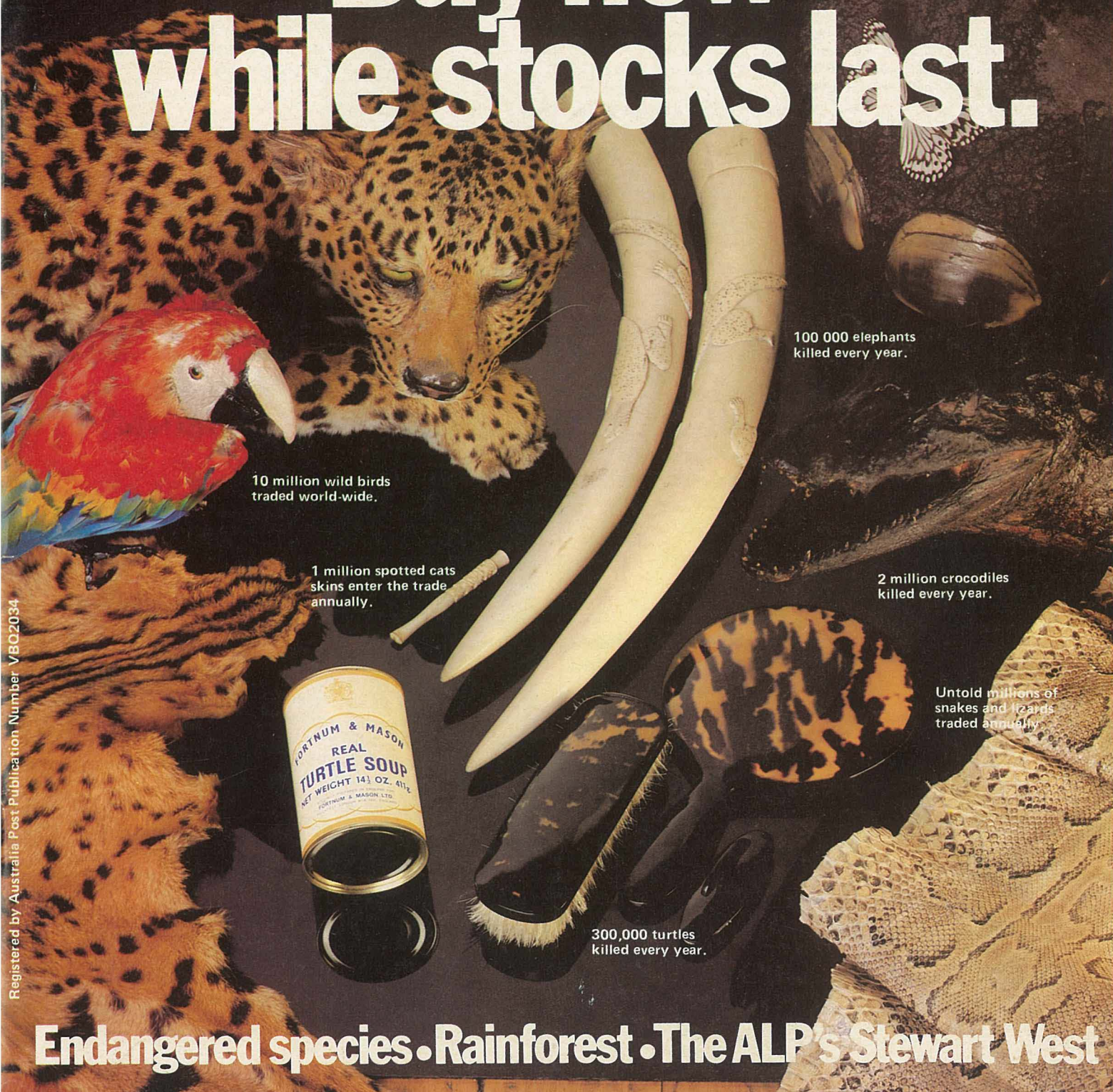


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Number 26 Summer 1981-2 \$2.00\*

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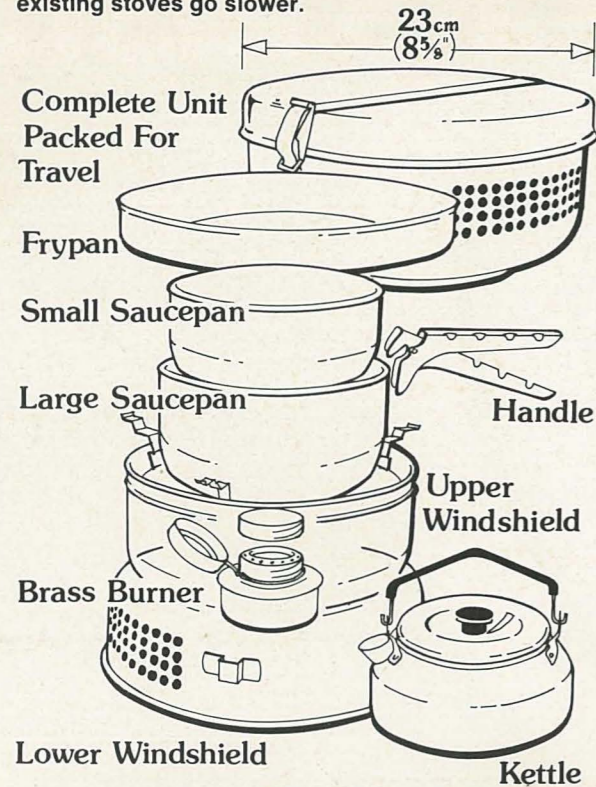
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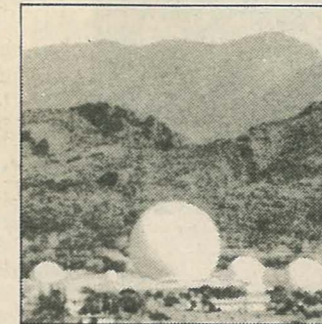
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# CONTENTS

1982



A look at what will be happening around Australia on environmental, energy and food issues.

10

### USA RULES. OK?

The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

12

### RAINFOREST

An extensive report on the world's rainforests and a close look at the situation in Cape York, Australia.

14

### FOR WHOM DO BOOMS TOLL?

Socialists consider responses to projects which are bringing fundamental changes in the structure of the Australian economy.

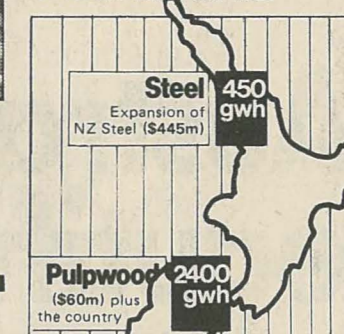
19

### EAST GIPPSLAND: FORESTS OR WOODCHIPS

A *Chain Reaction* supplement.

## Supplement

### THINK BIG IN NZ



The resources boom takes off in New Zealand.

21

### PLASTIC CONTAINED

Success Tough for Coca-Cola and the packaging companies. Juice next?

22

### EARTH NEWS

LETTERS 3  
BACKSTAGE 7  
REMS 9  
REVIEWS 34  
ACTION GUIDE 35  
FOE GROUPS 39

### THE BIG ONE IN BRITAIN



Take down flammable curtains, fill the bath with water, stock up with food and batteries. Or join the Anti-Nuclear Campaign.

23

### GOING, GOING, GONE

A look at the world situation of endangered animals, and Australia's share of the problem.

26

### TOURISM TRAPS

Read this before you leave for overseas travel, preferably before you plan your trip.

29

### THE ALP'S STEWART WEST

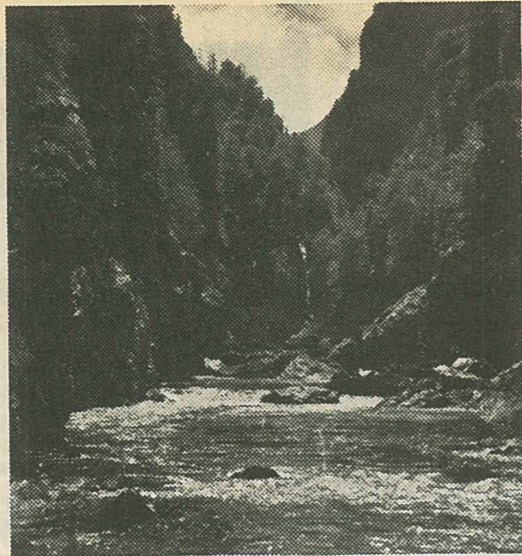
*Chain Reaction* interviews the federal Labor spokesperson on the environment.

30

Cover — Endangered species. Photo: Friends of the Earth (London). Design Mark Carter.

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Contributions to *Chain Reaction* are invited. Please try to send items typed, on one side of the page, double spaced and with wide margins. Keep a copy. We do not have sufficient resources and people to return manuscripts. These few guidelines help in bringing out the magazine better and faster. The Autumn edition will appear in early March 1982.



# For Australia's most beautiful river, time is running out.

Tasmania's Franklin River is in danger of disappearing under tonnes of water – but you could help to turn the tide.

The Australian conservation movement is convinced that the proposed flooding of the South-West wilderness is simply not needed.

There are several safe, cheap alternatives to hydro-electric power – but there are no alternatives to the beauty and the majesty of the South-West wilderness.

Please help save the Franklin River from needless destruction. Your money will be used to cover the costs of mounting a campaign for its survival. It's our last chance.

Send your donation to the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, 129 Bathurst Street, Hobart 7000.

My name is.....

Address .....

..... Postcode.....

If you would like to claim tax deductibility for your donation send it to the Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn 3122, indicating a preference that the funds be granted to the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

## EARTH NEWS

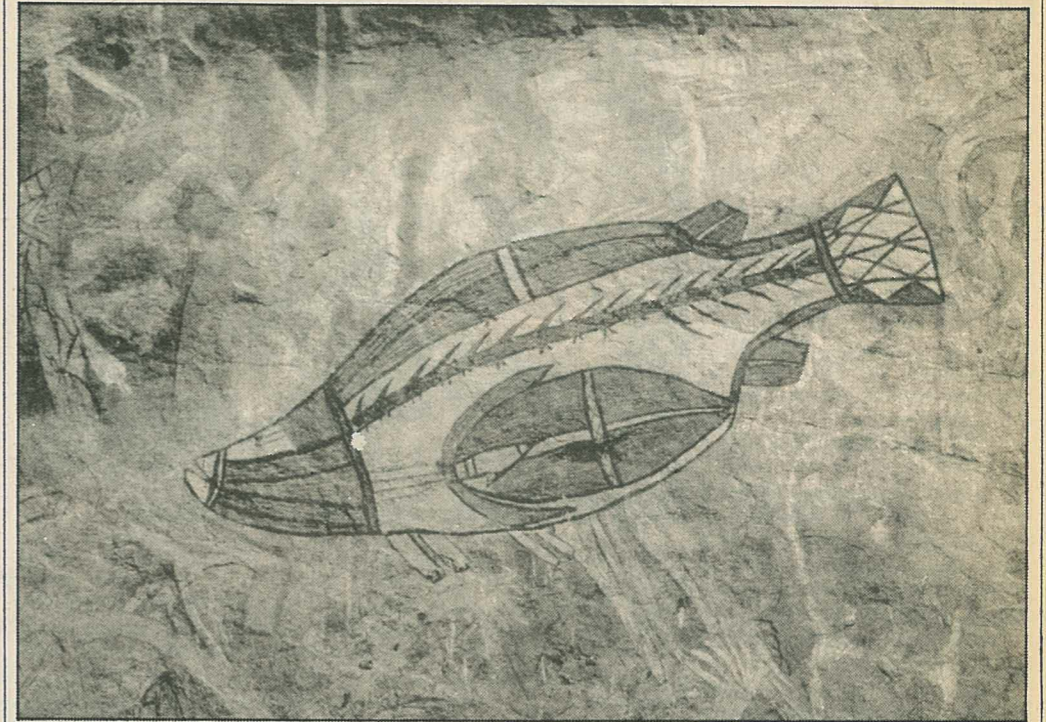
### Kakadu hullabaloo

A series of four documentary films on the Kakadu region are soon to be released despite delays brought about by the Federal Environment Department.

The four films, two on the environmental monitoring of the area surrounding the Ranger Uranium Mine, one on the trainee Aboriginal park rangers for the Kakadu National Park, and one on the Aboriginal rock paintings in the region were produced by Film Australia and directed by freelance director David Roberts who has some ten years experience in the region.

The films were commissioned in 1978 by the Office of the Supervising Scientist which is the government authority responsible for setting standards and controlling environmental impact by the uranium mines in association with Northern Territory government authorities. Although the films were approved by the Supervising Scientist himself, a preview screening to the then Minister for Science and Environment David Thomson resulted in the films being banned. David Roberts commented that he had been told, 'Thomson hit the roof claiming that the films could cost him his job and could even bring the government down'.

The problems were that Ranger had updated its 'release of effluent plan'



Aboriginal rock painting from the Kakadu region, Northern Territory

since the film had been edited and statements by some of the scientists were thought to be too worrying for the public and the Minister wanted them removed. David Roberts agreed to include information about Rangers intention to build an additional retention pond but argued against changes to the scientists' statements. In the course of discussions with an

official from the department who went through the script asking for changes, the director was asked if the word effluent could be changed to water. Other statements which were requested to be deleted concerned the possible spread of contaminants from the tailings dam, and the impact on the environment from the increased population in the

area. The new narration for the films was sent to the department which failed to approve them for ten months. However approval was given recently and the films are now in distribution at an extremely significant time as Kakadu has been included on the World Heritage Commission's list of protected environments.

### BP boycott begins



South Australia's Campaign Against Nuclear Energy has launched a national boycott of British Petroleum. BP has a 49% share in the Olympic dam, Roxby Downs mining project. The SA parliament will soon deal with controversial legislation detailing services and facilities to be provided in the mine area.

The mine area has been found to contain copper, gold, rare earths and uranium. Underground mining pro-

cesses will be used which will release radioactive radon gas into the working environment.

The Western Mining Corporation has the other 51% share in the project. BP was chosen for the boycott because of their income from petrol sales.

Another uranium mining project commencing in South Australia is at Honeymoon, 75 km north-west of Broken Hill. The mining process used here will be 'in-situ'. This

involves leaching the uranium out of the ground, by pumping a strong chemical solution through underground aquifers.

This process had disastrous results in Wyoming, USA, where solution mining contaminated millions of gallons of water in the Wyoming River.

Contact: For more information or to offer help for CANE's campaigns write to: CANE, 310 Angas Street, Adelaide 5000. Telephone (08) 223 6917.

# EARTH NEWS

## Union bans U shelters

The New South Wales Building Workers Industrial Union has black-banned the construction of nuclear shelters.

The union secretary called the marketing of shelters a 'blatant confidence trick which specifically seeks to exploit for profit, the current nuclear arms race'. He said the only real protection for people was the application of the United Nations' policy of out-lawing nuclear weapons.

This is an extremely constructive move by the building union. Recently, shelters have been advertised increasingly in newspapers, and their building makes people accept that nuclear war is inevitable rather than avoidable if people unite against the arms race.

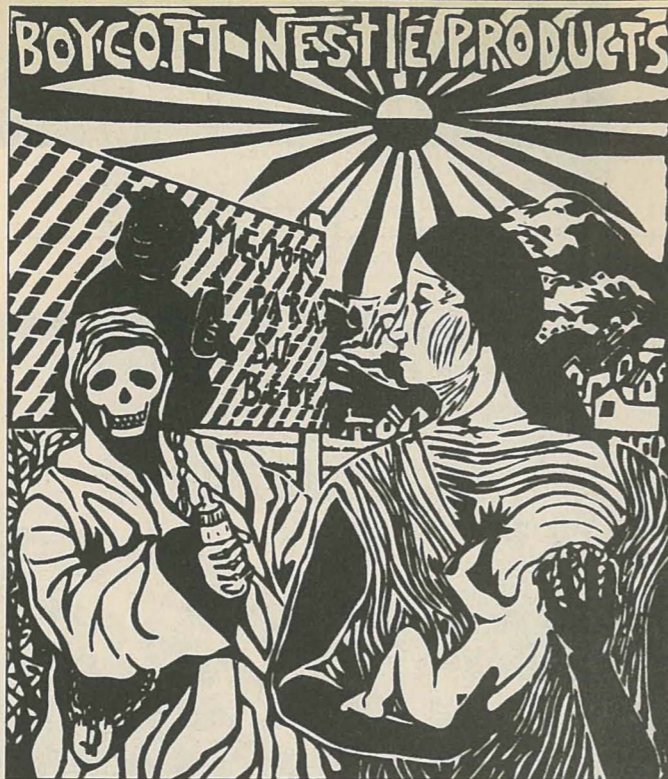
Source: Campaign Against Nuclear Power Newsletter September 1981.

## Tasmania hots up

On 12 December Tasmanians vote in a referendum between a dam on the Gordon River below its junction with the Franklin River or above the Gordon's confluence with the Olga.

The poll seeks to legitimise yet another assault upon the wilderness. Conservationists are urging people to vote 'no dams' by writing those words on their ballot paper.

The argument is increasingly moving to economic and employment questions. Research has shown that Tasmania could build a small thermal station at much less cost, create more jobs in the long term and have power sooner than with another dam.



## Big business vs babies

Multinational companies marketing baby food in the Third World will soon find restrictions placed on their marketing practices under plans being drawn up by the European Economic Community.

Studies by the World Health Organisation in Geneva have put the cost of feeding a child in Ethiopia for six months on the multinational products as high as \$110, equivalent to 140% of the percapita GNP.

The European Commission is planning to introduce legislation which will make binding the WHO voluntary

code approved by 180 countries in May this year. This applies to 20 companies involved in the sector with annual sales of over \$1.56 billion.

The code currently imposes a ban on advertising or other forms of promotion to the general public in developing countries, sales incentives to marketing personnel and a wide range of other controls. A number of European parliament ministers would like to see fines imposed on companies that break the ban.

Source: The Guardian Weekly 25 October 1981.

## Eating the cake

There are no surprises for Chain Reaction Food Politics Primer readers in a report from the United Nations Centre on transnational corporations which describes how fewer than 200 large companies control the world's food-processing industry. They do so, the report claims, at the expense of the interests of Third World countries. Companies include: Unilever, Nestle, Cadbury-Schweppes, the British Imperial Group, Philip Morris, Procter and Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, General Foods, Brooke Bond-Leibig, Del Monte, Castle and Cook, United Brands, Coca-Cola and Pepsico.

The UN report shows that two-thirds of all food processing by multinational companies is controlled by 25 firms. The corporations, backed up by their governments at home, originally secured their foothold through control over trade in raw materials and exports.

In addition, since the operations of the companies are so diverse, they are able, the report says, to indulge in transfer-pricing, switching profits from one sector to another - nominally less profitable - sector. A large proportion of profits are sent back to head offices. 'Few developing countries', the report says, 'have been able to implement effective monitoring of transnational corporations'.

The main advice for Third World countries, according to the report, if they want to challenge their growing dependence on foreign food companies, is to invest in food production under its own control and at the same time co-operate among themselves to fight Western-based firms which do not share their priorities.

Source: The Guardian Weekly 25 October 1981.

The report Transnational Corporations in Food and Beverage Processing is available from United Nations Sales Offices for \$17.

## Chemical workers strike

Nearly 50 chemical workers at the Coates Vanadium plant at Wundowie, east of Perth, struck in October after suffering severe health effects from chemicals used in production. Workers say 40 workers had left the plant since March.

Management introduced sodium oxylate, which is similar to caustic soda, into the plant without warning workers of the dangers, the workers say. Some workers were ordered to shovel the oxylate in powder form and were not told to take precautions. The workers say management denied the powder was sodium oxylate. But workers sent a sample to Perth for independent analysis after one of them developed severe eye irritation and skin ulceration. The analysis showed it was sodium oxylate.

A spokesperson for Agnew Clough Limited (of which Coates Vanadium is a subsidiary) said sodium oxylate was only introduced intermittently on a trial basis.

Earlier this year workers complained of vanadium poisoning which, they say,



coloured their tongues and testicles green.

Australian Workers Union representative Peter Ford says a 24 hour medical service is needed at the plant. Only day-shift workers currently have access to medical services. Proper safety

measures are also needed. 'Every time we put in claims about safety measures, the company says the plant is losing money and can't afford them', he said.

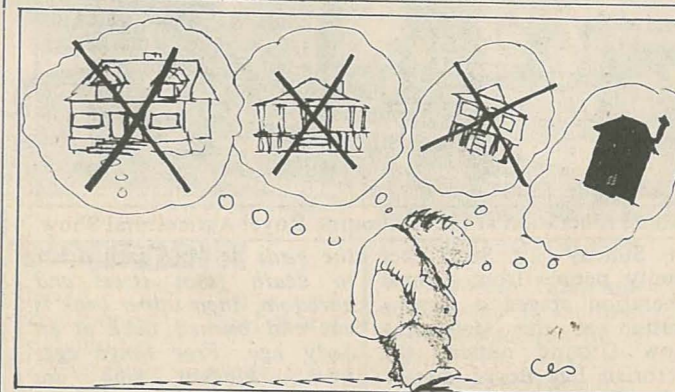
Source: Tribune 21 October 1981.

## Trans Nationals

In the last week of October, our shores were graced by a visit from David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger and other members of the International Advisory Committee of the Chase Manhattan Bank. They were here to 'review resource development projects in the 1980s', with special emphasis on Australia.

During their four day stay, they visited resource projects in the Hunter Valley, and met with Joh Bjelke Petersen and a number of corporate leaders.

In response to these private gatherings, a public forum on the power of big business was organised by the TransNational Co-operative: a co-op of 22 federal and state unions, based in



Sydney. Each speaker at the forum highlighted the extent of corporate penetration in key sectors of the economy. Questions from the audience focused on the ways that business infringes on peoples' daily lives.

However, discussion around possible labor movement responses to corporate power raised two new issues: the contradiction

between developing policies on the environment, on foreign control and on managing resource development, and actually implementing the policies; and conflicting interests between groups mobilising against the problems of the 'boom'.

Contact: TNC's new address is in this CR's 'Transition' column, page 6.

## Asbestos

Former asbestos workers at the Raybestos-Manhattan plant in the USA will share a \$9.4 million compensation fund. The agreed settlement is expected to be a precedent for similar cases throughout the USA. The plant closed in 1973 but some diseases contracted from substances used in the plant do not show up for years. The fund to be divided between 680 workers will probably involve a scale based on exposure to dangerous materials and severity of the disease.

In Australia the pro-asbestos lobby have strenuously fought any and every case seeking health damages against asbestos companies.

Source: Tribune 21 October 1981.

## Grassroots defiance

Perhaps you'll find interest in an activity being planned for early 1982 called the 'Co-operative Effort Against Uranium'. It is promoted as 'an avalanche of decentralised and autonomous actions against the uranium industry'.

Proponents of the idea, which grew from the Atom-Free Embassy protest in Canberra, claim that more will be achieved if people are encouraged to plan and carry out their own ideas. They are therefore promoting 'the household, the collective and the individual action group' as the primary level of organisation; but suggesting at the same time the value of combined action.

The CEAU month is planned for 26 January through to 26 February 1982, so the initial focus is one of Aboriginal Land Rights (26 January being Australia Day).

Action: Lists of possible actions for one person through to twenty people will be produced by Friends of the Earth Sydney as a primer for ideas. Further information can be obtained from FOE, 101 Cleveland Street, Chippendale 2008, or from your local FOE group.

## On September 23 Tasmanian democracy sank without a trace.

Freedom of choice is the very heart of democracy. In the Dams Referendum, Tasmanians will be denied that freedom.

In opinion polls on the issue, there has been a heavy vote against building any more dams in the South West. Yet on September 23, the no-dam option was struck from the ballot paper.



The people of Tasmania say it should be there. The Premier has said it should be there.

The fact that it is not a denial of democracy. And that's something that every Tasmanian, no matter how you feel about dams, should feel deeply concerned about.

A Dams Referendum without the option to vote for cheaper alternatives is no referendum at all.

Comalco silent on free power station offer

Size change likely for beer glasses

New committee named

CEMP & Penning Ltd open this morning 25%

Quest judges named - and

State's tourism

## World bikeride

In the tradition of the 'Ride Against Uranium' bikerides — 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1981 — planning is now underway for a much more adventurous affair. The 'World Bikeride' is planned to leave Canberra in March 1982 and travel a 6000 kilometre route in Australia before leaving for overseas.

The 'World Bikeride' is sponsored by the Atom Free Embassy.

Contact: If you want further information, can offer a support vehicle for a leg of the ride, can provide facilities along the route, finance, or advice, AFE would be pleased to hear from you. Write to: World Bikeride for a Nuclear Free Future, c/- Friends of the Earth, 101 Cleveland Street, Chippendale, NSW 2008. Telephone (02) 698 4114.

## Transition

Australian Conservation Foundation has opened a Brisbane office to work on the rainforest issue. It's at: Wildlife House, 8 Clifton Street, Petrie Terrace, Queensland 4000. Telephone (07) 36 4586.

North Coast Environment Council has moved. Their new postal address is Post Office Box 29, Kendall, New South Wales 2439.

Tasmanian Wilderness Society now has a national lobbying office in Canberra at the Environment Centre, PO Box 1875, Canberra City, Australian Capital Territory 2601. Telephone (062) 47 3064.

TransNational Co-operative has moved office. Their postal address remains GPO Box 161, Sydney, NSW 2001. Their office is situated at: 2nd floor, Sunderland House, Corner Bathurst and Sussex Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. Telephone (02) 264 3330.

## Impact statement

Do the New South Wales members of the Australian Conservation Foundation realise who they voted for at the last election of their Council representatives in October? As a result of their voting patterns, one Diana Gibbs has been made an ACF councillor.

Diana Gibbs described herself in her statement of support for her candidature as one who, 'works as a consulting economist, is professionally and personally concerned about the total impact of resource development projects on the environment and the distribution of benefits and costs associated with these projects'.

She works for the consulting firm WD Scott & Company; a fact she failed to mention in her candidature statement. Perhaps it

would have been too embarrassing for her to tell ACF members that she worked with Scott's preparing Environmental Impact Statements for three woodchip schemes at: Eden in southern NSW, north-coast NSW, and East Gippsland.

The East Gippsland EIS gave the green light for woodchipping there. ACF, however, is totally opposed to woodchipping in East Gippsland. In fact it regards the export woodchipping industry as it currently operates in Australia as being both environmentally and economically unsound.

We now have two years to watch how Diana Gibbs performs in relation to ACF's established policies and decide if their vote was well spent.

## Animal rights



Animal Liberation at the Melbourne Royal Agricultural Show

On Sunday 20 September twenty people from Animal Liberation staged a demonstration at the Melbourne Show Ground outside the Victorian Egg Board display and focused a peaceful protest on the cruel and unnecessary way that eggs are produced in this country.

The group distributed leaflets with the following information:

*Chickens in Australia are forced to live out their shortened life span crammed four or five in wire cages smaller than the size of a page of a daily newspaper. To prevent*

*the birds pecking each other to death from stress and boredom, their upper beak is cut and burned back at an early age. Free range eggs from chickens who are allowed to fulfil their basic instincts are readily available.*

The Show authorities decided to have police escort the protest group out of the grounds. The demonstration continued outside the front gate.

A spokesperson for Animal Liberation said, 'For as long as the chickens are locked up, we will speak out for them'.

## Nabarleak

Serious leaks of radioactive waste have been occurring this year at the Nabarlek uranium mine in the Northern Territory. This fact has been kept secret until the 'leaking' of confidential reports.

One of these reports showed that levels of radium in a safety holding pond had been as high as 2500 picocuries per litre. This is more than 40 times the standard promised by Queensland Mines in their Environmental Impact Statement. Following Cyclone Max, last March, this pond overflowed during heavy rain and contaminated water ran into Cooper's Creek. The pond was designed to catch run off from the minesite.

Government officials knew of the accident but it was not publicised until the report was leaked to the media.

The monitoring system at Nabarlek has also been criticised. Only two shallow bores have been drilled to monitor seepage of radioactive water from the safety pond. Both bores were to the east of the pond and seepage of contaminated water towards nearby Cooper's Creek could not have been detected. Friends of the Earth in Darwin asked for the release of all monitoring reports collected over the duration of Queensland Mines' operations.

Queensland Mines last year made a profit of \$44.2 million.

Source: Campaign Against Nuclear Power Newsletter September 1981.

## U plant payoff

People in the Japanese town of Ikhata will receive \$22 per month per household as 'compensation' for the installation of a third nuclear power plant nearby. Opponents of the plant are outraged by the deal which will operate for ten years, describing it as a bribe. The Japanese government isn't too keen either, fearing it will set a precedent for other areas.

Source: Tribune 28 October 1981.

## Toxic shock marketed

While the cause of Toxic Shock Syndrome remains unclear little is being done to reduce the incidence of TSS amongst menstruating women. In the USA, Proctor & Gamble, the producers of Rely tampons, were forced to withdraw Rely from stores after government researchers found that 70% of TSS patients in one study had been using that brand. However, P & G is warehousing 898,000 packets of Rely tampons. It is unlikely that P & G would attempt to sell these on the USA market but possibly they plan dumping them on the Third World.

With Rely off the market, Tampax moved in with a massive advertising campaign. 'Your health is important to us,' it claimed in one ad. In the same ad, Tampax encouraged women to change tampons frequently and to wear napkins at times, but it ignored what the Food and Drug Administration

considered 'essential advice': that women could reduce their risk of getting TSS by not using tampons at all. As a result the FDA wrote to Tampax, 'Your advertisement by emphasising the role of Rely tampons inaccurately downplays the role of Tampax and other tampon brands'. Furthermore, Tampax refused to put on the outside of its packages the voluntary TSS warning label that the FDA had requested as an interim measure. Subsequently Johnson & Johnson removed their voluntary label as it believed that the implication for shoppers was that Tampax was safer than other brands still on the market.

While the manufacturers of menstrual products continue to put profits before women's health and the FDA recommends ineffective voluntary warning labels women's lives remain threatened by TSS.

Source: National Watchdog 10 October and 24 October 1981.

DONNA RAWLINS

PATTY MARK

## Women in development

Women in Development groups have been established in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne to 'consider the position of women in (aid) agencies, the status of women in Australia and overseas and the effects of aid on women'.

The group states that 'Overwhelmingly, women who work in Australian aid agencies hold positions which have low status and little power. We believe that while this blatant injustice exists within these agencies, the same injustice will be reflected in their aid programmes to Third World communities.'

The group is producing a quarterly newsletter. Subscription is \$5 per year.

Contact: For more information write to The Chairperson, Women in Development Interim Management Committee, C/- Box C199, Clarence Street PO, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Source: Women in Development Newsletter October 1981.

## FLUORIDATION

I am a Friends of the Earth member and I think *Chain Reaction* is very good for information on various issues. I have just ordered a number of copies of the *Food Politics Primer* to lend to farmer friends.

While you are very keen on curbing aluminium smelters and their pollution, (and I am all for stopping them) I have often wondered why you have not mentioned the pollution of our drinking water with toxic waste like fluoride and chloride. The Hamer government enquiry on fluoridation was 'rigged' as is the whole fluoride business. There is soon to be published a 250 page book on the enquiry, which will go into greater detail of this scandalous affair. Many countries who had fluoride have dropped it and many never allowed it but Australia seems to be last (as usual) to do the right thing.

Well known TV and radio talk-back show personalities will not handle the affair, they say it is 'too big' to touch.

Will your organization be brave enough to take up the matter? I am a member of the Anti-Fluoride Association and an ordinary housewife and mother, and I am horrified at what goes on in our so called civilized free society. I believe in speaking up. If you want more information (and there is plenty) ring the president of the Association, Mr Walker on (03) 592 5088.

J P Miles  
South Oakleigh, Vic.

## ALP AND SOCIALISM

Your feature 'Labor and environment in Victoria' in *Chain Reaction* No 25 (Spring 1981) refers to increased awareness by some sections of the Victorian ALP of the need to introduce social costing into policy. But by and large the writers are concerned at the slow increase in policy areas reflecting this awareness, at the difficulties involved in arousing the whole of the ALP, and in translating the policy into successful action. The present debate about 'the

socialist objective' of the ALP is a particularly striking and unfortunate example of the party's timidity and poverty of insight.

The party members whose views on the socialist objective have been reported, whether for or against, appear to have no notion of socialism other than the centralised, state-run version exhibited in eastern Europe.

Let me make it quite clear. The basic issue is power, but not for its own sake. We should not be struggling as much against lead pollution, public transport cutbacks, or the loss of Leadbeater's Possum, as much as for real power in our lives and in the decisions that affect our lives.

When the ALP says it wants power to make the present system work better, it seems to forget that this system is immoral.

'Community participation' and 'small is beautiful' can not be just tactics if they are to achieve anything worthwhile. They need to arouse a personally-felt concern wider than oneself as a creative and responsible person, and a sense of crisis. The substance of these things is not achieved overnight.

The ethics of libertarian ecology involve greater complexity in technology, in life-forms, and in social organisation. Paradoxically this diversity can be obtained, can be enjoyed, and can be used productively if individuals slow down, insist on personal contact and involvement, and refuse the simplistic tinkering of present ALP policy as dangerously inadequate.

Bob James  
Moonee Ponds Vic.

## LETTERS

Write today to, The Editors *Chain Reaction*, Room 14, Floor 4, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 3000.

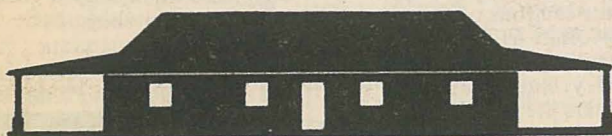
# BELBOURIE

We are back in the *wine* business, after an intense personal commitment of over two years to the protection of the environment of the Lower Hunter Valley. I am now concentrating all my time and energy to my vines and wines, with similar success assured to our 'quality of life' and ecological issues. As individuals and community groups we examined and contested the Lochinvar smelter issue with great vigour and undoubtedly without our efforts approval would have been automatic and much earlier.

There is now considerable doubt that the smelter project will proceed and we return to our vineyards and wineries with optimism. The fundamental lesson for us all is — determination, courage and a well researched case will afford the individual strength to contest immense government, industrial and bureaucratic opposition.

.....  
Jim Roberts

*Belbourie*  
Private Mail Bag  
Pokolbin Delivery  
P.O. Maitland 2320  
Phone: (049) 38 1556 Winery  
(049) 30 7313 Private



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QLD: 39 Fleetway St, Morningside 4170  
SA: 59 Park Ave, Roslyn Park 5072  
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## Sydney CR collective

For the past couple of months there's been a *Chain Reaction* collective in Sydney. From a group of people with little experience in magazine operation, we have moved a long way in establishing ourselves as an important part of the operations of *Chain Reaction*. As with any new collective there've been problems, but we're finding, as we sort the group and its activities out, that things are running more smoothly. We've had to do things like: organise *Chain Reaction* space at FOE's Sydney office, e.g. a few folders in a drawer and a box in the corner of a room where papers can be kept to work on.

It was necessary to arrange setting up bank and cheque accounts specifically for *Chain Reaction* use, which enables us to work autonomously, using that money to buy whatever we need. We've usually met fortnightly; bringing together ideas and activities that each of us has been working on.

It's been hard work to get things going; but satisfying. Basically the collective is whatever the members want it to be, how much each can put into it, where specific interests lie. There's no demands to attend every meeting (although that's better for contact with each other), and while some only want to do a little, others want to tackle more. Most of us work in full-time jobs but, I don't think that has made much difference to the effectiveness of the collective. (At the moment the group is small, three people in full-time jobs and Jenny Quealy, office co-ordinator for

FOE Sydney, who has done a lot with the collective.)

We drop into FOE's office when we can, work on various things in our spare time (????) and meet collectively to discuss and work things out.

What we have been involved in and what we can be involved in depends, I think, on getting more people interested. The range of things to do covers; working towards putting together a radio ad, finding books/films to review and people to review them, finding people to work on, suggest, write or research articles, finding people to do photography and/or graphic work for the magazine, contacting groups, bookshops, institutions to encourage subscription, collecting items for regular features, e.g. Earth News, Action Guide, and mailing out *Chain Reaction* in Sydney, quarterly, to members (we've done 1 mailout so far without too many problems). We are also looking towards producing parts of *Chain Reaction* here in Sydney with the help and encouragement of the *Chain Reaction* collective in Melbourne. It seems to me important to remember that the only way to gain experience is to get in and do things, and working on *Chain Reaction* is a good way to gain or to use experience.

Building *Chain Reaction* collectives in each state, such as the one we've begun in Sydney, would build a network of workers/supporters which could and would make the magazine more productive, enable more people to work in a positive way through the magazine on specific interests and build *Chain Reaction* to a stronger national magazine.

If people in other states are also



Marilyn Coupe, Jasmine Payget and Lorraine Jones of the *Chain Reaction* Sydney collective

## BACKSTAGE

interested in starting up . . . great. I'm willing to talk to anyone about it and *Chain Reaction* in Melbourne can give help, support. Just as importantly, if anyone in Sydney is interested in any of the above or has any suggestions or help, activity or involvement is really needed and would enable the *Chain Reaction* collective in Sydney to move into a stronger, more effective role. Move with us . . . ring Sydney 698 4114.

Lorraine Jones

## Xmas bonus

People choose various ways of giving support to Friends of Earth and *Chain Reaction*.

One donor to FOE stipulated that her \$10 000 a year for five years be used for 'cutting edge', radical projects to stop uranium mining. It has sustained many an idea into reality.

We sought sponsorship for supplements and photo covers and environmental groups, unions and other community groups have provided finance.

But, sales are not rising fast enough and our financial position remains tenuous. So, we are sending members and subscribers a cheeky leaflet inviting readers to cut *Chain Reaction* in on their Christmas end-of-year splurge. Why should Myers and Waltons get all the benefit from this festive season? We are inviting readers to give *Chain Reaction* subscriptions so the magazine reaches your friends, relatives, etc. We are even suggesting that you divert a present to the magazine, in the form of a donation to our appeal for special investigations, to promote the magazine and generally keep *Chain Reaction* growing. Excuse our immodesty, but other new ideas for the magazine have met with success and, if these work, they too will be a great help. You expect us to be honest, don't you!

Leigh Holloway

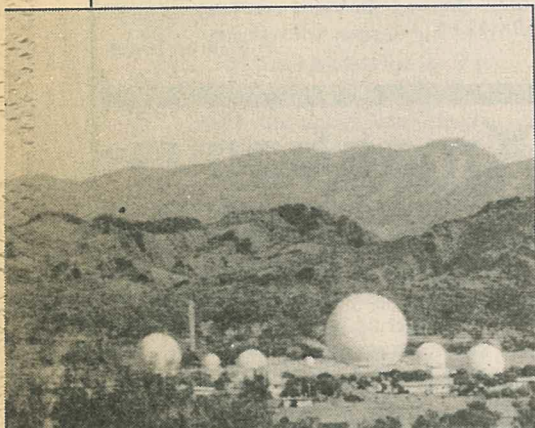
## Next edition

Deadline for Autumn *Chain Reaction*. For both editorial and advertising please send material to *Chain Reaction* by 10 January 1981. Enquiries: Telephone Melbourne (03) 63 5995 or Sydney (02) 698 4114.

# 1982

What's on next year? **Chain Reaction** gives you a brief run-down of the plans of a selection of activist groups from around Australia for 1982.

## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, DARWIN



Pine Gap, Northern Territory

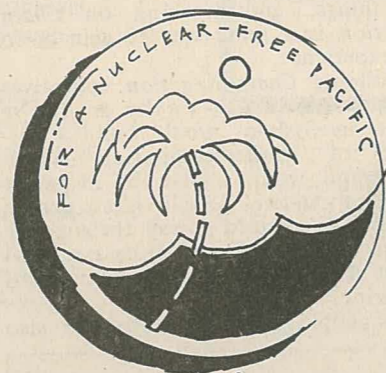
Monitoring of the uranium industry in the Territory, gathering information for distribution to southern-based groups. Support of trade union yellowcake bans and Land Rights issues; monitoring of the aluminium industry at Gove; liaison with the Northern Territory Peace Council on opposition to B52's and Pine Gap. Work on foreshore development in the Darwin area, destruction of the environment by feral animals and monitoring of the fishing industry of the Territory. Continued participation in the Environment Council's FM radio programme.

Contact: FOE, PO Box 2120 Darwin 5794, (089) 81 6222

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTION, MELBOURNE

We will continue to focus our work on the island countries of the south Pacific. Foreign investment, aid, tourism, nuclear testing and waste dumping are all bringing great changes to Pacific island societies. We will ally ourselves with local people who are concerned about the negative effects of this change.

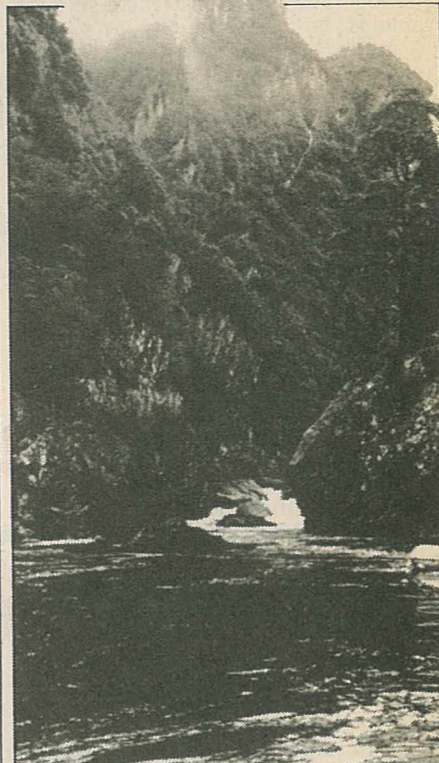
The women's group will continue researching issues of concern to women in Pacific island countries, including the impact on women of Australian aid projects. Nuclear-free Pacific campaign work has funding for a part-time worker to consolidate the international contacts established in past years and, in line



with the views of island people, to link independence and nuclear-free Pacific struggles. Documentation of the social and environmental impact of growing Japanese and other foreign investment in the region and, where appropriate, assist local people seeking redress from the companies involved.

Contact: IDA, 73 Little George Street, Fitzroy 3065, (03) 41 6898.

## SOUTH WEST TASMANIA CAMPAIGN



Great Ravine, Franklin River

Whatever the referendum result, South West Tasmania's wilderness will be the subject of a heightened campaign.

There is a high probability that early in 1982 the Tasmanian Government will seek to begin building a dam on the Gordon River in the South West. *Chain Reaction* will extensively report on the response.

A bike ride around Tasmania starting in Hobart on 8 January will finish at Strahan, on the west coast, on 22 January at the 3 day Festival for the Wilderness.

The efforts of mainland Australians will be crucial as the conservation movement campaigns to pressure the federal government to veto funds for dams on the Gordon River. Lobbying will be vital in all states and territories. The Senate Select Committee inquiry into the South West will hold hearings and issue a report which may recommend federal intervention to protect the South West. The Loans Council meeting in June may consider funding for a new dam.

FRITZ BALCAU

## CALENDAR

1982 World Youth Congress on Food and Development, Jakarta, Indonesia  
 20-24 January Friends of the Earth National meeting, Melbourne  
 Late February Autumn session of Australian Parliament starts (to May)  
 25-27 February Women and Food - Feminist Perspectives Conference, Sydney (School of Sociology, University of NSW, PO Box 1, Kensington 2033)  
 1 March Nuclear Free Pacific Day  
 27 March Chemicals and Food Seminar, Melbourne (Food Justice Centre)  
 28 March-2 April International Association of Economy Students Conference on Energy  
 15 April Campaign for a Nuclear Free Australia Peace Rallies, around Australia  
 May United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, New York  
 May Stockholm Ten Year After Conference, Nairobi Kenya  
 May Antarctic Southern Oceans Commission First Meeting, Hobart Tasmania  
 May Antarctic Mineral Resources Meeting, New Zealand  
 12-14 June New South Wales ALP Annual Conference  
 Late July ALP National Conference  
 17 August Budget session of Australian Parliament starts (to November)  
 16 October World Food Day (UN Food and Agricultural Organisation)



## FOOD JUSTICE CENTRE, MELBOURNE

Organisation of seminars, film nights, adult education courses, publications (including a newsletter), production of an audio-visual kit and lobbying of politicians on the hazards of chemicals in food, the role of transnational corporations in food systems, the politics and practicalities of food co-operatives, the causes of world hunger and plant patenting legislation.

Contact: Ben Witham, Friends of the Earth, 366 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066, (03) 419 8700

## BROWN COAL STUDY GROUP MELBOURNE

Continued representations to the Victorian Parliamentary Public Works Inquiry into the proposed Driffield power station. Production of a kit on oil-from-coal, a new industrial concern in the Latrobe Valley, looking at the profitability and practicality of the oil-from-coal schemes, their effects on the environment and worker's health,

and the long-term viability of our coal resources. Production of a teacher's kit for *Fuel for Unrest*, a booklet on the accelerating exploitation of Victoria's coal resources. Advising on a film to be made about the Latrobe Valley.

Contact: Stephanie Bunbury, Friends of the Earth, 366 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066, (03) 419 8700



Open cut, Latrobe Valley

SEC

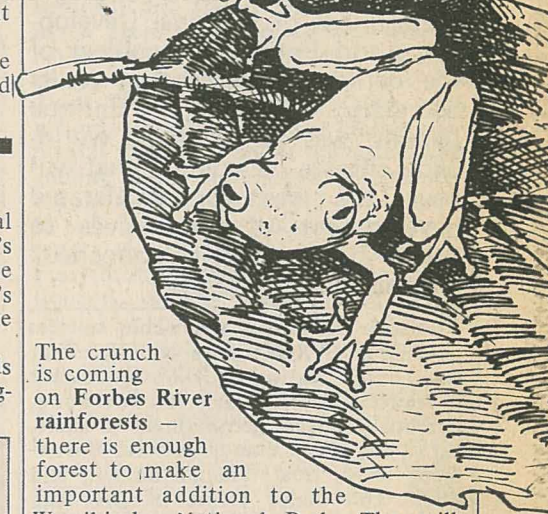
## GREENPEACE AUSTRALIA

Continuation of the campaign directed against all nuclear tests and for a nuclear-free Australia, begun in late 1981 with the voyage of the *Greenpeace III* to Mururoa atoll. Continuing work with Australia's commissioner to the International Whaling Commission to bring an end to worldwide whaling. Continued monitoring of the well-being of all marine mammals in Australian waters. Pressuring the federal government for greater protection for all marine mammals and for a ban on the importation of any products of the Newfoundland harp and hooded seal hunt.

Contact: 223 Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000, (08) 223 3578; 399 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000, (02) 267 7722

## NEW SOUTH WALES RAINFORESTS

### Slender Tree Frog



The crunch is coming on Forbes River rainforests - there is enough forest to make an important addition to the Werrikimbe National Park. The mills have only a few years' timber left, according to the EIS released in early October 1981. Conservationists have proposed the Jounama Pine Plantation as a source of alternative timbers. Washpool - the major park proposal in NSW and the largest area of undisturbed rainforest left in NSW. Reportedly a decision will be made in six months. Alternatives to logging include use of regrowth, pines and upgrading of the industry. Murray Scrub and Grady's Creek Flora Reserve - some of the best subtropical rainforest left in NSW. Logging is proposed to start in 1982. Environmental groups are demanding an EIS and are prepared to go the Land and Environment Court to get it.

Contact: Jeff Angel, Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney 2000, (02) 27 4714

What do readers think of this article? How useful have you found it? Send us your comments and notes on events *Chain Reaction* readers should know about.

IRENA SIBLEY

LIZ HONEY

FOE

Parliament House, Canberra

# USA rules. OK?

Five heads of state, four thousand official national delegates, and over a thousand representatives of specialist agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (UNCNRSE) in Nairobi in August. Australia was represented by Sir Philip Lynch and four middle-level public servants from Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Development and Energy. The object of the conference, according to its Secretary General, Enrique Iglesias, was to 'create a worldwide climate of opinion that will pave the way for accelerated development of alternatives to fossil fuels'. What happened? Alastair Machin reports.

Fourteen new and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) were considered at the United Nations NRSE Conference in Nairobi: hydro, solar, wind, fuelwood, charcoal, biogas, geothermal, oil shale, tar sands, ocean energy thermal conversion, wave, tidal, draught animals and peat. The major effort of the conference was to adopt the Nairobi Plan, a programme to:

1. examine the technical and economic viability of various new and renewable energy sources, identify the constraints on their development and the measures necessary to overcome these constraints;
2. establish priorities for action;
3. promote amongst countries an exchange of information, technology, training programmes, energy assessment and planning, and indigenous research and development facilities;
4. establish an effective and appropriate international agency which would promote, co-ordinate and monitor all of these activities; and
5. stimulate the mobilisation of adequate financial resources, substantial enough to meet the requirements identified at the Conference by the participating countries.

It should be noted here that the

*Alastair Machin works with the Fund for Animals in Sydney.*

Australian delegation distinguished itself by joining with the USA, during the conference, in introducing nuclear energy into the Programme with a call for its 'effective development'.

The idea of the Conference was born from a widespread fear that a continuation of current global and, in particular, Western energy consumption patterns would lead to uncertain oil supplies, forcing real prices of conventional fuels upwards. Although increased oil bills have affected the ability of traditionally wealthy countries to manage their economies, the position for most Third World economies is especially acute.

A World Bank projection says the oil import bill of developing countries could rise from \$US 29 billion in 1978 to \$US 200 billion by 1990.

These nations' ability to pay is diminishing every day. Third World debts are expected to keep increasing by \$US 100 billion a year according to International Monetary Fund estimates. In some countries, Brazil and Peru for example, debt servicing commitments account for 50% or more of export earnings.

It was against this background that many Third World countries approached the Conference with enthusiasm and a determination to get some results. They gained few.

Efforts to get efficiency improvements in conventional energy-using technologies and energy conservation on the agenda were thwarted within the Third World caucus by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) who feared that such discussion would provide an 'OPEC-bashing' opportunity to the industrialised countries on the question of oil pricing. Their fears were not unfounded given that at other international forums the member countries of the Organisations for Economic Co-operation and Development have done precisely that.

However the fact that energy efficiency measures and not solar energy can play the most immediate and cost effective role in the transition from oil dependency to a sustainable energy policy means that its exclusion from the agenda was a critical omission.

A second important omission from the agenda was any discussion about the need to discuss Conference issues in the context of the prevailing conditions under which capital is made available to the Third World. Capital funds will play the central and critical

role in ultimately determining whether or not soft energy options will be adopted.

For most if not all developing countries there are usually three sources of institutional finance: the International Monetary Fund for credits to correct balance-of-payments deficits, and both the World Bank and the transnational banks for project development loans. The historical record of these organisations clearly reveals that payments and loans to developing countries are only made on terms which favour the developed nations or at least private enterprises that blossom within developed and developing nations. The developing nations have become trapped in a system of continuous debt payments.

With the magnitude of and difficulties posed by these debt servicing arrangements, many Third World countries may find themselves with no other option than to default on their repayments. Such a possibility, now being seriously discussed in international banking journals, would cause severe problems for the large banks; a crash by any one of them could set off a domino effect rippling through the whole banking community tipping Western capitalism into a tailspin and a plunging depression far more devastating and prolonged than that of the 1930s.

In such a sensitive climate it is highly unlikely that loans for investment in 'risky' new and renewable technologies will be extended to developing countries unless they are geared toward fuels in export-oriented industries (e.g. hydropower dams for aluminium smelters) which can guarantee some capital returns. Loans for energy sources that provide enough self-sufficiency to free developing countries from economic dependency on the West will be out.

Together with non-government delegates, several countries including Tanzania, India, Egypt and Mauritius proposed that a Third World Bank be set up using OPEC funds and having representative voting rights that would adopt lending criteria aimed at benefiting the needs of Third World people and not Western capital.

The proposal was squashed by the OPEC countries before it landed on the Conference floor. With production expected to peak in the mid-1990s and oil reserves diminishing, producing countries see their future revenue

coming from the interest earned by funds deposited in US and European banks. Diverting substantial sums to the Third World forfeits this plan. In the words of one delegate from Nigeria, an OPEC member, 'We flatly reject the proposal. Funding is the responsibility of the industrialised world, not OPEC's.'

Hammering out the final draft of the Nairobi Plan of Action caused unresolvable disputes. The USA and Europe, with support, barring minor amendments, from Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, emphasised individual responsibility and international planning

efforts, opposed the establishment of any new United Nations agency to co-ordinate NRSE programmes, and flatly rejected commitments of additional funds, preferring instead a redistribution of existing finances of the UN.

The Third World, on the other hand, emphasised international co-operation, arguing that the developed world had a responsibility to alleviate the radical divisions of wealth which now separated them by fulfilling point 3 (above) of the Nairobi Plan of Action. In addition it pressed for increased capital funds to finance energy programmes

in their countries.

A World Bank estimate has put the total capital requirements for commercial energy in all oil importing, developing countries during 1980-90 at about \$US 450 billion. Other estimates by the UN put it much higher - \$US 4000 billion by 2000, 40% of which will be required for renewable sources if NRSE are to meet 20% of total energy input by then. By the end of the Conference pledged commitments amounted to roughly \$US 500 million. The developing countries also sought a new world institution with increased powers and funds 'that met frequently enough to give it real authority'. (The existing Committee on Natural Resources, the UN body recommended by the West, does not report directly to the General Assembly, provides for representation by only 58 states, has very few resources, and meets only twice a year.)

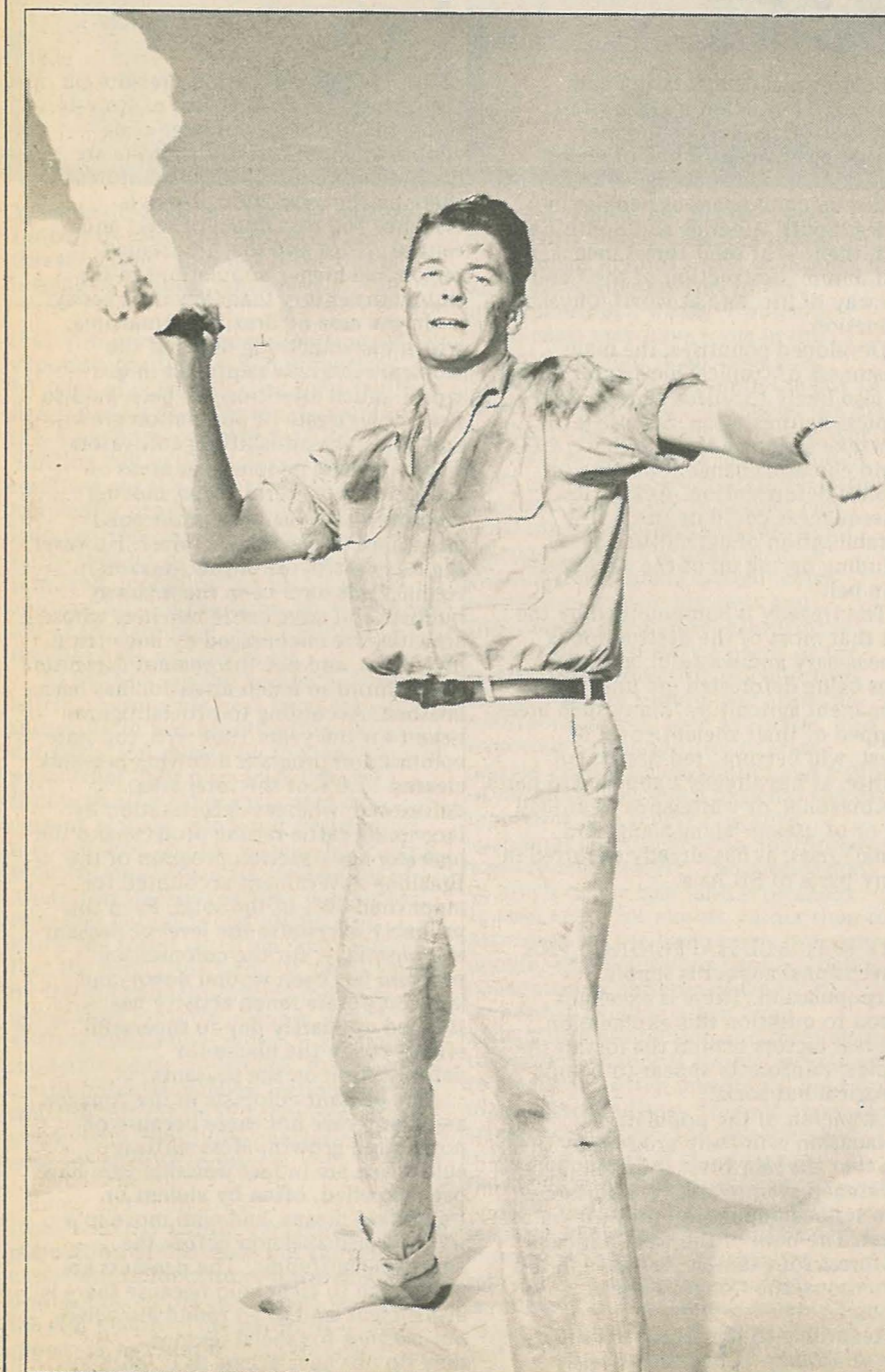
Clearly the underlying conflicts were not about the viability of the technologies but issues of control, political authority and effectiveness of the nominated agency. The result was a stalemate. The West didn't get its Committee on Natural Resources but then the Third World didn't get its new institutions. Instead an Interim Intergovernmental Body has been 'entrusted with guiding and monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action'. It will meet only once in 1982 and report to the General Assembly next year through the Economic and Social Council, a less representative body, 'which may transmit to the Assembly such comments as it *thinks necessary*' (emphasis added).

In addition the Secretary General of the United Nations is to have made recommendations to the General Assembly in October this year on the appointment of a Secretariat 'using the resources available in the UN' to provide the necessary administrative services required by the Interim body.

Most importantly the US was successful in blocking the Third World compromise proposal (after OPEC silenced the Third World Bank idea) for a World Bank Energy Affiliate.

Despite these shortcomings, non-governmental efforts were successful in getting environmental considerations written into the final plan. More importantly new and renewable sources of energy, once viewed as the province of cranks and eccentrics, have now been elevated to a central role in the political dialogue between North and South.

*A detailed analysis of the Conference is available as a paper for non-government organizations working or wishing to work in the area of new and renewable sources of energy from Alastair Machin at \$2.00 each (postage included). Write to Alastair at the Fund for Animals, PO 371, Manly, 2095.*



US President. Ronald Reagan, repelling access to renewable energy sources



# Clearfelling Culture

The dangers of continued depletion of the world's rainforests are now rarely disputed. Peasant farmers in tropical areas are coming under fire as significant contributors to the threat to the forests. But a closer look at the situation in Latin America, South East Asia and Africa soon reveals other, far more destructive forces at work. **Val Plumwood**, co-author of *The Fight for the Forests*, looks at the worldwide assault on the rainforests and finds some not altogether unexpected culprits.

On page 18 **John McCabe**, the Australian Conservation Foundation's rainforests project officer at Cairns, reports on the invasion of the Mount Windsor Tableland by five large logging companies. Present estimates see the Tableland's virgin forest totally logged out within five years.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE forests is increasingly seen as perhaps the most serious environmental problem facing the world. Particularly serious is the progressive loss of tropical rainforest, the richest and most diverse of the Earth's ecosystems. Its destruction could lead to the extinction of up to one-eighth of the world's biota, resulting in drastic world biological impoverishment.

For many Third World communities, this is particularly serious. Gone with this genetic and natural diversity will be much of the potential for development and improvement of many of the world's crops, especially tropical and tree crops important for feeding the underdeveloped world. Rainforests in tropical areas are critical, too, in

preventing soil deterioration and flooding. They often make a vital contribution to local economies, providing the main source of energy and materials for building.

For many indigenous peoples in Africa, South America and South East Asia, the loss of their forest means, at a minimum, destruction of their culture and way of life, and at worst, physical extinction.

Developed countries, the main consumers of tropical hardwood timber, are also likely to suffer from massive tropical deforestation. Scientists now take seriously the possibility of world climatic change following on tropical deforestation. Among its consequences could be the destabilisation of agricultural areas, including drying up of the American grain belt.

The tragedy is compounded by the fact that most of the destruction is unnecessary and wasteful, as most areas being deforested are unsuited to permanent agriculture. Many such areas, stripped of their ancient cover of forest, will become 'red deserts' of laterite, as has already happened in parts of Amazonia, or wastelands of eroded soil or of useless 'alang-alang' and 'kunai' grass, as has already occurred in many parts of SE Asia.

WHY IS IT ALL HAPPENING? THE conventional answer is simple — overpopulation. There is excellent reason to question this explanation. The real factors behind the loss of the tropical rainforests appear to be not biological but social.

Suspicion of the population explanation is initially aroused by the fact that the rainforest is increasingly threatened even in areas where there is no serious population pressure on the forest. The bulk of the west African rainforest for example, is found in the Cameroons, the Congo, Zaire and Gabon.

According to the World Bank these 'are all timber-rich countries with comparatively low population densities' In Papua New Guinea, despite absence

of any serious population pressure on the forests, the PNG Office of Forests states that a number of large-scale export-oriented forestry projects are likely to eliminate lowland rainforest there by the year 2000. There is evidence too that much of west and central Africa and the Amazonian region had higher populations in the sixteenth century than they have today.

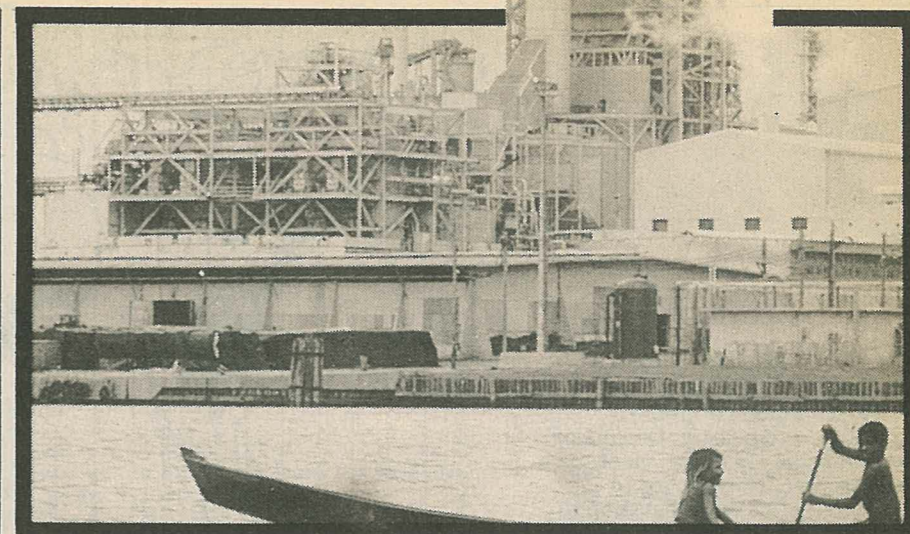
In the case of Brazilian Amazonia, which has something like half the tropical evergreen rainforest in the world, much attention has been paid to Brazil's high rate of population growth and to its peasant shifting cultivators. These landless people clear areas of forest for short-term crops, moving on after a few years when the soil is exhausted to clear more forest. However the real destroyers of the Amazon in recent years have been the highway builders and large cattle ranchers whose activities are encouraged by large fiscal incentives, and not the peasant colonists upon whom so much attention has been lavished. According to official figures issued for the years 1966-75, the state colonisation program involving peasants cleared 17.6% of the total area deforested, whereas deforestation by large-scale cattle-raising projects and the highway construction program of the Brazilian government accounted for more than 60% of the total. Even this probably overstates the level of peasant responsibility, for the colonisation program has been wound down, and large corporate ranch activity has stepped up, partly due to successful efforts to lay the blame for deforestation on the peasants.

The peasant colonists in the Amazon are in any case not there because of population pressure. Most shifting cultivators are in fact peasants who have been expelled, often by violent or fraudulent means, and who move in a wave of dispossession before the advancing latifundia. The peasants are not forced to clear land because there is insufficient land to go round elsewhere, but because for social reasons they do not have access to it. With a ratio of 2.3 acres of already cropped land per person — a better ratio than



R.W. MADDEN

Yanomamo children. The Yanomamo Indians of southern Venezuela are threatened by, amongst other things, logging of tropical rainforests.



FORTUNE

Pulpmill, Jari River, Brazil

schemes, and so on. But all these apparently separate factors spring from a particular kind of social situation and development model in the underdeveloped world — which in some cases may have roots in the colonial past but in all cases has intensified in application in the last two decades, those which have seen the main onslaught on the tropical forests. The problem of the forests in temperate areas generally arises from the fact that they and the wealth of species and environmental values they protect provide a *collective* good in an economic and social system which emphasises *private* interests and provides no adequate means for the expression of collective needs or for control and protection of collective assets. Rapidly turning any available natural resources, such as forests, into exportable commodities to create private capital accumulation and a type of development which enriches an elite, maintains it in power (via arms spending) and provides an appropriate westernised lifestyle. The production of much of the best land is oriented to cash crops for export, rather than to providing for the basic needs of local people, especially poor people. Highly concentrated patterns of land ownership exclude many from agricultural production and force them to become 'marginal people' who have to clear new, often unsuitable, land for marginal agriculture. There is pressure to clear the forests for 'resettlement', often as a means of avoiding the redistribution of existing land.

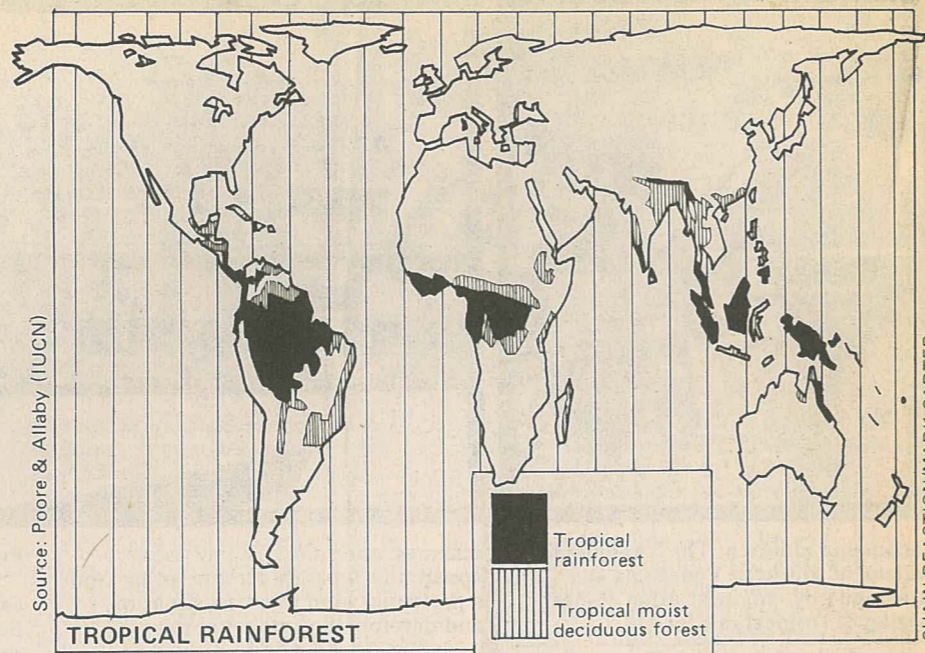
Most technology and capital for resource exploitation is imported. Governments, usually strongly repressive in character, respond favourably to foreign investment, a mode of development subservient to and closely connected with domestic capital and international corporations, who have almost unhindered access to

exploit profitable natural resources. Internal inequality and resistance and the repressive and militaristic character of the national governments concerned creates an obsession with 'national security' considerations (which favour removing large natural areas which could serve as a base for organised resistance) and also increases emphasis on the exploitation and subjugation of nature.

THESE FACTORS ARE AT WORK in most parts of the world where the tropical forests lie, but vary in importance in different areas. Many of them are perhaps most vividly illustrated in the case of Indonesia, where the destruction of the forests by foreign concessionaires (replacing earlier small-scale logging) began in earnest after the 1965 coup brought to power a government which has closely followed this development model. Concession areas for timber extraction cover nearly all the accessible primary forest of Sumatra, West Irian and of Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), which latter, despite extremely poor soils, carried the best and tallest forest in SE Asia. The cutting cycle is envisaged as 35 years, which itself is far less than is needed for sustained yield, but concession agreements are set for 20 years and observers believe they will have been largely exhausted well before that. There are very few nature reserves, despite the genetic importance of the areas subject to logging, and those there are tend to be in the less valuable mountain areas; their best forested parts are subject to logging on the order of 'the highest authorities'.

The timber industry relies almost entirely upon foreign capital, and concessions have been awarded amidst

IF SHIFTING CULTIVATION AND population pressure are not the real explanations for most of the accelerating destruction of the rainforests, what is the real reason? The factors at work appear to be complex and diverse — shifting cultivation, logging and land clearance by agribusiness, resettlement



widespread reports of political favouritism and bribery. One major operator is the US timber giant Weyerhaeuser. They moved to Kalimantan after the exhaustion of the Philippines forest resource and their Sabah concession, and their 1.5 million acre concession in Kalimantan is estimated to be almost their most profitable, returning 33% on capital invested. To fulfil local partnership requirements Weyerhaeuser took as partner an Indonesian company, which is in turn owned by a foundation created by the Indonesian army. (The 'partnership' privilege was reportedly granted by Suharto to 73 army generals to maintain their continued loyalty.) Since the partners brought no capital or expertise to the venture — indeed they appear even to have been provided with money by the company to buy in — but syphon off 35% of the profits, the 'partnership' is in effect a form of payoff to the military elite. Other concessionaires also have such local 'partners'. For example, Georgia Pacific (also active in Amazonian deforestation) has as its local partner a Chinese businessman who is reported to be a close friend of Suharto's. Other large concessionaires utilise the capital of wealthy local Chinese and include Jayanti Jayi, a big timber company reportedly closely connected with forestry and other high ranking officials, which has a 2 million hectare concession in central Kalimantan.

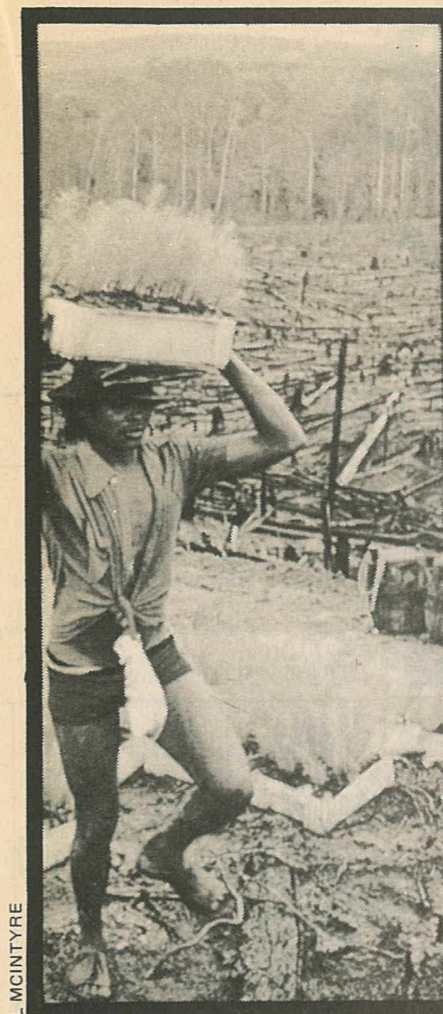
The devastation of the forests has obviously been very advantageous to many foreign companies and to many in the military and governing elite of Indonesia, both through 'joint ventures' and through the sale of licences and concessions, a fact which makes any serious attempt to control it or scale it down to sustainable levels unlikely, despite mounting criticism. But how has it helped the local people? In Kalimantan nearly half the local population of 6 million people are classed as Dyaks, who practise hunting and gathering as well as some shifting agriculture for gardens. In 1977 and again in 1979, exceptional flooding followed the denuding by big logging

firms of the catchments of the Barito and Kahayan Rivers, flooding rice fields and resulting in disaster for tens of thousands of local inhabitants on each occasion. As well as destroying forests whose 'minor' products involve such an important contribution to traditional economies, logging firms have abrogated traditional rights to collect rattan, honey, bamboo and ironwood for house tiles, to use customary land for gardens and rice paddies, and have even tried to evict local tribespeople whose traditional agricultural areas were within their concessions. Fishermen have complained of siltation and pollution from sawmills and bark dumps polluting rivers and killing their stock.

Although logging has disrupted traditional economies and destroyed traditional labour-intensive industries, it appears to have provided little alternative employment for local populations in Kalimantan. Many workers are imported and their presence has created conflict with local populations. Working conditions also are reported to be poor, with reports of wages collected only after a successful shipment, and evidence also of non-voluntary labour using political prisoners (tapols) in remote areas.

**LOGGING IN SUCH RAINFOREST** areas appears to be an excellent example of a type of resource exploitation which enriches a few at the expense of further impoverishing the bulk of the local inhabitants and provides no permanent useful social development. What are the prospects for recovery of the rain-forests from this onslaught? Many

scientists believe that they are poor. Many primary rainforest species have poor dispersal mechanisms, short lifetimes for seed, and a very long period to reach seeding, and there is a vast number of poorly understood interdependence relationships between plants, insects and pollinators. They are not equipped to regenerate adequately after widespread disturbance such as logging, especially when this amounts to clearfelling. Spokesmen for forest industries and closely allied agencies such as FAO attempt to play down the role of logging, arguing that logging is selective and that only a small proportion of the forest is taken. However not only is selection logging often not practised, but the argument rests on a fallacy, since several studies have shown that extraction of even 10% of the trees results in loss of a further 55% of the canopy, leaving only 35% remaining. Much of the remainder then dies due to exposure, and the resulting forest, if forest returns at all, is quite different and much impoverished in character. Most of the wildlife and the wealth of species depart with the primary forest, which requires many hundreds of years without disturbance to reappear. Soothing talk of 'forest regeneration' is a euphemism, which at best covers plantation of a small part of the cut-over area with high-yielding species, large areas of land denuded of the many-layered forest cover so essential to maintain soils in areas of intense climatic activity, and huge monocultural problems concentrating on a few exotic species which can probably be maintained for only a few decades before rotational decline



Three million acres of tropical rainforest bought by Daniel K Ludwig along the Jari River, in Brazil have been destroyed and replaced with fast-growing pine and Gmelina trees to feed a 750 tonne-a-day wood pulpmill.

in poor soil areas and other problems cause their eventual abandonment. All this in place of the rich, diverse and balanced forests which existed before logging 'cleaned' them.

Neither theory nor practice suggest good ground for faith in the ability of the cut-over rainforests to regenerate and if long-term investment is the criterion, few of the logging companies have that faith, whatever their public pronouncements about 'sustainability' and 'regeneration' may suggest. One sinister recent development apparently designed to cope with forest depletion and poor regeneration within commercial time-spans — one which threatens even their ability to regenerate in the longer term — is the increasing development of the woodchip industry ('integrated logging') in SE Asia. Indonesia for example plans some five major pulp mill projects in the next

five years, both for the internal market and for export. Rotations will apparently be very short, and materials will be drawn mainly from the tropical hardwood forests of Kalimantan, Sumatra and West Irian although there will be some use of material from short-term monocultural plantations of pine to provide the desired mix. There are plans for a number of similar plants in Sabah, Malaya and Papua New Guinea and some have already started production. Foreign participation (including Australian) is being sought. Such ventures will enable the loggers, for a few decades anyway, to employ to an even greater extent large-scale clearcutting of the rainforests and also to use the secondary growth and non-commercial species ('the run-of-the-bush' mixture) left after the first extraction of sawlogs. But in the poor soils and extreme climatic conditions of these areas such projects seem likely to result in the loss within a few decades of most forest cover, and to spell eventual disaster for both the natural and human communities dependant on the forest. The devastation of their forests has already been the subject of protest and, in some cases direct confrontation, on the part of local people and independence movements in Kalimantan, Sumatra, West Irian and Papua New Guinea and other parts of Melanesia. Investors in pulp projects will doubtless demand that their investment security be protected by appropriate government measures to exclude local populations from their concession areas and to repress further opposition.

**MEANWHILE, AMONG WESTERN** analysts and especially in the USA, attention continues to focus on the role of population growth and the shifting cultivator. The more major and controllable contribution to deforestation resulting from the social structure or made by large-scale corporate activity tends to be either ignored or glossed over, and there is little realisation of the responsibility of the USA and its allies and associated

agencies for supporting deforesting regimes, spreading the destructive development model, and for direct contributions to deforestation. In the Global 2000 report to the US President, for example, the ecological and social consequences of the loss of the forests are in the main well assessed and there are many excellent statements of the disastrous effects tropical deforestation is likely to produce globally and in the underdeveloped world. However it is remarkable that in a report which is designed to help determine policy and actions and serve as a basis for planning there is no serious attempt to assess the causal factors at work in deforestation or the role of the USA and its allies and associated agencies in them. Without evidence or indeed any real examination of the issue, the main problem is simply attributed to agricultural clearance resulting from population growth. Other factors, such as logging and corporate development, are occasionally mentioned, but no systematic attempt is made to assess their relative importance in different areas although this is vitally important for any determination of what can and should be done, especially by the USA. The advantages of the population explanation are many. The problem can be seen as serious enough, but the population of the Third World countries involved can be seen as inflicting these damaging consequences on themselves ('the poor are literally destroying their own future'). Social alternatives can be ignored and there is no need to ask uncomfortable questions like: Why are the governments of so many Third World nations allowing the devastation of their forested areas and selling off or destroying resources which local people often need desperately (far more than those in the affluent sections to whom they are sold) questions which would require facing the issue of the nature of these governments and of their relations with their populations and with the industrialised world. There is no need either to face the awkward

*Continued on page 38*

R A I N F O R E S T

# Clearfelling the Cape

The Peninsula Development Road, running north from the Atherton Tableland to Cape York Peninsula, passes through dry, dusty woodland. Only stunted, crooked trees grow in the rain shadow of the Great Dividing Range.

It comes as a surprise for travellers on the road to be confronted by large timber trucks roaring south loaded with giant rainforest logs. Probably fewer than several hundred people have ever been to the source of the logs, the 1200 metre high rainforest-clad Mount Windsor Tableland which lies at the western extremity of the Daintree rainforests between Cairns and Cooktown.

Even fewer people know that the Mount Windsor Tableland is now the major source of timber for the largest logging companies in North Queensland. The area has been sacrificed to commercial interests because all accessible rainforest areas are substantially depleted as a result of decades of over-cutting.

Five years ago the 20 km by 25 km Tableland was part of the major wilderness area covering the upper Daintree River. Since that time the Queensland Forestry Department has carved a road up onto the Tableland at a cost to the Queensland taxpayer of over \$1½ million. Five timber companies now log the virgin rainforest, producing over one-third of all the timber used annually by North Queensland sawmills.

The fact that so much timber is coming from this one, relatively small, area of rainforest, gives some indication of the Forestry Department's gross mismanagement of rainforest and highlights the fact that unlogged, high quality, primary rainforest has almost disappeared in North Queensland.

The Forestry Department admits that the Mount Windsor Tableland was opened up for logging to give other rainforests time to recover from logging. It admits that in five years the virgin rainforest will be logged out and timber companies will then have to depend on secondary growth forests for logs. These forests will not have the giant centuries-old kauris, maples and black walnuts which the virgin rainforests

have yielded. There are serious doubts that the timber industry will survive when it is forced to recut forests.

A Forestry Department report tabled in the Queensland parliament on 8th October 1981 highlights the inappropriate management procedures used by Forestry and suggests that the department has once again succumbed to heavy political pressure from the timber lobby. Despite a number of internal reports which are severely critical of the timber quota levels set in North Queensland, the department will maintain the level at the present 145,000 cubic metres for another 12 months and then drop it by only 10% to a level which will be maintained until 1986. By that time all virgin rainforest will be logged.

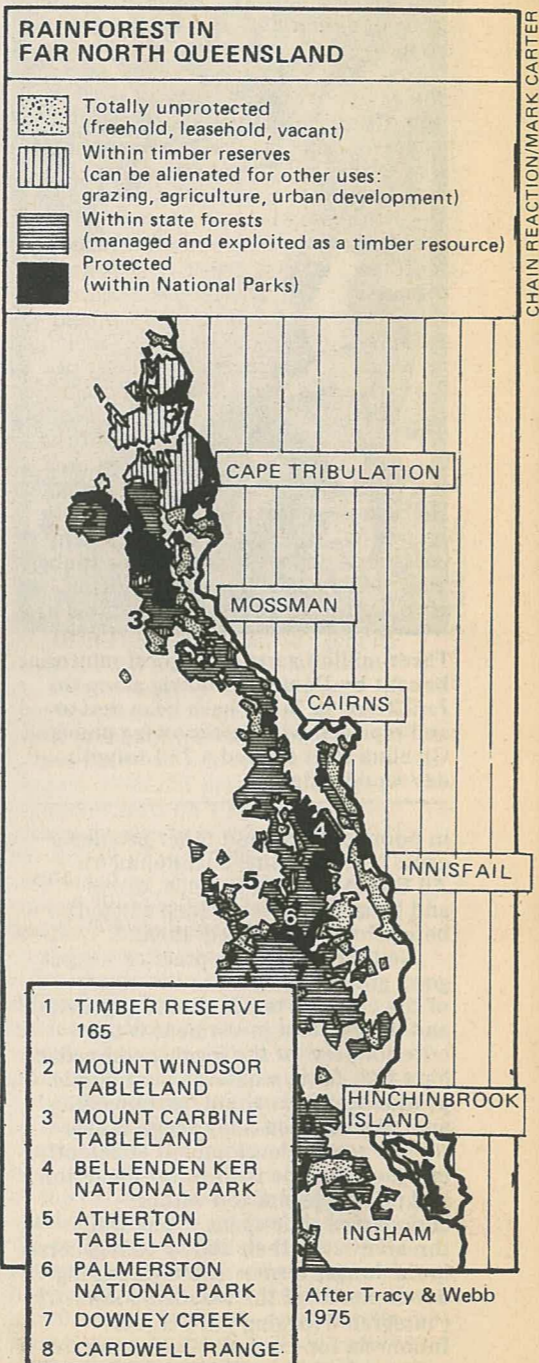
The Forestry Department claims that computer studies have shown that the northern rainforests can be logged on a sustained yield basis of 80,000 cubic metres per annum and say that timber quotas will be dropped to that level after 1986. The report justifies the cutting of rainforests at greater than the sustainable level with the strange argument that, otherwise, '... it would take a very long period to work through the virgin forest and convert the area to a "normal" forest.'

The secondary growth forests as 'normal' indicates how far the Queensland Forestry Department is from an ecological understanding of the humid tropical rainforest.

The inability to manage rainforests even for wood production is highlighted by the fact that in 1975, official departmental papers suggested that a sustained yield of 200,000 cubic metres per annum was possible, and six years later this has been dropped to 80 000 cubic metres.

Regardless of the level of exploitation finally decided upon, any continuation of rainforest logging will result in considerable degradation of the forest structure, wildlife, soils, and aesthetic values.

Besides the Mount Windsor Tableland, a number of other areas containing high quality rainforest have avoided commercial exploitation to



date but are under immediate threat from logging.

The most important of these is Downey Creek in the Innisfail hinterland. This area is noteworthy because it contains one of the last areas of rainforest growing on basalt soils. Most basalt areas were cleared for agriculture because of the inherent fertility of these soils and undisturbed rainforests growing on these soils have become a rarity. Rainforests reach their most complex structural development on these soils and the Downey Creek basin contains an impressive forest of giant trees and vines growing above a relatively clear forest floor.

The inaccessible ranges north of the Daintree River contain the largest area of undisturbed rainforest in Australia. The area is currently not economically feasible for logging and only a sketchy assessment has been made of the timber resource. Much of the area has little value for timber production but this has not stopped the Forestry Department recommending logging of all commercial forest areas if access is provided.

One sawmiller has gained access to the area with the use of a barge and is cutting timber from the forests without the usual Forestry Department treemarking and supervision.

The Australian Conservation Foundation has proposed a major national park of some 200,000 hectares over the area which would include a large part of the existing rainforest.

*The Australian Conservation Council's Rescue the Rainforests campaign can be contacted at:*

Queensland Wildlife House, 8 Clifton Street, Petrie Terrace, 4000 Telephone (07) 36 4586.

New South Wales Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, 2000 Telephone (02) 27 1497.

Victoria Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, 3122 Telephone (03) 819 2888.

# For whom do booms toll?

By Hugh Saddler

On the weekend of 17-18 October nearly a hundred people from most parts of Australia got together in Canberra to discuss socialist responses to the 'resources boom'. In advance publicity for the conference, the organisers had expressed a desire to move beyond analysis and concentrate on strategy. While that did happen, the conference certainly did not produce any coherent, documented plan.

This was hardly surprising. No written draft was put to the gathering and the intention to circulate in advance a number of short topic papers was largely frustrated by the late withdrawal of several of the key speakers. Nearly half of the conference was spent in small group discussion. This certainly was effective in clarifying views and identifying points of agreement and disagreement, and seemed to be appreciated by most who attended. However, the process of reaching coherent conclusions by this means is a long one, needing considerably more than two half-days. Nevertheless, there seemed to be a widespread feeling among participants that new ideas and perspectives had been gained and that contacts made over the weekend could well provide the basis of future co-operation in various areas.

Perhaps the most fundamental disagreement between people at the conference was whether the 'boom' was wanted at all, that is whether political struggle should be directed towards trying to stop all large resource-based projects, or towards stopping only certain ones, while modifying others so as to harness the expected benefits for the whole Australian community. (It is worth noting that the question of whether a 'resources boom' is actually occurring - which seems to be pre-occupying business leaders, financial commentators and conservative politicians - was not a source of disagreement at the conference. The consensus was that although the amount of new

*Hugh Saddler works at the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University.*

investment was uncertain and may not truly constitute a boom, there was no doubt that most investment occurring in Australia was going into natural resource-based activities which would bring about fundamental changes in the structure of the economy.)

Perhaps underlying the difference of opinion over whether a boom of any sort was wanted, were different definitions of 'socialism', in particular a divergence between those who emphasise the role of the state, particularly at the national level, and those whose main focus is self-management and local community initiative.

Another clearcut disagreement concerned the type of policy response which a federal Labor government should pursue. One point of view suggested that the flow of private investment into resource-based activities should be allowed to proceed and that policy should concentrate on the use of taxation measures and other instruments of economic management to redistribute the benefits. The alternative stressed the importance of direct intervention in new industrial development, for example by bargaining over matters like control of technology and levels of employment, and by taking public equity in certain projects and industries. Readers may be aware that a debate along these lines has been in progress within the federal parliamentary Labor Party for some months. Closely related to this particular argument is disagreement over whether or not the manufacturing sector as a whole will inevitably be disadvantaged by the 'boom'.

Some people at the conference saw wage gains as the principal means by which the benefits could be redistributed and regarded workplace struggle as the most important or even the only focus of political activity. However, the more widespread view was expressed by Stewart West (federal opposition spokesperson on the environment) in opening the conference. He commented that a period of bitterness and polarisation was likely to result from high wage claims agreed to by companies during the construction phase of major resource projects, and argued for a comprehensive prices and incomes

policy. He acknowledged that the most important components of a comprehensive policy — controls on non-wage incomes and taxation reform — would be very difficult to achieve.

One consistent theme in discussions was the need for new forms of public ownership and, more generally, new approaches to the problem of control-

ling large enterprises. There seemed to be widespread support for the view that this control would have to be exercised by government, but that a mass movement based on political action in the workplace was essential to bolster the resolve of any ALP government in tackling this problem. This in turn raises the question of whether or how closely activists should work with the ALP.

One session of the conference was devoted to discussing the role and modes of action of local action groups. The question was posed: Can such groups effect real change by themselves or do their efforts merely achieve a small redistribution of costs and benefits? One unfortunate aspect of the conference was the almost complete absence of manual workers and active trade unionists. Many participants were aware of the dangers of divisions between 'middle class' intellectual workers and environmental activists on the one hand and manual workers on the other. The exploitation by saw-milling companies of just such a split over forests along the New South Wales north coast was raised, as was the apparent mass support (at least for the present) which Hunter Valley residents are giving to the coal and aluminium smelting developments. Some people also saw a potential conflict within local action groups themselves between short-term and long-term goals. While recognising that such groups can be most important in politicising those who take part and in persuading bystanders that ordinary citizens are not necessarily totally powerless, the danger of disillusionment was acknowledged. In some cases there may be a conflict — affecting, for example, the choice of tactics — between winning on the particular issue and winning in the long run by building a more equal, just and environmentally sensitive society.

Another issue that came up in many discussions was the significance of nationalism as a potentially progressive political force. Some people questioned whether in Australia today nationalism is necessarily progressive and expressed concern that it might lend itself to xenophobia or even fascism. A related issue is that of national against international capital. Is it the foreign-ness of transnational corporations that makes them so undesirable (if they are undesirable)? Is BHP preferable to Esso, if so why?

The final session of the conference was a fairly informal plenary. Such sessions can degenerate into acrimony and legalism if attempts are made to pass resolutions and reach formal consensus, so this approach was deliberately avoided. Instead, a number of participants said what conclusions they had reached and put forward proposals.

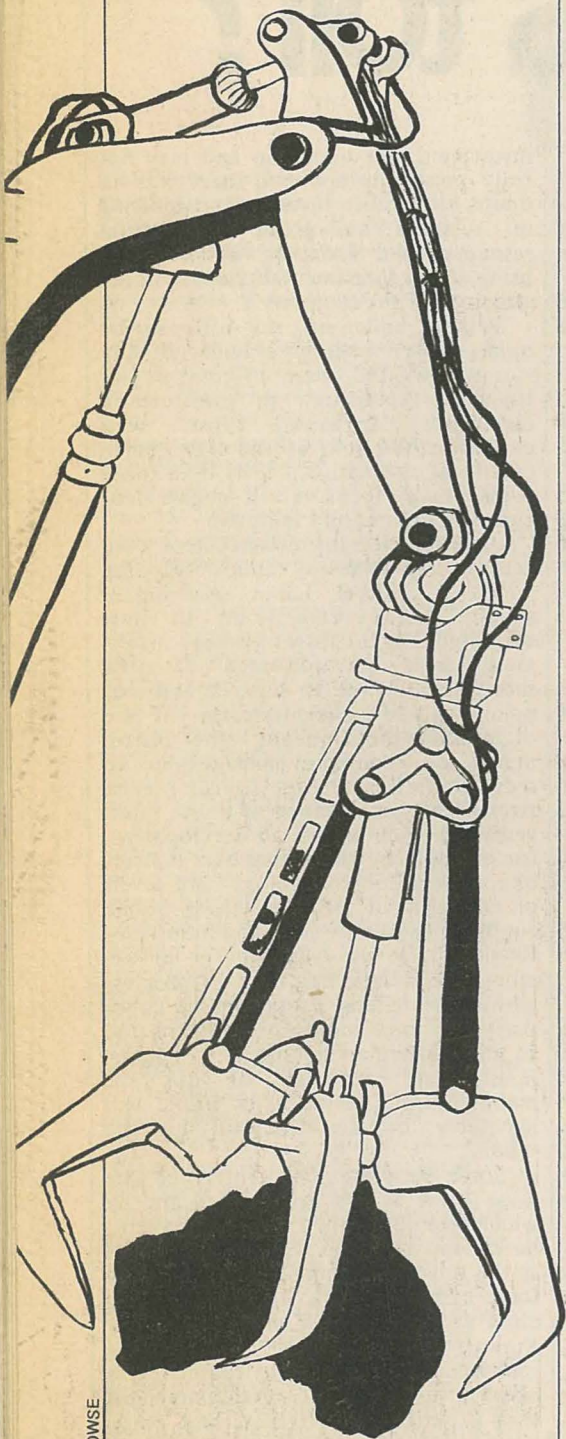
Some of the conclusions flowed directly from the discussion of issues which had previously occurred. For example, some concluded from the

discussion of local action groups (and their personal experiences as activists) that these groups have little power by themselves; the political task of building alliances with the industrial movement is therefore essential for any campaign. Of course this conclusion is not new, but its continuing importance is obvious to most. A conclusion which did seem to open up new political ground in Australia was that much wider and more intense discussion of workers' control and public ownership would be essential to build public support for nationalisation. This obviously assumes that greater nationalisation of economic activity is an desirable and important goal, a view which, as I have noted, not everyone at the conference shared.

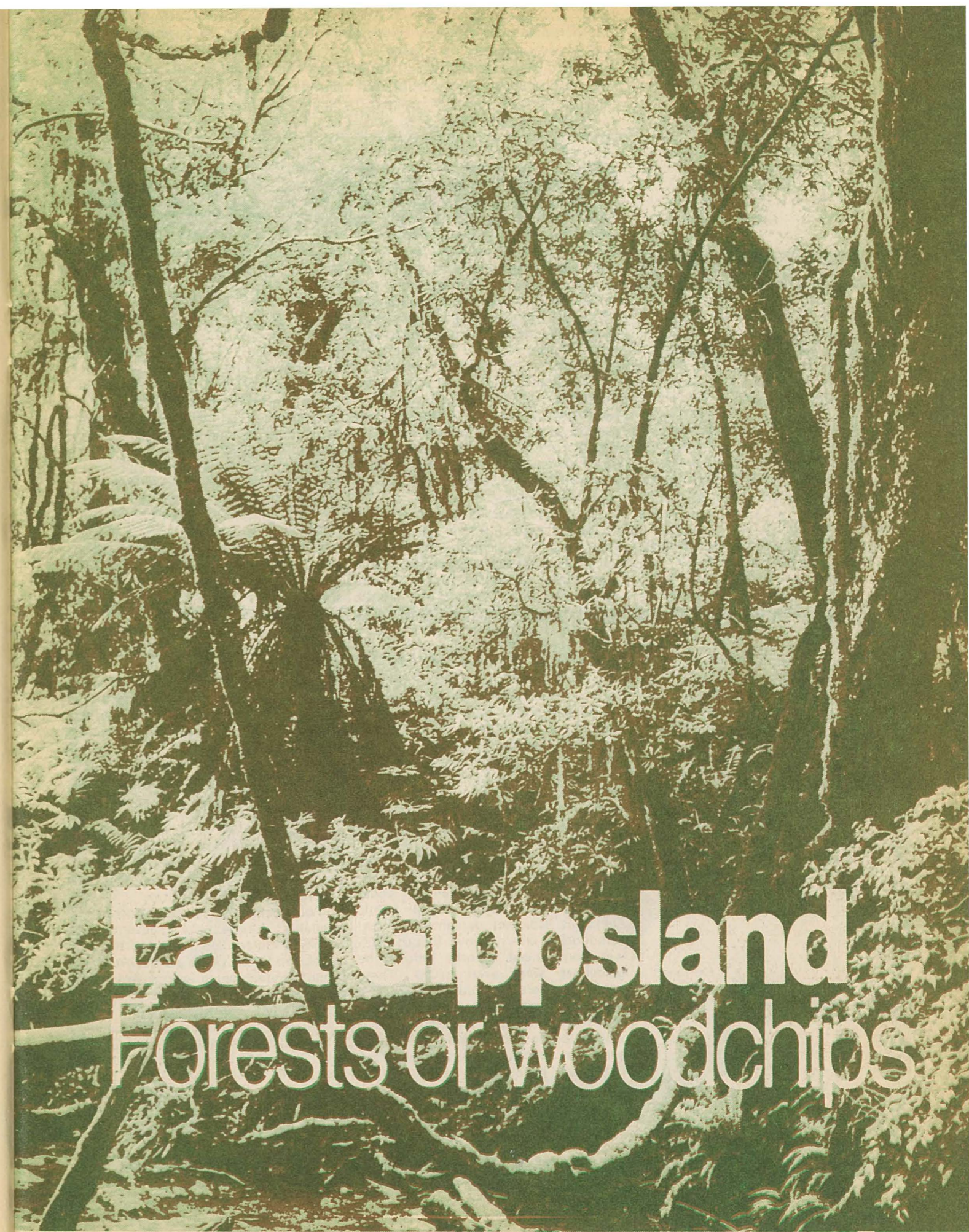
There probably was wider support for a related, but more concrete proposal to initiate a national campaign on public utilities. This seems to be a most valuable suggestion, as it would be able to build on the extensive experience in this area already gained by people in Victoria and harness a rising tide of concern in the general community, most obviously in Tasmania.

Another proposal, for an organised mass education campaign along the lines adopted a few years ago by MAUM, seems to me to have some inherent problems. Few could doubt that any response to the 'resources boom' must be more complex than mere opposition; as someone said during the weekend, what is needed is a vision of an alternative future, and this must be accompanied by detailed alternative proposals (some of which are now being produced). Some at the conference with long memories and given to nostalgia recalled the 1975 Radical Ecology Conference, which in retrospect seems to have been most important in launching a great range of activity. Would a similar exercise, including, most importantly, prior local discussions, circulation of articles etc be equally effective if devoted to, say, citizens confronting the resources boom?

Perhaps the most practical suggestion of all that emerged was the plea, originating in this case from the Northern Territory, for networks of people able to support campaigns with research and analysis. This seems to chime rather oddly with the plaintive query from one of the discussion groups about what the role of the intellectual worker is or should be. Maybe the most politically useful action intellectual workers, particularly academics, could take would be to commit themselves to devoting a small fraction of their working time, say 5%, to responding to requests for assistance from hard-pressed activist organisations. Would the pages of *Chain Reaction* be a good place from which to launch an appeal for volunteers from the ranks of intellectual workers?



HEATHER PROWSE



# East Gippsland Forests or woodchips

East Gippsland is the only forest area of any size in Victoria which is not already covered by a large scale woodchipping scheme. It is a beautiful place where two different rainforest types come together, with an amazing variety of plants, animals, birds and 'jungles'. But it is threatened. Linda Parlane and Chris Day introduce this *Chain Reaction* special report.

# Setting the stage

## Chain Reaction

SUPPLEMENT

### East Gippsland Forests or woodchips

#### Editors

Peter Brann, Chris Day

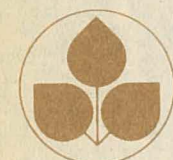
#### Editorial

Peter Browne, Richard Jones, Vince Mahon, Neil Pearce, Liz Wardle.

#### Art

Mark Carter

Thanks to the Native Forests Action Council and the Sunday Ebbott bequest of the Australian Conservation Foundation.



The beauty and national significance of the place appears to have no impact upon the state government who, hell bent on implementing their "new direction" policies of high energy consumption, and environmental destruction have now commenced a pilot woodchipping scheme on these magnificent forests. This pilot scheme, which the government, through their agents, the Forests Commission of Victoria (FCV), euphemistically call a 'trial scheme', is merely the tip of a massive 800,000 tonnes per annum woodchip iceberg.

This *Chain Reaction* supplement will examine the implications of the long-term woodchip scheme. It discusses the ecology of the area, the company most likely to be responsible for the destruction of it, Tasmania's experience with woodchipping, the effects on local economies and employment, some local opinions, the stances of the various political parties and what you can do to help save East Gippsland's forests from being converted to waste.

The political intrigue surrounding the proposed woodchipping scheme for East Gippsland appears to be an indication of the determination of the government and the FCV to satisfy the desires of the woodchipping companies. Any semblance of openness and honesty in government appears to have long since been forgotten.

In October 1980, the FCV issued draft guidelines for the planned Environment Effects Statement on woodchipping in East Gippsland for public comment. However parliamentary correspondence clearly shows that the EES was commenced months before the guidelines were even issued. These guidelines were ridiculously restrictive in their scope as they didn't allow examination of any alternatives to a woodchipping mill, pulp mill, electricity and water supply, etc. As we have come to expect, major conservation submis-

sions on the draft guidelines were duly ignored by the FCV.

Before publication of the already commenced EES, the FCV engaged consultants (W D Scott and Company) to "polish up" the EES. This polishing up process involved engaging the National Museum to do a *two week* survey of literature on the effects of woodchipping on wildlife in a somewhat futile attempt to plug some of the gaps.

Whilst the public still awaited the publication of the EES, the FCV in January 1981 invited proposals for the use of pulpwood from East Gippsland.

The EES was finally released in mid 1981. By this time the area under consideration had more than doubled (without the public being informed) and the FCV had still not examined any alternatives to a woodchipping scheme (contrary to Ministry for Conservation regulations) or any associated developments. In fact one is left wondering what the FCV did in the way of research for the EES. For the most part it is merely a re-hash of tired forestry cliches and well worn information. We are still in the position of knowing very little about the likely effects of woodchipping East Gippsland, as the EES freely admits: 'For many aspects of this study no detailed evidence was available. This points out the need for more basic ecological and taxonomic studies on which to base the assessment of the effects of pulpwood harvesting'.

Two weeks before publication of the miserable EES the government seemingly determined not to be slowed by its own bureaucracy announced that a pilot woodchipping scheme would be established in East Gippsland almost immediately. The scheme is to involve a total of 100,000 tonnes of woodchips offered to the sawmillers of East Gippsland in proportion to their sawlog allocations, over a period of 6-12

months. Whilst the government and FCV insist on calling this a 'trial scheme' it appears that the only thing on trial is public opinion as there are no monitoring procedures associated with it.

Investigations indicate that in January 1981 State Cabinet chose to put aside previous commitments that no woodchipping would begin in East Gippsland until after the assessment of an EES and secretly gave the woodchippers the go-ahead for the pilot woodchipping scheme. This sort of nounced that the pilot scheme had commenced on 10 October, just one day after submissions on the EES had closed.

Harris-Daishowa (the wholly Japanese owned company, which operates the notorious Eden woodchip scheme) with its greedy eyes now firmly set on East Gippsland forests recently put in an application to the Federal Department of Primary Industry (DPI) to export 100,000 tonnes of chips from Victoria. It appears that the DPI, in consultation with the Department of Home Affairs and the Environment have decided to waive the need for Environment Impact Assessment for the pilot scheme, thus allowing Harris-Daishowa to start its encroachment into Victorian forests.

Another deplorable aspect of this

twisted charade is that over the past 2-5 years the Ministry for Conservation has been preparing reports on the botanical, zoological and geomorphic significance of East Gippsland. These reports contain the only comprehensive baseline data available and thus are critical to any assessment of environmental impact. Sources tell us that these were made available to W D Scott in February 1981 *but they chose not to use them*. Further, these reports have still not been published. Pre-publication copies were made available to environmental groups in the week before submissions on the EES closed. Cynics may regard this as a clever move by the government as they could then say that the reports were made available to environmentalists, even though we had no time to read these voluminous documents.

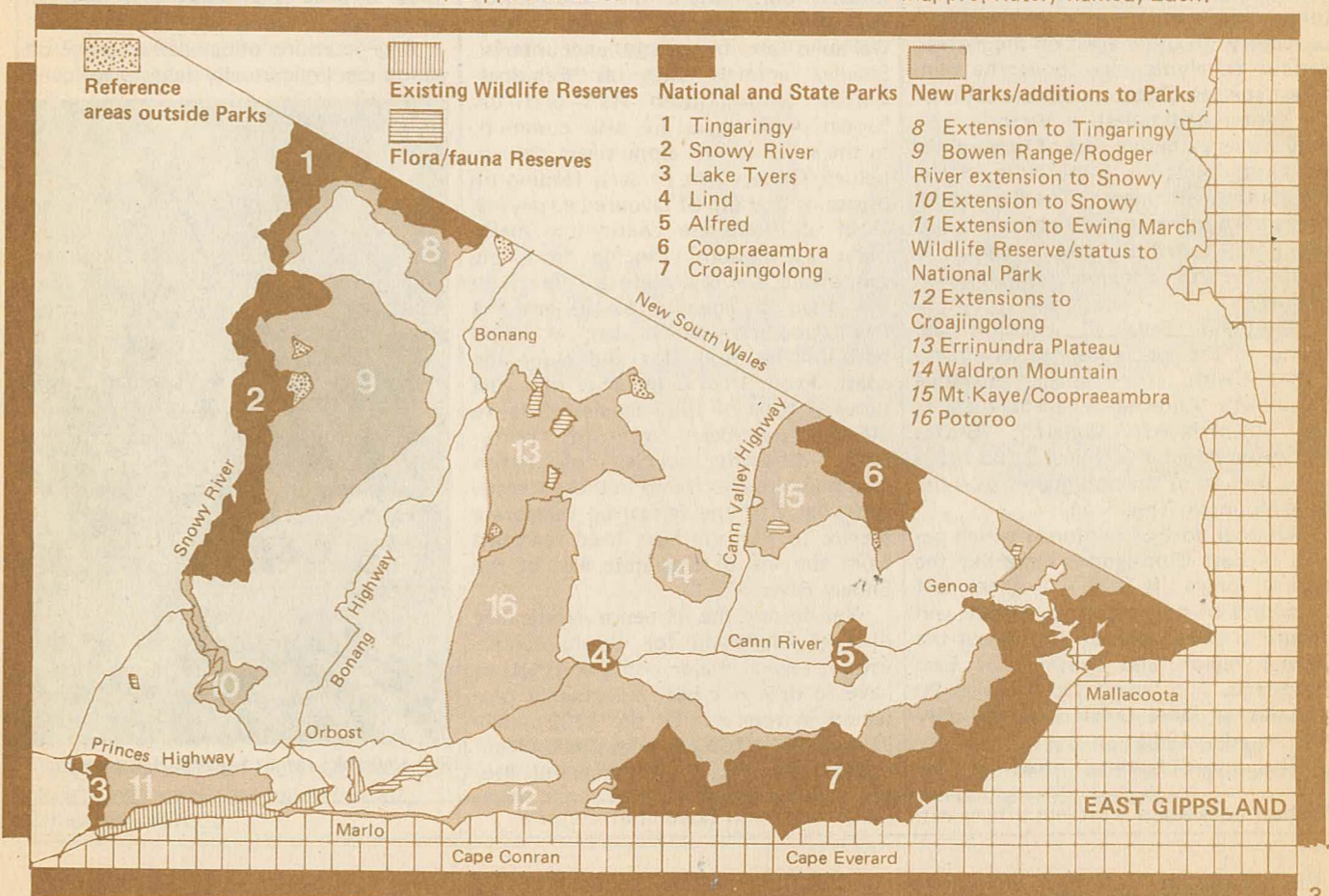
In the light of all this back-room manoeuvring, and in protest at continued disregard of lawful procedures and lack of information in the EES it is hardly surprising that many environmental groups such as the Native Forests Action Council, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Conservation Council of Victoria, the Concerned Residents of East Gippsland and the South Gippsland Conservation Society have publicly boycotted the East Gippsland EES.

It is our view that given the biological diversity of the East Gippsland forests and their fauna and their national significance the Government should be considering and declaring large true National Parks with no logging, grazing or mining in them. These National Parks should have nature conservation as their first priority. As such they must be large enough to ensure the existence, in perpetuity, of the plants and animals contained within them.

Conservation groups have put forward proposals for such parks in the following areas (see map for details of boundaries)

- (i) Errinundra Plateau/Mt Ellery
- (ii) An extension to the Croajingalong National Park
- (iii) Mt Kaye - Coopracambra - Upper Genoa River
- (iv) Mt Tingaringy - Snowy Gorge - Bowen Range
- (v) The range of the Long-footed Potoroo

The environment movement and the public throughout Australia need to throw their weight behind such proposals to ensure the long term survival of East Gippsland. We must show this morally bankrupt government that we will not allow East Gippsland to become another wasteland like the inappropriately named, Eden.



Linda Parlane works with the Native Forests Action Council. Chris Day is organiser of the Victorian Environment Centre.

# Pulped Potoroos

Forests are not only composed of trees. They also contain an incredible variety of other plants — shrubs, herbs and grasses — and of course an equally impressive array of animals, from the lowliest insect to the ubiquitous kangaroo. These elements do not just fit together like a jigsaw puzzle, but are related by a complex series of relationships. Together they all add up to what is known as a forest community.

In East Gippsland, the forest communities are remarkably varied, and in contrast to the rest of Victoria, they have so far remained relatively intact from the mountains to the sea.

Each different community has its own characteristic plant and animal species. For example, the rainforest tree sassafras is one component of wet mountain forests. Errinundra Plateau is the stronghold of these forests, which must surely rate amongst the most beautiful in the world. Sassafras can occur as a pure rainforest, together with other tree species such as the black oliveberry. In other areas on the Plateau various eucalypts rise above the rainforest species. These forests are some of the oldest and tallest in Victoria. The only other extensive area of mature wet eucalypt forest in Victoria is in the Melbourne catchments. The Errinundra Plateau contains species which are not found further west and is therefore of major conservation importance.

Mountain Brushtail Possums are found in the wet eucalypt forest, together with the small mammal Swainson's Antechinus. Birds such as the black-faced Monarch, Brown Gerygone and Large-billed Scrub-wrens are a feature of the wet gullies, as is the Blue Mountain Tree Frog.

Another sort of rainforest which occurs in East Gippsland is more like the typical jungle. It is the southernmost extension of subtropical rainforest, and occurs in small pockets throughout the coastal region and foothills of East Gippsland. The largest stand covers 80 hectares at Jones Creek, and was only discovered in 1973.

The most common tree in the

lowland rainforest is the lilly-pilly. Other features are the various species of vines and flowering epiphytes, including the beautiful fieldia with its pendant cream bell-shaped flowers.

Most of East Gippsland forests however are dominated by eucalypts. East Gippsland is noted for the amount of old eucalypt forest that still remains intact, and this is part of the reason for the importance of the region.

There are many different eucalypt species — 44 of Victoria's 94 occur in East Gippsland. Silvertop is one of the more common ones. It often occurs with other stringybark species such as messmate and yellow stringybark and all these species are potential targets for the woodchippers.

Animal species found in these drier forest environments include the tree-dwelling Common Brushtail Possum and Sugar Glider, while Grey Kangaroos and Red-necked Wallabies graze on the forest floor. Where the understorey vegetation becomes dense, Black Wallabies are frequently encountered. Smaller animals such as Echidnas, Garden Skinks, Bush Rats and the Brown Antechinus are also common. In the taller forests along rivers Yellowbellied Gliders can be seen feeding on blossoms and sap of favoured eucalypts.

In all there are twenty-one major plant associations, ranging from the rainforests, the tall mountain forests to the dryer stringybark forests and the low woodlands which can be found both in the high alps and along the coast. From this wide range of forest types, a total of 1432 species of native plants have been recorded. Forty-eight different species of native mammals are also found in these forests, and over half the terrestrial vertebrate species in Victoria have been recorded from the 4% of the state east of the Snowy River.

Yet despite the immense significance of East Gippsland for nature conservation, several major community types have to date not been adequately protected in reserves. Of the 1432 native plants, 180 (13%) are excluded from existing reserves. This disgraceful situ-

ation has come about because communities such as the wet mountain forests of the Errinundra Plateau also have a high commercial value.

One animal species of particular interest is the Long-footed Potoroo which was first described only last year. The species has a worldwide range that extends from the Bonang Highway to Yalmy Road and southward to Bellbird. The entire range is within an area threatened by woodchipping and current forestry operations. As a group, the small macropods (Pademelons, Potoroos, Rat Kangaroos) have shown themselves to be highly susceptible to range decreases and extinctions. It is deplorable that no reserve exists for the Long-footed Potoroo.

The harvesting technique used in East Gippsland forest is called clear-felling. Clearfelling removes most of the trees, crushing, uprooting and severing understorey vegetation. The once forested area is virtually laid bare of vegetation.

Regeneration of a dense crop of young seedlings usually takes place over



Stringybark: target for woodchippers

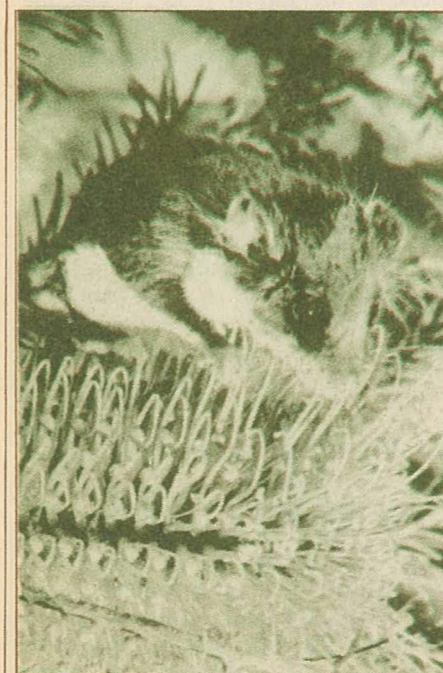
NFAC

most of the clearfelled area. However difficulty is often experienced in gaining adequate regeneration on compacted areas such as log landings and snig tracks. The regrowth does not have the same composition of plant species as the original forest. Most (but not necessarily all) of the plant species originally present have been observed to regenerate, but at very different levels of abundance from those found in the original forest. The first colonisers may be soon crowded out by larger fast-growing species, which allow more shade-tolerant species to follow. The vegetation thus undergoes a series of changes in a process known as succession. It may take a forest several hundred years to pass through all stages of succession, and each state is important because it provides habitat for different species.

Woodchipping will mean that East Gippsland forests will be cut down every 80 years or less, and so mature forests will no longer exist over most of the region. This will have grave consequences for species which depend on such features of mature forest as hollow trees.

The Greater Glider, an arboreal mammal, and the White-throated Tree-creeper are two examples of such species. They are very sensitive to habitat disturbance, and cannot exist in young regrowth forest. They do not survive clearfelling operations.

Large animals are not the only ones



FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

Feather tailed Glider: forty eight species of native mammals are found in East Gippsland's forests

affected. The removal of vegetation has an effect on all the fauna inhabiting the forest. The nutrient-rich leaves, bark and twigs which form the first level of most forest food chains are no longer available in the same location or quantity. This affects some of the less obvious forest inhabitants. The fauna of dry forests is dominated by the numbers and variety of insects present, and each plant species has its own series of insect species feeding on flowers, foliage, bark etc. Alteration of insect populations can affect everything from flower pollination to populations of insectivorous birds.

The long-term survival of forest communities after clearfelling is further jeopardised by changes in the physical environment.

Clearfelling of a forest disturbs the complex interactions that occur between the soil which supports the forest, the nutrients in the soil and vegetation, and the water which is present throughout the system.

There is ample evidence to show that clearfelling promotes erosion. Loss of soil means that significant quantities of nutrients are removed from the forest, and this can have adverse effects on growth rates. Nutrients are also lost through a variety of other mechanisms, including removal of trees or parts of trees which contain nutrients, leaching through the soil into streams, and losses due to the regeneration burn which follows clearfelling.



The harvesting technique used in East Gippsland forest is called clear-felling. Clearfelling removes most of the trees, crushing, uprooting and severing understorey vegetation. The once forested area is virtually laid bare of vegetation

JIM WALKER

The Forests Commission of Victoria calls its current proposed woodchipping area a trial scheme. Is a trial necessary, when we can learn from woodchipping experience in New South Wales and Tasmania? Norm Sanders looks at the Tasmanian situation.

# Been there, done that The Tasmanian experience

There once was a time when a statement on the subject of saving trees would have been met with open-mouthed astonishment. That time was long ago when so-called 'primitive' people lived in the land. Australian Aborigines, American Indians, Canadian Eskimos and all the other human groups which had existed on this planet for a million and a half years or so *knew* the value of trees and everything else in their world.

Only in the last two hundred years have we lost track of our dependence on our environment to the extent that it is necessary to speak out and explain that when the trees die, we will die too.

Contemporary Australians are less appreciative of trees than anyone on earth. The attitude dates to the first settlers, who loathed the alien eucalypts as constant reminders of the harsh differences between Antipodean life and the soft green pleasures of a distant homeland. Until very recently, the inevitable first action of an Australian after buying a block of land was to remove the despised bush.

Trees, of course, have always been a scarce resource in Australia. When Captain Cook sailed into Botany Bay, 15% of Australia was forested. That figure has now been whittled down to 6%. In contrast China, a land not renowned for tree cover, has 9% of its land mass under forests, Iran 11%, India 22% and Japan has over 60%. The Japanese revere their trees and would not dream of committing the atrocities we inflict upon our landscape. However, they politely hold their revulsion in check as they haul away entire Australian forests for bargain-basement royalties.

Victoria's East Gippsland is the next area scheduled for destruction. The Victorian Government, through the Forests Commission of Victoria, has commenced a pilot woodchipping scheme which includes the removal of

100,000 tonnes of 'waste' timber in a year. Harris-Diashowa, a 100% Japanese owned company, has plans to export 400,000 tonnes per annum of woodchip from East Gippsland. This firm already operates a woodchipping plant at Eden which has caused the decimation of NSW's forests and the loss of millions of dollars annually to the NSW Forestry Commission in regeneration costs.

The Forests Commission of Victoria welcomes the project and has bulldozed over any objections by preparing a very optimistic and uncritical environmental effects statement.

In theory, if we lived in the best of all possible worlds, woodchipping would be a good way of utilising waste timber such as mill ends and sawdust. We create 700,000 tonnes of that type of waste yearly in Tasmania from the woodchipping and saw log industries. However, the woodchippers claim that the industry is so marginal economically that they must chip only the best wood, and that means saw logs.

Woodchipping is a cancer, feeding on its host and ultimately destroying forests entirely. As the cancer spreads, it also kills off the sawmillers who have made a living in the forests for two centuries.

Now, so that I can't be accused of making things up, I'm going to quote from our very conservative, if not responsible, Tasmanian newspapers. From the *Launceston Examiner*, Monday 1 June, 1981 'Forest Companies Blasted'. Who is blasting them - is it those terrible environmentalists? No, it is members of the Tasmanian Logging Association who are attacking the woodchippers because they cannot get enough sawlogs and because the price they are paid for hauling woodchips is too low. They are upset, so upset that last year, 70 truckers parked their loaded rigs outside the entrance to the Tasmanian Pulp and Forest Holdings

mill at Triabunna and blockaded the plant. They complained they were not getting enough money to pay off their rigs or even make a living wage.

Another article reads: 'Council Seeks Compensation for Log hauling Damage - Threat to Close Roads in Circular Head'.

Tasmanian car drivers take their lives in their hands every time they venture onto what used to be public roads. Even harder hit are the unsuspecting tourists. Tasmania is advertised as a tourist state, but that affluent animal is rapidly becoming an endangered species. Tourists stand around airport departure lounges muttering about kamikaze truck drivers and cratered roadways. Tasmania's road system is literally crumbling under the assault of the woodchip trucks.

Woodchipping has angered the councils, the tourist industry and the logging contractors. Even the Australian Army is critical of the woodchipper's activities.

During my tenure as a reporter on *This Day Tonight* I did a story with the Army about a large patch of bush they have near Triabunna known as the Buckland Firing Range. Tasmanian Pulp and Forest Holdings moved into Triabunna, and started to devour the Buckland Range. When they were half-way through their proposed chipping operation, the Army tore up the contract and tossed them out.

First of all the woodchippers tried to build a road right through the middle of the firing range. The army complained, 'We don't want a road. This is supposed to be unbroken bush'. But the woodchippers kept building their road despite all protests. The Army also found the woodchippers were taking the best trees and leaving everything else. It became practically impossible for infantry to move through, much less a tank.

I interviewed an Army officer who

went on air saying 'I've been through the Vietnam War; I went through the Korean War, but I've never seen devastation like that caused by woodchipping. If they try to come back, we'll keep them away by force'.

Here's another item: 'Chips Firm Costing State Millions'. This was the Forestry Commission complaining that they were not getting enough in royalties to cover regeneration. The loss amounts to \$185 per hectare. In other words, Tasmanians are paying the Japanese to carry their forests away!

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 1967-68 there were 275 sawlog and plywood mills in Tasmania. Ten years later there were only 153 mills. Why have they closed down? Because the woodchippers are exporting 4 million tonnes of woodchips annually to Japan. They're simply not leaving enough sawlogs for the mills that have operated for generations.

I once took a sawmiller called Ashley Page into a woodchip area. He pointed at 6 foot diameter logs lying in burned piles, and said 'Those were once sawlogs'.

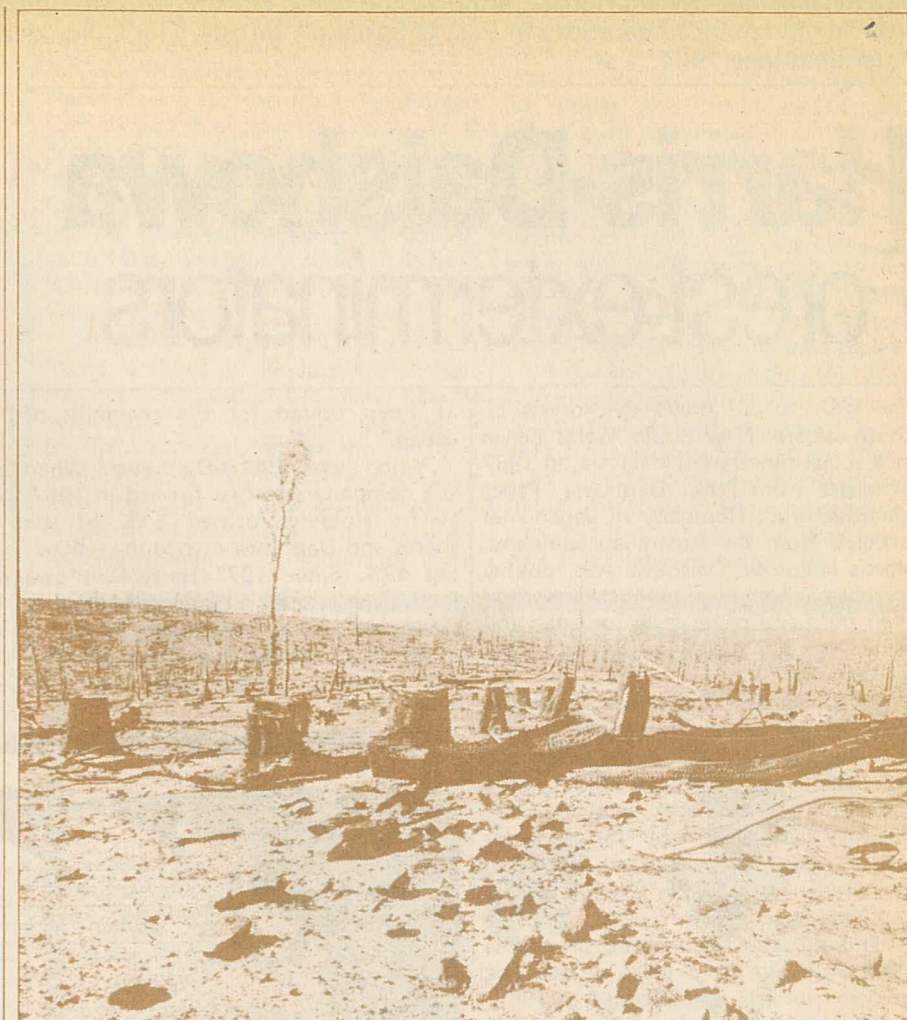
I asked 'Why don't the Forest Commission let you get them out?'

'If I took them it would be proof that the woodchippers aren't just knocking over waste', he replied. 'The Forest Commission won't let me touch them, instead they just burn what's left after the woodchippers have been through.'

Members of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society accompanied a sawmiller to the Geeveston Mill of APM. He went through the stack in front of the chipper and pointed out dozens of sawlogs. Yet, the Forestry Commission vehemently denies that sawlogs are pulped and chipped.

The export woodchip industry is holding a gun at our heads. The Japanese are saying that unless we lower our prices, they will take their business to Oregon, New Guinea, Brazil or Canada. Our woodchip exporters mean 'If we lower our price it means we'll have to have better timber. We can't muck around with all this slash, all these tops and branches - we've got to have top quality timber which we can run straight through without worrying about such time-wasting distractions as knots and burned places.' The Forestry Commission and Government enthusiastically support the woodchippers' view. The Tasmanian Forestry Commission is nothing more than a wholly-owned subsidiary of the woodchip companies.

It is blackmail. Once the chippers are



Tasmania

established, they constantly chant 'We employ 150 people, if you don't let us have what we want those people are going to be out of work.' To a politician the thought of losing one job makes them act faster than Pavlov's dog.

A Canadian economist David Young, brought in by the Tasmanian Government to appraise Tasmania's economic future, had this to say about the forests in his report:

'To a foreign observer, the waste seen as a biological loss is deplorable. The adjective 'obscene' suggests itself.' 'From an economic point of view, the policy of leaving lands derelict and desolate is, to say the least, imprudent and improvident.'

He called for a complete end to export woodchipping. He said that it was ruining the forests and that Tasmania would have no basis for a forest industry in the future if woodchipping continued. To begin to repair the damage, he estimated, would cost

\$100 million over 10 years to regenerate an area of 750,000 hectares - a fraction of Tasmania's shattered forest resources.

In Tasmania, we are proving the wisdom of the Aborigines the hard way. We have discovered that modern people are just as dependent on their environment as any hunter-gatherer society. We have lost our forests and the labour-intensive industries which they created through short-sighted commercial greed and political stupidity.

Our loss is bad enough, but it will be absolutely criminal if the Victorian Government repeats our mistake. Tasmanian leaders can claim ignorance. Victorian politicians will not be able to take refuge under the same rock. The tragic situation of the Tasmanian forests is there for all to see.

Once again, the people are years ahead of their 'leaders'. Citizens groups must stop the politicians from reducing the Otways, the Melbourne Catchment and East Gippsland to the derelict wastelands of Tasmania.

GEOFF PARR

The Japanese-owned Harris-Daishowa company, already woodchipping at Eden in New South Wales, is keen to commence operations in East Gippsland's forests. Tim Gilley describes this company's activities in Australia since 1967.

# Harris-Daishowa Forest exterminators

The plan to cut down the forests of south-eastern New South Wales began at a social function in Malaysia. In 1967 officials from the Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Company of Japan met officials from the Australian company, Harris Holdings. Daishowa was looking for cheap supplies of woodchips to feed their pulp and paper mills in Japan and asked Harris if there were any to be had in Australia.

In November of that same year the NSW Ministry for Conservation gave approval for a woodchipping scheme to go ahead in the south-east region of the state.<sup>1</sup> This approval was for the Forestry Commission of NSW to enter into an agreement with Harris-Daishowa for timber rights in the Eden, Bombala and Bega state forests.

This amazing democratic process is worth looking at in more detail. The following events all happened in 1967:

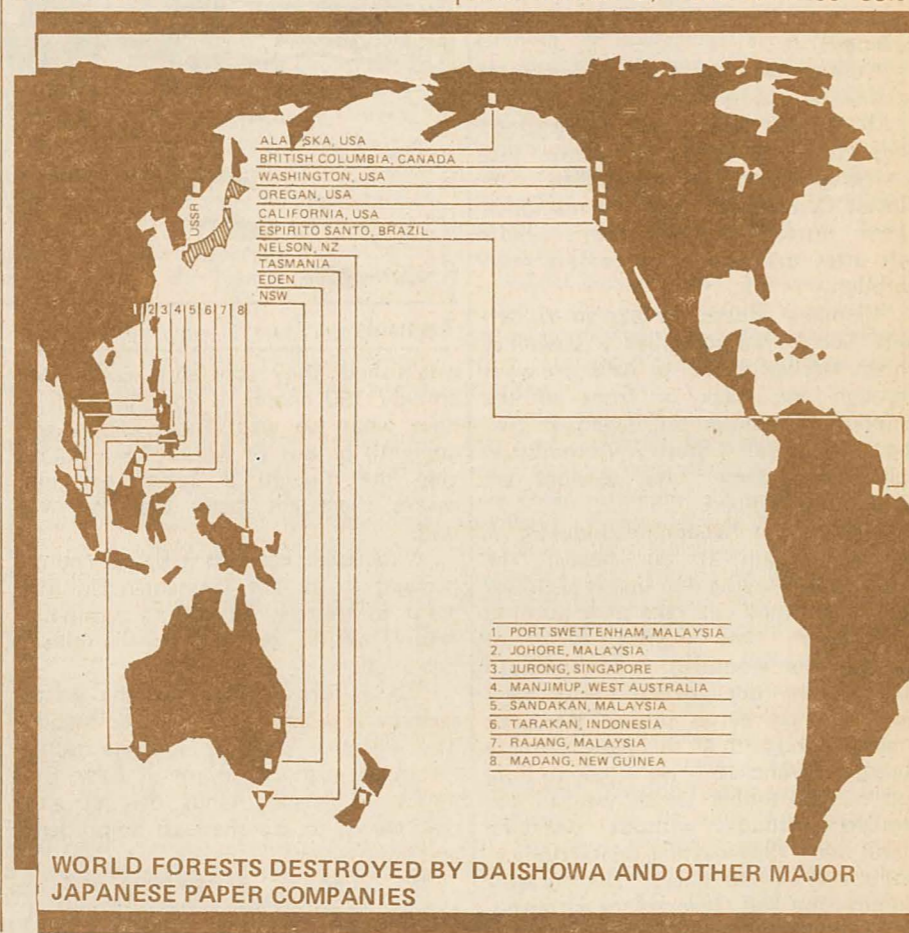
- Social function in Malaysia
- Harris Holdings contact a former employee of the NSW Forestry Commission for advice on woodchip prospects
- Former Forestry Commission worker employed by Harris Holdings to send a submission to Japan
- Daishowa rush out a team of senior executives and experts to have a look for themselves
- After several meetings the NSW government agrees to a woodchipping scheme in the south-east region, and immediately calls for public tenders.
- The Harris-Daishowa company is formed and applies for the woodchipping concession
- Approval from the NSW Ministry for Conservation

By 1969 a woodchip mill had been established at Eden and had begun chipping wood. In January 1971 the first shiploads left the company wharf

at Eden bound for the pulpmills of Japan.

Who owns Harris-Daishowa? When the company was first formed in 1967, Harris Holdings owned 51% of the shares and Daishowa owned the remaining 49%. Since 1971 Harris-Daishowa has been totally Japanese owned. Daishowa has the controlling interest of 62.5% of the shares and C. Itoh and Co, the Japanese trading giant, owns the other 37.5%.

In 1968 the NSW Forestry Commission issued the company with a special licence stretching from December 1969 to December 1989. The agreement was for Harris-Daishowa to use 450 000 tonnes of timber a year from 317 300 hectares of state forest in the licence area. The bulk of their wood has come from the Eden state forests, though substantial amounts have also come from the Bega and Bombala state forests. By 1975 some 60-65%



CHAIN REACTION/MARK CARTER

Harris-Daishowa (Australia) Pty Ltd is an international Japanese company in Australian forests.

This paper is a summary of a longer research paper. Copies of the research paper are available from the Native Forest Action Council, 118 Errol Street, North Melbourne Ph 329 5519. Australian dollar equivalents have been used throughout.

Tim Gilley works with the Native Forests Action Council.

of the company's wood was coming from NSW state forests, with about 20% coming from sawmill wastes in NSW and Victoria, and about 15% from private forests in NSW and Victoria.<sup>2</sup>

The Forestry Commission has also encouraged Harris-Daishowa to take timber from state forests outside the licence area. Known examples are the Dampier state forest,<sup>3</sup> Narooma state forests, and Tallaganda state forests<sup>4</sup> (which the Forestry Commission has destroyed to make into a pine plantation). The company has also gained supplies from public land in Victoria in the early 70s.<sup>5</sup> The wood for a recent 200 thousand tonne increase in export licence is to come from land outside the licence area - mainly from public land in NSW.<sup>6</sup>

State and private forests in south-eastern NSW are harvested by clear-felling. Private contractors have gone into selected areas and cut most of the trees down. In what is known as an integrated operation, the better quality logs go to the sawmills and the rest goes to the chipmill at Eden. As has happened in woodchipping in Tasmania, substantial numbers of potential sawlogs have been chipped for pulp.

To clearfell an area of forest is to largely destroy that fauna and flora habitat. Not surprisingly, no attempt was made to assess environmental damage until several years after the woodchipping scheme began. Studies since then have all pointed to extensive damage,<sup>7</sup> but have had only minor effects on forestry policy.

Severe environment problems have not been confined to Australia. They have also happened in Japan at the pulp and paper mills where Australian chips are processed. As early as 1972, Daishowa and other paper manufacturers were under attack by the Jishu-Koza Citizen's Movement in Japan for causing massive pollution. They reported that 'the pulp and paper industry is destroying the natural environment and with it the lives of human beings'<sup>8</sup>. They singled out Fuji City on Suruga Bay where Daishowa owns four out of the ten mills listed.

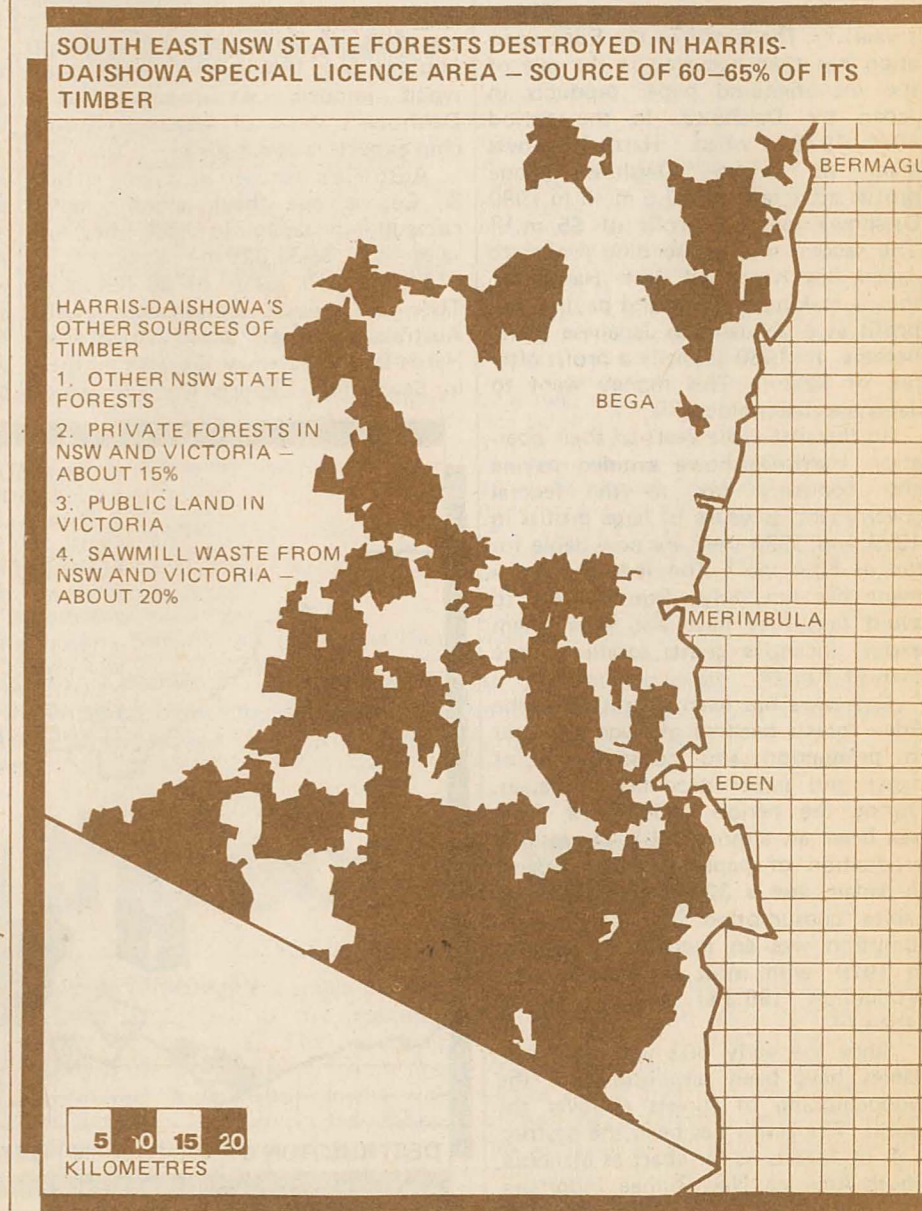
In Australia, state and federal environmental legislation has been no deterrent to Harris-Daishowa. They employed W D Scott and Co to prepare the required environmental reports. W D Scott is a consultancy company that had already handled most of the senior management appointments for Harris-Daishowa. A former director of Scotts has been a director of Harris-Daishowa since 1976.

In Victoria, where the beautiful East Gippsland forests are threatened by the woodchipping scheme proposed by Harris-Daishowa, the Victorian Forests Commission has paid this same W D Scott company to prepare the required environmental report, an Environmental Effects Statement. The current director of the Victorian Ministry of Conservation has served as a director of both Harris-Daishowa and Australian Paper Manufacturers.

In NSW the Forestry Commission is losing millions of dollars every year, and their operations are being heavily subsidised by Australian taxpayers.<sup>9</sup> In the south-east region the royalties paid by Harris-Daishowa do not keep up with the Commission's expenditure on behalf of the company. These expenditures are mainly the building of roads

into state forests so the wood can be taken out, attempts to regenerate and manage areas after the trees have been cut down, and the share of central office costs attributable to the region (total expenditure in 1976/77 was \$39.7m);<sup>10</sup> and the cost of maintaining local offices and staff in the region (in 1976, for example, there were 50 Commission staff in Eden alone).<sup>11</sup> From 1969 to 1979 the Forestry Commission made losses of over \$20m in the south-east region.<sup>12</sup>

A recent report from the federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics concluded that Australian forestry services have set their royalties 'at less than the market could bear, much less than for similar materials in some overseas countries and in some cases, at less than the cost of growing the wood'.<sup>13</sup>



CHAIN REACTION/MARK CARTER



The Forestry Commission of NSW have also given other special assistance to Harris-Daishowa. When the company complained about the cost of building their own road from the chipmill at Jews Head to the Princes Highway, they were given a rebate on their royalty payments. The company benefited by \$366 601.<sup>14</sup> When they protested about an increase in royalties in 1976 they were given until the beginning of 1980 to pay the extra cost involved.<sup>15</sup> The NSW Department of Decentralisation also provided the company with a \$125 000 grant and some housing assistance for their employees.<sup>16</sup>

Where have the profits gone? The profits have of course gone to Japan. This has happened in two ways. The first has been by Harris-Daishowa selling their woodchips cheaply to their own parent company in Japan (about \$23 m a year).<sup>17</sup> The profit of the Eden operation has then occurred in the sale of the manufactured paper products in Japan by Daishowa. In the period 1971-1978, when Harris-Daishowa made no profits, Daishowa made profits after tax of \$25.5 m.<sup>18</sup> In 1980 Daishowa made a profit of \$5 m.<sup>19</sup> The second way of sending profits to Japan has happened with Harris-Daishowa making a profit and paying that profit as a dividend to Japanese shareholders. In 1980 it made a profit after tax of \$2.3 m. This money went to Japanese shareholders.<sup>20</sup>

In the first eight years of their operation Harris-Daishowa avoided paying any company tax to the federal government. Because of large profits in 1979 and 1980 they are now liable for tax of \$3.4 m.<sup>21</sup> The federal government has not only allowed them to avoid tax, they have also given them export incentive grants totalling more than \$1.1 m.<sup>22</sup>

Daishowa has been operating in the Eden forests because of huge increases in production and consumption of paper and paper products in Japan. During the period 1960-1979 there has been an almost 400% increase in production of paper and paperboards in Japan, and a 325% increase in per capita consumption. Per capita consumption was an incredible 153.7 kg in 1979, with most of Japan's paper production (96.3%) being used in Japan.<sup>23</sup>

Since the early 60s Japanese companies have been responsible for the woodchipping of forests all over the world. The result has been the destruction of forests as far apart as Malaysia, South America, New Guinea, Indonesia,

and Siberia. In 1979 Japan relied on overseas forests for 46% of its pulpwood supplies compared with only 1.7% in 1960.<sup>24</sup>

Daishowa, as the third largest producer of paper and paperboards in Japan, is very much a part of this exploitation of the world's forests. It has gained supplies of wood from the USA, Canada, South America, and the USSR. It is directly involved in woodchip production at Port Swettenham and Johore in Malaysia, in British Columbia (also pulp production) and Brazil (as part of a group of companies), as well as in Australia at Eden.<sup>25</sup>

How does Australian woodchip production fit into this international scene? Australian hardwood forests are vital to the Japanese paper manufacturers. In 1977/78 financial year Australia exported 3.1 million tonnes of hardwood pulpwood to Japan;<sup>26</sup> this was 60% of Japanese hardwood chip imports and 18% of their total pulpwood imports. At present Harris-Daishowa's share of Australian woodchip exports is about 25%.

Australia's partner at Eden, C. Itoh & Co, is the third largest trading company in Japan. In 1980 they had sales of \$A31 325 m, a profit of \$18.6 m, and assets of \$9 705 m.<sup>27</sup> They are heavily entrenched in the Australian business world. Apart from Harris-Daishowa, they are also partners in Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd which

exports woodchips to Japan from the north coast of NSW. They have their own trading company, C. Itoh and Co (Australia) with \$A6.25 m capital (established 1957), and are part owners in another seven businesses in Australia.<sup>28</sup>

What about the future of Harris-Daishowa's operations in Australia? The whole trend so far has been for them to expand. They began exporting 203 000 tonnes of woodchip in 1971 and by 1979 were exporting 852 000 tonnes. Since then they have been granted increases in their export licence of 50 000 tonnes (1980),<sup>29</sup> and 200 000 tonnes (1981).<sup>30</sup> They have also applied to export 400 000 tonnes a year from the East Gippsland forests,<sup>31</sup> and are a contender for the so called trial scheme of a 100 000 tonnes recently announced by the Victorian government.

Harris-Daishowa is pushing for extra supplies of woodchips because the Japanese paper market is still expanding. Depressions of this market in the 70s were only temporary with overall increases in production and consumption. It can be expected that the paper market in Japan will get no smaller in the 80s and will probably increase. Predictions from the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations was for a 3.6% growth a year in world paper consumption for the period 1977 to 1987.<sup>32</sup>



CHAIN REACTION/MARK CARTER

Harris-Daishowa is also likely to be exporting softwood chips in the near future following a successful experiment in 1980.<sup>33</sup> The supply would be from the Forestry Commission pine plantations at Bombala and Queanbeyan which are currently up for tender (210 000 tonnes a year).<sup>34</sup>

Australian and overseas experience is that international woodchipping companies are very hard to stop. They have a proven ability to get support and huge subsidies from the governments of the countries they are in. The only serious opposition lies with the efforts of conservation groups and concerned individuals to raise public opposition to this rape of our forests. Soon it will be too late.

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A woodchipping industry is seen by some people as the economic saviour of East Gippsland. But can we expect balanced economic growth if the region becomes dependent on one major industry? And how many jobs is the woodchipping industry likely to generate? Peter Brann and Leonie Cameron report.

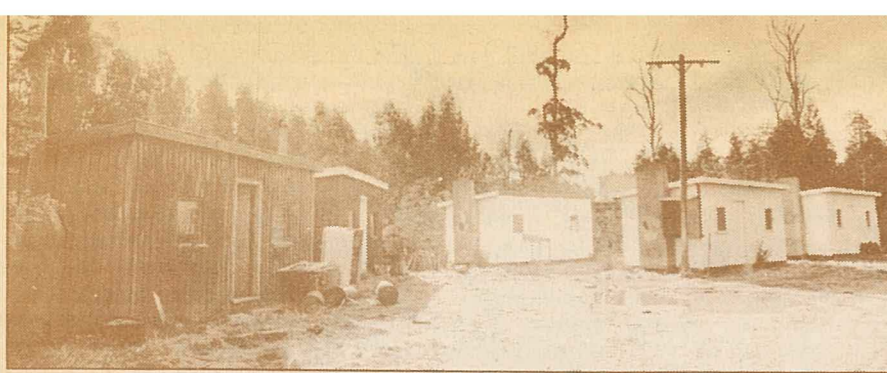
## Chipping the economy

The East Gippsland woodchip scheme is yet another manifestation of the economic undercurrents running through our society. Once again, ordinary people are being asked to accept major changes to their life and surroundings without any real opportunities to oppose. As we have seen

elsewhere in Australia, a single industry is being embraced as the economic saviour of an area. The woodchip scheme is being introduced into the area by external forces and mostly with total ignorance concerning the planned operations amongst local inhabitants. Orbost Shire with its large tracts of

forested land will be at the very heart of the scheme. The shire is one of the largest and least populated areas in the state. Consequently the council has to service a vast area that has a high proportion of unrateable land. The shire has been bankrupt or on the verge of bankruptcy for the past 40 years. The

Leonie Cameron is a resident of Cann River in East Gippsland. Peter Brann works with the Native Forests Action Council.



Loggers huts, Errinundra Plateau

rate charges are constantly rising. By the shire's own admission there has been an 87% increase in dollar terms in rates collected over the last five years. Over 40% of the revenue raised comes from the East Riding which contains the Mallacoota, Bemm and Cann River areas. A large proportion of this revenue comes from the Mallacoota caravan park.

The main industries of Orbost Shire are farming (vegetable growing, dairy and beef cattle), the timber industry and tourism. Consonant with the Australian trend, the shire's rural sector has deteriorated. In fact, many structural parallels can be found between the decline in the dairying and vegetable growing industries and the proposed woodchip scheme. Orbost began as a dairying community.

Although dairying has experienced an Australia-wide decline, the situation was exacerbated by the monopoly gained by Murray-Goulburn Trading Pty Ltd in 1972. Subsequent to the closure of the butter factories, they are now charging freight costs for cartage to their nearest factory at Maffra, approximately 150 km west of Orbost. Paradoxically, the dairying industry which is suited for the area, is

Errinundra Road from Combiobar Valley



of sawlogs each year. During this time, though, there has still been a steady decline in the vitality of the area. As many mills have absentee owners, much of the profits accrued have been invested and spent outside the shire. The low-quality housing and industrial sites are not only aesthetically repugnant but they must be serviced by the shire. Compounding this, repairs to roads and bridges necessitated by log-truck usage is a major economic problem for the council. This problem is unlikely to disappear with the increased impact of a woodchip scheme. Will the residents of Orbost Shire have to suffer further rate increases to subsidise the infrastructure required for the removal of our forests?

The council and chamber of commerce quite rightly claim to be concerned with unemployment. There is a large degree of migration out of the shire by school leavers. The problem with the woodchipping industry is that any employment created (which is not filled from within the sawlog industry) will be inappropriate for unskilled females and males who constitute the shire's largest unemployed group. The employment situation is not to be rectified with a single industry.

becoming an increasingly unattractive proposition. During the sixties, vegetable growing was promoted on the rich river flats. A co-operative was formed and later contracted to a large food-processing company. The potential was enormous and the industry showed every sign of flourishing. In the mid-seventies, however, flood and transportation problems compounded with the sole buyer's claim that there was an over-supply contributed to that industry's decline. Like the dairying industry, vegetables are still viable given the proper encouragement. Undoubtedly the monopoly held by single companies over produce in each industry has contributed to their present ill-health.

The possibility that the timber industry too will become monopolised is frighteningly real with the introduction of a woodchip scheme. There are not too many buyers for woodchips. Even with these warning signs the marriage of the shire's economy and environment to a single market renowned for its fluctuations is still not questioned by 'authorities'.

The sawlog industry has been a feature of the shire for the past 20 years. It directly employs 11% of the shire's population. There are 25 sawmills producing 350,000 cubic metres

The stability of the shire will be further destroyed by the large commitment of natural areas and council expenditure that the woodchipping industry would entail. Given the past developments of the shire, it seems clear that its economy can only become stable if it has a diversity of industries. This will enable it to be buffered against the market fluctuations of any particular industry. The important point is that no single industry alone can revitalize the area. Given certain structural adjustments, dairying, vegetable growing and sawlog production could make substantial contributions and the fishing and honey production industries are already well established. Interestingly, tourism provides a vast amount of revenue for the shire yet the forests are basically under-publicised by the relevant tourist authorities. While this list is not exhaustive, all of these industries will be affected by a woodchipping scheme.

The growing opposition to woodchipping is not just on environmental grounds but also from people who can see other developments less damaging to the environment being ousted by a short-term, self-destructing scheme. The absence of a detailed economic plan for an ailing region is no excuse for grasping at the first chip that comes along.

Local concern at proposals to woodchip East Gippsland's forests has led to the formation of Concerned Residents of East Gippsland (CROEG). Debbie McIlroy outlines how she became involved in local action as a member of CROEG.

## A local opinion

I go to Melbourne less and less these days. Family commitments draw me there and, of course, there are lots of things that can't be done elsewhere. But I like best the feeling of heading home, driving east through the miles and miles of tense suburbia remembering to keep the breaths shallow, seeing so many people so unaware of each other. The Latrobe Valley seems to lengthen each time, and it is not until Rosedale that I take in my first deep breath. It is six hours of driving before one enters the life-giving air of the forests.

I have become a forest watcher. I am learning to observe events in the forest and understand something of their significance. There are others in the area who are doing the same thing. Not only locals but the increasing number of tourists who seem to be drawn to the region. The landscape entrances them as it does us. Next thing they are visiting real estate agents in the area to find land for sale. If not, they are becoming regular visitors, returning in search of environments and the experiences that are to be had there: a quality of experience that is rapidly becoming unattainable even in imagination for most Victorians. There is no doubt that there is a resurgence of interest in the area. Furthermore people are now returning to the forests with a different sort of value system, one far more concerned with the delicate inter-relationships found there than with the imposition of self.

What some of us saw, combined with the headlines 'Scandalous waste' in the local press, led to a group of about thirty people getting together in September 1981. Pooling our knowledge we formulated questions that seemed desperately in need of answers and sent these to anyone who might conceivably have the resources to know. What we received was consistent vagueness, perhaps even righteous indignation that locals could question the benevolent future that had been planned for them and for the environment.

Research from other areas, the experience of Eden, economic predic-

tions and some hard arithmetic about the average life of a tree under the proposed scheme confirmed our fears for the region's future.

It was clear where the sentiments of the local newspapers lay, as they proclaim the arrival of Gippsland's 'economic redeemer', with letters from conservationists being tucked in the back, if they were lucky enough to be printed. We (Concerned Residents of East Gippsland) researched a broadsheet, specifically for locals who all depend either directly or indirectly upon the bush for their survival. This was printed in the *Snowy River Mail*, so those to be affected were informed of the employment effects in other states, the planned short-term rotation times, and the scheme's effect on the long-term viability of the sawmilling industry.

Recently production has been drastically cut at the Eden chipmill, due to an oversupply of chips on the world market. However this is no cause for a sense of security. We have the sinking feeling that the Forests Commission would proceed with a large-scale woodchip scheme even without a market. The scandalous waste of timber used to justify a woodchip scheme is only occurring as a result of the Forests Commission's method of harvesting timber — clearfelling. The FCV has never bothered to feign impartiality in regard to woodchipping, nor is it anything but singleminded in its approach to forest management.

We would like to see:

- More research before a method with such hard-hitting environmental impact is used as general practice.
- East Gippsland remaining a source of high quality hardwood building timbers.
- The small sawmiller thriving, rather than the large city-based companies, because the smaller operator has more interest in maintaining the quality of the forest. The larger and further away the central base of the company, the less we can expect it to care for the long-term prospects of the area it affects.
- The sale of timber paying for and



Leonie Cameron resident of Cann River, East Gippsland and member of the local opposition to woodchipping

ensuring its replacement and management, guaranteeing the continuity of the forests.

- The investigation, seriously, of other possible uses of the timber, less demanding on the resources and employing more local people, e.g. furniture making, veneers, split palings, shingles etc.
- Areas being classified according to their sensitivity or unique nature, and managed accordingly. More than the skin along the highways should be left for those who sometimes get out of their cars.
- The Forests Commission being less defensive, and more open to public discussion about its policies.

Debbie McIlroy is a resident of Bonang in East Gippsland.

A central element in the Native Forests Action Council's East Gippsland campaign is the Sassafras Declaration, 'a definite, positive statement' opposing woodchipping and outlining alternative developments. Gayle Morrow describes the Declaration.

# The Sassafras Declaration

East Gippsland features two distinct types of rainforest. It has the southern-most warm temperate rainforests, and also cold temperate rainforests, in which SASSAFRAS is the dominant tree.

A magnificent, shimmering tree, the appearance of Sassafras heralds the changeover of a mature eucalypt forest to a rainforest. And it is in honour of the Sassafras that a declaration has been named.

The Sassafras Declaration, launched in June this year, is one of the major thrusts of the Native Forests Action Council's campaign to save East Gippsland's native forests, and has a target of collecting 50 000 signatures by next World Environment Day, June 5 1982.

It was made a declaration rather than a petition in order to avoid the humble, bent-knee approach associated with petitions. The Sassafras Declaration is a definite, positive statement of the feelings of the signatories.

It is intended as a means of raising the awareness of the media, politicians, and the general public of the threat to East Gippsland's forests.

The declaration is being backed by a number of materials such as leaflets providing background information, posters advertising it and postcards for people to send to politicians, media, etc, stating that they've signed the declaration, as a constant reminder of the declarations' progress. Signature-collecting kits are also available which include information enabling collectors to answer the most likely questions people would ask them.

The seven main principles of the Sassafras Declaration are:

1. The proposed woodchip/pulpmill scheme in East Gippsland should not proceed in any form what-so-ever.
2. Clearfelling should cease because it is destroying East Gippsland's unique forests.
3. There should be an expansion of the East Gippsland National Park system, where nature conservation is the priority.
4. Urgent action must be taken to

ensure the development of diverse employment opportunities which will provide jobs for all sections of the East Gippsland community.

5. To reduce commercial pressures on native forests, the growing of tree crops on presently cleared, marginal farmland should be a high priority.

6. No public monies should be used to subsidize, directly or indirectly, the proposed woodchip/pulpmill scheme in East Gippsland.

7. The use of wasteful woodchip/pulpmill products (e.g. packaging, advertising and tissue papers) should be reduced, and recycling schemes should be encouraged.

The Native Forests Action Council urges everyone to assist in the campaign by signing and distributing Sassafras Declarations as well as collecting signatures. If you are interested in helping please contact NFAC on Tel: 329 5519.



Gayle Morrow works with the Native Forests Action Council

By Adrian Donkers

# Native Forests Action Council

Our native forests are under seige. Right throughout Australia forests are being destroyed for logging, pines or woodchips. Virtually every forest area within Victoria is threatened. In north-east Victoria the forests industry and the government, through the Forests Commission, want to clear native forests to plant pines; in the Otways both pines and woodchipping are threatening the native forests; Ballarat and Daylesford are experiencing more pine plantings at the expense of their native forests; the timber industry and the FCV proposed opening up Melbourne's protected water catchments to clearfelling; the industry, with FCV encouragement, plans to clearfell 90% of the 'economic' ash forests of the Alpine area; woodchipping and pines threaten still more forests in Gippsland; and in East Gippsland, the Forests Commission has been clearfelling under the guise of sawlog harvesting, and now propose clearing 75% of the available public forest area for woodchipping and a proposed pulpmill.

The government, the Forests Commission and the industry are pushing our native forests to extinction. Every year species of plants and animals are being made extinct due to forest destruction.

To turn this tide of destruction the public has formed citizen-based organisations to protect our native forests and their inhabitants.

## Native Forests Action Council

Leading up to late 1976, a major environmental campaign centred on East Gippsland's native forests. A loose coalition of some ten different organisations, some from the East Gippsland area, some suburban, some statewide, some national, staged a large-scale effort to halt the woodchip scheme proposed for East Gippsland. Pressure was so strong that the then Premier, Hamer, issued a directive that no trees were to be harvested for woodchips. The conservationists claimed a victory.

In August 1976, those same organisations formed the **Native Forests Action Council (NFAC)**. East Gippsland had taught them at least one thing: that there was an urgent need for a specialist organisation to protect native forests, an organisation which could provide continuity over many years, could be a focus for research, and which could act quickly when necessary. The structure adopted for the organisation was action oriented and the style was activist.

Over the next few years, the NFAC campaigned on Victoria's alpine area and on Leadbeater's Possum, using broadsheets, displays, public meetings, TV announcements, tours and street stalls. NFAC has published books — *Woodchipping in Victoria* and *What State is the Garden In?* — and tens of thousands of broadsheets on woodchipping in Victoria. A turbulent and

effective five years.

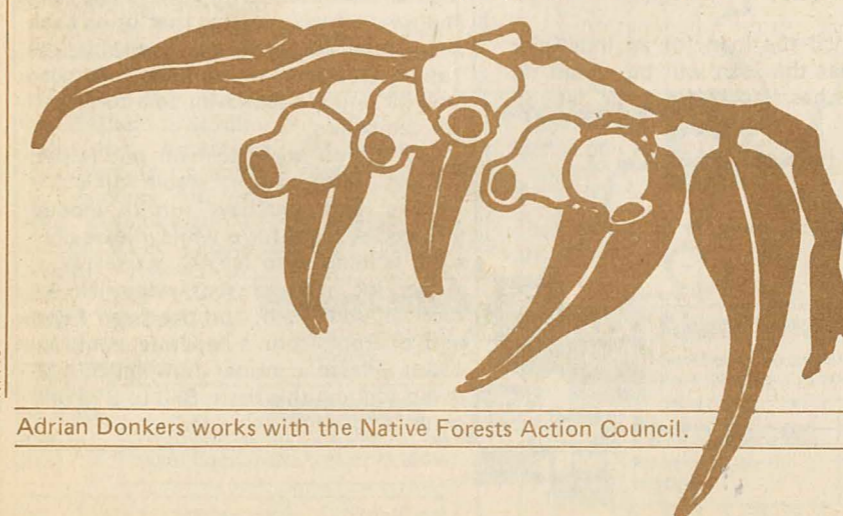
Back in 1976, the NFAC founders didn't know how right they were. Early in 1980, the East Gippsland scheme, which they defeated in 1976, re-emerged. This time, however, the industry and government were better prepared. Luckily so was the Native Forests Action Council. Five years had taught NFAC a lot about campaigning. The result is the present East Gippsland campaign.

Right throughout the campaign, NFAC has taken the initiative. Instead of only reacting to government and industry plans and actions, NFAC took the first step and exposed the proposals long before the government's schedule to make them public. NFAC exposed the step-by-step approach being taken — the attempts at isolating segments of the scheme and justifying them separately. NFAC countered the distortions and misleading statements by industry and the government.

NFAC lobbied MPs, local councillors and other environment groups. And as a high priority throughout, NFAC alerted the public to this onslaught to their native forests and provided an avenue for actions; 30 000 broadsheets have been produced and distributed, a full-colour poster printed, and the Sassafras Declaration launched, with its leaflets, postcards, stalls, public events and posters.

The Native Forests Action Council works as a membership-based organisation, relying on membership dues, donations and the voluntary work of members and supporters to carry out campaigns. NFAC membership provides the activists. Active members either work generally as individuals, or form into collectives as the mainstay of the organisation.

Collectives to date include Negotiations (lobbying MPs, councils and industry), Suburban Campaigns (looks after and co-ordinates campaigns in Melbourne suburbs), Pines (worked on NE pines planting), Bush Telegraph (produces fortnightly news service and



Adrian Donkers works with the Native Forests Action Council.

action guide), Gumleaves (magazine) and the East Gippsland Book (researching and writing a book on EG).

**Individuals** also take on specific responsibility such as co-ordinating the Sassafra Declaration, liaison with other organisations, general co-ordination, displays, photo library, treasurer and financial records, resources, liaison with East Gippsland groups, training and so on. Media work and general decision making falls to the organisation as a whole.

In each of these activities there is plenty of room for more people and members are encouraged to become active. In quite a number of cases NFAC wishes to establish collectives, or working groups, to lessen the load presently taken by one person.

**Co-ordination** is carried out through weekly general meetings (every Tuesday at 7.30 pm at 118 Errol St, North Melbourne). Negotiations Collective meets Tuesday morning, special strategy weekends, and campaign training weekends. Activists who work part or full time on the campaign also meet

Wednesdays over lunch.

As well as the statewide structure, NFAC also has regional branches at Frankston, Monash University and La Trobe University. Along with the branches are many other groups who, although not actually branches, work very closely with NFAC.

**Communication** is achieved by two regular publications: *Bush Telegraph* which is sent to all members every fortnight, and carries the latest notices of events, news and action suggestions; and *Gumleaves*, which is sent to all members, media and various other people, and carries more in-depth articles, analysis and news. *Gumleaves* is issued every three months.

**Membership** costs \$10 pa for individuals, \$3 pa for students, unemployed and pensioners, and \$15 pa for groups, and is open to anyone who would like to see our native forests saved from clearfelling for woodchipping or pines.

Members are encouraged to become active immediately, either by working from their homes and in their local areas, or by assisting in the office in North

Melbourne, or in one of the collectives. New members are offered training in campaign building, group processes and analysis and strategies, and given background information briefing at special weekends organised every two months.

If you are concerned about how our native forests are being treated, then join NFAC today, and become active in one of the ways outlined above.

**Other ways to help financially**

If you can't be an activist yourself, then support the people who are. Three ways to help are:

- Become a member and give a donation whenever you can.
- Contribute to the Sustenance fund.
- Give an interest-free loan to the NFAC.

**Sustenance Fund** To co-ordinate a campaign of the complexity and magnitude of the East Gippsland campaign needs full-time activists.

Sustenance payments (subsistence wage) are a drain on regular funds, so NFAC operates a Sustenance Fund, which is made up of pledges of regular payments by members and supporters, and by lump sum donations. If you feel you can pledge an amount weekly, monthly or quarterly, please do so today.

**Loan Fund** In a grass-roots campaign organisation such as NFAC, there is always the need for awareness raisers, such as badges, T-shirts, full-colour posters, stickers, booklets and so on. To have these items manufactured at a reasonable cost, we have to produce them in large quantities.

Usually NFAC does not have the extra money needed above the regular running costs. To get over this capital shortage NFAC has established a Loan Fund.

The Loan Fund is made up of short and long term, interest-free loans from members and supporters. Moneys in the Loan Fund will *only* be used as capital outlays. By only using the money to fund projects that bring back the capital outlayed, plus a surplus, the fund will maintain its value, and also provide much-needed income to NFAC for campaigns.

So if you want to help put NFAC on an even more stable financial footing, and you have surplus money you could spare for a while, please consider lending it to NFAC, interest-free. A receipt will be sent when NFAC receives your loan, and the Loan Fund will operate from a separate bank account. Please consider how much you could loan on this basis; \$50 to \$10 000 could be productively used.

**NATIVE FORESTS ACTION COUNCIL**



Membership fees:  
\$10 pa Individuals  
\$ 3 pa Students, Unemployed, Pensioners  
\$15 pa Groups

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Telephone (H) ..... (W) ..... Date .....

- I wish to join NFAC. Enclosed find my membership of \$ ....., plus a donation of \$ .....
- I wish to make a contribution to the hardworked NFAC co-ordinators. Please contact me to arrange for payments of my contribution to the Sustenance Fund.
- I can give an interest-free loan to NFAC. Below are the details. Amount of Loan: \$ .....
- I can give the Native Forests Action Council the loan for an indefinite length of time, with the understanding that the loan will be repaid on demand after a minimum of six (6) months has elapsed from the date on this form.
- I can give the Native Forests Action Council the loan for a period of ..... months/years from the date on this form.
- I understand that the loan is interest-free and payable as nominated above.

Signed: .....  
Send, along with cheque, to:  
**Native Forests Action Council**  
118 Errol Street, North Melbourne, 3051  
Telephone (03) 329 5519

# Think big in NZ

You need a passport to visit New Zealand now. The traditional ties between Australia and its southern neighbour have been strained by Muldoon's antics over the Springbok tour and Fraser's CHOGM posturing. But new ties are emerging. New Zealand business and government are anxiously pushing for a formal Closer Economic Relationship between the two countries. More importantly, the Australian boom in resource investment is echoing loud and clear in New Zealand. Don Siemon reports after a recent visit.

For a decade the New Zealand economy has declined. Working people have seen unemployment leap, their living standards nosedive, and their famed social services dismantled. Looking across the Tasman, no New Zealander can doubt that Australians are on average better off.

But now a growing number of New Zealanders are wondering if the pronounced cure for their country's ills is worse than the disease. New Zealand is heading along the Australian road, pinning its hopes for recovery on the rapid development of its energy resources. While Lynch and his Canberra Cabinet fellows have (until recently) proudly publicised the large investments scheduled for Australia, the

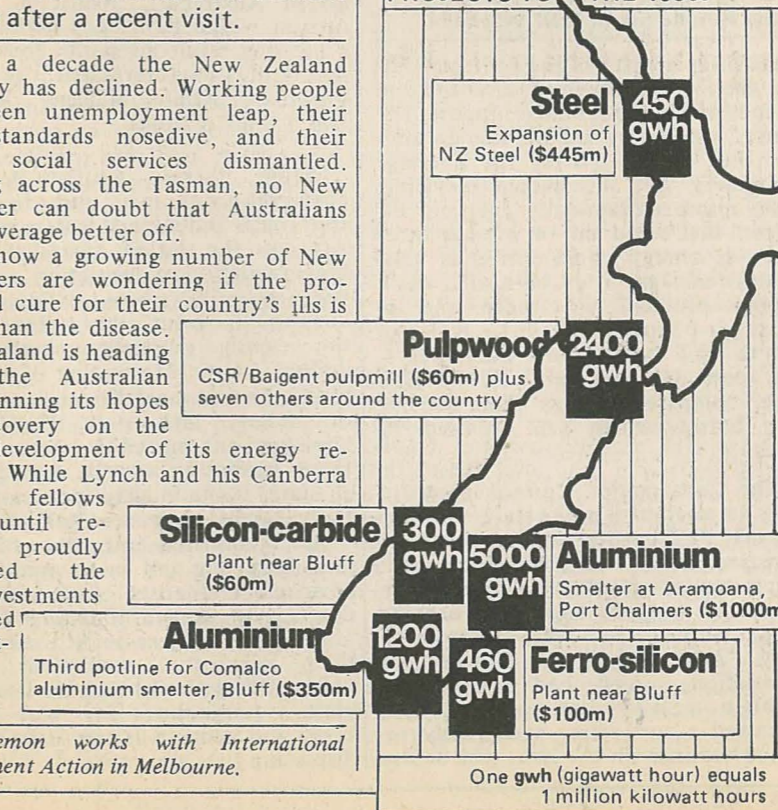
Don Siemon works with International Development Action in Melbourne.

NZ government has gone even further. It has formally sworn allegiance to a 'Think Big Strategy' for growth, and adopted new ways of ensuring that no barriers stand in the path of what it deems progress.

In 1980 the government passed the National Development Act, allowing ordinary planning procedures to be bypassed for major projects. This idea of a 'fast track' to development is also likely to be embodied in a new mining act, and related changes have been made to laws controlling petroleum facilities. Of most strategic interest is the Maui natural gas field. Proposals abound for the use of the gas, but the government's priority is to develop petrol substitutes. Synthetic petrol is to be produced, via methanol, by Mobil, while other fractions of the gas can be used directly in cars as LPG and compressed natural gas. The opposition Labor Party has its own ideas about how Maui gas should be used, which has prompted Mobil to opt out of signing any agreement until after the elections later this year.

A major argument over Maui gas has been the extent to which output should be exported, and in what form. Naturally, overseas interests look to overseas markets as well as domestic uses. But the country has no oil of its own, and even the Muldoon government is reluctant to directly export. New Zealand's only other major fuel resources are coal. Today these too are being examined as an export commodity. Trial shipments have already left Buller.

**SOME POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO THE 1990s**



The surge in mineral exploration now flooding Australia is spilling over into New Zealand. Attracted by high gold prices - gold is one of New Zealand's few mineral products - the companies are also looking for coal and base metals. Most are based in Australia. Of the nearly nine hundred applicants up to early 1981 for prospecting or mining licences, five companies (notably CRA and Amax) are after almost three-quarters of the total area.

Areas of interest to the mining companies read like a catalogue of NZ scenic attractions: Northland, the Bay of Islands, Nelson Lakes, major rivers on the west coast, all of the South Island's major National Parks... In the North Island exploration is concentrated on the Coromandel Peninsula, on which a major mine run by Amax is proceeding, despite objections by residents. CRA, for its part, has run into opposition by Maori people of the Peninsula over its desire to prospect offshore.

Maori land is again involved in the proposals to expand an existing NZ export industry: timber. Large areas of Maori land are leased to the Forest Service for commercial forest. The first of a new generation of export pulp mills is being built by CSR and a local partner near Nelson.

CSR is again involved in the largest, and most controversial, of new industrial projects. With the giant NZ conglomerate Fletcher-Challenge, CSR is planning to build New Zealand's second aluminium smelter at Aramoana, near Dunedin. The \$600 million plant has provoked not only local, but national, opposition. People are acutely conscious of the debate through the 1970s over the Comalco smelter (currently, and quietly, being expanded) and of the costs of further hydro development. In 1981 two noted economists publicly came out against the Aramoana smelter, and their arguments at a time of widespread public sensitivity to mounting electricity charges have added a valuable dimension to the strong case against the smelter. Some local power supply authorities have resisted increased prices, while a few consumers have refused to pay part of their electricity bills. The smelter has become the centre for a debate over much more than local environmental issues. The issue is the future path of New Zealand.

As one headline put it: 'Think Big? Think Again!'

New Zealand organisations are keen to receive advice or background on companies or developments in Australia which might aid them in future struggles. The body co-ordinating environment groups in NZ, ECO, has recently written to a number of groups for information on mining developments. Any information to ECO, PO Box 11057, Wellington, New Zealand.

# Plastic contained

By Ian Grosser

During recent months South Australian conservationists have won a victory over PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles, the 2 litre plastic monsters that Coca Cola and other soft drink manufacturers introduced throughout Australia in 1979-80.

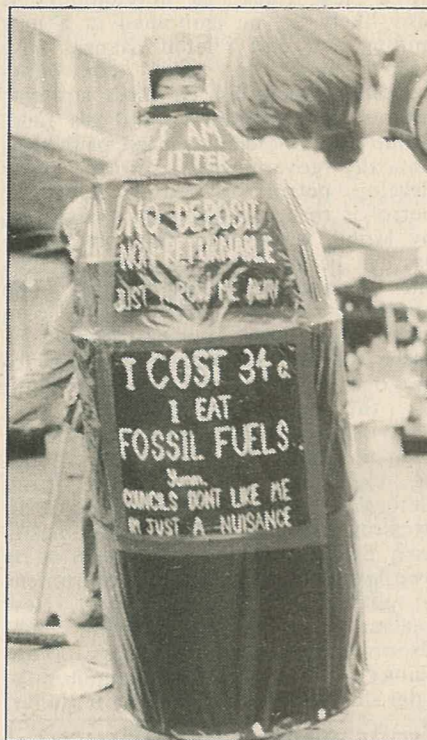
The introduction of PET bottles in SA was more eventful than in other states because the *Beverage Containers Act* requires all soft drink containers (as defined under the Act) to be returnable and sold with a deposit, and because PET bottles can't be recycled as the heat needed for cleaning would collapse them. The Act was passed in 1977 after years of lobbying by environmentalists in opposition to container manufacturers, who prefer non-returnable bottles because they increase turnover and profits, and by soft drink manufacturers, breweries and supermarkets, who dislike the inconvenience of handling used bottles. It has been a successful law, reducing litter from cans and bottles (only 6% of SA's roadside litter, compared to 34% in WA), and causing an 85% recycling rate for cans, but it is unpopular with those who have a vested interest in non-returnables. ACI's 1980 annual report said:

Looking ahead, there is a potential and unnecessary problem that could seriously jeopardise sound economic growth of our Packaging Products Group. I refer to the possibility of various forms of legislation being passed by State Governments relating to compulsory deposits being imposed on beverage containers . . . We do not wish to see an Australia wide re-occurrence of the South Australia scene.

After intensive negotiations, Coca Cola and ACI won exemptions from the Act for PET bottles for a trial period of 12 months ending July 31st 1981; they expected the amendment to become permanent and the Act to be gradually weakened until it became meaningless. Other companies also marketed PET bottles in Adelaide.

However, conservationists had other ideas. A small Community Aid Abroad group planned a campaign up to the expiry of the 12-month trial period. They integrated with the SA Conservation Council, and worked closely with

*Ian Grosser works with Friends of the Earth in Adelaide.*



The biggest and last PET bottle seen in the Rundle Street Mall, Adelaide

the SA Department of the Environment; and the SA Consumers Association and Friends of the Earth added support. The bottles were opposed on the grounds that they would: destroy the Beverage Containers Act, discourage recycling, waste resources especially energy (PET is fossil-fuel based and on average three times as energy consumptive as glass bottles), increase litter, be a solid waste disposal problem, cost more, and increase air pollution. The price increases due to PET bottles were publicised — they cost 34c and can only be used once, compared to less than 40c for glass bottles which can be used 12 times.

The Conservation Council wrote to every local council in the state, pointing out that PET bottles entail problems of increased litter and garbage disposal, which councils must pay for. Nineteen letters of support and seven seeking further information were received in reply. And the Local Government Association, which had resolved to maintain SA's bottle legislation, organized a supportive and widely reported seminar on the issue just before

the expiry of the 12-month trial period.

The crucial support of several government back-benchers, some from marginal country seats where the councils were suffering severe PET litter problems, was also won. Further pressure was brought by petition collectors delivering the filled forms to their local MP rather than making a mass presentation to parliament.

The campaign received widespread media coverage, and the public responded well. A Flinders University report found that 77% of South Australians oppose non-recyclable bottles. The manufacturers found themselves isolated on the issue. The Minister for the Environment finally announced that the bottles must be sold under the conditions of the Beverage Containers Act with a 5c deposit. The bottles must be returned via bottle depots to the manufacturers, who will then dump them, a ludicrous procedure which Coca Cola claims will add 18c to the product price and probably lead to its withdrawal from the market. The new sales tax of 17.5% on non-returnable bottles has already added up to 16 cents to the retail price of drinks in PET containers and halved their sales in South Australia. Whilst a higher deposit would have been better, it was a pleasing result given the conservative nature of SA's government. Coca Cola's Corporate Affairs Manager, Mr Hall, said 'I think it stinks'.

From here, South Australian conservationists may push to include fruit juices and mineral waters under the Act. For the rest of Australia, there is the possibility of legislation similar to South Australia's now exists. Environment departments from other states watched the South Australian battle with interest. A recent meeting of the Australian Environment Council (composed of federal and state Environment Ministers) announced that beverage container legislation may be considered in all states if the industry does not voluntarily adopt environmental guidelines.

Local research into the effects on unemployment and energy and into the environmental costs of throwaways is desperately needed. Public pressure is also needed. Otherwise ACI may realise their optimistic predictions (made before this setback) that by 1990 total plastic production for soft drinks, beer, and wine will rise dramatically, displacing glass and cans.

IAN GROSSER

# The Big One in Britain

This year has seen an astonishing acceleration of anti-nuclear campaigning in Britain. Most of this dissent is focused on the Tory government's proposed defence commitments, particularly a decision to allow 160 Cruise missile bases to be installed on British soil. The programme makes Britain the biggest concentration of US firepower overseas, a sitting target for thermonuclear attack.

Kay Salleh reports on the many organisations mobilising in opposition to the conservative government's defence policies.

A British Broadcasting Commission opinion poll held at the end of 1980 showed roughly half the population opposed to the Trident submarine and Cruise missile programmes, and convinced that they would see nuclear war in their own lifetime. But a solid majority were still not in favour of disarmament. Even so, opposition is now impressive and continues to grow.

The mobilising effect of the British government's fraudulent 'do-it-yourself' survival guide *Protect and Survive* cannot be overestimated. When officials concede that 30 million must inevitably perish in the event of nuclear war, to propagate the notion of 'correct, proper and responsible' civil preparedness is bureaucratic criminality in the extreme.

While parliamentarians, local councillors and militia use public moneys to furnish bomb shelters for themselves, ordinary people are coolly advised not to head for the hills if they expect government 'assistance with essentials' to be forthcoming. Instead, you are told to stay and make a fallout room at home. Instructions include constructing an inner refuge of sand bags, doors, tables, heaped clothes and books as radioactivity barriers — if you are able-bodied enough to haul these

*Kay Salleh lectures in sociology at the University of Wollongong.*

around, that is. Take down flammable curtains and paint windows over with an opaque emulsion. Fill the bath with about 3½ gallons of water each, stock up 14 days' food, first aid kits, transistor with spare batteries; and stay inside for at least 48 hours after detonation.

Yes, people react against nonsense like this. They have come together in huge rallies — London, Bradford, Nottingham, Bristol, Manchester, a mobilisation of 50,000 on one occasion. What is this remarkable human counter-force made of? Who are the nuclear resisters?

Since its heyday 20 years back and the lull when support was drawn off into the Vietnam struggle, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has revived with a second generation following. The new public face of this peace movement grew as a result of the UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1978 and the Geneva Commission which followed it. CND, in true liberal form, defines itself as an open alliance, outside 'ideology and politics'. Its programme is reflected in the aims of almost all nuclear opposition groups: a British foreign policy based on peace and co-operation, unilateral disarmament, the dissolution of NATO and Warsaw Pacts, domestic review of the current defence budget (40% of government expenditure) and restitution of funds to welfare, housing, health and education. CND is also working with the Lucas Aerospace shop stewards on a strategy to turn arms manufacture over to socially useful employment and production.

The core CND push is educated, humanist and older, an economically privileged and culturally protected group, along with a sprinkling of younger counter-culturalists. Meanwhile, Youth CND puts up a concerted drive to capture the third generation with broadsheet messages from 'Ron Raygun', 'Olivia Neutron Bomb', zippy t-shirts, folk concerts, school petitions and recruitment nights in Wimpy bars.

A second group is historian E.P. Thompson's new campaign for a Nuclear Free Zone across Europe, set up as a series of lateral committees to develop a European network of trade unionists, academics, parliamentarians and church people.



A third general disarmament body, launched in 1980 by the fragile but impassioned 91-year-old ex-cabinet minister, Olympic medalist and Nobel prize winning Lord Noel-Baker, is the World Disarmament Campaign (WDC).

*continued over*



On the road to Trafalgar Square, London.

They are hoping to organise a world convention at the Moscow Stadium, possibly preceded by a European peace walk under the auspices of War Resisters International, and are well on the way in the collection of 1,000 million signatures (the Japanese already have 25 million) to go to the next UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1982. The group wants to see arms spending channelled into development aid. With a global military expenditure of \$1 million per minute, a mere 12 hours of this would cover the whole World Health Organisation malaria eradication project.

Among the churches, Quaker Peace and Service provides consistent stalwart opposition. They estimate that £12 per week per family goes towards the arms build-up, so are trying to get this amount itemised on income tax forms with option for tax to be payable into a National Peace Making Fund. This new affirmative activism reverses their traditional passive resistance.

As for the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury is on side, but the spouse of the titular head of the Church, the Duke, in contrast to his movement-lionised uncle Mountbatten, has come out with a pro-deterrent statement.

The Methodist Division of Social Responsibility inspired by Lord Soper, another patriarch from the Upper House, is giving the issue a lot of publicity, but the mass of true believers are strung out on a line that stretches all the way from red terror to sympathetic Encyclicals such as Vatican II. Pax Christi is working hard to establish overseas links. The British Council of Churches treads a cautious and thoughtful 'realist' path. The Student Christian Movement, meanwhile, puts out a nuclear information kit.

British trade unions are not as solidly behind disarmament as we Australians might expect. The Transport and General Workers' Union, Tobacco Workers, and the National Union of Mine Workers are affiliates of WDC, but while activities such as Manchester Against the Missiles Conference and the East Anglia Signature Drive show a committed force in some areas, attempts to organise regional discussions among union councils have met inside resistance. A major difficulty is the fact that American dollars let workers at nuclear sites earn a wage far beyond the normal British means. A London based independent labour group called Socialist Environment and Resources Association, SERA, runs a union education programme looking at things like job creation through alternative energy projects and the conflict between trade union rights and security in the nuclear industry.

Friends of the Earth is much bigger than SERA with some 200 active centres in Britain and very deliberately



Heavily guarded Falsane Submarine Base in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, home of the Polaris fleet and, if Thatcher and Reagan get their way, of Trident too.

'non-political', watching carefully who it works with although its loose structure of local branches allows some variation. FOE pursues well organised collective projects for insulation, waste salvage, cycle safety and, like SERA, concentrates on nuclear power rather than arms. But while FOE's offensive against technology celebrates autonomy, SERA activities fall clearly within the ethos that drives the wheels of production and the worker bodies under them.

The 1980 Labor Party Conference endorsed the CND platform, but a motion for the gradual phasing out of nuclear energy in Britain was lost. The party as usual is divided. The break-away Social Democrats are favouring Polaris and refurbishing the conventional force. The pro-Soviet CP and Young Communist League, firmly pitted against the 'mighty military-industrial complex' are wholeheartedly unilateral.

A singular turn in the growing momentum is the appearance of many women's groups. WDC names the Co-operative Womens' Guild, Women for World Disarmament, Womens' International League for Peace and Freedom and the National Assembly of Women among its subscribers; well-heeled reformist organisations, largely consisting of older people. The emergent second generation, however, advances its action as critique of patriarchal culture itself. This informal coalition of women are from the Feminist Anti-Nuclear Group, the Feminism and Non-Violence Collective at Manchester, Feminists Against Nuclear Power, a caucus which formed at the Women and Science Conference at Imperial College, London, and from the 1980 East Anglia Womens' Liberation Conference, Women Oppose

Nuclear Threat (WONT). This wave of resistance coincides with an international swell of feminist concern over militarism and violence in all its forms. Some of these people have considerable experience in political campaigning and are now convinced that if they are to get anything done at all, they must organise separately from men's groups where they continue to be set back by intimidation and trivialisation. Many assert as well the need to make a radical break from the socialist terms of reference. WONT specifically demands an end to the manufacture of weapons for mass destruction; of arms spending at the expense of domestic programmes; no conscription for either women or men.

Another development alongside CND is a grouping of skilled scientific workers fighting the proliferation of nuclear arms. The British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, BSSRS, has joined CND, but if its last conference is any indication of its priorities, these centre more on the job question - 'scientists and the slump', 'women and the new technology' - than on the threat of imminent annihilation. One perceptive BSSRS blurb ties the nuclear crisis to the division of labour between those who design, those who implement, and those who kill, the constant shift of personal responsibility. In a move to overcome this, Prof. Michael Pentz at the Open University has started a briefing group of technicians, engineers and even social scientists called Scientists Against Nuclear Arms.

SANA plans to demystify the technical jargon of deterrence which produces the public sense of impotence and alienation. A look at Pentz's early efforts, however, suggests that if the medium is part of the message at all, these aims may well backfire. The pamphlet is not so much a critical examination of the language, premises and unintended social consequences of instrumental rationality as a spontaneous exercise in more and 'better scientific management', an escalation of glamorous expertise and intensification of the gap between specialist and mass.

A Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons is tackling the government's absurd civil preparedness strategy and concept of 'limited' war head on. There is no possible medical response to nuclear attack. A Health Service circular tacitly acknowledges this, advising that deployment of staff in high radiation areas is pointless; hospitals should accept only casualties with a chance of recovery in the long term.

There are local pockets of anti-nuclear dissent. The University of Sussex is one, heavily involved in the movement through the presence of its Arms and Disarmament Information Unit, similarly Bradford University

through its School of Peace Studies, Oxfordshire, and hence Oxford University, is directly threatened by the proposed Cruise missile programme, and so is East Anglia and Cambridge University. In addition Cambridge is the home of the original Cavendish Laboratories and half of all academic military research still goes on there. Cambridge, whose local council has now refused to co-operate with the Emergency Planning Authority for Civil Defence, is full of retired historians, scientists and military personnel, a competent articulate leadership for a conventional political campaign. The university colleges, town and surrounding villages have some 35 anti-nuclear groups. The National Union of Students is officially attached to CND and there is also a body of Students Against Nuclear Energy, SANE, but some of the smaller universities are not much involved.

Throughout Britain there are local groups working with the Sheffield based umbrella Anti-Nuclear Campaign, ANC. The Severnside Anti-Nuclear Alliance in Wales and the South West runs films and is trying to stop military recruitment in schools. The Lothians Against the War Drive, LAWD, sustains marches and festivals directed at the proposed Torness nuclear power plant, and the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace, SCRAM, held its first huge peace conference in Edinburgh earlier this year.

Only the farmers don't seem to be represented in this vast movement for common sense and survival. Perhaps they are taking the *Protect and Survive* recommendations seriously: cows should be milked before the holocaust and post-devastation agriculture geared up to meet a grain diet.

The disarmament campaign does seem to be making some political headway. Within a mere 6 months of frantic movement activity the government is re-examining its whole defence outlay and a joint party House of Commons Defence Committee is split over the advisability of Trident. According to a mid-year *Guardian* survey most people in Britain do reject Trident now, compared to only half last year. Yet culturally, there is much less awareness of the deforming effect of the prevalent technological assumptions on social relations here than there was during the high point of the Australian anti-nuclear campaign. Alternative groups in Britain are putting most of their energies into practical civil projects leaving the peace campaign to established productive forces and self-legitimising professionals. It is plain that each arm of it is partial, and ambivalent in its opposition to the status quo. Labour, peace groups, the churches, women . . . each group has different aims and different tactics. Their combined impact can be expected to reflect their collective ambivalence.

## Chain Reaction

### EDITORS and ADVERTISING MANAGER

Applications/proposals are invited for the positions of Editors\* and Advertising Manager of *Chain Reaction*, the national magazine of Friends of the Earth Australia. (\* Currently there are two people working as Editors, one of whom handles advertising. Other arrangements may be proposed by the applicants.)

The magazine, published quarterly, goes to all members of Friends of the Earth in Australia, other subscribers (including schools, unions, community groups, libraries and individuals) and is on sale at community centres and various retail outlets. *Chain Reaction* covers a wide range of environmental, energy and food issues in Australia - emphasising the work of community groups.

The Editors work with Collective of volunteers in Melbourne and Sydney, with FOE and other community groups around Australia. The magazine has been based in Melbourne since it was established in 1975. The Editors' responsibilities include ensuring continued operation of the Collectives, encouraging people to work on the magazine, determining content of the editions, organisation of production, managing the finances of CR, distribution and promotion of the magazine. The present Editors have had a two year appointment.

The Advertising Manager sells advertising space in the magazine.

Remuneration - negotiable. Applications close on 31 December 1981.

Applicants may be required to attend interviews in mid or late January 1982 at a Friends of the Earth Australia meeting in Victoria.

The new Editors and Advertising Manager would commence work on 1 April 1982.

Applicants are welcome to discuss the magazine and obtain further information from the present Editors and Melbourne and Sydney Collectives - telephone (03) 63 5995 or (02) 698 4114.

Send written applications/proposals and enquiries to the Selection Committee, *Chain Reaction*, Room 14 Floor 4, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000.



Friends of the Earth Brisbane requires PART-TIME ORGANISER

1-2 days/week \$20-30 (Terms Negotiable)  
Commencing 14 February (approximately)

Activities: Fund raising; CR distribution; co-ordinate meetings; correspondence; etc.

Preferably someone who is prepared to work in a co-operative group based on consensus decision making.

Applications stating relevant experience and interests to be submitted by about 12 January 1982. Send to: FOE (Brisbane), PO Box 667 South Brisbane, Queensland 4101.

## DON'T JUMP!



We know government and big business are secretive but don't let working in there get you down. Pass information on to us so *Chain Reaction* can let the public know. Our address is *Chain Reaction* Room 14, Floor 4, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000 and our telephone number (03) 63 5995.

# GOING, GOING, GONE.

to occur by 2000 would result directly from massive destruction of the world's rainforests, many of them unclassified and unexamined by scientists.

The loss of living quarters for both plant and animal species is ultimately an irreversible threat. Yet coupled with such habitat destruction are less visible but equally dangerous threats.

In Australia for instance, a combination of introduced diseases, predatory and competitive introduced species, hunting and gathering, industrial pollution, and trafficking in live animals and their products has pushed our national list of endangered and vulnerable species well into the hundreds. Again, the *Global 2000 Report* highlights the problem, in this case with marine species:

'Current trends also threaten freshwater and marine species. Physical alterations - damming, channelization, siltation - and pollution by salts, acid rain, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals are profoundly affecting freshwater ecosystems throughout the world. At present 274 freshwater vertebrate taxa are threatened with extinction, and by the year 2000 many may have been lost.'

A threat of particular concern is the world trade in endangered fauna and flora. It is a devastating trade, cruel and destructive, a flow of natural resources - a one-way flow - from the developing world to the developed. At a recent meeting of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Third World nations were at great pains to express their chagrin at the Western world for depleting their wildlife resource for the sake of a luxury trade. The list of species mentioned by CITES runs into thousands, while many millions of plants and animals are traded every year.

Room does not permit examination of even a few case studies, but some insight can be gained from the following endangered species lists. Lists in themselves don't help the species a great deal, but do serve as indications as they either lengthen or decrease:

The impact of people on the extinction rates of species has been rather more than significant. In his exceptional book *The Sinking Ark*, Norman Myers puts clearly into perspective this impact: 'To reduce the history of species on earth to manageable proportions, suppose the whole existence of the planet is compressed into a single year. Conditions suitable for life do not develop for certain until May, and plants and animals do not become abundant (mostly in the seas) until the end of October. In mid-December, dinosaurs and other reptiles dominate the scene. Mammals, with hairy covering and suckling their young, appear in large numbers only a little before Christmas. On New Year's Eve, at about five minutes to midnight, man [sic] emerges. Of these few moments of man's existence, recorded history represents about the time the clock takes to strike twelve. The period since A.D. 1600, when man-induced extinctions have rapidly increased, amounts to 3 seconds, and the quarter-century just begun, when the fall-out of species looks likely to be far greater than all mass extinctions of the past put together, takes one-eighth of a second - a twinkling of an eye in evolutionary terms.'

At the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in India earlier this year the Australian delegation proposed important initiatives for increased regulation of trade in vulnerable species. Despite this, the Fund for Animals sees Australia's record in implementing CITES as 'extremely dismal'. In this feature, **Michael Kennedy**, Campaign Director at Fund for Animals, looks at the world situation of endangered species, and Australia's share of the problem.

The *Global 2000 Report* to the President of the USA had this to say about species extinctions:

'... the world faces an urgent problem of loss of plant and animal genetic resources. An estimate prepared for the Global 2000 Study suggests that between half a million and 2 million species - 15 to 20 per cent of all species on Earth - could be extinguished by 2000, mainly because of loss of wild habitat but also in part because of pollution. Extinction of species on this scale is without precedent in human history.'

The report proceeded to point out that one-half to two-thirds of the extinctions projected

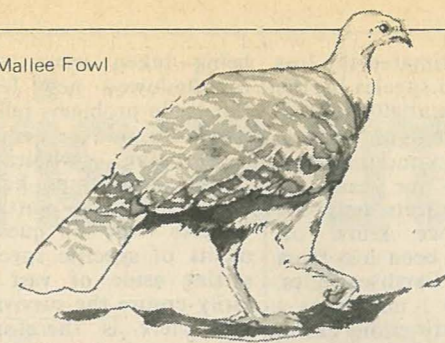
## AUSTRALIAN RARE, ENDANGERED AND VULNERABLE SPECIES

### Mammals

- Dibbler
- Antechinus Leo
- Atherton Antechinus
- Pygmy Antechinus
- Red-tailed Phascogale
- Nulgara
- Western Quoll
- Eastern Quoll
- White-tailed Dunnart
- Hairy-footed Dunnart
- Long-tailed Dunnart
- Sandhill Dunnart
- Julia Creek Dunnart
- Scally-tailed Possum
- Grey Cuscus
- Little Pygmy Possum
- Leadbeater's Possum
- Mountain Pygmy Possum
- Green Ringtailed Possum
- Striped Possum
- Long Footed Potoroo
- Tasmanian Bettong
- Burrowing Bettong
- Brush-tailed Bettong
- Desert Bettong
- Rock Wallaby
- Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby
- Spectacled Hair Wallaby
- Rufus Hare Wallaby
- Eastern Hare Wallaby
- Banded Hair Wallaby
- Tammar Wallaby
- Toolache Wallaby
- Bridled Nail-tailed Wallaby
- Darna Wallaby
- Crescent Nail-tailed Wallaby
- Lumholtz Tree Kangaroo
- Bennet's Tree Kangaroo
- Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat
- Honey Possum
- False Water Rat
- Light Footed Melomy
- Alice Springs Mouse
- Hastings River Mouse
- Gould's Mouse
- Western Mouse
- Shark Bay Mouse
- Lakeland Downs Mouse
- Short-tailed Hopping Mouse
- Northern Hopping Mouse
- Long-tailed Hopping Mouse
- Big-eared Hopping Mouse
- Darling Downs Hopping Mouse
- Rabbit-eared Tree Rat
- Golden-backed Tree Rat
- Lesser Stick Nest Rat
- Greater Stick Nest Rat
- Central Rock Rat
- Prehensile-tailed Tree Mouse

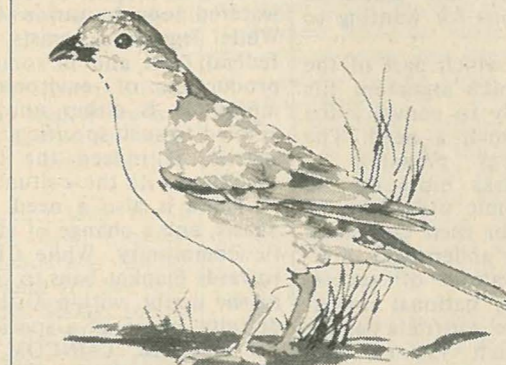
- Thylacine
- Western Barred Bandicoot
- Desert Bandicoot
- Golden Bandicoot
- Pig-footed Bandicoot
- Greater Bilby
- Lesser Bilby
- Koala
- Ghost Bat
- Bent-winged Bat
- Little Bent-winged Bat
- Timor Pipistrelle
- Hughendon Broad-nosed Bat
- Dome-headed Bat
- Small-footed Myotis
- Little Territory Long-eared Bat
- Fawn Horseshoe Bat
- Lesser Warty-nosed Horseshoe Bat
- Orange Horseshoe Bat
- Through-ton's Sheath-tailed Bat
- Large-eared Horseshoe Bat
- Naked-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat
- North Eastern Sheath-tailed Bat
- Bare-backed Fruit Bat
- Northern Blossom Bat
- Rusty Numbat
- Blue Whale
- Humpback Whale
- Dugong
- Sperm Whale
- Southern Right Whale
- Sei Whale

Mallee Fowl



- Freckled Duck
- Radjah Shelduck
- Cotton Pygmy Goose
- Red Goshawk
- Peregrine Falcon
- Grey Falcon

- Fawn Breasted Bowerbird
- Lord Howe Island Currawong
- Black Winged Currawong
- Capentarian Wren



Spotted Bowerbird

Orange Footed Scrub Fowl



Numbat

### Birds

- Dwarf Emu
- Southern Cassowary
- Providence Petrel
- Noisy Scrub Bird

- Yellow Legged Fly Catcher
- Red Loped Whistler
- Western Whipbird
- Purple Crowned Fairy Wren
- White Winged Fairy Wren
- Black Grass Wren

- Black Breasted Button Quail
- Plains Wanderer
- Lord Howe Island Wood Hen
- Australian Bustard
- Bush Stone Curlew
- Pied Oystercatcher
- Little Tern
- Lesser Noddy
- Banded Fruit Dove
- Squatter Pigeon
- Palm Cockatoo
- Glossy Black Cockatoo
- Long Billed Copella
- Pink Cockatoo
- Double Eyed Fig Parrot
- Alexandra's Parrot

- Grey Grass Wren
- Thick Rilled Grass Wren
- Eastern Bristlebird
- Western Bristlebird
- Rufous Bristlebird
- Atherton Scrub Wren
- Black Eared Minor
- Helmeted Honeyeater
- Green Backed Honeyeater

### Reptiles

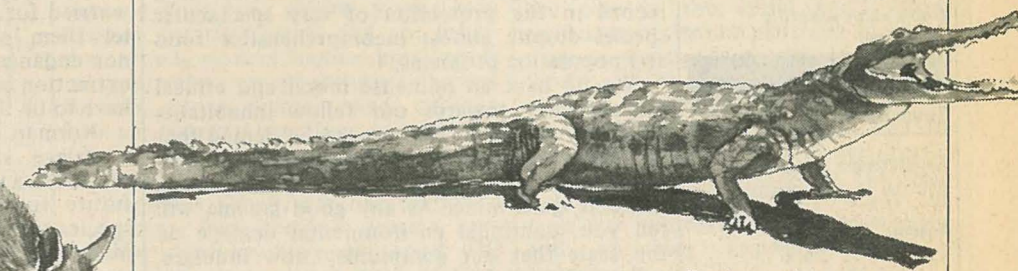
- Reticulated Velet Gecko
- Phyllodactylus guentheri* (Gecko)
- Boyd's Forest Dragon



Rainforest Dragon

- Ground Parrot
- Night Parrot
- Golden Shouldered Parrot
- Hooded Parrot
- Paradise Parrot
- Blue Bonnet
- Orange Bellied Parrot

- Flatback Turtle
- Hawksbill Turtle
- Green Turtle
- Pacific Ridley Turtle
- Leathery Turtle
- Pitted Shelled Turtle
- Western Swamp Tortoise
- Saltwater Crocodile



Freshwater Water Crocodile

- Gould's Petrel
- Abbott's Booby
- Christmas Island Frigate Bird
- Yellow Chat
- Forty Spotted Pardalote
- Norfolk Island Silver Eye
- Red Eared Fire Tail
- Balck Faced Finch
- Norfolk Island Starling
- Golden Bowerbird

- Turquoise Parrot
- Scarlet Chested Parrot
- Norfolk Island Boobook Owl
- Christmas Island Hawk Owl
- Eastern Grass Owl
- Sooty Owl
- Marbled Frogmouth
- Albert's Lyrebird
- Rufous Scrub Bird

- Lalcelin Island Striped Skink
- Lord Howe Island Skink
- Lerista lineata* (Skink)
- Pseudomoioia palfreymani* (Skink)
- Adelaide Bluetongue
- Aprasia aurita* (Legless Lizard)
- Aprasia parapulchella* (Legless Lizard)
- Bronze-backed Legless Lizard
- Paradelma orientalis* (Legless Lizard)
- Green Python
- Diamond Python
- Oenpelli Python
- Broad-headed Snake
- Stephen's Banded Snake
- Western Black Striped Snake

List provided by the Total Environment Centre's Endangered Species Committee, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, from their forthcoming book. Due to limited space, only common names have been used, unless none exist, and it has been impossible to list the hundreds of endangered plants to be found in Australia.

DRAWINGS BY LIZ HONEY

## Fish

Australian Lunfish  
Northern Spotted  
Barramundi  
Spotted Barramundi  
Native Trout  
Scaled Galaxias  
Derwent Whitebait  
Australian Grayling  
Freshwater Catfish  
River Blackfish  
Tasmanian Blackfish  
Silver Barramundi  
Murray Cod  
Trout Cod  
Golden Perch  
Macquarie Perch  
Freshwater Perch  
Estuarine Perch  
Jungle Perch

## Amphibians

*Arenophryne rotunda*  
(Frog)  
Pouched Frog  
*Geocrinia laevis*  
(Frog)  
*Limnodynastes depressus*  
(Frog)  
Baw Baw Frog  
*Philoria kundagungan*  
Loveridge's Frog  
Sphagnum Frog  
Corroboree Frog  
*Rheobatrachus silus*  
(Frog)  
*Litoria longirostris*  
(Frog)  
*Cophixalus concinnus*  
(Frog)  
*Cophixalus saxatilis*  
(Frog)

## Invertebrates

## Crustaceans

Murray River Lobster

## Insects

Lord Howe Island  
Phasmids  
*Austrocordulia* sp. 't'  
(Dragonfly)  
*Hemigomphus* sp. 'm'  
(Dragonfly)  
*Nososticta pilbora*  
(Dragonfly)  
*Ictinogomphus dolison*  
(Dragonfly)  
*Antipodogomphus*  
*hedgkini* (Dragonfly)  
*Austrolestes* sp. 'm'  
(Dragonfly)  
*Orthetrum* sp. 'b'  
*Achuvimima* sp.  
(Grasshopper)  
*Kegocris scurra*  
(Grasshopper)  
Richmond Birdwing  
Butterfly  
Swordgrass Brown  
Butterfly

The *Global 2000 Report* estimated the loss of half a million to two million species by the turn of the century. Myers essentially agreed, quoting 1 million as a likely a figure as any. From what we know of past extinction rates, we've lost perhaps one species per year from 1900 onwards, though this reflects only the cuddly-cum-glamour species we know of, leaving us to ponder what has been lost from the other 99% of the stock of Earth's species.

Myers points out that, with 1 million as a 'reasonable working figure', extinctions calculate out at over 100 per day. One species per day now could so easily turn into one species per hour by the beginning of the 1990s.

*Chain Reaction* could quite easily devote an entire issue to discussing why species should be saved. Aesthetic arguments, questions of ethics, morality, ecological diversity and stability, genetic resources, economic and utilitarian benefits — all provide reasons for wanting to save endangered species.

It all rather depends on which part of the world you live in as to which argument fits best, or which is more likely to convince the public and authorities of such a need. The World Conservation Strategy prepared by IUCN/WWF and UNEP harks more on the genetic resource and economic utilisation of species as a prime reason for their continued existence. While this can be understood in relation to 'selling' conservation of species to the developing world, any national conservation strategy developed for Australia cannot and must not promote such 'rational use' arguments as the sole reasoning for saving species. Australia has little or no excuse for its growing list of endangered species, and in comparing its commitment to the job of conservation of species with other nations, shapes up very poorly indeed. India has an outstanding record in the protection of very spectacular species despite almost incomprehensible food and population problems.

We do have an immense moral and ethical responsibility towards our fellow inhabitants of Earth, though it also cannot be denied that as a genetic resource with potential benefit for humankind, plant and animal species are a veritable gold mine. As any good greenie will tell you, continual environmental damage on the scale that our community now indulges, will consequently have dire ramifications for humankind itself. Whichever way you look at it, we need the Earth's wild species, and they need us. We are locked together on a common path to either survival or oblivion.

Individuals, organisations and governments, in that order, need to openly acknowledge the latter fact. To a certain extent this is already happening, reflected in the *Global 2000 Report*, the *Brandt Report*, the *World Conservation Strategy* and others. Implementation of the recommendations, assuming their suitability, by governments, is of course another matter.

The concern of nations for the plight of endangered species is particularly manifested through CITES. CITES now has 72 signatory nations and is dominated by developing countries. Controls are continually being tightened in an effort to curb this immense threat to endangered species, and the application of CITES regulations is certainly

being taken more seriously. Australia has foreshadowed new legislation in this area. But trade problems tell but a small part of the story. How do we combat habitat destruction?

Stopping wholesale obliteration of rainforest, swamps, heaths and other precious habitats is one matter, but is also closely coupled with the question of habitat requirements of specific species. In many cases the setting aside of vast areas does not necessarily ensure the survival of endangered species, and there is therefore an urgent need to research their peculiar requirements. This would need to be followed by the protection of suitable habitat and the development of sound management plans.

Legislation that can directly benefit endangered species is sadly lacking, and Australia is no exception. The USA has a punchy Endangered Species Act, though it has been watered down by various Congressional reviews. While legislation exists in Australia at the federal level and in some states requiring the production of environmental impact statements, it is either unused or not generally applied to such specific problems as endangered species, if indeed the legislation is capable of coping with these situations.

There is also a need for a change of emphasis, and a change of attitude by the scientific community. While CITES is now steering towards blanket bans to give species the benefit of the doubt, within Australia scientists require definite proof of a species endangered status. To illustrate, CONCOM (Council of Nature Conservation Ministers) has produced its own national list of endangered species which is far shorter for instance than that produced by the Total Environment Centre. TEC gives many more species the benefit of the doubt. The onus of proof must be reversed. If scientists are worried for their credibility and standing, then let them work at proving that a species is not endangered. Waiting until a species is near extinction before offering a helping hand would have to be the ultimate folly.

Norman Myers in *The Sinking Ark* refers to a 'triage strategy' for species. Briefly, the resources and energy available to secure a stable future for the increasing lists of endangered species simply are not and will not be available. Many species 'are' going to disappear, and since we are 'intervening in the evolutionary process with all the impact of a major glaciation, [we] should do it with as much conscious awareness of what [we are] about as [we] can muster'. In other words, we should select the species to be saved.

The term 'triage' derives from a French medical practice in World War I, when doctors assigned wounded soldiers to one of three categories: those that needed urgent medical attention and would be helped by such, those that would survive without medical attention, and those that would die despite treatment.

Application of such a strategy to endangered species is controversial to say the least, and raises innumerable sticky questions. Who gets to play God, is one. How ever we solve the coming problems, and we must, there is little doubt that disappearing species is looming as one of the issues of the coming decade.

# Tourism traps

by Peter Holden

When your hand has stopped shaking from writing that big cheque you've just given your travel agent to pay for your well earned holiday on an exotic tropical island, you probably think that's the end of the paying part of it; all you need to do is buy a few travel cheques and take off for a carefree holiday. And so you can. It's as simple as that.

But there are other, hidden costs, and you as the holiday maker are not paying them, someone else is. And that someone else can afford it even less than you can.

It seems like a good idea for a 'developing' country to foster tourism. Tourists come and spend their money and earn foreign exchange for the host country, which uses the dollars for its peoples' development. That's the theory of it, but it doesn't work. What really happens is that the tourist comes and spends money in a foreign-owned hotel or buying imported food or paying directly or indirectly for the services of other expatriates. What money is left after that stays in the host country, but it's not much and it's badly distributed, invariably in favour of the privileged.

Furthermore, in order for tourism to happen, the host country has to spend gigantic sums of money on roads, airports, sewerage treatment plants, electricity generators and modern communications systems. Often people who lack the very basics in food, education and health care have to sit back and watch their own money being spent to provide recreational amenities for the rich.

In some cases, whole communities of people have been moved off their farming lands and traditional fishing places so that luxury hotels or golf courses or wildlife parks can be established. Even if they've been compensated with a few dollars for their land, rising food prices (inflated by the demand of tourists), seasonal unemployment, the loss of productive land and new, uneven competition for survival needs lead self-sufficient communities into dependency and poverty.

The new market established by tourism for cultural artifacts and performances does more to erode cultural traditions than it does to preserve

them. For example, the people of Bali have developed over centuries very complex and sophisticated expressions of their culture in the form of paintings, carvings and dances. Confronted by tourists, the Balinese 'artists' learn that their paintings can be turned into money and so they become producers of what the tourist asks for. This emphasis on production is quite foreign to Balinese tradition where for centuries the central value has been the process of creating rather than the product which is created.

By cheapening culture for a quick show or for sale, the tourist experience tends to destroy what it claims to enhance but worse than that, it deludes people into believing that what is destroyed is still alive and they are forced to act out a culture which no longer exists.

The economic power of the traveller as compared with the people who live in the host countries makes people only too aware of who it is who controls much of their life. Demands for security and comfort and entertainment change the employment patterns of villages and towns. Good farmers become poor tour guides, young men become security guards and not fishermen, young women become hotel maids or waitresses or prostitutes. Peasant farmers, street beggars and children become tourist attractions and are not seen as people with their own dignity and importance.

Somehow the dream has become a nightmare. One person's dreams have become someone else's nightmare. The reasons for this are not hard to find,

they all stem from the powerlessness of some people against the power of those who can afford to pay for what they want. The person who writes the cheque to pay for a holiday in the Third World is also writing a bill which other people are forced to pay.

Some efforts are being made to humanise the travel experience.

The genuine alternative is one in which the traveller and the host community stand on equal terms, but in a very unequal world this isn't easily achieved. An Adelaide based co-operative called Just Travel is one attempt to promote travel experiences which respond to the aspirations of the people of the Third World rather than the market pressures created in the rich countries. Experience so far has shown clearly that several groups of people in Asia and the Pacific are keen to welcome travellers who are well prepared for their holiday and are willing to meet their neighbours on their own terms.

But it will be a long time before real progress is made. Major structural changes are necessary in the control of capital, the interpretation of culture and the care of the social and physical environment before anything like a humanised tourism is possible in the Third World. Only a strong international peoples' movement involving travellers, workers and the people who pay the price for the dream holiday can create a situation where governments and travel policy makers are forced to apply controls that will make travel a humanising and enriching experience for all concerned.



Peter Holden is Secretary of the South Australian Council of Churches.



By Paul Pedevrexakis

Stewart West, the shadow minister for the environment, does not use the short, sharp rhetoric of the slick politician. Sitting behind his desk looking through half-inch thick glasses, West answers questions with deep sighs, long pauses, and often complex answers.

West is a large man, 47 years old, an ex-waterside worker, former union official and the man who succeeded Connor in the New South Wales south coast seat of Cunningham. Although only on the front bench for a short time, West already has a reputation as an extremely hard-working shadow minister. Without the large staff of a minister, he is forced to do much research himself, writing his own speeches and churning out press releases. He is known to be disappointed by the poor run the many press releases get in the mass media, but has not given up and now works on the apparently correct assumption that opposition press releases often get run on a percentage basis — that is, 0.001% are run.

I began by asking the shadow minister about his perception of the differences between the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal/National Country Party policies on the environment.

Well, the key differences are very specific. We are committed to taking the environment into consideration in regard to new development projects, and I don't really believe that the present federal government is. Virtually all federal environmental legislation has been introduced by the Labor Party: the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act*, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act*, the *National Parks and Wildlife Service Act*...

The Impact of Proposals Act is perhaps the most significant piece of environmental legislation in Australia. It allows federal scrutiny of major projects in

*Paul Pedevrexakis observes federal environmental affairs from the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Canberra.*

# The ALP's Stewart West

areas of national significance or where there might be a federal interest, such as production for export and so on. We introduced that Act, and we're the only government to set up inquiries under it — on Ranger Uranium and Fraser Island. There have been a number of matters that have cried out for a public inquiry on a national level and yet the government hasn't introduced an inquiry — two that come to mind are the aluminium industry and South West Tasmania. But the Fraser Government just won't do it. We've only now, with the help of the Democrats, set up a Senate Select Committee as a second best to inquire into South West Tasmania.

The short answer to your question is that we're not anti-development, but we do want to take environmental matters into consideration, which the government

doesn't.

**Would you institute an inquiry into the aluminium industry in general under the Impact of Proposals Act, and how might that affect your relationship with the New South Wales Government?**

Last year the Combined Caucus Resources and Economics Committee decided that there should be an inquiry into the economic, environmental and energy aspects of the aluminium industry in Australia under the Impact of Proposals Act. But I think the first task is to try to get uniformity of state legislation. I would prefer this to happen, and for the states to carry out their own inquiries. The problem is that even if we are able to achieve such uniformity, there's always a political decision to be made at the end of the inquiry.

In NSW, where we now have the best state environmental legislation, we still haven't achieved a regional inquiry — as distinct from individual inquiries into coal mines, power stations and individual smelters — to look into the overall economic and environmental effects of development in the Hunter Valley.

Therefore if I were minister for the environment in a federal Labor government one of the first things I would press for would be a national inquiry into all aspects of the aluminium industry. Whether that would still be necessary two years down the track is another matter. There are other factors now operating which will militate against some of the more excessive projects. Power costs are going up, mainly because even the Fraser government has realised that the borrowing programmes of the largest eight statutory bodies — including the state electricity commissions — have blown out to such an extent that a brake has had to be put on their borrowings from the Loans Council. The authorities are seeking to make up this shortfall by raising tariffs, which will affect developments such as aluminium smelters.

**If an inquiry called into question the desirability of some aluminium projects, do you think that a Labor government would be able to take on the large aluminium companies and match them blow for blow, especially in the light of the pressure such companies have previously brought to bear on the Federal government?**

Yes, I believe we would, even more than the Fraser government is now doing. I believe we would have to face up to the problem of regulating development. There's only so much money floating around, so if these development programmes aren't rationalised then it will certainly be to the detriment of budgetary policy — financial payments to the states, specific purpose grants, social welfare payments. We must rationalise in the interests of controlling the money

supply, or we could end up in the same position as the present government is, depending on high interest rates and domestic surpluses to control inflation and the money supply.

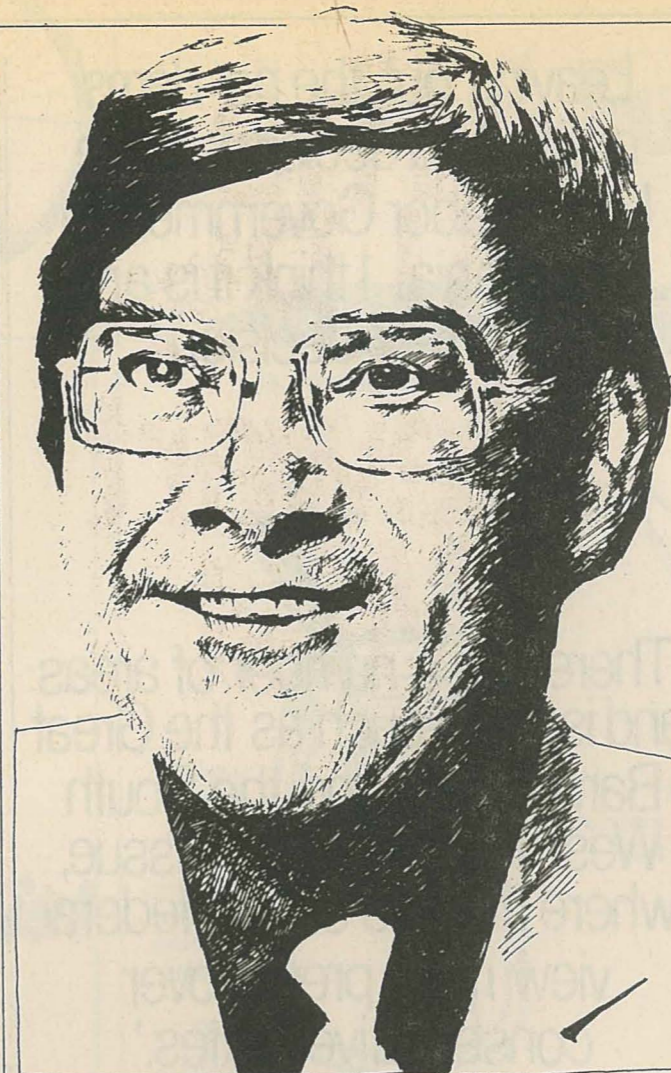
**We've just had the decision from the Tasmanian government on the South West Tasmania referendum which leaves out a 'no-dams' option. Why should conservationists have faith in the Labor Party when a Labor government leaves out what conservationists see as the most attractive option?**

Well, the first thing is that this is a decision of the Lowe Labor government in Tasmania. I think it is an incorrect decision. I think that whilst they stuck with their legislation for the Gordon-above-Olga option they were entitled as the government to have it passed. Once they decided to drop that line and to go for a referendum I think they were really obliged to give people of all views a chance to register their opinions. So I think they were wrong. I still hope they'll change their minds. However, if they don't they will have to wear it as a political plus or minus.

I hasten to point out that the federal opposition unanimously opted for a public inquiry under the Impact of Proposals Act. The government won't do that so we joined with the Democrats and the Senate voted on the voices to set up a Senate Select Committee. I fully expect the environment movement throughout Australia to give us credit for our federal position.

**In the last election campaign some people said that they voted Australian Democrat because they believed the Democrats would hold firmer on the uranium issue than Labor. In fact in one issue of Chain Reaction Mungo MacCallum actually advocated a Democrat vote for those strongly opposed to uranium mining. On this sort of issue, the thing that bothers conservationists is how far can Labor be trusted?**

We have a federal policy which I know you are familiar with. It's there in print. I have every reason to



Stewart West

believe that the federal conference will stay with that policy. I believe that's the position of a majority in Caucus.

Having said that, I believe it will be quite difficult to implement, because of the development that will already have taken place. Due to the declining market for uranium it is obvious that the present federal government is willing to break down its international safeguard arrangements. They started out saying they wouldn't allow reprocessing — they now write that into their agreements. They started out insisting on separate agreements with individual countries — in the last several days they've broken that down too, by agreeing to treat the European Economic Community as a whole and to allow free transfer between members of the EEC, mainly because of the centralisation

state to act as a permanent repository for nuclear waste. In Europe it's different. I suppose that's understandable because of the lack of hydro-carbon. Even under the socialist government in France I don't expect there will be an abrupt halt to the nuclear power programme. On the contrary, they'll probably try to build up to 35% of electricity coming from nuclear energy, which will be achieved when the nine or ten new stations in the planning or construction phase are completed. They'll probably even go beyond that. But under Giscard they were to reach about 70% of power by nuclear means by 1990.

By the time we're in power the trend against nuclear energy will have accelerated. There will not only be increased pressure on a Labor government to oppose uranium mining on environmental, nuclear safeguard and proliferation grounds, but also on economic grounds, because if we support proliferation of the large and small uranium mines that are proposed in Australia we'll be producing about twice as much uranium as we could reasonably expect to sell.

So there's lots of things going for our uranium policy. Sure, there will be people outside the Party pressuring us to drop our objections, and from inside the Party and even inside a Labor government there will be people who will have thoughts about reversing the uranium-mining policy. But I believe that the anti-uranium lobby in the Party will prevail.

**Will a Labor government be forced to pay compensation to miners? I can imagine that they would apply quite a degree of pressure to demand compensation.**

In my view we have made our position very plain. We stand for a moratorium until the problems are solved. Our policy says that we will repudiate new contracts entered into by this non-Labor government. Now I know there will be revoking. Maybe once we start revoking export licenses, compensation payments may be made. We'll have to meet that problem when we come to it. It may

— and I can't say now how a federal Labor government would meet the problem — involve some form of stockpiling and acquisition. But we could not retain our credibility if we went into an election with the policy we have now and then, once elected, repudiated our own policy.

What would a Labor government do on the National Estate?

I think there probably isn't very much wrong with the *Australian Heritages Commission Act* as it stands. The Commission accepts recommendations for areas that should be placed on the National Register. Section 30 of that Act sets out that the relevant ministers are not entitled to take any action by ministerial or administrative decisions that would harm any area on the National Estate. That obviously covers such areas as the issue of export licenses for mineral sands from Fraser Island or Morton Island, which are on the National Estate.

There are currently two bills in the Senate, a Democrat and a Labor bill, which seek to amend the Customs Act to bring it into line with Section 30 of the Heritages Commission Act, so that we could place any proposals to mine on these areas before both houses of parliament. I think there's a very strong case to say that a federal Labor government should seek to tidy up at least section 30 of the Australian Heritages Commission Act and perhaps section 112 of the Customs Act which deals with the issue of export licenses. That's to make it virtually impossible by ministerial decision to allow actions that would be detrimental to areas once they're placed on the National Estate register.

By the time a Labor government comes to power it's quite possible that Australia's oil self-sufficiency will have worsened. Is there any way that a Labor government would tolerate oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef?

No, let me be very clear about that. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act as introduced and passed

Leaving out the no-dams option 'is a decision of the Lowe Labor Government in Tasmania. I think it is an incorrect decision.'

'There are a number of areas and issues, such as the Great Barrier Reef and the South West Tasmania dams issue, where I think a strong federal view must prevail over conservative states.'

by the Whitlam Labor government designates the whole reef area from the top of Cape York (and it should be extended to the border with Papua New Guinea) right down to south of Rockhampton as a marine park. Once the area is designated as park, the Act expressly forbids mining and drilling in park area. Now the problem is that the present government is dragging its feet and is being frustrated by the Queensland state government in the sequential declaration of the various areas of the park. So that as of now we've only got the Capricornia section declared and there's been a long hassle about the declaration of the Cairns section.

Our policy is very clear: the declaration of the sections of the park should be speeded up, the whole Reef area under the Act

should be declared as park and then the zoning plans and management plans can be tidied up sequentially.

Once we do that there can't be any mining or drilling. So we think that's the quickest and safest way to go about it, certainly given the fact that the federal government has amended the Seas and Submerged Lands Act to extend the area under commonwealth-state jurisdiction out to the edge of the continental shelf for the express purpose of issue oil drilling licenses jointly with the Queensland government. The only assurance Anthony has given is that they won't allow drilling within 30 miles of the reef, which is nonsense because wind and tidal movements in a blowout situation would place the reef at risk.

The Barrier Reef and

South West Tasmania illustrate the problem of relations between federal and state governments. It could be argued that a federal Labor government would have more trouble handling a state Labor government than your opponents.

That may be true to some extent. Maybe there'll be a problem with New South Wales if the government continues with its contingency plan — and this has certainly yet to be decided — to mine under or in National Parks for coal. There might be a conflict there if we considered it an area of national significance.

Would you disallow export approval for coal from such an area?

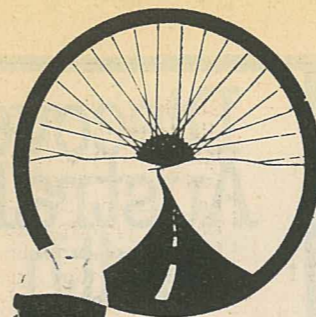
Well, that remains to be seen. But I do agree that there is this problem of federal-state relations with regard to the environmental consequences of development. But I guess it gets back to what I was saying earlier about the need to tidy up the legislative scene.

Another area where you could have problems is that of the public service.

No more in the environmental and energy areas than in economic areas. Certainly that was a problem for the Whitlam Labor government.

Our policy is to once again have a federal Department of the Environment. Certainly if I were minister I would want to have a head of department who was sympathetic to our aspirations and policy.

Since being in environment I've realised the need for a more active interventionist commonwealth role where necessary, without being heavy handed, and a particular interest in areas of national importance. There are a number of areas and issues, such as uranium mining, the Great Barrier Reef, logging in some areas, the South West Tasmania dams issue, perhaps the Darling Ranges in Western Australia, and sandmining on the two great sand islands in Queensland, where I think a strong federal view must prevail over conservative states.



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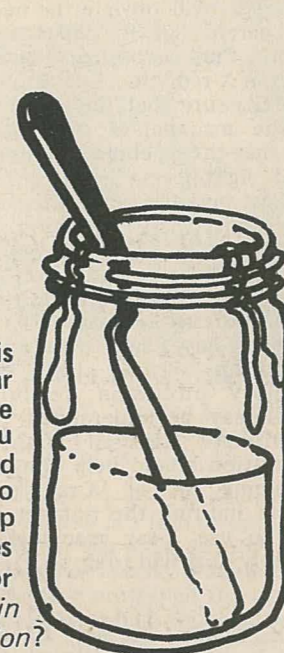
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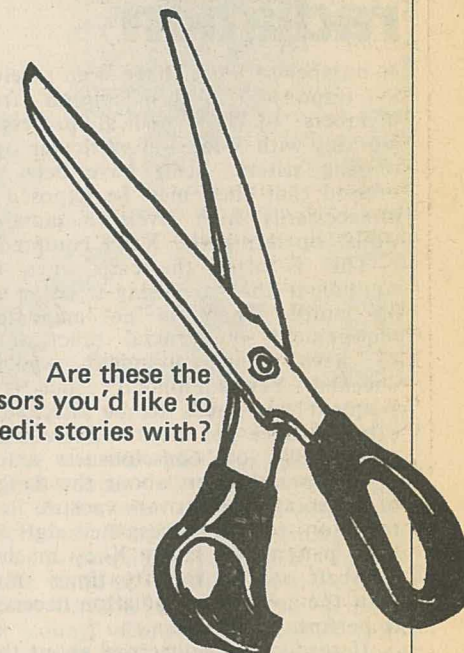
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## REMS

### Working with radiation

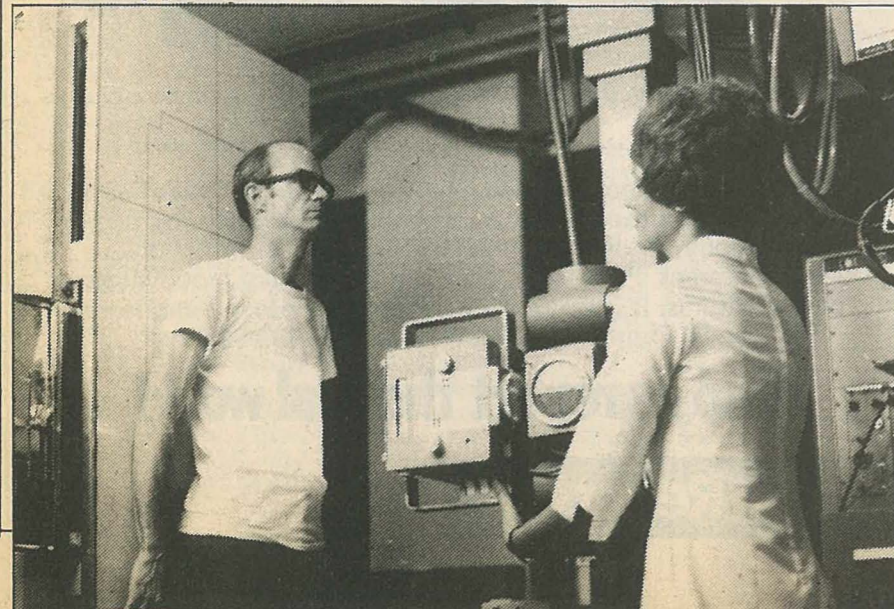
A number of letters have been received in response to this column from members of the medical profession working with X-rays, in particular from nursing sisters. Fears have been expressed that they may be exposed to unnecessarily high levels of radiation whilst operating the X-ray equipment.

This is often the case when the equipment they are using is either old or faulty. There is no mandatory requirement on general practitioners to have their equipment regularly checked. Yet equipment which is in frequent use needs to be checked as often as once per month. There is also a generally low consciousness among general practitioners about the dangers of unnecessary and over-exposure to X-radiation, to themselves, their staff and their patients. A faulty X-ray machine can belt out up to fifty times more than the amount of radiation necessary to perform the task.

If readers are concerned about their occupational exposure to radiation, there are a number of steps which can be taken:

1. The Commonwealth Radiation Laboratories will send people out to check and measure equipment. Cracks and leaks in the lead lining of the machinery cannot be seen with the naked eye.

#### Normal X-ray position



T. THOMPSON

2. Walls of the room where X-ray equipment is used should be treated with barium to prevent penetration through into other rooms.

3. It is desirable that people operating the equipment be safely located behind a lead glass screen when taking the X-ray. A further precaution is the wearing of a lead apron by female operators.

4. Insist on *good quality* lead aprons for both the operators and the patients.

5. When X-raying babies and young children, use specially designed moulded polystyrene bags to keep the infants still. This will obviate the necessity for the parents or the operator to hold them, thus exposing themselves to random X-radiation.

6. Make sure that the 'coning' device in the machine is working properly, and that the machine is equipped with a good light-beam diaphragm. Use the smallest possible field to prevent scatter and unnecessary radiation of other tissue.

Moves have recently been underway to register radiographers, thus giving them professional status. These moves however have met with considerable opposition from the established radiology profession, fearful that its status may be undermined. This is an unfortunate state of affairs because registration would help considerably in tightening up of X-ray procedures, and in limiting the number of people able to use X-ray machines to those properly qualified to do so.

Judy Wilks

(with thanks to Dr Jo Kavanagh, Radiologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital)

*The Rems column is a project of the Friends of the Earth/Doctors Reform Society Radiation Working Group. This Chain Reaction series aims to give information on how radiation and X-rays affect our everyday lives and health.*

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## REVIEWS

### Films

**The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter**  
produced and directed by Connie Field.  
Distributed by Leclezio Films Sydney,  
33 Riley St, Woolloomooloo, 2011.



GORDON PARKS

From the film *The Life and Times of Rosie Riveter*.

During the Second World War, duty to one's country and fighting men, plus the hope of better wages, brought millions of American women temporarily into areas of American industry in which they have seldom worked — such as metal foundries and shipyards.

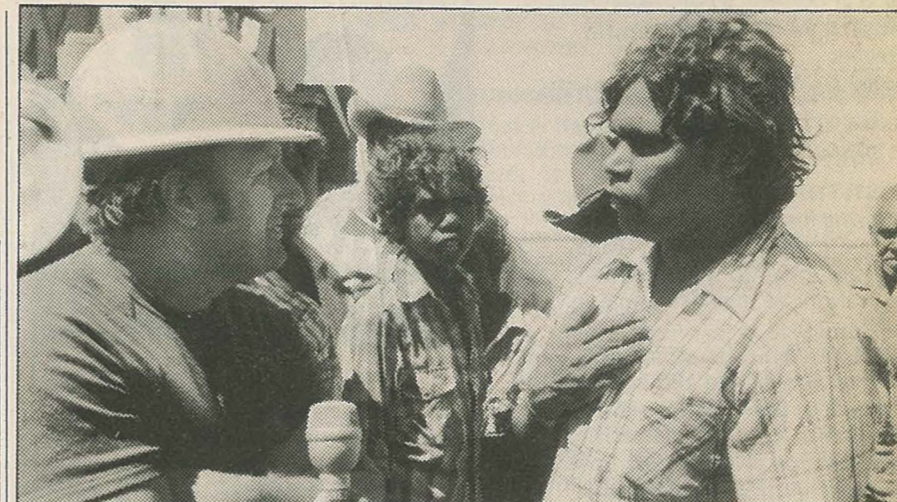
Women added the needed muscle power and extra hands to the production for war and the maintenance of domestic production and then stepped aside to have babies when the men came home.

Footage from films produced by the propaganda section of the War Department are used effectively to reproduce the atmosphere and arguments of the period. The blunt chauvanism raises telling laughs in the picture theatre, while the style is often reminiscent of the Hollywood movies of the period that we are still watching on television.

Unfortunately the makers of *Rosie the Riveter* add little new material beyond five women (three black and two white) who are interviewed about their experiences. The result is an oversimplified thesis that women are not given equal opportunity to compete for the elite, skilled and better-paid jobs in the community.

Nevertheless, the film is extremely enjoyable and is worth seeing. It is clear that women have not been able to change their situation very much in the last 40 years.

Stasia Zika



**On Sacred Ground**, directed by Oliver Howes. Film Australia, PO Box 46, Lindfield, NSW, 2070, 1980, 58 minutes, colour.

*On Sacred Ground* is a film of optimism and inspiration. We have already seen, over the last few years, a number of films which have portrayed the terrible Aboriginal history which followed white settlement in Australia. They set the scene, now *On Sacred Ground* marks Aboriginal successes where communities have been allowed to manage their own affairs.

Produced in the Kimberley, Western Australia, the film is introduced by Ribjina Green — a young man who left for twelve years to go to school and college, returning to work on community development in his homeland. His quiet enthusiasm is infectious, and one can see that his aim of training another couple of Aboriginal people, with his skills, will eventuate.

This will not be at the cost of the traditional ways of local culture and beliefs. Discussions amongst the people, plans made for the future, and dealings with the inevitable white bureaucracies, always defer to the traditional ways of the elders. Yet this is not the conservatising influence that many of us perhaps expect, but a source of inspiration and conviction. The old ways and the new can mesh.

Of course, there are the stories of Aboriginal people being rounded up and shot or raped, exploitation and desecration — such matters cannot be avoided when stories of massacres are common in every community in the

Kimberley, some as recent as this century.

But the tide has changed. All over the hundreds of square kilometers that make up the Kimberley are Aboriginal communities planning their own autonomous properties, mostly cattle stations. There, it is hoped, by Monty Gordon and others, that some of the young alienated Aboriginals from the towns will find employment and the security of the old tribal ways. Dingo Springs, a place of one thousand acres, was one of the first properties returned to Aboriginal people. As Bulla explained in the film, the Aboriginal workers originally there 'worked for white man, made money for white man, but blackfella got nothing out of it'. Now this has changed. At Noonkanbah too, the previous white manager for years employed old Aboriginal people and pensioners who never saw their pay, until the station was acquired for the Aboriginal people by the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission following the workers' walk-off in 1971.

*On Sacred Ground* is a good film for Aboriginal people and their supporters who are feeling dispirited and cynical. It is a film to rekindle the hope that the fight for land rights is still worth it, but it won't delude you that it will be easy. Two messages are clear — land rights is a meaningless phrase, unless accompanied by Aboriginal self-determination, and that white involvement is okay, but *by invitation only!*

With more successes, as Bill Ryan from Hall's Creek says, 'people will walk differently, they'll walk proud'.

See the film.

Fiona Kyle

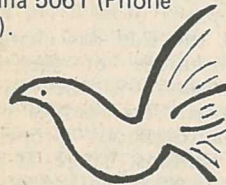
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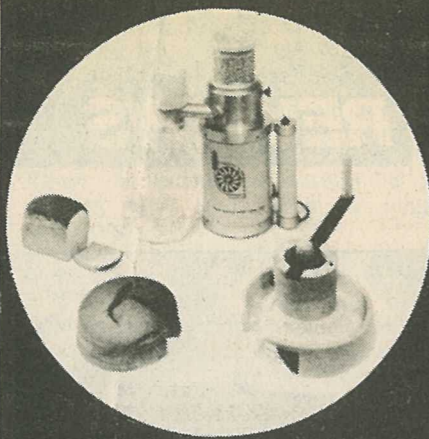
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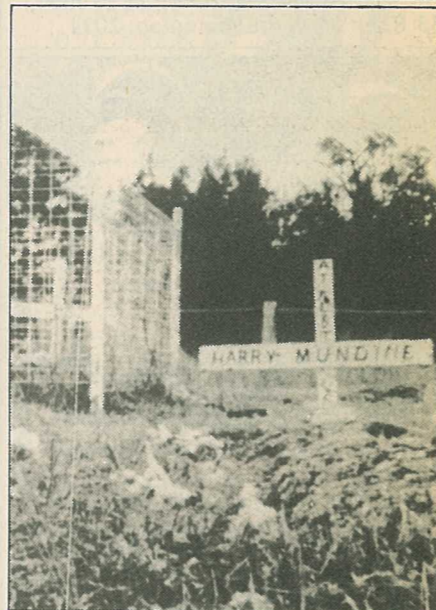
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## REVIEWS

**Dust to Dust**, researched and directed by Sabina Wynn, 16mm, colour, 27 minutes. Available from Sydney Film Makers' Co-operative, St Peters Lane, Darlinghurst, New South Wales. Telephone (02) 33 0721



Graves of dead workers, from the film *Dust to Dust*

*Dust to Dust* is a short film about the experiences of a group of Aboriginal miners at the asbestos mine at Baryulgil in northern NSW. The mine closed in 1977, shortly after the dangers to health in the asbestos industry began to make media headlines in Australia. The miners had mostly worked for 15-20 years at the mine, and had been exposed during that time to incredibly high levels of asbestos dust. Their exposure, although not adequately monitored, was clearly greater than that responsible for the epidemic of deaths and ill-health among workers in the manufacturing side of the asbestos industry.

The film, through the words of the miners themselves and interviews with government officials, exposes some of the duplicity and deceit experienced by those workers trying to establish their state of health after asbestos exposure.

Unfortunately, no interviews with executives of the asbestos industry are included, no doubt because by the time the film was made, in 1980, such people were very reluctant to say anything

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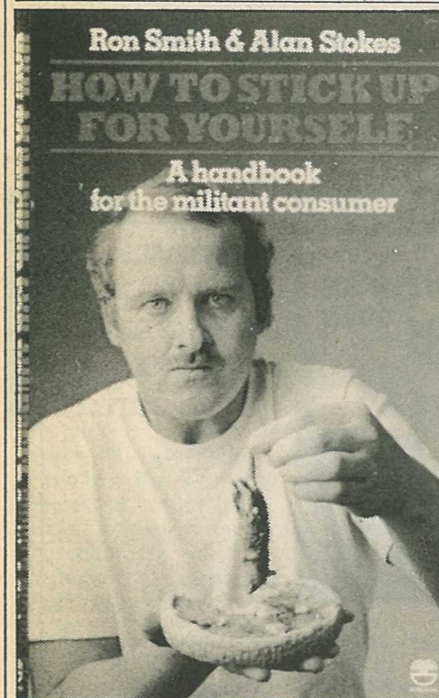
publicly about asbestos and health. However, the film does clearly establish the apparent cover-up by the government bodies charged with evaluating the hazards of asbestos dust to workers. It also stresses the failure of the mine owners and the Australian Workers Union, who covered the miners, to take any responsibility for alleviating the hazards, or even informing the workers of them.

The film is worth seeing as an extreme example of the problems faced by all people trying to get some action about health hazards in industry.

Bob Muntz

## Books

**How to Stick up for Yourself — A Handbook for the Militant Consumer** by Ron Smith and Allan Stokes. Fontana, 1981, 264 pages, \$5.95 (soft cover).



Although *How to stick up for yourself* is a book designed to appeal to the more militant among us, it clearly illustrates how all consumers, militant or otherwise can get a better deal. The serious business of buying the weekly food purchases, selecting a new or second-hand car or purchasing a new appliance dealt with effectively by the humorous use of personal anecdotes.

The main purpose of the book is to supply the consumer with a directory of information on aspects of active consumerism in Australia. How to organise and execute a street demonstration and measures to make members

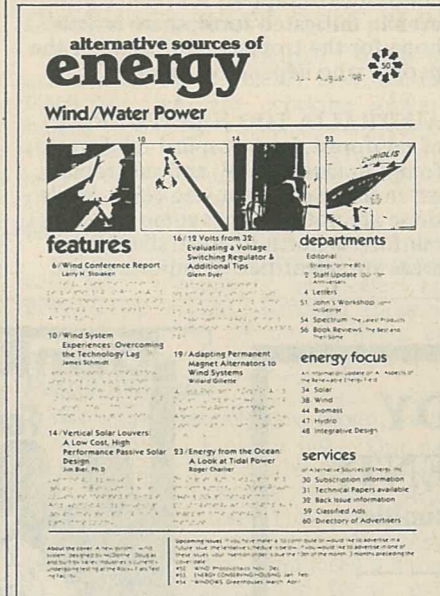
of parliament act on your behalf are well documented.

The major contribution to the consumers never-ending battle for a fair deal is revealed in the latter part of the book. Here the authors tackle the corporate giants and politicians, giving the reader a light-hearted look at the workings of the corporate mind and how to activate your sitting member.

The most valuable part of the book is the appendix which clarifies the roles of government departments, state bodies and consumer organisations.

Cathy McCallum

**Alternative Sources of Energy, 10th Anniversary Edition** published by Alternative Sources of Energy Inc., Milaea, Minnesota, July/August 1981, 60 pages.



This 10th anniversary edition of the magazine has, as its main theme, the possible uses of both wind and water as alternative energy sources.

For anyone with even a slight interest in the harnessing of such energy sources, the magazine contains some interesting articles. They tend not to be overly technical and therefore would be of interest to a wide range of people.

One such article, by James Schmidt, is on various people's experiences with wind systems. It describes in detail the problems involved in setting up and maintaining two wind generators.

The first was a 240 volt, 3000 watt conventional 3 blade propeller type windmill, the second a more unusual 240 volt, 4000 watt vertical axis windmill. The article is very down-to-earth and covers practical problems and some solutions found by the people running the systems.

There is also an article, by Rodger Charlier, on the future of tidal power. It describes the latest tidal plants as well

as the Rance River plant, which was the world's first operating tidal power system.

The magazine is of USA origin, however, it contains sufficient information in both the articles and the letters, reviews and advertisements, to be of value to all people with an 'interest' in alternative energy sources, but invaluable to those who are dedicated to the practical application of such energy sources.

John Lindsay

**What is Happening to the Blue Mountains?** by Jim Smith. A Megalong Book, Second Back Row Press, Katoomba, 1981, \$2.50.

There has long been a need for this booklet on the ecology, and threatened destruction of the world-renowned Blue Mountains.

Jim Smith conveys a sympathetic feel for the Mountains environment, its sheer sandstone cliffs, spectacular waterfalls, its walks and reserves, through a series of pithy and provoking quotes from past observers. He establishes the importance of the water systems, their fragility and points to sources of pollution and destruction — largely uncontrolled development.

The booklet is attractively illustrated throughout with scientific diagrams, maps and historic photographs.

With a local government election looming, it is a deliberately timely contribution to the current debate on development and protection of this unique environment.

John Baker

**Other books worth mentioning:**

**Flaws in the Glass, A Self portrait** by Patrick White. Jonathan Cape, London, 1981, 260 pages, \$17.00 (hard cover).

**Living Better With Less — an end to "growthmania", how to cut waste and improve our lives** by Ian Pausacker and John Andrews. Penguin Books, Australia, 1981, 134 pages, \$7.95 (soft cover).

**Hold the Line, Costing Melbourne's Transport Options** by John Andrews, Geoff Lacey and Patrick Moriarty. A report published by the combined public transport unions, Melbourne, 1981, 38 pages, \$1.00 (soft cover).

**Fire and the Australian Biota** by A M Gill, R H Groves and I R Nobles. Australian Academy of Science, Canberra, 1981, 582 pages, \$39.95 (hard cover).

**Weather Forecasting, The Country Way** by Robin Page. Penguin Books, Australia, 1981, 71 pages, \$3.50 (soft cover).

**Conservation and Evolution** by C H Frankel and Michael E Sculer. Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1981, 327 pages, \$21.50 (soft cover), \$67 (hard cover)

# RAINFOREST

from p 17.

question of US involvement in the deforestation process, which has been quite heavy from the beginning, especially in SE Asia and Latin America. In the Amazon region, for example, the US government (especially the State Department, the co-producer of Global 2000) and US corporations were heavily involved in the mid-60s in instigating and planning the disastrous program of corporate and multinational development of the Amazon. The loans for Amazonian highway development came from the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, and in the latter case represented the largest grants ever made for highway construction in its history. Also important were major grants-in-aid from USAID for technical assistance, USAID loans under the Alliance for Progress, and direct US Army aid to the Brazilian Army Corps of Engineers engaged in building the highways which are the main factor in the destruction of the Amazon. USAID was also involved in mineral survey work. As well there are many US-based corporations involved in the area, including some of

the major landholders and forest destroyers. The plan to flood large areas of the Amazon Basin to provide hydropower, a plan which will destroy huge areas of forest, was thought up by the Hudson Institute. Much of the material being produced on the beef cattle ranches, for which so much of the forest is being destroyed, is destined for markets in the USA. More generally there is the overall US support for the kind of government, social system, and development model which makes what is happening in the Amazon possible. US involvement in other major centres of rainforest destruction such as the Philippines and Indonesia is no less clear, as is its overall responsibility for the development model. Yet no hint of these unpleasant facts, important though they are for formulating plans of action, reaches the reader of Global 2000. While these social structures and conditions of support for them continue, even in mitigated form, there is little hope for the tropical rainforests or the people who depend on them.

AUSTRALIA TOO HAS ITS AREAS of rainforest, both tropical rainforest, found in Queensland, and subtropical, extending well down into NSW. While these are not as rich as some tropical rainforests north of Australia, many areas are scientifically important and

especially valuable in the Australian context, where much rainforest has already been eliminated. Australia, as the only developed country with tropical rainforest, may at first glance seem to be protected from the sorts of pressures which threaten to make the richness of the world's most complex ecosystem largely a memory in most places by the turn of the century. But in fact the sorts of social forces threatening Australian rainforest are fundamentally not so very different from those destroying it elsewhere — namely, its subjection to considerations of private gain and corporate advantage, together with the compliance of governments and the relevant government agencies (the various state forest services) which, like their counterparts in the underdeveloped world, almost invariably place commitments to the private interest consideration of the forest industries before the public interest considerations involved in conserving the forests. If the rainforests are to survive, in Australia or elsewhere, these forces will have to be understood and resisted.

*This is a condensed version of a longer paper on the world's rainforests. It is available by writing to Chain Reaction's Melbourne office, enclosing \$1 to cover costs.*

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# Tasmania

the environment state



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New South Wales 2095  
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977 1557  
Telex AA72577

### Current objectives

To see the proper implementation and enforcement of endangered species legislation in Australia, covering both trade and habitat protection. To ensure proper management of living resources in the Southern Ocean; to stop any proposed mineral development on the Antarctic continent or surrounding waters. Lobbying for the establishment of marine sanctuaries around Australia and general coastal protection. Financial support of small projects overseas and within Australia; and undertaking a low key mineral energy resource use study.

### Methods

We rely heavily on our supporters (now approximately 9 000) for lobbying, publicity and fund raising. Use is made of the media extensively by placing advertisements on specific issues. Paid researchers and campaigners provide the stinging end of the operation, while newsletter circulation, press releases, publications, sale of merchandise and attendance at important conferences, are carried out.

### Past activities

The Fund has been operating as an office for only four months.

### Future plans

To increase the number of our supporters several times and thereby our effectiveness.

### Help needed

As with any organisation we need more volunteers!

### Resources available

There is a full-time staffed office in Sydney with typing, photocopying, telex and library facilities, including a wide range of merchandise for sale. Extensive files on endangered species, Antarctica and energy. FFA publishes newsletters for supporters and technical bulletins.



Oakleigh District Environment Group  
Flat 1/7 Monash Street  
South Oakleigh, Victoria, 3167  
Telephone (03) 579 4302  
568 7243

### Current objectives

These are to participate in the upgrading of the Oakleigh environment. Currently we are working towards having Oakleigh declared a Nuclear Free Zone. We also have contact with other environmental groups and support their campaigns where possible.

### Methods

Our methods are primarily concerned with local newspapers, newsletters and community groups. Through these we create awareness of our projects and gain support from local politicians.

### Past activities

We are a relatively new group, having formed only in January 1981. Our past activities have been concerned with educating our community through street stalls and newsletters. Through these we have commenced our Nuclear Free Zone campaign. We have conducted a survey of Oakleigh citizens and found overwhelming support for our aims.

### Future aims

In the future we will be involved with developing bicycle paths in Oakleigh and developing the area's parks. We are also open to suggestions from new members about areas they would like to see improved.

### Help needed

Any form of support is appreciated, however, people willing to spend more time on activities such as producing our newsletter and participating in street stalls are most needed.

## ACTION GUIDE



Campaign Against Nuclear Energy  
310 Angas Street  
Adelaide, 5000  
Telephone (08) 223 6917

### Current objectives

Our overall objective is to stop uranium mining and processing in South Australia particularly by creating an awareness of the hazards associated with the nuclear industry and its tragic economic consequences, by taking active opposition to its development, and by promoting the use of alternative forms of energy.

### Methods

A whole range of activities — films, displays, public meetings, the production and sale of stickers, badges and magazines, membership and newsletter, action groups working with trade unions, media, Aboriginal groups, research and direct action, women against nuclear energy, nuclear free Pacific struggles, office collective, pamphletting round particular issues, liaising with other groups e.g. Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia.

### Future plans

Public education of the economic arguments pushed to override any health considerations, highlighting uranium mines at Roxby Downs and leach processing at Honeymoon (a process banned in the US); 'Boycott BP' Campaign because of involvement in Roxby Downs; the push for adequate environmental legislation in South Australia; development of Coalition for a Nuclear Free Pacific; encouragement of Nuclear Free Zones campaigns by local groups; opposition to AMDEL Laboratories in Adelaide at Thebarton and Frewville.

### Help appreciated

Research and distribution of information on uranium mining projects in South Australia.

### Resources available

Film contacts, literature, contacts, speakers.

## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Contact us for details on how to make tax deductible donations to FOE.

## National

Friends of the Earth groups from around Australia will meet 20 to 24 January 1982, at Camp Eureka outside Yarra Junction, 70 kilometres east of Melbourne.

An organising group from FOE Victoria is meeting regularly to plan the meeting. Agenda items and details from each group on numbers attending should be sent immediately to the organising group. An agenda will be circulated to all groups before the meeting. FOE members in Melbourne are being asked to help with transport and assistance in the kitchen. The organising group can be contacted either through Friends of the Earth Collingwood, 366 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066; telephone (03) 419 8700 or the *Chain Reaction* Melbourne office Room 14, Floor 4 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000; (03) 63 5995.

See you in January!

## Yorke Peninsula

We are a small group — no more than a dozen active members — in a very conservative country area. However, we consider our activities and political involvement in local affairs to be fairly vital. Spencer Gulf is one of the prime targets of the Tonkin government for

## FOE GROUPS

nuclear development, as well as already being the site of some of the major polluting industries in South Australia. The Gulf itself is already so polluted with heavy metals that the situation is critical, and its role as the prime cray spawning area in the state makes the situation even more desperate.

In order to be more effective in the struggle, we have combined with Port Pirie FOE, Whyalla Campaign Against Nuclear Energy, and Augusta Alternative Energy Discussion under the title of Gulf Alliance, and meet quarterly under this guise to discuss overall strategies, and combined actions.

Our on-going campaigns are:

- Port Pirie Uranium Enrichment Plant Feasibility Study. We are in the process of getting together various submissions on this issue, but basically see it as the back-end of the problem.
- As part of our above commitment, we are actively promoting the concept of 'direct-action', and the need for environmental groups to be trained in the tenets of non-violent civil disobedience.

Jules Davison

### Australian Capital Territory

**Canberra:** 17 De Burgh Street, Lyneham, 2602. Phone (062) 47 8868.

### Northern Territory

**Darwin:** PO Box 2120, Darwin, 5794. Phone (089) 81 6222.

### Queensland

**Brisbane:** PO Box 667, South Brisbane, 4101. Phone (07) 44 1616

### South Australia

**Adelaide:** 310 Angas Street, Adelaide, 5000. Phone (07) 223 6917.

**Port Pirie:** PO Box 7, Port Pirie, 5540. Phone (086) 34 5269.

**Northern Yorke Peninsula:** C/- 'Valinor', 734 Moonta Mines, Moonta, 5558.

### Tasmania

**Hobart:** 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart, 7000. Phone (002) 34 5566.

**Burnie:** PO Box 350, Ulverstone, 7315.

### Victoria

**Victorian Resource Centre:** 366 Smith Street, Collingwood, 3066. Phone (03) 419 8700.

**Eltham:** PO Box 295, Eltham, 3095. Phone (03) 435 9160.

Please note — several contacts are home addresses and telephone numbers. *Chain Reaction* offices are listed on page 1.

**Glen Waverley:** c/- 1092 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, 3128. Phone (03) 88 1610.

**La Trobe University:** Environment Resource Centre, La Trobe University Students' Union, Bundoora, 3083. Phone (03) 478 3122 ext. 2456.

**Monash University:** Community Research Action Centre, Monash University Union, Clayton, 3168. Phone (03) 541 0811 ext. 3141.

**Oakleigh:** 1/7 Monash Street, South Oakleigh, 3167. Phone (03) 579 4302.

### Western Australia

**Perth:** Office — 537 Wellington Street, Perth, 6000. Phone (09) 321 5942, 321 2269. Shop — 373 Oxford Street, Mount Hawthorn, 6016. Phone (09) 444 6017.

**Manjimup:** PO Box 132, Manjimup, 6258. Phone (097) 72 1344.

**University of Western Australia:** Guild of Undergraduates, University of WA, Nedlands, 6009.

### New South Wales

**NSW Resource Centre:** 101 Cleveland Street, Chippendale, 2008. Phone (02) 698 4114.

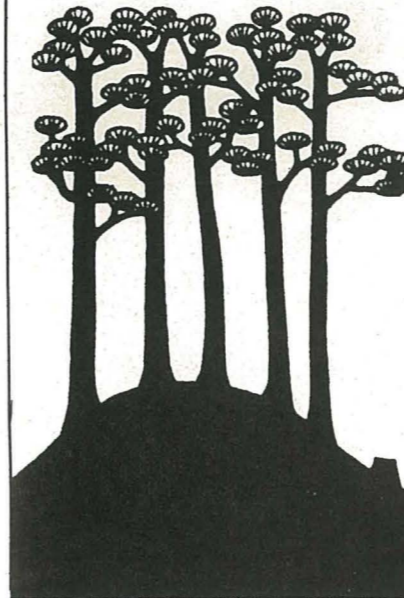
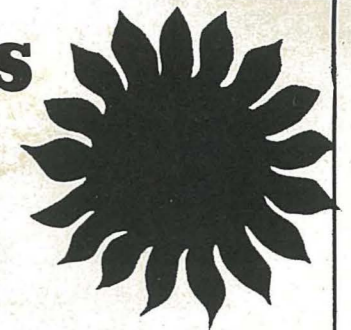
**Blue Mountains:** 94 Waratah Street, Katoomba, 2780.

**Ryde:** 18 Kokoda Street, North Ryde, 2113. Phone (02) 88 2429.

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