

# Ecoso exchange newsletter : ecological, sociological and political discourse 2/42; Dec. 1996

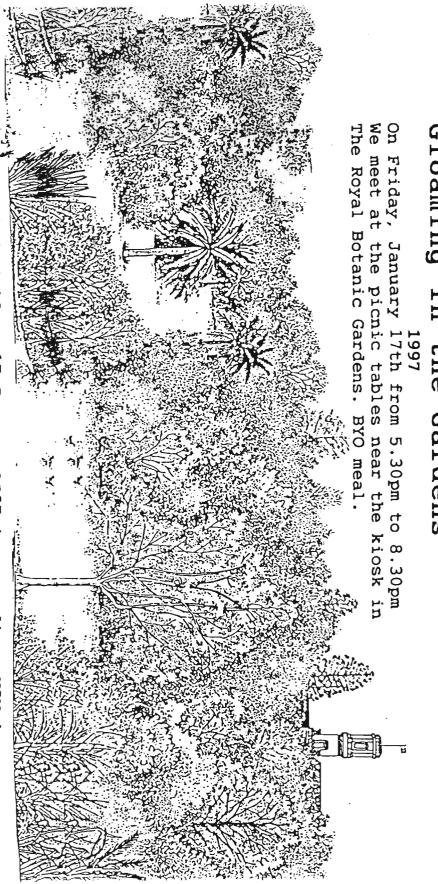
This is the Published version of the following publication

UNSPECIFIED (1996) Ecoso exchange newsletter : ecological, sociological and political discourse 2/42; Dec. 1996. Ecoso exchange newsletter, 2 (42). pp. 1-14.

The publisher's official version can be found at

Note that access to this version may require subscription.

Downloaded from VU Research Repository https://vuir.vu.edu.au/16233/



Gloaming in the Gardens

Bring your friends to meet other Crow Collection supporters Mark Friday, 17 January 1997 in your diary NOW !



# Ecoso Exchange Newsletter

Crow Collection Association (Incorp)

Ecological, Social and Political Discourse

No 2/42, December 1996 ISSN 1033 9205 This issue of Ecoso is mainly about citizenship and the labour movement.

Contents :-

Page

- 1. A Charter for All Children.
- 2. Unions and Citizenship by Peter Gibbons (AMEU)
- 4. Unions and Citizenship by Jenny Drabby (VTHC)
- 5. VUT Forum on Social Democracy
- 6. News from the Crow Collection
- 7. The Last Battle, the Clerk's Union in the 1980s
- 8. Thanks for Enhancing the Collection's Comprehensiveness
- 9. Kensington Celebrating Community Memory
- 10. Reflecting on 25 Years Child Care by Ruth Crow
- 11. Vietnamese Youth Theatre in a New Land
- 12 Information About Ecoso Newsletter.

## A Charter for All Children

If a public system of education is worth fighting for (however one may wish to criticise it or change it), it follows that we must advance claims on its behalf and for the overall future of our educational system. We have attempted to distil such a statement from the expressions of support and enthusiasm which we have received

The above quote is from a letter to school organisations from the Centre for Public Education which is preparing a Charter for All Children. The first stage is now completed and now it is your opportunity to let them know what you think what they think about these five points :-

1. Every Australian child has the right to an equal level of educational opportunity regardless of income, race, sex, disability, religion or location.

2. The creation of a well resourced public education system should be the first and paramount concern of state and federal government in educational policy.

4. All children should be provided witha standard of teaching and educational facilities which enables the full development of their potential. Government financial resources should aim to reduce current inequalities of resources provided for Austrlaian Children.

5. In times of economic hardship governments should ensure that public education is not disadvantaged against other educational systems which do not have the same commitment for serving the wider community. Page 2. Ecoso 2/42, Dec. '96, Unions and Citizenship

### Unions and Citizenship.

Peter Gibbons' Contribution to Ideas Exchange Day Forum\* Peter is Assist. Sec of the Manufacturing Workers' Union He Chairs the Crow Collection Association's Committee of Management.

There have been unions in Australia for 150 years, Longer than any existing political party and longer than many existing government institutions and structures. There have been many changes, but fundamentally trade unions are still the manifestation of working people's aspirations for a better world particularly in the work place.

Karl Marx said that democracy stops at the workshop gate. How True ! What sort of democracy do we have in society as a whole. Very little, I suggest.

"NO LONGER PATHFINDERS ON WAY TO DEMOCRACY"

Prof. Manning Clark's 1976 ABC Boyer lectures provided this information about democracy in Australia :-

In the nineteenth century Australians enjoyed the reputation of being in the vanguard of human progress; they were often the pioneers in the introduction of bourgeois democracy, and rather boastful about it.. In the twentieth century Australians seem to have missed the bus which is carrying humanity into the future. Australians are no longer pathfinders, but the army in the rear.

To me it was rather depressing that in December 1949, with the election of the Menzies Government, when one third of the population of the world was marching forward, we chose to stand still. It was even more depressing in December 1975 when we showed the world that we did not mind much if someone turned the clock back, we were still a nation of petty bourgeous property owners who thought that it was prudent to prefer men with the values and skills of receivers in bankruptcy and believers in efficient government rather then visionaries and reformers to govern our country. We had the values of the counting house. We were "interest rate men", we thought "quality of life men" should pull their heads in.

We had institutions and values to promote the use of parts of our country for quarries for foriegn powers, but neither the institutions, nor the inclination, nor the belief to make our country a paradise for the people.

I suggest that March 1996 would have depressed Manning Clark even more.

TRADE UNIONS BROUGHT IN MANY CHANGES.

Trade unions were part of that leadership in the 19th century which brought about great changes .

\* the Eight Hour Working Day in 1856

\*.legislation for minimum wages and conditions in 1906.

The enforcement of minimum standards has been extended by struggle by workers, but now these safeguards are being dismantled by government fiat. For example workers at Spotswood Page 3. Ecoso 2/42, Dec. '96. Unions and Citizenship

Glass Factory are fighting against arbitrary dismissal and dictatorial management decisions. Minimum wages and conditions of work are being scrapped on the alter of "Efficiency" and "World comparision". Wages and conditions are being compared to those of South America, Asia, Central America, India and China.

This is a deliberate strategy to exploit and undermine workers organisations, the trade unions.

PASSING ON "GOOD IDEAS" TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

The quest for ideas is not just about creating progressive initiatives for the future. It is also about *defending the good ideas from the past*. The good ideas that have been passed on from one generation to the next. For example the campaigns of the trade unions.

These advances made by trade union action must be protected and extended in this new era by joint action between the unions and community organisations. Trade unions and other organisations have never stayed the same throughout history. They have adapated to new needs and changed social conditions.

### TRADE UNIONS AS PART OF A BROADER ALLIAMCE

I would suggest that trade unions were the hub around which many progressive community initiatives were taken in the 19th and 20th century. This is no longer so. There is now a proliferation of many other kinds of organisations Thus trade unions can no longer presume to be the hub. In todays conditions the old ideas of collective action and advancement for the common good for all people can only be achieved through a broader alliance.

Our task is to protect the vulnerable by developing unity in action around such issues as :-

- \* the young workers,
- \* demanding fair wages
- \* less working hours
- \* full employment
- \* healthy and safe working place

Let us not be depressed about what the future, the 21st century, might hold. Visionary and radical ideas can overturn the reactionary and conservative present.

This Ideas Exchange Project\* is one way of developing and implementing ideas on a better future for the 21st century, I welcome you to the Ideas Exchange Day.

\* The Ideas Exchange Day was a special event in the Crow Collection's Ideas Exchange Project. This on-going project is being sponsored by the Crow Collection as one way of enabling people to participate in finding answers to the question "What Sort of Society Do You Want Australia to be ?" This question raised as the crucial question at the 1995 Senate Inquiry on Citizenship

For more information about the Ideas Exchange Project phone 9329.8685.

Page 4. Ecoso 2/42, Dec. '96, Unions and Citizenship

### Unions and Citizenship "Equality, a Notion Underpinning Citizenship"

Precis of a Paper prepared by Jenny Drabby (Women's Officer for the Victorian Trades Hall Council) for a Panel Discussion at 1996 VCoss Conference.

I am defining social rights as "..the right to a modicum of economic welfare security regardless of the position of the labour market, the right to share in the full social heritage and to live the life of a civilised human being according to the standard prevailing in society" (1)

Equality and Citizenship.

Australia does not have an Act, Charter or Bill of Citizen Rights and obligations to underpin our economic and social fabric. Few citizens rights and responsibilities are spelt out in the constitution. Our citizenship Act only states "who is in" and "who is out" although since 1993 the preamble to the Act describes Citizenship as...."a common bond, involving reciprocal rights and obligations, uniting all Australians, while respecting diversity."

But citizenship is more than a catalogue of rights and obligations or legal personality. Citizenship implies democracy which holds promises of equality and participation. The Industrial Relations Act, Sex Discrimination Act, the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act and Employee Relation Act all impact on women's access to equality. However, the wage gap between men and women in full time employment currently stands at 21.6%.

Nevertheless our social heritage is an industrial relationship system which is fairer in relation to wages for women than the USA. On the other hand, the proposed changes to the federal industrial relations system will erode this. Although it will provide a safety net for wages, it does not guarantee a modicum of economic welfare security for low paid workers in precarious work arrangements such as part-time, casual, homework, outsourcing and others such in which a high proportion of the work force is female.

The Myth of Equal Bargaining Power

The current Federal Workplace Relations Bill assumes there is an equality of bargaining power between the worker and the employer. In practice women are particularly disadvantaged because of such factors as their social conditioning in being polite and their usual work places lack industrial muscle.

All in all we are facing a grim picture under the proposed new order.

Our Sense of Citizenship is Stunted

Donald Horne has warned that the Australian sense of citizenship is stunted as we tend to regard ourselves as members of the public rather than as citizens.(2) A well articulated ideology and philosophy of citizenship in Australia would force our politicians away from battling over the middle ground into a contest about promoting and extending citizenship rights.

If we we regarded ourselves as citizens rather than as members of the public the debate around the workplace relations bill could be centred on what it does to promote or reduce our citizenship rights not the economic imperative. Our political parties would be forced to lead rather than fight for the middle ground. Now is the time to set citizenship rights up against so called market imperatives.

The union movement has not yet formally entered this debate but the potential is there. It is in the union movements interest to recapture and control debate in an environment of citizenship rights rather than economic imperatives.

End Notes
(1) T.H. Marshall (1963) "Citizenship and Social Class" in "Citizenship and Social Development", Anchor, New York, 78.
(2) Donald Horne et al (1992) "The Coming Republic" Sydney, 206.

Since Australians in the past have obtained many broad benefits through secure employment then it makes some political sense to revive it through the citizenship debate, to make it one of the central criteria to judge the health of a nation and the quality of government.

Quote from a letter to Ecoso from Barry Pullen MLA

# VUT Forum on Social Democracy, Future Direction

Labor's future agenda must be built upon concepts such as inclusion and participation. It must promise active government, intelligent intervention and economic security. It must reflect an equitable balance between markets and society and between individuals and community... this is an essential socialist vision, founded in the long tradition of ethical socialism rather than Marxism and state ownership. (Lindsay Tanner MHR at, VUT seminar October 20th).\*

What are the urgent tasks facing social democracy in Australia?

This was the question tackled at a seminar which was organised by the Victoria University in mid October John Brumby (Victorian Shadow Prmier) and and Professor Brian Gould (Waikato University Vice Chancellor and former British Shadow Minister) were the keynote speakers.

By the end of the day eight main themes were identified and these were discussed at an "open forum". To give you a taste of the range of ideas exchanged and to encourage you to obtain the papers here are the eight themes and some very general comments on each. ?

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT BEING DEPRESSED. Prof. Gould spoke of "the loss of self confidence" following the defeat of the Brtish Labour Party. Fortunately, the eagerness with which ideas were discussed counterbalanced some of the depressing information which has had to be faced in Victoira. So, opportunities for creatively discussing ideas is one antidote to restoring self confidence.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGNITY AND SECURITY. The changing nature of disadvantage means that there is a growing "fear of fear", a newly recognised type of stress. Although really work-place related (as over-employment and unemployed are some of its main causes) it is manifested when people are at home .... that is in the local community rather than the workplace. Thus the need for innovative community local services.

3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ALTERNATIVES. Need to give special attention to democratising organisational practices (including in the ALP) so that people experience practical alternatives in their daily lives. Need to popularise the recognition of moral issues presented by the social democratic view of society.

4. THE GLOBALISATION OF THE ECONOMY. The capacity of governments to deliver full employment is diminishing. Child care, health services, education are labour intensive and thus generate jobs. Therefore, even from this point of view should be encourage, It is urgent to prepare a coherent policy rather than the piecemeal proposals as at present.

1

5. SHIFTS IN ELECTORAL SUPPORT. Maps were used to show the loss of of "ALP heartlands" This theme was linked with point 6, below.

6. MAKING ALP STRUCTURES MORE OPEN There were numerous ideas on this. There was general scorn for the "number crunching ethos" of the past but, unfortunately, several speakers indicated their "parish pump" political opportunism by expression such as "we need to work up local issues to get elected" (!!) This was in stark contrast to the contribution from the platform by a woman councillor who reported on her experiences in bringing back power to the people in the munnicipality where she has been elected recently, emphasising the need to pursue issues to to improve living standards and reform society.

7. REFORMING STRUCTURES OF GOVERNMENT (FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL). Several speakers recognised that changes in technology can lead to change in government structures and that one of the prime tasks of the future is to ' ensure that any changes will redress growing inequalities.

8. HOW TO CONTINUE THE DISCOURSE. A show of hands showed that a very large majority of the participants would be disadvantaged if the internet was the prime way of communicating.

\* For information about obtaining the seminar papers please phone Sharaon Humphreys 03/9365,2795. .

### News from the Crow Collection

The Association's Spring Planning Meeting decided to continue to popularise the challenge of What Sort of Society Do You Want Australia To Be ? Thus future Ecoso Newsletters will feature articles on citizenship.

The 1997 Annual General Meeting will be held in March with a guest speaker on Women and Participation in Town Planning".

Gloaming in the Gardens will be held on Fri. Jan 17th, 5.30pm. BYO Picnic and friends. Meet at tables near Botanic Gardens Kiosk

# "The Last Battle" by Lindsay Tanner

The Narrow Minded Fanaticism of the DLP An Intriguing Story of Politics in the Clerk's Union

Lindsay Tanner's book describes the extraordinary struggles in the 1980s to defeat the DLP stronghold in the Victorian Branch of the Clerks' Union

He has aptly called his book the **The Last Battle.** Life changes so quickly that it is difficult, in the 1990, to appreciate why this "battle"" was so politically significant. Therefore this description of **A Battle in the Sixties** is presented as a preface to a few remarks about **The Last Battle**.

Lindsay Tanner describes the **narrow minded fanaticism** of some Clerks' Union members in 1980s. Maurie Crow was an organiser for the Clerks' Union from 1945 to 1949 before the DLP controlled it. In the 1950s/60s he was the main target of abuse from DLP supporters at Clerks' Union meetings, where he was derided for every proposal he made. They were such fanatics that they did not recognise Pope John's words when Maurie used them !!

Here is an example of how Maurie used whimsy to help unmask the thoughtless parroting of the fanatics. It is a reproduction of part of a leaflet Maurie published in 1966. He distributed it as widely as possible through Catholic organisations, giving attention to those who were supporting Vatican 2.

An astounding incident occurred on the night of April 19th, 1966 at a Clerks' Union meeting in Melbourne.

A communist moved a resolution based on a plea for peace by Pope Paul and supported it by a speech which was lifted almost word for word from Pope John's Encyclical Letter on World Peace, although he did not reveal this at the time.

The incident occurred when Mr Crow moved a resolution at the monthly general meeting of the Clerks' Union. Mr Crow is a member of the Victorian State Committee of the Communist Party of Australia. The text of the Popes' statements are set out herewith (a three column chart set out these three policies..."What the Pope Said... What Maurie Crow, the Communist Said.... What DLP Clerks' Union Members Said". This is not republished here, but is available from Crow Collection).

The leaflet concluded with the following paragraphs :--

Asked why he chose the Pope's words to express his desirte for action for peace, Mr Crow said ::-

Unfortunately some people have become so rabidly anti-communist that they have lost their ability to judge cases on their merit. I feel it is an overdue service to the public to show in some unmistakable form the degree to which some people are suffering from the disease of anti-communist myopia. Their over concern with anti-red manoeuvring has brought them to the point of isolation from the main stream of humanist thought - Catholic and non Catholic alike. It is my hope that my medicine will affect a cure.

Bill Kelty describes Lindsay Tanner's book, "The Last Battle" as "an absorbing and intriguing story of politics" and so it is.

"The Last Battle" describes, in great detail, the intense election contests and endless court battles which were fought during the 1980s in the Federated Clerks Union.

Since 1949 the Victorian Branch of the Clerk's Union was a key battleground between the left and the industrial groups which led to the split in the ALP in 1955.

Lindsay Tanner describes how for about 40 years (1949 to 1988) the Clerks' Union was dominated by the National Civic Council and its political party the DLP. NCC activitist were motivated by violent opposition to communism and strong support for traditional family structures :-

Their narrow minded fanaticism quickly led them into a world of Machiavellian manoeuvring, intense secrecy and duplicity, and disregard for the interests of the union members they represented

The book gives a day to day description of the many battles that had to be waged to wrest control of the union from the NCC. Thus it is a useful historical record and at the same time a useful text book for people involved in union power struggles.

However, to me the book only came to life when I supplemented it by once again browsing through the early chapters of Val Noone's classic "Disturbing the War" Although Val writes about another aspect of political struggle in another périod of history, (the 1960s/70s campaigns against the Vietnam War) I turned to "Disturbing the War" to try to understand the changes that have been taking place in the lives of an increasing number of Catholics since Vatican 2 at the end of the 1960s.

No doubt one of the contributing factors to the success of the lefts campaign in the Clerks' Union was due to soul searching changes in consciousness that have been characteristic of the past 20 years, especially amongst Catholics.

\* Lindsay Tanner is MHR for Melbourne. During the 1980s he played a key role in changing the leadership in the Victorian Branch of the Clerks Union.

\*\* The Crow Collection has a a very small collection of documents on the Clerks Union in the 1940s and white collar unions in the 1950s, and a few documents about the 1960s dialogue between Catholics and non-Catholics.

### Enhancing the Collection's Comprehensivenesss Thanks and Thanks Again and Again !

Recently the Crow Collection has received six gifts. Geoff Baker, a friend from the North Melbourne Association (in the early 1970s) has donated a file of Australian Institute of Urban Studies documents. Two long-time Sydney friends have donated copies of their own writings; Marjorie Pizer, her "Selected Writings 1963 to 1983" and Len Fox his "Australians on the Left". Stephen Holt of the Lloyd Ross Trust, in Canberra, has donated "A Veritable Dynamo...Lloyd Ross and Australian Labour 1901 to 1987". The late Ken Gott's archives have been donated to the VUT. Those appropriate are in the Collection

The sixth, the very much appreciated acquisition is the documents from Kensington Community Report. (See "Celebrating Community Memory" on next page of this Ecoso). Page 9. Ecoso 2/42. Dec. '96. Celebrating Community

### Celebrating Community Memory Let the Story Be Told \*

Sunday, November 17th was a gala day in Kensington. This was the day for the launching of *Celebrating Community Memory - A Snapshot of Kensington Organisations 1975 to 1995* 

One of the extraordinary things about this publication is that no author's name is listed, instead, in small print, across the end of each page, in alphabetical order are dozens and dozens of names, these are the people who have helped prepare the report; then follows name after name of the Kensington organisations described in the book. The two following extracts from the report provide part of the profile of this inner Melbourne suburb.

Kensington in the early 1960s was a working class community of 5000 people. Its one square mile was edged by river, railway lines and saleyards. This compactness contributed to a strong sense of community. Single fronted houses, many in dilapidated condition and almost half on frontages of 20 feet or less, accommodated families of five six or seven children. It was not uncommon for successive generations to stay living in Kensington. The nearby saleyards abbotoirs, wool skin sheds and noxious industries provided local men with a basic wage but the vile smells infiltrated daily living. ...

At the completion (during the 1960s of the public housing estate) Kensington's population had increased by over 3000 people. Many estate residents were lone parents, all had low incomes, and there was a high proportion of young children. A significant number of families were from non English speaking backgrounds ... only 13% of people had attained intermediate or higher educational standards. In terms of employment Kensington's workforce was over represented with craftsmen, production process workers and labourers and under represented with tertiary workers.

Celebrating Community describes itself as a Good News Story :-

The story tells of a community that was faced with continuing new waves of residents from non-English speaking countries and the challenge that this presented to organisations in being relevant and welcoming to people from a range of different entric backgrounds. And the story is one of organisations and groups of people coming together and being prepared to try something different ...

The story has a strong theme of co-operation and partnership. It tells of important alliances between the Melbourne City Council and community organisations; of community organisations forming networks to work collectively on political action, advocacy and lobbying of all layers of government ...

But most importantly this story is about strengthening a changing community and reaffirming the role of community services in Kensington.

\* This is part of a quote from Lil Healey with which the rport ends. Here is more of the quote :-

Let the Story Be Told

Help us to protect the principles and Open up more opportunities to the Community Sector

To order report send \$10 plus \$5 postage, Box 34, Flemington 3031 For more information phone Lesley Hoatson 03/9376.2072.

# Reflecting on 25 Years of Child Care.

Notes from a talk to Community Child Care by Ruth Crow 1971....1996

Twenty five years have passed since Community Child Care was started in Melbourne. With the cutbacks in funding it is difficult to see the possibility of celebrating. Yet a great deal has been achieved. Most of this cannot be measured.

What we really have to make pristine clear from our decades of effort, is the knowlege of the third force...the force which means that when we do things together the sum total is much, Much MUCH greater than the sum of two parts,. As Marx stated "Men (we can add "and women") change themselves as they change their circumstances". This is value "X", it will always be an unknown no matter how much more we know. If you like, use Eva Cox's words, "social capital". Some thoughts on this are particularly important in this era of technology and economic rationalism. We have to find a new language to express this third force.

The talk revolved around 7 points :-

- 1. How was home life changing in the early 1970s ?
- 2. What forces were emerging to challenge the status quo?
- 3. The CCC's ten golden principles... the main part.
- 4. How we carried out the golden principles
- 5. How is home life changing as we enter the 21 century ?
- 6. What forces are emerging to challenge the status quo.
- 7. What sort of society do we want Australia to be ?

Space only allows me to summaries points 6. and small type is needed even to do this. But here goes...

6. What Forces are Emerging to Challenge the Status Quo.?

a. More women elected to Fed/state and local govt. (but of course we don't want Thatchers).

b. Aboriginal people with direct involvement around their own issues... reconciliation, self determination and land rights.

c. More participation by migrants in social/political life... possibilities of multiculturalism (under-used sklls of Asians)

d. New type social organisations tackling economic problems eg. LETS (Local Economic Trading Societies... all thess help develop a sense of belonging ... weak and all as they are)..

e. Women are much better educated than they were a few decades ago.

f. Some social groups are trying to cope with popularisng alternative uses for information technologies.

g. New type of coalitions... eg People First, the Centre for Public Education. h. Long established organisations such as VCOS (ACOS), churches are playing a greater role in workplace/community politics. eg Catholic statement on Industrial Relations.

i. The widespread growth of a cultural movement including some new forms of indigneous culture.

j. Rural women are spearheading some essential agricultural reforms. New links between city and country are developing through greater understanding of conservation isues.

(The Crow Collection has fairly comprehesive documents about child care in the 1970s and early 1980s, and a few documenst from the 1940s and 1960s.)

# Theatre expresses the struggle of life in a new land

Mr Tony Le Nguyen has spent a lot of his life learning things the hard way. The actor, director and playwright who studies humanities at the University, originally left school in Year 10. Soon after, he left home and lived in a refuge.

Living in a refuge was not a new experience for him. After leaving Vietnam with his family in 1978 he spent time in a refugee camp in Thailand before migrating to Australia. Mr Le Nguyen said that adjustment to life in Australia was difficult. He found himself caught between memories of Vietnam and the demands of assimilating into a new culture. After a period of frustration and rebelliousness, he discovered the outlet he needed in acting and the theatre.

After two years' work with Handspan Theatre, a pivotal role as Tiger in *Romper Stomper* and appearances on *GP*, *Fast Forward* and *Embassy*, Mr Le Nguyen approached the Footscray

> Community Arts Centre, which is sponsored by the University, about setting up a Vietnamese Youth Theatre.

"I wanted to be able to share my experience with young Vietnamese. A lot of kids who are hanging out at pinball parlours have a lot of anger and energy. I thought if I could focus that energy and convert it into a dramatic context it could be very interesting," Mr Le Nguyen said.

"The group generated quite a lot of interest from young Vietnamese, so I got them talking about their stories, their experiences and lives. Lots of angry and emotional stuff was coming out and we started to put down ideas and issues and scripting."

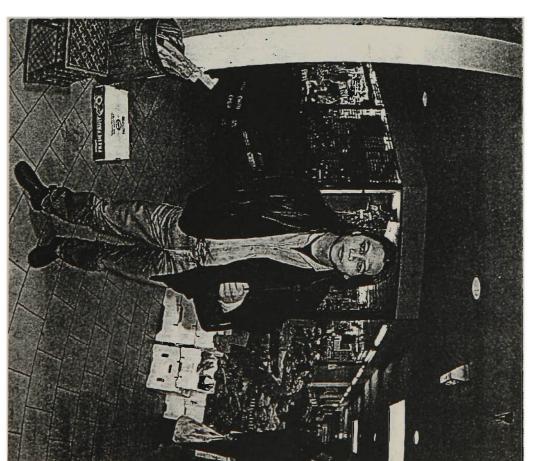
The result was *Chay Vong Vong* (*Running in Circles*), which recently completed its first professional season at the Napier Street Theatre in South

> Melbourne, after receiving a grant of \$46,500 from the Australia Council.

"I originally wrote the play for the Vietnamese community, to show what was happening to their kids. But through all the issues that revolve around their lives, it's a perfect opportunity for non-Vietnamese people to look in through a window on Vietnamese life.

"The problems in the Vietnamese community are not something that happened overnight. They are the accumulation of many years now. We won't solve them overnight, but I'm appealing to the whole community to be more understanding and supportive," Mr Le Nguyen said.

Mr Tony Le Nguyen, actor, playuright, director and bumantites student at Victoria University , is pictured in Foolscray beartland at the market in Nicbolson Street.



nexus -

"Nexus" is published fortnightly by the Victoria University. This article republished from "Nexus" Vol 6, No 17 Ecoso 2/42, December 1996

### INFORMATION ABOUT ECOSO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER.

Since 1990 Ecoso Exchange Newsletter has been the newsletter for the Crow Collection Association. The forerunner of Ecoso was called Irregular. It was first published in 1967 when Maurie and Ruth Crow helped to initiate regular discussion groups on urban issues as a follow up to the trade union based Living Standards Convention which was held that year.

In 1973 the name was changed to Ecoso and four guidelines were adopted .:-

- 1. The promotion of community participation.
- 2. Popularising changing life styles which combat consumerism.
- 3. Advocating restricting use of non renewable resources
- 4. Achieving these objectives through participation.

### ABOUT THE CROW COLLECTION ASSOCIATION

The Crow Collection consist of books and unpublished documents on political and sociological issues which were donated by Ruth Crow to the VUT in 1990. Supporters of the Collection have formed the Crow Collection Association which has the aim of enhancing the comprehensiveness of and accessibility to the Collection. These aims are implemented by the publication of Ecoso, projects around specific issues and occasional social gatherings..

This Ecoso includes some information on the current Crow Collection project. This is the Ideas Exchange Project which is popularising the 1995 Senate Inquiry on Citizenship by involving people in finding answers to the question "What Sort of Society Do You Want Australia To Be ?

### SUPPORT THE CROW COLLECTION BY SUBSCRIBING TO ECOSO

The main funds for the Crow Collection come from Ecoso subs. The subscriptions to Ecoso is \$10 for five issues. Please send subscription to Crow Collection c/o Ms Sheila Byard, Dept. of Urban and Social Policy, Footscray Campus of the Victoria University of Technology, Box 14428 MCMC Melb 8001. (More information by phoning Ruth Crow 03/9329.8685 or FAX Sheila Byard 03/9688.4324).