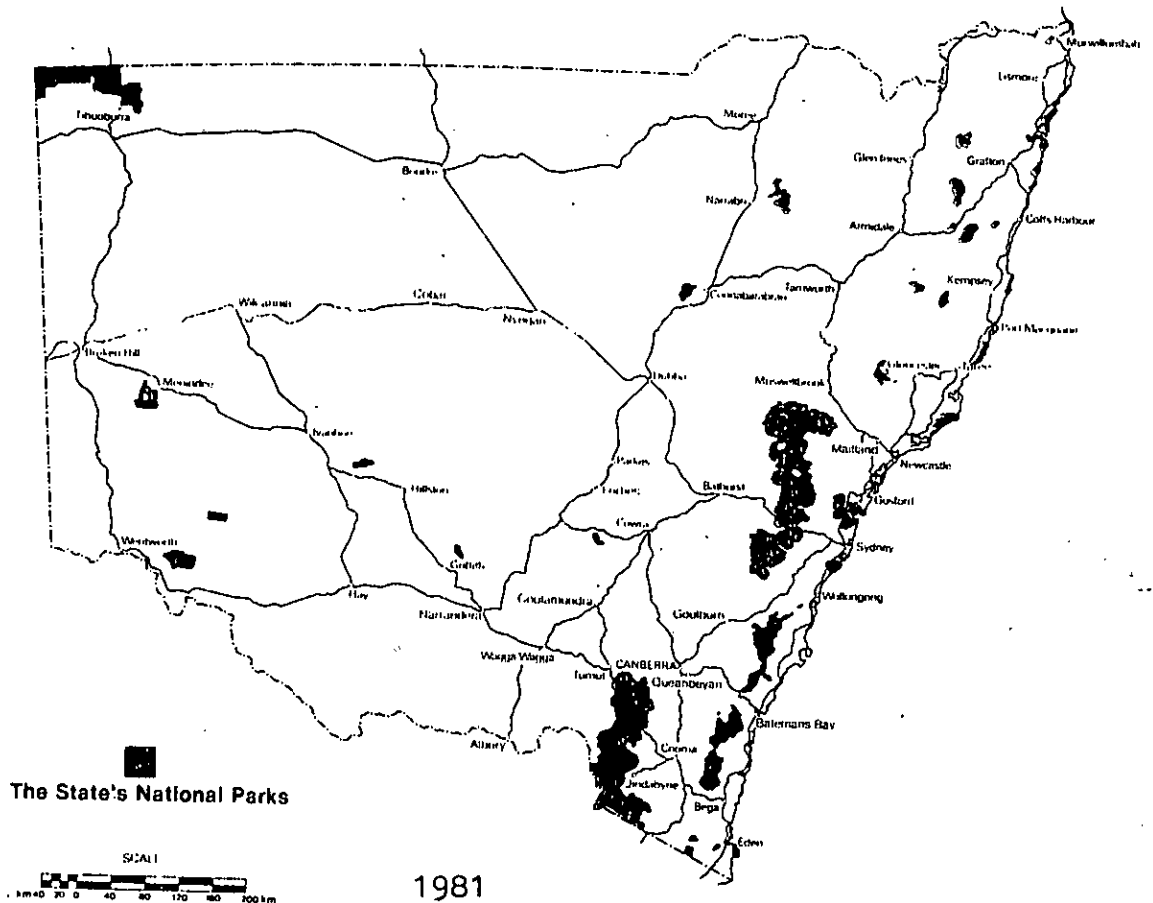


The Richmond-Tweed
has less National Park
per head of population
than any other region in N.S.W.
with the exception of
the Murray and Murrumbidgee,
which are distinguished by
having none at all.



QUOTES FROM HISTORY

" Not that he was opposed to the timber industry; the trouble was that when an experienced forester in a State forest in these colonies decides that enough timber has been cut and desires to reserve the rest, the timber-getter gets up a memorial and secures the aid of the local Parliamentary representative, who depicts, in moving tones, to the central authorities the tragic circumstances of hardship under which the timber-getter is placed in being prevented from getting timber, which is, of course, in his opinion, abundant, and the result is that the faithful servant of the State takes a "back seat" as a reward for his disinterested service, while the sawyer or splitter gratifies his own self-interest at the State's expense."

From the report on the First Adelaide Congress of A.N.Z.A.A.S., Sept./Oct. 1893

" Probably no section of business under Government control has experienced greater vicissitudes in its management or less consideration than that connected with our forests. No attempt appears to have been made to lay down a policy of management, and apparently as each responsible department became tired of the business or failed to succeed with it, it was passed on to another. Whatever variations in matters of detail might have been caused by these Ministerial changes, the protection of the forest domain appears to have been nearly always subordinated ... "

From the NSW Royal Commission of 1907
into Forests, Forestry and Reafforestation, etc.

A NATIONAL PARK FOR LISMORE

The National Parks Association of New South Wales has called on the State Government to declare a National Park on the Nightcap Range north of Lismore, an area of more than 4000 Ha. extending from the Nightcap Flora Reserve in the east through Terania Creek Basin and Goonimbah State Forest to Blue Knob in the west. The Minister responsible for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, The Hon. Eric Bedford, has studied our proposal and states that it has "... considerable merit, especially for the preservation of virgin rainforest."

We have three main arguments to show why this area should be declared a National Park - historical, economic and ecological:

1. Historical: Lismore's long lost National Park.

Since the turn of the century, there have been numerous attempts to have areas of the Nightcap reserved. Finally, in the thirties, a number of councils in the region and local residents made representations to the NSW Government for the establishment of a National Park. Notable among those pressing for the park was the Mayor of Lismore, E. J. Eggins, who sought the dedication of an area centred on the old Nightcap track.

The Government responded by declaring the Nightcap National Forest comprising about 30,000 acres incorporating Whian Whian, Goonimbah, Burringbar and Nullum State Forests. On 15 May, 1937, the Hon. Roy S. Vincent M.L.A., Minister for Mines and Forests in his declaration stated that the management plan for the National Forest would provide for "... what is to all intents and purposes a National Park serving all time." The total park area was to be about 3000 acres. The Northern Star of 17 May, 1937, devoted its front page and two others to stories and photographs of the dedication ceremony at Minyon Falls. Included was a statement by the late Ald. S. J. Hosie, Mayor of Lismore

" ... thanks to the Minister for the Forestry Act and to the three district members for the efforts producing this happy culmination to thirty years' agitation for the Nightcap National Park."

War intervened. Those intentions were never carried out. After the war, the management plans were 'misplaced', not to resurface until 1975. The areas "to all intents and purposes a National Park" have been lost to intensive forestry and even bananas (with the exception of 375 unlogged hectares of the Nightcap Flora Reserve).

Again, in 1963, the Minister for Lands proposed a National Park on the Nightcap but on the advice of the Forestry Commission this was rejected by the Minister for Conservation.

2. Economic: Five years of timber, or tourism in perpetuity?

According to the Forestry Commission's present management plan, the remaining stands of mature trees in the proposed park (some carbon-dated at 1300 years old), will be cut out by 1986. At that time, the one mill in Murwillumbah cutting timber there will have to close or find alternative timber supplies. We propose that the State Government assist this mill in converting its operations to utilise thinnings or plantation pine.

In contrast to this situation, tourism is booming in this area. "Between April 1979 and March 1980, the North Coast received 2.67 million visitors who stayed an average of 4.78 nights." (Dept. Industrial Development and Decentralisation) This number is expected nearly to double in the next decade. "The North Coast is a major tourist destination. In 1979-80 no other non-metropolitan region in NSW rivalled the North Coast in terms of number of visitor nights." (Dept. Industrial Development and Decentralisation) These visitors last year spent an estimated \$35 million in the Richmond Valley and the same in the Tweed. (Dept. Tourism)

In spite of this trend, the Richmond-Tweed has less National Park per head of population than any other region in NSW, (with the exception of the Murray and Murrumbidgee which are distinguished by having none at all). There is great pressure on the existing parks here, especially Mount Warning which is already in danger of degradation from over-use. The Nightcap quite literally is our last chance to rectify this situation. There is no more natural forest left in the area.

Under the headline "Conservation 'row' may have led to Tourist Boom", the Northern Star of 26 May 1981 quoted the Lismore City Council development officer in charge of the Tourist Information Centre as saying that "... many visitors simply were asking: 'Where is the nearest rainforest?' "

"There has been an increase in the number of visitors going through the centre"

"Most of them are showing an increasing awareness of and concern about conservation issues."

"They are asking about our natural forests such as Terania Creek ..." said the development officer.

Economic analysis shows that with the number of tourists in the region, the economic benefits of a National Park outweigh the costs by an order of magnitude, even in the short term. With proper management, these economic benefits are ours in perpetuity.

3. The Ecological Argument

The Forestry Commission believes that samples of undisturbed forest are important for a number of reasons:

- "(a) they provide an historic link with forests of aboriginal days;
- (b) they represent the original habitat of our native plants and animals;
- (c) they shelter plants and animals that could under some circumstances be otherwise threatened with extinction;
- (d) they often contain forest stands of particular grandeur and beauty;
- (e) they allow us to study the way forests grow and behave under essentially natural conditions;
- (f) they provide a recreational resource of great significance in our increasingly urbanised lives."

(Forest and Timber, vol.10, no.1, 1974)

In its Background Paper, Rainforest Policies, 1979, the State Government's National Parks and Wildlife Service states:

"Where previously large tracts of rainforest such as 'the Big Scrub' and 'the Illawarra Brush' have been almost obliterated by clearing, there is justification for maximising the conservation effort for the few remaining vestiges."

(N.P.W.S. Background Paper,
Rainforest Policies, October 1979)

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (of which Australia is a member), would certainly agree with both of the above statements. This body recommends that at least 5% of each country be set aside primarily for the preservation of natural ecosystems. Diamond's work on island bio-geography has shown that even if 5% of a given ecosystems is set aside undisturbed, 60 - 70% of the species originally present will be lost in the long term, due to genetic drift and other factors.

The N.R.C.A.E.'s North Coast Region Resources Inventory and Land-use Planning Guidelines to the Year 2001 suggests that "... with the extreme diversity of flora and fauna native to the North Coast region, more than 5% of the total land area should be preserved to ensure a greater depth of protection for the region's irreplaceable biological resources."

Far less than one per cent of the region is being preserved primarily for the preservation of natural ecosystems.

The Nightcap is part of the rim of an ancient volcano. When this volcano erupted 20 million years ago, the plug, Mount Warning, was 3,500 feet higher than it is now. Even then the rainforest was 100 million years old.

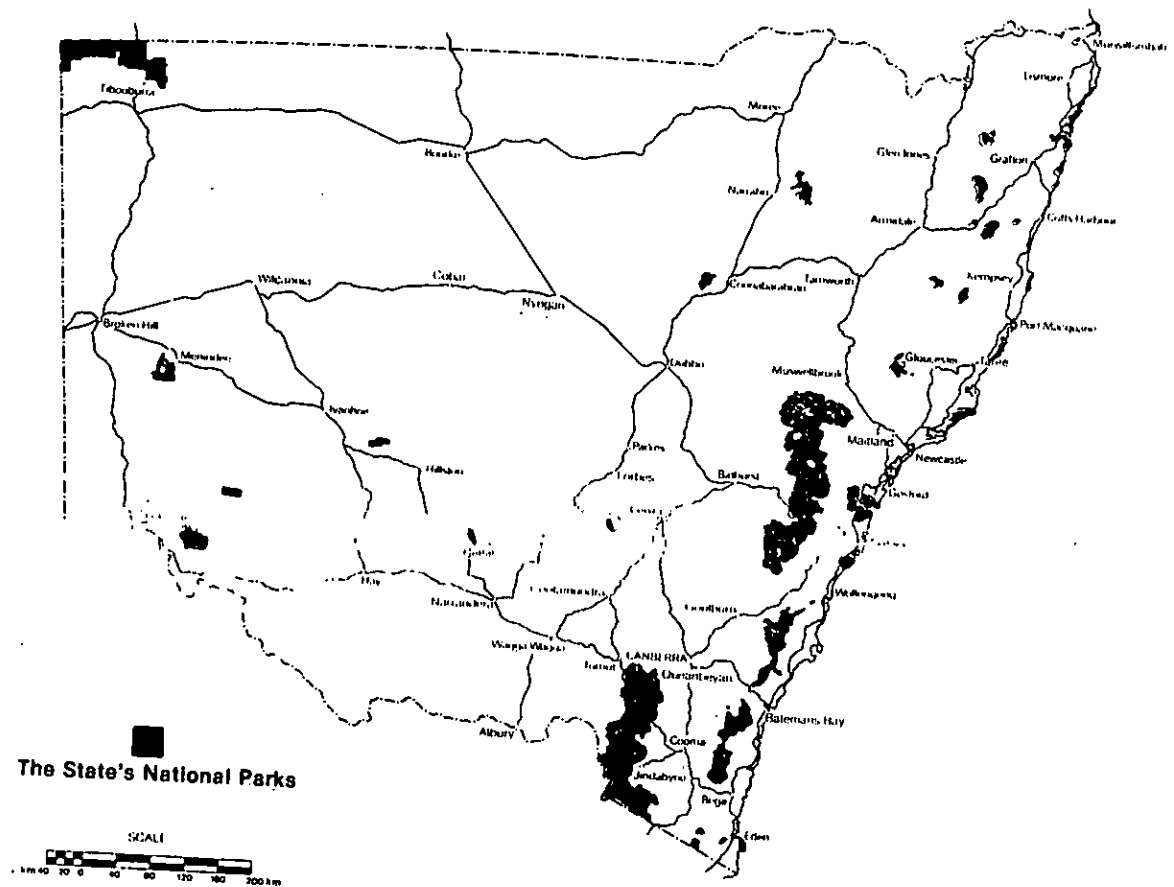
When we were all part of Gondwanaland, before Antarctica sailed away to the south, Asia to the north, that rainforest existed. Decisions we make in the remaining decades of this century will determine whether this most ancient of forests is to continue at all.

- * The Nightcap National Park is the last chance for the people of Lismore to preserve an ecologically viable fragment of the original nature of our area.

Documentation is available for any of the quotes above.

Contact the Rainforest Information Centre, 22 Terania Street, North Lismore, or the National Parks Association, Far North Coast Branch, Secretary - Mr. M. Kaveney, Emerson Road, Rosebank.

A copy of the thirty-page proposal for a Nightcap National Park submitted to the State Government is available from the National Parks Association at the above address. (\$2.00 including postage) This includes maps, and information on geology, physiology, soils, climate, flora, fauna, aboriginal influence, history, recreation and competing land uses.



The State's National Parks

WHAT YOU CAN DO -

- * Donate money or time to the National Parks Association's campaign.
(Contact address: 22 Terania Street,
North Lismore. 2480)
- * Invite a speaker from the National Parks Association to present slides and a talk to your community or church group.
- * Join the National Parks Association.
- * Sign our petition and write to the Premier, Parliament House, Sydney.
- * Come and see the proposed Nightcap National Park area for yourself.

The National Parks Association is conducting walks into the Nightcap on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Ring Ian Dixon on 89 1213 for details.

* * * * *

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION FOR NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

1. LOCATION

The proposed park for the western half of the Nightcap Range covers an area of 4,500 ha. It stretches from the Nightcap Track Flora Reserve on the eastern boundary, through Terania Creek Basin, through the catchment of Tunttable Falls, past Mt. Neville and then west to Blue Knob. It is approximately 15 km long from east to west and 7 km north to south at the widest part.

It is located 30 km north of Lismore, 30 km south-west of Murwillumbah and 40 km from the coast. Brisbane is 150 km away. The nearest townships to the park are Nimbin to the west, The Channon to the south and Uki to the north.

2. PHYSIOGRAPHY

The terrain is generally steep and mountainous. The watershed of the Nightcap Range divides the precipitous northern section, which drains to the Tweed, from the larger and more gently sloping section draining to the Richmond.

The proposed park is situated entirely on basaltic and rhyolitic soils. The lavas from which these soils are formed are approximately 20 million years old and form part of the Mt. Warning shield volcano. Numerous southward-flowing creeks divide the Nightcap Range into a series of north-south valleys and ridges. The highest peaks within the park are Mt. Burrell (Blue Knob) 933 m, Mt. Neville 919 m, Mt. Nardi 812 m, and Mt. Matheson 804 m. These peaks are quite distinct, their steep slopes evincing the readily erodable nature of the "Blue Knob basalt" which forms the highest part of the range.

The Nightcap Range has a considerable modifying effect on climate. Summer temperatures are generally about ten degrees cooler than at Lismore due to altitude. Winter temperatures are about two degrees warmer as a result of cold air drainage to lower altitudes and the effect of the mountains' forest cover in contrast to the cleared country below. The range is a high rainfall area with Mt. Nardi reputed to be the wettest place.

3. VEGETATION AND FAUNA

About 70% of the proposed park is covered by rainforest of varying types. The dominant type is called Booyong Forest, Complex Notophyll Vineforest or sub-tropical rainforest. In other words, it is the most complex and impressive type of rainforest in NSW. Large expanses of this type occur around Mt. Neville, Mt. Nardi, Mt. Burrell and in the floor of Terania Creek Basin.

Brush Box forest covers areas which are often steeper than those with sub-tropical rainforest. The Brush Box forest type varies from pure rainforest stands with large emergent Brush Box trees, as in Terania Creek, through to drier, lower forest heavily mixed with eucalypt or sclerophyll species. Concentrations of Brush Box forest occur around the head of Tuntable Falls, on the sides of Terania Creek Basin and in a band around the Mulgum Creek Basin.

Other types of rainforest do occur but are small and patchily represented. On the northern watershed grow some examples of "myrtle or viney scrub" which is recognized as being permanently depauperate as a result of heavy damage, usually by logging.

The fauna of the proposed park has not been studied to any degree so estimates of species and populations are incomplete. However, preliminary studies have been undertaken in the Terania Creek section and the following rare and/or endangered bird species are known to exist there:

Crested Hawk, Albert Lyrebird, Sooty Owl, Marbled Frog-mouth, Wompoo Fruit-Dove.

In view of the diminishing quality of many rainforests, all rainforest-dependent birds can be considered to be at risk, including those in the proposed park.

4. HISTORY

Both pre-history and aboriginal history, while both are no doubt rich, diverse and age-old, are difficult to perceive and evaluate by white people living in the mid-1980's.

Aboriginal people of the region are understandably unwilling to pinpoint sacred or important sites although they have indicated that the whole of Terania Creek Basin was a male initiation area and there is no doubt that the whole of the Nightcap Range would have been used extensively. Research in Terania Creek revealed evidence of occupation in the large cave on the eastern cliff-line.

The arrival of Europeans in Australia, which had such a marked effect on the landscape, had little effect on the western half of the Nightcap range due to its inaccessibility, until comparatively recently. The southern half of Terania Creek Basin was logged in the 1930's and 1950's, as was the ridge between Terania And Tuntable creeks. The main rainforest massif of highland Goonimbar State Forest has been largely inaccessible until the last six years. There was a brief and fairly small-scale logging episode in Goonimbar with logs being dropped down to a mill at Kunghur in the Tweed by means of a flying fox. The lower parts of the Mulgum Creek Basin was also logged from below, as was the basin below Sphinx Rock.

In 1976 the Forestry Commission constructed Googarna Road into western Goonimbar to gain access to the large tracts of rainforest previously thought to be unobtainable. Logging has been proceeding since then.

Logging in the rainforest has been conducted using the 50% canopy retention method, although areas more distant from main tourist roads appear to have been logged more heavily. Rainforest with hardwood over-storey and pure hardwood stands are logged selectively which can range up to 80-90% removal, although they usually do not.

5. ROADS, AMENITIES AND SITES OF INTEREST

The proposed park already has a number of roads due to logging activities and has two main points of vehicular access. These are the gravel road into Terania Creek Basin and the sealed road to Mr. Nardi. Googarna Road branches off the Mt. Nardi Road and extends westward past Mt. Neville. Other entry points exist into (a) Grier's Scrub, a wide basin on the Tweed side, (b) Tuntable Falls via Wallace Road from The Channon and (c) the north-west end of Goonimbar via the old log track to Kunghur but none of these is easy for general access.

Walking tracks have been developed at the eastern end of the proposed park and more are planned by local enthusiasts and the Forestry Commission. A trail for walkers starts at the beginning of the Nightcap Track in Whian Whian State Forest and passes around the northern rim of Terania Creek Basin and then around the upper end of the Tuntable Creek catchment to join the Mt. Nardi walking track. Short walking trails have been tagged in Terania Creek and a guided full-day walk can be done out to the Sphinx and Blue Knob.

The mountainous landscape with its dense cover of tall forest, steep-cliffed basins and numerous waterfalls and lookouts is very dramatic. Some features stand out in particular. Starting from the east:

- Nightcap Track Lookout
- Eagle's Nest Lookout
- Dirangah Rocks
- Bundjalung Cave
- The Craggs
- Flooded Gum Ridge
- Protest Falls
- Aged Brush Box
- Mt. Nardi Walk and the Mt. Nardi Brush Box
- Grieg's Scrub Lookout - Pholi's Gap
- Mulgum Creek Falls
- The Sphinx Rock
- Mt. Burrell - Blue Knob

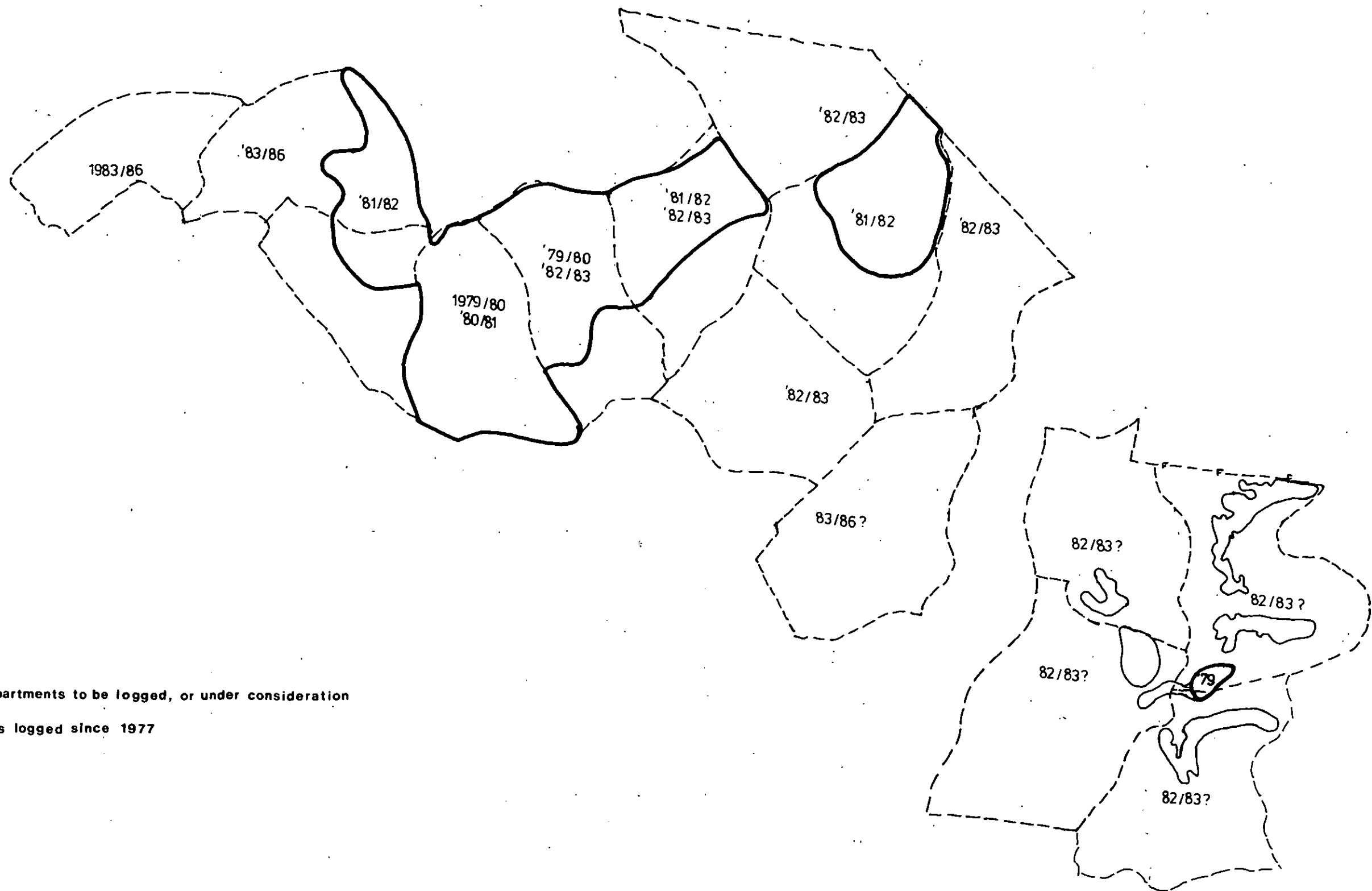
6. LOGGING PLANS

The far eastern section of the proposed park, the present Nightcap Track Flora Reserve, is not to be logged. Terania Creek Basin is marked for logging and, if logged, would yield 6,400 cubic metres.

Of the rest of Goonimbar State Forest, from Terania Creek west, about half of the accessible timber has been logged in the last five years. Logging will be finished within the next eighteen months. This section of Goonimbar is divided into 17 compartments for timber management purposes, each between 100 and 200 ha in area. These compartments represent the last of the available timber resource for the Murwillumbah Working Circle which is supposed to last until 1986. Of the 17, 11 have already been logged in the five years since operations started in the unlogged part of Goonimbar. Another 3 compartments are to be logged and 4 compartments already logged will have further timber extracted in the next eighteen months.

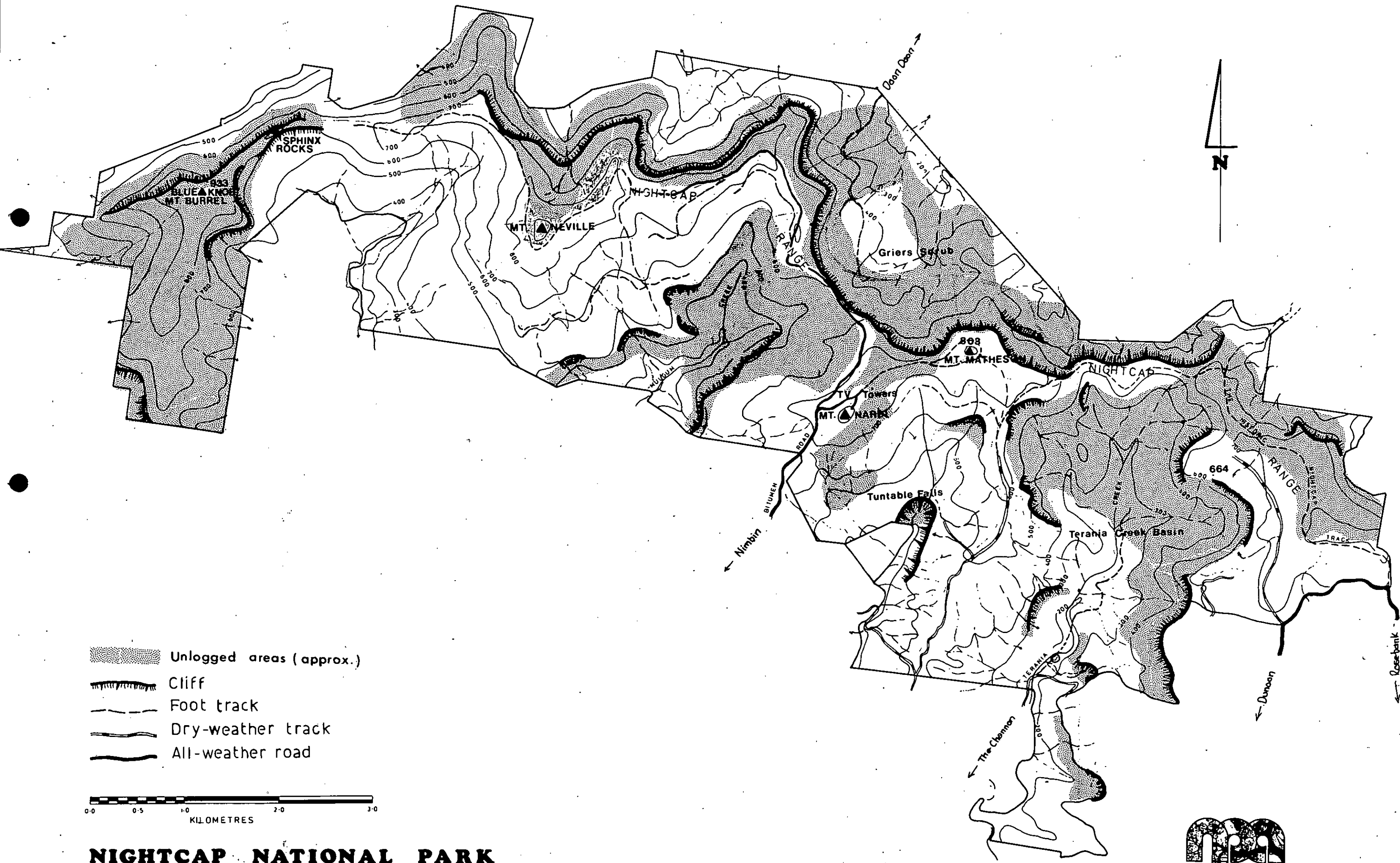
This leaves only 3 compartments still to be logged at the end of the 1982/83 cutting year. They are supposed to sustain the level of cutting for a further three years, in spite of the fact that one of the compartments is inaccessible, one is the subject of a proposal by N.P.W.S. for a Nature Reserve and the third is already partially logged.

The most important part of Goonimbar west of Terania Creek is the far-western section of rainforest between Blue Knob and Mt. Neville. This is now the largest unlogged stretch left in Goonimbar State Forest. The rainforest under Mt. Nardi on the southern side is also an important area.



Compartments to be logged, or under consideration

Areas logged since 1977



- Unlogged areas (approx.)
- Cliff
- Foot track
- Dry-weather track
- All-weather road



NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK

AN HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE LISMORE DISTRICT'S
LONG LOST NATIONAL PARK - THE NIGHT CAP

"In the woods, too, a man casts off his years as the snake his slough, and at what period soever of life, is always a child. In the woods is perpetual youth. Within these plantations of God a decorum and sanctity reign, a perennial festival is dressed, and guest sees not how he should tire of them in a thousand years. In the woods we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life - no disgrace, no calamity (leaving me my eyes), which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground - my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space - all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or parcel of God. The name of the nearest friend sounds then foreign and accidental: to be brothers, to be acquaintances - master or servant, is then a trifle and a disturbance. I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty. In the wilderness I find something more dear and connate than in the streets or villages. In the tranquil landscape, and especially in the distant line of the horizon, man beholds somewhat as beautiful as his own nature."

Emerson, Essay on "Nature", 1836.

This beautiful passage prefaces the NSW Forestry Commission's booklet Declaration of the Nightcap National Forest by the Hon. Roy S. Vincent, MLA, Minister for Mines and Forests, 15 May 1937 - the date of the ceremony which "... marked this happy culmination to thirty years' agitation for the Nightcap National Park." (Ald. S. J. Hosie, Mayor of Lismore, Northern Star 17 May 1937)

In fact, the history of the Lismore district's long-lost National Park probably goes back longer than Alderman Hosie suggests, at least to 1874 when the first telegraph line from the Richmond to the Tweed district was put through what we now call the Nightcap Track, and those responsible gave wonderful descriptions of the country through which they passed, and began to see the necessity of its preservation for future generations.

By 1910, the idea of reserving areas of natural beauty was finding its way into letters to the Editor of the Northern Star: "... millions of pounds are spent in the Commonwealth ... to create beauty spots, and here is one that it has taken nature centuries

to perfect, and to which nothing artificial can ever compare ... We do not want the land, it is the scrub which is required to be handed down to succeeding generations ..." (N.S. 2 July 1910) And in the same month a public meeting at Dunoon discussed a proposal put forward by Mr. R. Simes regarding the setting-aside of up to 4,000 acres of the Nightcap as a health resort, its suitability in that regard being compared to the Blue Mountains near Sydney. (N.S. 5 July 1910)

The comparison of the Nightcap with the Blue Mountains is a recurring theme of the proponents of a Nightcap National Park. "... but the steps of commerce will halt where the charms of nature commence. That is to say that the mountain must stand in its natural garb to become a resort for the man of the town to obtain a wholesome respite from the cares of office and everyday toil. It is undoubtedly the site for a sanatorium of the North. A place where alpine freshness is existent to stimulate the weary pilgrim to those regions..." (N.S. 8 March 1915)

Forests for people and commerce was the thrust of the longtime efforts to preserve the Nightcap Range. In 1968 Jack Evans of Brunswick Heads wrote to the Editor of the Northern Star saying "... as far back as 1910 or 1912, the Murwillumbah Chamber of Commerce was interested. The late Mr. Hungerford (President), Mr. Jim Buchanan and a geologist ... journeyed to my property to enquire about a marked reserve on top of the Night Cap with a view to forming a sanatorium ..." Mr. Evans also pointed out that an extract in the Mitchell Library by surveyor Mathieson reveals "There are caves on the Nightcap equal to Jenolan Caves." He went on to say that recently a place showing much resemblance to the above has been located but it has partly silted over the past years and requires labour to open it.

In the 1930's, Alderman Hosie, Mayor of Lismore, put a great deal of energy into the establishment of a National Park on the Nightcap. His enthusiasm and inspiration came from his firsthand experience as a surveyor, whose job took him on horseback through extensive areas of the forest. One such expedition, as reported in the Northern Star in 1933 "... reached an elevation of about 1800' (where) they encountered a natural lookout from which the whole of the head of Terania Creek and the side of the Night Cap Range could be seen, the view being similar and scarcely inferior to the best that may be seen in the Blue Mountains ..."

Among the many enthusiastic supports of Alderman Hosie's efforts were Mr. W. Flick and his brother Mr. H. Flick, residents of Ewingsdale and, at the time, timber-cutters and bullockies. (Mr. H. Flick later established the Flick Pest Control Company.) They had extensive knowledge and appreciation of the beauty spots of the area and were able to add to Alderman Hosie's knowledge. But to Messrs. Flick, the beauties of the Nightcap were not as important as the preservation of the native "flora and fauna not seen elsewhere in the Commonwealth ... the only piece of natural scrub left of this once mighty scrub", and the provision of a pure water supply catchment area for Lismore "which could not be polluted as all the farms were on the other side of the watershed". (N.S. 17 May, 1937) Regrettably the water does not now have the clarity and freshness his words evoke.

In 1933 Alderman Hosie arranged a deputation at Parliament House, Sydney, to request that a National Park should be proclaimed. The occasion was a Local Government Conference and the deputation consisted of representatives of the Shire Councils of Byron and Kyogle and the Councils of Lismore, Mullumbimby and Coraki, Messrs. Frith, Budd and Reid and the Hon. J.B. Watson representing the NRMA. The deputation was well received by the Hon. Mr. Buttenshaw, Minister for Lands, and the Hon. Roy Vincent, Minister for Forests, and a promise was made that provision would be made to cover the Night Cap area in pending legislation. Two years later the new Forestry Act was passed which made provision for the setting-up of National Forests on a more secure basis than before and the control of specific areas in them as National Parks.

In 1933 the Lismore Chamber of Commerce carried a motion of congratulations for the Mayor, Alderman Hosie's vision initiating the move to establish a National Park. But commerce and people's needs were not the only considerations motivating the preservation of the forest. At the same meeting, Mr. A. Nardi pointed out "... that once the scrub was taken away, landslips occurred and a great amount of silt came down to interfere with the health of the people..." Letters to the Editor at this time were in support of a National Park.

In the same year the Minister for Lands (Mr. Buttenshaw), introduced a Bill to provide for the permanent preservation of watersheds and catchment areas. Mr. Vincent, Minister for Forestry and Mines in 1933 pointed out that "... damage by floodings could

be, to a large extent, prevented by the maintenance of forest areas and vegetation sources of the State Rivers." At a later date, Mr. Vincent "... stressed the fact the Department wanted the people to look on the State forests as their playgrounds and to go into them and see the work that was being done. That would enable the people to oppose any move for the alienation of areas."

Alderman Hosie's representations were renewed while Mr. Eggins was Mayor, and were assisted by Mr. Frith, MLA, and on 25 February 1936, the Northern Star reported that Mr. W. Frith, MLA, praised the work done by Alderman S.J. Hosie in securing the dedication of a portion of the Night Cap Range, and the Mayor, Alderman E. J. Eggins, voiced a similar sentiment. He felt that it would be "... a fitting acknowledgement to recognise Alderman Hosie's work by naming an area after him, or in some other way."

On 15 May 1937, 30,000 acres of forest on the Night Cap Range were dedicated as a National Forest by the Minister for Mines and Forests, Mr. R.S. Vincent, in the presence of a crowd of 400. The ceremony was performed on a picturesque clearing a few yards from the top of Minyon Falls, which tumbles 420' into a rocky basin. This was the second national forest to be dedicated under the amended Act of 1935 and it could not be revoked except by a special Act.

Nevertheless the Editor of the Northern Star, Mr. W. T. Care, still foresaw problems for the people of Lismore in securing absolutely the National Park for which they had worked so hard. He marked the occasion of the dedication with the following cautionary editorial:

"It generally pays someone to destroy natural beauty and it costs something to preserve it for the people. That is why, even in a country where there is no shortage there is a scramble for land out of which profits can be made. Over a number of years, pressure is brought to bear on public authorities which results in people living hemmed-in lives, with insufficient recreation areas and parks, even though there is ample land in the country as a whole. Hundreds of thousands of acres that were originally set aside for the people of Australia have passed from public control into private ownership during the past half century. To prevent a similar happening with the Night Cap National Park, the authorities have hedged the dedication with all kinds of obstacles to revocation. But experience proves that such precautions can prove useless against a private enterprise that knows what it wants and is determined to get it when the only opposition is a public that is apathetic about its communal rights of ownership. It is sincerely

to be hoped that there is never such apathy toward the National Park which will be formally dedicated by the Minister for Mines and Forests, Mr. Vincent, tomorrow. In this park the people of the Far North Coast have acquired an asset on which their grip must never relax. The park can be transformed into a playground and pleasure resort for the 100,000 people who now live within easy reach, and the much larger population of tomorrow that will admire the wisdom that obtained the land for the people. One way to show appreciation of the work of the men responsible for securing the National Park is to attend the official ceremony tomorrow. ..."

(Northern Star, 14 May, 1937)

What happened to the Night Cap National Park?

The people of Lismore worked for a National Park, and were given a National Forest, with an area of 2,909 acres covering the higher parts of the Night Cap Range to be managed as a National Park. "... (The people of Lismore) have sought ... the perpetual conservation of the primitive beauty of the bushland contiguous to the Nightcap Range. Under the plan of management ... it has been agreed that this shall be done, and further, that the local authorities shall be drawn into consultation in the management of this bushland so that there shall be, within the National Forest, what is, to all intents and purposes, a National Park serving all time." (The Hon. Roy S. Vincent, MLA, Minister for Mines and Forests)

In 1955, Mr. Hosie gave a talk on 2LM outlining the history of his action in securing this National Park. Eighteen years later, the local Committee, provided for in the Act and referred to in the above quote, which was to be charged with the development and management of these areas for tourist purposes, had not been appointed and Mr. Hosie then hoped that this appointment would not be lost sight of, or too long delayed.

And now, in 1982, we do not have a National Park. We do not have an unpolluted water supply. And parts of the area that were set aside have been clear-felled or planted to bananas!

Mr. Care's editorial carries an important message in urging public concern and watch-dogging of the authorities, and this message is being picked up today, with 69% of the population wanting to preserve rainforests from logging or clearing, and the majority of tourists coming to the area asking for directions to the rainforest. What happened to the foresight and wisdom of the pioneers of agitation for National Parks?

CAROL LEGGETT
BOBBI ALLAN
February, 1982.

The above article appeared in the 'Northern Star' on 25/2/82.

World Scientists Write to Premier Wran About Rainforests

About 50 scientists from throughout the world have written to the Premier of New South Wales urging him to call a halt to rainforest logging.

TNFAG is publishing extracts from their letters to demonstrate that New South Wales' rainforests are a world issue and that the overwhelming advice of the world scientific community is that there should be a halt to rainforest logging.

The significance of the Terania Creek Inquiry is that it has given the community two years to come to some consensus on the issue of rainforest logging.

The results of the McNair Anderson Opinion Poll released in January 1982 show that seven out of ten people in New South Wales want an immediate halt to rainforest logging in this State.

Professor E.J.H. Corner, C.B.E., F.R.S., Emeritus Professor
of Tropical Botany, University of Cambridge:

The Rainforests of New South Wales.

Colleagues in your universities have told me of the public debate whether to log, and clear away, the remaining rainforest in your Territory. Having spent much of my life endeavouring to secure some safeguards for primeval rainforest in tropical countries (Malaya, Amazonia, Borneo, and the Solomons), I come to their aid, not with facts and figures, but with thoughts on posterity. What will posterity think, if bereft of the magnificent, beautiful, peculiar and endemic vegetation of Australia - unique in the world - with all its living creatures? Must all this be sacrificed for transitory profit, selling timber?

Tropical rainforest evolved of its own accord in far distant geological time, before there were higher animals. It bred them. It raised man, who, so far from being able to devise the forest, must now devour it. When I think of the fortunes that have been made from this capital and how little has been returned to conservation and silviculture, I pity the distress. Sawmillers should now be logging their plantations instead of seeking to kill the goose which laid the golden egg.

Mankind has not succeeded through conquerors but through the persistence of inhabitants living in the land of their forefathers, loving its natural scenery and living endowment, all of which escapes history. Take that away and destroy the people. Save that which is left to save from the mania of exploitation, and save the people in the unique gladness of Australia. Who can do so will live for ever, unforgotten.

Facts, figures, profits, loss, into the exportation of the last board, do not matter: it is the viable sanctuary that will now count. So I hope to hear of the Premier's Park or better, of the Premier's Parks, to the enduring honour of New South Wales.

* * * * *

Dr. Peter S. Ashton, Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University:

"... Australia, as one of the two western nations possessing rainforest, with her high scientific standing established by CSIRO, and with her geographic position and special relations with the countries of Asia and the Pacific, has a particular responsibility to set an enlightened example for others to follow. There is no doubt that other, less advanced nations are looking to Australia for leadership in this aspect of land-use which, though not a central one to you, can affect the livelihood, and perhaps the very survival, of millions in many tropical countries.

Scientifically, the Australian rainforests are of unique interest, as extensions of a tropical biome way beyond its normal geographical limits. They are therefore rich in endemic flora and fauna, and especially threatened as they exist at the edge of the global range and hence in tension with their physical environment ..."

Dr. João José Bigarella, Chairman of Association for Defense and Environmental Education, Professor of Geology:

"... Being Australia the driest continent on Earth the small areas still covered with rainforest should be maintained and protected by all means well known in the field of Ecology - for the benefit of the mankind inside the ecosystem.

It is well known that in critical areas the removal of the rainforest will increase dryness problems which are especially serious in Australia. The conservation of rainforests flora and fauna by sure is of economical benefit for the country."

Professor Dr. E. F. Brünig, Chair of World Forestry, University of Hamburg, West Germany:

"... I am sure that you are aware of the considerable potential of Subtropical and Tropical Rainforests as a genetic resource and a continued source of scientific knowledge. This requires sufficiently large areas to be reserved and kept intact in their natural functionality. I am also convinced that you, as a responsible politician, are fully aware of the great importance of the Sub-tropical and Tropical Rainforest as a regulating mechanism of local, regional and world climate." "... I do not think that the destruction of further areas of Subtropical and Tropical Forests in Northern Australia, where such forests are already restricted to very few relic areas, could lie in the interest of Australian internal and external policies. It is certainly not in the interest of coming generations of Australians."

Dr. D.G. Catcheside, MA, DSc, FAA, FRS, Foreign Associate
of US National Academy of Sciences, formerly Director, Research
School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University:

"I write to support proposals that the remnants of the rainforests in New South Wales be protected from further destruction, by placing them in National Parks or equivalent Reserves. They are a reservoir of many rare plants and animals, poorly known and of restricted distribution, which are in danger of extinction. Much more scientific investigation of these communities is needed, but could not be undertaken if destroyed.

The chief threat, apart from fire, is from logging and clearing. The trees, especially, are a valuable asset which ought to be conserved as a source of seed to establish more of the valuable hardwoods on cleared and suitable land. These cultivated trees are going to be needed sorely in the future when sources of native and exotic hardwoods are depleted, as will happen all too soon. Moreover, afforestation schemes would provide a means of employment, related in character, to replace that lost as a result of the logging out of the New South Wales rainforests, unfortunately expected well before the end of this century."

Dr. Raymond F. Dasmann, Professor of Ecology, University
of California, Santa Cruz:

"... Unfortunately most of the humid forests of the tropics and subtropics occur in developing countries which often lack both the financial and technical means for preventing their continuing destruction. A special responsibility falls therefore upon those nations which are not so hard-pressed financially and which possess the scientific and technical expertise needed to protect and manage tropical and sub-tropical forests. It is up to them to at least provide a good example of rainforest protection, if not to go beyond that in helping less fortunate countries. ..."

Gerald Durrell, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Channel
Islands:

"... Only 1% of Australia's great land area was covered by rainforest before European settlement and now only one quarter of it is left due to clearing for agriculture and other developments. Australia is not in the relatively happy position that its remaining rainforests are situated in one large area; as you know, the forest exists in patches and each small area is a refuge for a unique collection of plant and animal species. The smaller the size of the patch, the more vulnerable is its living community to any form of disturbance, let alone logging." ... "The world's tropical moist forests hold over one half of the planet's species of plants and animals and these living things have been of immeasurable value to science and human welfare and will be so in the future - if they survive." ... "The present rate of our destruction of the planet means that in the next twenty years, half to one million species of plants and animals will become extinct. ..."

Professor Paul R. Ehrlich, Stanford University, Stanford California:

"... Many people consider the preservation of populations and species of other organisms to be primarily a matter of ethics and aesthetics. Some of the better-informed ones also understand the enormous bonanza of goods, medicines, and industrial products that humanity has already derived from its fellow passengers on Spaceship Earth, and further see that the potential for supplying such economic goods has barely been scratched. For example, something like a third of all medicines contain natural plant products, but only insignificant portions of the world's plants have ever been thoroughly studied in that respect.

Unfortunately, however, the most important reason for preserving diversity is also the least well-known and least well-understood. That is that populations of species of other organisms are all working parts of the vast ecological systems that provide humanity with an irreplaceable set of free "public services." Included among these are the maintenance of the quality of the atmosphere, the control of the hydrological cycle (and thus the supplying of fresh water), the amelioration of climate, the generation and maintenance of soils, the disposal of wastes, the recycling of nutrients essential to agriculture, the control of the vast majority of potential pests of our crops and carriers of human disease, and the maintenance of genetic diversity absolutely essential to the development of high-yield agriculture. Therefore when humanity exterminates populations of species of other organisms, it is in essence "popping the rivets" on its own spaceship. The signs of the weakening of our life-support systems are easy enough to read; unfortunately how many rivets we can pop before ultimate disaster overtakes us cannot be predicted with the present state of environmental science.

In my view, the remaining subtropical rainforests of New South Wales (indeed the remaining forests, especially tropical forests, of Australia) are a national treasure that should be protected at all costs from logging or clearing. Much of Australia's biotic diversity is already threatened, and sadly some of it is already lost. I hope that you will do everything possible to prevent the further destruction of the Australian fauna and flora, so that it may be available to help support not just future generations of Australians, but future generations of human beings. ..."

Professor Dr. Heinz Ellenberg, Ph.Ds (Hon), University of Göttingen, West Germany:

"... In all parts of the world, forests are threatened with logging, clearing or agricultural use. In contrast to other forest types, for most of the tropical rainforest ecosystems, this means their definite destruction. The main reason is that tropical rainforests normally are built up by a great number of different tree species forming varying mixtures. The seeds of nearly all of these trees are heavy and cannot be transported rapidly over great distances. When many species are involved, their arranging in a mixture ratio due to competition needs a long time, at least several generations of trees. Therefore it certainly takes much more than 500 (and probably more than 1000) years for their regeneration. This is proved e.g. by historical evidence in Mexico. ..."

"... In Australia however the total area of rain forests is relatively small, and the species living there are numerous. Moreover, most of these species are unique in the world because of the long isolation of the Australian continent. Thus destroying or even reducing the Australian rainforest largely means killing an ecosystem unique at a global scale.

Would you like to enter into history as the personality and the government responsible for a crime of such extension?"

Professor P. Greig-Smith, School of Plant Biology, University College of North Wales:

"I am deeply concerned to learn from colleagues in Australia of the proposed logging of sub-tropical forest in Northern New South Wales ..."

"... Rain forest is the most complex type of vegetation in existence and our scientific understanding of it has still a very long way to go. To destroy it - and it cannot be maintained by leaving small pockets unlogged - is to prevent mankind from ever attaining the full understanding of a major feature of our environment and thus impoverish the heritage of our descendants. ..."

"... Australia is one of the very few developed nations to include rain forest and there is no doubt that the example it sets will have a profound influence on opinion in the "third-world nations" with much more extensive areas of rain forest. All those with any understanding of rain forests will be waiting anxiously to hear what decision is made and will hope that New South Wales will give a lead to Australia and the world in this very important matter."

Professor Lawrence Hamilton, Research Associate, East-West Environment & Policy Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii:

"I write this letter both as a concerned scientist, and as the Director of the tropical forest program of the Sierra Club concerning the proposed logging of subtropical rainforest at Terania Creek in northern New South Wales.

.... "It would seem prudent for the government, as custodian of the natural resources for the people, to act very conservatively. These forests are not only part of the State heritage, but the Australian national heritage, and their loss also has a damaging effect on the world heritage."

Dr. F. Kenneth Hare, University Professor in Geography and Physics, and Provost of Trinity College, Toronto, Ontario:

"May I please lend my strong support to the movement to preserve the remaining relics of New South Wales' rainforest? This forest, all but destroyed by logging, is a unique and utterly priceless heritage for the whole world. It is unthinkable to me that it should be removed from the map for short-term economic gain. ..."

Professor Dr. Peter W. Hollermann, Geographical Institute University of Bonn, West Germany:

"From the newspapers and scientific literature I learned about the problems of the future land-use in the Australian rainforests, especially about the proposed logging of the subtropical rainforest at Terania Creek in Northern New South Wales.

"... As you will know, some 20 million hectares of the world's primary rainforests are being destroyed or severely damaged each year, so that the complete destruction of the extensive rainforest ecosystem looks to be a matter of time only. The rainforest, as the most complex biotic community in the world, is generally known to be a highly diversified and fragile ecosystem, which is not able to regenerate after destruction. The rainforest ecosystem is a nonrenewable genetic resource of many species of plants and animals which - once displaced by large-scale land use - can never return to re-occupy the area. In the aspect of meteorology, the world-wide climatic consequences of rainforest destruction are non-predictable, since the part of the biome in the global gas balance is poorly understood now. After some model calculations serious changes in the heat balance of the atmosphere may be expected. ..."

Dr. M. Jacobs, Senior Botanist, Leiden Herbarium, Netherlands:

"As a botanist who since 1958 has been working on taxonomic, ecological and conservation aspects of rainforests, I wish to express my deep concern about the plans of which I heard, to have the small remnants of rainforest in your country further diminished by logging the natural forests at Terania Creek.

"... I think the arguments brought forward by Australian conservationists are perfectly valid. These forests, with the many unique species of plants and animals in them, represent a spectrum of other values than timber, and are irreplaceable. In a civilized country - which, moreover, hopes to host the XIIIth International Botanical Congress next August - such destruction of values should never again be allowed to happen. ..."

Professor N. W. Moore, University of London and Nature Conservancy Council, London:

" ... I would like to give my fullest support to those in your state who propose that the Terania Creek forest and the other significant remnants of rainforest in New South Wales should not be logged, but be retained and managed as a scientific and cultural resource.

I am certain that positive action of this kind will prove a sound economic investment. The rain forest has taken millions of years to evolve and in an energy impoverished world we have much to learn from how it retains its productivity.

Increasingly, hitherto obscure members of rainforest flora and fauna are proving valuable to medical research and treatment, and to agriculture and forestry. If their habitat is destroyed they will become extinct and the opportunities to use them will be lost forever. By retaining the last remnants of rainforest New South Wales will keep the options open for our and future generations.

I hope you will forgive a plea made from the other side of the world, but I can assure you that your rainforest is of international repute and value. ..."

Professor D. Mueller-Dombois, Dept. of Botany, University of Hawaii at Manoa:

"... This would indicate that a threshold size is being approached which when decreased further may indeed result in an irreplaceable loss of a self-maintaining natural forest cover. Further consequences are the loss of potentially useful genetic stock, loss of important wildlife habitat, and loss of a number of intangible scientific, scenic, recreational, and educational values. It is unfortunate that the latter cannot be exactly weighed in dollars and cents like a commercial tree crop. But informed opinion all over the world now holds that unless a nation is really at its existential minimum, these intangible values may considerably outweigh the short-term commercial interests.

The most serious environmental losses of our time appear to be the gradual disappearance of natural vegetation and wildlife habitat rather than the sudden collapse of overburdened ecosystems. It takes an enlightened government to see this trend and to treat it as a serious erosion of our resource base. I hope very much that your government will go on record to have recognized this."

Dr. Norman Myers, Consultant in Environment and Development, Nairobi, Kenya:

"... Of the 4 million square miles of forest expanse throughout the tropics, few tracts are of more intrinsic scientific interest than those of Australia, whether tropical or subtropical. Due to your country's isolation in recent prehistoric time, your forests contain many species of plants and animals that are to be found nowhere else on earth. It is becoming plain that these endemic species offer much potential for utilitarian applications in agriculture, medicine and industry. As illustrations from other sectors of the biome, the rosy periwinkle has yielded vincristine, an anti-leukemia drug that now generates commercial sales worth \$65 million per year; the US National Cancer Institute believes that tropical rainforests offer the best source for further drugs with which to resist the scourge of cancer. The World Health Organisation is searching for materials to manufacture a safer and more effective contraceptive pill; it believes that its best bet lies with plants and certain fauna of tropical rainforests. During the 1970s, a number of new foods, and improved forms of existing foods, have been developed by virtue of germplasm supplies and gene reservoirs in tropical rainforests. These same forests harbour insect predators and parasites, such as wasps, that are increasingly utilised to limit the scope of agricultural pests. As petrochemicals grow ever-more expensive, chemical industries around the world are looking for alternative sources of feedstocks; and they increasingly find that the most abundant and diverse source of raw materials lies with tropical rainforests.

All these utilitarian applications of tropical rainforest resources offer the prospect that, within the near future, the forests will begin to be harvested in systematic fashion

(contd.)

are logged."

for those products that are of high value and low volume - and whose harvesting will induce little disruption for forest ecosystems. This type of harvesting will markedly contrast with

Emeritus Professor P.W. Richards, Cambridge:

"One of my Australian colleagues has drawn my attention to the inquiry into Proposed Logging of the Subtropical rainforest at Terania Creek, northern New South Wales.

"... Apart from their present and future economic value, rainforests have a unique scientific interest because of their long history which extends far into the geological past. Once felled, they are virtually impossible to replant or replace.

"The survival of the rainforests of Australia is a matter for serious anxiety. ..."

Sir Peter Scott CBE DSc, Gloucester:

"... May I, on behalf of all conservationists, earnestly beg that the limited areas of tropical rainforest in New South Wales be retained as a precious part of Australia's incomparable natural heritage."

Dr. Tem Smitinand, The Forest Herbarium, Bangkok, Thailand:

"I have seen reports of the controversy about logging of the forests at Terania Creek in New South Wales.

"I am taking the liberty of writing to you to express my personal opinion as a botanical scientist who has visited Australia, and who has had a life-long experience working on the taxonomy and ecology of rain forests and monsoon forests in south-east Asia.

I do not believe that any of the remaining rain forests in Australia shall be logged, especially if they have not been logged before.

For me, who works in Thailand, I visualize the Australian rainforests as a precious part of the south-east Asian biological environment which we all share and must conserve...."

Emeritus Professor Heinrich Walter, Botanical Institute, Hohenheim University, West Germany:

"... I had the opportunity to study the Tropical and Sub-tropical rainforests in Queensland and New South Wales. They are unique on the earth containing many endemic disjunct species of flora and fauna. Therefore I was shocked by the current Inquiry into Proposed logging of Subtropical Rainforest at Terania Creek.

The rainforest area of Australia is very small but its variation in the floristic composition from North to South is of immense scientific interest. Primary rainforests are the most susceptible terrestrial ecosystem. They never regenerate after clearing or logging and are succeeded by a much poorer secondary forest vegetation. All rainforests patches in Australia should be left untouched and reserved for future scientific investigations. I beg for your support in conserving all remnants of Australian Rainforests in New South Wales."

Professor Walter Westman, Dept. of Bio-geography, Univ. of California, Los Angeles:

"... it is my judgment that the management and preservation of these rainforests in a condition at or near their present one can be of greater long-term benefit to the economy of the State than their logging at the present time. One reason for this is that logging is a single use of the forest resource, and one which, with present technology for timber-cutting in rain forests, virtually precludes simultaneous uses of the resource for other purposes. Scientific study of these forests in Australia has previously led to a remarkable number of discoveries of chemical substances of potential economic value: a far higher quantity than in forests of other types. Furthermore the unique and picturesque character of these forests has been and will continue to be a major source of scientific and tourist dollars coming into your country. ..."

Dr. T.C. Whitmore, Forest Ecologist, Commonwealth Forestry Institute, Oxford, United Kingdom:

"... The New South Wales rainforests are of international importance. I have myself worked for over 20 years on the Indo-Malayan tropical rain forests and have written the definitive textbook on them (Tropical Rain Forests of the Far East, Clarendon, Oxford, 1975), as well as many research articles. Within the last few years I have visited parts of the American rain forests so I am able to view your forests from a global perspective. Many of the species in your forests and the Queensland rain forests further north are ancient relics from when Australia was much wetter in the Tertiary, 80-100 million years ago. There are affinities with New Caledonia which was once joined to the Australian coast, and with southern Africa and America which were joined to Australia plus Antarctica further back in the past. The reason, continental drift, for these affinities has only been discovered during the last 15 years. Biological evidence is vitally important to geophysicists to confirm that hypothesis and to suggest lines for further enquiry. " Already mining geology is benefitting from the discoveries of drift-geophysicists. The full analysis for Australian plants and animals is yet awaited.

"The other great value of the NSW rain forest lies in their position at the southern extremity of the Indo-Malayan rain forest. At such a boundary, study can be made on the way forests change as climate fluctuates, including local, regional and global change caused by man. You will be aware of the current scientific debate on the possible effect of increased carbon dioxide on world climate. When it comes to investigate what this could do to forests, New South Wales is a key place to study - not least because so much has already been discovered in the Australian rain forests. ..."

Majda Zumer-Linder (plus 20 other signatories, Dept. Ecology and Environmental Research, Swedish Univ. of Agricultural Sciences:

"... We are greatly perturbed whenever the last remaining trees in a particular area are cut down by the local population because of their pressing need for fuel, building material and more arable land. Such a situation does not apply to Australia, and therefore it is even more difficult for us to understand that a unique natural heritage should be eliminated for only short-term benefits. ..."

"... Australia has every possibility to allow some of these unique ecosystems to survive and to forge an example that might help to influence other countries. ..."

RAINFORESTS

ARE A WORLD ISSUE

The Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C., M.P.
Premier of New South Wales

Dear Mr. Wran,

For a long time now, scientists have been aware of the enormous destruction taking place in the world's rainforests. When the trees go, so do a large number of animals and smaller plant species, many of which occur nowhere else.

It has been estimated that this worldwide felling of rainforests is taking place at the rate of 40 hectares per minute.

New South Wales is lucky enough to retain some fragments of its original rainforests, but we understand that, as in the rest of the world, these too are threatened by commercial pressures.

May we earnestly urge that the limited areas of remaining rainforests in New South Wales be retained as a precious part of Australia's natural heritage.

Yours sincerely

Peter S. Ashton, Director, The Arnold Arboretum
of Harvard University, U.S.A.

Professor João José Bigarello, Chairman of
ADEA, Brazil.

Professor Dr. E. F. Brünig, Universität Hamburg
Ordinariat für Weltforstwirtschaft, West Germany.

Professor E. J. H. Corner, Cambridge, U.K.

Professor R. F. Dasmann, Santa Cruz, U.S.A.

Gerald Durrell, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust,
Channel Islands.

Professor Paul R. Ehrlich, Dept. of Biological
Sciences, Stanford University, U.S.A.

Professor H. Ellenberg, Director, Lehrstuhl für
Geobotanik, Systematisch-Geobotanisches Institut
der Universität, West Germany.

Professor P. Greig-Smith, School of Plant Biology,
University College of North Wales, U.K.

Professor Lawrence Hamilton, East-West
Environment and Policy Institute, Hawaii, U.S.A.

Professor F. Kenneth Hare, Provost, Trinity
College, Toronto, Canada.

Professor P. W. Hollermann, Director,
Department of Geography, University of Bonn,
West Germany.

Dr. M. Jacobs, Rijksherbarium, Leiden,
Netherlands.

Professor N. W. Moore, Nature Conservancy
Council, U.K.

Professor D. Mueller-Dombois, Department of
Botany, University of Hawaii, U.S.A.

Dr. Norman Myers, Consultant in Environment and
Development, Nairobi, Kenya.

Professor M. Numata, Chiba University, Japan.

Professor K. J. Polakowski, School of Natural
Resources, University of Michigan, U.S.A.

Professor M. E. Poore, Department of Forestry,
University of Oxford, U.K.

Peter H. Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical
Garden, U.S.A.

Professor P. W. Richards, Cambridge, U.K.

Sir Peter Scott, Gloucester, U.K.

Dr. Tem Smitinand, The Forest Herbarium, Royal
Forest Dept., Thailand.

Professor W. Walter, Botanisches Institut, der
Universität Hohenheim, West Germany.

Professor W. Westman, Department of Geography,
University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

Dr. T. C. Whitmore, Commonwealth Forestry
Institute, Oxford, U.K.

Dr. Majda Zumer-Linder (and 28 others)
Department of Ecology and Environmental Research,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden.

Ask Mr. Wran to act now!

Authorised by R. Prineas, NPA of NSW, 399 Pitt St., Sydney

National Parks Assn. of NSW
399 Pitt Street,
Sydney, 2000

Dear NPA: I want to help in the rainforest campaign.
Enclosed is my cheque/M.O. of \$ _____ as a donation
to your rainforest fund.

NAME: _____ PLEASE PRINT

ADDRESS: _____

Signed: _____

National Parks Assn. of NSW
399 Pitt Street,
Sydney, 2000

Dear NPA: Sign me up for 1981/82. I enclose my
cheque/M.O. for \$12.00 to cover the annual
membership fee.

NAME: _____ PLEASE PRINT

ADDRESS: _____

Signed: _____

Hon. Neville Wran,
Premier of New South Wales,
Parliament House,
Macquarie St., SYDNEY 2000

Please act now to save the NSW rainforests and set
an example for the world.

NAME: _____ PLEASE PRINT

ADDRESS: _____

Signed: _____

If you like, send the signed coupon to NPA and we will forward it
on to the Premier.

8 February 1982

Dear Mr. Premier,

You are aware that there is widespread concern regarding the management of the forests in this State, particularly of the State Forests. I first wrote you on this matter in 1976 (appended). Time and the piecemeal approach have failed to resolve the problem; indeed resistance to some present Forestry Commission management plans seems to be still on the increase.

I wish to submit that the chief cause of unrest is a confusion of the priorities of the Forestry Act of apparently 1916. Attached (2) is an extract describing the objects of the Commission from their 'Indigenous Forest Policy' which describes their interpretation of the Acts as of October 1976, and to which my local forester ultimately resorts when pressed to justify his harvesting plans.

Quoting the IFP, p 9, para 2 ; " The legislation imposes a responsibility to meet the many demands placed upon the forests, with an emphasis on timber production. " It may be argued that this flows fairly from 8A(1)a of the Act, which is the first listed object "to conserve and utilise the timber on Crown Timber lands to the best advantage of the State" and 8A(1)b " to provide adequate supplies of timber from Crown Timber lands for building, commercial, industrial, agricultural, mining and domestic purposes" and 8A(1)c " To encourage the use of timber derived from trees grown in the State".

And let us for the moment overlook the fact that much of the timber coming from the forests of the proposed

Nightcap National Park - and indeed of Grafton - goes north out of this State.

The cold fact is that the Commission presently fails to meet the objects. For object a they are not conserving the timber - much less the forests - when they follow a policy of calculated overcutting of the virgin stands in order to meet a shortfall of supply, as is ordered by the IFP on p 35, para 3,

"5.4.2 Coastal Hardwoods The more mountainous and less accessible forests behind the coastal plain should be logged for sawlogs to the limit of economic accessibility " and also on p 34 " 5.4.1 Rainforest Where selection logging is successfully carried out without destroying the ecological viability of the rainforest, this may be continued to meet current market commitments ".

Nor can they be said to achieve object b of 'providing adequate supplies' when it seems accepted that the State's Forests are only supplying some 42 % of the State's timber usage (another 17 % coming from interstate and the balance from overseas) .

Nor are they, in my view, meeting the requirement 8A (2) " .. to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the quality of the environment . "

It is usual perhaps for the Commission to order their priorities as they are listed in the Act, particularly when to do suits the economic climate and momentum. However, the climate of opinion seems to have changed, even since 1972, and the present momentum seems likely to bring sections of the industry to a noisy halt at the end of the last unchanged, primeval sized trees of the indigenous resource.

Thus I have the temerity to submit a draft revision of that Section of the present Forestry Act which deals with the objects of the Commission, and to request that the management plan and Indigenous Forest policy be revised in accordance with a rewritten Act, before the present policies lead to irretrievable loss of all or any areas still unchanged by our technology and large enough to preserve the original species or even some scattered survivors.

- 8.A(1) The objects of the commission shall be :
- a To preserve or enhance the quality of the environment in and associated with Crown Timber Lands.
 - b In cooperation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to maximise the survival of native species of life in the State.
 - c To preserve the soil resources, water catchment capacities, habitat, cultural, genetic, scientific and spiritual values of Crown Timber Lands.
 - d In accordance with the principle of " only annually-sustainable yields " and the objects above, to offer or utilise ~~the~~ the resources on Crown Timber lands to the best advantage^a of the people of the State.
 - e To offer and encourage use of the State's Forests for recreational or another acceptable purposes, and to promote public understanding of forest ecologies and management.
- 2 That the forest resources of the State may be increased, to assist other landowners in whatever ways may be possible in the reforestation, regeneration, development or annually sustainable management of forests or forest systems on their lands. "

Yours sincerely,

Ian Dixon

will influence price and therefore demand, while regular and assured supplies of raw materials are an essential ingredient of an efficient forest industry.

At the same time, there has always been and will continue to be, a human need for the non-material values intrinsic to a forest environment such as catchment protection, wildlife habitat, natural scenic values and preservation of the scientific values of forest communities. These intrinsic values prompt a further demand for forests as a venue for human recreation. Management policy, particularly for indigenous forests, must take full account of these environmental values and uses.

New South Wales legislature has prescribed the benefits to be sought in the management of the crown forest estate in the objects of the Commission which are laid down in the Forestry Act:-

"8A (1) The objects of the commission shall be -

- (a) to conserve and utilise the timber on Crown-timber lands to the best advantage of the State;
- (b) to provide adequate supplies of timber from Crown-timber lands for building, commercial, industrial, agricultural, mining and domestic purposes;
- (c) to preserve and improve, in accordance with good forestry practice, the soil resources and water catchment capabilities of Crown-timber lands;
- (d) to encourage the use of timber derived from trees grown in the State; and
- (e) consistent with the use of State forests for the purposes of forestry and of flora reserves for the preservation of the native flora thereon -
 - (i) to promote and encourage their use as a recreation; and
 - (ii) to conserve birds and animals thereon.

(2) In the attainment of its objects and the exercise and performance of its powers, authorities, duties and functions under this Act, the commission shall take all practicable steps that it considers necessary or desirable to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the quality of the environment."

The Act also provides for acquisition of land and its dedication as State Forest prescribing a total of at least 3 250 000 ha of which

Dear Mr Premier,

Assuming we are ready to resume
responsible relations with all life

Knowing that more than half the Forest
areas of this State have been used or
wasted or lost

Believing that the timber production quotas
of the Forestry Commission are dangerously
high, and their royalties unserviceably low

Will you please act to:

1. Preserve the chain of slowgrowing Rainforests
remaining in our State and private Forests
2. Amend the relevant Acts to allow the Forestry
Commission to preserve Forests and assist
reafforestation, rather than primarily
producing timber
3. Assist and encourage both public and private
landowners, especially of presently uneconomic
cleared lands, to restore their Native Forests.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Dixon