Chain Reaction
Friends of the Earth Australia Volume 5 Number 4 August-September 1980 $120

Dirt Cheap
New Australian movie

The Federal Election
Aluminium What's going on
Tasmanian Aborigines
Chain Reaction
Established in 1975
Volume 5 Number 4
August–September 1980
Publisher
Friends of the Earth
Australia
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Thanks to Mick McKean, the Canberra & South East Environment Centre. Throsell, Noel Wauchope, Ben Witham. Region Environment
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Thowell, Noel Wauchop,
Marj White, Judy Wilks,
Ben Witham.

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LEUNIG

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Earth News

Action Guide

FOE Groups

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Available from:
Environment Action Centre, 118 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051. Telephone (03) 328 4740.

Friends of the Earth, 366 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066. Telephone (03) 419 8700.

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Contributions to Chain Reaction are invited. Please try to send items typed, on one side of the page, double spaced and with wide margins. Keep a copy for yourself. We do not have sufficient resources and people to return manuscripts. These few guidelines are to help in bringing the magazine better and faster. The next return will close in early October, 1980.

Chain Reaction is supplied to all members of Friends of the Earth in Australia (except in NSW) as part of their membership. Membership is $10 a year, or whatever you can afford. See lists of state and territory groups on page 40. FOE (NSW) members invited to become subscribers. A subscription is $5 for four copies licensed in Australia for individuals and community groups and $7.50 for libraries and other institutions. Overseas annual $14.00, (aust) $47.50.
SCOTLAND

Further to the photos in the latest Chain Reaction, I took this at an anti-Terrorism rally in Edinburgh last September.

March Lines

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

In an era of unemployment the Federal Government has seen fit to further punish those without jobs by harassment. Not only is the unemployment 'benefit' a ridiculously inadequate amount but recipients are required to prove to the Department of Social Security that they are looking for work. This is not an unreasonable request, but the wording is designed to make it impossible for anyone to comply.

To this ignominious activity is added 'visits' by Social Security inspectors to those who have jobs, checking their bank books and the gathering of damaging information against the person. The cost of employing these odious people must be great, but at least they've got jobs — even if socially unacceptable. However, many of the people they visit are working.

They are working for no pay in the environment movement, in the women's movement, on Aboriginal rights, in anti-racist groups and in many other socially necessary organisations. People on unemployment 'benefits' who choose to work or within these organisations should be able to do so as an alternative to being a job-seeker.

The government should recognize that there are few, if any, jobs available for the bulk of the unemployed and that people who are prepared to give their time, or part of it, to an organization of their choice are not bludging off the community but contributing to it.

It is my suggestion that people in this situation agitate for the acceptance of the above arguments, and perhaps even get a job-working and an end to the persecution of the unemployed.

P de Lami

Fitzroy, Victoria

SUCCESS STORY

I have already renewed my subscription to your excellent magazine! I had it on when I have read it.

It was mentioned at a Seminar last weekend organized by the Findhorn Festival Group. Members praised your work too. However they agreed in the idea of asking for more 'success' stories! The one on the teaching of Central American women how to use the soyabean in a variety of ways, was, for example. We felt that people need to see light in the sky, and not merely the threatening storms! It is easy to be overwhelmed andhopeless unless there is a balance of good news of achievement. Therefore Alan Greene's story of towns planting forests throughout the world was a lift and an inspiration.

Helen South

Port Macquarie, New South Wales

LETTERS

You are invited to write to Chain Reaction with your comments and suggestions. We welcome your contributions, your graphs, your photos.

CR aims to do a whole lot of things — to have a voice for Friends of the Earth, to expose issues which receive too little coverage elsewhere, to act as a national link between controversy and campaigns. It is a difficult job — and for it our finances are much too small. Just having to pay our phone and postage bills is a problem. Particularly as it's funded by Shell Oil, who already own 40% of Wright Stepphenons, and Continental Grain, who control Pacific Seeds. However, the lobbying and the EEC's are putting the idea in our minds that if Australia doesn't fall into line on matters of international concern, they may leave us alone.

I'm still renewing my subscription. CR is an unusual magazine. Not many magazines ask their readers to become heavily involved in production of their work. CR does — indeed we are in need of your involvement.

How many of you have articles you think we should run? Suggestions of books to review, letters for this page or criticisms of articles? We welcome your contributions, your graphs, your photos.

Let us know if you have stories to publish your letter if it is

We need donations. We need advertisers. We can only do it all with your help.

Robert Bell

Newtown, Victoria

EARTH NEWS

Cyanamid caught

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration in the USA has proposed a $10,000 fine against American Cyanamid for a policy requiring women employees to be sterilized so that they could continue working in certain areas of the chemical plant. OSHA said it was clear that the hazard, not the employee, should be removed.

Source: Big Mamma's Rag, January 1980, reprinted in the Women's Liberation Newsletter, Melbourne.

Milling at Nabarlek

uranium production has begun at the Nabarlek site in the Northern Territory, following the closing of the mining facilities. The Nabarlek project is owned by Queensland Mines Ltd, which has estimated uranium contents of the already explored ore at about 12,000 tonnes.

The Nabarlek mine is strongly opposed by local Aboriginals particularly an access road past right through the property. Premature road will become even busier now as truckloads of yellowcake begin leaving the mine site.

Paperbarks saved

The Alternative Technology Co-op has produced the first of a series of magazines on Alternative Technology in Australia. The Melbourne based group have regular meetings and are involved in a variety of activities aimed at helping people with construction of AT hardware. The group can be contacted at 366 Smith Street, Collingwood, Vic. Membership is $10 or $5 for students and unemployed.

LETTERS

Paperbarks saved to save the paperbarks on this headland.

Local residents ascended to save the paperbarks on this headland.

Earth News brings together the previous columns Chancy, Ocean News and Earth News.

We greatly need your contributions — concise, and wherever possible with visual material. Write to the Editors, Chain Reaction, 366 Smith Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066, Australia.
Wollongong nuclear free

Wollongong is the first major provincial Australian city to have declared itself nuclear-free. By doing so it is resolved to prevent:

- the transport or storage of nuclear wastes and uranium
- the construction of nuclear power plants
- the mixing of uranium within the city limits.

Tired of the repeated delays by the other States, New South Wales has decided to go ahead with its own program to clean up the growing problem of air pollution. Stricter car emission controls will be imposed from January 1981 with further controls on evaporation of petrol from engines to be introduced in 1982. NSW has indicated it will introduce lead free petrol in 1984, regardless of the attitude of the other States and Federal Government. The new Minister for Planning and Environment, Eric Bedford, has produced a very informative leaflet, Lead In Petrol.

As this issue goes to press, thousands of people are gathering in the Black Hills of South Dakota USA for the 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering. The gathering is organised by an alliance of Indian, anti-nuclear, environmental and farmers interests, will concentrate on three main areas: a national review commission on energy development, an alternative technology/land self-sufficiency project and a forum on Indian genocide and the planned extinction of the family ranch and farm.

The gathering is an effort to loosen the corporate grip on our lives and an expression of opposition to parochial energy developments now affecting acre upon acre of the Black Hills and to all native American lands under various forms of systematic erosion by mining for coal, oil and uranium for USA industrial power.

Paul Jacobs banned

A strange irony developed during the Swedish nuclear referendum campaign in March. The producers of Paul Jones and the Nuclear Gang were told their film was 'too good' to be shown. The justification behind the ban was that there was no pro-nuclear material of a similar standard to dispute the evidence in their film. Hence the balanced presentation requirements of Swedish television could not be met.

Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang, the highly successful film about the health effects of radiation, has been shown in Australia on the ABC's Four Corners program. (It is also available to Australian Environmental Action Parties (03) 870 9257. In California, it can be obtained from the Sydney Film-makers Co-op, (02) 33 07 21.

Paul Jacobs who died in 1978 of lung cancer which doctors believe was caused by his contact investigating the story in 1957.

Psychologists biased

A study was recently completed at the University of Melbourne School of Professional Psychology in which 106 clinical psychologists viewed a twenty minute video of a therapy session. They were told the woman client had just ended a relationship. Half of the other person in the relationship was a man and half were told it was a woman. Psychologists who thought the client was heterosexual found her 'above normal' in all characteristics. Those who were told she was a lesbian gave her an overwhelmingly negative rating with low personal adjustment, poor personality and self-control.

Source: By Maj. Roy, January 1980, as reported in the Women's Liberation Newsletter Melbourne.

Squeezing oil from shale

The existence of shale rock at Bundie, just north of Gladstone in Queensland has been known for many years. However, the economic extraction of oil contained in the rock appeared unlikely until the world's largest oil company, Exxon, bid for the majority share from the small Australian speculator company, South Pacific Petroleum for a rumoured $100 million. Exxon have slowed their plans, though, and it is anticipated that oil will not be produced until 1986.

The Rundle oil shale project would be the world's largest mining operation producing about 10 T. Australia's current requirements. In the words of the companies environmental study report:

"In broad terms the project will temporarily change the topography of about sixty square kilometres of the coast from a rural, natural environment to a mining-industrial complex."

The transformation of an area the size of Sydney would lead to massive environmental pollution particularly from toxic material escaping into ground, water and nearby streams. The project itself is situated in the middle of a large mangrove wetlands area known as the Narrows, to the south of the proposed site.

The Friends of the Earth, the main lobby group for local interests, think the company is just trying to use this project to avoid paying the full environmental impact. Friends have called for this to be restricted to the Gold Barrow Reef Marine Park so far declared. Friends have discouraged Exxon's activities around Australia have successfully pressured for a full environmental impact statement on the project. Friends of the Earth have called for this to be restricted to the Gold Barrow Reef Marine Park so far declared. The group is now calling for the latest report made available from Environmental Audio Visuals, a simple and entertaining way with the health risks associated with the consumption of excessive amounts of junk food. It explains in commonsense terms the relationship between poor diet and health, and the effects of food processing.

For more information on this and other audio visual kits contact your nearest FOE group.

NSW U. free

The New South Wales government has banned uranium mining and exploration within its state borders.
Minatome uranium lease granted

On 23 March, Queensland Minister for Mines and Police, Ron Camm, announced that a French company Minatome had been granted a uranium mining lease at Ben Lomond, 40km north of Townsville. This was four days before a draft impact statement was tabled in Parliament.

This is not an Environmental Impact Statement and would not satisfy even Federal standards. Under the legislation the Minister for Mines has the discretion to call for public comment; Camm obviously chose not to.

Nuclear uneconomics

The South Australian Legislative Council is currently holding an inquiry into uranium mining in that state. A similar committee, with other anti-nuclear groups, has appeared before the Council's Select Committee. John Hallam of FOE Collingwood has prepared a submission outlining the uneconomics of the industry and its long term prospects. Judging by FOE's predictions of world nuclear capacity the industry's future is considerably less buoyant than we are led to believe.

Unlike the Australian Atomic Energy Commission's figures, FOE's figures take into account the realities of safety problems, eroding political support, rising costs and declining efficiencies, and therefore, the cost of cancellations that have occurred particularly in the USA.

One trend that was discovered in the compilation of these figures was that at certain times FOE's figures converge with the USA Department of Energy's figures. It seems that it is taking a more realistic approach than the AAEC.

On world demand for uranium FOE's estimates once more significantly differ from the AAEC's. For example, FOE predict demand in 1990 at 41,000 tonnes per year by 1990. This falls short of the AAEC's figures by 18,000 tonnes.

Sack-Mac campaign

'Muck-Donalds' complained one of the placards at the launch of the anti-McDonald's 'Chain Reaction' by Anti-Ronald outside a Melbourne McDonald's store recently.

The launching of the booklets also marked the launching of the Sack-Mac Committee - a group which intends to continue the campaign to force McDonald's to renounce its stores and to

New food 'crisis'?

World grain and rice harvests have fallen well below forecast levels and only a good harvest next season will avoid a world food crisis, like the one which killed millions in the early 1970s.

Particularly as a result of drought and war the world market price of food has risen and stocks are disquietingly low. Had the world's governments understood the undertakings made at the 1974, United Nations sponsored World Food Conference, this danger would not exist. However, they have consistently failed to establish the grain reserves they promised.

"Crisis" is, of course, a relative term for there is an ongoing crisis situation where two-thirds of the world suffers from hunger. This problem is of a structural nature for generally food goes to those who are not in the position of earning money.

The current "crisis" is compounded by moves to produce fuel (gasohol) for the cars from food crops.

Patenting life

The recent United States decision to allow the patenting of new life forms has paved the way for companies to come more deeply involved in the farming industry.

The five/four Supreme Court decision did not take into account the risks of genetic engineering declaring that such questions were beyond their "competence". In fact it appears that the court was determined only to vitiate the decision of General Electric which appealed against the Patent Office refusal to accept a patent on an oil "eating" bacterium.

With this precedent genetic engineering and biological manipulation will probably become a super growth industry and a super dangerous one, already rumours of sickness and death of workers in biological laboratories abound.

Labrador uranium lease withheld

A development license for the Brinex Kitts-Michelin, at which project in Labrador (Canada) will be withheld until the company's "satisfactory" government that it can, and will, safely and permanently dispose of "radioactive tailings" from mining and milling uranium ore.

Brinex, which is part of Benco, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc, submitted an environmental impact statement (EIS) which was described as "worthless inadequate" by the Environmental Assessment Board (which was appointed, with very narrow terms of reference, to assess the impact of the proposed mine on the environment) and "poorly founded" by the Newfoundland Environment Minister, Hazel Newhook. Native and community development organizations were given only five weeks to digest and rebut the thousands of pages of technical information contained in the Brinex HNS. But a coordinated effort was launched to address the question of who benefits and who benefits from development and express concern about the impact on human and natural environment.

The Indians of the Labradorian and environment and express concern about the impact on human and natural environment.

Brinex has already indicated its willingness to satisfy government requirements. The decision will put the pressure on companies with a bargaining position to extend an improved royalty rate from 2% of the value of the ore. The strategy of the Brinex-Bratley Government is to ensure that the benefits will go to the people of Labrador and to the environment.

WISE

Australian links with the World Information Service on Energy, based in Amsterdam, are likely to improve this year. Activist Laurie Shane, of Canberra, has been in Europe lately for discussions with anti-nuclear groups and WISE. A proposal has been put forward for an Australian relay service. WISE Adelaide now has a tele service whose number is 15018 WISE N/L.
This year's national election and conservation and environment issues – a special Chain Reaction report by David Allworth. (In our special report on the election and energy and resources.)

The Federal Government goes into the 1980 elections with a far better image on environment that it deserves. Since it took office in 1975 there has been a clear strategy, particularly on the part of the Prime Minister, to give strong Government support by word but not action. A very effective double talk has been pursued. Kakadu National Park is a prime example. Kakadu was nominated for listing on the World Heritage Register by the Government before this year, yet the same Government gave approval to uranium mining ventures in the core of the area 18 months before.

The Government points to its efforts on Fraser Island as a case in point of a good record. What of the issues?

• the great Jarrah forests of Western Australia.
• no Great Barrier Reef Marine Park uranium mining in a World Heritage area of Kakadu National Park.
• no federal environmental inquiries.
• no massive surge in resource hungry development projects.
• lead remains in petrol.
• drastic cutbacks in the federal Department of Environment.
• abrogation of responsibility for national parks in woodchip areas.

Using its federalism policy the Government has used double talk slide when it could have taken positive action. A situation has been created where environmental controls are compromised as states vie for development projects.

By looking at particular areas the Government's record becomes clear.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Reef of all conservation issues is the Government's most vulnerable point. In election year conservatism should strive to take advantage of this. Disaster for the Reef has been staged off, so far only because of the hard work of the federal opposition and the conservation lobby. Protection of the Reef is one of the most valuable supported conservation concepts in Australia, with over 60% of the population supporting conservation of the Reef area.

In 1975 the Government's most vulnerable point is clearly the Reef. The declaration of 5% as Park does nothing to better the situation. What is needed is a new strategy on the part of the Federal Government to declare a marine park. This would cover an area of some 200,000 sq km.

To help maintain a good image on the Reef issues the Government has nominated the Reef for World Heritage classification. The experience of Kakadu and uranium mining gives the move a hollow ring.

We need to watch the recently introduced legislation retaining coastal waters to the States (with the exception of the small percentage of the Barrier Reef actually declared as Marine Park under federal legislation). The current situation makes it possible for the Queensland Government to permit oil drilling at any time on the bulk of the Reef.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACTS

One of the major pieces of Australian environmental legislation, the Environment Protection Act, has been swathed by the Government. Since 1975 there has not been a single federal environmental inquiry, despite recognition by a Standing Parliamentary Committee that a case existed on a number of development projects. Response to a call for an inquiry on the bauxite/aluminium industry received a reply from Environment Minister David Thompson that, "it is not intended to seek comments on the national ramifications of the various smelter proposals as a group." The recent developments are, by far, one of Australia's biggest resource development decisions with vast environmental impact. It is grossly irresponsible of this Government not to look at the industrial potential that this proposal contains. The contempt for the Act was shown in the case of the North Queensland tourist resort at Yeppoon. The Acting Minister for Environment, Mr. Viner, contravened the administrative regulations of the Act in giving approval to the project. Failure of the Australian Conservation Foundation to gain standing before the High Court stopped legal action against the Government.

Numerous reviews have been made of the Act within the Government bureaucracy. However, the Government is unlikely to amend the Act before the election, if at all. A leaked document in late 1979 publicised the Government realisation that it can achieve the water controls Act without amendment.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

The House of Representatives Committee on Environment and Conservation tried recently to introduce a document to the Parliament which is understood to have recommended the Government invoke the Environment Protection Act. The tabling of this report was blocked by the Government. Interestingly in the vote as the report was being blocked, a Government member, Barry Simon, crossed the floor.

South West Tasmania

Perhaps the most active environmental campaign in Australia today is that to save South West Tasmania. The federal government could play an important role in this preservation by taking steps like the introduction of funding Resolution 195, by the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation Foundation to gain standing before the High Court stopped legal action against the Government.

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Logging the Islands

By Ann Wigginsworth

In the Solomon Islands, a successful community development program at Iriri village, on Kolombangara Island, is under threat. Lever Pacific Timbers (a Unilever subsidiary) are trying to force their way onto Iriri land to extract timber, in spite of total opposition from the villagers.

"Joini and Vaeda Tutua, from Iriri village, were recently in Australia to talk about this conflict, and to gain support for village development projects.

In the Solomon Islands at least five companies, including the Australian Foxwood and Allidadey companies, are exploiting timber reserves for the use of western consumers. Lever, the largest timber extractor, has been exploiting Kolombangara Island since 1968. The island is circular, formed from a volcanic core, and about 27 km in diameter. Lever has logged most of the island and has now reached the southern quarter segment. This is customary land (legally recognised tribal ownership), and is one of the largest areas of land which was acquired by the Government during colonial days. The company has shown little concern with obtaining the consent of villagers before moving onto this land.

A community farm had been started at Iriri with the assistance of two Australians, Clive and Joy Gerrard, who formerly worked at the nearby Kukudua mission. Iriri people were impressed with the wide variety of crops grown at the mission and they were interested in setting up a community farm themselves. Joini Tutua, who was at the time teaching at Kukudua, agreed to help with this, and is now their economic advisor.

Clive Gerrard showed the Iriri people new farming techniques, as well as training them in applying for financial aid from Australian aid agencies. This aid was used to purchase a chaff cutter and to set up a plant nursery. There are now over twenty crop varieties, which has led to an improvement of the village diet and a cash income through sales, mostly at nearby Gizo market. $200–$300* is made each week. Individual families also sell produce from their own gardens.

The whole village, with a population of about 120, takes part in the community development program. The projects are run by the villagers from tradition where each family only works for a few days a week. The village is organised into three work groups— the community farm, a recently established community bank, and a community construction team. However, at times the whole community is involved in major tasks. The timber milled at Iriri is in great demand for building construction at Iriri and elsewhere in the Province. Plans for the future include setting up a furniture and wood products shop.

Thus, the villagers have been assisted by Lever in applying for finance, obtaining a licence, as well as in building a community farm; a recently established community construction team. A community farm had been started at Iriri with the assistance of two Australians, Clive and Joy Gerrard, who formerly worked at the nearby Kukudua mission. Iriri people were impressed with the wide variety of crops grown at the mission and they were interested in setting up a community farm themselves. Joini Tutua, who was at the time teaching at Kukudua, agreed to help with this, and is now their economic advisor.

In September 1977 Lever signed an agreement with the Chief Trustee of the Viuru tribe, George Lilo, who, conveniently for them, was one of their employees. The agreement was for building a road and to provide a cash income through sales, mostly at nearby Gizo market. In July 1977 Lever gave the Viuru tribe $333.90, which was one of the last payments that they received. The money was used to buy a chaff cutter and to set up a plant nursery. There are now over twenty crop varieties, which has led to an improvement of the village diet and a cash income through sales, mostly at nearby Gizo market. $200–$300* is made each week. Individual families also sell produce from their own gardens.

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Early in 1979 Gideon, who was pressing for compensation, decided to take legal action. In August 1979 Lever representatives, who unsuccessfully tried to persuade the people to allow the road, Early in 1980 another meeting was held with both Lever and Government officers, at which the people were told the road was coming whether they liked it or not.

The certificate was not signed. In July 1979 a meeting was held at Iriri with Lever representatives, who, unsuccessfully tried to persuade the people to allow the road. Early in 1980 another meeting was held with both Lever and Government officers, at which the people were told the road was coming whether they liked it or not.

When Lever’s survey team came onto Iriri land, they were removed by the people, who were so furious about the tactics used that they have now refused to have any more discussions with Lever or the Government.

Other people, including experts from the British Ministry of Overseas Development, believe the customary land should be saved as a biosphere reserve. Physiologist Professor Jared Diamond says "Kolombangara has the largest species number of all islands in the western chain, including many unique or really unique species confined to the small area of its mountain. Lever has left a forest reserve 4 km less than 1 km wide, in an area likely to be a centre of development. There is already a forestry camp on the edge, and the road runs into the sea within 1 km of a wharf and quarry.

Professor Diamond believes the area should be declared an "economic asset" to the Government. Lever’s operations do provide the Government with badly needed export earnings, but what are the benefits to the people?

The main benefit is the road—but all villagers travel by canoes (carved from one type of tree in the forest) and there are only a few villages which do not have access to the road. Lever’s operations provide the Government with badly needed export earnings, but what are the benefits to the people?

Royalties are another benefit—the customary owners get only 65 cents per cubic metre for logs which sell for at least $400 a cubic metre on the world market. If milled at Iriri they would bring vastly more money into the community.

Many other villages have heard of the developments at Iriri, and are setting up their own community projects. In this way they can develop their own resources for the benefit of the community, and are not forced to rely on Lever’s operations for the development of their village.

People interested in taking action on this issue can contact Ann Wigginsworth at International Development Action, 73 Papanui Rd, Christchurch, New Zealand.
Aluminium
the new boom industry

Proposals are advancing rapidly for 2 new bauxite mines, 2 new alumina refineries and 5 new aluminium smelters in Australia, plus expansion of all the existing smelter and one of the existing refineries. There are other proposals for smelters and the aluminium industry may boom further. Chain Reaction summarises what is going on:

"The Australian aluminium industry is characterised by a small number of producers who mostly produce from world scale plants, widespread geographical distribution of these plants, considerable vertical integration, and a high degree of foreign ownership." - The Australian Aluminium Industry, Department of Industry and Commerce, Canberra, 1979.

WHAT IS PLANNED? BY WHO?

A few multinational companies dominate the whole aluminium process - from mining through to manufacture and sales of products. This vertical integration is similar to that of the oil industry.

The big six aluminium corporations are all looking to invest in projects in Australia.
1. Alcoa - plan a new mine in the Darling Range, a refinery at Wagerup, and a huge smelter at Portland.
2. Alcan - plan a new smelter at Gladstone.
3. Reynolds - plan a new mine in the Wagerup Range and refinery at Wagerup.
4. Kaiser Aluminium with their local associate company Comalco - plan a new smelter at Gladstone.
5. Pechiney - plan a new smelter in the Hunter Valley.
6. Swiss Aluminium - are investigating possibilities in Western Australia and in New Zealand.

Proposals are advancing rapidly for 2 new bauxite mines, 2 new alumina refineries and 1 new smelter at Gladstone. Within this decade, two new smelters and one of the existing smelters and refineries are investigating the possibility of substantial expansion.

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?

The proposals for aluminium industry expansion in Australia over the 1980-85 period amount to a private sector investment of $2,500,000,000. Another $1,500,000,000 is likely to be spent over the second half of this decade on even more aluminium development.

Your money - public funds - will exceed this investment. Public expenditure will be mainly on power stations, but will also involve other infrastructure services - communications, power lines, roads, port facilities, etc.

By 1985 aluminium industry exports will be Australia's second biggest mineral export, second only to coal and ahead of iron ore.

Currently around a quarter of a million tonnes of aluminium are smelted in Australia, almost entirely for domestic use. The new proposals will, if implemented, increase production by 1985 to 1.5 million tonnes, of which 1 million tonnes would be for export. By 1990 it could be up to 2 million tonnes.

Some 35% to 40% of total export earnings of $1,500,000,000 will go back out of Australia in loan repayments and profits to overseas companies.

Taxation gains for the government remain to be proven, but it is worth noting that Alcoa had been operating here for more than 10 years before they paid tax. These big companies know how to avoid tax.

AUSTRALIA'S SIGNIFICANCE

Bauxite - Bauxite mined in Australia is 31% of the world's total - making Australia the largest centre anywhere, of bauxite caused ecological destruction. Eighty percent of the mineral is exported.

Alumina - Australia is also the largest producer of alumina in the world, with about 25% of world production. Ninety percent is exported, though by 1985 this figure will be 10%. Within 10 years the alumina refined here will be 25% of world production.

Aluminium - Australia ranks tenth in world production, with less than 2% of world capacity. Within 10 years, the aluminium-smelting capacity in Australia will have risen dramatically, from the 257,000 tonn/year in 1979, to around 2,000,000 tonnes/year in 1990.

THE PROCESS

Bauxite is mined and refined using hot caustic soda into alumina (aluminium oxide) which is smelted electrolytically into aluminium and this is fabricated into products.
WHERE DOES IT GO?

In Australia most aluminium is used for construction purposes, about a quarter for packaging and small amounts go to transport and electrical applications.

The world-wide consumption (nearly 17 million tonnes per annum) pattern would be similar to the Australian situation: BF construction purposes, about a quarter in Australia most aluminium is used for the rich countries. has opened up greatly because there as been too high or power is not available there. Australia's aluminium exports will to Japan, the west coast of the United States of America and to a lesser extent the ASEAN nations.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIONS?

This massive expansion of the aluminium industry leads to many severe problems. This is just a brief list of some of the consequences:

1. Perpetuation of existing problems. Continuing loss of Jarrah forests in Western Australia have expanded in the Darling Range. (See also The Reasoner, Vol 4, No 7/1) Further denial of Aboriginal Land Rights, notably at Mt. Napier and Arakan. Instead of moving towards some solution of these problems the extended aluminium industry will be so strong that nothing will be allowed to stand in its way.

2. The aluminium boom will further embody a trend in the Australian economy towards more exports, and consequently a need to import more products. This downgrades Australian industry, and allows the foreign-owned aluminium industry to be so strong that nothing will be allowed to stand in its way.

3. To smelt 1 kg of aluminium 15-20 times as much electricity is required (2.7 MWh) as is needed for 1 kg of aluminium. This is over 15 times the energy that could be generated by a commercial aluminium smelter.

4. There are a whole host of other problems: local residents and, especially, Hunter Valley vineyard owners and workers are concerned about the high levels of fluoride emissions into the air currently, for example, at Port Pirie. Aloca will be putting out 1.38 times the USA standard for this pollutant.

There are concerns that the plants will be located too close to towns and of the massive social impact such big industry would have upon existing small towns.

AND NOW?

Already government approval has been given to Aloca's Portland smelter, the Comalco/Kaiser Gladstone smelter and for two miles and two refineries in the Darling Range. These have been approved over the past year.

Environmental impact statements will have to be carried out for all the other projects over the next year.

A Senate Select Committee is enquiring into the aluminium industry despite a federal government decision not to investigate the broad national implications of the proposals (see David Allworth's election report on page 8). The submissions received need to be lodged by the end of September 1980. Hearings will be held after the federal election due later this year.

ELECTRICITY

The prospect of New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria establishing a grid for sharing electricity systems is being investigated. Michael Lockwood of the Conservation Council of Victoria looks at what it means for the environment and for the environment movement.

The Federal Government has announced that the former chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Sir David Zedler, will head a committee of inquiry into the sharing of power resources in south-east Australia. To ensure adequate environmental impact into this inquiry, it is important that the environment movement start to develop a comprehensive and unified policy on interstate power grids.

This will not be an easy task. The arguments both for and against are many and complex. This brief discussion will outline some of the issues.

At present there are three existing links between New South Wales and Victoria, which are mainly used to provide peak load hydro-power to Victoria. Further major links in the future are between South Australia and Victoria, Tasmania and Victoria and further connection between New South Wales and Victoria. Of the lines tends to discount this possibility - for technical reasons the proposed lines would be too inefficient to supply power to South Australia. Any link would require a power station to be built at Portland unless a completely different type of transmission line was constructed in addition to the proposed Melbourne/Tasmania line. A link between Tasmania and the mainland may, in the short term, prevent the "need" to develop any further hydro-electric projects. Tasmania could receive base load power from Victorian brown coal stations, in exchange for peak load hydro power. However in the long term such a link may increase the pressure to develop areas such as Tasmania's Gordon and Franklin rivers. In the 1990s Tasmania will probably have negligible surplus peak capacity, and therefore will be unable to export peak electricity to Victoria without substantial development of additional hydro-power schemes.

Other areas of concern associated with interstate power grids include the increased options available for the development of industry (such as aluminium smelters) throughout south east Australia because of the greater security and wider distribution of power supply; the implications for electricity tariffs, and the impact on the development of alternative energy sources. On this last point, the continued establishment of centralised power stations is seen by many as a threat to south eastern Australia through a high-voltage transmission line network may, because of the size and scope of the investment, rule out the development of decentralised, environmentally soft energy sources. High-voltage lines are also technologically inappropriate for the efficient distribution of power from environmentally desirable sources such as wind or solar.

STOP PRESS: Tasmania's Senator Peter Rae has now suggested that Clarke Island, off the north-east tip of Tasmania, be considered for a nuclear power station. He said "there is every reason to give serious consideration to this alternative to the destruction of one of Australia's and the world's most magnificent wilderness areas." The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and Tasmanian Environment Centre have severely criticised the suggestion. A considerable number of the Tasmanian Aboriginals live on the islands in the area Senator Rae suggested that a nuclear station would provide employment opportunities and population growth there "...something they had desired for many years" the Environment Centre pointed to technical problems, as well as indicating that there would be ethical considerations.
Life in the cold

The fortunes of an icy continent, or more especially the waters that surround it, took a more formal and forbidding shape in May, when the 13 Antarctic Treaty nations (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, USSR, UK and USA), plus East and West Germany, met to finalise a convention ostensibly for the conservation of Antarctica’s marine living resources. The aim was to provide a regime for the management of these resources, particularly krill, main food of the great whales, and most critical link in the entire Antarctic ecosystem.

The convention became necessary when it was clear that the Third World, particularly South Africa, USSR, UK and USA, plus East and West Germany, met to finalise a convention ostensibly for the conservation of Antarctica’s marine living resources. The aim was to provide a regime for the management of these resources, particularly krill, main food of the great whales, and most critical link in the entire Antarctic ecosystem.

It is to the lasting discredit of the Australian environment movement and their jet-setting USA and UK counterparts that tacit support was given to the Treaty States’ convention in the first place. The convention has no legal basis; it is not worth supporting, others will wish to support it, but work to improve it.

"In fact ratification will no doubt happen, regardless of the inputs of non-governmental organisations. The gap that most urgently needs to be filled is public and Parliamentary education into the issues of Antarctica, the faults and strengths of the Convention, positive actions that can be taken - like getting countries to engage in Antarctic research (say on feeding areas of Blue and Humpback whales), thus qualifying to become active members of the Commission or getting information packs on the biology and politics of the area, or pressing interim measures or fishing nations."

Michael Kennedy

It is vacant of foresight, absent of concern for the world’s hungry and lacks even a thin veil of conservation cover.

The Treaty States themselves waxed self-righteous over their document and pointed to the so-called ‘eco-system’ approach they had adopted. This approach is one where in harvesting one species the effect on other species in the ecosystem is taken into account. Unfortunately this ideal is a fraud. For example, Article II of the convention states no situation should be allowed to occur which is not ‘potentially reversible’ over two or three decades - twenty or thirty years. -

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The convention became necessary when it was clear that the Third World and others were very interested in the wealth Antarctica seemed to offer. Such interest was obvious in the eyes of the thirteen and their convention reflected their possessiveness and greed. It is vacant of foresight, absent of concern for the world’s hungry and lacks even a thin veil of conservation cover.

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"The big states down south, they're jealous... this is a multi-multi billion dollar project... we could mine here for 200 years." (Mick Martin, employee of Ranger Uranium.)

"We don't want that Ranger town. That's our country. We could be destroyed, like our people in the southern states." (Sitas Maralingu, Oenpelli Council Chairman.)

"People come to work because they have... they can't afford to lose their jobs... Therefore, it's our business as unionists to try to retain those jobs as best we can." (Heinz Davis, shop steward at Mistral Fans, Melbourne.)

Australia has some of the world's largest reserves of uranium. The push to develop them has been fiercely opposed by many Australians. Through the daily lives of people in the remote north and the urban south, Dirt Cheap provides an intimate description of these conflicting interests.

The film's release plan starts with theatrical release in the capital cities - opening in Sydney on 17 July, and in Melbourne in September. The producers hope to reach a very large and quite diverse audience of regular filmgoers as well as people coming to see this particular film. Interested orators as well as people coming to see the film in the capital cities.

The film was made with the support of Friends of the Earth, 38 Australian trade unions (Federal, NSW and Victorian), Australian Council of Churches (Division of World Christian Action), Doctors Against Uranium Mining, the Newspapers Club, and the New South Wales Film Corporation.

Dirt Cheap, 16mm, Color. 88 minutes.

In June 1977, Marg Clancy was working with the Australian Performing Group (Pram Factory), as project director responsible for promotion and production management on The Radioactive Horror Show. During this time discussions about Dirt Cheap began. "I regard promotion as a fundamental part of filmmaking and will continue working to see that Dirt Cheap is used effectively.

"The work has been a form of political activity involving many people. Aboriginal and white, and central to that for me has been the part that women have played, both in the film itself and in the events it analyzes."

"I think it was pretty clear between the three of us that the background of experience that we all had was different and in various areas. You discuss it... you talk about who wants to do what, who can do what... and the discussion is influenced by your own wishes and other considerations, and as with all other decisions, you come, in a group, to a decision as to who is going to do what."
What is mining doing for Australians? At Gove, Northern Territory, the hauxite mine on land belonging to the Yirrkala community has changed everything. Roy Marika, Aboriginal community spokesperson, tells us. Down south in Melbourne, Helen, a shop steward at Matral Fans, fights dismissals in her factory and attends a shop stewards school held by her union, the Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights' Union (AMWSU), to analyse the reasons for unemployment in the manufacturing industry, including the role of mining.

Another large-scale open-cut mining operation is about to get underway at Jabiluka (NT) the Ranger Uranium Mine. But first agreement must be reached with the Northern Land Council (NLC), a statutory body under the Land Rights (NT) Act, on the terms of mining. Not only is Ranger in question, there is also Nauabarik (Queensland Mines), and at a meeting on 11th August Maralinggura (Oenpelli Council Chairmen) leads discussion of the terms proposed. Dick Mulwag, NLC Delegate from Croker Island, sees mining, fishing and pearlshell farms encircling and destroying his land. As Dick Mulwag from Croker says: "Let the Government hear us, the Aboriginal people, and recognize that we suffer from Arnhem Land . . . our land, not money." But the land of Dolly Jarmarlu's birth is threatened by uranium mining. As with other minerals, uranium is to be produced for export to countries like the Philippines, providing energy for a manufacturing industry built on cheap labour, run by those same multinational companies and operating for their profit, not the benefit of Asian workers.

There is also, as Toby Gangali says, the worry that uranium mining and nuclear energy are very dangerous. Workers from the now-abandoned Rum Jungle mine recall the lack of safety and health precautions then and the consequent injury to workers and the environment, yet that mine was in comparison with the massive scale - a mile wide pit area - of the proposed Ranger mining operation at Jabiluka, near Dolly's camp. The concern of the ex-Rum Jungle workers contrasts strongly with the blase attitude to health and safety expressed by workers at Ranger, though a biologist cautions that the Ranger Agreement was declared to have been agreed to by the Aboriginal people living in the area, because obviously they live alongside those mining companies, their lives are deeply interconnected. And to take a simplistic, an anti-uranium stance, is naive, because their lives are so fraught with those tensions. But they have to act as political beings in their daily lives, and the situation where you can sit down together and talk quite straightforwardly is often a situation which takes weeks and weeks, just finding that moment, not just walking in and turning on the camera and saying now tell us how you feel. Letting people see you are in a situation where the cover-up is that you can't talk about it. The Parks and Wildlife Department, the Federal Government, the Department of Minerals and Energy are all riding around, you are likely to run into people all the time, at the airport etc. your car becomes known, and it is very difficult to go back to the site.

Who was telling you this, the Parks and Wildlife people? The one study that's been done so far, the Fitzgerald Report, found that from 1967–1973 the mineral industry actually cost Australian taxpayers $55 million.

No Aboriginal workers are employed at Gove. The Town's Administrator speaks of white recreation facilities and we visit the Fishing Club. Roy Marika, from the Yirrkala community, articulates the necessity for whites to listen to Aboriginal people, the owners of the land. As Dick Mulwag from Croker says: "Let the Government hear us, the Aboriginal people, and recognize that we suffer from Arnhem Land . . . our land, not money." But the land of Dolly Jarmarlu's birth is threatened by uranium mining. As with other minerals, uranium is to be produced for export to countries like the Philippines, providing energy for a manufacturing industry built on cheap labour, run by those same multinational companies and operating for their profit, not the benefit of Asian workers.

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Who was telling you this, the Parks and Wildlife people?
and it wasn’t until we started shot with Toby on the front verandah of his house. We’d discuss it with him beforehand, and it was fine with him and we set the camera up, and the ranger came over and said “you can’t shoot here”.

And we were in a situation where that white man was arguing with me, in front of Toby, whose house it was, totally denying that he even had any right to be in the discussion. So when you are faced with a situation like that, our situation was to withdraw, not to have a white man’s fight in front of the aboriginal person, fighting over him as property.

DAVID Yes. Basically there was a very protective, paternal attitude to “our blacks”, from all over the place. At one stage we wanted to shoot a little shot with Toby on the front verandah of his house. We’d discussed it with him beforehand, and it was fine with him and we set the camera up, and the ranger came over and said “you can’t shoot here”.

And we were in a situation where that white man was arguing with me, in front of Toby, whose house it was, totally denying that he even had any right to be in the discussion. So when you are faced with a situation like that, our situation was to withdraw, not to have a white man’s fight in front of the aboriginal person, fighting over him as property.

DAVID How we incorporated our feminist politics into the film, was through a conscious choice of people, like, in as much as the Northern Land Council reflects white male sexism, in terms of excluding women, having the main characters in the film being Dolly, and Helen, and to a certain extent Rachel, as well and then in the instance of the miner at Gove, showing the position of his wife, and consistently trying to show the experience of the women, and how the women were major actors in the situation.

It was a very interesting situation when we were filming at Nabarlek. They had the Institute of Aboriginal Affairs video people filming there, they had all the cameras and all the microphones pointed towards the men. You see, at the meetings the men sit at one end and the women sit at the other — and it wasn’t until we started filming with the women that they suddenly realised that the women were part of the meeting too, and turned their cameras around.

The Dirt Cheap project started back in 1977. In the middle of that year the producers initiated discussions with people in the anti-racism movement, particularly in Melbourne. They then also began discussions with unions and, as David said, “It was basically their support for the idea of doing a film that got it off the ground.”

DAVID Thirty unions in Melbourne put up over $2,000 to pay us to go to the Northern Territory and do the research and work on the script. With the money from the unions, were there any conditions attached? MARG The unions hadn’t done anything like this before. They gave the research and script development money very much on spec, no strings attached. We didn’t ask for a large amount from any one union, just small amounts, so it was a pretty low-risk operation. It was an issue that the unions felt extremely strongly about, and the film gave an opportunity for action. We saw it similarly, as a political action, so we had a joint sense of what we were doing, why we were going to make the film, and we talked about what sort of film was needed, what sort of film would be useful, right through all that time.

So when we got the okay from the NSW Film Corporation, it was a matter of going back and saying now in the time when we need large amounts of money in order to go into production. I think we were seen as having achieved what we had set out to do at that point, and so the unions said, “righto and came in. And that’s happening again, in distribution.

The connection with the unions meant that there was a very concrete political context in which the film was made right from the start. But the film is being released in a year in which there is going to be a federal election, where the Liberal Party has chosen as its slogan Go Australia, mineral development. Obviously the argument of the film is one that I’d like, more than anyone else, we need the pressure that can be put on Government.

Your letter to your local member, your discussions, your support will help.

We ask you to sign the statement below, and to make a donation to the costs of this campaign.

Sponsors who give $7.50 or more will be sent an illustrated book, It’s Coming Yet, which covers the whole subject. It recounts what happened to the indigenous people of the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and compares the experience of the Aboriginals in Australia. It examines the legal position today in these countries and in Australia, with a special emphasis on land and compensation. It examines the political situation today, within Australia and overseas. It looks at the future.

The Committee is organizing regional and group support committees and seminars in Universities around Australia. The work ahead will be hard and success will not be quick, and it will largely depend upon the pressure that can be put on Government. Your letter to your local member, your discussions, your support will help.

The Aboriginal Treaty Committee
Dr H.C. Coombs (Chairman)
Mrs Dymphna Clark
Mrs Eva Hancock
Mrs Judith Wright McKinney
Mr Stewart Harris
Mr Hugh Littlewood
Prof. C.D. Rowley

Not a recognised race.
We set people a difficult question when Chain Reaction asked what we can now do to stop uranium mining. But it is a crucial question.

The present situation was described by Don Siemon of International Development Action, Melbourne, for Not Man Apart, the Friends of the Earth (USA) newspaper:

"The Ranger Inquiry has gone, and the intense public debate over uranium has quietened over the past year. While uranium mining proceeds, and while plans are made for future nuclear power plants, this is beyond the daily experience of most Australians. Not so for many Aboriginal people. They are the first Australians to be sacrificed to the nuclear future: they are seeing their lands and their hopes for the future years before, may lose what could be a final chance to live their own lives in their own lands."

Here we open a discussion which CR plans to present over a few editions. We invite your letters on this vital issue.

The stop uranium mining movement is now in a stronger position to stop uranium mining than ever before. We know more about the uranium industry. We have forced the right to access to information about contracts, shipments, users of uranium. We know more about the dangers, the deaths, the environmental effects of uranium mining. The anti uranium mining movement operates on local, national, international and cross-movement bases. The uranium industry is international, and operates on local and national levels. Our strategy has to attack on all levels, with public awareness programs, boycotts and direct actions, parliamentary actions, research and broad-based solidarity.

We have to determine strategy precisely, using open and regular attack. We need to work cooperatively, making a union of all Australians working for a peaceful, non-nuclear world. That means groups focussing on land rights, and against uranium mining, enrichment of uranium, nuclear power, the weapons race. US bases in Australia, multinational control of Australia, for the weapons race, US bases in Australia, for the weapons race, US bases in Australia, for the weapons race, US bases in Australia, for the weapons race, US bases in Australia.

We have to get information about what he is doing to stop mining. "Mining has to be stopped because of the culture. In Kowanyama we're going to hold onto the land because we don't want anyone to come in and destroy it. We believe in the culture. The prospectors are taking photographs from the air. If people want to come and make survey maps we don't let them."

"My great grandfather got shot down and I'm walking on his bloodied. This land is more important to me than anything."

"We've been held down by the Queensland Government for a long time now since they took our land. Now at last we've got a chance to speak about it and we've got everyone involved with it. The old people of my community sent me down to a conference to speak for us, because they are afraid the mining companies will field us away from our own settlement."

"We don't know what the mineral is that they're looking for. Could be bauxite, could be anything."

"I'm going back and I'm going to talk to the people there and tell them what happened here even if I get in trouble. I don't care if the police take me and I go to jail, I'm going to tell the people. I'm going to fight for my own people whether I go to jail or not."

"Have you ever been held to jail for this before?"

"They locked me up about 5 times and I never went through the court."

The stop uranium mining movement operates on local, national, international and cross-movement bases. The uranium industry is international, and operates on local and national levels. Our strategy has to attack on all levels, with public awareness programs, boycotts and direct actions, parliamentary actions, research and broad-based solidarity.

We have to get information about what he is doing to stop mining. "Mining has to be stopped because of the culture. In Kowanyama we're going to hold onto the land because we don't want anyone to come in and destroy it. We believe in the culture. The prospectors are taking photographs from the air. If people want to come and make survey maps we don't let them."

"My great grandfather got shot down and I'm walking on his bloodied. This land is more important to me than anything."

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We have for ceased the right to access to uranium mining than ever before. We know more about the uranium industry. We have forced the right to access to information about contracts, shipments, users of uranium. We know more about the dangers, the deaths, the environmental effects of uranium mining. The anti uranium mining movement operates on local, national, international and cross-movement bases. The uranium industry is international, and operates on local and national levels. Our strategy has to attack on all levels, with public awareness programs, boycotts and direct actions, parliamentary actions, research and broad-based solidarity.

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Norm Sanders

The uranium pushers know public apathy would eventually swallow opposition to uranium development. Time and geography favour them, so long as the public media get tired of a prolonged story and Australia's major cities are too far away from the Alligator River to feel directly threatened.

Politicians and trade unionists are abandoning the cause in the quest for a quick buck, knowing that the public won't care. We have to inspire people to force them to lead with our generation's mistakes over uranium and should know all the facts. Action is required. The courts must put together information kits and lectures with the help of the Thorp and Bruce mine sites about Three Mile Island. It has been said before...but people forget.

The anti-uranium movement must get more literary. The courts offer a means of slowing down or halting the explosion. There isn't much point in going to the Franklin-Lower Gordon Rivers if the entire world gets wiped out by nuclear war or "accidental" tonnage catastrophes today.

Every person in Australia can contribute to stopping uranium mining by the way we live our lives. There are three main ways for us to live:

1. First, we can protest. We can join the demonstrations, the letter writing campaigns and the more imaginative actions of the non-violent action movement.
2. Second, we can act creatively in the way we live. Sit down with the concerns of those who are affected and write down what uranium mining means to us. For example, nuclear energy is big business, especially for big industry and corporation profit, who regard people as objects to be employed for profit, and by government, doing the same. The time for joining the battle against nuclear proliferation is now. It isn't much point in joining the Franklin-Lower Gordon Rivers if the entire world gets wiped out by nuclear war or "accidental" tonnage catastrophes today.
3. Finally, we can pray. Pray privately and publicly. What can Christians do to stop uranium mining? Pray that the community and ourselves get more litigious. The courts offer a means of slowing down or halting the explosion. There isn't much point in going to the Franklin-Lower Gordon Rivers if the entire world gets wiped out by nuclear war or "accidental" tonnage catastrophes today.

It seems imperative that we provide national, local and focus to our campaign. Now is a time to raise the issues again with a wide range of people who feel, wrongly, that we have lost this battle.

In spite of the obvious financial difficulties, this is the time to utilise (in together people activists working against uranium mining and its offshore) anti-nuclear, peace, land rights, trade union, party political, and environmental groups.

One tactic is to raise active participation: a nationally launched petition, perhaps at a campaign conference. A nationally produced set of leaflets, could be used. Activists would learn a lot about the "state of the movement" and how to campaign.

The campaign should aim to forge all sympathetic groupings into a drive to achieve legislation for a Nuclear-Free Australia at State and Federal levels, say, prior to or just after, the Federal election in 1983. The campaign should be launched in a big way, or not at all. It must reach the demonstrations, the letter writing campaigns and the more imaginative actions of the non-violent action movement.

Ministers, members of parliament, and key politicians in our own state, have a big role to play. They have a big role to play in the demonstrations, the letter writing campaigns and the more imaginative actions of the non-violent action movement.

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The ACTU Policy Explained

The 1979 ACTU Congress decision was, for the union movement, a watershed in determining its attitude to uranium mining. The strategy laid down, in order to continue opposing the mining and export of uranium and the present programme of development including the proposed, establishment of a uranium enrichment plant in Australia, and supported the Federal ALP Policy of a moratorium on mining, processing and export of uranium, and repudiation of non-Labor Government commitments until satisfactory safeguards are met.

Additionally, in order to ensure that these determinations did not remain as idle words, Congress called on the incoming Executive to immediately embark on a campaign including, but not limited to, use of the media and statements by the officers to convince the Australian public and those presently working in the industry of the dangers and consequences of the mining of uranium.

Since these decisions the ACTU has published a leaflet: Uranium: The ACTU Policy Explained which has had wide circulation and distribution.

As well, a delegation of senior ACTU officials will shortly be going to the Northern Territory for the purpose of putting ACTU Policy directly to the workers and unions concerned with mining.

For unions, as indeed for most of the community, much more of an educational campaign needs to be done in order that appeal for support of ACTU Policy is based on an understanding of the issue and is not merely an appeal for union solidarity.

This information campaign is targeted primarily for areas in which mining has been designated and apart from the key issues of Aboriginal land rights, lack of proper waste disposal, age, sex, history of diseases, occupation, place of residence, reproductive history and exposures to known hazards (e.g. medical X-rays, chemicals, traumatic experiences). This data would be provided by the local GP and stored in a central data bank (with proper safeguards of privacy ensured). There would be a rapid on-site reporting centre to be notified as each miner is discovered.

The statistical procedures are well documented and it is a matter of common sense that some form of health programme could then be used to gauge the nature and extent of any new assault on our environment from a mining project, would make the industry legally accountable for compensation claims for any damage it causes to either its workforce or the rest of the population. This sophisticated health monitoring system would not only provide a powerful weapon to halt the mining of uranium but could also be used to verify the results to prevent and future generations of the damage done by other chemical or technological means e.g. food additives, asbestos, microwave technology.

The study would involve the medical profession and the Public Health Department in each state. It would cover unresolved health, environmental, safety, security and nuclear proliferation problems associated with the operations of the nuclear power industry. As Mr Hayden points out in his response, while these problems persist, the ALP remains committed to a policy consisting of three essential determinations: a moratorium on mining and treatment of uranium; repudiation of any contracts and undertakings by non-Labor Governments in regard to the mining, processing and export of uranium; and prohibition of both the mining, processing and export of uranium.

Moreover, it is clear that uranium mining is not the only unresolved employment bonanza promised by the Fraser Government. In fact, if the world demand for uranium, especially for public consumption, were to rise to the level of the Three Mile Island reactor accident, does not predict a further development of the Australian uranium deposits; and it is also clear that the Fraser Government's promotion of uranium mining in the Northern Territory has been against the interests of the Aboriginal people, more directly affected.

Finally, I draw your attention to Mr Hayden's warning to the companies involved, their financiers and their institutional problems remained unresolved, and that a Labor Government will put this policy into effect. Thank you for your invitation.

I am certain that you will find these specific points quite closely described in the attitude of both Mr Hayden and the ALP toward uranium.

ANTHONY

Thank you for your letter of 29 April asking for a contribution from Mr Anthony for your magazine.

I must inform you that Mr Anthony does not agree to your request.


Where do we go now? What is the future of this magnificent wilderness?

Mr Hayden has asked me to thank you for your invitation to write a brief article for Chain Reaction on uranium mining. Mr Hayden has declined your invitation to prepare an article specifically for Chain Reaction. However, he has asked me to send you copies of several of his speeches as Leader of the Opposition in which he describes his own and the ALP's attitude to uranium mining, and the reasons behind the ALP's policy.

These speeches, including contributions to debates on Fraser Government and reports to the Atomic Energy Act and an address to a rally in Sydney last December, describe the
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368 Smith Street, Collingwood
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The controversial 2nd World Wilderness Congress in Cairns — generated so much concern Aborigines found it necessary to run a counter-conference. Barbara Hutton reports for Chain Reaction on what happened:

Environment Week (8-13 June) was a big event for North Queensland. The Cairns had been chosen to host the second World Wilderness Congress: 500 delegates from all states of Australia and as far away as France and South America attended.

The Congress was opened at the Cairns showground in front of an audience of 2,000 delegates and townspeople, by a masked choir of Cairns schoolchildren and the Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser.

Delegates were each given a free breakfast, TAA bus, a postcard showing a bridal scene (made entirely from shells) courtesy of the Shell Museum etc. 'It didn't work.'

Delegates also had TAA biro, a postcard showing a wedding scene (made entirely from shells) courtesy of the Shell Museum.

Delegates were each given a free breakfast, TAA bus, a postcard showing a bridal scene (made entirely from shells) courtesy of the Shell Museum etc. 'It didn't work.'

But what was this "World Wilderness Congress" organisation? How many conservationists ever heard of it before the TAA-sponsored publicity campaign began?

The first World Wilderness Congress was held in Johannesburg, brain-child of Ian Player, a South African conservationist, and Harry Tennison, a Texas big game hunter. Little is known about what happened at the first Congress because the man hired to write up the proceedings absconded with the money.
REVIEW

**Film**

Dirt Cheap
Produced by Max Clancy, David Hay and Neil Liddicoat. Showing at the Szydney Opera House (from 17 July) and Melbourne's Longfellow Cinema (open in September) and later at other Australian Film Institute Cinemas. (See also page 17–22.)

By Pat O'Shane

As the 'flyer' reads: 'up north Aborigines are losing their land. Down south workers are losing their jobs'. Dirt Cheap is a film which explores these related phenomena to show the overall effect on Australian society and rights and uranium mining can only serve to break down racial resistance to that issue. The technique of portraying the Aboriginal people directly affected and having those people argue their own case is one which must be used more often in similar films and documentaries. The views expressed by the uranium miners — some few against the multinational mining companies' embargo on information about the effects of uranium mining are in stark contrast to those of workers who are losing their jobs as a result of the movement of Big Capital from the manufacturing industry to the mining industry. However I don't think the latter are strong enough to overcome the sort of thinking expressed as a Ranger employee: 'Big states down south, they're jealous ... this is a multi-multi-billion dollars is a film which explores the strong link between nuclear electric power and the nuclear weapons industry. Whilst workers in the south experienced their opposition to uranium mining and told in graphic terms how it affects their job security, there was not, in my opinion, sufficient concentration on counteracting the multinational mining companies' embargo on information about the effects of uranium mining. In stark contrast to those of workers in the south, they're losing their job as a result of the movement of Big Capital from the manufacturing industry to the mining industry. Pat O'Shane also believes that the Ranger's environmental and political activism is one which must be continued my own company, Diet Cheap.

Outside Council Office, Denrell, Northern Territory on the day of the signing of the Ranger agreement, Leo Finlay talks about government pressure. Leo Finlay is the Northern Land Council Delegate from Borroloola. (From the film, Diet Cheap)

**Books**

Nuclear Knights by Brian Martin, Roper Ranger Movement, Canberra, to be published soon.

Nuclear Knights is an analysis of the written arguments and statements of the concerns of the Ranger agreement. It takes a look at the Ranger agreement's impact on the uranium mining industry, and the spread of nuclear power and, in particular, the argument of nuclear weapons, which has already been done. In my opinion, the argument of nuclear weapons, which has already been done, public awareness of this major hazard of nuclear power, coupled with Titterton's consistent promotion of the nuclear power industry.

Baxter also recognised, in the 1950s and 60s, the 'indisputable connection between the peaceful and military uses of nuclear materials', and that treaties to control nuclear proliferation are almost entirely useless. However, Baxter's conclusion was that the spread of nuclear power and, in some cases, even the proliferation of nuclear weapons may actually contribute to world stability. Since the publication of the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry Final Report in 1976, with its unequivocal finding that the nuclear power industry is unintentionally contributing to an increase not only in nuclear war, Baxter has suddenly expressed faith in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. However, his advocacy that Australia should acquire nuclear weapons has remained constant.

One of the best parts of Nuclear Knights is the exposure of Baxter's social and political values from his writings. The anti-democratic nature of his views and, in particular, his belief in the major role of specialised technocratic experts in making that are really serious and political decisions, are explicit.

Nuclear Knights will be valuable reading for all people, whether pro, anti or neutral, who are interested in the debate over nuclear power. It also provides a comprehensive source material for the history, philosophy and sociology of science.

Mark Diesendorf


It is only relatively recently that environmental law has been recognised as a separate major division of law. The appearance of the first comprehensive review of environmental law in Australia, therefore, has to stand as an important achievement.

Environmental law encompasses many areas of law affecting people and their surroundings, town planning, resource management, individual nuisance and broad environmental problems.
AUSTRALIA AND WORLD CAPITALISM
G Greg Gough, Ted Wheelerwright, Ted White

This book is an excellent example of what a strong editorial hand can do to prevent the average reader from dropping off to sleep in the middle of an essay on Australian Political Economy. The thirty-three essays in this book are blissfully short and to the point. There are few obnoxious examples of bad laws and regulations in Australia which have already been subverted to laws for development and exploitation. Only a few positive examples of good laws exist, such as the 1974 Federal Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act introduced by the Whitlam Government.

Fisher's book is a thorough review of the state of environmental legislation in each state and of the legal constraints which prevent the public in Australia enjoying the same powers to assert their rights as are enjoyed by Americans. The failure of the Australian Conservation Foundation to even gain the standing to sue in the case of the proposed Iwasaki resort development at Yeppoon is a grim lesson that the Government and the High Court are happy to keep the public out of courts on environmental matters.

Although non lawyers may find it a slow read, the book definitely has value to all activists, particularly those grappling with the power of institutions affecting the environment.

Andrew Herington


Solar energy technologies provide the promise of increased local self-sufficiency and self-management as well as the provision of energy with minimal environmental impact. But how is the promise to be realised? For those who still look towards big corporations or government for some help in moving towards a soft energy future, The Sun betrayed will dash any illusions. Reece analyses the approach of US corporations and government bodies to solar energy from the early 1970s to 1979. He shows how they have attempted to control the rate of commercialisation of solar energy so as to maximise fossil fuel profits, how they have emphasised solar technologies that are capital-intensive and suited to centralised control (such as solar power towers), how government solar funding has been channelled to large corporations, and how control over energy decisions has been centralised. Reece also shows how the energy multinationals are trying to sell off solar energy as part of a wider strategy: "Not only, therefore, have Wall Street corporations thoroughly 'penetrated' the US solar market through intercorporate diversification (cross-subsidization), extensive government subsidy, and the purchase of smaller firms, they have organised solar industries associations, clearly devoted to building a solar market that will be compatible with the larger aims and 'hard-path' energy goals of the corporate elite in general" (pp 186-7).

With several years delay, similar developments may be expected in Australia.

The Sun betrayed is written in a readable, journalistic style packed with numerous thumbnail sketches of key individuals and descriptions of government studies and policies, corporate moves and frustrated innovators. Reece's conclusion is that small-scale applications of solar energy will only be implemented following local and regional initiatives, especially those which unite the poor, unemployed and frustrated innovators in self-help efforts. All that
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Chain Reaction
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From the cover of Tasmanian Aborigines - Mrs Beulah Mansell with Aaron Brown, and from left Natalie Brown, Katrina Mansell, Katherine Brown and Lismore Aboriginal.

Tasmanian Aborigines: A Perspective for the 1980's by Heather Scoulthorpe.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Hobart, 1985.

Today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community is profiting in a compelling new book. "Tasmanian Aborigines: A Perspective for the 1980's" looks at the health, education, employment, housing and general welfare of a sample of 93 Aboriginal households. These were selected at random from a list of 4,572 households from all parts of the Tasmanian mainland and Bass Strait islands. The research was carried out by interviews conducted by the Project Officer at the homes of the respondents. In conjunction with local Aborigines and is a testimony to their initiative and effort. It was funded by a Special Works Program of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The Federal Inquiry into Health Problems among Aborigins in 1978 did not consider Tasmania worthy of attention. This Report tabulates an inordinate incidence of respiratory infection, obesity, dietary deficiency and eye problems among Aboriginal people. It suggests that the level of alcohol dependence among adults may be as high as 20%. Further, it contends that where health services do exist, they are woefully inadequate. Aboriginal people feel powerless and intimidated amid white doctors and institutions. Treatment administered is of a purely curative nature, the familiar handout of pills and corresponding neglect of the social issues of illness.

The Report's investigation of education reveals the same process of isolation and neglect. The majority of Aboriginals do not reach fourth year secondary school, in fact 40% did not complete kindergarten. Functional illiteracy is prevalent. Should the indigenous research have asked it is at the cost of his or her identity. Whereas the school syllabus now affords token recognition of ethnic groups, Aboriginal children are told they have no history, no language and no genuine contemporary community. Even the playgrounds witness this cultural dispossession. Aboriginal parents complain about the victimization and ridicule of their children.

Nor are Aborigines likely to 'get ahead' out in society. The report estimates a 38% unemployment rate which results at 72% in some northern areas. The available jobs are in the unskilled occupations. These are invariably underpaid and offer minimal opportunity for social responsibility or self realization. They enforce passivity and powerlessness among the Aboriginal population.

The report finds that Aborigines are similarly disadvantaged in the fields of housing, recreation and legal aid. These handicaps will be exacerbated should the government succeed in integrating independent Aboriginal Information services into the body of general social welfare.

The net result, as one might expect, is a high degree of psychological morbidity among Aboriginal people. Over 40% list depression and anxiety as a common state of mind. One in every fourteen people indicated a frequent wish for death. At this point the survey reminds us that it has been conducted among a residentially stable setting up offices in 14 areas and is not necessarily less stress than the itinerant and homeless Aboriginal.

In the final analysis though, the report is optimistic and constructive. It points to a growing self awareness among Aboriginal people. It is in the widespread support of the Land Rights movement. It advocates the defence of existing Aboriginal territories and the 'Aboriginalisation' of others. It challenges National Party based action in which all Aboriginals can participate.

This report is an affirmation of an Aboriginal culture very much alive.

Bruce Scales

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AA Community Resources

Friends of the Earth (NSW)

232 Castlereagh Street

Sydney

New South Wales 2000

Telephone (02) 26 48037.

Telex C 24041

Current objectives

Our objectives are to generate a sense of personal responsibility for the environment in which we live, and to make crucial environmental issues the subject of widespread public debate.

To campaign against specific projects and all government and corporate policy which is environmentally destructive.

Methods

Our objectives are pursued by vigorous lobbying of governments at both state and federal level and also those private corporations that would advocate the degrading of our environment. These lobbying activities are backed up by effective research and a range of educational publications.

Past activities

Activities have been centred around four major campaigns: endangered species, whales and whaling, marine sanctuaries and Antarctica. In addition, separate research has been undertaken to study the widespread support of the Land Rights movement. It advocates the defence of existing Aboriginal territories and the 'Aboriginalisation' of others. It challenges National Party based action in which all Aboriginals can participate.

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Bruce Scales

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Rupert Public Interest Movement

Inc.

PO Box 346 Dickson

Australian Capital Territory 2602

Telephone (062) 49 8649

Current objectives

To assist groups and individuals to express views which would otherwise go unheard; to educate members and public to participate in decision-making processes.

Methods

Issues are determined by member vote; research is pursued by individuals and study groups; public action is undertaken by the Association working with individuals and organisations.

Past activities

The Association was established in December 1979 but grew out of Rupert Information Referral Services.

Future plans

Projects currently underway, continuation of Freedom of Information Legislation Campaign, a study of satellite TV as a model for public accountability in media ownership, a national scale research and public action programme on the accountability of transnational drug companies; underwriting and sponsoring the National 1980 Nader Tour; future plans include setting up offices in all states; a study of medical services in Australia; and the accountability of Telecom Australia.

Help needed

Member subscriptions; people to get the word out; administrative, fund-raising and research skills.

Resources available

National Watchdog – public interest review of Federal politics 1979

National Watchdog – in depth parliamentary monitoring services, for a fraction of what you'd pay to do it yourself; advice on public interest representation; access to national office library, publications, reports, journals and magazines; seminars; workshops; free literature.

Native Forests Action Council

118 Errol Street

North Melbourne

Victoria 3051

Telephone (03) 329 5519

Current objectives

NFAC is involved in campaigns to save Victoria's remaining forests, the two major areas of concern at present being The Alps and East Gippsland. In both areas the main threat to the forests is extensive clearfelling. We are advocating the creation of a Large Alpine National Park. We are opposed to the expansion of the sawmillさんは 'woodchip/pulpmill scheme in East Gippsland.

Methods

The NFAC believes that the power of the environment movement lies with people, so our main concern is raising the level of public awareness about forestry issues - through publications, films, street stunts, etc.

Past activities

The Save Our Bushlands Action Group was the force behind the Little Desert Campaign in the early 1970's.

Future plans

People raising the level of public awareness about forests and their destruction.

Help needed

We are a voluntary group and therefore depend entirely upon membership subscriptions and donations to maintain ourselves. At present we desperately need more funds to support our full-time organizer and to continue the campaigns. We would especially welcome people with skills ranging from typing, writing and layout into research.

Resources/services available

We can provide speakers to local community groups. We also have available a wide range of publications, stickers, badges, T-shirts, windblowers, etc. as well as a number of films and a pictorial display which can be hired out.

Other NFAC groups are based at La Trobe and Monash universities.
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**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

CANBERRA: PO Box 1875, Canberra City 2601; Telephone: (02) 47 3014.

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

SYDNEY: 232 Castlereagh Street, Sydney 2000; Telephone (02) 264 8007.

BATHURST: Sandy Reescroft, 155 Piper Street, Bathurst 2795.

BLUE MOUNTAINS: John Baker, 94 Waratang Street, Katoomba 2780.

CENTRAL COAST: Tony Newman, C/- Whole Earth Farm, Lot 24 Dixon Road, Ourimbah 2258; Telephone: (04) 62 1860.

GRAFTON: Celia Smith, 29 Bankside Street, Grafton 2460; Telephone: (066) 44 6405.

LAKE MACQUARIE: Tony Dybell, 27 Martin Avenue, Swansea 2315; Telephone: (02) 256441.

NOWRA: P/Auld, PO Culburra, 2540.

RICHMOND: C/- Melissa Kerr "Blenheim", Sackville Road, Sackville.

RYDE: Bill Reid, 18 Kostka Street, North Ryde 2113; Telephone: (02) 88 2429.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

DARWIN: PO Box 2120, Darwin 5794; Telephone: (08) 61 3806.

**QUEENSLAND**

BRISBANE: PO Box 667, South Brisbane, 4101; Telephone (07) 44 1766.

MANLY: PO Box 20, Manly 4179.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

ADELAIDE: 310 Angas Street, Adelaide 5000; Telephone: (08) 223 6917.

PORT PIRIE: Ms Ali Fricker, C/- PO Box 7; Port Pirie, 5540; Telephone: Port Germein (086) 34 5269 or Bert King, 143 Balmoral Road, Port Pirie 5540; Telephone (086) 32 1173.

**TASMANIA**

HOBART: C/- The Environment Centre, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart 7000; Telephone: (02) 34 5543.

BURNIE: PO Box 356, Ulverstone 7315; Telephone: John Gillett (04) 35 7284.

DEVONPORT: PO Box 613, Devonport 7310 and MAUM, 6 Eugene Street, Devonport 7310; Telephone (04) 24 5309.

LAUNCESTON: Launceston Environment Centre, 103 Wellington Street, Launceston 7250.

**VICTORIA**

VICTORIAN RESOURCE CENTRE: 366 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066; Telephone: (03) 419 8700.

BENDIGO: PO Box 60, Eaglehawk, 3556.

ELTHAM: Robyn Frazier, PO Box 265, Eltham 3095; Telephone: (03) 439 1452.

GLEN WAVERLEY: Rob Martin, Telephone: (03) 88 3784 or Mick McKean 6 Fellows St, Murrumbeena. Telephone: (03) 96 2243.

HAWTHORN: Rob Harris, 30 Harts Pde, East Hawthorn 3123; Telephone: (03) 82 8800 or Ray Radford. Telephone: (03) 810 4105.

LATROBE UNIVERSITY: Environment Resource Centre, LaTrobe University Union, Bandora 3083; Telephone: (03) 478 3122 ext 2456.

MITCHAM: Kevin Smith, 17 Belevara Avenue, Vermont 3133. Telephone: (03) 874 6049.

MONASH UNIVERSITY: CRAC, Monash University Student Union, Wellington Road, Clayton 3168. Telephone: (03) 541 3141.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

PERTH: C/- Environment Centre, 537 Wellington Street, Perth 6000; Telephone: (09) 327 5842.

NEPALAND: 26 Everett Street, Newtown 6009. Telephone: (09) 386 1522.

UNIVERSITY OF WA: C/- Guild of Undergraduates, University of WA, Nedlands 6009.

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**CHAIN REACTION**

Work with us on Chain Reaction and find all the things you've been missing ... show us the things you've found.

Chain Reaction is being re-organised and (we trust) improved. You can help. Mark Carter and Leigh Holloway, the new Editors, look forward to any contribution you can make to Chain Reaction. They can be contacted at Friends of the Earth, 366 Smith Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066 - telephone (03) 419 8700 most days of the week. Yes. We also need people to act as reps for us outside of Melbourne following up story leads, graphics . . .

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