

# VICTORIA'S RESOURCES

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## CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES





## *Acknowledgements*

Because most of this number is occupied by statements on behalf of political parties and conservation organisations, rather than by articles by individual authors, no notes about authors are included. The League is nonetheless grateful to those who prepared the statements and those who provided photographs.

To lighten what some might find a rather heavy number, opportunity is taken to introduce Connie and Phil., brain and pen children of our Assistant Director (Administration). These two young conservationists first appeared in a duplicated sheet some time ago, since when they have been in modest retirement.



## *The Audubon Society of America*

### Statement of Philosophy

1. We believe in the wisdom of Nature's design.
2. We know that soil, water, plants, and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life.
3. We recognise that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature.
4. We believe that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance.
5. We condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no living species shall be lost.
6. We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive Nature is undisturbed.
7. So we will be vigilant to protect wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of Nature's storehouse of resources.
8. We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders for ever.

# VICTORIA'S RESOURCES

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

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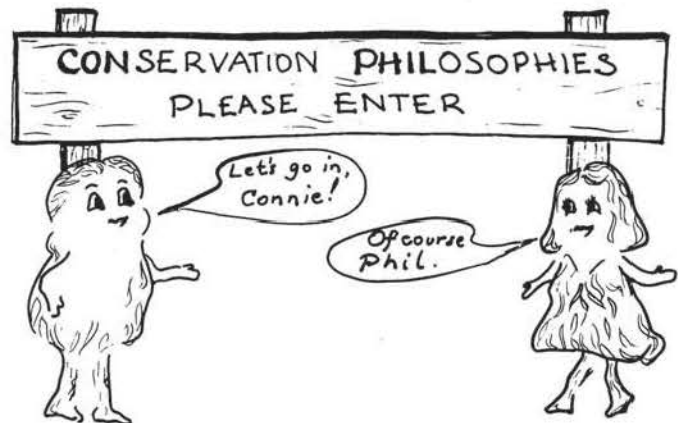
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**EDITOR'S NOTE:**—The views and opinions expressed by writers of articles in this publication are not necessarily those of the League nor of the Editor.

**FRONT COVER:** Pastoral symphony.  
Photo: Courtesy A. Mitchell, Soil Conservation Authority.

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Philosophies lead to policies; policies lead to planning; planning (hopefully) leads to action — and from the first step to the last there are differences of opinion. Perhaps it would be a dull old world if there weren't!

Conservation of natural resources is a field in which differences of opinion have received increasing publicity over recent years — a good sign when such differences are soundly based and debated, as they sometimes are, for then they reflect increasing informed public awareness and interest, and therefore high hopes for the years to come. For it is the years ahead that will reap the benefit when discussions of today lead to reason prevailing over the extremes of the "Idealist" and the "Realist".

Because differences of opinion have their roots in differences in philosophies and consequent attitudes it was decided to devote this number of "Victoria's Resources" to statements setting out some of these in relation to the conservation of natural resources. Perhaps a better understanding of the philosophies of others will help to iron out difficulties in arriving at mutually satisfactory decisions.

Perhaps this number could serve as a reference point from which we may compare our future attitudes and philosophies with those of the past and learn by our experience of change.

It is an unusual number, and may not appeal to all readers, but please follow the example of Connie and Phil. Have a look inside.



# A PLACE TO LIVE

## SOME BORROWED THOUGHTS

A place to live! That's what they are about, the conservation philosophies and attitudes to which this number is devoted. For after all, the earth is the place where we have to live, and those philosophies are concerned with the earth and its resources.

"A Place to Live" is also the title of the United States Department of Agriculture Yearbook, 1963 — a book with a different overall theme from that of this number, but with some references so relevant to the situation facing conservation planning in Australia today that they have been borrowed to set the stage for the statements of philosophy that follow. In all but the last of the references extracted, "Australia" might well be substituted where America is named or implied, and that final extract quotes a claim that Australia could, perhaps, contest. All the extracts except the first are from editorial introductions to various sections of the book, the exception being from the foreword by the then secretary for Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

"This is a time and this is a book that call for discussion, cooperation, and vision to channel great forces of change in directions that ensure that America will always be a good place to live.

The signs of change are everywhere. We see them in the growth or decline of communities, the building of highways and other facilities, the moving of people to new homes and jobs, the renewal of cities and the growth of suburbs, the enlargement of some farms and the disappearance of others, questions about the place of family farms as a dynamic force in agricultural production, shifts in the uses of land, and changes in our human relationships, institutions, and aspirations in rural and urban America alike.

But the meaning and the relentless force of the changes and their diversity become fully clear only if we fit them into a broad perspective, just as we need a map of all major highways, not only the roads in our own country, when we start a long trip."

### "CHANGES IN PEOPLE.

All history, all problems, all plans, all changes have meaning only in terms of people, of me and

my family and my neighbors: How and where we live, what we think, how we act, how we get along in life. People are not norms and statistics, but norms and statistics are an index of a population that is becoming more urban, more industrialized, more mobile, older, more harried, more questioning, more urbane, further away from tradition. What remains of their old values? Were those values good? Which values should we try for?"

### "LAND.

Land is a many-splendored thing. Crops grow on it. . . . . We use land for homes, cities, highways, forests, junkyards, parks. To some of us, land is a piece of the earth to be cherished; to some, it is a commodity to be exploited. We have been fortunate in having much land of many types, but we have been wasteful. . . . . We need therefore to review the potential of our land to see how well it will meet future needs for food, forest products, urban uses, and recreation and how effectively we can shift from one use to another — but we cannot enlarge the extent of our precious land. It is all we have."

### "WATER AND AIR.

We do not appreciate good, fresh air until smog chokes our cities and gases despoil the countryside. That has been happening and will get worse if we are not careful. . . . . Pollution of water is a growing hazard, although great efforts are made to control it, for we are coming to realize that pollution that occurs in urban areas affects long stretches of the streams and all water uses beyond the city boundaries. . . . . Air pollution is the result of our activities, and we — each of us, not somebody else — must accept responsibility for it. How else can we insure a good place to live?"

### "COMMUNITIES.

A community is people who have common laws, interest, and hopes but not necessarily the same viewpoints, resources, or awareness

of change and needs. A community may be a village, township, State, country. Whatever its size and wherever it is, the community has undergone great change, for good or ill, and faces problems of growth and adjustment or of declining population and inadequate services."

### "RECREATION: RE-CREATION.

The words are much the same. Recreation has become a basic ingredient of American life because of higher productivity, more leisure, a shorter workweek, and more income. We work hard; we need to play, walk, sit, think, and so to re-create body and mind. But where? Parks in cities need to be established, enlarged, or refurbished. Plans for play places are needed in growing suburbs. Farm forests, under multiple use, offer opportunities for farmers and visitors. In the "scatteration" that attends urban expansion, land may be bypassed and abandoned to weeds; it can be precious open space for recreation and considered growth. Our sea-shores, lakeshores, and riverbanks, long neglected, demand constant vigilance against exploitation. Our new system of highways can serve purposes besides transport — rest stops, picnic grounds, places to learn more about man and Nature. Our national parks and forests are within reach of more and more travelers. We need to cherish and protect them. A good environment for man must include some areas that are wild; for them, let us have enduring policies and programs."

### "WHAT TO DO.

Underlying all is the need to husband what we have. In the words of Congressman Jamie L. Whitten of Mississippi: Events have proved, since the beginning of our Nation, that we have wasted more natural resources in a shorter period of time than any nation in history. We can see that unless all of us, through the instrument of Government, set the pace we will go still further downhill." □

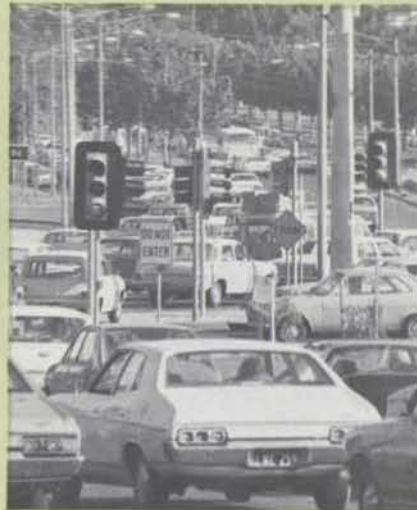


# BACKGROUND OF URBAN LIVING

The page is included to stimulate your thinking about conservation of natural resources in relation to that background.



All photos  
courtesy  
Herald &  
Weekly Times





# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 1. VICTORIAN LIBERAL PARTY

Presented by the Hon. R. J. Hamer, E.D., M.P., Premier of Victoria

## CONSERVATION AND GOVERNMENT

Governments are required to make a multitude of decisions concerning all aspects of community welfare. Decision making is more difficult, and will almost certainly be inconsistent if a government does not have a basic philosophy, within which policies for each of the various tasks of government such as transport, health, education, conservation and others may be developed.

At the recent election I said that the twofold aim of a Liberal Government would be —

- \* to preserve the importance of the individual in a free society; and

- \* to enhance the quality of life for all its citizens.

These aims constitute our basic philosophy. They prescribe the total task of providing conditions under which citizens can live their own lives in their own way, in security, in freedom from want or prejudice, and with equal opportunity; but enjoying at the same time a quality of life which is physically, socially, aesthetically, culturally and environmentally satisfying and complete.

Conservation is broadly the proper use and management of resources in the long-term interest of the community. Easy to say, but extremely difficult to interpret and

apply to particular circumstances. Obviously it has many facets. It embraces the whole notion of preserving our natural heritage, our countryside and our unique wildlife; it involves and requires the protection of our physical environment, and the prevention of degradation or pollution of air, water, or soil.

But it goes much further. It requires and involves the recognition that two vital things are finite; many of the resources on which mankind at present depends, especially minerals and fossil fuels; and the capacity of the environment to accept the increasing volume of wastes of an industrialized society.

Plainly, the words "conservation" and "environment", mean different things to different people, and it is largely because of differing interpretations of these concepts that conflicts arise on so called "conservation issues".

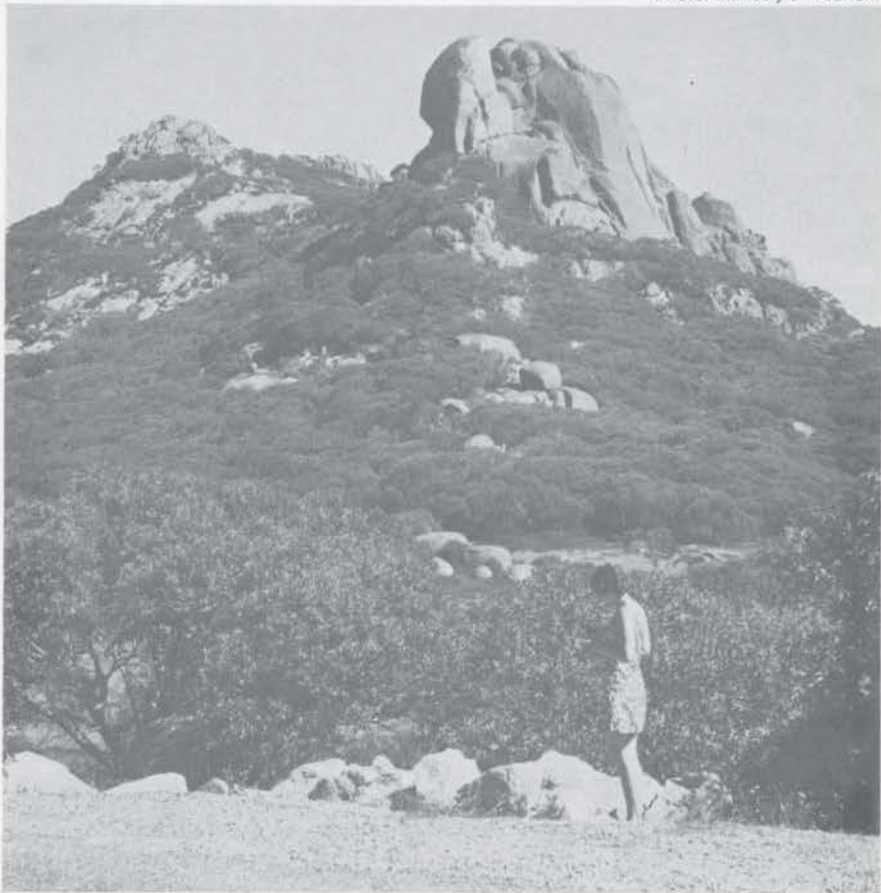
Conservation was born of sheer necessity as man began to realize that some terrible and costly mistakes had occurred from attempts to exploit the environment to serve specific purposes. From this arose two possible conservation philosophies; the first, a negative preservationist approach which condemned almost any change in the environment as being harmful and undesirable; the second, a more positive concept, based on the understanding of the nature and dynamics of the interactions between the soils, plants and animals, and their capacity for being used safely for the variety of purposes required to satisfy the needs of man.

In a modern society the second concept is not only ecologically more correct, but it is also the only practical means for satisfying the great variety of needs of our community.

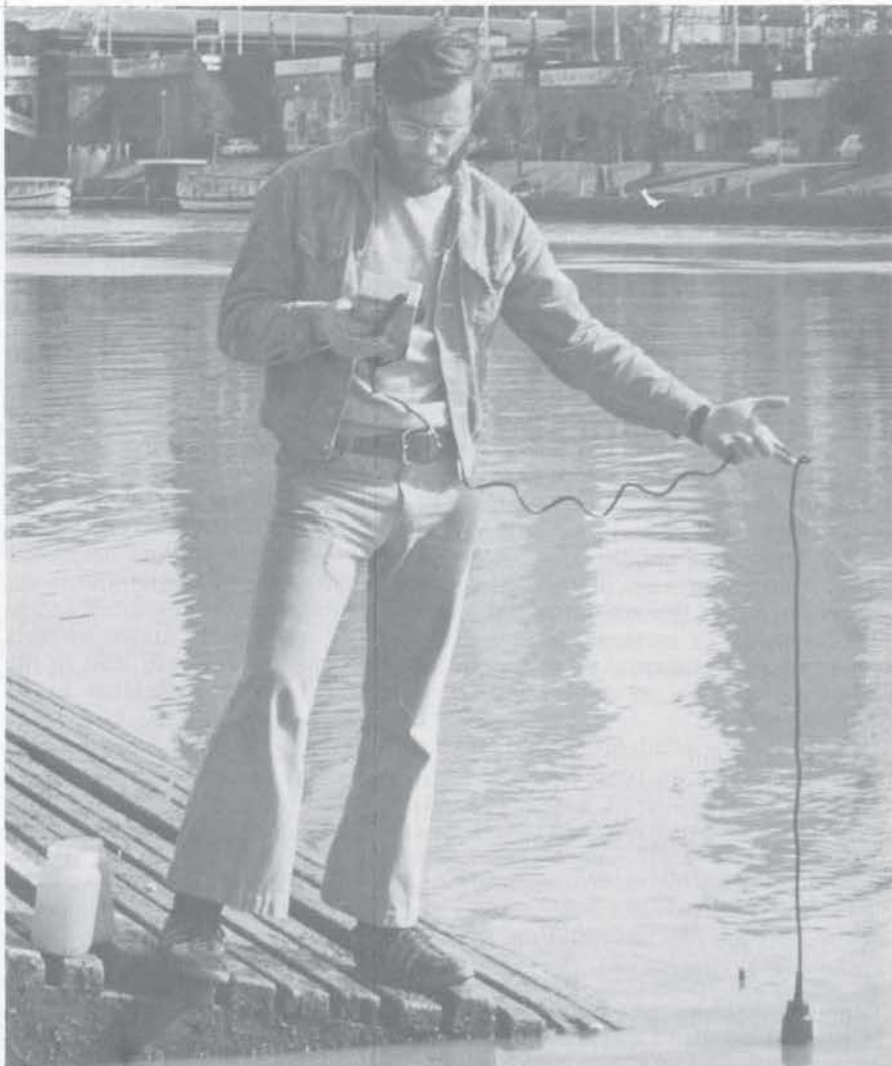
But the basic problem remains, that of determining how to manage and use the available resources for the long term welfare not only of the

Recent years have seen a big increase in the amount of land allocated in Victoria to parks and reserves. This unusual rock formation is in Mt. Buffalo National Park.

Photo: Ministry of Tourism







Basic to good environmental management is the collection of adequate data. Monitoring programmes, like this one on Melbourne's Yarra River, provide the background information for developing workable environment protection policies.

Photo: Premiers Dept.

present community, but also those of the future. Whose assessment, what criteria, whose final decision?

One thing is certain. It is not a black and white affair. Arguments based on a simplistic assessment of choices for action as being either preservation or exploitation are worse than useless; so is the attitude of some people, who claim to espouse the cause of conservation, but who turn almost all discussions about the use and management of resources into "no-compromise" conflicts.

The truth is much more complex. How a community should relate to its environment depends on many factors, some of them conflicting. The real problem of effective conservation is the enlightened

reconciliation of many differing interests.

A community may live within its physical environment just as animals do, or it may use the available resources in various ways so as to enjoy a more sophisticated way of life, involving complex social and industrial activities.

In this respect a cynic has said, "Generally one can assume that mankind will seek to adopt a life style which provides more certainty about his own welfare, whether that be in respect of his food requirements, health or safety, attained with the least possible effort and with the greatest possible degree of freedom for self determination".

One of the outstanding issues in

conservation, which will become more important with the passing of time, is whether the rate of resource use should be determined by the **demands** of the community or by the **real needs** of the community.

There is no doubt that the long-term welfare of the human race demands the second; but the real problem lies in convincing people of the absolute necessity for a reduced rate of resource use, and of achieving it in an evolutionary way, so that the experience is not so economically and socially traumatic as to negate the whole process. This whole question is made much more difficult by the fact that it is a world-wide problem and not one that any individual government can readily resolve alone.

How is our basic philosophy on conservation applied in Victoria? It is exemplified in relation to the future use of public land in this State in the operations of the Land Conservation Council. The future use of land must be determined on the basis of two things; first, its inherent capability to serve a particular purpose; and second, the need for land for that particular purpose in the interest of the community in different parts of the State. An important point is the provision in the Act of a means for the orderly submission of informed opinions from people and groups about the use of land, and their due consideration by the Council before making its final recommendations.

Since early settlement here the allocations of public land has been heavily weighted in favour of land to be used to provide for the physical needs of the people. Insufficient land has been reserved for reference, for preservation of flora and fauna, for open space recreation, and for scientific, cultural, aesthetic and recreational purposes. The Government is now constantly seeking to ensure that there will be sufficient land available for these purposes. To this end it has accepted the recommendations of the Land Conservation Council for restoring a balance of uses. Furthermore it has spent millions of dollars already in the purchase of areas which it believes should never have been alienated and should be reserved forever for conservation purposes — land in the Dandenongs, Yarra Valley, Macedon Ranges, Morning-



ton Peninsula, Gippsland Lakes, and many other places. There has been a great increase in national parks and other reserves in recent years, and a large increase in the staff of the National Parks Service to enable it to carry out its increased responsibilities.

Pollution control and waste management are important elements in improving the quality of life, particularly in the urban and industrial areas. Action is well in hand, but the long term solution will come from better location and planning of new urban and industrial areas and by planning in some of the existing industrial areas.

The Government has deliberately encouraged a positive philosophy towards soil conservation — not just the control of soil erosion, but the development of systems of use and management to suit the nature and capability of the land for productive purposes. The same fundamental doctrine of conservation can be applied in relation to land use in water catchments, on coastal areas, and in urban development.

Continued support for programmes on fisheries and wildlife accord with the philosophy that conservation requires an understanding of the environments and

their living resources. Encouragement of freshwater fish research, legislation for the establishment of an Institute of Marine Science, support for marine pollution studies and a new law for wildlife all demonstrate our concern and desire for better knowledge and understanding of our living resources as a basis for their management or protection.

The Government's philosophy towards the making of decisions about the use and management of resources is that they should be based on a broad range of information including basic knowledge gained from environmental studies, the determination of the needs of the community as a result of positively directed enquiries, a range of the alternative ways of satisfying the real needs of the community for various goods or services, and the social and environmental advantages and disadvantages as well as the financial aspects.

To ensure the availability of such information and its proper consideration, the government has asked proposers of major projects to confer with the Ministry for Conservation about any possible environmental effects and the kinds of investigation required to provide information to

enable an assessment of them. In this way Government can be advised as to whether any environmental assessments are desirable or undesirable, transitory or permanent, and their significance in relation to whether the proposed changes would concern the local, state, national or sometimes even the international community.

The three current environmental studies of Port Phillip, Westernport and the Gippsland Lakes, which are significant by any world standard, all spring from this determination to know the facts first, and base intelligent planning and development firmly upon them.

The constitution of the new State Coordination Council as an aid to Cabinet will achieve improved coordination and cohesion in the use and management of resources and in the development of major projects and programs. This will lead to the achievement of conservation in its true sense.

But the community itself must develop a proper attitude or philosophy about the sense and management of resources. The late Arnold Toynbee, the British historian, believed that there would need to be not only significant changes in economic and social attitudes but also a spiritual change in mankind before equilibrium with his environment can be achieved.

In a recent Meredith Memorial Lecture at La Trobe University, the Director of Conservation, Dr. R. G. Downes, interpreted this spiritual change in the following way.

"First, a recognition by each individual that he should not blame others for whatever is wrong with our environment. We are all "sinners" to some extent. Second, a desire for a simpler kind of life style based more on proper human relationships and less on the acquisition of material things. Third, a sensitivity and respect for the environment in which we live irrespective of whether it is natural or man made."

What the Government is trying to do is to encourage, through education and in other ways open to it, the development of a life style and a national culture which both accepts and recognises the importance of such concepts, and supports conservation in its widest possible sense. □

One of the more spectacular instances of wildlife management in Victoria is the koala recolonisation programme. In the past 25 years, more than 7,000 koalas have been re-located on the mainland, from their breeding ground on Phillip Island.

Photo: Premiers Dept.





# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 2. AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY, VICTORIAN BRANCH.

Endorsed and Presented by the Parliamentary Spokesman on Conservation

In October 1974 the then Federal Minister for the Environment and Conservation, Dr. Moss Cass, in introducing the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Bill had this to say:

"Honourable members will be aware of world-wide concern for the conservation of wildlife and of places of natural, scenic, scientific and recreational significance. The environment produced by the billions of years of evolution which has resulted in man in his present state, is being drastically altered in a few decades by man himself. Everywhere the natural systems which evolved with man and of which he is part are under threat. We must make a strong stand in determining that this generation of man will ensure that evolution itself will proceed as much as possible without deliberate or unthinking intervention by man."

Moss Cass's Bill, together with the States Grants Nature Conservation Bill, provided the framework for a national-style approach to conservation and environment problems in this country. It set aside funds for the provision of national parks and nature reserves. It set up a National Parks and Wildlife Service whose main function was to co-operate with the States in a national nature conservation effort and the meeting of Australia's obligations under the increasing number of international agreements for the conservation of wildlife to which the Australian Government had become a signatory.

It is history now that the government which initiated these moves has been replaced. It will be a matter of outstanding interest to conservationists to observe what sort of priorities its successor gives to conservation and the preservation of the environment.

In giving consideration to the making of a statement on the Australian Labor Party's philosophies in relation to natural resources, it is necessary to be quite clear in our minds precisely what this term means. In the narrow sense it could be said that natural resources are those materials which mankind directly consumes but in the wider sense, and it is in this sense that the

Australian Labor Party's philosophy must be considered, natural resources must be classified as all those things whether animal, vegetable, mineral or otherwise which are crucial to the continuance of the planet Earth's ecosystem.

The Australian Labor Party recognises that an environment of high quality must be protected by the laws which a Labor Government will enact. Such laws must of course be introduced at Federal, State and Municipal level. In addition to those laws, we would like to see, and certainly will encourage, families and individuals to make and keep rules which will assist the general over-all plan of maintaining the ecosystem.

One realises the difficulties inherent in such a program, as obviously it means that people must alter current lifestyles.

We realise that one cannot only talk about preserving ecosystems in this country and that to be successful, conservation must be considered and acted upon on an international basis.

We believe that only by comprehensive social, economic and environmental planning, including the integrated planning of human settlements and comprehensive planning for the use of land, water and other

natural resources, will environmental problems be prevented or minimised. We strongly believe that such planning will need the active participation of Australian citizens as well as professional and administrative personnel in both government and the private sector.

The foundation of the Australian Labor Party's conservation policy is the recognition that many resources of the earth, the fossil fuels and mineral deposits, are essentially non-regenerative. Other resources such as land and forests are being alienated and utilised at a greater rate than they are being regenerated. Resources such as water and air are being polluted to such an extent that it is not likely unless radical moves are made that they can ever be really successfully regenerated.

The resources of Australia's native flora and fauna have been reduced and since the coming of white man to this country some five species of marsupials and several species of birds have been eliminated. They have disappeared from the planet Earth and despite man's ingenuity their like will never be seen on its face again. The advance of agricultural pursuits and the expansion of cities and their industries have been the cause of much of the natural habitat being either destroyed or severely reduced.

**Minimise the use of the car as a common vehicle.**

Photo: R.A.C.V.





We realise too that technological progress, while making life easier and more pleasant for a section of mankind, also has the potential because of its demands and its by-products to seriously harm or destroy the earth's ecosystem.

The present strain on our ecosystem seems to arise from the following sources: Firstly, over-population by the species man largely due to the removal of natural forces such as disease. Secondly, over-population is also occurring in the non-industrialised countries where the remedy of family planning is not generally available. A third factor seems to be the gross and wasteful consumption of goods in the developed communities with attendant pollutant release over and beyond the capacity of our ecosystem to absorb.

We must rapidly rid ourselves of the concept that man, being the overlord, can use the earth and its resources as he sees fit, and we must also realise that if technological development continues to become an end in itself the whole ecosystem is at substantial risk. This can be observed if we study the use of pesticides, the detrimental effect of which is largely well-documented and widely known. Nevertheless, the world appears to be hurrying into an era which could be called the 'Concorde era' obsessed only with the idea of speed and comfort and disregarding the warnings of the dire consequences which supersonic

aircraft could have on the whole of the earth's ecosystem.

The great problem, it would seem, is to convince the developed societies that they have in reality more than reached their maximum in consumption and that in effect they should cut their consumption rate and turn their energies, their factories and their techniques to assist the non-developed countries to reach a higher standard, the problem after that, having minimised poverty and famine, being to convince them to set themselves reasonable consumer targets compatible with the maintenance of the earth's ecosystem.

This of course is a task of mammoth proportions but we feel that if mankind can get its priorities right it can be achieved. Then the targets would be, not operation moon and outer space, but operation spaceship Earth; not operation more and more two, three and four car families but operation public transport; then the target would be not operation urban sprawl but operation planned decentralisation.

Obviously, a great proportion of our resources must now be utilised in informing and educating not only our own people but the whole of mankind of the need, divided though we might be on other matters, to come together in the common interest of saving the earth and its ecosystem.

Specific policies which must be followed out in this country are:

- (a) The stabilisation of our own population and the provision of encouragement and resources sufficient to help other countries stabilise theirs. It is considered that substantial falls in population growth will occur as living standards rise. Therefore, we must use our knowledge and wealth to raise their standards in underdeveloped countries.
- (b) Positive reduction in the consumption levels of articles which when used cause pollution of land, sea and air. In this country, the motor car is a massive polluter and daily it pumps out into the atmosphere lead, asbestos and nitrous oxides. We must aim to minimise the use of the car as a commuter vehicle and as far as aid to underdeveloped countries is concerned, we must give high priority to granting aid for the development of fast, efficient, comfortable public transport systems.
- (c) Reduction in the consumption of renewable resources to a level consistent with their rate of replacement.
- (d) The development of technologies which emphasise the long life and quality of products for our own use, thus making available our technology and the saved material resources for development in the underdeveloped countries. We must also minimise the use of fossil fuels as energy resources and direct research towards the possibility of utilising the sun and the wind and the tides as the basis of the world's future power source. We must also plan to minimise the amount of waste we produce and to maximise its reclamation.
- (e) We must set about the restoration and reclamation of natural areas which have already been damaged or destroyed.
- (f) On all occasions we must support the international efforts being made for the conservation of all species of plants and animals.

It is essential that we develop environmental impact forecasting, analysis and accounting procedures for use in the normal machinery of government, Federal, State and Regional, and the private sector. It

**Minimise the amount of waste we produce, and maximise its reclamation.**

Photo: A.C.F.





is only by looking ahead in this manner that we can make sensible predictions about the directions in which our actions will take us and so enable us to act with time to spare to save us from disaster.

In fact we will need to develop national inventories of land, air and water resources and to plan their management for the years ahead.

We will need to ensure that costs associated with the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources from industrial wastes are included in the cost to the buyer in order to discourage the consumption of materials and the use of processes which have dire environmental impacts.

We already have quite definite time limits on fossil fuels and mineral deposits if our present consumption rate is maintained, yet even at this late stage little is being done by governments in Australia to lengthen their life by encouraging maximum salvage and recycling procedures. Positive incentives must be given to industries and to local government to ensure that this — perhaps the easiest part of the resources conservation program to handle — is immediately undertaken.

We recognise that the monoculture system of agriculture is probably a must in the feeding of the world's millions. It is this system which has brought about the use of toxic materials as sprays to reduce the insect pests which have also multiplied as a result of the system.

We will need to regulate in the short-term the amount of these materials which can be used and at the same time offer incentives so that the discovery of other materials, non pollutant, can be hastened.

We will need to encourage the existence of genuine Australian gardens utilising indigenous plants which require little water as against the English-style garden which in Australia requires constant watering, and consequently the constant tapping of rivers miles away from the cities.

We will need to encourage different architectural and building styles so that massively unnecessarily heavy roofs requiring massive timber and other support structures become unfashionable.

We will need to encourage better

Support international efforts for the conservation of all species of plants and animals.



Short nosed bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*).

Photo: Dr. J. Owen



Lyrebird (*Menura superba*).

Photo: G. Lewis

insulation of houses, thus discouraging the excessive use of fuel to cool in summer and heat in winter.

We realise the difficulties which face those who have to bring such plans into existence. We realise also that time is not on the side of those with the 'grasshopper' mentality and those who when challenged about the effects of their actions on the future console themselves by saying

"So what? Why should I be concerned? What has the next generation ever done for me?"

Nevertheless, we are convinced that it is a prime responsibility of all human beings living today to enlist in the armies of those who fight for the continued existence of mankind and every other form of life that exists on the now heavily beleaguered planet Earth. □



# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 3. VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARTY

Presented by P. Ross-Edwards, Leader of the Party

### ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The National Party believes a sensible balance must be maintained between the conservation of our environment and resources and the need to develop primary and secondary industry to serve the needs of the people.

While State governments have the capacity to legislate directly in areas such as land use, pollution control, wild life preservation, the National Estate and planning generally, programmes concerning the environment and natural resources must be developed in close consultation with Federal and local government and with maximum involvement and support of the community.

Landholders disadvantaged or dispossessed by government policies of which they could have had no prior knowledge should be compensated fairly and promptly to avoid the unnecessary hardships being experienced in regions such as the Mornington Peninsula, Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges.

The Party recognises the valuable work done by voluntary conservation groups in promoting community awareness, undertaking environmental studies and alerting government to unnoticed dangers, and advocates continued financial assistance for these activities.

It favours the establishment of consultative bodies on which government, industry and the community are fully represented with a view to devising policies which can be carried out in a spirit of co-operation.

It advocates the establishment of centres for the dissemination of knowledge on conservation and the environment by encouraging conservation groups and similar organisations to come together for discussion and debate.

These community education programmes should be supported by Federal-State arrangements to finance training in resource-management and land use planning to overcome the existing shortage of expert and technically trained staff

available to all arms of government and the private sector.

The Party believes appropriate courses should be introduced in schools.

The National Party believes environmental policies must be positive, not negative. In evaluating any project the ultimate decision must be made from an expert appraisal of the community's needs in terms of economic and regional development and welfare.

It is, therefore, necessary for the community to have a full understanding of the factors involved.

The National Party believes environmental impact statements of the environmental issues involved in any development project should be conducted before decision making. They should be publicly advertised, calling for comments from interested organisations, groups and individuals, and where necessary government finance should be available to help them state their case fairly.

However, an environmental impact assessment should be regarded not as an end in itself but to ensure that reasonable consideration is given to environmental factors in multi-objective planning.

Policies and decisions should be based on established scientific knowledge and data.

The National Party believes government must give a lead in considering environmental factors in its own planning and cannot expect to set separate standards for private industry and individuals.

It will seek discussions between the three arms of government on the need for revision of laws administered by each concerning environmental planning and land use in general, believing that the community will benefit from a greater uniformity.

It recommends a council involving all existing State and Federal natural resource management agencies to secure co-operation and co-ordination.

Such a council could also lay down guidelines for joint research into matters of national concern including the extraction of liquid hydrocarbons from brown coal, the increased use of non-polluting energy sources such as solar energy and tidal power, and non-polluting pesticides.

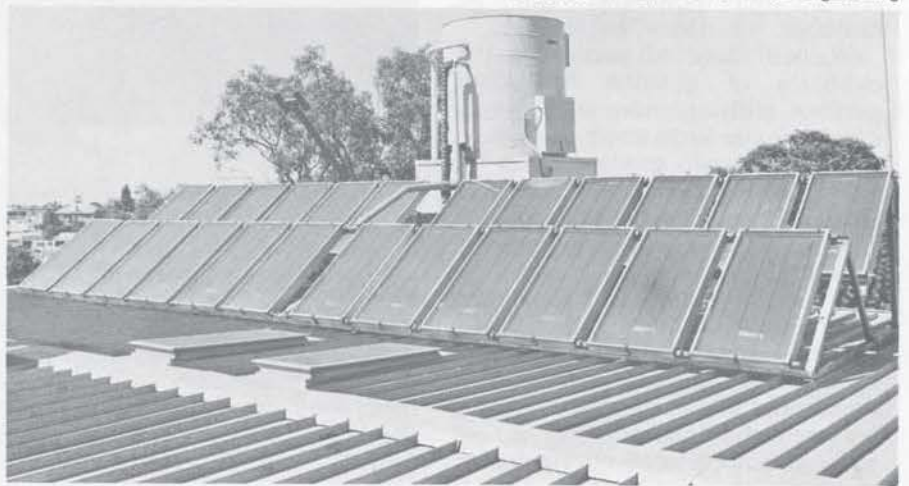
The Party considers there must be a full-scale land use survey of Victoria and that regional surveys by the Land Conservation Council should be accelerated.

There must be a total land use strategy for this State.

The Party supports the continua-

#### **Solar energy is a non-polluting power source.**

Photo: C.S.I.R.O. Div. Mechanical Engineering





tion of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the establishment of more parks and reserves provided they are properly managed and are not left to become a wilderness haven for noxious weeds and vermin.

Reserves must be managed to preserve ecosystems in their natural state.

To gauge the effectiveness of conservation policies, there should be a continuing biological survey of native birds, mammals and reptiles and their ecosystems, including the flora which provide protection and much of their sustenance.

Special attention must be given to preserving wetlands such as swamps and marshes, the habitat of unique flora and fauna which are diminishing at an alarming rate in Victoria.

The Party considers that the question of environmental pollution is as critical as resource conservation.

In association with local government and Federal agencies, it encourages the constant monitoring of air, water and noise, and the establishment of a national code for outdoor advertising to minimise visual pollution.

It believes there must be special emphasis on water and soil conservation with continuing attention to river improvement, water quality control to identify salinity and drainage problems, flood mitigation and prevention, and water resources surveys and research.

Victoria has lagged behind in flood mitigation measures, for which Federal finance has been made available in New South Wales, yet this State's limited water resources will have to be fully utilised by conservation wherever economically feasible in the interests of rural development and the future supply to the metropolitan area.

There must be rapid extension of sewerage and sewerage treatment plants to reduce the major cause of water pollution in Victoria.

The Party favours assistance to research into improved methods of solid waste disposal, with particular reference to recycling as not only a disposal method but a means of alleviating a scarcity of resources.

### Forestry

The National Party believes government has failed to realise the



Forest utilisation need not preclude forest recreation and the realisation of other values.

Photo: Forests Commission

potential of the forestry industry. Forestry is a primary resource and a valuable decentralised industry giving employment directly to some 18,000 people and, through service industries, to another 30,000.

There are great opportunities for further developing our forests in the interests of State revenue, State development, employment and income stability for primary producers.

Controlled utilisation of forests can be harmoniously blended with almost all forms of forest recreation, water catchment, erosion control, fauna and flora preservation and other forest uses and values.

The Party considers that while areas of special significance such as catchments, wildlife and other parks must be preserved, the setting aside of large tracts of land for such purposes without proper management is not in the best interests of the community.

There must be a balance between desirable conservation and the need to meet people's needs for building, packaging, newsprint and other materials derived from forests.

We favour the greater development of farm forestry which reduces the pressure on clearing of native forests, assists in more effective decentralisation and greater rural employment, offers primary producers an alternative source of income during periods of depressed returns from other products, often brings timber production closer to specialised markets, and is a valuable tool in water conservation, erosion control and drought feeding.

The farm woodlot loan scheme operated by the Forests Commission

should be widened for greater farmer appeal. There should be a review of taxation and estate duties applicable to forestry investment. A scheme for the supply of free trees in certain catchment areas is desirable in the interests of soil conservation and to ensure a supply of the most suitable timber.

There is obvious scope for regional projects along lines which have proved so successful overseas. One possibility is for municipal councils to work together for economies of scale in programmes which produce substantial revenue to offset rate charges.

The government must offer the necessary incentives and also establish an advisory panel which can be consulted by regional groups.

The National Party is concerned by the imbalance of representation on the Land Conservation Council. Of its 12 members, nine are from government departments and three, selected for their interest in conservation, from the community. Only one voice of the 12 represents forestry.

The Party is concerned that recommendations of the council and legislation affecting land use are creating a multiplicity of authorities and departments involved, replicating the delays and lack of co-ordination which have become the hallmark of planning generally in this State.

The National Party believes control and management of all forested Crown lands should be vested in the Forests Commission which has the organisation, experience, staff and ability to be largely self-financing. □



# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 4. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION LEAGUE OF VICTORIA

The fundamental purpose of the Natural Resources Conservation League is to foster the conservation of natural resources with emphasis on public education and practical support for tree planting activities.

A major objective is the generation of an understanding of the interdependence of the resources of soil, water, forests and wildlife and the encouragement of public support for properly planned use of natural resources.

Implicit in the conservation of natural resources is the maintenance of the natural world in a state of ecological balance.

Planning for utilization of renewable resources involves provision for a sustained yield of products for the sustenance of mankind without diminution of the resource base and for its renewal for the benefit of future generations.

In developing its philosophy the League accepts the following guiding principles:

1. Man's existence is dependent upon his use of natural resources of the earth.
2. Each generation has a moral obligation to control the utilization of renewable resources and provide for their replacement for the benefit of future generations.
3. Non-renewable resources should be used wisely and without waste.
4. Study and research are necessary for understanding, protection and best use of natural resources.
5. Technological advances will provide the means of fuller use, alternatives and less wasteful processes. To this end utilization practices need to be subjected to constant scrutiny and review.
6. Public awareness through education is a prerequisite to development of a sense of individual responsibility, which is essential for the success of any conservation policy.

### WHAT CONSERVATION MEANS TODAY

Twenty-five years ago, taking over from the "Save the Forests" Campaign, the Natural Resources Conservation League began a steadily expanding involvement in activities based on the beliefs expressed in the philosophy printed above. It was one of a few organisations and individuals whose efforts at that time led to an astonishing widening of public interest in the conservation of resources, a new outlook on conservation, and the birth of many more conservation oriented bodies.

In a number devoted to conservation philosophies and attitudes, it is interesting to look at some of the changes in outlook that have taken place. They have in fact been evident for some years, and as long ago as March 1968, "Victoria's Resources" drew attention to them in an \*article from which the following substantial extracts have been drawn.

"The primary meaning of preservation from destructive influences, decay or waste gives a fair representation of the understanding of

conservation twenty years ago (i.e. in 1948). It was a negative concept of preservation of things from destruction.

"Because the then prevailing concept of conservation was the preservation of things, it is little wonder that the exercise of conservation became a battle between the users and the conservers, a battle which persists unnecessarily today among the less informed

\*"What Conservation Means Today" by R. G. Downes (then Chairman of the Soil Conservation Authority).



people concerned with natural resources.

"Soil conservation in earlier days meant mostly the job of erosion control, a control which was necessary because most people believed that soil erosion was an inevitable consequence of using land for productive purposes.

"Water conservation was largely an exercise in gathering water from zones of abundance for use in areas of deficiency to "make the desert bloom", a popular phrase in those days indicating a general notion that the mere application of water to dry land was a satisfactory end in itself. The shocks came later when water-logging and salting in some irrigated areas indicated that the use of water on arid and semi-arid land was not as simple nor as straight forward as may have been thought.

"Forestry in many parts of the world was a process of exploitation and complete destruction, and so forest conservation was directed toward the protection of areas from this wholesale destruction.

"Wildlife conservation was interpreted as the care of particular individual species which were protected by law, although no jurisdiction was given to anyone to undertake the important basic objective of protecting the habitat or environment in which these threatened species normally lived. The preservation concept of conservation with regard to plants and animals persists today among those who have an emotional rather than an ecological concept of conservation. Such people are those who protest about the death or destruction of individual trees, plants and animals. Well meaning as they undoubtedly are, these people completely forget, or do not know, that conservation is concerned today with the species rather than the individuals, and communities of species rather than single species.

"In National Parks the concept of conservation was largely achieved by doing nothing other than the setting aside of areas for the purpose. It was thought that to maintain such areas in their original condition they should not be touched, little realising that one way of losing such an asset is to fail to manage it.

"These negative approaches are being replaced by more positive concepts of conservation. The

approach to the conservation of soil, water, forests, wildlife and other resources is being embraced within a unified concept of conservation. Furthermore the concept now includes a concern for air and stream pollution, for the conservation of landscape values, for the provision of open space for recreation, and for the proper disposal of the litter which accumulates in this era of 'buy, use and throw away.' Management of waste materials, is now an important aspect of the conservation of man's environment.

"Not only is there a positive approach toward these various aspects of conservation, but they are being integrated into a rational and readily understood concept of conservation based, not on the preservation of things for their own intrinsic value, but on the proper use of resources to achieve their conservation in the interest of man himself.

"Today the soil conservationist is not conserving soil because it makes his heart bleed to see soil erosion. He is conserving soil because unless he succeeds, man will fail to survive. Donald Williams, the Administrator of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, expressed that thought in this way when speaking at the First Pan American Soil Conservation Congress.

"That indeed is why we are here — or why we should be here. Not because poor soils yield poor crops, but because poor soils make poor people. Not because of what soil erosion does to land, but because of what it does to men, women and children in our crowded cities as well as our developing rural areas.

"Not because of what fire and flood can do to the beauty and productivity of the forest or valley, but because of what they can do to hope and dignity of human beings who live and work there.

"Not because we need a vanishing species of wildlife for its meat or feathers, but because we have no right to deprive future generations of any of the fullness of the world as God created it.

"Not because we seek some ethereal harmony between man and nature, but because we seek peace between man and man — a peace that rests in a large measure upon the conservation and development of soil and water resources from which people draw their sustenance in every part of the world."

"Water conservation today goes far beyond the concept of water harvesting in wet areas for the irrigation of arid and semi-arid

lands. It is concerned with the proper use of water where it falls and this involves not only water harvesting and conservation but suitable soil, crop and pasture management to achieve the maximum use of available water.

"Forest conservation today is based on an ecological understanding of the plant communities which have a value for timber production and the management is based on suitable silvicultural methods to ensure production on a sustained yield basis.

"Conservation of species of plants and animals in National Park, Wildlife and Game Management Reserves is now directed toward the preservation of a habitat in which they can continue to survive. Proper management to maintain the habitat is accepted practice, even to the extent of controlling population of the animals.

"Although there is still an element of sympathy toward the particular species, which applies mainly to animals rather than plants, the most compelling reason today for the conservation of species is that some of them could be of considerable value to man in the future.

"Quality of the human environment is the basis of the modern concept of conservation. This can be maintained when man realizes that his physical and aesthetic needs can be obtained from the resources of his environment without spoiling its quality or its capability of continuing to provide those needs. The achievement of conservation in this sense is an ecological problem, requiring first the proper decisions about how units of the environment can be used for particular purposes and second, the integration of scientific knowledge from many disciplines to provide suitable systems of use and management for these particular units.

"The modern concept of conservation presents a whole new aspect of culture which should be promoted within the community as a basic aspect of education. Its understanding and acceptance within the community is urgent and important because it appears to be, not only the best means of drawing together the separated cultures of aesthetics and technology which are tending to split modern society, but also a necessity for the ultimate survival of man." □



# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 5. CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

Presented H. R. Johnson, Director

If philosophy can be described as the search of a black man for a black hat in a black room, any attempt to define the philosophy of the Conservation Council of Victoria can be likened to trying to make a microscopical examination of the leading side of a large snowball rolling rapidly down Mt. Bogong. Stepping quickly to one side however, it is possible to gain some insight into the principles which try to guide the course of the snowball.

The C.C.V., weighed down with small but important issues, worrying about State-wide matters, beleaguered with the self-imposed duty of contributing to inquiries, tribunals, surveys and studies, still finds opportunity to get at the root cause of our troubles. All too frequently it finds that an authority or department, with a restricted function to perform, has proceeded so far with a project before it comes under inspection, that the argument to throw bad money after good far outweighs arguments based on environmental damage. Impact Statements made under these conditions are

then little more than public relations exercises. Excellent examples of this type of "planning" are:— Enormous sums spent on planning and investigations for the Newport and Loy Yang Power Stations before the final decision; decisions to spray Murray Valley mosquitoes to combat a specific problem, without sufficient time for appraisal of any other effect, planning and incidental works on the Thomson Dam before public participation. A policy to involve conservationists at the outset would avoid either expensive government planning on projects which are changed after conservation opposition, or considerable input by voluntary bodies into projects which cannot be altered.

Alternatively, we find that the authority has carried out its own function most efficiently, but that side-effects on fields outside its function have not been taken into consideration. A classic example of this is the woodchip research by the Forests Commission of Victoria. Here all the experience and expertise of

the Commission is brought to bear on the environment within the forest, but the Commission's interest stops at the edge of the forest (or the limit of its function).

The effects of a woodchip industry on roads, rivers, municipalities are deemed no concern of the Commission, nor is the even more important factor, that once established, a monster industry will become more powerful than the Commission, politically and economically, and that its socio-economic arguments will outweigh endeavours to maintain good forestry practice.

Brought into being, as it was, in the trauma of the Little Desert troubles, the C.C.V. developed with a general policy that our bushlands and wetlands were limited and that any action which would decrease them must be avoided unless essential to community needs. Since it has moved into the urban field the Council has continued to apply this general principle, that before any action detrimental to the environment is adopted it must be essential to community needs.

The Council's modus operandi for reports to the Land Conservation Council illustrates its method of handling major issues. In the first instance Member Bodies, individuals and Executive members are invited, or coerced, into providing information in the form of reports, survey records, opinions and policies. These are collated into workable sections which are then studied and condensed into a consensus, which in turn is studied at a special meeting and varied to meet the requirements of the Executive. As the members of the Executive are elected the final submission can be accepted as a representative distillation of member groups and their individual members and hence of the conservation movement in general. All issues dealt with are treated with modifications of the above to suit the urgency or need for additional information.

### River Improvement Works on the Ovens River. Can we treat our streams more kindly than this?

Photo: A. L. Godfrey





The Council adopts the stand that, with the mass of information held by its member bodies and their individual members, it can economically provide information and opinions which would require massive expenditure of government finance to accumulate. (Examples of this are C.C.V. reports on the Melbourne Area for the M.M.B.W., and Western Port and Mornington Peninsula for the Western Port Regional Planning Authority.) Even if government bodies do set out to acquire this data themselves they rely on conservation bodies and conservationists for a considerable input. (Examples of this are bird data fed into the Western Port Survey by the Bird Observers Club and the provision of information on coastal areas to the Port Phillip Authority and the Town and Country Planning Board.) Although its views are definite, that uncontrolled growth is undesirable, that better use of what resources we do have is essential and that we must, to survive, eventually come to a balance which uses replenishable energy to produce goods that are re-usable and recyclable, the C.C.V. seldom is allowed time to work for this.

When I joined the C.C.V. as its Executive Director in March 1975, I brought my deep appreciation of the staggering dedication which honorary office-bearers give to organisations of all types. Having seen and experienced the never-ending late nights, and meetings, the inroads into private and work time and the apparently insurmountable work loads, I was determined that my main effort would be directed towards servicing the Executive Committee, not necessarily to lessen the load, but to relieve its members of the tedium of finishing-off and tidying-up their work. So much for aims! What has actually happened is that members of the Executive have been freed from smaller issues to work on larger issues, and find themselves as busy as ever finishing off and tidying-up in a different area. Once free of minor detail the Executive has commenced to work on what at first appears to be public apathy, but is, in fact, lack of awareness in the mind of the ordinary citizen of the pressures on his environment. If more people realised how bad the general position is, or how apparently harmless



Dartmouth Dam site (above) and Gippsland Lakes (below). The future of the great River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) forests downstream of Dartmouth is in jeopardy and the Gippsland Lakes may be severely affected by the construction of the Thomson River Dam — C.C.V. questions these kinds of projects.

Photos: A. L. Godfrey



progressive moves can even worsen the situation, then they too would be up in arms.

To this end they have instituted more informative, more frequent newsletters, a regular session on Access Radio and a far-reaching public awareness campaign on urban creeks. As any public relations man can assure you, the average citizen expects his education to be painless and simple, with the result that to be acceptable to him, approaches must be semi-emotive and free of all boring figures.

Although the C.C.V. and its member bodies are engaged in

sincere and responsible actions to represent the best community interests, they are often irrationally singled out as being emotional. Emotionalism may be one of the tools used to emphasise the conservation message but is there one organisation, large or small, which has not produced literature etc., designed to appeal to the emotions? Nevertheless, without the leaven and initiative of the C.C.V. and similar bodies, however it may be expressed, would the big works organisations voluntarily or unilaterally review or critically analyse the purpose and function of their work? □



# CENTRE

SPACE DEVOTED TO CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES AND ITEMS OF

## TARLI KARNGA NIGOTHORUKA

Contributed by Dr. B. V. Timms,  
Avondale College, N.S.W.

Hidden in a deep valley in the mountains of Gippsland there is a tranquil lake with clear, cool, deep water lapping steep rocky shores and shaded silt jetties. The setting is unparalleled in Australia. Indeed, Lake Tali Karng, as it is generally called, is the only permanent natural lake in the Victorian highlands and further it is the only deep highland lake in mainland Australia that is not of glacial or volcanic origin. It was formed by a landslide and as such is the only documented example of this mode of lake origin in Australia.

So secluded and isolated is the lake, that even the local tribe of aborigines — the Nigothoruks — did not know of its existence till the early 1800s. They named it "Tarli Karnga Nigothoruka", meaning the little lake of Nigothoruk — Nigothoruk being the aboriginal name for nearby Mt. Wellington. The present name of Lake Tali Karng is not only a misspelling of the original but is repetitive and should be changed to Lake Tarli or Tarli Karng or perhaps the complete aboriginal name should be used.

The first European to see the lake was a stockman named Snowden. This was in 1886. Thereafter a number of people made the rough journey to the lake, including Howitt, and later, Thiele, both geologists. Howitt thought the lake to be of glacial origin, but Dendy, a companion on one of Howitt's trips, argued that the course of Nigothoruk creek had been dammed by a landslide. Thiele supported the latter theory and showed that the rocks in the barrier originated from the northern side of the valley. He confirmed that the barrier is permeable and that water of the lake never overtops it but filters through to the Wellington River some 2 km downstream and 150 m below the lake level. Thiele also depthed the lake, his sounding of 150 feet (45.5 m) agrees within the limits imposed by wide secular seasonal fluctuation in water level, with maximum depth of 51 m established on a recent bathymetric survey. The lake is small (16 ha in area) with steep sides except where Nigothoruk and Nightingale (Barrier) Creeks enter. Both have deposited extensive silt jetties, so that in time the lake eventually will be

transformed to a swamp! Hopefully this will not occur for thousands of years yet.

The lake and its immediate environs are visited by a few thousand outdoor enthusiasts each year; many more are content to keep to the surrounding ridges and view it from such vantage points as Echo Point and the Sentinels. Probably the majority of visitors are drawn to the lake by its beauty and its isolation. Surely it is an ideal locale to "get away from it all" and to be alone with oneself and nature. Further it is to mean achievement to walk to the lake from outposts of civilisation such as Licola. The lake is unattractive to people seeking other forms of recreation. A few fishermen test their skills, but typically go unrewarded. Most water sports are precluded because of access problems for equipment. Hence the area is used mainly for wilderness recreation, though cattle on the adjacent high plains detract from a true wilderness atmosphere.

Tali Karng is also of considerable scientific interest. Besides harbouring a number of widespread invertebrates such as the copepod (*Calamoecia ampulla*), the cladocerans (*Ceriodaphnia quadrangula* and *Eubosmina meridionalis*), the corixid (*Micronecta robusta*), the

chironomid (*Procladius villosimanus*) and the snail (*Bulinus hainesii*), there is a Tasmanian element in the fauna. The worm (*Telmatodilus pectinatus*), was previously known only from Tasmania till its discovery in Tali Karng, and the isopod (*Colubotelson ?joyneri*), while basically a Tasmanian species, is also found in highland lakes on the mainland. Further, the two chironomids, (*Chironomus oppositus* and *Riethia ?stictoptera*), though not restricted to Tasmania, are characteristic inhabitants of the benthos of lakes in the highlands. These similarities are of particular interest to zoogeographers.

There is also an ecological unity with the deep lakes of the Tasmanian highlands. All are relatively unproductive (oligotrophic). Their waters are clear, cool and of low total dissolved solids, shorelines are almost bare of aquatic macrophytes and rocky, and planktonic biomasses are low. However, benthic standing crops are relatively high (up to 5 g/m<sup>2</sup>), particularly at the end of the lake receiving significant stream inflow. This is related to the supply of food, in the form of organic detritus washed into the lake, from outside the ecosystem.

An unexpected inhabitant in Tali Karng is the worm (*Eiseniella tetraedra*). This species was introduced to Australia from the Northern Hemisphere and its occurrence in such an isolated lake is an amazing tribute to its dispersal powers, unless, of course, some city fisherman discarded his unused bait in the lake. The Brown Trout is definitely known to be introduced to the lake; its presence may have contributed to the apparent local extinction of the minnow (*Galaxias coxi*).

Two amphibious vertebrates of the area are the Leaf Green Tree Frog (*Littoria phyllochroa*), whose tadpoles are common in the shallows and the water skink (*Sphenomorphus quoyi*).

In conclusion it is apparent that Tali Karng provides high value wilderness recreation and in addition is of particular scientific interest. Indeed, it is included along with 18 other Australian lake or lake complexes in 'Project Aqua' — an international compilation of inland waters worthy of consideration. However, there are two introduced species and one of these, the Brown Trout, may have changed the ecosystem. A further species, man, poses some threat to the

Lake Tali Karng.

Photo: B. V. Timms





# SPREAD

REST NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO THE THEME OF THIS NUMBER

wilderness environment. But at present his numbers are few and it is hoped that these few will be tidier than their predecessors now that the Victorian Forests Commission has provided a rubbish pit.

Most concern at present is focused on the Tali Karng track which has been seriously eroded by high density four-wheeled and motor cycle traffic. As of September 30th, 1974 the Forests Commission wisely closed this road, but this action may not be sufficient; policing is needed and restoration work is necessary in many places. This closure has an additional benefit of restricting visitor access. Too many visitors will overtax the facilities and destroy the wilderness atmosphere for all.

Finally it should be noted that it would be most foolhardy to interfere with the catchment of the lake because of the danger of increasing the rate of sedimentation in the lake; in fact the present practice of grazing cattle on the adjacent high plains should cease. With wise management the lake will remain in a near-pristine condition for centuries.

## ALL DAY FIELD TRIP

— Springvale area Sunday 12th September, 1976

Victoria's Port Phillip heathland has rapidly diminished since settlement, so before it is all gone, Springvale and District Society for Growing Australian Plants invite interested people (max. 60 adults, children welcome), to attend this one day outing to locate and identify the flora.

Meeting Place — N.R.C.L. Hall, 593 Springvale Road, Springvale South.

Time — 8.45 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Sunday 12th September, 1976.

Botanists J. H. Willis, B. Muir, and naturalist D. Tyson, will lead groups of 20 and visit one area in the morning and one in the afternoon.

If you wish to attend, please write to Mr. K. Mitchell, 3 Digby Cr., Springvale South, 3172 now, and full details will be forwarded.

## FORUM

The League will once again hold a forum on a topical conservation issue.

## MULTIPLE USE SEQUEL:

Following on from the 1975 Forum on Multiple Use Management of Public Lands the case study of which was the Grampians, in the western part of

Victoria two public participation sessions were held to observe existing Forests Commission Management practices in the Grampians and to receive submissions on future management needs.

Written submissions were to close on May 15th, 1976.

These public sessions follow an undertaking given the participants at the League's 1975 Forum by Dr. F.R. Moulds, the Commission's Chairman, that the public would be given ample opportunity to offer suggestions on the future management needs of the Grampians area.

## NEW PRESIDENT:

Mr. G. W. Douglas was elected President of the Natural Resources Conservation League at the League's annual meeting on 29th April. Mr. Douglas is Chairman of the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board and has for many years taken an active and enthusiastic interest in the League as a member representing his Board. Mr. Douglas replaced our very popular Mrs. Neil Cameron, whose two year term of office as President heralded the League's more active participation in the broad issues of conservation. Mrs. Cameron remains as a member of the League's Executive as immediate Past President and will continue to represent the Country Women's Association on the League.

## "OVERSEAS" ASSOCIATES:

Almost three hundred and sixty Associates and friends, of the League, including a number of teachers and members of the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society joined in an excursion to French Island in Western Port Bay on a Sunday late in April. Eight buses were "barged" across from Corinella, on the eastern side of the bay to a beach landing site on the island where they travelled the 14 miles to meet the passengers on the west side of French Island at Tankerton.

The Cowes Ferry was chartered to take the people from Stony Point, near Hastings the two and a half miles across the water to meet up with the buses at Tankerton.

The co-operation of the charter companies — Westernport Road Lines, the Co-operative French Island Barge Service and the Cowes Ferry Service — was wonderful; particularly as the buses could only be brought over on certain tides and had to be returned to the

mainland before Monday morning to transport children to school.

The other feature of the day was the wonderful help which had been given by the Chandler family, Mr. R. Thompson and other people who have a special feeling for French Island flora and fauna and who acted as guides for the group of people.

The purpose of the trip was to show people that there is an extremely valuable natural resource close to Melbourne which has not yet suffered over-use or abuse in recreation and unsuitable development — and to encourage them to recognise the need for careful use and planning of the area.

## FARMING WILDLIFE:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Salvado have a stud cattle property close to Melbourne on which their primary aims are:

- 1) to keep the property economically viable and
- 2) to increase the amount of wildlife.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society held a field day there in early May, at which Senior District Agricultural Officer, Mr. G. D. Duncan, spoke.

Their 130 acres (53 ha) property is managed with a view to maintaining habitat for wallabies, kangaroos, wombats and birds.

A large irrigation dam provides a means of boosting pasture production in the dry times and conserved fodder is stored in haystacks scattered over the property.

Small-scale subdivisions surround two sides of the property and instead of being a means of destruction to the environment these act as a buffer zone to stop gun-happy intruders.

The owners of these properties have been most co-operative with the Salvados once the intention of conservation and the value to all has been explained.

Mr. Duncan, who has been both an agricultural officer and a farmer for many years, spoke on the problems and advantages of hobby or part-time farming.

Other topics discussed during the day were treeplanting methods and care of plantations, farm dam siting and construction, and basic farming principles for beginners.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society hopes to have more of these field days centred around part-time farming in the districts around Melbourne.



# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 6. THE APPROACH OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Presented by Dr. G. Mosley, Director

The Australian Conservation Foundation has not formulated a formal statement on its philosophy but in ten years of effort on behalf of conservation at the national level it has undoubtedly developed a distinctive approach.

The first object mentioned in the Foundation's constitution is "to make every effort to ensure that the air, land and waters of Australia are used with wisdom and foresight and that competing demands upon them are resolved in the best long term interests of the nation". Other objects direct our attention towards making special efforts in nature conservation and the establishment of national parks and reserves, and the encouragement of the development of the conservation movement. A whole host of methods are referred to including research, the making of grants, the acquisition of land, the receipt of gifts, the production and sale of books and films, co-operation with other bodies, and performance of the role of a clearing house. In case the list was not adequate the founding members added the following words to the constitution "generally to take such action as it considers necessary in the interest of promoting conservation".

How was the ACF to translate its charter to action and honour the trust placed in it when the Federal Government provided financial assistance to enable it to set up an office and employ staff? What was the general philosophy expected of it by the people of Australia? In a materialistic and traditional society should the Foundation err more on the side of being "respectable" and "tactful" or should it run the risk of being labelled "troublemaker" and "stirrer"? In particular, what role or roles was the Foundation to choose for the making of its own distinctive contribution towards ensuring that the competing needs of the community were resolved in the best long term interests of the nation.

It was obvious that to promote conservation the Foundation would

have to educate, to alert people to the threats and to publicise the solutions. All our activities have this effect. In addition it was obvious that we would have to actively devise proposals for conservation including ideas for new legislation. But there was also the question of what our stance should be in actual issues and conflicts. After some initial hesitation in which stress was placed on exposing the consequences of development proposals, the Foundation affirmed the view that it could best serve the cause in the role of an advocate — as a **champion** of a conservation viewpoint. Fundamental to this decision was an awareness that the Foundation must find the best niche within the basic processes which society has developed for resolving conflicts. As a non-government organisation the Foundation can never have the job of actually making resource and land-use decisions. So against a background of progressive deterioration of the quality of the environment much of

the Foundation's time is taken up with developing and advocating conservation alternatives. It addresses its advocacy to the general public as well as to the politicians, recognising that all should have a say in decision-making.

Conservation makes little sense unless it is seen as a means to the end of meeting man's needs. Whilst the Foundation does not know precisely what these needs are and recognises that they will change with time, it recognises that a diverse environment is the key to human happiness, and that the general trend which must be halted is the trend towards greater uniformity. The growth of population and industrial society threatens to upset the balance which it is the Foundation's task to try to maintain or correct. If we succeed as a result of myriad decisions by individuals, companies and governments, Australia will become more of a "conservator-society".

Our efforts have little chance of success if people do not have an

Retaining the rural atmosphere in suburbia.

Photo: Herald & Weekly Times







"... to ensure that the air, land and waters of Australia are used with wisdom and foresight..."

Photo: Herald and Weekly Times

effective say in the way their environment is shaped, and so the Foundation has devoted a lot of time to helping to perfect procedures for public participation in decision-making. We are concerned at this very time, for instance, that the great advances in national environmental impact assessment which were made during the period of the Whitlam government should not be surrendered.

With regard to resources, our belief is that balanced plans for the use of resources and conservation-oriented management will help to put limits on overdevelopment of industry and population. It is dangerous for any community or nation to outgrow the basic resources which are available reasonably near at hand for their long term sustenance.

But the matter is not as simple as that. The main cause of environmental problems is the nature and aims of society itself. This creates a dilemma for the conservationist. Should he restrict his work to the avoidance of adverse changes in the environment, perhaps changing society in the process, or should he also direct his attention to the nature of society and try to change that, if he sees within mankind's strivings the seeds of its destruction?

To date the Foundation has decided on its policies in an *ad hoc* fashion issue by issue. During the last two and a half years for instance the Council has passed resolutions on the following:— forestry and woodchip export industry, rural landscape conservation, the coast, ownership and control of waterfront land, wise use of petroleum reserves,

motor emissions, supersonic aircraft, packaging, export of uranium, marine pollution, Antarctica and World Heritage Areas in Australia.

Later in 1976 our Council will be considering the adoption of a general policy statement dealing with natural resources, population and overseas trade. This will state in simple and broad terms what the Foundation believes Australia should be doing to ensure that a high level of environmental quality is achieved. Because we believe that Australia has an important contribution towards overcoming the environmental problems of other countries and because we feel that Australians have no sound long term future unless the world's problems are solved, the statement will include our views on what policies Australia should follow to overcome the global environmental crisis. Part of the ACF's overall statement, it is hoped, will be a statement of our long term value position. We think that if we can decide on what sort of society we would like to see develop in Australia we will be better able to develop a set of objectives and specific policies. This is new ground. Undoubtedly, most people want a society in which people can fulfil their potentials to the maximum and have an equal and real say in the decisions which affect them. Presumably all would agree that production should be a means to an end and not an end in itself. Would you agree that it is essential for people to have a close relationship with a particular small community and a small environment? Should people be able to choose their way of life and living and working place? Is it essential that no one should have to travel far for work, school, recreation and social intercourse? Should inequity in the consumption of resources be eliminated, locally and globally, and should land and resources and the means of production be owned by the community?

The Foundation is evolving continuously. In 1976 it is moving strongly towards a situation in which its members can have a more direct say in formulating the policies of the Foundation and implementing them. We would particularly welcome your views on the sort of long term value position we should adopt. □



# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 7. WATERSHED ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Presented by E. M. Jackson

### THE CATCHMENT CONCEPT

The Catchment philosophy of the Watershed Association of Victoria is basically simple. It accepts the reality that natural resources are inter-related within catchments or drainage areas. It believes that the administration of natural resources and recreation should be integrated, within the State's major river basins, by autonomous regional authorities fully representative of, and financed by, the three levels of government.

Co-operation between, and the co-ordination of, all disciplines involved should be the keynote. But like all simple concepts such as the gravity flow of water within catchments, its very simplicity creates problems of understanding and application at all levels.

The experience of the Watershed Association is a good example. Indeed the present increasing acceptance of the Catchment Concept (confirmed by many official reports) provides justification for the Don Quixote belief that "Only He Who Attempts the Ridiculous Can Achieve the Impossible."

In 1959, the writer, because of his known interest in water conservation and grass-roots extension experience was invited by the then Minister of Water Supply to become a temporary officer of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, with the direction "to go out and preach the gospel of the watersheds". Unfortunately no specific chapter or verse was quoted by the Minister, or guidance given by the Water Commission. Consequently, to avoid embarrassment, the writer, with the aid of a few understanding friends, set up the Watershed Association of Victoria to advocate the co-ordinated development and management of natural resources of autonomous regional authorities based, as far as practical, on whole river basins.

The Water Act restricts the authority of the Water Commission to the control of Victoria's water resources once they become part of

a river, lake, swamp or stream. In essence, this excludes the control of rainfall, or of the land area receiving rain, until the water flows in a water-course. Possibly the one exception is the land area of the constituted irrigation districts.

But everybody knows that natural resources are inseparable even if there is difficulty in comprehending their existence within catchments or drainage areas. The fragmentation of the State's administration of inter-related natural resources prompted the following quote of the Bland Report (No. 2) into the set-up of the Victorian Public Service.

"A major thrust of this Report is to provide integrated co-ordination machinery to embrace the totality of conservation, environmental and land-use planning — **Not Just One Element**".

There has never been any difficulty by water engineers in understanding hydrologic principles. The problem, confounded by the limitations of the Water Act, has been to convince the water engineers (as well as many other specialists) that the Catchment **Concept embraces the totality — "Not Just One Element"**.

In 1956 and '57 legislation was introduced to set-up River Boards, in Victoria's major river basins, for arterial drainage, flood mitigation and river improvement, etc. But the opposition of the upstream land-owners to the overall rating principles of this English system led to the abandonment of the legislative proposals. Some years later, the 300 sq. mile Dandenong creek catchment, involving 14 municipal areas or parts thereof, accepted the limited catchment approach in the now successful Dandenong Valley Authority.

But the D.V.A., despite its catchment-wide approach, is in no way comparable to the 38 Valley Conservation Authorities of Ontario, Canada, and certainly the D.V.A. set-up falls very far short of the autonomous co-ordinated regional authorities advocated by the Water-

shed Association. The basic aim of the D.V.A. is the safe disposal of its drainage run-off. There is no thought of the productive use of the surplus run-off which must be an essential aim of the Catchment Authorities recommended in the 1975 Northern Victoria Flooding Inquiry, later mentioned. Some understanding of the wider approach in Catchment management appears in paragraph 15 - 27 of the Select Committee on Drainage. Final Report, 1970 — Quote:

"(b) The activities of a Catchment Authority and Authorities responsible for water, soil, fisheries and wildlife conservation within the catchment district should be co-ordinated"

"(c) Action should be taken at a future stage to extend the powers and responsibilities of Catchment Authorities to include the control and management of resources within the catchment district"

It is pleasing to record that "the future stage" is now much closer. Late in 1975 three official reports dealing with

1. **Northern Victoria Flooding**, 2. **Maribyrnong Catchment** and 3. **Werribee River Basin** all committed themselves to the Catchment Philosophy.

1. **Northern Flooding Inquiry** — quote:

"The essence for the most appropriate policy for the future is the creation of Catchment Authorities with full scope for their own initiative. Administration and maintenance should be funded with local contributions by precept rating on the municipalities within the Catchment."

"Capital works should be financed by the Government. The Authority should be possessed of autonomous powers to initiate, co-ordinate and undertake the following functions" (a list of functions follows).

2. **Maribyrnong Environment Study** — quote:

"It is the intention of these recommendations to focus attention on the need for a complete catchment





Edwin G. Adamson



E. V. C. Adamson

**Catchments should be managed by autonomous regional authorities, as each natural resource in the catchment is inter-related with the others.**

management scheme in which the individual efforts of the various single purpose Authorities are co-ordinated within an integrated plan."

### 3. Werribee River Basin Study — quote:

"The Commission (State Rivers) has recognised the need for comprehensive planning of water resources management to take account of all other aspects as well, including flood protection, drainage, river improvement, wastewater treatment and disposal and recreation."

Readers are reminded that the Watershed Association has never claimed any originality for its philosophy. Nor has it ever questioned the technical competence of the natural resource specialists. But it has always emphasised the absolute necessity of everybody seeking to do their own thing to comprehend the unity of the whole environment — to rethink the obvious that nothing exists in isolation in Nature's grand pattern. And above all — that Catchments, whatever their shape, size or situation, are everywhere the only area in which conservation can be totally applied.

The Port Phillip Bay, Western Port and Gippsland Lakes ecological studies are all concerned with the totality of their respective catchments. But in the existing and proposed Regional Planning Authorities there appears to be a lack of

the application of ecological principles. Many planners and environmentalists have, or appear to have, the same mental blockage that bugs many natural resource-use specialists and geography teachers as to the relevance of the total catchment philosophy. We need a curriculum revision in the secondary schools to ensure that education should encompass Man's total social, cultural and physical relationship with Nature.

### The Challenge of 1976

The Victorian Parliament is expected to debate amendments to the Land Drainage Act of 1975 to include the setting up of the Catchment Authorities recommended in the 1970 Final Drainage Report and the 1975 Northern Victoria Flooding Inquiry. Herein, with vision and statesmanship, is the opportunity to achieve a major step forward in decentralisation — in the balanced development of Victoria by the spreading of administrative authority through autonomous regional authorities to give equal emphasis to primary, tertiary and secondary industries.

Already we have Regional Tourist Authorities and Regional Planning Authorities. Why cannot they be combined with the Catchment Authorities proposed as in the excellent Ontario Conservation Authorities mentioned earlier? In Ontario, conservation is more than

preservation. It includes the full use of each region's natural resources by all the aids of science and technology. Farm forestry, pasture improvement, water harvesting, land drainage and contour farming are all encouraged by loan funds and taxation concessions. The resultant increased productivity also pays off in flood mitigation and the aesthetic improvement of the countryside.

Victoria's successful Eppalock Catchment reclamation project offers local guidelines that could revolutionise the upper catchment lands of Victoria's rainfall areas. Decentralisation, to be practical, must include more than the shifting of industries and people to rural centres. It must include the promotion of the maximum possible use of each region's natural resources and recreation potential equally with administrative autonomy. The current Albury-Wodonga problems stem in part from the failure to comprehend the totality of the whole catchment — that the urban and the rural sectors are equally important in balanced development. This is the opportunity and challenge to Victorian legislators in 1976. Given vision and leadership Don Quixote's "Impossible Dream" can become reality through soundly-based balanced development policies.

Conservation in its full meaning is compatible with Balanced Development. □



# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 8. THE VICTORIAN PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

The Victorian Public Interest Research Group Limited was formed with the intention of pointing up deficiencies in our social organisation and moving through informed "lobbying" and increased public awareness to correct them.

As a student-directed research organisation, P.I.R.G. has no ideological barrow to push and no dependence on any aspect of the environment (such as forests or whales), nor on any particular section of the community, for its financial continuity. P.I.R.G. is therefore in a position to pursue a course, and to support ideas, according to more disinterested criteria than many other groups.

We would not however argue that true objectivity is possible, particularly in conservation issues. In most cases the factors involved, and their relative importance to (i) various sectional interests and (ii) present and future generations, are necessarily subject to value judgements.

In the organisation of our society, and the planning for its future, a balance between the needs and aspirations of all existing and potential members must be sought. Important decisions are less likely to achieve this balance when they are disproportionately influenced by those who stand to gain most, and be least affected by the consequences, of a particular step. P.I.R.G. seeks to give a voice to the disenfranchised majority.

The decision area in which the consequences for the future of present policy are most profound is that labelled conservation. For this reason P.I.R.G., although not by genesis a conservation group, frequently finds itself researching issues of significance to conservationists.

The approach, rather than philosophy, is perhaps best illustrated by hypothetical example: the mining and export of Australia's uranium resources. P.I.R.G. would naturally see the issues somewhat differently from those who hold the mining leases or from those on whose traditional lands the ore exists. While the latter group has less chance to defend their interests than the former, or even than the much larger group that would gain economically by exploitation, the interests of all these are far better represented than those of the vast numbers of man and other species that would be endangered, for hundreds of thousands of years, by inadequate methods of storage of lethal reactor wastes. P.I.R.G., without further research, could not categorically deny the virtues of ore exploitation. However, it would say that the level of discount rate commonly used to project costs and benefits into the future is wholly inappropriate for decisions of this magnitude.

This is an extreme, and extremely important, case of what P.I.R.G. sees as a common complaint — the discounting of the interests of those who have little or no voice in decision-making on a broad scale. We generalise this group as The Public and support them with informed research and argument to the limit of our means. □





# CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHIES

## 9. FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

I should point out that this is of necessity a personal interpretation. There is a range of views within FOE about aims and tactics. I suspect however that the views expressed here are fairly representative.

Friends of the Earth in Australia is a part of Friends of the Earth International. Our international affiliation is a reflection of our commitment to the necessity for a global approach to environmental problems. We have close contact not only with FOE groups in North America, Europe, and Africa, but with Jishu Koza and the various anti-nuclear power movements in Japan.

Broadly, our philosophy is based on a deeply felt dissatisfaction with present day society. We believe that a substantial part of the blame for the environmental crisis can be laid at the feet of the corporate forces which incessantly promote growth and consumerism, which knowingly pollute the environment because it is (in the short run!) cheaper to do so, and which are acting against the interests of the masses of people in the Third World.

This is not to suggest that we believe ordinary individuals are free of blame. We are all to an extent selfish, greedy and aggressive independently of the social system we live in. However, a society based on profit, competition, high growth, insecurity and incessant advertising makes it much more difficult for people to maintain any significant degree of individuality or independence. That is, it seems that our capitalist society magnifies many of the negative aspects of the human spirit.

FOE believes that in energy policy lies the core environmental issue. It is here that we have the struggle between huge energy corporations which desire a centralised, nuclear-powered and automobile-based society and environmentalists who increasingly are demanding a more-decentralised, non-nuclear, less electric, clean environment, based on less complex technologies. Whilst the corporations are desperately attempting to force nuclear power on both the rich and poor countries, ordinary people are growing more forceful in their resistance. In fact, all the indications are that, within a few years, the nuclear industry will be defeated both on environmental and economic grounds.

FOE's tactics are based on 'grass roots' principles. Our office tasks are shared by a large number of voluntary and paid workers and we work closely with trade unions, students, and increasingly with aboriginal groups. We are already deeply involved in community education and our second national bicycle ride to Canberra in May this year will bring our message to a greater number of people.

Our policy is to pay staff a maximum of \$40 depending on needs. When there are talented enthusiastic people prepared to work for social change at a survival wage it seems right to make our limited funds go as far as possible. It also ensures that the only people on staff are those with a strong commitment to FOE and its objectives.

Also we aim in our life-styles to demonstrate that there is a real alternative. We ride bicycles, live communally, buy few packaged commodities and generally try to explore and comprehend our interrelationships with people and the universe overall. We are working very hard to build a society more free of greed and exploitation, a society based on sound ecological principles, a society more conducive to individual freedom and happiness. □





# CONSERVATION ATTITUDES

## 1. CATTLEMEN ARE CONSERVATIONISTS

*Contributed by Graeme Stoney, Mountain and District Cattlemen's Association*

The presence of mountain cattlemen and the traditional practice of grazing cattle on the High Plains, and surrounding bush areas of Victoria, has become part of Australia's Heritage.

For over one hundred and thirty years mountain cattlemen and their descendants have been acquiring knowledge of these areas and were in fact probably some of Victoria's earliest conservationists.

During this time, cattlemen have realised and appreciated the tremendous natural resources they worked in and have done all in their power to protect and maintain the alpine and bush areas in which many generations of cattlemen's families have spent a large portion of their life's work and pleasure.

In the early days, times were hard, and some of the attitudes and practices adopted by these cattlemen are no longer accepted by the world at large or by them because greater knowledge and modern research has demonstrated newer and varied methods of achieving the same goals.

However, many of cattlemen's basic beliefs on the management of

the alpine and bush environment have been demonstrated to be correct and are in active use today.

One of course that springs to mind is the now widely accepted practice of fuel reduction burning. No one denies that in the early days the practice of burning was abused by some cattlemen, with some disastrous results, but all things must evolve, and cattlemen were the first to demonstrate clearly the many advantages of fuel reduction burning when carried out correctly.

To mountain cattlemen, grazing their cattle on their leases is a way of life. They love and understand "The Bush". They are essentially very practical and down to earth people, which is understandable, because the bush is a hard master.

They find it hard to tolerate people who come and spoil their bush — taking and not appreciating. They conversely accept and go out of their way to help people who, like themselves, enjoy the peace and solitude of the bush and mountains and who do their bit to care for the environment.

They are suspicious of "arm chair

conservationists" who perhaps drive many miles on a mountain road, assess an area in a day or less, and then criticise both the road and what they saw.

They are suspicious of people who freely use the facilities of a mustering hut for a week, then write in the hut's visitors book long tirades on the evils of cattle on the High Plains. Cattlemen cynically say that if these people believed what they wrote they would camp across the clearing from the hut not in it, cart their water from the spring 200 metres down the hill, not from the hut tank, and carry their rubbish out on their backs.

Cattlemen despair when they hear and read what they regard as uninformed and incorrect statements made by people about their grazing areas when they know, through their own and family experience, that the true story has not been told or has been distorted to suit a purpose.

### Cattlemen's Association

To combat much of this adverse and incorrect information, the cattlemen formed an association in the late sixties, called the Mountain and District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria which is now a recognised authority on many aspects of the mountain and bush areas. They believe that apart from additional beef production, several other benefits are derived from forest grazing with cattle.

The most important of these is that grazing keeps the forest "open" and the floor "clean" without detriment to the ecology. Cattle grazing prevents the build up of plant litter on the forest floor and thus limits the fuel source available for forest fires.

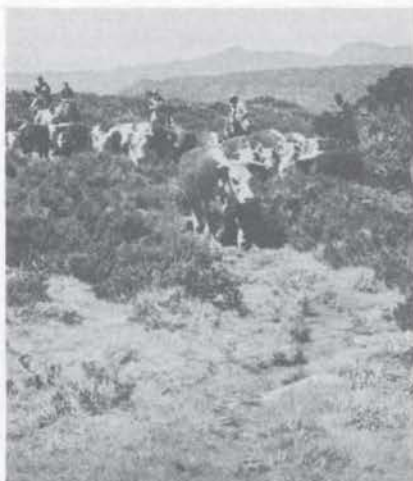
They believe grazing also reduces the amount of "protective burning" (fuel reduction burning) required to be carried out by the Forests Commission.

**Cattlemen Graeme Stoney (left) and Jack Lovick watch a mob of Hereford cattle cross the Howqua River at Sheep Yard Flat on their way to the Bluff and King Billy grazing leases.**

Photo: G. Stoney







A group of Cattlemen distributing a small mob of Hereford cattle on the Bluff after the main mob has reached the grazing leases.

Photo: G. Stoney

### Concern

In line with their inherited concern for the grazing areas for which they feel personally responsible, some

cattlemen, where necessary, in collaboration with their controlling government authority, have had dams constructed for cattle watering to prevent cattle going near springs and sphagnum moss beds. Cattle numbers placed on runs are strictly controlled and cattlemen often voluntarily cut their numbers further in a dry year to maintain adequate grass and herbage cover.

Cattlemen's huts are maintained and left open for all to use (and abuse as 4WD tracks become more heavily used by people who don't appreciate the bush, only the challenge of getting there).

Cattlemen are on the spot. They see trends developing in the forest perhaps years before it becomes noticed by authorities or other conservationists. For example, for some years many cattlemen have expressed grave fears at the rapid spread of noxious weeds such as blackberries, which are choking out streams and native flora, and

changing the feeding grounds of native fauna. Only in very recent years has much notice been taken of these warnings and now many people are interested in solving the problem.

Cattlemen may be a bit too down to earth and they may appear a bit "home spun" to city folk as they haven't the enormous financial backing or the access to the academic world to put across a high pressure case for the retention of grazing as some pressure groups do for their particular cause. However, everyone may rest assured that while they are allowed to continue their traditional industry in the mountains, they will, to the best of their ability, guard and protect these areas which they know so well. They will be pleased to share their experience with those who care to listen. Cattlemen and their activities must be retained in the mountains or a wealth of knowledge and ability will be lost for posterity and our children and the nation will be poorer for it.

## 2. INDUSTRY VIEWS

[a] Contributed by Michael Hall, Director A.P.M. Forests Pty. Ltd.

The timber industry views the 'conservation' of forest resources as one of managing these resources within biological constraints for the benefit of man in all his requirements — tangible and intangible. It sees the locking away of large areas of commercial forest beyond the needs for the retention of species — plants and animals — and for scientific and historical purposes, as a luxury-use of rare resources that the community cannot afford, and quite unacceptable while we import timber products from overseas and while demands for recreation and tourism continue to grow.

The timber industry believes that current forest management practice for multiple use is not in conflict with, but is the epitome of, conservation. Professional foresters would generally agree with this philosophy.

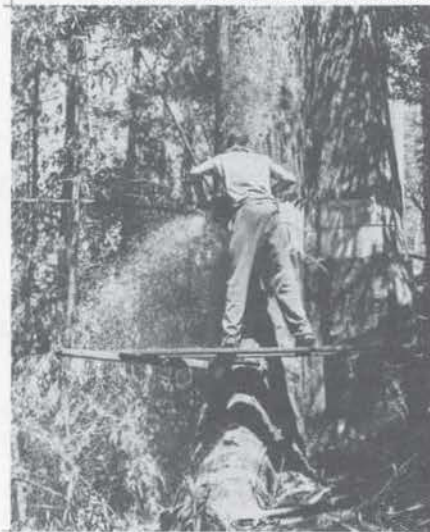
In such management, harvesting in a mosaic of small areas supersedes the devastation of wild fires and retains a continuing series of age classes with their attendant animal and plant species.

The use of forest resources is legitimate in an ethical sense provided that —

- (i) the manager accepts that his prime responsibility is to maintain the long term productivity of the soil. Some erosion will occur initially with the building of roads, but this can be minimised. Road building permits fire protection and reduces the incidence of wild fires which

Logging ash in the Central Highlands. Felling woollybutt, the first stage in the start of a new forest.

Photo: Victorian Sawmillers' Association



cause massive erosion. It also allows public access for recreation;

- (ii) All species of animals and plants can exist permanently in the mosaic of stands of different ages that follows forest management. Not all species will be present in all the cells of the mosaic but present in the district. It is known that some species of animals are dependent on hollow trees. Such trees will have to be left standing or otherwise a proportion of the area left untouched, say in gullies or roadside strips, to provide habitats for sufficient number of individuals to maintain a viable breeding population;
- (iii) the productive capacity or vigour of a forest should be raised where possible by the exclusion of uncontrolled fires. Future supplies of wood should be enhanced and not reduced by current practices.

Gifford Pinchot was the first head of the U.S. Forest Service early this century and first to adopt the principle of multiple use for "the greatest good for the greatest





Thinning pine in Gippsland. Pine billets ready for transport to a pulp conversion centre. The middle process in forests managed for timber production.

Photo: Victorian Sawmillers' Association

number for the longest period of time". Not all areas in any forest will be used for all purposes, but within any district all uses can be met.

Multiple use of forests must be considered in terms of long periods of time. Clear falling followed by regeneration is compatible with

multiple use as that particular area will take 60 to 100 years to reach maturity, forming a habitat for a wide range of plants and animals during that period, yet when first viewed the impact is one of devastation. Clear falling has been a forestry practice for centuries and regrowth forests in Australia result-

ing from either farm clearing or timber harvesting in the past are now providing some of our most vigorous forests for all uses.

The FORWOOD Conference 1974 comprising forest services and the industry unanimously agreed to the following recommendation:

"When systems of forest management involve clear cutting, it is recommended that:

the organisations involved adopt operational guidelines which take into account:

- (a) protection of soil and of catchment values;
- (b) scattering of operations to provide a mosaic of coupes of various ages and stages of development;
- (c) limits on the size of individual logging coupes;
- (d) the desirability of retaining unlogged or selectively logged forests with some stands permanently retained to demonstrate dynamics of over-mature, even-aged communities;
- (e) the desirability of retaining belts of selectively managed forests in localities of particular visual significance and for purposes of environmental diversity."

### [b] Contributed by Bob Moors, Director-Conservation, Victorian Sawmillers' Association

The conservation philosophy of the timber industry is in no way at variance with the widely accepted definition of the word Conservation, that is, "The wise use of the earth and its resources".

Somewhere between the extremes of the non-event forest isolation demands of the ideological conservationist and the real and growing forest-product demands of an ever-increasing population, we find the forest industries — community suppliers of structural timber for articles made from timber and wood fibre.

There would be few arguments against the use of wood being a positive contribution to our quality of life. People seem to like living with wood and enjoy a close-to-nature feeling when surrounded by wood products. In the light of all the words written in the name of conservation it is well to remember that wood (timber) does "grow on trees".

Although there are many good building materials, each with its own special merits, in the highly specialised field of home-building the evidence in our community is overwhelmingly in favour of the use of wood for both structural and aesthetic functions. Both of these aspects should be considered when evaluating the community's preferences between products and materials.

The environmental consequences and energy consumption of harvesting timber and producing wood products are decidedly less severe than those incurred in the mining of mineral and masonry raw materials and their conversion to building materials. In the case of wood, there's less disruption of the earth and far less pollution of air and water. Modern technology promotes almost total log utilisation, conserving timber and minimising the need for waste disposal. About half the materials for pulp and paper

production now come from recycled wastes and sawmill residue. Forest and mill waste are used for particle board, bark for soil conditioners, and sawdust and bark as fuel to produce energy for other forms of manufacture. Timber production itself requires far less energy than is consumed in the making of steel and other construction materials, and in growing, this primary raw material is the sole product of solar energy.

Those who complain about harvesting trees for timber, or object to increasing our forest resource in the form of pine plantations, are equally outspoken about the need for better environmental quality in housing. The most appealing structures from the environmental standpoint are those with exposed beams, weatherboards, shingles and patio decks blending into the landscape. This natural effect is only possible by skilful designs utilising wood.

From an environmental position,



wood resource renewability is the strongest argument for the continued use of wood as the predominant material of home building. All building materials are made from resources of the earth, but only in the case of wood can we put back with interest what we take away. While other resources are depleted as population and consumption grow, a permanent supply of timber can be maintained and expanded with wise forest management. Prominent scientists have also postulated the possibility that wood fibre might well become the world's principal source of energy in the future.

In creating these environmentally aesthetic structures in which people may live, work, and play, we are continuing the earth's humanising process and proving how the human use of natural resources and technology is compatible with ecological health. Also this humanising can bring out potentialities of the earth which remain unexpressed in the state of wilderness.

For some thousands of years now human beings have been transforming the "wilderness" and generating an astonishing diversity of man-made environments which have become the settings for most forms of life. Forested mountains and hills, pastures and farming lands, towns and parks, houses, churches and public buildings. People now refer to such a man-developed landscape as "nature", even though most of its vegetation has been utilised and regenerated by man and its environmental quality can be maintained only by individualised ecological management.



Integrated forest living. Carefully designed to utilise the local product. This outer suburban home complements, rather than competes with, the environment.

Photo: Forests Commission

Nature alone is not capable of maintaining man-made environments in a healthy state. Environmental health depends to a very large extent on human care. Forests must be managed, swampy areas under cultivation must be drained, the productivity of farmlands maintained by crop rotation, irrigation, fertilisation and destruction of weeds. Who would deny that a field of wheat or pasture is a delight to the eye.

The rapid degradation of abandoned farmlands, gardens and pastures is evidence that humanised nature cannot long retain its quality without human care. The same principle applies to forests.

It would appear that decision-makers have over-reacted to the non-utilisation conservation philosophies of the past three years and tended to polarise the opinions of

people concerned with environmental issues. Perhaps the time is now favourable for developing joint strategy between differing points of view. Conservation groups, forest service authorities and forest industry personnel must see the need for strategies requiring study of the forest resource. Not only of the ecologists' concepts of balanced diversity and enhanced biological productivity, but also the foresters' concepts of multiple use and sustained yield and the industry's responsibilities to social and economic factors.

Without an integrated grasp of all the principles and facts there can be no sound decision-making for the wise and balanced long-term management of the vast forest resource — perhaps, after water, the most outstanding renewable resource of our planet. □

### 3. MOTOR TRIALS AND RALLIES

*Contributed by Mr. Donald Thomson, Principal Consultant to, and sometime Secretary General of, the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport, which controls organised motor sport of all kinds throughout Australia. A former rally driver and navigator, he was also for 12 years a noted organiser of long distance rallies in South Eastern Australia.*

Amongst the many motorists who go for their week-end drive in the countryside is a small — a very small — proportion of motor sportsmen. These go, not to races or speed

events, but on tours of rural areas usually on forest roads by night time. The Regulations of the controlling body of motor sport in Australia forbid the organisers of these trials

or rallies, as they are called, from starting in, finishing in, or even traversing built-up areas, or exceeding an average speed of 48 mph — that is about 75 km/h in the



new and incomprehensible nomenclature.

Despite the care that is taken by all the officials associated with these events, not infrequently there occurs criticism of them causing damage to the environment, danger to the habitats of wildlife and general mayhem. It's only fair, therefore, to point out that it is not only love of skill and judgment in the handling of their cars (and in the gentle art of finding their way) that activates rally crews; they too, like many others, are genuine lovers of "the bush" to use that Australianism in its broadest sense.

Over the years, they travel miles of roads from desert sand traps to forest tracks; they do not travel on untracked areas or into the wild at random; they take extraordinary care with respect to such matters as fire, traffic and safety — as is evidenced by their minimal accident rate, far below that of ordinary motorists. Their official checkpoints are staffed in an orderly, controlled way by experienced officials, who leave none of the mess of paper, bottles, cans and all the other paraphernalia of casual picnickers; and if they light a fire for cheer on cold nights, they do so with

regard to all the requirements of fire control and general discipline.

Perhaps they, more than even the crews competing, get most from rallies for they have hours to enjoy the charm of the bush. I well recall the joy with which my co-organiser and I, planning a rally in far eastern Victoria, discovered one of the few, perhaps the only, colonies of the spotted gum (*Euc. maculata*) and obtained its botanical details from the local forest officer; and the re-discovery of the enormous foot-long gum leaves of the Tawonga Gap area; we have watched a long westering sun set over Wyperfeld Park; shivered in a freezing sub-alpine wind before dawn above Omeo; explored the fascination of the Grampians and the sandy littoral near Portland; and swallowed the dust of the Big Desert.

It is not the organisers of rallies who may justly be called marauders of the wild; neither they nor their cars leave any more than tracks in their wake, and them barely distinguishable. Indeed, through their constant study of hundreds of maps, and their hours of actual travel through the terrain those maps depict, they may well claim, though they do not, to be greater lovers of our beautiful countryside than many of those whose objections to this form of motoring pleasures are really, when you peer into it, seen to be based on envy of others doing their own thing, harming nobody and having a jolly good time.

At least they aren't scouring the country like mining companies and land developers whose sole aim is to destroy or plunder the environment merely in the pursuit of profit. □

A rally contestant on a forest road.

Photo: Laurence Thomas



#### 4. LAND-ROVER OWNERS' CLUB

##### CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

*Contributed by R. J. Camier, Assistant Secretary, Land-Rover Owners' Club of Australia, Victorian Branch.*

If it were not for the natural environment, we would not own Land-Rovers — hence we have a vested interest in nature conservation! Indeed, many individuals who appreciate remote bushland, find that they are best able to enjoy this by the use of four-wheel-drive vehicles. Arising out of this common

interest, the Land-Rover Owners' Club (LROC) was formed in 1963.

The LROC is essentially a four-wheel-drive, bush touring and camping club, with an emphasis on family participation. This is probably its most important feature, since even very young children and the elderly are able to participate.

Four-wheel-drive touring is notable for the teamwork and co-operation it engenders. It challenges physical fitness, driver skill, navigational ability, bush-craft, mechanical ability and all-round resourcefulness. Like other environment-based forms of recreation, it promotes an appreciation of the beauty of





Study weekend organised in conjunction with the Environmental Studies Association of Victoria. Photo: I. W. Camier

that some vehicles, particularly some modified trail-bikes, emit excessive amounts of noise which can be an offensive intrusion on other recreationists. In this respect, more efficient policing of noise emission aspects of existing vehicle regulations is essential.

The purpose of many environment-centred recreationists is to seek the relative peacefulness and isolation in natural surroundings, particularly as an escape from their urban environment. Sheer weight of numbers may become the problem here, and this would be best met by having large areas of land available for recreational purposes of all types.

A further possible problem is the adverse reaction which some bushwalkers have to the aesthetic appearance of forest tracks. In a solution acceptable to all users, the requirements of nature conservation, recreationists of all types, and timber, mining, farming and tourist industries must all be compromised in an equitable manner. This, the Land Conservation Council is seeking to do — and we believe is generally succeeding. The acceptance of its recommendations, however, is largely dependent upon each interested group appreciating the values of all the other groups; a willingness to share the compromise as necessary, combined with a recognition of the overall importance of conserving our most valuable asset — the natural environment. □

nature. Consequently photography, nature study and amateur botany, geology and gemmology are commonly associated with this activity. Four-wheel-drive touring is particularly suited to studying relics and ruins from our historical and early cultural heritage. Often this involves seeking out former gold-mining towns, the stations of grazing pioneers, and the routes of explorers.

It is not surprising therefore, that four-wheel-drive owners are among the keenest of conservationists. The involvement of the LROC with the Environment Studies Association of Victoria on various study courses, and the many hours which have been put into enthusiastically preparing detailed submissions for Land Conservation Council Studies are indicative of this. The social responsibility of members includes minor maintenance of tracks, provision of search and rescue facilities, cleaning up of remote camp sites where these have been fouled by hikers and others, and generally ensuring the continuance of the area's amenity which members collectively and individually enjoy.

The LROCV does not indulge in "off-road" driving. All roads and tracks used by the club are defined "roads" under the Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act, 1972. Off-road driving in Victoria is prohibited under this Act. Nevertheless, the misuse of the term "off-road" still tends to create confusion. Even on defined roads there can be environmental problems. On some steep tracks, where rainfall is heavy, and these tracks are not constructed

so as to expediently shed surface water, soil erosion can occur. While much has been said both diminishing and magnifying the seriousness of erosion, and the measures which should be taken to combat it, most argument is subjective. To verify the real situation, the LROCV believes that the Government could well complete a thorough scientific study of the problem on a quantitative basis.

Another contentious problem, which again is in need of clarification by scientific study, is vehicular noise emissions in the bush. Experience, however, has indicated generally that noise emitted by vehicles which are properly muffled is audible only over very short distances from the source. It is recognised, however,

Land-Rover Owners' Club members removing a fallen tree from the track on a club trip. Photo: I. W. Camier





# POINT OF VIEW

Contributed by the Conservation Council of Victoria

— No. 18

KEN HAYES, B.Agr.Sc., is Vice-President of the Conservation Council of Victoria, a farmer and private agricultural consultant who specialises in the management of properties and urban fringe planning.

— GREтна WESTE

## THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

by KEN HAYES

A decade ago the Conservation Movement was made up of a small rather exclusive group of concerned people. People who, because of their experience as bush walkers, field naturalists or bird watchers, or as biologists or geographers, rather apologetically requested that Government should respect certain of their wishes and refrain from completely devastating some valuable resource. I was one of those people and I was content if the damage was less than I feared and pleasantly surprised if we actually succeeded in preserving anything.

In those days urban issues were not considered important; pollution was regarded as inevitable if unfortunate. We assumed our planners and our scientists were experts and that our bureaucrats and our politicians would act on such expert advice and so our community's environmental future security and well being was safe in their hands.

History has shown how wrong we were and today the Conservation Movement is concerned not only with the preservation of wilderness and the survival of the species but with the survival of the world itself. The Conservation Council of Victoria is equally concerned with the pollution of our air and our waterways as it is with the establishment of an Alpine National Park or the proper allocation of our minerals, water and soils.

Perhaps if I relate my own experience on the Mornington Peninsula it will help some people to come to grips with the reality of the

environmental crisis and accept, with regret, a new more active role in the Movement. My wife, Meredith, and myself are both graduates in Agricultural Science. After some years in research, we became soldier settlers and after considerable farming experience settled in the late 1950s at Bittern, on the Mornington Peninsula, on a dairy-poultry farm, which we still own and is now managed by our son.

In 1960 a group of people from the Mornington Peninsula including many of my farming friends decided to promote Western Port Bay and called themselves The Western Port Development Committee. They were centred on Hastings and were supported through overlapping membership by the Hastings Shire Council. Their efforts were rewarded by Premier Bolte in 1963 signing an agreement with British Petroleum (B.P.) for a refinery to be constructed at Crib Point. I will not burden my readers with the sordid details of the political wheeler-dealing which has occurred in relation to land deals, both on the mainland and on French Island from then right up to the present time, and which will no doubt continue for a long time into the future. I will, however, burden the reader with a brief outline of some of the details of that agreement and the subsequent Act of Parliament. I quote from the book "Cities for Sale" by Leonie Sandercock:— "The Act stripped Hastings' Council of any authority in the matter. It gave B.P. the right to compulsorily acquire easements from private landholders

and indicated that the Company would be permitted to dispose of all effluent waters into the Bay without fee or penalty." "Only two major requirements were made of the Company. It was expected to pay for its own pipelines and to build a refinery that would comply with MODERN REFINERY STANDARDS. These standards were not specified."

Many of us criticised this Act, but this did not prevent the subsequent passage of two similar Acts — the Western Port Development Act of 1967, which was an agreement between the Government and Esso-Hematite and the Western Port Steel Works Act of 1970, which not only authorised a Steel Works Project but handed over to the Lysaghts Company over one mile of the foreshore and littoral zone, the latter to be filled in so as to form a private wharfage area. Having thus established industry on Western Port, the Government then, perhaps recognizing the potential danger in proceeding along the path of development without consultation with the people, promulgated Planning Policy No. 1 and Planning Policy No. 2.



Cultural Landscape?

Photo: Western Port Protection Council

VICTORIA'S RESOURCES JUNE 1976





A "Tank Farm" — The final crop.

Photo: Western Port Protection Council

Planning Policy No. 1 stated that because industry was now located at Western Port it should then be encouraged as a prime use, and Planning Policy No. 2 recognised the increasing concern of local residents, and directed that the Southern Peninsula should be managed primarily for nature conservation and recreation. Unfortunately, the boundaries of the two policies are ill defined and in the most significant Crib Point area actually overlapped. As well, a good deal of the Peninsula was not covered by any planning policy.

In 1969, the Western Port Regional Planning Authority was formed under an Amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act of 1961 to prepare and submit for approval the planning scheme for the area. Most readers who have borne with me this far will be aware of the political infighting since that day, and will be aware of the significant role played by the Conservation Movement. As a part of this movement and as a person who is now at times labelled an environmental activist, and who is accused, often maliciously, but I hope unjustifiably, of being non-objective and trouble making, you may well ask what was I doing in the period 1960-1970. In fact I, like so many "experts", was refusing to recognise the evidence

before me; even within my own area of training and competence I was promoting, both on my own and other peoples' farms, some agricultural practices which were grossly wasteful of energy and others that were likely to pollute. This admission does not mean I have joined the "anti-technological school of organic farmers", it does mean however that I have become aware of the inter-action between natural systems, be they undisturbed or managed. Consequent upon this awareness of my own inadequacy as an "expert" in relation to the whole environment there came an awareness that maybe the other "experts" knew just as little about their areas of expertise as did I in mine. This troubled me in relation to Western Port, for as a yachtsman, I and my family had learned to love its relatively undeveloped nature. However, my inborn desire not to become involved had allowed me in the 60s to merely express my distaste at the turn of events, even though I found the proposed and actual development quite offensive. I buried my head in the sand, not permitting my children to even mention the "midnight candle", that extraordinary flame that burns over all refineries and seemingly reflects modern man's inability to utilise a scarce energy resource. Because I and people like me took

no action in the 60s we now have more flames burning on the shores of Western Port.

Suddenly my world was shattered in 1970 when plans were announced by Ampol-Sleigh to build a refinery at Bittern on a property neighbouring my farm. I then for the first time appreciated the incredible conflict that can occur when a new and unexpected project can assure one of riches on the one hand and destruction of something one loves on the other. Could I oppose this new development which would certainly mean wealth to the people of Bittern? My children soon determined my attitude to be one of opposition, an attitude which was reinforced by my peer group, some 600 of whom met on the neighbouring racecourse and formed the Western Port Peninsula Protection Council, to oppose the refinery.

Since then I have come to understand the way society functions. I have learned to concede victory but never to accept compromise in environmental battles. I have certainly learned that the old dictum of assuming that sensible people sitting around a table and talking will necessarily come to a sensible solution is a lot of hypocritical poppycock. I have learned that the only thing a politician fears is defeat, and the subsequent anonymity. Once you appreciate this you start to become effective.

How then can one be so cynical when speaking of Victoria with its environmental legislation being praised throughout the world? I believe there is no contradiction and I will relate my experience of the past six years, and try to show you that if you are to be effective in the environmental sphere, then you will need to understand the decision making process, and in particular appreciate the influences which determine political decisions and be willing to take your place within the system and use it as both your right and your duty.

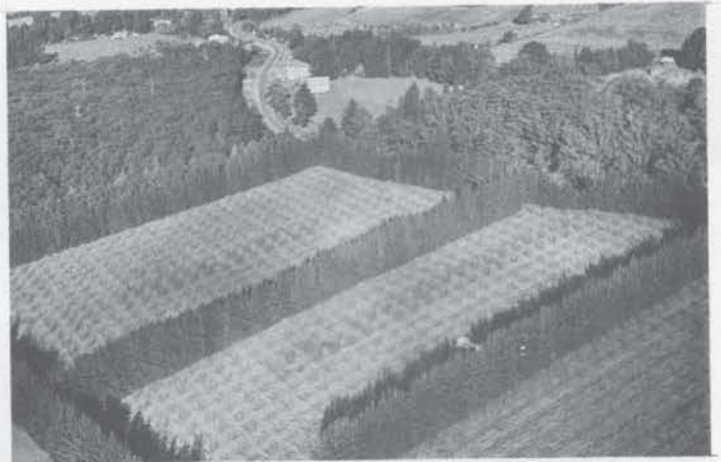
Let me look then at the legitimate pressure that can be applied to our politicians in an area such as the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port. Obviously, such pressures must relate to an assessment of the community's needs and in order to establish these needs one must understand the competing uses of



the land. Historically the area has had two distinct and non-competing roles. Firstly, of course, farming — for the Mornington Peninsula was first settled in the early 1800s and by 1850 free settlers had established themselves on farms throughout the Peninsula; from that period on the land use on the Peninsula has been largely agricultural. A well managed and diverse farming system has developed and has become stable — it is this "managed eco-system" with a mixed agriculture embodying grazing, dairying, orcharding and market gardening that has contributed so much to the Peninsula's aesthetic appeal. The second historical significance of the Peninsula has been its recreational utility as a summer resort area for the people of Melbourne. And, of course, it is the experience of these people, driving through the well managed cultural landscape so dependent on agriculture for its charm, that has created the demand for further residential development in the region, and so given rise to a new and competing land use. The paradox, of course, is that in satisfying this demand the planner would destroy the very amenity that promotes that demand. Land with a high agricultural utility invariably will have a high residential potential.

Thus, in the early 1970s, on the Peninsula we had all the factors suitably lined up for "a great step forward". The planners of the Western Port Regional Planning Authority must really have believed all their Christmases had arrived at once — the Government of the day was development oriented, Premier Bolte spoke of "Victoria's Ruhr", there was plenty of land available, and a deep port close at hand. Population predictions indicated that Melbourne would soon be bursting at the seams, and that regardless of the cost in environmental damage, a large scale residential and industrial development in the Western Port-Mornington Peninsula region was inevitable. Essentially, the Government's policies for the area amounted to multi-objective planning and it always seems to me that multi objective planning between competing uses must be non-planning. I believe the object of a plan ought to be firstly to assess what you have, and then to use it to its best

**Cultural  
landscape  
of high quality**  
Photo: Western Port  
Protection Council



advantage but always maintaining a stable system. Multi-objective planning frequently results in inadequate solutions to a host of problems unless the uses can be shown to be compatible.

However, many people who had learned to enjoy the region either by living there or spending their leisure there did not accept that industry could be developed without damaging Western Port, and they considered that an increase in housing would necessarily destroy the cultural landscape. It seemed to me that such multi-objective planning was neither economically sound or socially acceptable. We believed, and the subsequent review of planning policies has confirmed our belief, that the Government's multiple uses for the Peninsula were mutually exclusive.

We believed then, and time has strengthened our resolve, that we need to fight to save Western Port and to retain the integrity of the Peninsula. To a large degree the campaign has been successful. At Government level the following has been achieved:

1. The Western Port Bay Environment Study.
2. The Moratorium on Development pending the results of the first stage of that study.
3. The Review of Planning Policies.
4. The non-Designation of the Baxter/Balcombe Valley Investigation Area.
5. The recent decision of the Premier not to permit development of French Island.
6. An application that planning for the area should be on a total catchment basis and so the announcement of an overall co-

ordinating committee including conservation elected members.

7. The acquisition of large areas of the Peninsula for national parks.
8. The controversial but imaginative Conservation Plan.

As important as the above, we have learned to use the public participation aspects of the planning and environmental legislation introduced by Mr. Hamer when Minister for Local Government and reinforced later by Mr. Hunt and Mr. Borthwick. Often this has meant confrontation in Tribunals but only after the preparation of technically sound evidence. It has meant the issuing of strong press and news statements, it has meant the harassing of Ministers and finally, but only as a last resort, confrontation in the field. What I have personally learned is that sympathetic legislation is useless unless you use the rights conferred under that legislation. It means hard work in obtaining technical evidence and presenting it. I regard this sort of activity not as a conservationist's right but as his duty.

What then of the present so-called anti-conservation backlash? I can only say that I am pleased and thrilled that the movement has been sufficiently effective to create such a response which signals our success. It is important that conservationists do not retract, but meet the criticism of "lack of objectivity" with a continuing high level of technical competence and determination to continually put forward the only logical approach to modern man's dilemma — the conservation of resources. □



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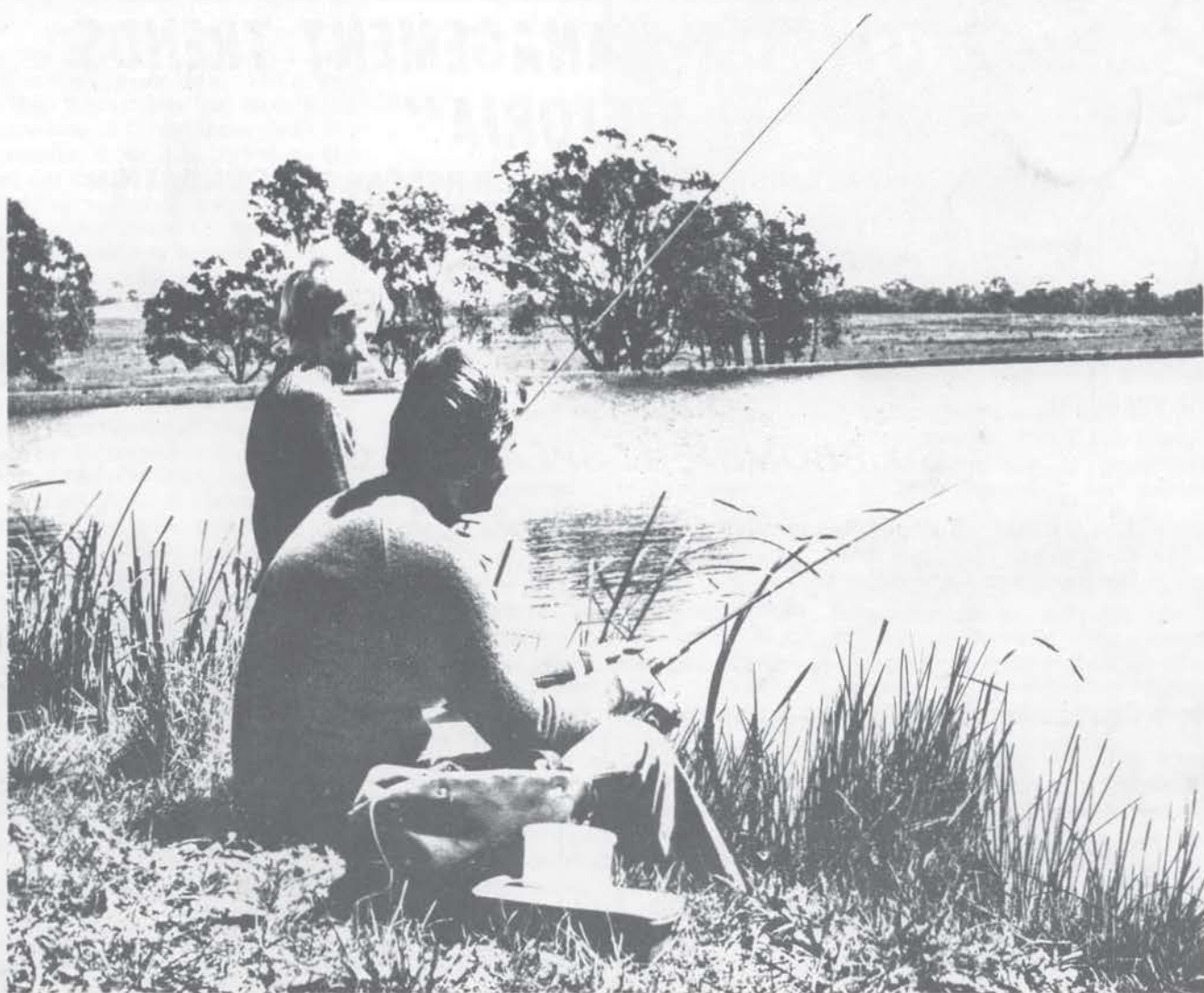
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