ALCOA’S IN TOWN! NO WORK, NO TREES HOW SUCCESSFUL IS OUR OPPOSITION?
**TRANGIA**

**ALL-WEATHER**

**COoking SYSTEM**

Made in Sweden from high quality materials, the Trangia stove is a complete cooking system suitable for indoor or outdoor use. Its unique design makes it ideal for outdoor use even in the worst weather conditions: it goes faster outside all other existing stoves go slower.

---

**WALKING HOLIDAYS WORLDWIDE**

Quality, expertly led small group walking holidays to the world’s greatest mountain ranges: Nepal, New Zealand, the Andes, Kenya, Tibet, Kashmir, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Thailand.

Graded to suit all levels of fitness. For free 48 page colour catalogue contact us soon:

AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS

3rd Floor 28-34 O’Connell Street SYDNEY

N.S.W. 2000

Phone (02) 233 7033 (Mon-Fri) L]]ectures

---

**SELF RELIANCE SEED COMPANY**

The Self Reliance Seed Company was organized early in 1980 in direct response to government and seed industry plans to introduce Plant Breeders Rights legislation. Our catalogue contains articles on the Plant Breeders Rights legislation, the increase of transnational corporate power, the third world, seed saving skills, regional self-sufficiency, and other subjects. We have listed the addresses of many groups opposed to the introduction of patenting and of those groups active in promoting self-sufficiency. We also have a range of literature available on seed growing and saving. The catalogue lists over 300 varieties of non-hybrid vegetable seed and many tree seeds, with growing instructions and other useful information.

Seed saving must surely be one of the most "grass roots" of all causes and it certainly involves looking to your own back yard first. We hope to foster a keen interest in the preservation of endangered seed varieties amongst Australian gardeners.

From SELF RELIANCE SEED CO., PO Box 96, Stanley, Tasmania, 7331.

Our mail order catalogue is $2.00 (includes postage).

---

**CONTENTS**

- Fighting Lead to Win
- The Cost of Diamonds
- Passing the Buck on DES
- Pigs and Pens

---

**OUTDOOR AGENCIES, PTY. LTD.**

148 Queen Street, Alexandria, N.S.W. 2015.

Phone (02) 699-7698, 699-3860.

For further details, contact Dept. T.
Chain Reaction, is one of an endangered species.

While Rupert Murdoch can afford to buy television stations and 'The Times', we have great trouble even letting people know that we exist. Readers look to Friends of the Earth and Chain Reaction for an honest, critical line on issues. Our integrity rests on this radical approach. But it both makes it difficult to find suitable advertising and yet crucial that we keep the subscription price low.

This magazine is not published for the usual reasons - to make profits and to reinforce present social values. Chain Reaction aims to encourage people to become politically active in their community. We are not asking for swanky office furniture and fabulous salaries. Just the financial support, which can only come from the donations of many people. It is a challenge to produce a good magazine . . . for us and for you.

YES! I support Chain Reaction.

- Here's a $ donation.
- Send me details for tax-deductible donations.
- Can join the work. Phone me on ( )
- Send me subscription leaflets for friends, relatives, libraries, schools, etc.

Chain Reaction
366 Smith Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066.

CROPS FOR FUEL

I read with interest Ben Witham's article 'Food for People or Cans' (Chain Reaction No. 21). While I share concern on the use of wheat for making fuel alcohol, I feel that not enough was written about the use of non-food crops. While conservation of energy - by the use of public transport, walking, cycling, and railways to transport goods - is of great importance, it is seven times less necessary to find a substitute for oil, and in the long term, for coal. For a comfortable and safe lifestyle with present-day populations, some powered transport is necessary.

Plant hydro-carbons have the advantage that they can be grown in semi-arid areas that cannot be used to grow traditional food crops. In particular Euphorbia lathyris, a wild plant of South West America, is estimated to be able to yield oil at between ten to thirty barrels per acre (Chemical Week 12 December 1978).

In the long term, solar and wind power could provide power, both by running electric vehicles and because their energy can be stored as hydrogen, usable as transport fuel. The fact that these ways of fuelling transport have their limitations and will take time to develop, should not deter Friends of the Earth from pressing for research and development, as well as very necessary conservation measures which will still be necessary even when new fuels are available.

Congratulations on the article on rain-forests of New South Wales (Chain Reaction No. 23) - we were very impressed. It was unemotional and to the point. In fact I've arranged to have copies made of it to distribute to our members - hoping it will inspire them to write letters.

Virginia Wilson
Native Forests Action Council
Canberra

The Letters and Earth News sections were extremely interesting, and I found the Reviews section was very useful for additional information sources.

If in an isolated place such as Kambalda, I find there's not a real lot of active support I can give Friends of the Earth, except inform myself, contact my friends to issue, and write letters to the various responsible Ministers and Parliamentarians. With respect to the letter, I find the "What you can do" sections at the end of each article very useful, and commend your habit of including pictures of the relevant politicians. They are a good and fitting focal point of protest, as they are the peoples' representatives (theoretically!).

I have proposed the merits of FOE and Chain Reaction to many of my like-minded friends, but they never seem to get around to doing anything constructive. To help them get on the right track, would you please send subscriptions of CR to the following five people:

Martin Leonard
Kambalda West, W.A.

The Australian conservation movement urgently needs a harnessing weekly magazine. Only a weekly can keep abreast of the cut and thrust of the conservation/development debate. Only a weekly can provide the degree of expertise appropriate to rapacious developers and compliant politicians. A national weekly could quickly unite environmental groups on complex policy issues. It could see a much more informed level of debate in the media as a whole.

Virginia Wilson
Native Forests Action Council
Canberra

Letters you are invited to write letters to Chain Reaction with your comments and criticisms of articles or on other issues of interest to you. We are more able to publish your letter if it is under 250 words. Write today to the Editors Chain Reaction 366 Smith Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066, Australia.

Margaret Diogo
Adelaide

Praise and Payments

The latest issue of Chain Reaction (No. 23) won the society's first prize at the Australian Littoral Society 'aesthetics and naturalism' dinner. The Judges were: Richard Douthwaite, Director of the Total Environment Centre; and Jennifer Talbot, former Coordinator of Project Jonah, Sydney.

It is also possible the journal of the Total Environment Centre, or Operation, published by the Australian Littoral Society: "Surely the time has come for many of the societies to distribute Chain Reaction, Habitats or National Parks Journal to their members with a simple local news sheet insert. This would upgrade their members' understanding of, and involvement in, the big issues. It would also bring Chain Reaction closer to the position where it can publish weekly. I sent off my subscription today. Why don't you?"
JARRAH CLASS ACTION
HOPE FOR THE JARRAH FOREST
HISTORIC LEGAL ACTION
Western Australian conservationists have launched an historic legal action in the United States to save the unique Jarrah forests of Western Australia from destruction by bauxite mining and to control pollution associated with the aluminum industry.

The class action began on the 24th February 1981 with a complaint filed in a Federal Court in the United States by the Conservation Council of Western Australia and the Campaign to Save Native Forests (W.A.) against the Aluminium Company of America (ALCOA) and Reynolds Metals Co. This is the first time Australian conservationists have sought the protection of U.S. courts against the actions of American companies abroad.

THE LEGAL COMPLAINT
The complaint is based on the equitable trust doctrine, the principle of which is that the resources of the nation are held in trust for the public by the sovereign and that no parliament can legislate away the right of public appeal against the misuse or abuse of those resources.

The complaint also seeks action against Alcoa under U.S. Anti-Trust laws for the dissemination of false and misleading information to Western Australians.

WHY IS THE ACTION NECESSARY?
The northern Jarrah forest near Perth is already the site of the largest bauxite mining operations in the world. Alcoa plans to expand its operations with a third alumina refinery at Wagerup. Reynolds Metals led consortium is joining the onslaught with a new refinery at Worsley.

The strip mining operations will destroy the 784,000 hectare northern Jarrah forest unless they are brought under control. The mining operations also threaten to increase the salinity of Perth's water supply, already the worst of any Australian prime rural land.

JARRAH CLASS ACTION FUND
AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL TO RAISE $100,000 — THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE LEGAL ACTION — HAS BEEN LAUNCHED.
If 1000 Australians donate $100 each, then the $100,000 target will be reached.

DONATIONS TO:
JARRAH CLASS ACTION FUND
Conservation Council of W.A. P.O. Box 357 Wellington Street, Perth. 6000.

JOIN THE CLASS SAVE THE JARRAH

SEEDS FOR THE TAKING
Seeds for the Taking, Mark Cole & Tony Belcher Food Justice Centre $1.00
Write to us for a catalogue.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH BOOK SHOP
366 SMITH STREET, COLLINGWOOD, VICTORIA, 3066

ENDANGERED SPECIES CAMPAIGN
 Every year 300,000 turtles are liquidated.

Nixon backtracks
On 7 May the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, Peter Nixon, introduced the Plant Variety Rights Bill into the Federal Parliament. The Bill, if passed, will allow the seeds of new plants to be patented. The Government has moved quickly and taken the bill through to a second reading. Debate has been adjourned till the budget session.

Bills have been ad­ journed till the budget session. Nixon has quite clearly broken his earlier promises that the bill would lie on the table for six months to allow public debate. Nixon has quite clearly broken his earlier promises that the bill would lie on the table for six months to allow public debate.

Cover-up job
The Australian Atomic Energy Commission has finally agreed to cover radio- active tailings at Port Pirie after years of agitation by residents. However, Friends of the Earth (Port Pirie) have demanded that the AAEC carry out a thorough investigation of the health of the Port Pirie population.
WNS needs women

Women's News Service needs women's skills, energy and labour to produce an im­mense campaign for tax deduction. Individuals and $20 for single parent who has an ex­traordinary case. Their latest action is presenting with a feminist magazine this year. Subscription is $10 for individuals and $20 for groups and institutions.

Contact: Women's News Service, 23 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Women's Department, 1st Floor, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Child care

The Women's Electoral Lobby is campaigning for tax deductions for the cost of child care. Their latest action is publishing a book. The challenge is bringing a single mother to have an excellent case for creating a pre­sidential-style case for child care. There is no need to fund this case.

Contact: Child Care Appeal, Women's Electoral Lobby, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Mitterrand nuclear policy

The election of Francois Mitterrand as President of France greatly increases the possibility of an end to nuclear testing in New Zealand and perhaps in France's nuclear development programme and opens up the chance of independence for France's nuclear weapons. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, who have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Mitterrand has promised a moratorium and reassessment of France's nuclear developments, although existing programs will continue. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, which have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Women's News Service needs women's skills, energy and labour to produce an im­mense campaign for tax deduction. Individuals and $20 for single parent who has an ex­traordinary case. Their latest action is presenting with a feminist magazine this year. Subscription is $10 for individuals and $20 for groups and institutions.

Contact: Women's News Service, 23 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Women's Department, 1st Floor, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Child care

The Women's Electoral Lobby is campaigning for tax deductions for the cost of child care. Their latest action is publishing a book. The challenge is bringing a single mother to have an excellent case for creating a pre­sidential-style case for child care. There is no need to fund this case.

Contact: Child Care Appeal, Women's Electoral Lobby, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Mitterrand nuclear policy

The election of Francois Mitterrand as President of France greatly increases the possibility of an end to nuclear testing in New Zealand and perhaps in France's nuclear development programme and opens up the chance of independence for France's nuclear weapons. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, which have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Mitterrand has promised a moratorium and reassessment of France's nuclear developments, although existing programs will continue. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, which have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Mitterrand has promised a moratorium and reassessment of France's nuclear developments, although existing programs will continue. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, which have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Women's News Service needs women's skills, energy and labour to produce an im­mense campaign for tax deduction. Individuals and $20 for single parent who has an ex­traordinary case. Their latest action is presenting with a feminist magazine this year. Subscription is $10 for individuals and $20 for groups and institutions.

Contact: Women's News Service, 23 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Women's Department, 1st Floor, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Child care

The Women's Electoral Lobby is campaigning for tax deductions for the cost of child care. Their latest action is publishing a book. The challenge is bringing a single mother to have an excellent case for creating a pre­sidential-style case for child care. There is no need to fund this case.

Contact: Child Care Appeal, Women's Electoral Lobby, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Mitterrand nuclear policy

The election of Francois Mitterrand as President of France greatly increases the possibility of an end to nuclear testing in New Zealand and perhaps in France's nuclear development programme and opens up the chance of independence for France's nuclear weapons. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, which have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Mitterrand has promised a moratorium and reassessment of France's nuclear developments, although existing programs will continue. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, which have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Mitterrand has promised a moratorium and reassessment of France's nuclear developments, although existing programs will continue. The Socialist leader has made a confirmed commitment to nuclear disarmament and a French anti-nuclear groups, which have suffered extreme harassment in their efforts to stop nuclear testing.

Women's News Service needs women's skills, energy and labour to produce an im­mense campaign for tax deduction. Individuals and $20 for single parent who has an ex­traordinary case. Their latest action is presenting with a feminist magazine this year. Subscription is $10 for individuals and $20 for groups and institutions.

Contact: Women's News Service, 23 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Women's Department, 1st Floor, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.

Child care

The Women's Electoral Lobby is campaigning for tax deductions for the cost of child care. Their latest action is publishing a book. The challenge is bringing a single mother to have an excellent case for creating a pre­sidential-style case for child care. There is no need to fund this case.

Contact: Child Care Appeal, Women's Electoral Lobby, 707 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053.
EARTH NEWS

Power struggle

100 local groups, in the Netherlands, are participating in an action to contain electricity companies to relinquish their interests in the Dutch nuclear industry. Electricity users are urged to pay their bills in two parts or cash via a special postal account system. This causes great confusion in the community based administration of the Dutch electricity companies.

One company tried to intimidate members in the action by cutting off their electricity supply. Protesters were able to stay within their legal rights however, and even more pressure came from the company for their day without electricity.

In Scotland 60 households are withdrawing the second portion of their electricity bills (20%) and paying into it a Trust Fund. The electricity board has threatened to disconnect individuals involved in the action. This will be challenged in court and some households are prepared to be disconnected. Similar action will soon begin in England.

Uranium bans spread

In the USA, towns in New York and New Jersey have passed resolutions or ordinances banning uranium mining and milling in areas such as subscriptions and advertising. Women who are involved in environment groups as our first priority are discouraged from becoming involved. Often, women are not even allowed in the room. Women who are involved in environment groups are not allowed to participate in any coercive, manipulative and organisational tasks rather than writing, designing, illustrating and editing work. It is difficult to involve women in all areas of the production of CR. Women who have undertaken writing, researching and interviewing men have at times either been unco-operative or have even laboured under pressure.

It is difficult to portray women more frequently and positively in the magazine because the issues we cover are often dominated by men. Men have exclusive control of parliamentary politics. Men own and control multinational corporations. Men also dominate in leadership and public positions within environment organisations.

The decision will enable increased coverage of issues which directly affect women, involve more women in producing the magazine and increase the positive portrayal of women in the magazine. In this issue, there is an article on DES and the work of DES Action (pages 27-28), and a story about the women's movement increase of women in the magazine.

Women's Reaction

Chain Reaction policy decisions are currently under review to formulate a response. One policy which we are attempting to implement is an action by cutting off the electricity supply to the company for its day without electricity.

Since the relaunching of CR (four issues ago) men have written three times as many articles as women, twice as many as men have designed and illustrated the magazine and men images have appeared two to three times more frequently than female images. Women who are working regularly on the magazine are working in areas such as subscriptions and advertising. One woman has had any editorial responsibility. Generally, women working on the magazine perform the usual support and service roles.

Women working on the magazine want to end this discrimination and we want other women to join the support and encourage the “baby step” in ending the oppression of women by men as well as creating a better work environment.

However, as editors and the main people running on the magazine are male, women are discouraged from becoming involved. Feminists usually do not work in our environmental groups as our first priority is to stop the pollution of our environment by men. Women who are involved in environment groups are not even allowed in the room. Women who are involved in environment groups are not allowed to participate in any coercive, manipulative and organisational tasks rather than writing, designing, illustrating and editing work. It is difficult to involve women in all areas of the production of CR. Women who have undertaken writing, researching and interviewing men have at times either been unco-operative or have even laboured under pressure.

It is difficult to portray women more frequently and positively in the magazine because the issues we cover are often dominated by men. Men have exclusive control of parliamentary politics. Men own and control multinational corporations. Men also dominate in leadership and public positions within environment organisations.

The decision will enable increased coverage of issues which directly affect women, involve more women in producing the magazine and increase the positive portrayal of women in the magazine. In this issue, there is an article on DES and the work of DES Action (pages 27-28), and a story about the women's movement increase of women in the magazine.

Women's Reaction

Chain Reaction policy decisions are currently under review to formulate a response. One policy which we are attempting to implement is an action by cutting off the electricity supply to the company for its day without electricity.

Since the relaunching of CR (four issues ago) men have written three times as many articles as women, twice as many as men have designed and illustrated the magazine and men images have appeared two to three times more frequently than female images. Women who are working regularly on the magazine are working in areas such as subscriptions and advertising. One woman has had any editorial responsibility. Generally, women working on the magazine perform the usual support and service roles.

Women working on the magazine want to end this discrimination and we want other women to join the support and encourage the “baby step” in ending the oppression of women by men as well as creating a better work environment.

However, as editors and the main people running on the magazine are male, women are discouraged from becoming involved. Feminists usually do not work in our environmental groups as our first priority is to stop the pollution of our environment by men. Women who are involved in environment groups are not even allowed in the room. Women who are involved in environment groups are not allowed to participate in any coercive, manipulative and organisational tasks rather than writing, designing, illustrating and editing work. It is difficult to involve women in all areas of the production of CR. Women who have undertaken writing, researching and interviewing men have at times either been unco-operative or have even laboured under pressure.

It is difficult to portray women more frequently and positively in the magazine because the issues we cover are often dominated by men. Men have exclusive control of parliamentary politics. Men own and control multinational corporations. Men also dominate in leadership and public positions within environment organisations.

The decision will enable increased coverage of issues which directly affect women, involve more women in producing the magazine and increase the positive portrayal of women in the magazine. In this issue, there is an article on DES and the work of DES Action (pages 27-28), and a story about the women's movement increase of women in the magazine.

Women's Reaction

Chain Reaction policy decisions are currently under review to formulate a response. One policy which we are attempting to implement is an action by cutting off the electricity supply to the company for its day without electricity.

Since the relaunching of CR (four issues ago) men have written three times as many articles as women, twice as many as men have designed and illustrated the magazine and men images have appeared two to three times more frequently than female images. Women who are working regularly on the magazine are working in areas such as subscriptions and advertising. One woman has had any editorial responsibility. Generally, women working on the magazine perform the usual support and service roles.

Women working on the magazine want to end this discrimination and we want other women to join the support and encourage the “baby step” in ending the oppression of women by men as well as creating a better work environment.

However, as editors and the main people running on the magazine are male, women are discouraged from becoming involved. Feminists usually do not work in our environmental groups as our first priority is to stop the pollution of our environment by men. Women who are involved in environment groups are not even allowed in the room. Women who are involved in environment groups are not allowed to participate in any coercive, manipulative and organisational tasks rather than writing, designing, illustrating and editing work. It is difficult to involve women in all areas of the production of CR. Women who have undertaken writing, researching and interviewing men have at times either been unco-operative or have even laboured under pressure.

It is difficult to portray women more frequently and positively in the magazine because the issues we cover are often dominated by men. Men have exclusive control of parliamentary politics. Men own and control multinational corporations. Men also dominate in leadership and public positions within environment organisations.

The decision will enable increased coverage of issues which directly affect women, involve more women in producing the magazine and increase the positive portrayal of women in the magazine. In this issue, there is an article on DES and the work of DES Action (pages 27-28), and a story about the women's movement increase of women in the magazine.

Women's Reaction

Chain Reaction policy decisions are currently under review to formulate a response. One policy which we are attempting to implement is an action by cutting off the electricity supply to the company for its day without electricity.

Since the relaunching of CR (four issues ago) men have written three times as many articles as women, twice as many as men have designed and illustrated the magazine and men images have appeared two to three times more frequently than female images. Women who are working regularly on the magazine are working in areas such as subscriptions and advertising. One woman has had any editorial responsibility. Generally, women working on the magazine perform the usual support and service roles.

Women working on the magazine want to end this discrimination and we want other women to join the support and encourage the “baby step” in ending the oppression of women by men as well as creating a better work environment.

However, as editors and the main people running on the magazine are male, women are discouraged from becoming involved. Feminists usually do not work in our environmental groups as our first priority is to stop the pollution of our environment by men. Women who are involved in environment groups are not even allowed in the room. Women who are involved in environment groups are not allowed to participate in any coercive, manipulative and organisational tasks rather than writing, designing, illustrating and editing work. It is difficult to involve women in all areas of the production of CR. Women who have undertaken writing, researching and interviewing men have at times either been unco-operative or have even laboured under pressure.

It is difficult to portray women more frequently and positively in the magazine because the issues we cover are often dominated by men. Men have exclusive control of parliamentary politics. Men own and control multinational corporations. Men also dominate in leadership and public positions within environment organisations.

The decision will enable increased coverage of issues which directly affect women, involve more women in producing the magazine and increase the positive portrayal of women in the magazine. In this issue, there is an article on DES and the work of DES Action (pages 27-28), and a story about the women's movement increase of women in the magazine.
Chain Reaction

Fighting Lead Poisoning

Lead free petrol is to be introduced in Australia from July 1985. In addition the lead levels in super petrol will be lowered at an 'early' date, with tighter emission controls based on the catalytic converter being introduced from 1988.

This decision was announced following the meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council in Melbourne on 20 February 1981. This was a major victory for the community based groups who had mounted a determined campaign over the previous two years.

In this article Chain Reaction examines the various elements of the campaign to assess the lessons for other environment groups.

This article has been compiled by Jeanette Cameron from reports filed by Lorraine Jones and Jeff Angel in Sydney, Nola Tubdall and Andrew Herington in Melbourne, and Rick Grounds in Perth.

Air pollution is a visible and immediate problem in all our cities. It has been an issue throughout the 70's. Stricter vehicle emission controls were introduced in 1974 and from 1979 lead levels in petrol have been reduced, as a result of public pressure. Two opinion surveys (1970 and 1980) showed a large majority of the Australian population were in support of this action.

Environment groups were aided by the fact that air pollution was seen as an issue. It was in 1976 that the Australian Design Rule 27A (ADR 27A) was introduced. A first significant pollution control measure was introduced by the Federal Government to industry complaints that they would result in increased fuel consumption. Through the campaign environment groups were able to use their lobbying and community organisation skills. With a budget of $12,000 per year the groups were able to defeat a lobbies campaign by the oil companies and their allies (the Australian Institute of Petroleum, the Australian Motor Industry Development Association, the Federal Department of Trade, and the Australian Automobile Association), who spent $200,000 in the last three months alone. Industry was unsuccessful at adopting community organizing techniques to use their own money and vested interests were not on the side either.

New South Wales and Victoria dominate the petrol and motor vehicle markets so most of the campaign occurred in these states. Other states have air pollution problems but did not attract the same heated debate. In these states the campaign was generally done through the local groups of the Earth Group or Environment Centre.

At the outset of the campaign the goals and targeted campaigns to achieve them. The broad goals of the campaign were:

- To reduce the exposure of the community to levels of lead dangerous to their health.

- To drastically reduce the contribution of motor vehicles to urban air pollution.

- From mid-1979 there was evidence that about 25-50% of children of inner-urban areas exceeded the USA standard for lead levels in blood. Lead in petrol is the most easily removed source of lead in the environment, contributing over 95% to lead pollution. So the objectives of this campaign became:
  - To ensure early introduction of lead free petrol by the eventual elimination of all leaded petrol.
  - To seek the introduction of catalytic converter technology (which increases fuel efficiency and eliminates lead free petrol) to reduce vehicle emissions.

Campaign strategies were based on public education and political lobbying through mass media contact, rallies, simple literature and careful use of the media. A direct confrontation with the oil companies developed as they opposed any reduction in the lead content of petrol.

In Victoria the Parents and Citizens Clubs Federation was particularly effective. In Victoria and NSW local municipal councils were involved in providing support and a voice of authority. In Sydney some twenty councils backed the campaign. In Melbourne eleven made financial contributions to promote the campaign.

"Collingwood Council is very concerned about the increasing traffic and pollution in the inner city and we feel we have an obligation to rats to take up issues that the State Government is ignoring." With these words Lorraine Jones, the Mayor of Collingwood, one of Melbourne's inner city councillors, is echoing the sentiments of many progressive councils.

Collingwood's involvement started as a result of the campaign to stop the opening of the 10 lane Eastern Freeway in 1979. Cr. Grubham explains "we promised amongst other things that air pollution from the freeway would be monitored by the Country Roads Board. In fact it took over a year and when the first results showed that pollution levels were not as high as the maximum health standard the CRB promptly closed the station. The State Government refused to reopen the station so the Council commissioned their own study which showed such a significant proportion of children being affected simply because they lived in Collingwood we had no option but to put our full weight into the campaign."
A bauxite mine is being cleared for blasting at Jarrambie.

**ALCOA**

CLEANSING THE JARRAH

The Aluminium Company of America (Alcoa) and Reynolds Metals Company are being taken home, to court, by Western Australian conservationists who have taken out a class action suit against Alcoa's clearing of Jarrah Forest for bauxite mining. The case resums in Pennsylvania on 16 June.

A class action is a legal suit where people with a common grievance join together to seek justice through the courts. Such actions (or virtually any form of action to try and protect the forest) are not possible in Australia—hence the need to use the USA courts.

$43,000 in donations has poured in to the Conservation Council of Western Australia's appeal for the action. But at the action could cost $80,000 to $100,000.

Jane Hutchinson and Bill hare of the Campaign to Save Native Forests, present this account on the background to the problems in WA.

In the following story Chain Reaction looks at the politics of Alcoa's moves to establish an aluminium smelter at Portland, Victoria. Alcoa is an interesting example of one of the big aluminium companies operating in Australia.

On 24 February this year, the Conservation Council of Western Australia initiated a class action in the Western District Court of Pennsylvania in the United States of America. This is to prevent the further destruction of the Northern Jarrah Forest by the aluminium industry, has become known as the Jarrah Class Action. In this high-profile move, the Conservation Council has sought to restrain the operations of Alcoa and Reynolds Metals Companies by seeking an injunction.

Amougst other important claims, the affidavit filed in the USA District Court states: "Declaring the rights of the people of Western Australia, not only of this generation, but of those yet to come, to enjoy the resources of the bauxite, atmosphere, lithosphere and biosphere associated with... (the Darling Range)... and the natural, economic, social and societal system operate therin and thence, without degradation and damage attributable to the bauxite mining, aluminium refining and aluminium smelting operations of the defendants... the Aluminium Company of America (Alcoa) and Reynolds Metals Co, their subsidiaries and coventurers..."

Furthermore, the affidavit demands, among other judgements, the "Restraining (of) the multi-national transnational conglomerate, corporate defendants... from any further bauxite mining, aluminium refining and aluminium smelting operations in State Forests until and until it can be established that such... operations will not continue or be carried out with the aluminium refining and aluminium smelting operations of the defendants...";

By world and Australian standards Western Australia is deficient in forests. Only 3.1 million hectares (1.2 per cent) of the 252.2 million ha area is forested, of which approximately 1.9 million ha is vested in the control of the Forest Department with the Jarrah-type constituting 74 per cent of this area. The Northern Jarrah Forest (see map) extends in a belt 50 kilometres wide from the Helena Valley catchment east of Perth, along the Darling Scarp to Collie, about 180 km to the south. The total area is about 780,000 ha.

Unfortunately, the Jarrah Forest has been heavily logged and subjected to an artificial fire regime of "prescribed burns" on a four to six year rotational basis. As a result, the ecological structure of the forest has been changed at a particularly rapid rate over the last twenty years. The fire and logging regimes have eliminated many of the native legumes in the understory and have promoted the growth of certain species of bushes. Also, the canopy has become more sparse thereby increasing the solar radiation penetrating to the forest floor. This has resulted in an increase in the average soil moisture and temperature levels.

The ecological changes brought about by these forest management techniques have had profound and unfortunate ramifications for the Jarrah Forest. On the balance of evidence, they appear to have made the forest more susceptible to the fungus disease, Jarrah Dieback. Jarrah Dieback occurs throughout 10-20 per cent of the total area of Jarrah Forest. This is by no means a static figure: as the occurrence of Dieback is increasing by approximately 1 per cent but within this area not every single tree will die per annum. Not all of the Jarrah forest has a uniform susceptibility to Dieback. The crucial physical variables are topography, canopy cover and litter layer density. In the undisturbed forest, the upper and mid-stages are least likely to be infected. Fortunately, these areas also the areas corresponding to the areas of highest quality Jarrah.

Although the spread of the disease is in present out of control, forest management practices in the field feel that the problem can ultimately be solved. Dr Syd Sheaffe of the WA Forest Department, concluded in a 1973 research bulletin that, "although the fungus has the ability to devastate upland forest, minor changes in the environment of this forest could be sufficient, if not to eliminate their samarinization of this disease, at least to reduce it markedly".

Bauxite mining enters this troubled ecological scene as a major vector of Dieback and destroyer of high quality forests. The clearing of areas rich in Jarrah bauxite in the Northern Jarrah Forest entails the complete removal of the forest cover and the strip mining of the bauxite ore to a depth of 4-5m. Bauxite mining results in the rapid spread of the disease through the forest. Independent scientific research indicates that for every hectare mined or cleared for the purposes of the bauxite industry, three to five hectares are infected with Dieback.

Dr Bruce Claraz, Alcoa's Environmental Manager, said in 1979, whilst working for the CSIRO, that "bauxite mining will change most of the Northern Jarrah Forest of the Darling Range" and that, "in summery, the bauxite mining industry will be vitalizing in removing the Jarrah Forrest from the Darling Range, and it will become unnecessary to manage the area as a Jarrah Forest".

Thus, clearly the chips are down for the Jarrah Forest—the only one in the world. How did this situation arise?

The relatively high alumina content of the lateritic soils of the Darling Range was recognised in 1912, investigated briefly during World War II and examined in detail in 1957. Western Mining Corporation outlined the commercial deposits and in 1958 joined with Broken Hill South Ltd and North Broken Hill Ltd to form Western Aluminium Ltd. In 1961 the Aluminium Refinery Agreement Act was passed there was a degree of disquiet expressed over the possible impact of the industry on the Jarrah Forest. The fears of a few were laid to rest by Minister for Industrial Development Charles Court who assured the Parliament of Western Australia that, "...the total clearing for the first year would be...30 acres (12 ha) and for subsequent years, so long as the company was producing 500,000 tonnes per annum, 25 acres (10 ha). I stress those acres because I think it has been conveyed in the public mind that these areas will be involved all the time and we will have ugly scars all over the place..."

In retrospect, the early operations of Alcoa mining ore from the Jarrambie mine for smelting at Kwinana can be seen as only the thin edge of the wedge. With new contracts, the refinery at Kwinana expanded to its present capacity of 1.4 million tonnes in 1976-8. Alcoa's second alumina refinery was commissioned at Pinjarra in May 1972. This refinery was producing its maximum rating of 2.5 million tonnes of alumina in 1979-80.

Opposition to the expansion of the industry emerged in the late 1960's and early 1970's from the WA Forest Department. Their 1970 annual report described bauxite mining as "spring rise to the greatest threat the forest estate has ever experienced". However, the industry continued to expand unchecked. The rate of forest clearing had expanded much more than twenty fold in fifteen years to 250 ha per annum.

In 1978 proposals to massively expand the alumina
industry began to come to fruition. Alcoa and the Worsley
Alumina Project sought to expand production by the
construction of two new refineries at Wagerup and at
Worsley (see map).

The enabling legislation for Alcoa's Wagerup refinery
was passed through Parliament prior to the Environmental
Review and Management Programme being made public.

The furore that surrounded the passage of this legislation
was passed through Parliament prior to the Environmental
Commission and other industrial users. The
State Government proposed to fill the anticipated 'energy
gap' in power generation with a nuclear power plant. The
spectre of a nuclear future for WA is therefore intrinsically
linked to the energy needs of the aluminium industry.

4. Royalties paid by Alcoa to the WA Government are very
low, both by national and international standards, when
compared with those received from other mineral
companies in WA such as the iron-ore industry. From 1964
to 1974, Alcoa produced alumina conservatively valued by
the WA Mines Department at $1,987 million, but at the
same time, paid only $4.1 million in royalties. In 1979 the
then Minister for Mines, Fuel and Energy, Mr Mensaros,
announced, "I am proud to say that we are not greedy for
large amounts of royalties or other taxation receipts. In fact we
have the lowest royalty rate in Australia, and I believe, the
world."

5. Though a state of secrecy hides most of the economic
data of the industry, it is obvious that the subsidy provided
by the State is massive. There is evidence that Alcoa receives considerable subsidies for rail freight relative to
other users of the Westral State Government rail service.
If Alcoa, had paid the same freight rate as the State-
Electricity Commission in 1989, the freight charges would
have been $18.64 million. Rather, Alcoa in that period,
paid only $10.75 million, which amounts to a direct subsidy
of $7.89 million relative to the $39 million.

From 1994-1997 Alcoa paid no tax on a net profit of
$226 million. Furthermore, there is strong evidence to
suggest that the company is engaging in some
profit shifting arrangements as long term alumina restrictions put
are very low by world standards.

Despite the sustained public protest over these and
related issues, Alcoa has been given Governmental
approval for the new Wagerup refinery, to a maximum of
two million tonnes per annum capacity. The Environment
Protection Authority received 63 public submissions on the
Wagerup Environmental Review and Management
Programme for the proposed Worsley refinery.

A fierce media campaign ensued, based upon several leaked
documents which indicated the Premier's statement was untrue. The EPA has not given approval for the project.

In mid-1980 the Government announced moves to water
the EPA Act and to disband the EPA. The move was widely seen as the Government's response to the
Authority's refusal to grant approval to the Worsley
project.

With all proposals receiving the go-ahead, the prospect
opens for clearing rates of around 750 ha per annum, at a
combined production level of 8 million tonnes of alumina per
annum. The total area mined, cleared and affected by
disbark as a result would be of the order of 5,000 ha per
annum.

Faced with this prospect, the Conservation Council of
WA in June 1980, put forward a detailed proposal for a
7,000 ha reserve in the Northern Jarrah Forest. The
existing reserves in the Northern Jarrah Forest total only
1,445 ha compared with the 4,460 ha allocated out of State
Forest for the Worsley refinery site. Although this proposal
received the support of the former Government
General, Sir Paul Hasluck, the Government rejected it
immediately.

The present government seems intent on transforming the
coastal plain between Perth and Bunbury into the scene
of the world's largest industry from the humble jarrah
industry.

The resource base of this industry will be the very
soil upon which the world's only Jarrah Forest grows.
The situation appears particularly close to one is impossible
to reverse, with the economy of the south-west of WA
indistinguishably linked to the fortunes, or misfortunes, of
the 1990s. If proposals proceeded to fruition it will be impossible for any future Government to control
this juggernaut industry.

The Jarrah Class Action should be seen as a brave and
daring initiative by a strong but beleaguered environment
group to save the Jarrah struggle to a level where victory is imaginable and possible. Public support for the
action is unprecedented. Donations have poured into
the Jarrah Class Action Fund from its launching on 4
March in the Perth Town Hall, at first at $1,000 a day.
The large resource projects planned or underway across Australia are bringing local groups face to face with wealthy and sophisticated international companies. Campaigns aimed at Councils, or even state governments, appear futile when such large investments are at stake. How successful can any challenge be?

Alcoa of Australia Ltd's billion dollar aluminium smelter being built just south of Portland, Victoria, is one project that has been challenged. It has attracted considerable attention and debate over electric power pricing, public subsidies, the use of Victoria's brown coal, and secrecy in decision-making.

This Chain Reaction report goes behind the issues and to what has happened in Portland itself. Written by Chris Smyth and Don Siemon, who have been following events over the past two years, it is a tale of local business euphoria, broadening criticism, Victorian government deception, and Aboriginal resurgence. It ends with the destruction of an important piece of coastal heathland, with continuing legal and welfare challenges, and with Portland moving into its new future — as the industrial slump of Western Victoria in the short term, and the likely site of the state's first nuclear power plant in the long term.

For years the leading citizens of Portland have dreamt of their town becoming a major industrial centre. Its growth should be assured, they reasoned, by the fine natural deep water harbour, matched in Victoria only by Port Phillip. It could become the major port for wool, wheat, meat and sheep from the productive Western District, it has been too remote from the industrial heartland of the state for the harbour's charms to divert big businesses away from Geelong and Melbourne.

Frustrated dreams have turned to bitterness towards outsiders who are seen in inhibiting progress to the town. Bill Amor, former head of the Portland Development Committee, has stated: "this town has been subjected to a totally uphill struggle to establish the natural assets with which we have been blessed. History shows that government decisions as well as lack of decision for nearly a century and a half severely impeded this district's and port's development... We have too often been thwarted by decisions from central government officials..."

This city has been used as a test case to establish the natural assets with which we have been blessed... History shows that government decisions as well as lack of decision for nearly a century and a half severely impeded this district's and port's development... We have too often been thwarted by decisions from central government officials..."

Not that everyone minded when Portland was bypassed by the motorway linking Port Campbell with Portland as it was. Some families had been there for generations; others had earlier moved away. For most, a problem was solved. But for many, a few of influence like Amor, such stagnation in the very breeding ground of Australia's aristocracy was a scandal.

Chain Reaction

The special edition, a de facto Alcoa advertising feature filled with photos and stories from the company, was a fine example of local cooperation with the town's newest resident. Shortly afterwards the editor took up Alcoa's kind offer of a trip to the works at Portland, an inducement to diverting public views away from Geelong and Melbourne.

This message was echoed in the approach of the Alcoa Action Group in Portland. After weeks of PR barrage, it was quite certain that the public would vote for... We're big. We're environmentally responsible.

Alcoa was aware, however, that even in a conservative town public opinion will change. Clive Hildebrand, Project Manager and the major Alcoa face in Portland, later revealed in an unguarded moment that the company expected the initial euphoria to be succeeded by public questioning, disillusion, and blame. Alcoa sought to manage public opinion, to ride out criticism, and to eventually turn the blame for any ill-effects onto others.
several groups the Monday before the public meeting. It was
an indication that already Alcoa took environmental opposition.

Before Alcoa could build, they had certain "planning"
hurdles to pass— even though the Hume government had
guaranteed to avoid delays. Part of the Alcoa site had to be
relocated, an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) prepared.
All were channels for public debate.

Alcoa was in a hurry. With the government it set out to
narrow these channels to stem the tide of public influence
on the smokers decision.

Its tactic on the heathland was obvious, yet subtle. Since
conservationalists were asking that Alcoa not build on the
heathland, Alcoa staff held out the prospect of doing just
that: building inland instead, on the western end of its site.
As Alcoa and its consultants, Kinship Plumbers, went to
work producing the EES, they claimed that no decision had been
made as to where on the site the smelter would be built. Kinship and Alcoa staff were in constant contact with
the groups, and chose to actually employ one of Portland's
(i.e. Victoria's) most respected field naturalists, Cliff
Beauglehole, to carry out the botanical survey. As the EES
neared completion, Beauglehole and others gained a clear
impression that the inland location would be chosen and the
importance of the coastal environment recognised.

Only the most cynical suspected Alcoa of duplicity.
Confident that reason would prevail, the company's only
dangerous critics saw little reason to organise more
than a de facto cacaphony. Building inland was all that was
necessary to destroy credibility.

Unemployment in Portland was running at 9 percent.
The mildest criticism of Alcoa was thus readily deflected
by reference to kids and jobs... and this attitude
permeated both ALP and unions. Alcoa was seen as a
"anti-development" would have been to lose
acceptance of Alcoa coming to Portland.

Alcoa's strategy to delay opposition--emerging was not
completely successful. In late 1979 the Alcoa Action Group
was formed, bringing together conservationists and people
anxious over social impacts. The group was small, however,
and its public ties to activists in other centres allowed men
like Amor and Dunlop to dismiss it as "outsiders" and therefore
anti-Portland.

Alcoa delayed releasing the EES, knowing that its
decision on the heathland would fuel the growth of
organised opposition. Even the confidential handbook of
critics contained no hint of the chosen location. The EES finally appeared in early January, timed to
once more frustrate opposition. Right on the heels of the
impressive document came yet another Alcoa audio-visual,
this time a display of the EES conclusions.

The display and the new round of pro-Alcoa public relations
were carried to Koroit and Portland. The attitude pervaded both ALP and unions. Alcoa was seen as a chance for ordinary people as well as the wealthy.

In the euphoria after the June announcement, much
was made of the numbers of jobs to come to Portland. Alcoa
had no need to overstate its case, however. Yet if its local
allies did that, realising that when the community was later
disappointed (as it must be, for smelting provides relatively
scarce employment opportunities the Portland community
would be forgotten.

Alcoa was guilty of minor exaggeration on job creation,
Unemployment in Portland was running at 9 percent.

Alcoa's strategy to delay opposition--emerging was not
completely successful. In late 1979 the Alcoa Action Group
was formed, bringing together conservationists and people
anxious over social impacts. The group was small, however,
and its public ties to activists in other centres allowed men
like Amor and Dunlop to dismiss it as "outsiders" and therefore
anti-Portland.

Alcoa delayed releasing the EES, knowing that its
decision on the heathland would fuel the growth of
organised opposition. Even the confidential handbook of
critics contained no hint of the chosen location. The EES finally appeared in early January, timed to
once more frustrate opposition. Right on the heels of the
impressive document came yet another Alcoa audio-visual,
this time a display of the EES conclusions.

The display and the new round of pro-Alcoa public relations
were carried to Koroit and Portland. The attitude pervaded both ALP and unions. Alcoa was seen as a chance for ordinary people as well as the wealthy.

In the euphoria after the June announcement, much
was made of the numbers of jobs to come to Portland. Alcoa
had no need to overstate its case, however. Yet if its local
allies did that, realising that when the community was later
disappointed (as it must be, for smelting provides relatively
scarce employment opportunities the Portland community
would be forgotten.

Alcoa was guilty of minor exaggeration on job creation,
Unemployment in Portland was running at 9 percent.

Alcoa's strategy to delay opposition--emerging was not
completely successful. In late 1979 the Alcoa Action Group
was formed, bringing together conservationists and people
anxious over social impacts. The group was small, however,
and its public ties to activists in other centres allowed men
like Amor and Dunlop to dismiss it as "outsiders" and therefore
anti-Portland.

Alcoa delayed releasing the EES, knowing that its
decision on the heathland would fuel the growth of
organised opposition. Even the confidential handbook of
critics contained no hint of the chosen location. The EES finally appeared in early January, timed to
once more frustrate opposition. Right on the heels of the
impressive document came yet another Alcoa audio-visual,
this time a display of the EES conclusions.

The display and the new round of pro-Alcoa public relations
were carried to Koroit and Portland. The attitude pervaded both ALP and unions. Alcoa was seen as a chance for ordinary people as well as the wealthy.

In the euphoria after the June announcement, much
was made of the numbers of jobs to come to Portland. Alcoa
had no need to overstate its case, however. Yet if its local
allies did that, realising that when the community was later
disappointed (as it must be, for smelting provides relatively
scarce employment opportunities the Portland community
would be forgotten.

Alcoa was guilty of minor exaggeration on job creation,
Unemployment in Portland was running at 9 percent.
Alcoa got a deal no one else, including businesses, was entitled to.

A Portland Ratepayers and Residents Association was formed to pressure Council for a public vote on the matter. The feeling was so strong that the Council reluctantly agreed to a 'Forum' to discuss the issues, but then insisted that no motions could be put to the gathering, which looked to be against the proposed deal.

Debate was getting out of hand. The defunct Chamber of Commerce was hastily reformed to counter PBRA and rally its members. It hedged, harassed and intimidated with little success: some shopkeepers were unwilling to openly support Alcoa lest they lost custom.

After several weeks campaigning, the PBRA and the ALP had been able to force Council to call a meeting of residents and ratepayers to vote on the deal. The Chamber of Commerce campaigned heavily, but in spite of its money and pressure the meeting (closed to non-Portland journalists) was evenly divided: a mere fifteen votes for the deal.

It was a sobering sight to see the alleged leaders of the town jeering and shouting abuse at the meeting. But insults and innuendo had become acceptable tactics for a group whose credibility and future wealth was at risk. The mounting public hostility towards Alcoa would inevitably affect their careers much more directly than it ever would Alcoa.

For the Council and Mayor, the vote was a grave embarrassment. When the rates deal was finally closed (in 25 percent cut escalating to 50 percent on the fourth stage of the plant) the real problems were with Alcoa's construction crew, only about to start.

The Alcoa Action Group was as exhausted as the proper channels it had used. With Alcoa waiting only on the passing of enabling legislation, there was time only for a last-ditch effort to save the heathland.

Alcoa had responded to earlier concern over the heathland with proposals for seed collection and propagation; now it met the public ill-feeling by unveiling a scheme to transplant 30 ha entirely.

A short occupation of the site took place until the Bill was passed. White Australians joined the action which had hardened Mara opposition was the company's attempt to buy into the controversial Aurukun bauxite field in north Queensland. The spectre of Aboriginal land mined to supply a smelter built on a spot viewed by the Mara as a last touchstone for their own independent culture was enough to ensure Alcoa just the embarrassment it didn't want.

The occupation then continued. White Australians joined black for the inevitable confrontation between buldozers and people, quite a story in itself. Alcoa ordered the arrest of several of those on the site, and the site works began.

Those charged were much later found not guilty of trespass. They were, as their lawyer had pointed out to the police, on a public road at the time. The police seem not to share the general public disillusionment with Alcoa. When it was reported to them that Alcoa had been burning off the heathland on a day of total fire ban, the police were singularly unhelpful.

Few other people in Portland have many illusions left about Alcoa. They have seen the company mislead, seen the ruthlessness behind the facade of openness, and now are seeing the unpleasant changes the Alcoa Action Group predicted: evictions, busy streets, quarry trucks, school crowding. Local tradespeople have mostly gone on the Alcoa payroll, as have at least two dentists who no longer accept new patients. Fisherfolk fear a reduced pollock catch and the Council is worried about Alcoa polluting town water supplies. Still the expected Alcoa public largesse has not emerged.

Perhaps now it will. If, as Hildebrand said, Alcoa expected public reaction to swing this far, then the grand public-spirited donations will not be far off. In Alcoa's smelting town, such gestures are a first step towards rebuilding public confidence. Alcoa has only one way to get friends now: that is to buy them.
**INTRODUCTION**

Friends of the Earth’s entire existence rests upon getting convincing, well researched ideas to as many people as possible. To do that, FOE needs people and resources. You are invited to join us directly in this work, and to give financial support — by becoming active, joining up as a FOE member and urging others to generously support the organisation.

One of the best things about Friends of the Earth is its unending sense of optimism. It approaches issues from as positive an angle as possible. It confronts and seeks solutions to what are literally some of the most daunting environmental, social and political threats faced by human beings.

Friends of the Earth in Victoria is currently faced by a severe financial crisis. It could be forced to bring into operation a “razor-gang-style slash of important activities. Many of our hopes are pinned on this major effort to encourage more people to join FOE, to pay up $15, and to give time and/or money to maintain and boost the work.

This booklet — a special supplement to our magazine Chain Reaction — presents a report on what FOE has been doing and where we are going. It chronicles an impressive set of achievements and at least as impressive a range of goals.

If you think this is worthwhile work and want it to continue, please help bring into the organisation more people. Let us know what you think of what we are doing, and how you can become part of it.

Pages 9 and 16 tell you more about how you can become involved.

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**

The way we work

By Leigh Holloway

Friends of the Earth is a very unusual group. Outwardly, it takes a strong line on a diverse array of important environmental and economic issues. It has produced best selling books, organised countless demonstrations, appeared at innumerable enquiries, established excellent links with community groups, unions and the media, and amongst the public FOE enjoys a very favourable reputation. FOE has also maintained the confidence of many people who have been in positions where they could release information via this organisation.

One of the most distinctive and commendable features of Friends of the Earth has been its tendency to raise issues before they become popular causes. FOE has been right at the forefront of the efforts to stop uranium mining, to support Aboriginal Land Rights, to stop French and other bomb tests in the Pacific, to save the Whales and raw food issues.

FOE chooses to work on certain energy and environment issues, and in that scope we now include — indeed as our biggest project area — food issues. The Food Justice Centre at FOE works on a wide range of initiatives, and pesticide dumping in the Third World, junk food and international food trade and justice. In Victoria, uranium remains a major interest, as does air pollution (especially the successful campaign to remove lead from petrol), alternative technology, and several energy projects in Victoria from coal liquefaction to burning brown coal in the La Trobe Valley. On other major issues FOE tends to give support to the groups who are fighting the battles for the forests, the Great Barrier Reef and South West Tasmanian wilderness, for example. Chain Reaction, FOE’s national magazine,
The national magazine of Friends of the Earth is produced in Melbourne and sent free to all members. Chain Reaction is a quarterly reporting environmental, energy and food issues. It covers not only the work and issues FOE is working on, but a wide range of concerns of similar activist groups.

In the Winter 1981 edition Chain Reaction gives two extensive reports on the aluminium industry — including the only public analysis of Alcoa's strategy to take-over Portland in Victoria. In the previous edition CR presented the most extensive reports available in Australia on the Pacific people's efforts to restrict nuclear developments. When the Tasmanian Government last year decided to flood more of the South West wilderness Australia's daily newspapers gave the quite false impression that the wilderness had been saved. Chain Reaction was first to tell what was really going on, with a specially commissioned detailed report, maps and photographs.

CR seeks to present in a high quality, but inexpensive, format information not otherwise readily obtainable.

The Collective who produce the magazine is always looking for new people to join in the work. Prior experience is not necessary — just time (say half a day a week) would be wonderful! and enthusiasm. It is a case of 'on the job' training.

A big project currently underway is a national subscriptions drive and fund raising appeal. Individuals, schools, libraries and community groups are being sent letters inviting them to make use of the magazine, to subscribe and to give money for promotions and research.

Richard Shelton and Linnell Secomb/Chain Reaction

FOE, draws attention to the environmental, economic hazards of the concorde.

1973

Heads of the Earth drop a bomb on the miners.

1975-6

Representatives of F.O.E. argue a convincing anti-uranium case before the Ranger Inquiry.

CONTROVERSIAL DOCUMENTS ON URBAN CONTRACTS ARE LEAKED VIA F.O.E. TO THE RANGER INQUIRY.

1976

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY DALE BRADENVOUGH, WHO HAD RESIGNED FROM THE POSITION OF MANAGER, PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT AT GENERAL ELECTRIC, TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR SAFETY.

1979

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLACES TOTAL BAN ON WHALING IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS, AFTER INTENSIVE CAMPAIGNING BY F.O.E. AND ASSOCIATED GROUPS.

1980

RALPH NADER RETURNS TO MELBOURNE, SPONSORED BY A TOUR COMMITTEE BASED AT F.O.E.

1981

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN HEATED BY F.O.E. LEADS TO GOVERNMENT DECISION TO PHASE IN LEAD-FREE PETROL.

THE INDIVIDUAL SHOULD DECIDE ON URANIUM!

I'M THE INDIVIDUAL

I AGREE

RED LIGHT FOR

YELLOW CAKE

CASE AGAINST URANIUM MINING" IS

THE CASE AGAINST URANIUM MINING"

"RED LIGHT FOR

YELLOW CAKE -
**BACKGROUND**

Environment and the economy

By Anne Carson and Mark Carter

Friends of the Earth began on 11th July 1969 in San Francisco. Its founder David Brower envisaged an internationally aggressive environmental organisation, committed to the rational use of the Earth’s resources, their restoration and conservation. FoE Australia was subsequently established in 1972 and is now one of 22 national FoE groups.

FoE has proliferated throughout Australia to now include 8 capital city groups and various regional and affiliated bodies. Linkages between these groups is encouraged at all levels, but the effectiveness of FoE is achieved primarily, through the autonomy of each individual group.

In the 1980’s we see Australia increasingly involved in the demands of the industrialised world’s ‘economic order’. The subordination of the community to the needs of the economic system, heavy industrialisation and excessive consumption of resources are hallmarks of this economic order. An order implicitly reliant on the subordination of power and land from working people and traditional communities the over world. It has necessarily involved the destruction of the world of living things through the directives of economic imperatives.

Governments and media tend to deal with individual issues when crises arise. We see this as a fragmented approach and believe that such issues as apartheid, oppression of women, Land Rights and uranium appropriation of power and land from working people and traditional communities the over world. It has necessarily involved the destruction of the world of living things through the dictates of economic imperatives.

To achieve these ends Friends of the Earth is committed to a set of principles which guide our activities. These include:

- to remain non-partisan so that we will not be identifiable with any particular political party and can work to influence all political parties;
- to encourage the autonomy of local groups so that they themselves can establish appropriate local campaigns, what positions they will take on the issue and how they will fight them. Friends of the Earth (Collingwood) acts as a resource centre for three groups;
- FoE relies largely on a voluntary pool of helpers who contribute to all aspects of the work. Our full and regular part-time workers number about 50. Services are also provided by other sympathetic organisations.

By Anne Carson and Mark Carter

Friends of the Earth are also involved in a wide range of joint activities with other community groups. As different issues arise FoE becomes involved where there are opportunities to promote the concept of a sustainable ‘conservate society’ and to promote people’s involvement in campaigning for social change.

Several state groups for example, were involved in the mid 1980 tour by Ralph Nader, the consumer and environmental campaigner. Very successful public meetings were held in all capital cities. Nader repeatedly stressed the dangers of nuclear power, the greed of multinational aluminium companies, the need for community action groups to become more outspoken, and a mass of other environmental issues. In Perth he recorded a community service announcement promoting Friends of the Earth.

New issues constantly need to be monitored as they arise. Researchers are needed to look into problems raised by people who contact FoE for assistance. Other areas FoE has worked on include climate modification, toxic chemicals, Freedom of Information, Public Transport and Planning. Friends of the Earth continues to work closely with organisations such as the Conservation Council of Victoria and the Movement Against Uranium Mining on energy issues.

**FOOD**

Democratic control of the world’s food

By Ben Witham

The FoE Food Justice Centre’s activities aim to promote the democratic control of national and international food systems. Our belief is that societies everywhere should be working towards people’s participation in deciding how food is produced, processed, marketed and consumed.

**Objectives**

- To raise awareness of how vested interests use food systems largely or solely for profit and the destructive effects of this.
- To show the link between national and global food justice issues.
- To encourage research into the above.
- To use food as a perspective for analysing unjust social structures and as a rallying point for social justice activism.
- To promote and work with other organisations which have a connection with ‘food justice’ in Australia and overseas, such as Community Aid Abroad, Australian Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the Australian Consumers’ Association, Asia Bureau Australia, the Consumers’ Association of South Australia, Action for World Development, the International Organisation of Consumer Unions (Malaysia), food unions, The Institute for Food and Development policy (USA),
- To expose and oppose the marketing or dumping of harmful, restricted and/or generally hazardous pesticides in Third World countries.
- The issues
- Monopolisation trends in Australia’s food industry.
SEED PATENTING

Who will own plant varieties?

By Mark Cole

A vital part of the Food Justice Centre's programme is the campaign to halt seed patenting in Australia. The Free Access to Seeds Committee is a working collective within the FJC.

Up till now seeds have been a public resource in Australia — anyone has been able to grow, multiply, sell, exchange, export and import any variety of seed or cuttings they wish (quarantine regulations aside).

Seed patenting will end this.

In the Autumn 1981 session of Federal Parliament, a bill called the 'Plant Variety Rights (PVR) Act' will be tabled, to be debated in six months time. This bill enables the seeds of new plant varieties to be patented. The owners of plant patents will have 'property' rights over the seeds. This means they will be able to control the sales of seed and charge farmers and growers a royalty fee for the use of the seed.

PVR legislation gives plant breeding firms the authority to say who can sell the patented seed. This effectively allows those firms to tightly control seed production. In countries which already have PVR type legislation, plant breeding firms control tightly all aspects of plant breeding, seed multiplication and sales. This has led to a wave of seed company takeovers by petrochemical corporations.

The relationship between crop chemical companies, seed firms, and plant patenting is such that it encourages concentration within the industry. This could well lead to oligopoly pricing and the likelihood that narrow economic self-interests would be a priority over agricultural diversity.

The 'Seeds Group' at FOE has been in the forefront of the campaign to stop seed patenting in Australia. The successes the group can claim are:

- Responsibility for the bill being substantially re-drafted so that a number of major plant species are not included.
- Responsibility for alerting the media and providing much background information, speakers etc.
- The production of a 32 page booklet, Seeds for the Taking, on the issues, as well as smaller pamphlets and handouts.
- Organising numerous public meetings.

How you can become involved

Contact the Food Justice Centre or come along and see us. The group meets fortnightly. There are a number of major projects still to be completed. Your time and energy would be most appreciated.

Tony Belcher/Mark Cole/Food Justice Centre

designated by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation.

Workers

A small collective of three full-time and several part-time staff. New collective members are most welcome.

Help Needed

Organisers, researchers, writers, typists, clerical activities, subeditors, lay-out and graphic artists. Work can be done both on and off the premises.

Resources Available

A bi-monthly newsletter, extensive files on food issues, politics of food books booklets, badges and stickers (contact FOE Bookshop), speakers on various issues, food justice audio-visuals, advice, plus information regarding other resources, video tapes and film. A referral service to other organisations and individuals working in the food area.
**LEAD**

Major success for Friends of the Earth

By Andrew Herington

The campaign to stop the addition of lead to Australian petrol has been a major success for Friends of the Earth and its style of campaigning. In the space of two years the community campaign, spearheaded by FOE and funded by local government, managed to completely reverse the situation. Despite extravagant lobbying by the oil and lead industries, environmentalists managed to stir public concern and persuade the federal and state governments to adopt a programme involving the reduction of lead levels and the introduction of lead-free petrol in mid-1985.

Friends of the Earth played a major role in co-ordinating the campaign nationally and producing educational materials for distribution. Backers, booklets and multilingual leaflets were produced and widely distributed to child-care organisations, local councils, government bodies and the general public. A regular newsletter played an important role in keeping interested people informed of the latest developments in what turned out to be a very complex debate. FOE's ability to mobilise people to organise meetings, demonstrations and street stalls was very important in mounting a continuing campaign. The skills picked up by campaigners on previous issues were vital to the success of the effort to convey the anti-lead message in the mass media.

The air pollution group have now re-assessed the extent of the victory scored and developing their objectives for the next year. Issues to be tackled include lead in baby foods, industrial pollution, indoor air pollution, occupational exposure to lead and the need for quick action on the reduction of lead levels.

**ENERGY**

By Stephanie Bunbury

FOE's interest in energy has led it to be closely involved with the Keep Victoria Nuclear Free campaign. It has also supported the campaign organised by Portland Action against the establishment of an energy wasteful aluminium smelter at Portland.

The next step in Victoria's energy debate will be over the proposed Driftfield 4,000 megawatt power station in the Latrobe Valley and the establishment of up to five coal-fired power plants. FOE has started early by establishing a campaign and seeking support. Research has been initiated on the scale of air, water and land pollution problems and on analysing the energy consequences of rapid exploitation of our brown coal reserves.

We are now looking for interested people to help produce materials to expand on the recently published book Fuel for Uranium and to organise general campaign activities.

On a more general front, FOE has worked to help co-ordinate energy groups to ensure that all areas of these issues are covered. To this end we produced a brochure, Who's doing what on energy? which lists the contacts for all the major energy groups in Victoria and describes their activities.

**URANIUM**

By Pat Lowther

Since Friends of the Earth was formed in Melbourne in 1972 we have always worked against the mining of uranium.

For several years it was impossible to gain much media coverage for the issue. In July, 1976 the Labor Cabinet ordered that the mining proposals of Ranger Uranium Mines Ltd in the Northern Territory be subject to a public environmental inquiry. FOE played a significant role in the Inquiry, organizing much of the evidence opposing the Ranger proposal, uranium mining in general and the entire nuclear fuel cycle. FOE presented key witnesses from industry, unions, community groups, from physicists, botanists and environmentalists.

While the Ranger Inquiry Commissioners were taking evidence around the country FOE in Melbourne was publishing Uranium Deadline, a six-weekly, 32 page, Australia-wide round-up of nuclear news and campaign activities.

FOE brought further public attention with its Rides Against Uranium to Canberra in 1975, 1976 and 1977. In 1976 FOE brought Amory Lovins, noted nuclear critic and advocate of 'soft energy options' to Australia. In Melbourne he gave substantial evidence before the Ranger Inquiry and spoke at public meetings organised by FOE. Toward the end of the Inquiry's public hearings in mid-1976 we submitted Conzinc Riotinto/Mary Kathleen Uranium Ltd documents leaked to our office confirming the existence of world uranium price fixing by a cartel of companies including the Australian uranium miners. The impact of these documents is still being felt around the world, as it brought on a major clash between Westinghouse (divisor manufacturers) and the uranium suppliers. The Australian companies and Westinghouse have only recently reached an out-of-court settlement — and not without special legislation outlawing further international exposure of the companies dealings.

In Melbourne, in March 1977 FOE released Red Light for Yellowcake. The book was the first comprehensive public statement by the antiuranium movement in Australia. Over 30,000 copies have been sold. Since 1977 FOE has produced a newsletter covering all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle from Ground for Concerns published by Penguin and edited by Mary Elliot for FOE in Sydney to the familiar red and yellow Stop Uranium Mining car stickers produced in Melbourne with over 100,000 sales so far.
Melbourne's Development and Planning

by Olive S. Beed, Department of Regional and Urban Economic Studies, University of Melbourne

Chapters on transport, pollution, land use, suburbanization and the inner city.

330 pages, including 46 diagrams, maps and tables.
Recommended price $15 paperback, plus postage $1.50.

Publisher: Clewara Press, P.O. Box 182, Parkville 3052.

Energy to burn?

A guide to saving energy and money around the home.

An Australian book which brings together the scattered information on how to save both energy and money in and around your home.

Written and published by the Conservation Council of Victoria, a non-government, non-profit organisation as a positive contribution to energy conservation and environmental protection in Australia.

Available now from:
419 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000,
P.O. Box 845J, Melbourne, 3001. Phone: 602 4877.

$3 ($3.50 posted)

URANIUM

from page 11

FOE is an affiliate of the Movement Against Uranium Mining. With them we meet as a liaison group with officials from a number of trade unions. While ACTU policy is stronger than ever before, it is important to remember that unions are geared by the support of workers and the general community.

For four years FOE in Melbourne has challenged through representations of Shareholders for Social Responsibility uranium mining companies CRA, WMC, EZ and Northern Mining at their Annual General Meetings to make themselves accountable to the public.

We are always keen to hear from people interested in corporate responsibility or those who wish to attend meetings as proxies.

In 1977 in Melbourne following receipt of a generous donation FOE established the Uranium Fighting Fund. $10,000 has been given by one person each year to support effective projects across Australia opposing uranium mining and in support of Aboriginal land rights. So far over 60 projects have been funded.

FOE established Musicians United for Safe Energy Options in Melbourne. Now, with MALUM and musicians regular concerts are being organized to spread the anti-nuclear message to music lovers.

Throughout Australia women opposed to nuclear power are organizing groups to inform themselves and other women of the effects of the nuclear fuel cycle on them. We welcome new women to work with us.

To join the campaign contact Pat Lowther at FOE.

Alternatively, contact FOE Collingwood.

12 Chain Reaction

OCEANS

ANTARCTICA

The last great wilderness

By Brian Appleford

For several years the protection of ocean and Antarctic life has been a matter of concern to Friends of the Earth in Australia. The most notable campaign was that to have whaling outlawed: the success of FOE and other groups on this issue is well known.

However, less well known have been the efforts of FOE to prevent the exploitation of Antarctica and its surrounding seas. Recognizing the dangers of planned exploitation, Friends of the Earth initiated an Antarctic campaign in 1977.

Although not generally known by the public this campaign was successful in focusing government attention on the risks of utilizing Antarctic resources.

Unfortunately the Antarctic issue has not been won yet and a great deal of work remains to alert the world to the threats facing this last great wilderness.

Work is being done on other important issues related to the seas. But much more needs to be done. The implications for the marine environment of deep sea mining for minerals are not fully known or understood. The alarming incidence of super-tanker accidents continues to result in enormous oil spills. Overfishing, pollution, Law of the Seas and the destruction of sea-life such as seals, whales, dugongs and turtles are only a few of the problems.

It is important to realise that seas are an integral part of the world ecological balance, and to maintain that balance work needs to be done to protect and restore the natural environment. FOE can provide the opportunities for you to join such efforts.

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Positive, sound alternatives

By Michael Harris

The Alternative Technology Association was started when a number of people from FOE Collingwood decided that a group was needed for people interested in the practical side of alternative technology. They were concerned about the environmentally damaging methods of energy production being used and planned for the future, and wanted to promote a positive, environmentally sound alternative.

Since its formation a number of developments have taken place. The group operates independently from FOE with separate subscriptions and membership, but works in the same building and maintains close contact with FOE.

The ATA is comprised of people from a large variety of backgrounds who are interested and involved in the use and promotion of alternative technology in its widest sense. Areas of common interest include wind power, solar energy, crop fuels, methane digestion, alternative transport, building etc. The group organizes and carries out a range of activities including regular meetings, field trips and work shops. A newsletter is published with information about meetings and other activities as well as news items of current alternative technology interest. All members of the group receive the Association's magazine on alternative technology. It gives particular emphasis to the practical aspects of developments.

Perhaps the most useful function of the group is its provision of a contact point for people interested in alternative technology making it possible for those people to meet and exchange ideas and information.

Anyone interested in getting in touch with the group should write to the ATA of FOE Collingwood. Planning is carried out by committee meetings held once every two months.
Local groups

There are approximately 30 local and campus Friends of the Earth groups of which six are based in Victoria. These groups vary in size, character, organisation and the areas to which they address themselves. Two years ago in Victoria it was agreed that local group decision making should rest largely with these local groups. This decentralisation programme has enabled the local groups to more effectively determine the nature and the scope of their activities. They are now autonomous groups who adopt the general philosophy and aims of FOE, but who adapt these to the specific requirements of their local area. The scope of their activities however is restricted by limited finances. Membership fees and donations comprise the bulk of local group funding, and determine the extent of their involvement in environmental issues. Despite these constraints the local groups have effectively isolated and tackled many areas of concern.

Eltham Friends of the Earth

Eltham FOE was established four years ago after a well attended inaugural meeting organised by Fred Baker of Movement Against Uranium Mining (MAUM) and FOE. Monthly meetings are held at Eltham High School, with visiting speakers or members informing us on a wide range of environmental issues. We have held cake stalls in local shopping centres, markets and fairs. Relevant booklets, badges, car stickers are sold and free pamphlets disseminated whenever possible.

Baker of MAUM and I organised a meeting in February 2.45-T and leaded petrol in particular, both of which are being raised community awareness over the issues of whaling and support for local park development and much more.

Other local groups

LaTrobe University: Richard Watts, (03) 489 0278.
Mitcham: Kevin Smith (03) 674 6046.
Monash University: Julie Middled.
Community Research Action Centre, Union (03) 541 0811 ext. 3141 or 3125.

FOOD JUSTICE, ANTI-NUCLEAR, BIKES/ Chain Reaction

address themselves. Two years ago in Victoria it was there were over 60 people in the Oakleigh area. So along with people on the FOE files in our area Tony Collins of MAUM and I organised a meeting in February to see if there was any interest in Oakleigh for an environmental group - there was! So we are away, with some high energy input from 'new' people and some 'old workers' who have been active over the last few years.

An aim we agreed on was to try to involve as many people as possible, so in addition to the FOE and MAUM members/supporters we have contacted the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Native Forests Action Council for more 'greenies' and we have called the group Oakleigh District Environment Group. We hope to thus have at least one or two activists on each major issue - Food Justice, anti-nuclear, bike/ public transport, forests etc. who can call on the others for support in a street meeting, meeting or whatever.

There are many prospect of to look into in our area. What local factories do with their chemical wastes? Are they using radioactive isotopes? If so, where do they dispose of them? Paths and facilities at shopping-centres and public transport stations for bikes are needed, as is support for local park development and much more.

Contact: Cath McCarthy. 117 Monash Road, South Oakleigh.

Other local groups

LaTrobe University: Richard Watts, (03) 489 0278.
Mitcham: Kevin Smith (03) 674 6046.
Monash University: Julie Middled.
Community Research Action Centre, Union (03) 541 0811 ext. 3141 or 3125.

FOOD JUSTICE, ANTI-NUCLEAR, BIKES/ Chain Reaction

address themselves. Two years ago in Victoria it was there were over 60 people in the Oakleigh area. So along with people on the FOE files in our area Tony Collins of MAUM and I organised a meeting in February to see if there was any interest in Oakleigh for an environmental group - there was! So we are away, with some high energy input from 'new' people and some 'old workers' who have been active over the last few years.

An aim we agreed on was to try to involve as many people as possible, so in addition to the FOE and MAUM members/supporters we have contacted the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Native Forests Action Council for more 'greenies' and we have called the group Oakleigh District Environment Group. We hope to thus have at least one or two activists on each major issue - Food Justice, anti-nuclear, bike/ public transport, forests etc. who can call on the others for support in a street meeting, meeting or whatever.

There are many prospect of to look into in our area. What local factories do with their chemical wastes? Are they using radioactive isotopes? If so, where do they dispose of them? Paths and facilities at shopping-centres and public transport stations for bikes are needed, as is support for local park development and much more.

Contact: Cath McCarthy. 117 Monash Road, South Oakleigh.

Other local groups

LaTrobe University: Richard Watts, (03) 489 0278.
Mitcham: Kevin Smith (03) 674 6046.
Monash University: Julie Middled.
Community Research Action Centre, Union (03) 541 0811 ext. 3141 or 3125.
A leak to Chain Reaction tells how Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd seek to "shape a social and political environment favourable to the establishment of an Australian diamond mining industry," Leigh Holloway reports.

"IPR . . . believe that those dedicated to securing a large share of mining revenues for Aboriginals will ultimately succeed and that our best policy is to position ourselves to conduct these negotiations. This is a fundamental difference of view - and IPR is to be commended for its candour. However, given this view, it is difficult to see how Agency could effectively work towards objectives which it does not believe are attainable."

This is a key reason why Eric White Associates beat International Public Relations to get Kimberley Diamond Mines public relations account.

Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd are the managers of the Joint Ashton Venture in north-west Western Australia. Venture partners are CRA (56.8%), Ashton Mining (38.2%) and Northern Mining (5%).

They want a "strong and positive image" showing how they are "socially responsible and a good employer". They asked Eric White Associates and International Public Relations, the two largest and "most respected" PR consultants in Australia, for some ideas.

Ever enthusiastic EWA called it "one of the most challenging and exciting public relations prospects in the history of consulting in Australia". While IPR merely settled for describing the company's policy towards Aboriginals and "isolate this agreement as a strategic political connection in Canberra.

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is $35,000 on the consultants, $40,000 on a "prestige" Annual Report style document, $15,000 on a "relatively cheap production" white paper explaining the company's policy towards its Aboriginal "neighbors" and the benefits of their "Good Neighbour Programme".

If the leak to Chain Reaction is accurate, $120,000 on two films (one "primarily for use in taking our case to Government"), $15,000 audio-visuals, $25,000 photography, $25,000 media relations, $15,000 government relations and $15,000 community relations.

Kimberley Diamond Mines looked at what other mining companies spend on PR. Alcoa - $1 million plus, with a public relations staff of 26. Amex, operators of the Noonkanbah Oil Exploration Project - $200,000. BHP - $3 million plus, including sponsorship of 60 Minutes and the lavish BHP Journal. Comalco - $900,000 with $100,000 on internal public relations. CRA - $3 million plus, with a staff of 24. MM - $500,000. Utah - $100,000 on direct PR, $500,000 to $1.5 million on the Utah Foundation. Western Mining Corporation - $100,000. Aboriginal Land Rights organisations, environmentalists and their supporters do not spend like amounts.

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is at least $374,000.

Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd seek to "shape a social and political environment favourable to the establishment of an Australian diamond mining industry," Leigh Holloway reports.

"IPR . . . believe that those dedicated to securing a large share of mining revenues for Aboriginals will ultimately succeed and that our best policy is to position ourselves to conduct these negotiations. This is a fundamental difference of view - and IPR is to be commended for its candour. However, given this view, it is difficult to see how Agency could effectively work towards objectives which it does not believe are attainable."

This is a key reason why Eric White Associates beat International Public Relations to get Kimberley Diamond Mines public relations account.

Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd are the managers of the Joint Ashton Venture in north-west Western Australia. Venture partners are CRA (56.8%), Ashton Mining (38.2%) and Northern Mining (5%).

They want a "strong and positive image" showing how they are "socially responsible and a good employer". They asked Eric White Associates and International Public Relations, the two largest and "most respected" PR consultants in Australia, for some ideas.

Ever enthusiastic EWA called it "one of the most challenging and exciting public relations prospects in the history of consulting in Australia". While IPR merely settled for describing the company's policy towards Aboriginals and "isolate this agreement as a strategic political connection in Canberra.

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is $35,000 on the consultants, $40,000 on a "prestige" Annual Report style document, $15,000 on a "relatively cheap production" white paper explaining the company's policy towards its Aboriginal "neighbors" and the benefits of their "Good Neighbour Programme". 

A leak to Chain Reaction tells how Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd seek to "shape a social and political environment favourable to the establishment of an Australian diamond mining industry," Leigh Holloway reports.

"IPR . . . believe that those dedicated to securing a large share of mining revenues for Aboriginals will ultimately succeed and that our best policy is to position ourselves to conduct these negotiations. This is a fundamental difference of view - and IPR is to be commended for its candour. However, given this view, it is difficult to see how Agency could effectively work towards objectives which it does not believe are attainable."

This is a key reason why Eric White Associates beat International Public Relations to get Kimberley Diamond Mines public relations account.

Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd are the managers of the Joint Ashton Venture in north-west Western Australia. Venture partners are CRA (56.8%), Ashton Mining (38.2%) and Northern Mining (5%).

They want a "strong and positive image" showing how they are "socially responsible and a good employer". They asked Eric White Associates and International Public Relations, the two largest and "most respected" PR consultants in Australia, for some ideas.

Ever enthusiastic EWA called it "one of the most challenging and exciting public relations prospects in the history of consulting in Australia". While IPR merely settled for describing the company's policy towards Aboriginals and "isolate this agreement as a strategic political connection in Canberra.

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is $35,000 on the consultants, $40,000 on a "prestige" Annual Report style document, $15,000 on a "relatively cheap production" white paper explaining the company's policy towards its Aboriginal "neighbors" and the benefits of their "Good Neighbour Programme". 

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is at least $374,000.

Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd seek to "shape a social and political environment favourable to the establishment of an Australian diamond mining industry," Leigh Holloway reports.

"IPR . . . believe that those dedicated to securing a large share of mining revenues for Aboriginals will ultimately succeed and that our best policy is to position ourselves to conduct these negotiations. This is a fundamental difference of view - and IPR is to be commended for its candour. However, given this view, it is difficult to see how Agency could effectively work towards objectives which it does not believe are attainable."

This is a key reason why Eric White Associates beat International Public Relations to get Kimberley Diamond Mines public relations account.

Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd are the managers of the Joint Ashton Venture in north-west Western Australia. Venture partners are CRA (56.8%), Ashton Mining (38.2%) and Northern Mining (5%).

They want a "strong and positive image" showing how they are "socially responsible and a good employer". They asked Eric White Associates and International Public Relations, the two largest and "most respected" PR consultants in Australia, for some ideas.

Ever enthusiastic EWA called it "one of the most challenging and exciting public relations prospects in the history of consulting in Australia". While IPR merely settled for describing the company's policy towards Aboriginals and "isolate this agreement as a strategic political connection in Canberra.

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is $35,000 on the consultants, $40,000 on a "prestige" Annual Report style document, $15,000 on a "relatively cheap production" white paper explaining the company's policy towards its Aboriginal "neighbors" and the benefits of their "Good Neighbour Programme". 

A leak to Chain Reaction tells how Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd seek to "shape a social and political environment favourable to the establishment of an Australian diamond mining industry," Leigh Holloway reports.

"IPR . . . believe that those dedicated to securing a large share of mining revenues for Aboriginals will ultimately succeed and that our best policy is to position ourselves to conduct these negotiations. This is a fundamental difference of view - and IPR is to be commended for its candour. However, given this view, it is difficult to see how Agency could effectively work towards objectives which it does not believe are attainable."

This is a key reason why Eric White Associates beat International Public Relations to get Kimberley Diamond Mines public relations account.

Kimberley Diamond Mines Pty Ltd are the managers of the Joint Ashton Venture in north-west Western Australia. Venture partners are CRA (56.8%), Ashton Mining (38.2%) and Northern Mining (5%).

They want a "strong and positive image" showing how they are "socially responsible and a good employer". They asked Eric White Associates and International Public Relations, the two largest and "most respected" PR consultants in Australia, for some ideas.

Ever enthusiastic EWA called it "one of the most challenging and exciting public relations prospects in the history of consulting in Australia". While IPR merely settled for describing the company's policy towards Aboriginals and "isolate this agreement as a strategic political connection in Canberra.

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is $35,000 on the consultants, $40,000 on a "prestige" Annual Report style document, $15,000 on a "relatively cheap production" white paper explaining the company's policy towards its Aboriginal "neighbors" and the benefits of their "Good Neighbour Programme". 

The forecast for 1981 PR expenditure is at least $374,000.
The Incredible Shrinking Department

By David Allworth

States take over environment

By Joe Cannata

The Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 is very broad. They give the Governor-General in Council, acting on the advice of the Minister, important powers in deciding the application of the Act. Their discretionary power extends to areas such as the role of State and Federal Governments in environmental impact assessment, and the nature of public inquiries into specific projects.

Under the Liberal Government, environmental assessments by the Environmental Impact Assessment Branch have increasingly consisted of tagging along with state assessments. Australia provides a graphic example of the basis on which state assessments are being made. It is govern­ed by a Liberal-National Country Party government. Where the state has let the Federal Government do the work of environmental assessment, its impacts have been considerably reduced and not at all cost-effective. Consequently, the question addressed by the government is: "whether a project should go ahead, but how. In some cases, this attitude has contributed to the 'razor gang.'"

Incredible Shrinking Department

By David Allworth

Since its heyday as the Department of Environment and Conservation under Senior Labor Government ministers, the policy and its budget, who handle environmental affairs in the federal bureaucracy have been shuffled between depart­ments and deprived of power and staff. Finally, buffeted and bruised, they find themselves under the most junior federal minister, with little influence in the process of government.

On these pages, three Chain Reaction contributors examine the changing fortunes of environmental affairs in the Federal Government. Industry, Trade and Resources, and the Treasury in matters of proposed resource development. The Treasury’s attitude is summed up in documents leaked to the press as long ago as 1976, when J. M. Wark, first Assistant Secretary, wrote “Documents of physical and economic measures must often be taken quickly so that there would be insufficient time for correspondence with Environment Impact Statement procedures.” After discussions with the Treasurer in 1978, J. Belew of the Treasury wrote “He [Mr Howard] did not like Environment, Housing and Community Development having independent dis­cussion with the States on foreign in­vestment matters.”

While Treasury has refused to cooperate with the House of Represen­tatives inquiry into the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act, it continues behind the scenes, to push for changes to that Act.

Although the staff in the present Environment Division of Home Affairs and the Environment are generally extremely helpful and responsive to public concern, the continued decline in their numbers further hinders their effectiveness. The information section of the report has a staff of 26. Now, two people have the responsibility of studying the impact of aluminium projects in Australia. The Department of Home Affairs and Environment is now expected to examine a further 45 jobs under the recommendations of the "razor gang.”

Environment Division branches


Environment Assessment Branch: admin­isters the Environment Protection (Impact of Nuclear Codes) Act, and is responsible for assessment and policy advice on hazardous chemicals, nuclear activities and air quality. Branch Head: Nigel Carslake.

Environment Programmes Branch: admin­isters grants (not those to conservation bodies), provides support to the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Office of the Superintend­ent, provides the secretariat to the Aus­tralian Environmental Protection and Conservation Authority, the Council of the Environment, the State Environmental Protection Council and the National Conservation and the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Radiation Protection and Safety Advisory Committee. Branch Head: John Sands.

Environment Studies Branch: under­takes studies of policy issues and their implications for environment. Branch Head: Don Maciha.

Conservation Policy and Planning Unit: responsible for the National Conservation Programmes to collect, define and class­ify Australian plants and animals. Acting Director: Alison McCusker.

Environment ministers

By Joe Cannata

I was first asked in February to provide information on the effects of the trans­fer of federal government adminis­tration of the environment from Science and the Environment to Home Affairs and the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act which would indicate Mr Wilson’s basic views on environmental matters. Since his re-election in 1972 for the South Australian seat of Sturt, he has made relatively few speeches in the House. Of those, one: a rather non-descript discourse on the Great Barrier Reef of mer­value. However, unlike any of his prede­cessors in the portfolio under Prime Ministers Gough Whitlam and Bobé­bear, Wilson has some background in environmental affairs, having been a member of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment for a total of about 28 months from 1974 to 1977. This committee has, on the whole, devel­oped a deservedly good reputation for the thoroughness of its investigations and generally progressive recommen­dations.
THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND ASSOCIATED BODIES.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCIENTIST FOR AUSTRALIAN RIVERS REGION

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

One effective way of encouraging energy conservation in •
effects on local communities in addition to the ir role in
• to formulate recommendations for actions which should
Writer on energy issues and founder of the Public Resource
Guest speaker: JAMES RIDGEWAY
Other speakers and resource persons will include representa·
Forum locations, dates and information contacts:

CHAIRPERSON: G. KELLEHER
DIAMOND DUSTCRAFT

E N V I R O N M E N T

RANGER

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

and concerned citizens:

• to perform planning initiatives already taken in the
These forums will enable local and regional planners, members of
either left the Public Service or gone on to less threatened departments.

FORESTS ON LOCAL PLANNING FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION

One effective way of encouraging energy conservation in- •
activities, sometimes flying in the face of current government policy.

the Environment Division were over­
joyed at leaving the Department of Science, which had meticulously scrutinised all paperwork being forwarded to the Ministers at that time (Webster and Thomson). The other reason for relief was to be found in a department where Dr Don McMichael was Permanent Head. As Director of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, he was one of the leaders of the Environment Division under the Labor Government. In 1976 he was Director of Environment in Environ- ment, Housing and Community Development (which had swallowed a number of Labor-form departments) until he became Head of the newly created department of Home Affairs in 1977. Recently he was elected Chairperson of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Environment Committee.

While McMichael undoubtedly has an impeccable knowledge of environmental matters, there has always been some doubt about his willingness to fight for the issues his officers consider to be important. It has been widely rumoured in Canberra that McMichael has been hiding his time in the hope of an appointment to one of the international environment agencies such as the United Nations Programme or the United Nations Environment Programme or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. In the meantime it can be expected that he will continue to do his job as in a reported passionate for overseas trips and not rock any boats.

The head of the Environment Division is John Thompson who is known as a tough public service fighter, making a new emergence of environment activity unlikely.

Within the Department, the emphasis is on greater cooperation with the States (which will be difficult in the case of Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia) and improving liaison with industry.

Two particular areas which are likely to receive most attention are the development of the National Conservation Strategy and increased emphasis on the control of hazardous chemicals. Each of these developments will go through the public forum so they are not frozen in the Department. While there have been only two public inquiries under the Act — Ranger uranium and Fraser Island sand-mining, there is clearly much to be done at the national level. Whether or not it is done will be partly a question of ministerial and bureaucratic will. Both are presently unknown quantities. But one factor which remains constant is the Government's resistance to init-

The Australian Heritage Commission's staff of seventeen may be further reduced, following the Razor Gang's order of a 6% cut in the Department of Home Affairs and Environment.

But fear of a strong electoral re- action prevents the Government from going further.

It is not going to be a good year for opponents of the Commission. In June there will be a new Senate, of which a majority could be expected to support retaining the Commission and the legislation which gives it consid­erable autonomy from political direc· tives. In August the AEC and Mac- millan will release a 1,200 page book, with 600 photos, documenting Aus-

Current Environmental Impact Statements

Below is a list of Environmental Impact Statements currently being prepared by the Department of Home Affairs and Environment, but not yet at the

PROPOSAL

Meremine Oil/Gas Project, NT

9 June 1980

Draft EIS Gazetted for Public

Review 10/10/80

TV Translator Facility, North

9 June 1980 Draft EIS Gazetted for

Head, Sydney Harbour, NSW

21 June 1980 Draft EIS Gazetted for Public

Black Mountain, A.C.T.

24/2/81

Aluminiwm Smelter, Goodwood

25 Nov. 1980

50 Aud. (Alcan)

Lake Way Uranium Project, W.A. (Welsh International

2 April 1981

Old Empire

The Environment Division of the Department of Home Affairs and Environment is a much smaller and more demoralised unit than it was in 1976 when there were two Divisions of the Department of Environ-
ment, Housing and Community Development, dealing with environmental matters. More to the point, many key public servants in the environment area either left the Public Service or gone on to less threatened departments.

There is no doubt that members of
School's out

The powerful educational tool—"learning by doing"—is the basis of a comprehensive approach to design education. This award-winning pencil (a prototype of a timber school building system) was built by students, in an apprenticeship situation.

With prospects nurtured by full employment, the decision mandate was to produce practically oriented graduates capable of filling the growing gaps in a workforce not being catered for by established university education.

The School of Environmental Design chose to provide courses focused with the built, natural and social environment at hand. It addressed pertinent environmental issues but which offered a unique educational experience for staff and students alike. Self-assessment was the norm, lectures and seminars were avoided, and the competitive environment fostered a community-oriented approach to education.

Whilst the University of Tasmania had a history of challenges and change, the new School of Environmental Design was, in its initial years, a beacon of hope for a younger generation. Self-management and mutual consent were in the construction of the campus. The rivalry between the two schools, short-term political expediency and long-term educational policy-making characterised by the state and federally funded education sector.

Work themes being considered this year include an "appreciation of the urban environment as the most fertile and creative human domain", the political economy of housing (including a review of housing issues in South-East Tasmania) and development of the practical orientation of the education sector.

Whilst there had been no agreement that graduates were not the product of the democratic process, this year included an independent institution based on educational principles outlined. Their Hobart Architectural Co-operative constitution includes a poster, is available from the Hobart Architectural Co-operative Constitution

The first article in *Chain Reaction*'s series on environmental education is by Leigh Woolley.

Tasmania has seen some remarkable fluctuations in recent decades. Ten years ago in Hobart, the first intake in a unique environmental education programme. The new School of Environmental Design, was part of the recently constituted Tasmanian College of Advanced Education.

When the State and Federal Governments demolished the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, the response was as creative as the course had been. Students, teachers and practitioners set up their own Hobart Architectural Co-operative. This first article in *Chain Reaction*’s series on environmental education is by Leigh Woolley.

Women and men have often suffered at the hands of the male-dominated medical profession. In this article, Donna Rawlins, a DES daughter, explains the tragic after effects of exposure to DES, the synthetic sex hormone which was prescribed to pregnant women from the 1940’s to the 1970’s. She outlines the disininterest and inaction of the Australian health authorities.

The DES daughter, explains the tragic after effects of exposure to DES, the synthetic sex hormone which was prescribed to pregnant women from the 1940’s to the 1970’s. She outlines the disininterest and inaction of the Australian health authorities.

"Yes...to prevent abortion, miscarriage, premature labor.

A portion of this sterilization and reproductive toxicity is related to DES. DES is an estrogen that feminizes male children.

DES was prescribed to pregnant women to prevent repeated miscarriages and other complications of pregnancy. As with many drugs in use today, there was little research into the long term effects of its use. The Smith study was poorly done and no controls were used. Unfortunately as Smith was the Head of the Harvard University Medical School, his reports were very influential and resulted in the widespread use of DES.

Some clinicians tested the hypothesis more rigorously. In one such study Dieckmann compared DES with a placebo in some 400 pregnant women who had the misfortune to enrol in the University of Chicago prenatal clinic during 1950-52. Half were given DES and half a placebo in a double-blind trial. Dieckmann concluded that DES did not effect pregnancy one way or the other. Despite this many doctors continued to prescribe DES. Part of the tragedy of the DES story is that the Dieckmann study conclusion, that DES had no effect on pregnancy, was in fact wrong.

Dieckmann's data has been analysed and clearly shows that DES significantly increased abortions, neonatal deaths and premature births. He reported that a previously rare cancer, clear cell adenocarcinoma of the vagina and cervix, was being seen with unusual frequency in young women aged between fifteen and twenty-two years of age. The common denominator was exposure of the fetus to DES. Herbst was able to demonstrate the association of maternal use of DES during pregnancy with the development of clear cell adenocarcinoma of the vagina and cervix.
In December 1980 the Health Department received a submission from a new clinic at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Melbourne to classify DES exposed daughters. This is the only such clinic in the USA and it has been accepted by the Department.

However, the Health Department has forgotten something; male feral rats have also been exposed to DES. In the USA particular care is being paid to the possible relationship between the increasing incidence of testicular cancer and exposure to DES. The infertility rate is very high among exposed men, and other complications are also being investigated.

Glossary

Chain Reaction should have a much wider readership than it does now. The English journalist recently described the Australian newspaper as a ‘lifeless mass of grey pulp’ useful only for a ‘substitute pillow’ but nearly useless as information. Chain Reaction and other independent journals could do a lot to inform those who want to know about the real issues of our time. (Do any such non-robots still exist?)

Milo Dunphy, of Sydney, Director of Total Environment Centre and Vice-President of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

I sent off my subscription today. Why don’t you?

Milo Dunphy
Breast cancer and X-rays

The average woman has a one in eight chance of developing breast cancer at some stage in her life. More women die of breast cancer than any other cancer. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death of women aged between 39 and 44 years. Such dismal statistics regarding the high rate of breast cancer among women led to the setting up of The National Breast Cancer Demonstration project in Australia in 1975. This project provided for free examination for women over the age of 55 for 35 years. Three methods of examination were used: breast palpation, mammography, and thermography.

Between 1972 and 1976, 250,000 symptom-free women were screened for breast cancer. The screening programme assumed that early detection of breast cancer using mammography would result in a reduction of breast cancer deaths. However, it was not taken into account that because the female breast is so susceptible to cancer, it is also more susceptible to radiation-induced cancer.

It is possible that a mammogram can detect a small breast tumour marginally before it would be discovered by palpation. However, a woman who has a mammogram runs the risk of developing a radiation-induced cancer between 15 and 30 years after the x-ray.

In 1976 the USA National Cancer Institute recommended that routine annual mammographic examination for women under 50 years should be abolished. This was promptly done after the results of a risk-benefit analysis conducted by the Bureau of Radiological Health were released. They found that most women do not develop breast cancer until after menopause, and women in their 50s are not likely to live long enough to die of radiation-induced breast cancer. This was not found that for women under 50 years the risks of developing cancer from the radiation absorbed during an annual mammogram outweigh the benefits of detecting cancers that may already be present.

There are strong doubts among physicians about the value of mammographies in the detection of breast cancer. It began in Australia two years ago and has already enlisted the active support of over two thousand members. Amongst those are farmers committed to finding alternative modes of food production. In this Chain Re-action interview, Christine Townsend, of Animal Liberation, Sydney, environmental activist and author of In Defence of Living Things and A Voice for the Animals talks with Fairlie Arthur, of Animal Liberation, Melbourne.

Chris, what does the term specieism mean?

Well, specieism is favouring one's own species over all others. The example is usually given of slavery. We argued that the slaves were black and they spoke a different language, that they felt differently, and that we should therefore respect them in exactly the same rationalizations when we refer to animals.

You're saying that animals have equal rights to people, or...?

I don't think that animals can have equal rights because they feel in the same way as we can. They certainly have emotional capacities to feel pain and to suffer. We should take all these things into consideration.

So would you see Animal Liberation as complementary to the fights for rights of women or ethnic minorities, or...?

Yes, I think it is and that's why I refer to Animal Liberation because a liberation movement is a movement towards recognising the needs of the oppressed.

How do you think farmers could get out of the present system of factory farming into more liberated systems? Well, with egg production the easiest way is probably not to go back to labour intensive systems. If we're going to be practical we've got to find ways of automated egg production where hens can run free range. The only expense is going to be in the change over of equipment. Any battery cages have only a ten-year life span and if I allowed a system of phasing out period of ten years it wouldn't cause any problems for farmers.

Can you say something about the conditions of the hens in the battery? Each bird has about a quarter of a square foot of space to stand on. The floor of the cage is sloping, the claws of the hens grow through the wire so that they're long and curved and that when they stand on top of each other, they scratch and draw blood. They can't scratch in the cage, they can't even stretch their wings fully. None of the needs of an animal can be fulfilled in a battery cage. And the same applies to pig farming also, does it?

In the very intensive systems the animals are kept indoors usually on concrete or slatted floors and crowded together. They eat each other because they are so bored and frustrsted. They have to have their tails cut off to stop them nibbling each other. Again, all their behavioural needs are denied. The most basic thing to pigs is to be able to root in the soil and when and when they can't use the nose and the rooting instinct they become utterly frustrated. In an intensive pig farm I think the only thing these pigs have for amusement is about ten minutes a day when they eat. What percentage of pigs in Australia would be farmed in that extremely intensive way?

I think we've got about two and a half million pigs in Australia and I suppose that about half of these would be reared intensively. Large machinery would be involved in the whole thing so efficiently we would use 98% of all the animals needs. Some farmers just can't compete. This is going to apply to cattle farming also isn't it? Could I think we're moving toward food lotting of cattle. They're fed grain which really should be going to the Third World countries. Some of the fishmeal and products that go into feeding our animals come from under-developed countries.

Animal Lib has done a great deal on the transportation of animals. Do you want to say something about that? The whole transport scene is really distressing. Animals go for twenty-four hours or more, without food or water, squashed in trucks. They are bruised and injured. In sale yards they can stand up to two days in the sun without food and water before they are eaten and then they are transported for another day before they reach their destination. Even the farmers are really concerned about it. People often say the slaughter of animals is merciful. Is it? Absolutely not, because animals smell the blood and anticipate what is going to happen to them. Studies done overseas have found that the cattle bolt and they don't know what is going to happen to them. They'll be fed grain which they think is going to be in the change over of equipment. Any battery cages have only a ten-year life span and if I allowed a system of phasing out period of ten years it wouldn't cause any problems for farmers. If I allowed a system of phasing out period of ten years it wouldn't cause any problems for farmers. They'll be fed grain which they think is going to be in the change over of equipment. Any battery cages have only a ten-year life span and if I allowed a system of phasing out period of ten years it wouldn't cause any problems for farmers. They'll be fed grain which they think is going to be in the change over of equipment. Any battery cages have only a ten-year life span and if I allowed a system of phasing out period of ten years it wouldn't cause any problems for farmers.
When it hits the fan...

let us take the blame

Chain Reaction guarantees anonymity and the utmost discretion to those in the Public Service and industry wishing to pass on information in the public interest.

Our address is: Chain Reaction, Collingwood 3066 and our telephone (03) 419 8700

32 Chain Reaction

Henry David Thoreau

The ‘reader’ to whom this collection is addressed is American – no other readers are represented. He/she is probably also more an admirer of colourful prose in short doses than a practical activist. The blurb tells you that the book will bring you into ‘direct confrontation with nature in all its beauty and power’ and that it is a plea for the preservation of wilderness. The first claim is obviously exaggerated; words are not nature; the second is dubious; there are plenty of cases of exploitation, harming and mountain-climbing, very little hand

action towards stopping plant patenting, which at this stage is crucial as the Parliamentary bill will be tabled for public debate for a few months only. Seeds For The Taking is carefully researched, and a book you cannot afford to ignore. Give one to a friend and share the debate.

Anabelle Andrews

Circle of Poison

The control of seeds, because it implies also the control of food production, and indeed of life itself, should not be appropriated to itself by any company or nation.” This statement by Catholic Church bishops of mid-western USA voices the current international concern about the Plant Variety Rights Legislation.

Seeds For The Taking presents the case against seed patenting. The benefits which supporters of the PVR legislation are claiming are exposed as “myths” and the real issue is shown to be one of public versus private rights. Once seeds are patented they become very expensive and only a few can afford them.

The story told here is intended not merely to shock and to cause outrage, but to provide the needed background and context. It is a book for everyone, whether one is Alex Stejskal, who writes in the New York Times: “The “reader’ to whom this collection is addressed is American – no other readers are represented. He/she is probably also more an admirer of colourful prose in short does than a practical activist. The blurb tells you that the book will bring you into ‘direct confrontation with nature in all its beauty and power’ and that it is a plea for the preservation of wilderness. The first claim is obviously exaggerated; words are not nature; the second is dubious; there are plenty of cases of exploitation, harming and mountain-climbing, very little hand

action towards stopping plant patenting, which at this stage is crucial as the Parliamentary bill will be tabled for public debate for a few months only. Seeds For The Taking is carefully researched, and a book you cannot afford to ignore. Give one to a friend and share the debate.

Anabelle Andrews

Circle of Poison

The two main commercial uses of animals are for make-up. One is the Draize test which involves dropping concentrated solutions of the substance to be tested into rabbits eyes. The eye often actually disintegrates while the animal is still conscious. The other is the LD50 test used for drugs, cosmetics, weedicides and household de­ tergents. When 50% of the population dies from the dosage you have given it, that’s the lethal dose. If the drug you are testing is very lethal the animal might die after a couple of hours, but if it is something like lipstick the scientist might have to force feed so much into the animal’s stomach that the stomach ruptures. It’s utterly inaccurate and quite useless. Curare is a South American drug which paralyses animals but they remain fully conscious. I saw such an experiment at Sydney University. The purpose of the experiment was to find out how a single cell in the brain reacted to visual stim­ ulus. It is a very exotic and a somewhat useless ex­ ercise but it caused a cat enormous suffering. This cat was impaled on machinery and attached to computers and breathing apparatus and although it was only very lightly anaesthetised, the scientists went away over­ night and left this cat alive on the machinery with elec­ trodes in its brain and geni­ rats in plastic bags. It is forbidden to use curare in the United Kingdom.

Is there any sort of supervi­sion of scientists’ experi­ ments on animals in Aus­ tralia? Only a peer review system. An ‘animal care committee’ is set up which consists of scientists who are responsible for deciding whether an animal experiment should be done or not. They are hardly going to criticize their colleges.

And you have commented elsewhere about the prior­ ities of western medicine committing so much money into researching something like cancer when there are quite cursory diseases raging in the Third World. We are so wrong. I think we should be working on the preventative side, trying to bring more hygiene and all the basic nutritional require­ ments to these countries.

Finally, how do you see Animal Liberation in relation to the environment movement generally? I think they are very closely related. Probably the animal rights movement is some­ where about where the con­ servation movement was ten or fifteen years ago. The other point to make is that these intensive systems of animal production are de­ structive to the environment. These systems are very high on the use of food fuels and create an enormous efficient problem.

Contact: Christine Townsend, Se­ cretary, Australian Federation of Animal Societies, c/o Total En­ vironment Centre, 18 Ar­ gyll Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000. Telephone (02) 27 4714.

Your community group can support her struggle for justice by distributing World Development Tea.

For further information contact

WORLD DEVELOPMENT TEA

NSW: 262 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000
VIC: 85 Helene St, Bulleen 3105
QLD: 332 Musgrave St, Mansfield 4170
SA: 59 Park Ave, Roselyn Park 5072
WA: 306 Murray St, East Victoria Park, 6101
TAS: Third World Shop, Centrevue Arcade, Launceston 7250
ACT: 17 de Burgh St, Lyneham 2602

When it hits the fan...

let us take the blame

Chain Reaction guarantees anonymity and the utmost discretion to those in the Public Service and industry wishing to pass on information in the public interest.

Our address is: Chain Reaction, Collingwood 3066 and our telephone (03) 419 8700
Lots of people are rediscovering the bicycle as a means of transport and recreation, finding new places and adventure in their own country as a result. Let Freewheeling magazine aid your enjoyment of cycling and Australia by keeping you informed on cycle touring, bicycle trails, urban planning, history, maintenance and camping info.

Freewheeling presents its information in a clear concise form which doesn't go stale so our back issues are always in demand. Subscribe at the special price on the form below as some­what dignified" are to be provided for all the earth's people, world energy— Bruewer predicts— grows ever more abundant. "The era of energy conservation programmes in the wealthy countries. Since much will be for electricity, there is going to be a choice between coal and nuclear fuels. For this reason the nuclear and coal industries have no interest in maximizing or minimizing public attention to the CO2 problem. We have already seen successive conferences and international conferences bringing no changes in climate and thus to agriculture and living patterns. Other contaminants (nitrous oxides and halocarbons) threaten the ozone layer which screens out lethal ultraviolet radiation.

For a detailed and readable intro­duction to these problems, try Georg Bruewer's valuable Air in Danger. It is well translated from German: the tropics. A massive reforestation pro­gramme would not only counteract the gradual growth in CO2 levels but would have other useful effects, on employment and agriculture particularly.

Don Siemon

For the Patriarch by Angelo Loukakis
University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1981. 191 pages, $10.95 (hard cover), $6.95 (soft cover).

The book has three strengths which make it stand out from the usual discussions of the atmosphere. First, it is not hysterical, yet Bruewer is genuinely concerned with the health consequences of the CO2 and ozone problems. Any diagnosis of which one living could aggravate the disastrous conditions to which many people already live. Second, the book assumes little background knowledge. It includes basic material on the nature of the air and a fascinating diversion into the history of the atmosphere.

Third, Bruewer writes as a journalist rather than a scientist. He combines data and explanation with stories of the researchers, their projects, gatherings, and differences. People can understand scientific debate and progress more clearly when this human dimen­sion is added. These strengths allow Air in Danger to put the debate over the atmosphere in the context of the debate over energy. "If living conditions that are
Our stocklist is your checklist

At Inner City Cycles you will find a wide range of equipment for bicycle touring and light-weight camping. In fact, just about everything you need to ensure that your touring is an enjoyable experience. Here is a small sample of some of the things to be found in our two shops in Glebe: Tents, Sleeping Bags, Sleeping mats, Lightweight stores, Fuel and Cook gear, Camping accessories, Fanny packs, Handle bar bags, Small back packs, Stuff sacs, Rucks, Cycle Shoes, Woolen riding clothes, Rain caps and parkas, Tools (full range), Safety belts, Spare bicycle parts and accessories. Our own range of Cycle Tour custom-built touring cycles.

INNER CITY CYCLES
29 Glebe Pt Rd Glebe 2037
Telephone 02 660 6605

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE!

Our superb SAMAP *Naxos natural-stone flour mills will turn any grain into superfine, fine, medium or coarse 100 per cent wholesome flour — and crack wheat too for your healthful cakes, buns, scones, pies, sponges, breads, desserts, invalid, pet & animal food. Also dried beans, peas, lentils, etc. for delicious soups & meat substitutes.

Independent tests in Germany confirm a 20 per cent saving on the weekly food bill by including a reasonable amount of the healthy grains into your diet.

*Naxos stone is the hardest & most suitable stone in the world according to French geologists, and has been mined in Greece since Roman times, just one reason why Swiss & other European natural millers & dieticians prefer SAMAP. Remember, only natural stone gives you trace minerals (1.5 – 2.0 per cent) as a by-product!

Send 2 stamps today to Nature Health, 31 Mettrle Ave, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135 for our informative & pictorial mill catalogue called "Home Flour Mills & the Milling of Flour" with Price List. Dealerships available now for these superb mills.

Included with our catalogue is an Australia-wide list of health food shops selling the SAMAP mills — or you may buy direct from us per Mail Order — your choice. Also included is a list of suppliers and farmers selling Organically-grown and bio-dynamically-grown grains, vegetables & fruits, hand juicers for juices & vegetables, water distillers, hand juice presses, butter churns and separators.

English language and they have to work in the factories to earn money and to support their family. These are the kinds of lives the book explores so I found most of it quite realistic. Greek people who are now migrants in Australia always try to keep their customs and culture and to pass them on to their children. In the hope of helping them to cope with adjusting to the Australian culture and being proud of their Greek nationality. I think the stories contained in this book portray the characters well. A lot of it is as a Greek woman could relate to and I would recommend it as reading to anyone interested in Greek culture.

Nida Petrides

We are the Guineas Pig, directed by Joan Harvey, 1980, 16mm, colour, 50 minutes. Available from Universal Cinema, 13 Victoria Street, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3066.

We are The Guineas Pig is a very powerful film consisting mostly of interviews with the residents, farmers, and parents who lived through the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident.

It conveys the horror of the people and their violent awakening to the facts of life in a "nuclear age." We see children playing in the local river where about 162,000 litres of radioactive water has just been released. Statements by official industry spokespeople are cut directly against counter statements and etchings by a formidable array of antinuclear authorities. We learn the facts of nuclear power, the history of cover-ups, and the role of the military-industrial complex in promoting nuclear energy.

The 'clean up' is still continuing; there are almost 2.75 million litres of radioactive water in the crippled reactor which are constantly leaking out into the environment. Last year several million curies of Krypton and Strontium 90 were released into the air and water. The solution to this waste problem is not yet still unolved.

The film concludes by showing the connection between the civilian nuclear industry, profit, and nuclear war. It leaves one feeling angry and crystallizes the need for action by everyone.

Pat Lowther

Farmer Jane Lee discussing animal symptoms after the Three Mile Island catastrophe with Dr Daniel Piello and Director, Joan Harvey.

In Melbourne or Sydney you can join in the work on Chain Reaction. With a few hours a week lots can be done. Research, writing, photography, finding graphics, chancing other information being persistent. Prior experience is not necessary, you will get plenty with us. It is an excellent opportunity to use and learn skills. Phone (02) 698 4114 or (03) 419 8700.

Other books worth mention:

Films


Pat Lowther

Film

We are the Guineas Pig, directed by Joan Harvey, 1980, 16mm, colour, 50 minutes. Available from Universal Cinema, 13 Victoria Street, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3066.

We are The Guineas Pig is a very powerful film consisting mostly of interviews with the residents, farmers, and parents who lived through the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident.

It conveys the horror of the people and their violent awakening to the facts of life in a "nuclear age." We see children playing in the local river where about 162,000 litres of radioactive water has just been released. Statements by official industry spokespeople are cut directly against counter statements and etchings by a formidable array of antinuclear authorities. We learn the facts of nuclear power, the history of cover-ups, and the role of the military-industrial complex in promoting nuclear energy.

The 'clean up' is still continuing; there are almost 2.75 million litres of radioactive water in the crippled reactor which are constantly leaking out into the environment. Last year several million curies of Krypton and Strontium 90 were released into the air and water. The solution to this waste problem is not yet still unolved.

The film concludes by showing the connection between the civilian nuclear industry, profit, and nuclear war. It leaves one feeling angry and crystallizes the need for action by everyone.

Pat Lowther

Farmer Jane Lee discussing animal symptoms after the Three Mile Island catastrophe with Dr Daniel Piello and Director, Joan Harvey.

In Melbourne or Sydney you can join in the work on Chain Reaction. With a few hours a week lots can be done. Research, writing, photography, finding graphics, chancing other information being persistent. Prior experience is not necessary, you will get plenty with us. It is an excellent opportunity to use and learn skills. Phone (02) 698 4114 or (03) 419 8700.

Other books worth mention:
Two controversial reports

HARRY BUTLER

Our bulging file has gone off to Western Australia for the write-up at last!

VITAMINS
Is the Government’s restrictive legislation a good thing? Who can you trust? Anyone?

Still afraid to go back into the water?
Then sit on the beach and read

A COASTAL RETREAT

270 pages jammed with photos, cartoons and great information on coastal landscapes, flora and fauna, history, sociology, planning and management problems and solutions plus more for the Torquay-Port Campbell coast and the Cape Paterson-Shadow Inlet coast. Must for anyone interested in the coastal environment.

Now available from: PIRC, 4 Larrakia Cres, Mulgrave, Vic 3170
For only: $9.60 (posted in Vic.), $7.80 (posted in ACY, NSW, SA, TAS), $6.20 (posted in NT, QLD, WA).

Wild
COMING SOON

Desperate Measures: Native Forests Show

Wagerup Weekend, directed and produced by David Noakes and Ivan McLellan. Australian Film Commission, 1981, 114m, colour/black and white, 46 minutes.

Their strategy is one of non-violent civil disobedience. Juxtaposed with scenes of two occupations on the construction site in 1979 depict the construction workers are anxious to get on with the job. When the occupiers eventually succeed in halting work, Alcoa’s security supervisor calls in the police. The following ‘real-life’ arrest scenes are an orderly anticlimax: the occupiers are loaded onto a bus and taken to the police station.

The film presents a wealth of fleeting images: forests, dirt-bach, crocodile mud lakes, desiccated landscapes, and a monstrous refinery complex. The images translate into each other to reveal a wholesale selling out of our resources and our jobs. We are left with a vivid insight into a powerful multinational which acts beyond our control, to affect the lives of us all.

Vivien Dew

DESERTED MEASURES NATIVE FORESTS SHOW

Wagerup Weekend effectively portrays the battle of Campaign to Save Native Forests’ supporters against Alcoa and the State Government of Western Australia over the construction of a bauxite refinery at Wagerup, 100 kilometres south of Perth.

Scenes of two occupations on the construction site in 1979 depict the protestors in role-playing workshops which anticipate their inevitable arrest. Their strategy is one of non-violent civil disobedience. Juxtaposed with scenes from the Wagerup Weekend show, performed by the Desperate Measures Street theatre company. They portray the tight-lipped and evasive Alcoa and state government officials.

The CSNF claim that their occupation is the tip of an iceberg of massive public support, and demand a full scale federal inquiry. The construction workers are anxious to get on with the job. When the occupiers eventually succeed in halting work, Alcoa’s security supervisor calls in the police. The following ‘real-life’ arrest scenes are an orderly anticlimax: the occupiers are loaded onto a bus and taken to the police station.

The film presents a wealth of fleeting images: forests, dirt-bach, crocodile mud lakes, desiccated landscapes, and a monstrous refinery complex. The images translate into each other to reveal a wholesale selling out of our resources and our jobs. We are left with a vivid insight into a powerful multinational which acts beyond our control, to affect the lives of us all.

Vivien Dew
Dear Friends of the Earth

Please find enclosed my membership fee of $...... (as per rates below).

The gift membership subscription is for:
Name: ...
Address: ...
Postcode: ...
Telephone: ...

Membership fees: Victoria $15 (or $7.50 students, unemployed and pensioners). Other States and Territories $10 or what you can afford.

Donations are very welcome. Make cheques payable to Friends of the Earth. Return membership fee to State group listed at right. Contact us for details of tax deductible contributions.

40 Chain Reaction

WHO CARES
ABOUT
Seed Patenting
ENDANGERED SPECIES
HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS
YOU CAN HELP
MAKE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION
You may already be a member of Friends of the Earth, but why not make a gift membership subscription for some of your like minded friends? A larger membership makes for a stronger Friends of the Earth!

DONATE
By becoming a member or making a donation you help keep Friends of the Earth active fighting campaigns, lobbying, researching, and producing new publications to communicate to the public. Contact us for information on tax deductibility of donations.

BE INVOLVED
Join a local group near you, or come in one day a week and work in the office, the bookshop or on a campaign.

CAMPAIGN IDEAS
Become involved in a campaign of your own. This is how Friends of the Earth grows. We can help with resources.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
CANBERRA: PO Box 1875, Canberra City 2601. Telephone: (06) 47 3064.

NEW SOUTH WALES
SYDNEY: PO Box A44, Sydney South 2000, 101 Cleveland Street, Chippendale 2008. Telephone: (02) 698 4114.

NORTHERN TERRITORY
DARWIN: PO Box 2120, Darwin 5794. Telephone: (08) 816222.

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

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

TASMANIA
HOBART: C/- The Environment Centre, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart 7000. Telephone: (03) 345566.
Help us to help those who cannot speak for themselves

The Humane Society believes that good looks and health need not cost the lives of millions of animals. If you would like to support the Society in its efforts to stop cruelty to animals including circuses, intensive farming, vivisection, etc. please contact us at:

P.O. Box 38,
Elsternwick. 3185.