to see from the data they've got in the report because something like 95 per cent of the fauna of the area has not been surveyed.'

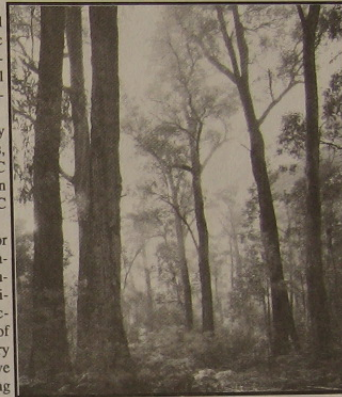
Dan Lunney, a wildlife ecologist with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service who has published extensively on wildlife and the effects of logging in the south-east forests goes further. 'Local extinction of quite a number of species is inevitable unless there is in fact changes to land reservation and logging practices.'

In 1987 Liz Dovey discovered evidence in these forests of the rare Long-footed Potoroo. She states, 'I believe that if the current management regime continues in the way that's been advocated in the report so far, the Long-footed Potoroo will almost certainly become extinct in NSW.'

Theoretical ecologist and expert in animal population dynamics at ANU, Hugh Possingham, believes 'current management practices will increase the probability of a large number of species becoming

extinct just because they reduce the population sizes.'

Dr Possingham says, 'It's important that the politicians realise there are different scientific opinions on a number of these matters and the public and politicians don't



accept all this as scientific fact.'

ACF believes the Governments' report, and its methodology, have implications beyond NSW's south-east forests. For example, the committee's approach to the issue of biological conservation may be considered seriously by agencies such as the Resource Assessment Commission (RAC) to assess the nature and extent of the biological reserves and management practices necessary to conserve the biological diversity in Australia's native forests.

The Report relies on computer methodologies to produce 'conservation scenarios'. ACF considers the computer data a useful starting point. However, because the Report fails to support its conclusions with field-based biological research the situation now exists where cleared farmlands, pine plantations and the town of Bemboka have been included in the

Report's 'conservation scenarios'.

ACF, with the assistance of Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, Head of the Department of Geography and Centre for Environmental Studies, at the University of Tasmania, and an independent and respected forest ecologist, has prepared a scientific critique of the Report.

ACF's critique highlights two major deficiencies in the Report. The first is that 'logging should continue until it is conclusively proved guilty by science of crimes against biological conservation.' Secondly, the Report draws conclusions that do not flow from the data presented.

ACF has been critical of the over representation of forestry interests on the Committee which is reflected in the Report's recommendations. Others agree, including Dr Harry Recher, Associate Professor at the University of New England. He says 'it is unfortunate that the Committee did not have among its members zoologists and people with a broader understanding of forest ecology and conservation biology. A balanced membership may have avoided some of the inconsistencies in the Committee's Report and its apparent support of logging interests.'

Professor Kirkpatrick believes that the Committee has, at times, misinterpreted and mis-used scientific data. This has led to the introduction of many unacceptable biases and opinions in the report, and significantly, to the framing of several very misleading final recommendations.

ACF has called for a rigorous peer review of the Committee's Report and for both the NSW and Federal Governments to consider all the available scientific evidence before making final decisions on the future of the south-east forests.

Sue Salmon  
Campaign Coordinator, NSW

Picture shows Brown Barrell (*Eucalyptus fastigata*) old growth forest, Coolangubra, south-east NSW. This photo appears in ACF's Desk Diary, available from ACF Enterprises.  
□ Photograph by Wayne Lawler.

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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.

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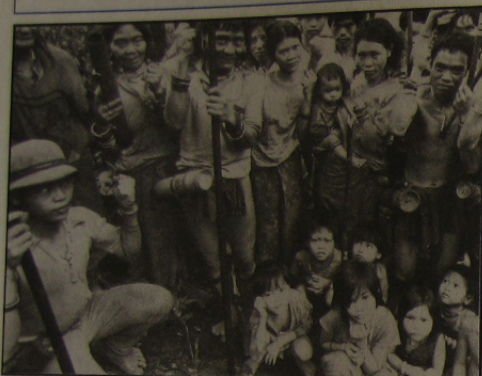
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'If the people in the faraway countries would like to see us living, then they should not buy timber from our country. If they continue to extract logs and timber from our area, our lives will wither like the leaves of the trees, like fish without water.'

Libal Iwa  
Penan of Sarawak



□ Photo courtesy of Sahabat Alam, Malaysia

## People of Sarawak Not to be left like fish without water

**O**n 26th July, ten leaders of the Kenyah tribe from Long Geng, Belaga in Sarawak Malaysia, were arrested for blockading logging trucks on their customary lands.

More than 300 people were involved in the human barricade to stop commercial logging in the tropical rainforests. The ten detainees were allegedly assaulted by the police. Two of the prisoners were later released, but four required hospital treatment.

The Kenyah people are among the many indigenous people, the most renowned being the Penan, who have been fighting for a decade to protect the complex tropical forests where they live. The forests are essential to their religion and provide the basic necessities for their survival: food, shelter and medicines.

Some of the ancestral forests of the Penan will be completely logged within six months. Along Sega, chief of a Penan com-

munity, explained that 'the impact of the logging means that finding wild game becomes difficult... there is siltation of the rivers, the drinking water and streams... I believe that the death of several of my relatives in that area was caused by bad drinking water.' Meanwhile, international action to save the forests has slowed to a snail's pace.

At the International Tropical Timber Council Meeting in May this year, producer nations admitted for the first time that current rainforest logging operations are not sustainable. A report, presented by a special mission on Sarawak's timber operations showed that all Sarawak's forests outside National Parks would be completely cleared in eleven years. Despite this, the meeting set a target date of 2000 before the trade in rainforest timber would be restricted to sustainably produced harvests.

The crunch has come. Unless countries

such as Australia stop importing rainforest timbers from these regions we will have to carry at least part of the blame for the people who are losing their homes, culture and possibly their lives, and for the destruction of the rainforests and their irreplaceable ecology.

Conservation groups and local communities in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand have called for an immediate moratorium on all logging operations.

Australia can help in a number of ways. We should increase our development assistance for rainforest conservation, advocate global community action and stop using rainforest timbers in Government buildings. However, only one measure has the potential to galvanise the timber industry and the governments of producer countries into changing their ways: that is by creating markets for responsibly produced timber while stopping trade in timbers where logging destroys the integrity of the forests and the rights of traditional owners are abused.

Federal Cabinet will be discussing the issue of rainforest timber imports this month. Your letters are urgently needed. Write to the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and Federal Environment Minister, Ros Kelly (both c/- Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600) calling for an immediate moratorium on the tropical timber trade until the rights of the local people and the ecological viability of the forests are assured.

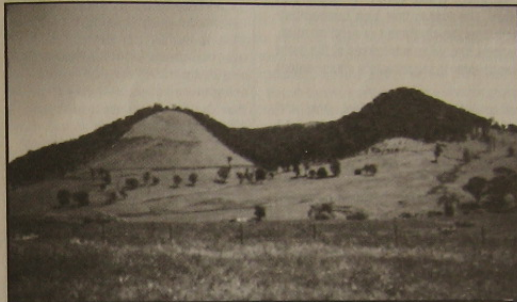
Felicity Wishart  
Tropical Forests Campaign Officer

**We also urge you to voice your protest to the Prime Minister of Malaysia about the allegations of police brutality on those recently arrested for acting to stop destruction of their customary lands. Address your letter to:**  
YAB Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia. Jabatan Perdana Menteri, Jalan Dato Onn, 50502, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## Native vegetation vital

### Victorian Government plans clearing controls

**V**ictorian conservation groups have rallied to the support of the Victorian Government's planning controls to prevent the unnecessary further clearance of native vegetation on private land. Opposition, however, from some sectors of the rural community, mining companies, forest industries and some local government authorities may lead to the controls being watered down in the review process, which commenced in mid August.



Clearing of marginal hill country in north-east Victoria. Time to stop! □ photo by Jason Alexandra

ACF has stated explicitly that clearing of native vegetation can no longer be justified given its significance in salinity and erosion control. The vital role of trees in maintaining ecological stability, preserving the long term productivity of the land and providing habitat for native Australian animal and bird species is clearly recognised by this new legislation. Loss of trees has been a major contributor to the salination of the Murray catchment and other areas of Victoria. This has resulted in major economic and environmental problems. The new Victorian approach to vegetation protection complements that already in effect in South Australia. Other systems operate in the Western division of NSW and WA. These schemes however, need modification. They are very piecemeal and have no overriding ecological basis for the granting of permits. Queensland still has no controls at all - a situation that must be changed.

The ACF believes that this issue is more complex than simply a case of increasing

Government regulation. It's a case of protecting what has now become a valuable resource by virtue of its scarcity. Less than 5 per cent of Victorian private land is covered by remnant vegetation. 95 per cent is already cleared. In effect, this legislation provides for the survival of native species. 'We can't afford to lose it' said Phillip Toyne, Director of ACF.

Clearing has continued at an alarming rate in Victoria despite increasing awareness of the importance of the environment. Over the last fifteen years, 15,000 hectares per year have been lost; that amounts to '20 MCG's per day, every day of the year,' claims the National Trust. If this rate continued, there would be little vegetation left on private land in some regions by the turn of the century.

Two of the most threatened of all Victorian habitat types are native grasslands and grass woodlands, which have been particularly favoured for agriculture, because they are so easy to clear. What little there is left is predominantly on private land, and

many species within them are endangered. Graeme Lorimer, of Victoria's Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association (IFFA) states that 'once these areas have been converted to agriculture, they cannot be redeemed: we cannot propagate some of the plants, and we certainly cannot restore the complicated natural balances and associations between the plants, birds, insects and animals'.

The Victorian Farmer's Federation supports the principal of retaining native vegetation, but believes this will only be achieved on farmland with the willing cooperation of the farmers.

Education and incentive programs such as Landcare and Tree Victoria have been enormously successful in highlighting the need for a change in our approach to land management. Conservationists maintain that the controls will complement these programs and will be a further step towards the conservation of Australia's biological diversity and the development of an environmentally sound, sustainable future. □

## Land repair challenge for WA farmers

The salty consequences of over-clearing continue to be rammed home in WA. Even the WA Department of Agriculture (WADA) has been forced to change its research farm's focus, in southern WA, to salinity rehabilitation, reducing its previous emphasis on higher yield cropping.

In the last decade, the area of farmer-reported salinity in south-coast shires rose from 2,200 ha to 14,600 ha.

WADA officers fear this is just the tip of the iceberg, since many farmers do not detect salinity symptoms which precede bare salt patches. WADA calculates that many of these farms have a probable effective life of a decade unless remedial action is successfully and rapidly implemented.

WADA, vigorously supported by the local farmers, is addressing the challenge. With 800 farms in the area, the local people are nervously aware of the social catastrophe which will result from a failure to win this land repair challenge.

Jill Reading  
WA Rural Liaison Officer



## A most unwelcome legacy

**N**obody disputes the fact that intractable wastes constitute a major environmental concern. However, it is the 'how to' and 'where to' of their disposal which has flummoxed all those involved. Here, Paul Rutherford, ACF's National Liaison Officer, in Canberra, looks at two claims in relation to minimising the generation of intractable wastes. The first is that high temperature incineration, by providing a disposal route, facilitates the continued generation of intractable wastes. The second is that because wastes should be minimised at the point of production, a centralised disposal facility runs counter to proper waste management practice.

By Australian standards, high temperature incineration is a very expensive method of waste disposal which of itself would be a counter incentive to generating intractable waste. However, it is certainly true that overseas evidence suggests that the economic incentive alone does not appear to have had a marked negative impact on the generation of intractable or other hazardous waste. For this reason, ACF has been firmly of the view that the bottom line in waste management should not be set by market forces but by directly targeted regulation. We therefore support moves by the Commonwealth, NSW and Victorian Governments to implement the recommendation of the Joint Taskforce on Intractable Waste, to prohibit, as of 1st January, 1995, all industrial processes which inevitably give rise to wastes which would require disposal by high temperature incineration. We will strive for identical commitments from other state governments. Prevention of future waste generation is the most appropriate management practice for intractable waste.

However, we cannot solve our intractable waste problem simply by instituting on-line and on-site methods for preventing waste generation. Most of Australia's intractable waste was generated a long time ago and much of it is now widely disposed of away from the point of generation. For example, production and import of PCBs stopped over a decade ago but they are still prevalent in electrical equipment. While we are moving rapidly to a ban on the use of halon fire-fighting equipment we must

set up mechanisms to collect, store and safely destroy the contents of the 5-10 million yellow BCF fire extinguishers estimated to be in circulation at the moment.

The ongoing generation of intractable waste in Australia is a few hundred tonnes per year. While future generation can be prohibited, we cannot prohibit the large stockpile from past activity. This is currently estimated to be of the order of 90,000-100,000 tonnes and could well be higher.

So far as we know, Australia is the first country where a political commitment to preventing future generation of these wastes has been achieved. Even if we are wrong about that, it still provides the basis for a partial solution for effectively cleaning up a problem brought about by past misadventure. As part of a total management package, we have supported the destruction of intractable waste by the only proven method available, namely high temperature incineration. We believe that the risk from the best available high temperature incineration technology is far less than that posed to the environment and public health by the alternatives.

ACF has developed a detailed sixteen point position on intractable waste over the past four years. If you would like a copy please contact Paul Rutherford, at ACF's Canberra office on (06) 247 3013 or Jane Elix, ACF's Natural Resources Program Coordinator, at our Sydney office, (02) 252 2653.

by Paul Rutherford  
National Liaison Officer, ACF.

## URGENT action needed on Greenhouse

Very soon Federal Cabinet will be considering the question of setting targets for greenhouse gas emissions. As a first step, Victoria has accepted the target proposed at the international meeting in Toronto: a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (compared with 1988 levels) by the year 2000. At least two countries, West Germany and Denmark are seriously considering more substantial reductions than the Toronto target by the year 2005.

Despite the fact that the studies by Dent Greene and by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research show that meeting the Toronto target could benefit the economy substantially, mining and energy Ministers are actually forecasting an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Targets are not intended to be an end in themselves, but are an effective and efficient means of mobilising the community to achieve genuine emission reductions.

Unlike a vague general commitment, targets provide a serious focus for actions to reduce emissions. Used for planning purposes, targets provide a clear framework for exploring options and a basis for evaluating progress. They also act as goals for achievement.

At present, some Cabinet Ministers are undecided about targets. Please write now to the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and the following Federal Ministers: Ros Kelly, Minister of Environment, John Kerin, Minister of Primary Industries and Energy, Gareth Evans, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, (all c/o Parliament House, Canberra, 2600) urging them to set the earliest possible target dates for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mark Diesendorf  
Coordinator, Global Change Program

## Eyre Peninsula: more than meets the eye

**S**outh Australia's Eyre Peninsula is often perceived as irreparably damaged by land degradation. However, a first hand view of the Peninsula, and time spent in consultation with its landholders, presents a far more encouraging picture than that common portrayal of a flat, denuded landscape, scraped to its bones by unsympathetic farmers.

The Eyre Peninsula is, in fact, varied and beautiful, boasting twice the state average for native vegetation retention in agricultural areas. It is unjust to condemn the farmers to living under the shadow of their stereotype, for their attitudes are far more complex than this, and their undertakings more complicated. It is not surprising they become defensive at the blame put on them by urban dwellers who present the problems of the Peninsula as catastrophic, rather than occurring more gradually over a long period of time.

The Peninsula does, however, have significant problems. In the north there is still potential for sand drift, and the pressure on some farmers to 'push the land' because of economic hardship exacerbates conditions, such as loss of soil fertility in the south, thereby hindering their prevention and treatment. Department of Agriculture figures show that 60,000 ha is affected by salinity. Such grim circumstances have dire consequences both socially and ecologically.



Stream bank erosion on Yadrnarrie Creek, now under the care of the local land care group □ photo by Mark Wilkins

Clearly, farming has had some negative ecological impacts, and the solution to these problems lies in the farmers' hands. The challenge, for all concerned, is to develop new attitudes to the land and to draw up new frameworks for evaluating the ecological, social and economic impact of new techniques.

In support of this endeavour, ACF and the National Farmers Federation, the United Farmers and Stockowners and the Local Government Association are working together to set up the Eyre Peninsula Project - a program of research into ecological, social and economic sustainability for the Peninsula.

This project could become a necessary and useful tool for landcare and could possibly produce a blueprint for sustainability

not only for the Peninsula but for other rural areas throughout Australia.

The Peninsula community has, in general, embraced landcare with enthusiasm. As part of the 1990 *Greening Australia* program local groups have been given grants to plant almost 82,000 of the state's projected 168,000 trees for salinity mitigation, shelter belts and road sides.

The community is also responsible for setting up innovative projects aimed at whole catchment management, salinity control and dune stabilization.

It is only through a high level of community input, adoption across the board of the 'landcare ethic', education, and support from diverse groups such as those mentioned above, that sustainability will be achieved.

Mark Wilkins  
SA Rural Liaison Officer

## ACF takes Wilpena proposal to High Court

**E**arly in 1988 the SA Minister for Environment, Don Hoppwood approved a proposal to build a 4 Star Tourism Resort within the bounds of South Australia's acclaimed Flinders Ranges National Park. The resort was to initially accommodate 34,000 visitors and hoped to extend this to 60,000 by the end of a decade.

ACF, alarmed by the proposal from the outset has challenged both the proponent and the Government in the State Courts and is currently involved in action at a High Court level against the development. A date for proceedings is still to be announced.

By approving a major tourism development within a National Park the Government cuts across both their own current Labor Party policy, as well as the National Parks Policy.

Despite the controversy surrounding the proposal, the State Government last month offered the developer, and the local council, funds to facilitate work on environmental impact studies for the upgrading of the local airport to international standards. They also offered funds for the extension of a powerline to supply the proposed tourist development on the condition that construction commence at the resort site by 1st November, this year. However, according to recent press coverage the developers do not as yet have financial backing.

To build up the campaign to protect the area, ACF has established a Wilpena Campaign Group and is looking for nationwide support. For more information on how you can help - by attending the meetings, drawing up petitions or writing letters to politicians and newspapers - contact Jacquie Gillen at the ACF's SA office. tel. (08) 232 2566. In the meantime, write to the Editor of The Advertiser, King William Street, Adelaide, 5000, expressing your concern at the Government's apparent lack of environmental sensitivity with regard to the state's foremost national park.

Jacquie Gillen  
Campaign Coordinator, SA



## Old Government set on Tully flood scheme

Queensland's Goss Government remains determined to flood rainforests of the World Heritage Wet Tropics in the far north, by failing to make a decision on the proposed Tully-Millstream hydro scheme.

In response to pressure from conservationists that it would be detrimental to the Wet Tropics World Heritage area and that the power it would generate is not necessary, the Government has set up a Task Force to review the scheme. However, while it is now convinced that existing energy policies must be amended, and that the days of the Queensland Electricity Commission (QEC) being a law unto itself must change, the Government has not yet taken the decisive step of withdrawing the proposal altogether.

Conservationists have already submitted sufficient information to the Task Force demonstrating that the hydro dam is not needed. While the timeline of the Task Force has been extended to an indefinite date, submissions already show that:

- an area approaching 1,000 square kilometres, of which a significant portion is within the Wet Tropics World Heritage area will be directly or indirectly affected

by the scheme:

- the dam would attract at least 500,000 tourists annually to a World Heritage area that would be best protected by a management plan aimed at minimum interference;
- the number of jobs created by the tourism and recreational industries based on the dam is less than the number of full-time jobs currently employed by the white-water rafting industry. This industry would collapse if the dam proceeded as there would be insufficient water to generate electricity and maintain the Tully River's capacity for rafting;
- demand side management (eg: efficient lighting, heating, insulation, and so on) could produce more than four times the projected output of the proposed scheme by reducing demand by 2670 MW. The electricity saved would be available sooner than the dam could be constructed for a fraction of the cost;
- the case for construction of the Tully-Millstream hydro-electric generating station has not been substantiated by the Queensland Electricity Commission (QEC), and no additional generating capacity is required until the year 2011;
- for most of the last decade the QEC has



been aggressively expanding the market for excess electricity, and running all its power plants well below capacity to disguise the fact that there were too many power plants. The cost to society has been in the order of several billion dollars;

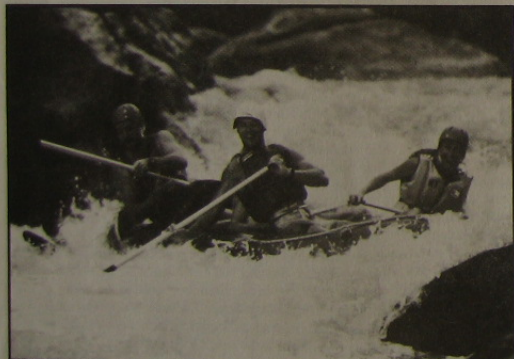
- the QEC has made secret deals with major developers, known as 'All-electric' agreements, where electricity supply is installed free of charge (ie: at public expense), on the condition that gas or other energy sources are excluded. These deals may constitute an infringement of the Trade Practices Act.
- The Rainforest Society has calculated that if the QEC were to give away six energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs to every Queensland household, they would save \$452 million.

A Green Paper allowing the community to contribute to Queensland's energy strategies will be launched this month. If the conservation movement is to assist the Government to develop sound strategies, clear assurances must be given before this time that the dam will not proceed and contracts not renewed.

Strong public opposition to the scheme from around Australia is needed to urge the Goss Government to live up its responsibilities to protect the World Heritage rainforests. Demand that it abandon the scheme in letters to the Premier, Wayne Goss, (Executive Building, 100 George Street, Brisbane, 4000), and Federal Environment Minister, Ros Kelly (c/- Parliament House, Canberra, 2600).

Mark Horstman

Campaign Coordinator, Queensland



Rafting down the Tully River

Photo by Mark Sanders

## Jewel Praying Wolf at Kowanyama

Above the woodworking workshop in an Aboriginal community on the Gulf of Carpentaria, Jewel Praying Wolf James is speaking at a conference of government bureaucrats, tribal elders and other interested people. He is talking about the collective responsibility of all to ensure the continued viability of this planet and all that dwells on it. And he's talking about how his tribe of American Indians managed to translate this goal into a practical reality on the salmon-rich rivers of Washington State in the USA.

James, whose other name is David Robinson, was asked to attend the Mitchell River Watershed Conference convened by the Kowanyama Community in June this year. Kowanyama, a community of about 1,500 Aborigines, is at the mouth of the Mitchell River on the south-eastern coast of Cape York Peninsula. The Community has seen the urgent need for land and resource management policies to be developed for the whole of the Mitchell River Watershed. Their long-term livelihood depends on the capacity of the river to provide a subsistence fishery resource.

The Mitchell rises on the Atherton Tableland, just inland from Cairns, and flows west right across the base of the Peninsula to the Gulf. Its catchment of 72,000 sq km is larger than Tasmania.

The Community must compete with

pressures from other river users in the catchment area, such as gold mining and agriculture in the headwaters, a significant commercial and recreational barramundi fishery, and application by Geo-Peko to mine mineral sands across the delta.

Recognising that what happens in the headwaters eventually affects the estuaries and coast, the community wants the active participation of local, state and national government, private and indigenous land managers and other interest groups in a long-term co-management plan for the Mitchell and its catchment.

In spite of the heat and the variety of groups represented, the conference identified nine goals including ensuring self maintaining populations of native species, the restoration of the catchment, and ensuring sustainable use of the resources within the



Raymond George, Yir Thangedi elder, ritually introduces Indian guest to his country

Photo courtesy Kowanyama Community

catchment.

A working group was set up which would evaluate the existing management and prepare a discussion paper on the issue.

The Community is to be strongly congratulated on promoting the concept of total catchment management along ecological borders rather than property boundaries, and also the difficult task of bringing together such a disparate group of people in the protection of this wild and beautiful area.

Karen Alexander

Environment Campaign Manager

## Scientific evidence shows logging destroys Fraser's ecosystem

Scientific evidence is growing to demonstrate that logging on Fraser Island is causing irreversible damage. Such evidence reinforces the actions of the blockaders who have been battling with police and the timber industry in an effort to halt logging operations, especially during the Fitzgerald Inquiry.

No study has ever been done by the Queensland Forestry Service on the effect of logging on the genetic or species composition of any of the forest types on Fraser Island, or of the effect of logging on any of the fauna.

Maintenance of genetic diversity is fundamental to the preservation of biodiversity, and conservationists fear that the unique rainforests growing on the

sand dunes of Fraser Island are endangered through the loss of their genetic diversity.

Genetic variation is essential for species to adapt to an everchanging environment. The timber industry often appears to be unaware of the amount of genetic variation in the tree species which they claim to manage sustainably, although there is often a wide range of growth rates, disease resistance, age to maturity and seed yield within a species.

Unfortunately, the fittest trees — that is the tallest, straightest, most disease free and fastest growing tree — are also the most commercially attractive and targeted for logging. However, by taking the healthiest trees is a process of artificial selection which acts against those characteristics most desirable for the forest. Logging

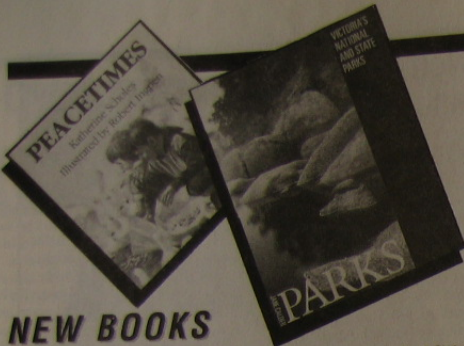
decreases the overall age of the forest and removes the genetic variability best suited for survival, which reduces the forest's capacity to cope with short term environmental changes (such as logging disturbance) or long term climatic change (such as the greenhouse effect).

Unsustainable logging practices which damage the health of the rainforests of Fraser Island, in addition to the limited distribution of the forests, are decreasing the chances of the survival of the island's ecosystem. In genetic terms at least, the notion of sustained yield from native forests appears increasingly unattainable.

Mark Horstman

Campaign Coordinator, Queensland





## NEW BOOKS

After a long wait Jane Calder's magnificent *Parks: Victoria's National and State Parks*, is finally arrived. This, as well as *Flora of Australia (Volume 18)*, and the other titles listed below are among the new books available from ACF Books.

If you wish to order any of these, or enquire about others you are interested in which may be available, please contact the ACF Books Coordinator, Gary Wardrope, at ACF's Melbourne office, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065. tel: (03) 416 1455 (toll free: (008) 338 928).

**Parks: Victoria's National and State Parks**  
Jane Calder, VNPA & Canterbury Press, 1990, 265pp, \$39.95

12 per cent of Victoria has now been set aside as parkland. The declaration of the new Mallee parks in May and the Alpine National Park in December last year has brought the State's total area of parkland to two and a half million hectares. Jane Calder's large and beautiful book pays tribute to this natural heritage. It is well researched, and includes information on physical features, plants, animals, special attractions and facilities for tourists and locals. There is a map of each park and the 44 pages of colour photographs make it a very attractive volume.

**Signs of Hope, Working Towards Our Common Future**  
L Starke, OUP, 1990, 192pp, paperback, \$12.95

This volume records the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of Our Common Future, and looks at initiatives being taken throughout the world including those by young people. It also points to areas where progress has not been made and examines the 'unfinished agenda'.

Note: The Australian edition of Our Common Future is now available for \$18.95.

**Flora of Australia, Volume 18: Podostemaceae to Combretaceae**  
AGPS, 1990, 349pp, \$59.95 (paperback - \$44.95)

The eleventh of a fifty volume series of Australia's flora. This volume contains nine families, 45 genera and 322 species. They are spread over a wide geographical and ecological range from coastal mangroves to alpine herbs, desert plants to submerged aquatics.

### Peacetimes

**KScholes, and R Ingpen, (Children's) Hill of Content, 1989, 36pp, \$9.95**

'Peace is not a gap between times of fighting, or a space where nothing is happening.'

Peace is something that lives, grows, spreads and needs to be looked after.'

The poignant text and reflective, full-colour illustrations make this book delightful for young and old alike.

### The Population Explosion

**P & A Ehrlich, S&S, 1990, 320pp, paperback, \$16.95**

A timely update on Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb*, in 1968. In this important appraisal, the connections between population, resource use and environmental deterioration are well established. Overpopulation in rich countries such as Australia, where consumption is unrestrained is seen to be more serious than for developing countries. The book includes a section on 'what you can do', plus sample letters to influential people.

### Bhopal. The Lessons of a Tragedy

**S Hazarika, Penguin, 1987, 230pp, paperback, \$14.95**

In 1984, in one of the worst industrial accidents of last decade, over 2,500 people died from exposure to poisonous gases, leaking from a Union Carbide factory in the Indian city of Bhopal. The case is still before the courts, with billions of dollars at stake. The social impact was obviously catastrophic. But what of the environmental effect? This book raises many questions on this incident, and includes discussion on the unethical business methods of some large companies.

### Taronga Zoo's Guide to the Care of Urban Wildlife

**E Walraven, A&U, 1990, 157pp, paperback, 19.95**

It is usual to feel helpless or ignorant when confronted by an injured or orphaned wild animal. This book is designed to assist the non-specialist in caring for such creatures, as well as ensuring their locality provides a healthy environment for wildlife.

**The Beginner's Guide to Australian Birds**  
R Balmford, Penguin, 1990, 268pp, paperback, \$12.95

Where and when to look for birds, how to identify them and what to watch for. □

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.

| 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   |

## 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

|  |                               |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Canberra Sydney                                  | 2XXX<br>2SER-FM               | Thur 10.00am<br>Mon 9.00am(1)<br>Tues 9.00am(2)<br>Fri 12.00pm   |
| Albury/Wodonga Bathurst Bellingen                | 2REM-FM<br>2MCE-FM<br>2BBB-FM | Sun 12.00pm(1)<br>Sun 6.00pm<br>Tues 12.15pm<br>Fri 6.00pm(1)  |
| Lismore  | 2NCR-FM                       | Tues 2.00-4.00pm*<br>Wed 2.30-3.00pm<br>Tues 12.00pm   |
| Moruya Newcastle                                 | 2EAR-FM<br>2NUR-FM            | Tues 12.30pm(1)<br>Tues 9.00pm(r)<br>Thur 8.30pm(1)  |
| Taree  | 2BOB-FM                       | Fri 1.30pm(2)<br>Thur 8.30pm(1)  |
| Wagga Wagga Melbourne                            | 2AAA-FM<br>3RRR-FM<br>3CR     | check local guide<br>Mon 5.00pm(live)<br>Mon 7.00am(1)<br>Mon 5.30pm(2)<br>Fri 12.00pm<br>3CCC-FM<br>Fri 10.30am(1)<br>Fri 7.00pm(2) |
| Ballarat Bendigo/Castlemaine Inverloch Melbourne | 3MFM-FM<br>3RIM-FM            | Wed 6.00-8.00pm*<br>Sun 9.00am<br>Wed 9.00pm(r)<br>Fri 12.30pm   |
| Morwell Portland                                 | 3GCR-FM                       | Fri 12.30pm<br>3RPC-FM<br>Tues 1.00-2.00pm(1)<br>Fri 4.00-5.00pm(2)  |
| Adelaide   | 5MMM-FM                       | Mon 6.30-8.00pm*<br>Sun 12.00-2.00pm*  |
| SUV  | 5UV                           | Fri 12.00pm  |
| Mt Gambier Perth                                 | 5GTR-FM<br>6NR<br>6UVS-FM     | Thur 3.00pm<br>check local guide<br>Fri 11.30am<br>check local guide   |
| Darwin   | 100FM<br>8TOP-FM              | Mon 8.30am<br>Thur 6.00pm*<br>Sun 9.00am*  |
| Alice Springs                                    | 8KIN-FM<br>8CCC-FM            | Sun 2.00pm<br>Sun 7.00-9.00pm*   |
| Hobart Launceston                                | 7THE-FM<br>7LTN-FM            | PMO<br>Tues 9.00am(1)<br>Wed 9.00am(2)   |
| Brisbane Townsville                              | 4ZZZ-FM<br>4TTT-FM            | Mon 9.00-9.30pm(1)<br>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**

## EFFICIENT RENEWABLE ENERGY Victorian Study

A report prepared for the Victorian Solar Energy Council by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research, May 1990.

A highly detailed report focusing on the potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy in the State of Victoria has been released by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR). This timely publication follows the comprehensive Greenhouse Energy Strategy for Australia by Deni Greene Consulting Services (see review in Conservation News, June, 1990). Although prepared by a conservative group of economists, the NIEIR report is broadly compatible with the results of the Greene study.

NIEIR finds that, in meeting the 1988 Toronto target (a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2005), economic growth can be maintained, but it will have to be growth in

the right kind of industries: for instance, those providing efficient electrical appliances and motors, solar hot water, wind electricity, cogeneration, public transport, fuel efficient vehicles and efficient industrial process. Growth in certain other areas, such as electricity generation from brown coal, will have to be reversed.

Provided that the required energy efficient and renewable energy products are manufactured locally, NIEIR estimates that the cost of energy supply for meeting the Toronto target in Victoria would be \$4.7 billion less, and the number of jobs would be 17,000 greater, than in the 'business as usual' scenario. It seems to be that in this case it is possible to simultaneously improve the economy and the environment.

The Victorian report is available from the Victorian Renewable Energy Authority. tel: (03) 654 4533.

Mark Diesendorf  
Global Change Program

## Ecological sustainability bottom line for forest management: RAC submission

The ACF's submission to the Resource Assessment Commission's (RAC) Forest and Timber Inquiry, presented early last month, is a wide-ranging outline of the environmental, economic, administrative and social factors concerning forests and forest use.

Since the Forwood Conference in the mid 1970s, heavy commitments of public resources, in the form of native forests and support of forest management agencies, have been made to wood products industries. Promises have not been fulfilled. Employment has dropped, the economic contribution has stagnated, the trade imbalance has increased and native forests have come under increasing pressure. Now, as we enter the 1990s, the industry's Growth Plan offers more of the same.

Ecological sustainability should be the bottom line for forest management and forest products industry. ACF's submission offered the RAC an outline for ecological sustainability based on taking a precautionary approach to environmental and economic decision-making. A basic tenet is that the biological diversity of our forests must be maintained for future generations.

The onus of scientific proof should lie with those proposing the modification of forests for economic ends. Unless the essential ecological decisions are made the economic ones will lead to the demise of the biological diversity of our forests.

For more information on this Inquiry, contact Mike Krockenberger at ACF's Melbourne office, on (03) 416 1455. □



## NOTES

### New appointments for biodiversity and WA membership

ACF has a new Biodiversity Officer. Margaret McDonald was appointed to the position in July and is already working at a pace designed for early burnout.

'It is', she says 'a real grab-bag job, with a host of different issues being flung across my desk'. At present, the most pressing are Antarctica and native vegetation retention.

Margaret is currently working on a national campaign for the adoption of vegetation clearing controls designed to prevent any further loss of Australian bush. Although the situation in Victoria is positive (see page 5), Queensland's Goss Government seems unlikely to introduce any controls at this stage. Margaret intends to spend much of her energies convincing that Government to adopt a more progressive stance.

The biodiversity program is also responsible for ACF's campaigns in support of the Australian-French proposal for an Antarctic World Park, and most importantly, to prohibit mining in Antarctica. Three major conferences, crucial to the success of the Park proposal, will take place in November this year. The IUCN General Assembly Conference is to be held in Perth while the XVth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and a meeting to



discuss the liability protocol (as an adjunct to the Minerals Convention) will take place in Chile. Although the proposal is gaining international support, it is still a long way from becoming a reality.

Before coming to ACF, Margaret was involved in wetland management with the Department of Conservation and Environment in regional Victoria. Margaret is working from the Melbourne office, and can be contacted on (03) 416 1455. □

Janet Cohen is the new ACF State Liaison Officer in WA.

While half of the ACF campaigns for the future of the universe, the other half – people like Janet – work with those who see to ACF's survival.

In this new position, Janet will work closely with the WA Branches and ACF membership to develop and expand the membership base in that state, organise fundraising and membership participation in ACF activity.

Before coming to ACF Janet coordinated a multicultural community centre in Sydney.

She looks forward to hearing from members and welcomes your questions, comments and ideas. Janet can be contacted at ACF's Perth office. tel: (09) 220 0669.



#### GENETIC ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

organised by Monash University Centre for Human Bioethics and the Intellectual and Industrial Property Society present a one day conference

### ETHICS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Should we create and commercialise new life forms?

Friday, 19th October, 1990  
9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Session 1: Setting the scene on legal, social and scientific issues  
Session 2: In depth discussion of the ethics of genetic manipulation and intellectual property  
Session 3: Future directions in public policy, industry and law

#### Speakers include:

● Bob Phelps (ACF) ● Professor Max Charlesworth (Deakin University)  
● Dr Bob Seamark (University Adelaide) ● Dr David Harrison (Biotechnology Australia) ● Professor Peter Singer (Monash University) ● Julian Burnside QC  
● Barry Jones MHR

For further information and registration forms, contact  
Lynn Gillam, Centre for Human Bioethics, Monash University, Clayton, 3168.  
tel: (03) 565 4278. fax: (03) 565 3279

**HABITAT Australia – it's well worth subscribing**

### Doctors turn green

Health professionals have formed an organisation to help protect the environment. The Environmental Medical Association is open to all health professionals and will look at the implications for health of environmental concerns such as greenhouse warming, ozone depletion, air and water pollution, and toxicology. As well, the Association will look at the impact on the environment of the health industry and especially hospital management.

The first public meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10th October, at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The guest speaker, Dr Tilman Ruff will discuss the health consequences of the greenhouse effect.

ACF warmly welcomes the formation of the new Association and urges all ACF members and supporters who are health professionals to attend the meeting or to contact Dr Mike Richards at the Austin Hospital for further details. tel: (03) 450 5111.

### 134,000 sign up to save Ozone

ACF's Ozone petition for 1990 (closed in June) has reached an amazing 86,000 signatures. This is on top of the 48,000 signatures we presented to Parliament in October last year – the largest petition received in 1989. Our 1990 petition looks set to be presented to Parliament on 12th September. □

### Symposium on Tasmanian World Heritage

A symposium on the significance of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area is to be held in Hobart in November. Gough Whitlam is to be the key note speaker. Papers will be presented discussing the world heritage values of the area, covering such topics as natural and cultural values, past human occupation, flora, fauna, geology and geomorphology, plus changing uses and perceptions of the area. For further information and registrations, contact Dr Steven Smith, on (002) 306 160.

### Restoration: a haven for conservation

*'This day being the anniversary of the Restoration of King Charles the Second, and the name not being inapplicable to our present situation... I named this Restoration Island; for I thought it probable that Captain Cook might not have taken notice of it.'*

Captain Bligh, 23rd May 1789. Given that he had a bigger island on his mind, Captain Cook may well have taken little notice of Bligh's tiny Restoration Island, 500 kilometres north of Cairns, on the Great Barrier Reef. But if the Cape York space base is given the go-ahead, Restoration Island, situated only thirty kilometres south of the proposed Space Launching Range at Temple Bay, could become a haven for birds in the vicinity of the Peninsula.

Large areas of deciduous monsoonal rainforest on the Island house a variety of wildlife, including over 200 species of bird.

Restoration Island is of great conservation, cultural and traditional value. It holds special significance for local Aborigines, and was the first landfall made by Captain Bligh and his men after the historical mutiny on the Bounty. Pythons and egg-laying turtles are among the many animal species found on the island, as well as Torres Strait Pigeons.

The island is for sale, and the owners, one of whom is a founding member of ACF, are hoping that a buyer can be found who will protect it as a conservation reserve. (Details in Habitat, August, 1990). □

### Mea culpa

Thank you to the reader who pointed out that we generate more than one million, not billion, tonnes of low grade paper waste annually. This mistake appeared in the June edition of Conservation News, in the article *Levy needed to encourage recycling of newsprint* (p.7). I read the noughts incorrectly. Even so, a million tonnes is still a big heap – more, I think, than is advisable for ecological sustainability.

Editor

CONSERVATION NEWS, September, 1990 – 13

#### DOROTHY JOY NICHTERLEIN

The staff of ACF offer their sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy Nichterlein who died on 10th July, after a long illness.

Dorothy was a remarkable woman, combining her interests of conservation and caring with her work as a senior teacher of fashion. She showed courage, loyalty and dedication in all she did. Her contribution to conservation is noteworthy. She was a committed and tireless worker for ACF's NSW Forest Campaign Group, The Wilderness Society and Friends of the Kimberley.

She was one of the four cavers who first explored the 'Nam Lang' in Thailand known to be the longest cave in South-East Asia.

A memorial service and tree planting ceremony will be held at the end of November. For details contact Virginia Milson on (02) 389 4130 or April Mills on (02) 560 5350.



## LETTERS

### Destocking NT pastoral lands too costly, says Minister

Hon. John Kerin  
Federal Minister for Primary Industries  
and Energy

In an article in Conservation News in June, Chris Harris draws attention to the problem of land degradation in the Northern Territory and suggests that destocking of pastoral lands is required to prevent further degradation.

Although this suggestion would appear to have advantages on the case that he advances, it also carries undesirable consequences – the loss of \$143m in cattle production per annum, 70 per cent of which goes to export, the loss of jobs and livelihoods for many outback residents and the loss of the contribution to pest control which the pastoral industry currently provides over a large production of the territory. Consequently it is possible that without compensatory management of land by governments, degradation could increase in some areas.

Such a radical solution therefore is not warranted. Research by CSIRO has shown that rangelands in the Northern Territory can contribute to agricultural production without land degradation, if suitable grazing strategies are employed. These strategies are designed to vary the stock numbers

with regional and seasonal changes and to destock selected areas during periods of severe drought.

Computer-based management systems, eg: CSIRO Rangepak, can be used to determine the appropriate stock numbers, depending on conditions. In this way the profitability of cattle enterprises can be optimized over the long term through higher performance of individual animals and the maintenance of a productive and undergraded environment.

It is the Federal Government's aim to support such land use systems and to encourage the adoption of this technology in all sectors of the pastoral industry in Northern Australia, not just the Territory, so that future options for land use are not precluded. The approach includes Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal lands and studies to improve the relevance and availability of information packages for land management are currently underway.

The solution to pastoral problems in the Northern Territory lies not in destocking and replacing commercial enterprises with government intervention but in developing appropriate sustainable production systems for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal pastoralists. □

### Kerin fails to address significant points

Mr Kerin's letter fails to address three significant points:

1. It is clear that some areas of pastoral lands will need to be de-stocked in order to completely protect their biodiversity values, which cannot be maintained under grazing regimes.

2. The Northern Territory Government has repeatedly demonstrated its intransigent attitude towards conservation matters – the latest effort being attempts to fast-track changes to the NT pastoral land tenure legislation which have the potential to cause ecological disaster (Conservation News, July, 1990). The ACF supports CSIRO's recommendations on rangeland

management, but the conservation movement has little faith in the NT Government's willingness to encourage and ensure their adoption by NT pastoralists. It requires more from the Federal Government than 'support' to make ecologically sustainable land management a reality.

3. If we don't take action now to protect our environmental resources, the \$143m NT cattle industry is likely to be dramatically curtailed in the future as a result of the continuing erosion of our natural capital base.

Jane Elix

ACF Natural Resources Program

### Conservationists need to address key aspects on immigration

John Donovan  
Victoria

Conservationists arguing for a substantial cut in Australia's immigrant intake have neglected to address key aspects of the immigration/population debate. Two significant issues have yet to be adequately considered.

First, the relationship between the conservation movement and ethnic communities needs to be carefully examined and evaluated. Conservationists need to ensure that better communication links are established. By identifying the key concerns of ethnic communities and establishing effective consultation mechanisms between Greens and ethnic groups, conservationists wanting a large cut in the immigrant intake could put their views directly to ethnic communities and thereby minimise confusion.

Second, Australia's international role and responsibilities need to be examined. Australia will probably be subjected to increasing international pressure to accept more immigrants, particularly refugees. Conservationists have tended to discuss the immigration/population question as an issue that can be resolved in terms of internal political considerations. An integrated approach linking our immigration/population policies and overseas aid needs to be adopted. For example, although the link between overseas aid and the environment has been addressed by some conservationists, overseas aid has yet to become a major priority. Greens need to campaign, strongly for overseas aid to be directed towards ecologically sustainable projects that help to alleviate poverty and ameliorate the pressures of rapid population growth.

I believe that Australia's refugee intake should be increased and the family reunion intake maintained. The conservation movement should focus its attention on campaigning for responsible and increased overseas aid and liaise with Greens in other countries with a view to adopting a common position and strategy in relation to the population issue. □

## ACF BRANCHES AND CAMPAIGN GROUPS

### New Branch starts up on old rails

A new ACF Branch has been formed in Port Fairy and Warrambool, in south-west Victoria. Interest and enthusiasm for the new group was demonstrated when fifty people, most of them ACF members, attended a first meeting in Port Fairy. This followed a series of preparatory meetings where local issues were discussed and the means to become a branch discovered and acted upon.

The issue that sparked the idea to form a branch was the current proposal of the State Government to sell off corridors of land along disused railway lines as part

of its 'Assets Sale'. These corridors exist all over the State, but the initiative is being first tested in the south-west. The Department of Conservation and Environment has received submissions on the matter opposing the selling of land to neighbouring farmers for use as grazing land. As an alternative, it was proposed that they be used as corridors of natural bush to be used as links between State Forest, recreational purposes or perhaps even as railways again in the future.

Members have also shown interest in promoting public awareness of the de-

struction origins of rainforest timber and lobbying against its sale or use by local hardware stores and builders. Local pollution issues, particularly sewage outflow, and ways to promote recycling have been discussed. Tree-planting is naturally a concern in this barren part of the state.

Our thanks go to Max Phillips of the Portland Branch, for his help in establishing the branch.

For further information contact  
Andrew Gault.  
tel: (055) 682 580 or  
Angela Cronin (055) 628 453.



#### 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 (Eastern suburbs, Melbourne)**  
Peter Caffin (03) 801 4891 (ah) or Diana  
Haby (03) 890 5366 (ah)  
**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 Lavers (097) 343 512  
**Perth**  
David Bennett, (09) 387 2126  
**South-Coast Branch**  
Lawrence Emery (098) 451 042

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

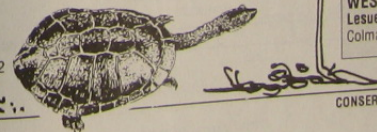
**Blue Mountains**  
Terri Hamilton (047) 824 554  
**Central Coast**  
Greg Roberts (043) 822 483 (ah)  
**Hunter Region**  
Janet Murray (049) 690 662 (bh) or (049)  
57 1126 (ah)  
**Illawarra**  
Cheryl Aldrich (042) 291 625 (ah)  
**Sydney**  
Ian Landon-Smith (02) 487 3411 (ah)  
**Shoalhaven**  
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**  
Nelle 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**  
Cape York Campaign Group –  
Felicity Wishart (03) 416 1455 (bh)  
Membership Campaign Group –  
Trish Brown (03) 416 1455 (bh)  
Tropical Forest Campaign Group –  
Felicity Wishart (03) 416 1455 (bh)

**BRISBANE**  
Cape York Campaign Group –  
Mark Horstman (07) 229 7715  
Coast Campaign Group –  
Phillip Cosser (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



# URGENT OZONE APPEAL URGENT OZONE APPEAL URGENT



There's a hole in the sky. It lets in skin cancer, eye cataracts, premature ageing of the skin and immune deficiency. It prevents us from being outside; it makes an enemy of the sun. It has the potential to destroy our food sources and diminishes earth's diversity. It is the depletion of the ozone layer and it is caused by industry persistently producing chemicals which destroy ozone.

And you and I using them in our day to day activities.

Industrialised countries have been using these chemicals commercially in aerosols, cleaning solvents, foam blowing agents, air conditioning and refrigeration.

**It is time to stop!**

## *Please Support our Appeal*

Please give what you can. Send your donations to **ACF Ozone Appeal, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065.**

For more information contact Julie Davie on (03) 416 1455 [toll free: (008) 338 928].

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- ▲ our monthly newsletter *CONSERVATION NEWS*.
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- ▲ 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

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- \$17.50 Concession membership
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Plus \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation  
(donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

enclosed is cheque/money order

OR charge my:  Bankcard  Visa  
 Mastercard

Card No: (16 digits required)

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership corresponds to the current financial year (1st July to 30 June)



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

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