Environmental Law

my Last offer $4,000,000,000 to turn a blind eye.
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Cover: Jo Waite
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LETTERS

Hinch

At recent screening of the Journey, Timmker, Peter Watkins spoke of the importance of challenging how the mass media recreate the world each night in the most inhuman, cynical and condescending way. This prompts me to put on paper my interpretation of a guest appearance on Derryn Hinch's 'Hinch at Seven', the top ranking nightly current affairs program on Channel Seven, a network which currently advertises its news and current affairs service under the slogan 'Leadership'.

The early one week about four months ago a producer of the show rang the POE office and invited us to ten Members of POE to participate in 'Friday Forum'. A fifteen minute public access segment screened each Friday as half of that night's show, we decided that it might be

Life in India

Thanks a ton for sending me a copy of Chain Reaction which I received sometime back. The articles dealt with therein are excellent and very much in my line of thinking. I am interested in receiving Chain Reaction regularly. I shall make use of the attached subscription form soon.

Gavan Thomas

Radical

I have an old issue of the magazine, I find it very good. Very inspiring, informative and I love the way people are encouraged to write to complain or find out more.

I also appreciate the radical nature of views, and the breadth of involvement. Parity due to a spectrum of organisations covering other needs, and partly financial, but unfortunately I fear partly due to oppression, Fool (Scotland) is much less keen to stick its neck out, or to even partially associate itself with any radicalism. They leave these things to other groups and remain a very environmental organisation - pollution and countryside, but little on social issues.

Susan Gray
London, England

Anyone for a chemical cocktail?

On Monday 28 November Melbourne residents were once again exposed to toxic fumes from a fire involving chemicals. The fire occurred at a large transport depot in Melbourne's western region in an area where heat shrinking was taking place. Bags of a material called Paraloid were being wrapped in a plastic that is shrunk with a flame. It is believed that some of the bags were damaged and the flame caused a minor dust explosion. This led to other highly flammable chemicals stored there catching alight.

At the height of the blaze the flames shot 100 metres into the air, sending showers of debris to the public. Explosions propelled huge drums into the sky. It took 120 firemen three hours and millions of litres of water to control the blaze. Thousands of litres of water used to control the fire swept into stormwater drains that flow into the Maribyrong River.

While a list of chemicals stored at the site was available at the time of the incident, it is not known which chemicals stored at the site were responsible for the fumes that rose over the city. The Govemment had not been informed that chemicals were stored there or that the chemicals were stored in their area. It was only provided the trade name of the chemicals and it was not known where specific types of chemicals were located in the depot. It was not known how much in my line of thinking the chemicals were located in the depot.

It is believed that the environment Protection Authority (EPA) did not take air samples till at least 24 hours after the fire.

One week after the fire neither the EPA nor other government agencies involved were exactly sure of the

Chain Reaction Number 56 Summer 1988-89
Underpaid and overworked

The women workers of South East Asia are overworked, underpaid and restricted to marginal or labour intensive sectors with dim prospects of economic advancement. Their contribution to family income and their stabilising role in society have yet to receive the recognition they deserve. A study by the Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion (ARTEP) of the International Labour Office (ILO) says that policy planners often overlook the special needs of working women.

In post-colonial South East Asia, development programmes have opened up new opportunities for women, but these have also tended to create new inequalities and exacerbate old ones, leading to worsening poverty in some cases. This is further worsened by systems of male domination and gender hierarchies. Thus, when development programmes have negative effects, these are felt more acutely by women, when development programmes have positive effects, women are not necessarily the ones who benefit.

In rural areas, studies have shown that women have heavier work burdens than men, working longer hours and undertaking a multiplicity of income earning activities in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in order to survive. The earnings of these women are crucial for family survival - in other works, women are active contributors to rural development, with very substantial responsibility for the maintenance of rural life, notes the study. But women are ignored and continued to perform their work - because of competitive pressure on land and other resources as well as population pressure, without any assistance in the form of education, training and improved technology.

Source: Development Forum published by the United Nations Department of Public Information

Organic wine

An Australian wine-maker is cashing in on what new international markets created by consumer resistance to chemical additives in food production. Gail Wallis of Boolloobrin Wines in NSW’s Mudgee district has become Australia’s first recognised organic wine producer.

The grapes are grown without the use of chemical fertilisers or insecticides and the wine is bottled with no minimal preservatives. However, establishing the farm was not easy. Back in 1971, they refused to grow grapes with DDT, a common practice in the grape growing industry, in order to see them ravaged by caterpillars that had no natural predators because the birds that once ate them had also fallen victim to DDT. The birds were encouraged to return by allowing a controlled amount of weeds to grow under the vines to harbour insects the birds could feed on.

The birds were then found to be attacking the grapes for their moisture content, but that was overcome by providing tubs of water for them to drink.

The efforts have paid off. The farm now has been officially recognised by the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, which took soil samples before conferring its endorsement.

Source: The Australian November 1988

Vanishing treasures

The World Health Organisation report that in the fight against disease, the rain forest is a vast and under used resource. Three quarters of the world’s people rely on plant-based traditional medicine for primary health care. Chinese herbalists use up to 5000 different species, compared to Western pharmacists, who limit themselves to 95 flowering plants for their plant-based prescription drugs. Many of the rain forest’s yet unidentified species may have medical applications. More than 1,400 tropical plants have promising anti-cancer properties, says the Washington Based World Resources Institute.

Tropical forests also provide fibres, oils and resins used in furniture, clothing, varnishes, pesticides, lubricants, adhesives and many household products. However, the plocial jungle is surprisingly fragile. When its canopy is ripped open by loggers, species that have evolved over the past 60 million years perish in the harsh light, heat and rain.

Source: Asia week

Save the blue danube

More than 150 Hungarians assembled outside the Austrian consulate in High Street, Arnisdale, Victoria on 14 November 1988 to protest against plans to dam the Danube river in Hungary.

In early October 1988 plans were finalised to build a large water basin in the border region between the Hungarian town of Nagymarosh and the Austrian town of Steinbach in Czechoslovakia to be completed by 1995. This would be used to create a hydro-electric system and would affect 200 kilometres of the river.

According to one of the demonstrators, Mr Andrew Kovesy, Austria would have to return get as much power as it needs from the system until 2015. Czechoslovakia will also build two dams as part of the system and would have to pay Austria the equivalent of 20% of the cost of the project.

Hungarians have protested in Vienna, London, Great Britain, West Germany and in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Source: The Age

Arsenic in wool

The Australian Wool Corporation (AWC) has threatened to severely penalise farmers using illegal sheep dips. The arsenic residues could threaten the international wool trade.

The AWC has stepped up its pesticide monitoring program with the introduction of random tests aimed at detecting arsenic residues in wool. Arsenic dips were banned from use on sheep in all Australian states from December 1986, but the AWC remains concerned that wool growers might be tempted to use old stocks.

Source: Financial Review

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According to one of the demonstrations, Mr Andrew Kovesy, Austria would have to return get as much power as it needs from the system until 2015. Czechoslovakia will also build two dams as part of the system and would have to pay Austria the equivalent of 20% of the cost of the project. Another protester, Mr George Lagon, a chemical engineer of Hungarian descent, said Hungary’s deal with Austria was ridiculous, because by 2015, when the Hungarians took control over the power provided by the dam, the process would be obsolete.

The deputy director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Mr Bill Hare, who addressed the protesters, was worried about the impact the dam would have on Hungary’s environment, as it would bear the brunt of the project. It is estimated that 4000 hectares of forest would be destroyed. Hungarians have protested in Vienna, London, Great Britain, West Germany and in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Source: The Age

Pulp alternative

Japanese researchers have found a way to produce pulp from sugar cane and banana trees, replacing timber as a source of paper products, according to the Japanese National Chemical Laboratory for Industries. Officials said the process, involving material containing a lot of fibre, would help conserve forests and the environment.

Source: The Age November 1988
Spray threatens land

A million dollar investment in organic farming, backed by the Department of Agriculture and aimed at lucrative export markets, is threatened by the resumption of a statewide herbicide spraying program, protest groups say.

Spraying teams working on pine plantations in north-eastern Victoria have already been stymied by angry residents and farmers, who fear a repeat of the spray-drift accidents that affected apple and nut crops three years ago, leading to a three year moratorium on aerial spraying.

The Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, which owns the pine plantations and plans to spray throughout Victoria this season, has been unable to placate local farmers, many of whom have invested heavily in the new organic farming techniques with the encouragement of the Department of Agriculture.

Deforestation

When the Ganges gushed out of heaven, goes the Indian legend, the god Shiva trapped the river in the coils of his matted hair and made it flow purely out to sea. Man, however, has now shorn the river’s catchment areas in the Himalayas, and in recent years the Ganges has unleashed its fury.

In September 1988, as heavy monsoons lashed the mountains. The river reared unimpeded through the denuded valleys into Bangladesh, rendering 25 million people homeless. It was just one example of the devastating cost of deforestation.

Source: The Age

Nuclear waste fertilizer!!??! (some consider this recycling)

The Kerr McGee Corporation has been spraying thousands of hectares of pasture land in eastern Oklahoma with a fertilizer recycled from nuclear waste. The corporation says it is harmless and even contains less uranium than some other commercial fertilizers. There is no one word about a second party doing a chemical analysis. Just think, if everyone just spread a little in their gardens we wouldn’t have a nuclear waste problem! The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture licensed grazed raffinate as fertilizer in 1987.

Source: Earth Island Journal

Dow chemical may change name

Dow Chemical Company is thinking about changing its name after 91 years of numerous image-wrenching controversies. Dow officials confirmed they have hired a corporate image consultant and organized a team internally to consider whether a new name would improve its image.

At issue is whether Dow should keep the word ‘Chemical’ in its name. Mr Richard Long, Dow Chemical corporate communications Director, who is heading the study, said, ‘Let’s face it, that word does nobody any good these days. Chemical has a less than desirable public connotation. So the public has tended to associate “chemical” companies with pollution and other health hazards.’

Concerns about the word ‘chemical’ is nothing new in the chemical industry, however. The largest chemical group in the United States, Du Pont, even dropped the end of its corporate logo, which once read: ‘Better things for better living through chemistry.’

Still Dow stubbornly clings to its name. The company stayed with it in the 1960s when Vietnam was the Western critic. Dow for its napalm production. Upwind over Dioxin, Agent Orange and other environmental contaminants touched to Dow also failed to convince company executives to make a switch.

Source: Financial Review 7 October 1988

Australian ozone hole problem

It was confirmed at an international scientific meeting in Agaddita Victoria organised by the CSIRO division of atmospheric research, that the ozone hole is now an Australian problem.

On the 11 December 1987, a tongue of ozone depleted air linked across southern Australia causing Tasmania and southern Victoria to be bathed in levels of ultraviolet radiation normally seen only at the height of summer. In just two days, ozone levels plummeted by 10 per cent, resulting in a 20 per cent increase in dangerous ultraviolet radiation. The depletion lasted until the end of the month, during which people in Melbourne were at a considerably increased risk of sunburn and slightly increased their long term risk of skin cancer. It was a foretaste of a phenomenon that is likely to recur every few years for the next three centuries, until the atmosphere has rid itself of the huge reservoir of ozone destroying chlorofluorocarbon gases accumulated over the past three decades.

Among the scientists attending the meeting was Professor Emeritus Sherwood Rowland of the University of California, who in 1973 conducted the laboratory experiments that alerted the world to the alarming possibility that CFC gases could destroy ozone in the stratosphere and increase the amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth’s surface.

Professor Rowland said companies were now scrambling to be the first into the market with substitute gases, a prize worth $1 billion a year.

The best chance appeared to be a hydrofluorocarbon called 152A, whose molecules do not contain destructive chlorine atoms.

Source: The Age

No to mining bill

A bill has been introduced to the Belgian Parliament which would outlaw minerals activities in the Antarctic by Belgian corporations and nationals. The bill was signed by MP’s from five parties and formally introduced in the Lower House.

Source: Antarctic News
Senator Black (ALP, Qld), who will answer long term energy needs. He about energy conservation didn't Richardson, to the effect that nuclear propanents point to say is that you can't rule out doomsday theory in the past, are There have been a number of com­ ment al respectability to the environment grounds or on have attempted to rule it out on en­ "...the green­house effect has given some environ­mental respectability to the several issues. On the same program, Senator Richardson said, "Now the main comments reported in the media from ALP figures, including Senator Richardson, to the effect that nuclear power may have to be reconsidered given the greenhouse effect. Senator Black (ALP, Qld), who will be on the ALP's committee of review on uranium policy said on The World Tonight on November 7, "...the green­house effect has given some environ­mental respectability to the" study of predicted consequences, such as climatic projection, rather than abatement strategies to avoid it getting worse, for which Friends of the Earth has been campaigning for years.

I presented the Minister with a copy of the Australian NGO Statement on the Greenhouse Effect, a reprint of the paper by Bill Keenin and Gregory Rouge, which is in the December issue of Energy Policy, and a list of sources on the potential of energy efficiency in reducing fossil fuel use and hence greenhouse emissions.

Ozone Depletion
The Ozone Protection Bill 1988 was tabled on November 10 and repre­presented in the Government's ratification of the Montreal Protocol. This inter­national agreement to limit chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is now considered inadequate to protect the ozone layer by most involved in the issue, including the head of the US EPA, Lee Thomas. Something fishy is going on about the level of exports allowed in the Government's bill. Friends of the Earth had previously criticised the Government over the stated plan to allow 3,800 tonnes of CFCs to be ex­ported (domestic consumption in 1989 is expected to be 12,000 tonnes). The anomaly is that everything else in the CFC regulatory framework relates to 1986 levels as a baseline, which were 10,000 tonnes (1987: 3,200 tonnes; 1988 estimated 4,200 ton­nes). When I asked the Minister to explain the discrepancies (in his mind) was that the 1987 levels were used as a baseline. This is con­venient for the CFC manufacturers and still leaves questions about the 600 tonne difference and is of course not much chop for the ozone layer. We shall investigate further.

The lenience shown to the industry doesn't surprise FOE which has publicised the industry domination of the regulation process and the lack of consultation with environment and consumer groups.

What you can do
Write to the Minister. There are many issues above, and a letter on any of them will engage the Minis­ter's mind. Make sure your letter gets a response, perhaps it can be helpful for the next round of discussions or at least we need your help.

Friends of the Earth International
The 1988 Friends of the Earth International conference was attended by representatives from 25 member groups. The conference was divided into Business Meetings; reports and discussions of campaign progress; workshops on international and other FOE issues; meetings and press conferences with local dignitaries; and a visit to the local Huta Lenina Steel Works. It was unfortunate that the bulk of the conference seemed to be concerned with financial and or­ganisational matters, and this from a Euro-centric perspective. Conse­quently, very little advantage was taken of paper that was given to such issues as the environ­mental issues; discussions of future objec­tions and some international campaign issues.

Organisational structure, decision making, the degree of available resources, relations with government, campaign issues and strategies, and the political context of operations are all areas in which there are marked differences be­tween FOE groups. The basic division seems to be between, the large, well resourced, politi­cally careful groups like FOE England and FOE US, and FOE groups in other nations which are not yet well organised and lack centralised power structures and a grass roots orientation. FOE Australia fits into the second group, and we think it important that all of them to the Minister in a helpful po­litical exercise. Make sure your letter gets a response, perhaps it can be helpful for the next round of discussions or at least we need your help.

Stuart White is an active member of Friends of the Earth (Sydney). Friends of the Earth International
The 1988 Friends of the Earth International conference was held in Krakow.-

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International Issues:

Nuclear

Unfortunately, very little time was given to this topic during plenary sessions. Most Western European groups, except Italy, tend not to prioritise nuclear issues. The major exception is Earthwatch Ireland, which proposed and subsequently will take the initiative on a major Nuclear Free Seas Campaign.

Given this context we feel FOEI is not the most appropriate forum for international networking on nuclear issues. We can not expect a great deal of support from Western European FOE groups, furthermore it is our belief that supply countries are better placed to resist the nuclear industry's activities than the demand countries. One of the more effective strategies would be to develop better links with activists in supplier nations, especially Canada.

Ozone

This issue seemed to be one of the major priorities of FOE Canada, US and England. The main focus is the Montreal Protocol, the signing of which is considered an attainable goal, and the resultant success is being seen as important for FOE's public profile. All FOE groups are asked to put pressure on their governments to ratify the treaty where this has not been done.

Some steps in this area include:
- DuPont Canada is funding a pilot project to examine recycling CPCs. Recycling plants exist in Denmark but have a maximum recovery rate of only 50 per cent.
- Industry seems to acknowledge the need for CPC alternatives.
- FOE England has a slide kit on ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect, which may be copied for use by other groups.
- FOE US produces a quarterly magazine Atmosphere devoted to ozone protection.
- Julia Langer (FOE Canada) and Liz Cook (FOE US) are the international contact people for this campaign.

Tropical Rainforests

This is a major international campaign priority. The European campaign is based around consumer education and the boycotting of tropical timbers. FOE England remains one of the major campaigns in this field with its recent publication of the Good Wood Guide, among others.

Other groups with a significant TRF campaign are:
- Japan, which is working with JATAN on uncovering the financial links between Japanese companies and logging in tropical rainforests.
- SAM, which is still very active although their political context has been severely affected by the Government crackdowns since last year.
- The Rainforest Information Centre in Lismore, NSW is an affiliate of FOEI, and is the best Australian contact for tropical rainforest information.

Kay Thompson (FOE England) and SAM Malaysia are co-ordinating the campaign internationally.

Future Directions

FOE International

This paper was discussed in some detail at the end of the AGM. Its basic purpose is to formalise a few of the major structures which already exist in FOEI, and to clarify how these structures will operate. A number of proposals were accepted, and a copy of the proposals are available from FOE Fitzroy.

AGM 1989

It was proposed that the 1989 AGM be held in Argentina, however following a proposal from FOE US, it was agreed that the 1989 meeting be held in Washington DC. We spewed too!

1989 Executive Committee

The 1989 Executive Committee will consist of representatives elected from Netherlands, England, Malaysia, Argentina, Canada, Ghana, United States. It was also agreed that the International Secretariat be located in London for a further two years.

Jane Basden and Dave Sweeney, Sheffield November 1988.

Environmental Law
The legal system affects us all, either directly or through the impact it has on the environment. Politics, economics, science, and technology can all play vital roles in drawing attention to the need for action on the environment, but when we ask for Government action, that usually takes the form of legislation. In these series of articles, Chain Reaction looks at various aspects of the law and how it impacts on the environment in Australia.

On an international, national, State and local level, actions in relation to the environment are controlled and directed by law. The framework is tiered and all encompassing. Fran MacDonald gives an overview of how these tiers operate, how they overlap and conflict, and how the law ultimately decides by whom and by what means the environment is managed.

Australia has no laws which clearly give workers and the community the right to access information about the toxic substances to which people are exposed. We can learn a lot from the way these rights have been legislated in other countries, especially Canada, which has a Federal system of government similar to our own, with the responsibility for occupational health and safety shared between Federal and State governments. The Right to Know examines recent developments in the United States and Canada.

The pursuit of 'heritage' listing for land and buildings has been a focus for many environmentalists and conservationists but John Mann suggests that this may actually be bad for the environment. He takes a particular look at the way 'special' things such as reserves and heritage listings have developed and how they may now be holding back the environment movement.

Given the concern about the consequences of nuclear weapons and warfare, it is time to consider whether weapons and warfare, it is time to consider whether. The legal system affects us all, either directly or through the impact it has on the environment. Politics, economics, science, and technology can all play vital roles in drawing attention to the need for action on the environment, but when we ask for Government action, that usually takes the form of legislation. In these series of articles, Chain Reaction looks at various aspects of the law and how it impacts on the environment in Australia.

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The case represents a tragic example of how the Commonwealth power to fulfill its obligations under the World Heritage Convention, and it would appear that further challenges brought by the States against the Commonwealth in this area will have a chance of success.

Comprehensive Legislation

Two of the most important Acts regulating environmental management carried out by the Commonwealth are:

Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975

This Act established the Australian Heritage Commission comprising a Chairperson and six Commissioners. The Commission and the Department of Arts, Sports, the Environment, Tourism, and Territories (DASTT) are jointly responsible for carrying out Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention and overseeing the conservation of the national estate. The Act defines the national estate as "those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia of the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historical, scientific, social or local significance or other special value for future generations as well as the present and future generations'.

The Commission has a number of functions. Initially, the Minister for DASTT on the conservation, improvement, and presentation of the national estate, ensuring public interest and undertakings are carried out, fostering training and education relating to conservation and organisational and engaging in any form of investigation which would help in its work.

Access to information about toxic chemicals to which people are exposed is known as the 'right to know'. It involves providing accessible information to people who are exposed to toxic chemicals, particularly workers and residents of communities near industrial facilities. The Act provides for the preparation of environmental impact statements to be made available to the public. The case of Australian Conservation Foundation Inc. v. The Commonwealth, in which the Foundation alleged a lack of research on the draft EIS in question, also showed that the government's decisions may not be enforceable anyway.

State legislation

The Hope Committee in 1974, which recommendation was implemented by the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1981 (Vic); Heritage Act 1978 (SA); Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland & Queensland Estate) Act 1987; and the Heritage Places (Western Australia) Bill 1987 which is currently before the Western Australian parliament. These Acts vary but including the conservation of properties.

The Act also provides for inquiries to be established by the Minister in response to any of the objectives of planning in the environment.

The Act draws on that deal with Commonwealth government actions and cannot control the public or private owners or State or local governments. The Commission is also hindered by severe funding shortages and the fact that it does not have greater power to force agreements to comply with the Act. It also must be remembered that Ministers and Departments make decisions on the national estate, not the Commission.

Environmental Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974

This Act provides for the preparation of environmental impact statements in relation to proposed activities of the Commonwealth or which require Commonwealth approval. An EIS is a document prepared by the proponent describing the proposal and the existing environment, examining the likely effects of the proposal on the environment and the alternatives to and within the proposal and its effects and describing proposed safeguards and monitoring arrangements. Every EIS must be publicly exhibited for a period, minimum being 28 days. During which time the public can make comments on the proposal. Copies of all comments from the public and the government are then forwarded to the proponent who must revise the EIS taking into account all comments and any new information. The final EIS is submitted to the Department for assessment, which examines it to ensure that the effect on the environment has been fully taken into account in the proposal, to determine whether additional data is required and to formulate recommendations in relation to the environmental impact of the proposal which may affect its approval.

The Act also provides for inquiries to be established by the Minister in response to any of the objectives of planning in the environment. Arrangements have also been made with Victorian and New South Wales governments to facilitate joint environmental assessment of proposals and, wherever possible, to require the Department and the appropriate government to be taken into account in the joint assessment process.

The Act has a number of deficiencies. Most importantly, it's operation depends entirely on the discretion of the Minister to direct the production of the environmental impact statement. Many proposals regularly receive government support before an EIS is prepared. In the case of the Fraser Island and Ranger Islands, the Fraser papers given at the World Heritage Convention, and it would appear that further challenges brought by the States against the Commonwealth in this area will have a chance of success.

Most of the States have introduced Occupational Health and Safety Acts and suppliers to provide information to employees or users. The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission has a function to 'collect, interpret, and disseminate information relating to occupational health; however, this does not extend to having a duty to provide information at the workplace level.

The 1988 Occupational Health and Safety Commonwealth Employees Bill makes a general provision for information to be made available to employees who are exposed to hazardous chemicals; particularly workers.

Despite the finding of the 1982 House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry into Hazardous Chemicals which found that controls over the import, manufacture and use of industrial chemicals in Australia were grossly inadequate, we still have no adequate laws and no right to know about the chemicals we are being exposed to and their health effects.

Currently, there is no Commonwealth legislation creating an obligation for employers or manufacturers to provide information to employees or users.
which to varying degrees gives workers right to information about the materials they handle, and to protect themselves from potential hazards. Information is supposed to be conveyed by Material Safety Data Sheets. However, many Australian manufacturers and suppliers still have not provided such information to their products, and often the data sheets they have provided are very poor.

New 'Right to Know' programs have recently been made law in the United States, Canada, Sweden and the European Economic Community. These laws make it mandatory that employers, manufacturers and suppliers of chemicals used in the workplace to have Material Safety Data Sheets for all chemical products, label chemicals with their health effects, and provide material safety training of workers, all within a fixed period of time. Often these laws give the general community a right to such information, for example, people who live near chemical plants. A comparison of the details of these various laws with Australian regulation highlights the weaknesses of our current legislation.

The United States

In the early 1970s, United States unions petitioned the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), the US national health and safety body, to create a legal standard that would give workers the right to chemical hazard information. But the Reagan Administration accepted the chemical manufacturers' view that such a law was unnecessary, and withdrew the proposal.

To keep the 'right to know' alive, unions joined with environmentalists, community groups, health workers and others and began lobbying for State and local right to know laws and regulations. In the early 1980s American cities such as Philadelphia and Cincinnati adopted ordinances which required employers to provide chemical hazard information to workers and community residents. Fearing the spread of right to know activity and different laws from State to State, employers appealed to the Reagan Administration to reopen its consideration of a Federal standard. In 1982, OSHA, under the control of Reagan appointees, proposed a standard which was well received by the chemical industry and employers. This new regulation was called the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). Public hearings were held around the country and US unions provided evidence on the weaknesses of the OSHA proposal and why it should be made stronger.

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THE THINGS WE WANT TO KEEP

By John Mantz

The National Estate Inquiry in 1973 had, as one of its main terms of reference, the identification of items of the National Estate. The Committee hatched onto the description by a Labor Premier of Tasmania, not noted for his sympathy towards conservation, as the National Estate being "the things we want to keep".

Thinking back to those times one recalls that there was then an assumption that conservation had a great deal to do with identifying examples of special things and instituting procedures to protect them. Collecting items for conservation was an important approach for the time. There was a set of assumptions about the inevitability of progress - it was only possible to preserve examples.

In the built environment the National Trust had their lists of the things to keep. In the natural environment, the laws governing Crown Lands had for centuries rested on the assumption that the "wastelands" were available for alienation for any productive use unless identifiable parcels had been specifically reserved for public purposes.

Where identification, protection and reservation of items was an understandable approach to conservation when the dominant ethic was one of mindful use of the earth's resources, the continued pursuit of this tactic may be clouding the far more fundamental issues confirming the conservation movement.

It is suggested that the processes of listing items or reserving examples from development are a necessary prerequisite to a realisation of the criteria for assessing development applications. The destruction of all items not on the list is the inescapable and the non-preservers. When the City Plan proper was introduced in 1976, the principles of development control included as one of the criteria for assessing development applications, the protection and enhancement of the City's heritage.

The City's general development control system therefore had the two essential elements for a heritage control system, namely, control over demolition (and therefore alteration and the necessary criteria.

By the 1980s there were council members who were concerned that not the system which was quite successful in saving buildings from demolition, did not provide sufficient certainty for landowners and developers. There was also concern that there was a growing body of people on the Council who could be put into the role of the City Heritage List effectively to keep their identities confidential.

The extension of the right to know has been welcomed by Canadian environmental organisations and community groups. It is an important reminder that while workers exposed to hazardous chemicals are most at risk, workplace hazards often exist beyond the confines of the plant itself to the local community.

The Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act gives the employer two major duties relating to the protection of workers health and safety.

A Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission has been established to deal with 'trade secrets' claims by manufacturers and suppliers. The Commission's role is to impartially examine a producer's claim for non-disclosure to see if there really is a trade secret to be protected. If the commission decides that a trade secret is involved, it will exempt the supplier of the product from listing the product name, the name and/or concentrations of the special ingredients, or the name of the supplier, but will guarantee that the employer will receive a copy of the written results.

Along with this hazardous materials inventory, the employer is obliged to provide an up-to-date floor plan of the workplace, showing the names and locations of all hazardous materials. The inventory must be revised each year to show any changes. It is obviously a good starting point for worker involvement in assessing workplace hazards and devising effective methods of control. Copies of the inventory must be provided to the Director of the Health and Safety Division of the Ontario Ministry of Labour, the workers and the Joint Health and Safety Committee. In addition, a copy must be filed with the medical officer of the local Public Health Unit in which the workplace is located, and with the local fire Department. Members of the local community are also entitled to see the workplace inventory.

In addition to the workplace inventory, it is the employer's duty, under the Ontario law to acces the workplace data sheets and Material Safety Data Sheets by making a request to the local Public Medical Officer of Health who is required to keep their identities confidential.

City of Adelaide Example

The absence of listing is most dramatically seen in the experience of the Council of the City of Adelaide. In the early 1970s, interim development control was introduced across the whole of the City. All development required consent and included in the definition of 'development' was demolition.

Demolition control was imposed because the government and the council were concerned about the increasing number of buildings being demolished and turned over to car parking.

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The major assumption which lay behind the old colonial lands legislation. The parcel by parcel reservation process is akin to the item by item listing process under Heritage Legislation. Whereas, under the old system, Crown Land was available for alienation unless it was specifically ‘reserved’ for a public purpose. If the new legislation parcels to be alienated will need to be identified and transferred from the public land category to the government land category before they can be alienated. This will require an inquiry and report from the Land Conservation Council and at least a Governor-in-Council approval and, for land now subject to a reservation, an Act of Parliament. Given that the original purpose of the reservation system will no longer be needed, the legislation proposes a generalised set of categories which will establish a comprehensive system of land management objectives for individual parcels of public land. Effectively, the new legislation will identify the various types of ‘area’, i.e., National Park, Wilderness Park, State Park, Nature Conservation Reserve, Marine Reserve, Marine Park, National Features Reserve, Cultural and Historic Features Reserve, Regional Park, Water Production Reserve, Community Use Reserve, State Forest Reserve, Coastal Waters Reserve of Victoria, Forest Plantation Reserve, Public Utility Reserve and uncategorised public land. These areas will be land use zones within which only certain specified uses are allowed. Management objectives for each zone are laid down. For example, the management objectives of the uncategorised public land are the ‘conservation of the landscape and natural environment and limited exploitation of natural resources compatible with this primary objective’. No longer is it the ‘wastelands’. The legislation therefore will provide two protections for the public land of Victoria. The first will be constrained alienation and a deliberate process for ‘unreserving’. The second will be the description of the management objectives for the various categories of public land. A procedure for the preparation of management plans consistent with these objectives is included in the legislation. The same safeguards (such as an Act of Parliament) as presently exist will be retained if a parcel is to be moved from one category of public land to another. The immediate practical consequences of the changes are few. What is important is the fundamental philosophical change. Instead of only one Crown Land being listed, being singled out for special protection in some form of reserve under some form of legislation, all public land will be subject to the same legal and management constraints as the State and especially the public land which, in Victoria, is over half of the State. This is what the new legislation aims to do and it is, to suggest, a recognition of a slow movement towards such objectives as 5 per cent of the land of a State in the National Park category. This objective of a percentage of land in the Park category, and some conservationists have argued, is anachronistic and contradicts the historic heritage which is to be handed on to future generations. The public land will become to be recognised as an entity where there is continuum of values with different uses from wilderness to caravan park. Possibly of more immediate importance is that the distinction between public and government land is eroding. The value accounting disciplines to be applied to parcels of government land without the concepts being inappropriately applied to parcels of public land. There have been some resistance in this approach to understand some economic rationalism not wanting to distinguish between ownership and management of lands which may be used for trust for future generations, it seems some conservationists are still fighting the battles of previous decades where the conservation objective was to preserve examples rather than tackle environmental issues overall. The moratorium approach underlines much of the legal and administrative systems which we have already today. This approach has allowed the political response to conservation concerns to drift a bit more public land into the National Park basket thereby accommodating the slow movement towards such objectives as 5 per cent of the land of a State in the National Park category. This objective of a percentage of land in the Park category, and some conservationists have argued, is anachronistic and contradicts the historic heritage which is to be handed on to future generations. 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It is evident that nuclear weapons violate at least fourteen treaties and over 35 separate provisions of international law.

In the opinion of Professor Weeramantry: "It is thus abundantly obvious that sufficient principles exist in the body of international law to render the manufacture, possession and use of nuclear weaponry illegal.

This is consistent with the decision of the District Court of Tokyo on 7 December 1963 which considered the US attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only court investigation of the legal arguments regarding the use of nuclear weapons. The court concluded that the attacks violated international law as it stood in 1945.

Is nuclear strategy legal?

It is sometimes said that while international law is valid for the first use of nuclear weapons, their manufacture and storage for deterrence may not be illegal. Ultimately, deterrence depends on nuclear capability and threat credibility and it is only successful if potential aggressors are permanently deterred into inaction. Consider the US nuclear war-fighting plan, the Single Integrated Operational Plan or SIOP, which stipulates that US nuclear strategy is to eliminate virtually all nuclear targets and to bring about the destruction of the enemy. It is evident that this is a war crime.

Does international law apply?

It has been said that the advent of nuclear weapons made the law of war obsolete. This argument is unsustainable. No government could free itself from treaty obligations which have become universally binding as customary laws of war.

Secondly, the pre-nuclear laws of war were confirmed and enhanced after the advent of atomic weapons. Finally, it is obvious that the use of methods or means of warfare which are intended or may be expected to cause damage to the natural environment.

The manufacture, testing and use of nuclear weapons clearly violate these provisions.

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Many Australian environmentalists would argue that they have managed to play the political game fairly well without involving lawyers or the legal system. However, carefully considered litigation could serve the environment movement. It could be used to ensure that legislative procedures are followed and discretionary powers are not abused, and to expand and entrench common law rights in relation to environmental concerns.

Environmental law in Australia is a serious disadvantage in the campaign against poor funding and lack of direct access to the parliamentary process or the mainstream media. However, one key legal mechanism that is equal in the eyes of the law; so that, once a dispute gets to court, those disadvantages are largely immaterial. As Rick Sutherland points out, litigation in one of the ways parties get equality of bargaining position.

The first National Environmental Law Association brought together lawyers Michael Axline and John Bonine from the University of Oregon Law School. Axline and Bonine spent much of their time in the United States ensuring lawyers were able to use litigation against the Federal Power Company over its approval for a pumped storage plant on the Hudson River, because of its "aesthetic, conservation, and recreational" interest in the area. Shortly after, in 1972, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Sierras Club had standing to make a protest to the development at Mineral King Valley in the Sierra Nevada because some of its members would be harmed by the development in the same way as the organisation in the Scenic Hudson case. This later case established organisational standing.

Since then, American environmentalists have been able to use litigation to save the environment from power plants, oil and gas drilling, logging, roadbuilding, mining, flooding, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals. The work has been undertaken by scores of legal practices across the country dedicated to environmental law, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund.

This has not been the case in Australia, largely because the High Court has chosen to take a relatively narrow view of standing. The baseline case was the Australian Conservation Foundation Inc. v. Commonwealth of Australia. The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) applied to challenge the validity of decisions to approve a proposal by a Japanese company to establish a tourism resort in Central Queensland. The High Court held that, while the standing rule required that a claimant have a "special interest" in the subject matter of the action, the interest need not be merely economic and it was not necessary that the claimant and someone else, had suffered damage. However, it did hold that the claimant did not have "special interest", despite the fact that its central object of promotion of conservation of the environment had been directly affected by the decisions of the defendants and that it had actually made submissions in relation to the resort proposal. The Australian courts have always tended to treat the standing rule conservatively in this way (although they have broadened the criteria for standing in relation to Aboriginal rights claims). This has led to the conclusion that environmental lawyers are not their ability to recover fees and costs in successful actions. To a great extent, this has been overcome in the United States under legislation which specifically provides for fee awards. Although the Supreme Court has decided that claimants cannot claim fees unless the legislation under which they are suing does so provide; People like Axline and Bonine have also done much to encourage lawyers to move away from comfortable private practices and work in the public-interest realm for low fees.

In Australia, there are lawyers who would like to specialise in this area, they are mostly obliged to undertake the work for free and so cannot devote themselves to it. Although environmentalists are now realising the importance of environmental law, this has been overcome in the United States Supreme Court ruled that a certain decision will cause the environment to suffer damage. However, it was held that the court, those disadvantages are largely immaterial. As Rick Sutherland points out, litigation in one of the ways parties get equality of bargaining position.

One of the most exciting and controversial developments is a proposal put forward by an Adelaide lawyer, Rob Fowler, at the National Environmental Law Association conference last year. He is advocating the establish-ment of a national environmental law organisation along similar lines to the Natural Resources Defense Council in the United States; a law firm dedicated to litigation in the public-interest on environmental issues, which could also act as a lobbying and influence law reform. Fowler cites the practice of allowing mining in National Parks and decisions on the use of pesticides which are recognised internationally as hazardous as examples of government actions which have considered environmental legal validity and which may be forbidden by litigation for the proposed organisation. He adds: "Reform of existing laws relating to standing, costs, and undertakings where injunctive relief is sought, are clearly needed in Australia and could be pursued by such an organisation. In addition, the organisation could take over the work of the Australian Conservation Foundation's Environmental Law Commission in pressing for environmental law reform generally, e.g. on matters such as constitutional reform, reinforcement of the Heritage Act, etc."

There is a number of issues which need to be addressed in relation to the proposed organisation before it can be established, including the relationship between it and the environment groups around Australia, its relationship with the Environmental Defender's Offices which are beginning to operate successfully on a State level and, of course, funding.

The organisation will definitely need a substantial "seeding" fund and Fowler intends to approach philanthropic organisations in the United States to provide the necessary grants. Once established, it is expected that the organisation will be able to find itself.

At the National Environmental Law Association conference, the proposal received enthusiastic acclaim generally and support from the Association which indicates that there will be no shortage of lawyers wanting to participate in this type of work. Fowler is confident that the organisation will be well established by 1990.

Axline and Bonine have assured us that, in the early sixties, environmental litigation had the same prospects we now face, and as David Sive, a lawyer involved in the Scenic Hudson case now says: 'In no other political and social movement has litigation played such an important and dominant role. Not even close.' So the writing is on the wall and the message clear for Australian governments and industry: look hard to your policy decisions and your environmental impact statements because, if there is anything wrong with them, we’ll be seeing you in court.
The pressures to exploit the vast resources of Antarctica - the world's last great wilderness continent - continue to increase. The most recent evidence of this is a new convention on mineral resources regulations announced in Wellington, New Zealand in June this year known as the Convention for the regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activity - CRAMRA. Despite its claims to provide environmental safeguards for any future mining activities it must be seen as a major setback for the cause of Antarctic conservation. Margaret Moore reports.

Antarctica is a unique theatre of international political, economic and scientific interests. In 1961 twelve nations, including seven which claimed territory, signed the Antarctic Treaty which dedicated the region to scientific research and cooperation and spelled out that it would be used for non-nuclear and non-military purposes. Antarctica was placed under the management of the nations with full membership of the Antarctic Treaty at the conclusion of CRAMRA in June 1988 there were 20 consultative parties.

Since 1961 a number of important protective conventions have been adopted by the member nations of the Antarctic treaty. The most important of these are the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the Agreed Measures for the Protection of Antarctic Flora and Fauna.
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The USA and the USSR and two other developed nations.

Some of the claimant nations, that is, those who claim sovereignty over Antarctic Territory, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and, in the last session, Norway, have argued strongly for stringent safeguards. During the CRAMRA negotiations these arguments met with strong pressure from the US, the UK, France, West Germany and Japan. In particular, the US strongly opposed the inclusion of an anti-subsidy clause promoted by Australia, which would have prevented operators with a poor economic record being given inducements to mine in a region labeled the most dangerous place on earth. The Convention is clearly a victory for the mining interests.

Under CRAMRA, Australia will no longer in practice be able to prevent any mining activity from going ahead on any part of its claim. Chile and Argentina, two claimants who share a claim with the UK, which is a promoting nation, are in a similar position. Remember that these two South American countries are very far from Antarctica, close enough for their coastlines and marine food-chains to feel the direct impact of any oil spills or other mishaps caused by mining.

There are many flaws in the Wellington document with regard to practice and safeguards. So far the convention only sets out basic principles and rules. An important issue here is the critical question of determining the extent of liability within the area and the claims of damage caused by mining. So far the convention only sets out basic rules; the liability provisions will be determined later, under a separate protocol.

The Protocol will also provide for setting limits to liability, a weakness that conservationists have fought against from the beginning. Defences against liability allowable under these provisions will be technical and environmentally based. The aim is to ensure that environmental safeguards will be included in any mining activity.

Scientists and conservationists are also concerned that the Convention may lead to 'confidentiality of data' which will seriously undermine the work of scientists. The Convention will be directed towards mineral activity and therefore come under the jurisdiction of confidentiality of data provisions. This information will not be made public. The result will become the exclusive property of the operator and sponsoring state for many years. Much of the information could be treated in the same way.

The President of the conference stated that the Convention's purpose is to maintain a balance between the promotion of scientific research and with which CRAMRA can lock up Antarctica.

CRAMRA's supporters argue that it offers sound environmental safeguards. If we look at the existing record of environmental damage from mining and consider the nature of the Antarctic ecology we can only have cause for alarm. Can we reasonably expect that mining developments will not have a major impact on the small part of the coastline that is ice-free and therefore provides the major habitat for wildlife? There is no review mechanism and the advice offered by the Advisory Committee cannot be enforced.

During the Convention negotiations it was argued that the monitoring of mineral activities should quite properly, be the role of this committee.

For any further information feel free to contact the Antarctic Action Group c/- the Australian Conservation Foundation, 717/2 Victoria. Phone: 2138 8823

Margaret Moore is the Antarctic Campaign Officer with the Australian Conservation Foundation. 

Only 2 per cent of the entire continent is ice-free. Far from wishing to look up the continent, conservationists are fighting to maintain international scientific cooperation and preserve a unique environment from degradation.

How you can help

If you are concerned about the future of Antarctica and want to help protect the world's last great wilderness then please write to the Prime Minister, Federal Environment Minister or the Minister for Foreign Affairs expressing your opposition to the CRAMRA agreement and demand that Australia does not sign the Convention.
The ozone layer is under threat and the Federal Government’s recently enacted Ozone Protection Bill is totally inadequate to protect it. The Bill has apparently been drawn up to suit the industry. Its allowance of excessive and deliberately inflated chlorine (OCP) in the stratosphere had the effect of destroying that tenuous stratospheric layer. It points out that the emphasis on the ozone protection program has been overtaken by events. Instead, some examples are used and why, apply some ecological principles and lateral ‘good old end use analysis’. We should ask where CFCs are used and why, as well as the difference between the rhetoric of Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Richardson did not consult with environmentalists or consumer groups. He instead pursued a path of requesting industry to draw up their own plans for achieving a mere 40 per cent reduction in domestic consumption of CFCs by 1992. An immediate 85 per cent reduction would be needed to stabilize chlorine levels in the atmosphere. In the June newsletter of the industry lobby, the Australian Fluorocarbon Consumers and Manufacturers (AFCAM), Don Richardson, the General Manager of Australian Fluorocarbon Chemicals (AFC) and prominent spokesperson for AFCAM (based in overseas industry) had taken the initiative and had done the process (of regulation).

Meanwhile, a strategy for saving the ozone layer - and the earth - has to look at both whether and how to rapidly reduce CFC use. Stuart White argues that what is needed is some ‘good old end use analysis’. We should ask where CFCs are used and why, apply some ecological principles and lateral thinking. We may find lasting solutions which have benefits in addition to preventing the destruction of that tenuous stratospheric layer. He points out that the emphasis on the ozone depleting potential of aerosols and polystyrene packaging has been overtaken by events. Instead, some examples are drawn from the sectors which are emerging as the major problems: CFC exports; foam rubber use; the growth in consumption of high performance goods, meat and animal products and the requisite need for commercial and industrial refrigeration; and the proliferation of car air conditioners.

Chlorofluorocarbons and halons are a class of chemicals which were first manufactured in the 1930s and are now widely used in industrialized countries. In the 1970s scientists began to realize that CFCs and HCFCs were capable of reacting with the ozone layer. This realization led to a ban on their use in refrigeration, air conditioning and aerosols. However, the introduction of alternative technologies was slow, and the use of CFCs continued to increase. The Montreal Protocol, an international agreement signed in 1987, aimed to phase out the production and consumption of CFCs. The protocol was widely hailed as a success, with countries fulfilling their obligations. However, recent studies have suggested that the ozone layer may not have recovered as quickly as was hoped.

The ozone layer is a thin layer of gases in the Earth’s atmosphere that protects us from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. The ozone layer is composed of a gas called ozone (O3), which is formed by the combination of two oxygen molecules (O2) and a single oxygen atom. The ozone layer is crucial for protecting life on Earth, as it absorbs most of the UV radiation that would otherwise reach the surface of the planet. The UV radiation that does reach the surface can cause sunburn and skin cancer, as well as damage to crops and other plants. UV radiation can also damage the DNA in cells, which can lead to genetic mutations and cancer.

The ozone layer is not static, however. The Earth’s atmosphere is constantly changing, and the ozone layer is no exception. The main factor that affects the ozone layer is the release of CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals into the atmosphere. These chemicals can travel long distances and reach the stratosphere, where they react with ozone and break it down into oxygen and chlorine atoms. The chlorine atoms then react with water vapor and form hydrochloric acid, which can further damage the ozone layer.

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Foam Rubber

Foam rubber (flexible polyurethane foam) is widely used in furnishings, car seats, and packaging. The ozone depleting gas CFC-11 is used to "puff" the plastic mixture for the manufacture of lower density foams. Methylene chloride, a suspected carcinogen, is also widely used in the US for this purpose. Any suggestions that it be used here would be resisted strongly by the Australian union movement.

The increase in the use of foam rubber is consistent with long term structural shifts in materials use that have affected every part of our economy. These shifts can be crudely summarized as away from the use of biomass-derived materials, such as wood and cotton toward synthetic materials based on petrochemicals. Thus we have, amongst others, the ubiquitous foam rubber: non-biodegradable, a hazard in a fire, based on a capital and energy-intensive industry and ozone depleting in its manufacture.

The industry is looking for some catchphrase at substituting blow-gas agents. They do not at this stage see methylene chloride or the highly flammable dimethyl ether as options. The gas HCFC-123 (ODP 5 per cent of CFC-11) has not been developed commercially. Even the 300 tonnes for which a US company was licensed have not been manufactured. It is likely to be the late 1990s before this option is available.

Reclamation of CFCs in the foam blowing process has been tried in Europe, with recovery rates of the order of 20 per cent. This industry is reluctant to move in this direction because of the extra capital cost required in recovering the gas (about $0.5m per plant). Given that this is a small reduction in the ecological cost of the industry the installation of this equipment would be the least that could be done.

Refrigeration

Commercial and industrial refrigeration systems use compressors in which a total of 1840 tonnes of CFC-12 were used Australia-wide in 1986. The main uses are in the processing of foods and dairy products, supermarket refrigeration and as chillers in the meat processing industry. Work is well under way to develop an air conditioning replacement working fluid which has an ODP 95 per cent lower than CFC-12 and there are proposals for reclaiming and recycling contaminated CFCs to reduce emissions. By these means and improved operating practices the industry hopes to reduce its consumption by only 11 per cent by 1992.
With the Chernobyl disaster the door opened on most of Eastern Europe’s food exports. International competitors moved quickly into Europe’s overseas markets offering uncontaminated food. Australian wine sales boomed among Europe’s conservative classes because it was farmed from vineyards that were unaffected by the accident. In the third year of the post-Chernobyl era countries still insist on taking radiation counts on food imports from Europe as they do a disinfectant spray on imported Australian meat.

Radioactive food has turned up and been impounded in the distant ports of Alexandria, Penang, Colombo, and Bangkok. Shipments of contaminated powdered milk, donated to the European Economic Community, have been returned by recipient Third World countries. The trading ship Refeer 1, which sailed between Atlantic ports more than a year unsuccessfully trying to find a trader willing to take it’s cargo of radioactive Irish and Danish beef, is now returned to cold storage in the German port of Wilhelmshaven to await unexpected customers. Chernobyl has given it’s share of taste to many of us and we will continue to taste it for many years. Here the animals are maintaining a radioactivity twice the newly proposed limits. The herd remains highly radioactive, but the live stock remains healthy. The food on sale is contaminated, but the animals die away from wherever they are buried.

Backyard. The British government bought the highly contaminated tea from it’s farmers but then had trouble disposing of it. Burial in disused mines was resisted by local people who rightly feared contamination of their ground water. Turkish officials would like to dump it into the Black Sea but they face opposition from fishing people.

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Trees fall in dear

A deal between the Federal and Tasmanian Governments has followed the Helsham Report and these two developments have further threatened the unique Tasmanian forests. Greg Sargent of the Wilderness Society describes the areas, the threats they face, and some actions that might save them.

The best of Tasmania’s forests, about 14 per cent of the State’s forestry resource, have been accepted in full on the Register of the National Estate as having natural values of national importance.

National Estate forests in Tasmania include the Douglas-Apsley on the east coast (Tasmania’s largest remaining area of unlogged dry eucalypt forest), the Savage River area (Australia’s largest block of pristine rainforest), and the mountains, rivers and tall forests of Western Tasmania.

But what does the term “tall forests” convey?

Imagine a tree with its roots planted in Sydney harbour, growing through the Harbour bridge. The first branches leave the main trunk at the level of the roadway, and the flags on the top of the arch are lost in its foliage.

Now imagine if you can, forests that have never seen an axe, let alone bulldozers and chainsaws, and you might get a picture of the forests of Western Tasmania.

These forests are an important part of the Wilderness Society’s proposal for Designing a World Heritage Area. The whole of Stage 2 has been recognised as having World Heritage significance by both the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC), the Federal Government’s advisers in such matters, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the advisers to the World Heritage Bureau itself.

The Federal government sought, and gained, the agreement of the Tasmanian government on the boundaries for a World Heritage nomination that would give international recognition and protection to much of the mountains and treeless plains of Western Tasmania, but at the cost of some of the tallest flowering plants on Earth, and the increased destruction of Australia’s wildest forests.

The agreed area contains a mere 3 per cent of Tasmania’s forestry resource. Important tall forests in the valleys of the Picton, Weid, and Huon have been excluded, as has most of the 1,000 hectare tall forest around Wylds Craig in Central Tasmania. Tasmania’s largest block of wildness old growth eucalypt is the lake

scattered alpine wilderness of the Central Plateau, and the fringing forests of the Great Western Tiers, which have been excluded from the proposed nomination.

In 1982, the World Heritage Bureau suggested the Australian Government add the Denison Spires region to the existing World Heritage Area. It is a spectacular region of glacial lakes, rugged river gorges and mountain peaks. This area was part of the Federal Government’s decision on Helsham, but now the area has been left out of the Federal Government’s proposed World Heritage nomination. Instead, it is to be a state “national park” area, with provision for mining, and mineral exploration within the area.

In fact, the Federal Government has offered Australian taxpayers’ money to assist with funding a geological survey as soon as possible.

The Tasmanian government only acquiesced to even this tackadmissible World Heritage nomination because it was a part of a total industry package that guarantees the accelerated destruction of National Estate forests outside of the nomination area. Elements of that package include:

* An undertaking that the Federal government will not act to protect Tasmania’s National Estate forests, breaking the promise Bob Hawke made in June 1986 that it would “use all of its powers to protect National Estate values” in Tasmania’s forests.
* Massive tax incentives for mining giant North Broken Hill to build a billion dollar pulp mill on prime cropland near the small village of Wesley Vale on Tasmania’s North West coast. The mill will be the largest single private investment in Australia’s history, and will consume some 1.8 million tonnes of timber a year. It will have a drastic effect on the forests of Tasmania’s north, threatening the Douglas-Apsley and Great Western Tiers.

There are provisions within the State Government’s enabling legislation for logging of Protected Areas and rainforests to ensure adequacy of resource for the mill. The go ahead for the construction of Tasmania’s fourth export woodchip mill by Huon Pulp and Papers (HPP), half owned by Australian Newspapers Mills (ANM).

The Huon mill will consume between 350,000 and 400,000 tonnes of pulpwood per annum. It is designed to strip those parts of the Southern Forests not protected by the World Heritage nomination, to destroy most of the forests that Senator Richardson flew over on the helicopter flight that allegedly turned him into a “born-again greener.” It will result in the ANM and APM concessions being linked to form a giant concession under the control of

ANM. Most of the logging will be carried out using cable-logging techniques — used on steep slopes.

* An increase in the annual forest cut of some 700,000 tonnes in forests that are, according to the woodchipping industry itself, already being overcut.

This represents an increase of about 20 per cent on the current levels. Premier Gray sought this increase because he had over-committed the State’s timber resource by allowing HPP and Wesley Vale both to go ahead, while making promises to existing chip mills that they would not be affected.

* Logging to be allowed within some of the World Heritage Areas, including “the northern parts of the Lemonbalm Forest, a World Heritage Area as defined by the Helsham majority report. No boundary has yet been released to the public defining just what this means, and how far the logging can go.

The decision also allows for logging and quarrying in the Exit Cave Area, Australia’s longest cave system, a World Heritage Area as defined by the Helsham majority report.

The federal government has not only reneged on its commitment to protect National estate in Tasmania, it has paved the way for the hand over of areas of World Heritage significance to some of Australia’s largest corporate concerns.

These magnificent wilderness areas need your active involvement. If you can come to Tasmania this summer, get in touch with the Wilderness Society and help us in the protest actions planned this summer. If you can’t, join or create a Tasmanian Wilderness Action Group in your own town or city to lend support to those protest actions. Write a letter to Hawke urging him to honour that promise he made. Get vocal, today.

Greg Sargent is Coordinator of the Wilderness Society’s Tasmanian Wilderness Campaign.
The first shipment of uranium ore from the Olympic Dam copper and uranium mine at Roxby Downs occurred on 29 November 1987 and about 100 people opposed to the mining and export of uranium protested at the wharves at Port Adelaide as the ten truck convoy came through in the early hours of the morning. The police did arrest 27 people in strength, and so it seemed like some new arrests. However, they did not even try to stop another protest. The police continued to try to keep the protesters from the road where they barked the trucks.

A number of conservation groups throughout Australia made comment on the shipment, which carried a total bound for Sweden. The South Australian Nuclear Issues Network, which organised the protest, attempted to draw attention to the inherent dangers associated with uranium mining, and some unanswered questions about the Roxby project. "If the project is perfectly safe, why do the Government and Roxby Management Services refuse to make public the full details of environmental, transport, health and safety plans under the Roxby Downs Indenture Ratification Act?" said Marcus Rox.

Mr. Beford went on to say, 'The effects of Roxby mining operate on the underground waters of the Great Artesian Basin are unclear and may result in the drying up of Mount Springs, unique areas believed to be of World Heritage significance.'

The Australian Conservation Foundation congratulated the antiuranium activists in South Australia for their efforts to keep Australians informed about the largest and most secretive of Australia's uranium mines.

Mr. Miller also went on to say that the Government and Roxby Downs are not only required to report such "minor" accidents, but to give full details on disposal of radioactive wastes. There is no independent monitoring body overseeing the operations at Roxby Downs. This is an environmental scandal of the highest order and places the environment, and people, of South Australia at risk.'

Mr. Toyne called on the Federal Government to extend the operations of the Supervising Scientist, and its associated bodies, to cover the operations at Roxby.

A spokesperson for the Anti-Uranium Campaign (TAUC), a coalition of Victorian organisations, Eric Miller, said "It is a sad irony that the government has taken over from the fallout from the Chernobyl disaster as the focus of environmental attention, and was using us as an argument for increased nuclear power generation. The Friends of the Earth letter concluded: 'The isolation and beautiful surroundings of the Roxby Downs area help us ignore the folly beneath the surface. Uranium mining and export of uranium does not help solve nuclear environmental problems, it adds to tomorrow's.'

For further information and action:

Nuclear Issues Network
120 Wakefield St
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 223 5155

Australian Conservation Foundation
6728 Glenelg Rd
Hawthorn Vic 3122
Tel: (03) 819 2888

The Anti-Uranium Campaign
c/- Movement Against Uranium Mining
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Vic 3000
Tel: (03) 602 6222

Friends of the Earth (Fitzroy)
222 Brunswick St
Fitzroy Vic 3065
Tel: (03) 419 1000

Larry O'Loughlin is a member of the Chain Reaction collective.

The threat of nuclear fuel exported for 'peaceful purposes' been used in nuclear weapons has become much more real following a recent decree by President Reagan in the last days of his Presidency, and only a few weeks after the election of George Bush as his successor. Richard Bolt reports on the decision and some of its implications, especially for Australian uranium exports to the US.

The New York Times described this new power as a 'major departure from 40 years of US nuclear regulatory policy'. It quoted Dr Glenn Seaborg, chairman of the NRC (then the Atomic Energy Commission) from 1961 to 1971, as saying: 'If plans are prepared and actually used, it would elaborate the line between peaceful uses of atomic energy and military uses.'

Mainstream non-government groups, the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) and the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), were critical of this move. The NRDC wants to be kept informed of Australian production.

Although denied by an energy department spokesperson, Part 21 is clearly an attempt to overcome the current crisis in the US nuclear weapons industry.

Several military nuclear plants in the US have been closed, because of severe environmental and health and safety problems. Among these are the military plutonium production, the Savannah River and Hanford plants.

Attempts are being made to bring... military...
The Solar 88 Conference was held for three days at Melbourne University in November 1988, attended by 192 delegates, and 80 papers were presented. Bert King attended and presents this report.

Delegates were mainly from three areas - academics, Government departments, and private enterprise involved in the newly-emerging solar field. To this could be added a sprinkling of environmentalists from organisations such as Friends of the Earth (FOE). Few women were present, and other than some New Zealanders, there were few people from overseas. The proceedings of the conference are a weighty volume, a mass of material.

From all this, what can be said? It was stimulating, yet somewhat disappointing. Funding for renewable energy sources is poor in Australia, with Victoria leading the field and other States doing little. It was a slightly chilly conference, the main performers acting like members of a club. It was a conference dealing with the problems of an affluent society, there was little in it for the developing world. Government statements on energy policy tend to be full of rhetoric, but short on action - rather like something from 'Yes, Minister'. Development of photovoltaics tends to be in the field of consumer products; this is hardly grappling with the problem.

On the positive side, the greenhouse effect is on us - yes; conservation of energy is the first, most necessary step - yes; unanimous agreement. Nuclear energy is not an option - no. All this is good. But a lot of esoteric research is being conducted, not enough in action-oriented. Our wind energy advances are really very small - a wind farm at Esperance WA, and the 65 kw wind generator at Breamlea, Victoria, Malabar, NSW and Flinders Island, Tasmania and one at the Mars factory in Ballarat, Victoria.

FOE had a worthwhile presence. One new solar video, Energy in the Crossroad, produced by the FOE Soft Energy Group had its premiere and received a good deal of exposure. Bob Fuller, a FOE member, presented a paper, Erying Grapes with Solar Energy. Mick Harris from the Alternative Technology Association gave a paper on the solar workshop at CERES in Brunswick, Victoria - an example of a community in action. And on Saturday lunchtime, FOE had a stall in the open air, along with exhibitions of solar equipment, such as a solar water pumping unit.

One area that is doing poorly is solar domestic hot water services. These are being frozen out by low tariffs for gas, and artificially low tariffs for off-peak electricity.

Steve Kenefi of the Australian National University is one of the leading people in the Australian solar energy field. In his paper, Can Solar Energy Reduce Significantly the CO2 and other Environmental Problems? he wrote, although it is already too late to change many aspects of the greenhouse situation, it is certain that the overall cost in both real environmental as well as economists terms would be far lower if a more benign sustainable energy future were introduced as a matter of urgency. Since solar energy is such an alternative, it should be rapidly introduced. For this to happen, certain profound philosophical and practical aspects should be taken aboard by society urgently, as a matter of basic policy.

One of the papers listed but not presented did have relevance to the third world. It is still under wraps, pending a solar-operated, portable medical sterilizer is being developed by a group at the Physics Department, Sydney University, under Dr David Mills. This is to be exhibited by the World Health Organisation.

The 80 papers take some digesting.

The Australian Labor Party (ALP) has been widely criticised by many groups, including environmentalists, for its pragmatic approach to problems, especially since its election to Federal Government in 1983. Many people have left the Party, seeing that their energies would achieve better results elsewhere.

However, some people see that the ALP is a very powerful option to achieve some change, and have decided to focus on changing the Party from within. Chain Reaction asked two people active within the ALP to provide material explaining their approach. We invite reader comment on these articles, as we do for all Chain Reaction articles.

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The Australian Labor Party (ALP) has been widely criticised by many groups, including environmentalists, for its pragmatic approach to problems, especially since its election to Federal Government in 1983. Many people have left the Party, seeing that their energies would achieve better results elsewhere.

However, some people see that the ALP is a very powerful option to achieve some change, and have decided to focus on changing the Party from within. Chain Reaction asked two people active within the ALP to provide material explaining their approach. We invite reader comment on these articles, as we do for all Chain Reaction articles.
The aims of the ALP Green Network were to address some of the problems and our strategies evolved over a period of two years. Research done in 1986 showed that some 10 per cent of the Victorian ALP membership are from the environment conservation organisation: this meant that there were many hundreds of people in the party whose energies and talents could potentially be called upon.

The same research had also shown that 'conservation' covered a nervous range of issues (e.g. policies, pollution, animal welfare, some forms of recreation, nature conservation, conservation of energy and resources, transport, Aboriginal land rights, population policy, agricultural methods, historic heritage), but that there was a lack of general awareness that this was the case. It was therefore felt to be important that the Green Network take on the task of addressing this problem as well. The membership of the conservation movement was, furthermore, found to be able to relate to the whole ALP membership.

Structure and Aims

Based on this research, and certain pragmatic considerations, the Green Network took the shape of an activist organisation that is neither a faction nor a policy formulating body, and which complements existing ALP structures rather than competing with them. The aims are highly ambitious and of an essentially radical nature based on long-term strategies. From the outset the Green Network intended to expand its activities beyond Victoria, current membership in Victoria is about 225, with regional subgroups in about one-third of the federal electorates.

The structure of the Green Network was designed to reflect the aims, regional logistics (such as the difficulties faced by country members attending meetings), social conservation (such as the need to develop trust and mutual respect amongst the membership), and the member's needs as defined by the various subgroups and the conservation movement.

Many of the views and positions of the Network would be as autonomous as possible. Organisational development principles, as we see it, are used to maintain common development principles, as we see it, are used to maintain common, and thus to further the aims of the Network.

Green Labor

Green Labor is a group of 300-500 ALP members, led by Drs Helen and Bill Caldicott. The membership and support of Green Labor is composed of people from the entire ALP and other groups. It is a group of people eager to be involved in new forms of political activity, but that this was the case. It was therefore felt to be important that the Green Network take on the task of addressing this problem as well.

The final result was:

- A Co-ordinating Committee of people taking on an active role, meeting at six-weekly intervals in various parts of Melbourne and Australia, and a year in a semi-annual conference, of which meetings are attended by all members of the Australian Labor Party.

- A six-weekly newletter to all members of the Federal and State and Federal Members of Parliament, affiliated trade unions and the various groups, which were designed to assist Network members.

- A seed bank containing a variety of conservation campaigns, which have been designed to assist Network members.

- A membership that includes all ALP members, and the organisations and groups that are responsible for the conservation community.

- A union-based subgroup promoting awareness of relevant conservation issues and the link between labour and conservation issues.

- An annual field trip, and an annual issues based/social weekend in a rural area hosted by an ALP Branch.

- An annual conference; and

- An annual members' day.

Inge Meldgaard

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Darlinghurst 3166

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Footnote:

I.L. Meldgaard, 'A Demographic and Political Profile of Victorian Conservationists', Swinburne Institute of Technology, 1985.
In an interview with Steve Payne, Martin Ryman, a permaculture practitioner from the Blue Mountains in NSW, reviews Bill Mollison's new book.

Bernie, a friend, first introduced Martin to the concept of permaculture. Bernie had some asparagus and raspberries, chooks and geese and a whole lot of compost in his inner city backyard. Coming from the depths of Kings Cross it was something Martin hadn’t encountered before. Bernie then handed Martin Bill Mollison’s Permaculture One which he sat down and read over a weekend. It was the first gardening book Martin had ever read and to his surprise he found it tremendously entertaining. It was communical about the whole of life, as is the new book.

To Martin it all made sense. The details were there, the philosophy of creating patterns and systems which largely looked after themselves appeared in the sense that, here was something you didn’t have to spend years pulling up weds to manage. Although permaculture takes time and energy to set up, once established, it requires minimum energy to maintain and harvest. So Permaculture One was Martin’s inspiration, and after buying an old sheep paddock in Hazelbrook in 1980, building a home and having a child, he began to turn it into a permaculture garden.

Martin - I’ll be digging my pond before I go, I’ve converted aquaculture. What was going to be a pretty small pond now and ducks will now be part of my overall permaculture system and actually provide food for the ducks and part of the food to the environment. I could build the pond just from the information found in this book and there are signposts to tell me where I can get more.

I think Bill Mollison has done is to take elements from all over the world, from varieties of cultures and societies, and bring them together in this book with a philosophy that is positive and inspirational.

Steve - What did you enjoy most about this book?

Martin - I love the illustrations - they are centrally leading me in search of more. The section on ‘patterning’ is particularly interesting. For example, it brings together all the discussion on energy centres, and the Aborigines view the landscape or express themselves in the land, and the relationship they have with it is different. As I travel about the world I find tribal peoples using an enormous variety of traditional patterns. These decorate houses, houses, and they have a whole set of songs or chants associated with them. Tribal art, including the forms of Celtic and ancient engraving, have a pattern complexly that may have some fascinating meanings to their peoples. We may call such peoples if only we can that they ignore these patterns, songs and dances as a valid art form, and as an accurate recording system.

Martin - In terms of food production, does this book actually tell you that the hints that humans add in, those hints being chemicals that we humans plant varieties that have to be protected over and over again, and pesticides and fungicides to protect the insect population and diseases. Anything that says these these three are not of use in the system denies a major sector of our economy. There are all these false economies that have been created, and Bill Mollison is saying get rid of them. Anything that says that is an attack on the capitlist system.

Steve - Will people outside of permaculture discover this book?

Martin - Well I think this is where permaculturists have to reach out and get other people reach out and let other people know what they are doing and showing the benefits to them. There are times now, after nearly a decade of permaculture in Australia where people can come and see - this is a permaculture garden, they can see that there are special catching insects, food being produced without chemicals. There is a willingness on the part of the people to learn about things like permaculture. Wherever there is a television or radio program that deals with permaculture, seed savers, or things such as bio-dynamic gardening, there is a huge response from the public.

Steve - Why is there such a huge interest in these things?

Martin - Because people are concerned about what they eat, how it is grown, and how it came from. Permaculture is not only to reveal the links between them and ecology, but to put ecology back into farming. Otherwise the supermarginal mentality that rules the affairs of our planet will continue to run its destructive course and annihilate us all in the name of health, happiness, and progress.

By exploring early human linguistic and cultural developments Adreene exposes the quiet and destructive effects of patriarchy. She describes the construction of human societies from which we are to understand the entire nature of our history. The book, Rape of the Wild, helps us to see clearly how we have created modern society.

Reviewed by Linden Gillbank

How brave of the authors to dare to challenge the very basis of our materialistic and exploitative Western society. How refreshing to have some of one’s own heartfelt attitudes examined and explored in ways I’d never considered.

For the lay reader this book starts with a framework that gives an outline of the world today. The book moves to discuss the roots of our conflict with nature, and to examine the causes of our current problems. It is a book that calls for a whole new way of living.

Steve Payne is a free-lance writer who has written for New Age Times and Work/Markets.

Rape of the Wild by Adreene Congrucci, Women’s Press, 1988, $21.95

Reviewed by Linden Gillbank

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Leaky emanation. The site then evolved into porous It represented no barrier to radon bonds, held together primarily by dominated hunting societies.

While the examples of societies that have not lost their kinship with the earth are American, those of the American Indian, Australian Aboriginal societies would provide equal or better examples. How long will the power brokers of American and Australian Western societies continue to ignore or belittle the traditional sensitive and non-exploitative relationships with the land of these peoples?

I enjoyed reading this challenging book which I recommend to anyone interested in the ways that men and women are changing their lives, could provide a springboard for the discussion of many of the issues considered in the book - the power of language, human evolution, hunting, animal experimentation, ecogony, reproductive technology, and conservation.

If Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring was pivotal in the expansion of environmental protection, Meanwhile we may have to do some fundraising to reduce the gap.

Historically, our destiny as women and the destiny of nature are in separate settings, with the same outcome. The only trouble is, we arc

As a Catholic school is moved - the sisters considered it too dangerous to stay.

Cannonsburg: Twenty years on. Produced by John Gan Productions (1985) and screened on ABC, 18 October, 1988. A copy is available for loan from Friends of the Earth, 121-123 York St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Reviewed by Bert King

This is a British documentary dealing with the small Pennsylvania town of Cannonsburg where many tons of uranium ore from the Colorado Plateau were traded for fuel. Recovery of the radium was valuable and before the uranium rush. The residue remained radioactive. In fact some was used during the war for the Manhattan Project. But in 1965 the company in Cannonsburg, Corpak Corporation, decided to get out of the industry. What to do with the residue?

The residue, mainly among women, are higher in many nuclear activist groups. Project.

But in 1965 the company in Cannonsburg, Corpak Corporation, decided to get out of the industry. What to do with the residue?

It was allowed to remain in the old pond in the centre of town - half a million tons of radioactive waste. This was then covered by shade - "red dog" - a porous material and quite unstable. The site then evolved into a baseball park for young people. Equipment in the mound bone marrow cancer are worrying the investigators, then follow the inevitable cover-ups and denials by USA state and federal energy agencies. Who worries? A Catholic school is moved - the sisters considered it too dangerous to stay.

Janis Dunn becomes a local activist, she does her own survey of the residents and reveals 67 cases of cancer, even though a non-scientific study of the cover-up continues, the government is afraid, doubtless, of the possible legal consequences. Finally, $30 million is allocated to a proper burial of the waste.

You cannot normalise, mainly among women, are higher in Cannonsburg in a control population. This gives an excellent basis for a study; people have been exposed and it should be evaluted. Again, the video features, in addition to Janis Dunn, several people notable in science of low dose radiation effects.

These include John Gofman, Gordian McLeod, who was sacked from the Pennsylvania Health Department for, being too concerned about Three Mile Island, Edward Radford, Alice Stewart, Robert Alvarez and Rosalie Bertell. As Radford says, as a result of our study of the Japanese bomb results, the risk is now greater than we thought before thinking at new cases, not just mortality. Low doses may be the real issue. At the site radiation risk may be 8-10 times great than thought a decade ago.

Excellent viewing - highly recommended.

Bert King is retired engineer and anti-nuclear activist.

Letters

From page 2

also one ‘brooder’ with liquid sodium as coolant. Despite all protests from all quarters the power station is going ahead with plans for twelve more reactors in the coming years. They also propose to import one from the USSR and the work for the same is already started at a small fishing village in Koodankulam. Here the information on makes, uranium mining, thorium mining, reprocessing facilities etc will be useful. We also export a lot of ‘sea and sand’ which contains some rare earth, to Japan, this is done by ‘Indian Rare Earth Ltd’.

There is one plant coming up near a virgin area in Queensland. Alka-Ang in the nearby state of Karnataka. Despite vigorous protests the Department of Atomic Energy has allowed work on this site, clearing some 2,500 acres of pristine rainforest.

In this country it is very difficult to raise any public awareness about the nature of the radium. Most are illiterate. A successful articles and film could be a start.

Historically, our destiny as women and the destiny of nature are in separate settings, with the same outcome. The only trouble is, we arc

New Prices

The last time Chain Reaction raised its prices was mid 1986 when there was an adjustment for a six issue subscription, changing from four issues to seven. We have now decided to convert to four or eight issues per subscription, and so raise our prices to go some way to covering costs. The decision to have six or eight issues per subscription was based on the option of bringing out Chain Reaction six times in one year. While we have found that the material was enough for six issues a year, it is too much for our current resources.

So rather than have subscriptions which are effectively for eighteen months, we want to move to having one or two year subs. This is easier for people and institutions to organise, and does not involve too much extra cash handling for us.

We are also raising our prices in recognition of the fact that we have been able to reduce production costs, printing and materials have increased. We also have an ongoing difficult financial situation where the magazine is effectively subsidised by Friends of the Earth. The new prices will reduce this deficit, but we are only relying on an increased number of subscriptions and Friends of the Earth members to make the magazine financially viable. Meanwhile we may have to do some fundraising to reduce the gap.

The new rates will take effect in February 1989, and we will renew all current subscribers at the old rate even if their subscription is not due for renewal, provided that they contact us before the end of January 1989.

New rates

Cover price $3

one year (four issues) $12
two year (eight issues) $21
one year (four issues) $9
two year (eight issues) $17

A New Era

Chain Reaction has been based in Melbourne since it began in 1978, but will be located in Adelaide from the end of January 1989. The move is only for one year at this stage, and will be reviewed later by Friends of the Earth.

The current collective was going to have to break up, as Clare and Larry decided to move back to Adelaide. Eileen was looking forward to having a break from Chain Reaction and moved on it for over six years as a volunteer, and Ian is going to take advantage of the move to Adelaide to do a course in graphic design.

The proposal was put to other Friends of the Earth people and in the end there was no objection, other than from a few non-Friends of the Earth Adelaide people who think they have been shut out of things.

The move is quite exciting, as there has been good support, already from people in Adelaide, and through many of Melbourne will be able to contribute to the back issues which cover a year, it is too much for our current resources.

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The current collective was going to have...
THERE GOES MY NEIGHOUR HARRIE, OUT TO HER CAR.

SHE WAS AT LEAST HER WORRY!

THE BEE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN ME FLOWER.

THERE, THERE, IT JUST NEEDS A BIT MORE WORK.

THERE GOES MY NEIGHBOUR HARRIE OUT TO HER CAR.

DON'T LET HER WORRY!

SHE KNOWS I'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR DAYS.

LOOK AT HOW SHE'S LOOKING AT ME!

SHE'S A SOCIAL WORKER, SHE'LL HAVE ME PUT AWAY!

SHE WAVED AT ME! WHAT SHALL I DO?

WE WERE FRIENDS, YOU'RE VERY NEARLY A FLOWER.

WOE, YOU MIGHT SNAP OFF A LEAF IF YOU WAVE BACK!

WHAT? WHO?

SHE'S BROUGHT BACK MY FRIEND LOU, THE MOMENT SHE FINDS OUT I'M SITTING HERE, TRYING TO BE A FLOWER.

SHE'LL UNROOT ME!

I THINK I'LL SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE... LIKE GOOD OLD INCONSPICUOUS MOTHER EARTH!

JOIN FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

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  Willunga: PO Box 438, Willunga, 5172
  Williamstown: C/Post Office, Williamstown 5351

• NATIONAL
  Chain Reaction: PO Box 530E, Melbourne, 3001 Ph (03) 419 8700

• NEW SOUTH WALES
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