



FPA

The Editor
The Advertiser

22 July, 1993

By Facsimile

Dear Sir,

I write to express my outrage at the reference to comments allegedly made by me and reported on the front page of your newspaper concerning the G L Briggs & Sons Ltd sawmill fire.

At no time has Mr. Ponder the author of the story spoken with me about this matter. I did not at any time say to any person, or hint in any way to any person, that the greens had been involved in this fire. For anyone to make such an assertion is a most improper and libellous statement.

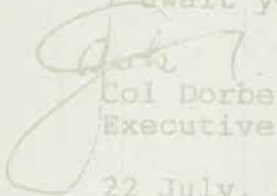
I have gone out of my way to make it clear to anyone who has spoken to me that there is absolutely no evidence to permit any person to point the finger at any individual or group.

The inaccurate and untruthful report by Mr. Ponder has not only damaged my personal reputation, it has also fractured the very genuine attempts by this association to privately and sensitively initiate discussions with representatives of various environmental groups.

I seek an immediate front page retraction of the statements that have been untruthfully attributed to me, as a matter of urgency. Should action not be taken forthwith I will proceed to lodge a complaint with the Press Council as well as look at other options open to me.

I repeat, the statements attributed to me were not made by me to any person. Nor have I published by word or mouth, even privately, any claims about green involvement in this fire. I accept and believe absolutely the public assurances of various north coast environmentalists that they had no part in such act.

I await your urgent response.


Col Dorber
Executive Director

22 July, 1993.

his consulting boom up and running properly.

"The figure is comparable with the free advisory service in Grafton last year," Mr Turnbull said.

"There is usually a tremendous response from people in Grafton.

The do-it-yourself taxpayer has until October 31 to get this year's return in to the tax office.

And Mr Turnbull's advice on that is: "The sooner you get the return in the better. The sooner you will get your refund".



Some taxing advice ... Australian Tax Office adviser Chris Turnbull is available to answer questions at the Grafton Shoppingworld shop-front service this week.

Compensation for mills 'justified'

THE NSW Forestry Commission should pay Clarence Valley sawmills compensation if the freeze on the environmental impact study (EIS) process causes them to close due to lack of logs, the Labor Party candidate for Clarence, John Lester, said yesterday.

The compensation should be used to keep current employees in a job.

Mr Lester said.

"This whole sorry saga is a sad reflection on the management of NSW forests by the two past National Party ministers, namely Ian Causley and Garry West," Mr Lester said.

"It was their total lack of regard for the due processes in the past, which has led to this tragic state of affairs today where, because of the Forestry Commission's inadequate

EIS process, Clarence Valley mills stand to lose their log supply."

Mr Lester has also called into question the role of the Forest Products Association (FPA) in this matter.

"Members of the FPA must be wondering what their association is doing when their executive officer, Col Dorber, spends \$40,000 of their money on a futile Federal election campaign in Page while the very process which was designed to give them some timber security is running off the rails," Mr Lester said.

"For years now the FPA has been supporting the Forestry Commission as both have blundered in and out of the courts, losing every case which has been presented against them.

"It is time the FPA lifted its game and employed a professional and intelligent approach to the vital issue of log security for its members."

Eisteddfod to celebrate in style

IT MAY be nearly nine months away but the City of Grafton Eisteddfod organisers are already planning their 40th anniversary celebrations.

Well-known adjudicators, past competitors made good and improved competition are on the agenda for the celebrations.

At the annual general meeting of the committee tomorrow, organisers are hoping for a big turn-out of new volunteers to help develop their plans.

Current committee president Heather Rowland said more members were needed to spread the workload around.

The group will meet at St Cecilia's Music Academy, Villiers St, Grafton, at 7pm.

Lotto

Last night's
Lotto draw:

7 14 21
26 28 35

Supps:

News in brief

THE GRAFTON Infants School staff were cleaning up the mess and totalling the damage bill yesterday following a vandal attack on two classrooms during the weekend.

Paint and glue, taken from the school storeroom, were thrown around the rooms, over carpet and furniture.

Two Apple computers in the rooms, valued at \$2500 each, were also targeted by the vandals.

A break for carers

The vandals forced a classroom door open to gain access to the two rooms.

School spokesman David Brown said up to \$10,000 worth of damage may have been caused in the attack, depending on whether the computer keyboards could be salvaged.

Scientific police travelled from Lismore to take fingerprints at the school yesterday.

Grafton police are still investigating the crime.

A \$500 colour television was stolen in a break and enter at a Glenreagh farmhouse yesterday.

Boycott call: business as usual for brewery

A CALL to trade unionists to boycott Tooheys, Castlemaine and Swan beers isn't expected to have any effect on the Tooheys Grafton brewery, according to a senior com-

pany official.

The managing director of Tooheys, Michael Wesslink, said yesterday he expected it to be business as usual despite the boycott call by ACTU president Martin Ferguson.

The boycott call is in protest against the breweries' parent company, Lion Nathan's plans to axe 500 jobs in Brisbane and Perth.

According to Mr Ferguson, the job cuts and the preparation of redundancy plans, were realised without consultation with the workforce or their unions.

Mr Wesslink said from Sydney there was little likelihood of industrial action at the Grafton brewery.

"I would be very disappointed if that happened," he said.

"Our employees at Grafton have already shown they're very responsible."

Mr Wesslink confirmed that jobs to disappear in Lion Nathan's major restructuring exercise would only be lost in the Brisbane and Perth operations where the company would be contracting out warehousing and maintenance.

NRC chooses steel option

● From page 1.

IN A letter to the Member for Clarence, Ian Causley, Mr Purdy outlined events concerning the viaduct leading up to and following a combined meeting of interested parties on July 16.

He said despite lack of consensus at that meeting the parties had been given to the end of July to reach agreement on a proposal.

"In the period between July 16 and August 1 not only has a consensus not been achieved but the opposing views have become even more entrenched and sufficient emotion has been created to result in petitions being put together," Mr Purdy said.

The mayor of Grafton, Councillor Alan Dahl, said his council was pleased with the NRC decision which "shows a little bit of commonsense".

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Withdraw wheelie bins, say farmers

Rural people are demanding the withdrawal of the compulsory wheelie bin service and a survey of whether the residents want the bins.

The call comes from a meeting of 50 people called by the Coffs Harbour branch of the NSW Farmers' Association at the Catholic Club.

The meeting was attended by Cr Keith Rhoades, Cr David Berry and Cr Brian Beckett of the Coffs Harbour City Council.

Cr Rhoades made a fiery speech opposing his council's decision to trial the bins for three months and then survey the residents.

The chairman of the branch, Mr Kevin Ryan, said the bins were introduced without consulting the residents, which the branch believed was illegal under the new Local Government Act, which came into force on July 1.

The original decision to introduce the bins was made before July 1, but at a meeting on July 1 it was modified to have a three-month trial instead.

Mr Ryan said many residents had not even known the service was to be introduced, at a cost of \$116 per year.

Originally the bins were to have been supplied to 756 residents, but after it was decided to delete the Ulong and Lowanna areas, the number receiving bins was reduced to 650.

Mr Ryan said he was yet to hear a council representative give a convincing explanation of why the decision to introduce the bins to the western area was made.

The meeting wants the service withdrawn immediately and then each resident written to and asked if they want it, Mr Ryan said.

'People criticised the council for trying to force it on them.'

MP plans timber resource bill

By MIKE HELY

The member for Coffs Harbour, Mr Andrew Fraser, intends to introduce resource security legislation for the timber industry into State Parliament 'as a matter of urgency'.

His decision follows the NSW Forestry Commission's dumping of its Dorrigo management area environmental impact statement last week.

The Forestry Commission was advised that the \$550,000 EIS was flawed and would not be accepted by the Department of Planning.

Mr Fraser said the legislation, which he intends to introduce in the parliamentary session beginning on September 7, would be encompassed in the 'Forest Classification and Management Bill, 1993'.

He said the aim of the legislation was to provide continuity in the supply of timber products by identifying, classifying and managing timber resources.

The NSW Forest Products Association has been preparing the legislation since late 1992.

'It's been worked on thoroughly by people who know the industry,' Mr Fraser said. 'It gives a future to the industry and should satisfy environmental concerns.'

Mr Fraser said he did not think his proposed Private Member's Bill would 'double-up' on other legislation already in place, such as the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act.

The trouble at the moment is that no matter whether or not forest is classified as suitable for logging, it still comes under microscopic examination by environmentalists,' Mr Fraser said.

He said it was easy for 'extreme environmental groups to point the finger at "the last surviving stands of timber" or "the last surviving numbers of particular species", when they know that the timber and those species would be surviving extremely well in national parks that border forest areas'.

Mr Fraser said the National Parks and Wildlife Service should come under more scrutiny and be made to conduct environmental and fauna impact statements on land under its control.

'I would like to see a balance being brought in on environmental studies,' Mr Fraser said.

'The silent majority is not being heard, it's the noisy minority who is being heard — the rantings and ravings of a few.'

He said he would be calling for the support of the ALP and independents when he introduced his bill 'to ensure the human resources in Dorrigo and all other forestry areas is preserved'.

A spokesman for the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA), Mr Dailan Pugh, said the path to an equitable compromise on timber and environmental issues should be found through the national forestry policy statement.

'Mr Fraser's proposed legislation is an unnecessary distraction,' Mr Pugh said.



New Zealand race caller Alby Gain arrives to smiling faces at Coffs Harbour airport.

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Sunny 18°

Coffs joins high-fliers

Hundreds of people flocked to Coffs Harbour airport on Saturday to witness the birth of the state's second international air facility.

A crowd estimated at nearly 1000 people clapped and cheered as the Air New Zealand Boeing 737 landed just after 6pm, heralding a new era of trade and tourism for the region.

Coffs Harbour MP, Mr Andrew Fraser, said people were 20 deep around the airport boundaries and dubbed the

event 'an historic occasion'.

Mr Fraser predicted great things for the airport in the future, including playing a major role in 2000 Olympics if Sydney's bid was successful.

He said Coffs Harbour could operate as a fourth runway for New South Wales and the area could host athletes wanting to train in Australia before the games.

The idea would encourage governments to fund the \$7 million upgrading needed to enable larger planes to land at

the airport, Mr Fraser said.

'Seven million dollars is a small drop when you are talking about a facility such as that,' Mr Fraser said.

'The airport really opens up a phenomenal market for Coffs Harbour. Saturday's flight was excellent, historic and I think it marks a new era.'

There were 93 passengers on the flight from Auckland and, according to customs officials, they were all out of the airport within 40 minutes.

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