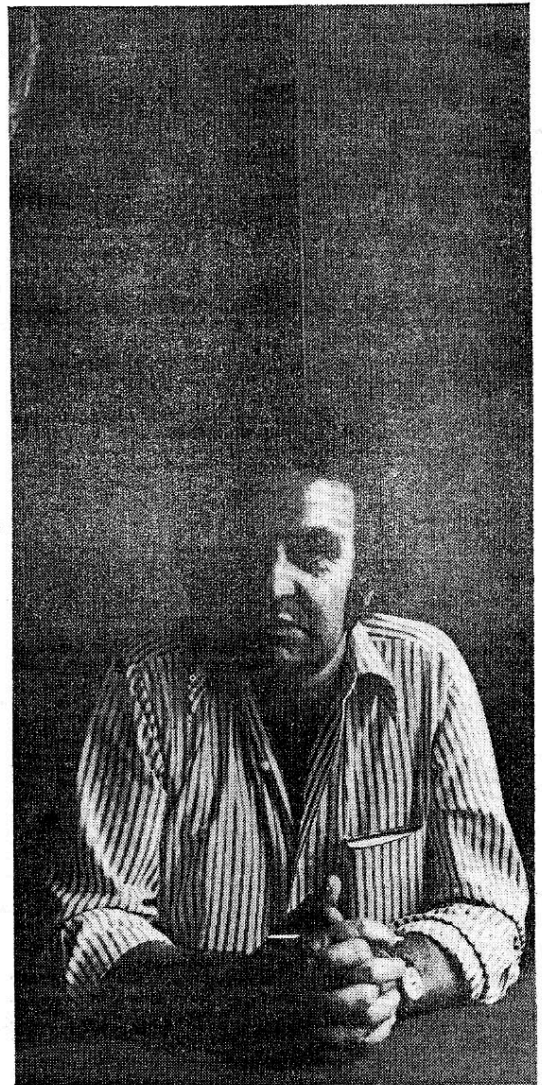


NOSTALGIA



THE GREEN BAN PEOPLE

In the beginning were the Hunters' Hill matrons (top left). They wanted to preserve an area of natural bushland called Kelly's Bush, and they were disgusted that the NSW Liberal Government would not help them. So they asked the NSW Builders Labourers' Federation to refuse all work on the bushland.

And that was the start of a uniquely Australian phenomenon — the green bans. A more unlikely combination could hardly be envisaged: Jack Munday (top right), the communist secretary of the NSW Builders Labourers, and the group he called "the upper middle class morning tea matrons."

But the success of the Kelly's Bush Battlers sparked residents of widely different backgrounds to seek the help of the Builders Labourers.

Mick Fowler (bottom left) was a long-term resident of Victoria Street, Kings Cross. The street was sold for redevelopment and Mick was under pressure to leave his home.

The Builders Labourers put a green ban on the street.

The NSW Housing Commission wanted to put up multi-storey flats in the inner Sydney suburb of Waterloo. Residents like Ina Carroll (bottom right) were proud of their homes with their ducks on the wall. The Builders Labourers banned work on Waterloo.

Now the Australian Conservation Foundation has published a lavish tribute to the green bans — the first time in the world that residents and unionists have successfully combined to stop the destruction of their way of life. The text, by Sydney journalist Peter Manning, traces the history of the major bans.

But the most fascinating aspect of the book is the stark photography by a young Hobart woman, Marion Hardman. We reprint on this page four of her photographs of the green ban people.

(Green Bans, by Peter Manning and Marion Hardman, published by the Australian Conservation Foundation, \$7).

