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The resources boom takes off in New Zealand.

USA RULES, OK?
The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

RAINFOREST
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FOR WHOM DO BOOMS TOLL?
Socialists consider responses to projects which are bringing fundamental changes in the structure of the Australian economy.


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Socialists consider responses to projects which are bringing fundamental changes in the structure of the Australian economy.
For Australia's most beautiful river, time is running out.

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

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

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

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

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

My name is .................................. Postcode: ..................................

Address ..................................................

... Tasmanian Conservation Foundation, 6/28 Gertrude Road, Hawthorn 3122, indicating a preference that the funds be granted to the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

BP boycott begins

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

The mine area has been found to contain copper, gold, rare earths and uranium. Underground mining processes will be used which will release radioactive radon gas into the working environment.

South Australia, 75 km north-west of Broken Hill. The mining process used here will be 'in-situ'. This involves leaching the uranium out of the ground, by pumping a strong chemical solution through underground aquifers.

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

Another uranium mining project commencing in South Australia is at Honeymoon, which will deal with contaminated ground water. The Western Mining Corporation has the other 51% share in the project. BP was chosen for the boycott because of their income from petrol sales.

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

Kakadu hullabaloo

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

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

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

The problems were that Ranger had updated its 'release of effluent plan' since the film had been edited and statements by some of the scientists were thought to be too worrying for the public and the Minister wanted them removed. David Roberts agreed to include scientists' statements which were recently changed to water. Other statements which were requested to be deleted concerned the possible spread of contaminants from the tailings dam, and the impact on the environment from the increased population in the area. The new narrative for the films was sent to the department which failed to approve them for ten months. However approval was given recently, and the films are now in distribution at an extremely significant time as Kakadu has been included on the World Heritage Commission's list of protected environments.

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Aboriginal rock painting from the Kakadu region, Northern Territory
Union bans U shelters

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

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

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

Source: Campaign Against Nuclear Power Newsletter, November 1981.

Tasmania hot up

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

The poll seeks to legitimise yet another assault upon the wilderness. Conservationists are urging people to vote "no" and to send those words on their ballot papers.

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


Big business vs babies

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

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

The European Commission is planning to introduce legislation which will make binding the WHO voluntary code approved by 180 countries in May this year.

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


On September 23 Tasmanian democracy sank without a trace.

On September 23 the Tasmanian Government approved the Big Oil Dam, a $9.4 million compensation fund. The agreed settlement is expected to be a precedent for similar action throughout the USA. The plant closed in 1975 but some diseases contracted from workers used in the plant do not show up for years. The fund to be paid out between 680 workers will probably involve a scale based on exposure to dangerous materials and severity of the disease.

In Australia the protest lobby has strenuously fought any and every case seeking health damages against asbestos companies.

Source: Tribune 21 October 1981.

Chemical workers strike

Nearly 50 chemical workers at the Carter-Vandam site at Wandwoowee, east of Perth, went on strike in October, suffering severe health effects from chemicals used in production. Workers say 40 workers had left the plant since March.

Management introduced sodium oxylate - a poison similar to caustic soda - into the plant without warning. Workers say some workers were ordered to add the oxylate in powder form and were not told to take precautions. The workers say management denied the powder was sodium oxylate.

But workers sent a sample to Perth for independent analysis after one of them developed severe eye irritation and skin ulceration. The analysis showed it was sodium oxylate.

Early this year workers complained of vanadium poisoning, which they say, coloured their tongues and testicles green.

Australian Workers Union representative Peter Ford says a 24-hour medical service was needed at the plant. Day-shift workers currently have access to medical services. Proper safety measures are also needed from time they complained about safety measures, the company says the plant is losing money and can't afford them, he said.

Source: Tribune 21 October 1981.

Trans Nationals

In the last week of October, concern was expressed about the visit from David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger and members of the International Advisory Committee of the Chase Manhattan Bank. They were here to review resource development in the early 1980s, with special emphasis on the Murray-Darling Basin.

During their four-day stay, they visited resource companies in the Hunter Valley, and met with Bob Bryke Petersen and a number of corporate leaders.

In response to these private gatherings, a public forum on the potential for big business was organised by the Trans National Corporation, with a co-op of 22 federal and state unions, based in Sydney. Each speaker at the forum highlighted the extent of corporate penetration in the key sectors of the economy. Questions from the audience focused on the ways that business infringes on people's daily lives.

However, discussion around possible labor movement responses to corporate power raised two new issues: the contentious relationship between developing policies on the environment, on foreign policy, and on conflict interests; and the question of what could be done about the problem of the "great wall of China in the world".

Source: Tribune 21 October 1981.

Asbestos

Former asbestos workers at the Rayner-Manhattan plant in the USA will share a $54 million compensation fund. The agreement is expected to be a precedent for similar action throughout the USA. The plant closed in 1975 but some diseases contracted from workers used in the plant do not show up for years. The fund to be paid out between 680 workers will probably involve a scale based on exposure to dangerous materials and severity of the disease.

In Australia the protest lobby has strenuously fought any and every case seeking health damages against asbestos companies.

Source: Tribune 21 October 1981.

Grassroots defiance

Perhaps you'll find interest in an activity being planned for November called the "Co-operative Effort Against Uranium". It is promoted as an attempt to organise "passive" or "non-violent" actions against the uranium industry.

Proposers of the idea, which will be discussed at the Embassy protest in Canberra, claim that if their efforts are achieved, people are encouraged to plan and carry out their own ideas. They are therefore promoting the "broadening of the collective and the individual action group as the core of our organisation; but suggesting at the same time the value of collective pressure.

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

Action: Lists of possible actions for anyone person through to twenty people will be produced by Friends of the Earth Sydney at a priority for people. Further details on the campaign's FOE, 101 Cleveland Street, Chippendale 2008, or from their local FOE group.

Source: Tribune 21 October 1981.
World bikeride

In the tradition of the 'Ride Against Uranium' bikerides of 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 — planning is now underway for a much more adventurous affair. The 'World Bikeride' is planned to leave Canberra in March 1982 and travel a 6000 kilometre route in Australia before leaving for overseas.

The 'World Bikeride' is sponsored by the Atom Free Embassies network.

Contact: If you want further information, can offer a support vehicle for a leg of the ride, can provide facilities along the route to the riders, or would like to work or arrange somewhere for riders to stay, you may contact: World Bikeride, c/o Friends of the Earth, 101 George Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Telephone (02) 688 4114.

Transition

Australian Conservation Foundation has opened their new office to work on the rainforest issue. It is located at Wildlife House, 8 Clifton Terrace, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, Queensland 4000. Telephone (07) 334 4586.

North Coast Environment Council has moved. Their new address is Post Office Box 29, Kendall, New South Wales 2440.

Tasmanian Wilderness Society has moved. Their new address is: TWS, PO Box 1875, Canberra City, Australian Capital Territory 2601. Telephone (062) 47 3064.

Trans-National Co-operative has moved office. Their new address is: Trans-National Co-operative, PO Box 161, Sydney, N.S.W. 2001. Telephone (02) 264 6130.

Impact statement

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

Diana Gibbs described herself in her statement of support for her candidature as 'one who, works as a consulting economist, is professionally and personally concerned about the total impact of resource development projects on the environment, and the distribution of benefits and costs associated with these projects'. She works for the consulting firm WD Scott & Company, a fact she failed to mention in her candidate statement. Perhaps if it were well spent.

Animal rights

Serious leaks of radioactive waste have been occurring this year at the Nabarlek site. ACF, however, is totally opposed to the use of radioactive waste in the environment.

One of these reports showed that the levels of radium in a safety holding pond had been as high as 2500 Bq/litre, much higher than the 400 Bq/litre allowed in most other countries. The ACF, however, is totally opposed to the use of radioactive waste in the environment.

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

Invest in menstruation...

Women in development

Women in Development groups have been established in Melbourne to consider the problem of family planning in other countries. ACF has considered the possibility of giving money to support these groups.

The group distributes leaflets at the meetings.

Chicken users in Australia are forced to live out their short ended lives in cramped cages smaller than the size of a page of a daily newspaper. To prevent the birds pecking each other, they are electronically desensitised. The effect is that the birds are addicted to eating. This situation is in the early stages of the bird's life when it is most susceptible to the impact of the environment.

The group distributed leaflets at the following meetings:

On Sunday 20 September twenty people from Animal Liberation staged a demonstration on the show grounds outside the Melbourne Royal Agricultural Show. The group distributed leaflets at the meetings.

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BELBOURIE

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

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

Jim Roberts
Belbourie
Private Mail Bag
Pokolbin Delivery
P.O. Maitland 2320
Phone: (049) 38 15 80
Wire 30 73 13 Private

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For further information contact:
WORLD DEVELOPMENT TEA.
NSW: 262 Pitt St., Sydney 2000
VIC: 86 Helens St., Bulleen 3105
QLD: 39 Fleetway St., Morningside 4170
SA: 59 Park Ave., Roselyn Park 5072
WA: 308 Murray St., Perth
TAS: Third World Shop, Centenary Arcade, Launceston 7250
ACT: 17 de Burgh St., Lyneham 2602

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
BY COURSE WORK & MINOR THESIS

Sydney CR collective

For the past couple of months there’s been a Chain Reaction collective in Sydney. From a group of people with little experience in magazine operation, we have moved a long way in establishing ourselves as an important part of the operations of Chain Reaction. As with any new collective there’ve been problems, but we’re finding, as we sort the group and its activities out, that things are running more smoothly.

We’ve had to do things like organise Chain Reaction space at FOE’s Sydney office, e.g. a few folders in a drawer and a box in the corner of a room where papers can be kept to work on.

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

It’s been hard work to get things going, but satisfying. Basically the collective is whatever the members want it to be, how much each can put into it, where specific interests lie. There’s no demand to attend any meetings (although that’s better for contact with each other), while some only want to do a little, others want to tackle more. By persisting and working hard, I don’t think that has made much difference to the effectiveness of the collective. (At the moment the group is small, three people in full-time jobs and Jenny O’Reilly, office co-ordinator for FOE Sydney, who has done a lot with the collective.)

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

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

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

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

Lorraine Jones

Xmas bonus

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

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

We sought sponsorship for the chain reaction collective from environmental groups, unions and other community groups who have provided finance.

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

Leigh Holloway

Next edition

Deadline for Autumn Chain Reaction.
For both editorial and advertising please send material to Chain Reaction by 10 January 1981. Enquiries: Telephone Melbourne (03) 63 5995 or Sydney 02 639 4114.

Marlin Coupe, Jasmine Payet and Lorraine Jones of the Chain Reaction Sydney collective

8 Chain Reaction

Backstage

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

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

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA CAMPAIGN

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

The women's group will continue researching issues of concern to women in Pacific island countries, including the impact on women of Australian aid projects. Nuclear-free Pacific campaign work has funding for a part-time worker to consolidate the international contacts established in past years and, in line with the views of island people, to link independence and nuclear-free Pacific efforts. Documentation of the social and environmental impact of growing Japanese and other foreign investment in the region and, where appropriate, assist local people seeking redress from the companies involved.

Contact: FOE, PO Box 2120 Darwin (08) 81 6222

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTION, MELBOURNE

Monitoring of the uranium industry in the Territory, gathering information for distribution to southern-based groups, support of trade union yellowcake bans, work with the Environment Council's FM radio programme.

Contact: FOE, PO Box 2120 Darwin (08) 81 6222

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, DARWIN

1982 World Congress on Food and Development, Jakarta, Indonesia
20-24 January Friends of the Earth National meeting, Melbourne
Late February Assumptions of Australian Parliament starts (to May)
2-22 February Women and Food - Feminist Perspectives Conference, Sydney (School of Sociology, University of NSW, PO Box 1, Kensington 2033)
1 March Nuclear Free Pacific Day
27 March Chemicals and Food Seminar, Melbourne (Food Justice Centre)
26 March 2 April International Association of Ecologists, Student Conference on Environment
15 April Campaign for a Nuclear Free Australia - Rally, around Australia
May United Nations Special Session on Environment, New York
May Stockholm Ten Year After Conference, Nairobi Kenya
May Antarctic Southern Oceans Commission First Meeting, Hobart, Tasmania
May Antarctic Mineral Resources Meeting, New Zealand
12-14 June New South Wales ALP Annual Conference
Late July ALP National Conference
17 August Budget session of Australian Parliament starts (to November)
16 October World Food Day (UN Food and Agricultural Organisation)

BROWN COAL STUDY GROUP

Continued representations to the Victorian Parliamentary Public Works Inquiry into the proposed Driffield power station. Production of a kit on coal resources. Production of a booklet on the accelerating exploitation of Victoria's coal resources.

Contact: IDA, 73 Little George Street, Fitzroy 3066, (03) 41 98700

GREENPEACE AUSTRALIA

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

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

FOOD JUSTICE CENTRE, MELBOURNE

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

Contact: Ben Witham, Friends of the Earth, 156 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066, (03) 419 8700

TASMANIA

Parliament House, Canberra

What's on next year? Chain Reaction gives you a brief rundown of the plans of a selection of activist groups from around Australia for 1982.
Five heads of state, four thousand official national delegates, and over a thousand representatives of specialist agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (UNCNRE) in Nairobi in August. Australia was represented by Sir Philip Lynch and four middle-level public servants from Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Development and Energy. The object of the conference, according to its Secretary General, Enrique Iglesias, was to "create a worldwide climate of opinion that will pave the way for accelerated development of alternatives to fossil fuels. What happened?

Alastair Machin reports.

Fourteen new and renewable sources of energy (NRE) were considered at the United Nations NCNRE Conference in Nairobi: hydro, solar, wind, fuelwood, charcoal, biogas, geothermal, ocean energy, natural gas, coal, dimethyl ether, peats, wave, and tidal. The major effort of the Conference was to adopt the Nairobi Plan, a programme to:

1. Examine the technical and economic viability of various new and renewable energy sources, identify the constraints on their development and the measures necessary to overcome these constraints;
2. Establish priorities for action;
3. Promote an exchange of information, technology, training programmes, energy assessment and planning, and indigenous research and development;
4. Establish an effective and appropriate international agency which would promote, coordinate and monitor all of these activities.

At the Conference the Australian delegation distinguished itself by joining with the USA, during the conference, in introducing a resolution into the Programme with a clarification that the "effectiveness of the Conference was born from a widespread fear that a country's current gand, and in particular, Western energy consumption patterns would lead to uncertain oil supplies, forcing real prices of conventional fuels upwards. Although increased oil bills have affected the ability of traditionally wealthy countries to manage their economies, the position for most Third World economies is especially acute.

A World Bank projection says the oil import bill of developing countries could rise from US$ 29 billion in 1979 to US$ 200 billion by 1990. While these ability to pay is diminishing every day, third World debtors are expected to keep increasing by US$ 100 billion a year according to the International Monetary Fund but without a new programme, the Third World countries might find themselves with no other option than to default on their obligations. Such a possibility, now looming seriously in international banking, journal, was projected at the conference that many Third World countries will need to get back on their own feet and that only 1% of the loans to them could be set aside to forestall the economic development of countries. The developed nations have become trapped in a system of continuous debt payments.

With the magnitude of debt and difficulties posed by these debt servicing arrangements, many Third World countries may find themselves with no other option than to default on their obligations. Such a possibility, now looming seriously in international banking, journals, was projected at the conference that many Third World countries will need to get back on their own feet and that only 1% of the loans to them could be set aside to forestall the economic development of countries. The developed nations have become trapped in a system of continuous debt payments.

The idea of the Conference was born that energy diversification is only one of the constraints which develop the developed world. The second important factor is the composition of the Conference was that its exclusion from the Committee of the Conference pledged commitments at the conference to the participating countries.

It should be noted here that the

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

Chair Reaction
The dangers of continued depletion of the world's rainforests are now rarely disputed. Peasant farmers in tropical areas are coming under fire as significant contributors to the threat to the forests. But a closer look at the situation in Latin America, South East Asia and Africa soon reveals other, far more destructive forces at work. Val Plumwood, co-author of The Fight for the Forests, looks at the invasion of the Mount Windsor Tableland by five large logging companies. Present estimates see the Tableland's virgin forest totally logged out within five years.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FOREST: A COMPLEX CRIME

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

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

The tragedy is compounded by the fact that most of the destruction is unnecessary and wasteful, as most areas being deforested are unsuitable to permanent agriculture. Many such areas, stripped of their ancient cover of forest, will become "red deserts" of laterite, as has already happened in parts of Amazonia, or wastelands of eroded laterite, as has already happened in parts of Australia.

Worse, the destruction is often far more extensive than is necessary. The real reason for the loss of the forests is not the need for land for agriculture, but for capital and international corporations.

The timber industry relies almost exclusively on the exploitation and subjugation of the rainforest. What is new is that this exploitation is often pursued not so much to clear the forests for 'resettlement', but for profit.

The timber companies are in any case not there because of any serious desire to clear the forests for 'resettlement'. The factors at work are more complex, and frequently products of highly unequal redistribution of existing land.

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The tragedy is compounded by the fact that most of the destruction is unnecessary and wasteful, as most areas being deforested are unsuitable to permanent agriculture. Many such areas, stripped of their ancient cover of forest, will become "red deserts" of laterite, as has already happened in parts of Amazonia, or wastelands of eroded laterite, as has already happened in parts of Australia.

Worse, the destruction is often far more extensive than is necessary. The real reason for the loss of the forests is not the need for land for agriculture, but for capital and international corporations.

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The devastation of the forests has, obviously been very advantageous to many foreign companies and to their governments in the military and governing elite of Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea and other parts of Melanesia. Involving, in some cases direct confrontation, on the part of local people and independent movements in Kalimantan, Sumatra, West Irian and Papua New Guinea and other parts of Melanesia. Investors in pulp projects will doubtless demand that their investment security be protected by appropriate government measures and that it is the local people to whom the concessions are granted and to repress further opposition.

MEANWHILE, AMONG WESTERN researchers, analysis and especially in the US, attention continues to focus on the role of population growth and the shifting of lands from food to fuel. The more major and controllable contribution to deforestation resulting from the social structure or made by large-scale corporate industry, which may be either ignored or glossed over, and there is little realization of the responsibility of the USA and its allies and associated agencies for supporting deforestation regimes, spreading the destructive development model, and for direct contributions to deforestation.

In the Global 2000 report to the US President, for example, the ecological and social consequences of the loss of the forests are in the main well assessed and there are many excellent statements of the disastrous effects of tropical deforestation is likely to produce globally and in the underdeveloped world. However, it is a remarkable fact in a report which is designed to help determine policy and action, that there is no serious attempt to assess the causal factors at work in deforestation or the role of the USA and its allies and associated agencies in this. Without evidence or indeed any real examination of the issue, the main problem is simply attributed to agricultural clearance resulting from population growth. Other factors, such as logging and corporate development, are occasionally mentioned, but no systematic attempt is made to assess their relative importance in different areas although this is vitally important for any determination of what can and should be done, especially by the USA and its dependence on the Third World.

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

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

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

Five years ago the 20 km by 25 km Tableland was part of the major wilderness area covering the upper Daintree River. Since that time the Queensland Forestry Department has carved a road up onto the Tableland at a cost to the Queensland taxpayer of over $11 million. Five timber companies now log the virgin rainforest, producing on one-third of all the timber used annually by North Queensland sawmills.

The fact that so much timber is coming from this one, relatively small, area of rainforest, gives some indication of the Forestry Department’s gross mismanagement of timber resources. This highlights the fact that unlogged, high value timber still exists in North Queensland.

The inability to manage rainforests even for wood production is highlighted by the fact that in 1975, official departmental papers suggested that a sustained yield of 200,000 cubic metres per annum and say that timber quotas will be dropped to that level after 1986. By that time all virgin rainforest will be logged.

The Forestry Department claims that computer studies have shown that the northern rainforests can be logged on a sustained yield basis of 80,000 cubic metres per annum and say that timber quotas will be dropped to that level after 1986. The report justifies the logging of rainforests at greater than the sustainable level with the argument that, otherwise, ‘... it would be catastrophic for our environment.’

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

The Australian Conservation Foundation has proposed a major national park of some 200,000 hectares over the area which would include a large part of the existing rainforest.
policy. He acknowledged that the most important components of a comprehensive policy — controls on non-wage incomes and taxation reform — would be very difficult to achieve.

One consistent theme in discussions was the need for new forms of public ownership and more generally new approaches to the problem of controlling large enterprises. There seemed to be widespread support for the view that this control would have to be exercised by government, but that a mass movement based on political action in the workplace was essential to bolster the resolve of any ALP government in tackling this problem. This in turn raises the question of whether or how closely activists should work with the ALP.

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

Another issue that came up in many discussions was the significance of nationalism as a potentially progressive political force. Some people questioned whether in Australia today nationalism is necessarily progressive and expressed concern that it might lend itself to xenophobia or even fascism. A related issue is that of national against international capital. Is it the foreign-ness of international capital that makes people re-think this approach was deliberately avoided. Instead, a number of participants said what conclusions they had reached and put forward proposals. Some of the conclusions flowed directly from the discussion of issues which had previously occurred. For example, some concluded from the discussion of local action groups (and their personal experiences as activists) that these groups have little power by themselves; the political task of building alliances with the industrial movement is therefore essential for any campaign. Of course this conclusion is not new, but its continuing importance is obvious to most. A conclusion which did seem to open up new political ground in Australia was that much wider and more intense discussion of the role of control and public ownership would be essential to build public support for nationalisation. This obviously assumes that greater nationalisation of economic activity is an desirable and important goal, a view which, as I have noted, not everyone at the conference shared.

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

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

Perhaps the most practical suggestion of all that emerged was the plea, originating in this case from the Northern Territory, for networks of people able to support campaigns with research and analysis. This seems to chime rather oddly with the plaintive cry from one of the discussion groups about the role of the intellectual worker. Is it or should it be? The most politically useful action for intellectual workers, particularly academics, could take would be to commit themselves to devoting a small fraction of their working time, say 10%, to responding to requests for assistance from hard-pressed activist organisations. Would the pages of Chain Reaction be a good place from which to launch an appeal for volunteers from the ranks of intellectual workers?
Setting the stage

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

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

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

In October 1980, the FCV issued draft guidelines for the planned Environmental Impact Assessment for the pilot woodchipping scheme (contrary to Ministry for Conservation regulations) or any associated Environmental Impact Assessment for the pilot woodchipping scheme. This sort of moved the pilot scheme to commence months before the Environmental Impact Assessment was commenced. The FCV still investigated the effects on wildlife of woodchipping on wildlife, in a somewhat futile attempt to plug some of the gaps.

Whilst the public still awaited the release of the EES, the FCV in July 1981 invited proposals for the use of pulpwood from East Gippsland. The EES was finally released in mid October, just one two week period before publication of the EES, the FCV in consultation with the Department of Home Affairs and the Environment have decided to waive the need for Environmental Impact Assessment for the pilot scheme, thus allowing Harris-Dashow to start its encroachment into Victorian forests.

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

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

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

Reference areas outside Parks

- Existing Wildlife Reserves
- Flora/fauna Reserves

National and State Parks

1. Tinganying
2. Shiny River
3. Lake Tyers
4. Lind
5. Alfred
6. Croajingolong
7. Waldo Mountain
8. River extension to Tinganying
9. Bowen Range/Rodger
10. River extension to Snowy
11. Extension to Ewing March Wildlife Reserve
12. Elliot River extension to National Park
13. Extensions to Croajingolong
14. Enormous Reserve
15. Mt Maupe and Lake Ewing
16. Fishing Rights

New Parks/additions to Parks

- 8 Extension to Tinganying
- 9 Bowen Range/Rodger
- 10 River extension to Snowy
- 11 Extension to Ewing March Wildlife Reserve
- 12 Elliot River extension to National Park
- 13 Extensions to Croajingolong
- 14 Enormous Reserve
- 15 Mt Maupe and Lake Ewing
- 16 Fishing Rights

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

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

(i) Errinundra Plateau/ Mt Ellery
(ii) An extension to the Croajingolong National Park
(iii) Mt Kavey - Cooparamba - Upper Glien River
(iv) Mt Tinganying - Snowy Gorge - Bowen Range
(v) The range of the Long-footed Potoroo

The environment movement and the public throughout Australia need to throw their weight behind such proposals to ensure the long term survival of East Gippsland. We must show this morally bankrupt government that we will not allow East Gippsland to become another wasteland like the disastrous Eden scheme, that we will not allow East Gippsland's forests to be converted to waste.
Pulped Potoroos

Forests are not only composed of trees. They also contain an incredible variety of other plants, grasses, and ferns. These plants are known as native plants and are essential for sustaining wildlife. In East Gippsland, forests contain a unique combination of plants that are not found elsewhere in Victoria.

The most common tree in the lowland rainforest is the lilly-pilly. Other features that are common in rainforest trees include their large size, their ability to produce significant quantities of fruit, and their ability to regenerate after fire. This makes lilly-pilly an important species for maintaining rainforest ecosystems.

One animal species of particular interest is the Long-footed Potoroo, which is found in the rainforests of East Gippsland. The Long-footed Potoroo is a small marsupial that is known for its long ears and long tail. It is found in a variety of habitats, including rainforests, woodlands, and grasslands.

The harvesting technique used in East Gippsland forest is called clear-felling. Clear-felling removes most of the vegetation from a forest, allowing new plants to grow. This is done to make room for new trees to be planted, and to create space for wildlife to move around.

The impact of soil and nutrient loss is not only felt by the forest itself, but is often significant at large distances from the cleared site. Streams become turbid with the high sediment loadings, and the light penetration which is essential for growth of aquatic plants and algae is reduced. These plants and algae provide shelter and food for a myriad of aquatic organisms, which in turn form links in a food chain, ultimately culminating in higher animals such as birds or fish.

Current and projected forestry operations, including woodchipping, will therefore not only maintain the forests in an artificial state of early succession, but also facilitate their rapid degradation after each harvesting rotation. Growth conditions will be rendered less favourable by the physical changes induced by clear-felling, and the living components of the ecosystem will also be altered in such a way as to induce a progressive decline in the overall health of the forest.

As a consequence, wildlife values are being severely threatened. Rare species and important communities are in adequately protected by the present reserve system, and many species are present regarded as common will have the extent of habitat available to them significantly reduced. The only way to remedy this situation is for the government to immediately proclaim massive areas of the Miss Forests as National Park net- work in East Gippsland.
The Tasmanian experience

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

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

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

Trees, of course, have always been a scarce resource in Australia. Captain Cook sailed into Botany Bay, 15% of Australia was forested. That figure has now been whittled down to 6%. In contrast China, a land not renowned for tree cover, has 9% of its land mass under forests, Iran 11%, India 22% and Japan has over 60%

The Japanese respect trees and would not dream of committing the atrocities we inflict upon our landscape. However, they politely hold their revulsion in check as they haul away entire Australian forests for bargain-basement royalties.

Victoria’s East Gippsland is the next area in line for the Tasmania to follow. The Tasmanian Forestry Commission, through the Forests Commission of Victoria, has commenced a pilot woodchipping scheme which includes the removal of 100,000 tonnes of waste timber in a year. Harris-Diashova, a 100% Japanese owned company, has plans to export 400,000 tonnes a year of woodchips from East Gippsland. This firm already operates a woodchipping plant at Eden which has caused the decimation of NSW’s forests and the loss of millions of dollars annually to the NSW Forestry Commission in re- generation costs.

The Forestry Commission of Victoria welcomes the project and has built a docked oval by any objections by preparing a very optimistic and unrealistic environmental impact statement.

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

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

Now, so that I can’t be accused of making things up, I’m going to quote from our very conservative, if not irresponsible, Tasmanian newspapers. From the Launceston Examiner, Monday, 16 August 1981: "Forest Companies Blasted." Who is blasting them – it is those terrible environmentalists? No, it is members of the Tasmanian Logging Association who are attacking the woodchippers because they believe we get enough sawlogs and because the price they are paid for hauling woodchips is far below what they would expect.

They are right. Last year, 70 truckers parked their loaded rigs outside the entrance to the Tasmanian Pulp and Forest Holdings mill at Triabunna and blockaded the plant. They complained they were not getting enough money to pay off their rigs or even make a living wage.

Another article reads: "Council Seeks Compensation for Log Hauling Damage - Threat to Close Roads in Circular Quay".

Tourists stand around airport departure lounges muttering about kamikaze truck drivers and cratered roadways. Tasmania’s road system is literally crumbling under the assault of the woodchip trucks.

Woodchipping has engendered the customary unified industry and logging contractors. Even the Australian Army is critical of the woodchippers.

During my tenure as a reporter on this Day Today I did a story with the Army about a large patch of bush they have near Triabunna known as the ‘Buckland Firing Range’. They were half way through their proposed chipping operation when the Army arrived up the contract and tossed them out.

First of all the woodchippers tried to bulldoze their way through the middle of the firing range. The army’s response was that the trees were needed for their target practice. So the woodchippers had to look for another area.

They are hoping to begin their operations this spring. They are loaded with aid to bring in the woodchipping from other areas of the island. They are hoping for permission to come back.

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Woodchipping has engendered the customary unified industry and logging contractors. Even the Australian Army is critical of the woodchippers. The Forest Commission of Victoria calls its current proposed woodchipping area a "Threat to Close Roads in Circular Quay".

The Tasmanian Forestry Commission is virtually support the woodchippers’ view. Recently a forest industry employee said that the woodchippers are keeping logging contractors out of work. He said that the woodchippers need to have what we want those people are going to be out of work. To a politician the thought of losing one job makes them act faster than Pavlov’s dogs.

A Canadian economist David Young, brought in by the Tasmanian Government to appraise Tasmania’s other future, has said that it’s too late to save the forests. He called for a complete end to woodchipping. He said that the woodchippers aren’t just making money. They have to have what we want those people are going to be out of work. To a politician the thought of losing one job makes them act faster than Pavlov’s dogs.

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

Harris-Daishowa
Forest exterminators

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

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

This amazing democratic process is worth looking at in more detail. The following events all happened in 1967:
- Social function in Malaysia
  - Harris Holdings contact a former employee of the NSW Forestry Commission for advice on woodchipping prospects
  - Former Forestry Commission worker employed by Harris Holdings to send a submission to Japan
  - Harris Holdings rush out a team of senior executives and experts to have a look for themselves
  - After several meetings the NSW government agrees to a woodchipping scheme in the south-east region, and immediately calls for public tenders
  - The Harris-Daishowa company is formed and applies for the woodchipping concession
  - Approval from the NSW Ministry for Conservation

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

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

In 1968 the NSW Forestry Commission issued the company with a special licence stretching from December 1969 to December 1989. The agreement was for Harris-Daishowa to use 317,300 hectares of state forest in the Eden area in exchange for export licence to come from land outside the licence area. The bulk of their wood has come from the Eden state forests, though substantial amounts have also come from the Bega and Bombala state forests. By 1976 some 60–65% of the company's wood was coming from NSW state forests, with about 20% coming from sawmill waste in NSW and Victoria, and about 15% from private forests in NSW and Victoria.

The Forestry Commission has also encouraged Harris-Daishowa to take timber from state forests outside the licence area. Known examples are the Derrimut state forest, Narooma state forest and Tallangatta state forest (which the Forestry Commission has discovered to make into a prime plantation). The company has also gained supplies from public land in Victoria in the early 70's. The wood for the recent 200 thousand tonne increase in export licence is to come from land outside the licence area - mainly from public land in NSW.

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

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

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

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

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

In NSW the Forestry Commission is losing millions of dollars every year, and their operations are being heavily subsidised by Australian taxpayers. In the south-east region the royalties paid by Harris-Daishowa do not keep up with the Commission's expenditure on behalf of the company. These expenditures are mainly the building of roads into state forests so the wood can be taken out, attempts to regenerate and manage areas after the trees have been cut down, and the share of central office costs attributable to the region (total expenditure in 1976/77 was $39,7m); and the cost of maintaining local offices and staff in the region (in 1976, for example, there were 50 Commission staff in Eden alone). From 1969 to 1979 the Forestry Commission made losses of over $20m in the south-east region.

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

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WORLD FORESTS DESTROYED BY DAISHOWA AND OTHER MAJOR JAPANESE PAPER COMPANIES

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In NSW the Forestry Commission is losing millions of dollars every year, and their operations are being heavily subsidised by Australian taxpayers. In the south-east region the royalties paid by Harris-Daishowa do not keep up with the Commission's expenditure on behalf of the company. These expenditures are mainly the building of roads into state forests so the wood can be taken out, attempts to regenerate and manage areas after the trees have been cut down, and the share of central office costs attributable to the region (total expenditure in 1976/77 was $39,7m); and the cost of maintaining local offices and staff in the region (in 1976, for example, there were 50 Commission staff in Eden alone). From 1969 to 1979 the Forestry Commission made losses of over $20m in the south-east region.

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

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The Forestry Commission of NSW have also given other special assistance to Harris-Daishowa. When the company complained about the cost of building their own road from the chimney to the Princes Highway they were given a rebate on their rates payments. The company benefited by $336,601.14. When they protested about an increase in their rates in 1976 they were given until the beginning of 1980 to pay the extra cost involved. The NSW Department of Decentralisation also provided the company with a $125,000 grant and some housing assistance for employees.16

Where have the profits gone? The profits have of course gone to Japan. This has happened in two ways. The first has been by Harris-Daishowa selling their woodchips cheaply to their own parent company, Japan (about $23 a tonne). The profits of the Eden operation has then occurred in the sale of the manufactured paper products in Japan by Daishowa. In the period 1971–1978, when Harris-Daishowa made no profits, Daishowa made profits after tax of $2.3 m. This money went to the parent company. Per capita consumption was an incredible 153.7 kg of paper and paper products in Japan. Daishowa, as the third largest producer of paper and paperboards in the world (after the USA and Japan), is very much a part of this exploitation of the world's forests. It has gained supplies of wood from the USA, Canada, South America, and the USSR. It is directly involved in woodchip production at Port Swettenham and Port Pirie in Australia, British Columbia (also pulp production) and Brazil (as part of a group of companies), as well as in Australia at Eden.17

How does Australian woodchip production fit into this international scene? Australian hardwood forests are vital to the Japanese paper manufacturing. In 1977/78 financial year Australia exported 3.1 million tonnes of hardwood pulpwood to Japan,20 this was 60% of Japanese hardwood chip imports and 18% of their total pulpwood imports. At present Harris-Daishowa's share of Australian woodchip exports is about 25%.21

Australia's partner at Eden, C. Itoh & Co, is the third largest trading company in Japan. In 1980 they had sales of $513,325, a profit of $11,86, and assets of $9705 m.22 Harris-Daishowa are heavily entrenched in the cultural organisation of the United Nations. For this 3.6% growth a year in world paper consumption for the period 1977 to 1982,23 Harris-Daishowa is pushing for extra supplies of woodchips because the Japanese paper market is still expanding. Depression in this market in the 70s were only temporary with overall increases in production and consumption. It can be expected that the paper market in Japan will get no smaller in the 80s and will probably increase. Predictions from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations was for a 3.6% growth a year in world paper consumption for the period 1977 to 1982.24

What about the future of Harris-Daishowa's operations in Australia? The whole trend so far has been for them to expand. They began exporting 203,000 tonnes of woodchips in 1971 and by 1979 were exporting 852,000 tonnes. Since then they have been granted increases in their export licence of 50,000 tonnes (1980, 290,000 and 200,000 tonnes (1981, 79). They have also applied to export 400,000 tonnes a year from the East Gippsland forests,25 and are a contender for the so-called trial scheme of a 100,000 tonnes recently announced by the Victorian government.

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References
4. Dr Harry Reutter (Australian Museum). The East Gippsland woodchip scheme 1971-1978, when Harris-Daishowa made no profits, Daishowa made profits after tax of $25.5 m.19
6. A study by a group of experts of the Eden Woodchip Industry on Terrestrial Vegetation, Woodchipping, and the Environment, 1973-1974. This report gives a list of other environmental reports in the public domain.14
Local concern at proposals to woodchip East Gippsland’s forests has led to the formation of Concerned Residents of East Gippsland (CROEG). Debbie McIvor outlines how she became involved in local action as a member of CROEG.

A local opinion

I go to Melbourne less and less these days. Family commitments draw me there less and less. I like best the feeling of heading home, driving east through the miles and miles of tressle suburbs remembering to keep the breaks shallow, seeing so many people so unaware of each other. The Latrobe Valley seems to lengthen each time, and it is not until Rosedale that I take in my first deep breath. It is six hours of driving before one enters the life-giving air of the forests.

I have become a forest watcher. I am learning to observe events in the forest and understand something of their significance. There are others in the area who are doing the same thing. Not only locals but the increasing number of tourists who seek to be drawn to the region. The landscape embraces them as it does us. Next thing they are visiting real estate agents in the area to find land for sale. If not, they are becoming visitors, returning in search of environments and the experiences that are to be had there; a quality of experience that is rapidly becoming unsustainable even in imagination for most Victorians. There is no doubt that there is a need for a woodland scheme even without a market. The scandalous waste of timber used to justify a woodland scheme is occurring as a result of the Forests Commission’s method of harvesting timber — clearfelling. The FCV has never bothered to feign impartiality in regard to woodland, nor is it anything but singleminded in its approach to forest management.

We would like to see:

- More research before a method with such hard-hitting environmental impact is used as general practice.
- East Gippsland remaining a source of high quality hardwood building timbers.
- The small sawmiller thriving, rather than the large city-based companies, guaranteeing the continuity of East Gippsland’s forests.
- A local investigation, seriously, of other possible uses of the timber, less demanding on the resources and employing more local people for furniture, joinery, fencing, timber landscaping, etc.
- Areas being classified according to their sensitivity or unique nature, and managed accordingly. More than the skin along the highways should be left for those who sometimes get out of bed.
- The Forests Commission being less secretive and more open to public discussion about its policies.

Debbie McIvor is a resident of Bonang in East Gippsland.
The Sassafras Declaration

East Gippsland features two distinct types of rainforest. It has the southernmost warm temperate rainforest and also cold temperate rainforests, in which SASSAFRAS is the dominant tree. A magnificent, shimmering tree, the appearance of Sassafras heralds the changeover of a mature eucalypt forest to a rainforest. And it is in honour of the Sassafras that a declaration has been named.

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

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

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

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

The seven main principles of the Sassafras Declaration are:

1. The proposed woodchip/pulp mill scheme in East Gippsland should not proceed in any form whatsoever.
2. Clearfelling should cease because it is destroying East Gippsland's unique forest.
3. There should be an expansion of the East Gippsland National Park system, where nature conservation is the priority.
4. Urgent action must be taken to reduce commercial pressures on our native forests, the growing of tree crops on presently cleared, marginal farmland should be a high priority.
5. No public monies should be used to subsidize, directly or indirectly, the proposed woodchip/pulp mill scheme in East Gippsland.
6. To reduce commercial pressures on our native forests, the growing of tree crops on presently cleared, marginal farmland should be a high priority.
7. The use of wasteful woodchip/pulp mill products (e.g., packaging, advertising and tissue papers) should be reduced, and recycling schemes should be encouraged.

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

Gaye Morrow works with the Native Forests Action Council

Native Forests Action Council

Our native forests are under siege. Right throughout Australia forests are being destroyed for logging, pines or woodchips. Virtually every forest area within Victoria is threatened. In northeast Victoria the forests industry and the government, through the Forests Commission, want to clear native forests to plant pines; in the Otways both pines and woodchipping are threatening the native forests; Ballarat and Daylesford are experiencing more pine plantings at the expense of their native forests; the timber industry and the FCV proposed opening up Melbourne's protected water catchments to clearfelling; the industry, with FCV encouragement, plans to clearfell 80% of the 'economic' ash forests of the Alpine area; woodchipping and pines threaten still more forests in Gippsland; and in East Gippsland, the Forests Commission has been clearfelling under the guise of sawlog harvesting, and now propose clearing 75% of the available public forest area for woodchipping and a proposed pulp mill.

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

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

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Adrian Donkers works with the Native Forests Action Council

By Adrian Donkers

Through the campaign NFAC has taken the initiative; instead of only reacting to government and industry plans and actions, NFAC took the first step and exposed the proposals long before the government's schedule to make them public. NFAC exposed the step-by-step approach being taken—the attempts at isolating segments of the scheme and justifying them separately. NFAC countered the distortions and misleading statements by industry and the government. NFAC lobbed MPs, local councillors and other environmental groups. And as a high priority throughout, NFAC alerted the public to this onslaught to their native forests and provided an alarm call for actions. 30,000 broadsheets have been produced and distributed, a full-colour poster printed, and the Sassafras Declaration launched; with its leaflets, postcards, stales, public events and press releases.

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

Collectives to date include Negotiations (lobbying MPs, councils and industry), Suburban Campaigns (looks after and co-ordinates campaigns in Melbourne suburban), Pines (worked on NE Victoria's Bush Telegraph), Pines (produces fortnightly news service and
New Zealand has gone even further. It has formally sworn allegiance to a 'fast track' to development, and adopted new ways of ensuring that no barriers stand in the path of what it deems progress.

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

A major argument over Maui gas has been the extent to which output should be exported, and in what form. Naturally, overseas interest look to overseas markets as well as domestic uses. But the country has no oil of its own, and even the Maui gas company is reluctant to directly export New Zealand gas. With their major future resources are coal. Today these two are being examined as an export commodity. But now a growing number of New Zealand economists publicly have come out against the idea that Australians are on average better off.

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Plastic contained

By Ian Grosser

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

The introduction of PET bottles in SA was more eventful than in other states because the Beverage Containers Act requires all soft drink containers (as defined under the Act) to be returnable and sold with a deposit, and because PET bottles can't be recycled as the heat needed for cleaning would collapse them. The Act was passed in 1977 after years of lobbying by environmentalists in opposition to container manufacturers, who prefer non-returnable bottles because they increase turnover and profits, and by soft drink manufacturers, brewers, and supermarket managers who disliked the inconvenience of handling thousands of tiny bottles which police success, reducing litter from cans and bottles (only 6% of SA's trailed litter, compared to 34% in WA), and causing an 85% recycling rate for cans, but it is unpopular with those who have vested interest in non-returnables.

ACTS 1980-81 

Looking ahead, there is a potential and unexplored problem that could seriously jeopardise sound economic growth of our Packaging Products Group. I refer to the possibility of various conservationists' demands being passed by State Governments relating to compulsary deposits being imposed on all soft drink containers.

We do not wish to see an Australia wide occurrence of the South Australia scene.

After several negotiations, Coca Cola and ACTS won exemptions from the Act for PET bottles for a trial period of 12 months ending 30 June 1982. The Government expected the amendment to become permanent and found the trial period was gradually weakened until it became meaningless.

Other companies also marketed PET bottles in Adelaide.

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

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

The Conservation Council wrote to every local council in the state, pointing out that PET bottles entail problems of increased litter and garbage disposal, which councils must pay for. Nineteen letters of support and seven seeking further information were received in reply. The Local Government Association, which had resolved to maintain SA's bottle legislation, organized a supportive and widely reported seminar on the issue just before the expiry of the 12 month trial period.

The crucial support of several government departments was important. Some groups on marginal country seats where the councils were located especially wanted PET problems to be solved. Furthermore, pressure was brought by petition citizens delivering the filled bottles to their local MP rather than making a mass presentation to parliament.

The campaign received widespread media coverage and the public responded well. A Flinders University report found that 77% of South Australians oppose non-recyclable bottles. The manufacturers found themselves isolated on the issue. The Minister for the Environment finally announced that the bottles must be sold under the conditions of the Beverage Containers Act with a 5c deposit. The bottles must be returned via bottle depots to the manufacturers, who will then pump them, a hazardous procedure which Coca Cola claims will add 1c to the product price. Bottle depots are only likely to the with withdrawal from the market. The new sales tax of 15.5% on non-returnables has already added up to 16 cents to the retail price of drinks in PET containers and halved their sales in South Australia. Whilst a higher percentage of our population is a vested interest in non-returnables.

From here, South Australian conservationists hope that the SA Consumers Association and environment groups in other states will seized the opportunity.

Ian Grosser works with Friends of the Earth in Adelaide.
They are hoping to organise a world convention in autumn with an international swell of feminist concern over militarism and violence in all its forms. There has been considerable experience in political campaigning and there are a number of local groups who want to see arms spending scrutinised. But while FOE's offensive against technology continues, and SERA activity is clearly visible across the other that drives the wheels of production and the worker bodies under them.

The 1980 Labor Party Conference endorsed the CND platform, but a motion for the gradual phasing out of nuclear energy in Britain was lost. The party as a whole is divided. The breakaway Social Democrats are favouring conventional arms. The pro-Soviet CP concentrations on nuclear power rather than on the threat of imminent annihilation. One perceptive BSSS speaker noted the nuclear crisis to the division of labour between those who design, those who implement, and those who work. This is a central concern of democratic accountability. In a move to overcome this, FOE in the Open University has started a briefing group on nonviolent technology and engineers. The scientists called Scientists Against Nuclear Weapons.

SANA plans to demystify the technical jargon of deterrence which produces a kind of blindness and alienation. A look at Pento's early attempts at regional gatherings among union councils have met with resistance and difficulty. It is the fact that American dollars are being paid for nuclear weapons for the NATO states in the West, but while activities such as Manchester Against Tragedy, the East Anglia Signature Drive show a collective & coordinated effort, the attempts to organise regional discussions among union councils have met with resistance and difficulty. It is true that American dollars are spent on nuclear weapons for the NATO states in the West, but while activities such as Manchester Against Tragedy, the East Anglia Signature Drive show a collective & coordinated effort, the attempts to organise regional discussions among union councils have met with resistance and difficulty. It is true that American dollars are being paid for nuclear weapons for the NATO states in the West, but while activities such as Manchester Against Tragedy, the East Anglia Signature Drive show a collective & coordinated effort, the attempts to organise regional discussions among union councils have met with resistance and difficulty. It is true that American dollars are being paid for nuclear weapons for the NATO states in the West, but while activities such as Manchester Against Tragedy, the East Anglia Signature Drive show a collective & coordinated effort, the attempts to organise regional discussions among union councils have met with resistance and difficulty. It is true that American dollars are being paid for nuclear weapons for the NATO states in the West, but while activities such as Manchester Against Tragedy, the East Anglia Signature Drive show a collective & coordinated effort, the attempts to organise regional discussions among union councils have met with resistance and difficulty.
to occur by 2000 would result directly from massive destruction of the world’s rainforests, many of them unclassified and unexamined by scientists.

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

In Australia, for instance, a combination of introduced diseases, predatory and competitive introduced species, hunting and gathering, industrial pollution, and trafficking in live animals and their products has pushed many Australian native species to the brink of extinction. The Global 2000 Report points out that the loss of plant and animal genetic resources, and a number of species could be extinguished by the end of the century.

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

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

Room does not permit examination of even a few case studies. Not some might be gained from the following endangered species lists. Lists in themselves don’t help the species, but do serve as indications as to other threats or decrease.

The impact of people on the extinction rates of species must be rather more than significant. In his exceptional book The Sinking Ark, Norman Myers puts clearly into perspective this impact. To reduce the number of species on earth to manageable proportions, suppose the whole planet is compressed into a single year. Conditions suitable for life do not develop for certain until May, and plants and animals do not become abundant (mostly in the seas) until the end of October. In mid-December, dolphins and other reptiles dominate the scene. Mammals, with hair covering and their young, appear in large numbers only a little before Christmas. On New Year’s Eve, at about five minutes to midnight, man [sic] emerges. The report proceeded to point out that one-half to one-third of the extinctions projected for the world by 2000 would result directly from massive destruction of the world’s rainforests, many of them unclassified and unexamined by scientists.

The loss of living quarters for both plant and animal species is ultimately an irreversible threat. Yet, coupled with such habitat destruction are less visible but equally dangerous threats. In India earlier this year the Australian delegation proposed important initiatives for increased regulation of trade in vulnerable species. Despite this, the fund for animals sees Australia’s record as one of the worst in the world. At the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), the Indian delegation has proposed that its country’s list of endangered species be kept open. It is a case of the world’s largest producer of wildlife products needing to use the world’s most stringent trade laws. India is the world’s largest producer of wildlife products. It is a case of the world’s largest producer of wildlife products needing to use the world’s most stringent trade laws. At a recent meeting of the parties to the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), third world nations were at great pains to emphasize the problems in their Western neighbors. There is no way in which the problems can be eradicated. The problems are too vast, and the scale of the trade is too large. The list of species so mentioned by CITES runs into thousands, while many millions of plants and animals are traded every year.

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The Global 2000 Report estimated the loss of half a millon to two million species by the turn of the century. Myers essentially agreed, quoting 1 million as a likely figure as any. From what we know of past extinction rates, we lose as many species per year, he argues, as other species are lost in the whole history of Earth’s species. 

Myers points out that, with 1 million as a ‘reasonable working figure’, extinctions calculate at two species per hour. One species a day now could easily turn into one species per second. "That's a frightening thought for the sounding of the 1990s.

Chain Reaction could quite easily devote an entire chapter on why species are saved.

1. Anticipate arguments, questions of ethics, morality, legal and moral distinction and legalities, genetic resources, economic and utilitarian benefits - all provide reasons for wanting to save endangered species.

It all rather depends on which part of the world you live in as to which argument fits best, or which is more likely to convince the public and authorities of such a need. The World Conservation Strategy prepared by IUCN/WWF and UNEP marks more on the genetic resource and economic utilisation of species as a prime reason for their continued existence. While this can be understood in relation to ‘selling’ conservation of species to governments, many national conservation strategies developed for Australia cannot and do not incorporate such ‘economic’ arguments as the sole reason for saving species.

It is possible that the whole issue is an oxymoron or an ox in excess. Species management plans which can directly benefit endangered species is sadly lacking, and Australia is no exception. The USA has a pouch Frog species which is preyed upon by the introduced Eurasian toad. While legislation exists in Australia at the federal level and in some states regarding the production of environmental impact statements, it is either unused or not generally applied to such specific problems as endangered species, if indeed the legislation is capable of coping with those situations.

There is also a need for a change of emphasis, and a change of attitude by the scientific community. While CITES is now doing more in this direction, it is not the whole story. Conservation of species with other nations, shapes the latter fact. To a certain extent this is already happening, reflected in the Global 2000 Report, the Biodiversity Report, the World Conservation Strategy and others. Implementation of the recommendations, ensuring their suitability and observance is clearly that several groups of people in the 21st century are keen to respond to the aspirations of the cultural traditions than it does to preserve cultures rather than the local community stand on equal terms. But in a number of countries, experience so far has shown clearly that several groups of people in Asia and the Pacific are keen to respond to the aspirations of the cultural traditions than it does to preserve them. For example, the people of Bali have developed over centuries very complex and sophisticated expressions of their culture in the form of paintings, carvings and dances. Confounded by tourists, the Balinese 'artistic' towns have begun to realize that their paintings can be turned into money and so become producers of what the tourist asks for. This emphasis on production is quite foreign to Balinese tradition where for centuries the central value has been the process of creating rather than the product which is created.

By cheapening culture for a quick show or for sale, the tourist experience tends to destroy what claims to enhance but worse than that, it delutes people into believing that what is destroyed is still alive and they are forced to act a culture which no longer exists. The economic power of the traveller as compared with the people who live in the host countries makes people who live in the host countries much stronger in such a situation where governments and travel policy makers are forced to apply conservative controls that will make travel a humanising experience for all.

Tourism taps
by Peter Holden

When your hand has stopped shaking and your mind is focused and calm, just give your travel agent to pay for shipping and transportation. You will be amazed at what you can do with a few travel cheques and take off for a carefree holiday. And so you can. It's as simple as that.

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

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

Furthermore, in order for tourism to happen, the host country has to provide the necessary infrastructure to supporty the tourist stream. For example, the tourism industry has to sit back and provide roads, electricity generators and modern communications systems. Often people who want for their credibility and status are working on these projects. While this is happening, the host country may be deprived of its own resources and energy available to secure a stable future for the increasing lists of endangered species simply are not and will not be available. Many species are 'going to disappear, and since we are still not sure how many species there are, there is no way we will get a reasonable awareness of what [we are] about [we can muster]'. In other words, we should select the species to be saved.

The term 'trophic' derives from a French medical term in meaning that some species are not in the evolutionary process with all the impact of a major glaciation, [we should do it with some caution].

In some cases, whole communities of people have been moved off their land to create a rich new habitat. Often people who have developed over centuries very complex and sophisticated expressions of their culture in the form of paintings, carvings and dances. Confounded by tourists, the Balinese 'artistic' towns have begun to realize that their paintings can be turned into money and so become producers of what the tourist asks for. This emphasis on production is quite foreign to Balinese tradition where for centuries the central value has been the process of creating rather than the product which is created.

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The AP's Stewart West

By Paul Pedevrexsakis

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

West is a large man, 47 years old, an ex-worker, former union official and the man who succeeded Connor in the New South Wales south coast seat of Cunningham. Although only on the front bench for a short time, West already has a reputation as an extremely hard-working shadow minister. Without the large staff of a minister, he is forced to do much more research himself, writing his own speeches and churnng out press releases. He is known to be disappointed by the poor mass media, but has not given up and now works on the apparently simple matter that opposition press releases often get run on a precedence basis — that is, 99.9 per cent are run.

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

"I think they are very specific," we are committed to taking the environment into consideration in regard to new development projects. I think we believe that the present federal government is virtually all federal environmental legislation has been made by the Labor Party: the Environmental Protection Industry and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We introduced that Act, and we're the only government to take on large aluminium companies and the blow for blow, especially in the areas of national significance or where there might be a federal interest, such as production for export and so on." We introduced this Act, and we're the only government to set up inquiries under it on Ranger Uranium and Fraser Island. There have been a number of matters that have come up for a public inquiry on a national level, and yet the government hasn't thought it desirable to two that come to mind are the aluminium industry and South West Tasmania. But the Fraser Government just won't do it. We've only now, with the help of the Democrats, set up a Senate Select Committee as a second best to inquire into South West Tasmania.

The short answer to your question is that we're not anti-environmentalists. We do want to take environmental matters into consideration, and the government doesn't.

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

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

"In NSW, where we now have the best state environment legislation, we still haven't achieved a comprehensive inquiry into the whole industry — the individual inquiries into coal mines, power stations and individual smelters — to look into the overall economic and environmental effects of development in the Hunter Valley. Therefore if I were minister for the environment in a federal Labor government one of the first things I would push for an inquiry into all aspects of the aluminium industry. Whether that would still be necessary two years down the track is another matter. There are other factors now operating which will militate against some of the more excessive projects. Power costs are going up, mainly because even the Fraser Government themselves have realised that the borrowing programmes of the great eight statutory bodies — including the state electricity commissions — have been blown out to such an extent that a deep long brake has had to be put on their borrowings from the Loan Council. The authorities are seeking to make up this shortfall by raising tariffs, which will affect the industry and the government.

"If an inquiry called into question the desirability of some aluminium projects, do you think that a Labor government would be able to take on the large aluminium companies and the blow for blow, especially in the areas of national significance or where there might be a federal interest, such as production for export and so on?"

"Yes, I believe we would, especially if the government is now doing. I think of the idea of having a national committee on the uranium issue in South Australia and Fraser Island. There's been only so much money floated around on the uranium issue, and I think that the development programmes aren't rationalised then it will certainly depend on the amount of money that is spent on these projects. We're not talking about social payments, we're talking about the money supply, or we could end up in the same position as with the present government. It's just a question of controlling the money.

"We've just had the decision from the Taiwanese government on the West Tasmania referendum which leaves us with a very tempting option. Why should conservationists and environmentalists side with the Labor Party when a Labor government's budget cuts will have cut conservationists see as the most attractive option."

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

"I hasten to point out that the federal opposition unilaterally opted for a public inquiry under the Impact of Proposals Act. The government won't do that so we have to put up with the Senate and the Senate voted on the advice of the Select Committee. I fully expect that the federal opposition will have to take on the line that they are seeking to make up this shortfall by raising tariffs, which will affect the industry and the government, and I think that they would apply quite a lot of pressure for a referendum."

"In the last election campaign some people said that Labor was not going to go for a referendum because they believed the Fraser government had gone over the uranium issue in South Australia. There's been only so much money floated around on the uranium issue, and I think that the development programs aren't rationalised then it will certainly depend on the amount of money that is spent on these projects. We're not talking about social payments, we're talking about the money supply, or we could end up in the same position as with the present government. It's just a question of controlling the money."

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

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

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

The government's view is very clear: the declaration of the sections of the park must be speeded up, the whole Reef area under the Act should be declared as park and then the zoning plans and management plans can be tidied up sequentially.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since being in environment I've realised the need for a more active interventionist commonwealth role whereas previously, being being heavy handed, and a particular interest in areas of national importance. There is a number of areas and issues, such as uranium mining, the Great Barrier Reef, logging in some areas, the South West Tasmania dam issue, perhaps even the Darling Ranges in Western Australia and sandmining in the two great sand islands in south Australia, where I think a strong federal view must prevail over conservative states.
Working with radiation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Films

The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter

Directed and produced by Connie Field.

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

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

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

Footage from films produced by the propaganda section of the War Department were used effectively to reproduce the atmosphere and arguments of the period. The blunt chauvanism raises the old and tired notions associated by the Hollywood movies of the period that we are still watching on television.

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

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

On Sacred Ground

Directed by Oliver Howes.

Films Australia, PO Box 46, Lindfield, NSW, 2070, 1980, 58 minutes, colour.

On Sacred Ground is a film of optimism and inspiration. It uses archival photos and films which have portrayed the terrible Aboriginal history which followed white settlement in Australia. They set the scene, now On Sacred Ground marks Aboriginal successes where communities have been allowed to manage their own affairs.

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

This will not be at the cost of the traditional ways of life or the belief in education. But it will be in a new way of life.

The old ways and the new will not be at the cost of the traditional ways of life or the belief in education. But it will be in a new way of life.

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STEAKIES

Dust to Dust, researched and directed by Brian Wynn and Ionna, colour, 27 minutes. Available from Sydney Film Makers’ Co-operative, 3 Peters Lane, Darlinghurst, New South Wales. Telephone (02) 33 0721

Dust to Dust

Graves of dead workers, from the film Dust to Dust

Dust to Dust is a short film about the experiences of a group of Aboriginal miners at the asbestos mine at Burswood in northern NSW. The mine closed in 1977, shortly after the dangers to health in the asbestos industry began to make headlines nationally in Australia. The miners had mostly worked for 15–25 years at the mine, and had been exposed during that time to incredibly high levels of asbestos dust. Their exposure, although not adequately monitored, was clearly greater than that responsible for the epidemic of deaths and silicosis among workers in the manufacturing side of the asbestos industry.

The film, through the words of the miners themselves and interviews with government officials, expresses some of the duplicity and deceit experienced by these workers trying to establish their state of health after asbestos exposure. Unfortunately, no interviews with executives of the asbestos industry are included, no doubt because by the time the film was made, in 1980, such people were very reluctant to say anything publicly about asbestos and health.

How the asbestos film does clearly establish the apparent cover-up by the government bodies charged with evaluating the health effects of asbestos dust on workers. It also stresses the failure of the mine owners and the Aboriginal Workers Union, who covered the miners, to take any responsibility for alleviating the hazards, or even informing the workers of the threat. The film is worth seeing as an extreme example of the problems faced by all people trying to get some action about health hazards in industry.

Bob Montz

Cathy McCallum


Books

How to stick up for yourself - A Handbook for the Militant Consumer

Ron Smith & Allan Stokes

Fontana, 1981, 264 pages, $3.95 (soft cover).

Dust to Dust

This 10th anniversary edition of the magazine has, as its main theme, the possible uses of both wind and water in alternative energy sources. For anyone with even a slight interest in the harnessing of such energy sources, the magazine contains some interesting articles. They tend not to be overly technical and therefore would be of interest to a wide range of people.

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

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

There is also an article, by Rodger Chadler, on the future of tidal power in Australia. It describes the latest tidal plants as well as the Runge River plant, which was the world’s first operating tidal power system.

The magazine is of USA origin, and is available in Australia via subscription or by letters. It is not clear how it will be available in the future as the publisher’s address is not given. The contents are of general interest to anyone interested in alternative energy sources, but invaluable to those who are dedicated to the practical application of such energy sources.

John Lindsay


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

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

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

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

John Baker

Other books worth mentioning:


Living Better... and so on... by J. H. H. and Charles Dickens, out of print.


Hold the Line, Costing Melburne’s Transport Options by John Andrews, 1982, 38 pages, $1.00 (soft cover).

Fire and the Ashtray by A M Gill, R Groves and I E Nobles, Australian Academy of Science, Canberra, 1982, 582 pages, $39.95 (hard cover).


Other books worth mentioning:


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

AUSTRALIA TOO HAS ITS AREAS of rainforest, both tropical rainforest, found in Queensland, and sub-tropical, extending well down into NSW. While these forest areas are not as rich as some tropical rainforests north of Australia, many areas are scientifically important and especially valuable in the Australian context, where much rainforest has already been eliminated. Australia, as the only developed country with such rainforests, may at first glance appear to be protected from the sorts of pressures which threaten to make the richness of the world’s most complex ecosystem largely a memory in most places by the end of this century. But in fact the sorts of social forces threatening Australian rainforest are fundamentally not so very different from those destroying it elsewhere – namely, its subjectivity in considerations of private gain and corporate advantage, together with the compliance of governments and the relevant government agencies (the various state forest services) which, like their counterparts in the underdeveloped world, almost inevitably place commitments to the private interest considerations of the forest industries before the public interest considerations involved in conserving the forests. If the rainforests are to survive, in Australia or elsewhere, these forests will have to be understood and resisted.

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

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Telephone (03) 579 4302
568 7243

**Current objectives**

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

**Methods**

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

**Past activities**

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

**Future aims**

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

**Help needed**

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

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**ACTION GUIDE**

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

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**Future aims**

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

**Help needed**

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

**Chain Reaction**

**Oakleigh District Environment Group**

Flat 17, Monash Street
South Oakleigh, Victoria, 3167
Telephone (03) 579 4302
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**Chain Reaction**
National
Friends of the Earth groups from around Australia will meet 20 to 24 January 1982, at Camp Eureka outside Yarranup, 70 kilometres east of Melbourne.

An organizing group from FOE Victoria will be meeting regularly to plan the meeting. Agenda items and details from each group on matters attending should be sent immediately to the organizing group. An agenda will be circulated to all groups before the meeting. FOE members in Melbourne are being asked to help with transport and assistance in the kitchen. The organizing group can be contacted either through Friends of the Earth, 306 Smith Street, Collingwood, telephone (03) 419 8700 or the Chain Reaction Melbourne office, 14 Floor 4, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000. (03) 63 5993.

See you in January!

Yorke Peninsula
We are a small group — no more than a dozen active members — in a very conservative country area. However, we consider our activities and political involvement in local affairs to be fairly vital. Spencer Gulf is one of the prime targets of the Tonkin government for nuclear development, as well as already being the site of some of the major polluting industries in South Australia. The Gulf itself is already so polluted with heavy metals that the situation is critical, and it looks as if the great cry spawning area in the state makes the situation even more desperate.

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

Our on-going campaigns are:

- Port Pirie Uranium Enrichment Plant Feasibility Study. We are in the process of getting together various submissions on this issue, but basically see it as the back-end of the problem.

- At part of our above commitment, we are actively promoting the concept of 'direct-action', and the need for environmental groups to be trained in the tactics of non-violent civil disobedience.

Jules Davison

Australian Capital Territory
Queanbeyan: 20 Albert Street, Queanbeyan, Phone (062) 20 1234.

Northern Territory
Darwin: PO Box 2100, Darwin, Telephone 5794, Phone (08) 89 6222.

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

South Australia
Adelaide: 313 Angas Street, Adelaide, 5000 Phone (08) 222 6917.
Port Pirie: PO Box 7, Port Pirie, 5540 Phone: (086) 34 5269.

Tasmania
Hobart: 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart, 7000 Phone: (03) 44 1666.
Bunbury: PO Box 350, Ulverstone, 7316.

Victoria
Geelong: 17 De Burgh Street, Lytham, 3217 Phone: (03) 47 8989.

Northern Groups

Through the Earth and post to the group nearest you — see list at right.

Donations are very welcome.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dear Friends of the Earth

Please find enclosed my membership fee of $...

Name...
Address...
Postcode...
Telephone...

Please find enclosed my gift membership subscription of $...

The gift membership subscription is for...

Name...
Address...
Postcode...
Telephone...

Membership fees: New South Wales and Victoria $15 (or $7.50 students, unemployed and pensioners). Other states and territories $10 or what you can afford.

Friends of the Earth is listed at right.

Make cheques payable to Friends of the Earth and post to the group nearest you — see list at right.

Items we carry are:

- Household electric supply from solar and wind with batteries, inverters, 12 Volt lights, electric fences etc.
- Hot water systems from solar and wood
- House heating systems from solar and wood including hot water radiators
- Solar pool heating systems and pool covers
- Large range of wood-fired cooking stoves, heating stoves and fire-places
- Hydraulic rams, wind pumps and electric pumps for household water supply
- Dairiec Earth block presses and aseptic moulds
- Composting toilets
- Organic gardening supplies and natural pest controls
- Push mowers, battery mowers, compost tumblers
- Flour and grain mills (hand operated or electric) plus hand operated mincers and juicers
- Preserving outfits, bread tins, baby food grinders
- Huge range of books on self-sufficiency and natural living (Mail order book catalogue available for 5 x 24¢ stamps)

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* $5 individuals, $7.50 non-profit groups & educational institutions, $20 commercial organizations. Overseas sail mail rates as above, airmail double. My name and address are enclosed. Return to Chain Reaction Room 14, Floor 4, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000.