



Reflections

The Journal of the *Lake Pedder* Restoration Committee

Pedder 2000 prepares for the century of restoring the earth

Pedder 2000 plans to focus international attention on the *Pedder* Restoration Proposal on the next International Day of Action Against Dams and For Rivers, Water and Life (14 March 2000).

The Restoration Committee is planning to host an international conference to coincide with a festival to celebrate the renewal of the human spirit through the practical restoration of our degraded ecosystems.

As we approach the millennium more people are conscious of the need for ecological restoration to become the over-riding task for humanity.

A resolution from the 6th World Wilderness Congress has called on the United Nations to declare the 21st century as The Century of Restoring the Earth – to counter the negative perceptions of the future prospects for our planet. The restoration of Lake *Pedder* is an idea and a reality that belongs to the world; it will signify hope that we can undo the mistakes of the past and the restoration plan we have developed here in Australia has international acclaim. We must leave no stone unturned. The reticence of the Tasmanian people is simply not going to stifle the hopes of thinking people around the globe.

The World Commission on Dams (WCD) is developing a set of internationally acceptable guidelines for the planning, design and construction of large dams as well as criteria for the monitoring and decommissioning of dams. (More

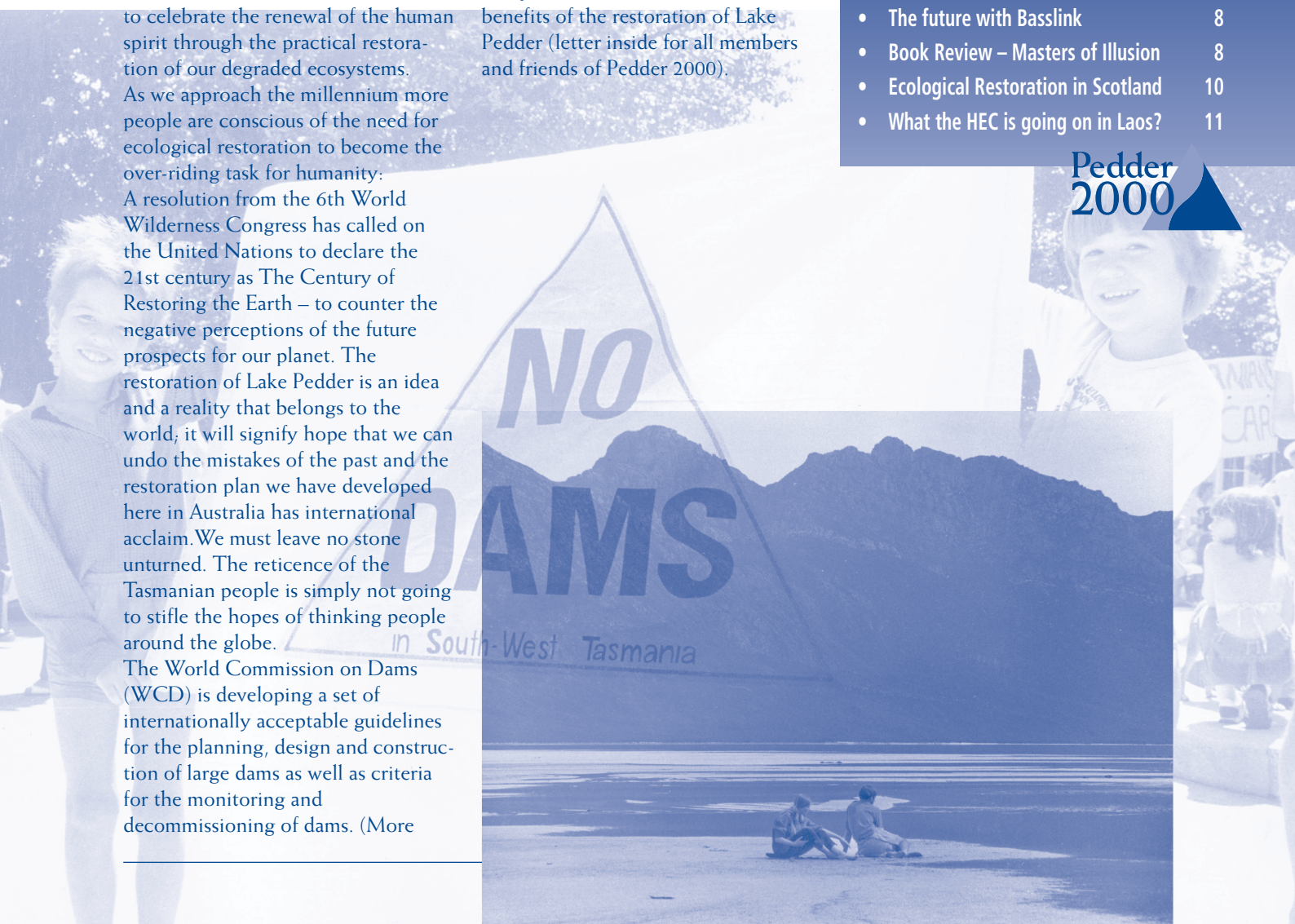
info> www.dams.org) Part of the WCD Work Program will be a survey of 150 dams which is highly likely to include the Middle Gordon Scheme which flooded Lake *Pedder*. We are preparing a submission to the WCD. With this issue of *Reflections* we launch an Appeal to fund an independent review of the costs and benefits of the restoration of Lake *Pedder* (letter inside for all members and friends of *Pedder* 2000).

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**Pedder
2000**



You have first to take out the dam in the head

Peddertorial
HELEN GEE, EDITOR

A Report on the International Rivers Network Workshop on Dam Removal and Decommissioning, held in California, July, 1998



EIGHTEEN ENVIRONMENTAL and social activist groups from seven countries in North America, Europe and Asia attended a dam decommissioning workshop organised by the International Rivers Network in California in late July 1998. I was privileged to represent Australia and Pedder 2000.

The groups formed an International Coalition on River Restoration and the workshop concluded with the endorsement of the Walker Creek Declaration. The coalition will focus on restoring rivers and the well-being of the communities which depend on them by working to change the operating patterns of dams, to drain reservoirs and remove dams. Represented at the Workshop were American Rivers, Assembly of the Poor (Thailand), European Rivers Network, Florida Defenders of the Environment, Friends of the Earth (USA), Friends of the Eel River (USA), Glen Canyon Institute (USA), International Rivers Network, John Muir Project, Earth Island Institute (USA), Lets Help the River Movement (Russia), Save the Narmada Movement (India), Pedder 2000 (Australia), River Alliance of Wisconsin, Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition (USA), SOS Living Loire (France), Waterwatch of Oregon, Wildlife Fund (Thailand) and Green World (Ukraine).

The Workshop was planned in the climate of a building momentum to remove dams and to find the best ways to take them down and restore the rivers and plains they have impounded. The impetus has come quite naturally from the United States which has some 74,000 dams (most of which are quite small) and where grassroots groups have launched campaigns to dismantle dams and hundreds of small and medium-sized dams have already come down.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has recently published technical guidelines for dam removal. More than 500 of the 50-year licences given by the US Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) to private hydrodam operators are expiring

between 1989 and 2004. A coalition of river conservation groups in the US are urging FERC to institute a comprehensive dam decommissioning policy. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt says that the huge public interest reflects a deep, widespread understanding that America overshot the mark in its dam building frenzy. Everyone had to have dams and canals irrespective of utility. Now progressive thinkers are looking at all the other ways of getting the same benefits the dams offered at too high a price.

The clang of the sledge hammer is one of the oldest sounds known to man. Yet now, at the end of the twentieth century, we are using it to ring in an entirely new era of conservation history, moving beyond preservation or protection towards a deeper, more complex movement, the affirmative act of restoration. (Bruce Babbitt, US Interior Secretary)

Author of *Silenced Rivers*, Patrick McCully, was a leading voice at the Workshop and reminded me once again that Australia follows the States – by a decade or two – on issues ranging from awareness of the need for wilderness preservation, to the widespread use of solar energy. So, returning from the Workshop I experienced somewhat of a time warp. My mind is preoccupied with the question: How can we mobilise popular support for Pedder and advance our ideas? Any work we do that promotes the huge shift of consciousness is ultimately contributing towards the restoration of the lake. For Pedder restored will truly mark the onset of a new age.

We need to educate as well as promote positive alternatives. As Roberto Eppe, Director of the European Rivers Network, says, *You take out two dams. You have first to take out the dam in the head.*

I was reminded sharply of political realities by such people as Shawn Cantrell (Friends of the Earth): *"Dam removal battles aren't won on science, they're won on economics and, while we must work on changing philosophy, it's not good enough to have an equally powerful alternative vision. You need the best answers on all fronts. It has to be the best alternative, socially, scientifically, politically".*

So we need, immediately, to challenge official inflated cost estimates for the restoration of Lake Pedder. To this end Pedder 2000 is hopeful the World Commission on Dams will adopt the Gordon Power Development Scheme as a case study according to its mandate to review the development effectiveness of large dams and develop guidelines for decision-making for the decommissioning of dams.

We need follow up to Flannery's and Flanagan's call for a vision for Tasmania's future that embraces the restoration of Lake Pedder. Tourism would be the political trigger, and Geoff Mosley's *Future Management of Lake Pedder* combined with Martin Hawes' vision of Pedder as premier Tasmanian walk (Reflections 5) need some serious discussion among the wider community.

A campaign with a striking parallel to ours is the Drain Lake Powell campaign in the States. The 186 mile long Lake Powell drowned the fabled beauty of Glen Canyon on the Colorado in Utah. David Brower, that 85 year old warrior for wilderness, hatched the idea of draining the lake and has never ceased pressing for it: *"We now have a chance to reclaim a mistake. We are not going to turn a blind eye to a mistake we've made in the past because it's easier to ignore it...I've turned from regret to restoration."*

But a counter movement has been launched by those who see the attempt to drain the 17 year old reservoir as insane. (The Committee to Save Lake Powell. Black humour? No, you see, the platypus frenzy here was not a unique outburst.) Glen Canyon warrants a detailed review. Actually the spate of dam decommissionings in the States has brought on an expected reaction from the panicking dam builders who see all their concrete icons threatened.

While campaigners in the States are busy convincing fishermen, Native Americans and Parks officials of the legal and political arguments for bringing down dams like the Elwha and the Snake River Dams, the French are enjoying the success of flying dams – thus reads the banner headline for the blowing up of the dam on the upper

Allier, dismantled for salmon on June 24 this year. Another dam, the Maisons-Rouges on the Vienne River is also to come down as part of the program to restore salmon populations in the Loire Basin. The dams are simply too expensive relative to the loss of fish. For Native Americans, the salmon is the icon, and fabled chinook and coho salmon runs are being restored on the Elwha and Sacramento and in the Pacific Northwest.

The Frenchman, Roberto Eppe spoke at the Workshop with such eloquence about taking out the dams in France for primarily ecological reasons. *People respond to our argument for a living river, he said. Be creative. We blew up the dam. This was the star of the campaign. We underestimated the reaction of the dam builders. They didn't feel good, you know. They had to take the first dam out in Europe. My friend in the electricity authority phoned to alert me, because they did it one week early, totally secret. It is really chance that I have these pictures. (a series of before, during and after the explosion that dismantled the Upper Allier Dam in June)*

There has been partial success too in India where work has been suspended on the Narmada dams. The Narmada is the largest west-flowing river in India and 30 major, 135 medium and 3,000 minor irrigation schemes are planned for its basin. The entire project will displace more than 1.5 million people and submerge vast areas of land. A number of dams have already been built and the Narmada Bachao Andolan is challenging new projects and working towards decommissioning others – notably the Sardar Sarovar Dam with its partially filled reservoir. Resettlement has not yet been completed and in 1995 the Indian Government ordered a halt to construction establishing a key principle that you can't submerge unless you have resettled.

People laughed at us but it has been done. They are there (the dams) but they are not because we are going to keep them half empty and then remove them!

Thus determined the astute Indian activist, Shripad Dharmadhikary, at the Workshop representing the Narmada Bachao Andolan. Shripad said that ultimately we are not fighting a dam but a vision that all these people can share... never before in India has this kind of a dam been thought of being stopped and yet for three and a half years the work has been suspended. We are working on ten of the large dam projects. Three of them now can't go ahead.

There was a similar vein in the enormity of the vision of the Thai activists represented at the Workshop by Chainarong Srettachua (wearing a No Dams badge) and Wanida Tantiwattayaphitak. We learned of the non-violent tactics of the Assembly of the Poor, representatives of peoples affected by dam projects, land and forest conflicts and government projects who have won negotiations with the prime minister. It's a movement of discipline and efficiency. The group campaigns to assist families affected by dams and for the cancellation of new projects. Wildlife Fund Thailand has also been campaigning against the construction of big dams, with some success. Heading up the list of dams to be demolished are Sirinthorn Dam, Pak Moon Dam and Rasalai Dam. Villagers who have lost their land are more than ready to cooperate with NGO's and academics. I heard of school children camping for weeks outside Parliament House in protest at their displacement. Thai Hill Tribes displaced by the dams sent hand woven cloth for us to buy at the Workshop. Chainarong requested a copy of the Franklin video. The No Dams badge that he wore represented the respect which he held for our non-violent protest of the early eighties. In fact, the No Dams triangular logo appeared on the black T-shirts the IRN had printed for all participants underlining that the global significance of the historic Franklin victory truly lives on and inspires people everywhere.

Elena Kolpakova came to the Workshop as Coordinator of the Lets Help

the River Movement in Russia. This coalition focuses on the Volga River which spans 514,000 miles; the mother of Russia now heavily industrialised as the artery of the Soviet Union. It formed in 1990 inspired by the concept of the Rock Music Festival travelling along the length of the Volga.

We travelled with the musicians, having meetings with different organisations along the river... Elena told us how the experience of the Committee for Saving the Rhine helped them get organised: So far our actions have resembled a fire brigade. Now we have 150 groups, from about 80 million population... Now we try planning long term strategies. We realise the Volga Project... Negotiations with chemical and steel making giants. We make agreements. They did very little. The tributaries bring a lot of pollution... We publish cases of dam removals... We manage a critique on the politicians themselves... Now is a good time for us to start a new assault. To drain the reservoir... Our new businessmen are just out of prison; they have no understanding at all.

The NGO's problem is one of funding under the current economic conditions of Russia. We are trying to organise training for NGO's. We are not well equipped with communications or computers. Our major centres have no internet access.

Of the twenty actions on International Rivers Day last year, the Volga staged the biggest. You simply feel like helping people like Elena. I felt greatly humbled by the courageous campaigns being waged there and in the Third World, where indigenous people are still being displaced by dams thrust upon them by the First World in the name of poverty alleviation. But I felt

Continued on page 5



Representing Pedder 2000, Helen Gee attended a workshop organised by the International Rivers Network in July 1998. Activists from around the world are pictured wearing their No Dams T-shirts, the logo of origin in the Tasmanian Franklin campaign. At the meeting the Living Rivers Coalition was formed.

The Case for the Restoration

PEDDER 2000, the campaign to restore Lake Pedder, was launched in 1994, on the strength of startling findings of a geophysical survey of the lake bed. The quartzite beach is still there, even the sandy cusps are unmoved, exciting international attention which led to a Federal Government Inquiry into the restoration proposal in 1995. Though the outcome was positive, restoration was found to be technically feasible, it was not recommended as a priority project. Helen Gee was recently at the launch of an international coalition for the restoration of rivers – Living Rivers, which recognised the importance of restoring Pedder as a

symbol of hope that we can address the wrongs of this century. We do need to tackle it soon. We simply can't leave our environmental mistakes for future generations to fix!! The 140 m Gordon Dam is not threatened by the restoration plan, nor is the power station, nor Lake Gordon and the power it provides. Lake Pedder was needlessly flooded. It was a clear case in which projected power demand was inflated to justify the flooding of this unique little lake and in which no proper EIS was carried out. When Lake

Pedder was flooded in 1972 to provide just 65 mw (via the Gordon Power station on the adjoining Lake Gordon), UNESCO hailed the act as the greatest ecological tragedy since European settlement of Tasmania. The new 270 sq km impoundment is still called Lake Pedder, a misnomer used by the Government in an attempt to disguise the loss of the incredibly beautiful 9 sq km original lake. The inflated projections of the 1970's were echoed in 1995 when the Tasmanian Government grossly inflated the cost of restoring Lake Pedder, successfully hijacking the Federal Inquiry. Restoration has been found to be technically feasible: The geomorphological features of Lake Pedder and Lake Maria are largely intact as are the principal drainage channels. The bed and beaches are of the pink sand characteristic of the lake, and are covered with no more than 1-2 mm of sediment.

Decomposition of vegetation over the surrounding area is incomplete and underlying soil is still firmly bound by root systems. Immediately recognisable remains of the original flora lie on the bed of the impoundment and all major features of the original beach and dune systems are intact!! Though submerged, Lake Pedder is a unique World Heritage site and restoration has been the repeated call of numerous international organisations and authorities (notably IUCN, IRN, the World Heritage Committee, and the Suzuki Foundation. Lake Pedder was one of the most gently beautiful places on the face of the

II *The lesson to be learnt is that for comparatively small sacrifice of engineering niceties, the widespread vilification of the engineers and the politicians who permitted it, could have been avoided. It is a case where engineering demands ruthlessly transcended reason. The nastiest aspect of the Pedder affair was the obdurate stance of the politicians when deficiencies in planning were exposed and finance made available to rectify them. The dam builders should not be allowed to forget Lake Pedder.*

DAMMED WATERS SYMPOSIUM, QUO VADUNT AGERRIFABRI? BY P.A. TYLER, DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA IN AUST. SOC. LIMNOL. NEWSLETTER 17 (2):17-20, 1979

planet, a unique glacial lake with a 3km long white quartzite beach situated in the heart of the South-West Wilderness, one of the last great temperate wilderness areas left on earth. The Lake Pedder National Park was revoked for the flooding, though the new "lake" (the Huon-Serpentine Impoundment) was subsequently included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in 1982. Pedder was the epitome of inept land-use planning and decision making, as such it was the cradle of the conservation movement in Australia and the great catalyst for the birth of environmentalism as a political force, world wide. With further large dam building out of the question in Tasmania, the HEC formed HECEC (Hydro-Electric Commission Engineering Corporation) moving much of its engineering expertise into south-east Asia. The Xe Kaman 1 project in Laos is being

developed by Austral-Lao Power (ALP), a company that evolved out of HECEC. AID/WATCH believes Australians have a moral responsibility to strongly question the way this project is being managed and the motives behind such a large scale hydro project. (See profile of HECEC Australia Pty Ltd, this issue.)

Brief summation of the Lake Pedder tragedy (1972)

1 There was no open disclosure of the plan to flood the lake. It was never put forward for public debate. The scheme was a fait accompli despite a massive international and national outcry to save the lake.

2 One of the dams was built on the Edgar Fault and safety issues associated with the risk of seismic activity have never been adequately addressed.

3 The storage volume in the new Lake Pedder (the impoundment) available for power generation represents only a small percentage of that available from the entire Middle Gordon Scheme. Over 75% of the water is dead storage to allow the top few feet to pass by gravity into Lake Gordon. The storage volume available for power generation represents only 3.2% of that available in the entire scheme!

4 This was a case of a privileged and powerful semi-Governmental authority delving directly into politics, issuing advertisements on election eve in 1972.

5 Due to continuing public unease expressed by the formation of a Lake Pedder Study Group (1992) and subsequently Pedder 2000 (1994), a Federal Inquiry into the Proposal to Drain the Lake was conducted in 1995. The Report of the Federal Inquiry found the Proposal to Restore Lake Pedder to be technically feasible, but the inflated costs as projected by the Tasmanian Government - as high as \$850 million – had a strong influence on the outcome of the Inquiry (see Inquiry into the Proposal To Drain and Restore Lake Pedder, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts, June 1995 and the Tasmanian Government's submission.) For example, dam removal (Scotts Peak and Serpentine) was estimated to be \$20 – \$30 million. Pedder 2000 recommends that these installations be left *in situ*.

Conversely, the huge positives were ignored: stimulus to the economy from development of a premier tourist attraction and Centre for Restoration Ecology; the opportunity for Tasmania to lead the world in restoration technology.

6 There is an obvious imperative for a review of the costs and benefits attributed to any restoration of the area, partial or complete.

This is a case of an island rich in water resources where the power loss is minimal. There were no people displaced by the scheme that flooded Lake Pedder, the land in question is rightfully wilderness under the management of an existing World Heritage Area Management Plan.

State Government cost and benefit predictions were clearly inaccurate. There is a compelling case for restoration.

There follows a list of feasibility studies funded privately by The Lake Pedder Study Group. They are available for A\$10 + postage. (each)

A Geophysical Survey of Lake Pedder
Prof. Peter Tyler (Deakin), 1993

The Biological Aspects of Restoration
Prof. Peter Tyler, 1994

Engineering Report on Aspects of Restoration
Douglas Hill, 1993

A Preliminary Assessment of Economic and other values (Vol 1&11)
Brian Kohl & Dr Louise Crossley, 1994
Geomorphology of Lake Pedder, A Review
Dr Kevin Kiernan, 1994

The Geoconservation Significance of Lake Pedder and its Contribution to Geodiversity
Dr Kevin Kiernan, 1994

Restoring Lake Pedder: A Geomorphological Perspective on Recovery Prospects
Dr Kevin Kiernan, 1994

The Cultural Heritage of the Huon-Serpentine Impoundment and an Assessment of the Effects of Restoration of Lake Pedder
Ann McConnell, 1994

Why Lake Pedder should be Restored
Dr Geoff Mosley, 1994

How Lake Pedder Can Be Restored
Dr Geoff Mosley, 1995

The Future Management of a Restored Lake Pedder
Dr Geoff Mosley, 1996

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embarrassed into silence by the enormity of the problems in the Ukraine. Nowhere else in the world has a nuclear power plant been built downstream of the reservoir of a hydro-electric power station. Yet, the Zaporozhie (ZNPP), the largest in the world (six reactors with an output of 1 million KW each) is located downstream of five hydroelectric dams of the Dnieper Cascade. The top reservoir is the Kiev Reservoir. Experts have come to the conclusion that Kiev Reservoir contains about 500 million tons of radioactive silt. Experts consider the Dnieper Cascade to be poorly constructed, particularly the dams... While the probability of the dams failing may be low, the consequences could be serious for civilisation. It is very important to begin releasing reservoirs, beginning with the most dangerous, Kiev Reservoir. Alexandra Tolsykh says doing this will require working with the United Nations, The European Union, and the Ukrainian Government to create an international ecological-technique centre in Kiev:

Political will and the power of the

people are needed to avoid new Chernobyls...Unfortunately today people in the Ukraine...are struggling for everyday survival, and thus have neither the time nor the money to invest in thinking about global safety.

Alexandra represents Zeleny Svit (Green World), one of the first democratic, non-government, non-commercial public organisations in the USSR and the Ukraine. They have had success; in gathering signatures they have managed to restrict nuclear power plants and create reserves. However they battle illegal and dangerous projects and face ecological disasters that are chillingly imminent – the elimination of rivers and catastrophes that will potentially effect Russia and many other countries for thousands of years.

I think there is a growing scandal of the cover up on dam safety, said IRN President, Phil Williams who has been working as a consultant on dam safety with environment groups. *This has still not permeated the populace. People can't seem to admit mistakes.* Phil cited an example in China where 230,000 people were killed as

Hobart Branch Report
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST DAMS AND FOR RIVERS, WATER AND LIFE March 14, 1999. In Hobart a small group of people met at Nutgrove Beach on the less than clean Derwent River to contemplate our need for solidarity with groups around the world. Coordinator Aleta Brown can give you more information about the exciting events that took place. E-mail: aleta@irn.org

On Saturday 24 April 50 people celebrated the 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEDDER 2000 at a dinner at our old haunt, the Fern Tree Tavern. This was also the occasion of the Tasmanian launch of the magnificent audio-visual by Les Southwell: *The Lost World of Lake Pedder and the Serpentine Valley*. A piano recital by Bruce Heckinger and songs by Ian Paulin, together with an auction of priceless Pedder memorabilia completed an excellent evening.

Two nights later, in Hobart's Town Hall, we held a public viewing of Les' work, in conjunction with a superb audio-visual *Coast to Mountains – Tasmanian Wilderness*, accompanied by brilliant classical pianist Bruce Heckinger. There is interest in repeating the show in the north and north-east of the State. Despite the conspiracy of silence by local media, we had a crowd of over 100 lucky people, including Hobart's Lord Mayor.

A small committee has been formed to organise the festival and conference for the year 2000. Members are welcome to join, we need everyone's involvement.

the result of dam failure. It was concealed. Phil says he always uses the example of the Tilton Dam failure and the graphic photo of the Baldwin Dam failure in California.

Somehow there was a yawning gap between the size of the problems faced in the US and in the under-developed world. The amount of words was, naturally, disproportionate, but not just due to the obvious high representation of North Americans and the language difficulties. In the West we say *Extinction is Forever* and have the luxury of believing we are leaving people out of the statement. Our dams in the West seldom displace great numbers of people. Regardless, I'll end with one of my favourite quotes from the Workshop: *Extinction is not an option. Dam Removal is.*

IRN is encouraging groups around the world to join Living Rivers: the International Coalition for the Restoration of Rivers and Communities Affected by Dams. For more information visit the IRN web site: www.irn.org

Rehabilitation at Strathgordon and Scott's Peak

The Hydro has undertaken land rehabilitation and revegetation work in the Strathgordon and Scott's Peak area since the days of scheme construction. In recent years this has been a concerted effort, with large budgets being assigned to extensive land rehabilitation programs.

In the 1997/98 financial year approximately 76 hectares of disturbed land were treated in some way in these areas. Notable sites included the Edgar Fault airstrip and access road, the Strathgordon water supply dam (now the *Galaxias pedderensis* recovery habitat), and eroding tracks around Red Knoll quarry. Other sites included old gravel pits, quarries, access tracks, hard stand areas, and eroding roadside batters.

Natural regeneration of disturbed areas is usually very slow or even non-existent where the peat has been removed, exposing the underlying white, quartzite rock or gravels.

This article outlines the elements of the rehabilitation program.

TALKING AND SCOPING

The first step was to talk to other stakeholders and do some investigations to identify critical issues. In this program, since the land in question sits within the World Heritage Area, Parks and Wildlife Service were key stakeholders. They were involved from the early stages of scope development in discussions and site visits, to decide what needed doing, and where, and who needed to review what, and when.

One of the key issues identified was to limit the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a serious plant disease that is established in some parts of the Southwest National Park. Methods used to reduce the risk of spread included a requirement for contractors to wash down all machinery and float vehicles before moving into the area and between sites, and provision of an "Order of Operations" list which required work to be carried out in non-affected areas prior to moving onto infected areas. PWS staff helped to identify

hot spots, develop the order of operations, and inspect vehicles coming into the sensitive areas. The *Phytophthora* status of each site, if known, was included in the scope of works.

THE HEAVY WORK

The objective of the earthworks is to provide a stable landform, control drainage so it doesn't cause erosion problems, and loosen compacted areas to allow plant growth. Once specifications have been written and contracts let, the heavy work begins. This included ripping of compacted areas, re-establishing natural drainage lines, rock protection of eroding areas, break up and burial of concrete, contouring and shaping of landforms and batters.

In areas where peat is available in old stockpiles, the big machinery can be used to re-spread it over exposed rocks and gravels. There are places where no peat is available, and revegetation in these areas is dramatically slower.

ESTABLISHING VEGETATION

The earthworks prepare sites for the establishment of vegetation. The aim is to try to create a self-sustaining system with good colonising species, which in the long term will allow other species to slowly regenerate.

This is not always easy, and maintenance is an important part of any rehabilitation program.

Local provenance seed is always used, and for this program the PWS provided the seed and staff to hand spread it over the prepared sites. A wide range of species were included in the seed mix, including several acacias, tea trees, melaleucas and understorey species. Not all species will be successful in all situations, however the range should allow natural selection of those most suited to a particular site.

Fertiliser is always a contentious issue. In the case of revegetation in these areas, light doses of low phosphorous fertiliser are used, to help get vegetation established on extremely nutrient poor substrates.

Hydro-fertilising has been used in sites where access for hand fertilising is difficult.

If weeds are present they are removed. For example, isolated gorse and broom plants in the Strathgordon area were hand pulled, exotic trees such as willows and *Pinus radiata* at the old single men's quarters were cut and poisoned, and a small outbreak of cumbungi in the stream running through Edgar Fault airstrip was removed.

MAINTENANCE

It's not the end of story once the seeds have been broadcast. Maintenance is absolutely crucial in the South West. This will take the form of additional applications of fertiliser every two years until the system kicks over; and checking to ensure weeds don't become established.

Browsing by animals can substantially reduce establishment times, and fencing helps but is not practical in most areas. The Hydro is cooperating with PWS to undertake a rabbit eradication program in the Strathgordon area, which will give the emerging seedlings a much better chance at survival.

The bushwalker's view of the quarry at Red Knoll, Scott's Peak, from the track to the Western Arriburs: before – Nov 87 (top) and after – Feb 99 (bottom). PHOTOS: E ÖRR



Pedder 2000 Victoria, Branch News

IN OCTOBER the Victorian Branch of Pedder 2000 had a very successful Tribute to Peter Dombrovskis at the Melbourne University, attracting 500 people. Thanks go to Bob Brown for his introduction and to Rima Truchanas for her beautiful reading of the prose poems.

The Branch has decided to work towards the production of a video suitable for school and group use, telling the Pedder story. It will be accompanied by interpretative notes for teachers. Please contact Annabel if you can help by presenting talks and slide shows. There are materials available to assist you! Congratulations to Bruce and Jenny Lyons on the birth of a son. Bruce is also looking after our home page and the membership list!

Melbourne Branch Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at ACF, or we dine out. Please confirm as venues change. (Peter 94163391, Brian 94355671, Annabel 98362670)

ANOTHER NIGHT TO REMEMBER. THE AGM OF THE VICTORIAN BRANCH WILL BE HELD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH MOON OVER PEDDER 1999 At the Tibetan Restaurant, The Wild Yak, 97 Smith St, Fitzroy on Thursday June 3 at 7.30pm. Dinner: \$21. Bookings: 0394163391 (Peter).

New Years Eve 1999

Plans are afoot to establish a camp near the Huon-Serpentine Impoundment between 28 Dec and 3 Jan. (All participants must be fully self-contained.) There will be opportunities for walks, guided tours of dams and canals and a general sharing of information and good spirits. Tyenna Valley Lodge, Maydena, is recommended for non-campers, but bookings need to be made pronto. Please phone 0394163391 with your expressions of interest.

THE RIVER REVIVAL BULLETIN is produced by River Revival, IRN's river restoration and dam decommissioning program, on behalf of Living Rivers: the International Coalition for the Restoration of Rivers and Communities Affected by Dams. Pedder 2000 is a founding member! The RIVER REVIVAL BULLETIN covers campaigns around the globe. Great browsing, if you can access it:

River Revival
International Rivers Network
1847 Berkeley Way
Berkeley, CA 94703 USA
Tel: (510) 848-1155
Fax: (510) 848-1008
Email: info@riverrevival.org
Web: www.riverrevival.org

STOP PRESS:
FESTIVAL LOGO
COMPETITION
ENTRIES IN BY JUNE
15TH

Poetry

Snow-storm Winter 72

North of Antarctica south of the world
South west of God
Is the sun
White.
White the mountains shining – the albatross
Wings
Wings above white decrying
the Flood.
Jewel and eye, feathers of snow
successions eternal
follow on, melt dark, trace fire
A forest
of white form to fire.
The course not vengeance of black water
but genuflecting shadows
of the fallen bird.
Kneeling mountains have its dark
eyes
The rainbow its spectral wings
to light
God and the black flood to come.

CHRIS TEBBUTT

This poem was written on the dunes where 19 year old Chris Tebbutt camped for 5 months, mostly alone, as the waters rose around him during the Pedder vigil of 1972. The poem has never been published before; it was given to Helen Gee when she visited Chris in California in July 1998. Chris and Stephanie Tebbutt have a thriving, innovative landscaping business, *Land and Place*, in Mendocino County, California.

Left: Chris Tebbutt now convenes the Californian Branch of Pedder 2000 and he and Helen Gee are shaking hands on a 12 point plan for the Restoration of Lake Pedder, approved in principle by the new Coalition for Living Rivers. The workshop was pretty inspiring, a room full of people committed to pulling down the world's ill conceived dams.

CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FOR ACTIVISTS 10-14 MARCH 2000 FESTIVAL 10-18 MARCH 2000

The conference, to be held at Maydena in Tasmania, will bring together 40 approved international activists (NGOs) for a focus on the theme: RESTORATION AND THE 21st CENTURY. If you wish to register, please send us your contact and campaign details for consideration. Many other events are being organised as part of a full week of festivities culminating with a major concert. If you can organise a stand alone event (exhibition/concert/play/film night/cruise/bike ride...) between March 10th-18th, we would love to hear from you soon. Phone/Fax (03) 9517 9292.

Basslink would ultimately inhibit

What is the future with Basslink?

BOOK REVIEW

Masters of Illusion: The World Bank and the Poverty of Nations
Catherine Caufield, Pan Books, 1998

This is the definitive book on the World Bank; a thoroughly researched account of one of the world's most powerful institutions set up 50 years ago to bring the Third World into the First. With Chapter notes, Bibliography and Index, it is 432 pages.

Dam building is the world's most popular form of development. Dams regulate water but also they exalt the rulers who build them. Even by 1968 the World Bank had financed more than 90 dams in 39 countries and then did not see or learn from the mistakes! This seems to have stemmed from the fact that the Bank staffers rarely encounter the underprivileged, they seem to have kept themselves in a cocoon, removed from those who suffer at the very end of the line from Bank projects.

According to the Bank's own report on involuntary resettlement, between 1986 and 1993, 2.5 million people were dislocated for 200 Bank approved projects (dams, roads, pipelines, plantations and urban renewal). There is tragic irony in the Bank's failure to realise the full ecological, social and even economic implications of the vast schemes it has promoted.

Caufield:
Development is not a matter of GNP, or money, or physical capital, or foreign exchange, but of the capacity of a society to tap the root of popular creativity, to free up and empower people to exercise their intelligence and their individual and collective efforts to achieve a better life (p. 335).

Chris Harries, former energy advisor to the Tasmanian Greens, comments on the implications of this new push. We invite feedback for the next issue of Reflections:

IN EARLY NOVEMBER 1998, the new Bacon Government in Tasmania announced the go-ahead for a \$400 million energy link between Victoria and Tasmania. A 10cm diameter cable would plug Tasmania into the mainland power grid. Basslink would enable Tasmania to sell power in the high-cost peak periods and import low-cost off-peak electricity from the south-eastern states such as Victoria. Jim Bacon has said *we are satisfied that Basslink is viable either as a stand-alone project or in tandem with gas...a privately built and operated Basslink would remove any risk that future taxpayers could face a huge infrastructure bill if the State ran short of power.* The Examiner, Nov 3, 1998. It is no surprise that environmental implications have been down played and that the Government is presenting the project as a *fait accompli* ahead of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

I think the way to approach Basslink is on the basic economic and environmental front. The argument the Greens were using, which could be developed more, was that as you're on the verge of the energy systems around the world changing very rapidly, instead of seizing the opportunity of this new thing Tasmania should become more and more independent and self sufficient with energy supplies; instead its Gov-

ernment is wanting to lump Tasmania in with the rest of Australia, cutting itself off from a real opportunity.

Basslink isn't a 100% argument for or against any downstream effects; the only problem is, once its in, and commercial operations are running, there is no control. If you consider the worst case scenario of big industry leaving the State and you get big power surges, that's the biggest headache. So the easiest way out is to build Basslink and sell it to the mainland and lose control of the system. Once it goes in the Government will actually lose a lot of flexibility in controlling things, they can't be interfering too much in commercial contracts as they would undermine the viability of it.

To my mind the only thing a government can do is set stringent regulations on maximum and minimum river flows so that they can't for convenience just use one dam and pump it all out; they must use the whole system.

The alternative though, is that half our energy comes into the State via liquid and solid fuels and a lot of that is transferable, especially with the development of hydrogen and electric cars. Christine Milne was arguing that the development of the State economy in the clean green pattern can be strengthened by having an integrated energy system that is not fossil fuel based; that you can add it to your bunch of arguments that this is a clean green state.

We are going to be uniquely placed in the world to become more self sufficient than anyone else in energy supplies. If that scenario develops there are going to be growing opportunities to replace other non renewable fuels. The other interesting aspect of it is that as incentives are put in place for power utilities to have to have a component of renewables....They will use Basslink to absolve them of that. If Basslink is not there they actually have to develop renewables so it can be argued Basslink will inhibit the development of renewable energy on the mainland. Where there is any potential for renewable energy the first thing will be to tap in wherever you can. By making it easy, with Basslink, Tasmania will inhibit the

the chances of the recovery of Lake Pedder

necessary development of energy conservation practices and alternative electricity supplies (solar and wind) that are available on the mainland.

In terms of the actual financial viability of Basslink that's a hard one to deal with because when it's a government project like the Franklin was you can argue the economics and say taxpayers shouldn't be paying a billion dollars for the scheme. But, if the industry is saying it is viable, even if in the long term it's not, it's very difficult to argue against it because if they're prepared to invest in it it's a statement from them that they have got confidence in it and you can't easily knock out that confidence. At that level it's hard.

Basslink would be one of the longest underwater cables in the world. I have a very strong belief that private companies will not be satisfied owning it with such huge uncertainties, without having control. All you are being is an agent that gets paid a bit for transmitting and you only get paid if it happens. If it doesn't, no money.

In January 1998, at the ALP National conference, Kim Beasley came within a hairs breadth of making an opening statement that Labor would pay \$200m towards Basslink. Their information was that it was not viable and to make it viable for political electoral reasons they would offer this money. At the very last minute it got short circuited because there was tension between Basslink and the gas project and they realised they were going to cause embarrassment to the State Labor Party which was trying to appear to be supportive of the gas project and the gas operators were saying with Basslink going ahead they'd be stuffed. So they pulled back at the last moment. That's a sure fire indication that Basslink is not viable without very heavy subsidy.

Why then did Premier Bacon make the announcement late last year? Early in their term the Government do not want to be seen dilly-dallying around because they saw the disease of the Rundle Govt was that nothing was happening and the psychosis of the Tasmanian community is that nothing is happening and we are in the doldrums and anything is better than nothing. As soon as you have a big name project with a fancy-wancy sexy name its like a solid thing – its got a

name. Because it's got this name – *Basslink* – its larger than life. The Premier is not actually saying *yes, its going to go ahead* but he has agreed to set a process in train and I think they are going to have these people knocking on their doors saying *well, we could be interested but our bottom line is that if we are going to invest \$600m in this project we have to have certainty of its usage and guarantees from the government that we own the transmission system or that there is a net minimum income that we have to recover from the scheme.*

This will put the Tasmanian Government in the position of lobbying the Federal Government. The Franklin Dam compensation money has been there so long I don't think the Federal Government will want to spend it now.

I think, when it boils down to it, there would be a solid core of 5% of Tasmanians who would be turned on by the possible or certain environmental consequences of Basslink. The certain ones are the transmission extensions in Victoria and the flows down river. The Tasmanian community has locked itself into a psychology that the Hydro is precious and we need to own it and if we lose control it will be a disaster and money will be siphoned off. In the meantime the Bacon Government has said it was not going to sell under any circumstances for at least a year. They could quite easily do a flip and say they have to sell it anyway, otherwise Basslink is not viable. They would perhaps get away with it.

The Government is doing risk abatement, wanting to minimise the risk of either having a surplus or a shortfall. The need for security. The business operator has no advantage in that because what if the risks don't turn up, the risks don't turn into a problem and we end up just carrying on as we are? No business operators can cough up that amount of money without certainty. Its like Oceanport, you have to go through all the ranting and raving and government's proffering and the opposition needing to be seen supporting it (and both of them making it a project of State significance) and then the wind goes out of the sails and the community once again goes errrrr... and blame the Greens!! They need the kite, the community gets depressed. Free wheeling business drops a line and the natives get excited, government get

desperate to meet the expectations and offer huge incentives and subsidies...

At the national and local level the industry has been mesmerised by this new thing, open market sales. The pioneering, engineered, nationwide buying and selling of electricity has a sexiness similar to the computer industry. Big operators. The prevailing philosophy is very much in the direction of going down this track – open market, competition – that works both ways in one sense. It argues against subsidisation. If you allow market forces to take over, environmental regulations will be minimalised.

Carbon credits could make the thing financially viable but it won't be in the next five years, especially with Australia's attitude to Greenhouse. One thing is for certain. Tasmania is obliged to conform to national protocols of open market competition and so on. As long as you don't have Basslink in there it is still virtually an integrated system with a single utility running it and it hasn't much changed. The minute you put Basslink in then down the track they can put another one in if they wanted to. The one they are basing projections on is 400mws. These engineers seriously think they could link up Australia with the Indian sub-continent and sell brown coal electricity from Victoria to Madras.

It can't be leading to the sort of future we are on about. We lose more and more control. It's the same as the computer industry. Philosophically the idea of having integrated information systems is democratising and at the same time it is alienating. There are pluses and minuses. My instinct tells me they are taking people further and further away from nature, and I'd be stuffed without my computer now. It is hard to live as an island and exist in the world. Our problem is lack of vision.

* We urge you to ask what stage the environmental assessment is at. Direct your concerns to:
Basslink Development Office
Phone: +61 3 6233 7941
Fax: +61 3 6233 5646
Email: postbox@basslink.tas.gov.au
Web Site: www.basslink.tas.gov.au

The Ecological Restoration of Scotland's Caledonian Forest

Alan Watson Featherstone, Trees for Life

The Director of award winning Scottish organisation Trees for Life, Alan Watson Featherstone, was in Tasmania in February. At the invitation of The Wilderness Society he gave a superb, illustrated, public talk highlighting the need for ecological restoration to become the over-riding task for humanity in the 21st century. He was delighted to hear Pedder 2000's plans to restore Lake Pedder as a symbol of the change in direction that is truly possible.



A remnant stand of Scots Pine, Glen Torridon
PHOTO: HELEN GEE

THE CALEDONIAN Forest originally covered much of the Highlands of Scotland, but centuries of human exploitation have reduced it to 1% of its original extent. Trees for Life is working to restore a large part of the Forest and to reintroduce missing wildlife species. A 600 square mile target area south-west of Inverness, known as The Wild Heart of the Highlands, is the focus of the last 10 years work. Fencing out deer and planting of young Scots Pines has involved thousands of volunteers; for many it is a life-changing experience.

The problem is very simple: too few trees; too many grazing animals. We have to redress the balance and nature will do the work herself. I was in Auroville in 1985 and I could see the results of the regeneration work there. We began practical action about 10 years ago. We started with the few isolated remnants and focused on Glen Afric in particular, where there were lots of seedling pines. David Bellamy officially closed the gate on a 50 hectare area we fenced off in 1990. That started the regeneration process there. It has been critical to check and maintain the fences, particularly in winter. 99% of our forest is gone, so natural regeneration can only be effective in the 1% that is left. In most of Scotland we have to kick-start the process by planting trees. We do that by collecting seed from the nearest surviving trees, mimicking the way the forest works naturally. The Bradley method of bush regeneration in NSW works on similar principles.

We collect cones and raise the seed in our nursery. After a couple of years of growth we take them back out and plant them inside fence enclosures. We are not interested in straight lines and we are not interested in commercial productivity. We look for where the trees have grown in the past, we plant

in clumps, leaving wide gaps; mimicking how the trees regenerate naturally. Our volunteers will plant only between one and two hundred trees per day because of the care that is taken. Plastic tubes are replaced by mesh as the young trees grow.

Aspen has been cleared along with all the other trees and because it flowers rarely and briefly, its main method of reproduction is by root suckers. Reproduction by seed is now virtually impossible; it will only grow where it already is. We go out in February, pick up sections of roots and hold them in the greenhouse for 6 weeks. They send up little shoots which we then propagate and plant out in mixed stands of six or seven so pollination becomes a viable means of reproduction.

Scientific underpinning of the program is important for what we do in Scotland but also in the larger context. We are helping to pioneer the work of ecological restoration. Something humans have never done before. We have been very good at taking from the planet and we've never given anything back. We don't really know how to do it. So we have a program of scientific research at Edinburgh University to document the forest ecology and the work we are doing. We monitor the growth rates.

We cut down trees as well. Many of our best remnants of old forest were purchased by the Forestry Commission in the 1950's, and cleared for plantations of fast growing exotic species like the Canadian sitka spruce. Ironically spruce is endangered in Canada by clear-cut logging but it is now the most common tree in Scotland. Called the super tree, it grew very quickly to the exclusion of all else, shading out the Scots pine seedlings. We were invited by the Forestry Commission to help them correct the mistake and remove these trees from strategic areas of

oldgrowth Caledonian forest.

The principles of ecological restoration that guide our work are based very much on the premise that nature knows best in direct contrast to the mainstream thrust of our human culture at the moment, which suffers from what has been called the arrogance of humanism, the idea that humans know better – so we can take an oldgrowth forest that has taken millions of years to evolve, cut it down and replace it with a uniform plantation of single species because it's called more productive. It's a total fallacy. Our whole culture is based on that, in every aspect.

Coming from my Findhorn background I am provided with a set of principles, the most relevant being: *Love nurtures the life force and spirit of all beings and is a significant factor in helping to heal the earth.* Love actually is one of the fundamentals in how we operate. We have to give some of the earth back to our fellow creatures. We are still expansionist, we are still colonialists, except we are not colonising native peoples' land, we are colonising other species' lands.

We need to set aside large areas and say *We're going to leave this for tigers, for lions, for whales, for oldgrowth forests.* There needs to be a shift from the industrial philosophy of unlimited economic growth to one of improving the equality of life. Before we talk about sustainable development we need sustainable ecosystems. Now we have no sustainable ecosystems in the world today. We have degrading, fragmenting and shrinking ecosystems. We can't have any form of human development before we reverse that process.

Reallocation of resources; let's get the military involved with the removal of infrastructure – roads, powerlines, dams – from areas we are willing to hand back to our fellow species.

Our Trees for Life calendars and

diaries publicise endangered forests around the world and publicise the threats they face and the organisations working to protect them.

The first shared task of the collective mass of humanity is to heal our planet. Could we not get the United Nations to declare the 21st century the century of restoring the Earth? A shared goal for all of humanity. A commitment from every nation to devote 10% of the military resources, in cash or in kind, soldiers and equipment, towards the restoration work. Who am I to ask the United Nations to declare anything? Well, I know from experience that if I follow my dreams, miracles happen; magic occurs and support comes from all sorts of unexpected directions.

I was at the 6th World Wilderness Congress in India in October 1998 and got a resolution passed and now there is energy flowing through it. I have written a future scenario of what the century could bring. Most people have such a negative view of the future. We need a vision which will take a stance of hope and if people like us don't propel it, who will? Let's put forward concrete examples of the world as we would like it to be. Restoration will become the single over-riding task of every nation; the primary goal on Earth.

I'm very happy to be here and meet up with Helen of the Pedder 2000 campaign because restoration of that lake could provide one of the spearheading projects behind this. There are people working right now to restore mangroves in Viet Nam, the dry tropical forests in Costa Rica, to bring back bison to the plains of North America where farms are being abandoned because the soil has been depleted, there are people working to restore the bush in Australia. We need to publicise these efforts, pool our experience and skills and develop networks. That's the future of the conservation movement.

The great battles being fought right now in the Styx and other tall forests in Tasmania need to be fought. The time frame for that is only ten years or so. After that the battles will have been won or lost and then the future for wilderness will be entirely dependent on restoration. We have to be ready for it. We have to know what we are going to do! We have to be ready to move in to the next millennium with a changed direction from the destruction that has characterised the last two thousand years. The new millennium marks a turning point in people's minds. Let's use that.

What the HEC is going on in Laos?

Brief Profile of HECEC Australia Pty Ltd, background to Xe Kaman 1 Dam

THE FOLLOWING information has been summarised from an AIDWATCH company profile prepared in March 1998. For full information contact:

AIDWATCH: www.aidwatch.pegasus

The proposed Xe Kaman (Sekaman) Dam in Laos will displace over 1000 people, severely damage local fisheries and flood 230 square kilometres of lowland tropical forest. The dramatic re-engineering of river systems does not address local community aspirations and goals. Austral-Lao Power has a vested interest in employing Australian engineers and in making profits; it has no vested interest in finding viable and sustainable, smaller scale options. Of course, local decision makers in Laos need information to empower them to adopt more socially appropriate development options. Meanwhile we Australians need to tell Austral-Lao Power that its project is morally unacceptable, with too large a social, environmental and economic cost for the people of Laos. Listen to the facts:

The Australian Federal Government paid the Tasmanian Government approx \$330m in Gordon-below Franklin dam compensation, with which it built two other schemes: the King and Anthony schemes. These schemes were an economic failure that now account for about \$1,200 million of the total accumulated HEC debt of approx \$1,700 million. These two schemes now cost the taxpayers \$140 million in interest repayments. Therefore, in the late 1980's, the HEC was commercialised and restructured – its days of dam building over. Tasmanian taxpayers are now burdened with the legacy of the debt accrued by the HEC, which accounted for 40% of the State's \$3.8 billion debt in 1996. All the 1998 State election talk of wiping off the debt here in Tasmania and not a mention of how the debt was incurred!

In 1987, after the exhaustion of their construction services in Tasmania, the HEC Enterprise Corporation (HECEC) was established to commer-

cially export the HEC's engineering and design expertise. One of the corporate objectives of HECEC was to maximise the profit to the state of Tasmania, and to establish a reputation in the region, which will lead to further work for their employees offshore, now that the dam building era in Tasmania is over. It was issued with \$250,000 and then \$2 million in Special Capital Notes from the Tasmanian Government. \$1 million was repaid during 1997; the balance is due this year.

HECEC Australia Pty Ltd (HECEC Australia) has taken the place of HECEC and is a private company owned and controlled by former senior staff of HECEC. It is not open with its dealings in Australia or overseas. Its profits are unknown; it has no Annual Report, using the HEC's Annual Report instead. Some of the projects carried out by this company are resulting in unacceptable social, environmental and economic costs for communities in low income countries.

HECEC has been associated with several projects in Laos since the early 1990's. Austral-Lao Power (ALP) is the off-shoot of HECEC which took over the development rights to the Xe Kaman 1 Hydro-power Project in Laos. The two companies are very closely tied, though formally they are separate entities.

The Xe Kaman River is a tributary of the Sekong River which is in turn a tributary of the Mekong. At its full supply level the Xe Kaman Dam reservoir will be approx 230 square kilometres, inundating part of the Dong Ampham National Biodiversity Conservation Area. In 1995 the Australian aid agency AusAID, withdrew funding to the World Conservation Union for Dong Ampham – presumably due to a perceived clash of interest. (NB The HEC flooded a number of National Parks in Tasmania and intended to flood a 35 kilometre stretch of the wild Franklin River.)

Serious doubts surround the proposed dam's economic feasibility. No power purchasing agreement exists with the electricity generating authority of Thailand. There are serious doubts about the hydrological

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data collected, and river flows have been decreasing steadily.

A Malaysian & Chinese logging company has accumulated big debts & logging has now stopped. Trucks have worked day & night through the early dry season hauling out 2,000,000 cu m of logs in the catchment. Rumour has it a Lao logging co. has bid to continue logging. It is rumoured that the proposed power project may be one big cover-up for the logging of the area on the false grounds of a salvage operation prior to the (official) abandonment of the project!

About 10,800 people will be affected if large areas of seasonally submerged land are submerged all year round. Villagers do not want to move; more than 1200 people will be displaced. Many have just put their lives back together after the Indochina war.

The environmental impact assessment for the dam is being carried out by the Tasmanian-based firm Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey (GHD). Austral-Lao Power claim that a final EIA will only be possible after construction has commenced.

The Xe Kaman River passes through

some of the most pristine tropical forest and healthiest wildlife habitat in South East Asia. Tigers, leopards, elephants, gaur, bantang, asiatic black bears, gibbon, deer, otters and crocodiles are common. Over 400 species of fish are reported to live in the Xe Kaman River, an important habitat for the endangered freshwater Irrawaddy dolphin.

The dam will block migration routes and disrupt fish breeding and spawning grounds. Downstream water levels will change, bringing serious impacts to fish populations in a land where local people are dependent on fish for their protein. The draft Initial Environmental Examination (by the Tasmanian firm GHD) described the area as a largely degraded tract of re-growth Dipterocarp woodland and cleared agricultural land. Shades of the bleak past: The environmental values of Lake Pedder and its surrounding button grass plains were dismissed because *the areas which will be inundated are for the most part marshy and covered with scrub and button-grass, a worthless growth commonly found on land which is more or less permanently waterlogged.* (Gordon River Power Development Stage 1 and Thermal Power

Station Act of 1967.) The Franklin River was termed a *brown, leech-ridden ditch*. Farcical that we have a Tasmanian consultancy firm making the same value judgment in the 1990's! But tragic that we have exported the farce to a land where the local communities and decision makers have no adequate information and are being steamrolled by irresponsible mega dam proponents in the same way that the Tasmanian community was 30 years ago.

PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION AND PREPARE TO DEMONSTRATE.

Vale Neil Thomas

Neil lost his life on the Davey River in South-West Tasmania in March 1999.

Pedder 2000 mourns the loss of a young and vital solo adventurer who died while in the prime of what promised to be a remarkable life. Neil heard of our efforts for the restoration of Pedder three years ago. Although based in WA, he came to Victoria through work commitment and became active in the Melbourne branch. Neil was particularly keen to bring images of the South-West and Pedder to the public through audio-visual displays and arranged the donation of a fader to the branch. Members of his family visited Tasmania in April and, as the guest of Bob Brown, flew over the country that Neil loved so much. By good fortune they were able to attend the fifth anniversary dinner and see the new Lake Pedder audio-visual presentation.

HOW TO CONTACT PEDDER 2000

website <http://neptune.he.net/~pedder>

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|------------------|---|
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| PATRONS | David Bellamy, Claudio Alcorso, Ida West, Max Angus, Bob Brown |

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Contributions for Reflections 8 are now welcome.
Please supply all material in Mac format if possible.



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