

ECOSO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER

No 2/13 October 1990

ISSN 1033 9205

About this Ecoso

This Ecoso is not due for delivery until the end of September but it is being distributed early to give readers plenty of time to know about the launchings of the Crow Collection.

Readers' attention is drawn to two organisational matters. These are described in the articles "Making the Crow Collection a Living Library" and "The Future of Ecoso Newsletter."

Contents

Page	1.	The Launching of the Crow Collection
	2.	The Crow Collection... A Living library
	4.	"Children of the Corporate Dream"
	5	Rainbow Alliance Campaign on MFP.
	6	NLP Policies on a Sustainable Society
	7	The Women's Charter and Women in Middle Years
	9.	Sand Mining in the Wimmera
	11	Future of Ecoso Newsletter
	12	Public Housing Dilemma (Cost of Lyuch's Bridge Housing)

The Launching of the Crow Collection

There will be three gatherings to launch the Crow Collection :-

The Library Launch at 4 pm. on Friday, 19th October
in the FIT Library

Guest Speaker will be Moraq Loh.

For invitation phone Annabel McCooke 03.688 4503

The Metro 2000 Seminar from 10 am to 5 pm. on Saturday October 20th
in the FIT Student Union Building

Most Discussion Groups will be Lead by Student Speakers.

Leaflet with enrolment form enclosed with this Ecoso
Seminar fee \$10 with \$6 Concession

The Celebratory Dinner from 6.30 pm on Saturday, October 20th
in the FIT Student Union Building

Guest Speaker will be Ann Morrow.

Leaflet with enrolment form enclosed with this Ecoso
Dinner Tickets \$20 with \$10 concession.

Please advertise the seminar and the dinner
and please enrol as soon as possible.

Making the Crow Collection a Living Library
The Metro 2000 Seminar

In July a "Welcome to the Crow Collection" gathering was held at the Footscray Campus of the Victorian University of Technology.

At a meeting following the Welcome it was decided to have several functions to launch the Collection and an Interim Committee was formed to organise these gatherings.

Later in the year a Trust will be formed so that the Collection can be continually updated and its use popularised through various gathering such as seminars and excursions and through Ecoso Newsletter (see later).

The Interim Committee decided that a seminar, which gave special attention to involving students, should be part of the launch and that this should be held about the same time as the World Conference of Metropolises (Metropolis 90) is being held in Melbourne. The name of this launching seminar is Metro 2000.

We are planning for most of the seminar time to be spent in small group discussions but there will be a short introductory forum, a forum after lunch and a "report-back" forum from about 4.30 pm.

Arrangements have been made for activities to be provided for children from toddlers to teenagers and there will be a quiet place for babies to sleep.

We are needing help to ensure that there are enough discussion group leaders (speakers who will introduce a topic to a group of about 15 participants). We have invited students from Victoria University of Technology to be the group leaders, but we would also welcome student speakers from other campuses and from secondary schools.

We also need a half dozen or so people to be facilitators for the discussion groups and another half a dozen to help on the enrolment table and with hosting/ushering/welcoming. In other words people to help others to become effectively involved in the seminar proceedings.

As well as talking and listening it would be good if we could enjoy some other forms of community participation. So, who do you know who could come to sing, dance or juggle? And, what about some wallboard displays or other visual ways of depicting the future?

An immediate need is to spread the publicity about the seminar as widely as possible. The enclosed leaflet can be adapted to community publications and the illustration on the leaflet can be reproduced.

If you have any ideas on organising the seminar,
or on who may be able to make some special contribution
or if you want to volunteer for some specific tasks....
please phone Ruth Crow (03) 380.1876 or Sheila Byard (03) 688.4446. But,
most importantly make up, your mind that you are going to come and send off the seminar enrolment straight away.

Metro 2000 seminar is an opportunity for us to help each other to visualise a society which is based on human values, not material wealth nor status, nor freedom at the expense of others, nor possessions which result in the destruction of natural resources; but a life that sees social values as distinct from economic ones as the prime objective.

At this seminar we will be applying the slogan "Think globally and act locally" ... planning for a more efficient and satisfying way of living which does more for the dignity of human beings, uses less energy and preserves the world as a pleasant and habitable place.

The Library Launch and the Celebratory Dinner

Morag Loh : "The Crow Collection, a Living Library

Morag Loh, who will be the guest speaker at the Library Launch on October 19th, is an historian whose research on migrants has been published in books such as "The Immigrants" and "With Courage in Their Cases".

Recently she has been researching the lives of Indo-Chinese migrants, both the recent arrivals and those who came to Australia in the 1850s

In the 1950s, when Morag was in her early twenties, she was a teacher at a secondary school in Brunswick. She met Ruth Crow who was living in Brunswick at that time. They worked together on a number of campaigns to improve education and have occasionally kept in touch over the past years.

When Maurie Crow died Morag wrote to Ruth :-

"In the rapidly changing world of post-industrial revolution your values of joyful and rational solidarity and dedication to ordinary people are needed more than ever before. I hope that you will continue to give encouragement and leadership to those who choose to participate in society in order to work for a more humane and equal order."

Through oral history projects, publishing books and the organising of exhibitions Morag is contributing to making history a living subject. She will be speaking from practical experience on the importance of making the Crow Collection part of a living library.

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Ann Morrow : "The 21st Century... Ideas from the Crow Collection"

The guest speaker at the Celebratory Dinner which will be held on Saturday evening October 20th will be Ann Morrow.

In the early 1970s Ann became concerned about the inadequacy of children's services in the suburb where she lived. With other young parents living nearby she established one of the first federally funded neighbourhood children's centres. Her local involvement around such issues resulted in her election to the Malvern City Council and after a few years as a councillor she was elected Mayor of that City.

Ann's concern about children's services was not confined to solving her own needs. As well as serving as a municipal councillor she became very active in helping to develop Community Child Care (CCC).

Ruth Crow and Ann met when they worked together on CCC projects, in particular through producing the CCC Newsletter "Ripple".

For most of the 1980s Ann has been a public servant, working at first in the Premier's Department and more recently as the Chief Executive, Ministry of Education.

Ann was one of the speakers at the Memorial Gathering to Maurie Crow which was held in May 1988. She spoke about Ruth and Maurie's "generosity of spirit which kept disparate groups of people working together over a very long period of time - a lesson which could benefit other political and community movements"

Describing Maurie's vision of Melbourne she said :-

Maurie's idea of Melbourne is not to be a mere collection of inward-looking, navel gazing neighbourhoods. Connected to the district and centre through energy saving public transport, the neighbourhood can serve as a point of entry to wider social and political movements such as women, environmentalists and campaigners for a peaceful and nuclear-free world."

Ann's celebratory speech will be based on her personal experiences of working with Ruth and Maurie and her own grass-roots involvement as a community activist.

Children of the Corporate Dream

McDonald's School Lunches

"Feed Them on Mince Meat and Make a Profit"!

The Federal Department of Employment Education and Training has published a special issue of "Women and Work" devoted to child care. The main emphasis is on benefits to employers and employees of work-based child care. The economic advantages to the employer are given considerable attention. But the basic needs of the children and parents to have a sense of belonging to the community is completely neglected.

In any case how can employers be convinced, by economic arguments, of the need to provide child care for unskilled workers. Throughout the DEET newsletter such phrases as "They (women needing child care) were often at fairly senior level in the organisation". and "They were losing highly skilled and trained workers."

The profit-making opportunities that are resulting from the current government policy on funding employer provided child care include the development of new types of entrepreneurial businesses such as "Child Care at Work Ltd", a consultancy service to investigate, establish and manage child care programs for employers (ie. help employers get federal funds).

Ecoso readers are referred to Ecoso Newsletter 2/4 (June 1989) which dealt with work related, work-based and community child care.

The mistaken enthusiasm by some left feminists for the establishment of child care by employers should heed this warning from America which was written in 1972 in an article by Katherine Ellis and Rosalind Tetchesky. It was called "Children of the Corporate Dream". Here is an extract :-

"When the government is set to pay for it, we will provide it" !!

"The greatest interest in profit possibilities for investor in child care exists where day care is a product being sold. At this writing twenty two companies are in business of setting up franchise child care centres using the cost of cutting principles of Colonel Sanders and Ronald McDonald.

These companies are aiming their wares at the middle class market that can afford to pay high fees for child care. According to New York Times 27 December 1969) some of these franchises are already collecting federal and state funds or are courting federal agencies for additional support. As a spokes-person for one of the companies put it. When the Government is set to pay for it we will provide it."

(Note : This article was reprinted in Ecoso 2/5 it is being reproduced here to stress the warning that there is a basic contradiction when economic arguments are used to justify services which meet social needs.

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The Crow Collection includes a considerable amount of unique material on child care movements from the 1940s to the present day including documents from the Committee for Co-ordinating Child Care in Wartime (1940s), the union initiated movement Action for Adequate Child Care (1960s), the early days of the Community Child Care movement (1970s).

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By the way, a recent report in a daily newspaper said that in America over 75% of the school lunches are supplied by McDonald's food chains ! Nourishing school meals are an essential part of providing child care. The Crow collection also has documents on child nutrition and a number of different types of campaigns for nourishing school meals.

MFP National Campaign

Reprint of article from Rainbow Newsletter, Aug 1990

The Rainbow Alliance, the New Left Party and Senator Jo Vallentine (Western Australian Greens) have announced their agreement to sponsor a national campaign in opposition to the Multi-function Polis.

This announcement by three important political groupings committed to setting a new political direction for Australia is a landmark in the national debate on the MFP.

To launch the campaign the three groups issued the following statement :-

The proposal to build the MFP in Adelaide represents a model of development which carries enormous risks for the future of this country.

These include :

- Damage to the environment, locally and beyond
- Increasing foreign ownership and control of Australian industries and resources
- Mis-use of public funds to subsidise a private project
- Possible privatisation of key industries and services
- Lack of accountability and democratic processes
- Urban planning geared to the interests of the rich and privileged
- Technological research which is socially and ethically suspect

None of these concerns has been effectively addressed by the Feasibility Study just handed to the Australian and Japanese Governments. This paper-thin document does nothing to establish the financial viability of the project. Yet it casually recommends to the Federal Government that it proceed, at the tax-payers expense.

The National Campaign Will Involve :

1. A national information campaign;
2. CAMPAIGN ONE MILLION - a signature campaign inviting all Australians to add their signature to a National Statement of Objection
3. Research into key aspects of the MFP proposal : foreign ownership and debt - public funding of infrastructure costs - environment impact.
4. Contact and exchange visit with like-minded Japanese groups.
5. Protest actions

The national campaign will involve environmental organisations, churches, unions, local government and many community groups. MFP working groups will be set up in each state to help co-ordinate the campaign.

The issue is not just the MFP in Adelaide. There are many related projects proposed for other parts of Australia. They are part of the same model of development and are open to the same criticism. The issue is the future direction of the Australian economy, the environment, urban planning, the political process.

We believe there are better ways of facing up to the future. The solution to our economic and environmental problems does not lie in these multi-billion projects. The aim must rather be to reorganise our cities and towns to make them democratic, socially just and environmentally sustainable.

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Support the CAMPAIGN ONE MILLION... For more information... Write to
Rainbow Alliance

Box 122 Niddrie Victoria 3042 or Phone Jos van den Berg (03) 379.1185

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A Sustainable and Livable Environment
An Extract from the New Left Party Policy Statements

The Founding conference of the New Left Party (NLP) was held in June. Since then the NLP has printed its policies, program of political action and its constitution.

Each of the 13 policy sections are printed as separate extracts, with each extract having a common introduction. This enables particular policy sections to be distributed where they can be most effective.

The section on A Sustainable Living Environment deals with the following issues :-

Agriculture and Primary industry, Nature Conservation, Energy and Industry, Waste, Pollution and Hazardous Materials, Urban Planning and Transport, Science and Research, Work, International Strategies, Political and Legal and New Economics.

The NLP policy statement on Urban Planning and Transport :-

1. Cities to be progressively redesigned around "walking-distance and cycling commuting". Community facilities to be "clustered" around transport nodes. Buildings to be designed for energy conservation.

1.1 Public, energy-efficient and sustainable transport to be increased and wasteful use of private cars financially discouraged. Massive investment to be undertaken into sustainable public transport, paid for by cutting investment in urban freeways and other car orientated projects. The push of the private car and road lobbies to be countered by campaigns exposing the destructive and inefficient "car-way-of-life". Research and development into sustainable alternatives to the internal combustion engine and into sustainable forms of personal transport.

1.2 Expand long-distance public rail and shipping transport and financially discourage air and road travel and freight.

1.3 Expand "green belts": and support urban consolidation."

The NLP statement on Work and a Sustainable Living Environment.

1 Our commitment to the environment and to a sustainable economy go hand in hand with our commitment to full employment and adequate material living standards for all. These twin commitments, which are so often falsely counterposed, are to be achieved through measures such as progressive reduction in the average work week in step with phasing out unsustainable industries; encouragement and social investment in new industries; and changes in the nature of work.

1.1 Emphasis on safety, healthy working environments and strict controls to prevent exposure to industrial pollutants, hazardous chemicals and toxic wastes.

1.2 Decentralise work to suburban and rural areas and away from dominant central areas to reduce commuting and congestion.

Some of the other separately published NLP policy sections are on Social Justice, Economic Development, Rights of Aborigines and Islanders, Gender Issues and Women's Liberation, Multicultural Australia, Foreign Policy, Disarmament and Peace, Arts and Culture, Education and the Union Movement.

An important feature of the NLP policy statements is that each section is consistent with the others. This is no mean achievement.

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For more information on the NLP policy write to
New Left Party National Office,

35 a Trades Hall, 4 Goulburn Street, Sydney 2000 or phone 02. 267.6820.
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The Women's Charter and the Needs of Women in Middle Years

"Perhaps those at the Conference that formulated the Women's Charter (1943) could be called visionaries, but history reveals that it is only when society adopts ideas which are regarded as visionary when first proposed that progress is made." (From Jessie Street's biography "Truth or Repose").

The 1990 Women's Charter was launched in March and since then the process of the "Quest" has continued.

The needs of older women were discussed at a gathering in May and in July there was a discussion on the needs of women in their middle years.

Thanks to Edith Morgan who chaired the meeting, to Heather O'Connor who recorded the discussion and to Anne Sgro for presenting some introductory ideas.

The discussion showed that although it is difficult to define, in years, the "middle-age" period in a women's life, personal and social responsibilities and opportunities do change as time passes and it is important to meet these changes rather than coasting along.

The discussion was mainly about the way these changes affect women who have centred their lives on the home and family. In the middle years they are likely to have to face the following questions :-

What sort of relationships can be developed between children and parents now that the children have grown up ?

How will the relationships with partners be affected now there is time to pursue interests outside the home (e.g through work and a fuller social life) ?

How to cope with the changed relationships between relations, for example, older parents who may need special support, with grandchildren, with the partners of their grown-up children ?

Now that the ties with the local community may be lessening, what can replace the relationships that have been developed with neighbours ?

How can dwellings be adapted to meet the needs of a child-less household ?

In addition all women, in the middle years, face health, employment and social issues such as :-

Where to obtain supportive advice about menopause, and other specific women's health needs ?

Is it too soon to plan for old age ?

What employment and educational opportunities are available to women in their middle years ?

To relate these ideas to the 1990 Charter it is useful to consider the Charter section on housing and health.

Housing and Women in Middle Years

The Charter emphasises that housing has a special meaning for women. In middle years the ability to adapt to a smaller household is very much linked up with relationships which have been developed over the previous years between children and parents.

To consider changes in housing women are confronted with a number of quandaries :-

1. A sentimental attachment to a particular dwelling is often very strong in women who may feel very guilty about changing the "family home" if they have not rejected the the media myth of happy families depending on a devoted mother tending to her house and garden. Thus the self-worth of women is an important housing issue, limiting a woman's ability to choose a dwelling which may more appropriately meet her changed needs.

2. The financial investment in a particular dwelling results in emphasis being placed on the exchange value rather than its use value. There needs to be a redirection of the way housing is provided so that the needs of people are of paramount importance rather than the exchange value of the house and land. More security of tenure for people renting homes, a greater provision of co-operative housing and other such measures would increase the choices available when changes are being considered.

3. Housing is predominantly designed for nuclear family households. This limits the choices available. More women need to be employed in housing design not only as professionals but also as consumers of housing.

Health and Women in Middle Years

The Charter points out that a large percentage of women's ill health is caused by social factors which do not respond to the medical model. Women are the main users of health services but have little control over the services provided.

Health services could be adapted to more fully meet the needs of women by such measures as :-

1) An extension of Community Health Centres and Health Information Centres so that providers and consumers can work together on social issues which promote health. The provision of such community support is particularly important for women in their middle years who may have been "locked into" taking minor tranquilisers over a long period of time.

2) The provision of opportunities for carers to participate in the planning and managment of services for people with special need (for example frail elderly people, people with mental disabilities and so on) is of considerable importance to women in middle years as they are more likely to have responsibilities for such dependent others than are young women or older women.

3) Women need to be given more confidence in dealing with their own health problems (and those of others with whom they are involved) through the popularisation of past home-health practices. This can be done through more effective community education and through opportunities for women to gather together to discuss health, such as Women's Health Days.

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Since October 1989 Ecoso readers have been kept informed on the progress of the "Women's Quest" and the updating of the "Women's Charter". A supplement to the Charter will be launched on Internatioanl Women's Day in 1991. In the meantime Ecoso will be publishing ideas which have been developed from the various discussions of the Quest.

More information about this project is available from the Union of Australian Women, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne, 3000; 03.654.7409

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Sand Mining in the Wimmera

Julie O'Brien, an Ecoso subscriber who lives in Horsham (in the Victorian Wimmera) has sent a copy of a submission she recently wrote about sand mining in the Wimmera. As there seems to be very little public knowledge of these proposals Ecoso is reprinting Julie's submission in full.

Submission on Sand Mining in the Wimmera.

I have found out that the sand mining involves extraction of mineral sand including rutile, anatase, leucosene and ilmenite (titanium minerals), zircon, monazite and xenotime (rare earth minerals) and that Monazite and Xenotime contain radio active elements uranium and thorium.

I oppose the sand mining for the following reasons :-

1) My main reason is that it is contrary to the Victorian Government's Nuclear Activities (prohibitions) Act of 1983. This Act states that it is :-

"An Act to prohibit in Victoria certain activities associated with the nuclear fuel cycle and to amend... (various other Acts) and for other purposes."

The Act specifies its objectives as follows :-

"...to protect the health, welfare and safety of the people of Victoria and to limit deterioration of the environment in which they dwell by prohibiting activities and by regulating the processing of certain nuclear materials, in a manner consistent with and conducive to assisting the Commonwealth of Australia in meeting its international non-nuclear proliferation objectives."

The proposal to sand mine in the Wimmera is clearly illegal in relation to this Act.

2) I am concerned about waste disposal and the problems of ground water especially in regard to the recycling of waste water.

The Wimmera River System flows inward, terminating in lakes. The site for the sand extraction is close to the wetland areas of Green Lake, Dock Lake, Pine Lake and Taylor's Lake.

Sand mining in the Wimmera would clearly detrimentally affect the lakes and rivers of the Wimmera and the Mallee and thus the water supply for the towns, primary industry and in addition the recreational uses of the rivers and lakes thus affecting the tourist potential of the district. In addition the competing demand for water between sand mining, farming and town supplies would result in social justice issues which in their turn would divide the community of the district.

The proposal to sand mine in the Wimmera would clearly detrimentally affect the lakes and rivers in the Wimmera and the Mallee and thus detrimentally affect the daily lives and livelihoods of the people living in the district.

3) I am concerned about the health and safety of the people who will be employed on the project.

The Conservation Council of Victoria have made this statement on the health and safety record of the mineral sands industry in Australia :-

"The health and safety record of the mineral sands industry in Australia reveals that the workers have been often subject to an excessive health risk from exposure to ionising radiation.

"The industry has proved to be a much more hazardous industry for workers' health than the mining of uranium and its refinement into yellow cake. This is mostly because exposure to the radio activity of monozite and xenotime minerals. Although these minerals have a relatively low specific activity they are handled in considerable bulk." (emphasis added).

The proposal to sand mine in the Wimmera would expose the people working in the industry to health hazards which would be difficult (or really impossible) to avoid and which could result in irreversible damage to the health of those affected.

4) I am concerned about the effects of sand mining on the economy of the Wimmera and the Mallee.

I have two grounds for concern here. Firstly the effect on the reputation of our farm products and secondly the effect on the tourist industry.

As regards farming the Conservation Council of Victoria states :-

"In our competitive world any suggestion of radio-active contamination of food can create marketing difficulties. It was for this reason that farmers solidly rejected a mineral sand refining project in Lismore region of northern New South Wales". (emphasis added)

The effect on tourism has already been stated in point 2 of this submission.

The proposal to sand mine in the Wimmera will definitely change the economy of the Wimmera and Mallee regions. While estimating the economic advantages of the project attention must also be given to the effect on sales of agricultural products and tourism.

5) I am concerned about the type of information given to the public on this issue.

I was greatly deterred from making a submission because there was no easy way for me to obtain information about the proposal. There is a need to remove the mystique surrounding the use of scientific terms and names of elements so that the public can understand what is actually proposed.

The sand mining proposals do provide an opportunity for helping the public to learn more about technological developments and the way their lives could be affected by such changes.

The Future of Ecoso Newsletter

This is Ecoso Exchange Newsletter No 2/13. Subscribers will be receiving No 2/14 before the end of this year.

No 2/14 will complete the full set of the Number 2 series. (By the way the Number 1 set are the Ecoso Newsletters brought out in the 1970s ... this series was discontinued early in the 1980s....a full set of the earlier series is in the Crow Collection.)

The third series will be of a slightly different nature. The information will be geared towards making the Crow Collection a Living Library. This will be done in three ways :-

1. Describing (in the newsletter) some of the sets of documents and relating them to current community campaigns.

This is already part of Ecoso Newsletter but in the process of re-cataloguing the documents a more deliberate effort will be made to prepare brief descriptions of the sets.

Already there are several voluntary helpers assisting with the re-cataloguing and thus the establishment of the Collection may mean that some people are organisationally involved in bringing it to life.

2. Progress reports (in the newsletter) on use and development of the Crow Collection and organising some exchange opportunities.

To date Ecoso Exchange policy has been to avoid appealing to readers to become organisationally involved on issues discussed in the Newsletter, although there has been the occasional convivial gathering of Ecoso subscribers. Now, for the next period of time, if the Crow Collection is to be a Living Library there will need to be a few occasions organised around an exchange of ideas.

The Metro 2000 seminar is the type of Living-Library-gathering which may set the pattern for future such projects. Such seminars and other learning opportunities could be organised by a group established for that purpose. The Interim Committee for the Crow Collection Launching is setting an example of such project-method-of-working.

3. Giving more attention to reporting (in the newsletter) some of the gatherings organised by environmental and community movements and more deliberately using the Crow Collection to help forward such movements.

Most Ecoso readers may still like to get the newsletter for browsing. It is hoped that the new responsibilities will not detract from this passive use of the publication. It is expected that only a few subscribers will be involved organisationally with the Crow Collection functions.

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A Trust for the Collection will be appointed soon. The relationship between the Trust and the Newsletter will need to be worked out.

The Trust will include people at Footscray Campus of Victoria University of Technology and people involved in community organisations.

Do you want to be on the Trust ? Who do you suggest may be able to be on the Trust ? Please send your ideas about the Trust to Ruth Crow, 218, 300 Pigdon Street, North Carlton 3054, 03. 380.1876.

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Thanks to all Ecoso supporters. The "valiant effort" has received much more support than was originally expected. Thanks to all who subscribed and a special thanks to some generous donors.

During 1991 financial support for the Ecoso Exchange Newsletter will be needed more than ever. So save up for your subscription for the new series which will begin publication in January 1991.

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Public Housing Dilemma
\$280,000 for Single-fronted Homes ?

In Melbourne straddling the Maribyrnong River on the old metropolitan saleyards and abbatoirs land is the Lynch's Bridge project.

The site is about 600 hectares (one and a half thousand acres) and it is located about 5 kilometres (3 miles) from the Melbourne GPO.

This scheme has to be seen as the Victorian Government's best chance of delivering affordable housing in a framework of urban consolidation; only now as the project moves into its second phase can its worst implications for the future of public housing be seen.

A key aspect of the joint government/housing industry push for urban consolidation has been to create seductive examples of estates built under the new residential development provisions.

From 1983 when then Housing Minister Frank Wilkes announced the first stage of the Lynch's Bridge project, the Cain government's Major Projects Unit, sought to work in partnership with the housing industry to provide an integrated mix of public and private dwellings as just such a show piece.

Unlike the first Joint Venture development Vermont Rise, which was so significantly subsidized that there was a flurry of inhouse purchasers from Jennings staff who knew a good buy when they saw one, the private homes in the Lynch's Bridge development have proved harder to shift. On the Angliss site, at the Footscray end of the project, there is a handsome childcare centre, and the private terraced town houses (30% of the mix) are not markedly more skimpy than those of the Ministry of Housing.

Despite this, and the sanitizing of the Meat Worker's Union cobbled Red Square into part of an imitation village green, the private dwellings are supposed to be moving slowly. Worse still, at the opposite end of the site, despite special deals on price of land to inveigle Housing Industry Association partners into redevelopment of parcels of the old Newmarket Saleyards, prices have rocketted.

Leaving aside the commitment to 70 Elderly Persons Units, the project here is able to deliver only 20% public/social housing, and that at extortionate prices. Public housing waiting lists are not likely to be dented much by a one in ten buy-back arrangement when the least expensive of the most recently completed Toplevel Terrace is quoted at \$270-280,000, almost exactly twice the price of an authentic Edwardian single-fronted free standing weatherboard in surrounding streets.

The Victorian Cabinet's response to the recent Olympic Games Social Impact Assessment's demand for a better deal for the homeless was to say that the second phase development on the Lynch's Bridge, Protean abbatoirs site - to be called Kensington Square - must have 30% public housing. But in a quite contradictory move the Major Projects Unit under David White as Minister, has announced that this site is to bear the burden of the State Government's share of the cost of building the Arundel Basin, upstream on the Maribyrnong, estimated to cost \$26 million. Even if the MMBW were to contribute a fifth of the State's contribution, derived from a levy on property owners in the Maribyrnong township, the charge upon the properties in Lynch's Bridge will be \$250 per square metre.

Now the local residents and community development workers who form a majority on the Lynch's Bridge General Advisory Committee have been confronted with a stark dilemma - do they continue their campaign for the provision of 50% public housing on this site, or do they abandon this principle in favour of conserving public housing funds for other more plausible types of purchase.