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THE GOVERNMENT Money, votes, words
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Tasmanian Wilderness Calendar 1981 is now available. Thirteen carefully selected colour photographs depict the beauty of Tasmania's western wilds from alpine summit to wilderness shore. The calendar is presented in large format, 242 mm x 370 mm, printed on quality art paper and spiral bound. Introductory essay by Australian Conservation Foundation's Tasmanian project officer Peter Thompson, ecological notes by Dr. Jamie Kirkpatrick, photographs by Peter Dombrovskis. This ideal Christmas or New Year gift is a year-long reminder of the value of unspoilt Nature. Available from good bookshops or direct from the publisher at $4.95 postpaid.

To PETER DOMBROVSKIS PVT. LTD., P.O. BOX 246, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005.

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P.O. BOX 245, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005.
NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPING

We send this letter to solicit your help and support. The small Pacific Islands have limited resources, political influence, and even our existence is unknown to many people in the rest of the world. And in world affairs it is unheard.

This is not the first time we have tried to help combat one of the gravest dangers ever faced by our islands. In February of this year we embarked on an extensive and ongoing dumping program in this area.

The north-eastern tip of the Marianas Islands (of which Guam is a part) is known as the Farallon Rise with particular interest in a 3,600 square mile area which, according to the mission's chief scientist, "could handle all of the high level nuclear waste that has ever been or ever will be produced by the world."

It is apparent that huge amounts of money are being invested in the search for areas of great power to dump nuclear waste. We must therefore rely on you to help us combat these plans. Our fragile ecosystem, our fish and reefs, and our economic development are threatened. If leakage occurs, as it has in other sites, currents, winds and wave will spread the danger far beyond the confines of the selected site. The environmental integrity of the entire Pacific Basin is at stake.

We ask you to help us talk to people, write to your government officials, write to friends in Japan, organized protests, alert environmental groups and the media.

We are fighting enormous interest groups backed by powerful governments. Our only hope is that groundswell of public opinion and pressure.

Bob Mills
Marianas Alliance Against Nuclear Dumping in the Pacific
Post Office Box 24714
Guam Main Facility (Guam 96921)

STUDY IDEAS INVITED

It's remarkable how low social scientists have been to direct their research towards issues associated with the environment - especially so given the socio-political nature of many of the more intractable problems. I am a lecturer in Sociology, and so far only one student has written a thesis in our School on an environmental topic. A look at the lists of these theses (both Honours and Postgraduate) etc. that have been approved or in progress at other universities in Australia shows a similar problem.

In order to try to stimulate more interest in the many immediate and pressing areas where sociologically-informed research might make a contribution, I am compiling a list of specific research projects associated with environmental problems that I could include in the list.

It always seems to me to me that we have students devoting time, energy and expertise to studies which may not have any meaningful solution when they could achieve the same goal and much more useful results.

I am open to suggestions of projects which students could use to generate thesis topics. I would welcome hearing from anyone who knows of (or can think of) specific research projects associated with environmental problems that

must be inputed.

Bill Bottomley
School of Sociology
University of NSW
Box 1
Kennington NSW 2033

CHAIR REACTION

Just want to tell you how pleased I am with the new look CR. For the first time in over a year I feel enthusiastic about showing it to friends, handing it out shops etc. The latest issue in particular was great, beautiful marks for design, layout, and content!

I especially appreciate:
- Less numbers to indicate to readers, right from the start on the cover that they too are part of the communication process.
- Features like Resources, Power Politics, etc. which start to tie together developments across several States. I suggest further discussion of 
- Alternative models for distribution, I am compiling a list of readers who know of (or can think of) specific research projects associated with environmental problems that

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Dirt Cheap

Dirt Cheap, the film featured in the August/September Chain Reaction, will open in Melbourne soon at the Longford, 79 Toorak Road, South Yarra.

Make sure you see this "extraordinary study of Australian society" (Sydney Morning Herald) as soon as possible - it's on for only a few weeks. The film has already been praised in several States. I suggest further

Resource articles on e.g. Forestry, with input from each State on the state of that resource in their own area.

Lubniewski

Earth News

Rock Against Racism

changing the name of Batman Park in Northcote, Melbourne to Wurundjeri Park, after the tribe who originally lived throughout this area. Noonkambah and Austrakin may make the headlines but there's plenty of opposition and prejudice aimed at Aboriginals in the major cities as well.

Action. There's plenty to do setting up new groups in the state (one's underway in Perth) and helping organised concerts and other activities in Melbourne and other places backed by powerful government officials, write to friends in Japan, organized protests, alert environmental groups and the media.

While we have received much encouragement, it's remarkable how slow social scientists have been to direct their research towards issues associated with the environment - especially so given the socio-political nature of many of the more intractable problems. I am a lecturer in Sociology, and so far only one student has written a thesis in our School on an environmental topic. A look at the lists of these theses (both Honours and Postgraduate) etc. that have been approved or in progress at other universities in Australia shows a similar problem.

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must be inputed.
**EARTH NEWS**

**Locals confront miners**

Local residents have forced the halt of sand mining operations at Middle Head near Marriquiskie on the north coast of NSW. In March they confronted a company bulldozer on the beachfront and halted the mining. The company, Mineral Deposits Ltd, the huge mining company of the State and a joint venture between the Ombulgurri Aboriginal community and CRA, which was due to be held on September 10 was cancelled.

**Nuclear-free Pacific**

A national Nuclear-Free Pacific Forum will be held in Sydney on 26-28 September as a follow-up to the significant and productive Nuclear-Free Pacific Conference held in Hawaii last May. The forum is to be attended by Pacific Islanders from the recently independent Vanuatu, Hawaii, Palau in Micronesia and French Polynesia. A tour of four Pacific people is planned for the forum.

**MANE goes classical**

Musicians Against Nuclear Energy in Victoria is organizing two classical concerts this year. The first, on 21 October at the Cambelltown Civic Centre, will include items from a bass ensemble, classical guitar, a French horn duet, oboe, piano and a string sextet. Alex Green, an organiser, explains the concept of the concert:

"The kinetic sculpture is of course the hydrogen bomb, by which all kinetic sculptures are smaller. This 'masterpiece' of our culture can never be exhibited in its working state, weeks following the forum so if you've missed the forum catch the public meetings and other activities planned in our capital city.

**Land Council stops talks**

The recent decision of the Land Councils to call off mining negotiations of Aboriginal land until a settlement of the Noonkanbah dispute is reached, has dealt its first blow to mining interests.

An important meeting convened by our company, the Kimberley Land Council and CRA, which was to be held on September 10 was cancelled. Mr Darryl Kickett, Chairman of the Kimberley Land Council, confirmed that the meeting with CRA had been cancelled. 'This will be the first opportunity to demonstrate that we meant business when all the Land Councils decided last Wednesday (September 3) to break off negotiations with mining companies until a settlement of the Noonkanbah dispute is reached.

**Job Watch**

Ever seen those ads in the newspapers which offer: "$200+ pw for good looking guys and girls must be hardworking and enjoy art and travel, no dorky looks, calm and pious, to say the least the unemployed and desperate Union estimate that ads like these make up about 20% of the job market!"

**Rainforest Action Centre**

Sydney to oppose the destructive logging policies of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. A high priority of the Centre will be researching alternative employment projects for the rainforest community.

For more information contact the Rainforest Action Centre, at Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney 2000. Telephone (02) 27 4714 or (02) 233 5388.

**Latrobe Valley decimated**

Plans are now public which show that the Victorian State Electricity Commission and foreign energy companies are destroying the entire Latrobe Valley. If their plans go ahead, the Latrobe Valley will become the most intensive energy production area in the world.

The Latrobe Valley contains an estimated 35,000 million tonnes of economically recoverable brown coal and a possible further 70,000 million tonnes that might be recoverable in the future. At present there are four power stations with a total capacity of 3,000 megawatts of power. Loy Yang will add another 7,000 megawatts. The full scope of the SEC's plans was revealed in a recently leaked Task Force report which proposes the construction of a further twenty-one stations, each with a capacity of 2,600 megawatts, by the year 2030.

Such a monumental construction programme would leave the Valley in ruins, paid for by two enormous open-cut mines over fifteen kilometres across and up to 200 metres deep. Yallourn has already been evacuated and demolished to allow exploitation of the existing open cut, and other larger sites could be condemned in a similar way.

An announcement on the coal from coal mining is due later this year.

To meet this threat a wide range of Victorian environment groups have formed a working group to produce a report on the Valley and wage a campaign to stop the destruction.

The working group are the plans a hindrance attempt to exploit the available resources quickly, selling energy at ridiculously low prices for export in any form possible.

Action: Join the working group and find out more from Friends of the Earth, 366 Smith Street, Collingwood, 3066.

**Action Centre**

Mr Kickett had contacted an Ombulgurri spokesperson who confirmed that the Land Councils' decision was in accord with wishes of the community.

The meeting was to take place involving representatives from the Ombulgurri community, the Kimberley Land Council and CRA. It was intended to negotiate an extension of time for CRA's permit to seek diamonds on the reserve.
Gay conference

The Sixth National Conference of Lesbians and Homosexuals in Canada, only seventy-five commemorate the birth of itself with sexism, discrimination in employment and other issues. Widespread opposition towards businesses taking over and de-politicising gay events—such as the Mardi Gras in Sydney, to commemorate the birth of the modern gay movement. While support was strong for Gay Community News, a Melbourne-based monthly produced by gays, there was vigorous opposition from the very sexist Sydney Star.

Overwhelmingly the conference supported Aboriginal and rights and the thirty-five day working week.

Demand, as well as concern, that gays be included in the conference.

Tasmania. The South-West Book.

Australian Conservation Foundation

The South-West Book. A Tasmanian Wilder ness Foundation publication which explores the magnificent area, its history, geology, flora and fauna, in present uses and the plans that will shape the future. The South-West Book is suitable for library, school or community use. It is the fourth volume in the South-West series.

Alternative development conference

On 2 October the Premiers of Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory and tourist interests will meet in Cairns for a conference on Northern Development. The main topics for discussion are tourism, trade and resources. Aborigines and conservatists fear that this development will mean throwing open the remaining wilderness areas and Aboriginal reserves to tourism and mining in an alternative conference. Development without Destruction is planned to coincide with the Premiers' meeting. It is hoped that Aborigines and environmentalists can work out a common strategy.

Demonstrations are expected worked to lower the costs of flying speakers from remote areas to the conference. Information is available from the Aboriginal Mining Information Centre, 3 George Street, Sydney. Phone (02) 419 8700.

Noonkanbah

The Minister for Primary Industry could not gain consensus of opinion on the proposed Australian legislation when State Ministers of Agriculture met in Brisbane during the first week of August. Previous meetings of the Agricultural Council had approved the principle of plant patenting. At this meeting, Ministers from Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland expressed doubts about the scheme. The Minister for Primary Industry, Peter Nixon, at least, still expressed the principle of plant patenting. Nixon said that the scheme would be tabled in the autumn session of Federal Parliament. Internationally, prominent plant breeders and farmer organisations have opposed plant patenting for major crops.

National Developments

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Rice plants being examined in the specially prepared 'shell rice fields at Kakegawa.

POLITICS

Seven seedy stories

By Mark Cole

Existing exciting developments have recently occurred in the field of plant breeding in Australia. The scheme to stop plant breeding in Australia was proposed to the Minister of Primary Industry, Peter Nixon, to defer its introduction into Federal Parliament. Internationally, prominent plant breeders and farmer organisations have opposed plant patenting for major crops.

Preceding the scheme requires approval of all state, state Ministries of Agriculture and their political power bases are important targets for lobbyists.

Opposition to the bill has been highly effective so far in causing government to at least adopt new tactics in the presentation of the bill. There is now the opportunity of public debate. This must be exploited to the fullest.

Although with this new deferment a battle has been won, the war is far from over. If the bill is to be defeated there is still a need for intensive lobbying of state ministers, farmer organisations and the Australian Labor Party (who are setting the agenda).

The Victorian Liberal Partyconference of 26-27 August passed a motion condemning the principle of plant patenting for food and feed crops but the NSW Conference of the ALP gave the scheme tacit approval with some amendments. The Australian Democrats are opposed to plant patenting.

National Developments

Food and Agriculture Organisation opposition.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has released a policy memorandum (28 February 1980) on plant patenting. It lists a number of concerns:

1. The negative effects of plant breeding in the private sector (encouraged by plant patenting) on increased cost of development programs and the increased cost of development programs which have led to grossly unbalanced agricultural imports.

2. In an increasing number of cases developing countries have been required to pay royalties for varieties which originated within their own borders.

3. The commercialization and subsequent commercial compromises resulting from the system of plant breeding encouraged by plant patenting has led to intensive breeding of new varieties on limited genetic base, resulting on several occasions in widespread disease outbreaks.

4. "Plant patenting has in fact contributed to an excessively monopolistic atmosphere in plant breeding in developed countries which has had negative effects on the complex structure of international plant breeding. An important example of such negative effects recently encountered by the FAO and the UN system has been the introduction of genetically altered rice by Japanese scientists and the proposal for the exchange of some categories of germplasm."

Interests of the European Court Commission

The European Court has recently intervened in a matter of a "public interest" in the agreement between the French plant breeding institute (INRA).
and its West German agent Kurt Eisele By the conditions of the agreement Eisele procured a monopoly over all INRA corn varieties and was allowed to secure West German plant breeders' rights for INRA varieties in his own name. The European Court Commission turned aside the agreement noting
1. Eisele's ability to use the exclusivity of sole agreement (ensured by his grant of a plant breeders' rights) to charge excessive prices for seed in West Germany. 2. The defection of sale served to limit the access of farmers to useful varieties of hybrid corn.
3. Plant breeders' rights legislation in providing the opportunity for 'rights' holders to detemine the conditions of sale has led to vertical integration in the seed industry including seed multi-
plification and final sale to farmers.

Regarding the role of transnational in the European seed industry following the widespread introduction of plant patenting system in Europe the court commented:

"Profit margins in recent years have enabled the largest of these private breeders to control or take over production of the varieties they exploit. On the world market, this trend is reflected in the recent acquisitions (Ciba-Geigy, Shell) and other groups of major holdings in large breeders and, hence, in their European agents and subsidiaries. Further expansion of the interest which major international groups are showing in the seed industry.

Farmer organisation opposition

The National Farmers Union of Canada is opposed to plant patenting. Recently the National Farmers Union of the USA has also raised concern in opposition (albeit 10 years too late) to the National Farmers Union of New South Wales has been very vocal in its opposition to patenting. The NFU of USA (300,000 members) has been working for years on the USA system the NFUs recently the Natural Farmers Union of USA has been disbanded.

"The Office of Technology Assessment report that many of the new varieties certified by major seed com-
panies during the ten years since the passage of the Plant Varieties Protection Act produce higher yields but are more vulnerable to pests and disease. Insect resistance has not been a signifi-

"cificant component of commercial breeding programmes and none of the new commercial wheat varieties is 'littlesian Fly' " The Office of Technol-

ogy Assessment report that the assumption that commercial wheat varieties could do the necessary plant breeding research with the same amount of research has proven incorrect."
the sceptical about the contribution this readers of particular expenditure of public funds is sort at least three years ago.

The government awards is due to be announced by about funds have been allocated, but there are now signs that the Council has begun to activities. What is still missing is recognition for community groups who wish to take initiatives of their own to move towards these projects that have already set up, more efficient, resource conserving patterns of energy use. The interests in mass media advertising in spreading opportunities to learn new skills, and community as a whole. And of course is just slightly above expenditure in Development and Energy are $10.9 government, since it came to office, has deployed a policy of severe restraint on activities. In National Development and the numbers employed in the Public spread administrative inefficiency and risked on activities like oil exploration. The Australian Heritage Commission, while the increased funds are welcome, areas have been bypassed in the increase and programs have been left to wither due to the effects of inflation. The National Parks and Wildlife Service received $2.36 million more than in 1979/80, but research projects into whales, endangered species, national parks, feral animals and conservation matters of national concern must all vie for a portion of a meager $0.2 million.

Funds for Marine Quality Assessment and Air Quality Assessment have been maintained at roughly comparable levels to previous years, $0.1 million and $0.14 million respectively. Hazardous chemicals funding has not been fully used in the past two years, having a short-fall of 40% last year. National Estate funding received savage cut last year and has risen slightly to only 72% of 1978–79 levels. The Government has given $0.8 million for Albury-Wodonga, $5.0 million for Port Arthur restoration, but this is a finite scheme and funding for the National Estate will continue to fall government's....

The Australian Heritage Commission, the government's policy adviser and administrative body responsible for conservation matters, has received $519,200 in 1979-80 compared with $519,200 in 1979–80.

The Australian Conservation Foundation has not been given any funds for the past year. Community groups have received $44,200 went to State National Parks Councils and environment centres in Queensland, one in Tasmania, one in Northern New South Wales. It is important to remember that two of Australia's most vigorous and progressive Environment Centres -- Sydney's Total Environment Centre and Melbourne's Environmental Action Centre -- have no government assistance at all. Friends of the Earth lost their grant last year for political reasons.

There are administrative aspects which, however, do not appear in the budget papers. In 1978-79, the Canberra and South East Region Environ- ment Centre made a profit of $86,000. By 1979, the Centre's revenue fell to $9,900, in line with the Centre's situation. As the government's annual report confirmed, the Centre's activities did not amount to a profit.

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In the second of Chas Reaction's special reports on this year's national election Paul Pedevrekakis reports from the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Canberra. He writes on energy and resource issues, the election and the potential significance of the environmental movement.

In June the Department of Industry and Commerce released Major Manufacturing and Mining Investment Projects which provided the first insight into the coalition government's election strategy. The booklet set out in broad terms the expected expenditure of the major corporations in Australia in the foreseeable future. It was hailed by the Government as evidence of the success of its policies — for if the capital was about to flood into Australia it would support the government's campaign. Unfortunately for the government, the capital was the dream, with the announcement that the non-oil manufacturing plant was to be shut down. However, the government hoped that the bad news would soon be forgotten, and ministers could then get on with the business of winning the election in attracting the $29 billion worth of "development" that another coal mine would do no economic good. The usual reliable Liberal Party Development Corporation, pointed out that the figures were rubber-stamped in with mutually exclusive projects being counted as one. The government, in response to this, said that the booklet had continued to focus on the issue of massive unemploy­ment. The government claims that in this period of massive unemployment, the government is using the lure of investment in its campaign, hoping that the people will believe that jobs are being created. The problem of the need for new economic miracles is being performed. As an economic miracle is being performed, the unemployment rate across the country is being pushed down by the concerted effort has been made to destroy the environment in which they occurred, by foreign corporations which take their profits and run. And, all this is being done with the government's encouragement — of the Australian government.

Could there be better evidence for conviction as collaborators than this? What of the Labor Party as a government? Well it can be safely said that Labor would be better — not much, but better nevertheless. A significant number of people in the ALP do not identify with the foreign corporations. If for no better reason than the poor one of nationalism, the ALP will move to place some restrictions on foreign capital.

Others will oppose them, favouring development at all costs.

A number of parliamentary members of the Labor Party are also solidly opposed to uranium mining for various reasons: because of the waste and environmental pollution problems, because of the concatenations of the nuclear weapon industry and because of their belief that a truly socialist society must be based on soft technology.

Again others will support them. The best known of these is Mr R J Hawke, the member for Wills. Similarly, Mr Margett, the front bencher, Mr Chris Hurford, is known to support uranium mining, but the backbenchers — people of the Labor Party who favor uranium mining — will have a hard time of it. This is partly because of the self-image issue that it is highly unlikely that ALP ministers who favor uranium mining will dare lift their voices on this issue during the campaign. The leader of the opposition, Mr Bill Hayden, and the shadow minister for foreign affairs, Mr Paul Keating, are the two key figures in the opposition's mining policy, as I am sure most of you know.

"I want to assure you that there is only one Labor Party policy in relation to the mining, processing and export of uranium", he told a Sydney uranium rally on 3 December, 1979.

"I want to assure you that there will be no dilution, no equivocation, no hedging in relation to that policy. Our policy, as I am sure most of you know, contains three essential principles of action: a moratorium on the mining and treatment of uranium; repudiation of any contracts undertaken by non-Labor Governments in relation to the mining, processing and export of uranium; and prohibition of the mining, processing and export of uranium. We are firmly committed to all of those three key principles of action", he said.

A major success for the Labor Party in this election could be interpreted as an endorsement of that uranium policy. But much depends on the conservation movement keeping the heat on. The environment, unfortunately, is not being promoted as a major election issue. The environment movement must be held largely to blame for this. No effort as yet has been made to poll candidates to determine their attitudes on environmental issues. We need to know the individual candidates' attitudes to uranium mining, the proliferation of aluminium smelters around the country, lead in petrol, the preservation of wilderness areas.

There has been little organised public opposition to the massive exports of the mining industry. Occasionally one hears rumbling that our heritage is being sold off, but there is little questioning of the massive consumption of resources.

The one area where the community has been stirred up — and which will be an election issue — is that of petrol prices.

Here the Labor Party has made much of a report which in essence shows that this policy has come from some conservatives who believe that a high price will conserve the scarce resource. From an egalitarian point of view, the idea of using price to ration scarce resources must be unacceptable. But the Labor Party has a major task ahead of it to implement a transport policy which would significantly reduce our consumption of liquid fuels.

Under the present government's policies, the relatively poorer sections of our community who live in such places as the outer western suburbs of Sydney, and are forced to travel by car because of lack of alternative transport, are paying massive taxes to the government through the mechanism of the oil levy.

On the other side of the coin, the Labor Party aims to solve some of the problems concerning liquid hydrocarbons in Australia by setting up a Hydrocarbons Corporation which will become directly involved in exploration. Neither party will consider the question of "sunk costs" in the months coming up to the election.

The Labor Party requires only a 4.6 per cent swing to be elected — and its conscience can always be pricked by strong lobbying from concerned groups.

"It can be safely said that Labor would be better — not much, but better nevertheless."

"...If a Labor government were elected a problem would remain: Labor has no strategy to counter the massive reaction of the large corporations against any attempt to control them."

The Liberal/National Parties face no such problems as their members already totally identify with the aspirations of big business. Consistent with this, big business has been given a freer and freer hand. No environmental inquiries have been held on the massive aluminium plans to be set up around the country, export controls on aluminium have been eased as have requirements on Australian equity participation. The North West Shelf gas project has received export approval and if the Rundle shale oil project reaches full production the fuel oil may well be exported.
The power of the people to is so often being sold out to non-desirable development, despite the strength of community opinion. 

By Bob Brown

Electric Commission wanting to flood the Wild Rivers National Park and a hydro-electric scheme, besieged on the one side by the Hydro-South West, and on the other by enormous vested interests, involving a dam across the Bluff with a total area of some 9,000 square kilometres of flooding, including Australia’s most abrupt and exciting riverine chasms, the Gordon Splits.

On 11 July 1980, the Tasmanian Government backed for the Gordon-above-Olga dam, the HEC’s preferred Gordon-below-Franklin dam, its determination and the Tasmanian Wilderness Society’s opposition to flooding the Franklin. 

The proposed Park will include the Franklin and Davey Rivers catchment and double the size of the present South-West National Park. An unbroken series of National Parks will extend from Cradle Mountain to Precipitous Bluff with a total area of some 9,000 square kilometres of newly created wilderness.

The hydro-electric scheme, which leaves the Franklin intact, involves a dam across the Lower Gordon River, above its junction with the Olga River. It is termed the Gordon-above-Olga scheme.

Partial victory: What is saved?

The 11 July decision was a ‘thumbs down’ for the Hydro-Electric Commission’s preferred Gordon-below-Franklin dam, and a ‘thumbs up’ for the Lower Franklin and the intermediate section of the Gordon River (see map). However, the scheme would involve a quarry, site roads, construction village and powerlines, and a 47 kilometre access road across the wild Wilmot and Doherty’s Range. Together these works would effectively ruin 500 square kilometres of the remaining wilderness, the HEC’s preferred option. 

Over 100 square kilometres would be flooded, including Australia’s most abrupt and exciting riverine chasms, the Gordon Splits. Before 1928, when explorers Abel, Sticht and Harrison reached the Splits, it was thought the Gordon must flow underground in such rugged terrain. Sticht was astonished: “In rugged terrain, the first Split consists of exciting riverine chasms, the Gordon Splits.

The Gordon-above-Olga option is a disaster in itself: it would take a bite from the heart of the Lower Gordon region that would virtually split the South-West wilderness in two — despite the proposed Park. The Tasmanian Wilderness Society has opposed this scheme since it first surfaced as a real alternative in 1979. The plan proposes a single rockfill dam nearly 100 metres high across the Lower Gordon River, in the Sunshine Falls Gorge. The site is 20 kilometres upstream of the HEC’s preferred Gordon-below-Franklin dam, and 100 metres across the Lower Franklin and the intermediate section of the Gordon River (see map).

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The plan proposes a single rockfill dam nearly 100 metres high across the Lower Gordon River, in the Sunshine Falls Gorge. The site is 20 kilometres upstream of the HEC’s preferred Gordon-below-Franklin dam, and 100 metres across the Lower Franklin and the intermediate section of the Gordon River (see map).

However, the scheme would involve a quarry, site roads, construction village and powerlines, and a 47 kilometre access road across the wild Wilmot and Doherty’s Range. Together these works would effectively ruin 500 square kilometres of the remaining wilderness, the HEC’s preferred option. 

Over 100 square kilometres would be flooded, including Australia’s most abrupt and exciting riverine chasms, the Gordon Splits. Before 1928, when explorers Abel, Sticht and Harrison reached the Splits, it was thought the Gordon must flow underground in such rugged terrain. Sticht was astonished: “In rugged terrain, the first Split consists of exciting riverine chasms, the Gordon Splits.

The proposed Park will include the Franklin and Davey Rivers catchment and double the size of the present South-West National Park. An unbroken series of National Parks will extend from Cradle Mountain to Precipitous Bluff with a total area of some 9,000 square kilometres of flooding, including Australia’s most abrupt and exciting riverine chasms, the Gordon Splits.
The vanishing wilderness

Environmental Studies would provide 150 megawatts more cheaply by: offering incentives for energy conservation in homes; utilisation of Tasmania's annual 800,000 tonnes of wood wastes; and a campaign to stop wastage in the State's electricity-intensive heavy industries.

The campaign

Meanwhile, no Tasmanian politician has ever set foot in the area to be inundated. An informed nation would not support the Gordon-above-Olga proposal which threatens to destroy so much for so little. The Tasmanian Wilderness Society strategy now, as with the Franklin campaign, will be to inform Australians, and our politicians, of the damage the scheme would cause to the South-West and to promote the power alternatives...

continued page 19
WANT TO STUDY THE ENVIRONMENT?
Tasmania offers special opportunities in this field.

The University of Tasmania offers a two-year postgraduate degree by course work for
MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
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Tasmania the environment state

A Time to Care
TASMANIA'S ENDANGERED WILDERNESS
R. ELL & SANDERS

A new book by Chris Bell and Norm Sanders. Foreword by Bob Brown.
Text and photographs - 47 colour plates - 112 pages (A4 size) $25 per copy.
Available from Environment Centres or Chris Bell, Post Office Box 18, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania, 7152.

The Federal Government's inaction

While the Federal Government said nothing and did nothing to help save the Franklin, its intervention is vital if the Gordon-above-Olga scheme is to be stopped.

And there are good grounds for interven- tion. On 9 July 1980, the whole South-West was gazetted as a National Heritage area, giving the Federal Government responsibility to protect the region. Moreover, the present Liberal/ National Country Party Government came to power in 1975 with a policy of financial assistance for Tasmania to protect the South-West - a policy Mr Fraser has reiterated this year.

In 1975, the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr Billy Snedden, said his federal colleagues shared his view - that it is important that early action be taken to preserve this area. He added that "the Australian people will be asking [Tasmanians] to forego revenue that might otherwise flow from unchecked development of the area in order to preserve for the nation an area considered of immense national significance".

More importantly, he said that federal assistance to support enlargement of the South-West National Park should take two forms: firstly, direct aid in preparing management plans and implementation of them, and the provision of technical facilities and appropriate scientific personnel to assist in the maintenance program; and secondly, "a measure of compensation for development opportunities foregone in respect of electricity generation, mining and forestry".

The Coalition Federal Government must be held to the promises of its 1975 policy, making possible a South West Free of the Gordon-above-Olga scheme. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation recently recommended that an inquiry be conducted into the future of South West Tasmania. Their main reasons included:

- No extensive open inquiry has been undertaken into the alternatives.
- South West Tasmania is an area of national significance and warrants Federal Government involvement.
- Such an independent inquiry is urgently needed (hopefully with the full cooperation of the Tasmanian Government) before the HEC gets underway with further road building in the South West.
- The Federal Government set a precedent in offering financial aid in 1973 when it made a multi-million dollar offer of assistance to Tasmania to save Lake Pedder. This time there would be a far greater likelihood of Tasmania accepting an offer. The pride-blinkered, conservative old guard of Tasmania's Parliament has retired.
- The crux of the conservation battle against the Gordon-above-Olga scheme will be the HEC's plan to bulldoze a 47 kilometre road through the wilderness to the dam site, beginning this Summer or in the Spring of 1981. There is a major issue on the Federal Government to intervene before that road building begins. The Tasmanian Government has moved one HEC foot from the Wild Rivers Region. The Federal Government should help remove the other.

Meanwhile, woodchoppers, woodpulpers, pronged to inform the public and politicians about the extraordinary natural value of the

The Campaign

The strategy to meet the threat of the Franklin Lower Gordon scheme was two-pronged: to inform the public and politicians about the extraordinary natural value of the

The Federal Government's intervention is vital if the Gordon above-Olga scheme is to be stopped.

Huo and Upper Gordon Rivers, are moving in to exploit other unprotected tracts of the South West wilderness.

Tasmania's wild and scenic areas are a priceless natural asset of international importance. Besides ourselves, they belong to countless future generations and to the wealth of our fellow creatures which inhabit them. It is time the long term value of the wilderness was realised and put before the conventional, short term greed for electricity, timber and paper bags.
The Franklin region (until 1977–78, most people had never heard of the Franklin River) and to offer good alternatives, in particular an energy efficiency plan, to the hydroelectric proposal. However, history indicated there was no hope of stopping the HEC's scheme. Not a single politician, in either house of Parliament, had ever voted against a Hydro-Electric Commission.

Yet just a few days later, the arch-conservative Liberal Party voted unanimously to flood the Franklin. With the Labor Government's cabinet and caucus meetings dominated by the HEC's proposals. Whilst the Franklin-Lower Gordon scheme was replaceable, the unique wilderness was not.

On 6 June 1980, Tasmania's response to the campaign culminated in a rally and protest walk in Hobart by some 10,000 people (the equivalent to a turn out of 200,000 in Sydney or Melbourne). Yet just a few days later, the arch-conservative Liberal Party voted unanimously to flood the Franklin. With the Labor Government's cabinet and caucus meetings dominated by the HEC's proposals. Whilst the Franklin-Lower Gordon scheme was replaceable, the unique wilderness was not.

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To protect the National Estate.

This film encourages people to start thinking about change in the environment. It may be purchased from Film Australia or borrowed from State Libraries or the Department of Home Affairs, PO Box 1252, Canberra City, ACT, 2601.

1981—N.S.W. WILDERNESS CALENDAR

- Brilliant colour photographs by Henry Gold (12 plus cover). Scenes from wilderness areas of the State: rainforests, mountains, snow, coast, wildflowers, rivers — all reproduced with exceptional colour balance and definition, and appearing with informative captions.

- Heavy gloss paper. Dimensions 450mm x 290mm (18" x 11 1/2").

- Calendar section with room for short notes.

- Introductory text.

- Moon phases.

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Investigating the National Estate

School kit, for secondary and late primary, comprises booklets, cassette tapes, source cards, teachers handbook, plan strips and other resources. It can be used in social studies, history, science, geography, art, environmental studies, English and general studies.

There has been a lot of talk in the press that the South-West Tasmania wilderness has been "saved". As is obvious from the accompanying article, this is not true. Several points should be borne in mind about the Tasmanian Government's July announcements:

- These are only State Government policy decisions. They must next be passed by both Houses of Parliament. The very conservative Tasmanian Legislative Council may reject the legislation. There is strong HEC and industry pressure for a reversal, and the Legislative Council has in the past always listened sympathetically to the HEC.

- There has been no Environment Impact Statement on the proposed Gordon-above-Olga dam. The Government may even proceed without one.

- The Forestry Commission has an interest in several areas of the new National Park and may vigorously oppose the Park proposal.

- Several mining and mineral exploration permits inside the South-West are current and conservationists cannot object to such permits through the Courts.

- The Tasmanian Government has, as yet, made no move to ask the Federal Government to stand by its 1975 policy and more recent statements, to provide funding for alternative schemes.

Dr. Bob Brown is Director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

What you can do

1. FIND OUT ABOUT THE ISSUES from your local Tasmanian Wilderness Society office, lend a hand if you have the time. Save to 672B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn, N.S.W. 3122. Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

2. TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES with your friends. Borrow a film, arrange a speaker.

3. WRITE LETTERS TO THE PRIME MINISTER and to your Federal MP showing your concern and interest in the South West and asking for a full inquiry. Note especially that the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation has recently recommended that there be an inquiry into the future of South West Tasmania.

- No extensive open inquiry into the alternatives has been undertaken.

- The week the Franklin was saved, the Tasmanian Parliament received 33,300 letters! You can influence a decision.

4. WRITE TO THE NEWSPAPERS.

5. JOIN THE TASMANIAN WILDERNESS SOCIETY and/or GIVE MONEY. TWS is not funded at all by any Government; it relies on donations and sale of material. Donations of $2 or more to the Australian Conservation Foundation are tax-deductible. Make cheques payable to TWS and send to 672B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn 3122 with a note attached saying that you prefer the donation to be used to support TWS.

Tasmanian Wilderness Society directory

Tasmania: 129 Bathurst Street, Hobart. TWP: (02) 34 5566.

New South Wales:

- South West Tasmania Committee, c/- NSW Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000. Telephone (02) 223 5388. (after hours) (02) 94 9322.

Victoria:

- Victorian Environment Centre, 141 Lonsdale Street (2nd Floor), Melbourne 3000. Telephone (03) 602 4477. (after hours) (03) 347 1091.

South Australia:

- Conservation Committee of SA, 310 Angas Street, Adelaide 5000. Telephone (08) 212 9256.

Queensland:

- 103 Wellington Street, Ainslie ACT 2602.

Western Australia:

- Tom Hargrave, 3133 Farmyard, PO Box 37, Nedlands 6009.

Over to you...

What can you do for Tasmania?

- Ask your local member of Parliament to support the Government's proposals and the legislation to be introduced by December.

- Sign the petition to stop the Franklin and Gordon hydro-electric projects.

- Encourage your friends, colleagues, and neighbours to join the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

- Write to your local member of Parliament, your Member of the House of Representatives, your local HEC Commissioner, and the Minister for Conservation and Environment to express your concern about the future of South West Tasmania.

- Write to your local newspaper and to the Commonwealth and State Ministers for Environment and Conservation to express your concern about the future of South West Tasmania.

- Send your local MP a copy of the film investigating the National Estate, together with your comments about the need for a national commitment to the conservation of the South West.

- Send to 672B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn, N.S.W. 3122. Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

- Sign and return the petition to stop the Franklin and Gordon hydro-electric projects.

- Donate money to the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

- Write letters to your local newspaper and to the Commonwealth and State Ministers for Environment and Conservation to express your concern about the future of South West Tasmania.

- Send to 672B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn, N.S.W. 3122. Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

- Join the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

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In this exclusive Chain Reaction interview Earl Moorhouse speaks with the Federal Minister for Science and the Environment, David Thomson. They discuss the achievements of Thomson's brief period as Minister, various environmental problems facing Australia, international issues and the role of non-governmental environmental organisations. Specifically the Minister comments on South West Tasmania's wilderness, the Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island and uranium mining.

Though our request for the interview had been before the Minister for months, Mr Thomson finally only made 25 minutes available for the discussion at Parliament House. It's hardly as if he is the media darling sought after public figure. David Thomson is a man of little appearance within the Liberal and National Country Parties Government and perhaps that's why he equips himself on almost every question. One could be excused for somebody's surmise of impression his perception of issues is somewhat narrow and/or he does not know what he is talking about. But that's fine.

Mr Thomson

You have been Minister for Science and the Environment since 1979 and that's just over 9 months. You've got a national role as your major achievement during these months?

I suppose the major legislative achievement was the Whale Protection Bill and there's been a lot of activity on the Barrier Reef. I live on the Barrier Reef and I'm deeply involved personally in that. There's been the Plan of Management for Kakadu National Park which I think is a significant step and has been done fairly quickly for a major park and which I think is a good step to managing that marvelous area. We've spent quite a lot of money on south-west Tasmania trying to get a resources study done there. It's an official area as you probably know for Commonwealth relations, but at least we've said that if the Tasmanian Government wants help to get a significant national park in that area, then we've only got to ask for it.

So the initiative has got to come from that side of the house. Yes, well, it's very difficult. I think they ought to consider the rights of the States and you do have problems. We're trying to do things by negotiation rather than by coercion. There have been the norms for South Eastern Australia, which was a coalition of non-governmental groups which have been there for a number of years and have had quite a bit of success. The Government wants help to get a significant national park in that area, then we've only got to ask for it.

What role do you think Australia should be playing on an international level as far as environmental problems are concerned?

Well, we play quite a role—whales is an example—we're quite active in the International Whaling Commission, and I think we played a big part in the moratorium this year. It's just fortunate we got our Whale Protection Bill through because we could say our hands are clean and I think we played a very significant role in getting some sort of moratorium with all the non-governmental groups. It's really a model of how development and conservation might be done. But the thing is, we've got to make sure that all our conservation efforts are maintained, either through national or international strategy. Working till we get a real national strategy.

What do you see as the major environmental problems facing Australia?

I think the biggest one is the protection of the Barrier Reef. I'm deeply involved personally in that and I think we've got to get the support of the non-governmental groups. We're making steps forward in terms of what can be done. I think we've got to make sure that our resource developments are being done with proper regard to the protection of the environment, and that's a big issue for the '80s. I think the World Conservation Strategy is a good start with that. We've got to get a national strategy and we've got to get a national strategy and I must say I'm very pleased with the response we've had so far from non-governmental organisations, from the States, from industry. Some States, Western Australia for instance, have set up a special group to deal with this and that's very pleasing indeed. But we will take time. The plan for the national conservation strategy is to have a seminar towards the end of 1981 which will try to sort out all the ideas and at the end of 1982 to hold a full consultation. We're hoping to really get a draft by then.

These will be national conferences?

Yes, a national seminar to start with. You see, it's difficult because the action has to be taken is mostly at State level and so what we're aiming to do is to try and get agreement from all States and from the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth. Now it may be there are some areas in which we won't reach agreement, but I would think the way we're going might reach agreement a great deal. We might not get all we want to start with; we'll go on working till we get a real national strategy.

Do you have any short-term or long-term solutions to some of the major problems you see arising? You mentioned the mining of resources and we're seeing that environmental standards are not exceeded.

I think the example there is the Kakadu National Park and the very stringent restrictions we're placing on uranium mining. This year, for instance, we're spending $7 million just on controlling measures and investigating matters, and I hope that will become a model of how development and conservation might be done. But the thing is, we've got to make sure that all our conservation efforts are maintained, either through national or international strategy. Working till we get a real national strategy.

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The discussion in the last issue over the future tactics of the movement happened as part of the same meeting which was held in our small country town which intended to launch a local campaign for the district to be declared a nuclear-free zone. Unfortunately the meeting was quite unsuccessful in enthusing such a community action. I think this small failure in Ballingup might provide us all with a lesson in the anti-nuclear effort.

Apart from the freezing temperatures in the village hall that windy night, the reason why the gathering was so ineffectual in arousing a warm response was due to a tactical error which, in good faith, the organisers committed. This was their overriding concern that the evening should appear to be an "information night" only, one which would present the facts fairly and unemotionally to enable people in the audience to make up their minds what the "truth" was about nuclear energy.

This sounds laudable in theory, if not in practice, whereas it bears little correspondence to the reality of activism. Most of those people who are involved in such movements do not want a great bureaucracy, do not want a great bureau of facts alone will never change the world. Objective facts alone will never change the world. If they are allowed to be divorced from the subjective feelings which each those facts carry, those facts alone will never change the world. The full meaning.

For a start it is already happening, and the second is that the movement is so split on the issue as to make any attempt to work through the industrial wing of the labor movement politically counterproductive. There is also little chance of rousing the masses, and even if that occurred it may be equally counterproductive to that in that it would provoke the government to respond in a way that is probably contrary to the interests of the Left. This is the philosophy of "objectivism".

It is a sad but true decision, as leader writers in The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald often begin their apologies for the present government, that there is little if anything that can be done to stop uranium mining. I have been asked to see that they did not like nuclear power. The basic point is that, whereas they are allowed to be divorced from the subjective feelings which each those facts carry, those facts alone will never change the world. The full meaning.

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Information: Those most optimistic about uranium mining are those most involved in fighting against it. Many people not involved full-time have lost confidence. Why are full-time activists more confident than ever? Has the struggle driven them demoralized, or are they failing to communicate some information? The lack of information circulating within the movement is remarkable but more attention needs to be paid to getting it out. Our information should direct itself to: 1. Is nuclear power necessary? 2. Can we afford it? 3. What are the risks? 4. What are the local implications? 5. How does the uranium mining offer a lead in co-ordinating an anti-nuclear movement? Our task is to communicate information to the public, and to that end the role of all our organizations as holding the key to the anti-uranium struggle.

The key to success is unity: a united, and publicly apparent, stand of all committed groups, in support of the trade unions and aboriginals, against uranium mining.

The tactics of industry and government are nothing new — just the old ‘divide and conquer’, putting one community group against another, and particularly against trade unions. The nuclear industry’s biggest ploy is the monopoly media — with its strategy of interpreting its own communiqué of information in this election year. As communication is essential to an informed and well-organized campaign, we must cease to depend on the monopoly media. Instead, we should build networks, communicating across environmental, peace, health, civil liberties, women’s church, aboriginal, and other groups. Freedom of information and public interest groups especially could help to link us with each other, and with community groups generally.

Our task is to communicate information on events, research, and anti-nuclear activities here and overseas. The Movement Against Uranium Mining offers a lead in co-ordinating an effective year-long campaign. Divisions in the union movement (and even within particular unions) over uranium mining make it vital to put more energy into relevant organizational work and information gathering.

Over the last five years the anti-uranium movement has concentrated its efforts on one social grouping or another in the expectation or hope that it would successively prevent the mining and export of uranium. The environmental movement, the ALP, the unions, Aborigines in Northern Territory, have, at different times, been seen by different sections of the movement as holding the key to the anti-uranium struggle.

It is now clear that no strategy based solely to deal with the public about the problems and hazards of nuclear power. The shift in ALP policy has been instrumental in politicising the issue. Similarly, trade union initiatives have been crucial in keeping uranium mining in the news and the prospect of uranium bans, however remote, has given added bite to the campaign. Aboriginal land rights, on the other hand, have brought home the moral dimensions of the question and the destructive effects of uranium.
**EDUCATION**

**Good news comes too rarely.**

But here Sally Gilbert reports on an exciting new project in Brunswick, an inner northern suburb of Melbourne. It will comprise community gardens and workshops, a city farm, environmental displays, a low-energy-use building, a community meeting place, a tree farm, productive botanical gardens and recreational parkland.

The Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) project was begun in 1978 by a number of groups, notably staff and students of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Environmental design courses, members of the Brunswick Unemployed Group, Brunswick Secondary Schools, Brunswick City Council and other local groups. They met with the intention of exploring new problems faced by the Brunswick community, particularly those of an environmental and social nature. Some of the objectives of the project were formulated and include:

- to develop a city farm and environmental community centre, for action, education and research;
- to stimulate and support employment in the areas of environmental design and its implementation and community environment work;
- to explore types of work which are more self-managed, less exploitative and more community needs-based;
- to develop training programs to facilitate this kind of work and to widen choices of both new and alternative career pathways.

In mid-1979, the Brunswick City Council offered CERES the use of a 10-acre waste area beside the Merri Creek. There was also a possible 5 acres owned by the Country Roads Board. The specific activities planned for the Merri Creek site are:

- the establishment of a centre for stimulating energy conservation (of electricity, gas, oil, petroleum) in the community, as well as research into new energy conservation techniques (eg. using the Sun and wind) and on developing a solar-heated system for providing hot water for homes and communities, and the provision of facilities for use by individuals and community groups;
- the development of community gardens and recreational parkland, including plant projects in botany, ecology, energy studies etc., and facilities for RMIT environment studies courses and other similar courses;
- the provision of facilities for use by individuals and community groups involved in community-wide environmental projects (eg. workshops, sheds, greenhouses) to extend participation and enable collaborative action; and assistance and advice on general employment programs.

The envisaged plant will use hydro-carbon fractions from the Cooper Basin gas field and brine from Lake Torrens to produce chemicals for the manufacture of a wide range of plastic products, as well as usable oils and gas. A number of other environmental and social benefits will also be derived.

The concept of establishing a petro-chemical plant in South Australia was first raised in 1969. Multi-national chemical plant Dow has released an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) on such a plant at Redcliff in Upper Spencer Gulf. David Hartley, committee member of Greenpeace, Adelaide, filed this story for Chain Reaction.

**DOW**

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The Hunter, a nuclear scientist, in an attempt to contain the nuclear waste into the artesian water table.

Central Australia releasing nuclear waste; however, some radiation death and pursued by the repository's operators to cover up the fatal spill.

Published jointly by: Concerned Citizens, Newcastle Neighbourhood Centre and Ecology Centre, Friends of the Lower Murray Wilcox: "Our medicalised society is a male professional world. They both reap great financial gains, whilst the women are subsidising the aluminium company, which is definitely case for a more accurate information. Let them also cope with the results."

Individual chapters cover birth control, menstruation, pregnancy, menopause, abortion, vaginal infections, etc. They are written to cover social attitudes to the different areas, relevant political and medical issues, and are presented in a way that is easy to read and understand.

In Our Own Hands is definitely a worthwhile contribution to a feminist knowledge of the health-care system and a definite weapon against patriarchy.

Books

Who Asked Us? Coal, Power, Aluminium – the Hunter Region

Edited by David Phillips and David Ross. Published jointly by: Concerned Citizens of Hunter Valley, Newcastle Ecocentre, Friends of the Lower Hunter, Newcastle Trading, Newcastle Council, Newcastle Neighbourhood Centre and Environmentals for Pulluptown,

The publication of Who Asked Us? is a notable contribution to the increasing, and increasingly forceful, debate on the future of the Hunter Region. The Alumina project, regarding the expansion of the aluminium industry, and the consequent expansion of electricity generation in the region, will fundamentally affect the character of the Hunter Valley. Indeed, the decision: are of national significance.

Those who favour expansion of the aluminium smelting industry have a simple argument. The Hunter, in common, has many other parts of Australia, has a substantial and, in some cases, environmental problem. It is socially desirable to create new jobs. The smelting of aluminium uses large blocks of electricity so the available and high price of electricity is a major determinant of construction cost. The Hunter has more than enough quantities of coal suitable for electricity generation. This coal can be used to counterbalance into the Hunter and reduce unemployment.

The argument for the development of the industry puts the voluntary workers to attempt the formidable task of educating the community. The environmental and economic consequences of the course pursued in the Hunter will be of great interest. The figures will be challenged. I claim no expertise in the area of aluminium extraction from bauxite. I call on the NSW Government to establish such an enquiry.

Murray Wilcox

Murray Wilcox is President of the Australian Conservation Foundation. This is an extract from his address at the launching of Who Asked Us?

In Our Own Hands, A Women's Health Manual

by Bon Hull, Hyland House Melbourne, 1980, 244 pages, $7.50 (paperback).

Bon Hull has been politically active for many years in the area of women's health. Her book is impressive evidence of the vast knowledge and experiences she has exchanged with other involved women in that time.

There have been several, excellent books on specific lesbian health concerns. I, for example, is hard to know whether the League of the Plough is a useful book, the title of the book, and one which is specifically relevant to Australian women. In particular, her familiarity with our various health institutions, drug companies and medical procedures is extremely useful. Her book also updates its forerunners by further exploring areas such as vegetarianism and women's health, alternative treatments, and political medical controversies such as the DES tragedy and the Prostaglandin story.

Bion Hull


It is hard to know whether the League of the Plough is a useful book, the title of the book, and one which is specifically relevant to Australian women. In particular, the League of the Plough is a useful book, the title of the book, and one which is specifically relevant to Australian women. In particular, her familiarity with our various health institutions, drug companies and medical procedures is extremely useful. Her book also updates its forerunners by further exploring areas such as vegetarianism and women's health, alternative treatments, and political medical controversies such as the DES.
In any case they seem to have seized on the Australian Heritage Commission Act as a way of demonstrating,-particularly to the Victorian Institute of Economic Democracy in this particular instance, than it is to get deeper into the environmental protection of it. This booklet sets up a scenario which links Karl Marx, Sir Paul Hasluck, Dr H V Evatt, the Fabian Society and Dr H C Coombs to demonstrate that there is a world-wide conspiracy to deprive western nations of their heritage legislation... " . The author seems to have missed the fact that the "facts" are amazing, and the quality of the arguments and the so-called "facts" are not meaningful, as the "human chauvinist" ethic, with its orientation towards inanimate natural objects as well. So it was fitting that conferences should be organized to look at these issues together, and useful, that the politicians read those conferences should be available at what is, nowadays, a very reasonable price.

The main reason the book is as long as it is is that Richard and Val Routley have been allowed an inordinate amount of space. They have two whole pages out of around 100 pages, which together make up more than half the book. The first arguments for the kind of all-embracing philosophical discussion that they want to have, the kind of philosophical debate over the extension of our traditional "human chauvinist" ethic to inanimate natural objects as well. So it was fitting that conferences should be organized to look at these issues together, and useful, that the politicians read those conferences should be available at what is, nowadays, a very reasonable price.

There are many other books which have been written, which deal more with the problems of discussing the political stance of the League of Rights for Environmental Action, which is likely to have a major impact on the whole of the Australian political scene, and the whole of the world's political scene... " . The author seems to have missed the fact that the "facts" are amazing, and the quality of the arguments and the so-called "facts" are not meaningful, as the "human chauvinist" ethic, with its orientation towards inanimate natural objects as well. So it was fitting that conferences should be organized to look at these issues together, and useful, that the politicians read those conferences should be available at what is, nowadays, a very reasonable price.

The Heritage Hoax, by the USA Department of the Interior, 1974. $6.00

Environment, by the USA Department of Transportation, 1980. $6.00

Environmental Philosopher's, edited by Dr H V Evatt, The Fabian Society and Dr H C Coombs to demonstrate that there is a world-wide conspiracy to deprive western nations of their heritage legislation... " . The author seems to have missed the fact that the "facts" are amazing, and the quality of the arguments and the so-called "facts" are not meaningful, as the "human chauvinist" ethic, with its orientation towards inanimate natural objects as well. So it was fitting that conferences should be organized to look at these issues together, and useful, that the politicians read those conferences should be available at what is, nowadays, a very reasonable price.

Those organisations and individuals who have been affected by a broad-based public awareness campaign, have been able to demonstrate that the implementation needs must be addressed in a more targeted program. The delivery of information to motorists should begin when they prepare to obtain licenses and should continue throughout their driving careers. The information related to bicycle operation and road-sharing techniques should be included in drivers' education curricula and in state-issued drivers manuals. Licensing writers extend should have questions related to motorists' use of the roadways should be initiated. Such information could be distributed through flyers enclosed with license renewal and vehicle registration letters, and through media campaigns directed specifically at motorists.

The lack of expertise on engineering and planning level is summed up under the heading Lack of Skills and Knowledge... " . Those organisations and individuals who have been affected by a broad-based public awareness campaign, have been able to demonstrate that the implementation needs must be addressed in a more targeted program. The delivery of information to motorists should begin when they prepare to obtain licenses and should continue throughout their driving careers. The information related to bicycle operation and road-sharing techniques should be included in drivers' education curricula and in state-issued drivers manuals. Licensing writers extend should have questions related to motorists' use of the roadways should be initiated. Such information could be distributed through flyers enclosed with license renewal and vehicle registration letters, and through media campaigns directed specifically at motorists.

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Agent Orange, Blue, White, Purple, Pink and Green...the lethal rainbow of defoliants imported to Vietnam by the American military. But the history of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T begins at least thirty years earlier than Vietnam, and the users of these defoliants include Australia and England, as well as the USA military. But the history of the peaceful, domestic farmer.

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Similarly, bicycling is usually not included in the curricula of other involved professions (police officers, etc.) The few professional, in-service training programs that are currently available, cannot provide sufficient information to the large number of professionals that are, or should be, involved in bicycle transportation programs. Finally, there is also a lack of accepted guidelines for selecting the appropriate bicycle facility treatment or program.

Unfortunately we have a similar situation here in Australian Universities, along with unsympathetic government ministries. The report goes on to talk of funding requirements, tables of like use, potential use, energy savings etc. Thus it seems the US may consider the bicycle a serious and valid contribution to transport. How long will it take Australia to do something as significant?

Mick McKee

People interested in obtaining a copy of the report can write to the Cyclists Action Group at 14 Parker Street, Marrickville, Victoria 3163 or 7 Barrier Street, Caulfield, Western Australia 6011, enclosing three 22c stamps for one copy, or $2.00 for five copies to cover costs.

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LETTERS

From page 2.
area.
Storage - a brilliant way to personalise an issue, uranium mining, which is losing energy at the moment and for many people (e.g. especially in Tasmania) has become just too remote/abstract to get excited around.
Knowing what's planned for the next CR

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
I read your article 'The great Australian food abundance' in Chain Reaction Vol. 3 No. 3 1980 and I quote - "Research and publish information on the environmental effects of modern agriculture in Australia. There is an area which has been neglected for too long - partly because the damage being done is far too subtle. Too often we read American publications and just assume the situation is similar here - it isn't! Would you please specify why - it isn't?"

As far as I know our world and the living entities in our world, be it microbes, worms, plants or animals of humans, have been created according to one single pattern - basic rules are all the same. All need air to breathe, warmth, energy or muscle power (e.g. water to 56°C to 95%) plus some food and the correct environment to live - all need growth organic or biological. I'm afraid to follow a "cycle of life" or a "wheel of life" set by nature, whatever we are on this globe on land or water.
All nature's offspring in this globe's wonderful creation has to obey these laws, rules or principles of nature. You do not do a good service to the USA researchers, who are truly teaching us our Universities about the wrong findings of "compost and worms" - much of which can be found in Compost Science/Land Utilisation a 2 monthly US magazine which is leading the way worldwide.
B C Hoff Mt. Yorke, Western Australia

Ian Pausacker responds:
I am surprised at B C Hoff's reaction - I am in no way intended to depreciate the efforts of USA researchers. My comment was more intended to stimulate research into more ecological production methods to avert the trends in farming methods we see today. Too late to do this in the USA. We have more synthetic farming and less use of irrigation. We have more production of every with liquid fertilisers instead of using chemical nitrogen fertilisers. The farm systems have different climates, as well as the domination of agriculture by companies. Some are small farms, some large, and some for personal needs. These (and many other) differences make it essential, I still maintain for detailed Australian work in this field to be conducted.

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