

# GREENPEACE

Volume 2 Number 3 Winter 1991 Registered by Australia Post SBC02166

australianews



- **A Green Peace of the Action**
- **Nufarm – Cover-up Extraordinaire**
- **Paper Products – A Clear, Clean Choice**

# WORDS FROM THE INSIDE

from Paul Gilding, executive director of Greenpeace Australia

Last issue I wrote about a new direction for Greenpeace, a direction to inspire our membership to be more active in the community. This new course of action gives me great hope for the future. I am quite convinced that the only way we are facing is for environmental crisis we are facing is for many more people to become involved in their community, to take responsibility for what our lifestyles do to our global environment.

In this issue we are announcing the first intims in the new course of action. It is a project which will break new ground in the Australian environment movement. The project will put us in direct and regular contact with our membership and, at the same time, provide a way we can mobilise those members who wish to be more active in our campaigns. The first phase of the establishment of our Activist Network is, I believe, one of the most exciting developments within Greenpeace Australia for many years.

The basic building block of the programme is to have the people and telephone equipment necessary to speak to hundreds of our members every night. This provides us with a range of possibilities for informing, educating, mobilising and listening to you, our membership. Obviously, not all of our members want to get more active and that's fine. For those who do though, we will now be able to provide up-to-date information on our activities and tell you what you can do to assist Greenpeace campaigns. It also provides us with the ability to stay closely in contact with what you think on a variety of issues so that we can respond much faster to your concerns about environmental issues.

In the last issue of the magazine I asked you for ideas about how we could best undertake this sort of work. I was very pleased to receive so many letters as a result of this request. The strong response certainly reinforces our belief that people are ready to give their time and energy to the work of saving our planet. All your suggestions will be considered and, where

appropriate, integrated into our plans for future activity. I thank all those who took the time to respond.

What was clear from your responses was that you want suggestions and ideas about how to be involved effectively as part of a wider effort. The potential of having thousands of our members actively writing letters, and of our members actively writing letters, and ringing companies and politicians, and taking a variety of actions in support of the Greenpeace campaigns will magnify the impact of our hard-working campaigners considerably. In this way, not only will our campaigns be more effective but your individual actions in support will collectively act as a new and very powerful force in environmental politics. Now you really will make a difference like never before. The article on page 5 provides an introduction to the programme. I urge you to read about it and commit yourself to becoming part of this new development. In future magazines we will give more details on how you can use this new service.

Greenpeace Australia has been under increasing attack in recent months. There is nothing unusual in this. Change to our society threatens some very powerful interest groups. Rather than acknowledge the message that we must treat our environment with respect, some of them take the approach of "shooting the messenger".

This was the case earlier this year when BHP took Greenpeace to court. Fortunately they realised the mistake they were making and withdrew that court action. Such a reaction is not uncommon though, and will probably increase in frequency in the years to come. Another example of such a reaction followed our exposure of the Nufarm pesticide company in Melbourne, in May 1990, for illegal toxic waste discharges. In that case we exposed such a litany of incompetence by government and such widespread illegal toxic waste dumping by companies that we have been subjected to over a year of attacks and lies, as these powerful interest groups try to backen the name of Greenpeace. As you will read in this issue, despite their accusations, not a single claim that Greenpeace made about Nufarm has ever been proven incorrect. To the contrary, we have exposed far wider pollution by industry than even we thought existed.

We have also been subjected to a series of attacks over our campaign against further off-shore oil exploration. Again, we threaten very powerful interests when we point out that we simply cannot afford to burn increasing amounts of fossil fuels in the Greenhouse age.

We will not shy away from telling the story the way it is, no matter whose interests we threaten. It has been very encouraging to see that you, our membership, have stood by us during this period as well. In fact, our membership numbers continue to rise, recently passing the 85,000 mark. It is clear that the public is not fooled when those who have a financial interest in ongoing environmental damage seek to discredit those who oppose them.

To finish on another positive note, I have been particularly pleased to see some companies realising that environmental protection and financial interest can go hand in hand. Some of our major companies are at last beginning to take environmental issues seriously, looking to a different future of energy efficiency and clean production. On the consumer products front, as well, are encouraging developments, noticeably a major breakfast cereal manufacturer producing a product made from organically grown wheat - and ensuring that it really is 'environmentally friendly' by having it approved by the recognised authority on organic produce, NASAA. Well done to those companies who are at last seeing that their future lies in helping to build a safe and healthy environment.

Our next issue will mark Greenpeace's 20th anniversary. This occasion will celebrate not Greenpeace but what we represent - activism. All around the world people are taking responsibility for their lives and their planet, and demanding change. I can't think of a better reason for a celebration.

## CONTENTS

- 2 Words from the Inside
- 4 A Question of Balance
- 5 A Green Peace of the Action  
The Activist Network
- 9 Uranium Mining  
A Grassroots Victory
- 10 Antarctica Saved
- 11 Turtles, Tourism and Trinkets
- 12 Nufarm  
Cover-up Extraordinaire
- 14 A Clear, Clean Choice  
Chlorine-free by '93
- 16 Local Offices
- 17 Campaign Updates
- 18 Roving Reporter

GREENPEACE AUSTRALIA NEWS  
Editorial Office 3/130 Carrington Street Adelaide 5000  
Editor: Vera Hughes  
Design and layout: Mandi Graham  
Typesetting: Sheila Boston, Le Type Le Art Pty Ltd, Adelaide  
Proprietor: Greenpeace Australia Ltd  
Printing: Cadillac Color Web Press, Camden Park, SA  
Distribution: Direct Mail Centre, Adelaide

- This magazine is published quarterly in February, May, August and November
- A.C.N. 002 643 852 ISSN Number 1035-333X
- Greenpeace Australia News does not accept any advertising
- Material for this magazine may be freely reproduced only for non-commercial purposes. Acknowledgement of your source will be appreciated.
- Printed on 100% recycled paper



### Office Addresses

**Sydney**  
Studio 14  
37 Nicholson Street  
Balmain 2041  
(02) 555 7044

**Adelaide**  
3130 Carrington Street  
Adelaide 5000  
(08) 223 3133  
Membership Services  
(08) 223 7665

**Hobart**  
158 Collins Street  
Hobart 7000  
(002) 238 742

**Melbourne**  
3rd Floor  
389-393 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne 3000  
(03) 670 1633

**Perth**  
25 Moore Street  
East Perth 6000  
(09) 325 6172

**Brisbane**  
93 Leichhardt Street  
Spring Hill 4000  
(07) 832 0077

**Canberra**  
111 Davenport Street  
Dickson ACT 2602  
(06) 257 6300

### To the Reader:

We have received a letter from Mr R. Thomas, Managing Director, Waste Management Authority of New South Wales, in response to our article on high temperature incineration, "Burning For You" in Vol 2, No 1 of Greenpeace Australia News. The letter is too long to re-print in its entirety in our magazine. If you are interested in reading this letter and Greenpeace's response to it, please contact Robert Carmel, Incinerator Campaigner, at our Sydney office.

GREENPEACE AUSTRALIA NEWS PAGE 3

# a question of balance

Australian big business is in a state of semi shock. Over the past twenty months, Greenpeace has conducted a series of direct actions on several industrial operations. Exposing harmful and/or illegal activities naturally brings out a strong defensive response from the exposed company. Equally, the regulatory authorities and governments supposedly safeguarding the public interest also respond strongly as they seek to retain a semblance of public credibility.

Predictably, government and business are now fighting back. Several months ago, BHP started legal proceedings against Greenpeace when the company's offshore oil exploration activities were disrupted. Similarly, Nufarm Chemicals threatened to sue Greenpeace for \$7 million following a Greenpeace action at their Laverton pesticide plant, which alerted the public to illegal and toxic discharges the company was making into the public sewage system. Both companies withdrew their lawsuits for unexplained reasons.

Now, politicians and social commentators are questioning the legitimacy of direct action as a protest form. They would have us believe that environmental issues are already adequately addressed, making direct actions an unnecessary means of achieving change. But common sense and a review of the daily news is all that is needed to prove the error of this claim.

The purpose of a direct action is to expose an environmental crime that is symptomatic of wider environmental degradation. Direct action is central to Greenpeace's philosophy of bearing witness at the scenes of these crimes - being a physical conscience for those whose actions and knowledge are allowing the destructive acts to happen. Coupled with this belief is our absolute commitment to non-violence. We believe determined individuals can create change in the actions of even the most powerful.

Some accuse us of "terrorism" because our direct actions do not shy away from taking on polluters and others who threaten the environment. People should not forget that it was the French government that bombed the *Rainbow Warrior*, sinking her and murdering one of her crew in Australia in 1985. Greenpeace has been subject to acts of violence. Under no circumstances do we place at risk the life or property of those we oppose. Violence is the hallmark of terrorism. We will never use violence.

Greenpeace will continue to act directly to stop environmental crimes. And, of course, big business, politicians and social commentators will continue to attack us for using direct action. But, consider the following:

- If Greenpeace had not acted directly against Japanese, Soviet and other whaling fleets, would the current moratorium against whaling be in place?
- If Greenpeace had not exposed the dumping of highly toxic, radioactive waste at sea, would the current ban on the dumping of these substances now exist?
- Who exposed the illegal dumping of toxic wastes from BHP, Port Kembla, Nufarm Chemicals in Melbourne and Caltex in Sydney? Greenpeace did.
- Our vessels such as the *Rainbow Warrior* have exposed a large range of environment-threatening activities. For instance, Japanese, Taiwanese and Korean drift netting and the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of dolphins by the world's tuna fishing fleets were all revealed.

In many of these cases, there were no international regulations protecting the environment. In others, the government regulators who should have been policing the laws simply failed to do their jobs. In any event, Greenpeace actions have, time and time again, forced change to take place.

Some incorrectly assume that direct actions are just media stunts. But direct actions have been very successful in achieving change in Australia. First, for example, as a result of last year's Nufarm action, the Victorian government initiated a review of the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Work's trade waste agreements with industry. Also, as a result of Greenpeace's direct action against off-shore oil exploration at Warrnambool, marine protection and national energy priorities are firmly on the federal government's agenda for the first time.

While our direct actions are our public trademark, it would be a mistake to assume this is the extent of the work we do. Greenpeace sits on government committees, has regular contact with federal ministers and the federal government, attends international treaty negotiations and commissions, and carries out scientific research. We have full-time lobbyists in Canberra, London, Washington and in the European Community. We address the difficult issues of sustainable development and the environment. Public information and the provision of information are other major activities. Greenpeace runs a publishing house in the United Kingdom. And, we even enter into direct dialogue with the corporate sector.

If government and the corporate sector were more willing to change to accommodate environmental reality, then perhaps direct actions would become less of a priority for Greenpeace. As it stands, government's lukewarm, largely rhetorical approach to environmental issues, along with the corporate sector's unwillingness to seriously address environmental reality, means that direct actions will remain a significant part of our activity for the foreseeable future. Like direct dialogue, public information, political lobbying and scientific research, direct action will remain central to our work.

Rick Humphries

# A green peace of the action

As I set off for work the other day, I took the time to look around me and was encouraged by what I saw. All around me was evidence of the green revolution. Behind most apartment blocks I saw the separate recycling containers, many brimming with bottles and newsprint. I stopped to get a bun, and the person in front of me asked if they had any way to save take-away coffee other than in polystyrene cups. They didn't, and the customer walked away. The bun I bought was not wrapped in plastic or sheets of white, white paper, but presented to me in a recycled paper bag. Everywhere around are people who have realised that it is a task for each of us to preserve our environment. The tide is turning, to be sure.

by Doug Tanton

The one thing that has become increasingly clear during the '90s is, that for our world to have a sustainable chance, we all have to get involved in some way. We have to be involved in the global picture-way in which Greenpeace is traditionally seen to function. And, we also must be involved in the grassroots way that changes everyday life.

I'm new to Australia and have been very impressed by the level of commitment shown to caring for the environment, and the successes that have been achieved. When I first came to this country four years ago, I was in awe of its natural splendour. When the opportunity came to come back and offer something to Australia, I embraced it wholeheartedly. It was a chance for me to play a role in preserving this beautiful country and to help make a whole new set of successes happen in the future.

Greenpeace has taken an important step over the past 20 years, in affirming the belief that the optimism of the action is better than the pessimism of the thought. We have seen successes, but there is much work to be done. Our campaigners in Australia and around the world have had significant victories and have made important gains but the level of commitment has to be much greater, and not just by those already involved in the environmental movement. Every member of our society must be willing to find their level of activism and, by doing so, must take responsibility for their actions.



The fact remains unchanged. It is time for us to make our communities sustainable places to live. For a future for our children, it is time we all accepted that our communities are just that, our homes, and we must search within ourselves to find what we can each do to save our homes for tomorrow.

We now realise, here at Greenpeace, that the only way we can hope to achieve our goals is to include all members of society in the process. Someone said to me the other day, "Oh, you work for Greenpeace. Well, I know you people do a lot of good work but if really won't make that much of a difference until everyone does their bit will it?" I thought about that for a moment and, at first, was offended. It's a difficult thing to imagine that the work we are doing here is all for naught. But as I started to think about it more and more, I began to realise what she was actually saying. She was saying that our work was good, that we make a difference, but that everyone had to get involved.

Quite an eye-opener for someone who is bent on saving the world. But then I thought about an old saying I heard as a child. It started to make sense. You can take someone fishing and they are bound to catch a few fish, but teach this person to fish and you have given the person a means to live.





How true, and the more I thought about it the more I realised that this is the crossroad where we now find ourselves. We as 'professional' environmentalists, can keep beating our drums, alerting the world to problems, or we can assist the mass of society to really live the change we need in the world. Sometimes, what is needed is a healthy combination of the two.

We have now committed a large part of Greenpeace Australia's time and energy to looking at all possible ways to bring our campaigns to the people that our work is meant to assist. You.

In the last issue of the magazine our Executive Director, Paul Gilding, put a call to people wanting to take a more active role in the work that has to be done. And, in so doing, he re-affirmed that Greenpeace Australia is committed to supporting local community environmental activism and education.

During the last three months we have been assembling a Membership Response Unit, which will contact, educate and mobilise our members across the country. Whether it is the organisation of a letter writing campaign, answering members' enquiries for information or organising a day of protest, this Membership Response Unit will be there.

From there, the next step is a community-based, grassroots Activist Network. We want every person or group, young and old, to let us know what they would be willing to do to support environmental issues in their community. We will be issuing a newsletter or update to those at the local level who choose to get involved. And we need your input.

- How would you be willing to get involved with a local activist network?
- What are the issues affecting your community?
- What do you think are possible solutions to these local environmental problems?

Along with this issue of the magazine there is a one page questionnaire. Simply fill it out, return it to our Sydney office and we will contact you within the next month. We will be setting up local projects and programmes everywhere across Australia, and we need everyone's support. And not just Greenpeace members either. Anyone who wants to take an active role in the environmental future of their community is welcome.

At first glance this may appear quite overwhelming and some might say they are indeed not willing or able to take on as much as we have here at Greenpeace. But all we ask is that people who get involved are specific and honest, and let us know exactly what they would and wouldn't be prepared to do. As I said earlier, this may mean writing letters, signing petitions, going to local group meetings or maybe even taking an active role in a protest or local action.

Whatever people are willing to do, there is a need for them to do it. There have been too many who for too long have said, "Look, I want to do more than just give you a donation". Now is the time for these people to come forward and join the Activist Network.

The commitment of Greenpeace Australia is squarely behind this programme and we intend to stick with it over time. We want to hear from anyone who would be willing to give a small peace of themselves to make a real difference.

And we'll let you know how we are doing. With the Activist Network newsletter updates and project updates, we will let people in each area know what their work is doing to make a difference. We will tell you where significant gains have been made, where there is more work to be done and what you can do to help see projects through to a conclusion.

There really is no other choice. If each one of us isn't willing to change a little bit and use a small peace of the self to see real change, then all of our good-intentioned campaigning will go for nothing. Find that part of yourself which can live out that change we all want to see in the world. Get involved, feel good about what you're doing and, most importantly, make a difference.

Doug Tanton

#### Volunteers Wanted

Wherever you are in this vast country of ours, you have the opportunity to help Greenpeace. The Greenpeace public awareness and fundraising team has developed a Greenpeace information brochure and counter display kit.

Richard, in the Sydney office, needs volunteers to help distribute these kits to offices, shops and anywhere there is a steady flow of people. Please contact our office on (02) 555 7044, or through the post at our Sydney office, and he will send you a kit which includes 10 sets of brochures and counter stands, letters to hand out to shopkeepers and a letter to introduce you as a Greenpeace volunteer. We need your help.



## Greenpeace Australia Activist Network enrolment and enquiry form

# Yes!!



I want to do more to preserve our planet.

The **Greenpeace Australia Activist Network** is a way for everyone to get involved in the quest to preserve our future.

This questionnaire will help us determine your interests and needs. Once we have received your completed questionnaire, we will be contacting you about the best ways we can all work together.

For further information on the **Greenpeace Australia Activist Network**, ring (02) 555 8777 between 9.00 am and 9.00 pm, weekdays.

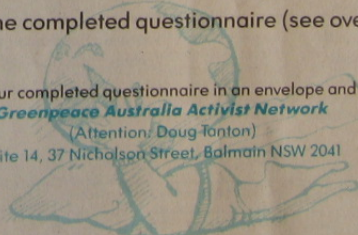
Simply read through the following questions and mark those things you want to do. Take a moment to let us know the most important environmental issues facing your community. And please tell us about the special skills you can contribute. If you have additional ideas or information, please attach a separate letter to the completed questionnaire (see overleaf).

Please place your completed questionnaire in an envelope and return it to:

**Greenpeace Australia Activist Network**

(Attention: Doug Tanton)

Suite 14, 37 Nicholson Street, Balmain NSW 2041



# Yes!! I want to become involved with the Greenpeace Australia Activist Network

I understand this is a way for me to get involved in the work of Greenpeace Australia in my own community.



- Please send me more information about the Activist Network.
- I will write letters to government and industry about their environmental policies.  
I will write:  
 one letter per month  one letter per fortnight  
 one letter per week  more than one letter per week  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- I will telephone local government and industry about their environmental policies.  
I will ring:  
 once per month  once per fortnight  
 once per week  more than once per week  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- I will contact people in my community to alert them to immediate environmental concerns in our local area. I will:  
 contact three people  contact more than three people  
 contact and work with three people  contact and work with more than three people  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- I will distribute ten kits of counter display/membership brochures to shops in my local area, to raise community awareness and support.
- I will be involved in meetings within my community about environmental issues in my local area. I will:  
 attend monthly meetings  attend fortnightly meetings  
 organise monthly meetings  organise weekly meetings  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- I will be on call to respond to urgent environmental issues facing my local area when the need arises.
- I can spend the following amount of time addressing environmental concerns in my local area:  
 one day per month  one day per fortnight  
 one day per week  more than one day per week  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Hm) \_\_\_\_\_ P/CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Bus) \_\_\_\_\_



## R · A · N · I · U · M M · I · N · I · N · G

### a grass roots victory!

### THE CAMPAIGN

#### It wasn't sexy, but it worked

The first step happened in September and October of 1990, when Alastair Harris, Greenpeace National Union Liaison, and I undertook a five week speaking tour of Australia, visiting the uranium mining sites and the state capitals. We met with local trade unionists, Party representatives and local people. This was vital to give us the information we needed for the entire campaign. During our campaign we took a proactive stance and worked hard to get what we learned out to Parliamentarians, ALP members and the public.

From November, we produced a series of nationwide mailouts to all state and federal Labor MPs and senators, all federal MPs and senators of other parties, all ALP affiliated state branches of trade unions, all state and local ALP branches, and environment groups nationally. The six mailouts covered such topics as the number of jobs and the amount of money gained from uranium mining, through to the world status of the nuclear industry. We held many street stalls around the country, with letter writing and postcard signings, as well as organising strategic canvass teams who targeted key constituencies.

We lobbied in Parliament House and spoke to eight ALP Caucus Committees. We presented evidence on issues ranging from the effects of radiation on miners, the economics of uranium mining and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The lobbying round was greatly aided by Dr Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh. Ciaran has lived in the Northern Territory, and his understanding of the area was vital in providing the overview that many MPs lack.

There is no doubt the campaign had an impact. Many people at the ALP Conference told us that the ALP central office and

On June 27th, the Australian Labor Party decided not to expand its three named uranium mine policy. We can all take satisfaction in the fact that we are responsible for this decision. That we did so in the face of formidable opposition from the mining lobby makes the success even greater.

Of the submissions to the ALP Uranium Policy Review Committee, 97% were either opposed to uranium mining or wanted an industry phase-out. The mining companies were not going to let this minor detail stand in their way. Mining representatives promised that Jabluka and Koongarra, which lie in Kakadu, would bring untold wealth. Thankfully, the Australian public recognises that Kakadu is priceless and too precious to trade off.

The uranium campaign of the past year was not one of high-powered, attention-grabbing direct actions. Rather it was a campaign which took on that most vital task - informing the public and the ALP membership about the nuclear industry. There were several key points we addressed.

We had to face the preposterous notion that because the government had not allowed Coronation Hill to go ahead, that Jabluka and Koongarra should be mined. The idea that part of the planet can be swapped in this way is patently obscene. It is interesting to note that mining companies also claimed that future investors would see Australia as a bad risk. We took the time to find out just how many mining leases are already held in this country. The figure runs into tens of thousands.

After the example of Coronation Hill, some mining companies claimed that if the issue of mining was to be decided on Aboriginal claims, then Jabluka should be allowed to go ahead. What was fascinating about this argument was the silence of CRA, the owner of the Kintyre uranium deposit in Rudall River National Park, Western Australia. CRA is one of the most aggressive pro-uranium lobbyists, yet it never once mentioned that the Aboriginals of the Rudall River region completely oppose uranium mining.

MPs had been snowed under by anti-uranium mining letters. A number of MPs and delegates themselves thanked us for providing our information and said it had proved invaluable in countering industry arguments. Our information also supported the determined efforts of Jeanette McHugh, Richard Mills and Peter Milton, the three anti-uranium members of the Policy Review Committee. For the most elegant and eloquent summation against uranium mining, look no further than the speech Jeanette gave during the Conference uranium debate.

Equally important, there were those who said that given the pressure they were feeling from grassroots membership, they could not afford to vote for expansion of the uranium industry. This attitude represents a victory for mobilising and empowering the public to take part in political decision-making.

We can all take comfort from the ALP's decision, because we all made it happen. I must, however, take a few lines to thank some special people - Bob Chroweth, who worked as a consultant/lobbyist; Dave Fim and Andy Jennings, nuclear campaigners in the Sydney office; and last, but by no means least, Maggie Hine, the uranium campaigner in the Adelaide office whose hard work has borne such rich fruit.

We believe the nuclear industry is in such dire shape that it will not recover. We believe that as demand for uranium falls even further, the economics of the industry will become even bleaker. The present three named mines policy, which in truth is only two operating mines, is a phase-out policy. By the time of the 1993 ALP Conference, the industry will be in even worse shape. And we'll be in a better position to take them on! Greenpeace will not rest until it sees an end to the uranium mining industry. Many of our campaigns are retrospective. But on this occasion we got there in time to stop the bulldozers and drilling equipment.

Jan McSorley

# A N T A R C T I C A

On July 4th, President Bush announced that the United States will sign the recently negotiated Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty, thus paving the way to protect the Antarctic region from mining for at least the next fifty years.

The Antarctic Treaty nations held a meeting in Madrid in mid-June to finalise and sign a new environmental protection agreement for Antarctica, which had been tentatively agreed to by all 26 Antarctic Treaty Parties at the April meeting in Madrid earlier this year.

However, immediately before the June meeting, the Bush administration proposed a substantial amendment and refused all offered compromise texts. This stalled the acceptance of an Environmental Protocol which would have ensured a ban on mining in Antarctica for at least 50 years. It also suggested that, in reality, the US wanted to maintain their option to mine our last great wilderness continent.

## History of Environmental Protection for Antarctica

From the late 1970s there was increasing interest in the potential mineral wealth of Antarctica. In response to this, the Antarctic Treaty Parties initiated negotiations to provide rules should such mining occur. Negotiations concluded in June 1988, and the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (GRAMRA) was opened for signature. To enter into force the Convention required ratification by sixteen of the 20 negotiating countries, including the seven claimant countries (including Australia) and the USA and the USSR.

After intense argument among Treaty countries, in October 1989 the XVth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Paris came to the agreement that the ongoing environmental protection of Antarctica was not adequately addressed by the Treaty and a Special Consultative Meeting (SCM) was called, to meet the following November in Chile to further discuss this issue. The necessity of GRAMRA was left hanging.

Several countries, including Italy, Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Australia and France, made statements against mining in the Antarctic. In January 1990, the President of the Soviet Union stated: "Our grandchildren will never forgive us if we fail to preserve this phenomenal ecological system. The USSR is ready to join the programme for creating a life-support system for the Antarctic - a natural preserve which belongs to the world and which is our

common laboratory." Later, New Zealand and Spain added their votes to oppose mining in Antarctica.

And, in October, even the US Congress passed the first of several Antarctic Bills providing protective status for Antarctica and prohibiting American citizens and companies from carrying out any minerals activities in Antarctica.

The mandate of the Special Consultative Meeting (SCM) held in Chile was to discuss 'Comprehensive Environmental Protection Measures' for Antarctica. Five proposals (two containing a permanent ban on all minerals activities) were tabled for discussion. Australia and France, supported by Belgium and Italy, proposed a new environmental protection instrument establishing Antarctica as a 'Nature Reserve - Land of Science'. Eight other Treaty Nations (Denmark, Finland, Greece, Austria, Ecuador, Romania, India and, to a lesser degree, Sweden) switched sides to support this proposal and veto GRAMRA. The NZ proposal also contained a permanent ban.

By the end of the SCM, the Antarctic Treaty Nations had agreed to set aside the Minerals Convention, despite ongoing opposition from the UK and Japan, and instead work towards a comprehensive environmental protection protocol to safeguard the future of Antarctica. An outline of general environmental guidelines was nixed out as a basis for further discussions towards comprehensive protection. While accepting the end of GRAMRA, the US maintained its opposition to a permanent ban on mineral activities.

The SCM was resumed in Madrid in April 1991. During the first week of this meeting Germany announced a commitment to a permanent mining ban and Japan announced support for a long-term prohibition. In concert with a recent UK turn-around in support of a fixed-term ban, these had a significant effect on other pro-mining nations, and contributed to the final proposal for an, at least, fifty year mining prohibition.

Delegations at the meeting then agreed to submit a carefully negotiated Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection to their respective governments for approval. The text included the prohibition on mining and provisions for environmental impact assessment procedures on a wide variety of activities. For the first 50 years of the proposed Protocol, the mining prohibition could only be lifted by consensus of all Parties. After 50 years, a complex amendment procedure would come into force requiring ratification by 75% of the Protocol's

voting members, including all Consultative Parties.

The recent June Meeting was convened to finalise the work of the April SCM. The Treaty Nations had intended to sign their new protocol on Sunday 23rd June 1991 - the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the original Antarctic Treaty.

## Breakdown in Negotiations

However, the USA announced it could not accept the text without a major change to amendment provisions, significantly weakening these provisions. Despite last-minute negotiations, the US was unable to accept any of the compromise texts proposed.

The American proposal called for a clause that would allow any Treaty Party to withdraw from the prohibition after 50 years, if a mining regime is generally accepted by the Treaty Parties but not ratified within three years. This would result in unregulated mining and would weaken the possibility of extending the ban. The US stated that it could not allow other nations to impose their will on them, in effect by blocking the ratification of a mining regime supported by the US.

A compromise proposal drawn up on the spot by other nations maintained the 'walk away' clause but strengthened the requirements for lifting the ban. America was unable to accept this deal during the meeting. Their position threatened the ongoing stability of the Antarctic Treaty which is based on consensus decision-making and which has successfully maintained an entire continent as territory devoted to international co-operation for the past 30 years. The US appeared to be more concerned about their national economic interests, regardless of the environmental consequences. And their position certainly imposed their will on 25 other countries!

However, President Bush has now announced his government's agreement to the compromise text, and Treaty nations expect to sign the agreement before October this year.

For several years, Greenpeace has been calling for the Antarctic to be permanently protected as a WORLD PARK. While this new agreement is far from perfect and will require close monitoring, it does include a ban on all minerals activities, comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment procedures covering all approved activities, broad-ranging environmental protection principles, and provisions for collective inspection, enforcement and compliance and an active Environmental Advisory Committee.

Lyn Goldsworthy and Kaye Dyson

## GREENPEACE REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS FOR 1990

Letter from Greenpeace Australia Executive Director, Paul Gilding

Dear Members

By any measure - financial turnover, membership levels, campaign effectiveness or public profile - Greenpeace Australia experienced spectacular growth during 1990. The year saw the full impact of both the restructuring by my predecessor, Steve McAllister, and the enormous increase in public concern for all environmental issues.

As the *Income and Expenditure Statement* shows, our gross turnover for the year was \$6.2 million, more than double that of 1989. Membership increased from 39,320 at 1 January 1990 to 72,178 at 1 January 1991. Our campaigning during the year reflected this growth, with many issues being placed at the top of the public agenda as a direct result of Greenpeace activities. Recently we have also seen advances in our longer term goal to work with community groups on their local concerns.

These successes are the practical results of your support and the hard work of the staff of Greenpeace Australia. We have a team of motivated, highly qualified people in all areas of our operations. It is due to their work and your continued commitment that we have achieved so much in such a short period of time.

The following *Income and Expenditure Statement* shows a significant proportion of our funds being spent in our regional offices. This is probably the most significant change to the organisation's priorities over the past year. These regional offices are Greenpeace's main contact point with both the public and you, our membership, and we believe it is important to fully support this work.

Through the regional offices, we conduct a range of activities aimed at involving as many members of the community as possible, people we can only normally contact through the media. We have around 150 people each night knocking on doors, discussing Greenpeace campaigns and activities, and encouraging people to join the organisation throughout Australia. We also undertake public speaking engagements and talks to schools, community groups and industry. A 'stalls' programme reaches many more people still, selling Greenpeace merchandise and sparking discussions about Greenpeace's work. This personal contact with so many varied people is one of the most important aspects of our work.

We are also pleased that we were able to contribute nearly three times more money to Greenpeace International than we did in 1989. The international nature of the organisation and its ability to work in countries where fundraising is simply not possible is an inspiring aspect of Greenpeace for both members and staff. For example, work conducted in Latin America and Eastern Europe during 1990 was absolutely essential to the long-term success of the organisation's campaigns and will increase in importance as this decade moves on. We are proud, as I'm sure all of you are, to be able to contribute towards these critical environmental programmes.

As you will read in the enclosed information, our campaigns have all made great strides during 1990. While we are obviously pleased with the successes there is still much to be done. The awareness of the need to protect our life support system has grown extraordinarily over the past five years but the actual behaviour of the world's industries, governments and consumers is yet to substantially alter. This is the great challenge for us, and for you, in what is left of the 'Turn-Around Decade': to harness and mobilise the support for environmental protection into concrete, substantial change to our everyday practices.

In conclusion, I would like to thank those people who make Greenpeace's work possible - the 80,000 people who, during 1990, either joined Greenpeace or made a donation to our work. Our international policy of refusing to accept any donations or grants from industry or government is one of our trademarks, and is absolutely essential if we are to maintain total independence from outside pressure.

In the end, Greenpeace campaigns are only as strong as you, the organisation's support base. With all funding coming from your donations and membership fees, you are the ultimate strength of Greenpeace. Any organisation that depends entirely on public support for its existence is ultimately a reflection of those people's concerns and beliefs. I thank all Greenpeace supporters for their ongoing trust and support.

Paul Gilding  
Executive Director,  
GREENPEACE AUSTRALIA

# GREENPEACE AUSTRALIA LIMITED

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 1990

	1990
	\$ 000
<hr/>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership Fees	3 072
Donations	1 930
Grants from Greenpeace International Limited*	1 123
Merchandise and licence fees	108
Interest received	41
	6 274
<hr/>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Regional Offices (Fundraising, Public Information & Education Centres)	
New South Wales	897
South Australia	190
Tasmania	54
Victoria	575
Western Australia	296
Queensland	176
A.C.T.	56
	2 244
Campaigns	
Membership Services and Appeals	1 413
Grants (mainly to GP International)	1 354
National Administration	588
	414
	6 013
<b>SURPLUS</b>	
	261

\* Includes funds received from Greenpeace International Limited in trust and expended on campaigns (\$527 000).

## THE STRUCTURE OF GREENPEACE

Greenpeace was conceived in 1971 when members of the 'Don't Make a Wave' Committee in Vancouver, Canada, renamed their organisation to better proclaim their purpose: to create a green and peaceful world. In 1979, Greenpeace offices in Australia, Canada, France, Holland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States joined to form Greenpeace International. The international office in Amsterdam is the headquarters for all of Greenpeace's campaigns as well as activities such as the Marine Division, which controls the Greenpeace ships like the *Rainbow Warrior*.

The policies, direction and budgets of Greenpeace International are decided by a Council comprising one representative from each member nation. Australia's representative is Paul Gilding, the Executive Director. This council also elects the Board of Greenpeace International, of which David McTaggart is the Chairman.

Although the organisation is, in every sense, an international one, legal requirements demand that each national office has a legal entity which holds the national rights to the Greenpeace name, in trust for the international organisation.

To this end, Greenpeace Australia Ltd was established as a non-profit company, limited by guarantee. It is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by an Executive Director. This Board ensures that all campaigns and other activities in Australia are conducted in a financially and legally responsible manner, and within the framework set by Greenpeace International. If you are interested in more detailed information about the structure of Greenpeace, please write to the national office and we will be happy to provide further information.

Greenpeace campaigns have one common purpose – to preserve or recreate an environment in which living things, including people, can survive without threat to their health. Greenpeace Australia's work is guided by this principle and our campaigns in 1990 achieved some significant successes.

### ATMOSPHERE AND ENERGY

#### Campaigning for a Shift in Priorities

Last year, the Atmosphere and Energy Campaign focussed on raising public concern about the impacts of global warming and ozone depletion, and about the need to find solutions to these problems. Specific attention has been paid to fossil fuel burning and transport.

The publication of 'Global Warming – The Greenpeace Report' helped raise wide public awareness on the issue. We kept up the pressure on the federal and state governments to retain their commitment to a 20% reduction in greenhouse gases by the year 2005. Placing giant sunglasses on the Sydney Opera House also kept public focus on continuing world-wide ozone depletion and the need for more rapid CFC phase-out. We launched our Transport Campaign with a Freight Transport Strategy and followed through with highly successful public protests on the car pollution-induced Sydney smog episodes.

Through the coming year, we will campaign to introduce measures to achieve the national greenhouse gas reduction target and for the implementation of an Australian rational energy strategy. This strategy is based on reducing our reliance on fossil fuels by becoming

more energy-efficient and increasing our use of renewable energy, and will especially be targeting energy-wasteful manufacturers and fossil fuel producers.

### ANTARCTIC CAMPAIGN

#### Victory in Sight

For several years, Greenpeace has been campaigning for Antarctica to be declared a World Park, forever protected as our last great continental wilderness and scientific reserve.

We have achieved a tremendous victory this year with the negotiation of a new Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty, banning mining from Antarctica for at least 50 years. The Protocol also includes rules for the prevention of marine pollution, waste disposal, protection of flora and fauna, and strict environmental impact assessment procedures for approved activities.

Our future priority is to ensure rapid ratification of the new Protocol. Greenpeace must maintain pressure on all Treaty nations to ensure they live up to their commitment. We must also work hard to stop the over-exploitation of Antarctic marine resources through the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

## NUCLEAR ISSUES CAMPAIGN

### A Solid Victory

The primary focus of the past year was lobbying the ALP to make sure the Three Named Mines Uranium Policy was not expanded at the biennial conference in June 1991. Research was also done on radiation health and safety for Australian miners and radiation workers. As well, research was done into the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor to discover alternatives to the existing operation.

In 1991, the ALP national conference voted not to expand its uranium mining policy, in large part because of Greenpeace lobbying. This lobbying happened because we had the resources to send information out to party branches, affiliated unions, MPs and delegates to the conference.

In the coming years, the Nuclear Issues Campaign has some significant goals ahead:

- To see legislation enacted to protect Kakadu and Rudall River National Parks from uranium mining;
- To see a national health register for uranium industry and mineral sands workers established;
- To see improved radiation standards enforced;
- To see a commitment to closing the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor and its replacement with a cyclotron.

## OCEAN ECOLOGY

### Keeping up the Pressure

The goal of Ocean Ecology is to protect the diversity of the marine environment. Greenpeace opposes activities which have adverse impacts on marine ecosystems such as whaling, drift-netting, fisheries mismanagement, offshore oil drilling and the sea turtle slaughter.

In 1990, Greenpeace Australia was instrumental in gaining recognition for the importance of protective, long-term management of our marine environment. The campaign also maintained pressure on Japanese driftnetters and successfully lobbied for implementation of tuna labelling legislation. The ban on commercial whaling was maintained in 1990 and 1991. The Adopt-a-Beach campaign was launched as a grassroots move to reduce the amount of rubbish found on our shores. And, the sea turtle campaign climaxed with the announcement by Fiji

to ban the export of turtle shell.

Ocean Ecology will continue to work until all threats to the marine environment are removed. The major threat in 1991 is the government's proposal to open almost our entire coastline to offshore oil exploration. We will be working closely with the Atmosphere and Energy campaign to achieve a moratorium on offshore oil exploration until vital national energy strategies are implemented.

## TOXICS CAMPAIGN

### Working for Clean Production

The main goal of the Toxics Campaign is to eliminate all industrial pollution in Australia and, instead, to see clean production practices implemented. The Campaign is divided into the areas of Pesticides, Incineration, Pulp and Paper, Sewerage Systems, and general work on urgent local and political priorities.

In the past year, successful direct actions were organised against the Melbourne-based Nufarm herbicide plant and the Castlereagh Liquid Industrial Waste Dump in western Sydney. Also, due to our lobbying and education efforts, federal, Victorian and New South Wales governments failed to establish a national hazardous waste incinerator in New South Wales.

In the coming year, this Campaign is looking forward to a national Greenpeace-sponsored 'Communities Against Toxics' conference, a water-based direct action tour in a number of locations around Australia, and a national 'Chlorine-free by '93' Campaign, targeting chlorinated pesticides, chlorine bleaching, chlorinated waste streams and the chlor-alkali industry itself.

## DEVELOPMENT REPORT

In 1990, Greenpeace Australia experienced yet another year of phenomenal growth. We launched a major membership recruitment drive through our door-to-door canvass programme, through a national advertising campaign and through our mailing operation. All three programmes were very successful and bring us half-way towards our goal of having at least one percent of the Australian public as Greenpeace members.

## TURTLES TOURISM TRINKETS

Early in July, Greenpeace released a report detailing the annual slaughter of more than 20,000 endangered sea turtles. They are victims of a profitable trade in turtle meat, shell and other products. The turtles are killed despite last year's decree by the Governor of Bali, aimed at drastically reducing this massacre. To compound the horror of the sheer size of this slaughter, no attempt is made to kill the turtles humanely. Rather, turtles of all sizes are slowly cut up alive.

International tourists to Bali, including Australians, share the blame for the tragic deaths. More than two million tourists visited Indonesia in 1990 from Japan, Europe, Australia, the United States and other South-East Asian countries. Tourists consume turtle soup and meat freely, and also buy turtle products such as stuffed turtles, turtle shells and tortoiseshell jewellery as souvenirs. (Because of the ban on the international trade of turtle products, the Australian Customs Service promptly confiscates these products from Australians returning home.)

And, not only are the turtles killed but their eggs are also extensively hunted. In fact, almost every egg laid on Indonesian beaches is collected for human consumption, an estimated seven to nine million annually. The eggs are sold to markets within Indonesia and many are illegally exported to Malaysia. Sea turtles take between thirty and fifty years to reach maturity, so the impact of this level of exploitation will not be seen for many years. Of course, by then, it may be too late.

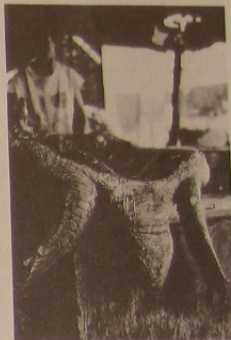
Captured turtles are brought into Bali at Tanjung Benoa, a short distance from the famous tourist beaches and resorts there. The turtle population became extinct in the 1950s in Bali, so turtle boats are now forced further afield and collect turtles from all over the Indonesian archipelago. It is estimated that 15-20% of the turtles die on the longer journeys to port. These deaths are not included in official estimates of numbers. Turtles sold en route and all juvenile turtles (mostly stuffed for tourists) are also not included in death estimates.

Although the Governor of Bali signed a decree in January 1990 to dramatically reduce the number of turtles slaughtered, the killing has not stopped. The decree actually states that no turtles are to be killed for commercial sale, only a restricted

number for religious occasions; and, no turtle meat or turtle products are to be sold in public places. The decree itself recognises the serious threat the turtles are facing. However, a year and a half after it was signed, no significant action has been taken and the decree remains unimplemented and unenforced.

The sea turtle massacre must stop. To make sure that it does, here is the Greenpeace plan.

1. In the short-term, there must be a complete ban on
  - the capture of all sea turtles for commercial trade,
  - the sale of turtle meat in all public eating places,
  - the sale of stuffed turtles, tortoiseshell jewellery and all other turtle products,
  - the capture of all female turtles on or near nesting beaches.
2. A phase-out of the use of green turtles for feeding guests at Hindu and other ceremonies in Bali. In the interim:
  - a limited quota should be set,
  - turtles caught for these occasions should not include sub-adult or breeding size adults (more than 80 cm shell length);
  - all turtle collectors should be licenced;
  - humane killing methods should be introduced immediately.
3. A minimum of 70% of the total turtle eggs laid on each nesting beach in Indonesia should be left to hatch in situ, to ensure the future survival of the species. The total permissible take should be based on scientific evidence that even this limited take would not be detrimental to the population.
4. Greenpeace is strongly urging the Governor of Bali to immediately implement and enforce his decree.  
In the long-term, Greenpeace demands an end to all commercial exploitation of sea turtles in Indonesia.



A green turtle at the slaughterhouse

### What You Can Do

- Never buy sea turtle products or eat turtle meat.
- Write to the Governor of Bali, urging him to implement his decree. The letter should be addressed to: **Kepada Yth. Bapak Gubernur Kepala Daerah Tingkat I Bali Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.** (Please write to: Dear Bapak Gubernur.)
- Write to the Indonesian embassy, asking Indonesia to prevent all export of sea turtle products and to implement national legislation protecting all species of sea turtles in Indonesian waters. **Consulate General for the Republic of Indonesia 263 Maroubra Road Maroubra NSW 2035 (02) 344 9933**

by Trevor Daly

We are very grateful to you all for providing us with the moral and financial support so necessary for us to continue the fight for survival on planet Earth. Thank you!



The May 1990 Greenpeace direct action on Nufarm was of profound importance to Victorians and ultimately, all Australians. As well as discovering high levels of chlorophenols, dioxins and furans in Nufarm's sewage discharge, the action lifted the lid on a regulatory system in monumental chaos and exposed industry's, and government regulatory authorities', phenomenal lack of knowledge and respect of the fragility of Port Phillip Bay's marine ecosystem.

Because of this direct action, we witnessed a significant and orchestrated backlash from Nufarm itself. Even more disturbingly, a number of key players in industry across Australia chose to willfully misrepresent the aims and policies of Greenpeace. Some media commentators went as far to suggest that Greenpeace apologise to Nufarm... an apology to be made for exposing 25 years of toxic pollution history. However, all of Greenpeace's findings and concerns were either corroborated by the Victorian EPA or proven correct with the recent release of important studies about levels of highly persistent organochlorines now being found in alarming levels in dolphins and whales in Port Phillip Bay. The senior veterinary pathologist who did the studies has since been 'removed' from his job with the Victorian Department of Agriculture for whistle-blowing.

Although there have been many positive outcomes as a direct result of our action, even if this were not the case, we would stand by our decision to expose a company whose operating history since 1965 reads as a catalogue of incompetence. The exposure of this abuse of public trust serves as a warning to all Australians. We can no longer rely on industry and government authority to protect our health and our environment. Rather we must educate ourselves to be able to assess and, sometimes, challenge their actions.

Quite simply, our environment can no longer assimilate any more toxic, persistent and bio-accumulative substances discharged to land, water or air.

Greenpeace is well used to being accused of scaremongering. For example, we were told we were "anti-industry" when we raised concerns about the dangers of the pesticide DDT. Of course, DDT is now banned almost everywhere in the world. It is interesting to know that Nufarm used to make DDT, still makes the related pesticides 2,4,5-T (sold in Australia only in Queensland) and copious quantities of 2,4-D. Put these last two compounds together and you basically have Agent Orange.

Greenpeace believes we must act now to remove these hazardous substances from the environment, or history will once again prove us tragically correct.

**Lynette Thorstensen**  
National Co-ordinator, Toxics Campaign

The following extracts are from  
**"Nufarm, A Greenpeace Report"**  
by Simon Divecha,  
Toxics Campaigner, Victoria

# NUFARM

cover-up  
extraordinaire

## The History of the Cover-up

The History of the Cover-up  
Because of this direct action, we witnessed a significant and orchestrated backlash from Nufarm's destructive potential. Research proved our fears correct. Our research also revealed the ineptitude of government regulatory authorities and Nufarm's incompetence to protect and repair the environment. Greenpeace investigated the EPA's Nufarm files under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. We discovered that the EPA was warned by one of its own staff about Nufarm's contamination as early as 1978. This warning occurred during a period when Nufarm was illegally dumping waste containing 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T in a Melbourne creek. The EPA's then principle water quality officer wrote, "A by-product of 2,4,5-T manufacture, dioxin or TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin), has received considerable publicity recently because it causes serious acne and has been linked with cancer and birth deformities. I would suggest that the analyst be contacted to ascertain if the samples were analysed for dioxin." Referring to the other chemicals in the waste he continued, "I anticipate... that a licence application for such discharges would be refused by the Authority (or MMBW) because of the obvious threat to aquatic life and wildlife, and the possible health risk to humans".

Perhaps an even more damning example of government inaction is revealed at Nufarm's former site in Fawkner. Nufarm used to be located in Fawkner, just 10 metres across the street from residential housing. The EPA tested the site in February 1990, but found levels of contamination it said did not require further investigation. It revisited the site after the North Laverton discoveries. The true extent of Nufarm's pollution was finally disclosed in May 1990. Chlorophenol levels up to a quarter of a million times the EPA's interim levels permitted for contaminated soils were found. Dioxins were present at up to 255 times the

levels requiring action for decontamination in the United States. This level of contamination makes the Nufarm Fawkner site possibly one of the ten worst dioxin-contaminated sites in the world. The new Nufarm site at North Laverton is also highly contaminated. Who is going to clean up the mess?

The other inactive regulatory authority is the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW), the Melbourne sewerage authority that processes 98% of Melbourne's industrial waste. Before the Greenpeace action, Nufarm was dumping over 350 tonnes of chlorinated phenols annually into the sewerage system. For this discharge Nufarm did not even have a Trade Waste Agreement, the licence required to pour industrial waste into the system.

Nufarm had already had this agreement rescinded in 1983 for 'non-compliance'. Moreover, the company continued to breach the terms of its old agreement. One Greenpeace sample taken in April 1990 shows chemicals 200 times the legal level of their old agreement. It seems incredible that the sewerage authority's response to these discharges was merely to negotiate with the company. In its own internal memorandum of June 1989, Nufarm itself knew its discharges were too toxic for the Werribee Sewerage farm. Incomprehensibly, Nufarm is still proclaiming innocence.

This pattern of environmental destruction continues with the comments of Hon R.J. Hawke, who in 1982 was the Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. He attacked Nufarm in a conference address. "Another company which has been let off very lightly is one well known to you. I refer to Nufarm Chemicals at Laverton, Victoria... In early 1979, Nufarm was fined a total of \$3,000 on six charges of illegal discharge of waste. The senior EPA officials who investigated one of the incidents, an uncontrolled release of dimethoate insecticide into the air at about 3 am on 11 July 1978, were in no doubt about the problems caused by this incident. Nor were the workers at a nearby factory who had to be taken to hospital for observation and treatment of a number of symptoms."

These are only a sampling of the long record of incidents describing Nufarm's production history. Nufarm had plenty of opportunity to act. The Victorian EPA and the MMBW had plenty of opportunity to act. We can only wonder why they didn't.

## Repercussions of Nufarm's Contamination of Our Environment

The effluent released by Nufarm is contaminated by a wide range of organochlorines, some of them as yet unidentified. Of particular concern are dioxins and the related furans. Dioxin has been described as the most toxic compound ever created. Dioxin does not break down quickly in the environment, and accumulates in the food chain. The chemicals can cause cancer, reproductive failure, learning defects, suppress the immune system and change behavioural patterns in animals. Dioxins should not be allowed into the environment. Their elimination at source is entirely possible and practicable.

As if they weren't cause enough for concern in themselves, Nufarm's dioxins and furans are going into an environment already contaminated by lots of other organochlorines, the residues of which will continue to remain available to the food chain for decades. These contaminants include DDE (from DDT), PCBs (from electrical transformers), chlordane, heptachlor dieldrin and aldrin (from agricultural use as insecticides and from termite sprays), and others from sewage treatment, chlorinated drinking water, municipal incinerator fallout and wood preservatives, all combining together to make a soup of organochlorines.

The government tells us Nufarm's discharges of organochlorines are at 'low levels', although they admit that they do not know what the environmental effects may be. "Low levels?" The Yarra River, Melbourne's main waterway, is as polluted, or more polluted, with dioxins than the Rhine River. Port Phillip Bay is more

polluted than many parts of the Great Lakes in North America. Werribee sewerage farm (where Nufarm's waste finishes) contains up to 140 times the German recommended dioxin concentration in soil for agricultural use. Nufarm contributes over 50% of the toxic equivalent dioxin load to this farm. This does not add up to the reassuring picture the Victorian government would like us to believe.

The government authorities and Nufarm also tried to hide behind what is called 'acceptable risk assessment'. It seems of no concern to them that none of us asked for or consented to be used as test animals to determine the amount of toxins acceptable to the human body. No one really knows the long-term effects of organochlorines in the human body. The studies cited by Nufarm only look at dioxin and furan levels, conveniently forgetting that there are many other chemicals that act just like dioxins (eg fat PCBs). The risks are, in reality, compounded by all the other pressures from toxins in the diet. It is a bit like estimating the risk to a sugar diabetic of eating one chocolate bar while ignoring the fact that the diabetic has also eaten a pie, two cakes, three glasses of orange juice and four biscuits. The risk of only one chocolate bar is meaningless except when considered in the context of the diabetic's overall consumption of sugar. The Victorian government has spent 14 months and \$1.5 million of taxpayers' money on covering up one of the world's worst contamination problems. One can only reflect wistfully on what the same time, effort and money could have achieved for elimination of toxics at source. The point is that we should have learned from our experience with DDT. We should have learned from PCB. The chemicals do not magically disappear. In fact, they contaminate the environment and the food chain, until the top predators are left to absorb the accumulated poisons - the birds, whales and humans.

## Long-term Effects of the Nufarm Action

Despite the lack of attention given to Greenpeace's side of the story by mainstream media, the Nufarm action has achieved substantial change in Victoria.

- In particular, the Industrial Waste Unit of the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works formerly was a badly under-resourced backwater. It is now a more effective and better operation. Further, that authority is looking at implementing the precautionary principle - Greenpeace's key operating principle - the concept that we must have proof of safety rather than proof of harm. It must no longer be up to those concerned with the environment to demonstrate conclusive harm, but up to the polluters to convince the public of the safety of their operations. Legal loopholes have been discovered in MMBW/industry agreements, and are soon to be changed to allow the MMBW to be able to prosecute offending companies.
- Nufarm's discharge levels have been cut although their pollution is still legalised at unacceptably high levels.
- Regulatory authorities have a far greater 'chemical literacy', and now monitor the environment for a wider range of chemicals. However, Greenpeace still believes we can no longer take risks with 2,4-D, dioxins, furans or indeed any organochlorine discharges.

We will continue to push for clean production to ensure a healthy future for us all.



# A C L E A R C L E A N C H O I C E

In March 1989 a proposal for a huge chlorine bleaching pulp mill at Wesley Vale in northern Tasmania was withdrawn after the federal government disclosed onerous environmental conditions for it. The company supporting the proposal, North Broken Hill, via its paper arm, APPM (Associated Pulp and Paper Manufacturers) is now having a second bite at the cherry. In reality, little has changed since the first round. If anything, this proposal seems worse. It includes plans for a bigger mill, discharging organochlorines as well as threatening Tasmania's ancient forests as a result of the company securing a commitment to Resource Security legislation. (See the last issue of *Greenpeace Australia News*, Autumn 1991.)

To Greenpeace, paper production is a case study in how we can implement clean production technologies throughout the life cycle of a product. Clean production for the pulp and paper industry does not mean closing mills but, rather, cleaning them up.

Paper is a natural product, fully biodegradable, recyclable and made from a potentially renewable resource. Clean production does not include 'end of pipe' solutions, including filters, scrubbers and biological treatments. But with existing, clean technologies, the pulp and paper industry has the potential to provide an ecological model for other industries to follow.

The Tasmanian government, however, had already virtually ignored two other expressions of interest for a pulp mill development - one using plantation timbers and the other using a hemp feedstock - and neither needing the use of chlorine bleaching. Tasmanian Premier, Michael Field, announced early in February that he was "pleased and encouraged that one company had lodged an expression of interest". The company, of course, is North Broken Hill.

## ORGANOCHLORINES The Case Against Chlorine Bleaching

While no details have yet been officially tabled, it is an educated guess that North Broken Hill is proposing to build a world-scale chlorine bleaching Kraft mill for northern Tasmania. A survey of Tasmanian voters, conducted by ABC TV's 730 Report and the University of Tasmania, in March this year showed that while 74.8% of those surveyed wanted a pulp mill development for the State, 43.4% did not want a chlorine bleaching mill.

The chlorine bleaching process is, in itself, an environmental hazard. As many as 1000 different chlorinated compounds can be formed during this process. The chlorine and chlorine derivatives used in bleaching pulp combine with organic residues from the feedstock and are discharged with effluent from mills. Organochlorines are thus produced. And although some organochlorines are produced naturally, the most

toxic were present only in small amounts, if at all, in sediments and human tissue prior to the growth of the chlorine-using industry in the 1940s and 1950s. Scientific research and public concern over organochlorines has focussed on dioxins - some of the most potent chemical toxins known. Dioxins, however, are only a portion of the picture. Modern science has been able to identify some 300 of the 1000 different organochlorines formed by chlorinated bleaching. Among those already identified are well known carcinogens (cancer-causing) and mutagens (chromosome-damaging). Some organochlorines do not break down naturally in the environment and also remain lodged in the organisms that ingest them. So, the higher on the food chain the individual is, the greater the potential of organochlorine contamination. Humans, of course, commonly eat very high on the food chain.

The amount of chlorine present in pulp mill discharges can be measured using the Absorbable Organic Halogens (AOX) standard. The Commonwealth government guidelines for new pulp mills allow for discharges of 1 kilogram AOX per Air Dried Tonne (ADT) of pulp. The government argues that this is the toughest requirement anywhere in the world and is therefore safe. This claim is not only outdated, it is dangerous. Many mills around the world are now achieving well below this level, primarily by using oxygen pre-bleaching and chlorine dioxide. However, given the dangers of the chlorine bleaching process, the sole acceptable level of AOX discharges is zero, and the only way to achieve zero level is through the elimination of chlorine-based chemicals.

The Tasmanian government was due to announce a target level for organochlorine emissions from the proposed mill this winter. At press time it was expected that this level would be under that provided by the Commonwealth guidelines. Assuming that the new level is 0.5 kilogram AOX/ADT, then

based on production of 520,000 tonnes of bleached pulp per year, the proposed mill would discharge around 7 tonnes of organochlorines per day. This would be adding to the already existing chemical load which has been discharged into Bass Strait for decades.

## The Clean Production Concept

Recent technological developments show there is no point in governments introducing regulations which allow any hazardous elements discharged into the environment. Rather, governments should institute zero discharge regulations and devise programmes to assist industry in overcoming the decreasing technical obstacles in achieving this goal.

The base of the clean production concept is the adoption of the precautionary principle. Instead of allowing the permissive approach which assumes the environment has the endless capacity to absorb, dilute or disperse toxic chemicals, we should make sure the potential of environmental contamination never happens. All products should be environmentally compatible in all stages of their lives - from design to the manufacturing process, to marketing, to disposal and/or re-use.

How often is it that levels of acceptable emissions once considered perfectly safe were later proven to be actually quite unsafe? If further environmental degradation is to be minimised, precaution and prevention must be the guiding principles. And who is wise enough to determine the 'acceptable level of risk' for our planet? Often, it is too late once a process is shown to be environmentally damaging to stop it. Damage has already occurred. It is time to stop using our earth and our bodies as large scale laboratories and pollution treatment systems.

We have the technology to virtually eliminate effluent discharges and chlorine bleaching from pulp mills. Any proposal for new or expanding mills based on environmentally damaging processes is totally unacceptable. Bright, strong paper can be produced using clean and safe technologies.



S · T · E · P  
L I G H T L Y

Buying paper products is a tricky task. Labels and descriptions are often misleading and unclear. It is difficult to interpret the different terms from the different manufacturers.

The best products to buy are:

- 100% recycled from post-consumer waste. This means the paper is made from products that have actually been used by people and then recycled, not just swept up from the factory floor. Post-consumer waste products are sometimes less white than others because they are more likely to be a mixture of papers.
- Unbleached is certainly the way to go. If you must use pure white, there are some products around that are bleached using non-chlorine bleaches. This does not necessarily mean that they are totally environmentally friendly, just that they might be less harmful than chlorine bleached processes.
- Buy recycled paper that is not de-inked. De-inking is often done with chlorinated compounds and can also produce heavy metal and other toxic discharges.
- Try making your own paper. There are some relatively inexpensive kits around to get you started.

In the case of paper products, bright is not always best.

Kym Stevens



The latest in Burnie beachwear - NBH's Burnie mill and effluent pipe

## LOCAL OFFICES

Letters to you from staff and volunteers

### ADELAIDE

#### A Special Report - The Right to Speak Out: Some Have It, Some Don't

A constant factor in campaigning on environmental issues is communicating with the Public Servant. In fact, the term Public Servant is a misnomer. Political Servant might be more appropriate. Experiences at state government level are any indicator. Two recent incidents have illustrated the inability of our Public Servants to be able to cry foul or openly disclose concerns.

Case 1: Jack King, a chemical engineer widely experienced in pollution industries, was employed by the South Australian Department of Environment and Planning in 1984 to draft marine pollution legislation. Though a draft was ready to submit to Parliament in 1987, the government only introduced legislation in late 1989. In that time, Mr King claims his draft had been substantially changed and, thus, weakened.

By the time the government's legislation reached Parliament in 1989, King had exhausted every avenue open to him as a public servant to have his case for strong legislation heard. Feeling personally bound by the Australian Institute of Engineers' Code of Ethics, he went public on his concerns that the legislation had been deliberately delayed in an effort to protect key industries in the state.

Speaking out brought Mr King into conflict with Section 67 of the Government Management and Employment Act. Legal action concerning public statements made both from and about King have also compounded the situation.

Regardless of the intricacies surrounding Jack King's fight to be heard publicly, his concerns about the legislation caused both political parties and environmental groups to lobby for a strengthening of the state government's Marine Environment Protection Bill. This was eventually achieved through amendments by the Liberals and the Democrats, and resulted in a comprehensive act in 1990.

To date, Jack King remains caught in legal conflict with his employers, the government.

Case 2: At the beginning of this year, the Air Quality Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning circulated an internal memo examining threatened cuts

to its budget. In particular, the possibility of reductions in the number of staff required to carry out industry emission monitoring was mentioned. A copy of the document, received and made public by Greenpeace, demonstrated that these concerns were well founded. In fact, the document reinforced Greenpeace's belief that the Branch is already under-resourced and that its personnel are stretched beyond their limits to adequately carry out their responsibilities under the Clean Air Act. Any further cuts would essentially leave industry in a position of self-regulation. This has proven to be totally unacceptable in the past.

If the concerns within the Branch had not been made public in such a forthright way, South Australians in general would have been ignorant of the consequences of such drastic budget cuts.

Both cases illustrate the need for public servants to have a forum to speak to the public. It has been suggested that an Environment Protection Agency would provide Department personnel with a working independence, free from political influence. However, the Victorian EPA's conduct in the last twenty years in relation to the chemical giant Nufarm does not inspire much confidence.

But, State Parliament does have the capacity to establish permanent Standing or Select Committees, which have powers up to that of a Royal Commission to review specific issues. Persons of all status can be summonsed to give evidence under oath. It does seem a pity that we would have to go to such lengths to find out how our state government cares for the environment.

Jake Deane

### MELBOURNE

As word of the new Melbourne city office has spread, more and more Melburnians are coming in to visit and to gather information. We welcome and encourage requests for information. We ask that once you have used the information provided that you pass it on to your school or community library. And librarians can contact us directly for bulk materials. Whether you are a politician or a student, the principles of reduce, re-use and recycle can be applied to your lifestyle. When you inspire others to consider and implement these principles, you are taking an active role in preserving our planet.

#### The Australian Craft Show

Centennial Hall, Royal Exhibition Building, October 6-13

#### Healthier Living Show

Royal Exhibition Building, October 10-14  
Festival for Mind, Body and Spirit  
World Congress Centre, November 7-10

#### Greenpeace will be there!

**Help!** Does anyone have any available storage space? We desperately need some space to store equipment. If anyone is willing to donate an area or negotiate a nominal rental, we would like to talk with you. Contact Richard Mann on 670 1633.

### PERTH

#### Get Involved

The Perth office has lots of excellent, practical ideas about how each individual can become more involved in caring for our environment. For more information about what you can do, contact the Perth office directly.

There is an issue of particular concern at the moment. The last six months have seen a large increase in the number of nuclear armed and powered warships visiting Western Australia. This increase was highlighted by the arrival of two nuclear powered submarines, the first ones to call in at Perth in five years. Studies in San Francisco and Sydney have shown that although chances are small, an accident such as a meltdown is possible. And, in the event of such an accident, many thousands of people could die.

Do you know what to do if such an accident were to happen? Most people do not. Contact your local Council to find out about their suggested emergency measures. Please send a copy of their reply to the Perth Greenpeace office. Also, contact your local library and ask for a copy of the Port safety plan. Let the Perth office know if they do not have one. Write directly to the Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Ray, Room MF 41, Executive Wing, Parliament House, Canberra 2600. Tell him you are opposed to the visits of nuclear powered and armed ships and submarines to Australian ports.

#### The Perth office is looking for:

- People with boats to form a peace fleet.
  - People for the dolphin/whale rescue team (must have a wet suit).
  - People for volunteer office work - half day to full day per week.
- Contact Mike Collison on 325 6172 for more information on any of these matters.

Greenpeace Perth also needs full-time door-to-door canvassers Monday to Friday 2:30 to 9:30 pm. Hard work, fair pay, unlimited challenge. There is no time to waste. Ring 325 6198 after 10:00 am weekdays.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### Toxics

#### Banned For Our Bananas

Following Greenpeace's frightening revelations of significant pesticide-induced birth defects in laboratory animals, New South Wales banana growers have voluntarily agreed to stop using the dangerous pesticide prothiophos (Tokuthion) for control of banana weevil borers.

Pesticides campaigner for Greenpeace Australia, Mark Oakwood, said, "The people and environment of Coffs Harbour are being used as a giant laboratory by chemical companies, with the tacit approval of the federal government's National Health and Medical Research Council. It is our concern over the lack of action on the birth defect problem in Coffs Harbour that has prompted Greenpeace to research files held by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). These investigations have revealed that an alarming number of agricultural chemicals which are restricted or banned overseas are being dumped on the unsuspecting Australian market."

A clear example of this is the pesticide prothiophos made by Mobay, a wholly owned subsidiary of the agrochemical giant, Bayer. Prothiophos is manufactured in the United States solely for export. The US EPA and the Food and Drug Administration have even refused to allow food containing traces of the chemical back into America.

Prothiophos is registered in 19 different countries around the world for use on 32 crops, many of which are grown in the United States. Fifteen of these countries are eastern European or are generally considered to be Third World countries, which often have very poor control over the use of pesticides. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan make up the remainder. Prothiophos is not registered in either western Europe or the United States.

Greenpeace is pleased that the banana growers have acted to protect the health of the residents of the Coffs Harbour area and Australian banana eaters across the nation. It is a strong move in our fight to make Australian farming practices and food safe for long-term human consumption. For more information, contact Mark Oakwood in the Sydney office.

### atmosphere and energy

#### Life in the Big Smog

Sydney is steadily becoming the Los Angeles of the Southern Hemisphere. Earlier this year, the CSIRO released a report showing ground level ozone levels of 0.2 ppm. Los Angeles experiences levels of around 0.3 ppm. (Ground level ozone is produced as a photochemical reaction of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, both emitted from cars.) At levels of only 0.01 to 0.2 ppm, ozone is capable of cracking stretched rubber and can damage the delicate tissue of the lung.

Despite this, the New South Wales government has been reluctant to acknowledge that motor vehicles are the major contributor to Sydney's air pollution. Instead they prefer to blame particulate matter from backyard burning, wood fires and burn-offs. This shifting of blame is literally a smoke screen to avoid the heart of the issue. In urban areas, motor vehicles are responsible for 75% of nitrogen oxides, 59% of hydrocarbons, 90% of carbon monoxide and 40% of particulates, (VIC EPA, Munro 1991, IIR Conference).

The New South Wales government has also failed to provide even the most basic monitoring of Sydney's air quality. The monitoring system that does exist lumps all the pollutants together to form the Sydney Pollution Index. The public is not provided with information on the four main pollutants separately - carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone. The CSIRO has developed the technology to provide this information but it is sold to the United States rather than used here.

Of course, monitoring the pollution is just the beginning. The only effective way to reduce air pollution from vehicles is to reduce the number of vehicles. Any major new development must include public transport planning and cycle ways. Greenpeace believes we need to reclaim our cities so that people can do business or relax without traffic noise, air pollution and unsightly expressways.

#### Rational Energy Strategy to Tackle Greenhouse Effect

When Greenpeace launched its campaign to stop further expansion of oil exploration in Australian waters earlier this year, the Atmosphere and Energy Campaign also issued a "Rational Energy Strategy" for Australia. This strategy is a blueprint of ideas about how to replace the use of wasteful fossil fuels with environmentally sound, renewable resources.

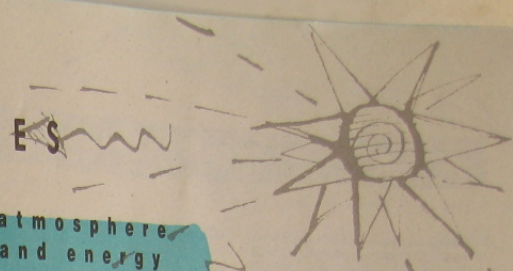
This year the campaign is focusing on strengthening Australia's target (currently 20% emission reductions) for reducing emissions of the gases responsible for global warming and translating this target into action. Over the coming months we will concentrate on the changes needed in institutions, policies and government taxation and expenditure to achieve this Rational Energy Strategy. Greenpeace believes it is not enough to rely only on individual action (although this is important). But, industry must also take an active role in achieving greenhouse gas reductions. For example, we will be proposing that state electricity commissions should invest in solar water heaters, effectively mini-power stations, in homes and factories, just as they now invest in large coal-fired power stations. In future issues of this magazine we will be outlining more of the Strategy along with energy conservation measures you can take.

Keith Tarlo has joined Greenpeace as the new Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy campaigner. Over the last ten years he has campaigned on a range of energy and nature conservation issues, including working for Greenpeace in the UK.

**The Atmosphere and Energy Campaign is seeking voluntary help with word processing.** Are you a trained word processor with one day a week to spare for three months or longer? Can you come into the Greenpeace office in Balmain? If you are interested, contact Keith on 555 7074.

Karla Bell, Lyn Goldsworthy, Steve McDermott, Liz Smith and Keith Tarlo

\*MARK YOUR CALENDAR



# roving reporter

news from around the world

**USA** Greenpeace released Navy records showing that the nuclear submarines *USS Guardfish* and *USS Haddock* - vessels which sailors say are too dangerous to be allowed to leave port - have been involved in more than 40 accidents. Additional participants in the press conference were the Alliance for Survival, the Environmental Health Coalition and the Peace Resource Centre of San Diego. Reports of safety problems on board the *USS Guardfish* were made by crew members, who stated that they were fearful of going to sea due to safety and mechanical problems which nearly caused the vessel to sink last week. The Navy has denied these allegations, but the *USS Guardfish* did not depart at its scheduled time. Allegations of radiation leakage were also made last week by base sources and crew members of the *USS Haddock*, who stated that the leak's severity required the Navy to delay the *Haddock's* deployment to the Western Pacific. "The shroud of secrecy surrounding the Navy's programme must be lifted for the public to assess the risks of living in the wake of floating reactors. Now is the time to bring an end to naval nuclear propulsion," said a Greenpeace spokesperson. In addition to the U.S. Navy's accident records, Greenpeace will also be releasing a report outlining its opposition to all naval nuclear reactors.

**SWITZERLAND** The man credited with discovering the ozone hole over Antarctica, Joe Farman, has told a press conference that the chemical industry's alternatives to ozone-depleting substances will advance global warming faster than the chemical industry has claimed. The press conference was held to coincide with both the second intergovernmental session to draft a climate change convention, and the meeting of parties to the Montreal Protocol in Nairobi. Mr Farman said the hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are proposed by the chemical industry as alternatives to the ozone-destructive chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), are not only ozone-depleting but are also "powerful greenhouse gases".

**ICELAND** Following this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Greenpeace rejected the suggestion that the way was now open for the resumption of commercial whaling. The IWC adopted a Revised Management Plan (RMP) but it is not yet complete and requires scientific advice and consideration of safety measures, neither of which are yet available. "By itself, the RMP cannot protect whales!" said John Frizell, Greenpeace's international whale campaign co-ordinator. "The history of the IWC is a long and sorry record of scientific advice ignored, and populations depleted by an industry that resists controls. Even this week during the IWC meeting, at the same time as they were arguing they should be allowed to resume whaling, the whaling nations were blatantly ignoring scientific advice in their eagerness to obtain quotas for their industries." During the meeting, Japan and Iceland both asked for interim kill quotas. Both requests were refused. The USSR's proposal for scientific whaling, which is likely to take whales from a protected stock, was strongly criticised by the IWC's scientific committee. A resolution calling on the USSR to withdraw its proposal was passed, with only Iceland, Japan and Norway supporting the USSR.

**BELGIUM** Further analysis of plankton sampled last year near France's nuclear test site at Moruroa revealed in the report, 'Radioactivity in Plankton Outside the 12 Mile Exclusion Zone of the French Nuclear Test Site', was released by Greenpeace at a press conference in Brussels. Full analysis has confirmed the presence of Cesium-134, an artificial radionuclide formed as an activation product during nuclear fission. The report concludes that detection of artificial radioactivity near the French nuclear test site raises serious environmental questions, further diminishing confidence in the ability of Pacific coral atolls to contain the radioactivity from underground nuclear explosions. It calls for critical scientific sampling to evaluate the environmental impact and implications of the French nuclear testing programme. A five person Greenpeace scientific team was arrested and deported by the French military last December, after, trying to take samples closer to Moruroa to determine the source and extent of the contamination.

**CANADA** Fifteen members of Greenpeace changed the agenda in the British Columbia legislative chambers by displaying a message reading ZERO DISCHARGE, and showering the MLAs with over 200 pamphlets in the form of paper airplanes. The non-chlorine bleached paper pamphlets carried a message demanding a stop to the flow of poisons into our ecosystem.

**SWEDEN** A leaked crisis management plan confirms the concern of chlorine manufacturers and users, of decreasing market demand and increasing environmental pressure. The plan, prepared for the Clorox Corporation in the USA and leaked to Greenpeace, recommends labelling environmental critics as "terrorists", threatening to sue "unilaterally green" journalists and dispatching "independent scientists" on media tours as a means of countering bad news for the chlorine industry. "They failed to anticipate the worst of worst case scenarios - that some conscientious person would obtain the plan and leak it to us. The truth is that chlorine is a chemical whose days are numbered," said a Greenpeace Toxics campaigner. Industry concerns result from a plummeting demand for chlorine worldwide. More specifically in Europe, Eka Nobel, Sweden's largest chlorine producer, admitted in a press release last week that chlorine production was yielding to pressure. There has been a 23% drop in chlorine production since 1985, and this year two chlorine plants will have to shut down. The company admitted that "the use of more environmentally suitable bleaching processes" will replace chlorine gas bleaching by 1995. Greenpeace is currently demanding a full phase-out of all chlorine uses by 1993 and has stopped all chlorine shipments out of the plant.

**USA** As many as 183,000 people were killed as a result of the Gulf War at the beginning of May 1991, according to a report released by Greenpeace. The actual death toll actually exceeds 200,000, as an additional 30,000 civilians are estimated to have died in June alone. The 200-page report, 'On Impact, Modern War and the Environment: A Case Study of the Gulf War', is the most comprehensive analysis yet done of the War. The report, a military and environmental analysis, calls the conflict, "the most momentous and destructive war in modern history". Overall, the report finds that: "for all the efficiency and economy of purpose displayed by allied forces, the Gulf War was unprecedented in the amount of destruction inflicted on a nation with conventional weapons in so short a period of time". The effort to compile an accurate assessment of the conduct and impact of the war has been hampered by aggressive secrecy on the part of the Bush administration and the Saudi and Kuwait governments. As part of its efforts to penetrate this veil of secrecy, Greenpeace also announced plans to send its ship, the *MV Greenpeace*, to the region to independently assess the damage to the natural environment resulting from the Gulf War. The ship will serve as a base for a team of scientists and campaigners who will document environmental damage in the region. The Greenpeace team will monitor the effects of oil pollution on marine wildlife and coastal habitats, as well as the impacts of burning oil wells on the atmosphere. The long-term effects of atmospheric pollution from the Gulf on the global atmosphere will also be studied. Governments in the region have been approached to carry out land-based atmospheric research work in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and possibly Iran. The ship will carry a mobile atmospheric testing vehicle which will measure air levels of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide, among other pollutants, resulting from the continuing oil fires in Kuwait. Greenpeace hopes to use the ship as a base for scientists from the region to enable them to conduct their own experimental or sampling work. The launch of the report and trip to the Gulf are part of a larger programme, which includes the promotion of the idea of a Fifth Geneva Convention to protect the environment in times of war. A Greenpeace co-sponsored meeting of legal and defence experts, diplomats and environmentalists discussed such a convention in London in June.

**NEW ZEALAND** "No number of scientific teams to Johnston Atoll will change the fact that an incinerator is an incinerator and there is no one on the planet that burns cleanly!" said a Greenpeace spokesperson in response to an announcement that, following negotiations with the US government, a team of scientists will visit Johnston Atoll next month to monitor the US incinerator. Since the early 80s the US has planned and built the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) to incinerate the stockpiles of chemical weapons stored on the Atoll. The construction and operation of the facility caused widespread opposition in the Pacific and has been plagued by shut-downs and problems since it began operating last year. The US has been forced to open its doors for inspection because of the intense opposition JACADS has faced. US chemical weapons stockpiles in Germany were also moved to Johnston last year, and over the next month chemical weapons left in the Solomon Islands since World War II will also be moved to Johnston for incineration. JACADS is a prototype, and similar facilities are planned for eight sites in the US, where the majority of the US stockpile is located.

**FRANCE** On June 3rd, President Francois Mitterand announced a French disarmament plan. Part of this plan is that France will sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Greenpeace congratulated the French government and urged France to work actively on disarmament issues. After more than 20 years, the NPT clearly shows that the verification measures concerning the signatory countries are largely inadequate. Greenpeace called upon France to show its peaceful intentions by stopping its nuclear tests in the Pacific and by participating in other disarmament fora.

**SPAIN** In June, Greenpeace launched a campaign targeting toxic industrial discharges from Spanish industry into the seas off the north Atlantic coast of Spain. A report called, 'Environmental Impact of the Pulp Mills in the Spanish Northern Coasts' was presented at a press conference on board *MV Greenpeace*, docked in Santander. The report highlights five pulp and paper factories along the north coast that bleach their pulp with chlorine and discharge an estimated 16,000 tons of organochlorines and another 50,000 tons of organic matter into the sea each year. The Greenpeace report also expressed deep concerns over the expansion of vast monocultural forests to feed the pulp industry. Massive mechanised plantations, either of eucalyptus or pine, will inevitably lead to deterioration in soil quality, erosion, landslides, a disturbed balance of the water cycle and loss of biological diversity.



**IRELAND** Greenpeace has applauded the declaration by the Irish government that the seas around Ireland are to be a sanctuary for whales and dolphins. This declaration extends to the exclusive fishery limits which is out to 200 miles from the coast. "This is not just a mere gesture - this will send a message to those countries who wish to continue killing these creatures for commercial gain that they cannot do so forever. Now it is up to the rest of Europe and other countries to follow Ireland's position. Hopefully we will soon see the European Community adopting, and implementing, a conservation policy on whales and dolphins everywhere," said Greenpeace whale campaigner Liz Bono. The Irish declaration came just one week after the meeting of the International Whaling Commission, where pro-whaling nations sought a resumption of commercial whaling, but were denied.

**A generous company  
pouring its profits back  
into the community.**



## GREENPEACE MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to join **Greenpeace**. Please send my quarterly issue of **Greenpeace Australia News** to the address below.

I have enclosed a cheque  or please charge

My membership fee of \$35  My renewal fee of \$35

Charge my: Bankcard  Visa  Mastercard  Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No.

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send to **GREENPEACE, 3/130 CARRINGTON STREET, ADELAIDE SA 5000**  
If you are already a member, please pass this on to a friend.