



NEW SOUTH WALES  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

NAPAWI

NEWS RELEASE

October 3, 1986

GAZETTAL OF BUDDEROO NATIONAL PARK  
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The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Bob Carr, today announced the gazettal of the Budderoo National Park near Kiama.

Mr. Carr also announced that there would be a joint contribution of over \$1/2 million by the Federal and State Governments for immediate commencement of works in the new park.

He said the money from the Federal Government had been made available through the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Mr. Barry Cohen, as part of the National Rainforest Conservation Programme.

"The 5,700 hectare Budderoo National Park incorporates the popular rainforest section of Minnamurra Falls.

"The park extends from the Minnamurra Falls area in the north, to Carrington Falls in the west and down to the southern escarpment of the Budderoo Plateau, overlooking the Kangaroo Valley.

"The Minnamurra Falls area provides the public with easy access to viewing rainforest remnants including large stands

of the famous red cedar.

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"The park also provides sanctuary for the ground parrot and eastern bristlebird. These species are listed as rare and endangered under the National Parks and Wildlife Act."

Mr. Carr said Budderoo National Park encompassed 20 kilometres of the Illawara escarpment. "This escarpment supports remnant rainforest areas and a number of rainforest species reach their southern boundary here.

"Budderoo National Park, when added to other local National Parks and Wildlife Service areas, now protects about 40% of the Illawarra escarpment from Wollongong to Ulladulla."

Mr. Carr said the Budderoo plateau is covered mostly by open eucalypt forest and heathland. Wildlife in the area included swamp wallabies, wombats, long-nosed bandicoots, long-nosed potoroos, lyre-birds and eastern whipbirds.

"Until today Kiama Council administered and maintained the Minnamurra Falls area. I commend the Council for its trusteeship, commitment and far-sightedness in safeguarding

this area for the enjoyment of future generations.

"Kiama Council always recognised that the Minnamurra rainforest is everyone's responsibility, not just the ratepayers of Kiama.

"That is why this Government agreed not only to assume responsibility for this area, but to provide the necessary funds and staff to maintain the rainforest."

At Minnamurra Falls today Mr. Carr announced that due to the importance of this area to the people of Australia the Federal Government from the National Rainforest Conservation Programme had given \$170,000 for a Minnamurra Rainforest Centre and the upgrading of facilities in the Minnamurra Falls section of the park.

"The National Parks and Wildlife Service also has committed \$400,000 for works in Budderoo National Park - with about \$100,000 being earmarked for facilities at Minnamurra Falls."

"This gives a grand total of over \$1/2 million, or about \$570,000, to be spent in Budderoo National Park this financial year on the Rainforest Centre with an interpretive display, rainforest regeneration, upgrading of existing walking tracks throughout the park, leaflets on the Minnamurra rainforest and on the park generally."

Media enquiries: Berkeley Wiles (02) 237 6925

4-22.

Middle Pocket Bryants land negot.  
18 portions

Focal Peak:

Cram Land → State Forests

have n'ed. → follow up to Ordance work

Resource info on data base → computer based system  
at Alstonville

Forestry Commission

Brief for a consultant to be advertised Big Scrub,  
Boatharbour - transfer

SEPP

maps to be done:

- advice to Councils + staff
- " " landholders
- immediate review clause

(02) 237 6814. Office  
407 1632. home

Tuesday pm

# Budderoo National Park

National Parks  
& Wildlife Service

Information Sheet No. 1

## Access and Facilities

Budderoo National Park is readily accessible from either the coast (Kiama) or from the tablelands (Robertson - Moss Vale). As the park includes several long established public use areas, facilities are available in those sections. Additional facilities will be installed as management planning for the park progresses.

### Minnamurra Falls

Facilities: Rainforest walks, with waterfall, picnic facilities, kiosk.

Access: From Kiama, take the Jamberoo Road and then follow signposting to Minnamurra Falls. Distance is about 13 kilometres from Kiama. An entrance fee is charged.

### Jamberoo - Robertson Road

The Jamberoo - Robertson road traverses Budderoo National Park for a distance of some 5 kilometres. Motorists using this road will see the extensive treeless sedgelands and heathlands which characterise much of the plateau surface of Budderoo National Park and the adjoining Barren Grounds Nature Reserve.

As the road approaches the eastern (Kiama) edge of the Budderoo Plateau, there are glimpses of the coastal plain and foothills hundreds of metres below.

A small parking area 50 metres off the eastern side of the road provides access to an excellent lookout on the cliff-top.

### Carrington Falls

Facilities: Prior to incorporation into the Budderoo National Park, Carrington Falls was managed by a trust of local residents. With limited funds and much voluntary work the trust has provided walking tracks, extensive safety rails, lookouts, toilets and picnic areas.

Several lookouts provide excellent views of the spectacular 50 metre high Carrington Falls on the Kangaroo River.

# Budderoo National Park

## Access:

For access, turn-off the Jamberoo - Robertson Road about 8 kilometres east of Robertson where the access road is signposted. Follow the unsealed road to a Y section. The right fork takes you to one of the picnic areas. If you take the left fork, follow it until it crosses the river and take the right turn to another picnic area (Thomas's Place) with connecting walking trails to a series of lookouts.

## Gerringong Falls

No facilities.

Due to irresponsible use of off road vehicles, the track to Gerringong Falls is badly damaged and is not accessible to conventional vehicles. The off-road use of vehicles in Budderoo National Park is illegal.

## Barren Grounds Bird Observatory

Although just outside the park, the Bird Observatory in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve is accessible off the Jamberoo - Robertson road adjacent to Budderoo National Park. From Jamberoo, turn left at the signpost at the top of Jamberoo Pass.

## Fire Management

In the past Budderoo Plateau has experienced a high incidence of fires which have mainly come from neighbouring properties. The Service's policy will be to reduce the number of wild fires. To achieve this the Service will liaise with property owners and bush fire control authorities to develop a co-operative prescribed burning and track maintenance programme which will create buffer strips between developed (high risk) areas and the Park.

## Enquiries:

Any enquiries regarding the park should be directed to:

National Parks & Wildlife Service  
Superintendent  
Nowra District  
1st Floor  
Housing Commission Building  
24 Berry Street  
P.O. Box 707  
NOWRA 2540

PHONE: (044) 219969

# Budderoo National Park

National Parks  
& Wildlife Service

## Information Sheet No. 2

### Land Purchase and Reservation

#### 1. Initial Reservation

The initial reservation of Budderoo National Park comprises:

- available vacant Crown land
- reserved Crown land (the greater part of Carrington Falls Reserve and Minnamurra Falls Reserve)
- freehold land purchased by negotiation by National Parks & Wildlife Service. (Pacific City lands on plateau)

#### 2. Permissive Occupancies

Reservation as national park will not immediately affect the continuation of any Permissive Occupancies. The policy of the National Parks & Wildlife Service is to eliminate the grazing of domestic stock on national parks. Any Permissive Occupancies for grazing in existence at the date of reservation of the national park will be permitted to continue in co-operation with the holder until arrangements can be made to remove stock.

#### 3. Policy on In-holdings

The initial reservation of Budderoo National Park will surround several small freehold properties.

In the case of the undeveloped freehold inholding below Carrington Falls (portion 156 Parish Wallaya) the Service would propose to acquire the property by negotiation. The owners are in contact with the Service.

In the case of the two developed in-holdings on the Budderoo Track, there are no current proposals by the Service to acquire these lands. These properties will continue to enjoy access rights along the Budderoo Track.

## Budderoo National Park

National Parks  
& Wildlife Service



### 4. Possible future land purchases

Whilst there are no current proposals for acquisition of freehold lands on the escarpment, the Service would be interested in considering any offers of sale for undeveloped land on the immediate eastern or southern escarpment of the Budderoo. Purchase of any freehold land for inclusion in the park will be by way of negotiation based on current market value as assessed by a qualified valuer.

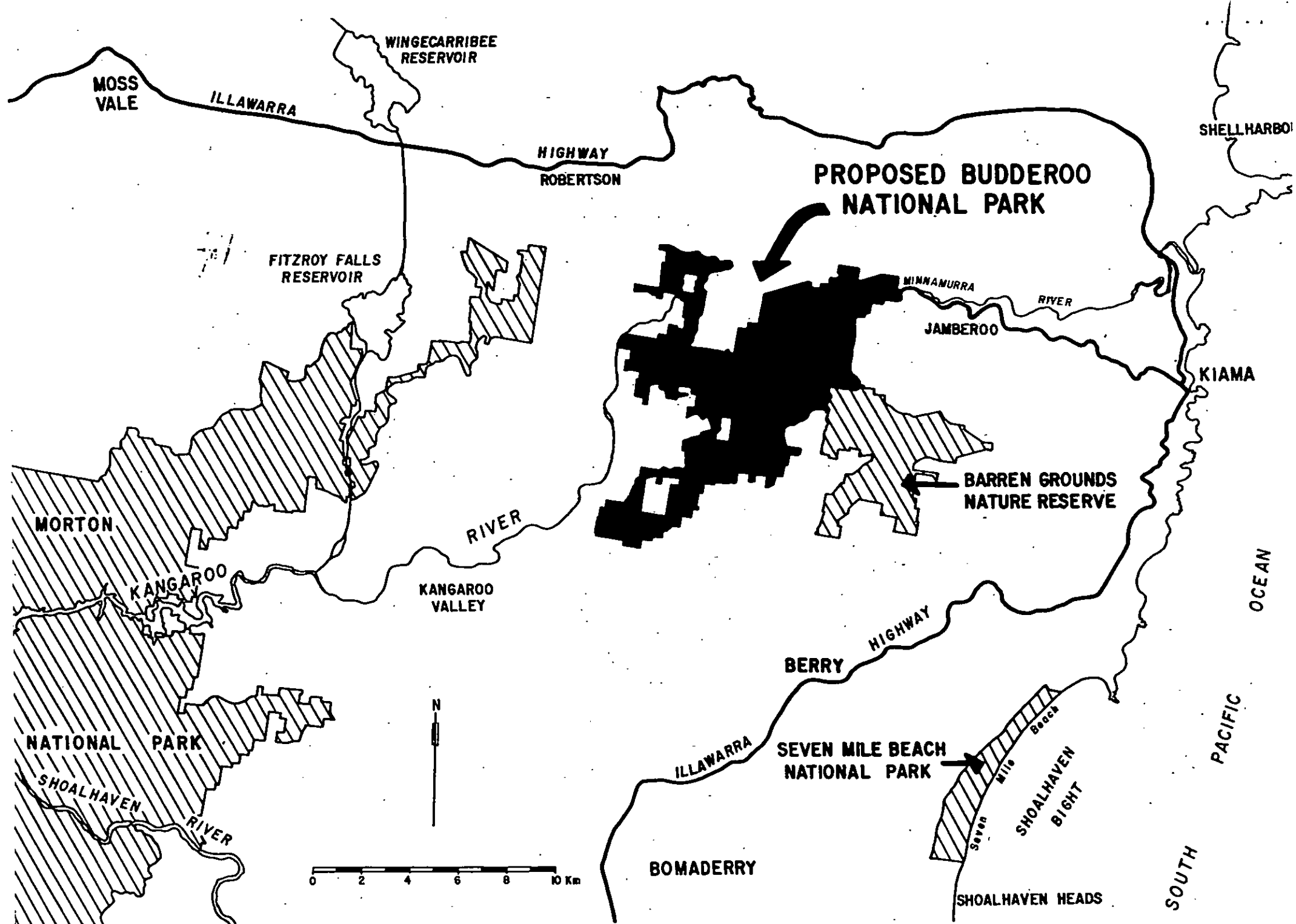
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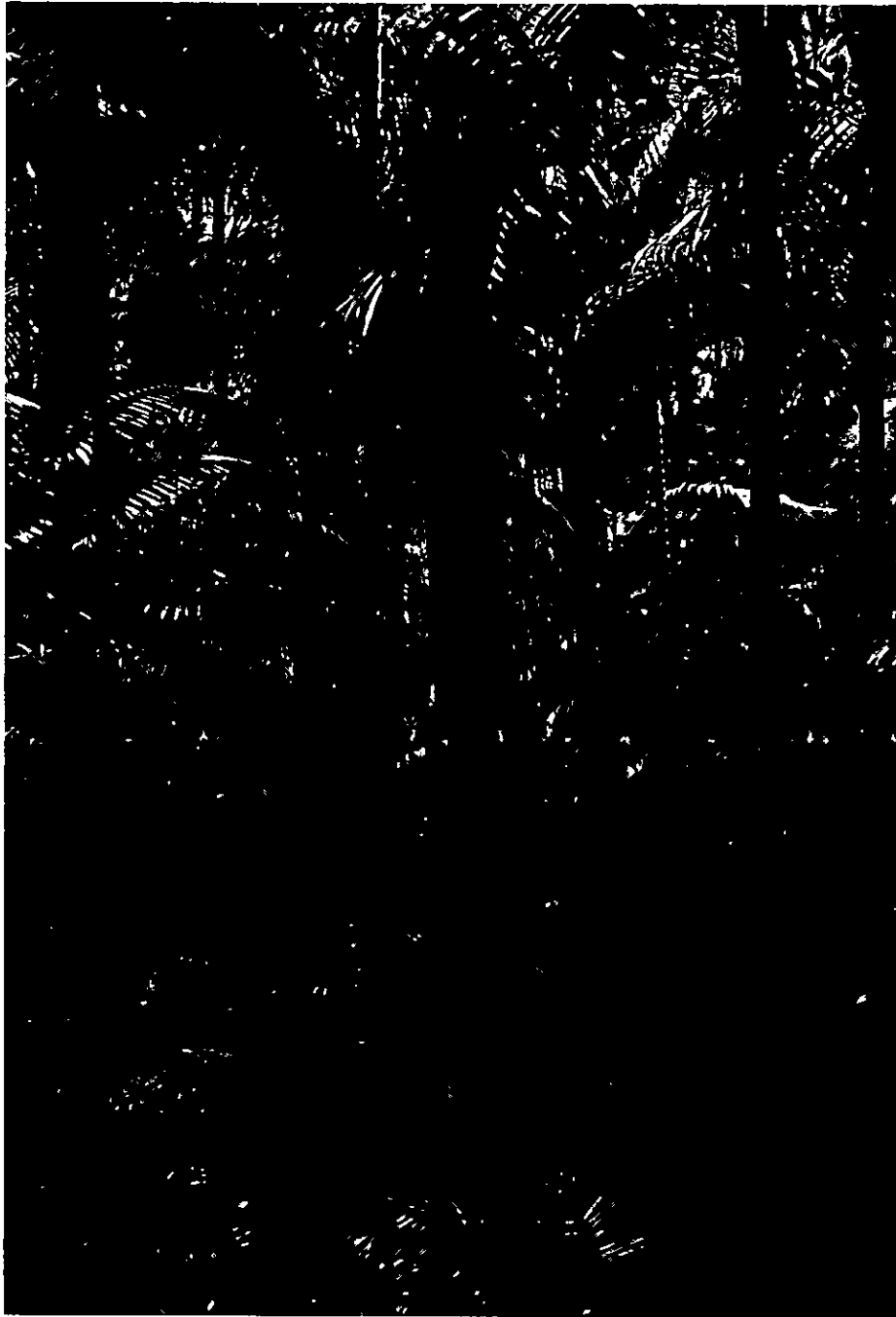
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# ***RAINFORESTS . . . .***



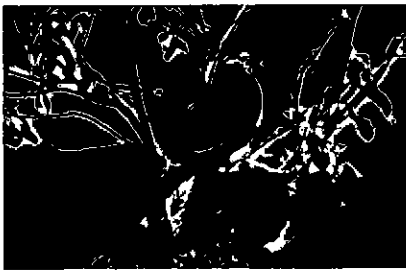
Palm Forest

N.S.W. N.P.W.S.

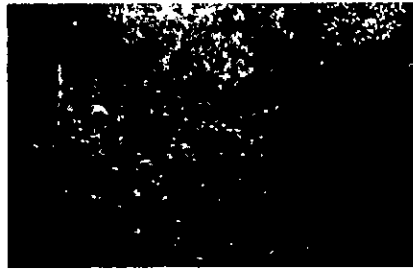
***WORTH SAVING!***

**National Rainforest Conservation Program**

New South Wales



Topknot Pigeon



Rainforest Rescue



Rare Rainforest Seedlings

S. Horton

## NEW SOUTH WALES RAINFORESTS

### HOW MUCH IS THERE?

In New South Wales, only ¼ (or 250,000 hectares) of the rainforests that were here when European settlement began, remain.

### WHAT TYPES?

On the east coast you will find sub-tropical rainforests, warm temperate rainforest, cool temperate rainforest, dry rainforest, isolated patches of littoral rainforest (rainforest by the sea), and interesting combinations.

### HOW IMPORTANT ARE THEY?

Very. Sixteen of N.S.W.'s Rainforest Parks became a World Heritage area in 1986.

The sub-tropical rainforests in this State were once the most extensive in the world.

The maze of rainforest types is unique.

N.S.W.'s rainforests are important to science, to conservation and to today's society.

## SAVING THE RAINFORESTS!

### NATIONAL RAINFOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

#### WHAT IS IT?

A 3 year program to conserve Australian Rainforests. The program is funded jointly by the Commonwealth and State Governments.

#### HOW DID IT BEGIN?

In 1985, a Commonwealth Government Working Group examined policy options for rainforest conservation. Based on their recommendations, the Program began in 1986 after the Commonwealth Government provided \$22.25 million for conservation of Australian rainforests.

#### WHY?

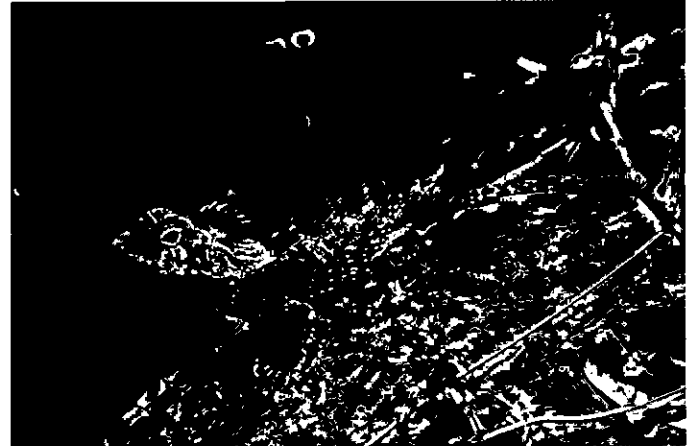
Rainforests are disappearing rapidly. In Australia, rainforests are a valuable but diminishing National asset.

Australian rainforests are important. They are unique and irreplaceable. They are worth saving.



Rose-crowned Fruit-dove

G. Thrello



Rainforest Dragon

M. Burnham

## N.S.W. PROGRAM — WHAT WE'RE ACHIEVING

The National Rainforest Conservation Program in this State has met the urgent need to rehabilitate disturbed rainforests and conserve additional important areas.

Many projects are being carried out under the Program. These projects are very varied. Most facets of rainforest ecology are being explored. All project results contribute to a pool of information which is used to improve conservation management of Rainforest Parks and increase community knowledge on rainforests.

The N.S.W. Program is funded jointly by the Commonwealth and N.S.W. State Governments. Projects are undertaken by the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forestry Commission of New South Wales.



Durroby

H. Nicholson



Rainforest Falls

G. Biddle



Fruit Bat

K. Parry-Jones

## CONSERVING MORE

Important areas of rainforest have been added to the World Heritage Parks and two new Nature Reserves have been created, protecting very rare plant species not previously conserved in existing reserves.

2, 5, 7, 9

## FINDING OUT WHAT THE PUBLIC WANT

Visitors in many areas have been surveyed to find out how they want the parks managed. The results are being combined with other information to develop a conservation based rainforest tourism strategy.

16, 17

## WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

We are learning a lot about our rainforests. Rare rainforest plants have been located and studied. Nursery propagation of rainforest plants has been successful. These are being used for rainforest rehabilitation. An arboretum of rare or uncommon rainforest frogs, lizards, birds and mammals have been identified. With the help of computer modelling, conservation strategies to protect the futures of these plants and animals are being devised, and priorities for acquisition defined. Why rainforest pigeons are decreasing in numbers is being researched, as is the interaction between rainforest remnants and fruit bats.

2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14

Sea Acres Rainforest Ecology Centre



N. Fenton

## MORE INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE

A lot of what we've learned is being made available to the public. Two books, Rainforest Ecology and Rainforest by the Sea (Management Guidelines for Littoral Rainforest) will soon be published. A Mobile Rainforest Heritage Display is travelling to shopping centres and schools.

A workshop, presenting what we've learned about rainforests and their special needs was conducted. The proceedings of this workshop will soon be published as a manual for rainforest rehabilitation.

Three Rainforest Ecology Centres are being built near important rainforests. These centres will present to the public much of what we've learnt, and aim to be major learning facilities for rainforests, prior to visiting the real thing. They will also display the soon to be completed Rainforest Video.

17, 19, 21, 28, 38



Washpool Walk

G. Biddle



Sea Acres Boardwalk

S. Phillips



Rainforest Regeneration

N.S.W. N.P.W.S.

## PEOPLE IN RAINFORESTS

People like walking in rainforests. Often though, ad hoc walking trails in rainforests can cause damage. By careful and sensitive placing of walks, the wonder of rainforests can be explored while at the same time protecting them. Some of these are boardwalks, rising to the canopy on stilts, others link creekside rainforest with resting and picnic sites or access lush mountains of rainforest. Many of the walks have illustrated information panels about rainforests.

2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 22  
23, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39



Rainforest Platform

G. Biddle

## REPAIRING THE PAST

Many small and fragile areas of rainforest have weeds and other problems. These areas are being rehabilitated by removing weeds and where necessary, planting local seedlings, erecting fences and interpretive signs. Damage to patches of vulnerable littoral rainforest (rainforest by the sea) is being repaired.

2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 18, 20, 26, 27, 31, 32, 37



Rainforest Display

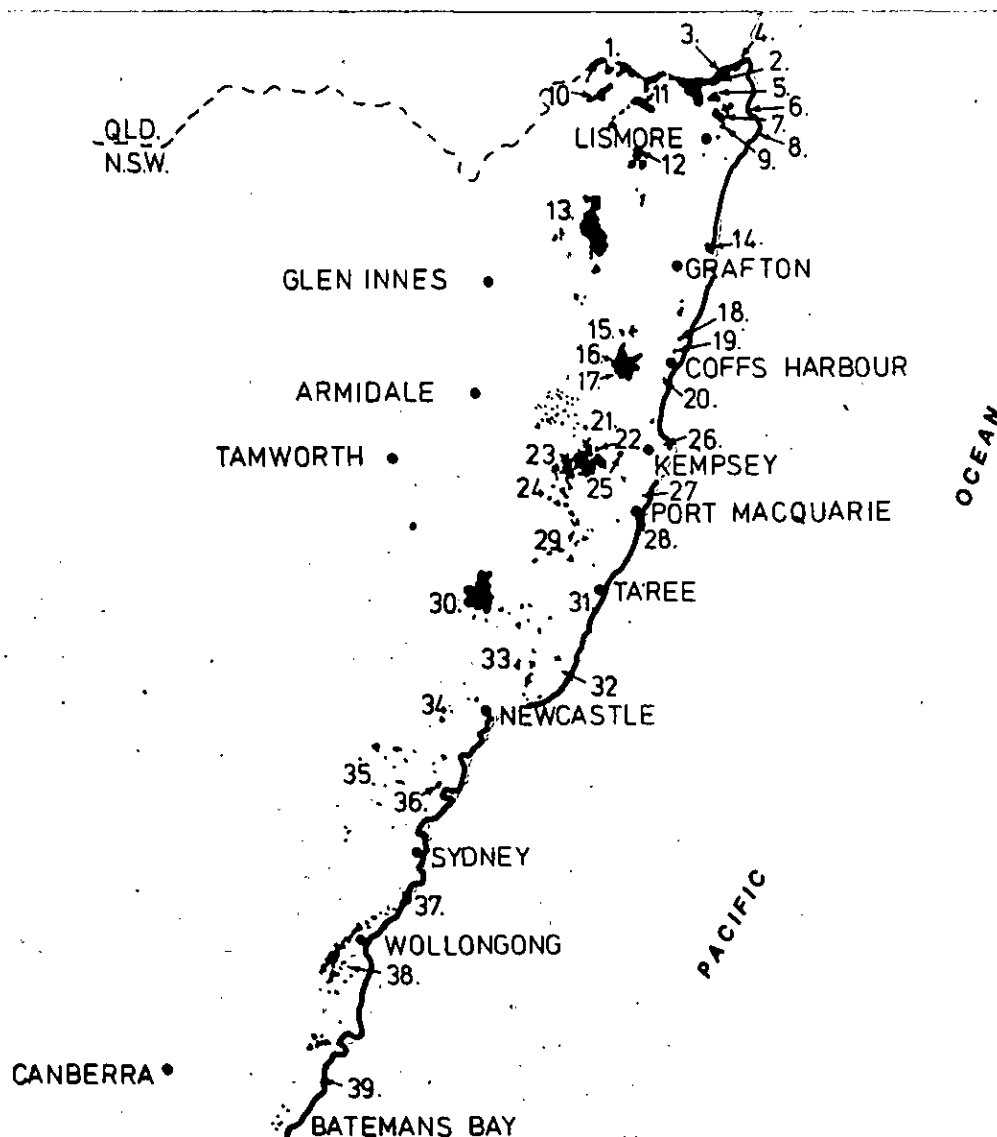
G. Biddle

## DIRECTING THE FUTURE

In three important areas, plant and animal resource information is being translated into management plans. These plans provide a focus for protection, and encourage individuals to participate in planning.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 23, 30

## Where the Work is happening



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Mt Nothofagus Flora Reserve           | 21. Kookaburra (Carrai State Forest)       |
| 2. Border Ranges National Park           | 22. Wilson River Flora Reserve             |
| 3. Limpinwood Nature Reserve             | 23. Werrikimbe National Park               |
| 4. Numinbah Nature Reserve               | 24. Mt Seaview Nature Reserve              |
| 5. Mt Warning National Park              | 25. Banda Banda Flora Reserve              |
| 6. Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve        | 26. Arakoon State Recreation Area          |
| 7. Nightcap National Park                | 27. Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve       |
| 8. Broken Head Nature Reserve            | 28. Sea Acres Nature Reserve               |
| 9. Big Scrub Fragments (Nature Reserves) | 29. Comboyne Fragments (Nature Reserves)   |
| 10. Tooloom Scrub Flora Reserve          | 30. Barrington Tops National Park          |
| 11. Murray Scrub Flora Reserve           | 31. Coocumbac Island Nature Reserve        |
| 12. Murrumbidgee Flora Reserve           | 32. Myall Lakes National Park              |
| 13. Washpool National Park               | 33. Bulandelah Fragments (State Forests)   |
| 14. Iluka Nature Reserve                 | 34. Gap Creek Flora Reserve                |
| 15. Mt Hyland Nature Reserve             | 35. Wollemi - Blue Mountains National Park |
| 16. New England National Park            | 36. Strickland State Forest                |
| 17. Dorrigo National Park                | 37. Royal National Park                    |
| 18. Woolgoolga Flora Reserve             | 38. Budderoo National Park                 |
| 19. Bruxner Park Flora Reserve           | 39. Murrumbidgee National Park             |
| 20. Bundagen Flora Reserve               | ■ Rainforest patches in N.S.W.             |

 World Heritage Park



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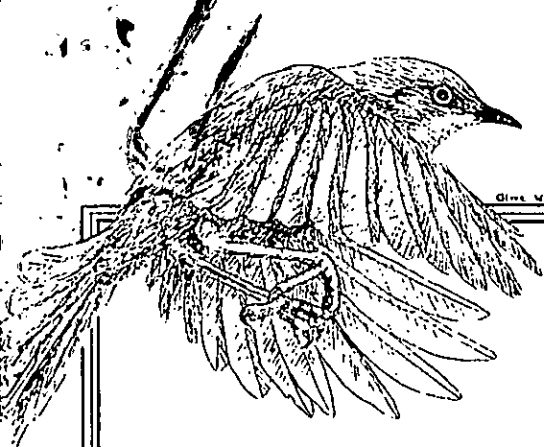
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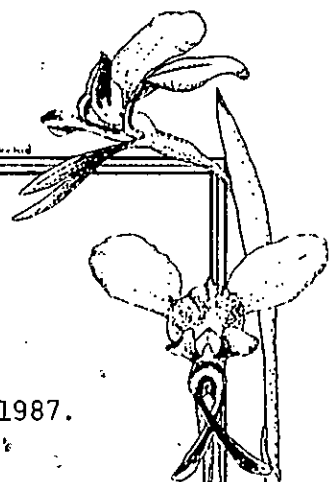


Gloss Whistler

# THE BIG SCRUB ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

88A Keen Street, Lismore 2480.  
Phone (066) 21 3278

Bushy Orchid



13th January 1987.

Ross McKinney,  
Senior Ranger,  
National Parks and Wildlife Service,  
Main Street,  
ALSTONVILLE.

Dear Ross,

Re: World Heritage Rainforests Environmental Education.

While in Sydney recently, members of the Centre had the opportunity to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens exhibition "Rainforests: What's the Fuss", on display at the Gardens shop. They were most impressed with this exhibition in its detail and depth of information on rainforests, their evolution, ecology and their vulnerability in recent times, and in the standard of presentation.

The Big Scrub Environment Centre was interested to organise an opportunity for this valuable educational display in Lismore, but on enquiring about the exhibition's availability, the Botanic Gardens Committee has informed us that the exhibition is booked to travel to other Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. We were further informed that it is unlikely that the exhibition will be in a sufficiently good condition for further display after the current bookings have been completed.

This situation is somewhat disturbing from our point of view. We believe that while it is useful to educate people in major capital cities about rainforests, especially in States where there are few or as in S.A., no remaining rainforests, this is not the highest priority for education about rainforests.

We believe that rainforest environmental education is much needed, probably most urgently needed, in N.S.W. in regional centres adjacent to the now World Heritage Rainforests, (such as Murwillumbah, Lismore, Kyogle, Kempsey, Grafton etc.) if these public reserves are to be protected for generations to come.

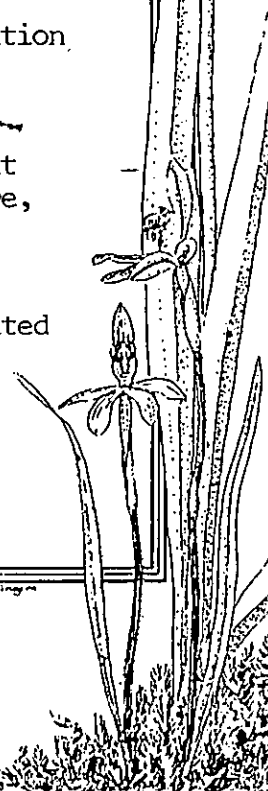
It is our view that many local people do not have a full and integrated understanding of the values and importance of the local rainforests, and that many local landholders adjacent or in proximity to the rainforest National Parks, still consider the rainforest a piece of "local scrub" with many animal "pests".

/2.



Rainforest Dragon

Rain Forest



Similarly very few elected local government representatives, aldermen and councillors, or their professional staff, clerks, engineers, planners etc. have the necessary appraisal of the values and importance of their "local rainforest".

The Big Scrub Environment Centre believes that rainforest environmental education on the North Coast is needed now to promote the required perspective in local and regional environmental planning, and produce the necessary attitude shift to affect changes in land uses towards sympathetic compatible land management practices.

Have you viewed this "Rainforests What's the Fuss" exhibition? If not May I encourage you to do so before it leaves New South Wales at the end of February, 1987.

I also wish to request that you seek support within the National Parks and Wildlife Service for the acquisition and display of some quality rainforest environmental education materials, like the "Rainforest What's the Fuss" exhibition, for use on the North Coast, so as to promote the international significance of the New South Wales World Heritage Rainforests.

The options to achieve this goal of rapidly re-educating the public of the North Coast may include:-

1. appealing for the retention in NSW of the Royal Botanical Gardens exhibition "Rainforests: What's the Fuss" and underwriting lost revenue to the Royal Botanic Gardens Committee.
2. waiting until after the final display of the exhibition (late '87) in Western Australia and 'rejuvenating' the exhibition so it may be used again in NSW.
3. Allow the exhibit to tour to other states, but inspect the exhibition and its photographic record at installation now before it leaves NSW with a view to acquiring rights to major components of the text (etc) and prepare an improved updated NP&WS version as soon as possible. This could include NP&WS components such as the Mt. Warning (or other) 3D map model, NPWS posters, photos and publications.

From our point of view Option 3. seems the best alternative given the urgent need for sympathetic adjacent land use and planning decisions. Presumably such a 'super exhibit' would be a major drawback and if taken on a circuit tour of major North Coast regional centres, would generate considerable interest and probably revenue. Such a circuit tour would also enable local areas to identify and promote nearby local rainforests and explain their detail in the context of the broad Rainforest picture. Such a circuit would at least initially reach far more people than a static display in one or two locations. It is our view that most of those who need to recognize the threats to our rainforest would be unlikely or unwilling to travel larger distances to see an exhibition. A circuit tour could break down that gulf - the tyranny of distance, by "bringing the mountain to Mohammed".

A New South Wales World Heritage Rainforest display should have as an additional component a presentation which promotes the concept of a 'risk managed buffer zone' surrounding the World Heritage Rainforests - explaining the need for careful adjacent land use and management.

Examples of threats such as uncontrolled burnoffs becoming wildfires, weed invasion and colonization, wildlife displacement or destruction by feral animals eg. cats, dogs etc and examples of productive compatible land uses eg. woodlot, private forestry, walking tours and visitor accommodation etc should be included.. (see attached newsclipping).

Naturally a major exhibition such as proposed above could not tour indefinitely and would need a permanent installation site after completing the circuit at major regional centres. The Big Scrub Environment Centre notes in the New South Wales/Commonwealth Rainforest Conservation package that \$250,000 has been allocated to public information and interpretation at Sea Acres Port Macquarie. We therefore suggest that the 'super exhibit' being an upgraded Royal Botanic Gardens display as proposed, be prepared, toured for a period of months and installed at Sea Acres as a permanent exhibit.

Since the conservation/environment organizations of the North Coast are an effective existing infra-structure already linked and networking in major centres, should the NP&WS require assistance in installing or staffing a touring exhibition, its likely that considerable help is available through the membership of the North Coast Environment Council. No doubt that the people who fought long and hard to save the now World Heritage Rainforests would be very happy to promote the forests values and importance and facilitate discussion and planning for compatible adjacent land uses and management. Certainly our members at the Big Scrub have many ideas which may be suitable in the preparation and/or presentation of such an important exhibit.

Ross, I would be keen to hear your response, from Lismore office on this proposal and would like to know if you can pursue this within the Service's channels.

The Big Scrub will write to other at Northern Region and Head Office to introduce this idea and to various interested M.P.'s to solicit their support.

All the best for 1987.

For the land,

John R. Corkill,  
Project Officer.

McKinney  
Martin  
Whitehouse  
Wiles  
Pettigrew

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1. appealing for the retention in NSW of the Royal Botanical Gardens exhibition "Rainforests: What's the Fuss" and underwriting lost revenue to the Royal Botanic Gardens Committee.
2. waiting until after the final display of the exhibition (late '87) in Western Australia and 'rejuvenating' the exhibition so it may be used again in NSW.
3. Allow the exhibit to tour to other states, but inspect the exhibition and its photographic record at installation now before it leaves NSW with a view to acquiring rights to major components of the text (etc) and prepare an improved updated NP&WS version as soon as possible. This could include NP&WS components such as the Mt. Warning (or other) 3D map model, NPWS posters, photos and publications.

From our point of view Option 3. seems the best alternative given the urgent need for sympathetic adjacent land use and planning decisions. Presumably such a 'super exhibit' would be a major drawback and if taken on a circuit tour of major North Coast regional centres, would generate considerable interest and probably revenue. Such a circuit tour would also enable local areas to identify and promote nearby local rainforests and explain their detail in the context of the broad Rainforest picture. Such a circuit would at least initially reach far more people than a static display in one or two locations. It is our view that most of those who need to recognize the threats to our rainforest would be unlikely or unwilling to travel larger distances to see an exhibition. A circuit tour could break down that gulf - the tyranny of distance, by "bringing the mountain to Mohammed".

A New South Wales World Heritage Rainforest display should have as an additional component a presentation which promotes the concept of a 'risk managed buffer zone' surrounding the World Heritage Rainforests - explaining the need for careful adjacent land use and management.

# AMP declares war

Goaded by National Mutual's poaching of its top agents, the AMP is retaliating with a \$25 million raid to close the gaping holes in its sales armory. But in this clash of the titans it is the small fry who will be hurt the most.

By Maurice Mallick

**T**he AMP Society has thrown down the gauntlet to National Mutual in what will be a desperate bid to retain its 137-year-old sales dominance in the life insurance industry in 1987.

The giant life office has signed up Melbourne entrepreneurs John Benson

and Darren Moses in an agent-recruiting deal said to be worth \$25 million.

It is AMP's answer to National Mutual's deal with entrepreneur Graeme Holt, the boss of Helm Corp/Equity Life which has been raiding AMP's and other offices' agents to help National Mutual topple AMP from its leadership position.

"We did not start this," says David Furness, AMP's manager, sales operation. "But we are not going to stand by and see the asset of our sales force eroded."

The battle of the two giants in 1987 is now likely to see their present combined market share of 45 per cent increase to perhaps 60 per cent, and along the way cause a shakeout among the other 44 offices, with perhaps 20 companies falling by the wayside through sales erosion, takeover, merger or withdrawal. Such a shakeout would be unprecedented in the industry.

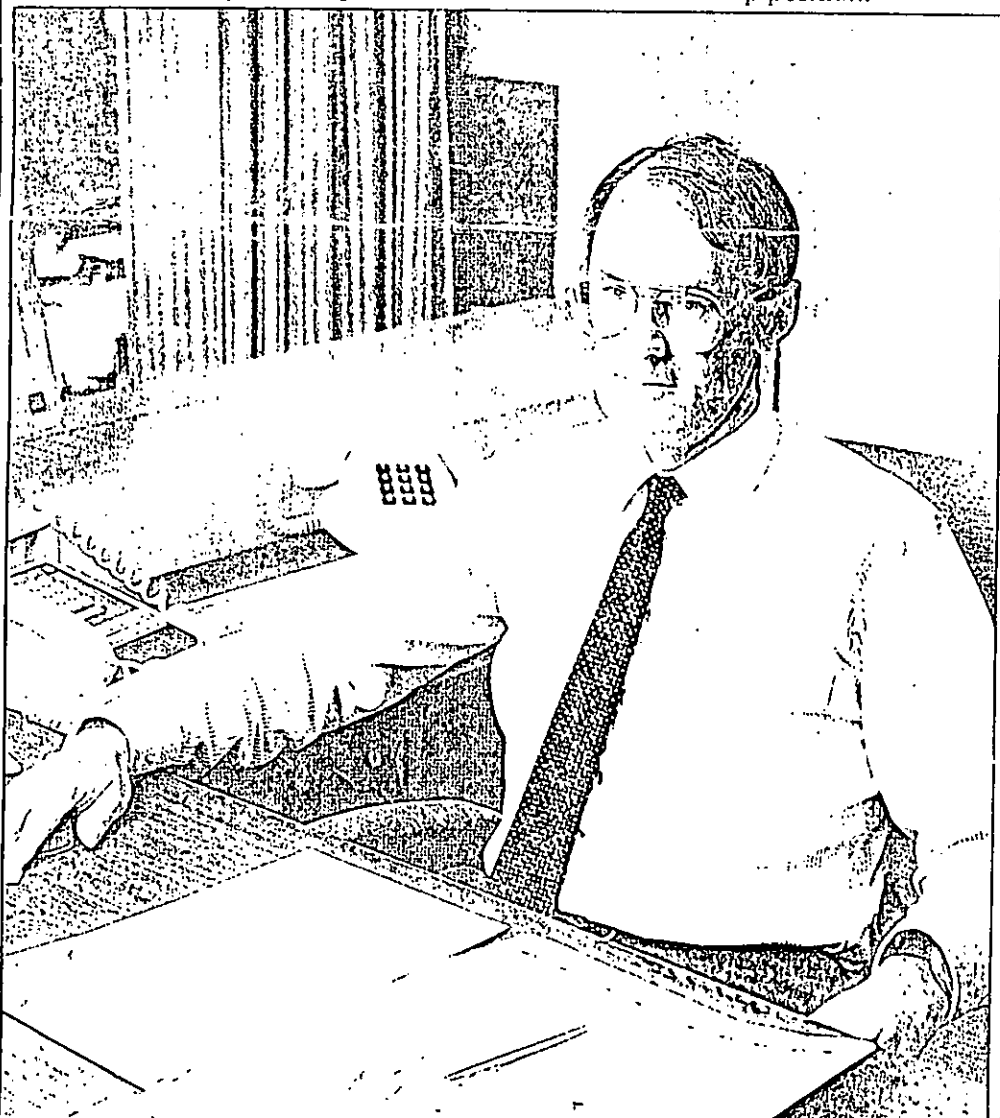
"Yes, it could happen at the expense of other offices," says Furness. "But if they are resourceful, they will explore ways to find business that is there."

The shakeout threat is the latest move in the extraordinary power play that started last May when six Victorian AMP rebels, led by Don McQueen, defected to Helm/Equity. Helm/Equity did a cross-marketing deal with National Mutual to help it beat AMP.

*Australian Business* reported the full story of the power play (September 10, 1986). Then, the threat to AMP was seen to be in the future. But in a subsequent issue (November 5, 1986), we broke the story of National Mutual's huge increase in new premium income (sales), up 112 per cent from \$430 million in 1985 to \$915 million in 1986 (its books closed September 30), and its takeover of UK operation **Schroder Financial Management Ltd.**

In the second story, we predicted that AMP's new premium income in 1986 (its books close on December 31) could be \$1.1 billion. David Furness now confirms that the figure will be "in excess of \$1 billion".

In the year to September 1986, National Mutual's premium income to-



Examples of threats such as uncontrolled burnoffs becoming wildfires, weed invasion and colonization, wildlife displacement or destruction by feral animals eg. cats, dogs etc and examples of productive compatible land uses eg. woodlot, private forestry, walking tours and visitor accommodation etc should be included.. (see attached newsclipping).

Naturally a major exhibition such as proposed above could not tour indefinitely and would need a permanent installation site after completing the circuit at major regional centres. The Big Scrub Environment Centre notes in the New South Wales/Commonwealth Rainforest Conservation package that \$250,000 has been allocated to public information and interpretation at Sea Acres Port Macquarie. We therefore suggest that the 'super exhibit' being an upgraded Royal Botanic Gardens display as proposed, be prepared, toured for a period of months and installed at Sea Acres as a permanent exhibit.

Since the conservation/environment organizations of the North Coast are an effective existing infra-structure already linked and networking in major centres, should the NP&WS require assistance in installing or staffing a touring exhibition, its likely that considerable help is available through the membership of the North Coast Environment Council. No doubt that the people who fought long and hard to save the now World Heritage Rainforests would be very happy to promote the forests values and importance and facilitate discussion and planning for compatible adjacent land uses and management. Certainly our members at the Big Scrub have many ideas which may be suitable in the preparation and/or presentation of such an important exhibit.

For the land,

John R. Corkill,  
Project Officer.

Politicians.

Unsworth.

Carr

Hallam

Crosio

Brereton

Crawford

Dear Sir,

Re: World Heritage Rainforests Environmental Education.

We are writing to ask for your support for a proposal for the production of an exhibition on New South Wales World Heritage Rainforests to tour major New South Wales country centres adjacent to Rainforest areas.

This tour could encompass many areas currently unserved by major environmental education campaigns before being installed as a permanent display at Sea Acres near Port Macquarie.

The aim of the exhibition would be to educate the public, particularly landholders adjacent to Rainforests, National Parks and Nature Reserves and local authorities about the special characteristics and values of World Heritage Rainforests. Such an educational activity, it is hoped, would encourage compatible land uses and management practices and appropriate planning and decision making, so as to ensure long term protection of these global treasures, over many generations to come.

It is our fear, despite the World Heritage Listing, that ill-informed landholders and local government authorities will continue to operate in ways that pose medium and longer term dangers to these reserves. Weed invasion, domestic and feral animal intrusion, uncontrolled burn-offs, visitor and residential population pressures, and the inappropriate use of chemicals all present possible threats.

These 'local scraps of scrub' are now recognised by the World Heritage Listing as being of international significance and requiring international standards of management and protection. Surely the local people who are closest to them and the local councils who are responsible for planning in the surrounding areas should be informed as to 'their Rainforests' great importance and vulnerability.



We believe a National Parks and Wildlife Service touring exhibition along the lines of the Royal Botanic Gardens exhibition "Rainforests: What's the Fuss" is the means of presenting this important information in an attractive presentation.

We wish to request that you support this proposal by writing to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and their Minister Mr. Bob Carr encouraging the launch of such an exhibition.

We further request that at the appropriate time, you promote the idea of the exhibition to all the staff employed through your portfolio in regional centres, and encourage them to attend and view the presentation.

Thank you for your interest, it is greatly appreciated and we would be pleased to hear of any additional comments you may have on the proposal, copies of your representations on this matter and the responses they elicit to the Centre at the above address.

All the best for the New Year,

For the Land,

John Corkill,  
Project Officer.

# GREENIES.

RIC . Patricke .

NCEC

Jim Tedder

NCC Judy Messer

TEC

Jett Angel

NAA Graham Wells.

TWS

Abbie Thomas.

We believe a National Parks and Wildlife Service touring exhibition along the lines of the Royal Botanical Gardens exhibition "Rainforests: What's the Fuss" is the means of presenting this important information in an attractive presentation.

Mr. Carr we wish to ask that you support this proposal by requesting N.P.W.S. to advise;

- what rainforest environmental education activities they have or intend to undertake, and
- whether there is an acceptance of a need to promote World Heritage Rainforest values in order to encourage compatible adjacent land use practices and management.

All the best for the New Year,

For the Land,

JOHN CORKILL  
PROJECT OFFICER

13th January, 1987.

Dear Friend,

Re: World Heritage Rainforests Environmental Education

I am writing to seek your support for a touring Rainforest environmental education display as proposed to National Parks & Wildlife Service in the attached letter.

Such a display, as you will no doubt realise, is long overdue and is likely to be a powerful tool for re-educating the community about this important conservation and environment issue.

As you will note from the attached press clipping, The Big Scrub Environment Centre and the North Coast Environment Council do not believe that we can now take the protection of these reserved Rainforests, National Parks and Nature Reserves for granted. If we want these forests safeguarded for all time, then the public and the government agencies must re-evaluate their previous positions and change their activities accordingly. Education is a powerful means to achieve this.

Whilst the attached letter and the exhibition proposal focusses heavily on the already 'saved' rainforests, those listed as World Heritage and held within National Parks and Nature Reserves - this education campaign via an exhibition must raise the public's and governments awareness that there are still many important rainforest areas which are as yet unprotected.

Your organizations role in supporting this initiative may be possible in several ways or at a single level. Please consider:-

1. writing to local, regional and head office of NPWS supporting a touring rainforest environmental education exhibition.
2. writing/lobbying politicians, Unsworth, Carr, Crosio, Hallam and your local M.P. to support the exhibition.
3. indicating in your letters that your members have ideas, info and energy to contribute towards a complimentary local display explaining nearby rainforests in the context of the broader rainforest picture as presented by a touring exhibition.
4. volunteering as an organisation or as individual members to help install and/or staff the exhibition when it comes to your area.
5. suggesting ways at promoting the exhibition in your area (eg. FM radio shows, locations for posters, other interested groups etc) so that maximum attention and contact can be achieved.

Thank you for your efforts to date - if you are able to do any (or all) of the above, or if you have some additional suggestions or comments please write and let me know, I would very much appreciate some feedback on this idea.

For the land,

J.R. Corkill,  
Project Officer.

Encl.

We believe a National Parks and Wildlife Service touring exhibition along the lines of the Royal Botanic Gardens exhibition "Rainforests: What's the Fuss" is the means of presenting this important information in an attractive presentation.

We wish to request that you support this proposal by writing to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and their Minister Mr. Bob Carr encouraging the launch of such an exhibition.

We further request that at the appropriate time, you promote the idea of the exhibition to all the staff employed through your portfolio in regional centres, and encourage them to attend and view the presentation.

Thank you for your interest, it is greatly appreciated and we would be pleased to hear of any additional comments you may have on the proposal, copies of your representations on this matter and the responses they elicit to the Centre at the above address.

All the best for the New Year,

For the Land,

John Corkill,  
Project Officer.

Mr Carr we wish to ask that you support this proposal, by requesting N.P.W.S. to advise;  
- what Rainforest environmental education <sup>activities</sup> they have or intend to undertake, and

- whether there is an acceptance of a need to promote World Heritage Rainforest values in order encourage compatible adjacent land use practices + management.



# National Parks and Wildlife Service



Mr. John Corkhill  
The Big Scrub Environment Centre  
88A Keen Street  
LISMORE, NSW 2480

• 189-193 Kent Street  
Sydney  
P.O. Box N189, Grosvenor  
Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000  
Telegrams: Napawi, Sydney  
Telex AA26034

Our reference: CJP:hw

• Your reference:

Telephone: 237 6500  
Extension: 6924

9th December 1986

Dear John

I refer to your letter of Dec. 5 re NSW Rainforest World Heritage Nomination.

As I explained previously the Director was not willing to release copies of the nomination until official publication. However, copies were made available at various centres in the Lismore area. That decision was made personally by John Whitehouse.

The reason for the subsequent delays is that all the scientific appendices had to be rewritten and updated. The information is now being collated.

I can assure you the publication is not a glossy for the general public. The frustration in not having the information available is felt within this organisation as much as by yourself. Nonetheless having the most up to date scientific data available will be a valuable resource and is worth waiting for.

At this stage our publication date is March 1987. The Big Scrub Centre will receive a copy as soon as the document is available.

Yours sincerely

DR. C. PETTIGREW  
Head of Information Services



Premier of New South Wales  
Australia

18 FEB 1987

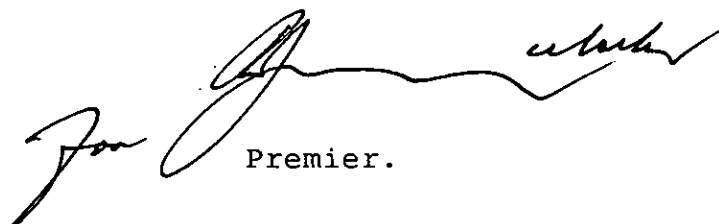
Dear Mr. Corkill,

I refer to your letter of 13 January on behalf of the Big Scrub Environment Centre concerning a proposal for environmental education in relation to the State's World Heritage rainforests.

The Centre's views have been noted with interest and I have been pleased to take the matter up with the Minister for Planning and Environment.

No doubt you will hear direct from the Minister in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Premier.

Mr. J. Corkill,  
Project Officer,  
The Big Scrub Environment Centre;  
88A Keen Street,  
LISMORE. 2480





NEW SOUTH WALES  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Mr. John Corkill  
Project Officer  
The Big Scrub Environment  
Centre  
88A Keen Street,  
LISMORE. 2480

9 - MAR 1987

Dear Mr. Corkill,

Thank you for your letter of 13 January 1987 to myself, the Premier, Mrs. Crosio and various officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, concerning the Rainforest Exhibition proposal.

The exhibition staged by the Royal Botanic Gardens was committed on loan to other Botanical Gardens in Australia late in 1986. It was not for sale and it is not a travelling exhibition. The design of the exhibit makes it unsuitable for the purpose you suggest. Also the content of the exhibit was aimed at a tertiary educated informed audience, not I suggest the audience you have proposed.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently completing the fitting out of 2 small travelling exhibitions which will be available for community display at shopping centres, local shows etc. It is proposed that these will fulfil the role you suggest.

The Service has three major programs already underway funded by the National Rainforest Program. A rainforest education centre is to be established at Port Macquarie and materials developed through the centre will be distributed widely. Also the Service is working closely with the Education Department to develop rainforest programs through Field Studies Centres.

Thank you for your suggestions, they have been considered and I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Carr'.

BOB CARR



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES

37th Floor  
Legal and General House  
8-18 Bent Street  
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000  
Telephone: 221 3244

29 JAN 1987

0769F

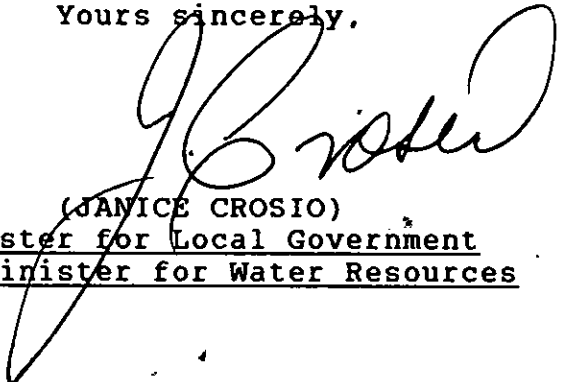
Mr. J. Corkill,  
Project Officer,  
The Big Scrub Environment  
Centre,  
88A Keen Street,  
LISMORE. N.S.W. 2480 94

Dear Mr. Corkill,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter concerning a proposal for the production of an exhibition on New South Wales World Heritage Rainforests.

Your comments have been carefully noted and I have passed your correspondence on to my colleague, the Hon. R.J. Carr, M.P., Minister for Planning and Environment and Minister for Heritage, for his information.

Yours sincerely,



(JANICE CROSIO)

Minister for Local Government  
and Minister for Water Resources



Minister for Agriculture, Lands and Forests  
New South Wales

30 MAR 1987

Mr. John Corkill,  
Project Officer,  
The Big Scrub Environment Centre,  
88A Keen Street,  
LISMORE. N.S.W. 2480

Dear Mr. Corkill,

Thank you for your letter of 13th January, 1987 which proposed the establishment of a touring exhibition featuring New South Wales World Heritage Rainforests.

I full support any moves to educate the public to the value of rainforests and to help ensure their protection by appropriate management of adjoining lands.

Because of its past and present responsibilities the Forestry Commission of New South Wales has a long-standing experience in the management of rainforest areas and would be pleased to provide relevant information as required.

Yours sincerely,

J.R. HALLAM, M.L.C.  
Minister for Forests



# National Parks and Wildlife Service



## LISMORE DISTRICT

Big Scrub Environment Centre  
88A Keen Street  
LISMORE 2480

Suite 9  
Colonial Arcade  
Main Street  
P.O. Box 91  
Alstonville, N.S.W. 2477

Our reference: A/0112

Your reference: 13.1.87

Telephone: 28 1177  
STD: 066

Re. World Heritage Rainforest Environmental Education

ATTENTION: Mr John Corkill

Dear John;

Reference is made to your letter in respect of the rainforest exhibition currently on display at the Royal Botanical Gardens shop.

I agree with you that when next in Sydney I shall endeavour to visit this much talked about display.

As to the projected movement of the display, I also agree that the best advantage would be gained in having this display located on the North Coast rather than interstate. I have discussed this with our head of Information Service's in Head Office, who is also in receipt of your letter, in hopes of obtaining the display for North Coast viewing.

When I hear of the outcome of Head Office discussions I will contact you further.

Yours faithfully

H R McKinney  
FOR DIRECTOR

29.1.87.

## COMMENTS ON BIG SCRUB REMNANTS DISCUSSION PAPER

The recently released Big Scrub Remnants Conservation Strategy Discussion Paper is an appalling document which does not address many of the most important factors influencing the conservation of these remnants.

This document, contracted to Planners North, and sub-contracted to the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education Centre for Coastal Management has been attempted by persons with no expertise in rainforest biology.

As such, The Big Scrub Environment Centre wishes to make the following criticisms and suggestions:

- \*that public input is required into the next stages of the preparation of a Conservation Strategy and a Plan of Management

- \*that the National Parks and Wildlife Service use its own highly skilled and qualified staff to prepare documents such as this, and do not contract out to consultants not appropriately skilled.

- \*that a member of the Lismore District Advisory Committee with appropriate expertise in the field of management of rainforest reserves be represented on the Steering Committee, which, at this stage, has no experts in this field.

- \*that a tender should not be accepted purely because it is the lowest - factors such as appropriate expertise should be a major factor in selecting a tender. The consultants involved in this document, Planners North, have no expertise in this field. It is therefore recommended that consultants with appropriate experience be engaged to draft the document.

We understand that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is not satisfied with the standard of the document released and has directed Planners North to redraft the paper. With this factor in mind, we therefore recommend that the services of Planners North should be discontinued and the contract readvertised.

Specific criticisms of the Discussion Paper are as follows:

- \*prioritising conservation value of remnants where all remnants should be given equal conservation status

- \*no specific references to mammals and reptiles as specified in brief

- \*existing published and unpublished papers were not used in the document.

- \*scant regard to the vegetation associations - assumptions of conservation priority and status were made entirely on species diversity

\*no reference to regional biogeographical influences

\*major conflicting objectives in remnant status e.g. Boatharbour Nature reserve is designated a prime conservation site and a major tourist attraction

\*overly strong emphasis on tourism in the remnants which would seriously compromise their long-term viability

\*no detailed analysis of threats to the remnants

\*a significant amount of the basic methodology used in the paper was incorrect, resulting in an incorrect conservation priority and status

\*over-emphasis on computer models based on inadequate data

\*Terms of Reference were far too narrowly interpreted resulting in glaring inadequacies in the paper, including the omission of important remnants

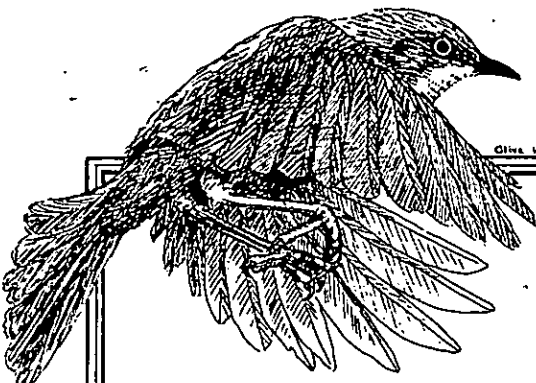
\*no identification of the importance of peripheral landuse to the conservation of the remnants as specified in the brief

\*no identification of existing controls on landuse (e.g. soil conservation restrictions, water catchment protection etc)

Many other criticisms of this paper have been brought to our attention by concerned professionals highly skilled and experienced in this field. It is due to this concern and outrage at the gross inadequacies of the paper that we call for the re-tendering of the contract.

It is of the utmost importance to ensure the conservation of the Big Scrub Remnants that a Plan of Management of the highest quality is completed.

(Big Scrub Environment Centre, 28 Nov, 1987)



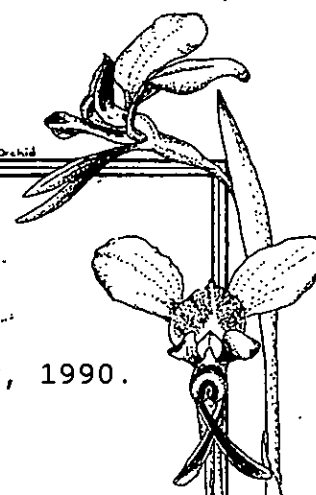
Olive Whistler

# THE BIG SCRUB ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

INC.

88A Keen Street, Lismore 2480.

Phone (066) 21 3278



Dendrobium Orchid

31st January, 1990.

Mr Geoff Martin,  
Regional Manager,  
Northern Region,  
National Parks and Wildlife Service,  
49 Victoria Street,  
Grafton. 2460.

Dear Mr Martin,

Re: N.R.C.P. Plan of Management for Big Scrub Remnants

Under the National Rainforest Conservation Program 1988? Schedule, a Project to prepare a Plan of Management for the Big Scrub Remnants was funded.

As you are aware The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc. is acutely interested in this project and is keen to see the product of 18 months work and \$

Will you please advise The Centre as to the status of this draft Plan and its likely date of completion?

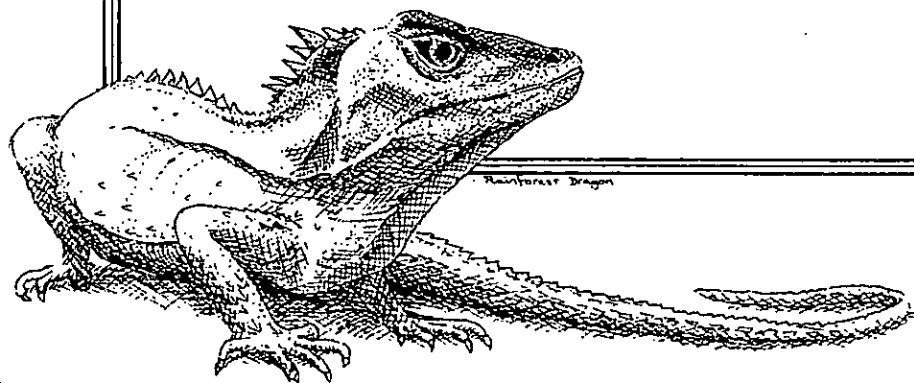
Further, The Centre is keen to have an opportunity to comment on the draft Plan, before it is finalised, which would extend beyond the limited discussions which occurred at the public seminars held in the very early stages of the project.

To this end we formally request that before the document is finalised and sent to the Minister for signature, it is placed on exhibition and public comments received and considered.

While The Centre is aware that there is no formal legal requirement under the Act for the NPWS to exhibit the draft Plan, we are sure that you will agree that The Big Scrub areas are of considerable public interest. Consequently The Centre believes that this public interest deserves to be accommodated by public exhibition of the draft Plan.

In addition, may I request that in your reply you advise The Centre of whether the draft Plan includes privately owned Big Scrub remnants and proposed strategies for their management as was envisaged, we understand, in the original project brief.

...2/.



Rainforest Dragon



Pink Flamingo

If the draft Plan of Management omits these areas will you please advise why they were omitted and how the Service foresees these important privately owned rainforest remnants being managed if not under guidelines consistent with a formal Plan of Management.

Finally, I wish to advise of grave concerns which The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc has regarding a foreshadowed proposal to build a bridge structure across the Wilsons Creek to provide access into the Boatharbour Nature Reserve.

The Centre does not accept that the Service can proceed with this construction until, and unless, the Service has prepared and exhibited a Environmental Impact Statement for this proposed development as is required under Part V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

We do not assert this requirement lightly and strongly recommend that you obtain good legal advice, at once, regarding the Service's obligations to fully consider the environmental impacts of development.

As you would be aware, members of The Centre are prepared to seek an Injunction in the Land and Environment Court to prevent NSW Government agencies (eg Forestry Commission) from proceeding if any attempt is made to commence works before a controversial matter is properly assessed.

To put it plainly, we ask that you don't make an hasty embarrassing mistake which will attract considerable media attention and badly dent the Service reputation.

- In any event, even if a competent unbiased EIS (NOT done by Planners North!) approves a bridge construction, it is the view of The Centre that a formal Plan of Management ought to be in place, including management strategies necessary to cope with the concomitant influx of visitors, before construction begins.

We would be pleased to receive your advice on these crucial matters at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,  
For the Land...

J.R. Corkill  
for the Management Committee.



Far North Coast Branch of

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

COMMENTS ON

BIG SCRUB RAINFOREST REMNANTS

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION PAPER

prepared by A.M. Gilmore + E. White

NSWEC/NCC

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# Agenda

is the only  
fortnightly newsletter  
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WHAT ARE  
THE FACTS?

What are Australian  
governments, decision-  
makers, developers and  
environmentalists doing?

John

National Parks Association of N.S.W.  
Far North Coast Branch,  
c/- Mr. M. Kaveney,  
100 Orana Rd.,  
Ocean Shores. 2483.

Dear Sir,

Under the National Rainforest Conservation Program, the Commonwealth Government had committed in June 1986 to providing \$22.5 m for rainforest conservation throughout Australia. Of this the following outlays were scheduled for the Big Scrub:

	1986/87	1987/88
	\$	\$
2. Management plan - Big Scrub Remnants	30,000	30,000
3. Rehabilitation - Big Scrub Remnants	20,000	50,000
21. Outdoor interpretive panels, Victoria Park (+ Werrikimbee National Park)	30,000	
25. Aquisition of private rainforest land for inclusion in National Parks and Reserves (all N.S.W.)	1,600,000	800,000

It would appear that, of the N.S.W. funding, over 30% in 1986/87 and over 50% in 1987/88 is allocated to visitor facilities and tourist oriented expenditure. If this Discussion Paper is any example, much of the planning and management expenditure will also be oriented towards human use and we would wonder why the program has been entitled a 'National Rainforest Conservation Program'. How much of the allocations for management have been spent to date for the Big Scrub remnants?

In October, 1987, a workshop was held at the N.R.C.A.E. to consider a Discussion Paper for the Big Scrub Conservation Strategy.

The issues which were raised in discussion at this workshop and in discussion elsewhere, give rise to serious concern that the management plan that might be drawn up by the present consultants will be so poorly researched and devised that remnants which have managed to survive so far could be degraded or destroyed. Our concerns fall into a number of categories.

1. The Consultancy Brief issued by the N.P.W.S.
2. The use of consultants and the allocation of tenders.
3. Shortcomings of the Discussion Paper
  - i) The overall conceptual framework of the Discussion Paper.
  - ii) Invalid assumptions and inadequate methodologies.
  - iii) Omissions.
  - iv) Recommendations.
4. Conclusions

1. The Consultancy Brief issued by the N.P.W.S.

On what basis was 'Big Scrub' defined? On what basis were 'major' and 'minor' remnants divided?

There is some conflict in the Terms of Reference between the preparation of a conservation strategy and the concept of management for 'potential and appropriate use' of the remnants. The original allocation was under the National Rainforest Conservation Program. A great deal of money is already being spent on the health, welfare and recreation of people. It is not appropriate that the NPWS which is the only statutory body in the State with the primary function of protecting ecosystems also directs their

relatively limited funding to this purpose. In addition, money has already been allocated under the program for outdoor interpretive facilities at Victoria Park. David Keith, a botanist with N.P.W.S., Sydney justifies the accent on human use because 'the Federal Government has devoted these funds because people have put pressure on them to do so'. This indicates a misunderstanding of the enormous amount of time and effort so many people have put into attempting to conserve and preserve remaining ecosystems and their remnants.

The Discussion Paper did not come to grips with the area which was to be covered by the Conservation Strategy. It is important to resolve the question of whether the Strategy covers only Big Scrub remnants or whether it should be extended to cover other rainforest remnants in the area. In fact, information should have been presented in the paper on the conservational value of different concepts of the 'Big Scrub' and the various alternatives properly described and documented for discussion.

The North Coast N.P.A. feels that the remnants should be considered as an ecological whole within a regional perspective, which is how they are considered by many of their resident flora and fauna, and not as disjunct entities. With this view, the corridors and linkages which presently exist along creeks, rivers, along regenerating slopes, and even along road verges gain a new perspective as a 'tremendous resource for maintenance of the rainforest areas' (Peter Stace, Dept. of Ag.). In considering the Big Scrub it should also be borne in mind that it was always a mosaic of communities with the rainforest being scattered amongst other vegetation types depending on soil conditions.

## 2. The use of consultants and the allocation of tenders.

Was the contract issued at State or Federal level? On what basis was it granted? The North Coast branch of N.P.A. is concerned about the allocation of other rainforest conservation funds with this example in mind.

Why was the contract given to consultants who had no demonstrated expertise in rainforest ecology or in management for conservation? The money allocated should have been used to employ people to plug the holes in the data base and to identify overall and individual conservation threats and challenges, under N.P.W.S. direction.

If N.P.W.S. were not to use their expertise, why was the contract not then given to consultants who have suitable expertise in conservation management and a knowledge of the Big Scrub remnants? The remnants are too important to be left to consultants who have, in fact, demonstrated their poor grasp of the ecology of the Big Scrub remnants and of management issues and, unfortunately, of scientific research, in this Discussion Paper.

## 3. Shortcomings in the Discussion Paper.

The Discussion Paper failed to adequately address the Consultancy Brief in that it:

- \* did not review relevant information concerning the natural and cultural features of the "Big Scrub" as well as data relating to the remnants existing and potential use. The bibliography is pitiful, despite a 'review of literature' purportedly carried out. Much more is available, both published and unpublished, e.g. there are many references to birds in Big Scrub remnants in the literature and information is also

available from a number of local experts.

- \* does not show evidence of consultation with land management authorities and landowners.
- \* does not evaluate the relevant background information
- \* does not adequately identify management issues current and foreseeable in the near future.
- \* did not provide a general statement as to their importance of the Big Scrub remnants as small natural areas for agriculture and wildlife.

i) The overall conceptual framework of the Discussion Paper.

During the Workshop, Nan Nicholson made the following points which we feel should be emphasised

- \* these areas are already being used by species other than ourselves which gives them a value far beyond human use since we don't need these areas for our very survival

- \* these areas have an inherent right to exist without our feeling a compulsion to benefit from them

- \* the pressures on these areas are going to increase enormously in the next few decades and they must not be expected to absorb an ever increasing range of human uses or entrepreneurial expectations.

- \* any interference at all from now on is radical extremism and we now must take a more moderate position and avoid damaging in any way what is left.

- \* the Conservation Strategy should not be a blueprint to allocate human use of the area.

John Bruce, the Regional forester for Coffs Harbour district noted that:

- \* there are other rainforest areas which are accessible and large enough to better absorb impact

- \* these tiny remnants could be easily trampled to death if human use is promoted.

- \* tourists are at present interested in rainforest rather than in the Big Scrub remnants and interest in the remnants should not be encouraged.

He pointed out that even the larger areas under Forestry Management could be in an 'overuse' situation in the near future and controls may need to be considered. Hitchcock (1984) also points out that recreation is a land use which conflicts with the conservation of small botanically important rainforest remnants.

The North Coast N.P.A. feels that consideration of the fiscal value of an area has no place in a conservation strategy and we are concerned by the following attitude exhibited by the consultants.

'... the remnants of the Big Scrub have been recognised at both State and Local Government level as important elements within the fabric of

an overall tourism based economic strategy'.

To compound this, the section 'Socio-Economic context' contained inaccurate and misleading statements.

'economy was dominated by traditional agricultural pursuits to the detriment of diversified commercial and industrial development' (our accent)

'The "aura" of the subregion's rainforest remnants is illustrated in the array of tourist promotional literature ....'. These do not refer to the Big Scrub remnants but to the larger National Parks referred to by John Bruce.

This Discussion Paper fails to address the impact of the present levels of recreational use on each of the remnants and completely fails to identify the extent of potential planned or unplanned recreational use.

The Big Scrub remnants do not need money spent on setting up government units whose roles relate 'to the pursuit of the co-operative management model' (p58). This Discussion Paper demonstrates very clearly the problems inherent in wasting money on theoretical models in the absence of practical experience.

## ii) Inadequate methodologies and invalid assumptions.

Classification seems to have been undertaken for the purpose of allocating 'conservation' status. Such an allocation is not in the brief which specifically states that 'conservation strategies should be devised for all major and minor Big Scrub remnants'. In the end, the Primary and Secondary status were largely allocated before any 'analysis' of 'species richness' by whether they were 'true' Big Scrub sites or not!

The consultants failed to recognize the inadequacies of their approach throughout and the high degree of subjectivity and bias in the methods used. Mention was made at the Workshop that 'published data from recognized journals was used' for the classification but the data used (Floyd, 1981, Holmes, 1987) are not published.

Computer classification is used as an aid to delineating ecological groups if the user does not know what they are and when there is too much data for the calculations to be done by hand. However, this expertise was available both within N.P.W.S. and from local consultants available to N.P.W.S. In this case the consultants stressed that they were taking an 'objective approach' thus failing to recognize the subjectivity inherent in the purpose and assumptions underlying classification, in the data, and in their selection of the classification method which is only one of many methods.

It is usual to publish a data set, in summarized form if it is very large, when it is to be used for computer analysis. Diagrams alone are meaningless. The computer analyses presented in this paper appear to have been used as 'window dressing'. They do not seem to provide useful information

Diagrams are poorly drafted e.g. 'Plans' 3,4 which purport to show size and distribution of major and minor remnants. Because no scale is provided, no idea can be gained of the actual sizes involved.

## a) Analysis of Site Diversity

Site characteristics were determined from Bureau of Meteorology,

(1972) and Nicholls & Tucker (1956). This is not an adequate basis for the determination of limiting factors of each site. The analysis of site diversity (p16) is a waste of time and money for that number of sites x that number of environmental parameters. Even if the consultants were themselves ignorant, a hand method would have been more appropriate. The results are not different to what was already known by many people in the area.

#### b) Vegetation Representation and Diversity

Contrary to the statement (p20) that 'the data is the result of an extensive and consistent sampling method', Floyd's records are derived from one, rarely two transects, and Jenny Holmes' records are derived from what Glen Holmes referred to as a 'boredom index', i.e. they wandered through until they weren't finding new species, generally for about half an hour. This is an adaptation of a standard method for maximising the number of species found, but it is not intended to be used for comparison of different sites. The Holmes' records were collected, not primarily as a list of plant species, but as a 'measure of the available resource to birds that was presented by the Big Scrub'.

The transect method fails to take into account the patches even within quite small remnants due to past disturbance or microsite characteristics. These patches are more likely (but not systematically) to have been picked up by the Holmes. The transect method may also be totally inadequate where gradients are involved which is the case in many rainforest situations.

Nowhere was it actually mentioned what 'vegetation species' covered. In fact, the Holmes' report lists trees, shrubs, and vines only. Conservation of tree and shrub species is not an adequate basis for conservation of the Big Scrub remnants, most of the species occur elsewhere in rainforest Parks. No weight was given to other attributes of species or of their relationships, i.e. there was no recognition of associations, variations in abundances, successional stages, mutualistic relationships, species longevity, species dispersal characteristics, etc.

Even if presence/absence of some classes of plants is considered to be an adequate basis for conservation, there is no indication of whether these species are present in enough numbers to remain regeneratively viable. Throughout, the authors discuss 'diversity' when they mean only species richness.

Floyd recognised two alliances (subtropical rainforest and dry rainforest) and four suballiances (White Booyong, Black Bean, Pepperberry-Blue Fig, Hoop Pine). People familiar with this area and with rainforest plants readily recognize them. Floyd has noted the endangered state of the Blue Fig suballiance.

Since the Big Scrub area was originally a mosaic with four rainforest subassociations and a number of other vegetation types, it is not meaningful, even if the data were more reliable, to compare each remnant with an overall species list. Even so, the derived vegetation classification from 'Plans' 7,8,9 has very unclear separations (eg Plan 9 'small species poor' and 'poor species richness - small') and confusing allocation of categories (eg soils, cf. Plan 7, Plan 9).

Table 2 is very misleading. Although this is not made clear by the consultants, Hayter's Hill is actually two rainforest remnants of different suballiances. Any two remnants together would show a higher species richness than either one alone.

It is difficult to understand why weeds were included in a classification of Big Scrub remnant vegetation (Plan 7). One should not need the added expense of computer classification to know that 'some weed species are less selective of soil type than the rainforest species' (p 21). If this was not already known through an understanding of weed attributes and characteristics, local experts could have been consulted.

The inclusion of rainforest species as edge and exotics gives little confidence in the species area curves. In any case, the methodology and assumptions underlying the use of the species area curves are questionable, particularly the assumption that it is purely the number of species which is to be preserved and that this will rely solely on area. While there can be no doubt that large areas are more likely to be viable, there is no assessment of the area needed for viability in this case. The use of species area curves is not appropriate as a method of estimating the area required to 'preserve 80% of the species'. The Conservation Strategy should aim at conserving 100% of species. The loss of 20% of species would be an ecological disaster.

It is of serious concern that the authors focus solely on plant species richness with no consideration of the faunal component or of interactions and relationships between them or their effects on site characteristics. Unless a more ecologically based approach is taken, 'management' could seriously affect the viability of remnants.

Without any information on abundance patterns and without adequately defining such terms as 'marked' and 'dominance', one of the people speaking for the consultants at the workshop (Prof. R. Specht) clarified the peculiar basis on which one of the Recommendations was made by actually stating that a tendency for marked dominance would give species poor plant and animal communities and that cutting down areas to disturb them would need to be considered in management plans!!!! This attitude is of great concern. We are dealing here with a community that exists not through catastrophic regeneration as occurs in certain heath communities but through microseral regeneration because there is continual natural creation of small gaps (Hopkins, 1981). We are dealing with very small remnants and with communities in which 'dominance' is more likely to occur during colonisation after disturbance than at any later stage.

#### c) Avifauna Representation and Diversity

The birds were again subjectively classified by computer using the invalid assumption that only those species deemed 'true dependents' were of concern. In fact, A. Gilmore notes that the Big Scrub remnants are used by birds of the high altitude rainforests for migration and overwintering purposes. We feel it is totally inadequate not to address this issue in a conservation strategy.

'Clearly, rain forest bird communities are far from static and it would be wrong to assess their conservational needs until these migratory patterns are better understood' (Broadbent & Clark, 1977)

'Even in such a small group of birds of one habitat (pigeons) there is a wide variety of reactions to habitat disturbance. This underlines the need for considerable research on wildlife before appropriate management plans for reserves, or for the bird's populations can be formulated with confidence'. (Frith, 1977)

A large amount of data does exist, although unpublished e.g. Victoria Park and Davis Scrub have been studied as bird-banding sites for the



past 10 years and data would be available either from the bander (T.H. Alley) or through the Assoc. of Australian Birdbander, or National Parks (Federal). Bird banding has also been carried out in Brockley by Bill Davis under the official scheme.

The idea of nominating a handful of sites for preservation is ecologically absurd as :

- \* this would preserve only a small subset of the populations;
- \* All remnants are interdependent bird habitat, along with corridors and regrowth forests ;
- \* There is a seasonal interdependence between all lowland remnants and higher elevation rainforests through the movements of altitudinal migrants.

#### d) Physical Limitations!

Previous researchers indicate that continuity of the rainforest is related largely to soil conditions and nutrient status and not to rainfall and evaporation in this region (Webb, 1963). If the consultants had evidence to back up their conjecture, it should have been referenced.

The physical limitation to rainforest growth through water stress was predicted to be a major threat because of the climatic change presently in train. However, it should be borne in mind that predicted conditions are similar to those which existed about 6 kya.

During discussion, R. Specht stated that they had predicted conditions here to be increasingly dry because the increasing temperatures would mean a latitudinal shift of rainfall patterns southwards. While there is evidence that the region should experience greater contrast between summer and winter rainfall and an increase in cyclonic events as is presently the climatic norm further north, it is not true to say, as R. Specht has done, that because we will be getting temperatures similar to those now experienced by Rockhampton, we will be getting similar amounts of rainfall. A large component of our precipitation is orographic. However, it was apparently on these assumptions that this section was based.

The water available to the vegetation 'can be measured by a simple calculation' if and only if, the components of that equation are known for each remnant.

The terms used in the discussion of Moisture Index are incorrect.

$E_o$  = Evaporation from a lake surface

$E_t$  = Potential evaporation

$E_p$  = Pan evaporation

Many researchers have recognised the inadequacies of predicting water budgets from simplistic equations coupled with no actual data.

'Using the annual averages of 30 year data, with a kraznozem peak at each site, rainfall being the only input and no physical losses, the water balance equation may be calculated' (Planners North, p35). This is nonsense.

The consultants should reference the source of such questionable information as 'given that chocolate soils, which have a much lower soil water storage capacity than kraznozem...', 'if the soil holds less water (the example here being a podzol)'. It should also be noted that, contrary to the

beliefs of the consultants, soils on the flats at Lismore are alluvial clays, although the surrounding hill slopes have chocolate soils. Both the hillslopes and the flats do carry remnant rainforest vegetation.

Since the results predicted from their equations are demonstrably untrue, this again demonstrates the problem of using consultants who are not acquainted with the area. Consultants should never be used who draw firm conclusions from baseless assumptions.

#### e) Exotics and Edge Effects

Many people who know the rainforest remnants recognize that the single most dangerous threat at present is the invasion by exotic weeds. There is quite a body of knowledge locally available on the management of small rainforest remnants, regenerative techniques, and gap management. Floyd (1984) describes management of small rainforest areas with particular reference to weed control. Money should not be allocated to research these areas solely because consultants are employed who are not themselves aware of available resources and management techniques. Any monies available for this area should employ people who already know how to get on with the job.

Although the list of edge and exotic species was not included in the Discussion Paper, the list was subsequently obtained. In the discussion paper, weeds were discussed very generally, the number of species being the chief consideration. In addition, species which were regarded as 'edge' species by the consultants were included. However, the 'edge species' contain many species which are not early colonisers. A scientific approach would have appreciated the dynamics of rainforests subject to different disturbance regimes, e.g. the successional turnover in species composition and structure as expounded by Mike Hopkins (1975, 1978, 1981).

It is not meaningful to lump all weeds together. They are not all of equal threat. In addition, contrary to the consultants' belief, some species can infest an 'intact' canopy, e.g. *Asparagus* sp., *Commelina* spp. Infestation of remnants is not wholly dependant on the edge - canopy gaps or disturbance of other kinds will increase weed infestation, e.g. Privet will invade 'inside' the canopy especially around water courses.

Hypothetical assumptions are dangerous in the absence of empirical research. While a 15m penetration may have been relevant to Lovejoy's Amazonian fragments, this obviously differs for each of our remnants by the height of each canopy, the curtaining of the edge by certain species, etc.

'The seed bank under a rainforest canopy is very low'. Where is the evidence for this? Local experience shows that this is not true of our rainforests. The seedbank available and its dispersal characteristics also depends on both the flora and fauna using the remnant and contiguous communities.

For the discussion, the following should have been identified and presented:

- \* the major weed threats
- \* weed sources and dispersal characteristics
- \* the condition of each remnant.
- \* regeneration potential (cost/time)
- \* shape of the remnant with regard to infestation
- \* likely propagule dispersal and germination characteristics
- \* effects of surrounding land use on weed infestation

Liason should have been effected with people engaged in regeneration work.

### iii). Omissions.

#### a) Management and Land use

There is no mention of management to date. A number of the remnants have management plans in operation which have/had public input. (These are notably not the ones under NPWS management). Some of the remnants in public ownership are being actively regenerated by council or by volunteers. We believe it is likely that many private landowners have been active in caring for remnants on their land. No information on the status of present management or of surrounding land use policies was presented. There is no correlation or integration with other local planning exercises such as the Draft Environmental Plans for Ballina and Byron Bay.

Information which may be useful to landowners includes

- \* Aspects of reafforestation with local rainforest species
- \* Site suitability and preparation for reafforestation
- \* Rainforest regeneration techniques
- \* resource people/publications/government bodies for specific resource information

Information which should be gained for public ownership includes

- \* present status of use and its impacts. A number of the remnants in public ownership already have high usage levels and show significant signs of degradation from this.
- \* in those areas which will be unavoidably used for recreational and educational purposes, what are the limits to usage growth and what strategies can be devised to control and manage usage.

#### b) Ecology

The following biological aspect should be assessed to aid assessment of viability:

- \* The contribution to each community of species from
  - the early colonisation stage
  - Secondary phase of succession
  - Mature phase.
- \* the present status of regeneration within each remnant.
- \* species which depend on mutualistic relationships for viability.
- \* relative abundance/dominance for each remnant.
- \* Specific threats to each remnant should be clearly identified with some indication of the rate of advance of the threat.
- \* It would be useful to determine the particular differences and important characteristics of each remnant.
- \* It would have been valuable to have site characteristics and land capabilities identified outside the present remnants to aid conservation through the reestablishment of corridors.
- \* the value and effect of replanting within remnants - information for each site.

Fauna was very inadequately covered. The only mention of fauna other than avifauna is on p 43 where the three sites are marked as having bats without further comment and in the following unreferenced and unsubstantiated statement:

'Rainforest dependent mammals and reptiles appear to be rare in the remnants, and certainly no appropriate data exists for this study. The

consequences of their loss is little understood'. If consultants are to be employed, they should have the appropriate expertise.

#### iv) Recommendations.

The North Coast branch of the N.P.A. is totally opposed to the following recommendations of this Discussion Paper.

- \* Division of remnants into
  - Primary Conservation Sites
  - Secondary Conservation Sites
  - General Remnant Sites
  - Designated Tourist and Educational Sites (pp 58, 59)

These divisions were in any case arbitrarily allocated. It is of paramount concern that sites have been allocated status at all, let alone apparently on the basis of whether they are 'true' Big Scrub sites or not.

\* During the workshop discussion Ms. A. Specht stated that she 'didn't assume that conservation of all sites was possible' i.e. she assumed that it wasn't possible, yet adequate information on conservation status and viability was not presented for any site.

\* 'entrepreneurial use of general remnant sites ought to be encouraged subject to the preparation of satisfactory management plans. Furthermore, the National Parks and Wildlife Service should give serious consideration to supporting the construction of tourist infrastructure in close proximity to designated tourist and educational sites'. (pp59,61). The consultants appear completely unable to grasp the fragility of these remnants. As a further example, Boatharbour has conflicting usages as a prime tourism site and as a prime conservation site.

\* 'The community (both resident and tourist) should enjoy reasonable access to the remnants for scientific, historical, educational and recreational purposes. It is Governments' proper role to facilitate such access'. The National Parks and Wildlife Act actually requires that priority be given to protecting ecosystems, particularly since the N.P.W.S. sites are Nature Reserves and primarily aimed at species conservation. No assessment of the impact of present usage on these remnants, or of the effects of recreational use in general is evidenced in the Discussion Paper.

\* 'removing and controlling weeds, ensuring that the edge of the remnant is sharp' (p62)

\* 'maintaining species diversity, by ensuring gaps occur, and the remnants are not overprotected'. !!!!! We have discussed the dangers of this belief and the natural occurrence of gaps earlier.

#### 4. Conclusions

We hope that a Conservation Strategy for particular rainforest remnants would contain sufficient information on the techniques and resources available for management of such areas in general as well as containing site specific management requirements. This Discussion Paper does not form the basis for either.

While it is not necessary to go into the mechanics of management, a Conservation Strategy should clearly spell out the end that is to be achieved and the priority of action for each remnant as well as give some guidance as to desirable means.

Because the Discussion Paper which was presented by Stephen Connelly of Planner's North, in conjunction with Ms Alison Specht et. al. of the N.R.C.A.E's Centre for Coastal Management, is totally inadequate, the North Coast Branch of the N.P.A. believes that the employment of these Consultants should be terminated. We are extremely concerned that, instead of insisting on high standards in the formulation of the Strategy, the N.S.W. N.P.W.S. might modify the Brief to suit the Consultants. Since the conservation management of the Big Scrub remnants has not yet been adequately discussed, there must be further public input to the formulation of the Conservation Strategy, and of the Management Plans for the three Nature Reserves, Victoria Park, Davis Scrub, and Broken Head.

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Lorna Harmer,  
Sea Acres,  
Pacific Drive,  
PORT MACQUARIE. N.S.W. 2444.

21st August, 1989.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you concerning what I consider a dangerous trend of the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service with respect to protection of our environment.

My husband and I managed Sea Acres Wildlife Refuge for 10 years as a private operation. During this time, based on years of discussions and studying our environment in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, we came to the mutual conclusion that the only real protection of very valuable resources such as Sea Acres rainforest, would be if they were placed under the complete control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and on this basis we sacrificed our business - with no compensation from the National Parks and Wildlife Service - to achieve this end.

To our bitter disappointment, due to inferior thinking by Mr. Moore's Department and the Director of the National Parks Mr. John Whitehouse, and with the use of taxpayers' money both Federal and State supplied to finance this Centre, it has now been decided to turn this valuable resource back to private enterprise, without consultation and against the advice, to the contrary, of expert people. This is in effect using taxpayer's money to provide a private enterprise operation.

I believe that very unhealthy precedents are being set here, which will result in a serious threat to our natural resources and feel it is a matter conservation groups should take action on before it is too late.

I enclose for your information copy of a letter sent to Mr. G. Richardson, Minister for the Environment 27/1/89, which further outlines the position. Should you require any further information I would endeavour to supply same.

Yours faithfully,

*Lorna Harmer*

LORNA HARMER

or  
6607000

Donna Lorna Harmes  
Sea Acres,  
Pacific Drive,  
PORT MACQUARIE,  
N.S.W.

27th January, 1985

Mr. G. Richardson,  
Minister for the Environment,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

We are writing as the previous owners of Sea Acres Wildlife Refuge, Port Macquarie, N.S.W., the first coastal conservation area of littoral rainforest rated by the National Trust, an area we managed for 10 years. Through our efforts, two years ago the area was transferred from the Lands Department to the National Parks and Wildlife Service as a Nature Reserve, for the purpose of operating a Rainforest Ecology Centre. This project has been funded by taxpayers money, a substantial amount we believe coming from the Federal Government.

This was achieved at great personal sacrifice as it cost us our business and life savings, including our house. This we had accepted in an effort to protect a valuable part of Australian heritage.

After approximately two years the Centre is now approaching completion and contrary to previous planning and agreements the Service has now instigated proceedings to lease the Centre back to private enterprise, using a clumsy proposal that the leasee pay for a National Parks approved interpreter.

The reasons we suspect reflect very poor management and planning strategies, the results being neglect of protection for our valuable rainforests. Because of the above it must be obvious by anyone that if this Centre is operated by private enterprise other than ourselves, we are now placed in an extremely dis-advantaged position. It can be easily seen that taxpayers money has been used to disadvantage us and I do not believe that the Federal Government provided money for this purpose.

We would summarise the position as follows:

1. Evaluation of this area's importance was researched during our management by ourselves, the National Parks and Wildlife Service plus public debate and the conclusions reached that the only safeguard for this area was that it be operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.



2. The Nature Reserve status would not have been achieved without our direct negotiations with the Minister of Lands as the Lands Department had refused the Nature Reserve proposal and would not hand over the land. This decision was not accepted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
3. We received no compensation for the loss of our business. This we accepted providing the protection of this area was achieved. This goal will not be achieved by leasing back to private enterprise. What is proposed now could have been achieved without us losing our business and lifestyle.
4. We object strongly to being told we can "stand in the queue and put up a large sum of money" which for obvious reasons we now do not possess, if we wish to tender for this lease.
5. We believe the department that funded this rainforest concept should investigate why this private enterprise situation now exists.
6. We object to taxpayers money being used to disadvantage our family, and would expect that immediate action should be taken from our elected Members of Parliament to ensure this does not happen.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Ron and Lorna Harmer.