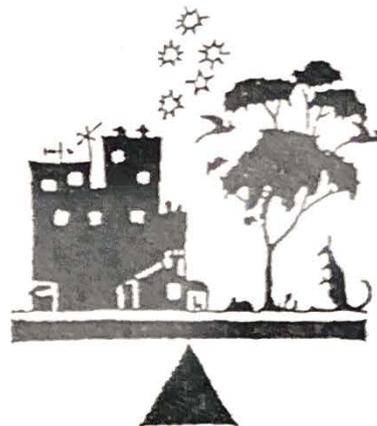


The Urban Ecology NEWSLETTER

Published by Urban Ecology Australia Inc.
84 Halifax Street Adelaide, SA 5000
Tandanya Bioregion Telephone/Fax (08) 8232 4866
email <urbanec@metropolis.net.au>
#28 December 1998



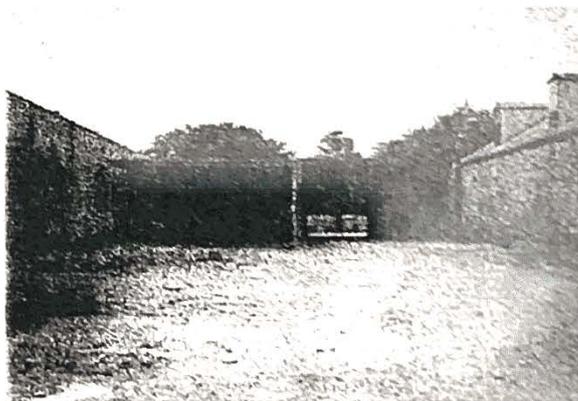
CENTRE FOR URBAN ECOLOGY • HALIFAX STREET • TANDANYA BIOREGION

URBAN ECOLOGY AUSTRALIA WAS AWARDED THE INAUGURAL CITY OF
ADELAIDE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD 1998 FOR "ACTIVELY PROMOTING
ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CITY" – SEE PAGE 6

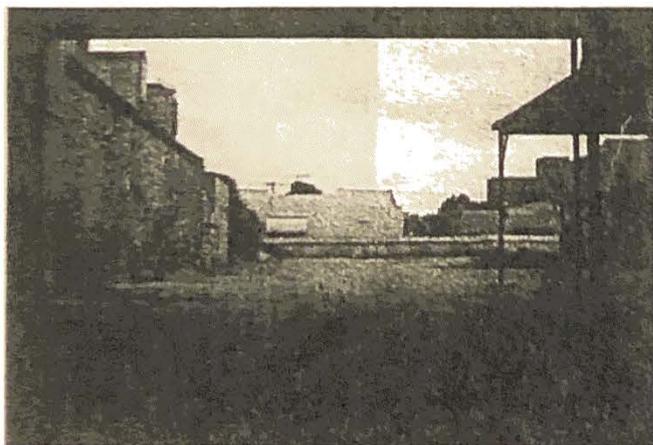
Another piece of Ecocity!?

The first piece of Ecocity development in Adelaide city is ready to go ahead! As we all know there have been what seems like endless delays with Halifax and with Bourne Court. But the site fronting Sturt Street (105 Sturt St – previously a bottle recycling depot) has been purchased and, as far as we know, is not contaminated. Already a number of people have decided to move into that development – if you are interested please don't delay!

Please turn to page 4 of this Newsletter for more details about the Sturt St. development.



View of the site from the South



View of the site from the North

Inside

Calendar	2
Around the Centre & ACT ...	2/3
Ecocities Update	4/5
Update on GE Foods	5
International News	
The Sunflower	
Energy tax reform	6/7
Green dream	8
Letters	
Fires & llamas!	9
Nuclear Issues	9
Heroes & Villains	10

Editorial Team: Joan Carlin & Cherie Hoyle

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editorial team or
Urban Ecology Australia Inc.

~ Calendar of Events ~

- January 21 -24 1999 The 1999 Mindware Exchange Conference at Burnie, Tasmania in the Creative Living Centre. Phone: 03 6431 5646; Fax: 03 6431 9024
- Fri – Sun 29–31 January **Whyalla visit by Her Eminence Sakya Jetsunma Chime Luding** (the highest ranking woman Lama of Tibet). Details below –
- Friday 29 January Public Talk: **Life in Tibet** 8–9pm at Edward John Eyre High School, Whyalla Norrie.
- Sat & Sun January 30–31 **Transmission followed by Teachings for the Uncommon Practice of White Tara.** 9am–12 noon, 2–5pm – \$40 per day. Venue as above. Enquiries: Rae or Bruce on 8645 4620(a/h) or Yvonne on 0414878985 (mobile)
- January – April Education & Training Courses by Quality Assurance Services. Phone 1800 815 438 for details.
- February 1-21 **Weereewa** – an environmental and arts Festival celebrating and honoring the magnificent Lake George (outside Canberra). Lake George is yet to be listed as a world heritage area. Dance, music, movies, eco-maze, exhibitions... More details contact Elizabeth on (02) 6238 1492.
- February 19-21 **WOMAD** – We hope to have some tickets available for this event – at a discounted price – for those prepared to work for at least 6 hours over the weekend. Please register your interest with Chérie on 8232 4866.
- Sat March 6 **Professional Development Course** – Royal Australian Institute of Architects – on Ecologically Sustainable Development. 10am–4pm. Taught by Urban Ecology Australia. Enquiries 8232 4866.
- March 21–25 Contaminated Site Remediation Conference – “Challenges posed by Urban & Industrial Contamination” Fremantle WA.

~ Around the Centre ~

Who's who around the Centre

Jana Philipp and Anne Baerwinkel

We are ecology students at the University of Eberswalde in Germany, doing our practical training with UEA from October 1998 until February 1999.

We are working on the 'Energy Green Map of SA' after three exciting weeks in Whyalla, where we stayed with Jo-Anne Waters from the EcoCity Information Centre.

It's a special experience for us to be in Australia because of the big differences to our home country in climate, landscape and lifestyle.

We are also interested in the fauna and flora of South Australia and spend lots of time in the Botanic Gardens.

Fortunately we can stay with Lyndon Zimmermann, who gives us a hand with the project and is a very good cook!



Jana



Anne

Annual General Meeting – November 22 1998

At the AGM it was decided that ordinary membership should increase to \$25 a year. There was to be a new Family membership category of \$35 (allows 2 votes). The Annual Report presented to the AGM is available. If you would like a copy posted to you please let us know. It is also available on email.

~ Around the Centre & ACT Branch ~

What some UEA members are doing!

From Steve Baker
(ACT branch)

Thought you might like to know that I have replaced Richard Ledger as the Australian representative on RIOD, that's 'Reseau International d'ONG sur la Desertification'. This is an international network of 'Non Government Organisations' (NGOs) and 'Community Based Organisations' (CBOs) working in the field of desertification. The goal of the network is to facilitate community involvement in the Convention to Combat Desertification.

Summarising the objectives of the network (as I interpret them): to raise awareness on desertification and its effects; to develop community based actions; to develop North-South solidarity and cooperation; to share experiences and information; to advocate at national and international levels and; to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

Interesting proposition given that Australia was a major party formulating the Convention and has signed it, but has not ratified it. Strong lobbying from primary industry groups (eg National Farmers Federation) and a government not likely to challenge their big business constituents has delayed things temporarily. In any case those of us that work on arid issues in Australia don't like the term desertification. It is an inaccurate concept for Australian conditions and is used politically to avoid responsibility for poor land management practices. But that's what they use overseas, and that's the name of the Convention, so we're a little stuck with it.

Steve Baker

New Life Members:

Brian Loffler

Warren Overton (in ACT)

Research and Grant Applications undertaken

Lyndon Zimmermann – a new member of the Board of Urban Ecology – is currently waiting with baited breath on a number of grant applications he has made. Two of the most promising are through SENRAC, the South Australian State Energy Research Advisory Committee, and the other through AGO, the Australian Greenhouse Office.

One of the SENRAC Grants is related to commercially sized solar hot water systems. There was a burst of activity many years ago, followed by inactivity. Lyndon's proposal is to review the current performance of two of these through computer modelling supported by data logging, developing a management plan and then proposing and justifying methods to improve their performance. This should also provide a good foundation for designing new commercially sized systems when the demand returns.

The second SENRAC grant is for a "Resource Assessment" project, to study a particular site and provide recommendations for alternative fuelling of the onsite cogeneration system. This study will look at a number of issues, including community consultation, council approval, power security and available materials, suppliers and consultants.

The AGO grant application is entitled "Renewable Energy: Guidelines for Councils, Councillors and the Community" and addresses the various issues relating to the introduction of these new technologies. Not everyone seems to want a wind

turbines on their neighbouring hills it seems! The issue of attracting new industries to a region is also central to the proposal. If successful, this program is to be delivered through the Cities for Climate Protection TM (CCP TM) program undertaken by councils all around Australia.

Web Hits

We recently asked Metropolitan Internet Services if we could find out how many 'hits' we were getting on our Web Pages.

MIS provided a fascinating breakdown of the 'hits' we received between Feb 25 and Sept 23 1998.

People from 61 countries have been looking at our web page, those countries are as diverse as Bahrain, Slovenia, Colombia, Dominican Republic and the US Military!!!

The most 'hits' were from Australia, 2nd US Educational Institutions, 3rd Canada, 4th UK, 5th Denmark, 6th Sweden, 7th Italy, 8th Spain, 9th US organisation, 10th Germany.

There was a total of 33,027 hits.

We will keep you updated on any unusual 'hits' we get in the future.

Web Sites to look at:

<<http://www.citiesfair.com>>

<<http://www.wavenet.co.uk/users/hemp/>>

The Centre for Urban Ecology will be closed from 5pm on December 22, and will reopen on Monday 4 January 1999 from 11am. Opening hours for the Centre are 11am to 5pm

~ EcoCities update ~

Whitmore Square EcoCity Project

This project is a proposal for a mixed-use state-of-the-art ecological co-housing development of townhouses, apartments, offices and co-housing facilities on 2000sq metres close to Whitmore Square, the South Parklands and the Central Market in the 'Square Mile' of the City of Adelaide.

The development is being undertaken by Wirranendi Inc, a non-profit housing co-operative incorporated in South Australia. The funding for the development is entirely from private and ethical financing sources and does not involve any government monies. Wirranendi – meaning "returning to bushland" in the native Kaurna tongue – was initiated by Urban Ecology Australia and is one of the outcomes of UEA's pursuit of eco-city development over the past 7 years.

The Sturt Street property in Adelaide will comprise the following accommodation:

- 6 townhouses of 2 or 3 storeys constructed from AAC (autoclaved aerated concrete), plantation timber and steel roof decking;
- 6 apartments in a 3 storey block constructed from AAC with a shared roof garden;
- 1 load bearing straw bale 2 storey cottage;
- 1 roof-top apartment on the 4 storey building fronting

Sturt Street;

- 600 sq metres of office space using steel frame with AAC infill and slab construction;
- a 2 storey adobe co-house fronting Russell Street.

The buildings will demonstrate a number of construction systems and climate responsive architecture for north-south and east-west orientated buildings in a compact, medium-high density urban infill context.

Construction will be non-toxic and highly energy efficient, greatly exceeding current Australian standards of environmental performance. Finishes and fittings will comply with the highest available environmental performance, eg. non-toxic paints, low water use plumbing and energy efficient appliances.

The entire development program has been initiated and sustained by an active local community of families, businesses and community organisations. The non-profit structure of the development entity enables the channeling of surplus into provision of appropriate technologies for the development and the construction of shared co-housing facilities. The development will be 'community titled' and self-managed under a community corporation.

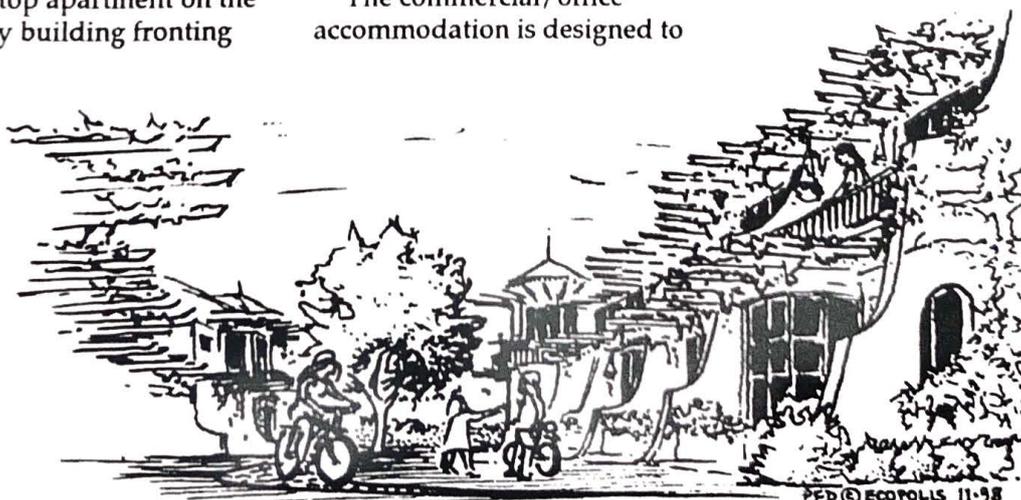
The commercial/office accommodation is designed to

maintain comfort levels without mechanical air-conditioning and to create a healthy, stimulating work environment. All floors of the mixed-use building are wheel-chair accessible.

Climate responsive design is being complemented by maximum economic use of renewable energy for heating, cooling, electricity generation and water heating. The co-housing facilities assist in reducing total energy and resource use, eg. by eliminating separate laundries in the dwellings. Waste water recycling and stormwater conservation and use is integral to the site management.

Paved areas are semi-permeable and all plantings on the site and its buildings, which are designed with a large area of balconies or roof gardens, are low water use, and indigenous or native vegetation is favoured. Rural revegetation strategies are being incorporated into the total urban based development program.

Vehicle access is restricted to the north and south ends of the site with no through-traffic, thus creating child-safe, pedestrian-friendly environments suited to community orientated living.



The Halifax Site

Ecopolis, in association with Urban Ecology, was hired as a consultant within 48 hours of Pentroth Pty Ltd being given a tentative go-ahead to further develop their ideas for the site. All discussions with John Culshaw and Craig Holden (Pentroth Pty Ltd) have been productive and they have always followed through with actions.

On September 21 the staff of Adelaide City Council finally produced a Progress Report on the Halifax Site Redevelopment. It was only 4 weeks late! It included reports to the Corporate Services Committees June 29 '98 and 7 September '98.

There are some very positive features of the Report, a few of which are quoted below.

June 29 Report

Item 6.2.3 At the present time, the Brief is broad in its scope to allow the developer to explore all options and to maximise possible outcomes. However, the next stage of project development will require Council to establish benchmarks of performance which exceed the existing boundaries of environmentally sustainable development in particular, whilst respecting the need to deliver a commercially viable project which does not require public financial support.

September 7 Report

Item 5.3 Pentroth Pty Ltd has:-
(a) Expanded the consulting team and engaged the consulting services of Ecopolis Pty Ltd to advise on specific environmental matters with the inten-

tion of incorporating key elements of the work to date of Urban Ecology Australia and Ecopolis within the context of Pentroth's initial urban design framework.

(h) In consultation with Ecopolis Pty Ltd, undertaken a thorough review of the elements of ESD required to meet the expectations of Council's Development Brief.

Pentroth's Report to Council included the following:

"We have engaged Paul Downton of Ecopolis Pty Ltd to advise on specific environmental matters. We are most impressed with Ecopolis' work to date and it is our intention to further utilise Ecopolis and Urban Ecology Australia Inc for specific tasks as the project proceeds.

"We see the creation of the Halifax Village Living Machine as a joint initiative between SA Water and the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, Pentroth Pty Ltd and Urban Ecology.

"Pentroth Pty Ltd will assist and Ecopolis Pty Ltd will be engaged to assist in the facilitation of the program.

"Improved Solid Waste Recycling Systems. Ecopolis Pty Ltd have produced an in-depth report on solid waste recycling. A copy of the Ecopolis report is attached.

"We have investigated shared car/smart card systems being utilised overseas. Ecopolis' advice is that the joint use of motor vehicles should be a community matter set up by community groups within the final development".

~ Update ~

Genetically Manipulated Food

GE Free Food List December '98 Newsletter

This is a continuation of the list featured in Newsletter #27. The following products are believed to be free from genetically engineered (GE) ingredients. We will add food to this list in each Newsletter.

Cake Mixes

Ardmona

Cakes

Big Sister (Simplot)

Canola Oil

All brands believed to be GE-free, except imported - e.g. Family Choice

Carob Confectionery

Caribbean Bar (Ronnoco Foods)

Golden Days (Heinz)

Bulk Products (Caribbean Carob Co)

Cereals

Likely GE ingredients in - products containing canola oil, corn/maize ingredients, lecithin, paw paw, soya ingredients, thickener & vegetable oil

Chips - Frozen

Bird's Eye (Simplot) - except Flavour Crisp

McCain - except Homefries & Crunchy Potato range

Likely GE ingredients in - other products containing canola oil & vegetable oil

Chocolate & Choc. Products

Ballantyne

Lindt

Milka (Phillip Morris)

Rapunzel

Toblerone (Phillip Morris)

Tropical Source (Cloud Nine)

Whittacker's Peanut Slab

Coffee

Likely GE ingredients in products with added vegetable oil

~ ACC ~

Adelaide City Council Sustainability Award

"The work of Urban Ecology Australia (UEA) is specifically focused on the urban environment. UEA is a national organisation with its headquarters in Adelaide which it sees as an ideal city for trialling and demonstrating key aspects of urban ecological sustainability.

"It is a community based, non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers that has been operating since May 1993. Some of their projects include providing a reference and lending library to the community, provide advice to architects, developers and builders on green construction methods, helped to develop the Green Map in conjunction with the City of Adelaide and the State government and looking at the possibility of creating community gardens in the City.

"This is but a taste of the numerous ongoing projects in which UEA is involved."

[Ed: taken from the Agenda of the ACC meeting Tuesday 17 November 1998.]

ACC Elections

Urban Ecology sent letters to all candidates asking about their environmental priorities. Elbert Brooks sent a detailed environmental program in response. Anne Moran, Alfred Huang and Judith Brine sent well thought out documents and Richard Hayward sent a series of dot points.

Bob Angove and Michael Harbison also talked to Cherie Hoyle, and John Rowley sent a very brief note.

At the time of writing - 5.10pm, 15.12.98, only 2 Councillors have been elected - Alfred Huang and Michael Harbison - Michael sponsored Urban Ecology Australia's original Web Site. Terry Papadopolous - developer Gerry Karidis's son-in-law has been the first candidate to be eliminated in the preferential voting system.

~ International News ~

The Sunflower is a free monthly newsletter published on the internet - providing educational information on nuclear weapons abolition and other issues relating to peace in the Nuclear Age. <http://www.wagingpeace.org/the_sunflower.html> . We have reprinted below two of the articles from the November 1998 issue.

UNITED NATIONS

Two Resolutions on Nuclear Disarmament Introduced

In his opening statement to the General Assembly's First Committee Debate, Kofi Annan declared that global nuclear disarmament must remain a priority of the UN agenda. With the introduction of two resolutions, Annan's vision may become a reality. One resolution, introduced by the New Agenda Coalition on October 28 and supported by 29 countries, calls on the nuclear weapons states to "demonstrate an unequivocal commitment to the speedy and total elimination of their respective nuclear weapons." France and the UK immediately denounced the resolution. The UK complained that the resolution ignored progress already made on nuclear disarmament; France derided the "abolitionist" approach as unrealistic. The United States also refused support for this resolution, criticizing the "alarmist" tone while simultaneously declaring its commitment to nuclear disarmament. It remains discouraging, but not surprising, that the nuclear weapons states continue to oppose actions by the international community that seek the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The second resolution, introduced by Malaysia, calls for negotiations commencing in 1999 on a treaty banning all nuclear weapons in accord with the World Court's 1996 Opinion. Other factors that bode well for Kofi Annan's declaration that nuclear disarmament must remain a priority include the Vatican's statement to the UN First Committee, which extolled the New Agenda Coalition for its efforts and encouraged the world to delegitimize and eliminate nuclear weapons. Similarly, the European Union, in a memorandum circulating in the General Assembly, urged the nuclear weapons states to reduce their nuclear stockpiles. Also submitted to the Secretary-General was a Joint Statement Against Nuclear Tests and Weapons signed by 63 retired Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi Armed Forces Personnel.

<<http://www.wagingpeace.org/news/unres.html>>

<<http://www.peacenet.org/disarm>>

EUROPE

Germany and Switzerland may phase out Nuclear Power

Switzerland's energy minister stated that the Swiss Government wants to phase out nuclear power after the licenses for the six power plants expire in 2012. Germany's new coalition government has expressed a similar goal.

(*Greenpeace*, 10-16-98)

~ International News ~

RECYCLING BUILDINGS

Deconstruction tested at Fort Ord:

The Ford Ord Re-use Authority has dismantled several buildings at the former US Army base near California's Monterey Bay as part of a pilot deconstruction project that shows how carefully taking buildings apart can recover valuable materials for reuse.

About 1,200 of Fort Ord's 7,000 buildings don't meet building codes and contain hazardous materials. Demolishing them and disposing of the materials, estimates say, would cost well over \$100 million.

To study a less expensive and less wasteful alternative, a \$200,000 grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation funded deconstruction of four buildings on the base last year. Built in the 1940s, the deconstructed buildings add up to about 11,000 square feet and include a mess hall or health clinic-type building, barracks, and garages. The buildings took from ten days to four weeks each to dismantle. Workers salvaged roof boards, framing lumber, tongue-and-groove Douglas fir flooring,

subflooring, and unpainted drywall (reclaimed for composting). Exterior siding boards of Douglas fir are warehoused until an inexpensive way is found to remove their lead-based paint.

"If the boards were clean and relatively new," says FORA project manager Stan Cook, "they'd be worth about \$4 million." All told, salvagers reclaimed up to 90 percent of the materials. "That's higher than what would be feasible long-term in the commercial market," notes Dale Stansbury, assistant dean of economic development at the University of California-Santa Cruz. "If recovery went down to 75 percent, the cost would be about half as much. Economic analysis," he explains, "indicates where the line of demarcation is between deconstruction and demolition."

The project confirmed Stansbury's belief that deconstruction is the best option in the vast majority of scenarios. Cook evaluates feasibility by considering, in order, available time, quality of materials, and volume of materials.

[For more on FORA's activities, visit <http://www.fora.org>.]

BioCycle, Nov 98, p 46, by Dave Block.

Energy tax reform in Russia ...

[Ed: Condensed from an article in *Finance & Development*/September 1998]

The countries of the former Soviet Union are large consumers of energy, and four of them are large producers of oil and gas.

The taxation of oil and gas production and consumption has become an important issue. How can these countries modify the taxation of their energy sectors to increase fiscal revenues, improve efficiency, and encourage foreign investment?

The article concludes that actual tax revenues from the oil and gas sectors are about one-half to two-thirds of what might be expected. Improvements in the fiscal regime could boost foreign investment, enhance economic growth and eventually contribute to higher tax revenues. There is also scope for increased taxation of consumption of oil products in all countries of the former Soviet Union.

~ Letters ~

Hello,

Ian Theaker here, from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Paul Downton and I had lunch today, and had an excellent (if too short!) chat about your efforts for an EcoCity Adelaide, and our work here in Vancouver, pushing the City for a "model urban sustainable community" on the shores of Southeast False Creek.

Paul asked me to remind him of my request for whatever

documents might be able to aid our work here, convincing the City to do something real, as opposed to more of the same with a green veneer, so here's my reminder, while it's still fresh on my mind.

Please extend to Paul my sympathy for his jet lag, and my thanks for his talk at the Deep Green vs. Light Green panel discussion at GBC. As well, I'd like to express my appreciation, and that of the Southeast False

Creek Working Group, for the excellent work you've all been doing in Adelaide. It's been an inspiration to us in our activities, harassing and wheedling the City of Vancouver!

Warm regards,
Ian Theaker, P.Eng.

[Ed - This letter refers to Paul's visit to Vancouver early in November - there will be a report about the conference in the next Newsletter]

~ Letters ~

[Ed: this is a letter from Mimi Piretti from Los Melados in Guatemala]

Dear Chérie

Thank you so much for every newsletter or information on U.E. You have a marvellous team! Did I ever say your equilibrium logo with the kangaroo and the tree was excellent? Well, here's a little bit from over here, with some of the energy of these little mountains, The Sierras.

The second fire (31.08.97) was not as wilful as the previous but it was destructive of reforesting efforts and most indigenous vegetation. We saved the central woods this time by ourselves. It would be hard for you to imagine that local firemen cannot be reached in due time and when they come they are unimaginably fumbling. It would be difficult for you to understand the whole picture unless you were here. So, we are now doing direct humble common sense fire prevention work on site. You should come and see.

On the other hand there is good news. For the first time in history, Los Melados has received a backpack water container with hose, pump and spray and two *chicotes* (broad whips to put out fire) from the authorities of the La Quebrada Water Reserve. The authorities are a new park warden and a biologist who holds the new post of technician in charge of this provincial protected area. We feel elated and acknowledged at last. Times are perhaps changing for the better.

What else is happening in Los Melados? There are a new set of beehives, the previous ones had meltdowns. Global warming is helping vegetation now, though we had a very brutally stormy summer with gales toppling ancient trees down and causing some unwanted bouncing back of vegetation of the violent semi-arid types that grow after fire. This means lots of unwanted burrs and other prickly seeds, for instance, getting into the llamas' wool. Of course there are few llamas now because after the fires the ecosystem was disrupted and lots of habitats were destroyed and so the big cat called *puma* or american lion began decimating our

herd, particularly targetting the *tekes* (llama cubs) instead of its usual diversity of other smaller indigenous animals. Our present llamas are really pets. We shall continue breeding them as soon as we can build some kind of an olympic fence high enough to keep the cat away at night. This strategy could be reinforced by penning in a few mules and a donkey; they are very handy at kicking and use all fours!! Horses only back-kick and don't meddle with the *puma*. Proof of this is that the *puma* also devours colts and foals.

You should know that llamas are marvellous gardeners with aromatics and many herbal remedy plants, indigenous or not. They nibble them clean from weeds and can do a perfect garden maintenance job on the crop while softly stepping in

of fires and llamas!

between plants and rows. Their padded feet are protective of soil and vegetation, never mind the slope. They can also carefully walk among beehives, clearing honey-suckle and other growth, respecting and being respected by bees. (Cows on the contrary, are known to scratch against beehives and topple them over).

As you see the idea is biologically interactive, no doubt it works and it can almost be made to look like an English country garden - with llamas. There is something we haven't told you about: we are the proud stewards of the whole length of a mountain brook from where it starts as mere humidity to where it rushes down to meet another and then form quite a lovely waterfall about 12ft high, with water fairies and all.

From the old High Basin Restoration Project we have not yet mentioned land rehabilitation work. Have you heard of deep gullies

being stopped and vegetated, resulting in landscape worthy of the National Geographic? Have you heard of a stream being put back into its proper bed? Have you ever seen a rock garden construction doing flood prevention work by decreasing the flow of the water at high peaks?

Last but not least: survival crops. Of course we have a proper vegetable garden, compost, worms and all. It's so green that it glows in the moonlight. But, then we also have the magic *Topinanbur* or Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus Tuberosus*), which the fires did not get at because it was below ground. The *Opuntias* (prickly pears we call *tunas*) on the hills may be OK again by next year and there have been prairies of *Chenopodium Album* we call *quinoa blanca* and you know as fat hen, dirty dick etc. quite a rich miraculous and universal green.

In Oikos, the main house, there is space enough for either therapeutical work gatherings or lodging of volunteers. Crossing the garden there is access through the woods to the heart of the stream: our drinking water provision, a mountain spring. That is also healing through water, be it a waterfall or walking barefoot upstream, treading on the rolling pebbles that really energizes you.

Hope this update gives you a true picture of midwinter Los Melados 1998, which was no winter at all. The usual dry season seems to have set in - every year it comes a little later - this year it is with us for 'spring' - so we keep gardening with fire prevention in the back of our minds...

This comes to you at a time of huge world transformation. Hope all your initiatives may be blessed to be useful to Mankind over there and all over. Deep down I'd love to hop over and see what's up, be it in the brilliant Halifax EcoCity Project or Whyalla too.

Of course, you or any of the tribe or visitors over there are welcome to come on board this end anytime - Cordoba Airport is relatively near. Love and best wishes
Mimi

~ Update on Nuclear Issues ~

BEVERLEY MINE NEAR FLINDERS RANGES

Uranium is being mined by Heathgate Resources at Beverley near Andamooka, just north east of the Flinders Ranges. It has been operating as a 'trial' mine since January 2nd 1998. Heathgate Resources is a subsidiary of General Atomics USA and is 100% foreign owned.

IN-SITU LEACH MINING

They use a method known as 'in-situ leach (ISL) mining'. ISL involves injecting a leachate (which can be either alkali or acid), into the aquifer (water table) to dissolve the uranium, then the liquid is pumped back to the surface where the yellow cake is removed.

At Beverley, Heathgate use an acid leachate. This is the more environmentally damaging choice, but removes more uranium per volume of leachate than alkali. It also releases more heavy metals and radionuclides into the ground water. The sulphuric acid used is five times stronger than battery acid. There has never been a commercial acid ISL uranium mine in the western world. Only eastern bloc countries and

China have used this method. They are still cleaning up the mess.

In the US, General Atomics would be required to rehabilitate the ground water, but here they are not required to do so. In fact, the used acid leachate, saturated with heavy metals and radionuclides is pumped back into the aquifer. A responsible company would evaporate the liquid wastes and properly

In the US, General Atomics would be required to rehabilitate the ground water, but here they are not required to do so.

manage the solids. Heathgate do not know where this radioactive waste goes when it leaves the mine lease, but there are concerns that it will find its way into the Great Artesian Basin.

Heathgate do not measure gamma radiation doses to the workers, they are estimated. Nor do they measure emissions

of radon gas increases, they are predicted with computer modelling.

On March 12 1998 a pipe containing leachate solution burst and 500 litres of the solution sprayed onto the surrounding earth. The area was cordoned off with tape, but no effort has been made to clean it up. Heathgate have a responsibility to inform the public of any radiation soils, they did not do so. The Australian Conservation Foundation uncovered the spill after much investigation.

The State Liberal and Federal Coalition Governments believe uranium to be the same as any other mineral, and should be mined as such. There are 26 proposed new uranium mines in Australia. As more mines are allowed, the instances of radioactive spills and environmental negligence will increase as will incidences of cancer. Uranium and its decay products remain radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years.

Write to:

**The Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP and
The Leader of the Opposition,
the Hon Kim Beasley MP
at Parliament House, Canberra,
ACT 2600.**

Nuclear Power – No thanks!

Urban Ecology Australia:

- supports the Mirrar people in their efforts to protect their land
- supports the endangered World Heritage Site listing of Kakadu by the World Heritage Bureau
- supports the cessation of all mining activities on the Jabiluka Site, as requested by the Mirrar people and the World Heritage Bureau
- condemns uranium mining for both ecological and economic reasons

• condemns all private bodies and governments who are trying to make Australia into a dump for Nuclear Waste
On 5AN's AM program (8/12/98) Robert Calluci – Dean of the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown, Washington DC and advisor to the US government – said in an interview that Australia should have a nuclear waste repository as our geological structure and political situation was suitable, whereas politically the US couldn't have such a repository as their citizens would never allow it. So

why do he and the company Pangea think Australians will? Is it the message being given out by the Federal and State Governments?

So what do we do? STOP IT! Make it politically impossible for ANY Government in Australia can even contemplate a nuclear dump or the Jabiluka mine.

Write to your State and Federal MPs NOW and tell them you will not accept a nuclear dump or the Jabiluka mine.

Chate Hayfe

~ Heroes and Villains ~

This is a new section in the Newsletter – please send us YOUR Heroes & Villains as you come across them! You can be anonymous, but you shouldn't be libellous!



Printers pulp Monsanto edition of the Ecologist – (surely a Villain!)

[Ed: this condensed report is from *The Guardian* September 29 1998.]

When an edition of *The Ecologist* attacked Monsanto, the multinational genetic engineering company, its printers – Penwells of Saltash, Cornwall, destroyed the 14,000 print run without notice.

Although Penwells (who had printed *The Ecologist* for 29 years) refused to comment on the decision, it is understood that the company was afraid of laying itself open to a libel

action. No copies of the edition (which took two months to produce) survived.

A spokesman for Monsanto declared "the fact that the edition has been pulped is news to me. We had nothing to do with it."

The pulped edition opened with an open letter to Robert Shapiro, chief executive of Monsanto, describing it as one of the largest and powerful corpo-

rations in the world. It says the issue was put together in response to Monsanto's advertisements in which it claimed it wanted a free and open discussion about the impact of its work.

Among the issues examined are the recent injunctions against the Genetic Snowball movement, which symbolically pulls up a few plants in genetically modified crops as a protest.

~ Snippets ~

Green dream raises fear of totalitarian nightmare

"It was when the authorities proposed poisoning all stray cats that San Franciscans began to suspect the city's new environmental blueprint might be more than just bureaucratic paper-shuffling" – the article from *Permaculture Network Victoria* continues with details of crack-downs on perfume and after-shave in public places; organic school dinners; compulsory planting of a fruit tree in every front garden; banning of free carparks for employees who drive to work ...

The 150-page document, approved by the city government, approaches almost every aspect of urban life from an

environmental perspective. The authors want to make San Francisco a model for urban life in the 21st century, where inhabitants breathe cleaner air, walk safer streets and eat healthier food.

The editor of PNV asked – *What do others think of this proposal? Is the line we draw between totalitarianism and positive change as clearly defined as we would hope? Have we got the time to wait for everyone to feel OK about the changes necessary for the next generations to have a "good quality of life"?*

What do UEA members think? We'd love to hear your comments – let's start a discussion!!

Outlaw Landmines!

International Campaign to Ban
Landmines
Australian Network – National
Office
GPO Box 9830
Adelaide SA 5001
Tel: 8210 8172 Fax: 8223 3880
South Australia Campaign
8338 1777



Obituary

Scott Christie died on October 19 from cancer. Joan Carlin, a Board member of Urban Ecology, was Scott's partner for 20 years. Joan plans to move into the Whitmore Square Ecocity development.