



Reflections

The Journal of the *Lake Pedder* Restoration Committee

Loss of species and ecological diversity in Pedder

THE RESULTS of a 21 year study have validated earlier scientific predictions dismissed as "exaggerated" by government officials prior to the drowning of Lake Pedder.

Dr Sam Lake, Professor of Ecology at Monash University and a Program Leader for the Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology, fears for the survival of the Pedder galaxias and other endemic species, including a crustacean, a flatworm and two species of caddisfly.

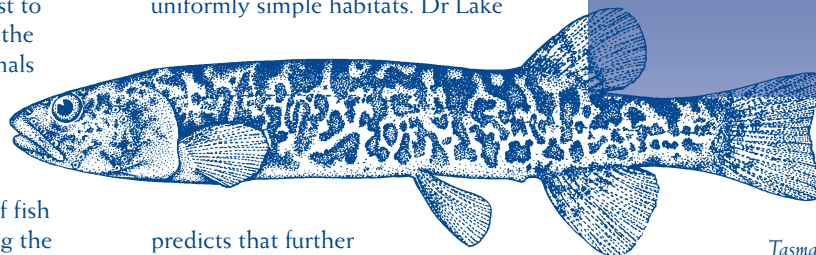
The data obtained from the 21 year sampling program are the first to provide an understanding of the succession of plants and animals in an Australian impoundment after the construction of a large dam. 75 species of aquatic macro invertebrates and 2 species of fish were sampled in total. Among the invertebrates collected were 64 species of insects, 5 species of water mites, 3 species of molluscs and one species each of crustacean, worm and flatworm. The monitoring revealed a progressive shift in numerical dominance from insects to just one crustacean.

It is significant to note that the Lake Pedder Committee of Enquiry, in tabling its final report in 1974, recommended that funds be set aside for long term monitoring of the new impoundment. This was never acted upon. Dr Lake, then a lecturer in zoology at the University of Tasmania, got together with a team of biologists and commenced the sampling program. Their commitment to such a long term study and their frugal budget is a lesson to resource management agencies and

their consultants studying major environmental problems.

What happened in the lake was a cycle of boom and bust that mirrors what has been witnessed in overseas dams, Dr Lake said. Between 1975 and 1977 there was a huge increase in the numbers of macro invertebrates. Remember the monster trout feeding on the animal production stimulated by the nutrients of the drowned vegetation?

Decay, erosion and wave action, however, soon depleted these newly created habitats, leaving a set of uniformly simple habitats. Dr Lake



predicts that further simplification of the sheltered areas will result in sites that harbour a identical fauna that is low in abundance and species diversity.

According to Dr Lake it is unlikely that draining the Huon-Serpentine impoundment to restore Lake Pedder would result in a return of the species that have been lost since the drowning.

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Pedder
2000

Pedder galaxias
Tasmanian Freshwater Fishes,
Wayne Fulton

This loss, he says, shouldn't detract from the idea of restoring the lake on aesthetic and cultural grounds.

Taken from Watershed, No.3, November 1997, p.4&5. Published by the C.R.C. for Freshwater Ecology

"It is a century now since Darwin gave us the first glimpse of the origin of species. We know now what was unknown to all the previous caravan of generations: that men are only fellow voyagers with other creatures in the odyssey of evolution. This new knowledge should have given us, by this time, a sense of kinship with other creatures; a wish to live and let live; a sense of wonder over the magnitude and duration of the biotic enterprise."

Aldo Leopold, A Sand Country Almanac, 1948



Peddertorial

HELEN GEE, EDITOR

SINCE THE LAST issue of this Journal reached you I have visited that most inspiring example of restoration, Auroville, in India. This singular place is variously referred to as "the city the earth needs", "the city of dawn", "the great spiritual adventure". Founded in 1968, Auroville is based upon the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother (Mirra Alfassa). The community numbers about 1,300 individuals from India and some 36 other countries who are engaged in diverse activities which range from regenerating the environment to educational and cultural activities serving surrounding villages, to technological innovation in renewable energy, Third World organic farming, appropriate construction techniques and electronics. This experiment can best be described as an embodiment of the new consciousness, decisive action. For it is in the *Yoga of Work* that the inner discovery is made.

One of the major challenges in Auroville has been the restoration of ecological balance in the physical environment and I witnessed the results of some 30 years of dedicated effort, in which time a severely degraded and eroding landscape has been restored to a healthy tropical dry forest.

Auroville is not merely a reaction to present problems, but an experiment in creating something more beautiful, earth-healing, and soul satisfying than people have ever known before and in this the sixth issue of Reflections you will learn a little of the remarkable achievements and vision of two

Tasmanians who live and work in Auroville.

Tasmania, because of its unique geographic factors, *could* similarly aspire to become a global example of an economically sustainable community where environmental protection guided every policy and where the world's best practice of truly sustainable forestry, fishing and organic agriculture would attract enormous prestige.

Tasmanians are justly proud of the fine, quality food and craft products that have burgeoned in recent years. We are an island second to none if we can foster and build on this development, not just for the clean, green image we project more and more frequently for commercial reasons, but for more genuine reasons that *we are happy to live like this, this is who we are and this is how we want to live* in the Age of Ecology.

However, we all recognise that normal economic and social incentives are not enough in themselves to motivate truly sustainable development. Nor is idealism.

We are going to have to transcend our present state of consciousness and I see Auroville as a laboratory for that evolutionary thrust.

In 1973 Edward St John declared that a decision to restore Lake Pedder *would come to many throughout Australia as a kind of modern miracle, a resurrection from the dead, a testament that democracy can still be made to work, a living proof that we are not the crass, materialistic people we sometimes fear ourselves to be.*

After visiting Auroville, I still believe in miracles. *Do you?*

Dear Ed

I keep a copy of the Truchanas picture of Pedder above my desk in my classroom in B.C. to remind me of what has been lost but also can be restored.

Evelyn Feller, Richmond, British Columbia.

Tasmania's a jewel. You could promote it as a tourist place and nothing else... keep it as a pristine little place.

Ian MacNamara, Australia All Over, ABC Radio National 30/7/95

Almost nothing gets to me like photos of the old Lake Pedder

IT IS almost impossibly beautiful. I've seen quite a few places but the photos I bring back never do them justice. Just about every photo of Pedder is astonishing so I can only guess what it was like to actually stand on its shores. Unfortunately that's no longer possible. In the early '70s it was buried beneath a huge body of dammed water in one of the worst acts of environmental vandalism the world has seen.

This natural lake with its huge white sand beach lay in a majestic valley in the heart of Tasmania's South-West wilderness. It humbled every person who visited. It was flooded for power that wasn't needed against the wishes of a nation by a group of vindictive old men. These same men who would pass strict laws against graffiti or the destruction of private property raped and destroyed what was surely mother nature's temple. It was a crime. I saw the first documentary on its flooding when I was ten and it's haunted me ever since.

A small band of people led the fight to save it. They became known as Pedder People. I don't think this country's seen such a self-less, honest and passionate campaign. The tragedy of it all burnt a hole in their souls. They deserved better. I hope this nation rises one day to correct the damage. It may well. You see a scuba diver explored for the old lake recently. He not only found that the beach was still there but so were the tyre tracks of the last plane to take off from it over twenty years ago.

Now there is a growing movement to have that largely useless hydroelectric dam drained and the old Lake Pedder returned to its former glory. I hope that it happens, I hope that the dam's removal and the crowds that would flock to see this lost natural treasure will create five times the economic benefit for Tasmania than that lousy dam. I hope that those pompous, bitter and selfish old men will then apologise to the Pedder People. But more than anything I hope I can get to stand on Lake Pedder's beach. Part of my soul is a prisoner to that wish. It's time for us to heal some old wounds. I like to think this nation has the courage.

Perhaps it was best summed up by Edward St John QC who was on a committee of inquiry into the flooding. He hoped that *one day, our children will undo what we so foolishly have done.*

*Rob Sitch, Film Director
(Frontline, The Castle, A River Somewhere)
1997*

PULLING THE PLUG ON BIG DAMS

BOOK REVIEW by Kate Crowley
Lecturer in Government,
University of Tasmania

*Silent Rivers: the Ecology &
Politics of Large Dams*
by Patrick McCully, Zed Books,
London & New Jersey, 1996

PATRICK McCULLY is an author, activist and associate editor of the *Ecologist*. His book *Silent Rivers* is an extraordinary treatise on the ecological, social and technical failings of large dams the world over that will thrill activists, ecologists, planners, engineers and politicians alike. In Donald Worster's words inside its covers, *Silent Rivers* is quite simply the most thorough and devastating critique of the global dam-building industry that I know. Such critique is timely given recent international dam controversies, most notably in the Asian region over the Three Gorges Dam in China and the Bakun Dam in Malaysia.

Silent Rivers identifies eighteen large dams currently under construction in eleven, mainly Asian countries, projected to displace nearly two million people in the near future. Nearly a million more people are threatened with forced resettlement by 37 dams in the planning stage, again predominantly in Asian countries. The value of McCully's meticulous research is that he makes these global statistics available. If it weren't for *Silent Rivers*, the ecological impact alone of global dam-building would simply defy comprehension.

The text moves from history, to ecology, sociology, technology, political economy and anti-dam activism, building a cogent argument as it does for bringing the dam building process under democratic control.

What might the case be for democratising dam-building? McCully explains that *ways of living which allow human, economic, cultural and spiritual needs to be satisfied while maintaining healthy watersheds must be encouraged while the forces which are destroying watersheds – that is destroying the natural world in general – must be curbed. Over the long term, healthy societies cannot exist without healthy watersheds.* If the dam industry is brought under

democratic control, then a major threat to the integrity of riverine ecosystems and human communities will have been removed. (p.312)

McCully pieces together a fascinating history of resistance to dam building, beginning with the largely failed efforts of the early wilderness preservationists, and concluding with an account of contemporary organisations. It took the emergence of global environmental activism to lend weight to anti-dam campaigns. Prior to the 1970s, these enjoyed little, but not unknown, success. In the 1970s, anti-dam activism gathered impetus. In the 1980s, an international movement coalesced, much to the continued dismay of dam builders. (p. 281)

The targets of anti-dam campaigns continue to be various and elusive, having for years insulated themselves from public control and avoided independent scrutiny, even in the supposedly advanced democracies. (p. 231) Most large dams are built by state agencies, usually for hydropower or irrigation. They are typically financed domestically in the North, and by billions of added dollars from development banks and aid agencies in the South. (p.255) But only a limited number of multinational engineering, manufacturing and construction companies enjoy the \$20 billion per annum that the industry generates.

Ironically, the accountability drives of the 1990s, that have seen state agencies attempt to replace public dam subsidies with private investment dollars, has prompted sufficient public scrutiny of large dams to cast an air of gloom over the industry. Even though the World Bank has seen fit to fund more than 500 large dams with over US\$50 billion in 92 countries, private financiers are being warned of *high initial costs, long capital payback periods, a terrible record of construction time and cost overruns, and high operating risks, especially because of their vulnerability to drought.* (p.274)

Environmentalists will appreciate the adverse economics of Promethean giantism, including large dam building. McCully adds much else to the economic critique. He details the adverse ecological consequences of freshwater degradation caused by dam building. He exposes the known and

lesser known human and social costs of the loss of cultural sites and homelands. He pours over the technical failings of large dams including cracked tunnels, flooded powerhouses, dam bursts. Large dams hold so many empty promises, he concludes. Let the dam busting begin.

Dam-busting: let the rivers run

For the first time in its history, the US Government has ordered the removal of a working hydropower dam. An article in *The Economist*, December 1997, records the historic decision last November to order the demolition of the Edwards Dam on Maine's Kennebec River.

For 160 years the dam has prevented sturgeon, salmon and seven other species of migratory fish from reaching their old spawning grounds. The decision is a victory for environmentalists and a big upset for the private owners, Edwards Manufacturing who are federally licensed to produce electricity.

The 6 metre high concrete and rock dam is 300 metres wide, producing 3-5 megawatts; its removal is expected to cost more than \$2m. (Compare this to the projected cost of tearing out the two larger Elwha Dams and repairing the damage – \$112 million.) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has ordered demolition before, but for safety reasons. If there is to be a court challenge it will be a test of the agency's authority and its power to require dam owners to pay the costs of removal. There are removal requests for at least 6 other dams bottling up once productive salmon rivers in the Pacific north-west.

Decommissioning Dams/ Promoting Living Rivers: A Workshop for River Activists

PEDDER 2000 will be represented at a Decommissioning Workshop organised by the International Rivers Network and to be held in California in July 1998. Key activists from the US and other countries have been invited to discuss a range of topics with a focus on how we can build and strengthen the international dam-fighting movement. If you can, please make a donation towards the airfare by sending a cheque to Pedder 2000 (IRN Workshop), 130 Davey St, Hobart 7000.

Greens keep Hydro in public hands

AFTER A YEAR'S careful consideration, the Tasmanian Greens have ruled out a sale of any part of the Hydro-Electric Corporation, as not in the best interests of progressing Tasmania to a clean, green and clever future. The decision was made in early March at a State Party meeting. Greens Leader Christine Milne said "It is time to give the community certainty and stability about the future ownership of the HEC...While the Greens hold the balance of power, the Hydro will stay in public hands."

"The Greens recognise that Tasmania has a heavy debt burden which is limiting the state's ability to fund education and to accelerate the transition to a prosperous clean green future."

The Greens have suggested a part-lease of the hydro's retail and distribution activities as a means of generating the necessary income. They have established lease terms to ensure that public ownership will be guaranteed for the duration of a long-term lease and that funds will not be wasted.

The proposed Bass Strait power cable – Basslink- is critical to the HEC Sale debate, yet the Tasmanian community have not come to grips with its potential impacts. This is not a black and white issue. There are competing environmental and economic factors. The Tasmanian Greens produced a Report in January titled "Sucking The Energy Out of Tasmania" It is available

on their internet site: <http://www.peg.apc.org/~tasgreens/>

There are 24 identified possible impacts on Tasmania. Three areas stand out:

- 1. OUR WILD RIVERS**
No evaluation has been carried out to determine the environmental impacts of daily surging in Tasmanian rivers below HEC dams.
- 2. THE TASMANIAN ECONOMY**
Tasmania's clean renewable hydro power is integral to the state's industry strategy and will be one of the state's major advantages in the next millennium. The construction of the cable may hold back Tasmania's economic recovery.
- 3. ENERGY POLICY**
Basslink is a "Big Bang" engineering solution, which works on the assumption that bigger is better. Basslink is likely to detract from sensible, small scale, soft energy technologies.

In summary, please remember that Pedder was sacrificed to provide a mere 60 mw and that Tasmania's whole grid is but a tiny fraction of the national capacity. Basslink's small contribution to the reduction of fossil fuels might only allay the effort required to tackle the real problems confronting Australia in a Greenhouse world. Tasmania can best serve the country and the world by pursuing its clean green and clever enterprise and reminding the world that small is really beautiful.

Australians for an Ecologically Sustainable Population

A meeting was held on April 7 at the Tasmanian Environment Centre, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart. A Tasmanian Branch is to be formed.

"No goal is more crucial to healing the global environment than stabilising population." Al Gore, US Vice President

Australians use resources and energy at about 30 times the rate of people in developing nations. At the current rate of population increase our population will double by the year 2050. Already we are witnessing major damage to soils, habitats, waterways and the coastal zone. Australia's biological diversity imposes a special duty to our clear obligation to stop population growth and reduce our high levels of per capita resource exploitation. Join Australians For An Ecologically Sustainable Population Inc., PO Box 297, Civic Square ACT 2608, by sending \$25 (\$10 concession). Ph: (02) 6247 1142

A dam in the Kimberley? Say no to Premier Court.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Government is actively supporting a major irrigation cotton development requiring a massive dam at Dimond Gorge on the Fitzroy River. A large scale agricultural development in the West Kimberley, Western Agricultural Industries, has already been running cotton trials south of Broome. If, as is likely, its proposal gets the go-ahead, the company will conduct its own environmental assessment. The Dimond Gorge dam would be the first of a possible three that will be required to supply water to some 225,000 hectares of cotton – to be grown in the bio-rich pindan country which is often dismissed as "scrub".

More and more people are going to the Kimberley for its natural wildness. The Fitzroy is one of Australia's last great wild rivers! In size and seasonal flow it is comparable to the Nile and the Amazon! Its broad valleys, sandy beaches, waterholes, gorges and floodplains support a wealth of plant and animal life. Aboriginal cultural sites would also be drowned by the dam that has divided the Kimberley community. Senator Bob Brown canoed 400 kilometres of the mighty monsoonal Fitzroy in February, guest of local Aboriginal identity Willigan and John Sinclair. He was mightily impressed and is determined to stop the dam. We cannot allow this understated wilderness to be lost.

NIGEL LOCKETT is retiring from his crucial role of Membership Secretary, having done all the hard work of establishing an excellent Membership data base (Mac/Microsoft Works) which would be the envy of many organisations. Thank you, Nigel, who has been a guardian angel to the fledgling organisation.

Pedder 2000 needs a new Membership Secretary! Is there anyone out there who would like to contribute to the campaign by updating the database periodically, by direction, and printing out labels for mail-outs?

Please contact Helen Gee (03) 6257 5155

Books and Films

In Service of the Wild: Restoring and Reinhabiting Damaged Land
Stephanie Mills, 1995. Beacon Press, Massachusetts (02108-2892). Annabel Richards (03 9836 2670) has copies for sale (\$40). Thanks to Stephen Mattingley for donating a loan copy to Pedder 2000 (Hobart).

Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems
Edited by David Lamb, Uni of QLD for IUCN, 1987.

Faking Nature, The Ethics of Environmental Restoration
Robert Elliott (paperback soon to be available at the State Reference Library, Hobart).

Silent Rivers: The Ecology & Politics of Large Dams
Patrick McCully, Zed Books, London & New Jersey, 1996.

Green or Gone
Shearman, Wakefield Press SA, 1998.

Sucking the Energy out of Tasmania; Clean, Green and Clever; How the Bass Strait Cable could Jeopardise this Future
<<http://www.peg.apc.org/~tasgreens/>>

Galaxias. They're not all the same!!
Available from the Inland Fisheries Commission (Tas) An easy to use key for identification of galaxias species.

Lake Pedder A World Heritage Place To Cherish and Enjoy, Future Management
Geoff Mosley, published by the Lake Pedder Study Group, March 1995. Available from Pedder 2000 Hobart & Melbourne Branches. Send \$12.

Lake Pedder: Values and Restoration (in prep)
The Symposium papers are currently being prepared by Chris Sharples as a volume in the Occasional Papers Series of the Centre for Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania. 150 pps of text, figures, maps and photos. Hopefully we will soon be putting the full version on the Pedder website.

New Film Release:
Lake Pedder
A 30 min. documentary film. A Film Australia National Interest Program. Produced, Directed and Written by Anna Grieve/Steve Best, 1997. For your copy send \$56.50 to Film Australia, PO Box 46, Lindfield 2070

Auroville, the City the Earth Needs
A 20 min video available group viewings. Contact Hobart branch. Talk and video: Helen Gee, (03) 6257 5155.

Deep green message from Tasmania

CHRIS BELL came to Tasmania during the Lake Pedder campaign in the late 1960's. He has become one of the greatest advocates for Tasmania's wilderness as a nature photographer with a growing reputation, nationally and internationally. Chris has recently returned from Sweden where, last October, he presented slide shows as a keynote speaker at a major nature photography conference. His message was, in his own words, 'deep green':

"There is no getting away from the fact that we have one of the most incredible places in the world and don't just realise it. We're backing away at it. Sweden has less than 1% of its oldgrowth forest remaining. We don't recognise what we have ourselves until others do. The future of this place is in keeping it intact.

There is a real steering away from the natural world and I want to try to reestablish the bonds we're losing with nature, I want to show the value of retaining it for its intrinsic value without having to argue for it on the basis of tourist dollars. We are losing things that really matter. We've ruined nine-tenths of the Earth and its crucial that we hold on to what's left."

Melbourne Branch Report

MEETINGS are held on the first Thursday of every month. Contact the coordinator Brian Dodd, phone (03) 9435 5671 (H). Web Site, Bruce Lyon (03) 9873 3247 (H).

The following publications are available:

<i>How Lake Pedder Can Be Restored</i>	(Mosley)	\$10
<i>Why Lake Pedder Should Be Restored</i>	(Mosley)	\$10
<i>Lake Pedder, A Geophysical Survey</i>	(Tyler)	\$10
<i>Economic Reports x 2</i>	(Kohl and Crossley)	\$10 ea
<i>Geomorphological Papers x 3</i>	(Kiernan)	\$10 ea
<i>Power in Tasmania</i>	(Peter Thompson)	\$15
<i>The World of Olegas Truchanas</i>	(Max Angus)	\$80
<i>Pull the Plug T-Shirts</i>	(Large size only)	\$10
<i>Pull the Plug sticker</i>		50c

Orders (cheque incl \$2 postage & handling) to:
Pedder 2000, PO Box 41, Surrey Hills North, VIC 3127

Slide Presentation

Pedder 2000 Melbourne Branch has available:

- Information session on Lake Pedder, including slides suitable for small groups, club nights, students, etc.
- Fifteen minute slide-show
- Les Southwell's magnificent Lake Pedder audio-visual

Bookings/Enquiries: fax Pedder 2000 on (03) 9888 5456 or write to PO Box 41, Surrey Hills North VIC 3127.

Pedder before the flood (Howard Simco)



AUROVILLE, A SUCCESSFUL MODEL FOR LAND REGENERATION

WHEN THE settlement at Auroville started in the state of Tamil Nadu, India, in 1968, the land was badly eroded and visibly dying. Deep gullies were advancing year by year and the entire area was exposed to wind and water erosion. The sea in the Bay of Bengal ran red with the blood of Auroville for ten to twenty kilometres down the coast, contributing to the 6,000 tons of topsoil lost in India each year. The earliest settlers were undaunted and set about reforesting the land. Thousands of kilometres of raised earth banks and ditches (bunds) were dug to control run-off and large scale check dams were built. Over two million trees of the original, indigenous species of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest, now cover the area. The fact that a major transformation of a large tract of wasteland has occurred in a third world setting makes the Auroville model unique and hope-giving. The Dalai Lama revisited Auroville after a space of 20 years and was amazed to see the changes. Joss Brooks has lived in Auroville since 1969 when he began the watershed restoration that has inspired a generation of Greenworkers – three decades of applied ecology, from the ground up. Today Joss, together with another Tasmanian, Anita Truchanas, continues the work in the Pitchandikulam Forest and Bio-Resource Centre. Here is their description of the work carried out by a small resident community of eight and 15 people who come each day to work with them:



Joss and Anita in the Pitchandikulam plant nursery.

thousand acres remain of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest which is unique to this area. The situation is critical. We identify remnant forest patches, sacred groves and individual heritage trees. Seeds are collected and propagated in the Pitchandikulam nursery for later planting in village medicinal plant gardens, schools and sacred groves.

The Bio-Resource Centre is a teaching and training place for the protection, propagation and use of medicinal plants. It houses a photographic display, a collection of seeds, a Tamil and English reference library and computer data base for research. The building runs on solar energy, including the computers and video.

Plant information exchange meetings are important for the local communities now empowered to care for forests that provide them with medicine, firewood, materials for building, making ropes etc; the list is endless. The meetings are helping to ensure the continuity of systems and methods that have sustained communities for thousands of years. Local plant doctors are at last getting recognition for their skills that can again be used for primary health care.

There are 440 plant species growing in the larger Pitchandikulam forest area, of which 356 are medicinal. It is a sanctuary for the threatened species of the area. A demonstration garden of 296 medicinal plants and a herbal garden with 95 species supply plant material for the preparation of medicines.

Our vision for the next ten years is to train 50 young medicinal plant doctors in the Bioregion, and to create a network of village based seed collectors, plant nurseries and forest restoration programs. Detailed plans have been drawn up and we are proceeding with the work as funds become available. Anyone interested in understanding more about our aspirations please contact us:

Joss Brooks and Anita Truchanas
Pitchandikulam Forest Auroville
PO 605 101 Tamil Nadu, India
Ph: 0413 62365
Fax: 0413 62274
Email: joss@auroville.org.in

The Charter of Auroville

- 1 Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville one must be the willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.
- 2 Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.
- 3 Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations.
- 4 Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

Mirra Alfassa, the Mother, 28 February 1968

LAKE PEDDER RESTORATION RESEARCH

THE HOUSE OF Representatives Inquiry into the Draining and Restoration of Lake Pedder identified a number of areas requiring further study before restoration could commence.

Pedder 2000 has recommended that the Australian Government conducts a fully funded study of the economic benefits and costs of restoration, the engineering aspects, the technical and scientific procedures and future management of a restored Lake Pedder. In the absence of political will for such a study, we must mobilise people power. Pedder 2000 does not have the funds to commission the necessary research but properly defined terms of reference and publicity through universities could well bring forward academics and post graduate students who would take up these research topics, particularly if assistance is provided to put them in touch with research grants and thesis supervisors.

We invite comment, suggestions and assistance. In particular we are seeking a suitable person to co-ordinate the research program.

The initial tasks would be to ascertain any current research that is of relevance; to define possible thesis topics; to contact academics prepared to attract research grants and supervise research areas and to liaise with the Lake Pedder Study Group and the Scientific arm of Pedder 2000.

Summary of the areas identified by the Inquiry as requiring further study

(There has been no attempt to prioritise this list, but please note the Scientific Committee of Pedder 2000 has identified Research priorities and that list can be obtained through the Hobart Branch.)

REVEGETATION

Method, definition of acceptable standard, vegetation cover and composition of species, the speed of colonising species establishment, threat of weed infestation, financial implication of a failed revegetation program, a process to prevent severe erosion should this be the case, degree of intervention necessary to minimise erosion and maintain original species balance, advisability of trying to maintain original species balance during restoration, speed of natural wind borne seed revegetation, speed of erosion of the peat mat following drawdown and it's capacity to remain in

tact while revegetation proceeds, degree of artificial seeding and fertilising required, presence of viable seed or shoots, growth rates, physical and chemical condition of the soil, projected costs of revegetation alternatives defined by the research.

DE-WATERING/ENGINEERING FACTORS

Process of draining and speed of draw down to minimise erosion and dune slumping, need and cost of dismantling redundant infrastructure, consideration of de-watering options including alternatives and costs, seasonal timing of draining process to minimise erosion, new infrastructure requirements, cost of breaching Scotts Peak dam and cost of engineering construction eg. spillway or pumping station.

DE-WATERING/PHYSICAL FACTORS

Investigation of properties of the beach and dunes to determine their stability during draw down; necessity, method and cost of intervention to prevent perimeter wave damage during de-watering.

EFFECT OF DRAINING

Down-stream implications, likely effect on flood frequency and degree, effect of dam water release on river bio-diversity, down stream effect on aquaculture and agriculture.

TOURISM, EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Likely increase in tourism and the consequent economic benefit to Tasmania, degree of employment creation versus possible job losses in the orchard and aquaculture industries, economic effect of an enhanced "clean, green" image, economic cost and possible alternatives to the loss of the Pedder trout fishery.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT

Viability of trout in a restored and shallow lake, feasibility and cost of trout removal and reestablishment of original fauna, current faunal populations including platypus and the effect of draining on them, any adverse effects of restoration on native fauna and flora within the impoundment area.

POWER GENERATION

Actual value and contribution of Pedder to "drought proofing", alternative methods of generation and drought-proofing, cost benefit analysis of these.

LEGAL

Research the obligation to restore a listed site under the World Heritage

Memory of Lake Pedder

The HEC will flood Lake Pedder
they say with a bigger, better lake.
We fly West to pay our last respects.
It gleams blue and white,
stranded by primeval time
in wet buttongrass.
the dark range rings
it in silent Auld Lang Syne.
Between the mountains we fly, into the glacial
valley,
circle Lake Pedder,
land on the beach.
There are half a dozen planes
at the far end,
tiny with distance.
No-one told us
it was long and wide,
an ocean beach
without a coastline.
We wander to the waters edge.
Walk back to the plane.
Drink the spirit of Lake Pedder.
The sand clutches at the wheels.
We rise into gathering cloud.
A vision in our minds.
Photos in our cameras.
Sand in our shoes.
The sun flares
as we pass Mt. Wellington.
Lake Pedder –
vanished into memory.

Judith Johnson
This poem was an entry in the Harold Ogilvie
Poetry Competition judged last year.

Properties Act 1983, the powers of the World Heritage Committee, power of the State to prevent/resist restoration in the face of Commonwealth determination to restore, the validity of an unofficial EIS that otherwise conforms to the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act.

HERITAGE VALUE

Assessment of the contribution to increased heritage value of a restored Lake Pedder, risk to heritage value of excessive delay in the restoration, risk to heritage value of a failed attempt at rehabilitation, definition of what constitutes restoration and what constitutes acceptable rehabilitation.

RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY

(an area of concern not identified by the Inquiry)
Design life of the dams, financial cost of the dewatering/replacement options, the likelihood of a geological event including an activated Edgar Fault, the downstream effects on the Gordon and Huon Rivers of sudden dewatering following a failure of the dams, investigation of the status of State Emergency planning for such an event, computer modelling and emergency action plan.

June 1995 Report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts: Inquiry into the Proposal to Drain and Restore Lake Pedder – Government Response

THE GOVERNMENT'S response to the Langmore Report 'Inquiry Into The Proposal To Drain And Restore Lake Pedder' was tabled on 16 November 1997.

The government considers that the report provides a comprehensive discussion of the relevant issues, and presents a balanced and persuasive case for its conclusions. The government broadly concurs with the report's findings and shares the Committee's view that despite the symbolic significance of the proposal, scientific uncertainties regarding the rehabilitation process coupled with the consider-

able costs that the project would entail, mean that the proposal does not warrant the commitment of government resources for further assessment.

While concluding that implementation of the proposal would be likely to enhance the World Heritage values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, the report notes that there is also a potential risk to values if the restoration process did not succeed. The report confirms the government's view that the possibility of World Heritage values being enhanced by the proposal does not, in itself, constitute a legal obligation to implement it.

Pedder 2000's Tax Deductibility Saga

Now the government's response to the Langmore Report has been tabled we are waiting for the minister to advise whether Pedder 2000 can be listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations. When this happens, Pedder 2000 can receive tax deductible donations. Our application, which satisfies all the criteria, has been shuffled between bureaucrats for about three years!!! We are not going to fade away Senator Hill and we will keep making phone calls as we eagerly await your department's response!!

AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR and scientist Tim Flannery speaking at a Tasmanian Landcare conference in November last year said the State should drain Lake Pedder and make it the centrepiece of an expanded ecotourism industry. He said of Lake Pedder:

"It's one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen and I think it would be an enormous drawcard."

HOW TO CONTACT PEDDER 2000

Internet site <http://pedder.csse.swin.edu.au/>.

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PATRONS	Professor David Bellamy, Claudio Alcorso, Ida West, Max Angus, Senator Bob Brown
CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS	Helen Gee (Tas), Brian Dodd (Vic)
JOURNAL EDITOR	Helen Gee

Meetings and social events are held in Melbourne and Hobart. Phone for details.

Contributions for *Reflections* #7 welcome: post/fax Hobart.

Disks: Preferably Mac format text.



Forthcoming events

MOON OVER PEDDER 1998

An audio-visual presentation by Les Southwell

Speakers: Dr Sam Lake
Rob Sitch
Helen Gee

7.30 PM, 22 MAY 1998

Mont Albert Primary School
Barloa Street, Mont Albert

ALL WELCOME

Small donation appreciated.

Pedder Pennies

To Hobart branch

Annual Membership	\$40
Three years	\$100
Concession	\$20
Friend	Donation

To Annabel, Melbourne branch

Small Poster	\$3
Large Stickers	\$1
Pedder 2000 T Shirt	\$30 +\$3 postage
Reports	\$10 +\$3 postage