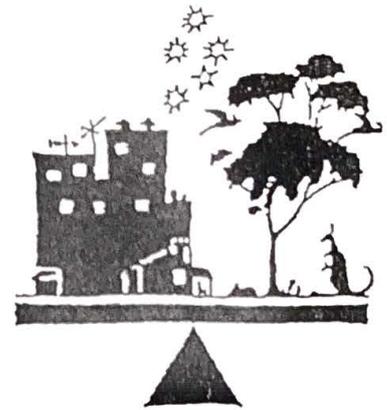


The Urban Ecology NEWSLETTER

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#30 April 1999



CENTRE FOR URBAN ECOLOGY • HALIFAX STREET • TANDANYA BIOREGION

What IS an EcoCity?

Those of you who get the City Messenger may have noticed that in the April 7 issue there was an article entitled "Green features mooted for Halifax eco city plan". The article referred to the concept plans for the old Halifax St council depot site. [Pentroth P/L originally provided their own concept plans to the Adelaide City Council. "These new plans were developed during the last six months by Pentroth P/L (& consultants) and the Corporation through the internal workgroup - Urban Design (Malcolm Snow, Michael O'Connell, Wendy Bell & associated staff" (from ACC Operations Ctee minutes 29/3/99)].

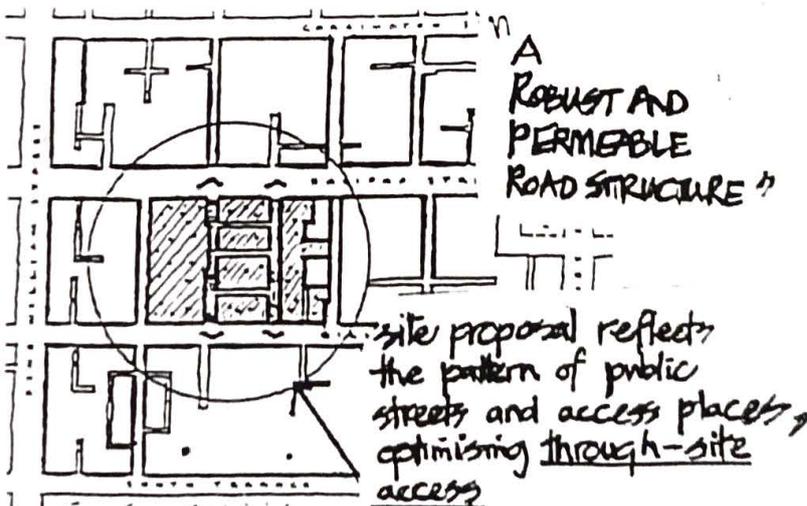
The Messenger article went on to describe features such as use of gas-boosted solar systems; on-site storm water storage and re-use for gardens and toilets; low allergy materials etc. These features are all very laudable, but alone they do not constitute an ecocity. In fact the concept plan

shows the area bisected by two wide N-S roads and three smaller E-W roads, and large blocks of units that 'all look just the same' (apologies to Tom Lehrer!). **What makes this an ecocity??**

An ecocity development must be community driven and must be designed for humans not machines. Anyone can add 'green features' to a development but please don't call it an ecocity! The original concept plan for the Halifax Ecocity Project (designed by Paul Downton) was developed after years of public discussion and input.

Urban Ecology will be making a response once the concept plans are out for public consultation (probably sometime early in May). We hope many of you will also take the opportunity to study the concept plans and make comments.

In the meantime Urban Ecology and Ecopolis have formally withdrawn from their involvement as consultants to the development.



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Editorial Team: Joan Carlin & Chérne Hoyle

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

~ Calendar of Events ~

- Sunday May 9 'CONVERSATIONS WITH ROBERT THEOBALD' 1-4pm Maughan Church, Cnr. Franklin and Pitt Street, Adelaide. Purpose of this forum will be to explore; Resilient Communities; the paradigm shift required to create them; practical pathways to act on our concerns. BOOKINGS at BASS \$15.00 and \$10.00 concession. Limited seats so book NOW!
- May 14, 15 & 16 Permafest 99. At Rockwood Hill, Wistow. Enquiries & bookings ph 8223 5155 or 8251 1217(a/h)
- Wed May 14 Politics in the Pub; What is the difference between a lawyer and a salamander? Come & find out from Simon Stretton & Alex Ward - Exeter Hotel Beer Garden 6.30pm.

~ Around the Centre ~

What's been happening

A new segment for *Around the Centre* is to give a regular update on activities etc since the last newsletter. This will also include a brief look at what Ecopolis and Wirranendi have been up to!

- Our two interns, Jana and Anne, have returned to Germany. We have now welcomed Markus (also from Germany) and Jessica from the US.
- Urban Ecology had a very successful stall at WOMAD - sold about \$1,000 worth of books! Special thanks to all those who worked on the stall.
- We also had a very successful stall at the 'What's Your Alternative?' Festival on March 14 and at the Unley 'Way To Go' on April 18.
- Chérie Hoyle was asked to comment on the submission from the Adelaide City Council in regard to the closure of the Wingfield tip (and the recommended height for the landfill).
- There has been a lot of activity around the development of the first stage of the Whitmore Square project (see the Whitmore Square projects update in this newsletter).
- Tom Manning (his profile was in Newsletter #24 - February 1998) is about to start work on a model of the Anglican Church planned for the Whyalla EcoCity Development.
- Paul has modelled the building planned to house the Centre for Urban Ecology, Ecopolis and New Internationalist.
- In addition to work on the Whitmore Square plans, Ecopolis has been finalising the house designs for the Whyalla EcoCity Development.
- Ian Bourne talked to a group of around 50 people about the work of Urban Ecology.
- Chérie has been elected to the Executive of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association.
- Chérie, Michelle Grady & Vicki-Jo Russell spoke to the State Women's Council of the Liberal Party on a range of environmental issues.

Who's who around the Centre

Markus Venohr

'Hallo, my name is Markus Venohr. I'm a 27 year old German geography student. I'll work for Urban Ecology as an intern from mid-March to mid-July. Together with Lyndon Zimmermann I'll do some GIS (Geographical Information System) analysis for SENRAC - "Biomass firing of Normanville Abattoir Cogeneration plant", additionally I'll work on tasks concerning groundwater modelling.

During my studies my interests in environmental research and pollution has grown. For the last 2 1/2 years I have been working for the Ecosystem Centre at Kiel. There I had the chance to get some experience in groundwater modelling and other aspects of hydrology. I wanted to come to Urban Ecology Australia to get to know applied ecological work, Australia's different landscapes, culture and, of course, to be rid of the bad weather in Germany. After my work as an intern I plan to travel through Australia for a couple of weeks.'

Jessica Bullen

"I've come to Adelaide from Chicago. I graduated from university last May with a degree in Geology. While I was a student, I had the fantastic opportunity to study in Venezuela and Cuba. After I graduated, I worked at my university assisting students with study skills. I intend to pursue a graduate degree in Environmental Planning when I go back to the US. I became interested in working as an intern with Urban Ecology because I had not previously encountered a group working so intently on urban environmental issues. I hope that I learn a lot from the people here at the Centre and other people I meet that I can take with me back to the US.

I will be working on a project with Sheila Brown comparing the transportation habits of people living in suburbs and in the city and the costs and benefits in regard to these habits. Hopefully, the results of this project will demonstrate that there are a variety of benefits to be had by living in the city rather than a suburb. I have also been instructed to make explanatory signs for the mysterious boxes by Cherie's desk!

~ Around the Centre ~

We now have a new section in *Around the Centre* where we profile one of our members. Ray's is the first profile.

Ray Walford

I have worked in computer software development for most of my working life. I have also taught science in a secondary school and worked as a chemical engineer and briefly as a traffic engineer.

I have always been interested in towns and their development. Growing up in an English market town commuting distance from London, I experienced a great deal of development. The town was expanded from 40,000 to 100,000 people over the course of the 1960s and 1970s, and much of the old town centre was demolished to make way for new roads and a shopping centre. As a youth I generally favoured such developments as a sign of modernity. Now I am appalled at the devastation they caused.

When I came to Australia in 1967 I soon discovered how car-dependent this country is. Having no car, and working in Geelong, the limitations of the poor public transport services were immediately apparent. Car ownership was forced upon me.

In 1971 I returned to England, and lived there for 7 years without owning a car. I became a bicycle commuter.

Since returning to Australia in 1978 I have campaigned against urban road building and for public transport. I was president of the Public Transport Users Association from 1988 to 1992. I have since studied urban planning at Melbourne University. I am vice president of the Town and Country Planning Association and a member of the Greens and ACF.

I joined Urban Ecology because it has a pro-active and practical approach to tackling urban environmental problems. I found the technology and the democratic planning process

proposed for the Halifax project exciting.

My two main interests of transport and urban development go hand in hand: the nexus between transport and land use is the key to developing sustainable and enjoyable cities.

As I grow older, and the magnitude of the world's environmental problems grows, I have an increasing sense of urgency about achieving change. The growing imbalance between rich and poor, both nationally and globally, adds to this sense of urgency. Changes for the better happen at a snail's pace, while changes for the worse happen catastrophically quickly (Indonesia, Honduras). The global environmental and economic effects of the over-consuming rich countries are adding to the social and environmental problems of the poor. It is imperative that the rich minority learn to live with much lower use of resources and, in particular, fossil fuels. This means living much more efficiently in cities.

[Ed: Ray Walford is a longtime member and friend of UEA]

When Alan wed Carmen

On St Valentine's Day Dr Alan Stewart married Carmen Liddane in cyberspace. Friends from as far afield as Vancouver, New York City, London, Johannesburg and Bali "dropped in" via the internet at the Box Factory Community Centre to take part in the informal ceremony.

Alan has been involved with Urban Ecology for many years, and he and Carmen are hoping to move into a townhouse in Christie Walk.

Sharon Ede

UEA Board Member and volunteer Sharon Ede has landed a full time job in the Planning Section of the Environment Protection Agency, Dept of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs.

The job will involve assessing development applications, plan amendment reports and other planning documents referred to the EPA, and assisting in the review, development and implementation of environmental and natural resource planning policies.

Sharon hopes to further the ideas of urban ecology and ecological cities within this position, and – given that her strong background in environmental and community work seemed to give her an edge in getting the job – wishes to point out that volunteering at UEA is good for your career prospects!

Pauline Frost

Congratulations to UEA member Pauline Frost! Pauline is the first person to be honoured with life membership of Greening Australia (SA). Her willingness to create a positive and healthy environment has seen her plant more than 20,000 trees – and her passion continues to grow.

"There is so much work that needs to be done", Pauline said. "It's really time that we bit the bullet and make the hard decisions."

(from 'The Bunyip' Gawler, March 31)

Email for UEA in ACT (Warren Overton) <ueaact@hotmail.com>

Wondrous Web sites

- www.earthday.net
- www.greenbuilder.com
- www.monetary-reform.on.ca
- www.irn.org (International day of action against dams and for rivers, water & life)
- www.abc.net.au/science/slab/conscons/splash.htm (Results of Aust Citizens' Panel on GM food)
- <http://listserv.energy.wsu.edu/guest/RemotelistSummary/GreenClips> (greenclips summary of news on sustainable building design & related govt & business issues published every 2 weeks by Chris Hammer.)

~ EcoCities update ~

Christie Walk

Since the last newsletter the Project continues to absorb as much love, attention, blood, sweat and tears as we can pour into it. We are still anticipating a start to construction of the first stage in around June or early July. Before then there continues to be a lot of ground-work to be laid. Recently we have been investigating the history of the land and of the two cottages on site. Interestingly, the old stone building backing onto the site was originally the tram barn for Adelaide's first horse-drawn trams. So we have a link there with the spirit of renewable-energy public transport. The building subsequently became a school and is now in use as a carpentry workshop.

The design and documenta-

tion of the buildings is progressing well and, as of writing, our planning application to the Adelaide City Council is imminent. Our division of the land into a Community Title Scheme is also steadily coming together. A storage area has been installed on site thanks to Ian Bourne and Beverley Vaughan, where we can store recycled building materials.

The future community is taking shape. We now have committed buyers for at least nine of the thirteen dwellings, so if you're thinking about it you'd better get in touch soon! Later in the year we will be conducting workshops for the future residents to plan the landscaping of the land, led by permaculturist Jacqui Hunter. There will also be workshops conducted around the construction of the straw

bale cottage. So, keep in touch; there'll be lots of opportunities for keen UEA members to get their hands dirty.

Wirranendi also recently held an information day on-site for the local residents which attracted a good number on a cold, wet day and led to establishing a number of good contacts within the community of the South West quarter of the City. This included an invitation to talk on the Project to the area's Neighbourhood Watch meeting in May; apparently the most active and well attended Neighbourhood Watch group in the State! It was really worthwhile being able to show that in both style and content we are not conventional 'developers', and the response was positive and encouraging.

Matt Fisher

Bourne Court

A revised estimate of \$25,000 has been received for the cleanup of this site so this development will be going ahead once Christie Walk is underway.

Halifax Depot site

See page 1 for comment on the recent concept plan. Decontamination of the site has at last started.

Whyalla EcoCity Devt

A grant has been received from government (\$50,000) to develop the ecocity interpretive feature on the site, which was designed by Paul Downton.

~ Ecological Developments ~

ROOFTOP GREENING

As urban populations increase, rooftop gardens on flat or sloping roofs are attracting increasing international interest as a way of gaining access to valuable open space while making urban environments healthier more attractive places in which to live and work.

The reported benefits of rooftop greening include:

- improvements in human comfort levels and general air quality
- reduction in greenhouse emissions
- energy savings in heating and cooling through roof insulation
- rooftop capture and productive use of storm water
- increased habitat for native plants and birds

- job opportunities in plant production, design and construction
 - opportunities for urban food production, and
 - access to private outdoor open space at home or at work
- Internet contact with municipalities, manufacturers and designers in Europe and North America are reporting that Rooftop Greening is moving from the fringe into the mainstream for two reasons. One; increasing urban densities are leading to a desire for greater access to green open space; and two, the role of urban vegetation in producing oxygen, fixing carbon dioxide and filtering urban air and water is becoming more widely recognised.

This move is most dramatic in

Switzerland and Germany. Canada and the United States are following closely.

By the year 2000, 50% of the world's population will be living in cities. Rooftop greening would seem to have a place in a vision of the future.

<Michael.Lytton@gems3.gov.bc.ca>
<jamil.Brownson@montana.com>

[Ed. note: Rooftop gardens are planned for the roof of the apartment buildings in the Christie Walk Development.

NB the above article has been edited, and further excerpts will be in the next newsletter.]

~ Genetically Modified Foods ~

Britain is considering a three-year moratorium on the commercial planting of genetically-modified crops.

English Nature, the Government's chief environmental advisers, have recommended the three-year pause to allow further research into the possible harmful side-effects of GM crops, Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, told BBC radio recently. Environmental campaigners say GM crops – engineered to resist pests or tolerate extra herbicide – could kill off the plants which act as food for birds, insects and animals.

They also say more research is needed into the possible side-effects on human health of eating GM food. Newspapers said the Government summoned the heads of biotechnology companies based in Britain, including the US giant Monsanto, for talks about a voluntary code which would delay wide-scale planting of the crops until 2002.

From Earth Garden Dec/Feb 1998

GE foods: a couple of articles from Planet Ark
<www.planetark.org>

1. Genetic Modification Fears Boost Organic Produce

Concerns over the safety and potential ubiquity of genetically modified GM foods are driving British consumers increasingly into the arms of organic producers. And the supporters of organic methods, farming using no artificial pesticides or fertilisers, have been quick to push organic food as the only sure-fire way of avoiding transgenic material in food. "There's a real choice," said Douglas Parr, a campaigner with the environmental group Greenpeace. "The choice is whether to go down a genetically modified future or a sustainable organic future."

(Christopher Lyddon)

2. Eurostores cash in on "Frankenstein Food" fears

Gene-altered crops may produce designer tomatoes and bug-resistant maize, but are they safe

to eat? Consumers in Europe don't seem to think so.

A spate of health scares about genetically modified (GM) produce have spooked shoppers and sent big supermarket groups scrambling to ban so-called "Frankenstein foods" from own-brand products. Stores are effectively taking the law into their own hands, producing "GM-free" merchandise to tap growing demand from health-conscious customers for natural or organic groceries.

The British chain J. Sainsbury Plc has formed a consortium with six other European supermarkets to scour the world for non-modified supplies for own-brand ranges.... Tesco Plc, Britain's leading supermarket, has pledged to label products containing modified ingredients....

Jane Merriman

[Ed: do you know of any moves to ban GE modified foods in Australia? Please let us know]

GE-free foods list

The following products are believed to be free from genetically engineered (GE) ingredients. We encourage you to buy these products as a first preference, to add economic support to labelling. We will add to this list in each Newsletter.

MALTED & ENERGY DRINKS

Horlicks (Smithkline Beecham)
Sustagen (Bristol Myers)

MARGARINE

Melrose Omega Spread

MAYONNAISE

ETA (Phillip Morris)

Heinz

Kraft (Phillip Morris)

Melrose

praise (Goodman Fielder)

Weight Watchers (Heinz)

Likely GE ingredients in – other

products containing canola oil, modified starch, soya oil & veg. oil

MEAT PRODUCTS – PROCESSED

Likely GE ingredients in – products

containing corn/maize starch,

potatoes (if made in USA), starch,

soya ingredients, thickener, veg. oil,

veg. proteins & veg starch

MILK POWDER

Milk powder with no added lecithin

MISO

Products with ingredients other than soya, with certified organic soyabbeans, or:

Abundant Earth (Health Minders)

Muso

Spiral Foods

NOODLES

Plain noodles without veg. oil in the ingredients

OAT MILK

Oat Delight (Pureharvest)

Pureharvest

OILS

Sunflower, olive, grapeseed,

macadamia, sunflower etc.

Likely GE ingredients in – vegetable oil,

corn, cottonseed, soya & spray-on

varieties

Possible GE ingredients in – canola oil

PACKET MEALS

All/most brands likely to have GE

ingredients

PASTA

100% wheat pasta, any product with an organic/BD certification logo, or: Buontempo (Roma Food Products) Orgran (Roma Food Products)
Likely GE ingredients in – products containing corn (if made in USA), corn starch & soya ingredients

PASTA FRESH

Almost all brands likely to have GE ingredients

PIES

Mike's Real Food

PIZZAS

All/most brands likely to have GE

ingredients

POTATO CHIPS

Plain, Salted & Original varieties

Freedom Foods

French Fries (Snack Brands Australia)

Likely GE ingredients in – products

containing hydrolyzed veg. protein,

maltodextrin, starch & Pringles

~ International News ~

APOLOGIES to Mimi Piretti!

In Newsletter #28 (article 'Of fires & llamas!') we asserted that Los Melados was in Guatemala – but no, it is in Argentina. So now we give Mimi a few lines more to update her information! "... *Los Melados is in continental South America nearer the Andes than the River Plate, on the hills of Cordoba, Argieland(sic). After so many mistakes, from mid '93 to mid '98 dawn seems to be breaking; we need partners to participate in this southern venture within a green sanctuary, a biological ashram, despite mankind, a school for humanity to learn from the pachá, mother nature. It's a hard mission, ... so please help us link up from scratch. The address is PO Box 131, 5111 R. Ceballos, Cordoba, Argentina.*"

Home – The City of All of Us; Urban Solutions; Economic Development

Curitiba offers a large proportion of green area per inhabitant – 52m² per person, totalling 21 million m². Pioneering the implementation of recyclable waste exchange schemes in Brazil, Curitiba today separates 13 % of its garbage and is also ranked first among the 4 Brazilian cities that separate recyclable biodegradable waste (cans, glass, metal, plastic, paper), followed by Porto Alegre (5 %), Florianópolis (4 %) and São Paulo (the largest Brazilian city separates just 1% of what it collects).

Awarded the highest environmental prize in 1990 by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the recyclable waste scheme has accomplished the separation of 419,000 tons of recyclable waste since its 1989 start-up. Such volume would fill up 1,200 20-storey buildings with 280 m² of trash each. Inorganic waste (plastic, paper, glass and aluminum) amounts to

13 % of all garbage collected.

In its newest stage, the recyclable waste scheme reaches the 13 municipalities of Greater Curitiba. These city governments understand that this increase is critical to the preservation of Curitiba's fresh water supply.

The preservation of green areas is another central instrument of municipal environmental and sanitation policy. The 21 million m² of parkland (parks, woods, gardens and squares) maintained within the urban perimeter are visited by over 150,000 people during weekends. Such recreational alternatives mean quality of life and particularly the balance between the city and its environmental assets. Most of Curitiba's parks, called linear parks, are located along river banks and in valley bottoms. They work like a kind of barrier that prevents illegal occupation of such areas, subject to floods, in addition to keeping

riders and streams from becoming landfills. The park lakes are used to hold back floods and function as water flow regulators during the rainy season.

The population's motivation to cooperate with environmental programs increases proportionally to the benefits generated by environmental schemes. Câmbio Verde (Green Exchange), for example, exchanges recyclable trash for sacks of foodstuffs, toys and teaching material.

In the Olho d'Água (Fountain) scheme the community plays an active role in environmental education activities. All 2,600 municipal school students carry out, through water analysis, a complete survey about river quality. The idea is to assess and eventually intervene with concrete actions to recover the quality of the water supply.

<smma@smma.curitiba.pr.gov.br>

[edited]

Snippets from: The EnviroLink News Service

E-Mail: <newsdesk@envirolink.org> Web: <<http://www.envirolink.org>>

Power from the people

Governments and the masses have rarely worked together well in modern India... until now. Anil Agarwal takes a look at one government-inspired watershed management scheme which has successfully married environmental regeneration with economic well-being. Read the story: www.oneworld.org/cse/html/dte/dte981231/dte_cover.htm

A dime for the rainforest

The vision of the murdered ecologist Chico Mendes was to save the Amazonian forests by allowing their inhabitants to

make a sustainable living from them. His idea was adopted, but renewed effort is needed to make it work. Read the story: <http://www.panda.org/news/features/story.cfm?id=198>

Norway to ban some malls

Norway on Friday banned the construction of large shopping centers outside city-center areas for five years in a bid to reduce automobile pollution and revive ailing downtowns. Read the story: www.spokane.net:80/news-story-body.asp?Date=011099&ID=513612

Plutonium found in Nevada groundwater

Traces of plutonium from a test blast in the Nevada desert migrated nearly a mile through groundwater, according to a study that prompted the government to recalculate slightly the risks that would be posed by an underground nuclear waste storage site. Read the story:

www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2557917927-c2c

~ Local News ~

The Whitmore Square EcoCity Project

'Christie Walk' Development Stage 2

Sturt Street ADELAIDE

A Co-housing development by Wirranendi Inc

Plans: CoHouse

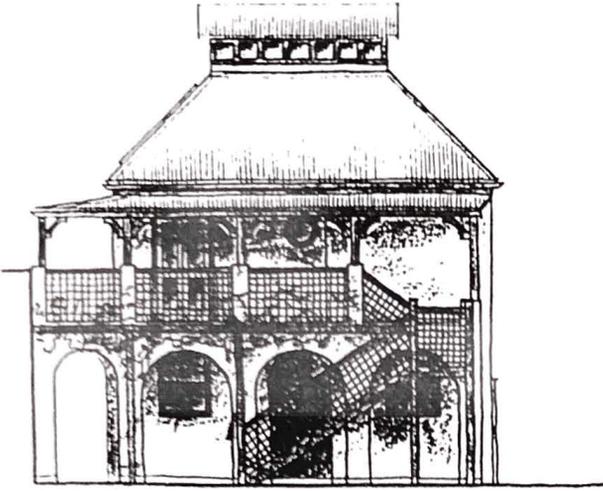
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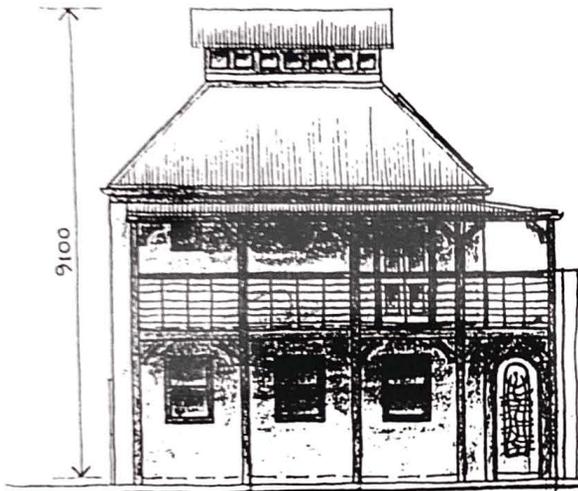
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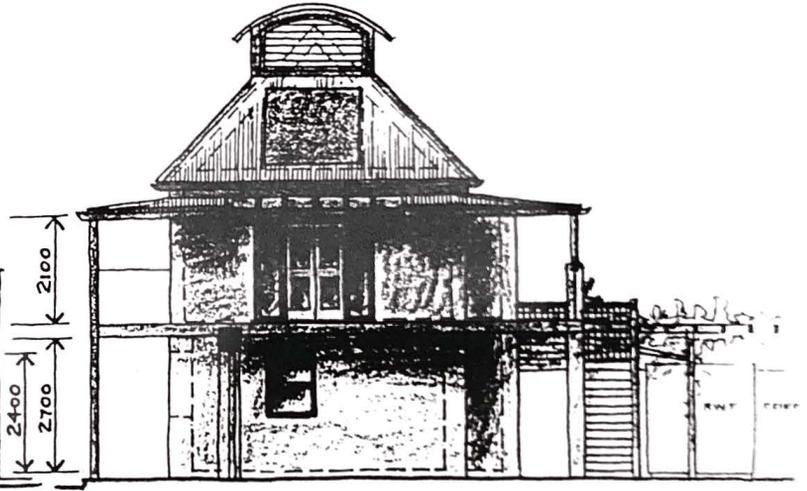
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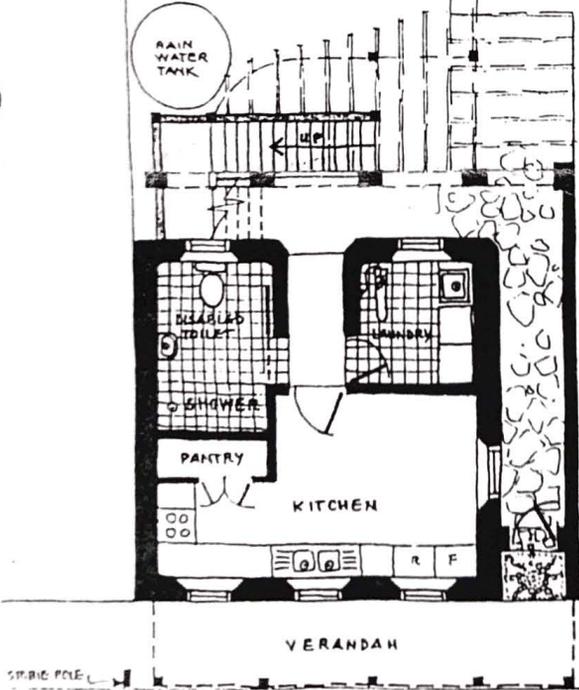
WEST ELEVATION TO COMMUNITY GARDEN



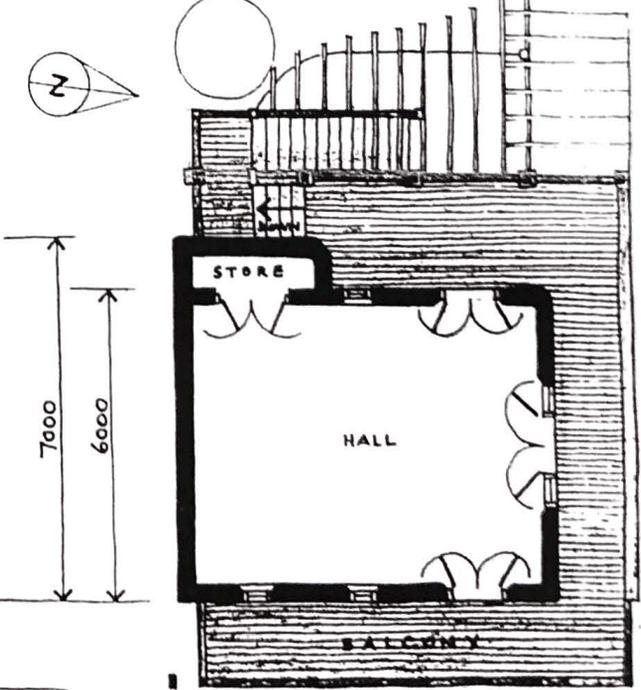
EAST ELEVATION TO RUSSELL STREET



NORTH ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

7500

1640

~ National News ~

Solar Plant for Sydney

BP plans to build a A\$57 million solar power cell plant in Sydney. ... The solar plant, one of the world's largest, is due to come on line in October 1999, making Australia the third-biggest supplier of photovoltaic cells after the United States and Japan.

In announcing the plant, BP Group Chief of Staff and BP Solar chairman Byron Grote said "For BP to be sustainable, the impacts of our actions must be sustainable too".... BP said exports, including solar modules and complete systems from the new Sydney solar plant, would total about A\$100 million by the year 2000. Power generated by solar cells from the Sydney plant would represent a saving of some seven million tonnes of greenhouse gas, said BP in a statement.

From GEN Oceania newsletter Issue 11, December 1998

Sun to power Wilpena

Almost 40 per cent of the electricity used at the new Wilpena Tourist Centre in South Australia's Flinders Ranges will come from the world's most powerful energy generator, the sun.

The largest off-grid solar-powered electricity system in Australia has been installed at the new facility by ETSA Corporation.

The \$2.5 million system delivers reliable, high quality power 24 hours a day while also offering a quiet, efficient and environmentally sound power supply which is sensitive to the natural surrounds for which Wilpena is world renowned.

The hybrid power system combines multiple generation sources - 100kW solar cells which convert sunlight into electrical energy, 400 kWh of battery storage, an inverter and three diesel generators totalling 440kW. It is controlled by a hi-tech computer system.

From South Australian Greenhouse News Summer 1998/99.

Regreening the hills of Willunga

In mid February it was announced that the Willunga Hills would be the centre of a major revegetation program in which 30 landholders from McLaren Flat to Sellicks Beach would plant about 600 ha of trees and other native revegetation... Mr John Carey, chairman of the Willunga Hills Face Landcare group, said "We hope we will be able to finish this job and then we want to extend vegetation corridors from the hills to the coast, which we will call *From the Reef to the Range*".

The State Environment Minister, Mrs Kotz, said "It's been recognised for a long time that much of the clearing which has been done over the years has added to the pollution which we have found in our streams. Once we remove vegetation from the landscape we allow run-off to carry every pollutant we have put on the land into our streams and our waterways."

~ Multilateral Agreement on Investment ~

The West and South Australian coalitions against a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (STOP-MAI) has criticised the Federal Government's response to the 14th report of the joint Standing Committee on Treaties entitled *Multilateral Agreement on Investment: Interim Report*, tabled in the Senate recently.

In response to the Committee's recommendation that the public inquiry into the MAI be continued, the Government (per Senator Abetz) said "It is clear ... that the draft MAI text has no status and that negotiations on the MAI have ceased. Therefore there seems no reason for the Government to continue its public enquiry into the MAI".

STOP-MAI is aware that a timetable has been laid down by the European Union and other developed countries for a transition of the failed OECD MAI negotiations to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

A warning from anti-MAI campaigner Brian Jenkins - and a suggestion that we need to lobby Councils here:

Seattle City Council Votes Against International Investment Pact: MAI is a threat to local government -

Seattle - On Monday, April 12, the Seattle City Council voted unanimously (8-0) on a resolution to oppose the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). Seattle will host the

World Trade Organization (WTO) Summit in November, 1999 and several countries have requested that MAI negotiations be put on the WTO agenda. ...MAI policies would severely constrain government's ability to regulate corporate behaviour.

For three years, 1995-98, the MAI was negotiated at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris. After worldwide protests from both the public and elected officials, negotiations broke down.

The MAI was then stalled but not dead.

~ Take Action! ~

An International Code of Conduct for Arms Trade

What is the arms trade?

Military spending in industrialised countries is down from its Cold War peak. But in the face of declining domestic demand, arms producers are continually seeking out new markets - largely in the developing world.... Five permanent members of the UN Security Council, supposedly responsible for maintaining global peace and security, account for 85% of weapons exports.

As you read this, 28 wars are raging across the world - and 90% of their casualties are civilians.... Rather than pursuing real disarmament, our governments are spending over \$2 billion every single day on armies and weapons. And regimes that abuse human rights are eagerly supplied by the world's arms producers.

How can the arms trade be curbed?

Nobel Peace Prize-winner and former President of Costa Rica, Dr Oscar Arias, has called

military spending "the single most significant perversion of global priorities". ... Dr Arias is leading a commission of Nobel Peace Prize-winners which has drafted a proposal for an International Code of Conduct on arms transfers.

What you can do:

Please urge the government to:

- Publicly announce its support for the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers, and press for the official adoption of the Code by all countries.
- Call for negotiations to begin on a treaty to steadily reduce all types of weapons worldwide, as required by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We suggest you address your letter to the Prime Minister.

If you would like more information before you write your letter, call in or phone the Centre on 8232 4866 and ask for information from Earth Action (December 1998/January 1999).

Jubilee 2000- the world's biggest petition

People, churches and organisations are backing Jubilee 2000's petition, which is planned to be the biggest in the world. Jubilee 2000 is asking people around the world to sign the petition.

The Jubilee 2000 Charter suggests a solution to the problem of Third World debt which is attractive to both debtors and creditors. It proposes the remission - by 31 December 2000 - of the unpayable debts owed by highly indebted poor countries to commercial banks, creditor Governments and multilateral bodies (such as International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and regional development banks).

To get a copy of the petition contact the SA Council of Churches on 8221 6633; or you can sign a petition at the Centre for Urban Ecology at 84 Halifax St Adelaide.

~ Letters ~

Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed please find a money order for \$30, being a donation for the work you do for our environment.

I am sending you this on behalf of my brother, Tom van Ruth. We, as a family, decided to spend some of our Christmas spending on good causes.

Yours faithfully,
Thia van Kuyk

~ Wanted ~

Some enthusiastic young people, who are interested in joining an International Ecological Workcamp near Landau, in the region of Pfalz (Southwest Germany).

An ecological organisation called Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU) is organising the 13th International Ecological Workcamp in the summer of 1999. The dates are from July 2 to July 23.

You have to cover your travel expenses only, the accommodation and catering will be paid by the organisers.

More information from Tobias Rieser Naturschutzzentrum Hirtenhaus, Bruhlstrasse 21, D-76829 Morzheim, Germany.

~ 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!

VILLAINS!

AMCOR:

Reflex Photocopy Paper is made from Australian Native Forests. Reflex is made by Amcor, a massive Australian-based transnational corporation with 25,000 employees in 25 countries. Its products are diversified, but it is largely a packaging and paper maker. Its flagship paper product is Reflex photocopy paper.

Amcor is Australia's largest private plantation owner, and largest paper recycler. They could make and market a fine copypaper from plantation and recycled pulp, as other paper makers do. It is a tragedy that as Australia's only paper maker they lack the motivation to do this.

Environment Victoria (EV) has launched a campaign to get Amcor out of our native forests:

- Refuse to use paper that

destroys our forests: the following brands are chlorine bleached and use Australian virgin forest fibre: Reflex paper; Copyright; Australian Paper; Crown; Optics; Precision: Oz Copy; Contact Lasercopy.

- They suggest using the following products: Nautilus (also known as CANON 100); Botany Offset (also known as Ecolade); and for printing - Cyclus.
- Note that some Australian paper promoted as recycled falls short of the mark: eg Renew 100 - promoted as '100% recycled' contains approximately 10% pre or post consumer milk carton material; 20% cotton linters and 70% pre consumer waste. This 70% is native forest fibre. Beware of false recycling claims!

NAFI:

National Association of Forest Industries (a villain!) forced BBC Hardware to remove the book 'Forest-Friendly Building Timbers' from their stores. The book, published by Earth Garden, contains information about logging in native forests (declared by NAFI as 'false and misleading'); and gives suggestions for timber products that can be used without destroying the environment. It appears that the ACCC (consumer body) may be a 'hero' on this occasion coming out in support of the sale of the book.

This book is now available at the Centre for Urban Ecology for \$9.95. We will post it out to you without charge for p&h, on receipt of \$9.95.

'Villains of the Millenia'

It appears that the following villains will get the award of 'Villains of the Millenia' – WMC, ERA, Southern Cross (Honey-moon Mine) and Pangea – all for trying to change this from 'the Lucky Country' to 'the Radioactive Country'.

HEROES!

Yvonne Margula and Jackie Ketona representing the Mirrar people have won the 1999 Goldman Foundation Environment prize worth US\$125,000 for their campaigning and international lobbying efforts to stop the Jabiluka uranium mine.

~ Nuclear Issues ~

Ecopolis is sponsoring the newest anti-nuclear sticker to raise funds for the anti-nuclear movement in Australia. The sticker was designed by Paul with input from Steven, Robyn and Chérie –

The threat from the nuclear cycle is the greatest threat we all face. We cannot rely on the 'Technical Fix'! One mistake now would be fatal!

Stickers will be on sale soon – contact the Centre for details.