

# Chain Reaction

Friends of the Earth Australia

Number 27 Autumn 1982 \$2.00



# ANTI NUCLEAR 1982 A YEAR OF GLOOM OR GUTS.

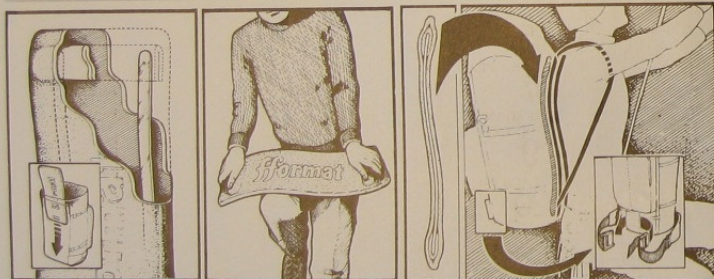
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## Chain Reaction

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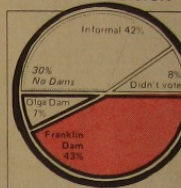
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## FOE GROUPS

### National meeting

... we are convinced that uranium mines will go the same way as whaling stations and lead in petrol, within the next few years; the confident assertion of the Friends of the Earth Australia, January 1982 national meeting press statement follows a resolution passed by consensus that

Friends of the Earth Australia national conference condemns the actions of those members of the ACTU Executive who voted for the lifting of bans on the export of uranium and calls upon the Executive to implement the no export policy of the ACTU. We applaud those unionists who continue to support and implement existing ACTU Congress policy on uranium (with Mark Cole and Rob Rands noting

## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dear Friends of the Earth

Please find enclosed my membership

fee of \$... (as per rates below).

Name: ...

Address: ...

Postcode: ...

Telephone: ...

Membership fees: New South Wales and Victoria \$15 (or \$7.50 students, unemployed and pensioners). Other states and territories \$10 or what you can afford. *Chain Reaction* is sent free to all members of Friends of the Earth, and some groups also send members' newsletters and provide discounts in their bookshops. Enquire from your local FOE group. Make cheques payable to Friends of the Earth and post to the group nearest you - see list at right. Donations are welcome. Contact us for details on how to make tax deductible donations to FOE.

their dissent against the term 'condemns').

Fifty representatives of FOE groups from Perth, the University of Western Australia, South Australia, Port Pirie, Northern Yorke Peninsula, Collingwood, Eltham, Waverley, Oakleigh, La Trobe University, Sydney, Ryde and Brisbane and *Chain Reaction* attended the meeting. It was held at Camp Eureka in the Dandenong Ranges, near Melbourne, from 20 to 24 January.

Spokesperson Ally Fricker from FOE Port Pirie said 'We intend organising an occupation of the Honeymoon uranium mine in South Australia in early May. This mine depends on a very hazardous mining technique and is contrary to the Ranger Inquiry recommendations of 1977.'

In other decisions the FOE groups decided to mount a new membership



At the FOE Australia meeting: Jules Davison (FOE Northern Yorke Peninsula), Jan Ardell (FOE Sydney), Mark Carter (Chain Reaction), Paul Reader (Oodnadatta), Pat Lowther (FOE Collingwood), Leigh Holloway (Chain Reaction), Katie Cyne and Judy Blyth (FOE Eltham).

#### Friends of the Earth Groups

**BLUES MOUNTAINS:** 94 Waratan Street, Katoomba, New South Wales 2780. Tel: (047) 82 2701.

**BRISBANE:** PO Box 667, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101. Tel: (07) 44 1616.

**BURNIE:** PO Box 350, Ulverstone, Tasmania 7315.

**CANBERRA:** 17 De Bugh Street, Lyneham, Australian Capital Territory 2602. Tel: (062) 47 8868.

**COLLINGWOOD:** 366 Smith Street, Collingwood, Victoria 3066. Tel: (03) 419 8700.

**DARWIN:** PO Box 2120, Darwin, Northern Territory 5794. Tel: (089) 81 6222.

**ELTHAM:** PO Box 295, Eltham, Victoria 3095. Tel: (03) 435 9160.

**GLEN WAVERLEY:** 1092 Whitehorse Road, Box 10, Victoria 3128. Tel: (03) 88 1610.

**HOBART:** 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000. Tel: (002) 34 5566.

**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY:** Students' Representative Council, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083. Tel: (03) 478 3122 ext 29/67.

**MANJIMUP:** PO Box 132, Manjimup, Western Australia 6258. Tel: (097) 72 1344.

**MITCHAM:** 17 Belura Avenue, Vermont, Victoria, 3133. Tel: (03) 874 6099.

campaign. Pat Lowther of FOE Collingwood said 'The public in Australia are becoming increasingly alarmed about environmental issues, such as uranium air pollution, hazardous chemicals and nuclear war. At the group level there are encouraging signs that people aren't sitting back and leaving things up to the unions or government.'

The meeting adopted a new Constitution for Friends of the Earth Australia, which makes local groups the main focus of operations. Annual national meetings will now be held - the next in January 1983 in South Australia.

FOE Australia agreed to make a financial contribution to the FOE International secretariat in Sweden. This will amount to the equivalent of 15c per Australian FOE member, and helps link FOE groups in 29 countries.

ROBERT FRANKS

### NUCLEAR WEAPONS

It is time for opponents of uranium mining and nuclear power to prepare their arguments on another topic - the issue of Australia obtaining nuclear weapons.

If uranium enrichment, nuclear power or reprocessing were introduced in Australia, they would lay the technical base for the large-scale production of nuclear weapons. A small number of weapons could be produced using existing facilities at Lucas Heights. More importantly, the existence of a technical potential for nuclear weapons production would provide apparent backing for those favouring Australian nuclear weapons.

In the past, bomb advocates have strongly supported the acquisition of civilian nuclear technology, most notably during the 1969-70 debate over the proposed Jervis Bay reactor. Sir Philip Baxter currently advocates obtaining nuclear weapons, and suggests this may occur via uranium enrichment or a fast breeder reactor.

The possibility that the forces favouring Australian nuclear weapons could re-emerge in Indonesia is not far-fetched. If Indonesia were to move towards a nuclear capability, which *National Times* of 15-21 November 1981 has suggested may be happening already, strong pressures for an Australian deterrent could readily develop.

The arguments against nuclear weapons for Australia are varied, and include lack of a military need, the incentive towards regional proliferation, the side-effects of militarisation and regeneration of society, and basic humanitarian considerations. We cannot assume that people are automatically opposed to getting the bomb. A very sizeable minority of the Australian population currently favour Australia having nuclear weapons.

The anti-nuclear movement has been arguing for many years that uranium exports will contribute to proliferation of nuclear

weapons capabilities abroad. We should also argue that we don't want proliferation at home.

Brian Martin  
Canberra

### SWEET DREAMS

Your advertisement in November's *Probe* asks 'Why don't you?' (send off a subscription).

The reason why I won't even consider it is because of Judith Wright-McKinney's self satisfied 'Do any such non-robots still exist?' I can do without the implied insult, thanks.

Anyhow, if *Chain Reaction* has a 'crusading' outlook, wouldn't it be the 'robots' you would try to reach, instead of the already-converted? Your magazine sounds like some esoteric jullaby.

Jo Beattie  
Lenah Valley, Tas.

### LOBBYING

We believe that the most important thing today is the fight against the drift to universal nuclear catastrophe.

To that end we have written and circulated to influential individuals and organisations in WA the letter which appears below.

To my parliamentary representative,

I am writing to you as a person who was elected to manage the affairs of society in a beneficial way.

I am one of the countless people around the world who are worried about the drift to nuclear war, described by Nobel Prizewinner Sir Macfarlane Burnet as the final insanity of power-seeking.

Nuclear war between the superpowers was considered unthinkable, it is now thinkable because of the internationalisation of actual nuclear weapons.

Moreover, nuclear weapons are spreading to more and more countries. If the possession of nuclear deterrent means peace, will the world be safer when ten, twenty or fifty countries possess nuclear weapons?

Atomic scientists in the United States have warned that it is now three minutes

to twelve. In other words, we are on the brink of universal catastrophe.

There has been no lack of warnings from scientists that a nuclear war could annihilate humanity.

Yet, almost all the political and religious leaders in the country are silent about this. Hardly a word of protest.

President Eisenhower said that the people must act; and, as you know, they are already marching in their tens of thousands.

I believe it is a race against universal destruction. Will you help? Will you speak out?

Edmond Burke said: 'The only thing needed for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing'.

An example of how such an effort can catch fire is the fact that WA Senator Patricia Giles, a recipient of the letter, immediately offered to photocopy more and send to ALP branches in her area, and to women's organisations, to increase the distribution.

We suggest that your readers might copy this letter, or write a better one, and themselves send photocopies to individuals and organisations.

We support environmental groups of all kinds and hope they will also act in the struggle to preserve large parts of our earth from nuclear contamination.

Here is something every individual can do.

E R W Irwin  
Dorothy Irwin  
South Perth

### FOOT AND MOUTH

A very interesting article appeared in *Arcs* 23 September 1981 concerning the Californian Medfly. I quote one section of the article. 'They have created an agency that they call the Medfly Agency. The men in charge imported supposedly sterile flies from Peru. They got them here and released them and then all of a sudden they say

"Oh no, these flies are not sterile, they are virile", and in this manner they create a problem the chemical companies make

## LETTERS

a handsome profit in solving.'

The recent discussion in the farming press about the proposed introduction of live foot and mouth virus for experimental purposes makes one wonder if we are not being set up for the benefit of the chemical industry. If once the virus is here, then it only has to be accidentally or purposely released and the chemical industry will supply the vaccine to control the problem. There can be no profit in having a vaccine with nothing to use it on.

K R Twigg  
Kyabram

### SWEDISH CUISINE

*Chain Reaction* No 25 had the interesting supplement 'Food Politics Frame'. Would you please send us 5 copies of the supplement. We think it would be a good idea to translate the supplement into Swedish and add an additional chapter about agrribusiness in Sweden. Is this OK with you? Hope to hear from you soon.

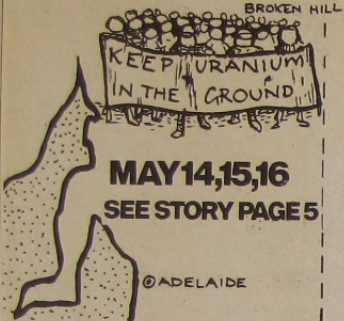
Erika Daleus  
Jordans Vanner,  
Friends of the Earth  
Sweden

Editor's note: Copies of *Chain Reaction* No 25, including the *Food Politics* Frame as a supplement, are still available from the *Chain Reaction* office for the cover price of \$1.50.

You are invited to write letters to *Chain Reaction* with your comments and criticisms of articles, or on other issues of interest to you. We are more able to publish your letter if it is under 250 words. Write today to The Editors, *Chain Reaction*, Room 14, Floor 4, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 3000.

# JOIN THE PROTEST TO STOP HONEYMOON URANIUM MINE

BROKEN HILL



Even after a  
hard days work...you  
can still be acting  
for Justice



Write to us to learn how you or your group  
can support the tea workers' struggle for justice  
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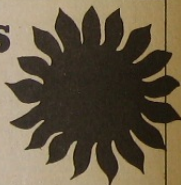
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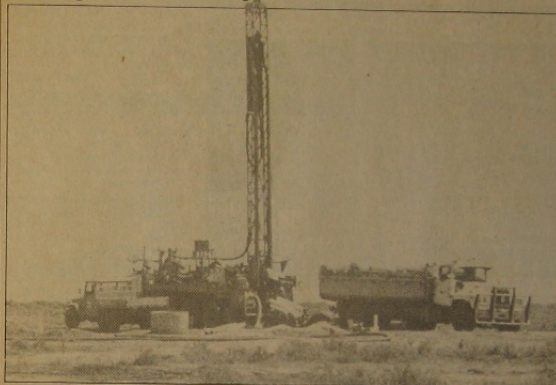
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- Househeating systems from solar and wood including hot water radiators
- Solar pool heating systems and pool covers
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- Hydraulic rams, windpumps and electric pumps for household water supply
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- Composting toilets
- Organic gardening supplies and natural pest controls
- Push mowers, battery mowers, compost tumblers
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- Preserving outfits, bread tins, baby food grinders
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## EARTH NEWS

### Honeymoon occupation



Above: The bore at Honeymoon.

Below right: Sign warning off intruders near the Honeymoon pilot processing plant.

You too can be involved in a national action against the Honeymoon uranium mine in South Australia, 75 km north-west of Broken Hill, on 14 May 1982. Campaign Against Nuclear Energy SA are organising a week of action beginning 8 May 1982 with people travelling from their home states, hopefully in a spectacular manner such as: decorated bicycles, bus or a car cavalcade. On 14 May there will be a rally and public meeting in Broken Hill and then an occupation of the Honeymoon mine site. People intending to participate in the occupation should realise that it may last a short time or as long as possible.

The 'in situ' Honeymoon mine is an experimental mining process for Australia. A leaching solution (for uranium ore this is a mixture of sulphuric acid, hydrogen peroxide and ferric ions) is

pumped through bore holes into the ore body where the leaching reaction takes place. A solution containing uranium oxide is then pumped back to the surface.

Early last year at an 'in situ' uranium mining project in Wyoming, United States of America, the leaching fluid percolated back to the surface through fractures in a supposedly impermeable rock layer. The USA Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered the project closed until the proprietors cleaned up the mess, but it was thought not economically feasible to do so.

Given the history of environmental accidents at conventional Australian mines it is not unlikely that something will go wrong at Honeymoon.

Action: To obtain information contact CANE SA, 310 Angus St, Adelaide, SA 5000. Tel: (08) 223 6917.

### A world first

Workers at the Elliot Lake mines in Ontario, Canada have won their battle to operate their own health and safety unit. This is the first time anywhere in the world that uranium mining will be 'inspected' by its workforce and primary victims. Inspectors appointed by the United Steelworkers of America will be able to enter any workplace, measure radiation and close any area they think is unsafe.

The biggest operations at Elliot Lake, Canada's largest uranium producer, are owned by Rio Algom, a Rio Tinto Zinc subsidiary. In 1976, the United Steelworkers obtained company records which proved that Rio Algom was deliberately under-reading radiation hazards in virtually every part of the mines and mills under their control.

Source: Parting Company, Number nine, December 1981, Newsletter of People against Rio Tinto Zinc and subsidiaries (PARTIZANS).

### A WISE plea

The World Information Service on Energy Australia Relay is setting up a telex link with WISE offices overseas. Assistance in establishing and maintaining this vital link is needed. Your support may be financial or material.

The Australian WISE relay needs: \$1200 rent and \$5000 operating costs per year for a telex machine; a photocopying machine; postage and telephone bills amounting to several hundreds of dollars.

Staff at the relay office are working fulltime voluntarily and someone is available 24 hours a day.

Action: Please send your individual or group donations to the WISE Australia Relay, Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Australia, c/- 537 Wellington St, Perth, WA 6000. Tel: (09) 321 2269 or 321 5942.

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## Sterilization abuse

There is mounting evidence that the United States of America government is using methods of forced sterilization to rid itself of the 'inconvenience' of its native population.

According to Lee Brightman, United Native American President, the government's Indian Health Service has been performing involuntary sterilizations in increasing numbers over the last few years. In 1975 an official inquiry into these sterilizations discovered that 25 000 Native American women were permanently sterilized in 1975 alone. The inquiry found that often a complete explanation of the operation (its effects and irreversibility) was not given and often the patients' consent not obtained. Many women were sterilized during the course of other operations or immediately after giving birth, while others were convinced that relatively simple problems could only be solved by being sterilized.

The doctor who conducted the inquiry also said that many Native American women who consented did not immediately realise the permanent effects of the operation and were later extremely distressed when they finally understood the consequences.

Lee Brightman believes that the campaign is one of genocide and estimates that as many as 42% of women of child-bearing age (and 10% of men) have already been sterilized. He sees it as nothing less than the final scheme to get the Native Americans' lands, once and for all.

Source: Searchlight December 1981.

## FOE International

The 10th annual Friends of the Earth International meeting was held in Washington DC, United States of America, in October 1981. The meeting attracted representatives from 15 of the 29 countries in the FOE network and was thought to have been the most successful meeting for several years.

There had been dissatis-



At the meeting: Valeria Nervi, Amici della Terra, Italy and Lorna Salzman, FOE USA.

faction with the lack of international communication and the difficulties of depending on a voluntary secretariat to produce the international newsletter *FOE Link*. The meeting agreed on a number of initiatives to try and overcome these problems, centering on the establishment of a fulltime secretariat in Gothenburg, Sweden and guaranteed funding by

FOE national groups for an improved *FOE Link*. To improve communication a Resource Group was formed to back up the secretary, Andrew Herington, who represented FOE Australia at the meeting, is a member of the Resource Group responsible for promoting activities in this region, which includes groups in



Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Contact: *FOE Australia's national meeting in January 1982 appointed Denise Chevalier as International Liaison coordinator for 1982. If you would like to help work with other countries or receive a copy of FOE Link contact Denise at FOE Collingwood, 366 Smith St, Collingwood, Vic 3066. Tel: (03) 419 8700.*

## Lomitol

International consumer groups recently won an important victory over pharmaceutical companies that continue to market dangerous drugs in the Third World.

On 28 September 1981 representatives of the GD Searle company, manufacturers of Lomitol, a drug marketed as a treatment for diarrhoea, met with Social Audit, a United Kingdom consumer group linked with Health Action International.

At the meeting the company announced that it would change the labeling of Lomitol to indicate that it should not be used for children under two years old.

Previously Lomitol was

indicated for children down to three months of age even though the United States of America Food and Drug Administration has contraindicated its use for children under two since 1973. Adverse reactions to the drug, particularly among infant youths, include: dryness of the skin and mucous membranes; urinary retention and flushing according to the Physician's Desk Reference.

Further action by HAI is already underway on the drug Ciba-Geigy company, which is linked to a disabling disease of the nervous system. The continued marketing of Cloquino has already caused some Swedish doctors to boycott Ciba-Geigy's products,

## Blacks' college sabotage

Late in January 1982 a night fire gutted part of the new premises of the Aboriginal Community College at Largs Bay, in Adelaide, causing at least \$400 000 damage. An intricate setup of kerosene tins and twin trailers was found around the college.

Aboriginal College staff and community leaders believe racists lit the fire to stop the college from operating. The opening of the college and its educational programme have been set back twelve weeks.

In the week prior to the fire the Aboriginal community had celebrated a major victory when the Planning Appeal Board had overturned a decision by the Port Adelaide Council and local residents to stop Aboriginal people from leasing the building.

Peter Zweekl, a member of the college management committee, said that staff and supporters of the college were disgusted by the extreme hatred towards Aboriginal people that exists in the area. He commented on the need to educate local people and local residents to the local context.

Source: Tribune, 27 January 1982.

## Women's forum

A forum for black, immigrant and Third World women will be held at Newtown Town Hall, Sydney on 27 to 28 March, 1982. The major themes of the forum will be the oppression of black, immigrant and third world women in Australia; women's struggles in the third world; the Australian feminist movement - difficulties of working within white, middle-class structures.

Action: For information or registration write to Black, Immigrant and Third World Women's Forum, PO Box 65, Liverpool, NSW Registration \$2.00.

## New contacts

A new edition of the Activist Contacts listing is to be included in the next edition of *Chain Reaction*. We invite groups working on environment, energy and food issues around Australia to provide us with their names, addresses and telephone numbers for inclusion. Financial limits make it a brief guide to groups, so we will have to choose a limited number of contacts - therefore, preference will be given to listing major groups and

those working on broad topics. People wishing to contact more localised organisations will need to do so via the environment centres, which we will list.

Whether we include your group's name or not it is very helpful for *Chain Reaction* to have an up-to-date listing of activist organisations around Australia to help answer specific enquiries and for research for the magazine. Your assistance would be much appreciated.

**Chain Reaction**

**ACTIVIST CONTACTS 1982/3**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: ACTIVIST CONTACTS 1982/3, PO Box 371, Manly, NSW 2095. Tel: (02) 977 1557.

**Environment**

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (ECF) ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (ECF) OF AUSTRALIA. For more information contact: ECF, PO Box 371, Manly, NSW 2095. Tel: (02) 977 1557.

## Antarctica convention

In May this year, the Antarctic Treaty nations will meet in Hobart. This will be the first formal meeting of the Scientific Committee and Commission of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention which was drawn up to control the development of an expected massive krill fishing industry. The Convention has severe weaknesses including a consensus voting system, lack of power of the Scientific Committee and the lack of allocation of krill harvesting quotas. Also, preparatory meetings have failed to take steps to facilitate the early operation of the Commission and Scientific

Committee.

In the same month the Antarctic Treaty nations will meet in New Zealand to negotiate an Antarctic Minerals Regime. Such developments, particularly for oil, are vehemently opposed by conservation organisations around the world.

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, with other groups, are organising a 3 year international Antarctic Campaign. Watch for an ASOC Antarctic educational feature in the next edition of *Chain Reaction*.



The Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council have issued a Hazard Alert from their Occupational Health and Safety Unit.

## Fid workers murdered

Two Filipinos employed in a project sponsored by the Community Aid Abroad in the Philippines Bataan Export Processing Zone\* near Manila were brutally murdered by soldiers.

Jemiliana Pagino and Antonio Santa Ana were working on an education programme to inform workers in the zone of their rights under the country's labour law. The military authorities who arrested them claimed they were killed along with another Filipino worker activist, Vivencio Santos, when trying to escape from custody.

Neil O'Sullivan, CAA Projects Director, when he visited Bataan last month obtained conclusive proof from local workers and church sources that they were brutally murdered.

Young women from rural areas are savagely exploited by companies based in the zones. Neil O'Sullivan interviewed a young worker who explained that she had been forced to work sixteen hours a day for the previous twelve days. If she did not work overtime she would be sus-

pended, she said.

Compulsory overtime is the rule in the zone, including in the plant of the Australian company, Denzai, a division of Dunlop Olympic Ltd. The average wage of these workers is equivalent to about 10% or 20% of the Australian wage.

Relatives of the three victims sent a petition to President Marcos asking for an investigation and have since had to go into hiding. CAA have decided to continue the worker education programme and also to support the families of the murdered activists.

\*An EPZ offers multinational companies complete freedom of operation, exemption of profits a five to ten year tax holiday from corporate income tax and 100% foreign ownership amongst other benefits. This is essentially to allow multinationals to freely exploit cheap labour in poor Asian countries.

Source: Tribune 27 January 1982 and CAA Action Information Sheet: Australian companies in the Philippines.

## Hazard alert

The Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council have issued a Hazard Alert from their Occupational Health and Safety Unit.

The alert concerns the carcinogen 2-nitropropane which is widely used as a solvent for paints, coatings, printing inks and adhesives. It is a clear, colourless liquid with a pleasant smell. Other chemical names for it include dimethylnitroethane, isonitropropane and nitroso-propane. Trade names for 2-NP include Ni-Par S-20 TM (a commercial grade 2-NP) and Ni-Par S-30 TM (a mixture of 1-NP and 2-NP).

2-NP and other nitropropanes have been known to be toxic to the liver for some time. An exposure standard of 25 parts per million for 2-NP was set in the United States of America and has been adopted in Australia.

Contact: Workers wanting to know which companies use 2-NP and more detailed information on 2-NP should contact the ACTU 1-800 Occupational Health and Safety Unit, Workers' Health Centre or Workers' Health Action Groups. (For addresses see *The Newsletter Environment* page 25.)

## EARTH NEWS

### Cleaned up

For the first time in the United States of America Environment Protection Agency has sent a polluter to jail for contempt of court, conspiracy and violation of the Clean Water Act. The half owner and vice-president of Coming Fibres Incorporated a paper company, was fined \$2500 and ordered to serve 90 days in jail for continuing to dump sludge into the Wells River, Vermont.

A suit filed by the EPA in 1977 resulted in a court-approved agreement under which pollution control equipment was to be installed. But the equipment was never installed. In fact the firm started tampering with monitoring devices to make the data required by the EPA look better, and secretly dumped waste out of old, unmonitored pipelines.

Source: Not Man Apart January 1982.

### Pines

The Forestry Commission is about to begin clearing large areas of native forest for pine plantations in a tract of land called the 'Ovens Softwood Plantation Zone'.

The land has been allocated for softwood production by the Land Conservation Council, Victoria.

It appears the government came under considerable pressure in 1980 from such commercial interests as the Bowater-Scott company to expand the softwood planting rate.

However, the Australian Conservation Foundation had got wind of the government's plans and was monitoring each move closely. As the Council progressed the ACF officers grew more and more concerned at what appeared to be gross irregularities in the procedures for the allocation



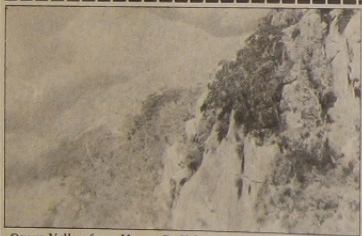
### Front behind

Recently in the United Kingdom a judge sentenced Joseph Pearce, editor of the far right *Union National Front* magazine *Bulldog*, to six months imprisonment. The jury found Pearce guilty of inciting racial hatred and seven other counts against him. Pearce

has edited the magazine since 1977.

Editorials in the magazine called on readers to 'join the white army', 'smash the multi-racial society' and to 'fight for white power'. The judge commented that, 'the material is rubbish, evil and dangerous rubbish'.

Source: The Guardian Weekly, 24 January 1982.



Ovens Valley from Mount Buffalo.

of the land. Finally, before the Council's deliberations were complete, they sought legal advice as to the validity of the Council's activities.

The lawyers examined the material assembled by the ACF and reached the opinion that the Council had not followed the procedures laid down in the *Land Conservation Act 1970* and had

been commissioned to proceed by an Order that was, itself, invalid. The ACF was advised to take legal action in the Supreme Court. Two writs have been issued to prevent the plantings.

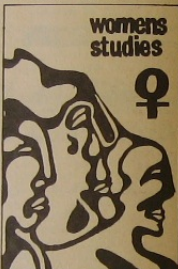
Contact: *Anybody interested in getting a full briefing on this matter is urged to contact the ACF. The ACF Head office is at 67B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn, Vic 3122.*

### Censor & censure

The South Australian Minister for Education, Harold Allison, has threatened to withdraw his department's funding from the Women's Studies Resource Centre in Adelaide. It is one of only four major centres for women's studies in Australia and maintains a specialist library of books and journals.

The Minister made his decision after a government backbencher read excerpts from a sex education resource kit in parliament, gaining himself and the Centre a lot of publicity.

Displaying typical political insecurity about matters



sexual Mr Allison declared it was 'not suitable for him to fund a place which contained material inappropriate for children'.

A working party consisting of one woman from the Centre and six government representatives has given the Minister an initial report recommending that funding should continue this financial year. The Minister has agreed to take this recommendation to cabinet. Until a final decision is made the Centre is surviving on short-term grants from miscellaneous Education department funds.

The working party will present a final report to the Minister by the end of March 1982 with recommendations for the next budget.

Contact: *The Women's Studies Resource Centre in Adelaide is at 122 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, SA 5000. Tel: (08) 223 1404.*

### Copy & cutting

Some *Chain Reaction* readers recently asked where we get our stories from and how we prepare them to appear in the magazine.

Some copy comes unsolicited from writers, but most often we invite people to write for us, giving them a length for their article and some suggestions to get them going. A small amount of copy, such as this page, is prepared by members of the *Chain Reaction* Collective. Most copy, unsolicited or invited, comes from people active in Friends of the Earth or other environment and community organisations, researchers or journalists.

Our stories need to be tightly written yet interesting: not just lists of facts and figures. To maintain our credibility they must be consistently highly accurate. While we sometimes receive extra funds to include supplements on specific topics, *Chain Reaction* has only 40 pages each normal issue and the printers and typesetters bills will not allow us to increase that size. Therefore, once we receive copy, collective members start to edit it, checking for inaccuracies in the story and making sure we have just enough to fill the pages allowed. We also check that the 'house-style' of abbreviations and measurements etc is used throughout.

Editing is perhaps the most time consuming and potentially controversial process in the magazine's production. We are sometimes amazed at the number of inaccuracies we uncover, but while some writers don't like being asked 'Are you accurate?', everyone is normally thankful if we correct mistakes.

We have slipped up as well and concede that the names on a pair of pictures of NSW politicians in issue Number 23, were around the wrong way! However, overall we are proud that few complaints are received about the accuracy of *Chain Reaction* stories.

It is very difficult when we find we have to cut stories. Whenever possible changes are checked with the writer, though occasionally time and expense won't allow it. We do have a large obligation to them as other volunteers and exercise great care in final editing. So far almost every printed story has been warmly received by the writer and readers alike.

We are always on the lookout for new writers so if anybody out there is keen - go to it. It helps tremendously if you can let us know that something is on the way as get it to us by the copy deadline listed above. Alternatively the Collectives in Sydney and Melbourne would be glad to have new people to help with the editing, or any of the other tasks involved in producing *Chain Reaction*. Tim Darling

**Deadline for Winter Chain Reaction.** For both editorial and advertising please send material to reach *Chain Reaction* by 9 April 1982. Enquiries: Telephone Melbourne (03) 63 5995 or Sydney (02) 698 4114.

Notes for contributors have just been produced by *Chain Reaction* to assist in ensuring that your material gets published, and is well presented in the magazine. People considering writing for *CR* might like to request a copy from

either our Sydney or Melbourne office.

Rems, our regular column on radiation, will appear in the next edition of *Chain Reaction*.



An informal discussion at the FOE Australia meeting, sorting out some differences over *Chain Reaction*.

### FOE & Chain Reaction

Friends of the Earth Australia's 20 to 24 January 1982 national meeting made a number of decisions relating to *Chain Reaction*.

The magazine was instructed to give high priority to reports of the work of Friends of the Earth groups around Australia.

*Chain Reaction* was formally recognised as a service group of Friends of the Earth Australia in the Constitution adopted at the meeting. It was given voting rights within FOE Australia, and the Sydney *Chain Reaction* Collective is now officially recognised as part of this decision-making structure.

Linnell Secomb, Mark Carter and Leigh Holloway were appointed as Editors for the magazine, to take office from 1 May 1982 to 28 February 1983.

A *Chain Reaction* Consultative Group was established by the meeting. It includes three representatives of Friends of the Earth local groups - Dex Kirk (Collingwood), Jules Davison (Northern Yorke Peninsula) and Helen Schwencke (Brisbane) - and three representatives of *Chain Reaction* - Leigh Holloway

(Editor), Mark Cole (Melbourne Collective) and Jenny Quealy (Sydney Collective). This group can advise Friends of the Earth Australia and the magazine.

The Collective were asked to investigate and report by 14 March 1982 to the Consultative Group and FOE local groups on the possibilities of more frequent issues of *Chain Reaction*, up to monthly release, and a possible change to a tabloid newspaper format.

New prices were set for *Chain Reaction*. The price to FOE groups was raised from 88c per copy to \$1 per copy; and the subscriptions price was raised to \$8 for individuals, schools and libraries.

From the Commonwealth Government grant of \$5000 to Friends of the Earth Australia for 1981-82 an allocation of \$1500 was made to *Chain Reaction* for communication costs. This is to assist the magazine in maintaining links with FOE and other groups around this very large country. An identical allocation was made by FOE Australia in 1980-81.

A membership drive for FOE groups is to be conducted and funds were allocated to a leaflet, which *Chain Reaction* is to help produce.

Leigh Holloway

# National decision

Politics has gone beserk in Tasmania over the South West wilderness. The state referendum recorded a 45% informal vote and now Labor appears on the verge of losing its almost non-stop 40 year control of the Tasmanian parliament at an early election. Chris Harries reports on why the issue has now moved to mainland Australia.

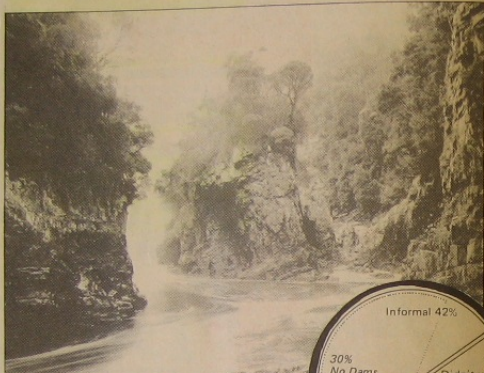
By any measure, the Tasmanian dams referendum on 12 December must rank as one of the greatest success stories in Australia's environmental history. In September 1981 Premier Lowe received an ultimatum from the union-controlled party machine to drop the 'No Dams' option from the referendum (after polls indicated that it would win a majority). Tasmanian unions are not as progressive as their mainland counterparts.

The 33% of voters who wrote 'No Dams' across their ballot slips had not only to overcome psychological barriers to voting informally. Before the poll government ministers warned that the (informal) 'No Dams' vote would not be counted. Premier Harry Holgate announced that a dam would be built in the South West regardless of the poll results. The Chamber of Industries (representing the thirteen large power-consuming industries) waged a \$400 000 plus saturation advertising campaign. 'DO NOT PUT ANY OTHER MARK ON YOUR BALLOT PAPER' warned the large poster facing the voter in each booth.

Despite these obstacles, one in every three voters defiantly put the 'No Dams' option on the ballot paper, recording an informal vote. Of eligible voters, 8% chose to stay away from the polling booth, twice as many as usually do so.

Despite its farcical and undemocratic nature, the referendum did one positive thing. It eliminated the compromise Gordon-above-Olga dam. For 12 months political debate had been dogged by two equally destructive and costly power scheme proposals. Conservation groups have consistently refused to take part in the 'alternative dam sites' game believing it to be a clumsy political manoeuvre and a not-too-subtle attempt

Chris Harries is a Friends of the Earth member and Research Officer for the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, in Hobart.



Rock Island Bend, Franklin River.

to divert public attention from the real issue.

The issue is now back to square one. The mood of the Tasmanian community is clearly one of absolute support for, or opposition to, a protected South West wilderness.

On 29 January 1982 Premier Holgate announced his government's capitulation to the big power brokers. It was a desperate decision to stave off an election. Holgate said an economic study would be done on the scheme, and that the scheme would go ahead whatever the study's results. Work cannot now commence until next summer, and only then if the federal government provide the funds. It will take over a decade to build the scheme.

But, there are several reasons why the South West issue will be resolved beyond Tasmania:

- The Tasmanian government cannot build the \$1000 million plus scheme without co-operation from the federal government to supply loan funds, Malcolm Fraser cannot credibly supply loan funds to destroy an area which he only recently recommended to the United Nations for World Heritage listing. He is unlikely to embroil his government in Australia's most contentious environmental issue a year

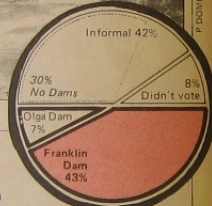
Tasmania polarised.

before national elections.

- The Senate Select Committee into South West Tasmania will be making its recommendations this year.
- Public opinion throughout Australia is rising in opposition to the scheme as the national and international significance of the South West is appreciated.
- Holgate is facing opposition to the scheme from federal Labor strategists who require a 'good' showing in Tasmania to win office nationally.

The Franklin River issue is likely to be won or lost in Canberra and mainland electorates this year.

Action: To improve the Franklin River's survival chances write to your federal parliamentarians. Prime Minister Fraser and Opposition Leader Hayden (all at Parliament House, Canberra), write to the press and give support to the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, who you can telephone on Hobart (002) 34 9366, Melbourne (03) 602 4877, Sydney (02) 233 5388 or 27 4724, Brisbane (07) 221 0188, Perth (09) 299 6284, Adelaide (08) 337 2449, Canberra (062) 47 3064 or 47 4362.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY

## ANTI NUCLEAR 1982

### By Frank Muller

Nineteen eighty-two promises to be a challenging year for the anti-nuclear movement. There are clear signs that the movement is entering a period of renewed activity and broadening support. There is a rising tide of concern throughout the community at the increasing likelihood of nuclear war. This will be an important new focus for the movement, requiring some redirection.

The year, however, commences with the two new uranium mines, Ranger and Nabarlek, both in production and both holding contracts for the sale of most of their planned output. We cannot deny that the successful establishment of new mines has had a dampening effect on the movement. Some people feel defeated. It has been broadly interpreted as a setback. But the obstacles to achieving a ban on uranium mining under the Fraser government are very great indeed. Looked at dispassionately, the movement has made substantial gains.

Before the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry there was scant public awareness of the issues associated with uranium mining and nuclear power. Today there is widespread concern. Public discussion and interest continues in many forums, and many people have gained political awareness and experience through the issue. The Gallup Poll has recorded a steady increase over the last six years in the number of Australians opposing uranium exports. The last poll result put the community as being evenly divided. The *Australian Women's Weekly* reported, in 1980, after an extensive survey that 'only 12% (of women) believe we should rely on nuclear energy'.

There is overwhelming opposition to uranium mining and nuclear power amongst the active rank and file of the labour movement. This is expressed in

**THE ENORMITY OF TODAY'S NUCLEAR ISSUES CAN RAISE A SENSE OF GLOOM. CHAIN REACTION'S WRITERS TAKE A CRITICAL LOOK AT WHERE WE NOW STAND AND AT WHAT, WITH GUTS, CAN BE DONE BY THE COMMUNITY.**

Frank Muller has been active in the uranium struggle since the early 1970s when he helped found Friends of the Earth Canberra. He is a research officer for Tom Uren MP.

the principled policies of the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Other key organisations such as the Australian Council of Churches and the Australian Democrats have adopted policies of opposition to uranium mining and nuclear power. Half the votes in the Senate are now held by members of two parties (ALP and AD) which oppose uranium mining and nuclear power. These are substantial gains which form a solid basis for future action.

Nor are things all that bright for the pro-nuclear forces. Development to now falls far short of successive industry proposals. It is over ten years since the major uranium discoveries were made and four and a half years since the Fraser Government gave the go-ahead to mining. Yet only two mines have been fully developed. Others await Aboriginal agreement, government approval, sales contracts or the resolution of technical matters. An enrichment plant is still a long way off. The Victorian and Western Australian governments have found it necessary to retreat from proposals for nuclear power generation. The Fraser government has rebuffed overtures to Australia to establish an international site for high-level waste disposal. It has also expressed opposition to USA and Japanese schemes for spent fuel storage and waste disposal in the Pacific. So clearly the uranium and nuclear industries continue to be a fertile battleground.

There is much more to the uranium issue than the opening of two new mines. If the industry has its way there will be many more mines, some very destructive of the local environment and there will also be a conversion/enrichment complex, perhaps a fuel fabrication plant and even an international waste disposal facility. In short,

**The threat of large-scale public opposition to waste dumping and nuclear power proposals has forestalled government approval. Malcolm Fraser at Macquarie University, May 8, 1981.**



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Australia's economy (and environment) would become inextricably linked into the nuclear-power and nuclear weapons programmes of other countries. We would soon have our own nuclear power stations.

The uranium issue does not end, nor should it slacken. With the opening of two mines, too much is at stake. The anti-uranium movement has been able to gain wide public support and has proven to be a significant factor hindering the development of an Australian nuclear industry. It can continue to do so.

We can expect more and more to be told that the uranium industry is a fact of life, that Ranger and Nabarlek are here to stay and that further development is a forgone conclusion. Conservative media outlets will echo this message. Some 'pragmatic' figures in the labour movement, who prefer not to side against powerful corporate interests will repeat this theme. It is nonsense. A community and indeed a nation always has the right to turn back foolish decisions. We do not accept heroin trade just because it's a reality.

The Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry Report recommended that 'a decision to mine and sell uranium should not be made unless the Commonwealth government ensures that the Commonwealth can at any time immediately terminate those activities, permanently, indefinitely or for a specified period'. The Deputy Prime-Minister has stated in Parliament that the government has this power. So there should be no doubt that Ranger and Nabarlek can be closed down. Mines come and go. Ups and downs are endemic to the mining industry. Only last year, with a downturn in manganese, copper and aluminium prices, mining companies put 800 jobs on the line at Northern Territory mines. That's around twice as many jobs as there are at Ranger and Nabarlek combined. But of course there was no hue and cry from the Fraser government and displaced workers were not offered assistance.

The anti-uranium movement has been

misunderstanding in the anti-uranium movement about the capacities of unions, particularly in the current anti-union political climate. The union movement does not have the power to bring the uranium industry to a permanent halt. Few workers are involved in the industry and scab labour is relatively easily substituted. The major work sites are remote from the centres of organised labour. And the Fraser government has available repressive industrial legislation with which it can inflict great costs on unions maintaining uranium bans. If unions make a tactical decision to withdraw from a particular ban (as the ACTU Executive did during December), because the political and financial costs of continuing it are judged to be too great, then the anti-uranium movement should respect that decision.

a significant factor hindering uranium development. As we look to future campaigns it is worth asking how this has been so. Sometimes the movement's impact has been indirect. For example, governments have put various requirements or controls on the industry (e.g. inquiries, safeguards treaties, environmental standards, land rights agreements) in response to community concerns and as a means of diffusing opposition. Such measures have often delayed development. They have also created some uncertainty in the minds of investors and customers and increased costs for the miners. The Ranger Inquiry itself staved off development for several years and its findings did so for some time thereafter. It may be that with the downturn in the uranium market some projects have been delayed long enough to miss the boat altogether. In the case of waste dumping and nuclear power proposals the impact of the anti-uranium movement has been more direct. The threat of large scale public opposition to these developments has forestalled government approval. Indeed, the Fraser government has been concerned that talk of such proposals could provoke a greater opposition to uranium mining.

Trade unions have also played an important role in hindering uranium development. It was reported late last year that Mary Kathleen Uranium Ltd faced major financial problems because of the bans on export shipments by wharries and crew. More importantly, though, trade union action has served to focus community attention on the uranium issue and the serious problems associated with the industry. The magnificent action by members of the Australian Railways Union in 1976, which led to a one day national rail stoppage, helped put the uranium issue on the political agenda and gave the anti-uranium movement a big fillip. More recently, concerted action by wharries, ship crew and transport workers in Darwin have kept the issue in the public limelight.

However, there has been some misunderstanding in the anti-uranium movement about the capacities of unions, particularly in the current anti-union political climate. The union movement does not have the power to bring the uranium industry to a permanent halt. Few workers are involved in the industry and scab labour is relatively easily substituted. The major work sites are remote from the centres of organised labour. And the Fraser government has available repressive industrial legislation with which it can inflict great costs on unions maintaining uranium bans. If unions make a tactical decision to withdraw from a particular ban (as the ACTU Executive did during December), because the political and financial costs of continuing it are judged to be too great, then the anti-uranium movement should respect that decision.



JOHN DUNN/TRE

**Waterside Workers Federation Darwin branch secretary Brian Manning: under extreme pressure from governments, employers and the courts.**

Despite what the media says, the ACTU has not changed its principled policy of opposition to uranium mining. What is disturbing is that some union leaders are trying to manipulate the process of a tactical withdrawal from a particular ban into a policy change. We only play into the hands of such people if we fail to distinguish between a tactical withdrawal and the abandoning of a principled policy. We do so even more if we allow ourselves to be portrayed as trying to push unions into

That the Queensland Trades and Labour Council encourage the ACTU to maintain a strong policy of opposition to the uranium industry emphasising the need to prevent new sites from being developed. The Trades and Labour Council acknowledges that the union movement has placed the burden of union action on small sections of the workforce and believes that while only some workers have the opportunity to apply effective industrial action, the issue is of such importance to the community that the burden should be spread more evenly over unionists generally. With this in mind, together with the need for a proper coordinated and monitored campaign, the Trades and Labour Council recommends that a fund be established to be financed by all sections of the movement so that workers called on to carry the burden are protected by the union movement.

**Australian Telecommunications Employees Association (Queensland)**

an unwinnable fight which will cost them dearly.

There most likely will be attempts this year to alter ACTU policy on uranium, but there continues to be strong support amongst unions for the principled position, adopted at the 1979 Congress. The anti-uranium movement can play a constructive role by mobilising public support for the existing ACTU policy. While unions may not be able to maintain indefinite bans, a flexible, ongoing industrial campaign utilising various tactics could serve to highlight the problems of the uranium industry, maintain the issue in the public eye, increase the costs for mining companies and lower the confidence of investors and customers. The prospects are good for practical cooperation along these lines between progressive unions and anti-uranium groups.

A sharp downturn in the uranium market has been the other major factor slowing uranium development.

The Australian Atomic Energy Commission has cut its most recent estimate of future western world uranium requirements for 1990 to nearly a third of its estimate of five years ago. The real spot price of uranium has halved since 1976. Over half of current uranium production goes into stockpiles rather than power stations. This downturn is due to a slump in nuclear power programmes the world over, which, in itself, is partly due to the efforts of a worldwide movement of which the Australian anti-nuclear movement is a part. Almost everywhere, nuclear power economics are being contested. The economics of nuclear power is looking

more and more shaky with rapidly rising capital costs and the delays and limitations brought on by citizen action. As a result of such action, the full costs to the community of nuclear power, including its massive public subsidies, are becoming more visible. With a growth in anti-war sentiment in Europe, the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons are being more generally recognised.

Even so, we cannot sit back and expect the market to kill off uranium mining. It is not a free market, nor does it operate simply. Ranger and Nabarlek were able, despite the slump, to secure contracts for sizeable sales to Japan and West Germany and for smaller sales to South Korea, Finland, USA, Sweden, Belgium and France at prices rumoured to be above market level. A major industry consultancy body has suggested that buyers were prepared to pay a little more and to overcontract just to lock up uranium production. In other words, buyers judged that if Australia did not become a supplier, this would be damaging to the industry in the longer term — which puts the lie to the simple argument 'if we don't export it someone else will'. We must also consider the possibility that a further drop in the uranium price could increase demand for Australian uranium as high-cost USA producers go to the wall.

What moves can we expect from the Federal and State governments and the industry in the coming year? There are mines in Western Australia (Yeelerie, Lake Way), South Australia (Honeymoon) and Queensland (Ben Lomond),

**Motions endorsed by Queensland Trades and Labour Council, 27 January 1982**

what action they could as circumstances would permit.  
5. The ACTU is undertaking a re-examination of its uranium policy.

The BWIU expresses the view that the Trades and Labour Council of Queensland should carry forward to the ACTU the above policy.

That the Trades and Labour Council endorse the proposals from the ATEA and the BWIU and forward them for consideration to the ACTU executive at the next discussions on ACTU congress policy on uranium mining.  
**Building Workers' Industrial Union (Queensland)**

1. The Trades & Labour Council of Queensland would be aware of the hopeful speculation and forecasting in the establishment media that the ACTU will reverse its opposition to uranium mining following on its decision of December 8 1981.
2. We are aware that the unions which have been acting in opposition to the mining milling and export are unable to maintain their actions as they are under extreme pressure from governments the employers and the courts.
3. The fact that the workers involved cannot maintain their physical opposition does not make the ACTU policy opposing the mining milling and export of uranium wrong. The struggle should perhaps be taken to another battleground.
4. From that point of view it would be important for the ACTU to maintain its policy of opposition to uranium mining milling and export even if only on an 'in principle' basis with an expression of hope that unions would take



where State governments and mining companies will be pushing for an early start to production. In South Australia a bill allowing uranium mining at Roxby Downs will be put before Parliament, where it can be blocked by the ALP and Democrats in the Upper House. Pancontinental and Denison Mines, with the assistance of the Northern Territory government, will be pressing for Aboriginal agreement to mining at Jabuluka and Koongara. The Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (Western Mining, BHP, CSR, Peko-Walsend) is proceeding with a feasibility study on uranium enrichment in Australia. It needs new legislation to guarantee the secrecy of technical information supplied by foreign governments. This legislation is likely to be introduced by the Federal government in the guise of nuclear 'safeguards' legislation, and could be blocked by Labor and Democrat Senators. To some extent this list camps in 1982.

In Canberra, in July this year there will be an ALP National Conference. Labor's policy on uranium is to oppose mining and export until the many serious problems associated with the industry are resolved. We can expect that as the conference approaches there will be a media campaign against the policy. Some Labor figures may seek a change for the underlying reason that

Pancontinental, with the assistance of the Northern Territory government, will be pressing for Aboriginal agreement to mining at Jabuluka, digging a hole the size of 40 city blocks and deeper than an 80 storey building.

they do not want to go into an election so directly in opposition to large mining companies. But the case for no change is overwhelming — since 1977 when the policy was adopted, the problems of the industry have persisted and indeed worsened. Support for the policy amongst ordinary Party members is extremely strong — it was put there by the rank and file. Already there is a growing mobilisation of support within the Party for the policy.

The guts of Labor's uranium policy is to 'repudiate any commitment of a non-Labor government to the mining, processing or export of Australia's uranium'. A Labor Government will clearly have the power to do so. But we cannot be naive about the strength of the corporate forces which would oppose this. The policy can only be maintained and then implemented by a Labor government after 1983 with the strong active and constructive support of a broad movement of community groups and unions. The task of the anti-uranium movement is to keep the uranium issue boiling, to continue the debate, to maintain the flow of up to date information, to keep explaining the problems of the nuclear industry and to organise expressions of public opposition to uranium mining. It is no good sitting back and saying you can't trust the ALP to implement its policy as some may be inclined to do. The policy is as strong as those who work to support it — it is support which is needed, not trust.

Last year saw massive protests throughout Europe at the growing threat of nuclear war. A similar level of concern is beginning to emerge in Australia. With the escalation of the nuclear arms race by the two super-powers, the aggressive posturing of President Reagan and increasing instability in regions like the Middle East, the world has become a more dangerous place. No longer do nuclear planners talk about the threat of 'mutually assured destruction' restraining both sides — the talk is now of 'limited' or 'winnable' nuclear war. In Australia the stationing of B52s in Darwin, the development of a USA naval facility at Cockburn Sound and the USA bases make us a prime target for Soviet missiles. Our uranium involves us further.

In 1976 the Ranger Inquiry Report concluded that 'The nuclear power industry is unintentionally contributing to an increased risk of nuclear war'. It argued that this was the most serious hazard associated with the industry. Today that is more evident than ever before. Last year there was the Israeli attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor. Now the Reagan Administration proposes to use spent nuclear fuel from power stations to supply military plutonium. Australian uranium could therefore find its way directly into USA missiles. The Fraser government has agreed to uranium exports to France, despite its

Pacific nuclear testing, and to South Korea, despite the obvious nuclear weapons interests. It has said that Australian uranium can be enriched in Soviet military enrichment plants. In 1977 Malcolm Fraser said 'Reprocessing, we believe, takes countries too close to military technology at this stage'. There can be no doubt that export of Australian uranium contributes to the growing threat of nuclear war.

When confronted with an issue like the nuclear arms race, many people understandably feel powerless. They ask 'what can I do?', or even, 'what can a small country like Australia do?' We do have a substantial portion of the world's resources of the raw material for nuclear weapons, ie, uranium. Perhaps the greatest contribution Australia can make to reducing the risk of nuclear war is to leave its uranium in the ground.

The formation last year of the National Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia signalled a new emphasis by the anti-uranium movement on the threat of nuclear war. Since then anti-uranium, peace, disarmament, church and union groups have begun to work more closely with one another around this theme. Last year there was a highly successful Rally for Peace in Brisbane and a public meeting to form People for Nuclear Disarmament in Melbourne which attracted numbers beyond the wildest dreams of the organisers. All the signs are that rallies to be held throughout the country in the first week of April 1983 — under the banner Australians for Nuclear Disarmament — will see a newly confident and invigorated anti-nuclear movement in Australia.

## ACTION

Demonstrations, car cavalcades and bike rides against the Honeymoon uranium mine near Broken Hill, South Australia, are planned for early May 1982. See the story in Earth News for more details.

In early April demonstrations and marches for nuclear disarmament will be held around Australia. It follows: Adelaide Saturday 3 April, 10 am, march from Victoria Square to Parklands, (08) 268 9566 and (08) 223 060. Brisbane Saturday 3 April, 4.30 pm, radiothon for peace on 4ZZZ-FM, (07) 371 5111; Wednesday 7 April, 4.30 pm, rally for peace at City Square; Saturday 20 April, 2.30 pm to 5 pm, peace rock concert at the Botanical Gardens; Sunday 28 April, 12.30 pm to 5 pm, peace conference at the Queensland Institute of Technology, (07) 225 2446. Canberra for details (062) 47 3202; Fremantle

Sunday 28 March, 2.46 pm, peace picnic at Princess Mary Park, (09) 321 7020 and (09) 321 2269; Hobart Friday 2 April, rally and vigil for peace; Sunday 4 April, combined churches rally for disarmament, (002) 23 5770; Launceston Saturday 3 April, peace seminar, (03) 31 2800; Melbourne Sunday 4 April, 1.30 pm, rally at Treasury Gardens and march to Flagstaff Gardens for concert and festival, (03) 663 2846; Perth Sunday 4 April, 3 pm, rally at Supreme Court Gardens, (09) 321 7020 and (09) 321 2269; Sydney Sunday 4 April, 1 pm, rally for peace at Circular Quay and march to Hyde Park South for Carnival, (02) 264 6831, (02) 267 2459 and (02) 267 6741.

Many groups around Australia will be lobbying local ALP branches, leading

up to the National Conference in Canberra, in July, to ensure that the ALP's anti-uranium mining policy is maintained and extended. Contact your state group (listed below) to help with this campaign.

## CONTACTS

Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Australia c/- 537 Wellington St, Perth, WA 6000. Tel: (09) 321 2269, 321 5942. Movement Against Uranium Mining PO Box K133, Haymarket, Sydney,

NSW 2000. Tel: (02) 267 2459. Movement Against Uranium Mining 250 George St, Fitzroy, VIC 3065. Tel: (03) 419 1457.

Campaign Against Nuclear Power PO Box 238, North Quay, Qld 4000. Tel: (07) 229 7143.

Campaign Against Nuclear Energy 310 Angus St, Adelaide, SA 5000. Tel: (08) 223 6917, 223 5155.

Movement Against Uranium Mining c/- 102 Bathurst St, Hobart, Tas 7000. Tel: (002) 43 7385.

Canberra and South East Region Environment Centre PO Box 1875, Canberra City, ACT 2601. Tel: (062) 47 3064, 48 0885. Central Australian Conservation Council PO Box 1637, Alice Springs, NT 5750. Tel: (089) 52 2211.

# ENRICHMENT

## By Bruce Doyle & Owen Pearson

Almost immediately after the uranium mining industry recommenced activity in Australia in the 1970s, a uranium enrichment plant was discussed.

During 1979, at the height of its pronuclear flush, the federal government gave strong support to the plans, which were slowly materialising as the mining side of the industry progressed. State government too gave strong support, associating themselves with various overseas nuclear corporations and utilities.

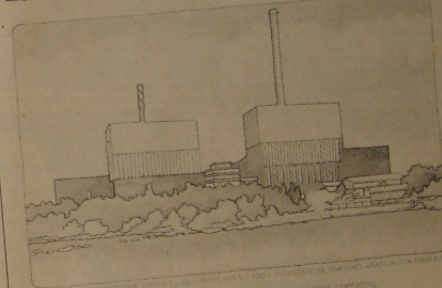
When the international uranium market faded that year, speculation on enrichment also died down and it was felt that the continuing poor economics of enrichment would prevent its expansion to Australia.

However, 1980 saw the formation of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (UEGA) comprising four powerful resource companies — Peko-Walsend Ltd, Colonial Sugar Refinery Ltd, Broken Hill Pty Ltd and Western Mining Corporation Holdings Ltd.

With federal government assistance they are presently assessing the

Bruce Doyle is chairperson of the Campaign Against Nuclear Power in Queensland. Owen Pearson is an organizer with CANP.

## Enrichment—the next step?



Nearly 90% of the 520 tonnes of nuclear material produced each year in the world today requires enrichment to be used as fuel for nuclear power. The great bulk of this enrichment is done in Australia. The first step in this process is to convert the natural uranium ore into a form suitable for enrichment.

Some sources are optimistic that the new enrichment technology, and the new enrichment technology, will reduce the cost of enrichment. However, the uranium industry has warned that enrichment technology will be used to produce weapons-grade uranium. The uranium industry has also warned that enrichment technology will be used to produce weapons-grade uranium. The uranium industry has also warned that enrichment technology will be used to produce weapons-grade uranium.

Letterbox pamphlets from the Uranium Information Centre Ltd

feasibility of setting up a commercial enrichment plant.

With a depressed world uranium market, it has been a useful argument to claim that an Australian enrichment plant would find a ready customer. Given the cost of enrichment and the shrinking demand for nuclear energy overseas, this argument is valid in economic terms.

But these are not the terms under which the world enrichment industry operates — subsidised and cossetted, it has not been subject to the forces of supply and demand.

Worldwide, uranium enrichment is almost completely government owned and financed. For example URENCO — CENTEC is financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and Dutch governments. The uranium enrichment industry has extensive and indivisible links with the military nuclear complex. The USA Department of Energy enrichment plants, located at Oak Ridge Tennessee, Portsmouth Ohio, and Paducah Kentucky, are used for both weapons production and commercial enrichment. Enrichment to bomb grade material is done using precisely the same technology, carried to a higher level of purification.

UEGA's first task is to choose a foreign technology partner, for what is likely to be the world's last enrichment contract for some time. Bidding desperately are French, USA, European and Japanese nuclear corporations. Originally the UEGA favoured the centrifuge technology of the URENCO-CENTEC company. The government's most recent statements, however, seem to show a desire to incorporate some aspects of all the bidders in the Australian project.

France, for example, has offered to purchase a large portion of the plant's production of enriched uranium. This is despite the fact that figures can be produced to show that the world will face an enormous surplus of enriched uranium by 1990 — the soonest an Australian plant could be on line.

Whilst there is no disputing the huge enrichment oversupply that will occur, it is possible that an Australian enrichment plant could nonetheless compete in this situation, attracting customers keen to desert the old, expensive gas diffusion enrichment industry of Europe and the USA.

A situation akin to this has occurred in the uranium mining industry. Demand is poor, but low Australian production costs have won the miners contracts at the expense of marginal USA mines, three of which have closed in the past 3 years.

Uranium enrichment plants fit the requirements of the cargo cult mentality of the 'resource boomers'. They are huge, spectacular projects requiring billion or multi-billion dollar investments.

When UEGA recently commenced its \$5 million enrichment feasibility study,

every non-Labor state and territory expressed an interest. The Victorian government, however, made a quick public denial of any plans for enrichment. No doubt, the announcement had come embarrassingly close to this year's state election.

Whilst the federal government backed UEGA has yet to settle on a preferred site for its enrichment plant, other consortiums have been busily courting state governments.

URENCO — CENTEC has a long history of negotiations with the South Australian and, to a lesser extent, the Western Australian governments. South Australian plans are by far the most advanced.

In 1981 the government proposed a uranium hexafluoride conversion plant. This is the stage of processing immediately before enrichment, often built as part of the enrichment complex. No doubt this was an attempt to get a foot in the door in the enrichment race.

A detailed feasibility study for an enrichment plant near Port Pirie was prepared in 1980. Proponents of the South Australian plant point to its proximity to Beverley, Honeycomb and the huge Roxby Downs deposits, the road link to the Northern Territory mines and the rail link to the Western Australian mines as reasons for siting the plant in South Australia.

Since yellowcake is not very bulky, geographic proximity may not be as important a factor as other infrastructure costs such as electricity.

In this area, Queensland with its abundant low cost coal, has an edge. Perhaps this is why a French consortium has shown such an interest in that state. A plant using French gaseous diffusion technology would require up to 1800 megawatts of power. (Queensland's present entire capacity is 2600 megawatts.)

In comparison, the URENCO — CENTEC centrifuge technology could be built up in units requiring only 50 megawatts. At first sight, this proposal should come out a clear winner, but two factors keep the French proposal in the running: firstly, France is a major likely customer; and secondly, French technology is better proven. France is also offering a chemical separation process whose energy requirements are not known.

Even the best technology and viable economics will come to nothing unless government approval can be obtained and maintained for a period long enough to bring the plant into operation.

Here the field quickly narrows to Queensland, since Labor governments are probable in Victoria and South Australia, and an possible in Western Australia by 1983. This makes Queensland the weakest link in the united chain of opposition to uranium enrichment in Australia.

It is certain that any enrichment consortium would wish to build its plant quickly once approval is granted.

They reason that if they can reach a stage of having hundreds of workers employed, and hundreds of millions of dollars invested, no future government will be prepared to close it down.

The existence of such a plant would make nonsense of one of the cherished arguments of nuclear proponents. They claim that further involvement in the nuclear fuel cycle allows us easily to enforce safeguards.

The reality of the situation will be that the pressure to pay for the plant by the sale of enriched uranium will be greater than the pressure to enforce any safeguards by withholding the product.

To ensure sales of enriched uranium in a slack market, governments will have to provide conditions to make it competitive. As has been shown by the uranium mining industry, weakened safeguards will be every bit as important as power subsidies and taxation relief.

The Fraser government has already shown its readiness to weaken safeguards policy on uranium with commercial considerations in mind. The decision in December 1980 to allow uranium to be exported to reprocess Australian uranium was made because without it, the enormous uranium contracts with the European Economic Community would not have been signed.

Bill and Lorraine Ethell and their of the immensely profitable float of Energy Resources of Australia, which now controls the Ranger mine.

Late in 1981, Switzerland switched its uranium custom to Australia, imposing too strict conditions on sales.

The Fraser government cannot be expected to show any more principle when it comes to enriched uranium, for which customers will be able to demand still more ideal terms before buying.

Ironically, this loss of sovereignty may appeal to the current federal government. A uranium enrichment plant could do what carefully worded uranium contracts and legislation have failed to do: make Australia safe for the uranium industry by entrenching it so deeply that a subsequent Labor government could not extricate Australia from the mire.

Already the federal government has contributed \$500 000 to UEGA's \$5 million enrichment feasibility study. government approval which will set up a legal framework for the transfer of classified enrichment technology to Australia. (This may be done under the guise of repealing the more draconian Cold War provisions of the present Atomic Energy Act.)

A final obstacle for any foreign enrichment consortium would be the united chain of opposition to uranium enrichment in Australia.

It is certain that any enrichment consortium would wish to build its plant quickly once approval is granted.

entrenching of the uranium industry.

The lesson to be learned from Ranger and Nabarlek is that the task of stopping any part of the uranium industry becomes ten times more difficult once that part of the industry

is established.

No longer can the Australian anti-nuclear movement afford to laugh at suggestions of uranium enrichment as wildly uneconomic. Yet, we can draw some comfort from the fact that

proponents of uranium enrichment have many hurdles to cross before their dream comes to fruition. Our task is to foster public opposition which raises the hurdles so high that the uranium enrichment industry is consigned to oblivion before it starts.

# WAR & PEACE

By Phil O'Hara & Judy McDougall

The *Pacific Peacemaker*, a 16 m, two-masted steel ketch left Sydney on 28 December 1981 with a crew of twelve persons on a journey across the Pacific Ocean to the USA in an attempt to show opposition to the launching of the USA's latest, most expensive and potentially destructive warship, the first Trident submarine.

Bill and Lorraine Ethell and their four children, along with a rotation of crew members and a film crew are representing Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands in a large international protest which is being planned around the Trident base near Seattle in

June/July 1982.

The campaign has the financial and moral support of a wide range of concerned people and groups, including the Australian Council of Churches, the United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Disarmament Committee, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union, the Association for International Cooperation and Disarmament (Sydney) and Greenpeace.

The ketch arrived in Auckland on 11 January 1982 and was greeted by Rev George Armstrong and members of

the Peace Squadron. The next stopover will be Tahiti in March, followed by Hawaii in May, where contact will be made with the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre. This centre is responsible for the 1983 Nuclear Free Pacific Conference.

From Hawaii, the *Pacific Peacemaker* will be sailing up the West Coast of the United States of America on a lecture tour, working with the peace movement. This will culminate at the Trident base at Bangor, near Seattle in Washington State, where the first Trident will be deployed in the (northern) autumn of 1982.

The project seeks to broaden the awareness of Australian people about the arms race and the Trident Submarine System, express solidarity with peace movements in the Pacific and North America, and actively support the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament to be held in New York in mid-1982. Associated with this is the desire to promote debate in Australia over foreign military bases and their links with the Trident Submarine System, and ultimately work towards a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific.

Planning for other actions is also well underway. A demonstration will be held on 8 August 1982 near Bangor, on the Hood Canal. Small wooden boats are already being built to blockade the Trident at the Hood Canal floating bridge. A network along the waterways leading to Bangor is being established to alert activists to Trident's arrival.

Demonstrations are also planned along the Utah to Bangor, Maine train route which is used to transport missile motor parts from the Hercules Bacchus Works in Magna, Utah to the Trident base.

The success of these actions depends upon your support. The *Peacemaker* needs financial support, and news of their activities needs to reach more people.



Pacific Peacemaker voyage against Trident

Phil O'Hara works for the Pacific Peacemaker Collective in Sydney. Judy McDougall works with Chain Reaction in Melbourne.

## TRIDENT

The United States of America - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Trident system is the most expensive and destructive weapons system in history. It will be used to employ a potential first-strike capacity as an attempt to "deter" the enemy.

Each submarine will weigh over 20,000 tonnes, twice the weight of any existing USA submarine. They will have a top speed of 35 knots, powered by one or more nuclear engines and they will be 168 m long and four storeys high. Its 24 missiles will carry a total of 408 nuclear warheads, each to five times bigger than the Hiroshima bomb, and with new improved, anti-detonation equipment will be accurate to 91 m, over 6000 nautical miles.

The first one is expected to be operational in mid 1982. By 1985, thirteen Trident submarines will be deployed in the Pacific, and eventually the USA plans to have 31 Tridents in operation throughout the world.

Through Trident's precision accuracy, the submarines are able to sneak close enough to destroy United Soviet Socialist Republic's missile sites within 10 to 15 minutes of a launch order. That means the USSR response period would be greatly reduced. This factor has led to some speculation that, by the very act of creating the Trident system, USSR could be provoked into a first-strike position.

Australians are not insulated from nuclear war. The USA bases on Australian soil both set us up for potential attack and provide impetus for nuclear military escalation.

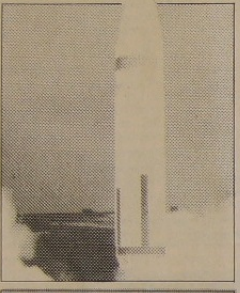
- The North West Cape Communications Base in Western Australia has as its primary function communications with submerged nuclear submarines in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. It could be used to send the firing orders to Tridents.
- Pine Gap and Nurrungar in Central Australia are satellite control stations. These can be used to target Trident missiles.
- The Transit base at Smithfield, South Australia, is used by the Navstar global positioning system. Trident-2 missiles can correct their flight in-course using Navstar.
- The Omega base now under construction in Gippsland, Victoria, is a navigation and educational advance navigational aid. Trident submarines could use it for positioning before firing their nuclear missiles.

A decade ago Australian Foreign Affairs and Defence personnel realised that USA bases in Australia would be priority targets for USSR nuclear attack. The

harsh reality is that the more dependent Australia is on USA military 'support', the closer Australia is to involvement in, and contributors to, nuclear war.

Dr Desmond Ball of the Australian National University, author of *A Suitable Piece of Real Estate, American Installations in Australia*, claims that Australian bases could be struck without the political consequence a similar attack on the USA could have'. In this sense, the nuclear risk Australia has taken (independently of the desires of the Australian people) parallels that of a nuclear power.

The present military situation in the Pacific Islands is also under nuclear threat. Economically and politically weaker islands are becoming increasingly significant as part of a global strategy of military supremacy among the superpowers.



A Trident missile, seventeen nuclear warheads, 85 'Hiroshima bombs'

The Republic of Belau (formerly Palau) in Micronesia, consisting of 200 volcanic and limestone islands - eight main ones - which comprise 45,000 hectares, is a prime example of internal manipulation of domestic politics in the interests of the nuclear powers (in this case the first-strike capacity of the United States of America).

Since 1947 these islands have been part of a United Nations Trustship Territory of the Pacific Islands with the USA as trust administrator. Its task was to promote political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Palauan people and prepare them for self-government and independence. On 1 January 1981, the Palauan Islands became the independent Republic of Belau.

The people voted, in three separate referenda, for a nuclear-free and

military-free constitution which provided a 322 km territorial limit. USA opposition, however, invalidated that vote and resulted in the rewriting of the constitution without military restrictions and a sanitised constitution. Although this sanitised constitution was soundly defeated by 70% of the voters, the USA, through a loophole in the new constitution allowing any of its provisions to be set aside if 75% of the voters approve, is still trying to negotiate a 'Compact of Free Association' which, in return for not more than a meagre average of \$US40 million annually over 15 years, will allow the following military bases:

- 16 hectares in Malakal Harbour for a naval port facility which is expected to also be a forward base for the new Trident strategic missile-launching submarines
- two areas, totalling 810 hectares, on Babeldaub, the largest island; for storage use primarily for the nuclear, chemical-biological, and conventional munitions associated with the other bases
- another 12 150 hectares on Babeldaub - which is over 25% of the total island land area - for a jungle warfare training area
- extensions of the airport runways on Babeldaub and Anguar to 2700 m to provide for joint commercial-military use.

The Belauan people are obviously against their islands (and the whole Pacific) being used as nuclear bases.

The United Kingdom government also plans to replace the ageing Polaris nuclear force with similar Trident missiles and submarines. Prime Minister Thatcher, in her diplomatic note to President Carter dated July 1980 and officially ordering the new weapon, wrote:

The successor to the Polaris force will be assigned to NATO like the Polaris force; and except where the United Kingdom Government may decide that the supreme national interests of the United Kingdom are at stake, the successor force will be used for the purposes of international defence of the Western Alliance in all circumstances.

Opinion polls show that a clear majority of the British public agree that Polaris should be scrapped instead of being replaced with Trident.

Actions against the Trident will be critical in the battle for a nuclear-free Pacific and against bases which support the Trident missile system.

## CONTACT

Pacific Peacekeeper PO Box 31, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022. Tel: (02) 264 5036.

# REAGAN'S FIRST STRIKE

## By Andrew Herington

As world tensions rise environmentalists in the United States of America and Europe are pushing other files to one side as they concentrate on the ultimate environmental disaster: nuclear war. Wherever groups get together it is not long before someone asks 'What are we going to do to stop it?'

Nothing has alarmed the environmental community more than Ronald Reagan's new nuclear policy. The policy is nothing less than the reactivation of the plutonium fuel cycle to ensure that commercial reactors will service the plutonium needs of the military's expanded weapons programme. The military will take control of spent fuel rods (thereby 'solving' the nuclear waste problem) and reprocess these with a new laser enrichment process to obtain weapons grade plutonium. When the proposal was revealed to International Atomic Energy Authority officials in September last year they were reportedly 'aghast at the implications'.

Reagan's policy completely reverses all previous approaches to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the international control of nuclear material. The purpose of linking so overtly commercial and military plutonium use is to quickly obtain the large quantities of weapons grade material needed in the 17,000 new warheads required by the massive rearmament policy of USA Defence Secretary Weinberger and Reagan. These warheads are required not only for the MX and Trident ballistic missiles but also the B1 bomber, Lance Pershing and Cruise medium range missiles, the neutron bomb and other tactical artillery warheads (See table.)

Specifically, Reagan's plan calls for the establishment of a reprocessing plant for commercial fuel and of a demonstration waste disposal site by 1989 and recommencement of the feared Clinch River fast breeder reactor. It also calls for 33 of the 80 plants under construction to be completed and licensed by 1983. This will supposedly inhibit licensing reactors. In a separate move Energy Secretary James Edwards has approved a major research effort to perfect the plutonium laser enrichment

technology at the Lawrence Livermore bomb factory in California.

Anti-nuclear groups have derided Reagan's plan as completely unrealistic, pointing out that most plants are held up for economic not regulatory reasons. At present it appears that reactors less than 20 to 40% complete are doomed to be cancelled. There have been a string of very big nuclear projects in hot water. The five reactor WHPOPS (Washington Public Power System) project in Washington state had hit the \$A28 billion mark before two of its reactors were scrapped to cut costs (this compares with the \$A3.2 billion project producing a similar quantity of electricity for \$A3.2 billion). The twin reactors at Diablo Canyon are ready to load fuel but may never operate following concerted community

campaigning, a series of design blunders and the impossibility of producing a satisfactory evacuation plan in case of trouble from the earthquake fault lying just offshore.

Existing plants are being shut down by very major problems including design faults, operator deficiency (as seen at Three Mile Island) and rusting of cooling pipes (as observed at the Robert E. Ginna reactor, New York state in February this year). Embrittlement of the reactor vessel has not yet caused an accident but is now seen as a prime potential hazard. Any of the USA's dozen, 10 to 15 year old, radiation-hot steel reactor vessels could shatter if, in an emergency, cooling takes place too quickly, as a hot glass will when filled with cold water.

The main focus of the environmental counter-attack has been on the hypocrisy of Reagan's free enterprise principles. The nuclear industry has been repeatedly kept alive by massive infusions of government money while Reagan has made drastic cutbacks in assistance energy conservation programmes. Solar programmes which received \$A588 million in 1981 are on the slate for cuts to a mere \$A82 million by 1983, conservation programmes which took \$A338 million will be slashed to \$A22 million. Even research on coal and gas will be slashed. Already the dynamic head of the Solar Energy Research Institute, Denis Hayes, has been sacked and more than a third of his staff will follow.

Reagan's overall strategy includes the abolition of the present Department of Energy, established by Jimmy Carter. About half the activities of this department are concerned with the nuclear weapons programme and another large section controls the commercial nuclear industry. These two sections will be merged into a 'reborn Atomic Energy Commission' and the remainder of the department wound up or transferred to the Department of the Interior.

Success for the President's strategy would mean a devastating setback for solar and energy conservation and an enormous shot in the arm for the nuclear industry. Reagan would be closer to his dangerous first-strike capability.

Andrew Herington has been FOE Australia International Liaison co-ordinator for the last two years. He spent the last 3 months of 1981 in the United States of America working with a number of environment groups.

### New nuclear warheads planned by Reagan to 1991\*

MX missile	2000 <sup>a</sup>
Cruise missiles	
air launched	3500
submarine launched	2600
ground launched	500b
Pershing 2 missile	200b
Trident submarine SLBM	1680
Harpoon anti-submarine	500
B83 bomb	1000
155mm Howitzer shells	2000b
Lance missile (neutron bomb)	1180b
Supplements to other weapons programmes	2400
	17000

<sup>a</sup> When all 200 MX missiles deployed (100 are currently on order with 53 sites available when their Titan II missiles have been removed and the sites hardened against Soviet attack).

<sup>b</sup> Designed principally for use in Europe and subject to Geneva Theatre Weapons Reduction talks.

\* The above figures are for total warheads produced; not total delivery systems (the normal US figure) or total warheads deployed. Some old weapons will be disassembled, the material reprocessed and used in the construction of new warheads.

Source: Dr Tom Cochran, National Resources Defence Council, Senate Testimony, September 1981.

# BLACK HILLS

By  
**Lin Pugh**

Activities in Europe and the USA toward the end of 1981 focused on peace, the anti-nuclear-weapons work of millions of people. Peace was demanded in a variety of ways: demonstrations by as many as half a million people; peace conferences such as the international Women for Peace conference in Amsterdam; the action and arrests of women at the Pentagon in Washington DC; and telegrams sent from the organisers of these events to both the Waterside Workers Union and to the ACTU executive asking that the union bans against uranium remain in Australia.

they claim, is the same struggle as the peace and anti-nuclear struggle in Europe. Two of these Native Americans represented the Lakota Treaty Council, the present-day form of the traditional Lakota governing council. Their land is, to coin Reagan's phrase, the 'National sacrifice area' — the South Dakota Black Hills, which the USA government is planning to use for a national nuclear park consisting of uranium mines, waste dumps, nuclear reactors and a missiles base.

Since April 1981 the Lakota's have been digging in for what we need', as Larry Redshirt put it — they are occupying the Black Hills. In fact, by tradition, the Hills belong to the people and the people to the Hills, and this was recognised by the USA government in the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. That treaty pledged the government and its army to protect the Lakota's and their land, but within five years they had double crossed the Indians by protecting gold diggers from angry Sioux. The Indians have been pushed to poverty and live on the edge of their once huge reserve.

By September the group occupying uranium-rich Craven Canyon were forced at gunpoint to move, and they joined the second of the three camps, Crazy Horse Camp. Governor Janklow of South Dakota threatened to move this camp himself if the Feds didn't intervene. In early October a petrol tank at the camp was exploded, fortunately injuring no-one. Gunshots were fired at the people. None of this was reported in the local press. Once more the people moved on, this time to Devils Towers, just over the state border in Wyoming.

In a letter dated 22 December 1981 I was told 'The camps are still up there' on the move, 'getting cold and tired'. Russell Barsb, the legal aid to the Treaty Council, explained further in that letter that the Oglala Sioux Tribe has once more appealed to the USA government to recognise the legality of the 1868 Treaty and to give the Hills back to the people. In December the government filed its response, asking the Supreme Court to review the case. If this is taken up, the case will be reviewed in the (northern) spring. Meanwhile, a Legal Strategy Conference

was organised in Rapid City, South Dakota, at the foot of the Black Hills, at which the following statement was drawn up by Indian legal counsels for discussion and hopefully approval of all the governments and councils of the various Sioux tribes.

It is our firm resolve to regain the full possession, enjoyment and control of our traditional sacred homeland in the Black Hills. We categorically reject payment for our religion, culture and country. We refuse to acknowledge payment under decisions of the Indian Claims Commission, which valued our homeland at pennies per acre. We support the efforts of the Oglala Sioux Tribe to regain title to the Black Hills in Federal Court.

We are prepared to meet with representatives of the United States to discuss an agreement, and federal legislation to restore Sioux control of the Black Hills, provided any agreement made affirms the lands restored are our original territory, provides for exclusive Sioux ownership of restored lands, and becomes effective only in accordance with Article XII of the Treaty of April 29 1869. We are prepared to give appropriate recognition to the rights of individuals who reside, farm, or ranch in the Black Hills under grants from the United States, and to limit discussions as far as possible to lands claimed and occupied by the government of the US.

Russell says there are some elements within congress possibly willing, with many hesitations, to return part of the land to the Lakota Sioux. But mostly with the catch: not until the physical occupation of the Hills ends. The old chief Crazy Horse was told exactly the same thing 100 years ago when his people reclaimed the Hills. When he came down to discuss with the USA government, he was shot dead. Is history to be repeated?

Russell and Larry are clearly fighting the same fight as the Europeans who were out on the streets recently: the fight against nuclear weapons and nuclear power. The small land struggle and the huge peace struggle are the same.

# Ecology and ideology

TONI CHAFFLEY



By Margie Kaye

The environment movement over the last 10 years has continually failed to examine sexism within its internal structures. This is a necessary step to a wider analysis of society. The way in which the movement operates, in many ways, reflects the very patriarchal structures it purports to struggle against. That there are few real attempts to change their ways of operating is indicative, not of an inability, but of a conceived non-desire to challenge traditional and conservative modus operandi and to grasp wider ideological concepts than saving trees and whales.

Within the movement in the day-to-day functioning, effectiveness is curtailed by men who obstruct positive initiative in order to maintain their 'ego-stroking' positions. Retention of information and obstruction of the work of strong women, who are perceived as a threat, are some of the subtle methods by which women are kept in their place below the top strata.

The movement, as a microcosmic reflection of western capitalist society, doesn't recognise women's work, or encourage it unless it be as a flattering backup or on mole terms. Women will continue to leave or be frustrated.

If the environment movement is to achieve credibility with women and to achieve a genuine positive action-oriented direction it must recognise the relationship between social justice and environment issues.

*Margie Kaye worked for Friends of the Earth (Collingwood) as Publications Officer for several months in 1980 and for the Food Justice Centre, at FOE (Collingwood) in early 1981.*



By Geoff Evans

The environment is now a major area of political struggle in Australia, and the campaigns have involved many people in their first political activity.

The environment movement, however, is often quite isolated from people involved in other progressive struggles. This is often reflected in the narrow interests served by our demands, and in for example, sexist or racist methods of campaigning.

Unlike, for example, the socialist or the women's movements, the Australian ecology movement lacks a theory, or strategy, which can locate our campaigns in a context which challenges present social, economic and political structures.

Many issues most critical to working-class people have been ignored. Only recently, for example, have issues like occupational health and safety, the workplace environment, or the environment of working-class suburbs been taken up.

Many times we've opposed developments without putting forward serious alternatives for employment. This has allowed developers to pretend that the interests of environmentalists and workers are opposed. This has weakened the potential of the environment and trade union movements to fight together, around common interests.

An alternative development strategy for Australia, the states and the regions is needed. The people in the Hunter Valley region of NSW are putting forward such an alternative in their opposition to aluminium smelters.

In developing such alternatives we must ask questions such as 'Who owns the resources of Australia?', 'Who makes the decisions?', and 'Who will benefit from development . . . a wealthy few, including multi-nationals, or the majority?'.

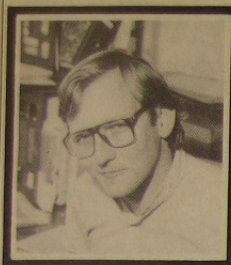
*Geoff Evans has been involved with FOE (Canberra) and MAUM in Sydney. He is currently working for the Communist Party of Australia in Sydney's western suburbs.*



In among this wellspring of human energy walked many Native Americans, participating in the United Nations Conference on Indigenous Peoples and their Land in Geneva in September, and staying on to speak with Europeans about their struggle for the land, which

Lin Pugh works with the World Information Service on Energy in Amsterdam

# THE NEGLECTED ENVIRONMENT



By Mark Cole

We need to reappraise aspects of our theory and political practice if the environment movement is to become more vital, and effective. Too often our hypotheses are overcome by an ideology overlaid with moralistic elements, utopianism and crude forms of technological determinism. Thus environmental decline and the ecological crisis are often blamed on unbridled consumerism, economic growth, inappropriate 'hard' technology, and the 'policies of particular companies and government' instrumentalities. According to this formulation the ecological crisis can be overcome by the individual pursuit of simpler lifestyles and society adopting 'alternative' technologies and smaller 'self managed' organisational structures. This approach lacks a historical and class perspective or any notion of a sustainable human future being the result of ongoing political action. Above all else we need a theoretical perspective that informs political practice.

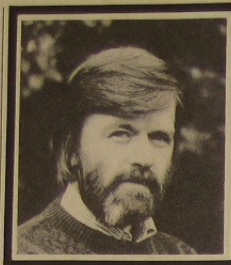
If the environment movement is to become truly progressive it must ally itself with workers and their political organisations.

The 'resources boom' is an issue which we must confront creatively with particular reference to its social context of rising energy costs, and threats to employment.

Our organisation is often based on broad coalitions and alliances which crystallise about single issues. Coalitions can be constructive, indeed necessary tools for fighting single issues, but the need to minimise conflicts within alliances can also cause an endemic lack of review of tactics and theory.

There is also the pressing need for us to develop new political practices in such a way that fundamental conflicts between issues and underlying social causes are discovered.

Mark Cole worked at FOE (Collingwood) 1980-81. He now works at International Development Action.



By Bob James

It is important for activists to recognise a scale of priorities and to set goals accordingly. For me the major problem to be overcome is not pollution or the wasting of resources, or the level or kind of technology. Neither is the major problem the wealth imbalance between the haves and the have-nots. These and similar issues are the results of the more fundamental power imbalance: some people, a few, have more power or decision-making capacity than others, namely, most of us. There is a power relationship wherever there is more than one person, and to avoid talking about the dynamics of power relationships is even more absurd than ignoring the dynamics of wealth relationships.

Here I refer to the larger context, in which power imbalances are much more striking and complex, if we care to look. In brief, most of the people affected by a decision (to flood the Franklin, to build smelters, to mine uranium) are not the people making the decisions.

The most progressive activists are those that act democratically in their own circles, yet retain competence to deal with the power brokers of the hierarchical world. These activists have worked to even up the power disparity and they recognise the need to encourage others out of passive acceptance of authority to confident, peaceful self-management.

The tendency in ecology groups is still to aim for short-term victories. The long-term victory, the putting into place of procedures whereby responsibilities are shared is more difficult. There are almost never proposals put in a campaign for decision-making bodies based on friendship groups, work groups or neighbourhood councils, to control and determine for example, how, if ever, trees are to be planted or culled.

Bob James is editor of the Review of Libertarian Politics and Alternative Lifestyles.



By Betty Beckwith

How effectively does the environment movement organise itself? Well, after nearly ten years of being involved in it, I am not sure that it is not just an organisation rather than a happening.

To be an organisation it must become a type of bureaucracy, loaded down with the onerous duties of finding funds, writing submissions and letters, keeping politicians aware of the transgressions of industries in matters of clean air, water, earth and the rational use of our resources.

To be a happening it must involve large numbers of caring people, and although there are many, so far not a caring majority.

In an environment movement a few people come in to do the organisational work, learn what it is all about and then depart - often disaffected because of various ideologies or egos. Then, the learning process goes on all over again with a new group of people - with the result that we appear to progress at a snail's pace.

All those people who, of necessity, fade away into the masses and take their learning experience to others, effectively aid the happening. If they just become enmeshed with their everyday lives and hope someone else is taking care of things there is waste of talent and enthusiasm.

The media is slowly becoming more vocal on environmental problems and their relevance to our survival.

There is still a lot of work to be done to make us all realise that if our world is to survive our relations with our world must be more sympathetic in future.

An effective organisation or a happening? It must be both. As people have become more socially and environmentally aware over the last ten years, so I feel we are being effective.

Betty Beckwith is the Secretary of Friends of the Earth (South Australia).

By Deborah Vallance

Four years ago, in 1978, the cleaner at a factory making car batteries in Melbourne was sacked because, the management said, he had been off work too frequently over the previous five years with the symptoms of lead poisoning. He suffered from continual gastric pains, partial paralysis of the wrist muscles, anaemia and eventually permanent brain damage. He was 'too susceptible' to lead poisoning, was said. He ingested and inhaled lead dust while sweeping out the factory with a broom each day. Nobody bothered to supply him with a vacuum cleaner, even though this would have largely eliminated the problem. The factory management, his local doctor, and the state government Health Department were all aware of the cause of his chronic lead poisoning, but nothing was done.

Meanwhile, in another part of the factory, a new machine was being installed, at a cost of \$100,000, to process lead ingots for use in the battery electrodes. The machine was installed after pressure from the environmental lobby, through the Environment Protection Authority, who were concerned about the lead pollution outside the factory from this aspect of the production process.

This story, although four years old, illustrates some of the successes and failures of the environment movement which are still very much applicable today. While substantial improvements in the treatment of the environment have been gained, in general environmentalists have ignored the workplace and workers as an area for concern.

Workers' health embraces a very wide field of concern. It is much more than the effect of chemical pollutants in the air outside factories; it covers the whole range of social, physical, chemical and structural factors and processes which determine the nature of work in factories and workplaces. The cause of

Deborah Vallance is a doctor working with the Workers' Health Action Group in Melbourne.

In 1980 3.3 million working days and \$152 million wages were lost due to industrial action. In the same year 5 million working days and \$230 million wages were lost due to industrial accidents.

worker ill health may be as ill defined as the stress arising from boring, alienating jobs (where workers have no control over their working lives) to deafness resulting from the specific hazard of noisy machinery.

## CHEMICALS

The most infamous chemical hazard in industry is asbestos dust, which has been used (in some form or another) in almost every industry in Australia. Asbestos causes lung cancer, cancer of the lung lining and chronic lung disease. There have been no comprehensive studies of the ill effects caused by asbestos in Australia, but epidemiological studies overseas suggest that as many as 10-20 000 Australian workers

have died, or will die, because of past exposure to asbestos.

No accurate information is available on the number of chemicals in use in Australian industry, although it is probably tens of thousands, most of which are imported, (only 700 chemicals are manufactured here). A few of those chemicals, such as vinyl chloride monomer (which causes a rare liver cancer) have achieved notoriety because fortuitous circumstances have allowed their lethal effects on workers to be proven. Most chemicals, however, have not been adequately tested for their effect on health and workers using them face unknown, but very real hazards.

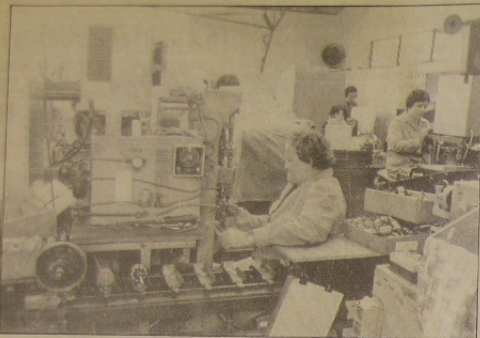
A major hazard for workers which has only been widely acknowledged in the last decade, is the longterm effect of chemicals, particularly cancer and birth defects in workers' children.

Generating awareness of such problems with chemicals which cause no irritation or discomfort at the time of exposure can be a long and difficult task. The problem is intensified because only rarely is the chemical name of industrial products known to the worker. Management almost invariably pleads trade secrets when asked about the identity of toxic substances.

While there has been increased attention over the past few years on the longterm health effects of chemicals, the immediate hazards should not be forgotten. Trichloroethylene is a very common industrial solvent which causes cancer and liver and kidney disease in the long term. Its immediate effect is to act as a narcotic. In November 1981, two workers at a Melbourne paint factory collapsed unconscious in the bottom of a vat of trichloroethylene and were clinically dead when rescued by workmates. They were revived but will almost certainly suffer some permanent brain damage. This incident, while itself uncommon, is indicative of the general failure of control over the immediate and obvious chemical hazards in industry.

## REPETITION

One area where Australian unions (not Australian industry) leads the world is



in the recognition of repetition injuries or rapid movement injuries. These are injuries caused by rapid repetitive work that requires some strength or sustained pressure. They include tenosynovitis (an inflammation of the coverings of muscle tendons, occurring most frequently in the wrist and hand) tennis elbow, chronic muscle strain, and process workers arm.

The problems of sufferers are exacerbated by the abysmally low awareness of repetition injuries amongst the medical profession. Many workers have been permanently disabled by unsuccessful and inappropriate surgery. Continuation at work when the affected limb needs complete rest may also result in permanent injury.

### CORONARIES

The clear, tidy surroundings of office work have their many hazards. As new technology simplifies jobs, workers are exposed to more repetitive, less varied and less interesting work. The glamorous job of the secretary is being replaced by dictaphones, word processors and video display units — a virtual assembly line of office workers. Office hazards now also include toxic chemicals in photocopy machines, eye strain from VDUs, and exposure to excessive noise levels. One health problem traditionally associated with male business executives, that of coronary artery (heart) disease, has now been shown to affect many office workers. Dr. Hayes at the United States of America National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute found that women clerical workers have a coronary artery disease rate twice as high as that of other women. Dr Hayes suggests that the business man who controls his secretary is not only getting heart disease but is giving it.

Women workers (often called neuritic) suffer from the stress of their double work load: their essential but unpaid work at home as well as their often lowly paid and boring, repetitive jobs. A Melbourne study showed disturbingly

**The foremen are  
always easier  
on the men.**

high rates of use of analgesics (aspirin, Bex, Vincent powders) amongst semi-skilled women workers. Some companies were actually selling analgesics to their workers in the factories. (Australia has an extraordinarily high rate of irreversible kidney disease caused by analgesic abuse.) Stress on the job for many women is, of course, increased by the anxiety of caring for sick children and inadequate childcare facilities. Sexual harassment of women by men — fellow workers, supervisors or management — provides further stress and effectively acts as a barrier to full participation in the workplace. Continual harassment, fear of losing jobs or promotion possibilities if a woman 'won't come across with the goods' may often make job satisfaction impossible.

### NIGHTWORK

Shiftworkers comprise 15% of the Australian workforce, and are subject to their own special hazards. A large proportion of shiftworkers are women,

Women workers suffer from the stress of their essential but unpaid work at home as well as their often low paid and boring, repetitive jobs.

and the use of tranquilizers (eg valium) amongst this group is alarming. A survey of women shiftworkers by the Working Women's Centre in Melbourne, found that 21% of these workers said they habitually took sleeping tablets, anti-depressants or analgesics. Shift workers also suffer from a high incidence of ulcers, digestive problems, depression and isolation from family and friends.

### UNION ACTION

It is only in the last five years that unions have begun to take significant steps with workers' health issues. Until that time, decisions over what constituted an acceptably safe working environment were usually left to management — a small minority of unions were active before this time. Unions were content to fight for longer money — a few extra dollars in the pay packet in exchange for risking good health — and for adequate workers compensation after the damage had been done. There were many reasons for this, but a common one was that unionists felt intimidated by their lack of technical knowledge in this area. Management had a monopoly on technical and medical expertise, and if they didn't know they could at least bluff their way through negotiations with unions using technical jargon.

This has now changed. Some unions have hired their own experts for advice on health matters. The Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council have jointly established an occupational health and safety unit. One union, the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union, has appointed full time health and safety officers from its own ranks. These people have found that a medical or scientific degree is not necessary to come to grips with occupational health problems. Technical advice can always be sought. This activity has been accompanied by, or preceded by, rank and file actions over health.

As already mentioned, a crucial problem for workers is finding out the names of chemical they are dealing with. The Miscellaneous Workers Union in Victoria has created a valuable precedent here by negotiating an agreement with a number of pest control companies which they divulge the chemical composition of all products used in the industry. This agreement, which is legally enforceable, is contained in the health and safety clauses of the industrial award in their industry. It shows the way for other unions in this area.

Another historic precedent was created in Melbourne in May-June 1981

when workers at Rank General Electric took strike action over the threatened dismissal of seven female process workers who were suffering from severe tenosynovitis. The AMWSU first became aware of a problem because of the large number of workers compensation claims for tenosynovitis. A concerted campaign of education amongst the workers and in media was begun after reports that repetition injury victims were being dismissed by the company. Injured workers on sick leave with workers compensation were being harassed by the company, which attempted to coerce them back to work to perform light duties. The light duties usually involved rapid, repetitive movements similar to those which caused the injury

**For every  
Australian injured  
on roads, six are  
hurt at work.**

in the first place.

As negotiations with the company produced no results, stopwork meetings were held amongst all workers in the company. A weeklong strike was called, after which the company conceded that the jobs of the seven women would be saved. Further agreements saw the introduction of preventative measures to redesign the work processes which caused repetition injuries, and a rehabilitation programme for all affected workers.

The dispute was important because it raised demands not only for compensation for the injured workers but for prevention and rehabilitation as well.

### LEGISLATION

Legislation to protect workers' health is far less adequate than that protecting other aspects of the environment. Legislative controls are chaotic, with powers vested in a number of different government departments by several acts of parliament. In Victoria, for example, the Departments of Minerals and Energy, Labour and Industry, and Health all administer different aspects of workers' health. In some crucial areas, such as the introduction of new chemicals, there are no controls at all.

In other environmental areas, at least the machinery exists for public participation in regulation of the environment through Environment Impact Statements and various public enquiries. But in workers' health there is no direct involvement of unions either in the

making of policy or at the workplace level.

One of the few optimistic signs in the control of industrial health hazards is the policy recently adopted by the Labor Party in Victoria. This would consolidate government efforts in a new health and safety commission, and rationalize legislation under a single act. It proposes to license new chemicals and processes, thus creating some control over new technology. Most importantly, the policy gives workers a real say in control of their own workplaces through the appointment of health and safety representatives. These representatives may inspect workplaces, have access to all relevant information on health matters and have the power to stop work when deemed necessary for safety.

This policy, if fully enacted, would be amongst the most progressive in the world. However, implementing such a policy will not be easy.

The question of power is central to all issues of workers' health. Almost all problems arise because the workers who are affected have no control over their working environment. The Victorian Labor Policy is important precisely because it challenges the monopoly of control which the captains of industry have exercised over workers' health for so long.

### CONTACTS

#### BRISBANE

Brisbane Workers Health Collective  
Trades Hall, Edward St, Brisbane,  
Qld 4000. Tel (07) 221 5199.

#### SYDNEY

Occupational Safety and Health Action  
Group GPO Box 161, Sydney,  
NSW 2001.

Workers Health Centre 27 John St,  
Lidcombe, NSW 2141.  
Tel (02) 646 3233.

#### MELBOURNE

Workers Health Action Group  
c/- 56 Errol St, North Melbourne,  
PO Box 271, North Melbourne, Vic 3051.  
Workers Health Centre Trades Hall,  
Lygon St, Carlton, Vic 3053.  
Tel (03) 662 3926.  
ACTU Occupational Health Unit  
Trades Hall, Box 93, Carlton South,  
Vic 3053. Tel (03) 662 3511.

### READINGS

Hazards British Society for Social  
Responsibility in Science, 9 Poland St,  
London W1V 3DG

Work Hazards Workers Health Centre,  
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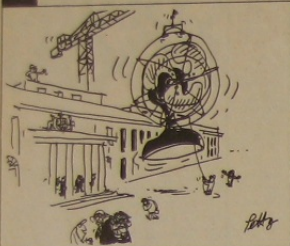
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MAIL ORDERS TOO

# Arid Australia

By Ann Evers

The arid lands have begun to creep into the Australian consciousness. They bring to mind scenes of kangaroo slaughter, Aboriginal land rights, uranium and other mineral exploitation, Jack Absalom, and now, more recently, Mad Max II scenes—that stark beautiful scenery is only 10 minutes drive from Broken Hill.

Australia is 70% arid or semi-arid, but to date conservationists have paid little attention to this area. The Barrier Environment Group of Broken Hill have been actively concerned with the problems of arid lands. After organising a forum of graziers, scientists, government representatives and conservationists on land use in the arid lands in 1980, the group are delighted at the news that the ACF plans to hold a major conference on arid lands in Broken Hill in May 1982. The group are particularly pleased that the conference is being held in the heart of Australia's arid lands as this will enable them to point out, first hand, not only the problems of the arid lands but also the many beautiful aspects of this country. To my eyes the rocky hills of the Barrier Ranges with their gnarled and twisted Mulga trees, their hidden and sometimes flouted wildflowers are as fascinating as any rainforest.

The arid lands are defined by Graetz (see reference) as 'those areas in which rainfall effectiveness precludes cropping or pasture improvement manipulations'. They cover a vast area (see map). Consequently, problems vary, depending on soil type, vegetation type and on state government management and land tenure policies. I mention a few issues here which concern us in western NSW.

It is generally accepted that with the arrival last century of white people accompanied by their pastoral animals and feral followers—in particular rabbits, goats, pigs and cats—widespread changes took place in the arid lands. The new land users, in their ignorance, overgrazed, which led to erosion and the diminution of many plant species. The plague proportions of



Ann Evers works with the Barrier Environment Group of Broken Hill.

feral animals such as the rabbit exacerbated these problems. The new animals also preyed on the native wildlife and competed for food so that, while the larger animals such as the kangaroo increased in numbers dramatically due to increased watering holes and control of the dingo, many smaller species decreased in numbers or disappeared completely.

In the last 40 years this deteriorating state of the arid lands has been improved with the introduction of mixamatorosis and improved land management practices which, in western NSW, are controlled mainly by the Western Lands Commission with the help of the Soil Conservation Service and the Pastures Protection Boards. Groups such as the Australian Rangeland Society, with which many of the graziers in this area are actively involved, enable graziers to benefit from research carried out by the CSIRO, universities and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The areas covered and monitored by government bodies are vast, and all too often government funds for the arid lands (out of sight, out of mind) are meagre. For example, the Soil Conservation Service based in Broken Hill has two conservationists and an assistant to cover approximately 10.5 million hectares.



Arid land 2000km from north to south, and 3200km from east to west.  
**AUSTRALIAN ARID LAND**

Government bodies controlling land use in this area focus most of their attention on conserving vegetation and soils for the benefit of the pastoral industry. As a conservationist I feel that this does not always include the larger species of trees. Several species, for example *Callitris striata* (Beefwood), *Callitris columellaris* (native pine), and *Santalum acuminatum* (Quandong), have greatly diminished in numbers in certain areas of the West Darling. Any young seedlings struggle to survive the onslaught of goats, rabbits and stock. The demise of the rural tree is a serious threat facing much of rural Australia. One has only to drive along the Hume highway: the scene has become one of fenced paddocks scattered with old gums. The young trees exist only on the road verges. In the last few years the

practice of intermittent cropping has begun to expand in certain arid areas, for example, around Wentworth and Bourke. Clearing of the native vegetation is controlled in NSW by the Western Lands Commission which requires a certain number of trees to be retained. However, scattered trees isolated in the middle of ploughed fields have little chance of regeneration. The effect of clearing this marginal land requires serious investigation. Attempts at cropping marginal land have proved disastrous in the past.

There are two large national parks in the West Darling region. At the forum held in 1980 it was proposed that a third park be established to cover land types not included in the existing parks. Mining interests are a major stumbling block to declaring national parks in the West Darling.

Kangaroo harvesting has been a controversial issue concerning the arid lands in recent years. The National Parks and Wildlife Service controls the number of kangaroos shot. The Barrier Environment Group believes that this control is adequate in the West Darling at present. As I mentioned previously, the kangaroo population has increased dramatically in this region since the advent of white people.

The Aboriginal land rights movement is just beginning to make its voice heard in the West Darling. It is high time that this happens. The situation in Wilcannia, which has the highest concentration of Aboriginals living in this area, has reached explosion point.

An expert on the African arid lands from the United Nations recently visited Broken Hill and met members of the Barrier Environment Group. He expressed amazement at the lack of progress and experimentation made in the use of Australia's arid lands, considering Australia is the driest continent in the world and has the resources for such development. The development of arid land forestry, alternative energy sources and water conservation measures is almost nonexistent. On the other hand, development of such projects as uranium mining, increased irrigation in already salt-laden river lands, and cropping in marginal lands have gone ahead without adequate research into their consequences.

It is to be hoped that as many conservationists as possible will attend the conference on arid lands in Australia to be held in Broken Hill in May 1982. The conference will attempt to cover all issues relevant to formulating a conservation strategy for arid Australia.

**Reference:**

*D. Gaetz. Land Use in Arid Australia. Advances in desert and arid land technology and development, Volume 1. Harwood Academic Publishers, 1979.*

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# Reef barriers

By Eddie Hegerl

In early November 1981, newspaper editorials throughout Australia called on the Fraser government to proceed with the declaration of the Cairns section or, in some cases, of the entire Great Barrier Reef region as a Marine Park. With opposition to this declaration from the Queensland government, a compromise plan, in which 30% of the western boundary came to the low water mark and 70% was 5 km offshore, was put to Queensland Primary Industries Minister, Mike Ahern. Ahern was Queensland's senior minister on the commonwealth and Queensland government ministerial council overseeing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. He apparently indicated that the proposal was acceptable to the Queensland cabinet, but when Mr Bjelke-Petersen met with the Prime Minister on 12 November, the Premier refused to accept the compromise. Mr Fraser was not pleased. The Queensland Premier was visibly stunned at his press conference after the meeting when he was told that Mr Fraser and National Country Party leader Doug Anthony had just announced that the commonwealth government would unilaterally declare the Cairns section (under the compromise agreement).

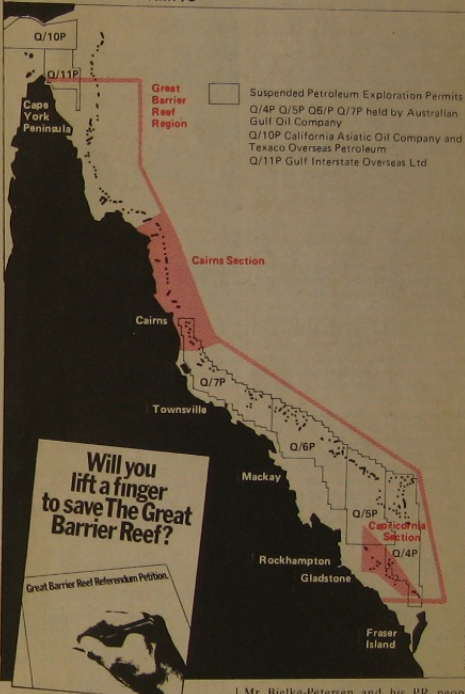
In order to understand recent developments in an issue as long-running and complex as the Barrier Reef has been, it is necessary to review some of the highlights of the past 18 months. (For a detailed history of the Great Barrier Reef campaign up to June 1980, see Chain Reaction Number 22.)

At the opening of the World Wilderness Congress in Cairns in June 1980, Prime Minister Fraser announced plans to put the Reef on the World Heritage Register. By September 1980, the delay in declaring the Cairns section was becoming politically embarrassing. However discussions between the federal and Queensland governments were delayed further as the Queensland government did not want to be seen to be opposing the Park until after the state election.

Once the election was out of the way the Queensland Premier got busy.

Eddie Hegerl has been the Director of the Australian Litteral Society since 1970. Prior to that he was a Marine Researcher working on the Great Barrier Reef at Queensland University.

## GREAT BARRIER REEF REGION AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PERMITS



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As there was very little real opposition to establishing a Marine Park over the Reef, it must have been clear to

Mr Bjelke-Petersen and his PR people that they would have to generate it themselves. The thrust of the Premier's statements about the Reef during 1981 was that the Marine Park might close down the coastal sugar industry, ports and shipping, the tourist industry and professional fishing, and close off the whole Reef region to all but con-

servationists and scientists. The one industry that would be kept out of it the Marine Park went ahead — oil exploration — the Premier maintained had never been of interest to his government.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen insisted that the entire western boundary of the Cairns section be located at least 5 km offshore in order to protect the rights of 'Queenslanders'. This was a very good way of stopping the Park declaration as the Marine Park Authority would not have had a credible park proposal if they omitted the well-developed coastal fringing and inshore reefs along this stretch of coastline.

In October 1981 the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) met in New Zealand and unanimously passed a resolution calling for the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef. The IUCN strongly urges the Australian government to declare without further delay the whole of the Great Barrier Reef as marine park and to prohibit oil exploration and exploitation in the Region.

On 26 October 1981, Prime Minister Fraser opened the World Heritage meeting in Sydney. He was full of assurances about his government's good intentions — 'let nobody be in doubt, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park will be progressively extended. The question is not whether but when.' While the World Heritage Commission unanimously accepted the Reef on the World Heritage List, they resolved that the Australian government should declare the entire Reef a Marine Park as soon as possible.

Meanwhile the Country Women's Association was meeting in Wellington, NSW. The 100 delegates representing 22 CWA branches unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Australian Government to declare the whole Great Barrier Reef region (as described in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*) a Marine Park as soon as it is possible. A spokesperson said that members of the CWA had visited the Great Barrier Reef area and were shocked to find that only about 3% of the region was actually under management. 'We felt that we had been misled and hoped that our resolution expresses the concern that we feel. It is obvious that for the Great Barrier Reef to be properly managed the Australian and Queensland governments should declare the whole region immediately.'

On 27 October the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment released its report on the Marine Park Act and Authority. The committee unanimously declared that the whole of the Reef should be immediately declared a Marine Park, but the government members also suggested a political compromise which

was offered to appease the Bjelke-Petersen government. They suggested that the Park should exclude sections of a strip 5 km wide along the Queensland mainland coast where there are not strong environmental or other reasons for the Park to extend to the three water mark.

The three Labor Party members of the committee filed a dissenting report



Visitors to Green Island in the Cairns Section, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as greeted by the sight of thousands of sandbags, an attempt to protect an incorrectly sited resort from erosion.

in which they noted that, 'While any portion of the reef region is not protected as a marine park then all of the reef is at risk'. They recommended the immediate declaration of the entire Reef region as Marine Park.

Over the next two weeks Mr Bjelke-Petersen embarked on a smear campaign to create public opposition to the Marine Park and directed almost daily threats at the Fraser government. The Premier was emphatic that his government would block the Marine Park 'until we get what we want'. An anonymous federal government official described the propaganda techniques employed as 'straight out of Hitler's Germany — very frightening and hard to overcome'.

When Mr Bjelke-Petersen met with the Prime Minister on 12 November and rejected this compromise Mr Fraser was understandably furious. After what the Premier described as a 'very bad day of not very happy or pleasant' negotiations, the two leaders held simultaneous but separate press conferences, and it was then that the commonwealth government announced

its intention to unilaterally declare the Cairns section (under the compromise agreement).

The Prime Minister explained that his government had been holding discussions with the Premier on the issue for two years and was not prepared to delay any longer. In an obviously tough mood, Mr Fraser remarked, 'On the only occasion I have taken Mr Bjelke-Petersen on head-on, he has lost'. This proved to be the second occasion. Although Mr Bjelke-Petersen threatened to begin a prolonged campaign in Cairns on the following Tuesday, he relented under pressure from state cabinet and the National Party executive who were quite satisfied with the compromise agreement.

Then, in a particularly inept move, the Fraser government sent a senior negotiator to hold further discussions with the Premier on the day of resolution of 16 November. Rather characteristically, Mr Bjelke-Petersen immediately scooped the headlines with claims of a great tactical victory. He claimed that the Fraser government had conceded the right to make regulations within the 5 km limit — 'we will run the whole thing, we will make the zones, we will make the regulations and we can pretty well neutralise the proposals', he said. These claims have been emphatically denied by the Fraser government.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen's sacking of Mike Ahern from the Ministerial Council so that he could take his place at future meetings between the two governments was particularly inept. If Mr Bjelke-Petersen continues his crusade against the Marine Park, he may well force the Prime Minister to proceed unilaterally with the next Park declaration — hopefully over the remaining 90% of the Reef region. The Cairns section contains over 200 reefs and amounts to only about 7.5% of the Barrier Reef region. The public will have until March 1982 to make submissions on how these reefs should be zoned, and a draft zoning plan may be available for public comment as early as May.

It is important that all who know and love the Reef contribute their ideas for the zoning plan.

**Action: Politicians often gauge the strength of public concern on a case by the number of personal letters (rather than formal letters they receive. Please write to the Prime Minister, c/o Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600 and urge him to declare the entire Reef region a Marine Park before the next federal election.**

**Become actively involved in the Save the Barrier Reef campaign. Write to the Australian Littoral Society. Write to PO Box 498, Townsville, Qld 4006.**

**Make a donation to help Queenslanders oppose Bjelke-Petersen's destructive Barrier Reef policies. Donations should be made payable to the Queensland Conservation Council, PO Box 238, North Quay, Qld 4000.**

# When the chips are down

The new technology. Small, flexible, cheap and reliable miniature electric circuits. Silicon chips. Microprocessors. Visual Display Units. Linked up to end dreary and tedious jobs in tele-communications, banking, computing, retailing and publishing. Linked up to make possible a new world of freedom and leisure. That's the story we normally hear.

Lorraine Jones worked in a Visual Display Unit Area for the State Transport Study Group of the New South Wales State Public Service for four months in late 1981. She gives us her story.

8 July Overtime was not specified in the advertising but was made compulsory once we were employed. Those of us under 21 would be paid less than advertised. We were taken on as Coders but had to do the extra work of Editors without the extra money.

27 July Another woman and I had done research on new technology. We could see our VDU area had been set up incorrectly. There were about 20 operators in one room. The fluorescent lighting ran directly overhead causing

Lorraine Jones works with the Chain Reaction collective in Sydney.

extreme glare on the screens. There were large windows and on some machines, including mine, the reflection from the traffic on the road below was intense. I wore sunglasses for over a month.

We had no lunch room facilities. Morning and afternoon teas were monitored at exactly 10 minutes by the supervisors. When we were totally fed up with our breaks in inadequate space we occupied another larger room. There was one female and one male supervisor. The women workers were constantly harassed by the male supervisor. He would make sexist remarks, stand behind us while we worked and at one stage would stand outside the toilet and time how long we were there.

We didn't just have supervisors to contend with. The machines also monitored our work. We had to sign on to the VDU screen with every piece of work we performed, and that was checked through the main computer system. We had to hand in a work production sheet at the end of every day. This was compared with all other workers' performance and statistics on our work levels were monitored. The main computer frequently broke down and a lot of our previous work was lost. We had to do it all over again.

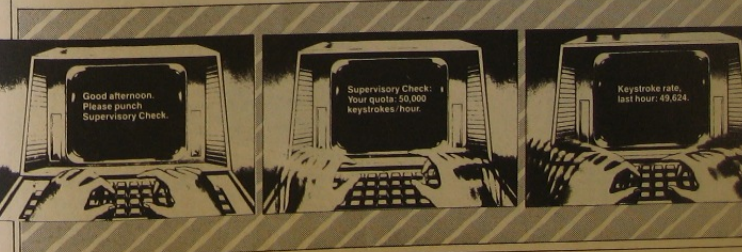
10 August To join the union we approached the representative. She walked into the room with the union membership forms, waved them in the air and said 'Who wants to waste their

money?' Initially only two of us joined but as the situation became worse more people as joined.

Our next step was to hand out literature that we had on VDU's to the workers. Their reaction was mainly positive because they wanted to know why they were suddenly having problems with their health. Complaints included eyestrain, sore backs, aching necks, severe headaches, pains in the eyes, bloodshot, sore and watery eyes and lethargy. Some women had difficulty going home to look after their kids because of the constant stress levels. After a four week struggle we gained sick room facilities.

17 August At 4:30pm I was called into the office when no-one was around to support me. The Assistant Director and one of the supervisors told me if I didn't pick up (or settle down) within one week my employment would be terminated. I was told that I seemed to be all for the workers and not for the bosses (how true), that unfortunately my work performance was much better and my error rate was below higher. No proof of their accusations was provided. The following day, after discussing what had happened with the other workers, we went to see the union.

26 August A union official came down to speak to the workers and gave an inspection of the workplace. It was one of the worst VDU areas they had seen.



27 August After one month's employment we pushed for eye tests and 15 out of 18 workers were given time off to go to the eye hospital. We also pushed to have copyholders for our work. We had badly designed, old chairs to sit at seven or more hours a day. There was extremely high absenteeism.

2 September Management called us in again. Another woman came. I had a copy of *Disciplinary Procedures* which stated that I could have a person of my choice in such an interview. Management denied that it was a Disciplinary Interview. Eventually they agreed to have my union official there. The meeting was transferred to the following Monday, and the woman who had supported me was also dragged in. Suddenly her work performance was also down and her error rate was high. Again, management could produce no statistics or proof to back up their accusations. They said they would monitor our work even more closely now and if there was any more trouble they would call us in again.

3 September I received a letter confirming an appointment to see a Public Service Board Counsellor that I knew nothing about. Management said it might help me to sort out my adjustment to the kind of work I was doing and that my union official had arranged it. He hadn't. I refused to keep that appointment or any other that management would make.

There was beginning to be a split amongst the workers. There were some who refused to join the union. The six most hostile, who opposed everything we said (there were about ten of us at this stage), were the ones who ended up with the better chairs we pushed for. They accepted the meal allowances and the copyholders. They reported to the bosses anything that was going on.

The union were going to send out ten of us at this stage, but they said they'd hold a meeting with management about our conditions and harassment but didn't.

25 September One day we came into

work and four machines were missing. Three of the most outspoken and active women and I were called into management and told we were being permanently transferred to Head Office—Administrative Restructuring. We contacted the union, Management, they said, was quite within its rights to do what it was doing. I disagreed. Management thought it was a perfect opportunity to refuse their directions, the workers were angry at management's attempted move, and although we didn't have union support we could have had a stop-work until it was resolved. Others thought if we stopped work we'd lose our jobs—and not many were prepared to do that. We went to Head Office.

When we arrived we demanded to see the person who had decided our transfer and we met with the Assistant Director. He refused to answer our demands and said that because we were now in this building the other problems didn't concern us. We were escorted to our work area in separate parts of the office. We couldn't change the colours on the screens to break down the glare. We made contact with each other by turning the buzzers on our machines right up so we could hear each other from each part of the office.

Management's space was ultra modern: a phone everywhere you looked, a luncheonroom about the size of our work space with television, table-tennis table, a view over the city, exercise bike, separate sick-room facilities, expensive chairs and proper lighting.

The workers back at the other building had a meeting with management shortly after we left but could get nothing resolved about our being reinstated. A few more chairs arrived for other workers.

The problems of lengthy disputes involving temporary workers and the various divisions that exist in the State Public Service meant that we faced difficulty in resolving who could act on our behalf.

19 November Because we had made

gains and hadn't planned to stay for long another woman and I put in a letter to management after a few weeks in our new premises. The letter spoke about the conditions of work, the inaction of management and our health. It included our resignations.

The issues of new technology, a policy on which the union was putting together, and casual work are affecting workplaces everywhere, both in and out of the Public Service. Often it is women who are VDU operators. They are seen as less likely to organise, more likely to accept conditions and be submissive toward harassment. More women's jobs are lost with the coming of new technology to office work, typing, service industries, check-out operators in supermarkets.

So look into my bloodshot eyes, read this article again, do some research, explode the myths. We don't have to put up with these conditions just because of the need to earn a wage.

Union and community group contacts:  
Bank Employees Union, 3 Northcott St, Wilson's Point, NSW 2061. Tel: (02) 923-3000.  
Trade Union Training Centre, 4 Campbell St, Sydney, NSW 2000. Tel: (02) 212-5835.  
TransNational Co-op Ltd, GPO Box 161, Sydney, NSW 2001. Tel: (02) 273-082.  
Workers Health Centre, 27 John St, Lidcombe, NSW 2141. Tel: (02) 646-3233.  
ACTU Occupational Health Unit, PO Box 93, Carlton South, Vic 3053. Tel: (03) 347-9933.  
Australian Telecommunications Employers Association, 551 King St, Melbourne, Vic 3000. Tel: (03) 328-3271.  
Unemployed Workers Union, 192 High St, Northcote, Vic 3070. Tel: (03) 481-1155.  
Working Women's Centre, 258 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, Vic 3000. Tel: (03) 654-1228.

Publications: Architect or Bee? The human/technology relationship Mike Cooley Lansley Technical Services. The Job Killers TransNational Co-op Reportback No 4, Labor and Monopoly Capital Henry Braverman. The New Technology Counter Information Services Report. Office Workers Survival Handbook Woman and Work Hazards Group British Society for Social Responsibility in Science.

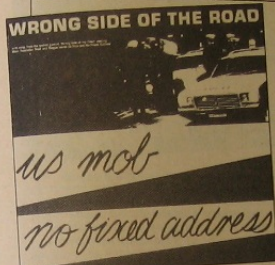


34 Chain Reaction

## REVIEWS

### Record

**Wrong Side of the Road by Us Mob and No Fixed Address, Black Australia Records, EMI, 1981, \$9.00.**



The soundtrack of the film *Wrong Side of the Road* is more than just good rock and reggae music. It is the musical expression of despair, anger and hope from young urban Aborigines who form the bands Us Mob and No Fixed Address. The film won the Jury Prize in the Australian Film Awards, 1981, and was nominated for Best Film and Best Original Music Score.

The music is an integral part of the film, not merely its background. It features the lives and loves of two black Australian bands and we experience, with them, what it is like to be black in a white world: racism, discrimination, group loyalty, and identity crises through adoption into a white family. The music asserts Aboriginal identity: 'I need to be recognised . . . for we are getting brainwashed . . . and rejects white promises: . . . all we ever get is a stab in the back!'

The film and its music is an honest portrayal of urban Aboriginal life through the experiences of these two bands. It portrays the great strength, tenacity and integrity of urban Aboriginal culture, and calls for action. However, this action is not limited to the black struggle, for we find in the song 'Survival' an awareness of a broader perspective.

For hundreds of years we've been pushed around

and now you dig uranium out of the ground, the multinationals are running this nation don't you know you're screwing good's creation. The film and the music's central concern is to express the strength of Aboriginal resistance to assimilation and proudly proclaims the maintenance of their identity in the closing scenes of the film with the song 'We have survived'.

You can't change the rhythm of my soul You can't tell me too what to do You can't break my bone by putting me down or by taking the things that belong to me.

because we have survived the white man's world and the horror and torment of it all we have survived the white man's world and you know you can't change that.

Bette Moore

### Books

**Global Fission - The Battle Over Nuclear Power by Jim Falk Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1982, 340 pages, \$14.95 (soft cover), \$29.95 (hard cover).**

This is an important book, and it has two major significances. The first is that it brings together clear outlines of how the nuclear debate has developed in many countries, over the last decade in particular. Initially the emphasis is on the United States of America. Falk describes the ways in which the push for a nuclear industry developed firstly within the government (as part of the 'Cold War thinking') then as corporate reluctance was soothed with hand-outs of massive proportions, in the field of (ho, ho) private enterprise.

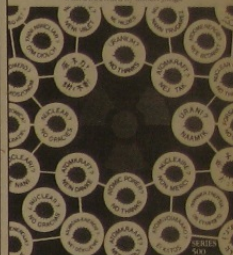
The discussion then moves to look at countries in Europe such as Austria, Finland, Ireland, West Germany, and 'Iron Curtain'. Along the way Falk builds a powerful argument relating 'the state'—that conglomerate of politicians, bureaucrats and administrators—to nuclear industry proponents, and shows how the interests of each parallel and reinforce one another leading directly and necessarily

### GLOBAL FISSION

THE BATTLE OVER NUCLEAR POWER

JIM FALK

With a foreword by Robert Singh



to a more controlled and centralised society, whether labelled socialist or capitalist.

It is simply a bonus that, as well, Falk provides a very clear, and thus stirring, account of the 'accident' at Three Mile Island.

He goes on to cover the situation in the Pacific Rim and brings the argument together for Australian readers with a detailed look at the situation here, with special notice of the part played by unions in the struggle to prevent uranium mining.

But all this, valuable as it is, is only the necessary groundwork for two warnings that Falk wants to make: (a) that the apparent stagnation of the nuclear industry is not to be taken as the end of the struggle, and (b) that the struggle cannot be finalised until long-term strategies are in place, right around the world, for 'soft, renewable, decentralised energy systems', or in other words 'an ecological society where one is and does not only have'.

(p.339)

This is no airy-fairy stuff. The need is urgent and real, and this political part of the struggle has long since begun. Falk refers to some of the most recent examples—the green bans of the Builders' Labourers' Federation in Australia, the work-ins of the Strathclyde power-builders in Scotland, the watch-makers of the French Lip factory and

## REVIEWS

the demands of the Lucas Aerospace and Vickers workers.

Falk emphasises the need for all opponents of nuclear energy, whether concerned with the arms race or Aboriginal land rights or radioactive pollution, to understand that the base argument is about the future, a future which is still ours to shape: 'Only a sharing participatory democracy, a self-managed society stands truly in opposition to the world-wide trend towards centralised authority and control represented by the emergence of the nuclear enterprise' (p 334).  
Bob James

**Chemical Victims** by Dr Richard Mackarness, Pan, London, 1980, 203 pages, \$3.50 (soft cover).

*Chemical Victims* is not a medical text, nor a scientific one. It focuses on the health problems posed by everyday items, especially the growing number of chemicals to which we are exposed; in food, in the workplace, prescribed by doctors, in the home, in the air...

Basically it is a warning to the general public that many apparently unrelated and often disguised symptoms can be produced by allergic reactions.

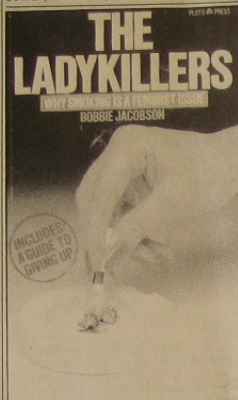
For this reason, those wanting a complete explanation or discussion of allergic reactions will have to read beyond this book. It concentrates on those areas where the author feels medical knowledge is weakest, particularly emphasising the 'masking' of reactions. Here a person actually feels better after exposure, but when the initial boost wears off, they need another exposure to pick them up again.

Mackarness is writing to incite the public to push their doctors to take allergies seriously. He does not, unfortunately, incite the public to challenge the addition of substances of marginal or dubious value to our immediate environment, nor does he encourage worker or union action to this end.

*Chemical Victims* reads like an extended magazine article (Mackarness was a medical columnist for London's *Daily Mail*), cutting from anecdote to history to biochemistry to interview. Entertaining but sometimes unsatisfying. Nevertheless, the book is a good place to start if you want to know or do more about allergies.

Don Simeon

**The Ladykillers - Why Smoking is a Feminist Issue** by Bobbie Jacobson. Pluto Press, London, 1981, 135 pages, \$5.95 (soft cover).



Putting aside the chosen title of this book - *The Lady Killers* and the cover - a slender, feminine, hand, long manicured fingernails, covered in nail polish - neither being terribly feminist - I think this is an excellent book.

Jacobson talks with women about why they smoke, how they first started, their health affects from it (which covers women dying from smoke-induced diseases - not pleasant) and their attempts to give it up. The book talks about media exploitation of women by the tobacco companies, how traditionally men have been on the high scale in terms of smoking but now men are giving up more frequently while the number of women taking up smoking is drastically increasing and women are starting to smoke at a much younger age.

Jacobson talks about how society views women generally - passive, keeping their emotions under control, etc.; and talks with women about how they use a cigarette to suppress these feelings. For example, rather than yell and scream and be described as 'bitchy', many women reach for a cigarette, although many of them know the dangers involved.

The book also covers the class structure in terms of smoking, the role the feminist movement can play in an alarming women's health problem, and gives a helpful chapter on tips for giving up, and what to expect in going through

the process of trying to give up. Although it is a British book, and therefore mainly deal with British statistics, experience, campaigns, etc, I think it will be looking into Australian material.

This is an excellent, well written book - a must - I recommend it.  
Lorraine Jones

**Australia's Natural Heritage** edited by Geoff Hutton and designed by David Sampietro. Australian Conservation Foundation, Victoria, 1981, 304 pages, \$37.00 (hard cover, posted).



Melaleucas, Fraser Island, Queensland

This long-awaited book highlights what the Australian Conservation Foundation is best at: producing well researched quality publications of national importance.

*Australia's Natural Heritage* is a superb reference book as well as a beautiful one but the price (\$37) will mean that unless you have a generous benefactor you will have to save for quite a while to buy it.

This book sets out to document and describe the major areas of our natural heritage which are of national or international significance.

This project is very similar to that attempted by the Native Conservancy Council in the UK which resulted in the publication of the *Native Conservation Review* in 1978. This publication was so comprehensive and specific in listing thousands of areas deserving conservation that it was criticised by politically aware conservationists who pointed out that omission of a site from such a detailed list was tantamount to condemning the site to development as unimportant.

Thankfully the ACF has made it clear that this book is not an exhaustive 'shopping list' of sites of significance but simply an initial description of substantial areas of note.

One other point which this book clearly illustrates is that many of the areas described are either poorly protected or not protected at all. This fact is the sting in the tail of a book which hopefully many bush lovers who aren't conservationists will purchase and learn from.  
Geoff Wescott

**Saving the Animals - The World Wildlife Fund Book of Conservation** by Bernard Stonehouse, Weidenfield and Nicolson Ltd, London, 1981, 224 pages, \$24.95 (soft cover).

Despite the fact that the conservation of the world's wildlife has not usually rated among the priorities of the radical sections of the Australian environmental movement, it is a fact that 'conservation in general' has become an issue of international prominence, through the highly publicised accounts of the plight of such endangered species as the great whales, seals, spotted cats, kangaroos, and the like.

This book is a testament to the ongoing success of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, illustrated through numerous case histories incorporated in chapters covering all the major habitat types. The photographs are sometimes spectacular, while the text is written simply yet detailed enough to satisfy the needs of any reader. The stories related are success stories, but nevertheless leave you in some despair as to the fate of the rest of the world's wild inhabitants. The short-sighted drive for a quick buck which has pushed these species to the edge of extinction is leaving a planet in which the rapid loss of genetic diversity is imposing unaccountable environmental problems, the cost of which will ultimately be borne by humans themselves.

The proceeds from the book, go to World Wildlife Fund, who, surprisingly enough, probably need it. God knows the species do.  
Michael Kennedy

**A Touch of Australian Enterprise - The Vanuatu Experience** by Mike Bishop and Ann Wigglesworth. International Development Action, Fitzroy 1982, 46 pages, \$2.50 (soft cover).

International Development Action, a Melbourne-based research-action group was founded in 1970. Following a study of Australian aid in Indonesia it developed a methodology for studying the impact of Australian companies in colonial and neo-colonial situations, lives are affected by this action group in collaboration with people whose studies such as *Fiji, a Developing Australian Colony* (1973), *The Mapoon Books* (1975), and *Purari, Overpowering New Guinea* (1978) resulted and in fact the action group is either poorly protected or not protected at all. This fact is the sting in the tail of a book which hopefully many bush lovers who aren't conservationists will purchase and learn from.

*A Touch of Australian Enterprise. The Vanuatu Experience* is intended to follow the same pattern. Here how-

**Water For Every Farm, Using the Keyline Plan** by P.A. Yeomans. Second Back Row Press, Katoomba, 1981, 250 pages, \$9.95 (soft cover).

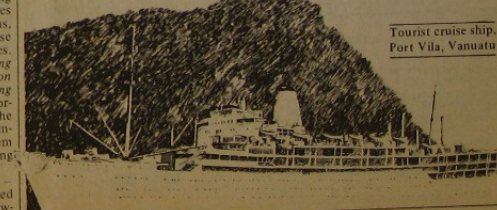


This book brings together two previous publications by P.A. Yeomans: *The Keyline Plan* (1954) and *Water for Every Farm* (1965). It chronicles a remarkable agricultural genesis in Australia.

The radical approach of Yeomans to the tradition of farming is refreshing in its stress on rational design.

In the first part of the book (*The Keyline Plan*) soil theory and the evaluation of landscape are explored.

ever the group with which IDA collaborated, the Niu Hebrides Nasional Pati which later became the Vanuaku Pati, was already the government of the newly independent republic of Vanuatu before the book was completed. The time when such a book was needed by the Vanuaku Pati was during the violent struggle against the French-backed Nagriamel movement immediately before independence. Now however the book is most useful



Tourist cruise ship, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Part two (*Water for Every Farm*) gives a more vigorous practical approach to the multifaceted design process.

Read together the reader can begin to comprehend not only the breadth of the functions dealt with but also the inter-connectiveness of the final plan, one which transforms natural landscapes into highly managed, productive yet ecological farmscapes, while maintaining the dynamic watershed stability.

This book, together with *The Challenge of Landscape* (1958 - now out of print) and *The City Forest* (1971), complete the horizon of Keyline.  
Geoff Booth

**When Machines Replace People** edited by John T.O. Kirk. Social Responsibility in Science, ACT, 1981, 147 pages, \$5.95 (soft cover).

The admirable intention of this book, to provide a discussion of the employment impact of technological change in Australia, is unfortunately frustrated by the superficial and irrelevant way it tackles the issues involved.

The first section consists of a collection of conference papers which explain practically nothing about the nature of technological change and its impact on individuals and society today. Nowhere is the obvious question raised of who controls and who owns the new technology. Nor are the issues of the varying impact of technological change on the character and organisation of specific trades and occupations, the insidious deskilling effects of some changes, the role of trade unions in the specific problems faced by women, migrants, etc, adequately addressed.

Only the second section, consisting

for Australian readers in giving them some idea of why it is that the Australian government sees Vanuatu as part of its sphere of influence and is prepared to take on the French in the region, in New Caledonia as well as Vanuatu, even though this means taking stands with radical nationalist movements to whom we would not expect support to see the Australian government lend support.  
Helen Hill

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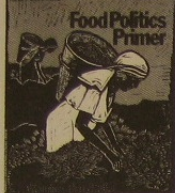
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## Tell us!

## REVIEWS

of papers invited after the conference, redeems this book in any way. Here at last we find helpful data, information and analysis. Articles by John Blatt and Brian Martin are to be recommended whilst Barry Jones provides a useful critique of the Myers Report.

Unfortunately the book ends weakly with an article which encourages the individual to adapt to unemployment by adopting alternative lifestyles.

This misses the vital point that the unemployed live poorly and simply not because of conservation consciousness but because of the social, economic and political inequality that created the unemployment and poverty in the first place. Rather than burdening the individual with personal responsibility what is needed is concerted and imaginative community effort.

Bill Robbins

*Paper Heroes - A Review of Appropriate Technology* by Witold Rybczynski. Prism Press, Dorchester, 1980, \$8.95.

Do you believe that every saying of E F Schumacher is a pearl of wisdom, that intermediate scale technologies always perform efficiently and economically, and that the introduction of 'appropriate technology' is the best way to promote social reform in the Third World? If so, then *Paper Heroes* will give you cause for reconsideration. Rybczynski critically analyses the concepts, applications, performance and ideology of 'appropriate technology', deflating quite a few pretensions along the way. His structures are a useful warning to those who occasionally or routinely fall prey to the mystical view of technology as either good or bad solely because of its scale or labour-intensiveness.

But for those who understand that technology is shaped by political and economic imperatives and that technological change is only one part of wider social struggles, *Paper Heroes* is largely a waste of time. Worse than that, Rybczynski subscribes to a one-directional view of 'modernisation', which he sees as an inevitable and progressive process toward modern industrial-style economies, which is being opposed by those who promote a romantic view of simple, labour-intensive technology.

There is little or no mention of nuclear power, automobilisation, planned obsolescence, workers' control, militarisation, or the systematic exploitation and distortion of Third World

peoples through neo-colonialism. This is a pity. A critique of appropriate technology' would be most valuable, but something much deeper than *Paper Heroes* is required.

Brian Martin

*Field of Thunder - The Maralinga Story* by Judy Wilks. Friends of the Earth (Collingwood), Victoria, 1981, 52 pages, \$2.00 (soft cover).

This small book tells us, mostly through personal testimonies, something of what happened to Aboriginals and service personnel during nuclear weapons tests at Maralinga in South Australia which were carried out during 1956 to 1957.

The authorities' callous disregard, and culpable neglect of people, is revealed in the stories of those present at Maralinga as had been revealed earlier for the nuclear tests carried out in the Nevada Desert in the USA.

We are sadly reminded of the personal tragedies which lie behind the statistical records of the growing cancer mortality from radiation exposure resulting from nuclear power or nuclear weapons. As the author points out, behind the refusal of the authorities to admit most radiation victims' claims for compensation is the realisation of what it would ultimately cost the entire nuclear industry.

Les Dalton

*The Man They Called a Monster. Sexual experiences between men and boys* by Paul Wilson. Cassell, North Ryde, 1981, 150 pages, \$7.95 (soft cover).

This is more than a book about one extraordinary man or the hysteria of the police and mass media. It should be read by parents, young people, and anyone who cares about social and sexual relationships. Paul Wilson examines Clarence Osborne's life and encounters with some 2500 boys and adolescents in Brisbane, which is that we must continue to hear the voices of as many people as we can praising peace and rejecting war. This book is part of a world-wide chain of solidarity and co-operation, a chain of opposition on which we all depend.

The book shows the ignorance and curiosity of boys about their sexuality, it reveals their delight in the fun of sex, and the sensitive and respectful relationships they sought and gained.

Despite mass media and police expectations (hopes?) no evidence has come forward of 'damage' to the many boys. Quite the contrary is the claim of some of those boys who came to talk with Wilson after Osborne took his life - within hours of the police interviewing him.

The boys explored their sensuality and developed confidence, useful skills for later life whatever sexual preferences they were to choose and celebrate.

The topic of sexual relationships

## PAUL WILSON THE MAN THEY CALLED A MONSTER

Sexual experiences between men and boys



among boys and with adults is still taboo in our community. Wilson makes an interesting contribution to opening up the subject for calm consideration.

Leigh Holloway

*Confronting the Nuclear Age: Australian Responses* compiled by John Hincheliff. Pacific Peacemaker, Bondi Junction, 1982, 119 pages, \$4 (soft cover).

Compiled on the eve of the *Pacific Peacemaker's* departure, this book is a testament of Australians drawn from many fields. Among contributors are Cliff Dolan, Helen Caldicott, Manning Clark, Ruth Coleman and John Hincheliff. Their essays reflect their own feelings but all are filled with concern - sometimes tender, sometimes fierce - for the world's peaceful future.

As an activist it is sometimes easy to find oneself thinking books such as these are unnecessary given the plethora of such material recently. But the fact is that we must continue to hear the voices of as many people as we can praising peace and rejecting war. This book is part of a world-wide chain of solidarity and co-operation, a chain of opposition on which we all depend.

Owen Pearson

### Other books worth mention:

*Your Very Good Health. Recipes for healthy eating* by Rose Elliot. Fontana, Britain, 1981, 207 pages, \$5.95 (soft cover).

*Rainforest*, collection of articles from Habitat. Australian Conservation Foundation, Victoria, 1981, \$4.50 (includes postage, soft cover).

*The Macquarie Dictionary*. Macquarie Library, New South Wales, 1981, \$29.95 (hard cover).

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## ACTION GUIDE

### World bike ride

On 6 March 1982 a group of some 40 cyclists will leave Parliament House Canberra to begin the first leg of the World Bike Ride for Peace, Disarmament and a Nuclear-Free Future. The initial 6000 km leg will take the riders to Darwin. From there they will sail to Japan and then travel to Europe via the Trans-Siberian railway.

The concept of this ride evolved out of the Ride Against Uranium protests which carried hundreds of riders from all over Australia to Canberra. The most successful of these rides arrived in Canberra in winter 1981 and established the Atom-Free Embassy on the lawns opposite Parliament House. The protesters remained for 94 days and nights, during which the idea of the World Bike Ride was initiated.

The purpose of the world ride is to carry and spread the strong anti-nuclear sentiment of the many Australians who are deeply opposed to the mining and export of uranium. This message will be taken overseas to add further weight to the massive protests against nuclear power and weaponry which took place in Europe in 1981. To achieve this purpose the riders will show films, art exhibitions, slides and renewable energy displays enroute. They will also visit nuclear facilities and uranium mines/fuels as well as make representations to communities, councils and governments requesting a total shut down of all aspects of the nuclear industry.

The timetable for the Australian leg of the journey includes a number of important stopovers. The first of these is the Australian Atomic Energy Commission's research establishment at Lucas Heights, some 30km south-west of Sydney. The plan is for a contingent of people from Wollongong and Sutherland to join the WBR members for a guided tour around the perimeter fence of the facility.

The second important stopover will be Yeppoon on the coast near Rockhampton where the Queensland government is hoping to build a uranium enrichment plant. Next come the Minatom uranium mine prospect west of Townsville which was the subject of press reports when radioactive pollution seeped into nearby Koolberron Creek, an important water supply. Then



follows a stopover at Mary Kathleen - Australia's oldest operating uranium mine. Finally a visit will be paid to the Kakadu World Heritage Mining Park, otherwise known as the Northern Territory Uranium Province.

A support vehicle for the journey has been provided, but at least two more cars or a truck are needed. The riders have planned to average 60 km a day, which is by no means difficult, and will allow both for slow riders and for public activities along the way. It is expected that halls for accommodation will be available in many communities, and the riders also look forward to a good many nights around the campfire.

Efforts are being made to contact people and communities along the route to facilitate arrangements for food and accommodation, and to enable the links between the riders and Australian community to be as broad as possible. Please contact the Sydney planning group if you can in any way assist the passage of the WBR through your territory. Details of the timetable may be obtained from the contact groups below.

The overseas leg of the journey begins with a visit to the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines, where a reactor is being built on the side of an active volcano. From there WBR will sail to Japan and travel through Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Tokyo where the riders intend to hold discussions with the Japanese government.

After crossing the Sea of Japan to the coast of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the riders will catch the Trans-Siberian railway to Moscow, and then onto Helsinki. The itinerary for Europe has been left flexible to allow co-ordination with the large European anti-nuclear movement activities.

Any assistance, either material or financial, will help make this effort a success. Please join with the WBR in any way you feel you can.

#### TIMETABLE

6 March World Bikeride leaves Parliament House, Canberra. 7 March Goulburn. 8 March Moss Vale. 9 March Wollongong. 10 March Sydney. 11 March Lucas Heights. 12 March Sydney. 15 March Parramatta. 16 March Brooklyn. 17 March Gosford. 18 March Lake Macquarie. 19-21 March Newcastle. 24 March Faree. 25 March Port Macquarie. 26 March Kempsey. 27 March Scotts Head. 28 March Bundagen. 29 March Coffs Harbour. Nana Glen. 30 March Grafton. 1 April Lismore. 4 April Murwillumbah. 6-10 April Brisbane. 12 April Gympie. 16 April Bundaberg. 22 April Rockhampton. 23 April Yeppoon. 30 April Mackay. 3 May Bowen. 9 May Townsville. 12 May Ben Lomond. 28 May Mary Kathleen. 31 May Mt Isa. 15 June Tennant Creek. 29 June Katherine. 6 July Darwin.

Paul Marshall

Contacts: 101 Cleveland St, Chippendale, Sydney, NSW 2008. Tel: (02) 698 4114. 396 Smith St, Collingwood, Melbourne, Vic 3068. Tel: (03) 419 8700. 11 Westgarth St, O'Connor, Canberra, ACT 2601. Tel: (062) 486 372.

#### ACTION GUIDE CHANGES

Chain Reaction's Action Guide page is now in a new style, with a full page on the actions of a group. This should give enough space for a more interesting portrait of work than earlier summaries. If your group would like to present an Action Guide piece please contact us. Editors

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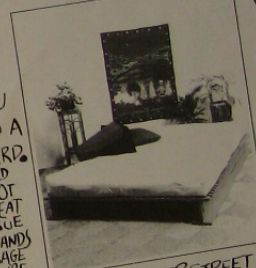


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