

NIMBIN & RAINBOW NEWS
P.O. BOX 209,
NIMBIN, 2480
PH: (066) 89 1184

June 1992

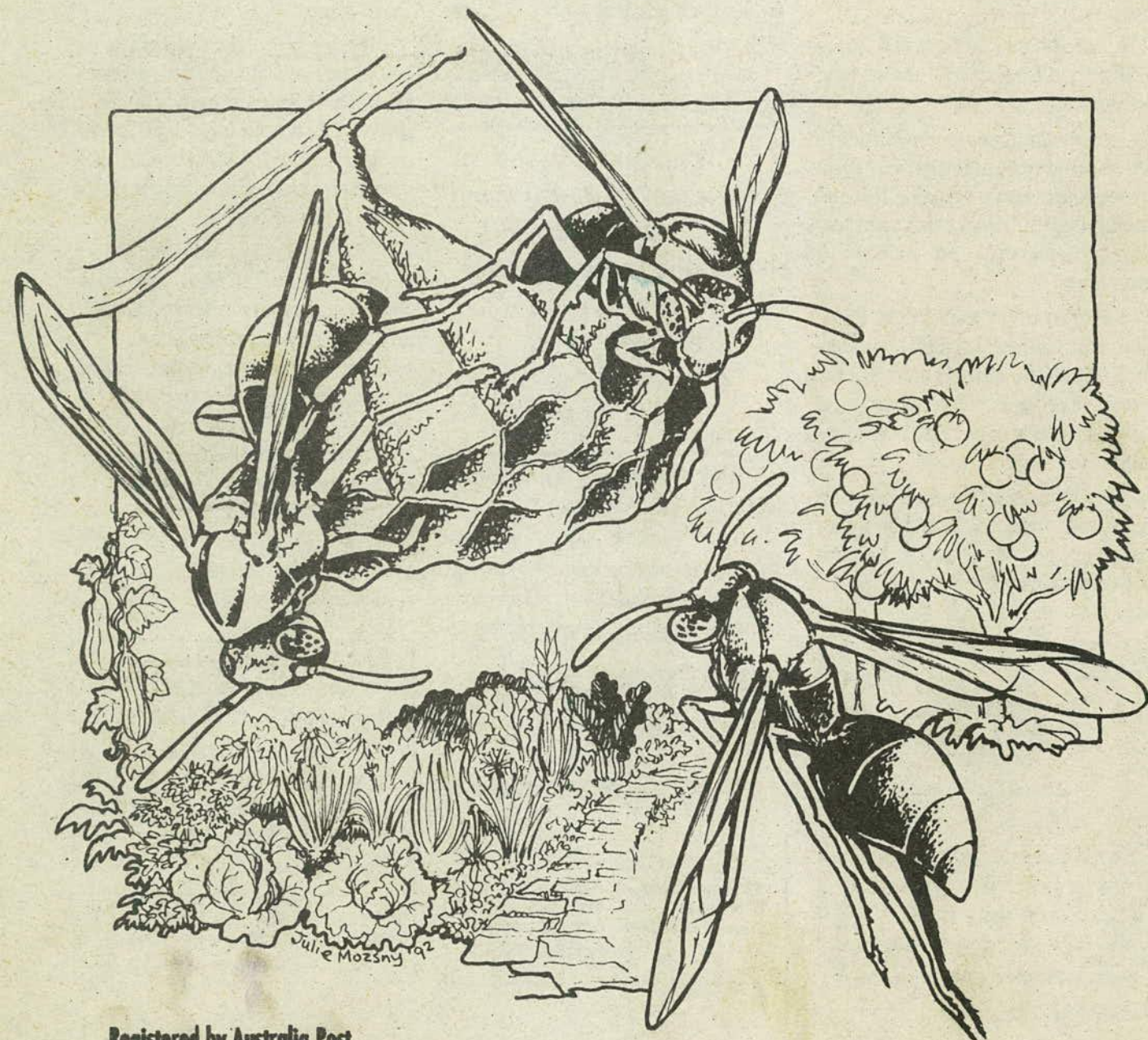
\$1-00

Environs



**IN THIS ISSUE:- Koala Summit, Coffs' water - supply & disposal,
Nambucca "overcleared", Environmental Law, Planning laws subverted.**

the north coast environment magazine



Registered by Australia Post
Publication No NAC93793

NEW BILL SUBVERTS PLANNING LAWS

‘a National Party Minister
will control all major land
use decisions in NSW’

Projects worth more than \$20 million or employing more than 20 people, could in future be approved only by the NSW Minister for Planning instead of local councils.

It means that a National Party Minister will control all major land use decisions in NSW.

Among the types of projects, will be intensive agriculture, food processing, timber processing, mineral mining, pulp mills, abattoirs, chemical plants, tanneries, and warehouse complexes.

The director of the Dept of Planning, Mrs Gabrielle Kibble, who has devised the new scheme, said the current arrangements were too slow and “had at the end of the day been very subject to local interests”.

The Opposition’s spokesperson on the environment, Ms Pam Allen, said the scheme would see the Department of Planning become the “de facto” local council.

“The potential is there for the department and the minister to become the judge and jury in that they set the guidelines for development, they push the development and they are also the consent authority”, she said.

In a recent press release, the North Coast Environment Council slammed

**It amounts to an
attempt to fast-track
large scale
developments without
requiring proper
environmental
planning or public
participation**

the NSW Government’s attempts to subvert the planning laws.

NCEC spokesperson, Mr Andrew Steed said: “It amounts to an attempt to fast-track large scale developments without requiring proper environ-

mental planning or public participation. The excuse to impose this draconian centralised control system is based on the “economic benefit at any cost” policy prevalent in this Government.

“It is a deliberate attempt to silence local councils and their communities and to ignore the environmental and social costs of large scale development proposals which could spell disaster for many communities on the North Coast of NSW.

“All north coast councils and people interested in how large scale developments affect their community are being treated as non-existent, and must show their anger at the contempt shown to people of NSW by their Government”,
Write Letters and FAX Ministers to express your outrage at this move to centralise control.

Sources:

Sydney Morning Herald

Richard Jones MLC

NCEC

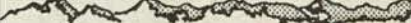


*Sunflowers
health foods*

bulk and international foods
books * cosmetics * vitamins
take-away foods

Macksville

**Carty & Co
Solicitors**



Suite 12,
Old Bellingen Chambers
1A Oak Street
Bellingen NSW 2454
PO Box 356

John Carty B.Ec., LL.B
Vivien Carty B.A., LL.B
Tel: 086 551 377
Fax: 086 552 633

**Nambucca Herbal
Medicine and
Floatation Centre**

herbal medicines
nutrition plans
massage
float tank
iridology
bach flowers



Robin Howey Dip Herb Med
Mann Street, Nambucca Heads
687-168 Tuesday to Friday

Nambucca's lower valley is over-cleared

‘It has just about reached its limit without serious consequences to wildlife and farming uses’

Nambucca Shire's lower valley areas have been over-cleared, according to Mr Glenn Atkinson of the NSW Soil Conservation Service, who has just completed a Soil Conservation Report for the Council on the urban and rural-residential capability of lands tagged for development under the "Structure Plan".

"There is very little timber left in the lower valley. It has just about reached its limit without serious consequences to wildlife and farming uses", he said.

He showed Councillors a series of slides to illustrate this problem and others in the area studied. Some slides taken in the Nambucca Shire showed drainage lines between hills cleared with the tree waste being pushed down into these gullies, and others showed windrows pushed into an up-and-down hill pattern instead of along the contour. "This is bad management", Mr Atkinson said.

More slides showed examples of clearing on steep land (over 20%), for grazing, which is believed to be generally uneconomical. "I have seen all the top soil gone and dams filled with sediment from clearing such steep land", he said.

He also pointed out that subdivision and clearing for powerlines, roads and fences can fragment stands of forest and the benefits of these integrated patches of forest are then lost.

One slide showed a bean patch at Congarinni on steep slopes. "This paddock is losing 400 tonnes of soil per hectare per rainstorm", Mr Atkinson said. "It is not sustainable use".

He said the North Coast has poor soil generally so it should be protected and land-use controls put over land at the time urban and rural-residential subdivision rights are given.

The Soil Conservation Report gives information on slope, terrain,

ground cover, land use, and soil types of areas tagged for future subdivision. It is accompanied by a map and attribute tables.

All the information has been put onto Council's computers to form the beginning of a GIS (Geographical Information System) database.

The urban potential of land studied has been assessed into categories A to F (very suitable to not suitable). The rural capability has been assessed into categories 1 to 8 (1 being the best agricultural land, 7 & 8 being best left as timber). The rural-residential capability has been assessed taking into account the need for such things as adequate effluent disposal.

The document is available for reference at the Council Chambers. A more complete assessment of its findings will be made in a later Environs - after we've read it!

Lyn Orrego




Shop 1/25 Hyde Street,
Bellingen, ph 55-2266

Let the SUN work for YOU!

- *Installation
- *All solar gear
- *Agent for BIO (non toxic) paints
- *Agent for the Rainbow Power Company
- *Pumps
- *Solar Hot Water

THE YELLOW SHED
Bellingen Craftworks & Garden Centre

OPEN 7 DAYS



It's fantastic!
Discover the finest range of crafts and paintings on the North Coast.
Explore our evergrowing garden centre!
2 Hyde St. Bellingen. Ph 551 189

KOALA EMBASSY ESTABLISHED

The case for a Bongil Bongil coastal park

A Koala Embassy was established at North Bonville by the Coffs Harbour Environment Centre from Friday May 29.

The purpose was to put the case for a Bongil Bongil Coastal Park (North Bonville State Recreation Area) and to promote a plan prepared by John Turbill for protection of Koala habitat and movement corridors in the Toormina/Baildon area.

The Embassy provides pamphlets and information on endangered species and maps of the North Bonville component of the proposed State Recreation Area.

Coffs Harbour City Council recently completed the purchase of 150ha of land zoned for environmental protection in North Bonville. This makes up some two thirds of the land required for the proposed recreation area.

"All we need to do now is add the flood-free Koala habitat to the land now owned by the City Council to

6 the millions of dollars invested in this land since 1987 have all been public money 9

complete North Bonville section of the Bongil Bongil State Recreation Area" said Trevor Pike of CHEC.

"This sector of the park could be opened to the public within weeks" he said.

The CHEC is calling upon the NSW State Bank to hand the first mortgage of the Bonville Beach Hardwoods' land over to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. "The public should regard this land as public land because of the millions of dollars invested in this land since 1987. It has all been public money (\$5 million in 1987, \$6.5 million in 1988 and many millions financing the privatisation of NSW Investment Corporation).

"We the public, have put all the money in. The State Bank of NSW - the NSW people's Bank - holds the mortgage. It is about time it was handed over to NPWS to ensure proper management and public access to this environmental and economic treasure." said Mr Pike.

For further details, contact the Coffs Harbour Environment Centre, Phone (066) 523940



**Mid-Coast
Organics**

SUPPLIERS OF

FRESH ORGANIC PRODUCE
ORGANIC FERTILIZER
ECOLOGICALLY SAFE SPRAYS
TRACE ELEMENTS - MINERALS
ORGANIC GROWERS HELPING EACH OTHER
WITH INFORMATION - ECONOMICS.
065 642176

**SOIL
tec**

Chemical soil analysis service
Soil tested for available nutrients
Organic growers fully considered
Written report
Contact Dr Alan Lloyd for info
(066) 53-4424

BUILDING ADVICE

plans drawn up
minimal impact
structures in timber, earth,
steel and concrete
RON HAWKINS
consulting engineer
Kookaburra Farm
Macksville Rd, Bowraville
(065) 647-461

Nambucca shire wants to restore health of rivers



The Nambucca Shire Councillors are unanimous in their feeling that attempts must be made to restore the health of the Nambucca Valley's rivers according to a report from the Shire Engineer, Mr Don Walker.

The Councillors had a boat trip up the Nambucca River to Apex Park and up Taylors Arm River to just above the Broadwater on May 13. They were accompanied by three Fisheries officers including Mr Craig

Copeland, marine biologist for the North Coast.

A number of river bank erosion problems along with attempts at stabilisation with materials such as concrete and old tyres filled with concrete, were inspected. The effect of trees and lack of trees on the river banks was an item of discussion.

Council resolved to convene a meeting with senior officers of all relevant Government Departments to consider river problems, possible so-

lutions and funding. The Council will be looking for 'bite-sized' objectives to be incorporated into a Management Plan; that is things which can actually be achieved.

Anyone with river problems or ideas for solutions should speak with one of their Councillors, or put their ideas in writing and ask that they be considered when the River Management Plan meeting takes place.

Cr Lyn Orrego.

KOALA SUMMIT

Coffs Harbour koalas - is extinction their future?

Australians For Animals will host a Koala Summit at Coffs Harbour on Saturday, June 20 at the Coffs Harbour Community Centre, Earl Street from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Cost approx \$10.

Co-sponsors are the Coffs Harbour Koala Preservation Society, the Coffs Harbour Environment Centre, Clarence Valley WIRES, Coffs Harbour National Park Support Group, RSPCA, Toxin Action Group, Bellingen Environment

Centre and the North Coast Environment Council.

A large cross-section of the business community as well as Local Government, developers, Forestry Commission, tourist industry, and any organisation interested in Koalas have been invited.

(If you represent a group who may be interested in being a co-sponsor for the Summit, please contact Sue Arnold, co-ordinator, ph: (066) 853633)

Spokesperson for AFA, Ms Sue Arnold said: "The

goal of the summit is to get a management plan for the koalas in the area. Hopefully a plan that could be duplicated by other Councils on the Mid and Far North Coasts of NSW where koalas are under so much pressure.

"At the end of the Summit, we hope to provide some positive options to ensure the survival of koalas in the area," she said.

Speakers invited to the Summit include: Dr Harry Recher, UNE; Peter Cumming, Town Planner;

Ian Tibbetts, Uni of QLD expert on eco tourism; Dan Lunney, Head of the NSW NPWS Koala Program; Chris Moon, zoologist; Dr. Bill Sherwin, a geneticist. Brian Preston, barrister and former head of the Environmental Defenders Office

For further details, contact Sue Arnold, AFA, PO Box 607, Coffs Harbour 2450. ph: (066) 853633

* press 1/2

environs, the north coast environment magazine

Aerial Spraying

"it is now clear that aerial spraying should be banned"

Senator Robert Bell from Tasmania spoke in Parliament on April 28 1992 about his concerns over lack of action on aerial spraying of chemicals.

"The Senate will recall that in November 1988 it established a Select Committee on Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals which reported in July 1990, nearly two years ago. When the report was presented, it was generally regarded as a positive and worthwhile contribution to a growing problem, particularly to residents of rural Australia. The Committee made 45 recommendations, but so far we have not seen any results in terms of action on those recommendations.

"The Senate Committee made some very important recommendations and they have been ignored. With particular reference to the question of aerial spraying, recommendation 45 of the Committee called for the development of a uniform approach to its regulation, and in the

event that such regulations are not implemented, that aerial spraying should be banned. It is now clear that aerial spraying should be banned.

"Country Australia has been polluted by an unrestricted discharge of a variety of chemical cocktail sprays spanning many years, and it is still

many have died from the aerial sprays as will sooner or later become clear.

continuing unabated in its deadly fashion. Not only has the immediate health of people been affected, but many have died from the aerial sprays as will sooner or later become clear.

"My office is now hearing from people throughout Australia claiming to have been either directly affected by aerial spraying or describing the effects of spraying on rivers, water

tanks, agricultural crops and often with catastrophic results. Many instances have been reported to me where relevant authorities have been informed of these events. More often than not the reports have been ignored, discarded or covered up."

"Last week I was given an outline of many instances of people, water supplies and rivers in and around Mungindi being sprayed. Mungindi is a cotton growing area in northern NSW. I have been told of one sequence of events as follows:

.....at 5.30am a plane sprayed into a strong wind, blowing directly into our house. We could not get the windows closed in time and the inside of the house was like a fog and my face felt as if acid had been thrown on it and one of my children's lips and throat were burning. The spray was Parathion.

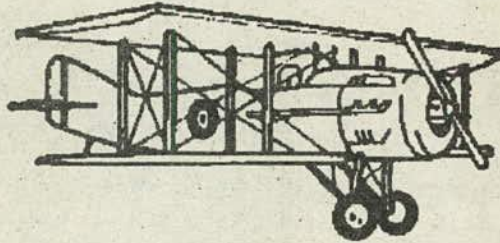
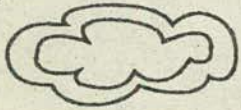
I rang the cotton grower and asked if he would spray when the wind was

The Healthy
gourmet
DORRIGO
Phone: (066) 572304

Leslie McInnes
Herbalist Homeopath

"Rosegum"
Macksville Road
Bowraville
NSW 2449
Phone:-
(065) 647495

boggy creek natives
wildflower nursery
plants for
landscaping
windscreens
and woodlots
BELLINGEN MARKETS
3rd Saturday each month
or by arrangement
collin broadfoot (066) 551335



blowing away from the house. His reply was that I was not dead yet.

A month later at six in the morning we had chemical right through the house again. I tried to get the plane to stop spraying. They refused so I got the police stop them.

There was no authority that wanted to listen or do anything about our situation and the cotton grower threatened to sue if I stopped him spraying when he wanted to.

We have an angora goat stud. The plane would fly over us so low, it sent the goats crazy, so they ran into fences and piled on top of each other. As time went by the does started to abort and have dead kids. Although we had blood tests taken nothing could be found to indicated the cause.

Spraying continued and an increasing number of people began complaining.

In April 1989, a 2,4,D and Roundup mixture was sprayed with the wind blowing toward our property. The garden, and fruit trees were wiped out, as well as all the grasses and herbs on our 20 acres. The Department of Agriculture Inspector arrived two weeks later and said that the place had been badly contaminated but there was not enough evidence to do anything about it.

"This is the tiniest tip of a very big iceberg which I intend to persist

with until governments take this issue seriously. A list has been accumulating in my office. The only real option I have is to bring these case studies to the Senate to indicate how seriously people are being affected by the

inaction with regard to this problem which persists throughout Australia", Senator Bell said.

Senator Robert Bell
371 Elizabeth Street,
North Hobart 7002

Resources

Future for native forest logging

An informative paper has just been released by the ANU entitled: "The Future for Native Forest Logging in Australia" written by Judy Clark from the Centre for Resource & Environmental Studies at the Australian National University. It is available in major public libraries and all University Libraries or by request from:

Publications Officer
CRES ANU,
GPO Box 4, Canberra 2601.
Cost, including postage, is \$8.

Topics covered include: Hardwood Sawmilling Decline; Woodchip Exports; Australian Pulp and Paper Production; Eucalypt Plantation Projections; Projected Softwood Sawlog Supply. (over 25 pages).

Some Quotes:

".....softwood plantation resource and recycled waste paper will be the major growth area for the Australian pulp and paper industry in the 1990s."

"...by 1996 Australia's eucalypt plantations are projected to supply about the same volume of wood that the pulp and paper industry currently uses from native forests."

"Australia's eucalypt plantation estate is currently increasing by approx 11,000ha per annum."

"For economic reasons, Australia's sawmilling and pulp and paper industry will shift almost completely to.....softwood and eucalypt plantation resource (tree crops)..."

NAMBUCCA RIVER SUFFERING: ...gravel rash? or rash gravel extraction ?

Parts of the Nambucca River have major lateral and vertical instability according to a Consultants report released last week by the Department of Water Resources.

"This means the river in the lower Missabotti and North Arm areas is widening and deepening", said the representative of Water Resources, Mr Alex Purviss at a meeting in Bowraville. The Consultants, Resource Planning Pty Ltd, also recommended that there be no gravel extraction below low-flow water level and this only where it will alleviate bank erosion and where bank stabilisation works will be done at the same time.

Water Resources has not yet adopted the Consultants' recommendations. Instead they have adopted some interim strategies for permitting gravel extraction while they prepare a River Management Plan.

The interim strategies generally allow the extraction of gravel above low-flow level and will allow it below this only where there is a downstream structural control. "The Nambucca has no such controls as it is a gravel bed controlled stream", Mr Purviss said. The interim strategy will

also allow extraction below bed level where evidence can be provided of bed aggradation (build-up).

"A draft River Management Plan will be put on public display twice before being finalised and is hoped to be finished by the end of this year", Mr Purviss said.

Cr Lyn Orrego, who attended the meeting said she urged people to start getting ready to have input to the draft plan with examples from their own river frontages. She said:

The consultants recommended that there be no gravel extraction below low-flow water level and this only where it will alleviate bank erosion and where bank stabilisation works will be done at the same time.

"Conservationists and farmers should be pushing for the adoption of the consultants' recommendations into the plan. The river can no longer stand the greedy gravel guzzling of the past and present".

The consultants report is available for public reference from the Council and from the Total Catchment Management Committee, whose president is Mr Don Cody.

While conservationists at the meeting generally believe Water Resources

should be more restrictive in giving out permits for gravel extraction, many others, gravel extractors among them, believe Water Resources to be too restrictive.

A local landowner slammed the Department claiming that during the 11 years that Water Resources was managing the river it had become degraded. Mr Purviss refuted this, saying that it was the massive floods of the 1950's which destabilised the river by changing the pool/riffle sequence. Then the channel became wider and the deep holes were mostly filled in. "The river is still trying to adjust", he said.

When asked if digging out the holes again would be helpful he said that this may cause headward erosion from the hole which can run for kilometres upstream, as well as being more erosive downstream.

Landholders agreed that they would be concerned if river tables were degrading, but some said they'd like to see a flexible approach from Water Resources because the river had a build up of gravel in the upstream areas.



Mr Purviss said that taking gravel out at certain sites can alleviate pressure on eroding spots by giving the water flow more space to occupy, but that in the long term it is best for the river system as a whole to leave the gravel in.

He said Germany has now learned its lesson and only allows gravel extraction from rivers on an opportunistic basis where localised erosion is threatening or near lakes in deposition areas.

Mr Purviss recently told the TCM Committee that Germany spends \$40 million a year putting gravel back into the Rhine and re-instating riffles with weir structures. He said that some of our river systems are under stress and it is unlikely there could be any increase in gravel extraction. "In some cases it will be declining. Where there is overall channel enlargement and no extraction allowed we will direct people to inactive terraces or floodplains. If an extraction site is more than 40m

from a stream we only have involvement if the river or groundwater is effected. It will be up to the Local Council outside of the 40m".

Cr Lyn Orrego

MACKSVILLE RSL

Robyn Williams

Speaking at the:-
Yarrahappinni Ecology Centre
Grassy Head Road,
Grassy Head.

June 30, Tuesday 7.30pm

Topic:

21st Century - Will It Happen?

To secure a seat, please phone bookings to
Mr Terry Parkhouse on:-
(065) 690771.

Robyn Williams is:
Presenter of ABC Radio's
Science Show

Director of ABC Science Unit
Member of the Commission of
the Future
President of the Australian
Museum

Adults
\$2



Students
\$1

Organised by:
**The Three Valleys Branch of the
National Parks Association**

FLUORIDE just another con?

If fluoridation is supposed to prevent tooth decay why has the overall cost (government and private) of dental care throughout Australia increased by 63% and the number of dentists in Australia increased by over 60% since fluoridation was first introduced? These costs are compounding year by year, plus the enormous increase in the cost of fluoride chemicals, plants and man hours in the fluoridation process.

Even with all English speaking countries in a state of economic depression, there is seemingly unlimited fluoridation money available to waste in the unlawful and undemocratic process of polluting public drinking water supplies with poisonous fluoride chemicals.

from "The Australian Fluoridation News" Vol 28 no2
March/April 1992

BELLINGEN DISTRICT LOAN FUND

Money with a conscience



36 Hyde
Street
Bellingen

your local ethical
investment fund

066 55-2288

Richard Laxton

B.Comm ACA (NZ)



Accounting services
for all aspects
of business.

- ◆ Chartered Accountant
- ◆ Business consultant
- ◆ Feasibility studies
- ◆ Information systems
- ◆ Business plans

PO Box 84, Bowraville. (068) 647-818

TAKING CONTROL

Grass-roots input for future policy making.

Residents make their own policies for the future.

Policies for ecologically sustainable living on the North Coast are being prepared by the North Coast Environment Council.

The Council recently adopted a Vision Statement which will be supported by a range of policies. At a recent meeting, Council members agreed to work on the areas of population; economy; toxic substances; bio-diversity; transport; energy; water supply; sewage disposal; as highest priorities. Other policies would follow.

President of the NCEC, Mr Terry Parkhouse said that the Council would welcome public input into the first

**work on the areas of
population; economy;
toxic substances; bio-
diversity; transport;
energy; water supply;
sewage disposal...**

steps of this policy development process and encouraged any interested persons to contact their local environment centre or group for details on how to become involved.

The North Coast Environment Council Inc is the regional umbrella organisation for bona fide Environment and Conservation groups. The Council is 15 years old and has over

40 member bodies from the Tweed to the Manning Rivers and west to the New England Highway, including thousands of north coast residents.

In releasing the Vision Statement, Mr Parkhouse said: "The North Coast needs these policies because there is an ecological crisis unfolding and successive local, state and federal governments have failed to recognise this and provide the vision, direction and leadership to guide the future of the North Coast.

"We've seen the results of rampant, fast-track decisions being made on an ad hoc basis. We need an integrated vision and detailed policies that can make the vision real. That is what the Environment Council is working towards".

"When we've worked up our ideas into advanced drafts, we intend to bring these policies to the people of the North Coast for their consideration and comment," Mr Parkhouse said.



*Macksville Natural
Therapies*

Belinda Foley ASS. M.A.I.H.

HOMEOPATH NATUROPATH

Member of the

Australian Traditional Medicine Society

Suite 6, 17 Wallace St,

Macksville 2447

Phone 68-2171 A.H.: 64-2176

DID YOU KNOW...



* Coles Myer stores alone give away about 300,000,000 plastic shopping bags each year.

* Australians throw away 900,000,000 plastic food containers each year.

* About 30% of all plastic produced is used once then thrown away.

* Each year about 65 kilos of plastic per Australian is produced.

* There are approximately 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in each square mile of our oceans.

from BIG SCRUB NEWSLETTER
Mar/Apr 92



**Barbara McCormack DC
chiropractor**



**Veranda Post
Gallery Centre
High Street
Bowraville**

Phone 647 840

mention para
now done.
could be out of date now!
Change of Government?

National Parks and Wildlife Service in danger

● The service will end up as a group of rangers who collect park fees and garbage ●

environs, the north coast environment magazine

The Three Valleys Branch of the National Parks Association stated in its newsletter that the 'Metherill Crisis' has placed the NSW National Park System in the greatest danger that it has ever been in, in its 25 year history.

The Environment Minister Tim Moore has announced that he will resign before the end of the year and without doubt the National Party will campaign to allow CALM (The Department of Conservation and Land Management) to take control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This has been the National Party's goal for some time but Tim Moore has prevented it - so far! If CALM gains control of the NPWS it will undoubtedly remove responsibility for wildlife, wilderness assessment, new park investigations and wildlife law enforcement from NPWS. The service will end up as a group of rangers who collect park fees and garbage. We could easily end up with mining, logging and resort development in National Parks.

Many of the NPWS's problems have been created by this government. Although there is an apparent increase in funding, these funds are ear-marked for administrative and technological restructuring to allow the service to 'sell' its expertise as consultants. Grass roots funding for Park Maintenance and Operations has been cut substantially. The enemies of the NPWS will then cite the failure of the service to perform these visible services as justification for a takeover.

The Three Valleys Branch of the NPA requests that people write to the Premier Mr Greiner supporting the NPWS and its control by the Minister for the Environment.

The Three Valleys Branch of the NPA holds its AGM on June 6, 7.30pm in Nambucca Heads, and a bush walk to Little Wonder Creek on Saturday July 18.

For details: contact their secretary, Marshall Hodgekiss, 445B Stuarts Point Road, Yarrahapinni 2441 Ph 690558 (w) or 690548 (h)

NVCA to become incorporated

It is a sad fact of the 1990's that volunteer community groups face an increasing risk of being sued by people who don't like the actions of the group or what its members are saying. Members of the Nambucca Valley Conservation Association have been warned that, as an 'informal' group, any one of us could be liable to be sued for any or all of our assets: all the plaintiff will do is choose the wealthiest person in the group.

After some discussion at the April meeting it was unanimously decided to begin the process of incorporation. Once completed, NVCA will become a legal entity, and although it may be sued, this can only be to the value of its assets (which will be less than most of its members private assets).

The first part of the process of incorporation will take place at the ordinary meeting of the Association on Monday July 6 at 7.30 pm. Two special resolutions will be considered. These are:

1. That a constitution suitable for incorporation be adopted; and
2. That a person be appointed to apply for incorporation.

Please make the effort to attend this meeting as it is the future of your community organisation that is being decided on.

*Alison Pope
Secretary NVCA*

Position Vacant

Volunteer Minutes Secretary for the North Coast Environment Council

Contact Mr Jim Tedder: ph (065) 690802
(Next meeting of the NCEC is July 25)

mention
para

Coffs sewage outfall.

“Council would spend \$75,000 to hire a Sydney public relations firm to convince tourists that swimming in Coffs Harbour’s effluent was good for them”

Coffs Harbour and ocean outfalls are becoming synonymous, in fact Coffs Harbour is fast becoming known as ‘Home of the Big Turd’ and that, claim local businessmen, is hurting tourism.

Coffs Harbour’s mayor, Ald John Smith, claimed this was the reason he led a delegation of aldermen and staff to Sydney, at a cost to ratepayers of nine thousand dollars, to lobby the Rev Fred, and Mrs Elaine Nile, in a bid to have the Look-At-Me-Now Headland protection Bill, which has passed the lower house, rejected in the Legislative Council.

It was also the reason, claimed the mayor, for announcing that Council would spend \$75,000 to hire a Sydney public relations firm to convince tourists that swimming in Coffs Harbour’s effluent was good for them. Unfortunately, the mayor ‘forgot’ to tell the other aldermen about his scheme before announcing it to the media.

Ald Alph Williams branded the mayor’s action as typical of “heavy handed, slug-headed fascists” and called for debate on the issue. Meanwhile,

chairman of the Concerned Residents of Arrawarra-Mullaway, Mr Chris Tsembis, said he was “appalled by the suggestion that anybody could claim a virus-rich brew pumped into our oceans enhances the beauty of our area in the eyes of the tourist.”

This resulted in lively questioning at the Council meeting where Mayor Smith claimed, in direct contradiction of his media release, that the decision to spend the money was really made by the Public Works Department and Council had no say in it. Shortly after the mayor closed the meeting to the public, Ald David Berry stormed from the chamber and in a short address to the waiting crowd said: “You have a massive struggle in front of you! I’m sick of this.” And then left amid cheers and applause.

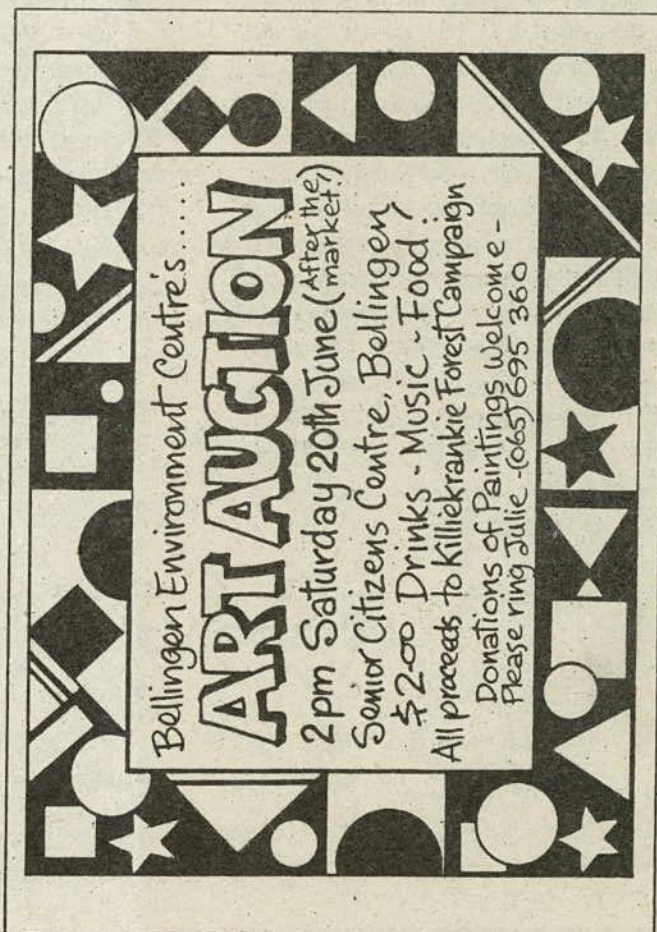
At a subsequent meeting the aldermen passed without debate a number of motions proposed by Ald John Essex-Clarke, that have the potential to cripple the power of the mayor and the town clerk by removing some, or all, of the delegated authority granted to them when the Council was first elected.

Regardless of all this activity, “The Comedy Company” are still pushing ahead with an EIS at Look-At-Me-Now Headland, designed to allow them to install an outfall that legislation currently before Parliament will make illegal.

Despite the New South Wales Government’s approval of the Memtec mi-

cro-filtration system and the State Pollution Control Commission’s acceptance of the Willis Creek artificial wetland proposal as a means of disposing of surplus effluent, Council is still pushing ahead with their ratepayer funded junket to South Africa to inspect a treatment system that has no Australian approval.

Richard Clowes.



Bellingen Environment Centre's.....
ART AUCTION
2pm Saturday 20th June (After the market!)
Senior Citizens Centre, Bellingen
\$2.00 Drinks - Music - Food!
All proceeds to Killiecrankie Forest Campaign
Donations of Paintings welcome -
Please ring Julie - (065) 695 360

Letters to the Editor

Coffs Harbour Water Supply

Coffs Harbour's water supply is a time bomb quietly ticking away while Council and their masters, the Cargo Cult prophets, continue with their well practiced obfuscation.

The current proposal, we are told, is to pump water from the Bellingen River, the same water Bellingen residents were told was too contaminated to swim in.

Following objections and the threat to mount a legal challenge to this option by Bellingen Council, Coffs Harbour's mayor, Ald John Smith, has approached his mate, Deputy Premier, Wal Murray, to intervene and legislate to exclude the scheme from compliance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, something that should concern all residents for it further entrenches the one law for the people, and another, or perhaps, no law for the speculator. The National Party's latest scheme, to remove planning powers from councils, is another aspect of the same theme.



Coffs Harbour Acupuncture
Clinic 56 Grafton Street
Coffs Harbour Ph 512898

the same water Bellingen residents were told was too contaminated to swim in

Another proposal by Council that needs close attention is for them to take water from the so-called 'Bonville Bore Field', the land owned by BBH and proposed for the Bongil Bongil coastal park by environmentalists. This proposal involves the installation of a number of bores and the 'one off' extraction of water until the water table is lowered three metres. It is this lowering of the water table that causes concern as this will allow the inflow of sea water into the aquifer, resulting in the massive disturbance, and perhaps even total destruction of the whole Bonville-Pine Creek estuary ecosystem, rendering the area unsuitable for use as a national park for all time.

This will no doubt please the land owners, Bonville Beach Hardwoods, who have been trying to develop the land for the past decade, but until now, have been thwarted by the area's natural value.

Recent manoeuvring by Planning Minister, Robert Webster, and Council to approve BBH's development at

North Bonville that will result in destruction of valuable Koala habitat, and the sudden agreement between BBH and Council to defer a development application for South Bonville that would have prevented use of the Bonville Bore Field has caused concern within the community.

In a recent conversation about development and water shortages with Department of Local Government inspector Ms Mary Brophy, this humble scribe mentioned that the bore field proposal would be challenged on scientific grounds. Ms Brophy responded, "My God, you must really want to stop all development in Coffs Harbour."

This indicates to all but the brain dead that the Government is aware the bore field proposal is not only defective but is also being used as a smoke screen to allow development to take place that is jeopardising the existing residents' rights to a safe water supply.

Richard Clowes.

Hibiscus
**HEALTH
MARKET**



(066) 68-7826
SHOP 7 NAMBUCCA PLAZA
PACIFIC HIGHWAY
NAMBUCCA HEADS 2448

Bellingen Travel

For all your travel
requirements
at competitive prices
44 Hyde St. Bellingen

PHONE:(066)552-055
FAX:(066)551-557
#2ta002789

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS

Global network expands
via computer

by Sunny Lewis

EUGENE, Oregon, Mar. 14

Indonesian public interest environmental lawyer Mas Achmad Santosa is having difficulty obtaining information about his government's plans for Indonesia's first nuclear power plant being planned for central Java. Citizens groups in Java are apprehensive about what the proposed plant will do to their environment, but because their government has no freedom of information legislation they can find out little about such nuclear plants already operating in other countries.

Now Santosa can sit down at his computer and contact public interest environmental lawyers around the world with a request for this kind of information and get facts about nuclear plants within hours. He is one of the newest members of E-LAW, the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide.

E-LAW is the brainchild of two University of Oregon law professors, Michael Axline and John Bonine,

working in cooperation with public interest environmental lawyers around the world. Santosa and other E-LAW lawyers from Peru, Japan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, Ecuador and Australia are in Eugene attending the 10th annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference organised by Axline and Bonine. What they have in common is the intention to ensure citizen participation in decisions affecting the environment. E-LAW was sparked by a meeting of legal minds at the same University of Oregon law conference in 1990.

Axline describes it as a "mini United Nations meeting." Through translators the attorneys discovered they were all doing similar work in the public interest, and came up with the idea of a worldwide alliance. Funded with a "generous" grant from the Walton Jones Foundation, Axline

and Bonine set about building an international computer network, "establishing an electronic infrastructure that allows us to move information about environmental matters quickly across national borders to where it can do the most good," Axline explains: "From that first meeting two years ago, E-LAW has exploded to include attorneys representing citizens' groups in 25 countries including the former Soviet Union, Panama, Nicaragua, Chile, New Zealand, Uruguay and Venezuela."

The E-LAW networking has been effective in Peru. When in the fall of 1991, US-based Texas Crude planned to drill for oil in Peru's Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Peruvian environmental lawyers went to work using information gathered by E-LAW USA from regulatory agencies and citizen groups about the American company.

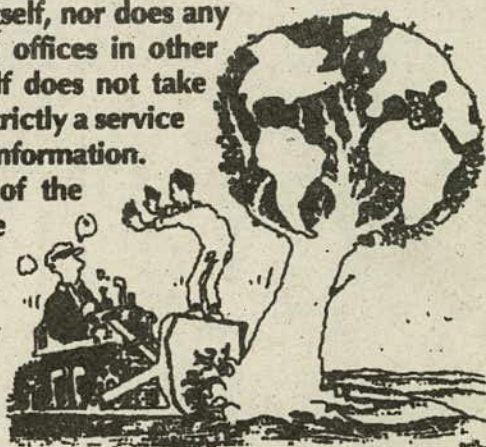
90.5 & 107.3 Mhz

2.666 FM



**your community
radio**
with current affairs and
environmental shows
(066) 551-888

E-LAW does not litigate itself, nor does any branch impose its views on offices in other countries. The Alliance itself does not take positions on any issues; it is strictly a service organisation that provides information. Axline says, "All members of the Alliance would agree that the truth is ultimately what will save the environment, and the more we can get the truth out, the better the environment will be."



mention
3 para

~~mention~~
edited.

photo
copy

edited

6 establishing an electronic infrastructure to move information about environmental matters quickly across national borders to where it can do the most good

After E-LAW's Peruvian partners presented this information to the Minister of Energy and Mines, Texas Crude abandoned its plans to drill in the Reserve.

E-LAW is working on a case challenging the destruction of mangrove forests in the Philippines. Despite increasing numbers of deaths and illnesses in Philippine coastal fishing communities caused by red tides, Philippine Department of Health officials said there was no connection between the illegal destruction of coastal mangroves and increased red tides. E-LAW USA helped its Philippine partners obtain scientific documentation showing the link between environmental abuses in Manila Bay and increased red tide occurrence.

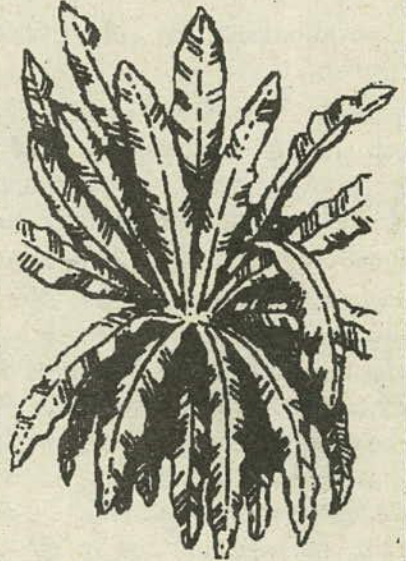
When an Australian river is poisoned by toxins, can scientists determine who caused downstream pollution? In the case of multiple point sources, which polluters can be held responsible for the riverbank damage

downstream? Can a court divide responsibility among the polluters? E-LAW USA legal and scientific staff are working with E-LAW Australia to find cases where scientists and courts have addressed these questions.

Information from attorneys in other E-LAW countries also benefits E-LAW USA lawyers, Axline says. "We have obtained information on the pulp industry from a number of countries around the world that has been very useful in intervening in decisions to build pulp plants here in the United States." As a result, says Axline, "worldwide there is greater attention being paid to the use of chlorine in the pulping process, and more environmentally sound technology is being promoted in a number of countries where it otherwise would not have been promoted."

*Environment News Service (ENS)
1992 (via Pegasus Network)*

Rainforest Information Line



The latest news views and actions on the global fight for the forests and our future.

Ring:- 0055 62 009
(25c per 27.3 sec)
Regularly updated.

A service of the
Rainforest Information
Centre.

ENVIRONS
SUBSCRIBE!
ONLY \$12.12 issues



P.O. BOX 123
BOWRAVILLE

dale print

Complete Commercial
Printing Service

"Continuing
the
tradition"
at



15 MCKAY STREET
MACKSVILLE • 68-2296



RADIO NAMBUCCA

support your local
radio station
phone 647 777

THIS MONTH'S COVER PAPER WASPS

As a small child I watched my father go to great lengths to demolish the wasp's paper houses that appeared under the eaves - he nearly set fire to our house with a blow torch on one occasion! It took years for me to stop regarding wasps and other insects as enemies, to be annihilated, often at great environmental cost, and to realise many are actually very efficient pest controllers.

Wasps come in many different sizes, equipped to deal with the unwelcome insects in the garden, from tiny aphids and scale insects, to spiders, beetle larvae, crickets, grasshoppers and quite large caterpillars. The wasps' eggs are laid in or on the host insect or spider, which is usually first paralysed, and the emerging wasp larvae then feed on the insect.

Paper wasps live in communal nests made up of honeycomb-like cells of chewed up wood which house their larvae. Although they can be very painful, if you take care not to upset the nest, they will co-operate with caterpillars from your garden to feed the larvae. Other species of wasps live a solitary life, burrowing into soil or wood, making a series of cells which they stock with paralysed insects or spiders. Some species make cells of mud - often in awkward places like keyholes or the exhaust of your brushcutter! - again stocked with paralysed food. An egg is laid and the cell is closed up. When the wasp larva emerges, it feeds on the store of food and eventually emerges as a wasp.

There are many other beneficial insects in your garden. The best way to control pests is to leave it to them - if we interfere with nature by spraying etc, we usually hurt the predators as well as other beneficial insects like bees and worms; also the other natural pest controllers - small birds and frogs.

For more info on identifying insects I can recommend two useful books - "An Introduction to Australian Insects" by Philip Hadlington and Judith Johnston, and "Friends and Foes of Australian Gardens" By FD Hockings.

Julie

Environs

the north coast
environment news
magazine

Environs is published every month on a voluntary basis to bring together reports from a large number of environmental organisations. Many groups are affiliated with Environs, including the Bellingen Environment Centre, and the Nambucca Valley Association.

Editorial contributions are welcomed. They should include the author's name and phone number and should be sent to: Environs, PO Box 123, Bowraville 2449. Subscriptions are \$12 for 12 issues. Advertisements may be lodged with Lyn Orrego by phoning (065) 647-478. Editorial for Environs is by Carol Margolis and the Environs team. Layout and typesetting is by Mike Holland. Cover artwork is by Julie Mozsny.

DALE PRINT-MACKSVILLE-682-296



Environs

SURFACE
MAIL



POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

PO Box 123, Bowraville 2449
Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. NAC93793

Nimbin News
Cullen Street
NIMBIN 2480