



TAMWORTH ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

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Contribution to the NEFA "Leaf"

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Tamworth Environmental Centre is now one year old. Our group formed out of interest generated at Tamworth's first World Environment Day Expo, held in June '93, and since then has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis. With a membership of 25 - 30 people of diverse backgrounds we meet to discuss and act upon issues of local and regional significance. The TEC is represented on the Walcha/Nundle Forest EIS Consultative Committee, local council River and Water Committee, and the North West Total Catchment Management Committee.

Currently we are focusing on protecting old growth forest, especially Ben Halls Gap which has been a hot issue since 1989 when logging was due to commence. Recently we protested when State Forests were burning off and fires got out of control, because of dry and windy conditions. Also a number of farms in the area were burned when fire bombs were dropped off target.

The group is aiming to get a permanent shop front in town as soon as we can raise funds to set up. Although as yet unsuccessful in obtaining Government grants we have raised good money from a Judy Small concert, and plan to have further fund raisers.

In May our group hosted the touring party from Borneo for a BBQ lunch where a local Aboriginal of the Kamilaroi people presented them each with a cultural information folder.

W.E.D. Expo '94 was a much bigger and better event than last year's, having aroused more interest with the public and attracting a greater number of exhibitors. Around 40 groups were represented including Government departments CALM, DWR, NPWS, and local Councils Parry and Tamworth City. Community groups included NPA, TWS, WIRES, CAA, Landcare, Australian Catholic Relief, Amnesty International, permaculture and organic growers, and schools showing their environmental projects. Commercial suppliers of environmentally friendly products also took the opportunity to present their wares.

Wholesome food was available and great entertainment was provided by local musicians and theatre groups.

Future issues

Recently we made a submission to the NCC for the forthcoming conference in August when State Government environment policies will be discussed.

This summer our group in association with the Armidale Environment group plan to hold a fund raising concert/festival.

The Consultative Group meeting set down for June has been deferred to at least July, but rumours emanating from Nundle suggest there will be no E.I.S. before the end of 1994.

lan Garradd Ron Webster