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MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

*Ecoso exchange newsletter : ecological, sociological
and political discourse 2/43; March 1997*

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Ecoso Exchange Newsletter
Crow Collection Association
 Ecological, Social and Political Discourse

No 2/43, March 1997

ISSN IO## 9205

An Invitation
 to
 A Forum
 on

Women and Urban Planning

Guest Speaker :- **Prof. Leonie Sandercock**

Wednesday, March 19th at 7,30pm
 Room P408, VUT Library Footscray Campus.

You are also invited to
 THE Crow Collection Association's
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 5.30pm in Room P407. Light Refreshments available at 7 pm.
 The Crow Collection Room will be open for viewing from 4.30pm
All Welcome

More Information :- phone (03) 9329.8685, Fax (03) 9688.4324.

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News from the Crow Collection
 and
ABOUT THIS ECOSO.

The Crow Collection Association's Spring Meeting decided to continue the project on citizenship and to use Ecoso to stimulate discussion on *What Sort of Society Do We Want Australia to be ?*. For the first part of 1997 attention will be given to popularising information about recent town planning initiatives

This Ecoso features reports on planning conferences which were held towards the end of 1996 :- 1. *There is an Alternative !* conference organised by VPAN, (Victorian People's Action Network); and the conference *Private Planning ... Private Cities, THE DOCKLANDS* (sponsored by RMIT, the National Trust, Melbourne University and the People's Committee for Melbourne).

Also, this Ecoso draws attention to **The Planning Charter** which has been prepared by the **Town and Country Planning Association**. (Copies of the Charter are available from the TCPA, Box 312, Market Street P.O. Melbourne 3000; phone 03/9509.6677, or 03/9689.3693).

Before reporting on these conferences this Ecoso features three contributions by women about women and planning. One reason for this choice is that March 8th is International Women's Day, and a second reason is that the Crow Collection's AGM Forum will be on **Women and Urban Planning**

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A Gender Agenda (Number 1.)

INTRODUCING IDEAS ON WOMEN AND URBAN PLANNING

In the 1970s Prof. Sandercock was a lecturer at Footscray Institute of Technology (now VUT) where she pioneered what is now known as the Department of Urban and Social Policy. From 1981 to 1986 she was the chair of the graduate studies program at Macquarie University (NSW) and since then has been visiting professor and lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles. Last year she was appointed a professor at RMIT.

Prof Sandercock has contributed to theories on urban planning. Her research has resulted in the publication of books such as *Cities for Sale;*, *The Rent Racket; Property; Politics and Urban Planning*.

Here are some quotes from an article by Leonie Sandercock which she wrote in collaboration with Ann Forsyth. It was published in *The Journal of the American Planning Association* (Vol.58, No1).

QUOTES FROM LEONIE SANDERCOCK ON URBAN PLANNING

PLANNING PRACTICE, POLITICAL ECONOMY AND THEORY

Gender issues emerge in each of the three approaches (planning practice, political economy and theory) and take the form of such themes as the economic status of women, the location and movement of women through the built environment, the connection between capitalist production and patriarchal relationships and between public and domestic life, how women know about the world and about what is good, and the forms of communication with which women are comfortable or by which they are most threatened. An awareness of these issues is lacking in planning theory.

SPATIAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Planning theory must treat this diversity (categories of women) seriously. Theorists must be able to determine when it is appropriate to distinguish between specific categories and when the experiences among women of different classes, races and other backgrounds are actually congruent.

Theorising within this multiplicity of voices is a complex task, but not doing so can make "women" as oppressive a category as "man". As yet planning theory literature deals, hardly at all, with multiple oppression by race, sexual preference, culture and gender.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

A feminist planner, experienced in neighbourhood consultation and participatory planning, described her difficulties in encouraging people at public meetings to contribute equally, particularly when many women are socialised to believe they have nothing to say.

Feminists insights would expand the planner's perspective beyond scientific and technological knowledge to other ways of knowing... knowledge is gained through talking ... "gossip", like poetry and fiction, penetrate to the truth of things" says Belensky (et al)... knowledge is gained through listening .. knowledge is also tacit or intuitive... creating symbolic forms through painting, music or poetry is a more important way of knowing and communicating than planners have yet been prepared to contemplate... acting and reflecting on meaning of action yields information about the world that is unavailable in textbooks and reports.

WOMEN AND THE PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

The involvement of planners in current moves (in USA) to privatise public services also has a direct complex affect on women. Women are more likely than men to receive public assistance, as single parents, as the dominant elderly population group, as residents in public housing, or as the majority of public transport users. This assistance has given women more choices, relieving them of some of the responsibilities formerly considered private or domestic, such as caring for children or older relatives and giving them enough material resources to achieve a measure of independence.

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The new communitarian theorists offer sophisticated criticisms of liberalism and offer alternatives with obvious links with feminist theories of care. They tend, however, to be complacent about traditional structures such as the family or nation which are hierarchically organised and oppressive to women.

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NEED FOR ON-GOING DEBATE

In their article Leonie Sandercock and Ann Forsyth call for an-going debate. Here is the last paragraph :-

In main stream planning theory women have scarcely ever been seen as a subject of theory. The problem, however, is far more subtle and complex than the simple tradition of exclusion. The paradigms on which planning and theorising about it have been based are informed by characteristics traditionally associated with the masculine in our society. There is a need to rethink the foundations of the discipline, its epistemology, and its various methodologies. The feminist critiques and feminist literature need to be incorporated into the debates within planning theory.

Please mark Wednesday March 19th as a "Red Letter Day". This is the date for the Crow Collection Association's Forum on Women and Urban Planning. Please give this Ecoso to a friend(s), inviting him/her or them to the Forum

Gender Agenda (Number 2)

INTRODUCING SOME IDEAS ON WOMEN AND HOUSING

This article is based on a contribution from Llewellyn Johns to "The Women's Summit", organised by the Union of Australian Women several years ago. She is a research worker whose report for the Ministry of Housing on women and housing, *Speaking of Housing*, was awarded the Latrobe Award for Planning in 1993.

If work is the warp, home is the weft, intricately threaded together to give women's lives special texture and colour.
(Quote from "Accommodating Inequality" by Sophie Watson)

SOME QUOTES FROM LLEWELLYN JOHNS

AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING AND THE FEMINISATION OF POVERTY.

The affluent post Second World War years in Australia have enabled most people to buy their own homes. This affluence is ending. House prices are rising, interest rates skyrocketting. On the other hand income and security of employment are falling. There is an increase in the number of people seeking rental accommodation, and the population of caravan parks escalates.

The housing disadvantage of women in general is best seen when they are single, that is when they are bearing sole or major responsibility for sheltering themselves and/or others in their care.

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About 85% of single parents with sole care of children are women. In Victoria about 150,000 women live alone, and a large proportion of these are women over 60.

A SAFE AND SUITABLE HOME CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

The social environment of home is not very safe for many women. As a society we are now forced to acknowledge the widespread nature of domestic violence and child abuse, and that some women, living alone or with dependent children may suffer harrassment from neighbours, landlords and others.

For these reasons women experience housing crisis or homelessness - homelessness is not necessarily being on the streets. There is a concealed homelessness of being forced to live in unsafe places, forced to share with relatives (or uncongenial strangers) in unsatisfactory conditions, forced to live daily with insecurity of shelter.

In addition, living spaces are often unsuitable for the needs of women and for those in their care. Dwellings are seldom designed with the complexity of women's work in mind. The relationships between the individual dwelling space, immediate surroundings and the neighbourhood make daily life difficult for many women, adding to the isolation of an increasing number.

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Women are drastically under-represented in the planning and architectural profession. By the end of the 1980s only 8% of architects, 4.5% of town planners and 2% building professional and engineers were women.

INTIMACY AND BEAUTY, FITTINGNESS AND COMFORT

And, here is Llewellyn's reason for committing herself to improve housing for women. :-

Housing is not just another dimension of women's disadvantage. Inadequate housing denies many women the opportunity of shaping their home as a place of intimacy and beauty, fittingness and comfort

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Gender Agenda (Number 3)
SOME IDEAS ON WOMEN AND SUBURBIA

The quotes in this article are from Barbara Weimar, but they really state Maurie Crow's ideas as they are quotes from Barbara's contribution to a memorial gathering for Maurie in 1988. Barbara lectures in Architecture at RMIT,a

QUOTES FROM BARBARA WEIMAR
(Mainly About Maurie Crow's Ideas)

THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL

In Maurie's critique of the existing structure of our cities and in his ideas for a socialist alternative he saw the oppression of women as being central. He stressed over and over again, in the writings I have read of his, the need to understand how women are affected by the structure of society in general, and by the structure of the city in particular..

Maurie stood apart from most people in that he did have a vision. Most literature about suburban life in Australia and other western countries has a very impersonal, scientific, analytical approach, but Maurie was a very brave person, because he did put forward a vision, showing how daily life could be changed. When you do that you open yourself to criticism.

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THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORLDS OF SUBURBIA.

Maurie pointed out that suburbanisation created a city which was divided into public and private worlds; that women and children were the people who inhabited the private realms of the suburbs, and that the suburbs are places that are separate from the public areas of leisure, specialist shops, work and other services.

He warned that the domination of the car-way-of-life and the separation of women and children in the suburbs is a social and ecological disaster,

He pointed out that in the car-dependent-sububs families turn in on themselves. The private space of the car becomes an extension of the private space of the home. Social life becomes more and more home based, placing bigger burdens on women (home entertainment, care of equipment and material, more and more housework despite acquisition of "labour saving" devices). At the same time it tends to rob women of opportunities to participate in informal human relationships with others beyond the family and close friends.

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CONSUMERISM AND THE WORLD'S SCARCE RESOURCES

Maurie made the connection between suburbia and consumerism, explaining how we are living in a society that expects each family to own privately the goods and services which were supplied in the past by the community.

The escalation of consumerist consumption not only destroys the world's scarce resources but also adds to alienation and anomie of modern life as it tends to encourage a privatised life style, thus increasing feelings of isolation and loneliness.

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THE CLUSTER AND CONNECT MODEL

Over the years Maurie worked with others to develop the Cluster and Connect Model for Australian Cities, collectively producing such publications as *Seeds for Change*; *Less Energy with More Enjoyment*; *Economic strategies for Social Change* and *Make Melbourne Marvellous*. Moreover, he tirelessly, helped to develop coalitions to campaigns to implement some of the ideas presented in these publications... meeting with a measure of success occasionally.

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THE ERADICATION OF ALL FORMS OF MALE DOMINATION

One of Maurie's long term aims was the eradicate of male domination over females. He realised that this was not an immediate possibility but believed that the participation of women (as well as men) in the urban planning process could be a crucial first step. He also believed that participation is only possible if people can envisage the future... especially the different type of human relationships which could flourish if urban environments were humanised. In books such as *Seeds for Change* there is a detailed description the "Cluster and Connect Model". Here are five points from it :-

- 1.. *There would be small scale planning to encourage women to begin to meet with others, to develop a greater control over their own lives and perhaps choose to become involved about social issues.*
- 2.. *Neighbourhood centres would be focal points in communities. This is an important physical proposal, creating places, out there, where women are..*
- 3.. *Social services would be at "one stop centres" which are served by public transport and close to shops and work places.*
4. *Radical changes to public public transport so that there would be easy, efficient trains, trams or buses to the clustered facilities..*
5. *Innovations in house and neighbourhood design to allow for both privacy and community..*

PRACTISING WHAT IS PREACHED.

Barbara described how Maurie practised what he preached. She, quoted from a 1988 condolence letter to Ruth :-

So often there is a great man living a life of achievement, even of community service with the wife playing the role of chief supporter and nurturer. What is admirable to me about the Crows is the genuine partnership between Ruth and Maurie in making that huge contribution.

. Private Planning ... Private Cities THE DOCKLANDS

The massive docklands site, to the west of Spencer St. Station occupies an area as large as the existing Central Activities District, an area of land and water totalling about 220 hectares.

Docklands is one of the biggest and could be one of the most exciting developments in Australia, but it also has the potential of becoming the *asset sale of the century*. The owner of the site, the State Government, has, so far, chosen to rely on the private sector for the redevelopment of the Docklands. Some of the growing public concern, about this, was aired at a seminar which was held at RMIT last November.

Prof. Leonie Sandercock shared the opening forum with Hon. Robert MacLellan MP at this conference. She was not diverted by the scathing attack the Minister made on those who criticised the proposed project. She presented six main questions.

1. The financial viability of the project.

The success of the development depends on sustained investment from national and international capital. Can the project attract such capital ?

2. The effect on the new development on the rest of the metropolis, especially its effect on the CBD.

The experience in London has shown that Dockland redevelopment has not produced a net addition to London's job pool,....Will the old city be a loser from the Dockland project ?

3. As financing the infrastructure will be borne by the developers the sale price of the land will be lowered to encourage investment.

This means bargain basement price for public land. Public land will disappear from the public realm for ever. Is the Government giving away any leveraging powers over the kind of development that can then ensue ?

4. To date opportunities for consultation have been inadequate.

The "interested community" has been narrowly defined as the likely financial players such as the Chamber of Commerce and the development industry. Why is the Melbourne City Council and the entire metropolitan population excluded from participating.

5. The assumption seems to be that the "market knows best". The glossy documentation proposes a US style theme parks and theme wharves, and it is implied that the main clientele will be American-style gated communities.

There needs to be more public discussion about the kind of vision is being projected for this site .Do we really want to be "themed" ? (We've already been malled)

6. There is pressure on the Dockland Authority to make visible progress.

Will this result in a "mission-orientation" in which engineering and economic planning dominate and social issues are likely to be dismissed as irrelevant ?

The conference was addressed by several representatives of the Docklands Authority as well as by several representatives of community organisations. In the plenary sessions there was ample time for discussion and a great variety of ideas were presented.

(Seminar papers from this historic gathering will be available. For more information write to People's Committee for Melbourne, 2 Elm St., North Melbourne 3051, 03/9326.8245, or FAX 03/9326.8030.

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"There is an Alternative !"

VPAN'S Bill of Rights.

We believe that all Australians should be entitled to high quality health, education, and other services, adequate housing, a job that is secure and safe with good pay and conditions, and a clean and safe environment".

A conference aimed at **strengthening and building grass roots community networks**" was held on November 24th last year. It was organised by VPAN... a network of community groups, individuals and unionists opposed to the economic-rationalist policies of the Government. This organisation has been meeting regularly since 1995 with its main focus on the Kennett Government severe cuts to the social wage and to the rights of the people of Victoria and the attacks on the wages, conditions and employment of workers.

The main purpose of the gathering was to begin to prepare and campaign for an **Australian Bill of Economic, Social and Civic Rights**.

Mike Salvaris (Centre for Urban and Social Research at Monash University) set the scene through challenging the facts presented for the current cut backs. He said :-

The underlying financial reason for the inadequacy of community services in Australia is not high taxes and spending or waste and inefficiency. The real problem is the opposite : mean-spirited and over conservative financial management; under-capitalised and under-financed public sector; and a low distribution of wealth.

Cr Mike Hill (Mayor of Moreland) and Len Copper (Communications, Electrical and Plumbers Union) were the other keynote speakers.

Some very useful discussion papers were distributed. For example, one by Michael Webber (Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies, Melbourne University) included statistics on **Taxation and Social Goals**. Information about similar movements to VPAN in New Zealand, South Africa and Canada was also available.

More information about VPAN is available from Marion Harper, 71 Cromwell St. (Collingwood. (03) 9416.1303.)

Is your subscription to Ecoso due or overdue ? Please check your address slip. Ecoso subscriptions are the main source of income for the Crow Collection Association. Subscriptions barely cover the cost of printing and postage, thus donations are very welcome indeed.

More information about the Crow Collection Association and Ecoso on page 12.

The Planning Crisis in Victoria

THE TCPA CHARTER

Last July the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) held a conference to bring together the various single-issue community groups which are being spawned in answer to the way the Kennett Government is eroding planning practices. The conference focussed on four aspects of the planning crisis :-

- * parklands,
- * urban fringe expansion
- * urban transport
- * the planning process

A draft of *A Charter for Planning* was presented to the conference and since then the Charter has been finalised and adopted. It has four main sections each of which have several sub-sections. Here are the headings :-

1. **PLANNING GOALS** ... 1.i Ecological Sustainability; 1.ii Economic Efficiency; 1.iii Social Equity; 1.iv Quality of Life; 1.v Amenity; 1.vi Quality of Design, 1.vii Conservation of Nature; 1.viii Conservation of Cultural Significance.

2. **PLANNING ETHICS** ... 2.i Common Interest; 2.ii Equity; 2.iii Consistency; 2.iv Public Input and Accountability; 2.v Barriers to Participation; 2.vi Transparency; 2.vii Freedom from Political Interference; 2.viii Overriding Commitments; 2.ix Compensation for Demonstrable Loss; 2.x Unearned Gains.

3. **PLANNING PRINCIPLES** 3.i Legislation; 3.ii Policy Development; 3.iii The Development of Plans; 3.iv The Decision-making Process; 3.v Information Rights; 3.vi The Appeal Process; 3.vii Environment and Social Impact Assessment 3.viii Government Intervention; 3.ix Public Assets.

4. **PLANNING POLICIES** ... 4.i Environmental Standards; 4.ii Targets; 4.iii Performance Standards; 4.iv Conservation and Rehabilitation of Natural Areas; 4.v Containment of Urban Spread; 4.vi Minimisation of Travel; 4.vii Integration of Land Use and Transport; 4.viii Maintenance of Open Space; 4.ix Long Term Strategy Planning.

The TCPA states that it now has a fourfold task :-

1. To ensure that people and organisation involved in planning are *aware of the Charter*.
2. To encourage organisations *to review the Charter* and send comments back to the TCPA.
3. To seek *signatories to the Charter*
4. To encourage state and local government representatives to *adhere to the planning principles in the Charter*.

More information about the TCPA from David Sauer, PO Box 312, Market St, Melbourne 3000, (03) 9509 6677 (B.H.) or Alan Parker (03) 9689.3693.

Bits and Pieces

THE DECLINE OF THE AGE OF OIL...Petrol Politics: Australia's Road Ahead by Brian Fleay has recently been published by Pluto Press for the Western Australian Greens.

Brian Fleay warns :-

The need for Australia and the world to reduce dependence on liquid petroleum fuels is urgent, especially for the major use... transport. We are a privileged generation that will witness within a decade the shrinking of its present wealth and mobility. We must have the courage now to explore new ways of living whereby we can all live well but consume less.

With wisdom and good leadership that inspires people to act even a better life than we have now may be possible. (This book costs about \$15).

POOR LAWS OF 1834 AND 1996; a Critique of Economic Rationalism is a booklet, recently published by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, that shows that, in practise economic rationalist theories do not live up to their promise of economic growth. Instead they exacerbate the very problems they have been introduced to remedy; slow growth, mounting foreign debt and a widening gap between the rich and the poor. (This booklet costs only \$5.00 from the BSL)

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE BOOKSHOP is now open for business. Its new location is in the south west corner of the ground floor of the recently renovated Trades Hall in Victoria Street, South Carlton. For more information (03) 9718.2400.

THREE CONFERENCES LATER THIS YEAR :-

1 In Melbourne Town Hall, from April 19th to 21st, the **Australian Institute of Urban Studies National Conference on Livability, Planning and Governance**. More information from Geoff Baker, (03) 9459.0634.

2. At the Sunshine Coast University, Queensland, from July 17 to 19th there will be a conference on **Images of the Urban**. More information from Chris McConville, (074) 30.1257.

3. At the University of Melbourne, from October 1st to 3rd there will be a conference on **Environmental and Social Justice : Global Ethics for the 21st Century**. More information from Nicholas Low. Fax (03) 9344.7458.

Keynote speakers at all of these conferences will be from overseas as well as from Australia. Hopefully, some of the information from these gatherings will be given general publicity. The conference fees will deter many people from attending, but mark the dates, now, so that you can watch the newspapers and journals for reports.

GOOD WISHES TO MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES. Finally, good wishes to those who are raising ecological and sociological issues in the March Council elections. Special good wishes to **Rainbow Alliance** candidate for Moonee Valley Council, Helen van den Berg.

Racism is repulsive
 By Professor Ian Rae,
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Reports of a resurgence of racial vilification and harassment in Australia in recent months following the maiden speech of Pauline Hanson, MHR, are disturbing. Ideas of superiority or inferiority of human groups based on their race, ethnicity or skin colour are antithetical to rational thought. Racist behaviour and discrimination are to be challenged and repudiated in any area of Australian society but they are totally unacceptable in any aspect of the operations of a university.

Victoria University is committed to providing and maintaining an environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment, including racist behaviour. Such behaviour is, of course, prohibited under the Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act 1975 and the Victoria Equal Opportunity Act 1995. These laws require the University to take all reasonable measures to prevent racist discrimination and harassment.

The University's Policy on the Elimination of Racism makes it plain that racial prejudice and racial discrimination are unacceptable in any function of the University. All students and staff are required and expected to uphold the law and to honour the University's commitment to the creation and maintenance of an environment free from racism.

The policy is backed up in action. From its inception, Victoria University has established an

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excellent reputation for providing equal opportunity in education for students from a diverse range of backgrounds. Our record for enrolment and support for students from immigrant backgrounds puts us in the very highest bracket of Australian universities. Our Aboriginal education program goes from strength to strength and is widely supported across the campuses and in the community. We actively recruit students from a range of countries and are delighted to offer them a positive study environment.

We value the contributions of all these different student groups to the rich cultural diversity which characterises Victoria University. Participation in student affairs is inclusive and student activities are explicitly open to all. The absence of racist graffiti and organised vilification campaigns, found elsewhere in Melbourne, is a matter of great pride to us all.

However, we cannot afford to be complacent. We must continue to do all we can to prevent racist behaviour and to deal with it promptly should it arise on campus. Any student or staff member who experiences discrimination or harassment based on race, colour, national or ethnic origin has the right to make a complaint under procedures which have been set up for this purpose by the University. In the first instance, you may approach a staff member with supervisory responsibility such as a Course Co-ordinator, Head of Department or Dean, for advice and support. Alternatively, you may contact an Equity Adviser or staff member of the

Equity and Social Justice Branch for information and advice about how your grievance may be resolved to your satisfaction.

In the wider arena, we encourage staff and students to lend support to the many voices in opposition to those who, in the name of freedom of expression, feel it is okay to divide groups and vilify some on the basis of race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin. We must tell them it is not okay.

Two Cuttings from Nexus
 Nexus is a fortnightly publication published by the Media and Communication Branch of the Victoria University.

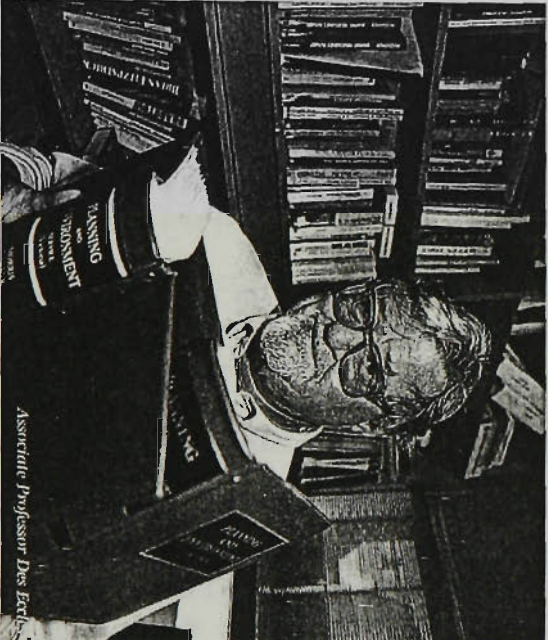
Urban studies award for planning resource

HEXUS
 12th Nov 1996
 Vol 6 No 20

provided an update on legislation in the planning area and expert commentary on decisions of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT), the Supreme Court, and from time to time, the High Court of Australia.

"We try to produce a resource which is indispensable for professionals who appear before the AAT and for people involved in environmental impact assessment processes.

"The commentary aims to update the current legal situation in planning in light of new laws and decisions by the courts and the AAT." Associate Professor Eccles said.



Associate Professor Des Eccles

Head of the Department of Urban and Social Policy, Associate Professor Des Eccles, has won a commendation from the Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI) for his contribution to planning practice.

author of *Planning and Environment Victoria*, a loose leaf planning law service covering planning and environmental law, which is used by planning professionals, lawyers and town planners.

Associate Professor Eccles won the award for his work as co-editor and

Associate Professor Eccles said that *Planning and Environment Victoria*



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
 COLLEGE

THREE OTHER AWARDS.

Three other Crow Collection supporters have recently been publicly honoured.

Jessie Clarke was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to community organisations.

Brian Howe was awarded the TCPA's Barrett Medal in recognition of his contribution to sound urban and regional planning, notably the Better Cities program.

Alan Pears was presented with a TCPA Certificate of Planning Achievement for his work on the Greenhouse Neighbourhood projec

NEXUS

INFORMATION ABOUT ECOSO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER.

Eco - Ecological, Soc - sociological, Exchange - non-authoritarian

Since 1990 Ecoso Exchange Newsletter has been the newsletter for the Crow Collection Association (Incorporated). 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..

The 1995 Senate Inquiry on Citizenship asked the challenging question *What Sort of Society Do You Want Australia To Be ?* Ecoso continues this discourse. If you would like to contribute please send in material for Ecoso articles.

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).



Crow Collection
Victoria University
Footscray Campus
C/o Box 14428 MCMC
Melbourne 8001