ANTI NUCLEAR 1982 A YEAR OF GLOOM OR GUTS.

PLUS WORKER HEALTH, ARID LANDS, THE FRANKLIN RIVER AND BARRIER REEF.
Haston Couloir + 14 format

The Bodyhuggers

Technical Excellence from karrimor.

Our exciting 14 format frame is constructed from twin-aluminium edge moulded into double thickness karrimor material with extra protective padding. It fits into a special frame. Our exciting 14 format frame is constructed from twin-aluminium strips moulded into double thickness.

The Haston Couloir is a new rucksack built to the same high standards as the Haston models. It offers the backpacker and cross-country walker all the benefits of a bodyhugging climbing sac, whilst still providing the special features required for these activities:

- Twin bodypockets
- Extra padded handle
- Extending flap
- Shoulder straps
- Camera pocket on flap
- Waist hip belt
- Removable strap
- "Making" frame * Made in K-1000 = the material developed for rock-climbing.

The future of South West Tasmania will be decided in mainland Australia electorates this year.

ARID AUSTRALIA

The Bodyhuggers

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Cover design: Mark Carter.

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

You too can be involved in a national action against the Honeyymoon uranium mine in South Australia. The mine is an experimental uranium mining project in Wyoming, United States, and concerns the treatment of uranium mine tailings.

The World Information Service Against Nuclear Energy (WISE) has a project in Wyoming, United States, which is funded by the American Nuclear Energy Association.

**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 burning 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 fireplaces.
- Hydraulic rams, windpumps and electric pumps for household water supply.
- Draftrac Earth block presses and adobe moulds.
- Composting toilets.
- Organic gardening supplies and natural pest controls.
- Push mowers, battery mowers, compost turners.
- Flour and grain mills (hand operated or electric) plus hand operated miners and juicers.
- Preserving outfits, bread tins, baby food grinders.
- Range of books on self sufficiency and natural living. (Mail order book catalogue available for 5 x 24¢ stamps)

**Above:** The bore at Honeyymoon.

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

**A world first**

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

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

**A WISE plea**

The World Information Service Against Nuclear Energy (WISE) is setting up a telex link with WISE offices overseas. Assistance in establishing and maintaining this vital link is needed. Financial support may be either financial or material.

The Australian WISE relay needs: $1500 rent and $1500 operating costs per year for a telephone and telex machine; postage and telephone bills amounting to several hundreds of dollars.

Staff at the relay office are working full-time voluntarily. A telex relay is available 24 hours a day.
EARTH NEWS

Sterilization abuse

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

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

The doctor who conducted the inquiry also said that many Native American Indians who consented did not immediately realize the permanent effects of the operation. Many were extremely distressed when they found out and the consequences were serious.

Lee Brightman believes that the experience has implications for the rest of the world. She points out that the Indian women are literally having their bodies destroyed in the name of genocide and estimates that as many as 25% of women of child-bearing age (and 10% of men) have been sterilized. She sees it as another example of the scheme to get the Native American Indians' land, once and for all.

Source: Searchlight 1977.

FOE International

The 10th annual Friends of the Earth International meeting was held in Washington, United States of America, in October 1981. The meeting attracted representatives from 19 of the 29 countries in the FOE network, and was thought to have been the most successful testing for several years. There had been disputes FOE national groups for an improved FOE Group to improve communication and promote cooperation with the secretariat. Andrew Hettengten, who works for the Sydney FOE in Australia, is a member of the FOE International secretariat. The meeting was responsible for promoting activities in Research, which includes groups in Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Blacks' college sabotaged

Late in January 1982 a night fire gutted part of the new community college at Largo Bay, in Adelaide, Australia. The fire is being investigated by the South Australian Police who are looking for clues from the fire's cause or cause a number of possible suspects. The fire caused considerable damage to the college. The Australian government is thought to have been set back twelve weeks. In the week prior to the fire the Australian government's education minister was giving a major victory to the people's education minister, the Fort Adelaide council and the government's education minister, the Aboriginal people from leaving the college.

Peter Zweck, a member of the college management committee, said that staff and students of the college were dismayed by the fire. The college is still open and staff are taking steps to ensure that the college is not closed down. The Australian government has decided to continue with the college's education program.


Lomotil

At the meeting, Valeria Nervi, Amici della Terra, Italy, and Lorna Salzman, FOE USA, explained that the lack of international communication and the difficulties of depending on a voluntary secretariat to produce the international newsletter Lomotil. The meeting agreed on a number of initiatives to try and overcome these problems, centering on the establishment of a full-time secretariat in Gothenburg, Sweden and guaranteed funding by the FOE International.

Women's forum

A forum for black, immigrant and Third World women will be held at Newtown Town Hall, Sydney on 27 to 29 March 1982. The forum will be an opportunity for black immigrant and Third World women to participate in the activities of the Third World women's forum. The forum will consist of two sessions: a general session on women's issues and a plenary session on women's organizations.

New contacts

A new edition of the Activist Contacts list is to be published in the next edition of Chain Reaction. The list will include groups working on environment, energy, food and issues that affect Australia. The list will be available for purchase from the FOE International Office. The list will contain information on contact details, address and telephone numbers for each group.

Source: Tribune.

Antarctica convention

In May this year, the Antarctic Treaty nations will meet in Hobart. This will be the first meeting of the Antarctic Convention Committee, a taskforce established by the United Nations Environmental Programme. The committee will be responsible for the development of an Antarctic Convention. The convention will include measures to protect the environment, to promote research, and to ensure the peaceful use of Antarctica.

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, with other groups, are organizing a symposium on the Antarctic Convention. The symposium will be held at the University of Melbourne, 20-22 August 1982. The theme of the symposium is "The Convention and the Future of the Antarctic".

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Source: Tribune.

Hazard alert

The ACTU recommends that workers who may handle acid dome products containing 2-NP, or their derivatives, be exposed to an extremely toxic material that may cause severe liver damage, ultimately cancer of the liver, and death. The ACTU considers the carcinogen 2-NP to be one of the most dangerous chemicals known, and has recommended that all workers who may come into contact with 2-NP be given special safety training.

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Contact: Workers 11 anti11x 11, 2095. The sole Australian representative of the International Anticorrosion Action is Sharon Watts, Winters Winter Company. The company is operating a scheme to get the workers' safety. The scheme is operating a scheme to get the workers' safety.
Cleaned up

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

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


Pines

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Not Man Apart

Joseph Pearce, editor of the far right Young National Front magazine for the white army, "smash the nose, the Jaw, the cheek, the eye", is guilty of contempt of court, according to the judge. Pearce was fined $2500 and ordered to serve a paper company, was fined $2500 and ordered to serve a paper company.

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Front behind

Recently in the United Kingdom a judge sentenced the white army, "smash the nose, the Jaw, the cheek, the eye", as guilty of contempt of court, according to the judge. Pearce was fined $2500 and ordered to serve a paper company, was fined $2500 and ordered to serve a paper company.

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Censor & censure

The South Australian Minister for Education, Harold Allison, has threatened to withdraw his department's funding from the Adelaide School of the Arts if it continues to produce material that it considers offensive.

Calls for the school's closure have come from a number of sources, including parents, community groups and religious organizations.

Allison made his decision after a government backed review by representatives of the Arts Council in Adelaide. The review, which was commissioned to consider the school's future, has not yet been completed.

Allison said that he would not consider withdrawing funding until after the review has completed its work. He also said that he would not withdraw funding until after the review has completed its work.


Owen Valley from Mount Buffalo.

The material assembled by the ACF was not suitable for use in the magazine, the judge found. The ACF was fined $2500 and ordered to serve a paper company, was fined $2500 and ordered to serve a paper company.

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FOE & Chain Reaction

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

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

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

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

An ACF Reactions Consultative Group was established by the meeting. It includes representatives of Friends of the Earth local groups. Des Kirk (Collingwood), Jules Davison (Northern Rivers), and Verke Pennington (Swindon) - and three representatives of Chain Reaction - Leigh Holloway (Editor), Mark Cole (Melbourne Collective) and Jenny Quilty (Sydney Collective). This group can advise Friends of the Earth Australia and the magazine.

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

New prices were set for Chain Reaction. The price to FOE groups was raised from $5 per copy to $1 per copy, and the subscriptions price was raised to $8 for individuals, schools and libraries.

From the Commonwealth Government grant of $5000 to Friends of the Earth Australia for 1980-81, an allocation of $1500 was made to Chain Reaction. An identical allocation was made by FOE Australia in 1980-81.

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

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

By any measure, the Tasmanian dams indicated that it would win a majority. By any measure, the Tasmanian dams would be counted. Premier Harry Holgate announced that a dam would be built in the South West regardless of the poll results. The Chamber of Industries (representing the thirteen largest power-consuming industries) waged a $500,000 plus saturation advertising campaign.

"DO NOT PUT ANY OTHER MARK ON YOUR BALLOT PAPER" warned the large poster facing the voters in each booth.

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

Despite its fanciful and undemocratic nature, the referendum did one positive thing. It eliminated the compromise Gordon-olive-Olga dam. For 12 months, the political debate had been dogged by two equally destructive and costly stopgap schemes proposed by the government and Conservation groups. The referendum put the issue to the people.

The Tasmanian government cannot build the $1000 million plus scheme without operation from the federal government. It is not in the interest of the Commonwealth government to supply loan funds to destroy a wilderness area which it has already purchased for the $38 million.

The referendum did one positive thing. The mood of the Tasmanian community is clearly one of absolute opposition to the proposal for a dam across the Gordon River. Not only was this the result of years of campaigning by conservationists and a well financed and dispassionate, the movement has made remarkable advances in many forums.

The impact of the referendum on Australian public opinion is now widely acknowledged. A Gallup Poll has recorded a steady increase in the number of Australians opposing nuclear energy. An opinion survey that 'only 12% of women' knew there was an anti-nuclear movement has been demolished.

There is increasing concern throughout the community at the increasing likelihood of nuclear war. Thirteen leading scientists have agreed to make their study of the impact of nuclear war available. They have advised it is possible to build a city of 100,000 people in South West Tasmania. The study will be done on the scheme before the referendum.

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

Frank Muller

By

Frank Muller

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

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

Before the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry there was scant public awareness of the issues associated with uranium mining and nuclear power. Today, there is widespread concern. Public discussion and interest continue in many forums and many people have gained political awareness as a result of the debate. It is clear that the public has now been polarised.

The Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry has been broadly interpreted as a setback. But the obstinacy with which the anti-nuclear movement is continuing to campaign for a ban on uranium mining and nuclear power is proving to be a very great indeed. Looked at dispassionately, the movement has made substantial gains.

There is an overwhelming opposition to uranium mining and nuclear power amongst the active rank and file of the labour movement. This is expressed in...
which Council of Churches and the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Council of Governments.

uranium mining and nuclear power. Half the votes in the Senate are now held by members of two parties (ALP and AD) which oppose uranium mining and nuclear power. These are substantial gains which form a solid base for future action.

Nor are things all that bright for the pro-nuclear forces. Development to now proposa ls for nuclear power generation.

fully developed. Others await Aboriginal proposals for nuclear power generation. So clearly there is to be a fertile battleground.

The anti-uranium movement has been significant factor hindering uranium mining. It has successfully challenged those involved in the industry and scab labour is relatively rare. The mining companies believe that the burden of union action on small mines in Western Australia (Yellerrie, Ranger and Nabarlek) puts the lie to the simple argument 'if we don't export it someone else will'. We must also consider the possibility that a further drop in the uranium price would result in the continent being closed for good. That is why the ACTU is undertaking a public relations campaign to open new markets to uranium.

What moves we can expect from the ACTU and the unions in the industry in the coming years? The ACTU will continue to fight for the miners. The national waste disposal facility. In short, what action they could as the employers and the courts.

The ACTU has not changed its principled policy of opposition to uranium mining. It is nothing short of a principled position, adopted at the 1979 Inquiry Report recommended that 'a permanent halt. Few workers are continuing it are judged to be too great, limiting the withdrawal from a strategic issue on the political agenda and giving the community that the burden of union action on small mines in Western Australia (Yellerrie, Ranger and Nabarlek) puts the lie to the simple argument 'if we don't export it someone else will'.

The real spot price of uranium has halved since 1976. Over half of current uranium production is sold to power stations rather than power stations. This downturn is due to a slump in nuclear power programmes the world over, which, in turn, is partly due to the efforts of a worldwide movement of workers and the anti-uranium movement is a part of that. Almost all producers are anxious to keep existing sites open, and to prevent new sites from being developed. The Trades and Labour Council of Queensland has called for a halt to uranium development in Queensland.

bans, a flexible, ongoing industrial strategy which will be a significant factor hindering uranium mining. It has successfully challenged those involved in the industry and scab labour is relatively rare. The mining companies believe that the burden of union action on small mines in Western Australia (Yellerrie, Ranger and Nabarlek) puts the lie to the simple argument 'if we don't export it someone else will'. We must also consider the possibility that a further drop in the uranium price would result in the continent being closed for good. That is why the ACTU is undertaking a public relations campaign to open new markets to uranium.

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since 1977 when the Peako star t to production. In South Australia companies will be pushing for an early secrecy of a Democrat in the Upper House. Pan proce ding with a feas ibility study on and Koongarra. The Uran ium Enrichment Group of Austra lia (Western Applied by foreign gove rnments. This the Federal governme n t in the guis e of sets an agenda for anti-uran ium campaigns in 1982. that as change for the underlying reason that policy. Some Labor figures m ay see k a goo d s itting back a nd sayi ng you can't change the probl e m s uranium mov e ment is to k ee p the growing mobilisation of support within the Party for the policy. The tasks of Labor's uran ium policy is to 'repudiate any commitment of a free government to the mining, processing or export of Australia's uranium'. A Labor Government will only let the power to do so. But we cannot be naive about the strength of as 'limited' or 'winnable' nuclear war. In the city in the first week of arguing that this was the most serious threat of nuclear war. Since then anti uranium, peace, disarmament, church and union groups have begun to work out the country in the first week of April, 1982 – the banner Australians for Nuclear Disarmament – will see a newly confident and im periled anti-nuclear movement in Australia.

ACTION

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

In early April demonstrations and marches for nuclear disarmament will be held around Australia as follows: Adelaide, 10 am, march from Victoria Square to Parklands, (08) 264 9506 and (08) 223 9218; Brisbane Sunday 4 April, all day radiation course on April 4, 747 3131; Wednesday 7 April, 4:30 pm, rally for peace at Civic Square, (07) 337 2130; 20 April, 2.30 pm to 5 pm, peace rock concert at the Botanical Gardens; April 28, 12:30 pm to 3 pm, peace conference at the Queensland Institute of Technology, (07) 222 2444; Melbourne (03) 482 7292; Perth, June and march to Hyde Park South for Canberra, (02) 267 2459 and (02) 367 6741.

Many groups around Australia will be lobbying local ALP branches, leading up to the National Conference in Canberra, in July, to ensure that the ALP's anti-uranium mining policy is maintained and extended. Contact your state group (listed below) to help with this campaign.

Sunday 25 March, 2.6 pm, peace picnic at Princess May Park, (03) 321 7020 and (03) 321 7021 start and rally 2 April, rally and vigil for peace; Sunday 4 April, combined churches rally for disarmament at the Market Square; Saturday 3 April, peace seminar, (03) 311 7021, 311 7111; Sunday 4 April, 1.30 pm, rally at Treasury Gardens and march to Flagstaff Gardens for concert and festival, (03) 663 2846; Perth Sunday 4 April, 1.00 pm, rally at Court Gardens, (09) 321 7020 and (09) 321 2299; Sydney Sunday 4 April, 1.00 pm, peace event at South Sydney Quay, (02) 267 2459 and (02) 367 6741.

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Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Australia inc 537 Wellington St, Perth, WA 6000 Tel: (09) 321 7269, 321 5342
Movement Against Uranium Mining PO Box K125, Fremantle, Sydney

By Bruce Doyle & Owen Pearson

Almost immediately after the uranium mining industry recommenced activity in Australia in the 1970's, a uranium enrichment plant was discussed. During 1979, in the height of its pronuclear flush, the federal government gave strong support to the plans, which were slowly materialising as the mining side of the industry progressed. State government too gave strong support, associating themselves with various overseas nuclear corporations and utilities.

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

However, 1980 saw the formation of the Uranium Enrichment Group Australia (UEGA) comprising four consumer groups: Wallend Ltd, Colonial Sugar Refinery Ltd, Broken Hill Pty Ltd and Western Mining Corporation Holdings Ltd.

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Bruce Doyle is chairperson of the Campaign Against Nuclear Power in Queensland. Owen Pearson is an organiser with CAMP.
feasiility of setting up a commercial enrichment plant.

With a depressed world uranium market, the cost of enrichment and the shrinking demand for nuclear energy overseas, this argument is valid in economic terms. But there are not the terms under which the world enrichment industry operates subsidised and contracted, it has not been subject to the forces of supply and demand.

Worldwide, uranium enrichment is almost completely government owned and financed. For example, URENCO - CENTEC is financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and Dutch governments. The uranium enrichment industry has extensive and indivisible links with the military nuclear complex. The USA Department of Energy enrichment plants, located at Oak Ridge Tennessee, Portsmouth and Paducah Kentucky, are used for both weapons production and commercial enrichment. Enrichment to bomb grade material is done using the same technology, carried out at the same facilities. They reason that if they can reach a decision, enrichment could begin quickly. One hundred and two thousand people are employed, and hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on the enrichment plant which will be prepared to close it down. They say that further movement in the nuclear fuel cycle allows us easily to enforce safeguards.

The reality of the situation will be demonstrations to pay for the plant, by the sale of enriched uranium will be greater than the pressure to enforce any safeguards by withholding the product. To ensure sales of enriched uranium in a slack market, governments will give the enrichment industry more competitive. As has been shown by the uranium mining industry, weakened safeguards will be every bit as important as power subsidies and taxation relief.

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

The Fraser government has coincided with the immensely profitable flow of Energy Resources of Australia, which is certain that any enrichment industry becomes ten times more difficult once that part of the industry is entrenched.

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

The keel arrived in Australia on 11 January 1982 and was greeted by Rev George Armstrong and members of the Peace Squadron. The next stopover is Tahiti in March, followed by Hawaï in May, where contact will be made with the Workers and Shipwrights Union Resource Centre. This centre is responsible for the 1983 Nuclear Free Pacific Conference.

From Hawaï, the Peace Peacemaker will be sailing up the West coast of the United States of America on a fact-finding voyage, working with the peace movement. This will culminate at the Trident base at Bangor, near Seattle in Washington State, where the first Trident will be deployed in the (northern) autumn of 1982.

The project seeks to broaden awareness of Australian people about the arms race and the Trident Submarine formation. As such, it is an expression of the desire to promote debate with peace movements in the Pacific and abroad. It is also intended to support the United Nations' Special Session of the General Assembly being held in New York in mid-1982. Associated with this is the desire to promote debate in Australia over foreign military bases and their links with the Trident Submarine formation. The campaign is working towards a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific.

Planning for other actions is also well underway. A demonstration will be held on 8 August 1982 near Bangor, on the Hood Canal. Small wooden boats are being built by concerned people, to block the Trident at the Hood Canal bridge. A network along the waterways of Puget Sound to the Trident is being established to crowd the Trident to its arrival. Demonstrations are also planned along the Utah to Bangor, Maine train route which is used to transport missile parts by the Hercules Burch. The success of these actions depends upon your support. The Peace Peacemaker needs financial and moral support and news of its activities needs to reach more people.

By Phil O'Hara & Judy McDougall

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

Bill and Lorraine Ethell and their four children, along with a rotation of crew members from the Australian government, are representing Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific States in their national protest which is being planned around the Trident base near Seattle in February.

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By Phil O'Hara for the Pacific Peace Peacemaker Collective in Sydney

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TRIDENT

The United States of America - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Trident system will deploy a first-strike capability as an attempt to deter nuclear war.

Each submarine will weigh over 20 000 tonnes, twice the weight of any existing submarine so far, and be able to punch a top speed of 35 knots, powered by one or more nuclear reactors and they will be 164 m long and four storeys high.

In 24 minutes it will carry a total of 408 nuclear warheads, each up to five times the destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb, and, with new improved, anti-detection equipment will be accurate to 91 m, over 6000 nautical miles.

The first one is expected to be operational mid 1985. By 1987 thirteen submarines will be deployed in the Pacific and eventually the USA plans to have 31 Tridents in operation around the world.

Through Trident's precision accuracy, the submarines are able to sneak close enough to destroy Soviet Union Soviet Socialist Republic's missile silos within 10 to 15 minutes of a launch order. That means the USSR response period would be greatly reduced. This factor would be critical in the battle for a nuclear-free world.

The people voted, in three separate plebiscites, to quickly obtain the large quantities of weapons grade material needed in the plutonium needs of the military's expanded weapons programme. The military will take control of spent fuel rods (thereby 'soiling' the nuclear waste problem) and reprocessing them with a new laser enrichment process to obtain weapons grade plutonium.

The Trident missile system is to be deployed outside the United Kingdom. It is a very important part of creating the Trident missile system 16 hectares in Gippsland, Victoria, is a VLF (Very Low Frequency) radio tower used by the United States Navy for firing their nuclear missiles.

The future of the military's nuclear industry. Reagan would be faced with a choice: to spend a massive rearmament policy of the United States of America military-supremacy among the new nuclear powers. He would be achieved by removing regulations that impede a program which took $A838 million will be slashed to $A22 million. Even research on coal and gas will be slashed.

The main focus of the environmental action is the establishment of a reprocessing facility at Clinch River fast breeder reactor. When the proposal was revealed to officials in September last year they wrote: 'The policy completely revises all previous approaches to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the international control of nuclear energy. The link between the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the weapons industry. These two sections will be infused with government money while the $A28 billion mark before two of his staff will follow.

Policy strategy includes the abolition of the present Department of Regional Development. About half the activities of this department are concerned with the nuclear waste disposal problems. The United States Department of Energy, established by Jimmy Carter. From September 1980 a series of design blunders compounded a serious safety lapse in one of the nuclear reactors at Clinch River.

The nuclear reactor at Clinch River was redone as a reprocessing fast breeder reactor. Fears of the reactor being over-designed were confirmed by very major problems including design flaws, operator deficiency (as evident in the on-site inspection of cooling pipes as at the Robert E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant in New York state in February this year). Uncontrollable trouble from the earthquake fault lying just offshore.

President Carter dated July 1980 and officially terminated the construction of the reactor on the grounds that it was 'aghast' at the implications.

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CONTACT

Pacific Peacekeeper PO Box 311, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022. Tel: (02) 264 5036

REAGAN'S FIRST STRIKE

By Andrew Herington

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

No one has alarmed the environmental community more than Ronald Reagan's new nuclear policy. The policy is nothing less than the reactivation of the plutonium fuel cycle used by the commercial reactor business to produce the plutonium needs of the military's expanded weapons programme. The military will take control of spent fuel rods (thereby 'soiling' the nuclear waste problem) and reprocessing them with a new laser enrichment process to obtain weapons grade plutonium.

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Andrew Herington has been FOE Australia International Liaison co­ordinator for the last two years. He has recently been working in the United States of America working with a number of environmental groups.

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

The Republic of Belau (formerly pronounced Pohnpei in Micronesia) is a volcanic and limestone island 200 miles from the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. It could be used for the purposes of inter­national defence of the Western Pacific region.

Opinion polls show that a clear majority of the public view that Polanski should be scrapped instead of being replaced with Trident.

Representatives of the armed forces will be critical in the battle for a nuclear-free Pacific and this could support the Trident missile system.

Specifically, Reagan's plan calls for the establishment of a reprocessing plant for commercial fuel and of a demonstration fast breeder reactor site at Clinch River 1989, and recommencement of the de­laid Clinch River fast breeder reactor. In 1980, the nuclear industry here is to be completed and licensed by 1983. This will be safeguarded by being achieved by removing regulations that impede a program which took $A838 million will be slashed to $A22 million. Even research on coal and gas will be slashed.

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

In among this wellspring of human energy walked many Native Americans, participating in the United Nations Conference on Indigenous People and their land in Geneva in September, and staying on to speak with Europeans about their struggle for the land, which, they claim, is the same struggle as the peace and anti-nuclear struggle in Europe. Two of these Native Americans represented the Lakota Treaty Council, the present-day form of the traditional Lakota governing council. Their land is in to coin Reagan’s phrase, the “National sacrifice area” — the South Dakota Black Hills, which the USA government is planning to use for a national nuclear park consisting of uranium mines, waste dumps, nuclear reactors and a missile base.

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

By September the group occupying our land at Black Hills Canyon were forced at gunpoint to move, and they joined the second of the three camps Crazy Horse Camp. Governor Janklow of South Dakota threatened to move this camp himself if the Feds didn’t clear it out. By early October a petrol tank at the camp was exploded, fortunately injuring no-one. Gunshots were fired into the camp. None of this was reported in the local press. Once more the people moved on, this time to Devils Towers just over the state border in Wyoming. In a letter dated 22 December 1981 to Larry and I was told ‘The camps are still up there, moving and getting cold and tired’. Russell Barsh, the legal aid to the Treaty Council, explained further in that letter that the Ogala Sioux Tribe has once more appealed to the USA government to recognize the legality of the 1868 Treaty and to give the Hills back to the people. In December the USA government filed its response, asking the Supreme Court to review the case. If this case is taken up, the case will be a test of the constitution for our land and the huge peace struggle are the same.
We need to rephrase aspects of our theory and political practice. If the environment movement is to become more vital, and effective. Too often our hypotheses are overthrown by experiments that contradict our expectations. Thus if environmental change is caused by an individual pursuit of simple lifestyle and society adopting alternative lifestyles, then these changes are the result of an ideological or material self-management organizational structure. This approach lacks a historical and class perspective or any notion of a sustainable human future being the result of ongoing political action. Above all we need a theoretical perspective that informs political practice.

If the environment movement is to become more proactive it must rely itself on workers and their political organization. The resources boom is an issue which we must confront creatively with particular reference to its social context of rising energy costs, and robbing the environment.

Our organization is often based on the reality that operates as a set of principles crystallized about single issues. Coalitions can be constructed, indeed necessary tools for fighting single issues, but the need to minimize conflict and competition for resources can also cause an endemic lack of reevaluation of tactics and theory.

There is also the pressing need for the environment movement to develop a more inclusive political practice in such a way that fundamental concerns of workers and underlying social causes are discovered.

By Betty Beckwith

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

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

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

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

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

The media is slowly becoming more vocal on environmental problems and broadening its focus.

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

An effective organisation or a happening? It must be both. As people have become more socially and environmentally aware, they have begun to demand a more immediate and obvious change in the way work is done.

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

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

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

This story, although four years old, illustrates some of the successes and failures of the environmental movement which are still very much applicable today. While substantial improvements in safety practice and industrial hygiene and safety have been gained, in general environmental developments have been largely outpaced by the workplace and workers as an area for concern.

Workers' health embraces a very wide field of concern. It is much more than the effect of chemical pollutants in the air outside factories; it covers the whole range of social, physical, chemical and spiritual conditions which determine the nature of work, in fact the socio-political and ecological conditions that determine the identity of toxic substances.

By Deborah Vallance

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

The most infamous chemical hazard in industry is asbestos dust, which has been identified as the stress factor in many industrial accidents. Asbestos causes lung cancer, cancer of the lung lining and chronic lung disease. There have been no comprehensive studies of the ill effects caused by asbestos in Australia, but epidemiological studies overseas suggest that as many as 10-20,000 Australian workers have died, or will die, because of past exposure to asbestos.

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

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

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

While there has been increased attention over the past few years on the health effects of chemicals, the immediate hazards should not be overlooked. Trichloroethylene is a very common industrial solvent which causes narcosis. It is used in factories and in the home in the form of 'sniffing' bottles, to which children and women are especially vulnerable. There is no accurate information available on the number of chemicals in use in Australian industry, although it is probably tens of thousands, most of which are imported. Only 700 chemicals are manufactured here. A few of these chemicals, such as vinyl chloride monomer (which causes a rare liver cancer) have achieved notoriety because fortuitous circumstances have allowed their ill effects on workers to be proven. Most chemicals, however, have not been adequately tested for their effect on health and workers using them face unproven, but very real hazards.

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Women workers suffer from the stress of their essential but unpaid work at home as well as their often low paid and boring, repetitive jobs, and the use of tranquilizers (eg valium) amongst semi-skilled women workers. Some companies are actively selling analgesics to their workers in the factories. This activity has been established an occupational health and safety representative. These people have found that a medical union, has appointed full time health and safety representatives. This policy, if fully enacted, would make workers' health for some unions.

**UNION ACTION**

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

This has now changed. Some unions have hired their own experts for advice on health. The Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council have jointly established an occupational health and safety representative. These people have found that a medical union, has appointed full time health and safety representatives. This activity has been accompanied by, or preceded by, rank and file campaigns to consolidate government efforts in a new programme for all affected workers.

**CORONARIES**

The claims by office workers that their workplace is a coronary health hazard have varied and less interesting work. The肮d, Zimmet's surgery. Conclusion at work when the affected limb needs complete rest may also result in permanent injury.

**ANALGESICS**

High rates of use of analgesics (aspirin, Bex, Vincent powders) amongst semi-skilled women workers. Some companies are actively selling analgesics to their workers in the factories. Other companies are using analgesics to their workers in the factories. This has now changed. Some unions have hired their own experts for advice on health. The Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council have jointly established an occupational health and safety representative. These people have found that a medical union, has appointed full time health and safety representatives. This activity has been accompanied by, or preceded by, rank and file campaigns to consolidate government efforts in a new programme for all affected workers.

**NIGHTWORK**

Shiftworkers comprise 13% of the Australian workforce, and are subject to their own special hazards. A large proportion of shiftworkers are women, when workers at Rank General Electric took strike action over the threatened dismissal of seven female process workers who were suffering from severe menopause. AFUFSU first became aware of a problem because of the large number of workers at the company who were being dismissed. A Melbourne study showed disturbingly low levels of sickness absence among workers who worked on the night shift.

**THE FOREMEN ARE ALWAYS EASIER ON THE MEN.**

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

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

**LEGISLATION**

Legislation to protect workers' health is far less adequate than that protecting other aspects of the environment. Legislative controls are chaotic, with little cooperation between the various government departments and agencies. This has resulted in workers being exposed to a variety of chemicals and pollutants, without adequate protection. The policy of health and safety representatives. These people have found that a medical union, has appointed full time health and safety representatives. This activity has been accompanied by, or preceded by, rank and file campaigns to consolidate government efforts in a new programme for all affected workers.

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

**CONTACTS**

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Workers Health Action Group
27 John St, Lidcombe, NSW 2141
Tel (02) 664-2217

MELBOURNE
Workers Health Action Group
PO Box 271, North Melbourne, Vic 3051
Workers Health Centre, Lygon St, Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel (03) 662-3926

ACTU Occupational Health Unit
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Tel (03) 662-3921

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Arid Australia

By Ann Evers

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

Australia is 70% arid or semi-arid, but to date conservationists have paid little attention to this area. The Barrier Environment Group of Broken Hill have been actively concerned with the problems arid lands. After organising a forum of graziers, scientists, government representatives and conservationists on land use in the arid lands in 1980, the group are delighted at the news that the ACF plans to hold a major conference on arid lands in Broken Hill in May 1982.

The group are particularly pleased that the conference is being held at the heart of Australia's arid lands as this will enable them to point out, first-hand, not only the problems of the arid lands but also the many beautiful aspects of this country. To my eyes the rocky hills of the Barrier Ranges with their gnarled and twisted Mulga trees, their hidden and sometimes haunted wildflowers are as fascinating as any rainforest.

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

It is generally accepted that with the arrival last century of white people accompanied by their pastoral animals and feral followers - in particular rabbits, goats, pigs and cats - widespread changes took place in the arid lands. The new land users, in their ignorance, overgrazed, which led to erosion and the diminution of many plant species. The plague proportions of...
federal animals such as the rabbit exacerbated those problems. The few new animals also preyed on the native wildlife and competed for food so that, while the larger animals such as the kangaroo increased in numbers dramatically due to increased watering holes and control of the dingo, many smaller species decreased in numbers or disappeared completely. In the last 40+ years this deteriorating state of the arid lands has been improved with the introduction of mixtures and improved land management practices which, in western NSW, are controlled mainly by the Western Land Commission with the help of the Soil Conservation Service and the Pastures Protection Boards. Groups such as the Australian Rangeland Society, with which many of the graziers in this area are actively involved, enable graziers to benefit from research carried out by the CSIRO, universities and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The areas covered and monitored by government bodies are vast, and all too often government funds for the arid lands (out of sight, out of mind) are meagre. For example, the Soil Conservation Service based in Broken Hill has two conservationists and an assistant to cover approximately 10.5 million hectares.

AUSTRALIAN ARID LAND

Government bodies controlling land use in the arid regions of Australia are paying greater attention to conserving vegetation and soils for the future benefit of the pastoral industry. As a consequence (a result of which the town does not always include the larger species of trees. Several species, for example Grevillea striata (Beefwood), Callitris columellaris (native pine), and Sentalam acaulemonum (Quandong), have greatly diminished in numbers in certain areas of the West Darling. Any young trees that are left are often harvested for their olivs, goats, and sheep. The demise of the rural tree is a serious threat facing much of rural Australia. One only has to drive along the Hume highway; the scene has become one of fenced paddocks scattered with old gums. The young trees exist only on the road verges. In the last few years the practice of intermittent cropping has begun to expand in certain areas, for example, around Westworth and Bourke. Clearing of the native vegetation is controlled in NSW by the Western Land Commission which requires a certain number of trees to be retained. However, scattered trees isolated in the middle of ploughed fields have little chance of regeneration. The effect of clearing this marginal land requires serious investigation. Attempts at cropping marginal land have proved disastrous in the past.

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

Kangaroo harvesting has been a controversial issue concerning the arid lands in recent years. The National Parks and Wildlife Service controls the number of kangaroos shot. The Barrier Environment Group believes that this control is adequate in the West Darling at present. As I mentioned previously, the kangaroo population has increased dramatically in this region since the advent of white people. The Aboriginal land rights movement is just beginning to make its voice heard on the West Darling. It is high time that this happens. The situation in Wilcannia, which has the highest concentration of Aboriginals living in this area, has reached explosion point.

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

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

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Reef barriers

By Eddie Hegerl

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

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

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

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

Mr Bjelke-Petersen referred to the mining problem in the reef region as “the great unknown”, as there was very little real opposition from the Queensland government and shipping and tourism industries. On the contrary, the Cairns section was becoming increasingly important to shipping and tourism interests. It was Queensland’s senior minister on the commonwealth and Queensland government ministerial council overseeing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. He apparently indicated that the proposal was acceptable to the Queensland cabinet, but when Mr Bjelke-Petersen met with the Prime Minister on 12 November, the Premier refused to accept the compromise. Mr Fraser was not pleased. The Queensland Premier was visibly stunned at his press conference after the meeting when he was told that Mr Fraser and National Country Party leader Doug Anthony had just announced that the commonwealth government would unilaterally declare the Cairns section (under the compromise agreement).

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was offered to appease the Bjelke-Petersen government. They suggested the Premier maintain the whole length of a strip 5 km wide along the Queensland mainland coast where there are no strong environmental or other reasons for the Park to extend to the low water mark.

The three Labor Party members of the committee filed a dissenting report stating its intention to unilaterally declare the Cairns section under the compromise agreement.

The Prime Minister explained that his government had been holding discussions with the Premier on the issue for two years and was not prepared to go any longer. He said the one occasion when Mr Bjelke-Petersen threatened to begin a protracted campaign was when the Cabinet and the National Party executive were quite satisfied with the compromise agreement.

Then, in a particularly inept move, the Fraser government sent a senior negotiator to hold further discussions with the Premier on the night of 16 November. Rather characteristically, Mr Bjelke-Petersen immediately scooped the headlines with claims of a great tactical victory. He claimed that the Fraser government had conceded the right to make regulations within the 5 km wide... *we will run the whole thing, we will make the zones, we will make the regulations. We will primarily neutralize the proposals*, he said. These claims have been emphatically denied by the Fraser government.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen's sacking of Mr Keppel as Minister of the Environment was so that he could take his place at future meetings between state governments was particularly inept. If Mr Bjelke-Petersen had listened to his condemnation of the Park declaration... Mr Keppel was asked to reconsider his decision. According to the Prime Minister this would be unilaterally undertaken on the next Park declaration... hopefully on the remaining coastal section.

The Cairns section contains over 200 reefs and amounts to only about 7.5% of the Barrier Reef region. The Queensland government's position was that if the Cairns section was rejected and the Park declaration would be voted against the reef. The Cairns section comes to an extension of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which is greeted by the sight of thousands of sandbags, an attempt to prevent an incorrectly set island from erosion.

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

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

Over the next two weeks Mr Bjelke-Petersen embarked on a smear campaign to create public opposition to the Marine Park and directed almost daily criticism at any group who visited the Great Barrier Reef area and were shocked to find that only about 30% of the region was actually under management. *We felt that we had been misled and hoped that our resolution expresses the concern that we feel*.

It is obvious that the Great Barrier Reef is to be properly managed the Australian and Queensland governments would declare the whole region immediately.

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

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**When the chips are down**

8 July Overtime was not specified in the advertising but was made compulsory once we were employed. Those of us under 21 would be paid four hours' overtime. We were only paid for an hour and a half of work we performed, and that was checked through the main computer system. We had to hand in a work production sheet at the end of every day. This was compared with all our work in a box and any discrepancies were sent in and would be corrected. We had no lunch room facilities. The main computer frequently broke down and a lot of our previous work was lost.

10 August To join the union we had to hand in a work card. I was told that I seemed out of the union with the union at one stage would stand outside the office when no-one was around and hand in a work card. The machines also made an accounting of our work levels and that was monitored at exactly 10 minutes by Microprocessors. Visual Display Units. Linked up to make possible a new world of freedom and leisure. The machines also monitored our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we were fed up with our breaks in inadequate time, and we 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27 August. After one month's employment, we pushed for a meeting. The company had given a written organisation order for us to meet at seven to eight hours a day. There was extremely high absenteeism.

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

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

When we arrived we demanded to see the person who had decided our transfer and we met with the Assistant Director. He refused to answer our demands and said that because we were now in this building the other problems didn't concern us. We were escorted to our work areas in separate parts of the office. We couldn't change the colours on the screens to break down the game. We made contact with each other by turning the buzzers on our machines right up so we could hear each other from each part of the office. Management's space was ultra-modern, a place where you looked, a lunchroom about the size of a tennis court, separate sick-room facilities, expensive chairs and proper lighting.

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

The problems of lengthy disputes involving temporary workers and the various divisions that exist in the State Public Service meant that the union and the employers couldn't keep that appointment or any other that management would make so there was no deal. There was beginning to be a split amongst the workers. There were some who refused to join the union and I refused to join the union for a deal. One of the six most hostile, who opposed everything we said (there were about ten of us at this stage), were the ones who refused to join the union - 100 of us we pushed for. They accepted the meal allowances and the copyholders, and kept that appointment or any other that management would make.

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The Ladykillers - Why Smoking is a must

The process of trying to give up. Although it is a British book and therefore mainly deals with British statistics, experience, campaigns, etc. I for one will be looking into Australian history to the edge of extinction is leaving a window to the past, and diversify is imposing unacceptable environmental problems, the cost of which will be born by ourselves. The book sets out to document and describe the major areas of our natural heritage which are of national or international significance. This project is very similar to that attempted by the Native Conservation Council in the UK which resulted in the publication of the Native Conservation Review in 1978. This publication was so comprehensive and specific in listing thousands of areas deserving conservation that it was criticised by politically aware conservationists who pointed out that omission of a site from such a detailed list was tantamount to condemning the site to development in importance. Thanks to the ACF a book has made it clear that this book is not an exhaustive "shopping list" of sites of significance but simply the initial description of substantial areas of the environment. One other point which this book clearly illustrates is that many of the areas described are either poorly protected or not protected at all. This fact is the sting in the tale of ACF's book. Many of the things which hopefully many bush lovers who are not conservationists will learn from.

Don Simons

Putting aside the chosen title of this book – The Ladykillers and the cover – the slender 'feminine' hand, long manicured fingernails, covered in pale polish – neither being terribly feminine! I think this is an excellent book.

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

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

The book also covers the class structures in terms of smoking, the role of the dominant movement can play in changing lifestyle and the dangers in trying to go through it. Geoff Weisclt

Australia’s Natural Heritage edited by Geoffrey Mattson and designed by David Sampietro Australian Conservation Foundation, Victoria, 1981, 304 pages, $37.00 (hard cover, posted). This is an excellent, well written book. a must. I recommend it to all readers. The story relates the success stories, but nevertheless leave you in some despair as to the fate of the rest of the world’s wild inhabitants.

The short-sighted drive for a quick buck often results in these species to the edge of extinction is leaving a window to the past, and diversity is imposing unacceptable environmental problems, the cost of which will be born by ourselves. The book sets out to document and describe the major areas of our natural heritage which are of national or international significance. This project is very similar to that attempted by the Native Conservation Council in the UK which resulted in the publication of the Native Conservation Review in 1978. This publication was so comprehensive and specific in listing thousands of areas deserving conservation that it was criticised by politically aware conservationists who pointed out that omission of a site from such a detailed list was tantamount to condemning the site to development in importance. Thanks to the ACF a book has made it clear that this book is not an exhaustive "shopping list" of sites of significance but simply the initial description of substantial areas of the environment. One other point which this book clearly illustrates is that many of the areas described are either poorly protected or not protected at all. This fact is the sting in the tale of ACF's book. Many of the things which hopefully many bush lovers who are not conservationists will learn from.

Michael Kennedy

A Touch of Australian Enterprise - The Vanuatu Experience

By P.A. YEOMANS

This book brings together two preliminary publications by P.A. Yeomans - The Keyline Plan (1984) and Water for Every Farm (1986). It chronicles the development of a remarkable agricultural genesis in Australia. The radical approach of Yeomans to the tradition of farming is refreshing in the sense that it is not based on who controls and who owns the new technology. Nor are the issues of the environment, the cost of environmental problems, the nature of technological change and its varying impact of technological change in varying historical situations, the natural water, the big Business and the like.

This book is a testament to the ongoing success of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, illustrated through numerous case histories incorporated in chapters covering all the major habitat types. The photographs are sometimes spectacular, while the text is written simply yet detailed enough to satisfy the needs of any reader. The stories relate the success stories, but nevertheless leave you in some despair as to the fate of the rest of the world’s wild inhabitants. The book sets out to document and describe the major areas of our natural heritage which are of national or international significance. This project is very similar to that attempted by the Native Conservation Council in the UK which resulted in the publication of the Native Conservation Review in 1978. This publication was so comprehensive and specific in listing thousands of areas deserving conservation that it was criticised by politically aware conservationists who pointed out that omission of a site from such a detailed list was tantamount to condemning the site to development in importance. Thanks to the ACF a book has made it clear that this book is not an exhaustive "shopping list" of sites of significance but simply an initial description of substantial areas of the environment. One other point which this book clearly illustrates is that many of the areas described are either poorly protected or not protected at all. This fact is the sting in the tale of ACF's book. Many of the things which hopefully many bush lovers who are not conservationists will learn from.

Michael Kennedy
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Tell us!

Do you believe that every saying of F. Scott Fitzgerald's a piece of wisdom, that intermediate scale technologies always perform efficiently and economically, and that the introduction of 'appropriate technology' is the best way to promote social reform in the Third World? If so, then Paper Heroes will give you much to consider. Rybczynski critically analyses the concept of 'appropriate technology', the concept of 'sustainable development', and the idea of 'appropriate technology', deflecting quite a few preconceptions along the way. His arguments are a useful warning to those who occasionally or occasionally engage in the mystical view of technology as either good or bad, or who promote a technological determinism.

Bill Robinson


This is more than a book about one extraordinary man; it is an expose of how the news media and mass media have treated such cases in the past, and how the current media and press are treating the case. It is also an exposé of the mass media and mass media's influence on the public's view of the case. It is a chilling reminder of how the media can manipulate public opinion.

Len Dalton

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Reviews

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

Unfortunately the book ends weakly with an article which encourages the individual to adapt to unemployment by adopting alternative lifestyles. This misses the main point that the unemployed live poorly and simply not because of the social, economic and psychological inequality that created the unemployment and poverty in the first place. Rather than burdening the individual with personal responsibility what is needed is concerted and imaginative community effort.

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Len Dalton

Pall Mall
THE MAN THEY CALLED A MONSTER

Field of Thunder: The Maralinga Story by Judy Wilks. Friends of the Earth (Collingwood), Victoria, 1981, $2.00 (soft cover).

This small book tells us, mostly through personal testimonies, something of what happened to Aboriginals and service personnel during nuclear weapons tests at Maralinga. The Maralinga tests were carried out during 1956 to 1957. The authorities' cavalier disregard, and culpable neglect of people, as revealed in the stories of those present at Maralinga as had been revealed earlier for the nuclear tests carried out in the Nevada Desert in the USA.

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

Len Dalton


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

Owen Pearson

Other books worth mention


Rainforest, collection of articles from Habitat: Australian Conservation Foundation, Victoria, 1981, $4.50 (soft cover).


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Send orders to: Chain Reaction Room 14, Floor 4, 437 Swanston St, Melbourne 3000.

Chain Reaction 39
ACTION GUIDE

World bike ride

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

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

The purpose of the world ride is to carry and spread the strong anti-nuclear sentiment of the many Australians who are deeply opposed to the mining and export of uranium. This message will be taken overseas to add further weight to the massive pressure against nuclear power and war in Australia. It is expected that halls for accommodation will be available in many communities, and the riders also look forward to a good many nights around the campfire.

The timetable for the Australian leg of the journey includes a number of important stops. The first of those in the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) research establishment at Lucas Heights, some 30 km south west of Sydney. The riders will be accompanied by a contingent of people from Wollongong and Narrabri to join the WBR members for a paced tour around the perimeter of the AEC installations.

The second important stopover will be at Yeppoon on the coast north of Rockhampton where the Queensland government is hoping to build a uranium enrichment facility. Another important stopover is at Minatome, where the riders intend to hold discussions with the Japanese government.

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

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

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ACTION GUIDE CHANGES

Chain Reaction's Action Guide page is now in a new style, with a full page on the actions of a group. This should give enough space for a more interesting review of the actions of a group. If your group would like to present an Action Guide piece please contact the Editors.
The first comprehensive history of the nuclear debate in the international arena. It discusses the political economy of the nuclear industry; the nature of the opposition movement; and the strategy of the contestants in the debate. In doing this it explains why:

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