



Jabiluka Action Group

Melbourne newsletter and campaign update August '99

United Nations fails to overcome Australian government pressure

JAG Diary



Tues 31st August:
Festival and camp out (bring a tent if you have one) 6pm - 10pm
North Ltd, 476 St. Kilda Rd leading to
Wed 1st September:
peaceful assembly to shut down North Blockade 6am - 9am.



Tuesday 6 September:
Brunswick JAG Information/discussion night 7pm ph Angela 9926 3151 or 0409460733 for venue details.



Sunday 26th September: Fringe Festival Float - call JAG office for details: 9417 6660



Friday 15th October:
Probable benefit Rave at Hi Fi Bar - details available soon.



Friday 29th October
North Ltd
Extraordinary & Annual General meeting

Paris, July 12: The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee (WHC) has chosen not to put Australia's largest national park, Kakadu, on its "in danger" list. This decision was contrary to the WHC's advisory bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM), each of whom advised that an "in danger" listing was appropriate.

What The UN Said

- The majority of the report of the "Decision of the Third Extraordinary Session of the WHC" expressed sentiments of strong opposition towards Jabiluka :
- "The Committee is gravely concerned about the serious impacts to the living cultural values of Kakadu National Park posed by the proposal to mine and mill uranium at Jabiluka."
- "A more substantial and continuous dialogue needs to be established between the Australian Government and the traditional owners of the Jabiluka Mineral Lease, the Mirrar Aboriginal people."
- "The Committee is concerned about the lack of progress with the preparation of a cultural heritage management plan for Jabiluka."
- "The Committee continues to have significant reservations concerning the scientific uncertainties relating to mining and milling at Jabiluka."

• "The Committee considers that it is the clear responsibility of the Australian Government to regulate the activities of a private company, such as Energy Resources of Australia, Inc, in relation to the proposed mining and milling activities at Jabiluka to ensure the protection of the World Heritage values of Kakadu National Park."

The WHC requested that the Australian government report back to the WHC on 15 April 2000 on the progress of various issues :

- "Cultural mapping of the Jabiluka Mineral Lease ... and the completion of the cultural heritage management plan with the necessary co-operation of the Mirrar."
- "A comprehensive package of social and welfare benefits, together with the Northern Territory Government, for the benefit of the Aboriginal communities of Kakadu (including the Mirrar)."
- "More precise details of the output and scale of any parallel activities at the Ranger and Jabiluka uranium mines as well as on any legal provisions taken in that respect."

Why Not "In Danger"?

The WHC did not list Kakadu as "in danger" because of Australian government maneuvers.

- Millions of dollars were spent on a concerted lobbying campaign

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Fringe Festival

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

JAG is putting a float in this years Fringe Festival Parade on Sunday 26th September 1999. We need your creative help with the float and people to help hand out leaflets on the day and walk with the float.



If you are interested please call the JAG office on 9417 6660 (ask for Loretta)

Friends of the Earth

NUCLEAR FREE WAYS PROJECT ANTI-URANIUM CAMPAIGN

Nuclear Threat

The Federal government has embarked upon the largest expansion of the nuclear industry in Australia since atomic weapons were tested at Maralinga in 1952.

This includes the approval of new uranium mines: the approval of a new nuclear reactor in Sydney will produce radioactive waste for 40-years, the wastes will be transported to the planned remote radioactive waste dump. The transportation of radioactive wastes is risky business. Communities en-route of nuclear waste transports will be in danger of radioactive exposure.

Nuclear Free Ways Project

The Project aims to contact the diverse communities threatened by the nuclear expansion, inform and unite them in the common purpose of defeating the nuclear industry. Many communities have already joined the campaign to stop nuclear expansion.

Objectives:

1. Stop the new nuclear reactor
2. Stop the radioactive waste dump
3. Stop transportation of radioactive waste

Join the campaign NOW!

The NFWProject Working Group meets every wednesday 5pm.

Call FoE for details on 9419 8700 or email on foefitzroy@peg.apc.org

which utilised five senior public servants and other staff from a range of departments. The government sent a clear message to WHC members that an adverse vote would be considered a hostile act.

● An example of the government's insidious approach was their promising the position of chair of the WHC next year (which was to be Australia's) to Hungary in exchange for Hungary's voting and lobbying against the "in danger" listing.

● The WHC found it impractical to list a site as "in danger" if the site's national government was so vehemently opposed to the listing.

Hope Springs Eternal

Although many of us were disappointed by Kakadu's not being listed, we have great reason to remain wholeheartedly optimistic about the demise of Jabiluka mine.

● As mentioned above, the Australian government must report back to the WHC by 15 April 2000 with an explanation of how Jabiluka can proceed without damaging Mirrar cultural values. Jacqui Katona, Executive Officer of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, responded that "the Mirrar people now have a transparent process which we believe will lead to Jabiluka being discontinued. We are extremely confident we can demonstrate beyond doubt the

incompatibility of the Jabiluka project with the cultural values of Kakadu."

● The Australian government has announced that the development of Jabiluka mine will be suspended until the cessation of mining at Ranger, which may be as late as 2009. [The reader is warned that such an announcement cannot be taken on face value. It is sad testimony to the character of government that we must assume that some Machiavellian scheme underlies the postponement.]

● The federal court found that Yvonne Margarula, senior traditional owner and leader of the Mirrar people, has a case against Senator Warwick Parer, the federal Minister for Resources, for his approval of a Public Environment Report on Jabiluka mill before all information was known about the storage of its radioactive waste. A date for the case has not been set.

● Political figures worldwide are supporting the cause; over 30 US Senators have petitioned Bill Clinton, and a resolution has been passed by the European parliament. With thousands upon thousands of people attending rallies across the nation (and 67% of all Australians in support), opposition to Jabiluka mine is becoming a mass political movement in Australia!

Henry Schwarz

JULY 14TH RALLY: 2 days after the announcement 500 people marched through the city of Melbourne to protest against the WH committee's decision.

JAG merchandise

Would you like a JAG T-shirt, sticker or some information on the campaign? Support the campaign: call the JAG Office on 9417 6660 and place a merchandise order today!!

- T-shirt Bonds Short Sleeve (Tightfitting) \$15
- T-shirt Bonds Long Sleeve (Tightfitting) \$25
- T-shirt Bonds Short Sleeve (Loose Fitting) \$20
- Stickers \$1
- Postage \$2

