

CLEAN-AIR CLARION

The periodical newsletter of the Non Smokers' Rights Movement.
From the President.

I extend a warm welcome to all new members and prospective members of our movement. A great deal has been achieved since our inception in August, and a great deal more can be achieved next year by social, legal, and political action to defend our fundamental right to breathe clean air in all public places. Even the most dedicated committee, however, will be limited in its activities and achievements, unless it is given both financial and moral support by a wide cross-section of the community. So it is vitally important that we continue to grow in numbers and that more of our members become actively involved. Remember that we represent 70% of the Australian people, and are fighting for their rights.

Our draft constitution is now in preparation and we will be holding meetings in the New Year to adopt it and to plan our activities for 1978.

Meanwhile, if you have any ideas or suggestions or can help in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthier, more smoke free New Year.

WANTED ... FUNDS ... We have incurred expenses of \$700 for advertising and associated activities (re: Federal election), and for the printing of our very own stickers and badges... Don't be inhibited from sending as little as you like, or as much as we need.

WANTED ... PERSON-POWER ... anyone with typing attributes for help for Newsletter and/or other correspondence. Must be willing to travel to and from headquarters.

WANTED ... OFFICE EQUIPMENT ... anything we may be able to use. Any enquiries.. Secretary phone no. 660.2694.

ON THE BUSES

One of our members recently travelled interstate by coach and suffered the inevitable distress caused by the mindless and heartless tobacco burners travelling with her.

Although smoking is now banned on Sydney's public transport, it is still permitted on private bus lines.

We have contacted two major coach operators : Pioneer and Greyhound, to find out what provision they make for non-smokers. Pioneer advised us that all seats on the left hand side of their coaches are now reserved for non-smokers.

In Greyhound coaches, the front eight rows of seats on the left hand side are reserved for non-smokers.

The inadequacy of such provisions is obvious to anyone who has sat in such non-smoking areas. In reality they may as well not exist, as the bus quickly fills up with a uniform grey cloud.

The idiocy of providing a non-smoking area at the front of the bus is highlighted by the fact that the drivers of both lines are permitted to smoke !

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE... Write to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Cox, requesting that smoking be banned on private bus lines. Write to your own local bus line requesting that smoking be banned.

Write to the airlines - the situation there is identical.
Do it now !

RESTAURANTS

The Restaurant & Catering Trades organisation was presented with a submission from our movement, asking that non-smokers be considered by the restaurant and catering fraternity, as well as publishing our letter, the editor also produced his own comments under the heading "Where there is Smoke there is Trouble."

We hope that this will create some interest within the trade, and that there will be follow-ups as a result. Members should start to request non-smoking sections when visiting restaurants, and bring the plight of the non-smoker to the attention of eateries! In time, if sufficient demand is seen as existing, we may be taken seriously. We also suggest that if a restaurant informs you that they do not have a non-smoking section, that you tell them you will eat elsewhere. This may help things along a bit.....

OVERSEAS NEWS

Members may be interested in the terms of the Norwegian Tobacco Act of 1973 which appears to have had effect since being implemented:

1. A total ban on all advertising of tobacco products; exceptions are signboards of nominal size outside tobacco shops, whose only function is to provide information that tobacco is for sale. The ban does include indirect advertising; tobacco products must not be included in the advertising of other goods and services.

(Have you noticed the continuation of corporate advertising by companies in Australia such as Benson and Hedges, Dunhill, etc, that promotes the company, eg House of Dunhill ads, but doesn't make specific reference to their cigarettes? It is legal here. See our later item about Marlboro).

2. An obligation to label all packets with a symbol and a text pointing out the health dangers connected with cigarette smoking. The text used has been: "Warning from the Directorate of Public Health: Daily cigarette smoking endangers health. It may lead to serious diseases, including lung cancer and coronary heart disease. The risk increases with consumption and is greater when smoking begins at an early age. Giving up smoking reduces the risk of disease."

A new system with 16 different texts is operating today - to cover all aspects of smoking. Initiatives are also being taken to include a symbol, which will in itself become a message to the public.

3. Prohibition against selling or handing over of tobacco products to persons under 16 years of age.

It is clear that governments must accept responsibility for making the public aware of the health risks involved in smoking; and that such activities need to be sustained and revised; and not allowed to simply become another part of the scenery. Countries like Norway and France have become very active at government levels; and we would hope that the Australian government will follow suit. The World Health Organisation have stated that cigarette smoking has the questionable honour of being the greatest health threat to modern man.

There remain many anomalies in the advertising of tobacco. Originally the current tennis series was titled the "NSW Open Tennis Tournament" but it slyly changed into the "Marlboro NSW Open Tennis Tournament". We hear the "Australian Open" is about to undergo a name change. Guess what??? What next!!!

Our NSRM investigator estimated that 600-700 signs for Marlboro have been posted around White City. Remember, smoking will help you become a better sportsman, or woman.

A letter was recieved from Dr Gwyn Howells, the Director-General of Health in response to our letter to him. He has given support to the movement, and points out a number of interesting things.

He has mentioned the dangers of cigarette smoking in the introduction of his 1974-5 annual report. In the 1974 Health Ministers' Conference, a Working Party was formed to deal with the tobacco manufacturers to formulate an advertising code for media other than television and radio.

He also reports that moves are afoot to discourage smoking in Commonwealth Government occupied buildings and that it has been banned in lifts of the Central Office buildings.

He has received strong representation from people concerned about the sponsorship of sporting events by tobacco companies, and the introduction of corporate advertising. A meeting was planned with the Minister for Post and Telecommunications, the Director of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria and the Minister for Health to discuss these matters, but the election has intervened.

Let's hope that this gentleman pursues these matters further and we are able to see tangible results of government measures.

FREE GOVERNMENT CIGARETTE?

It seems that the Minister for Youth and Ethnic Affairs, Mr Rex Jackson thinks that cigarettes ought to be promoted. We have discovered that the state government gives free cigarettes to persons resident in such places as mental institutions, homes, jails, etc. This seems to be a logical contradiction: if these folk are being retained in these aforementioned institutions for purposes of rehabilitation, the encouragement of smoking can hardly fall into the category of self-improvement, or are we just bias? Mr Jackson?

GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST

One of our members, freelance journalist Elwyn Morris, will be heard on the ABC on Saturday 17th at 12.40 pm. Robin Williams of the Science Show will be presenting the facts about our movement (salute when you say that) on 2FC, and talking about the effects of tobacco on the non-smoker.

POISON A CHILD TODAY

The only children's hospital in Sydney, The Campordown Children's Hospital has no policy of non-smoking in the Outpatients section. Our ever-zealous representatives spoke with the hospital administration and got no-where. Parents were seen nursing sick children with fag in mouth. A nursing authority stated that about 75% of the children admitted are suffering from respiratory ailments. Researchers have found that children from homes where parents smoke suffer higher incidences of respiratory ailments.

We were allowed to put up signs and stickers, but we were told that these were defaced or removed... mainly by staff. We are now negotiating with government authorities about the whole matter. Surely hospitals of all places could set an example!

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

From the 250 candidates contacted, we received 32 replies and it appears that a number of these candidates have been elected. Contact will be made with these members as soon as practicable. These contacts together with the important council contacts will help us achieve our rights.

N.S.R.M. STICKERS (IN VINYL)

NO BUTTS...NON SMOKERS DO HAVE RIGHTS, CANCER CURES SMOKING, SMOKING IS A DYING HABIT...25 cents each plus postage of \$1 for 3 (postage inc). BADGES I LIKE CLEAN AIR, YOUR SMOKING IS HAZARDOUS TO MY HEALTH...25 cents each plus postage.

NEXT MEETING

Environment Centre, 399 Pitt St., Sydney on Monday 23rd January, 6.30pm.
The Non Smokers' Rights Movement can be contacted at P.O. Box 265 Broadway, 2007.