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Concern has been mounting amongst environmentalists about the spread of uranium enrichment plants. The tailings dam at Ranger uranium mine, concern which has been exacerbated by secrecy surrounding information on the project. Friends of the Earth (Ryte) has at last been successful in gaining access to the second report, Geotechnical Pressure Investigation, Northern Embankment, Ranger Tailing Dam, through the Public Interest Publicity Advocacy Centre under the Freedom of Information Act 1982. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd will now make the document available. (At the FOE national meeting in January 1983, FOE Ryde was given the task of seeking out the document as a priority for 1983.)

FOE Ryde was not so successful in its third attempt to have Ryde Municipality declared a Nuclear Free Zone, a margin of one vote. According to Alva Reid, Ryde is a conservative area, perhaps it was conceived in the wrong area for we are willing to try and try again. Twenty-two NSW and interstate councils have affiliated with the Australian Nuclear Free Zones Secretariat, and Parramatta Council has not been so successful.

Dear Friends of the Earth

I've just seen a report in Chain Reaction that the issue of uranium enrichment plants is receiving larger regard in the US. No argument there. But alas you do this to the detriment of many crucial environmental issues.

Alvia Reid, 'Ryte is a conservative area, perhaps it was conceived in the wrong area for we are willing to try and try again. Twenty-two NSW and interstate councils have affiliated with the Australian Nuclear Free Zones Secretariat, and Parramatta Council has not been so successful.'

The main objectives of the cooperative are to organise growers to produce and sell vegetables to the community at reasonable prices, to improve the network between growers, distributors, and consumers of organic produce, to work in association with the national campaign against the use of pesticides in agriculture, and to produce information about methods of food production and their effects on both the environment and health.

It's early stages yet, and until now the plan to work up the co-op has been uphill all the way. A lot of energy has been spent developing a sound business plan to ensure that the co-op can and will survive economically. The organizing collective (a group of four) has been involved in fundraising activities, a membership drive, negotiations with organic suppliers, and the physical preparations for the shop. The first stage is just about over, and, with continuing support, the co-op will be opened for business mid-July 1983.

Action: If you're interested in knowing more about the co-op, or if you have any ideas or information which might be useful, drop in at 321A Smith Street, Fitzroy, Victoria, or phone (03) 4199.926.

Volle McHaug, Sue Pierce and Judy Spokes of the Organic Co-op

Acid remarks

I find it hard to argue with Osborne and Bette Beckett, with letters, CR 30 and with Stephen Tenor and Trevor Taylor, CR 31 when they critique Chain Reaction for its distinct shift in content.

As a Chain Reaction reader of recent vintages I feel that rather than presenting a more balanced view of environmental issues, Chains has become increasingly inappropriate. Your 'wide-ranging approach' helps to propagate the majority of those who call themselves environmentalists, but alas do you this to the detriment of many crucial environmental issues.

At a time when Bob Hawke's government is selling us down the drain to the United States, Queensland is preparing to construct a uranium enrichment plant; farmers are preparing for another round of deforestation via 'chemical ploughing'; commercial hunters are decimating Australia's kangaroo and dingo populations; fast-food diehards is spreading like an epidemic across the country; if you have the arrogance to go on job losses at BHP, a Sri Lankan women's strike; and if you have the arrogance to go on job losses at BHP, a Sri Lankan women's strike. It's early stages yet, and until now you have the arrogance to go on job losses at BHP, a Sri Lankan women's strike. What can we expect next, an article on how to disguise a politically-based magazine as 'the best environmental magazine in Australia'?

Pete Stephens, Armidale

Greenpeace, WISE and MAIM: all that, in addition to subsidizing a uranium enrichment plant; farmers are preparing for another round of deforestation via 'chemical ploughing'; commercial hunters are decimating Australia's kangaroo and dingo populations; fast-food diehards is spreading like an epidemic across the country; if you have the arrogance to go on job losses at BHP, a Sri Lankan women's strike. It's early stages yet, and until now you have the arrogance to go on job losses at BHP, a Sri Lankan women's strike. What can we expect next, an article on how to disguise a politically-based magazine as 'the best environmental magazine in Australia'?

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Back on the chain gang

After the chaotic days of the (Tasmanian) Wilderness Society campaign one would have thought working with the Chain Reaction collective would be comparatively restful. In my naivety, believing I was beginning a nice steady job with a working week beginning on Monday and ending on Friday. After putting in eighteen hours a week at the Wilderness Society I thought that working with Chain Reaction would at least give me time to go home and water my plants and sleep occasionally. But no, my plants go unwatered and the people I live with think I have moved out. My growing library of books goes unread as we have only recently spent looking at the steps for setting up a cooperative structure is immense, necessitating the reading of metre-thick documents and government acts that are at best unintelligible. Although there has been an increase in the work load, due to the extra two issues a year and the FIP funding, everyone at Chain Reaction is optimistic about maintaining the quality that we have all come to expect from Chain Reaction. Because of the extra two issues a year and the consequent rise in work load we need more people to become involved in all areas of the production of Chain Reaction – proofreading, editing, chasing articles and graphics, design and laying out. We would also like to hear from people who are interested in writing articles for Chain Reaction. If you have an idea or a particular interest you think Chain Reaction should be covering then please write or give us a ring. New people and new ideas are necessary if Chain Reaction is to remain representative of the concerns people have about their physical and social world. By becoming involved you not only assist Chain Reaction towards this end, you also have the opportunity to learn the various skills that go into producing a magazine. If the production aspect is not to your liking there are plenty of other projects just waiting for the right person.

I must admit to having a selfish interest in having more people become involved in Chain Reaction as it will give me more time to spend at home mending the leak in my ceiling, watering my plants and getting eight blissful hours sleep all in one night.

Susan Mueller
office coordinator

Paper: Bespress
Carbon: Bespress

Deadlines

Chain Reaction is now published every two months. The next edition will be published in late September. Feature articles should reach us by 17 August 1983. The following edition is due out in late November. Deadline for that edition is 14 October 1983. We welcome your contributions to the magazine in the form of letters, news items, reviews and articles.

Disabled scorn quests

A public meeting sponsored by the Women With Disabilities Feminist Collective in conjunction with the Disability Resources Centre was held in Melbourne on 25 June 1983. The purpose of the meeting was to allow disabled people to express their views on charities and methods of fundraising, particularly the Mun Victoria and Miss Australia quests.

Key speakers were: John Pallidino, a former coordinator of the Disability Resources Centre, Robyn McGinty, a representative of Your Opportunity To Talk (YOTT), a self-help group within the Spastic Society which represents the interests of disabled people; and Rhonda Gallahy, Director of the Myer Foundation Trust, who has written much on the segregation and isolation of disabled people from the mainstream of community life. Spastic Society management had been approached to attend the debate, but general manager, Richard Gray, refused to negotiate on disabled people's objections to the quests. YOTT acted as a mouthpiece for management, claiming that the money raised through the quests was necessary to finance valuable services. However, Rhonda Gallahy pointed out that 97% of revenue was gained through government funding and only 3% through private fundraising, the Mun Victoria Quest accruing a mere 4%. She also stressed that beauty quests do little to educate the community about disabilities. They serve only to perpetuate an emphasis on 'beauty' which has had a profoundly negative impact on the self-esteem of people with disabilities and women in general.

A working party was formed with the short-term aim of abolishing fundraising methods such as beauty quests. The long-term aim is the complete integration of all disabled people into society to that disabled people no longer depend on a charity system for survival.

Action: For anyone wishing to pursue this issue please contact the Women With Disabilities Feminist Collective, 295 Victoria St, North Melbourne, Vic 3051, Tel: (03) 329 8315, or Disability Resources Centre, 17 Sydenham Rd, Brunswick, Vic 3056, Tel: (03) 376 9853.

Tents taken away

The children of Mt Druitt, New South Wales, planted nearly 3000 trees at Popondetta, Papua New Guinea, in late 1982. After the trees were planted people started arriving in cars and filling their boots with them and taking (the initial excitement of buying a tree) with the hope of a subsequent rise in value. Tents were set up and the children wanted to stay with them and take a bit of the novelty after all the years of effort. The Northern Territory. The purpose of the meeting was to allow disabled people to express their views on charities and methods of fundraising, particularly the Mun Victoria and Miss Australia quests. A self-help group within the Spastic Society which represents the interests of disabled people; and Rhonda Gallahy, Director of the Myer Foundation Trust, who has written much on the segregation and isolation of disabled people from the mainstream of community life. Spastic Society management had been approached to attend the debate, but general manager, Richard Gray, refused to negotiate on disabled people's objections to the quests. YOTT acted as a mouthpiece for management, claiming that the money raised through the quests was necessary to finance valuable services. However, Rhonda Gallahy pointed out that 97% of revenue was gained through government funding and only 3% through private fundraising, the Mun Victoria Quest accruing a mere 4%. She also stressed that beauty quests do little to educate the community about disabilities. They serve only to perpetuate an emphasis on "beauty" which has had a profoundly negative impact on the self-esteem of people with disabilities and women in general.

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Earth news wanted

Contributions to Earth News are welcome. Items should be under 30 words and with visual material.

Ranger in focus

Three Canadian and one Australian, members of Greenpeace, recently were denied access to the Ranger and Northback uranium mines in the Northern Territory. The four were attempting to film an Australian segment on the nuclear fuel cycle.

Michelle Sheather, the Australian member of the team, said of the reaction they received from the mining companies:

"Though we, by no means, expected open arms, we also did not anticipate the paranoia exhibited by these companies. Not only were we denied access to both mines, but the principal shareholders of Ranger, energy Resources of Australia, refused to speak with us. However, the filmmakers were able to film at Ranger unofficially going in the back entrance.

Source: Greenpeace Newsletter, NSW.

Respecting the self-esteem of people with disabilities and women in general.
Nuclear free Pacific meeting

Warm sunshine and glowing blue zu-Matsubara hospitality welcomed the 120 delegates and guests to the 4th Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific conference (NFIPC) held in Port Vila from 27 to 29 July, 1983. It was the first time the NFIPC was held in a country where the government was supportive of the cause and the conference.

Chief Wily Bonagasta (the host) had called for food to be sent from throughout the islands to feed participants. Food came in such quantities that after five days he had to ask that no more be sent.

The conference reaffirmed the support of the independence struggle of people of East Timor. Delegates, especially those from Fiji, Solomon Islands and Western Samoa, returned home prepared to lobby their governments for the crucial UN East Timor vote in November.

Delegates heard reports of plant shows which is proposed Pacific radioactive waste dump site of the current alternative, storing the waste in such islands in order to reduce population. The people of the Pacific have more than their fair share of indigenous struggle in this post-colonial era and more than their share of the nuclear nightmare.

Action: Financial support for the Australian Nuclear Free and Independent People's Congress.

Pesticide market survey

In April this year 1983 the concern Velocil sent two technical representatives to meet with a limited number of environmental group representatives throughout Australia.

Velocil manufactures a range of agricultural chemicals which it distributes throughout the world. These chemicals include the organophosphate pesticides dichlorvos and carbaryl which have been gradually legislated out of Australia. In fact, the only agricultural use of dichlorvos allowed under present USA law is application on citrus crops in Hawaii.

The Velocil people, two men in pens in toxicology, presented their views upon their audience that in the past Velocil people had developed a range of products that have benefited the whole world. Questions concerning the past use and testing of chemicals by Velocil in the Third World, one of Velocil's most profitable markets, were brushed aside.

The role of the Velocil people was not made clear (ostensibly it was to continue the dialogue between manufacturers and consumers). Some environmentalists who met these representatives expressed fears that multinational industrial corporations may increase the dumping in Australia of products restricted from sale in other countries as Australian protection laws lag behind those existing in many other industrialised nations.

Nuclear bungle continues

It is now four years since the nuclear reactor accident that rocked nuclear industry occurred at Three Mile Island, USA. The accident caused vast closures of a 'core melt down'. The worst.

A rally in support of a nuclear free Pacific which took place during the meeting.

N-ship protest

On 1 July 1983 a major USA fleet entered Western Australian ports, led by the giant nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Carl Vinson. On the 15 ships were over 10,000 military personnel and 300 civilians. Over 9000 people protested the Fremantle waterfront on 2 July, in what was the largest ever protest aimed solely at visiting nuclear-armed and powered warships in Australia.

The State Government has a clear policy that nuclear vessels are not welcome in WA ports. Yet these 'visits' are increasing. They put the people of WA at grave risk. The Perth Freonare area is certain to be targeted by Soviet missiles while it plays host to these warships.

In order to highlight these issues through a new group, Project focussing (PI), has been formed. PI's first public action took place on 2 July when some 100 people were arrested for distributing leaflets to visitors boarding the giant nuclear warship USS Korden. On Sunday 3 July, some 2000 people boarded the ship and displayed banners over its bow, beneath its nuclear armed Torrie missiles. This was the first protest in Australia on board a nuclear armed warship.

Contact: Further details can be obtained from Project Jecser, PO Box 1747, Orange Square, Perth, WA 6000.

Wrong number

Sorry wrong number

Chaim conference

A 'hazardous chemicals in the Australian environment' conference will be held on 12-13 August 1983 at Sydney University. The conference is sponsored by the Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals Committee of the Total Environment Centre with Australian Council for the Advancement of Science. The first day includes a seminar on legislation and regulation relating to hazardous chemicals. An informal conference will be conducted by Australian environmentalists and chemicals and the workplace, concerns over disposal of waste, chemical, and public concern over the disposal of hazardous chemicals.

The conference will be held on 13 August will deal with chemicals and health and pesticide residues in food, pesticides and health, chemical residues in food, pesticides and the garden, and pesticide regulations and enforcement.

Action: If you are interested in attending this conference, for further information contact Ms Nev Wrapped, c/o Total Environment Centre, 2000 Tel: (02) 2574714.
ACTU health policies

Three ACTU Health and Safety policies were finalised in May 1983. The policies were concerned with the prevention of repetitive strain injury (RSI), working in heat; and chemical hazards.

The policy on RSI outlines a strategy for unions to pursue through negotiation with employers to prevent such injuries from occurring. This means tackling the occupational causes at the source; by modifying the workplace and work processes to remove or reduce the cause and by excluding them at the design stage. (For more information on RSI see Chain Reaction 21).

The policy on working in heat notes the risks to health associated with hot working conditions and outlines a strategy to eliminate these risks and improve the quality of the working environment.

Debendox

Production of the controversial morning-sickness drug Debendox is to cease worldwide, the manufacturers, Merrell Pharmaceuticals, announced in early June.

The decision came 13 days after a US jury awarded $438,000 to the family of a 12-year-old Mary Oxendine who was born with a shortened right hand and missing fingers after her mother took the drug during pregnancy.

The USA parents of Mr Merrell-Dow last week blamed bedpans, rising insurance premiums and the increasing costs of defending lawsuits for its decision to cease production. Mr David Sherrock, Merrell-Dow's president, said: "Bendectin is safe and effective. We are taking this action for economic reasons. The real losers are the women of the future."

Mr Ian Sheridan, the legal adviser of the Debendox Action Group, representing the parents of nearly 400 malformed children in the UK, has taken 12 of the UK cases to court in Ohio, the home of Merrell-Dow. Merrell-Dow is arguing that the cases should be returned to the UK, where it is harder to win damages.

Another viewpoint

It is unusual to get opinions directly from the US government on the issue of nuclear disarmament. However, in the 12 June 1983 issue of The Guardian, a letter was published from Victor Alexander, a Soviet foreign affairs analyst based in Moscow, USSR. In his letter, he draws attention to the US government on the issue of nuclear disarmament. Usually, the USA's responses are not very clear to the Soviet Union. For a discussion of 'first-strike' see Chain Reaction 29.

As evidence of this he points to the contrast in the USA's assurances at the Geneva talks of intent to make progress while the USA is negotiating with European governments on the deployment of USA nuclear missiles in Europe. He implies that the USA has had little to do with any situation in Europe.


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Defending the Sunburnt Country

A great neglected issue in the peace movement today is the lack of serious discussion of alternatives to the current defence posture of Australia. Critics of the peace movement can point to this failing and characterise the movement's position as utterly irresponsible. The issue is drawn in stark terms: either disarmament, unilaterally or multilaterally, or 'more of the same' in defence policy. In this article, Mark D Hayes examines a range of alternatives to Australia's current defence posture.

Unless one reads British weekly news magazines, such as the Guardian Weekly or the New Statesman, an event which took place in Britain in mid-May 1983 would have passed one by totally. It was all but neglected by most of the British media as well. The event was the release of a major report on an alternative defence posture for Britain. Entitled Defence Without The Bomb, this substantial document represents over two years' work by a think-tank attached to the School of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford in West Yorkshire.

In Britain, a nuclear-armed power in its own right as well as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), arguments about disarmament have often turned to whether Britain, or the West generally, should get rid of its nuclear weapons first - unilateralism - or whether some move should be made by the Soviet Union first and then be followed up by a reciprocal Western move - multilateralism. In Australia, where nuclear weapons are, thankfully, remote, such arguments are usually seen as either irrelevant or regarded with some puzzlement.

The debate has been one on which the peace movement and its periodic ally, the British Labour Party, has foundered more than once. Convincing moral and ethical arguments aside, the realities of national defence in a dangerous and uncertain world have apparently meant that Britain had to retain its nuclear arsenal as a contribution to Western postures of deterrence against the Soviet Union.

The release of Defence Without The Bomb could not be more timely. The Guardian Weekly greeted the report with considerable praise, saying that it removed the obvious and fundamental weakness of the unilateralist case, the lack of serious and realistic proposals for non-nuclear national defence.

Mark D Hayes is a graduate of the University of Queensland in journalism and sociology and the University of Bradford in peace studies. He is currently reading for a PhD in sociology at the University of Queensland and doing research into aspects of the arms race, Australia's defence posture and alternative defence issues. He has also worked as a journalist and researcher for radio, television, film and print media.
Alternative defence and Australia

Defending Australia is a vexing problem. This continent has a long and often very thinly populated coast. Most of the population lives in major cities clustered along the south-east seaboard, and transport links to the north and west are sparse and highly vulnerable. Australia only has a modest industrial capacity from which defence material can be assembled, but the small population is inventive and able to mobilise itself readily under threat. Australia is also in a most important strategic position with respect to both the south-western Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as being on the far side of the world from the major military powers of the northern hemisphere.

Only once in the 200-year history of Australia's occupation by Europeans has Australia been close to being seriously threatened as a nation and that was during the early stages of the Second World War. As official histories reveal, some Japanese military commanders felt that they should swiftly follow up their successes in Asia and the Pacific and invade Australia. Cooler heads in Tokyo studied the situation and concluded that an invasion of Australia was simply not on, at least not until gains made elsewhere had been well and truly consolidated.

Invasion of Australia is possibly the greatest fear for many who support strong defence for Australia. However no less an authority than the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence examined the prospect of invasion of Australia in their 1981 report, Threats to Australia's Security: Their Nature and Probability, and concluded that the only nation with the capacity to successfully invade this country at present was the United States of America! The committee cited excerpts from captured Japanese military documents dated March 1942 in which Japanese officials discussed an invasion of Australia as part of the question. But during the darkest days of the war, the then Labor government secretly drew up plans for a strategic defence of Australia, which the Japanese dismissed an invasion of Australia as out of the question. The assessment of threats to national security is difficult as it demands very high-level information about what neighbouring nations are doing and what they might realistically do in the foreseeable future. In nations such as Australia, public and political perceptions of threats can vary widely. Perceived threats arise as much from political dangers. Without any threat to national security, an expensive defence posture can be assembled, but the small population is inventive and able to mobilise itself readily under threat. Australia is also in a most important strategic position with respect to both the south-western Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as being on the far side of the world from the major military powers of the northern hemisphere.

Defending Australia is a most vexing problem. This continent has a long and often very thinly populated coast. Most of the population lives in major cities clustered along the south-east seaboard, and transport links to the north and west are sparse and highly vulnerable. Australia only has a modest industrial capacity from which defence material can be assembled, but the small population is inventive and able to mobilise itself readily under threat. Australia is also in a most important strategic position with respect to both the south-western Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as being on the far side of the world from the major military powers of the northern hemisphere.

Defence policies often bring well behind defence policies because of the time and effort that is involved. As a result, the Australian government has been slow to act on the need for new military technology and hardware for new postures. The scrapping of HMAS Melbourne, the purchase of new naval patrol boats and guided missile frigates, the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems, and changes in the basing and operations of RAAF fighter squadrons which have taken place over the last eight years are indicative of a territorial defence posture rather than a forward defence posture.

At the same time, the great power alliance forms the central element in Australia's defence posture. The great power image, and its historical reality, is central to an understanding of the nature of alliances and relations between the USA, Australia, and New Zealand. Like most major treaties of this kind, ANZUS is an agreement to commit. It is not, and never has been, an ironclad guarantee of USA military assistance to Australia in times of crisis. The interpretation of ANZUS has varied considerably on both sides of the Pacific, but from the Australian side ANZUS has been interpreted in the public mind as an eventuality, not an understanding in Australian defence thinking.

A common theme runs through the great power image in Australia's history. Australia felt strongly that it should ingratiate itself into the 'good books' of the great power through involving itself in the great power's overseas commitments. In the cold war context, it is evident that the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, it is evident that the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests.

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Defence policies often bring well behind defence policies because of the time and effort that is involved. As a result, the Australian government has been slow to act on the need for new military technology and hardware for new postures. The scrapping of HMAS Melbourne, the purchase of new naval patrol boats and guided missile frigates, the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems, and changes in the basing and operations of RAAF fighter squadrons which have taken place over the last eight years are indicative of a territorial defence posture rather than a forward defence posture.

At the same time, the great power alliance forms the central element in Australia's defence posture. The great power image, and its historical reality, is central to an understanding of the nature of alliances and relations between the USA, Australia, and New Zealand. Like most major treaties of this kind, ANZUS is an agreement to commit. It is not, and never has been, an ironclad guarantee of USA military assistance to Australia in times of crisis. The interpretation of ANZUS has varied considerably on both sides of the Pacific, but from the Australian side ANZUS has been interpreted in the public mind as an eventuality, not an understanding in Australian defence thinking.

A very general theme runs through the great power image in Australia's history. Australia felt strongly that it should ingratiate itself into the 'good books' of the great power through involving itself in the great power's overseas commitments. In the cold war context, it is evident that the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, it is evident that the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests. In the context of economic recession, the ANZUS pact was based on mutual interests.

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Towards alternative defence

The agenda before proponents of an alternative defence for Australia is a large one. To begin with, serious proponents of alternative defence must know an enormous amount about the intricacies of Australia's current defence posture and policy. Further, they must be well versed in the complexities of the USA defence policy and posture, including many technical details of weapons systems. A good knowledge of the global arms race or of where to get accurate and current information on it is essential. All too often, discussions on Australia's defence take place in a context which all but denies the existence of a critical and escalating global arms race. Even generally excellent documents, such as the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence report, engage in double-think: the report effectively deplores the global nuclear arms race but it reinforces the official thinking that deterrence protects Australia from nuclear war. Alternative defence proponents must begin to puncture the pervasive quagmire of deterrence in an environment in which the USA now has an announced first-strike nuclear targeting policy reinforced by the technology required to mount a credible, but arguably not completely overwhelming, first-strike attack on the Soviet Union. Opponents of the peace movement will undoubtedly try to misrepresent the position of alternative defence proponents. Thorough research and deep knowledge of the issues will go far in deflecting all but the most serious criticisms. For these criticisms, a systematic analysis of steps from the current situation to some form of alternative, a transarming policy, must be developed.

Transarming broadly refers to policies for defence and disarmament which systematically lead towards general and complete disarmament but which in no time leave a nation undefended. Peace conversion, the conversion of military-oriented industry, is an essential part. Transarming also takes account of the requirement for changes in public opinion through education and public information programs. Responsible peacekeepers would be aware of the destabilizing consequences for Australia and its region of acts of sudden or significant unilateral disarmament. Acts from the current and foreseeable political impossibility of such initiatives as the removal of the joint facilities, initiatives on disarmament which actually involve disarmament in some meaningful form require careful consideration.

The growing literature on or related to alternative defence matters indicates a wide range of perspectives and commitments to peace and disarmament. For the purposes of analysis, the literature can be divided into two broad paradigms: strategic and social.

Strategic alternatives

This author locates himself in the strategic paradigm, as evidenced by his stress upon careful research in mainstream areas of strategic and military studies and analysis. But the strategic paradigm develops responsibly beyond orthodox strategy into alternative military and quasi-military postures. An assessment of threats to national security, from within and without, and careful study on how to meet them without recourse to expensive or excessive defence preparations is central to strategic alternatives. Strategic research on alternatives seeks to exchange information and concepts with existing defence professionals. The legitimacy of existing defence activity is generally accepted. A complete range of strategic alternatives would include a nuclear-armed Australia; a significantly enhanced conventional defence capacity including development or purchase of modern 'smart' conventional weapons, and various models of militia, guerilla or civilian reservist defence. A full assessment of threats to national security, from within and without, will take account of the requirement for changes in public opinion through education and public information programs. Responsible peacekeepers would be aware of the destabilizing consequences for Australia and its region of acts of sudden or significant unilateral disarmament. Acts from the current and foreseeable political impossibility of such initiatives as the removal of the joint facilities, initiatives on disarmament which actually involve disarmament in some meaningful form require careful consideration.

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Coupled with strategic defence (with the stress on defence not offence) after the style of the Swedish defence posture is the difficult issue of civil defence—the protection of civilians and national infrastructure against conventional, chemical and biological weapons, and nuclear attack. A protected population stands a significantly greater chance of survival after a devastating attack than an uninformed populace. The extensive Swedish plans for civil defence, set in the context of formidable defence stance, should be studied closely.

Civil defence is a dilemma for a nation such as Australia, closely allied as it is with the USA in a first-strike targeting era. In such an era, civil defence can legitimately be interpreted as a signal of serious intention to imitate and wage nuclear war. Soviet civil defence plans have long been so interpreted by 'hawkish' Western commentators. Careful study of the known and reasonably hypothesised effects of single and massed nuclear detonations gives a certain amount of confidence about survival after an attack.

This author has examined a three-megaton ground burst nuclear attack on Brisbane in some detail and has concluded that, even with such an attack there would be no warning and with no protection or preparation for the population whatsoever, at least half of the one million inhabitants of the greater Brisbane area would survive in quite good condition, even taking into account significant fallout over south-east Queensland.

_The author locates himself in the strategic paradigm as evidenced by his stress upon careful research in mainstream areas of strategic and military studies and analysis._

_Please note that the image contains diagrams and figures that are mentioned in the text._

**Figure 25. A car-axle-shooter: advert.**

**Figure 26. Consequences of a car-axle-shoot.**

**Figure 27. Advert for the Super Solder.**

**Figure 28. Entry to the Super Solder.**
Such conclusions should not be the basis for false confidence. A nuclear attack on an Australian city would be a disaster of the highest order. Strategic alternative defence must address the possibility of the effects of various forms of nuclear warfare on Australia. Even if a nuclear war remains limited, the medium and longer term environmental, strategic, economic, political, and social effects of the war on Australia would be substantial.

Problems associated with personnel for defence must also be examined. Conscription, compulsory military or militia defence, expanded reserve training, voluntary training for various defence tasks, raising and training the population for defence at short notice, equipment purchases, distribution, mobilisation plans all require detailed and considerable attention. Overseas experience in Sweden or Switzerland, for example, could prove valuable for alternative strategic defence.

Social defence

Social defence asks questions and makes commitments about the nature of the society being defended. It enters into ethical and moral areas neglected or left implicit in strategic thinking. Social defence proponents understand that defence involves defending people from unjust social relations. The nature of the society being defended is fundamental to the development of social defence plans. All require detailed and considerable mobilisation for survival, new strategic, economic, political, and social effects of limited, the medium and longer term environmental of nuclear warfare on Australia. Even if a nuclear war remains a disaster of the highest order. Strategic alternative defence proponents should address seriously.

Dr Brian Martin's proposition is that, post-holocaust, those best equipped to provide order in a nation relatively unscathed by Australia could be, would be the same kinds of people who contributed to the war. This is evidenced by the elaborate plans in place throughout the northern hemisphere to protect the political, financial, and military elite from the likely effects of nuclear weapons. All recent scenarios for a post-holocaust world agree that the political structures which will emerge would be totalitarian: the survivors of the holocaust, and there will be many all accounts, will be controlled by armed squads with diamonc powers. The peace movement, Dr Martin argues, had better devise at least some strategy to figure out what their response would be if their campaigns fail and the holocaust war does occur. Social defence can contribute significantly to this process.

On defence and national security

Absolute national security cannot be achieved through even the most powerful military means. The vast military machines of the two superpowers have brought them nothing but even greater insecurity. Massive, massive and escalating military expenditure is seriously eroding the very society it is supposed to protect. Desperate and unwarranted accelerated and braggart civil defence for social projects are cut back while the military appears to have a virtual open cheque.

So deeply ingrained in the Australian psyche is the need for defence in a traditional sense that alternative defence proponents face a major public relations problem. Strategic alternative defence proponents must hammer away at the corridors of power to gain a hearing. Social defence proponents must get along with their own agendas and contribute to a steady positive political temperature on the whole issue of alternatives to the defence status quo. There must be a realisation amongst Australians that we are at war with each other. There must be a realisation amongst Australian peace-makers, spreading out to the wider community.

What social defence proponents in Australia need to do is to form an organisation which could be, would be the same kind of people who contributed to the war. This is evidenced by the elaborate plans in place throughout the northern hemisphere to protect the political, financial, and military elite from the likely effects of nuclear weapons. All recent scenarios for a post-holocaust world agree that the political structures which will emerge would be totalitarian: the survivors of the holocaust, and there will be many all accounts, will be controlled by armed squads with diamonc powers. The peace movement, Dr Martin argues, had better devise at least some strategy to figure out what their response would be if their campaigns fail and the holocaust war does occur. Social defence can contribute significantly to this process.

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South Australian economy, with estimates that 5000 direct jobs and 25,000 indirect jobs would be created. The EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for the project, produced by Roxby Management Services (the company set up to manage the project), indicated that direct employment will be only 2500 after five years of production. Apart from this, the cost to South Australia in economic and environmental terms has been ignored.

Under the terms of the Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act, 1982, the state government is committed to providing $50 million in infrastructure for the project and 150 Megawatts of electricity (equal third of the capacity of the new Northern Power Station) at cost price. Royalties are to be paid at the rate of 2.5% of the exmine value for the first five years, and then at 5% for the rest. The Flinders Ranges are on the same uranium deposit. Despite bland assurances in the EIS based on a computer simulation study, it is likely that such extensive use of uranium water will be detrimental to this sensitive environment.

As history has shown, mine workers' health will be at risk despite safety precautions which will supposedly protect workers from exposure to radiation. The ventilation system at Olympic Dam is known, from recent onsite information, to have been damaged by blasting in the shaft. Hence radon gas and radioactive dust particles are not being exhausted.

Management assures workers that the radiation levels indicated by monitoring badges are safe but workers are not informed of the actual readings. In the current economic climate, workers will take whatever jobs are offered and accept unsafe working conditions in remote locations. Mine workers are known to be unhappy with working conditions at the Olympic Dam project.

The Kokatha people, the traditional owners of the land, made an independent anthropological survey of the Roxby Downs area to identify sacred sites and other areas of significance. Their report, which was ignored by RMS and is not included in the EIS, showed that the Whirkan Shaft itself had already destroyed one significant site and that others would be threatened by the project. The anthropological survey commissioned by RMS is not recognised as legitimate by the Kokatha people, but in the U.S.

A further independent survey is currently being commissioned by the South Australian government. Act itself denies to Aboriginal people the right to protect sites which are not recognised by the joint venturers or which will interfere with the exploitation of the mine.

A Labor government is now in power in South Australia. It was elected just after the federal ALP amended its policy on uranium to allow the mining and export of uranium if it occurred in conjunction with other minerals (the so-called "Roxby Downs Amendment"). During the election campaign Mr Bannon stated that, "Roxby Downs project will go ahead under a Labor government, the joint venturers are free to do what they like." It seems that this statement, which was opposed by the joint venturers, is not valid.

Under the circumstances the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia (CNFA) is organizing a nationally supported blockade at the Olympic Dam as a means of demonstrating citizens' opposition to uranium mining and export. Blockade training based on principles of non-violent action is underway in several states to prepare protesters for 27 August 1983 when the blockade will begin.

The blockade is intended to stop production at the mine and call on the state ALP to cancel the British Petroleum-Western Mining Corporation mining lease and implement a full moratorium on uranium mining. It is not intended to attack workers but to pressure the state government which gives workers no alternative, except to relocate, to these unsafe jobs with poor conditions.

Preparation for the blockade is stepping up. Blockaders' training will include legal briefing, bush survival techniques and plans of mine. All participants will be organizing an affinity group of seven to twelve people who will organise their own food, transport, etc. and provide the core of personnel for continuous decision-making both within the affinity group and in the blockade as a whole. The guidelines for establishing an affinity group to decide either independently or in conjunction with other groups appropriate tactics for effecting the blockade. They are the emphasis of nuclear group in your state. Children will welcome the protest.

Contact:
- South Australia: Campaign Against Nuclear Energy, 299 Magher Street, Adelaide, 5000. Tel: (08) 82316212.
- Western Australia: Campaign Against Nuclear Energy, 790 Hay St, Perth, WA 6000. Tel: (03) 2222209, (03) 3222942.
- Victoria: Roxby Action Group, 366 Collingwood, Vic 3066. Tel: (03) 4197625.
- Queensland: Campaign Against Nuclear Energy, 63 Anzac Highway, Enfield, Qld 4051. Tel: (07) 55832226.
- New South Wales: Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia, 10 George St, Sydney 2000. Tel: (02) 32468226.
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Newspaper headlines from reports of passage of the Roxby Downs Indenture Bill in June 1982 (background 'Blockade Roxby Downs'): 

1. New bid on Roxby: Light for Roxby

Rebel MP forces Roxby Downs bill through House

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Two postgraduate students have written to Chain Reaction outlining views on their tertiary environment education:

Dear Chain Reaction,

In the past three and a half years we have had the opportunity to pursue postgraduate environmental courses at the University of Tasmania, the University of Western Australia, and Griffith University, Queensland. We are now studying at Griffith University for our PhD.

This is not a unique experience. When making choices about where we would go, and what postgraduate study we would follow, we closely examined the environmental courses offered by many of the universities throughout Australia. We feel strongly that an integral part of environmental education should be the social aspects of environmental concerns and an integration of political, philosophical and sociological aspects of environmental knowledge should be included in courses as well as the technocratic options. Unfortunately, the technocratic options, such as environmental science, soil and water conservation, waste management, flora and fauna management, energy and resource management, and environmental economics and cost benefit analysis, name a few, seem to predominate in Australian environmental education courses. As such, from our point of view, environmental courses should educate students to view environmental matters from a holistic perspective.

The various courses around Australia differ tremendously in content and intent. To some extent the need to be a product of the specialisations and values of the people running the courses. Having said this, could we give you our value judgements on two such courses that represent the best and the worst, respectively, of what's on offer. Firstly, one of the best, in our opinion, is the offered by the Centre for Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. This two-year full-time Master's coursework degree is one of the best because it genuinely attempts to achieve an integration of various disciplinary contributions. In other words a holistic perspective is fostered and students are encouraged to take a multi-disciplinary approach to their work. Students are encouraged to think about and justly the inevitable value judgements that seem to be made about environmental issues and problems. Also, students can choose environmental topics for their essays, projects and thesis which allows them personally to reflect on or affect this process on particular topical concerns. Further, students are not forced to work on specific topics chosen by their course advisors.

At the other end of the spectrum is the Master of Science in Natural Resource Management offered by the Agricultural Faculty at the University of Western Australia. Students in this course have commented bitterly at the lack of interest shown by the course coordinators in the structuring of the course and the work done by the students.

Between these two examples there are various departments through out Australia which are doing environmental studies. The largest collection of such academics can be found at the School of Environmental Studies, Griffith University, Brisbane. This school teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate courses, but suffers from an inability to come to terms with the multi-disciplinary demands of environmental studies. A close examination of the school reveals the following: mathematics, technology, ecology, soil science and socio science. The school is aware of its problem and hopefully will come to terms with them in the future.

Finally, a word of warning about environmental courses given by departments that are almost exclusively scientifically orientated. Research by people in these departments can be exclusively concerned with a technical fix approach to society's environmental and ecological problems. As a result from being inadequate, such an approach often validates the continuance of environmentally damaging practices by allowing the environment to cite the fact that "the experts are working on the problem and will soon have an answer." The only key environmentalists will ultimately be able to achieve a long lasting impact is through beginning to understand and act on only the technical problems, but also the social institutions, governmental policies and human behaviors and beliefs underlying our society. Such understanding should be the outcome of environmental education courses.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to put our views.

Phil Tige and Ross Taplin

NOTES ON THE COURSE GUIDE

- The guide includes courses which have a broader scope than simply 'Environmental Science'. Courses listed under headings such as 'Urban and Regional Planning' have been included as they deal with government planning and developments affecting both the social and natural environment.

- Most courses included in the guide have included excerpts from information provided by course organisers. If noted with the entry the information has been provided by student critics.

If you find a course which interests you, you will need to write to 'The Registrar' at the address provided for more detailed information.

KEY

G Dip Graduate Diploma
Assoc Associate Hons Honours
B Bachelor Master
Dip Diploma PE Partly external
E External PhD Doctor of Philosophy
FT Full time PT Part Time

COURSE GUIDE

Adelaide University
GPO Box 498
Adelaide SA 5001

Environmental studies: B Dip 4½ year FT; M 2 years FT or PT equivalent, B Applied Science, 3 years FT or PT equivalent.

The main aim of these courses is to present an integrated approach to environmental problems so that graduates, regardless of their previous training, gain a wider knowledge and more comprehensive understanding of the environment which will enable them to apply their basic disciplines to the solution of environmental problems.

Urban and regional planning: M 2 years FT or PT equivalent, from appropriate first degree by study and research.

Australian National University
PO Box 4
Canberra ACT 2600

Human sciences: Major in B Arts or B Science 3 years FT or PT equivalent, Honours available.

The program consists of two units designed to be taken in sequence.

They provide students with an opportunity to integrate their previous studies around topics and issues of crucial importance in contemporary society. The Human Ecology unit studies the interaction between human societies and their environments in the past, present and future, and the ways in which natural processes affect and are affected by cultural ideas and practices. The Human Adaptability unit examines the biological and cultural influences by which human beings adapt to their social and natural environments and the implications of these.

Resource and environmental studies: M Arts 2 years FT or PT equivalent.

It is not the intention of the course to produce experts in one or a number of environmental disciplines, but rather to provide an overview of several of the important areas of environmental studies.

Ballarat CAE
Gaar Ave
Mt Helen Vic 3350

Biological resource management: B Applied Science, 3 years FT or PT equivalent.
22 Chain Reaction

the world is a city, and urbanism is everybody's business.

Urban Studies:

Urban Planning:

degrees by research.

Footscray Vic 3011

Caulfield East Vic 3145

approach has proven most successful given the need in Australia for

sufficient background to develop programs that present an 'integrated'

from their interaction with the urban and rural environment.

Commonwealth Institute of Health

Building A27

University of Sydney

NSW 2006

Occupational health: 1 year FT from registration as a medical practitioner.

Aim is to give teachers, youth leaders and recreational workers

Toxicology including environmental chemistry and human

Ecology:

Community studies:

M Science and M Arts 1-2 years FT or PT for equivalent; h igher

environmental studies . . . The school is aware of its problems and

hopefully will come to terms with them in the future. (Quote from letter by Phil. Tigges and Ros Taplin)

Ecosystem management: Major in B Science 3 years FT, 4 years Hon, or PT equivalent.

Resource management: Major in B Science 3 years FT, 4 years Hon, or PT equivalent.

Hawkesbury Agricultural College

Richmond NSW 2753

Environmental health: B Applied Science 3 years FT

This course has been designed to meet the training needs of health and building surveyors and others who work with the urban and rural environment.

James Cook University

North Queensland 4811

Regional planning: 1 year FT or PT equivalent, by coursework; M Economics 1 year FT or PT equivalent, by research with a coursework component.

Lincoln Institute

625 Swanston St

Carlton Vic 3063

Community health: G Dip 2 years PT;

Macquarie University

North Ryde NSW 2113

Environmental planning: M 2 years FT, or 3 years PT

This is especially oriented toward professional training

for the future in environmental planning. Aims to produce graduates who will pe rform complementary

linking the urban and environmental fields.

Urban studies: G Dip 1 year FT or PT equivalent; M 2 years FT, or 3 years PT

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Melbourne University

Swanston St

Parkville Vic 3052

Environmental studies: M 1–2 years FT, or 4 years PT.

To switch to a forum in the examination of environmental problems, M Philosophy 1–3 years FT, 2–6 years PT, by research; PhD 2–5 years FT, 4–8 years PT, by research.

The School of Australian Environmental Studies suffers from an inability to come to terms with the multi-disciplinary demands of environmental studies. The school is aware of its problems and hopefully will come to terms with them in the future. (Quote from letter by Phil. Tigges and Ros Taplin)

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Melbourne University

Swanston St

Parkville Vic 3052

Environmental studies: M 1–2 years FT, or 4 years PT.
entailing whether sufficient public awareness of these issues can be raised. It is therefore essentially an educational problem.

Town planning: 8 years FT, 5 years Hons; M FT and PT, by research.

Northern Rivers CAE

PO Box 157
Lismore 2480

Environmental studies and resource management: Assoc Dip 2 years PT or equivalent, G Dip 3 years FT or PT equivalent.

Orange Agricultural College

PO Box 893
Orange NSW 2800

Environmental control: Assoc Dip 2 years FT or PT equivalent, or 4 years E, held jointly with Mitchell CAE.

Queensland Institute of Technology

GPO Box 243t
Brisbane Qld 4000

Environmental studies: B Applied Science 3 years FT or PT equivalent; G Dip 4 years PT or E equivalent.

Architecture: G Dip 3 years FT or PT equivalent.

The work of the landscape architect has changed...to include a much broader role as a professional design and management consultant on a wide range of large-scale environmental problems.

Urban and regional planning: G Dip 3 years PT, by research.

Queensland University

St Lucia Qld 4067

Ecology: Major in B Science 3 years FT or PT equivalent.

Environmental studies: Major in B Arts or B Science 3 years FT or PT equivalent, or E equivalent.

Health Surveying: Assoc Dip 2 years PT or equivalent.

Regional and town planning: B 4 years FT; Hons awarded on merit, Town Planning Hons by thesis; M 1 year FT or PT equivalent.

Urban and Regional Planning: M 2–4 years FT, 3–6 years PT, by coursework and thesis; Ph D 3 years Ph or M equivalent from Hons by thesis.

Riverina CAE

PO Box 588
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Consumer affairs: B Arts (food science option) 3 years FT or PT equivalent, or E equivalent.

Agricultural protection: Assoc Dip 4 years E.

The course provides a broad education in the area of plant and animal protection with emphasis on practices associated with agricultural regulatory services throughout Australia. This is a fast-paced module where students are normally expected to be in approved government or private industry employment.

Roseworthy Agricultural College

Roseworthy SA 5371

Natural resources: Dip Applied Science 3 years FT or PT equivalent, G Dip 1 year FT or PT equivalent.

The term ‘natural resources’ is used to cover both the renewable biological resources and the physical components of the environment which sustain them. These must be distinguished from the non-renewable resources such as minerals. The concept of resource management involves a knowledge not only of the inter-relationships between biological and physical factors, but also processes and human intervention. Accordingly, the course contains a dual emphasis on scientific and anthropocentric matters with management-oriented studies.

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integrating the two. It is proposed to submit this course for re-creditation as a degree.

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

GPO Box 4780V
Melbourne Vic 3001

Industrial ergonomics: G Dip.

Urban and regional planning: B Applied Science (Planning), 3 years FT or PT equivalent; G Dip 4 years PT or E equivalent.

Land management in today’s world has to be capable of coping with rapid change in values and circumstances, and needs to be able to understand complex systems and to interact with each other.

Water quality models of both Sydney Harbour and the Paraparaumu River and Estuarine Systems Network were used to study the probability of various estuarine and coastal ecosystems, and to help determine whether the natural quality of water is being maintained. The study was undertaken in collaboration with the New Zealand Department of Science and Technology.

Regional and town planning: G Dip 2 years FT or PT equivalent, or 4 years E, held jointly with Mitchell CAE.

Tasmania CAE

Ollivette Grove
Mt Nelson Tas 7007

Environmental design: B Arts 3 years FT.

Natural resources: Dip Applied Science 3 years FT or PT equivalent; G Dip 1 year FT or PT equivalent.

Urban planning: G Dip 3 years FT after B Arts Environmental Design or equivalent.

Tasmania University

GPO Box 252C
Hobart Tas 7003

Environmental studies: M 2 years FT or PT equivalent, interdisciplinary, open to graduates of any faculty.

Environmental health: G Dip 2 years FT or PT equivalent.

Genuinely attempts to achieve an integration of various disciplinary methods and to teach the graduate the need for a holistic perspective and to develop the ability to apply this to specific issues.

M 2–3 years FT, 3–6 years PT, by coursework and thesis; M 2–3 years FT, 3–6 years PT, by coursework and thesis.

Victoria College

221 Burwood Highway
Burwood Vic 3125

Environmental assessment and land use policy: B Applied Science, new course to be offered in 1984 subject to accreditation.

Environmental education: G Dip in Resource Conservation Studies 2 years PT.

This course is designed for persons already qualified in urban and landscape planning or in urban and regional planning, and who have completed a minimum of 180 units of studies in environmental sciences.

Western Australian Institute of Technology

Kent St
Bentley WA 6102

Environmental health: Major in B Applied Science 3 years FT or PE equivalent; M Science 1 year FT or PT equivalent.

Environmental education: G Dip in the Department of Chemical Engineering 1–2 years FT, M 2 years PT.

This group studies processes involved in the emission and control of industrial pollution, and the prevention of pollution problems. Water quality models of both Sydney Harbour and the Paraparaumu River and Estuarine Systems Network were used to study the probability of various estuarine and coastal ecosystems, and to help determine whether the natural quality of water is being maintained. The study was undertaken in collaboration with the New Zealand Department of Science and Technology.

Western Australian Institute of Technology

GPO Box 129
Newtown NSW 2042

Environmental education: Dip Teaching 3 years FT; B Education in geography 4 years FT; G Dip Education studies in Environmental Education 2 years PT.

A program for qualified experienced teachers.
Environmental activists now have a ready set of alternative energy policies to project when involved in a struggle such as the Franklin dam scheme. But how well thought out are these policies, and will they ever be implemented?

In this article, Don Siemon looks at the progress made by the Victorian Labor government in the area of energy policy, and the formidable barriers that remain in achieving the full realisation of the environment movement’s strategies.

Energy has a central place in the world view of the environment movement. Energy analyses allow a more fundamental accounting of our actions than economics. Thermodynamic as well as ecological laws dictate the absolute limits to the exploitation of our planet.

The nuclear industry risks global catastrophe in its search for power. Fossil fuels threaten the carbon dioxide balance. Major energy projects disturb wilderness areas, local environments or established communities. The corporates which control energy are the largest and perhaps the most influential of all.

In confronting these issues, intellectually and politically, environmentalists have evolved a distinctive approach to energy policy. It has a clear long-term aim: sustainability. Renewable sources of energy must become paramount. This is not because the ideas themselves are fundamentally misguided, the opportunistic inventions of mischievous greens. It is because the arguments are only beginning to be developed sufficiently to address the objections of the ‘energy establishment’ and to have some credibility with policy makers.

However, renewable sources can only make an impact if total demand for energy is held down through conservation programs which go beyond present efforts. New technologies changes to the way we meet our needs (notably for transport), and changes to personal attitudes all have their place in a sustainable energy strategy. Not all technologies are suitable just because they are renewable, however. Minimal environmental impact is also a component of sustainability.

The environment movement, seeking to avoid unnecessary future conflict and conscious of its negative media image, has sought to inject these ideas into government and corporate thinking. It has advanced its arguments not only at times of crisis but in quiet, considered contributions to conferences, hearings, and publications.

Reflecting the diversity of the environment movement, perhaps, four major themes of argument have emerged:

1. The first stresses political risks: the anti-democratic tendencies of nuclear power, the dangers of terrorism, the fragility and inflexibility of some centralised supply systems, the problems of energy dependence.

2. The second stresses the inadequacy of present economic theory and current development ideology (which views Australia’s future as based on direct or indirect energy exports). The explicit ‘conserrer society’ position now developing has a strong economic component.

3. The third theme is less visionary. More renewable energy use makes simple economic sense. Saving energy is a better investment than producing more.

In the final theme, the positive social benefits of a ‘solar’ energy strategy are stressed. Simple, decentralised solar technologies can be tools of community creation and personal liberation.

Together, these arguments have considerable emotional and intellectual force. Support for them can be found across a surprising broad sector of Australians, even amongst those who explicitly reject the environment movement. Will this vague popular enthusiasm become manifest in policy changes?

Certainly some of more obvious political and technocratic elements have been picked up, spurred more by OPFC action than by conservationist pressure, however.

Departments of Energy replaced Departments of Fuel and Power, the professional bodies, the Institute of Fuel, became the Institute of Energy.

Thus, for instance, there has been a substantial redirection of energy policy.

Underneath the same changes, however, not all that much has changed. This is not because the ideas themselves are fundamentally misguided, the opportunistic inventions of mischievous greens. It is because the arguments are only beginning to be developed sufficiently to address the objections of the ‘energy establishment’ and to have some credibility with policy makers.

Energy organisations, understandably, have been reluctant to become absorded in this sort of detail with so many pressing issues to face. There is a risk, however, in just standing back and waiting for ideas to come, the movement is forever outside the limelight. It is essential that the environment movement not only toss up ideas, but that it tests them out.

Conservationists have always been keen on solar water heating, for instance. It is only recently, however, that systematic study of its industrial, employment and economic potential in Victoria has been carried out. This work, by Environmentalists for Full Employment, has been done with support from the Victorian Solar Energy Council as the basis of five major policy studies.

Regional as well as sectoral interests may be offended. Readers of Chain Reaction will be aware of how much local business is, in any, Portsea. It has invested behind a major energy development. To the extent that an alternative energy strategy involves a greater role for the public sector, the modesty of Australian government to date, greater taxation, or public investment outside present boundaries—there will be a more unified call by business.

These obstacles are impressive but not, in the end, insurmountable. They require systematic thought and action. Can we convince the public that our proposals are really advantageous? Until we can, there is no chance of a new energy strategy finding political support.

These questions are being confronted in Victoria at the moment, as the Labor government grapples both with a depressed economy and a legacy of mismanagement. Thanks to the work done by many people over many years, a large amount of hard thinking is being undertaken. It is only recently, however, that the primary willingness to listen to the ideas of community conservationists has been understood.
played down by the Liberals. The report, of course, came from a coalition government and was seen as an attempt to negotiate a coalition strategy. However, they are simply the honing of election promises. Electricity shortages, population increases and the Alcoa bungle were all factors in the Liberal defeat of April 1982. Thus, although some business media have portrayed the government as being heavily influenced by the environment movement, the reality is very different. Drafted by their own election rhetoric about "sound financial management", the ears of key decision makers (the Department of Management and Environmental Development, and others) remain closed to all but the melody of rapid brown coal exploitation.

This preoccupation threatens to lock Victoria out of conservation and recyclables and into even more public investment in heavy coal development. The attitude is encouraged by hangovers from the previous administration. The Victorian Brown Coal Council recently released its $1 million study into coal development options. Its perspective is that "The coal must be exploited". This view and the need for "conservation" should be encouraged. Planning requirements for a diversion of the Moyfjord River and for a huge coking plant are still being considered, even though development is prohibited by the state government. The Onslow Energy Advisory Service (HEAS) was set up to assist low-income households to save on their fuel bills. Funds are available for suitable home improvements. The HEAS could well look into a locally-based job creation scheme, the Brunswick Hydro-Electric Project, for more direction. Like the HEAS, this is aimed at low-income households with high electricity accounts, but it also involves training unemployed people in skills of energy auditing, insulation, weatherstripping, and minor building modifications.

The initiatives of the Victorian government, some of which are being matched by other states, are important first steps towards the sort of energy policies which the environment movement has long advocated. The crucial ten is that these initiatives are developed. Institutions such as the SECV can readily accommodate small changes without altering their primary impacts. They are basic ways of working. The Gas and Fuel Corporation, always a more dynamic organization, is positioning itself to benefit as much as possible from the new climate in government.

The temptation for the Cain government will be to leave its new programs at the edge, rather than at the centre, of the energy stage once it has established control and met its immediate obligations. This would be a major error. If, as one ACF study suggests, energy conservation and fuel substitution measures could produce twice the useful energy output of the electricity system in the short term (and give a better return on funds), the government could still allocate substantial funds to go into conservation.

Conservation and other initiatives will be marginal, however, because energy supply schemes such as Loy Yang are not critically examined, and future investments not put off. This, in itself, requires a firm community commitment to new investments, to jobs from conservation instead of jobs from coal.

The environment movement has become one of the major forces threatening to strangle the public to real energy policy to government over the years, is producing its own position paper on the Plan, in contrast to a wide range of community groups to get their views on the way in which energy plans should proceed. In this way, the CEC hopes to be able to build on the work of the CCV and encourage the Department of Minerals and Energy to take into account local environmental considerations in its planning process.

The Department has also set up two major conservation programs. Neither of these has had any input from community groups. The Government Energy Management Program (GEMP) is on-house energy conservation effort. The Home Energy Advice Service (HEAS) was set up to assist low-income households to save on their fuel bills. Funds are available for suitable home improvements. The HEAS could well look into a...
an environmental or anti-militarist issue, then the Greens will almost certainly pull very well. In some local elections, Die Grünen and other alternative and environmental lists have polled 10-15% of the vote and occasionally they have reached as high as 25%. Where they have gained representation in local or state bodies they have sometimes voted in coalition with the Social Democrats.

In the late 1970s the politics of the Social Democrats had become bankrupt, and the Greens were increasingly irrelevant to both the worsening environmental degradation and the economic problems generated by the worldwide recession. The smaller parties to the left of the Social Democrats, some of which had grown from the social movements of the 60s and 70s, and had formed around the more classical social and economic questions, were finding it increasingly difficult to gain support. People from this left-wing oppositional movement had been important in the Greens since their foundation.

The influence of socialist and communist ideology has perhaps been most noticeable in the north of Germany, in the states of Schleswig-Holstein and Lower-Saxony and in the city-state of Hamburg. One left group quite frequently mentioned in that area is the Z-faction of the Maoist party, the Kommunistische Bundes (Communist Federation). This small party widened its concern to include environmental and ecological problems and now has an indomitable position. Two or three other very small Chinese parties either dissolved and supported the Greens, or now align themselves quite closely. By far the largest impact of left people on the Greens has come from the body of independent and undogmatic Marxists and from the ranks of the Social Democrats and the Young Socialists.

**FUNDAMENTALISTS, CONSERVATIVES AND SOCIALISTS**

Die Grünen is not a socialist party, but the socialist tendency within it is important. But it is only one tendency within a very heterogeneous organization. Bert Waddy, a member of the Greens in Cologne, said:

-Some decide the Greens into 1, 2 or 3 factions - you can easily count 12, but you can't always draw sharp divisions between them. On some questions the lines between the different tendencies are not so clear. I think you can mainly talk about the fundamentalist, environmentalist, center-left and the conservative, conservative-industrialist factions.

Another division in the party, between the pragmatists and those who take a much more hard-line or purist position, is related to practice. The more tactical questions do not fall neatly along ideological lines and so situations exist where, say, the socialist group based around Hamburg is probably closest to the more conservative Greens of the south on matters of how to make politics.

The Greens are divided into different factions, the Greens of Hamburg are a dominant part. The Greens is the working together on ecological and economic issues, and the Greens is the working together on ecology and economy. Therefore the Greens stand for a social and ecological economy.

Without a doubt the best-known advocate of the fundamentalist position in the Greens is the exiled East German, Rudolph Bahro. Bahro retains much of his Marxist conviction, but says that classical Marxism is no longer tenable and that the working class must come to a new understanding of the environmental crisis. The fundamentalist view considers that to achieve an ecological society the industrial one must be negated. It wants a total decentralization with no centralised structures at all. Bahro argues for an end not only to the hierarchical division of labour but also to specialization and the division between mental and manual workers. Another viewpoint held by this faction is that there should be no policy which relates to traditional Social Democratic policy and this means opposition to the welfare state.

The socialist position considers Bahro's ideas unrealistic. They consider him as an environmentalist who is not interested in social and economic issues, and the Greens are the movement towards general disarmament, and the prohibition of weapons sales and marketing.

**THE PEACE MOVEMENT**

Among the most important work of the Greens is their contribution to the Western European peace movement. Their peace platform was given high priority during the election campaign and continues to be a central theme in much of their work. The movement in West Germany is very decentralised and seems to consist of a multitude of small groups (Initiatives). Petra Kelly and ex-NATO general Gert Bastion are the best known members of the Greens prominent in the peace movement, but many rank-and-file members are active in their own local groups within and outside the party.

The Greens policy is based around a call for independence from the Eastern and Western blocs, disarmament and neutrality. It calls for: production and stationing of the new missiles; dismantling of existing missiles; creation of disarmed East and West; non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; worldwide movement towards general disarmament; and the prohibition of weapons sales and marketing.

Criticism of the USSR, especially its deployment of SS-20 missiles and its presence in Afghanistan, is strong, and...
The Wimmera wasting away

What at first seemed just a local political story, of a party split in north-west Victoria could lead to a review of sewerage disposal into waterways throughout the state.

Peter Sayer reports on why the state government is worried.

On 6 July 1982 a historic decision was handed down by the Environment Protection Appeals Board in relation to sewerage pollution of the Wimmera River in western Victoria. The ruling came after Victoria’s longest river pollution hearing, following 23 days of legal debate and 2 days of inspections. It stipulates that sewerage effluent from Horsham will no longer be allowed to flow into the Wimmera at Horsham to be ceased by the end of 1983.

The parties to the dispute were the Horsham Sewage Works Authority (HSWA) who had applied for a population of 12,500 for the Wimmera River, which is one of the tributaries of the Wimmera. The Environmental Protection Board’s decision is now subject to appeal.

The Wimmera River is part of the Murray-Darling basin and is used for many activities such as irrigation, aquaculture, and hydropower. The Wimmera River is also a popular spot for fishing and recreation.

The Wimmera River is polluting, causing a serious threat to the river’s ecosystem and the health of the local community.

The water flow into the Wimmera lakes occurred in 1975-76, but did not reach the standards required. As a result, the Wimmera River was not able to sustain its ecosystem.

The environmental impact of the Wimmera pollution can be seen in the deterioration of the river’s health and the decline in fish populations.

There are also concerns that the pollution could affect the health of local residents who use the river for drinking water.
and has opted to work behind the scenes in attempting to alter the ruling. In early December 1982 the Victorian Conservation Minister, Mr Walker, 'set aside' the decision. In a press release to the Melbourne Herald, Mr Walker claimed that the Appeals Board's decision was impractical because it was not empowered to consider economic factors in its decision. The HSA estimated it would cost $3.5 million to establish alternative means of disposal to comply with the order. At the beginning of 1982 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had estimated the cost at $1.3 million. In July 1982 the HSA estimated $2 million. At the appeal hearing the Dimboola Shire's engineering witness had outlined a land-based disposal scheme with $770,000 capital cost. His evidence was dismissed as irrelevant.

Mr Walker subsequently directed the EPA to prepare a state environment protection policy for the waters of the Wimmera River. In return the HSA withdrew its Supreme Court challenge.

The calling for such a policy implies that the 1982 ruling is to be altered or relaxed. As Mr Walker explained to the Victorian parliament on 7 December 1982:

One must ensure that reason prevails with respect to the establishment of a suitable sewerage disposal unit for the town of Horsham. The Wimmera River Authority (WRA) has estimated a capital cost of $4.5 million to install the land-based system necessary. However, it is the policy that [the] policy will mean that properly treated effluent from a sewerage treatment plant in Horsham will be able to be taken to the waters of the Wimmera River.

The state government and its bureaucrats do not simply put the cost of $3.5 or $4.5 million required to implement a legal ruling within Western Victoria, but the cost of the possible snowballing effect of the ruling. This victory for the conservation movement has the potential to spread to a wider review of sewerage disposal across all Victorian rivers. There would certainly be parallels for those river systems similar to the Wimmera, such as the Diamantina River and Cooper's Creek. In each of these cases the effect that has the Victorian government and the state's sewerage authorities discharging into the river.

The 62-page finding of the Appeals Board of 24 November 1982 was dismissed as irrelevant. The commission considered that it is wasteful to transfer water from the river upstream of Horsham to its channel complex. It has since emerged since the Wimmera river has the potential to spread into a wider issue of total sewerage discharge into the Murray River.

The commission isn't overconcerned with the order. (At the beginning of 1983 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had estimated the cost at $1.3 million. In July 1982 the HSA estimated $2 million. At the appeal hearing the Dimboola Shire's engineering witness had outlined a land-based disposal scheme with $770,000 capital cost. His evidence was dismissed as irrelevant.)

One can only speculate about the fears of the state government, and the implications the ruling has for other sewerage authorities discharging into Victorian waterways, and also for sewerage authorities in other states, especially New South Wales which has an established environment protection charter.

A 1974 report to the Albury/Wodonga Corporation and current knowledge provided by the EPA reveal that the major industrial townships along the Murray River are discharging sewage effluent into the river, and a further fourteen major Victorian towns discharge into its tributaries. The acceptance of the accumulation of nutrients is essential for the Wimmera River has the potential to open up the issue of total sewerage discharge into the Murray.

The SWRC's favour these inputs of effluent as they are an integral component of its water management program. The commission isn't concerned with water quality, more with moving water from point A to point B. The recipient communities at point B are generally unaware that a proportion of water that is drawn via the SWRC channel is in fact diluted sewage.

The SWRC has been pressuring successive governments to build two substantial storages on the Wimmera to protect the river's channel. The storage would mean the loss of the immensely attractive lakes Hindmarsh and Albury. The commission considers that it is wasteful to transfer water from the river upstream of Horsham to its channel complex. It has since emerged since the Wimmera river has the potential to spread into a wider issue of total sewerage discharge into the Murray River.

The commission isn't overconcerned with its appeal the decision that the major industrial town in the Wimmera region, Stawell, discharges its sewage effluent into one of the Grampians storages from which water is transferred to the north central region of Victoria. The Appeals Board

**From the Film The Voyage of the Pacific Peacemaker.**

One special and encouraging aspect of the film is its quiet and clear presentation of the activities that it documents. Two of the most impressive characters in the film are Win Olive who at 63 seems to be saying with every appearance that being a peace activist was meant to be easy; and Gil Longmuir who joins the crew from a Micronesian republic (project-originator Ian Gaillard) and explains many of the issues of the protest voyage.

Nevertheless, the many other reasons behind the Peacemaker's protest are presented in a way which anyone can understand.

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blockade of the submarine...I noted with some amusement how the coastguard boards Pacific Peacemaker. Bill has his hands up and a rifle trained on him while I fan, pushed to the deck, calmly continues playing his ukulele. Such are the diverse images of subversion and resistance.

The film was scored by scores of individuals and organisations active in the peace movement. To keep costs low, David Roberts photographed the film himself on Super-8. It was then transferred to video and from there to a regular 16mm print for theatrical release.

\textit{The Voyage of Pacific Peacemaker} is a good introduction to nuclear free Pacific issues for those who are new to the peace movement and a refreshing boost for those who need no introduction.

\textbf{Martha Ansara is a film-maker living in Sydney.}

\textbf{Dark Circle, produced and directed by Chris Beaver, Judy Irving and Ruth Landy, 16 mm, colour, 82 minutes. Available from Sydney Filmmakers Co-operative, Tel: (02) 333 0721. Reviewed by Belinda Probert}

At the centre of \textit{Dark Circle} is the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Denver, USA, and the families that live close by. These families talk about how their lives are shaped by clips of fascinating and chilling archival film of the production and testing of nuclear weapons. A young worker at the plant has a brain tumor, shockingly visible, and dies as the sound of the siren, and finally began to question the participation of the nuclear industry when she discovered the extent of its threat to human lives. But we never see her face, and therefore do not really care for her. In fact her voice is, in the end, irritating in its gentle insistence.

\textit{Dark Circle} is informative and revealing. It is also deeply touching at certain moments (almost despite itself) and earns. What would be interesting is the response of the non-committed. Might they simply want to see the safer production of nuclear weapons?

\textbf{Belinda Probert teaches sociology at Monash University and is an active participant in the peace movement.}

\textbf{A Voice for the Wilderness, directed by Chris Wilcox and Michael Balson, 31 mm, video, colour and black & white, 50 minutes. Available from Alternative Library Cooperative, Tel: (02) 333 0721. Reviewed by Jenny Quayle}

\textit{A Voice for the Wilderness} tells the story of the plight of rainforests worldwide, concentrating on the rapid changes that have occurred on the New South Wales coast over the last 200 years of white settlement. The film documents changes in the rainforest ecosystem and in the relationship of humankind to that ecosystem in a fairly high-minded way.

The rainforest of Hastings Valley is shown, over a period of time, being destroyed by logging, leading to the disappearance of plant and animal species. Shown, also, are only tracks, tree felling, and the cold, dead reality of the beauty of the rainforest. Shown, also, are the horrible reality of the beauty of the rainforest. Shown, also, are the horrible reality of the beauty of the rainforest.

There is one logger who understands that the future of the timber industry, and that of the environmentalists is propagated by the timber industry. There is also a logger who Is with a history in logging who believes the claims of the timber industry, who is irritated by the interference of government and city planners.

The battle of the Hastings and the battle of the Rocky Flats, are, almost missed by the earnest. What would be interesting is the response of the non-committed. Might they simply want to see the safer production of nuclear weapons?

\textbf{Chris Wilcox, producer of \textit{A Voice for the Wilderness.}}

Today, looks evidence of those who have (and traditionally hold) the power in such cases: government and industry structures. There was plenty of talk about these two parties, but both covered in the film, but that was inadequate.

The state government was made sufficiently aware of the importance of coming to a rational and well argued decision about all of NSW's over-industry, by a concerned effort of environmentalists statewide, with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Environment and Planning. I felt these links should have featured more.

The film ends with conversations from the Hastings area pointing out the need for a change in ethics, in relation to our total environment as well as to the treatment of the rainforests. The message is that we need to recognise how important the rainforests are, and that our relationship with them should be a rational, thoughtful use and care of such a valuable resource.

The film is not overly political, likely, of many of the people featured. The film does the social conscience of us all.

Articles of the first category include a discussion of alternative means of non-violent defence by Gene Sharp, a discussion of non-violent social action. Sharp, who has written many books and articles on non-violent sanctions in any society, domestic or international. He argues that the issue of sanctions is very much a serious and often irrevocable one, that aggression and domination constitute real dangers for

\textbf{Jenny Quayle is a member of the Bronx and District Young Communist League, and worked on forestry issues for seven years.}

\textbf{Periodicals}

\textbf{Social Alternatives: Peace and Disarmament. October 1982. Peace and Disarmament Matters. March 1983.}} Published by The Editors, Social Alternatives, Department of External Studies, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld 4067.

Reviewed by Peter Lawler

The evolution of a wide network of groups and individuals concerned with the social issues and crises confronting us today. New production of a wide range of journals and magazines devoted to the consideration of existing social problems, structures, processes and attitudes, and new and alternative solutions to these problems. A forum reflecting the characteristics of an academic journal which is usually used in the promotion of the peace movement more effectively.

Two recent issues were devoted to the question of war and peace in our time. One of these was published in the light of the film and a rare sight for most of us. The film is a visual delight and should be enjoyed by all except those in the timber industry.
many states and have to be resisted in some form. Sharp outlines possible compromises of the latter. Sharp is critical of those in the peace movement who fail to adequately consider methods of dealing with issues which are not amenable to compromises.

A number of the articles also provide useful historical background to the evolution of peace movements in countries as diverse as New Zealand and Japan. In addition, Gary Smith gives an incisive account of the evolution of the ANZUS alliance from a 'minimal formal arrangement' to 'a tactical and formal arrangement'.

For those looking for rapid insights into the major issues confronting the peace movement and an overview of the responses they generate, two of Social Alternatives' pieces will prove useful and absorbing reading. However, though many of the more analytical and historical contributions are clearly mindful of the considerable constraints upon change that result from the very nature of the extant international order, some of the more prescriptive and action-oriented pieces seem less willing to temper their exhortations with a more searching consideration of the problems that confront the peace movement. Some of the authors do indulge in an excess of metaphysical idealism reminding me of Bertrand Russell's acerbic observation that 'metaphysicians, like savages, are apt to imagine a logical connection between words and things'. (Quoted in: E Carr, The Twenty Year Crisis, Macmillan, 1948 (1920), p 36.)

Russell, for example, examines the extension of nuclear war to a 'global war' and the evolution of knowledge into discrete areas and the role of the state, while stressing the need for effective communication. Along with Senator Susan Ryan's article on women in the peace movement, this article clearly examines the relationship between the role of the state and militarism.

Linking the two issues is a lengthy interview with Johan Galtung, the peace researcher, at La Trobe University.

Peace Dossiers, Numbers 1-6, Victorian Arms Control Network. Also available from Dale Hess, 'The Avenue', Melbourne, 12 pages, and retailing at 70 cents each. The articles also provide a counterpoint to the evident radicalism of some of the other contributors. Indeed, building takes a few gentle shots at the 'counter-culture as a whole, declaring himself to be against what he terms 'nature worship' and casting some doubts upon the effectiveness of alternative movements.

Hunthausen's essays in Peace and Transcendence are important, and are not amenable to compromise. Critical of those in the peace movement, he states that 'arms control is an incisive account of the evolution of the strategic nuclear arms race usefuly emphasises the relationship between technological developments and an incorn prehensible.

From that point, he warms up (remember this part of the pamphlet is a speech) and claims that religious leaders have a duty to speak out on concrete issues, and dismisses any idea that political issues should not be included. He believes that nuclear war, in prevailing circumstances, is inevitable and that failure to achieve some elements as a colletive process of incidents in a person's life illustartion. He concludes that through the essays in Peace and Transcendence, he has avoided the title of off-putting. Why not stick to the word 'pamphlet' which, according to Boulding, is inaccurate.

So far, VAPS has produced 'American Bases in Australia' (Desmond Ball), 'Nuclear War: A Threat to Australia' (Barrie Pittock), 'Medicine and Nuclear War' (John Andrews, John John, John Ward) and 'Peace: A Witness of Faith' (Archbishop of Faith and Disarmament, Archbishop of Seattle, USA).

In the limitation of space, all these pamphlets are excellent. Facts and data are apprised and words and things. (Quoted in: E Carr, The Twenty Year Crisis, Macmillan, 1948 (1920), p 36.)

There is a need to educate the public, and the reader has been honestly informed. Take the one about American bases in Australia. In a useful historical context, the reader is informed that the US is unable to win the war because of the two world wars and the lesson should not be lost upon the contemporary peace movement. Many of the contributors were strong on identifying what should be thought and done to combat world militarism. The US was followed by a US concession regarding the UK, because the country was not ready to face the situation. The country would conduct disarmament, but the US would not. The cumulative effect had raised a question of unilateral disarmament in the US. It would not take place over a short period. In November 1963 as well.

Regarding and applying unilateral disarmament as a step-by-step process seems the way forward. Consider the significant contribution to the nuclear disarmament movement. The movement has been in existence for many years, but you may find Over Our Dead Bodies more useful especially if you find much of the current literature intimidating.

One of the articles I found most interesting was 'A Call to Action Against the Arms Race'. It is, I think, the most practical way to break through the mutual fear and distrust which exist today and which drive us to the brink of nuclear destruction. The VAPS series is making a valuable contribution to the anti-nuclear debate of that I am convinced. I think all their pamphlets are very good for schools at the senior level and of real interest to the public at large.

Bob Dassilly is a member of the executive of People for Nuclear Disarmament.

Over Our Dead Bodies: Women Against the Bomb, edited by Dorothy Chain Reaction, 1983, 253 pages, $7.95 (soft cover).

Reviewed by Susan Miller

Over Our Dead Bodies is an anthology of writing by women of various political and social backgrounds. The one thing all have in common is an abhorrence of the nuclear weapons build-up and the very real possibility of nuclear destruction.

On first reading Over Our Dead Bodies, I was struck by the fact that the major one being a lack of feminist criticism. There were numerous references to the role of women in the peace movement. Over Our Dead Bodies gives, in my opinion, a more informative and personalised accounts from individuals in women's groups involved with anti-nuclear work.

Some of the pieces of the same ground and the articles are short and self-contained this tends to be annoying. Subsequently there is little discussion about the broader effects influencing the nuclear weapons build-up. However, much of the discussion on the technical aspects of nuclear power and weapons is informative and readable. As an introduction to the technical aspects of nuclear weaponry. Over Our Dead Bodies could be useful especially if you find much of the current literature intimidating.

One of the articles I found most interesting was 'A Call to Action Against the Arms Race'. It is, I think, the most practical way to break through the mutual fear and distrust which exist today and which drive us to the brink of nuclear destruction. The VAPS series is making a valuable contribution to the anti-nuclear debate of that I am convinced. I think all their pamphlets are very good for schools at the senior level and of real interest to the public at large.

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The Energy Action Group, which was formed in 1978 by welfare workers and low-income consumers wishing to change the customer policies of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and the Gas and Fuel Corporation, and to make the public utilities more accountable to domestic consumers. The Energy Action Group supports the 'right to fuel' for all consumers, and believes that, to secure this right, both for today's consumers and for future generations, the public at large must be made more aware of and involved in energy and utility policies and practices. The decision-making process must be broadened, from an exclusive concern with finance, technology and conservation issues to include the principles of social equity and consumer rights. To assist consumers and to promote public awareness, the Energy Action Group publishes newsletters and is currently producing a series of consumer rights pamphlets. In addition, public meetings are organised and speakers provided for groups such as the Combined Pensioners' Association, Union of Australian Women, Country Women's Associations, local tenant's groups and environment activists.

The Energy Action Group provides an advocacy service for consumers and seeks to keep prominent and developing policies to meet the needs of its 1000 members. It is working with a number of local councils to develop programs of reducing energy wastage in the home and isolating existing dwellings to improve the comfort levels of those suffering from lack of adequate heating.

The Group has just completed a 200-page report titled "Fuel Poverty in Victoria," which details the hardship of low-income households unable to meet their essential needs for energy. Each year some 35,000 Victorians are disconnected for gas and electricity. Other families go hungry to pay for disconnection, or are forced to "beg, borrow or steal" to meet fuel costs. Others again, particularly the elderly, choose to go without heating in order to avoid disconnection or debt. This group which is most at risk from cold-related illnesses and which adds some 2000 deaths to Victoria's winter mortality figures, is a seasonal wave which does not occur in the colder Scandinavian countries where houses are adequately heated.

The Energy Action Group report indicates the enormous social effects of rising fuel costs, government taxes on domestic gas and electricity supply, and the introduction of new tariffs with no provision for low-income households with high energy needs such as the sick, disabled and large families. Harsh and inequitable customer policies and practices, particularly disconnection for security deposits, aggravate the hardship resulting from such tariff increases. Poor quality housing completes the vicious circle for those on low incomes.

The following recommendations contained in the report have been made to the Victorian government and have already been endorsed by over 50 community and consumer organisations. The report asks for:

- Amendment of state government legislation restricting the powers of public supply authorities to disconnect only in cases of willful default of fuel debts by domestic consumers.
- State government rebates of 50% of all fuel bills for all Commonwealth Health Card holders, to be funded from consolidated revenue.
- An emergency fuel relief fund to be provided from consolidated revenue.
- Abolition of state taxes on domestic gas and electricity consumption.
- An end to direct or indirect subsidies for large industrial consumers such as ABC.
- Establishment of a public review process for determining Victorian energy tariffs.
- An increase in federal government pensions and benefits to 120% of the poverty line.
- Amendments to existing utility customer policies to include abolition of security deposits, an introduction of more flexible and frequent billing and payment options, establishment of a public ombudsman and publication of a multilingual consumer handbook.
- Immediate action by the state government to improve the thermal standards of existing and future housing stock and the standards of heating and hot water systems provided in public housing.
- State government allocation of funds for community groups and local councils to implement insulation and draught-proofing programs for all 4.5 million households in Victoria.
- Monitoring by the state government of controls on the efficiency and safety of all heating and hot water appliances and systems, and government labelling of all such appliances and systems to protect the public against misleading advertising.
- Establishment by the state government of a comprehensive energy data bank for Victoria.
- Provision of funding by the state government for domestic energy conservation programmes including the Energy Action Group to provide ongoing consultation with government and the utilities and independent policy development units.

For copies of this report, the regular newsletter for information on any state coverage by the recommendations, write or telephone the above address. Membership is $1.00, $3.00 or $15.00 for an organisation. If you would like to volunteer to work in the office, to help with developing consumer education programmes or to work with local area organisations, you would be welcomed with open arms.

A consumer group with similar aims to the Energy Action Group is operating in Perth, Western Australia,

A superimposed page contains an advertisement for a walking holiday to the world's greatest mountain ranges and an offer of free holiday catalogues for Australian Himalayan Expeditions and Outdoors World广泛的。
Help us put you in the picture...

Chain Reaction keeps you informed on social, environmental, energy and resources issues. From an independent perspective which seeks to encourage discussion and action. But producing Chain Reaction takes a lot of work. And now we're trying to do it six times a year. If we're going to continue and improve this vital service we need your help. You can help us in many different ways, from writing articles to finding new readers, from designing covers to tidying our files... And you get a say in the running of the magazine. If you have a little time (or a lot) to spare, contact the Chain Reaction collective in Melbourne or Sydney. Free child care available if required.

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