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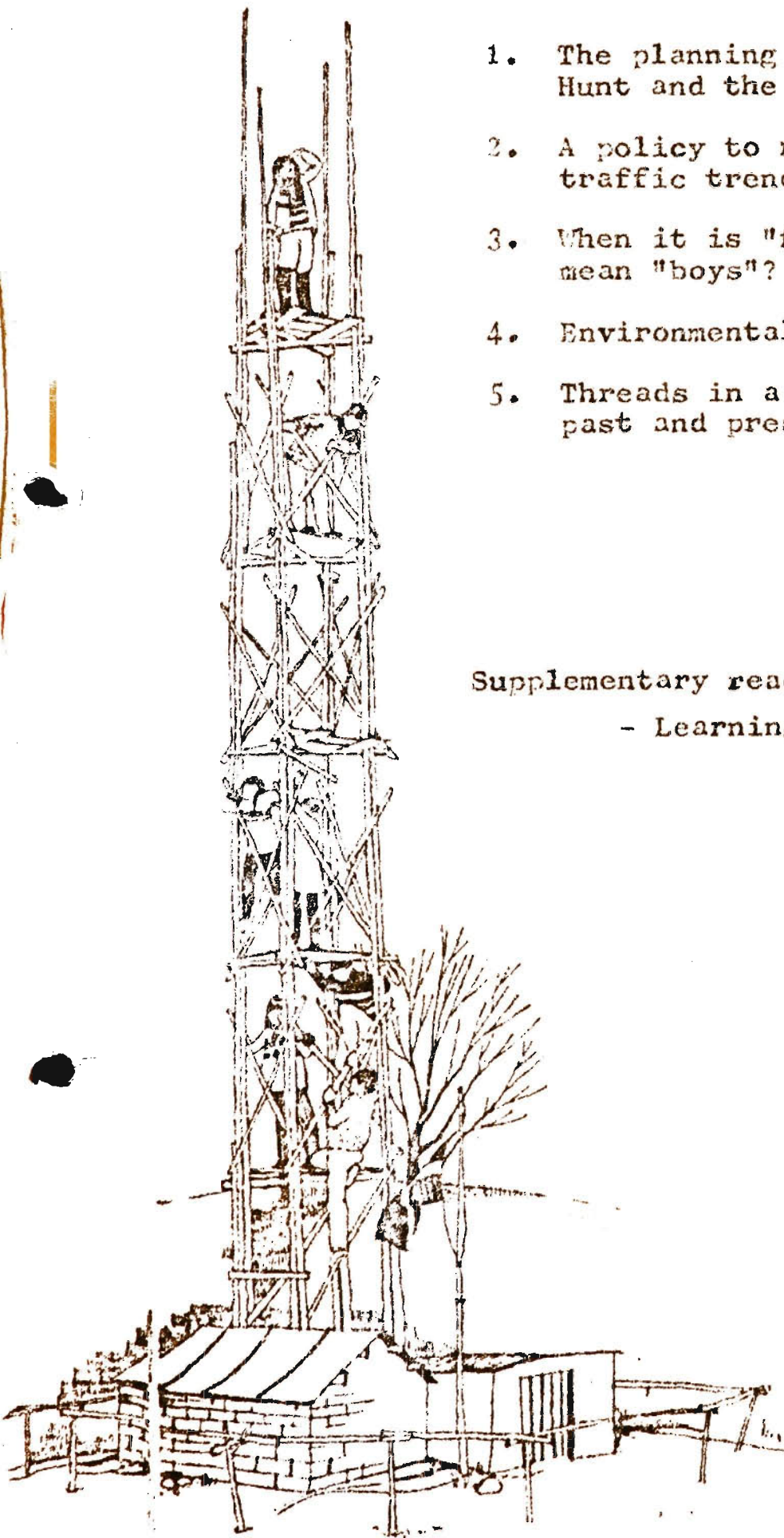
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Spring 1977

This issue:

1. The planning hey day is nearly over! Hunt and the land development "industry"
2. A policy to radically reverse current traffic trends...Vancouver Plan for Action
3. When it is "freedom for kids", does "kids" mean "boys"?
4. Environmentalists for Full Employment.
5. Threads in a tapestry....mass movements past and present.

Supplementary reading attached: "Seeds for Change"
- Learning Exchange Supplement.



"... the limited natural and human resources are not only inequitably distributed but are also recklessly squandered with outrageous pollutions and destruction of the natural environment. As for the social environment, life and thinking become dominated by material possessions and this creates a barrier making it increasingly difficult for neighbours, work mates and even members of the same family to relate to each other" from Ecoso Guidelines.

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1. The Planning Hey Day is Nearly Over !
Hunt and the Land Development Industry
2. A Policy to Radically Reverse Current Traffic Trends
Vancouver Plan for Action
3. When it is "Freedom for Kids", Does "Kids" Mean Boys?
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Community, Mt. Ridley, Else Mitchell Report
and several others

Supplementary Reading Attached. "Seeds of Change"

Learning Exchange Broadsheet

1. THE PLANNING HEY DAY IS NEARLY OVER !

Minister Hunt and the Land Developing 'Industry'

There are two ways of looking at the land acquisition deals which are now the subject of a Victorian Government enquiry.

Sundry affected developers, real estate agents, public servants and politicians are naturally, terribly concerned with whether there are scandals or legitimate business, and it is these lurid aspects that attract the attention of the media and the media-influenced public.

This first aspect is important enough for if there are scandals and corruptions, especially if they penetrate into the public service and government circles, then there is a set of pre-conditions, that of their very character, fundamentally undermine planning in the most basic way. Of all the "quick quids" in the world, the quickest quid of all is to get the Government alter the rules of the game (i.e. the land-use zones of a planning scheme) to obtain an enormous over-night inflation of value. It is unfair to all the other speculative players in the land game, not to mention the thousands of citizens' organisations and authorities who solemnly went through the process of hour by hour public discussion preparing reports, objections and hearings before the solemn decision of the authorities on Melbourne's future size and shape was finally taken. This aspect is disturbing enough.

But if this is the only lesson we learn, it is not enough. The second and more deeply disturbing aspect passed over by the media and the politicians, is the fundamental pre-condition that gives rise to scandals on such a vast scale...namely: the very existence of a so called "land development industry".

An article in the Age, 23rd August this year highlighted the extraordinary conflicting decisions of the State Cabinet in 1973.

Here are two extracts from that article ...

"The Minister (Minister for Housing... ed. Ecoso) advised that he had called a meeting to confirm a direction given to Cabinet on Monday, 16 July 1973, concerning the establishment of the Commission as a land developing organ as a State alternative to the Commonwealth proposals concerning the establishment of Land Commissions"

".... The Minister intimated that the announcement of Government policy concerning land development by the Commission, and the change in policy with regard to the metropolitan area in order to arrest the urban sprawl would be made in mid-September, and that the statement

of planning policy would also involve the abandonment of the concept of corridor growth in favour of Satellite towns in the four localities already mentioned, with a minimum of 10 miles of green belt separating these towns from the outer edge of the built up area of the metropolis.. (i.e. that the Government had secretly abandoned the "corridor" plan and had decided that development should go into other "green wedge" areas using the Housing Commission as the instrument to acquire land)

Yet in July, 1975, two years later, the Hon.A.J. Hunt, Minister for Planning, in releasing the Investigation Areas Report, said that the Government had decided to designate certain areas only within these corridors to be urban and issued warnings to developers that they would be speculating at their own risk as to any other areas, even within the corridors. There was absolutely no hint whatever, that the Government would consider non-corridor land for urban purposes. The Minister said, "The Government consequently accepts that the areas not recommended should be excluded from consideration for urban development in the foreseeable future." Yet the creditability of the earlier 1973 Cabinet decision is borne out by the actual acquisition by the Housing Commission. Whatever extraordinary reason Cabinet can dig up to explain away this unprincipled somersaulting in outright defiance of the whole process of planning contemplated by the Town and Country Planning Act, there is an undoubted common and seldom mentioned position that underlies the "goodies" and the "baddies" alike.

Mr. Hunt said of the new policy announcements he was making (which were, he claimed, determinations of the Government in 1975) that they are "consciously hedged in with safeguards, deliberately designed to avoid speculative activities.....for the Government has no intention of allowing its announcements to be utilised to force up land prices and to create profit for a few to the detriment of the community."

"In saying this," continued Mr. Hunt, "the Government in no way under-estimates the importance of the profit motive to the development industry. As a Government we accept the vital rule of private enterprise in the development of urban land. We will encourage it. We recognise that adequate profits are essential to the success of that industry and indeed of the land development process; but these profits must be made competitively and efficiently and not as a result of Government announcements." (our emphasis)

We draw attention to the underlined passages above. The precondition for run-away land prices and the overturning of professional planning and the speculation of of undue influences or even corruption, right or wrong, all have their genesis in Government fostering of private profit-making in a sphere which should be strictly public ownership and community controlled.

"Ecoso Exchange" says, therefore, that the planning heyday ushered in by the brave new Hamer Government in the post Bolte era is nearly over. Unless land can be acquired at reasonable values and 'developed' by public authorities, without making profits for anybody... above board or underhand...then serious planning on a regional scale collapses.

The Hamer Government can rescue the position only by by-passing the so-called land-development "industry". But to do this, Hamer would have to fight for principle, not only outside Cabinet, but inside Cabinet too. He could never find "consensus" in his Cabinet, nor amongst the big financial corporations for such a stand.

If Hamer cannot make such a stand, then the only hope for planning and the conservation of energy lies with an alternative Government ...but the present Opposition, even if it re-introduced planning, would need to reorientate regional planning onto energy-saving lines, if it is to prove itself to be, historically, more than a token improvement on the present profit-orientated position.

2. A POLICY TO RADICALLY REVERSE CURRENT TRAFFIC TRENDS

"Blood Will Flow Before the Traffic"

It's War on F.19

These were the banner headlines on the Melbourne Times on September 21. The article then stated that the Minister for Transport, Mr. Rafferty, had declared war on Melbourne's inner suburbs by announcing that F.19 would open before the end of the year.

Both Collingwood and Fitzroy Councils condemned the announcement and hundreds of anti-freeway protesters demonstrated outside Premier Hamer's home in the tree lined Monomeath Avenue, Canterbury. Highlight of the demonstration was the opening of the "Hamer Expressway" when the mayors of Collingwood and Fitzroy cut a ribbon across Hamer's drive.

As protests against freeways are mounting in other areas of Melbourne and in other cities, it is timely to quote from the Vancouver Plan for Action. Section C.14 is headed Transportation and Communication... and it is stated....

"Consideration should be given to the radical reversal of current trends, both in terms of facilities for and modes of transport in order to prevent further deterioration of the situation where large cities are congested with private vehicles which in most countries cater only to a minority while adequate public transport is unavailable to urban and rural residents. Policies on transportation and communication should promote desired patterns of development to satisfy the needs of the population and the distribution of activities to favour mass transportation, and reduce congestion and pollution of motor vehicles. (emphasis laid on this paragraph in the Vancouver Plan for Action)

Amongst the ten points for achieving these aims are the following : C.14 (1) A more deliberate use of land-use planning and policies for the location of traffic generating activities, in order to minimise the need to travel; (2) A comprehensive approach to planning and the development of transportation networks; (3) The active development of a system of public transport with adequate incentives for its use in preference to individual use of motor vehicles.

The Vancouver Plan for Action was endorsed by the Australian Government. This Plan for Action contains the recommendations of the 1976 Habitat Conference. (World Conference on Human Settlements held by the United Nations at Vancouver) It is obtainable from United Nations, 134 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000.

"One of the strongest points made at Habitat was that the people must be involved in planning their communities."

quote from Habitat, Vancouver.

3. WHEN IT IS FREEDOM FOR KIDS, DOES "KIDS" MEAN BOYS ?

Adventure Playgrounds

Adventure Playgrounds by Arvid Bengtsson, published by Granada, 1972, is described on the flyleaf as being a book "that describes many attempts which have recently been made to create places where children can fruitfully use their leisure time and where they have freedom to develop self confidence and retain their resilience.....Adventure playgrounds are perhaps the most revolutionary experiment we know for absorbing the interest and releasing the energies of young people."

The wide ranging text is complemented by over 500 photographs, drawings and plans from Great Britain, Switzerland, West Germany, Denmark, Sweden, United States and Japan, of play areas for small children and older children. It is hailed as one of the best books ever written

about planning for play. It certainly is one of the most delightful books for browsing. The illustrations are full of action and really capture children children while they are absorbed at their games.

Now, there is one rather interesting fact about this book. Most of the sketches show both boys and girls sharing the adventurous tasks of building cubbies, lighting fires, climbing up high structures, digging holes and wielding the paint brush and so on. But, a close look at the photographs shows that almost invariably the exciting jobs of constructing the bridges, the towers and the swings and so on are mainly the preserve of boys.

In "Spare Rib", a Women's Liberation Magazine, published in Britain in 1977, there is an article by Claire Cherrington who "looks at the politics that define what happens when boys and girls come out to play". This informative article states, "Adventure playgrounds boomed in the urban crisis of the late sixties. Authorities wanted to keep boys out of street crime; the scores of new playworkers, radicals amongst them, wanted to build local communities and let the kids enjoy some freedom." 'Kids' still meant boys."

As it is only possible to quote a small extract from this article the following paragraphs from the section sub-titled "Great Expectations" has been chosen...

"On almost all playgrounds girls stop coming at adolescence, except to discos. Said one teenager cornered outside the gate, "The boys don't want girls on adventure playgrounds; they just want slag (an easy lay). We don't go down there any more!" A play leader admitted, "Girls are our first real failure on the playgrounds. The boys can do anything they like, pick up a hammer and build....."

"Many women workers admit that adventure playgrounds do not challenge the years of conditioning at home and at school, and the boys' aggressive scorn discourages most girls from trying to break out of these repressive patterns. The eight year old protest of 'I can't do what I want' changes slowly over the years into 'I don't want to do anything!' Is there an answer to this? In London, some of the women playleaders have formed a group called "Women Workers in Adventure Playgrounds"....which has set itself the task of re-examining the widely held ideal of "free play."

"The ideal of free play lies at the very heart of adventure playground philosophy No one has ever questioned the fact that this effective jungle law stops the girls enjoying any freedom."

The writer goes on to ask ... "But what after all is free play? What kids really like is what grown-ups do and a lot of this free play is straight imitation like building which is the mainstay of adventure playgrounds/ With equal dedication, the kids imitate their parents' relationships. 'Round here you don't ever see the mums talking to the dads', says a teenage girl. The basic pattern isn't freedom. Beside the limitation of their activities the boys are trapped in aggressiveness and the girls in passivity. ..."

In Melbourne, in 1976, forty school children were invited to write or draw their ideas about designing a community centre and playground. A surprising large number of girls indicated that they wanted some place of their own. The relationships some children would like to have with adults are indicated in these two quotes, the first one from a twelve year old boy, and the second from a girl of about the same age.

"If you are to have an adventure playground you would need to have a couple of people, no matter who they are or what they get, to lead the others and show them what to do and to start the craze. But if you do not have the leaders and so on, you might as well forget your plans because the hammers would be stolen, the nails would be stolen

and the wood would just rot. One way to have ensured success is to tell all the children of your plans and tell them to go home and get materials, then start them off, and that will be that. Almost any child would think it a dream to make a playground for themselves by themselves."

"There needs to be someone who can provide suggestions for things to do when we don't know what to do; someone to know where to find things and someone to talk to."

Referring once more to the article in "Spare Rib" ...

"Only on a tiny minority of playgrounds can girls get any privacy; only on these playgrounds do they do much on their own, for ironically, to let the girls have their own space is anathema to most playworkers."

(For other information on children and play places see Ecoso 13)

4.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

Jobs For Use Not For Waste

Richard Grossman's visit to Victoria was sponsored by the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Movement Against Uranium Mining and the Amalgamated Metalworkers and Shipwrights Union.

A public seminar on September 18, was chaired by Jack Munday and Richard Grossman was joined on the platform by Alan Roberts, John Andrews and Max Ogden. It was decided to form an organisation in Victoria for Environmentalists for Full Employment.

A publication, Jobs and Energy, which has been published by the American Group of E.F.F.E. is available from the A.C.F. and from M.A.U.M. This publication has been written by Richard Grossman and Gail Dancker and it lists the following topics ...Energy and the economy, the substitution of energy for labour, productivity and jobs, energy growth and prosperity; the myth; energy efficiency and waste; capital investment, energy efficiency and jobs, solar energy, solar energy and jobs, the politics of solar energy.

In his introductory remarks to the Melbourne meeting, Jack Munday said that the uranium mining was the most important item discussed at the A.C.T.U. Congress. "The fight has just begun," he stated. "The most important political question is whether we have a future."

Watch out for more information about Environmentalists for Full Employment. Judging by the quality of the discussion at the seminar time is ripe for the bringing together of environmentalists and those many diverse organisations that are involved with living standards. Trade unionists, urban actionists are helping to form the central core along with the environmentalists.

5.

THREADS IN THE TAPESTRY

Part of Introductory Remarks to an Ecoso Exchange Discussion on
Women and the Conservation of Energy

The main discussion centred on the ideas presented in "Seeds for Change." (See supplementary reading attached to this issue of E.E.) These introductory remarks are included in this issue of Ecoso as they also throw some light on the new movement that is developing around Environmentalists for Full Employment by helping to place this new movement in its historical setting.

Of course, any system, biological or social, that is nearing the end of its historic usefulness, is always pregnant with seeds of the new system; but the signs are not easy to read. You would expect to find

the threads of the alternative tapestry in the movements which are variously called progressive or revolutionary or alternatives or people's movements ... call them what you will. Never before, however, has there been such fragmentation of these movements ... both of the movements which are avowedly political and those movements that are seemingly social and non-political in origin or constitution, but which are indirectly (and even directly) tending to assume more and more of a political aspect.

I do not believe that the alternative that replaces our present capitalist industrial system is going to take the anti-city form of a sort of atomisation of social organisations into family size or even commune size units that are economically or culturally self sufficient. These are trends within the conservation movement, the women's liberation movement and within the Down to Earth Movement. So what I am arguing for is the need for comprehensive planning ... not within the framework of the present system, but the need for comprehensive planning within an alternative system. If it is to be really comprehensive it is no use ignoring major mass aspirations that genuinely have within them the potential of a part of an alternative system that meets the real needs of people.

One such movement is one we could call broadly "the peace movement". It began as anti-war and anti-fascist in the 1930s. It became, in the 1950s, pro-disarmament and anti-atom bomb; in the 1960s anti-Vietnam with anti-colonial and anti-imperialist with pro-democratic overtones; in the mid 1970s it has linked with the anti-uranium movement and now from within that movement has sprung up a movement for non-nuclear alternatives. So the demand for real equity between nations has emerged from its beginnings which demanded peaceful solutions and not the domination by military and economic might over those nations that cannot resist; to its present stage of understanding that the rich industrialised power-hungry nations are, in reality robbing the poor nations of the very possibility of survival for millions of their people by robbing them of the modest amount of energy .. which coupled with a rational social system .. would enable stable reasonable existence.

The second movement, or tapestry thread, started much earlier, and developed into a much more highly structured and stable movement than the peace movement. The trade union movement started in Australia in the mid 19th century. Within this very large movement there are, of course, conservative, progressive and centrist trends. The trade union movement includes all those "working for a crust" and is therefore not limited to only industrial workers. White collar workers and, more recently, not insignificant numbers of tertiary trained and professional workers are now part of the employed work force.

In the 1960s there were attempts by some unions to break out of the highly constricting traditional patterns of wage standards as the only legitimate business for which unions were organised. In Victoria there was the "Living Standards Convention" 1967, which included town planning as one of its forums.

In the late 1960s, the Amalgamated Engineering Union (now the AMWSU) helped to initiate a movement for adequate child care. More recently the AMWSU has produced "Australia Uprooted". This booklet shows that the concern for broader living standards of a decade ago is beginning to emerge as a policy on Australian industries as a whole. The AMWSU and other unions grouped with it are asking publicly for help ... Join in! Help to develop the People's Economic Program (P.E.P.) they appeal. P.E.P. is another report prepared by the AMWSU and includes a program on welfare rights, tenants union, education, women, regional development, migrants, environment and energy, to mention a few main sections. It is currently being circulated in draft form and is regarded as a research project to be used as a basis for formulating trade union policy.

The third thread is the women's movement. Without tracing the history

of this movement, except to say that it has a history, like the other movements, I will only say that the radical sections of this movement is now setting out to change generally, pervasive male habits of down putting other people, whether consciously or unconsciously, that has been assumed by men and submitted to by women ... for centuries. This down-putting process is deeper than can be remedied by equality of opportunity for jobs or positions; it is the whole socialising process of child rearing; it is the domestic hovering that is custom built to serve the male bread winner; it is structured into the institutions and ideas and the very time patterns of the way we live. The cruel further isolation of women, children and the younger teenagers from "where the action is" by the predominance of car mobility in the outer and middle suburbs has tended to add the punishment of "solitary confinement" to the burden of being put down.

All this mis-shapes men as well as women. Nevertheless women are main sufferers. One way out for them is the creation of community where little community at present exists by recreating supportive networks of neighbours.

There is a wealth of good people living all around ... working on the job, working all around us. But too often the very conditions of life in the factory, office or suburban houses, cut people off, one from the other; instead of relating to each other and cementing human relationships with common purpose, common respect, common identity in a group, common joy in achievement, people become statistics rather than actively figuring as people.

Although men suffer too from all this; women, whether burdened with one or two jobs, suffer the most. That is why it is as women (who are destined to be the hardest and most constant fighters for creating community) who will supply the key. In Melbourne, this function has just begun to be apparent with the initiation of "neighbourhood houses". These have typically originated around child care and similar supportive activities, but, just as typically branching out from mutual child care support to embrace other supportive activities ... care of younger school age children, multi-family picnics, shopping co-operation, and the beginning of more specialised activities arising from the supportive ones ... That is the third strand.

The fourth and last movement I will mention is the comparatively recent one of conservation. Pre-occupied at first with nature conservation, and therefore with environmental impact and pollution, this movement has recently begun to turn some of its attention to associated issues of resource depletion and in particular, energy resource depletion.

The rest of the talk and the following discussion centred on the seriousness of the energy crisis and the contribution that can be made by restructured urban design based on creating community. The point was made that the "social arrangements" were just as important as "land use" and "transport" when it comes to micro-planning of suburban centres. This range of issues is covered, to some extent in the enclosed broadsheet, "Seeds of Change".

In summary, the main requirements of the four movements dealt with are ... the non-nuclear alternatives of the anti-uranium and peace movements ... the concern for the quality of life issues which are now beginning to be considered by some of the unions ... the desperate need to create community by starting with the movement to develop reciprocal services which can be a mass way forward within the grasp of many women enabling them to plan together their own liberation. ... the movement around the need to stop squandering the world's energy resources which is now gropingly being formulated by some of the conservation groups.

Reading Matter

1) Chain Reaction published by Friends of the Earth. Special Transport Issue. Vol 3 No 1. 1977 Price \$1.00 obtainable from F.O.E.
51 Nicholson St. Sth. Carlton 3053 Tel. (03) 347.6630
The article From Mobility to Community : Restructuring our Cities presents a radical strategy to change the land-use pattern in large cities so as to simultaneously reduce drastically the need for transportation, especially motor cars, and recreate the ^{lost} sense of community in suburban areas.

This particular article in Chain Reaction is based on material supplied by the Conservation of Urban Energy Group of the Conservation Council of Victoria.

2) Learning Exchange Number 57. September 1977 Price 25 cents and obtainable from 432 Waverley Road, East Malvern 3145 211.5413

This issue of L.E. contains a special supplement Seeds for Change.

A copy of Seeds for Change has been included with this issue of Ecoso Exchange. This supplement (which can really be used as a broadsheet) has also been prepared by members of the Conservation of Urban Energy Group which works under the auspices of the Conservation Council of Victoria. More copies of Seeds for Change are available from L.E. or from Ecoso Exchange.

3) Polis, A Planning Forum Volume 4, No 2 August 1977. This publication is produced by the Melbourne University Town Planning Club and this particular issue coincided with the Second Annual National Planning Students Conference. In it are published two of the reports on Mt Ridley which were given Town and Country Planning Association Forum early this year. One of the articles presents the arguments for this development. It is entitled "Mt Ridley; Six of one or half a dozen of the other" and is by David Whitney, a spokesperson for T and G.

The case against Mt Ridley is presented by Rob Carter of the Department of Regional and Urban Economics at Melbourne University. He has called his article "Mt Ridley, Negotiated Development but Not Planning"

Rob Carter's article is accompanied by a list of 23 significant references. To indicate the nature of this article here is one paragraph from his concluding section.

"The schemozzle of Mt Ridley reflects a state of confusion and disarray in government planning policies. The attitude that development programmes can be assessed in isolation persists, and, the consequence is a continuation of 'ad-hocery' and inconsistent and conflicting decisions. The concept of negotiated planning is a positive encouragement to the perpetuation of this purposeless approach."

David Whitney warned in his concluding remarks .. those who describe Mt Ridley as a dangerous precedent fail to realise that offers such as Mt Ridley are unlikely to ever be made again. Land ownership patterns in each of the corridors have been investigated and there is little likelihood of similar offers being forthcoming. But what if they are. If anyone can match the offer made by T. and G. in a defined urban corridor and with a development performance that matches T. and G. then why shouldn't the State benefit by having a further \$550 million invested in it and our children benefit by having the opportunity to own a parcel of land as we have been able to do."

(Background information on Mt Ridley for the benefit of readers in states other than Victoria .. In December 1976 the Minister for Planning announced the State Government approved in principle for a new town of 120,000 people at Mt Ridley, 24 kilometers north of Melbourne on 7,000 acres of land that was currently zoned for non-urban growth, 90% of which was owned by T. and G.

4) R.A.P.I. Journal Vol 15, No 3, August 1977. Obtainable from the Royal Australian Planning Institute Box 541 North Sydney 2060. Price \$3.00

This issue has some valuable material on the Else-Mitchell Land Tenure Reports with contributions from Else-Mitchell, Peter Barrington, Lewis Keeble and Shann Turnbull. This is currently very valuable material in light of the recent developments in Victoria over the sale of land to the Victorian Housing Commission. It is noted in the R.A.P.I. editorial that the first report of the Commission of Inquiry into Land Tenures stated in 1973 on the effect of private developers on inflating the cost of sub-divisions land for home builders.

"The most dramatic example is that of rural land lying in the path of urban growth which is re-zoned for development and hence suddenly becomes worth thousands of dollars more per acre." The editorial adds that the Land Tenure Report stated "most witnesses who appeared before us (including many representing developers or other commercial organisations) contended or conceded that legislation should ensure that the financial benefits of permitted changes in land use should accrue to the public sector rather be a matter for private fortune."

The August Issue of R.A.P.I. Journal is also notable for the introduction of a new feature "Marion" which deals specifically with Women and Planning. This page will be edited by Mercia Ferrier and contributors are invited to send in articles directly to her at the Department of Regional and Town Planning, University of Queensland.

In introducing this new feature the editorial committee states "The column takes its name from the wife of Walter Burley Griffin, whose contribution to her husband's work remains unrecorded and enigmatic. We hope it will obsolesce rapidly, but meanwhile it is necessary to make a virtue of Australian's internationally notorious segregation. Doctrinaire Feminism will be eschewed, emphasis will be on practice and the achievements on the ground regardless of the ideologica, antecedents."

The Journal also includes a student column named after the student journal "Polis".

Referring again to Women's Planning - in R.A.P.I. Journal No 3/4 October 1976 published two important articles on women. Mercia Ferrier's "Women, Post Stretton", and Antoinette Logan's "decentralists forget jobs for the girls". (New readers to Ecoso Exchange who are particularly interested in women and planning may be interested to know that Ecoso II. 12 and 13 features articles on women and children and planning. Copies of these Ecoso are still available.)

Some Unique Documents About North Melbourne

- 1) Planning for Play by Eric Henry, 1976. Planning within a community for overall play needs of 0..5 year olds. A study based on North Melbourne prepared as a student's thesis.
- 2) Hotham Centre Study by Kevin Borland and Associates 1976. The result of research work with a wide cross section of the local community about the planning of a municipal recreation centre.
- 3) Report on Royal Park prepared by the North Melbourne Association in 1974 response to the plans for Royal Park prepared by the Melbourne City Council.
- 4) Planning Policies in Political Context ... A case study of Melbourne presented to the A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress by Ewan Ogilvy, North Melbourne Association. 1977

The above documents are available on loan from the N.M.A. or from Ecoso Exchange.

A Tribute to May Moon

"Our children and their descendants will not thank us if we do not take this last chance of preserving these hills as an essential link of Melbourne Green Belt."

This was the challenge of one of the first leaflets published by the Save the Dandenongs League in the early nineteen fifties. For

more than twenty seven years Miss May Moon of Kalorama was the mainstay of the Save the Dandenongs League.

This year her work was recognised by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects presenting her with the Robin Boyd Environmental Award. The citation stated, "Miss Moon's untiring efforts for the conservation of the Dandenong Ranges have not only seen results for her and the League but have acted as a catalyst in the establishment of other similar organisations."

It is with sorrow that we heard of her death a few weeks after the presentation. She was 84 years of age. In the September Newsletter she sent out an S.O.S. ... "It is essential that we find a new editor for the Newsletter ... help keep this useful publication in production."