



**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY**  
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

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"The Arbour" by  
E. Phillips Fox  
(painted 1911)

Question :-  
Who is the little  
boy with a hoop ?

Answer :-  
He is Len Fox,  
a writer who lives  
in Sydney and who is  
a subscriber to  
this newsletter.

Story inside.



The Crow Collection Association (Incorp.)

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The Crow Collection (Incorp.)  
Extract from the Constitution

Statement of Purposes

- (1) To enhance the comprehensiveness and accessibility of the Crow Collection and encourage involvement of organisations and individuals in practical tasks associated with such popularisation.
- 2) To seek donations and grants for the purpose of establishing an Association Fund to carry out point 2.(1) above.
- (3) To make decisions on the use of the Association Fund money.
- (4) To assist the library of the Victoria University of Technology - Footscray Institute of Technology, to purchase or acquire appropriate subscriptions and monographs which will enhance the comprehensiveness of the Collection.
- (5) To subsidise newsletters, research projects, exhibitions, seminars and other projects which will enhance the comprehensiveness and accessibility of the Collection.
- (6) To involve voluntary helpers in carrying out the purposes in point 2.(5) above.
- (7) To invite organisations (including government departments and municipal councils) and individuals to use the Collection for research projects.
- (8) Acquire, improve, manage and otherwise deal with any property calculated to directly or indirectly further the objects of the Association.
- (9) To ensure that the Association funds are used for educational purposes.

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Members of Committee of Management :- Peter Durkin (Chair), Peter Gibbon (Vice-Chair), Sheila Byard (Hon Sec), Julie Muir (Treasurer) Annabel McCooke (ex-officio FIT Library representative), Morag Loh, Rosemary Ward, Ruth Crow, John Dick, Julius Roe, Michael Hamel-Green, Alexs English, Carol Goldson, Julie Staticus (observers are welcome at meetings).

Join the Crow Collection Network and receive information about seminars, conferences and research activities. Donations are welcome. Please make out cheques to the Crow Collection Association Incorporated.

Names.....Address.....  
.....Postcode.....Phone No.....

Send to Sheila Byard, Urban Studies Unit, Footscray Inst. of Technology, Ballarat Road, Footscray 3011. Phone (03) 688.4754. Fax (03) 688.4805.

# ECOSO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER

No 2/15 July 1991

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## News from the Crow Collection Association

The Reichstein Charitable Foundation will be funding the first Living Library project based on the Crow Collection. This project will be starting in August/September and finishing in March 1992 when the second project will be commenced (see enclosure and page 8 of this newsletter).

A "Viewing Day" was held early in June. A pleasing feature of the gathering was the high proportion of people who live or work in the Western Region who came to see the Crow Collection.

The Urban Studies Unit will be holding a seminar on the Metro 2000 theme early in November.

The Crow Collection Association Committee of Management are forming two small sub-groups. One to initiate the first project and the second to plan the 1991 Metro 2000 Seminar. Anyone interested in helping with these projects please volunteer to make a short-term commitment by joining one of the groups.

Back to Ecoso Exchange-style of Publication. Since the publication of Ecoso 2/14 subscribers would have received Crow Collection Network Document in May this year. By popular appeal Ecoso Exchange Newsletter is continuing to be produced rather than the proposed "Crow Collection Network Documents". This is Ecoso (No 2/15).

Cataloguing the Crow Collection

The documents in the Crow Collection are being catalogued. This short report gives some details on progress :-

Books to be arranged in one Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) sequence (including periodicals) and in most cases to receive a normal end-processing. Each book to have an individual record on ABN or LIBNET. The preface for the labels is Crow Coll.

Pamphlets to be arranged in a separate DDC sequence, to receive special end-processing and to be stored in pamphlet boxes. These too will have records on ABN and LIBNET. The prefix for the labels is Crow Coll.P.

Unpublished Material A classified listing which will be available in the Crow Collection Room will provide access to the unpublished material.

i. Basis of classification of unpublished material will be the broad DDC numbers which will divide material into subject areas. These will be sub-divided into more specific areas such as major projects undertaken by community groups/government or papers of a particular community association involved in the subject area.

11. Listing individual items ... annual reports, self explanatory notes etc will be arranged chronologically but items which may need highlighting should be listed individually.

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URBAN SPRAWL, URBAN TRANQUILITY ???

What sort of cities do we want to see in the future ?  
To what use should rural areas be put ?

Two recent government reports appear to chart the future for urban and rural development, but a close study of them show that there is much left unsaid (unwritten).

The reports are:-

1. "Urban Development Options for Victoria" which has been prepared by the Department of Planning and Housing and
2. "A Review of Rural Land Use in Victoria" jointly prepared by the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Department of Agriculture.

Urban Development Options

Four Options for Greater Melbourne and Victoria

The four options are :-

1. A compact Melbourne with higher densities in new development, intensification of uses in redevelopment areas so that better use is made of services and infrastructure.

2. A twin city proposal for creating a second major metropolitan focus, probably at Dandenong.
3. The development of three new towns about 60 to 90 Ks from the central city.
4. Diverting a substantial proportion of future population growth to six major regional centres - Geelong, Ballarat, Shepparton, Wodonga and the Latobe Valley.

#### Reading Between the Lines

Basing ideas on trend planning the rhetoric in the report paints a glowing picture for each of the four options. However, reading between the lines it would seem that the Victorian Government is trying to find a way out of implementing their current policy of corridor growth and urban consolidation.

The report does not state why the urban consolidation policy has only had limited success. There are two obvious reasons :-

1. Too few district centres have been planned and fewer still effectively implemented.
2. Developers have been able to build huge shopping/office centres (for example in Hawthorn) which are equivalent to district centres but which are not served by public transport.

#### Review of Rural Land Use

This report has been prompted by growing concern over the conversion of agricultural land to other uses.

The main problems identified in the report are :-

1. loss of rural land around Melbourne and several regional centres.
2. loss of land to part-time farming activities.
3. rural sub-divisions without regard to environmental and conservation factors.

#### The Right Time Farm

The report states that in many parts of Victoria basic planning data is limited or non-existent and it therefore concentrates on proposing initiatives in data management and new technology.

Later this year the Victorian Parliament will be considering legislation on the right to farm. The pros and cons of these proposed laws are not featured in the report. However, the opportunity to study and discuss this report on rural land use will enable to community to make a much better judgement about the rights and wrongs of this important legislation.

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Farming and Sustainability

Two articles in the June issue of "Australian Society" provide some useful material on farming.

In "The Second Green Revolution" Gib Wettenhall reports on a "day-long round-table discussion on halting the downward trend of trade in the Australian food sector. He reports that twenty major players from the food industry, trade unions and consumers groups came together to discuss a Commission for the Future-sponsored paper by Graham Larcombe, an economist and industry consultant.

Larcombe recommends that significant economic benefits can flow from the greening of food exports by :-

- \* transforming farming to using environmentally sustainable methods of production,
- \* making food processing at every stage as pesticide, chemical and additive free as possible,
- \* then marketing Australian products on an export basis as the cleanest and most healthy in the world.

"Most importantly for Larcombe, an environmental transformation of Australia's food chain from farming to processing, from distribution to marketing would involve shifting resources into processed value added food products. Environmentally enhancing food products makes sense on economic grounds because it holds the potential to turn around the terms of trade, Larcombe argues. And there is a fortuitous symbiosis in Larcombe's thesis that there is money to be made out of looking after the key agricultural resource, the soil," Gib Wettenhall writes.

Following Gib's article there is one by Robert Milliken. He reports on the recent National Farmers Federation (NFF) Conference stating that it was "mixing conservation and image building with its long held Right philosophy".

Milliken explains that :-

"As the political and economic certainties of the farming community become less fixed the NFF's response has been to form alliances with other big lobby groups whose interests, only a few years ago, would have been on a collision course with many farming practices."

He gives as examples of such coalitions :-

- \* The NFF and the Australian Conservation Foundation on soil degradation.  
The NFF and the Australian Consumers Association and other groups on chemicals in food.
- \* the NFF and the Arts Council to improve communication between the city and the bush.

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Note :- For more information about "The Australian Society" write to PO Box 274 Fitzroy 3065 or phone (03) 419.6622  
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The Little Boy with the Hoop  
(contributed by Ruth Crow)

Phillips Fox's painting of "The Harbour" is one of the gems of the National Gallery of Victoria. It was painted exactly 80 years ago.

Who is the demure little girl reading her story book ?  
And who is the boy in the red sailor suit with a hoop nearly as big as himself ?

The models for the children were Louise and Len Fox the niece and nephew of the artist. Both of them are now over eighty years of age.

Len claims that the boy in the sailor suit is only partly him.

"The boy's head is based on a sketch of my head...he is older, more extroverted and better looking...he had a red sailor suit and white socks and shoes, and I didn't. (Thank goodness I didn't ! Imagine the ribbing I would have got from boys at Tooronga Road State school if I had turned up in such a rig !)"

I first met Len in 1936 at a student anti-fascist camp in the Dandenongs. We lost touch with each other when he went to live in Sydney in the 1940s but over the years I bought and read books and pamphlets which he had written.

Some of Len's publications are in the Crow Collection at the library at the Footscray Institute of Technology.

As many people may assume that the Crow Collection is mainly documents about urban issues I am listing some of Len's publications to indicate that in the Crow Collection there are books and pamphlet about a variety of subjects. The following descriptions are limited to the publications in the Crow Collection, there are many other books written by Len.

#### Pamphlets from the 30s and 40s

In the 1930s Len used his literary ability to pen anti-war and anti-fascist booklets such as "The First World War and the Second" (1935), "The Truth About Anzac" (1936) "Stop War on China" (1937) and "Peace to end Peace - Czechoslovakia What Next ? (1938).

His first booklet in the 40s was on economics, "Monopoly" (1940). His next pamphlet described the all out effort to win the war. "Coal for the Engines of War" (1942). This was followed by a warning about the war time rackets "Australia's Guilty Men" (1943).

#### Poetry and Songs

The Crow Collection includes a set of three booklets of poems; "Gumleaves and Memories", "Gumleaves and Dreaming" and "Gumleaves and Growing Old".

There is a fourth book of poems published in 1959 "Gumleaves and Bamboo" but the Crow Collection does not have this. As its name and date imply these poems are about seeking solutions to the Vietnam War.

Quite a few of his poems were published on calendars. In the 1950 and 1960s one such calendar depicted three children of different races and these words were written beneath it :-

Black child white child  
Spoke to each other  
And the word that they said  
Were Sister .....Brother.

White arms to brown arms  
Red roses bringing  
Brown throats with white throats  
Peace songs singing

Black head, flaxen head.  
Smiling in greeting  
Brown fingers white fingers  
Tenderly Meeting

The children of the world  
Speak to each other  
And the words that they say  
Are Sister...Brother.

#### Reflections About the Past

Four good browsing-books are Len's 1977 "Depression Down Under", his 1978 "Old Sydney Windmills", his 1982 "Broad Left, Narrow Left" and his 1985 book about his artist uncle "E Phillips Fox and his Family".

In 1988 Len edited a very comprehensive history of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW). It is called "Dream at a Graveside". He explains the reason for such a title :-

"As one by one they (the writers who gave birth to a national literature) died....often at an early age and nearly always in poverty...the others gathered at the cemetery to pay their last respects, to exchange reminiscences, and to regret the fact that the only place they met was in a cemetery"

FAW provided an organisation and a place "where writers could meet together not only to look at the past but also to dream and organise the future."

#### "Cultural Cringe"

"Dreams at a Graveside" is not a browsing book. It is a rewarding experience to read it thoroughly. In its pages we meet such people as Nettie and Vance Palmer, Frank Clune, Gaven Casey, Miles Franklin, Leslie Haylen, Dorothy McKellar, Henry Handel Richardson, Ethel Turner and many others who contributed to FAW as well as pursuing their writing careers.

The phrase "the cultural cringe" was coined by a Victorian FAW member A. A. Phillips who was a prominent literary critic. In the pages of "Dreams at a Graveside" we can listen to Mary Gilmore and Tom Inglis More promoting the idea of teaching children from texts written by Australians.

Today, when there are some people who want to discredit the teaching of Australian Studies it timely to quote Len :-

"A mature confidence rather than a cringe... and a pride without boastfulness in our own traditions and culture... that was what Henry Lawson was fighting for in 1892 and that was what Arthur Phillips was advocating in the 1950, that was what FAW was making a stand for in 1933 when it said Australian children should be studying Australian books as well as overseas ones."

## Unpaid Work and Collective Consumption

(This article is based on notes prepared by Ruth Crow for a recent women's seminar. She was invited to speak about the Crow Collection Living Library Projects and to relate these to the campaign around women and unpaid work.)

### Setting the Discussion in its Historic Context

Early in 1937 Maurie Crow gave me a book called "Women Must Choose... the Position of Women in Europe" (in the 1930s) by Hilary Newitt. This book played a crucial part in developing our attitudes towards women and society. It reports Hitler's Nuremburg speech in 1934 in which he said :-

"The world of man is the State. Women's world is her husband, her family, her children and her house.

Today I have quoted this slogan for two reasons

1. to set the Crow Collection's documents on women in their historic context and
2. as a warning, that despite the defeat of the nazi form of fascism, fascist-type ideas still exist even in our own country.

I believe that the hegemony of the capitalist system continually pushes women back into a subservient position in society and the economic, political and social problems facing Australia could result in strengthening such pressures.

### The Increasing Amount of Unpaid, Isolating Work

In our urbanised society women are oppressed not only as unpaid house-workers and unpaid community workers but also because the economic, social and physical planning of our urban areas imposes on women a life style which necessitates extra unpaid, isolating work.

For example these three interrelated problems :-

1. Privatisation ... affecting health, transport, education, entertainment and even police services e.g. neighbourhood watch and protecting children in public places. (footnote 1).
2. Consumerism...resulting in labour saving devices needing more work, unnecessary and unsuitable possessions needing maintenance and the amount of paid work needed for such purchases. (footnote 2).
3. Urban sprawl ... resulting in chauffeuring, garden upkeep, inappropriate design of dwellings, suburban isolation and in addition the high cost of infra structure reducing services generally. (footnote 3).

These are mainly problems in the sphere of "collective consumption". They affect women much more than men and they are too often bypassed as personal problems.

(Unpaid Work contd.)

### Better Human Relationships

For many years "Solving personal problems politically" has been one of the home spun Crow slogans and from this has followed all sorts of methods to involve people in collectives around the issue which affect their everyday lives. (footnote 4).

The Crow Collection Association has included the words "Planning for the 21st Century" as part of its letterhead. The future envisaged is based on better human relationships. These are spelt out in many of the Collection's documents, for example "Seeds for Change", "Less Energy with More Enjoyment" and other such publications. (footnote 5)

### Five Over-lapping Projects

The Association has a two and a half year plan for five overlapping projects. Each one has a time span of about 6 months. The first one is on the history of children's services, "Putting Magic in Lives of Children and Participation in the Lives of Their Parents". This will be starting in a few months time. It will lay the basis for the second project which is planned to begin in early 1992.

The second project has the long, but descriptive title of "Women Who held the Sign Post at the Turning Points in Children's Services".

Part of this project will involve groups of people in studying the lives of about 30 women who initiated services which served the needs of children and their parents (footnote 6).

### Social Wage and Collective Consumption.

The seeds of a third project would be sown by the first two. This third project could be more directly concerned with the economic costs of our urban infra structure (social and physical). A title such as "Collective Consumption, Common Grounds and Global Commons" may be appropriate.

Campaigns for the "social wage" go only part way to meeting our needs as collective consumers and are very much related to male bread winners.

The inclusion of the words "common ground" and "global commons" connect our urban life-style to the world wide issues of saving the world from the squandering of its finite resources.

### Value Judgements

Some of the value judgements on which the projects are based include :-

1. advocating human services which will reduce the unpaid work of women as housekeepers.
2. recognising the unpaid work in community organisations.
3. considering how neighbourhoods could be planned to reduce unpaid work and reduce isolation in the home.

(Unpaid Work contd.)

4. involving groups of people in valuing their own time and their creative community skills
5. developing new ways of people gathering together to solve common problems
6. initiating processes which would develop on-going networks between organisations with common aims.

#### Aims and Processes

The main aim of the projects is to plan for a better, more human future. The processes used to do this are part of the plan ... in actual practice, changing human relationships and thus making a better future more possible. Thus projects would aim at finding out :-

1. how needs and abilities are changing
2. how to change the ability of people and services to meet changing needs
3. what are new ways of meeting old needs
4. how to use past experiences to give people confidence to participate in community movements and
5. how to use words and phrases to describe the better human relationships which can be developed in the 21st century.

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#### Footnotes

1. Quote from "Plan for Melbourne (Part 1) by Ruth and Maurie Crow 1969.  
"The trend of modern capitalist society is to encourage each family, even each person to live as isolated individuals, each buying from private enterprise a house, a car, T.V. entertainment, a boat, a caravan and so on".
2. Quote from an article on "Women and Suburbia" by Ruth Crow 1976 :-  
"The word consumerism has been coined to describe the phenomenon of conspicuous waste being made possible through sophisticated advertising and modern technology. The housewife in the suburbs is the main target.....consumerist satisfactions are a pale substitutes for the avenues of self-fulfilment forcibly excluded from his/her life."
3. Quote from an article on "Mobile Privatism and Convivial Community" by Maurie Crow 1976 :-  
"There are two barriers to access by women, children, adolescents and elderly people to the wider world which need to be overcome.  
a) the segregation, stratification and institutionalisation of society and  
b) practical accessibility due to land-use and transport design."

(Unpaid Work contd)

4. Quote from a Community Child Care Information Paper by Ruth Crow, 1976.  
"A Collective means a team of people, for which, since there is a common purpose there begins to develop a spirit of each contributing as best he or she can, some with one kind of skill, others with different skills, but all with a quickening appreciation of each other, all teaching and learning from each other, all developing a greater awareness and communication of common aims.....

"An essential feature of collectives corresponds with what has been recognised as the socialist ethos of 'from each according to his/her ability to each according to need'. The ability to form collectives often lies dormant unless people are given a vision of how they can take part in shaping the future."

5. Quote from "Citizens Action Plan for North and West Melbourne", 1973 (this value judgement was agreed to at a meeting of about 100 people).  
"What really matters the North Melbourne Association believes, are human values, not material wealth, nor status, nor freedom at the expense of others; but a life that sees social values as distinct from economic wealth as the prime objectives."

6. Title of a submission by Ruth and Maurie Crow to the Victorian Government Consultation on preschool Child Development, 1972  
"Centres for Young Children (which also serve the needs of their parents."

This title was a challenge to the traditional preschool organisations which strongly held that "the child's needs are paramount" and thus completely ignored the needs of parents for a variety of services.

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Some Thoughts About Retirement Units

By the year 2000 11.7 % of the Australian population will be over 65 and a very high proportion of this percentage will be women. The following information has been compiled from discussions with women living in some of the "retirement villages" in Victoria.

The immediate threshold of a dwelling... the sense of entering your own space.... is of considerable importance to human beings. Not only to the person dwelling in a particular home but to passers-by and to visitors.... the community... it provides an opportunity to unconsciously learn something about the dweller without entering the dwelling etc..... this is definitely missing in some retirement villages.

Most people take it for granted that they have a street number, a letter-box and some way of identifying their home entrance...an interface between the home and the community. For some people who are living in retirement units it is taken for granted that they don't need such amenities.

(Life in a 'Retirement Village')

The recent experience of leaving her family home to live in a retirement village prompted one woman to reflect on the anguish and sweetness of family life. She referred to a quote from Willa Catha, the American writer who said that her favourite novels were about ...

"The many kinds of personal relationships which exist in the every-day 'happy family' who were merely going on living their daily lives, with no crisis or shocks or bewildering complications to try them. Yet every individual in that household, even the children, are clinging passionately to his or her individual soul, is in terror of losing it in the general family flavour....

"One realises that even in harmonious families there is this double life; the group life which is the one we can observe in our neighbours' household, and underneath another - secret and passionate and intense - which is the real, life which stamps the faces and gives character to the voices of our friends.

"One realises that human relationships are the tragic necessity of human life, that they can never be wholly satisfactory., that every ego is half the time greedily seeking them and half the time pulling away from them. In those simple relationships of loving husband and wife, affectionate sisters, children and grandparents there are innumerable shades of sweetness and anguish which make up the pattern of our lives day by day."

The human relationships in a retirement village can reduce the opportunities for anguish and replace them with an overdose of superficial caring. There is a loss of opportunities for anguish and thus a loss of compassion

There is a tendency in some retirement villages for the staff to develop relationships with the residents which are based on ostentatious caring and for this to be substituted for compassion.

Compassion is inextricably tied up with sweetness and anguish and this pretentious caring destroys the ability of residents to deal with their own feelings in their own way.

The current debate on the rights of elderly people in sexual relationships needs to be broadened to include a wide range of relationships between kith and kin of all ages.... children, grandparents, sisters, brother and intimate friends.

To develop and maintain intimate relationships requires a feeling of unending time and overnight sleeping can greatly contribute to this feeling. Overnight guests are not allowed in some retirement villages.

The provision of a 'guest room' in some retirement villages is an improvement on a complete ban of guests but usually the booking arrangements reduce the opportunity for spontaneity in inviting a guest to stay overnight and the impersonal motel style room lacks the homely welcome which is so important in family relationships.

(Life in a 'Retirement Village')

Being a host/hostess to a person needing intimacy has its own intrinsic importance which is lost if the friend/ relation stays overnight in some dwelling place which is not part of the private home of the host/ hostess.

The loss of the family home as a place of intimacy can mean that a person living in a retirement village has less opportunity to share the family's anguish and sweetness.

Sometimes ageing is welcomed as a period without anguish - "I just can't do anything about them now. I'm too old to be worried." This attitude is alright if it is freely chosen, but when the physical conditions of your dwelling-place encourage such rationalisation; then ageing is accelerated.

Two re-occurring phrases used in the discussions emphasise the way some residents feel about such institutionalised caring :-

"They do so much for us." This was usually said in a purring tone and ended all conversation about relationships between residents and staff.

"Just because we are old they think we are silly." This was said with indignation and followed by a lowering of the voice.

About thirty years ago when retirement villages were first established there was a pre-occupation with teaching cleanliness to welfare recipients. There are several examples of this in the rules that apply to some of the "homes" for elderly people.

This pre-occupation with hygiene can result in the acoustics of the building being very unsuitable. In the passage-ways and recreation areas of some retirement villages the hard surfaces of the polished floors, the vinyl covered furniture and the lack of soft-furnishings mean that voices reverberate. This is especially trying to deaf people.

### "The Company of Strangers"

"Old Age with Optimism" was the apt title in the Melbourne Age's review of the Canadian film "The Company of Strangers".

In the film eight women - seven of them elderly - are stranded in the Quebec countryside after their bus breaks down.

"The details you learn about their lives are a kind of gift from the free conversation that occurs during the movie," the director of the film, Cynthia Scott, explains.

The film has been described as "utterly charming". "a film that portrays remarkable tenderness and toughness", "the effect is moving, though this is not time for tears; these ladies are still young in mind, game for whatever life throws them", "a refreshing, unusual and delightful film" and as "a gentle mosaic .. at once poignant, hilarious and optimistic

Don't miss out on seeing this film it is a poem which reveals the true strength and autonomy of ordinary elderly women.

Victoria University of Technology - Footscray Campus  
Urban Studies Unit and the Crow Collection Association (Incorp)

Research Officer (casual)

Applicants for this position will be expected to assist members of the Association with an interactive, community based history of children's services in the Western Region, using material from the Collection. This project is being funded by the Reichstein Foundation. The position involves one and half days a week for five months.

1. The research officer will be responsible to the Secretary of the Crow Collection Association, for the time being, within the Urban Studies Unit of the Humanities Department.
2. The research officer will work on the Western Region Children's Services history project (the Reichstein project) managed by the committee of the Crow Collection Association which includes the Chief Librarian of the Victoria University of Technology - Footscray Campus or her nominee.
3. The Research officer will assist in the production and distribution of appropriate material from the Crow Collection for designated Western Region groups.
4. The research officer will work with designated Western Region groups in preparing research outcomes appropriate to their needs, within the scope of the project funding, including the display of material which will mark the end of the project.

Qualifications : Applicants should have a record of community development experience, an interest in and knowledge of children's services in the Western Region and an ability to relate the past to current issues.

Salary : \$24.197 - \$27, 995 pro rata.

Date of commencement is negotiable from August 1st, 1991.

Enquiries Mrs Sheila Byard, Hon. secretary Crow Collection Association Incorporated, Tele 688.4754 or 688 4446.

Applications close : Friday 19th July 1991.

H404

Please forward applications with resume quoting vacancy number.....to staffing office, Human Resources, Victorian University of Technology - Footscray Campus, PO Box 64, Footscray Victoria 3011.

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The Urban Studies Unit in the Humanities Department was established in 1981 in order to facilitate and co-ordinate research and consultancy on urban and regional issues especially related to the built environment. Since the coming of the Crow Collection to the Victoria University of Technology - Footscray Campus the Unit shared with the Institute Library the auspicing of the Crow Collection Association (incorporated). The CCA comprises members of the various campuses of the VUT, other tertiary institutions and community organisations. Its objects are to assist to make the Collection useful to the wider community.

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Bits and Pieces

Chemical Resource Kit

Hazmag (Hazardous Material Action Group) is an organisation which monitors pollution in Melbourne's western suburbs. It has recently produced a "Chemical Resource" kit in conjunction with West Theatre and the Western Region Health Centre. The kits cost \$30 plus \$6 postage. More information about the kits (which include a video) from Matt Ruchel, Hazmag, P O Box 27 Yarraville 3013, phone 03.376.6469.

Defend and Create... the Future of the Social and Community Sector

The Victorian Council of Social Services and community organisations are holding a seminar which will "take stock of the gains made, those we are yet to achieve and to develop a sense of unity and shared vision". This seminar is to be held on July 30 and 31st. Speakers include Jean McCaughey, Eva Cox, Wendy Weeks, Gerry Gill, Rob Hudson, Bishop Challen, Kate Gilmour, Fiona Smith and Sr Veronica Brady and others.

New Housing Experiment in Sunshine

"Some idea of what our future suburbs may look like will be gained from Grantham Green display village when it opens at the end of the month. This innovative venture is to be found, surprisingly enough, in the depths of St Albans East.... The project meets most of the objectives of the new Victorian Code which are primarily to conserve land and infrastructure costs and contain suburban sprawl...." quotes from an article by John Stevens in the "Age" July 6th.

Docklands Farce Confirmed

Quote from "Inner Urban News, July 1991 :- "Material obtained by us under FOI confirms that the Minister for Major Projects, Jim Kennan, completely ignored advice given to him by his own Docklands Consultation Steering Group over the structure and powers of the new Docklands Authority. Even the Steering Group was kept in the dark about the Government's plan to introduce legislation to parliament to make significant amendments to the draft bill, before the consultation process had even finished. (Copies of the IMRA press release and FOI material are available, phone 03.427,9852)

Lack of Economic Independence

In the "Weekend Australian" June 22/23 Prof. Ian Lowe (Director of Science Policy Research Centre, Griffith University) wrote :- "The most serious problem at the moment is probably our lack of economic independence. The level of foreign ownership and control of productive areas of the economy makes it hard for us to even direct our own economy, let alone reap the benefits of local wealth generation."

Urban and Regional Plans .. A Viewpoint

On the library shelves at the Footscray Campus of the Victoria University of Technology there are eight bound volumes of documents used and/or written by R.A. (Dick) Arnott. Mr Arnott was a senior research officer for the Victorian Town and Country Planning Board. He has called his documents "A Viewpoint".

Left Book Club

In the Humanities Department's Resource Centre at the Footscray Campus of the Victorian University of Technology there is a fairly comprehensive set of Left Book Club publications from the 1930s.