■ICONSERVATION NEWS

NEW SLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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VOTE FOR THE

VIRONMEN

Australian Conservation Foundation
and The Wilderness Society.

RECOMMENDS A

INSIDE

ACF Renewals Back Page

ELECTION 1990 A perfect outcome for environment

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The most difficult and close Federal election is now behind us. The Labor Government has been narrowly returned, on Democrat and Green preferences. Ted Mack is elected as an Independent.

In terms of the environment, this is a perfect outcome. The Coalition, with policies which were inferior across a range of issues has been defeated. The Democrats, with the best environment policies, have gained a huge increase in votes, picking up most of the swing away from the ALP. The Government has just made it back, knowing that the environment was a key factor.

There are several comments to make about this very successful campaign.

Firstly, your elected ACF Council voted by a large majority to endorse Democrats (or Greens) followed by Labor. This followed an exhaustive evaluation of the tional Park and would transfer control of it

ties, and their answers to 93 propositions by Phillip Toyne put to them in a questionnaire, Critical differences between the Coalition and Labor became obvious in areas such as uranium mining, protection of national parks, national estate and world heritage areas. Nowhere was this clearer than over the protection of Kakadu, where the Coalition supported an immediate start to mining at Coronation Hill, in Stage 3 of Kakadu National Park. They supported the exploration and mining of the area previously known as the 'conservation zone'. This area was, amidst much controversy, returned to the Park by the Federal Government late last year. The Coalition also favored mineral evaluation of Stage 2 of Kakadu, which is already listed as World Heritage, adding that they did not intend to permit mining in the area, after this evaluation was completed. Finally, they op-

posed Aboriginal ownership of Uluru Na-

policies, positions and records of the Parand ANPWS to the NT Gov.

With these, and many other gaps he tween the parties, I believe the decision of ACF Council to reject the Coalition's position was somewhat inevitable.

The Foundation was then left with the decision as to whether it should take the extra step of endorsing particular parties This is a major controversy which we must debate and resolve. Personally, I doubt whether it is an appropriate or justified position for an environmental lobby to assume. I acknowledge that this 'high risk - high benefit' strategy has worked. However, it leaves the Foundation open to the obvious accusation that we are locked into a party alignment.

Of course, the best solution is to give high priority to the 'greening' of the Coalition. If they can be encouraged to substantially overhaul their policies, then the pressure to endorse alternative parties will fall away. I am determined to put considerable effort into this task. It is depressing to hear some spokespeople for the Opposition continuing to deny that the environment was a significant election issue or that their environment policies were inade-

Finally, I am proud of the outstanding work of ACF and TWS staff and volunteers in this campaign. Hundreds of hours were spent on preparing ballots, election broadsheets, leafleting, and staffing polling booths. The keen willingness to put so much effort into this campaign is certainly one of the great strengths of both ACF and

For those who contributed their time, talent or money, may I offer you my thanks.



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By Gore Steel, Planty, Planty, Mod. Age 1627 April 1970. See Editor-Angela Brennan

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily between the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Contributors note that it is the policy of Conservation News to use non-textut, non-racist language.

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Dam project poses crucial test for **Goss Government**

The Oueensland Electricity Commission (OEC) is planning to build a hydro-electric scheme in north Queensland, by damming the Tully River and flooding 1,400 ha of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area.

Plans for the \$600 million Tully-Millstream Hydro-Electric Scheme have been floating around Queensland Government Departments for some time, but were never seriously considered until the region was listed as World Heritage, in late 1988, Bob Katter, the Minister for Mines and Energy at the time, then deemed the Scheme essential to meet Queensland's rising energy requirements. The Scheme would increase the State's energy supply by 550 mega-

ACF believes that Queensland's increased energy demand is an invention of the OEC. For many years it has been argued and demonstrated that energy conservation is cheaper than building new power production schemes. Recent Victorian studies show that by spending 10 per cent of the dam's cost on energy conservation four times the electricity the dam could produce would be saved.

A recent report prepared for the Federal Department of Environment says that 'the cost of making the investments to increase efficiency is about one-third the marginal cost of providing additional supplies.' This means that every \$5 spent on energy efficiency removes the need for spending \$15 on new supplies. (It also saves a tonne of carbon dioxide).

The OEC were forced to decrease their estimates of demand for power in the late 1980s. The forecasted increases in demand for 1983-87 were over twice the actual increases, while the 1989 maximum demand was actually 1,370 mw less than installed capacity of 5093 mw.

Conservationists find the QEC feasibility study for the scheme incredible. So far, it is the only study released to the public, and was meant to address the environmental impact of the project. Presuming it to be a fait accompli, the QEC has not assessed any alternatives. The report does not include appropriate ecological sur-



White water on the Tully River. The scheme would reduce river capacity, as well as seriously endangering a number of already rare species. Photo: Rowan Kegan

veys, or consider whether the scheme is compatible with World Heritage values which it is not.

Located in the wild and remote mountains between Ravenshoe and Tully, the scheme would reduce many creeks and rivers to a fifth of their normal flow, thus seriously impairing recreational and scenic values of the area. White-water rafting would be out! But so would many of the northern Yellow-bellied Gliders, the vertebrate most at risk from the flooding; and nobody really knows the effect it would have on the tiny Atherton Antechinus. When doing their research the QEC did not realise this creature lived in trees, so based its data on a trapping programme for terrestrial animals. The Brush-tailed Bettong is also at risk, and no adequate survey has been carried out for reptiles and frogs in the area. Conservationists believe that failure to find several rare or endangered species likely to occur in the affected area, may simply represent a failure to conduct ap-

The Goss Government was elected to office promising to defer a final decision on the scheme until energy conservation options were fully considered. However, some members of the Government disagree with this delay. Ken Vaughan, State Minister for Resource Industries announced in December that the scheme would proceed. He faces opposition from his colleague. Pat Comben. Minister for Environment and Heritage, who feels further study should be done on the environmental viability of the project.

Although federal intervention has been sought by conservationists, in July last year Senator Graham Richardson, Federal Minister of Environment, publicly stated that it was for the Oueensland Government to determine its own power requirements. Queensland is the only state which has never held a public inquiry into the power industry. Senator Richardson has since received over 500 letters opposing the scheme, which is now attracting lively media coverage.

Conservationists are seeking a complete and credible ecological survey of the area, and a comprehensive and independent energy policy for the State, based on least cost planning, before the scheme is considered. In any instance, they adamantly oppose the flooding of World Heritage.

Like the Franklin Dam in Tasmania, the Tully-Millstream Hydro-Electric Scheme must not proceed. Write a letter opposing it to Wayne Goss, Premier of Queensland, Ken Vaughan, Minister for Resource Industries (both c/- Parliament House, Brisbane, 4000) and Senator Graham Richardson, Federal Minister of Environment (c/- Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600). □

• The May issue of Conservation News will include a comprehensive report on the Greenhouse Energy Strategy: Sustainable Energy Development for Australia prepared for the Department of Environment by Deni Greene.

CONSERVATION NEWS, April, 1990 - 3

NT (CCNT) officers who are working with

Aboriginal communities on environ-

mental issues. These include the re-intro-

duction of endangered species, such as the

Mala (Bilby), and the use of fire in land

TRAVELLING **UP THE COUNTRY**

Since her appointment last July, Jo Willmot, ACF's Aboriginal consultant has spent most of her time on the road. Here is her report of consultations with Abortiginal community organisations, environment groups and government agencies, from the ACF office in Adelaide to Cape York Peninsula. CSIRO and Conservation Commission of

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA SOME ABORIGINAL CONCERNS

In the Centre I had lengthy discussions with the Central Land Council (CLC), Pitjantjatjara Council, Tangentyere Council and the Arid Lands Environment Centre. The CLC was very supportive of the interest ACF was showing in local initiatives. They showed me a recently purchased pastoral lease that was badly degraded. This lease is also under claim by the traditional owners. It was easy to see their concern about further degradation. They spoke of the impact of camels and other feral animals. They were also concerned that the pastoral leases should benefit the whole community and not just the pastoral companies and their caretaker managers. Other leases are now attended by small family groups. I also met with

management. This trip highlights the issue of Aboriginal people regaining land which is badly degraded and being expected to work such lands as a viable economic base (with diminishing government support). Aboriginal people do not want to be forever beholden to the whims of federal and state governments. They want to be independent from government handouts. They want to live in a more dignified manner with a reasonable existence and a more sustainable future. The CLC's Charlie Carter says that its

Land Management Section is doing all it can to achieve these ends, but they are also caught up in the bureaucratic whirl of govemment funding. Such funding is on an annual basis whereas sustainable land use policies need to take into account longer term environmental and traditional Abo-

Perhaps Aboriginal people should develop a working relationship with environment groups similar to that between the ACF and the National Farmers Federation (NFF) in the National Land Management Programme. Then funding policies may be more in line with the wishes and initiatives of Aboriginal communities. There needs to be a review of all policies relating to Aboriginal people and land. Then there can be a real start to community control and self determination.

In Central Australia, the CSIRO's Barney Foran and Mark Stafford-Smith are working with Aboriginal communities and



The Mala - recently reintroduced into the

are keen to strengthen their involvement. Ken Johnson from the NT Conservation Commission spoke with me about the reintroduction of the Mala in the Tanami Desert with the Walpiri people. I also spoke with botanist Peter Latz who grew up with the Aranda people at Hermannsburg. His long standing relationship with these people enables him to see their plight. Peter believes they miss out on a lot of funding because they do not "fit the criteria" and because of the "white backlash" against the land rights movement.

TOP END CONSERVATION MEASURES

In Darwin I met with Northern Lands Council people, including Director John Ah Kit and Andrew Johnson, Andrew organised a trip out of Kakadu to look at the Mimosa eradication project at Oenpelli. The local Aboriginal Community run this project to counter the damage to the local flora and fauna. CSIRO are also working there. At Kakadu I spoke with the Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service officers about the Aboriginal ranger programme. They said that Aboriginal people want to do more than just look after tourists and clean up after them.

Driving back to Darwin, Andrew and I discussed land degradation and the impact of the buffalo. Some see water buffalo as a

New RLO's - a welcome addition to landcare team

ACF has appointed two new Rural Liaison Officers, as part of ACF's endeavour to establish a national team dealing with issues of landcare. Jill Reading was appointed RLO in WA late last year, Mark Wilkins has recently been appointed in SA.

The primary purpose of the position is to liaise with rural landholders and farmer organisations on land degradation issues, as well as establishing a network of rural environmentalists in each State.

Before joining ACF, Jill's environmental conscience was reinforced by a proposal for an aluminium smelter in her vicinity. Last year, she was elected to the Harvey Shire Council, on an environmental platform, and believes that "grass roots" government is an area where greens can have a powerful and positive influence.



Talking the

unions green

The greening of Australia's union

movement is the prime objective of

ACF's Trade Union Liaison Officer,

Jonric Ridley. In the four months

since this position was established

Jonric has concentrated on establish-

ing constructive dialogue between the

ACF and Federal and State (NSW)

Victorian) union officials, and repre-

sentatives from State Trades and

Having made contact with a wide

range of unions Jonric recognises that

more work needs to be done to estab-

lish strong relations between the

trade union and environment move-

ments. Although the unions contacted

are generally receptive, a number of

legitimate concerns have been raised,

including jobs and the need for more

opreparing an ACF presentation for

the first formal meeting of the ACTU

Environment and Sustainable Devel-

· conducting ongoing discussions

with unions (primarily the timber

workers and pulp and paper work-

ers) with a view to promoting the

long-term resolution of the forest

opment Sub-committee in April.

Labour Councils and the ACTU.

Mark has experience as an Environment Officer at Wollongong University and in landscaping and bush regeneration. He is currently studying for a Diploma of Natural Resources.

Initially, as RLO, he will focus on the Eyre Peninsula - considered one of the most degraded areas in Australia, as well as being enormously important in terms of SA's Agricultural Production. . •

continued from page 4

menace, but others regard it as a valuable food source, which has been around for 150 years.

CAPE YORK

At Coen on Cape York Peninsula, I attended a meeting of the local Aboriginal community with representatives of The Wilderness Society. This two day event focussed on the possible development of the Cape for a space base. The meeting was 'gatecrashed' by some local graziers who took part in the lively debate. Aboriginal people felt that they were not being informed about plans or decisions until the last minute. The people on the Cape were very happy that ACF had employed an Aboriginal consultant to liaise on behalf of Aboriginal people and saw this as a step in the right direction.

I then bussed it back to Darwin and drove down for the ceremonial handover of the Nitmuluk Aboriginal Land title. These

and its concern for conservation and support for Aboriginal people on their own land.

It is increasingly clear that many Aboriginal communities are concerned about degraded land. So Phillip Toyne, ACF Director, asked Jane Elix, ACF's Natural Resources Co-ordinator, to work with me on this issue.

Jane and I travelled to Central Australia in January to follow up discussions about Aboriginal use of the land. Discussions are also continuing about the possibility of having a conference of Aboriginal groups in the area of pastoral land and environmental issues.

At the same time ACF is being asked to examine its own role in assisting management on Aboriginal land, its present contribution and commitment for the future.

action on urban-industrial environmental issues, such as pollution, hazardous chemicals and industrial people were also introduced to the ACF waste. The ACF is tackling these concerns, and is currently working in the following areas:

BACK TO THE CENTRE

industry conflict. discussing with building industry unions a phase-out act for organochlorine pesticides, and rehabilitation of disused sites contaminated with industrial waste.

 working with local unions on issues raised by the Latrobe Valley Waste Water Review Panel preliminary re-

· working with public transport unions to promote a coordinated national freight and passenger rail sys-

For more information on ACF's relations with the union movement contact Jonric Ridley, at ACF's Melbourne Office. 🗆

REN, ACF's Rural Environment Network newsletter will no longer be posted out as a separate publication. Instead, we will be boosting our coverage of landcare issues in Conservation News. This will ensure that all ACF members are well informed about rural conservation issues.



Building an enclosure to protect the Mala

NSW Pulp & Paper report -'environmental vandalism'

Conservationists have described the NSW Pulp and Paper Industry Task Force Report, released late last year, as environmental vandalism. An earlier NSW Government identified the pulp and paper industry as one of the fourteen major industries with the potential to drive the State's economy. The industry has since responded with a set of ambitious proposals to promote expansion on a grand scale.

The Industry Report recommendations focus on construction of two world-scale export-oriented bleached hardwood kraft pulp (BHKP) mills, to take advantage of a perceived market niche. These mills would consume up to 3.6 million tonnes of wood per annum. Industry is assuming virtually unlimited access to native forests, both public and private, since this amount is not currently available from plantations. ACF anticipates this strategy to be based on phasing out the existing woodchip export licences and not on providing resource that is additional to the amount exported. Even so, ACF does not believe there is sufficient resource to support long-term exploitation for world-scale mills, while also maintaining protection of old growth eucalypt for-

Sue Salmon, ACF's NSW Campaign Officer prepared a submission in February this year on the Industry Report within the context of achieving ecological sustainability. In the submission she emphasised that ACF's primary concern was for scientific assessment of the environmental significance of the forest ecosystem. The submission also called for a total integration of all components of the pulp and paper products industry, such as forestry and plantations; wood processing; forest product imports and exports; consumption and reuse of paper, paper products, and recy-

The report ignores non-wood values, the relevance of plantations, regional impacts in terms of diseconomies through pollution and disruption, trends to eco-friendly paper and recognition of the importance of recycled fibre; and lastly, the development of zero-discharge technology overseas

ACF sees the primary focus for industry as an import replacement strategy and the development of smaller, regional mills and integrated recycling centres, utilising waste paper, plantation thinnings and non wood feedstocks.

A glaring omission in the Report is the failure to address the critical environmental consequences of its recommenda. tions. ACF has stressed that the proposals will have significant impact - particularly on native forests - and must be subject to the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

ACF's NSW Office has requested meetings between State Parliamentarians and environment groups to discuss the ramifications of the Task Force Report before any proposals go to Cabinet for decision.

Members are asked to write to Nick Greiner, NSW Premier, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000, requesting that the Government develop a separate draft pulp and paper strategy and make it available for public comment.

by Bridgett Dowsett ACF, Sydney

Election 1990

Conservationists conduct winning campaign

Conservationists can claim much of | knowledgement of the Democrats posithe glory from the ALP victory in the recent Federal Election. The success of the "Vote for the Environment" campaign, launched by the ACF and The Wilderness Society, is clearly indicated in the analysis of the election

Firstly, the issue of environmental protection was increased dramatically over the period of the election. An opinion poll commissioned by the ACF just prior to the election showed 81 per cent of voters rated the environment as an important issue - one which would decide their vote. Opinion polls also showed a dramatic shift on the question of which party would best handle the tion and a drop in support for the Coalition on the issue.

Secondly, when it came to polling day, the analysis showed that in the nine electorates targetted by ACF and TWS, (Deakin and La Trobe, in Victoria, St George, Phillip and Eden-Monaro, in NSW, Fisher and Morton, in Queensland and Franklin in Tasmania) the campaign added 2.5 per cent to the ·Democrat and Independent vote and increased the proportion of their preferences to the ALP to 70 per cent compared to a national average of 60 per cent and a national figure of 55 per cent at the 1987 election. This was a crucial factor in the re-election of the ALP.

As well Democrats or Greens were environment, with an increasing ac-

In the nine seats where ACF distributed 'How to Vote Cards', approximately 38 per cent of Democrat votes followed our "Vote for the Environment" ticket and the swing away from the ALP on a two-party preferred basis was about 1 per cent less in these 9 seats than in the rest of Australia, It was also 2 -2.5 per cent less than what occurred in surrounding seats.

The success of the campaign is verified by both the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke and the new Leader of the Democrats, Michael Macklin, declaring the environment vote as highly significant in establishing the outcome of this election.

by Peter Allan Organiser of ACF Election Campaign

Victoria's arid wilderness close to full protection

Victoria's largest wilderness areas and almost all the unspoiled tracts of Mallee bushland, renowned for their international significance, are close to being fully protected in new and extended national parks and conservation reserves.

On 22nd March the State Government announced its intention to support the Land Conservation Council's Final Recommendations for the Mallee. In some important areas it will even improve upon them. Victoria's major conservation groups have welcomed the proposal and are now lobbying the State Opposition to support the legislation in Parliament, when next it meets.

The measures announced by the Government include the creation of the Murray-Sunset National Park. At 602,520 hectares this will be Victoria's second largest National Park. A further 220,000 hectares will be added to other Mallee parks, including the Wyperfeld National Park. Stock grazing will be phased out from conservation areas, particularly National Parks, and most significantly broombush harvesting will cease on public land by the end of June 1991. Broombush harvesting is seen by conservationists to be the greatest current threat to wilderness values on Mallee public land. Conservationists are hopeful that areas in the Big Desert, previously ear-marked for broombush harvesting will now be added to the parks, sometime in the near future. The Government also stated that it would investigate methods of providing adequate water flows to Wyperfeld National Park from the Wimmera River.



Mallee scrubland in Victoria's north-west. Photo: David Tatnall

The government's proposals and ensuing legislation deserve strong support. The only fly in the ointment is whether the Opposition will support the legislation. Please help. Write to Alan Brown, the Leader of the Opposition, Geoff Colman, the Shadow Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, and your local Member of Parliament. Urge them to support the new parks and particularly the phase out of broombush harvesting. Write also to John Cain, Premier of Victoria, and Kay Setches, Victorian Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, congratulating them on the Government's park proposal.

by Rod Waterman The Wilderness Society

Little light and no flair in SA Planning Review

The SA Government has announced that | the committee is an environmental expert | 1990 heralds the start of an intense two year period of statewide review of nature conservation, metropolitan and regional planning and revision of the City of Adelaide Plan.

All three of these studies should be integrated, environmentally driven, stimulated by a public vision for the future of SA, and facilitated by progressive experts in eco-social planning, the economics of natural resource accounting and environmental legislation. But they won't be.

In mid-March, the Premier of SA, John Bannon, officially launched the State Planning Review. It is to be headed by a Steering Committee of three men: Brian Hayes QC, an environmental lawyer, Dr Stephen Hamnett, Director of Planning at SA Institute of Technology and Paul Edwards of the SA Housing Trust - all eminently suitable for the task but the gender bias is cause for social concern. Also notably absent on

- a fact which conservationists find most disconcerting.

At the last SA election the Bannon Government promised to provide a "greener" future - a visionary time filled with "light and flair". Instead, it appears to be treading the same blinkered path as

The Premier seems to have missed the fact that the world is in the grip of an enormous environmental upheaval. Unprecedented, globally responsible decisions regarding the production and use of CFCs and energy, the conservation and management of all natural resources (both renewable and non-renewable), and the protection of bio-diversity must affect all aspects of planning in the State over the next decade.

Staff in ACF's SA office are committed to maximising this unique opportunity offered by the State Government to set the agenda in planning for environmental change. However, with a Government which feels that environmental issues belong only to 'lobby groups', such as the ACF, conservationists feel distinctly handicapped. Our Government has yet to learn that the environment belongs to noone, but responsibility for its condition belongs to everyone.

You can help. Write to the Premier, John Bannon, State Administration Centre, Victoria Square, Adelaide, 5000 and to the Editor, The Advertiser, King William Street, Adelaide, 5000, urging the State Government to immediately appoint an environmental consultant to the State Planning Review Steering Committee, and to recognise the central role of the environment in the integrated planning of South Australia's future.

> by Jacquie Gillen SA Campaign Officer

CONSERVATION NEWS, April, 1990 - 7

A chance for the rainforests of Papua New Guinea

largest remaining areas of tropical forest in the Asia/Pacific region. The nation is renowned as one of the world's an indictment of the entire industry. great storehouses of biodiversity.

Of PNG's total area of 46.2 million hectares some 78 per cent is covered by forest. These contain more than 11,000 species of plants, Many are unique to PNG, including 36 species of the country's famous birds of paradise.

Recognizing the outstanding conservation values of the forests and the economic worth of the timber they contain, in 1988 the PNG Government requested the preparation of a Tropical Forest Action Plan

apua New Guinea has one of the The forestry sector in PNG is in a mess. The report of the PNG Government's Commission of Inquiry into Forestry was

In 1989, Commissioner Mr Justice Barnett reported that 'current logging practices are extremely and unnecessarily damaging to the environment and to future timber harvests'. The Judge said that, with only one exception, 'all logging operations inspected could be described as "rip-out" operations. Virtually no regard is paid to the requirement to preserve the timber industry in the forest being logged."

In addition to hopelessly inadequate supervision of logging practices, Mr Justice Barnett found that corruption was rife throughout the industry, leading him to say that it was "out of control"

The TFAP for the conservation and management of PNG's forests has recently been completed by a World Bank team The report includes proposals to create a series of nature reserves and World Heritage areas and to reduce the rate of logging by 40 per cent.

The TFAP has been welcomed by the PNG Government. The Government has lieves that ',.. it could lead to major, vitally needed reforms', However, the PNG Govemment has urged the strengthening of what it perceives as "weaknesses" in the area of conservation management.

The PNG Government has called for



Site of a village in the Kuldargi area, New Britain, PNG, razed by Stetton Bay Lumbar Company (SBLC). for logging in the area. Unaware of any official avenue of redress, no complaint was lodged by the villagers. The Company is owned by Nisho-Awai, a multinational Japanese logging company, which owns the largest logging concessions in PNG. The TFAP cites the need for a nasonal registration system of land ownership which would halt exploitation of traditional landowners. UPhotosby Brendan Condon, BWIU Environment Committee

changes to the Plan to better address the shortcomings. These include:

The establishment of a national registration system for the ownership of customary land. As some 97 per cent of PNG is customary land, the absence of such a system strongly encourages short-term exploitation. Uncertainty of tenure, the PNG Government says, 'contributes very strongly to the existing cut-out-and-getout mentality of investors in the forest sector and ... creates grave difficulties for the establishment of any conservation areas'.

 The proposed rapid appraisal of forest resources be expanded to include assessment of ecological and conservation aspects rather than just timber values.

• The list of proposed reserves be expanded to ensure a representative system of protected areas,

Non-government organisations (NGOs) in PNG say that any strategy must acknowledge the basic fact that land ownership remains overwhelmingly with traditional owners. Every phase of the development of the strategy - from survey, through project formulation to negotiation of agreements - must then be undertaken in

Government's recommendations are incorporated in the final TFAP Action Programme, then it will deserve the support of the international community.

Australia must play its part in this process, PNG would benefit from the provision of Australian logistic and technical assistance for rainforest conservation. As the largest aid donor to PNG, Australia has a responsibility to help our nearest neighbour protect its outstanding natural re-

Australian environment and overseas aid groups have called on the Australian Government to establish a Tropical Forests Conservation Programme within the framework of the existing international Environmental Assistance programme.



SBLC logging yard in West New Britain (PNG) .

The groups urged the Australian government to provide substantial additional funds to be made available for the implementation of selected projects under the PNG TFAP as a first stage of the Tropical Forests Conservation Programme.

Australian assistance should focus on projects directed at conservation of PNG's tropical forests in close cooperation with the traditional landholders. This means that Australia should offer assistance in such areas as:

a rapid appraisal of areas of conservation significance, with the objective of identifying a fully representative system of parks If these concerns and the PNG and reserves totalling no less than 20 per

· linking existing landholder organisations, assisting with the formation of new groups, and helping to establish regional and national co-ordinating bodies. This would be aimed at developing an integrated network of landholder organisations able to competently represent the interests of landholders in negotiations with government.

· funding pilot protected areas projects, and trial alternative approaches, appropriate to the different cultural and natural environments of PNG, to the problem of protected area management.

strengthening the capacity of PNG nongovernment environment groups to work with landholder groups and government

agencies, and to undertake the task of raising community awareness of conservation values.

establish and financially support a national trust fund to help landholder groups develop sustainable village-based development enterprises which are less environmentally destructive then commercial log-

Australian assistance should be contingent on a commitment from the PNG Government that the tropical forest conservation programme will be designed and implemented in close co-operation with landholders and PNG non-government organi-

The opportunity to achieve proper conservation and management of PNG's forests is fast disappearing.

As South East Asia's forests of are logged out, timber export volumes from countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia will fall. This will result in increased demands being made on PNG's forests.

Without help to strengthen its conservation and forestry sectors, the PNG Government will be unable to prevent its magnificent forests and the myriad life forms they contain being all but destroyed, as has ocby Michael McGrath

Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) & Michael Res, World Wide Fund for Nature - Austrolla (WWF)

NEW BOOKS

You've heard his lecture. Now buy his book, David Suzuki's new book, Inventing the Future is amongst the titles available this month from Conservation Books. To order this or other books on conservation and related issues, please contact Gary Wardrope, Conservation Books Co-ordinator, at ACF's Melbourne office, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, VIc, 3065, tel: (03) 416 1455, [toll free (008) 338 928]. If possible, include the author and gadgets, equipment and machinery used to



Inventing The Future. Reflections on Science Technology & Nature

D. Suzuki: A & U. 1990, \$16.95 Suzuki's first collection of critical essays in which he questions the limits of scientific knowledge for the sake of our environment and quality of life. The book is dedicated to the aboriginal peoples of the world whomSuzuki believes have much to teach us about living in harmony with our envi-

Flora of South-Eastern Queensland, Vol. 3

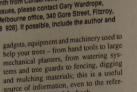
T. Stanley & E. Ross: QDPI, 1989, 532pp, \$40.00

The final volume in this series contains all the species of monocotyledons plus all the species of the Gymnospermae known to occur in south-eastern Queensland. It also features a complete index of scientific name and common names for the three volumes. This book is a must for botanical

Regreening Australia, Caring for Young Trees, Vol. 2,

N. Oates: CSIRO, 1990, 61pp, paperback, \$9.95

This follows the popular first volume. Described here a selection of



ence list at the end of the book. Bicycle Tours of Southeastern Australia

J. Thorn: Kangaroo, 1989, 120pp, paperback, \$9.95

Some say cycling is the best way to see and enjoy a place. The book describes routes for long distance rides of one or two weeks' duration, as well as detailed route guides for ten hour rides, noting points of interest, campsites and other accommodation, shops and facilities.

The Yarra Book. An Urban Wildlife Gulde G. Waterman et al: MMBW, 1988, 65pp,

paperback, \$3.95 A useful and colorful guide that will enable identification of over 120 animals and plants seen along the Yarra River.



The Bushfood Handbook

V. Cherikoff & J. Isaacs, Ti Tree, 1989. 208pp. \$39.95

A comprehensive text which explains how to gather, grow, process and cook Austratian wild foods, with a suggestion that we do not forage the wild plants out of existence. Also included is a section detailing a method to create your own backyard foraging patch.

Among the many recipes given are some from leading chefs encouraging a unique Australian cuisine. There are also chapters on bush survival and a regional listing of food species.

Flower Power In the Australian Bush and Garden

J. Taylor: Kangaroo, 1989, 80pp, \$29.95 An introduction to some of the fascinating inter-relationships between insects and plants.

DON'T FORGET ...

Australian Tropical Series

C & D Frith: Tropical Australia Graphics, 1985-1988,

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Don't miss out on this excellent series depicting the animal and plant life of Australia's north. They include many vivid colour photographs and accompanying informative text.

To order these books, send cheque with order to ACF Conservation Books, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065. ACF members may deduct 10 % discount on books only. Discounts do not apply to other ACF products.

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WATCHING BRIEF is Australia's only national current affairs programme covering peace and the environment. For one hour a week on over thirty public radio stations around Australia, WATCHING BRIEF examines the issues, the campaigns and the political context of the conser-

If you are concerned about the environment, tune in to WATCHING BRIEF.

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ACF supports WATCHING BRIEF

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Europe sets the pace in greenhouse gas reductions

their approach to climate change. This finishes its report in August, 1990. This was clearly apparent at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held in Washington in early February. Developing countries, on the added a call for: other hand, were noted for their increasingly thoughtful and organized re- tion containing basic obligations to prosponse. The meeting was called to dis-tect atmosphere and reduce emissions. cuss the progress of its working groups in producing a report on the state of the world's climate, and on policy options for responding to the threat of global warming. It attracted on unprecedented number of delegates and NGO (nongovernment organizations) representatives.

A group of European nations, led by the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria, along with six other EEC countries, Sweden and Norway revealed a strong concern for industrialized nations to demonstrate a commitment to developing countries to deal effectively with the global climate problem.

The positive action on the part of these nations was clearly frustrated by what they perceived to be delaying tactics of the USA, Japan and UK delegates.

The frustration rising from constraints of the IPCC process led to a proposal from Austria for preparations to begin negotiations for a global cli-



Cartoon by Tandberg

Industrialized nations are all but split in mate convention, as soon as the IPCC move was supported by a number of European countries, particularly the Federal Republic of Germany which

- · A global framework climate convenand a protocol for C02 to be ready for signing by 1992.
- Protocols (agreements that implement the general commitments given in the framework convention) to be negotiated along with the framework convention negotiations,
- The IPCC to develop the elements of the convention and for it to analyse the policy options required to implement the targets adopted at the Noordwijk Ministerial meeting in November 1989.

Interestingly the USA and Japan opposed these moves and tried to have them removed from the minutes of the IPCC meeting. The Austrian proposal was also opposed by the USA, Japan and UK

There is a legitimate concern amongst some nations that if global climate convention negotiations are moved ahead too quickly the end result could be a weak convention. Outweighing this consideration is the urgency of the problem. In addition, the length of time spent negotiating an international treaty is no guarantee of ultimate success. The Montreal protocol, dealing with ozone depleting substances, such as CFCs and halons, is a good example of the value of a process that captures the most important nations first and then over time allows for more countries to join the agreement.

It could well be that the European nations will effectively set the pace on global moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with Japan and the USA forced to follow suit.

by Bill Hare ACF Research and Policy Analyst

NOTES

"The forest is our livelihood. We have lived here before any of you outsiders came. We fished in clean rivers ... Now the logging companies turn rivers into muddy streams and the jungle into devastation. ... We ask for help from people all over the world. Don't take our forest and culture and our dignity away." Penan Elders, January 1989.

New campaign to support Penan

ACF's Rainforest Campaign to Save the Penan coincided with the launch of the widely acclaimed book: Rainforests -A Celebration. Both were launched by ACF's President, Peter Garrett at Melbourne's Botanical Gardens, on Thursday 24th March. The book is both a visual and scientific celebration of the world's rainforests, and is a coordinated work by world experts and internationally acclaimed photographers.

In his opening address, Peter Garrett stated that Australia has a 'primary responsibility to support the Penan'. The Penan people are the indigenous people of Sarawak, in East Malaysia. They attracted international notice last year with their vehement campaign to save their homelands from being logged. In his speech Peter Garret made a plea to all Australians to write to the Prime Minister asking that Australian assistance be offered to these

Doubleday, publishers of Rainforests - A Celebration have kindly donated a contribution from each book sold in Australia to the ACF Penan Campaign. The book is available from ACF Conservation Books, for \$45,00.

For information on ACF's Penan Campaign contact Paul Davenport or Felicity Wishart at the Melbourne Office. tel: (03) 416 1455. [toll free: (008) 338 928). [



A hectic start for ACF Victorian Campaign Officer

Peter Allan was appointed as ACF's Victorian Campaign Co-ordinator at the end of last year. Before coming to ACF he was the

Democrats Senior Vice-President in Victoria, and on the staff of Democrat Senator, Janet Powell.

His first months with ACF have been hectic. Not only has he played a key role in resolving the East Gippsland forest dispute, but has also assisted in coordinating ACF's election campaign in the recent Federal election.

In the course of his job Peter will give priority to forestry issues, recycling, energy sources, the Very Fast Train, industrial waste and green consumer issues. On a more domestic level he has set up a highly successful paper recycling scheme for ACF's Melbourne Office. If you are interested in discussing issues relating to Victoria you can contact Peter on (03) 416 1455. The appointment of a Victorian campaigner is most welcome, and has taken the pressure of many others in the ACF office!

INVENTING THE FUTURE

with special thanks to The Body Shop

What effect will deforestation have on the environment? How is acid-rain transforming ecosystems? Are scientists selling us out to the military and big business? Such questions were addressed by David Suzuki, at his recent reception at the Melbourne Concert Hall, on 3rd April. The reception was sponsored by The Body Shop, a firm renowned for its sensitivity on environmental issues and health-care, the ABC Shop, and the publishers of his book, Inventing the Future, Allen and Unwin. All proceeds of the evening have been donated to the ACF Antarctica World Park Campaign. Inventing the Future is available through ACF Conservation Books.

ACF is very grateful for the support given by The Body Shop for David Suzuki's reception. It is a company which follows the principles advocated by the ACF, by ensuring the environmental safety of its products, as well offering refill services and recycling its waste and paper wherever possible. Would that there were more such companies.

CAPE YORK SLIDE NIGHT

Are you interested in learning more about Cape York Peninsula?

Paul Davenport is working on ACF's Tropical Forests campaign in Melbourne. He is arranging a night of slides and discussion sometime in May. Contact him on (03) 416 1455, if you would like to attend. The date is still to be fixed.

ACF RAFFLE 1990

Ring for your raffle books now. Call the raffle hotline on (008) 338 928 or (02) 247 1497

Drawn at 12.00 noon, at ACF's Sydney Office Friday, 8th June, 1990 Winners will be announced in the July issue of Conservation News.

The draw is part of ACF's World Environment week programme.

your chance to win \$10,000 worth of Apple MacIntosh Computer equipment to suit your specific needs. Try your luck to win any combination of Apple equipment of your choice, such as the MAC SE 220, Image Writer Letter Quality Printer, Works (Word processing, Spread Sheet, database, Accounting, Graphics) oftware package plus two days free training. OR the MAC 2 Colour system, modular equipment, Works (Word

processing, Spread Sheet, Database, accounting, Graphics) oftware package plus two days free training. Available through Random Access.

An extensive range of outdoor and adventure equipment for two, to the value of \$2,500. Provided by Mountain Designs, the selection includes two Mountain Designs "Travellite 450" downsleeping bags, two Mountain Designs "Rongbuk" rucksacks, two Mountain Designs "Classic" Polar Plus jackets, a Eureka Timberline" two person tent, two thermarest air mattresses, Trekkers" walking boots, a "BookPak" daypack, a "Trangla 27-I" stove and cookset and two (1 ltr) Sigg drink bottles.

Third Prize - DRESS UP FOR DROVING

Four coats and hats for your family, or friends. Stylish Drover's Coats, all natural fibre weatherproof Japara, 100 per cent otton, in a choice of elegant natural earth colours; adult and hildren's sizes - made to order - with Australiana design linings. Provided by Oztex Design. Value \$1,300.

low are your muscles? Getting better if you win the Diamond ack Topanga (men's or women's) Mountain Bike. Provided by lepco Cycles, It is valued at \$595.

A voucher worth \$300 could be yours to spend with ACF nterprises. Our new catalogue features a wide variety of seautiful and environmentally friendly products for you to

Raille books must be returned to ACF's Sydney Office, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, 2000. [tel: (02) 247 1497] by Monday, 21st May 1990.

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SPECIAL DRAW

TICKET SELLER'S PRIZE

By selling a book of ACF 1990 Raffle tickets you will become eligible to win a five day 4WD adventure safari for two people to Kakadu/Manyallaluk/Arnhemland. Valued at \$3,500 Land content provided by Terra Safari Tours, NT.

(Due to State regulations, SA residents cannot obtain raffle ticket books from interstate, and are therefore excluded from entering this section of the ACF raffle.)

LETTERS

It's not easy to be green

Patricia Prince

Cooktown, Queensland

Being a conscientious consumer and an active conservationist at the same time ain't easy!

For instance, only shore who keep their consumption of tumber and metal products to the bareat minimum are entitled to oppose logging and mining! Anyone who drives a car where public transport is available is not entitled to complain about local pollution nor the greenhouse over-effect! (sic). Anyone who is not prepared to transfer personal resources from private to public transport is not entitled to complain about public transport (People who enjoy the dubious advantages of computers in so many daily transactions benefit from sandming!

Only those who keep their direct and indirect consumption of silicon to the barest minimum are entitled to oppose sandmining. Anyone who has bought equipment containing CPCs (eg: refragerators, foam plastic insulation, air-conditioning, central-heating, etc) or takes advantage of such equipment in public places, in the past ten years is not entitled to feel guildess about ozone depletion!

Anyone who uses synthetic materials contributes to acid rain, toxic waste, and so on. And meat eaters take note: "85 per cent of US topsoil loss is directly related to livestock raising." (John Robbins: Diet for a New America)

Have there been any demonstrations/ boycotts to demand better public transport, CFC-free products or vehicles with catalytic converters?

Scientists seem to agree that, unless CO₂ emission is reduced by 20 per cent by 2005 the greenhouse over-effect will be irreversible. Yet, 1989 was a bumper year for new car sales in Australia and the annual rate of CO₂ emission worldwide is still increasing. Ozone has been depleted by 5 per cent in the past ten years and depletion will probably continue at the same rate for at least another ten years because of all the CFCs already in existence – that would

mean nearly 10 per cent less corone than normal. And it has been calculated that, even if all CPC production were to stop immediately, it would take the ozone layer 200 years to recover!

Yet the use of products containing CFCs seems to be continuing unabated, except for spraycan propellant which is a very small part of the problem.

There is so little evidence that individuals are making the crucial, rapid, radical changes away from 'normal', affluent lifestyles which are essential to save life on earth!

Plantations: small price to pay for forests

David Erskine Griffith, NSW, 2680

Those who support woodchipping seem tobelieve that there is no economic alternative. This is not the case. Growing trees in plantations will cost more than felling native forests, but the difference in retail price of paper products is small.

The raw material cost in a roll of paper towel is three cents. A roll of paper towel weighs about 200 grams and costs about a dollar. Woodchips are worth about \$80 a tonne, that is eight cents a kilogram. Half the raw weight is lost when making paper, giving an effective raw material cost of sixteen cents a kilogram, or three cents per roll

A steep rise in the cost of growing wood will only mean a small rise in retail cost. It is best to get the logging industry on side. If there were a high Government supported price for plantation wood chips, there would be less opposition to conservation demands for preserving native forests. Q

We welcome your letters. Your response to the issues we are dealing with and your comments are a valuable contribution to this newsletter. Please keep your letters to less than 300 words.

Sustain environment not development

A.G. Colle

Colong Foundation for Wilderness, NSW I was disappointed to read (Conservation News, February 1990) that the conservation movement 'is seeking a balance between the need for sustainable development and the protection of our valuable environmental heritage.'

Since neither sustainable development nor our environmental heritage can be weighed or counted the word 'balance' is meaningless. It is invariably used by development interests to justify whatever environmental damage they contemplate.

"Sustainable development" means increasing the rate of exploitation of our depleted natural resources forever. It is the environment which needs to be sustained, not development.

And we didn't inherit the environment, we just took it.

No more plastic!

Ruby Boutcher,

Carrum Downs, Victoria

After watching Question of Survival (Channel 2, 14th February) telling us, the public, about the dangers of plastic, I feel it should be directed to the Govenrment. After all our goods on the supermarket shelves are in plastic bottles and containers.

I cannot buy lemonade or cordial in glass at our local supermarket, but I am grateful Velvet soap and powder are still in cardboard

The butcher next door wraps our meat in plastic instead of white paper, then we are asked to carry our goods out in plastic bags. Where have all the brown paper bags gone? So what is the public to do, when the Government appears to be unable, or do not want to do anything.

They talk about America with their pollution problems, unless something is done soon we could have the same problem, but unless it is a vote catcher we can expect it to continue for some time to come.

ACF BRANCHES AND CAMPAIGN GROUPS

Busy times ahead for new WA Branch

ACF has a new Branch in south WA. With no other organised conservation organization within the region the South-Coast Branch was used to harness local energy to face the myriad environmental issues confronting the region.

with the woodchipping inclustry placing enormous pressure on the region's natural forest resources; the threat of mining companies, unting access to the national parks; encroaching sand-mining proposals; the pollution of significant waterways; plus land degradation and salimity problems, the scattered ACF membership in the region decided to call a public meeting to gauge support for the idea of esidentify the new Branch. The meeting was held on 17th January, Seventy people came and by the end of it ACF had gained the Southross Branch and fifteen new members.

ACF Councillor, Simon Neville chaired the meeting and explained ACF's Forward Plan and the constitutional aspects of starting up a new Branch. Neil Blake, ACF's WA Campaign Officer came down from Perth and spoke about ACF's state and national campaigns. The meeting elected a diverse group of people to sit on the executive, ranging from farmers and builders to teachers, social workers and nurses. This augurs well for the future of the Branch as it looks towards the vigorous task of meeting south WA environmental

by Lawrence Emery Secretary, South-Coast Branch, Wil

VICTORIA

Albury-Wodonga

Marty Greig (060) 215 837 (bh) or Environment Centre (060) 212 627 (bh)

Ballarat Barry Golding (053) 456 343 (ah)

Diamond Valley Jann Lauri (03) 439 3460 (ah) or Gerald Sutton (03) 439 4298 (ah)

Gippsland
David Haynes (051) 955 462 (ah) or
Angela Gilbert (051) 746 037 (ah)

Mullum Dorothy McLennan (03) 726 7117 (ah)

North East Victoria Geoff Conway (057) 218 667 (ah)

Portland Max Phillips (055) 233 023 (ah)

Sunraysia Mallee A. Hymer (050) 234 554

Wimmera Daniel Waffler (053) 823 009 (ah) or Barry Clugston (053) 582 831 (ah)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bunbury Adrian or Wendy Colley (097) 215 384

Paul Lavers (097) 343 512

David Bennett (09) 387 2126 South-Coast Branch Lawrence Emery (098) 451 042

NEW SOUTH WALES

Blue Mountains

Terri Hamilton (047) 82 4554 or John Thompson (047) 51 1519 Central Coast

Greg Roberts (043) 822 483 (ah) Hunter Region

Nav Brah (049) 528 542 (ah) Illawarra

Cheryl Aldrich (042) 291 625 (ah) Sydney

Stephen Page (050) 233 870 (ah) Shoalhaven

Julie Hilditch (044) 410 314 Northern Riverina Wendy Avery ((069) 723 093

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Central Australia Matthew Guggisberg (089) 526 782 (bh)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide Nele Findlay (08) 276 8652 (ah)

QUEENSLAND

Atherton Tablelands Virginia Simmons (070) 958 302 (ah)

Brisbane Paula Newman (07) 397 0647(ah) Mary River

Mary River Magdalena Steffens (071) 29 2211 Gold Coast

Greg Owens (075) 386 877

ACT

67

Kathryn Kelly (062) 825 366 (ah) or (062) 893 191 (bh) or Mike McCrath (062) 571 860 (ah) or (062)976 144 (bh)



CAMPAIGN GROUPS

Melbourne

Antarctic Campaign Group = David Westlake (03) 416 1455 (bh). Membership Campaign Group = Trish Brawn (03) 416 1455 (bh). Tropical Forest Campaign Group = Felicity Wishart (03) 416 1455 (bh). BRISBANE

Cape York Campaign Group – Mark Horstman (07) 229 7715 Coast Campaign Group – Phillip Cosser (07) 341 4440 Greenhouse Campaign Group – Tim Easton (07) 378 8364

SYDNEY
Atmosphere Campaign Group—
Sue Salmon (02) 271 497 (bh)
Forest Campaign Group =
Bruce Dover (02) 234 4220
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lesueur Campaign Group = Colma Keating (09) 368 1562

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ACF RENEWALS NOW DUE

It's time to renew your ACF Membership.

You will soon receive your annual renewal notice for membership
and HABITAT subscription.

Please take the time to read the accompanying letter, before completing and returning your renewal form to ACF's Melbourne Office.

Help us to keep up the pace. ACF is one of the strongest and most influential environmental groups in Australia at this time. In the past year membership has grown enormously, and together we have made huge changes towards protecting our environment. It is only through you, as members, that ACF can continue to campaign strongly and effectively. Encourage your friends and your family to join ACF. Give them the new members form below; and please, send in your renewal form so that your monthly issue of Conservation News and HABITAT mailings will continue without interruption. And don't forget that ACF members receive a discounted subscription to HABITAT-Australia – Australia's leading full colour environment magazine.

If you need more information, do not hesitate to ring us on (03) 416 1455 [toll free: (008) 338 928] or by contacting your State ACF Office.

Please sign me up:

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- A Mark Mitchell & Colin Carpenter Acropolis Naw Team
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- contact with like-minded people through ACF Branches and Campaign Groups, an active role in protecting the environment, satisfaction of knowing you are part of a national body that works to

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