



# THE MEN OF THE TREES (INC.)

Western Australian Branch

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales.  
Founder: Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker.

The International Society for the  
Planting and Protection of Trees.

Please reply to:  
3 Over Avenue  
Lesmurdie  
W.A. 6076  
Phone (09) 291 6619

Mr. Jon Axtens  
6 Slater Street  
NORTH LISMORE  
NSW 2480

17 March 1988

Dear Mr. Axtens,

Thank you very much for your letter to Robyn Williams concerning my novel word "fertyle". What I said in the programme is as follows:

"That notion of 'fertility' is crucial. It matters not how much land a person owns but how well he cares for it. Indeed, perhaps we should coin a new word 'FERTYLE' (with a Y instead of an I) as a unit measure of healthy soil. A thousand hectares of land of zero productivity would then stand as a black in the doomsday book against its Laputan-like tenants whilst the few well-cared-for fertyles would earn for their trustees a just reward."

In order to define a "fertyle" one would have to begin with a standard plant or a standard crop and determine its annual increment when grown on land that had had no hard chemicals added to it within the past three years. This increment would then have to be divided by the area of land measured in hectares or square metres. The result would be a figure which would give one a ready comparison between lands which had been well husbanded and those which had been rather over-worked.

You can tell by this rather flabby explanation that I am not an academic although I am flattered that you should think me to be one. In fact I have had 28 years experience in farming and have only withdrawn in order to pursue this desperate need to get some economic sense into Australia's attitude to it's rural land.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Barrie Oldfield  
President



6th December, 1984

PUBLIC MEETING on  
MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK  
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Please reply to:  
N.S.W. Office, 3rd floor,  
18 Argyle Street, N.S.W. 2000.  
Tel. 27 1497.



**ACF**

**Australian  
Conservation  
Foundation**  
672B Glenferrie Road  
Hawthorn Victoria  
Australia 3122

Telephone (03) 819 2888  
International + 613 819 2888

Dear President/Secretary,

On Friday 14th December, at 8 p.m., an important public meeting will be held, in the Newcastle City Hall (Supper Hall) to discuss the Myall Lakes National Park Plan of Management, which has recently been made public.

If members of your group believe that national parks are for passive recreation, and should exclude inappropriate usage such as the driving of motor vehicles except on a very restricted, unobtrusive, and peripheral road system, then they should make an effort to attend this meeting. We don't want to find ourselves outnumbered by the beach-driving and motor boating lobbies, whose interests are being served through the Plan, yet are complaining.

If you are concerned for the fate of the national parks system, do not fail to have representatives attend this meeting. Any number can come, and probably the more the better.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Catford,  
NSW Liaison Officer

Attachment



MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

by Alan Catford

Discontent with the recently issued Myall Lakes National Park Plan of Management will, it seems, come from two main directions: those who believe the Plan does not go far enough in providing for certain types of national park usage and those who believe it goes much too far in that direction.

The type of usage referred to is the driving of motor vehicles off a very minimal unobtrusive, peripheral public road system (there should be no roads deep within any national park) and the use of power boats on what are essentially park waters.

Driving off the public road system includes driving on the ocean beaches, of which there are many kilometres in or adjacent to Myall Lakes National Park. In regard to the control of vehicles on these beaches, there is a complication: the zone between mean high and low water marks is on most beaches under the jurisdiction of the Crown Lands Office, and therefore outside the direct control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. However, the latter does not mention in the Plan having made any attempt to persuade the CLO to transfer control, so that a sensible system of control can prevail. (After all, the intertidal strip, as part of the beach, belongs essentially to the Park, and obtrusive types of usage, such as driving motor vehicles, grossly affects the national park experience of people who are on foot).

Not only this, but on two counts, the Plan reveals government policy as favouring the use of motor vehicles on the park beaches. First, the intertidal strip between Mungo Brush and Big Gibber is actually within the Park and therefore under Service control. Yet the Plan has not taken advantage of this rare opportunity to block vehicular passage. Secondly, the Plan provides for the use of that part of the beach just above HWM and therefore in the Park, presumably to allow passage of vehicles at high tide.

The Plan prohibits vehicles on the beaches north of Big Gibber, and this effectively prevents entry to the intertidal strip, as vehicles would have to cross the beach (part of the Park) to reach it, which is something they can do outside park boundary in the southern extremity of the Park. However, this represents a compromise, which is unacceptable under the circumstances as well as in principle. After all, national park beaches in NSW represent only about 15% of the total length of beach on the NSW coast. Surely drivers have no just cause for complaint if they are requested to keep off this small proportion of the public beaches. There should be no driving on any national park beaches.

Coming to the waterways, it is a fact that the NP&WS has, to date, no control over the presence and movement of boats, as it controls only the bed of the Lakes. Certainly it may be likely that some co-operation might be obtained from the Maritime Services Board (dialogue is said to have been opened) in the setting of speed limits, exclusion from certain areas, etc. in regard to motorised craft. Again however, we believe that no compromise is acceptable. Motor boats are a highly disturbing element in a national park. National park waterways - that is, waterways within or immediately adjacent to a national park or nature reserve, occupy only about 17% of the total area of coastal lagoons and estuarine waters of NSW. (One might legitimately add to this a strip of offshore ocean say 1 km wide, which virtually doubles this area presently available to motor boaters, and this drops the proportion which is virtually national park, or should be included within the adjacent national park, to about 9%).

Is it unreasonable to ask that this small proportion of our coastal waterways



be reserved for the use and benefit of the 98% of our people who do not own a motor boat? That is, reserved solely for their use.

Motor boat owners, like 4WD and trail bike owners, are a small minority of the general public, most of whom use and enjoy the coast from time to time. Yet they expect to be quite unrestricted in their use of the public domain, even though there has been a significant level of protest. To allow them to continue enjoying their present fantastic privilege is indeed a strange situation in a country supposedly ruled on behalf of the majority!

The reasons for objecting to the broad intrusion of motor vehicles into the national park situation, and for the roads provided to enable deep penetration by vehicle, are essentially as follows:

1. Disturbance of the essential national park experience - one of pure nature and natural events (sights, sounds, odours). The affront caused is usually both physical and psychological.
2. Damage to natural systems. Even on the intertidal strip, vehicles crush and suffocate interstitial organisms such as sea-worms and pipis, and heavy traffic may well deplete populations. The frequent putting up of shore birds by such traffic can cause them to leave an area, and possibly to desert nests. When vehicles are driven above the berm, or (referring to motor boats) in shallow water, damage to native vegetation is likely to occur, with the potential for serious consequential effects, such as sand blowouts.
3. Danger, to passive users of beaches and water bodies, is well proven by frequent cases of injury and even death. A national park might present the unwary with dangers of an expected nature (which are perfectly legitimate under the circumstances) such as snake-bite or avalanches, but should be free of those caused by man himself. The passive park user (the only legitimate user) should be free to walk, lie, float, or swim anywhere within a national park without the fear of being run down by a vehicle and needing to take precautions against this.

All of the above hinges on the supposed need for the type of land use we call national park. Unless we are to accept the image of a dull, uniform society satisfied with a single set of criteria for our recreational provisions, then we must recognise and preserve the concept of a recreational opportunity spectrum in relation to outdoor recreation. Planning in accordance with the spectrum is a means of ensuring that all legitimate forms of recreation (and most are legitimate at some places and at some times) - from motor car racing to meditating in the wilderness - are catered for. National parks provide for the "passive" end of the spectrum, that is for nature-oriented activities which are self-reliant, non-mechanised, and with low environment impact, such as bushwalking, canoeing, climbing, swimming, surfing, photography, nature appreciation and study, etc.

The bulk of a national park should be road-free. Thus the tentative provision in the Plan for a "road system" penetrating the heart of the Park (between Myall Lake and the sea), potentially a close approach to a genuine wilderness area if allowed to revert to a completely natural condition following the removal of existing roads, should be rigorously rejected as strictly "non-park".

Finally: of course national parks are for people! But they are for those people who are willing to use them appropriately. Their range of acceptable recreational opportunity is limited. Otherwise we may as well forget the fine concept of man as the custodian of the Earth he has inherited and making a conscious provision for his kind to simultaneously enjoy and to respect the integrity of nature, and settle for an undifferentiated, unselective, unimaginative, unplanned, indiscriminating recreational hash, with which nobody will be satisfied.

Perish the thought.





WORLD WILDLIFE FUND  
AUSTRALIA



Level 17, St. Martins Tower  
31 Market Street, Sydney  
N.S.W. 2000 Australia  
G.P.O. Box 528, Sydney  
N.S.W. 2001 Australia  
Telex: AA20364  
Telephone: (02) 29 7572

### INTERNATIONAL PLANTS CAMPAIGN - 1984

On March 22 1984 World Wildlife Fund Australia, together with WWF International and 23 other WWF National Organisations around the world, will be launching the International Plants Campaign. This will be a follow-up to World Wildlife Fund's Tropical Forests Campaign which was held in 1982.

Throughout 1984 the campaign will focus on the plight of endangered plants both within Australia and around the world and on the need for conservation of our plant resources. Plants play a vital role in providing us with food to eat, clothing to keep us warm, shelter in which to live, medicine to cure our ills and, of course, the air we breathe. Plants, especially trees and flowers, also have wide aesthetic values; people enjoy looking at them, painting them and just walking through forests of them. They are central in our lives and to the lives of the animals which share this country with us.

At this stage WWF Australia's contribution to the campaign will contain at least the following elements:-

- \* A programme of research projects directed at endangered plants and habitats, which will assist their conservation. These projects will be conducted around Australia.
- \* The production of an audio-visual programme on Australia's endangered plants to be used as a curriculum aid for teachers.
- \* The distribution of Plants Campaign posters to schools, local councils and conservation groups throughout Australia.

The Plants Campaign will be launched nationally at the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, on the morning of March 22 1984. Launches will be held in each state capital city simultaneously. Both the national and state launches will be attended by government representatives, government conservation bodies, such as the various national parks and wildlife services and non-government conservation organisations. We hope that the launches will attract considerable media coverage.

We are also keen to involve local councils, schools and community interest groups in conducting local launches of the Plants Campaign. Such involvement would benefit both the local community and those groups involved in the launch.

Over .....

At the local level we would encourage schools, local councils and community interest groups to come together so that

1. Local councils could reaffirm their commitment to tree preservation and, where appropriate, tree planting programmes.
2. Schools could present activities with botanical themes to the local community. These could take the form of art exhibitions, outdoor plays, readings or anything else which is thought appropriate.
3. Representatives of local community groups where they exist or, if necessary, of local schools, could present to the mayor or shire president a scroll from WWF Australia expressing our support and thanks to the council for its work in plant, and more specifically tree, preservation and conservation.

Such a ceremony could culminate in the planting of a commemorative tree. This could be dedicated to a local identity associated with the conservation of plants within the district or to the cause of plant conservation.

Throughout the year WWF Australia will be raising funds in support of its programme of conservation projects. We would welcome any assistance schools, local councils or community groups could give us in this task. In particular, schools might consider organising fund-raising activities as community awareness projects. Funds raised could be donated to WWF Australia or be directed for the support of any one of our conservation projects, ten of which are concerned with plant conservation.

Those organisations making a donation will receive a certificate of support from WWF Australia.

If you would consider organising an activity as part of World Wildlife Fund's Plants Campaign, please fill out the enclosed form and return to:

WWF Australia,  
G.P.O. Box 528,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001

We look forward to your support.

18.11.83



Grassy Head Road,  
Stuarts Point, 2441.  
12th November, 1984.

Mr. Sheahan, M.L.A.  
Minister for Environment and Planning,  
State Office Block,  
S Y D N E Y.

Dear Mr. Sheahan,

National Park Management.

The North Coast Environment Council supports your adoption of the management plan for Myall Lakes National Park. Our Council trusts that the restrictions on power boats on the Lakes will be strictly enforced and no exemptions will be given.

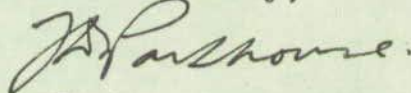
There are a number of important National Parks in our area, which extends from Myall Lakes to the Tweed, which are compromised by the intrusion of vehicles into areas other than on established roads and parking areas. In particular we refer to many parts of Yuraygir, Hat Head and Crowdy Bay.

Various arguments are used to justify taking a soft line in either policy or administration to vehicles within Parks. Such arguments are often based on so called practical circumstances, such as difficulty of enforcement, need to keep good relations with local residents, that little harm is done. This Council considers that this rather ambivalent attitude towards non compatible park useage can only lead to a deterioration in park management and condition.

Our Council also considers that the majority of park users, both local and visitors, are being discriminated against by permitting people to use vehicles or power boats in National Parks other than for access to parking places or along roads approved under a plan of management. Parks are for quiet and passive forms of recreation and power boats, trail bikes and beach buggies don't fit with the ethos of the largest number of park users. Furthermore, the main objectives of national parks - conservation of fauna and flora, are threatened by the incursions of motorised forms of transport.

We believe that by adopting a plan to exclude power boats from Myall Lakes you are providing a much needed leadership to the Park Service. We trust that this stand will now lead to stronger action by the Park Service to exclude motorised vehicles from parks. Erection of notices and barriers and lack of staff will not stop all incursions, but the public will become aware that the Service has a policy and will endeavour to enforce it. Time will then ensure its observance.

Yours sincerely,



T. Parkhouse.  
President.



FNC



National Parks Association of NSW

State Council  
275c Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Telephone (02) 264 7994

October 23, 1984.

The Secretary,  
The Co-ordinating Committee,  
Bushfire Council of New South Wales,  
GPO Box 30,  
SYDNEY. 2001.

Dear Sir,

Would you please inform me what proposals, if any, have been received for the construction of a fire trail in the Binghi Wilderness which is included in a National Park proposal made some years ago by this Association.

Further, would you please advise me of the existence and nature of any fire trail proposal for the Binghi area when it becomes known to you.

Yours faithfully,

Grahame Wells  
Director.



Copies to: ARM  
TAM  
FNC  
MNC  
TVB  
CVB (Secretary)



National Parks Association of NSW  
State Council  
275c Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Telephone (02) 264 7994

October 9, 1984.

Stan Mussared  
President  
National Parks Association  
Clarence Valley Branch  
P.O. Box 425  
GRAFTON. NSW. 2460.

Dear Stan,

I am writing to ask if you will convene a meeting between the Association's northern branches with the Northern Region Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr. Geoff Martin. I enclose a copy of Geoff's letter dated 31st August 1984.

The Executive suggests you contact all of our northern branches to ascertain the issues they consider to be important enough to raise at the first meeting.

The following issues might be discussed:

- (1) Ongoing management problems -
  - (a) ORVs in Yuraygir
  - (b) Visitor pressure in any of the region's parks (Nightcap, Yuraygir)
  - (c) Development problems.
- (2) Priorities in management planning  
NPA believes NP&WS should not have dropped coastal parks for rainforest parks.
- (3) New parks and their interim management, e.g. Warrabah
- (4) Proposed new parks.

Whatever you decide, I'd be pleased if you would keep the Association's Director informed as to progress.

Kind regards.

Dr. Richard Mason  
President.





# National Parks and Wildlife Service

## NORTHERN REGION



Mr. G. Wells,  
Director,  
N.P.A.,  
275L Pitt Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

N.S.W. Government Offices  
49 Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 97  
Grafton, N.S.W. 2460

Our reference:

Your reference:

Telephone: 42 0593  
STD: 066  
Telex: NSWGOGR AA66966

31st August, 1984.

Dear Graham,

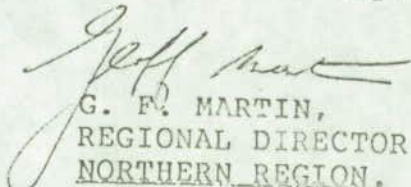
Thanks for your letter of 6th August, 1984 advising the desire of your Association to seek meetings with Regional Directors every three months.

I have no objection to your proposed meeting schedule although I do consider it a very heavy one. My views were expressed in my letter of 31st July, 1984.

I would also like to re-inforce the purpose of these meetings to achieve more effective regional overview particularly in terms of co-ordination of available resources and development of regional strategies. I do not want to undermine the Advisory Committee system which is involved with district management of individual parks. I know from recent correspondence your Association also shares concern for the future of Advisory Committees and supports their role and function.

I expect to hear from you shortly on meeting dates and agenda items for the initial N.P.A./Northern Region meeting.

Yours faithfully,

  
G. F. MARTIN,  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR,  
NORTHERN REGION.




FNC  
October 9, 1984.

MEMO: ALL BRANCHES

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO MEMO BY COUNCILLOR H.J. HIGGS (MILTON BRANCH) DATED 3rd OCTOBER, 1984.

1. The NSW Government has requested submissions; no request has been made by the Commonwealth Government at this stage.
2. Simply stating the Association's policy is not good enough. One has to argue a case even if, in Cr. Higgs' view, it is a "speculative discourse on potential but unsubstantiated threats to floral, faunal or archaeological features."
3. The Tianjara issue is not relevant at the present time. On 26th November 1976, the then Defence Minister, Mr. Killen, replied to NPA concerning the search for additional training areas in NSW. MR. Killen said the Government would comply with the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act.  
NSW Environment Planning and Assessment Act might not apply to a Commonwealth instrumentality. However, approvals by a NSW authority might fall within the scope of the Act.  
State Council policy on Tianjara is clearly set out in:
  - (1) Letter to Paul Landa, 9/7/1979
  - (2) Letter to Director, NP&WS, 19/4/1979
  - (3) Letter to Don Johnstone, 31/1/1980
  - (4) NPA Park proposals of April 1962
  - (5) and in numerous other items of correspondence.
4. No comment.
5. Does NPA need a schedule of activities which should be prohibited in National Parks - I don't think so.
6. I believe our policy is that there should be no Army activity in National Parks. I refer Cr. Higgs to the resolution of State Council of the June 1984 State Council meeting resolution 4.3 (2.7)
7. The NPA policy is one of opposition to Army activities in proposed National Parks and Nature Reserves.
8.
  - (a) The draft letter does that.
  - (b) The draft letter does that.
  - (c) The draft letter does that and gives some reasons.
  - (d) The draft letter does that.
  - (e) It is not valid to ignore my comments about relict hill country because "some topographical variation is possibly essential to the Army's purpose".  
That is precisely the reason why I have raised the issue of relict hill country, because there may be a conflict between nature conservation and Army activities.

  
Grahame Wells  
Director.





NEW SOUTH WALES  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

- 4 SEP 1984

Dr P. den Exter,  
President,  
North Coast Environment Council,  
1/123 Keen Street,  
LISMORE 2480 94

Dear Dr den Exter,

I refer to your letter on behalf of the North Coast Environment Council to the Premier, the Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C. M.P., concerning the nomination of North Coast rainforest areas for the World Heritage List. As this is a matter which comes within my administration, Mr Wran has asked that I reply to you direct.

I have carefully noted the comments you have made and I thank the Council for its appreciation of the Government's decision in this matter.

I am informed by the Department of Environment and Planning that a working party has been formed to prepare the subject nomination. It comprises representatives of the Department of Environment and Planning who will convene the meetings, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and a consultant to provide any necessary technical input.

It is anticipated that the majority of lands for the World Heritage Nomination will be selected from the rainforest areas gazetted in 1983 and 1984 Forestry Revocation and National Parks Gazettal Acts.

The Department of Environment and Planning has also informed me that it is preparing a publication entitled "New South Wales Government Rainforest Policy - Further Progress, 1984", which will include a facsimile copy of the Forestry Revocation and National Parks Gazettal Act, 1984 as an addendum. This publication is expected to be available later this year and will provide information on all areas included in the New South Wales Rainforest Policy. I have arranged for the Department of Environment and Planning to advise you when this publication and other suitable publications are available.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Terry Sheahan', written over a light blue horizontal line.

TERRY SHEAHAN



Copy away



National Parks Association of NSW

Far North Coast Branch,  
P.O. Box 44,  
South Lismore, 2480

G.Wells,  
Director,

~~State Council N.P.A.,~~

P.O. Box A96, 275c Pitt Street, Sydney South,

NSW 2000

Dear Grahame,

In regards to your letter (3/9/84) concerning defamatory attacks against yourself, this branch has no cause for complaint with your activities as director of the N.P.A., or in any other regard. In fact, we support the director's role in N.P.A., understanding that this is a difficult and often stressful position.

In regards to branch newsletters, whilst no-one can remember when exactly their copy of the journal arrived, there has been no complaint, to my knowledge, in regards to their punctuality.

Yours etc.

*Peter Hardwick*

Peter Hardwick,  
Hon. Secretary.





National Parks Association of NSW

State Council  
275c Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Telephone (02) 264 7994

MEMO: ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES.  
SUBJECT: DEFAMATORY ATTACKS ON DIRECTOR, NPA (NSW)

I would be pleased if you would read this letter to your next committee or branch meeting.

I am concerned about recent evidence of a 'whisper campaign' being conducted against me within at least one branch of the Association.

I am not certain of the source or the motivation of the campaign, but no doubt it:

- includes a desire to denigrate NPA by attacking its Director;
- includes a move to discredit the Director because he is an active conservationist.

I totally reject any allegation that I am in the employ of a NSW Government authority. In fact I am only in the employ of NPA of NSW.

I formally advise that anyone who states anything other than truth will be subject to a demand for damages as part settlement of an action for defamation in the NSW courts.

Grahame Wells  
Director,  
Sydney,  
September 3rd, 1984.





National Parks Association of NSW

State Council

275c ~~XXX~~ Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone (02) 264 7994

P.O. Box A96

SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

9 August 1984

MEMO: Clarence Valley Branch  
Three Valleys Branch  
Mid North Coast Branch (Port Macquarie)  
Mid North Coast Branch (Manning Sub-branch)  
Armidale Branch  
Tamworth Branch  
Far North Coast Branch (for information)

RE: Nightcap Planning Submission (September 1983)

I am sending you a copy of this submission at the request of the Far North Coast Branch and Park Management Committee of State Council.

We are taking this action in view of the circular from the Director of the Northern Region (dated July 20, 1984, on our copy) which invites submissions on the booklet Rainforest National Parks of the Far North Coast Interim Management June 1984.

There is a feeling among some members of the Association that the Northern Region is trying to find divisions amongst our northern branches over management planning of the rainforest parks. Thus it was thought necessary to bring the Association's Nightcap submission to your attention.

The Park Management Committee is in the process of preparing a management planning submission for Border Ranges National Park. This is expected to be completed by December this year.

If you intend to respond to Geoff Martin may I suggest that you advise the relevant branch before doing so, viz. -

Nightcap and Border Ranges  
Washpool

Far North Coast  
Clarence Valley

Should you require any further background contact Peter den Exter, Paul Barnes or myself.

Grahame Wells,  
Director.

Encl.



FNC

0 0 8 8 4 0 2 0



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

23-33 BRIDGE STREET  
SYDNEY 2000

Mr. G. Wells,  
Director,  
National Parks Association of N.S.W.,  
275c Pitt Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000 00.

-2 AUG 1984

Dear Mr. Wells,

I refer to your letter of 5th July, 1984 concerning  
Sawmillers Exports Pty. Ltd.

The Company has always had access to sawmill wastes  
and logging residues resulting from roundwood harvesting  
operations in the forest.

The Commonwealth Government has extended the export  
licence of the Company to include forest residues, in  
particular thinnings made for silvicultural reasons and this  
conforms with the determination made by the N.S.W. Government  
in 1982.

As you are aware the National Parks Association is  
the subject of union bans by the unions which service the  
Forestry Commission. As a consequence I am unable to provide  
a more detailed response.

Yours sincerely,

  
JANICE CROSIO,  
Minister for Natural Resources.





NEW SOUTH WALES

*Minister for Natural Resources*

Dr. P.M. der Exter,  
President,  
National Parks Association of N.S.W.  
(Far North Coast Branch),  
P.O. Box 44,  
SOUTH LISMORE N.S.W. 2480

31 JUL 1984

Dear Dr. der Exter,

I refer to your letter of 11th July 1984, concerning management of the Nullum State Forest. I have been advised that Union bans imposed by Forestry Commission staff against your Association remain in force. While this ban continues, I am unable to obtain detailed information on matters you raise.

I would however wish to point out that I am confident the Forestry Commission is aware of its obligations in respect to environmental impact assessment. In regard to this particular forestry operation, I do not propose that such a statement be prepared unless it is shown to be required to comply with environmental legislation.

I can further advise that logging is not imminent. However, these hardwood compartments do form part of the sustained yield which is needed to preserve employment in the timber industry, a factor the Government recognised explicitly in coming to its decision on rainforests.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Crosio'.

(JANICE CROSIO)  
Minister for Natural Resources





Rec. 1/8/84 00784043

# PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION

## OF NEW SOUTH WALES

160 CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY 2000

GPO BOX 3365, 2001

PHONE 290 1555

TELEX 73809

G. B. HAMMOND, GENERAL SECRETARY

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

HT:JS  
3/1/1657

July 24, 1984

The Honorary Secretary  
National Parks Association of NSW  
275c Pitt Street  
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Sir

The Association refers to the derogatory comments published in the article by P. Prineas in Vol. 26 (6) of the National Parks Journal and your letter of 14th June to the Secretary, Forestry Field Officers Association.

The Forestry Field Officers Association recognises the conciliatory spirit in which the letter was written, however, they note that the original article in question clearly referred to particular people in the Forestry Commission of NSW; the criticism was blatantly directed at people and not at policies as you now suggest. This fact, that specific persons were denigrated within the original article and that at the time of publishing P. Prineas held office with the NPA such that articles under his hand might be interpreted as NPA views, require that appropriate redress be by an apology published in a prominent position in the same journal.

However, having noted these points the Forestry Field Officers wish to respond to the conciliatory spirit mentioned above and believe that your letter of 14/6/84 will, if published in full, in a prominent position in the National Parks Journal, suffice as an appropriate apology to its members. With the publishing of this letter bans now in place will be lifted.

It would appear that if the NPA exercised tighter control over its Journal's editorial staff and ensured that articles conformed to its stated policy, confrontation with PSA members could be avoided. Your attention to this point would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully

G.B. Hammond,

G.B. HAMMOND  
General Secretary



## THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA *(New South Wales)*

PO Box 173 Mayfield 2304 Tel: (049) 67 6081

~~OBSERVATORY HILL, SYDNEY, GPO BOX 518, SYDNEY NSW 2001 Telephone (02) 27 5374~~

### SMALL NATURAL AREAS

Their Conservation and Management

*Proceedings of a Symposium held at  
The University of Newcastle on  
21 and 22 July 1984*

The Symposium Proceedings bring together information on the values of small natural areas, the legal and planning instruments available to protect them and some ideas on their management.

Information on the subject from New Zealand, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales is included. The contributors came from many disciplines, including land use planning, botany, zoology and nature conservation.

Such a collection of papers should be of value to land managers from a variety of authorities, including local government, Pastures Protection Board, agriculture and planning.

The price is \$15.00, and it is available from the above address.

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Premier of New South Wales  
Australia

27 JUN 1984

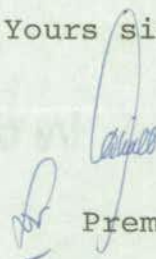
Dear Dr. den Exter,

I refer to your letter on behalf of the North Coast Environment Council seeking information on nominations for World Heritage listing.

I have carefully noted all that you have had to say and have been pleased to bring your request specially to the notice of my colleague, the Minister for Planning and Environment, for his consideration.

Council can be sure that its representations will receive close consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Premier.

Dr. P. den Exter,  
President,  
North Coast Environment Council,  
1/123 Keen Street,  
LISMORE. 2480 94



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Room 4  
104A Molesworth Street  
Lismore 2480  
P.O. Box 515, Lismore  
Tel. (066) 21 3624

June 15, 1984

Dr. Peter den Exter,  
President,  
Far North Coast Branch of the  
National Parks Association of NSW.,  
PO Box 44,  
SOUTH LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Dr. den Exter,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 5 concerning the motion moved by the Premier supporting the nomination of rainforest national parks and nature reserves in New South Wales for inclusion in the World Heritage List, which was debated in Parliament recently.

I note that your members were extremely disappointed that I voted against it, and I am surprised at this as I feel my position has been consistent.

It is my view that the New South Wales Forestry Commission has managed our forests for the benefit of all - the important timber industry, recreation, water and biological conservation purposes and environmentalists.

Indeed, had it not been for the Forestry Commission many of our fine stands of rain forests would not be available for "preservation" within National Parks.

My vote on this occasion was to register again my support for the Forestry Commission, and indeed was consistent with my vote against the Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Bill in March, 1983, and the Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Bill (No. 2) in May this year.

Yours faithfully,

(R. B. Duncan, M.P.)  
Member for Lismore



Report of INTERVIEW with MINISTER, TERRY SHEAHAN, 14th June, 1984

Present: Terry Sheahan

Chris Guest, Minister's Executive Officer

Dick Mason; Peter den Exter; Jim Corbett; Paul Barnes.

Grahame Wells (Director)

Introduction:

Mason stated NPA's priorities as first, nature conservation and second, recreation. Also the need to acquire land, either for new parks and reserves, or for addition to existing parks and reserves.

Telli-Telli:

Den Exter stated that NPA would be revising its park proposal; also that Forestry Commission had "backed off" somewhat. Sheahan responded that he was aware of NPWS proposed nature reserve, also Forestry's proposed flora reserve. He would need to receive some new facts before he would make any new statement.

Oxley National Park Proposal: (Apsley-Macleay Gorges)

Wells asked about progress, and pointed out it would be one of the last remaining Helman wildernesses, also that it might be treated as a Bi-centennial project for 1988.

Sheahan briefly referred to possible conflict with Electricity Commission proposals, but mainly declined to comment further at present. There was an investigation being headed by DEP., and this was estimated to need a further 18 months before finality.

Barnes urged that a nucleus park be gazetted quickly, leaving controversial areas to be decided upon later.

North West Wetland Survey:

Mason asked whether Minister could inform NPA which lands were being investigated. He mentioned possible conflict with Water Resources Commission.

Sheahan avoided any detailed reply, stating the report of the survey was with the printers and would be available in August. He had no strong views on use of S.E.P.s or R.E.P.s as means of setting aside wetlands. (The Minister had not been advised about the survey until NPA raised this matter - G.W.)

Willandra Lakes Heritage Area:

Sheahan informed that a study, financed by Australian Heritage Commission, was being carried out for NPWS. He thought it unlikely the whole Heritage Area would become national park.

Barnes urged that early consideration be given to acquisition of the two properties adjoining Mungo N.P., viz Zanci and Jounie.

Mootwingee Historic Site:

Sheahan admitted it was true there had been a closure in 1983 although some visitors were still admitted. Furthermore:

- \* no aboriginal land claim was admissible over the Historic Site,
- \* Aboriginal people's Western Region Land Council was involved in management planning,
- \* a Draft Plan of Management would be made public by 1986,
- \* the Government was "working its way through the Mootwingee problem".



Goanna Headland:

Den Exter questioned the Minister on this issue. Sheahan said he had personally discussed it with Lorraine Mafi-Williams representing Aboriginal people. Two other Ministers, Crozio and Pacuillo, were also involved in the matter. Sheahan believed N.P.W.S. had the "situation well in hand" !

Mallee Reserves:

Mason urged reservation of much more mallee habitat, mentioning the importance of conserving mallee fowl, and claiming marginal impact on agricultural production (wheat) if this were done.

Sheahan responded that NPWS had some 118,000 ha already reserved, and had proposals for acquisition of an additional 100,000 ha near Roto and Mount Hope. The Service was studying possibility of reintroducing mallee fowl from a captive breeding programme. (Western Plains Zoo - G.W.)

Western Division:

Sheahan perceived this as a very difficult problem, adding that D.E.P. was planning a new administrative framework, and the use of S.E.P.s and R.E.P.s to control land use. Now that the Fisher report was published, there would be seminars and public meetings to encourage discussion.

NPA was invited to set down its views in a written submission, which should be sent to Minister Crozio.

Management IssuesAviation Towers in N.P.s:

Wells discussed this problem as affecting Mt. Kaputar and Cocoparra N.P.s. Sheahan invited NPA to write to him setting down its concerns and its attitude to the matter.

Den Exter urged the Minister to take a "hard line" opposing such structures in parks, and cited the Bundjalung Power line conflict as another where a hard line should have been adopted in the beginning. (Again the Minister had not known of the Aviation towers issue - G.W.)

Water Supply Drilling - Myall Lakes N.P:

Barnes raised the issue of proposed drilling for the purpose of supplying residences at Pacific Palms.

Sheahan could not discuss detail but invited NPA to write to him setting down its objections. (Again Sheahan had not been advised of this issue by NPWS or anyone other than NPA)

Vehicles Off-roads in N.P.s:

Corbett raised this issue and illustrated NPA's concern by quoting recent damage in Yuraygir.

The Minister was able to avoid any meaningful discussion of this problem because time ran out and the interview was terminated. (Submission to Sheahan on this is being prepared - G.W.)





National Parks Association of NSW  
FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH  
P.O. BOX 44,  
SOUTH LISMORE 2480

5 June, 1984.

R.B. Duncan, M.P.,  
P.O. Box 515,  
LISMORE, NSW 2480.

Dear Mr Duncan,

There was a long discussion of the recent debate in the Legislative Assembly concerning the World Heritage listing of New South Wales rainforest national parks at the general meeting of this branch of the NPA last Thursday night. Particular reference was made to some of the absurd arguments presented against the Bill by various National Party members. These arguments revealed a total lack of understanding of the international significance of the rainforest remnants in northern NSW and also of the definition of rainforests, as made by the Ecological Society of Australia and generally accepted by the scientific community. A lack of awareness concerning the need to preserve areas containing rainforest, as opposed to only rainforest itself, both to ensure the survival of all rainforest flora and to protect fauna dependant on both eucalypt and rainforest vegetation, was also shown. The arguments presented by these members did not do them any credit.

In view of this, Branch members were extremely disappointed at media reports indicating that you had voted against the resolution with members of the National Party and a few Liberal Party members. It is understandable that you may not agree with some of the points incorporated in the resolution. It is felt, however, that a more honourable course of action in this event would be to abstain from voting, as was done by the majority of Opposition members. As is now seen, your action has been interpreted as an alignment with misleading, ill-informed, ill-conceived and absurd statements made by representatives of the National Party.

Members of this branch of NPA had hoped that you would show at least some understanding of the conservation values of our rainforests, and our ability to act on these (unlike many of our developing neighbours). It is with great regret that we view your action on this issue of not only local, but international importance.

Should you be willing to reconsider your position and require further information to assist you in this, we would be only too willing to do all we can. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr) Peter den Exter,  
President,  
Far North Coast Branch, NPA.



THE SECRETARY  
N.P.A., FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH,  
P.O. Box 44,  
SOUTH LISMORE  
2480.

cl- J. HENDERSON  
'GINNABEE'  
OAKLAND RD,  
Swan Bay  
via CORAKI 2471  
Tel. 822295  
28.5.84

Dear Secretary & fellow members,

I would like to express, on behalf of concerned citizens for the Preservation of Goanna Headland, our sincere thanks for the support we have received and are receiving from the N.P.A. in our efforts to preserve our beloved Goanna Headland.

I know that you are only too aware of the hassles involved in conservation issues and how difficult & time consuming these issues become. I have, and C.C.'s have, received a lot of timely advice, guidance & reassurance from the N.P.A. in particular from Peter Den Ester and Marton Kaveny.

A lot of the original groundwork for the preservation of G.H. was done by N.P.A. with their initial interest in including the area in Bundjalung National Park. Armed with this assistance C.C.'s have been able to put forward a strong & honest case to further push towards the preservation of Goanna Headland.

Once again sincere thanks from C.C.'s and many thanks from me personally.

Jennifer J. Henderson.



AUSTRALIAN TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

PROVISIONAL N.S.W. DIVISION

399 PITT STREET, SYDNEY 2000

The Secretary

Dear Friend,

The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which has been operating in Victoria since 1981 will establish its N.S.W. Division at a public meeting in the Hallstrom Theatre of the Australian Museum on Tuesday 10th. April at 8.00 p.m. Entrance to the Theatre is via the vehicle entrance in William Street. We invite you to send a representative and to advise your members of the meeting and of our plans for the future.

A.T.C.V. aims to organise a large group of volunteers to assist landholders, both private and governmental, in labour intensive conservation tasks which are not commercially viable. Last year in Victoria, A.T.C.V. contributed over 1000 man days to tasks such as:

- Tree Planting, Weeding and Mulching
- Vermin Proof Fences
- Maintenance of Walking Trails
- Erosion Control
- Weed Control by the Bradley Method
- Maintenance of Heritage List Buildings
- Establishment and Repair of Wildlife Habitats.

Landholders include the National Parks Service, Fisheries and Wildlife Division, National Trust, Soil Conservation Service, Municipal Councils and private farmers.

Volunteers pay most of their transport costs and contribute to costs of food. The landholder arranges accommodation, usually in woolsheds, local halls or camping grounds and makes a small contribution per volunteer-day to A.T.C.V.

So far, most of our volunteers have been senior school students or members of youth groups. I believe that, in Sydney, there is a good number of adults who are prepared to do physical work, which benefits the environment, and for which governments will never find sufficient money. As an active member of a conservation society, I know the vital need for meetings, letter writing, deputations, etc. to increase public awareness of conservation matters. A.T.C.V. uses different methods, which may be more demanding but are certainly more rewarding.

A.T.C.V. will not become involved in public controversy. However, the executive does not necessarily accept all requests for assistance. If they have doubts about the conservation value of a proposal, they will seek informal discussions with the landholder and independent experts.

The other aspect of our 'conservation education' is the introduction of young people to the problems of maintenance of our natural resources in the most direct way. A.T.C.V. arranges 3 types of activity: 'National Task' - teams of 12 people for 6 working days, Week-end Residential Tasks, Non Residential 'Day Tasks'.

Your members are welcome to join as a group or as individuals. They can be part of the 'office team' or of the 'field teams' or of both. If elected to the initial committee, they will have the opportunity to help develop a new organisation because this division will be largely independent of the Ballarat H.Q. Anyone who has led a bushwalking party should be qualified to act as a Task Leader. We will be running Leader Training courses, usually in the evenings of National Tasks if the accommodation is suitable.

Our National President, Mr. Tim Cox, will be in Sydney during the week from 9th. April. If you have a meeting arranged for that week, and would like Mr. Cox to give a brief **firsthand** account of A.T.C.V. activities, please contact me on 451 4028 after hours.

Alex Tucker.



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW,  
FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH

PRESS STATEMENT - 7 March, 1984.

A FINAL PROPOSAL FOR TELLI-TELLI NATIONAL PARK HAS NOT BEEN MADE TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT. A DRAFT, CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS SUCH, WAS GIVEN TO THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AFTER A REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMATION ON THE AREA PROPOSED.

CONFUSION OVER THIS ISSUE CAN BE TRACED TO ATTEMPTS MADE BY A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL AUSTRALIA? MRS CHRISTINE AULT OF TORRINGTON ON THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELAND, TO GAIN INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. SHE HAD ALSO CONTACTED THE SYDNEY OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION, USING A FALSE NAME, SEEKING SIMILAR INFORMATION.

APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT? MR SHEAHAN, UPON FINAL COMPLETION OF THE PROPOSAL LAST MONTH. HOWEVER, NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTER BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION.

*BY THE MINISTER*

IT IS EXPECTED THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN <sup>BEFORE</sup> DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

THE FINAL PROPOSAL FOR THE PARK HAS BEEN BASED SOLELY ON NATURE CONSERVATION GROUNDS, AS THE NPA IS PRIMARILY AN ADVOCATE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION. IF THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER BOTH THE ADVICE OF ITS DEPARTMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO IT BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC <sup>BEFORE</sup> ARRIVING AT A FINAL DECISION.

APRA HAVE MADE DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATIONS ON THE AREA OF FREEHOLD LAND INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSAL. ON MONDAY, REPRESENTATIVES OF APRA WERE SHOWN DRAFT MAPS OF THE AREAS INVOLVED. THERE IS AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 7000HA OF LAND INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF STATE FORESTS, BUT BEING LOCAL RESIDENTS, THEY WERE AWARE THAT THE BULK OF THIS IS CROWN LAND HELD UNDER LEASE AND NOT INTENSIVELY USED. MOST OF THIS AREA HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED, IN 1976, AS PART OF A PADDY'S FLAT N.P. THIS PROPOSAL IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

[REFERENCE BY THE APRA DELEGATION TO PRIVATE LANDS IN WASHPOOL, TERANIA CREEK, AND THE BORDER RANGES N.P. ARE MYSTIFYING. THESE REFERENCES APPEAR TO BE A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY APRA TO CONFUSE THE ISSUE, AS ~~THERE ARE NO PRIVATE LANDS INCLUDED, OR INTENDED TO BE INCLUDED, IN ANY OF THESE AREAS.~~ SEE OVER.]

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION, WITH A MEMBERSHIP GREATER THAN ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN NSW COMBINED, CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A MINORITY GROUP. IT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT ANY PROPOSAL IT PUTS FORWARD WILL BE ADOPTED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT MODIFICATION, IF ACCEPTED AT ALL. IT DOES EXPECT THAT SUCH PROPOSALS WOULD FORM THE BASIS OF INFORMED DECISION-MAKING, ONCE ALL FACTORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THIS IS CLEARLY BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION.

SEE OVER

For further information contact:  
Peter den Exter (Phone 21 2057)