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North East Forest Alliance 149 Keen St. Lismore 2480

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REC IG/1/95 NEFA NEFA. 149 KEEN ST. LISMORE 15/11/95 2480 Please find enclosed a check for \$20 which hopefully is enough to become a member of your network. Thank WIKI 'Bangalay' Mafeting Rd. Goonengerry 2480 fore: 015 - 423 449

I am so pleased to have this oppurtunity to relate to all you good people the events of a couple of months past.

For three weeks in November of the year 1994, a small group of forest defenders were fortunate to experience a wonderfully good time in a forest near Milton on the South Coast of this glorious state, New South Wales.

Unlike many previous forest defence camps, many members of the local community were most supportive of the forest defenders, offering very valuable support. Some of the population of the quaint seaside village of Lake Burrill were particularly concerned about the logging that was taking place, as it was within their catchment area. By the end of the camp, the locals had formed their very own 'forest watch' group to keep an eye on the future activities of the forces of darkness. Speaking of which; we were overjoyed when, during our time in the area, the Reverend Mr Colin Dorber made an appearance at a local forest meeting, sprouting many words of wisdom (with the Lord's blessing, of course).

Anyway, back to the tale, the essentials of which are that, without having to 'fire a single shot' (ie. perch on wooden structures, attach themselves to machinery), the defenders of the forest achieved an awful lot. Among their more prominent victories were the establishment of a process of Koori consultation in the area (eg. site and artefact inspections before logging); a period of negotiation (as opposed to outright conflict) with the the local sawmiller and the illustrious Commission of Forestry; the withdrawal of ten wilderness compartments from the export woodchip licence renewals (as it turned out, they were some of the very few that were actually excluded from the licences); a substantial amount of positive media attention (eg. several articles in the Sydney Morning Herald); and, to top it all off, the cessation of logging in the particular compartment in which we were encamped, as a result of the discovery of a third rare owl - the magnificent Sooty.

As the gracious readers of this load of collywobble can probably imagine, all those involved in this fabulously successful forest protest (excuse the vulgar terminology) were utterly and entirely stoked with the outcome.

> Cheerio, Lord Croobyar.

BIRTH OF THE SUBURBS

And Jervis the Bay Though sticking out a long way, Was most sure enough to have been left. But twas the year `93 When the guvnor decreed : "A golfcourse, old chaps; on that crest."

Now the crew looked aghast At what the guvnor had asked, "But Sir, wot 'bout them fine trees?" "A few more, a few less; We've the **world** to impress, Now get to it clearing those weeds."

And so it was born -The Great Aussie Lawn Just look at how spread the device, It seems everyone's mowing To keep it from growing For bushland is just not as nice.

PAUE, HORE THIS is O.K. IF IT'S TOO LONG MAYBE A LITTLE CREATIVE CUTTING + PASTING PLUS PHOTOCOPIER REDUCTION COULD REPUCE IT'S SIZE. I SHOWD HAVE RUNG YOU DUT PHONE LASTS + TIME IS REALLY RESTRICTING FOR ME AT THE MOMENT. I'M SENDING THIS FROM MELBOURNE AND LEAVING TOMORROW TO HEAP BLACK TO ONBOST BUT WON'T BE IN GOONGERAH TIL THE MIDPLE OF THE WEEK. SU, AGAIN, HOPE IT'S ALL. SENICIAIG... FAX JONEW CASOLE JWZ For F.BF

The U.S. Justice Department, for its part, has not asked for new antiporn legislation. Distributing obscene material across state lines is already illegal under federal law, and child pornography in particular is prosecuted. Some 40 people in 14 states were arrested two years ago for exchanging kiddie porn online. And one of the leading characters in the Carnegie Mellon study–Robert Copella, who left book publishing to make his fortune selling pedophilia on the networks–was extradited from Tijuana, Mexico, and is now awaiting sentencing in a New Jersey jail.

OR TECHNICAL REASONS, IT IS DIFficult to stamp out anything on the Internet—particularly images stored on the Usenet newsgroups. As Internet pioneer John Gilmore famously put it, "The Net interprets censorship as damage and routes around it." There are border issues as well. Other nations on the Internet— France, for example—are probably no more interested in having their messages screened by U.S. censors than Americans would be in having theirs screened

by, say, the Saudi Arabian government. Historians say it should come as no surprise that the Internet-the most democratic of media-would lead to new calls for censorship. The history of pornography and efforts to suppress it are inextricably bound up with the rise of new media and the emergence of democracy. According to Walter Kendrick, author of The Secret Museum: Pornography in Modern Culture, the modern concept of pornography was invented in the 19th century by European gentlemen whose main concern was to keep obscene material away from women and the lower classes. Things got out of hand with the spread of literacy and education, which made pornography available to anybody who could read. Now, on the computer networks, anybody with a computer and a modem can not only consume pornography but distribute it as well.

That might not be a bad idea, says Carlin Meyer, a professor at New York Law School whose *Georgetown* essay takes a far less apocalyptic view than MacKinnon's. She argues that if you don't like the images of sex the pornographers offer, the appropriate response is not to suppress them but to overwhelm them with healthier, more realistic ones. Sex on the Internet, she maintains, might actually be good for young people. "[Cyberspace] is a safe space in which to explore the forbidden and the taboo," she writes. "It offers the possibility for genuine, unembarrassed conversations about accurate as well as fantasy images of sex."

That sounds easier than it probably is. Pornography is powerful stuff, and as long as there is demand for it, there will always be a supply. Better software tools may help check the worst abuses, but there will never be a switch that will cut it off entirelynot without destroying the unbridled expression that is the source of the Internet's (and democracy's) greatest strength. The hard truth, says John Perry Barlow, cofounder of the EFF and father of three young daughters, is that the burden ultimately falls where it always has: on the parents. "If you don't want your children fixating on filth," he says, "better step up to the tough task of raising them to find it as distasteful as you do yourself." -Reported by Hannah Bloch/Washington, Wendy Cole/Chicago, Sharon E. Epperson/New York, Kate Cole-Adams and Simon Robinson/Sydney

Greetings from East Gippsland.

Winter sees us kicking back and relaxing after a busy summer defending some of East Gippsland's remaining wild forests. Thanks to the wet, cold climate that prevails in this part of the world things have quietened down markedly. There is a sizable population of greenies here at present enjoying the chilly winter mornings.

Sellars Rd was our blockade of last summer where we managed to discourage logging of a last patch old growth adjacent to the Errinundra National Park. At the time of Easter Confest numbers got so low we decided to pull out. We thought the snow had settled in, but one week of fine weather gave DCNR (Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources) the time they needed to finish the road into this previously untouched forest. A short-lived blockade was re-established but broken by police and DCNR workers. The race will be on this spring to see who will reclaim Sellars rd first.

In October 94 our blockade of Hensleigh Creek was broken by police (Myself and two others were arrested) and has resulted in an unresolved legal battle still raging thru the courts (I am only slightly exaggerating). After two full days in the local Magistrate's court with a lawyer, a Barrister and a QC defending our case we were found guilty of the charge of "obstructing a lawful forest operation" and fined \$1000 each. We are not accepting this decision and are challenging it in a higher court. Our case involves challenging the legality of the license granted by the DCNR to the logging team leader. DCNR policy states that an area of forest with a high Site of Signifigance rating (such as Hensleigh Creek with a rating of 8 out of 10) should be logged later in the season. Our blockade of Hensleigh Creek was broken as early in the season as is possible. Right after the last snows had melted. Unfortunately this is merely policy, and therefore not legally binding. For a full report see "The Potoroo Review" June/July 1995 #146.

The Timber Industry is clicking its heels over the Regional Forest Agreement for the East Gippsland Forest Management Area(FMA) saying it'll be the first signed Commonwealth-State forest agreement in Australia. Victorian environment groups boycotted the consultation process. Everyone except GECO, that is... Our criticisms of the RFA recieved two letters in reply from the DCNR. They haven't convinced us.

A Long-Footed Potoroo was found in the Ellery Creek Catchment (a V. HCV area) with the aid of a hairtube. This find could be a significant boost in the long-running campaign for permanent protection of this area. A road has been on the maps for the past two summers, but maybe because of a large green presence in EG the DCNR have held off.

We are a part of the Hemp Revolution. We have seen the film, and the light on the horizon. The revolution is over and we are left with the mopping up operations. We plan on showing the film in major towns and regional centres in the East Gippsland region. I may have been a little bit too optimistic back there... but we shall see.

According to an article in the Melbourne Herald-Sun greens are planning to blockade the town of Orbost. This is the first we've heard of it. It seems like a new media angle on an old story. At this stage we have no firm plans for anything in spring, but towards that time we will begin discussing any proposals that come up. We will probably return to Sellars Rd. We will be watching Ellery Creek. CROEG will be having thier annual "Forests Forever" camp in November.

If you would like to visit us we are located 70 kms north of Orbost on the Bonang Highway, or south of Bombala, NSW (approx 150kms). We ask for \$50 per week contribution towards Food, Accommodation and Campaign. Our contact is: GECO RSD Bonang Highway Goongerah Victoria 3888 ph/fax 051 540 156. (Soon to be connected to the World Wide Web)

Hope to see you in summer! love 'n' anarchy - craig craft.

BIG SCRUB ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ARTICLE FOR NORTHER STAR 23/3/96

Attention -: Daily Subeditor Graham Hunt

Money Makes the World go Down

The Drake region as gained some unwelcome publicity recently regarding the contamination of old mine sites. While families are being poisoned by the legacy of ruthless profiteering, others are trying to tell the public that there is no problem. But clearly there is a problem and, unfortunately, the contaminated mine sites are only part of it.

If this was an enlightened society we would acknowledge past mistakes, do the best we can to rectify them and ensure we do not make the same mistake again. Sadly this is a long way from the situation in Drake at the moment. There are certain unscrupulous members of the community who, in their own self interest, prefer to see people poisoned, rather than acknowledge the problem of contamination. It is no coincidence that those who refuse to admit to a problem are those whose profits are most threatened by the fall in land prices that 'rumours' of contamination would cause.

Better for them if they leave the unfortunate people who buy their land in the dark. Let them find out when the headaches and nausea start, or after their children are born, deformed and under weight.

In their relentless quest for wealth and power certain people, and the corporations they work for, are prepared to endlessly repeat the same mistakes. So despite the undeniable health risks, to both humans and the ecosystem, another gold mine has been proposed for the Drake region.

The Timbarra Gold Project, as it has been called, involves treating gold bearing ore with 700 tonnes a year of cyanide, 60 tonnes a year of hydrochloric acid and 75 tonnes a year of caustic soda. The project designers say there is only a small chance an accident will occur, but the potential consequences could be devastating.

All this will occur in a fragile wet land, where there have been confirmed sitings of two endangered animals, 14 threatened or vulnerable animals and numerous rare or threatened plant species.

Through changes of name and a campaign of misinformation the company has disguised the true nature and scale of the project. The required Environmental Impact Statement, published in April 1995 by a relatively new company Capricomia Prospecting state the project will have a life of five years at the most and the area would be rehabilitated upon completion. Several months later Capricornia was absorbed, in a takeover of its parent company, Auralia Resources, into the mining giant Ross Mining.

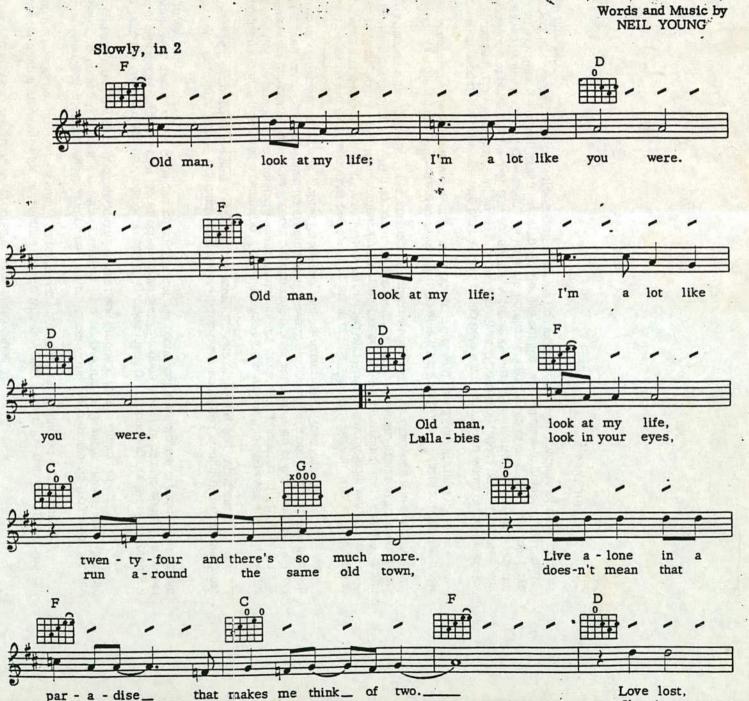
Ross now owns the exploration licences for huge areas on the Timbarra plateau, and in their annual report state that the Timbarra Gold Project would be merged with Ross's other projects with an expected life of at least eight years. This dramatically changes the environmental impact, and nowhere is this suggested in the Capricomia EIS. The possibility of a merger and the increased in size of the project was not mentioned either in the EIS or in a number of public meeting with local residence and the company.

No doubt once the mining facilities are established in the area it will then become viable to open up more mines whilst the residence and wildlife of the area face an increasing risk of contamination.

In an enlightened society any one who put personal greed before human welfare would be declared sick and ostracised.. However, this is not an enlightened society, and perversely, these people find their way into positions of power where they can act out there selfish desires. For 'normal' people who are not possessed by this unnatural obsession, we face the horrific consequences of their sickness. We have reached a disturbing situation where we can no longer live our lives without an ever present fear of being poisoned. Its time we gave a clear message that we will no longer tolerate being victims of other peoples power mongering.

David Julian

OLD MAN



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experts do not agree we may or may not be, harming what question aren't their scients that it isn't bleeding olavious (and i dont mean bleeding in the invective sense of the word)

when, at my brothers funeral, the relatives i had not seen for years in suits and smiles (and no doubt there is some love beneath that skin) asked me what i did, it was hard to reply,

was trying so hard to be nice, not to be litical, this time and space of mourning

how to contain the awareness: the reality this life's an act of death doath a thousand times a day

in each piece of waste, each thoug counter-life i look at 163

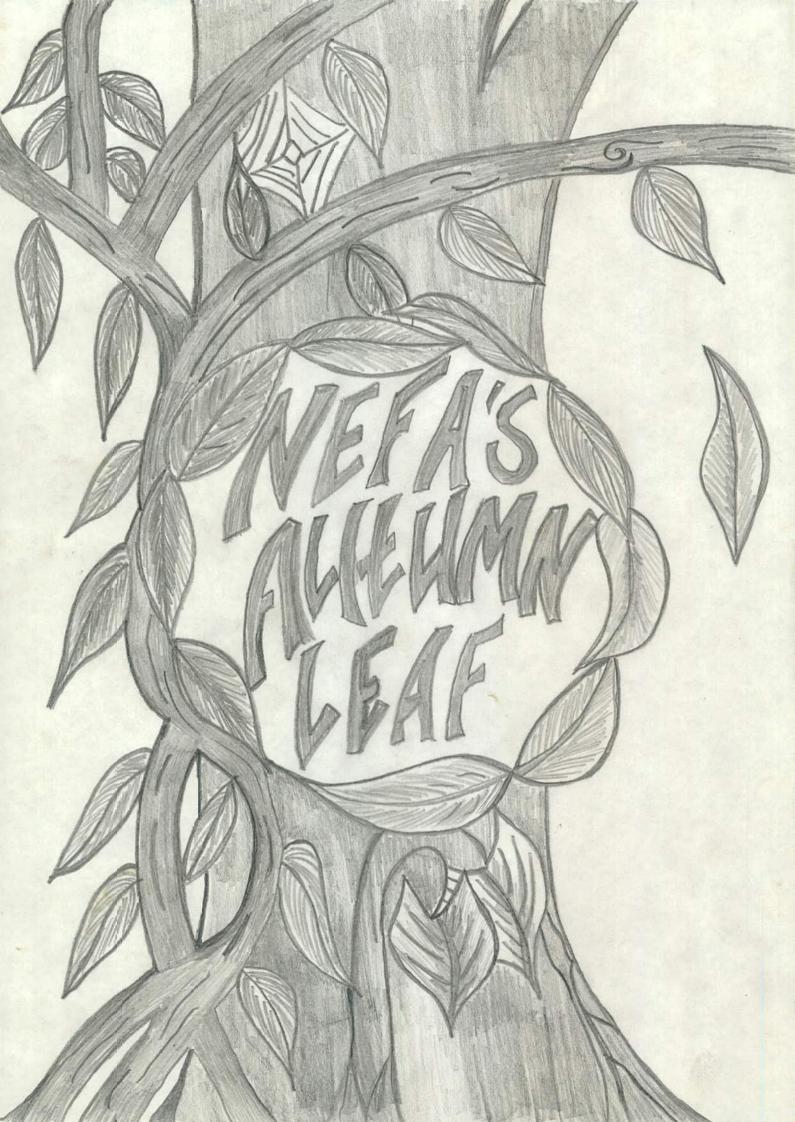
ny faither's sister's children, soon having childre why den't they feel it in their wombs, in imperative to keep this place It for beings to live and thrive int

in my choams, where i am bi when i am asked "what to you do"

iroply "whatever's neccessary

Willow

With love, and faith and heps, anything The latters always true, but the former a



Elemental Blockading

So you want to know a little bit about blockading. Well lets have a look at all the elements and aspects that have become part of blockading.

Most people when they think of blackooling, think about he "Front-line" action that happens at the particular forest site which is even pre's concern. Not realising all the support work that has happened before the blockade, the work going on away from the blockade at the time of the blockade, atside support to the blockade and the follow-up work involved in coming to a legal resolution. So we will start at the "Front-line" and look at the "whole picture" further in to the article :-

BLOCKADING ("Front-Line Oction")

Transport - Transport to and from the site and at the site is essential.

Food - "Good - Food" is always a banks and cooking and preparing food for the group is always a very satisfying job. Whether you are a governet chief, consider yourself handy in the kitchen, or just want to ast vegies, being able to design meals, menus, order food are also very useful skills.

Stadual Building - Being able to build structural support systems (tripods etc), kitchen spaces (benches etc.), tying ropes etc. Communications

- Radio communication is used to communicate within the camp, from one camp to another and to the cutside world. This helps keep the group co-hesive and informed und gives a sense of safety since there is a connection to the outside world. (Mobile phones can be used if they have the range.)

Documentation: - Video is a great form of documentation as you -

then used for legal evidence (cart cases etc.), educating the populace (documentaries, fundraisers). You can also use the video camera as a tool of protection (it is amazing how differently people behave if they know they are being filmed.) - Cameras are useful for the same reasons as video except you can use the photographs for newspaper articles, flyers and pomphlets (a com-lens is always a hondy

gaget) - Written documentation can take the form of media releases which can be sent to rodio, newspapers and television. Communicating to different parties such as the State Forcestry and people such as the Env. minister. Is sometimes used in card-cases later on. Ficulitation-more than likely at some time during the blockade there is going to be a group meeting (a circle) and this is when a good tacilitator becomes very useful. Someone who can keep the group ion some order, clarify an agenda, and come to some agreed on resolution and try to keep to a basic time limit.

Legal - The "Police Liason Person" is nominated by the graup and "is a representative of the graup, not the leader". They should not be easily intimidated, know the issues involved, the planned action and "they simply keep communication between the police and activists running smoothly."

- "Legal Observor" is someone that is around as a presence and known Legal Observer (to all parties involved) they have a moderate or good understanding of the laws the hand. (They are a good safety tool).

- Legal advisor is someone who can advise people of their legal rites in relation to the legal situation that is happening

(These roles can averlap or stay seperate depending on availability of people and knowledge.) <u>Mediation</u>- "To mediate between two or more conflicting parties and bring all to some agreement everyone will abide

it down to this and political parties con enset by whether it be professional and or personal "a mediator, and someone who takes on this role, is always a bunus at any blockade blinds and statistic to tabling and place strages bro terrectainment - musicians, storetellers, firetwinkers etc. always have a positive effect in times of high stress or test boredom (when time permits. Is possing miving message beitiloup as brie

sessions etc. are quite often applicated from people Entertainment - Musicions, storytellers, fire-twirlers etc. always have a positive effect on the comp (when time permits)." Shild Minding - Quite often there are children at blockade comps and child-minding can become an important aspect, as it can alleviate stress from parents and give structure and stability for children in high stress situations. antistic - whenever time permits people can work on bonners, performance pieces etc.

Healing - Giving massages, having councilling skills, being a good listener, an understanding of bintments and horbs, instructing yoop and mediatation group (whenever time permits) and a variety of other healing skills is always great at a blockade. as healers can help people with upsetting emotions, help people not to get into "burn-out" situations and basically make to a more contented group. Everyone's a healer in some way DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE BLOCKADE FROM OUTSIDE

I staying Junjone can sit down + I down (write letters of concern, phone There are a whole range of things you can do to support the one people at the blockade without actually being there. - Such as sending food whether it be getting vegic shops + organic shaps to danote or give discourts on food, cooking - Giving Financial donations - Sending blankets and clothes if needed libron - mibrill blind - Writing letters of support to no (stongarge i) aboing some - Ferrying people to and from destinations to tow about and

- Lotaing politicians and political parties correncet.

- amonging "Child-Mindling" Facilities whether the for the day or over longer periods depending on who you know and your experience and expertise and places available to facilitate the child-mindling. - If there is a = pace or you can create an appropriate space and people are confortable with you and you are confident and or qualified as a healer, giving massages, counselling sessions etc. are quite often appreciated from people from the blockade coming out, goingin going back in again. - a "Volunteer Co-Ordinater" is always helpful. - In high stress (safety) situations providing a "safe-house" near the area or at the closest tawn for blockades to

stay at when they are in transite to From the camp to nos

(Getting in contact with your local environment centre and environment groups is normally a good start to any of these activities.)

WORK GOING ON IN OTHER AREAS OF THE SAME TIME AS THE BLOCKADE THE

Office- The office (environmental) is more than likely very busy at the time of the blockade. Keeping people informed, communicating with the blockaders, the media, politically parties and bodies involved. Answering the telephone, faxing, writing media neleases, obtaining information, lookying politicians, co-ordinating people basically being flat at.

Lobaing- Unyone can sit down + lobay (write letters of concern, phone and fax) politicians, political parties and so-called authorities. One can also write letters to the editors of newspapers (getting in contact with ones env. centre, you can obtain relevant information.) Fundraising - Fundraising obviously assists in financial situations but the other important role it achieves is publicity and awareness raising. 9 great time to network and acquire volunteers. Child Minding - Providing child-minding facilities for the day or longer periods (if appropriate) can allow people (panents) to go to the blockade, work at the office etc. Volunteer Co-Ordinator-People who work at different environment centres (organisations), in helping people find things they can do and work out is what is acquired. Good co-ordinating skills are essential.

Healing - People who can freely offer their healing services (whether they be qualified or just confident) are always appreciated.

SUPPORT WORK BEFORE THE BLOCKADE

<u>Green Policing</u> - "Green policing is the policing of forestry operations to check that all logging and reading conditions are being adhered to and following up on complaints of breeches." ("Type For Tablands" Office - Co-ordinating people, press releases, writing submissions making F.O.I. (Freedon of Information) applications etc. Lobbying - Writing letters of concern to politicions, political parties, and so-called authorities. <u>Owareness Compaign</u> - Writing letters to the editor, fundralising events, gigs, media releases, radio and television interviews, articles for magazines (etc.), giving at "blockading alerts" when.

appropriate.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AFTER THE BLOCKADE

Quarteress Campaign - Putting at New alert usually "Green". Getting in contact. with Env. Gress and groups to let then know that the blockade is over (remaining all Red' alerts.). Gather all documention of the action for turther reference later on and for making displays (quite often using photos and newspaper clippings). Qt Blockade Site - Clean up camp, remae any rubbish, close pit dunnies, disperse fireplaces, bring dawn any structure installations (tripods etc.), check that all equipment is collected, repaired + returned to the propriate people., basically leave as it was before. Legal - Final liason with Police. Collate evidence from witnesses

get people to write down their version of the events.

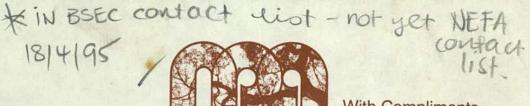
at the blockade to support those greenies arrested and charged at the blockade. Lobbying Parliamentary and other political bodies: Liase with the lawyers who will be defending the arrestees. arrestees.

. The store you go !!! Hopefully this article will give some dance understanding of the bigger picture and you will be able to see where you can slot in and hav everyone and everything can relate.

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With Compliments

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National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

Mid North Coast Branch PO Box 1188 PORT MACQUARIE 2444

28th March, 1995

The Secretary North East Forest Alliance 88A Keen Street LISMORE 2480

Dear Sir

On behalf of this Branch, I wish to advise that the new postal address of this Branch is as follows:-

> National Parks Association of NSW Mid North Coast Branch PO Box 1188 PORT MACQUARIE 2444

Yours sincerely

Margaret Smith Secretary

Dear NEFA I have deposited cheques in bank Cheque no H172444 112 998 -026224993 St George bort Stock 18-1-94

Cheque 627800 402 533 2005 1482. From State Bonk ISC Bruce - consultant Physician / COFFS harbour. \$100-00 donation.

1/7/94 Cheques morey deposited in NEFA ACC NEFA LEAF - SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$120 - details in NEFA LEAF/Tolden From Lyn \$15 for \$120 NEFA T SHIRT From Lyn \$15 for \$120 NEFA T SHIRT From AUDRING - Invoice (10 45) For 20 Earth First Patches Morey Order - \$60.00

Can Can 06 23 8 1992

TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS COMMITTEE

18 ARGYLE STREET SYDNEY 2000 TELEPHONE 27 8476



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FACT SHEET: 10

A LOW HAZARD APPROACH TO TERMITE CONTROL: LOCATING THE NEST

There are several hundred species of termites in Australia, but only about six of them are a threat to buildings. The others feed on decaying wood or vegetation, but not invade houses. Pest control companies often do not distinguish between different types of termites, but treat them, even the harmless ones. This is done by blowing a fine dust of arsenious oxide into an active tunnel to try to eradicate the whole colony. It is usually followed by creating a chemical barrier around the house to prevent future invasion. The barrier involves the use of highly toxic organochlorines (aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane or heptachlor) which persist in the soil for 30 years. Sometimess a less hazardous organophosphate (chlorpyrifos) is used which will persist for at least 5 years.

These soil barrier treatments do not kill the colony but merely cause the termites to invade neighbours. The neighbours will then have a similar treatment done and thus more and more chemicals will accumulate in the neighbourhood.

Alternative Approaches

Many people do not want these highly toxic substances used in or around their houses, but still want to be free of termites. Prior to 1953, when chemical soil barrier treatment was introduced, many pest cotrollers could seek out the nest or colony and destroy it, but this expertise has now largely been lost.

Location of Termite Nests or Colonies.

The following sheets of questions are designed to help you to locate the termite colony and destroy it without the excessive use of chemicals.

Most colonies of the pest termites are located in trees, tree stumps, poles, timber rubbish partly burried, and under houses where timber may be stored, or old forming timbers have been left in place.

The first step is to make a map (on an A4 sheet but on as large a scale as possible) which shows the house, all trees, stumps, stored rubbish, fences, fence posts, poles including transmission poles outside, filled in patios, verandahs, and neighbouring trees and stumps. Anything that could be the source of the infestation should be included. (See check list below)

The second step is to complete the questionaire, giving references to all the features on the map.

The third step is to collect a soldier termite for identification. The soldiers can be recognised by their dark heads. Put it into a small container with methylated spirit.

The questionaire and the map and the specimen may then be forwarded to one of the consultants listed below or discussed with them on the telephone. (before 9 pm)

Mr. Phil Hadlington, 129 Condamine St. Balgowlah, 2093. Tel (02) 94 7553)

Mrs Pauline Hayes, 11 Monash Crescent, Clontarf., 2093. Tel (02) 94 1146

Miss Alice Simpson, Tel (02) 387 7616.

Those who do not wish to survey their own property may enlist the help of the consultants and seek their guidance. They do not carry out pest control but know how to locate termite colonies so that they can be eradicated without using chemicals. It is often possible to locate termite colonies (nests) and thus avoid excessive use of chemicals in the protection of houses against termite attack.

It is most desirable to avoid such chemicals because the ones most commonly used are very hazardous. They include the organochlorine pesticides

(aldrin, dieldrin, chlor dane, heptachlor)

which remain toxic in the soil for 25 years or more. and the organophosphate (chlorpyrifos) which persists in soil for 5 years. Unacceptably high concentrations of these chemicals have been found in' the indoor air of houses which had the subfloor area treated with them. They accumulate in the body and can affect the nervous system and cause liver damage and. cancer prolonged 00

exposure.



Queensland Conservation Council

QCC Environment Centre: Second Floor, Brisbane School of Arts Building, 166 Ann Street, Brisbane Postal Address: P.O. Box 12046, Elizabeth St., Brisbane, Australia, 4002 Telephone: (07) 3221 0188, Fax: (07) 3229 7992, Email QCC@peg.pegasus.cz

Tuesday 28th May

Dear Friends,

Please find enclosed some background information about the campaign to prevent the introduction of irrigated cotton farming to the Cooper Creek in the Channel Country region of south west Queensland.

I have included a short article about the issue in the hope that you will find space for it in your next newsletter. Because the Cooper Creek is so far from any major population centres, we need the help of environmentalists in the cities to raise awareness and fight this proposal.

One of the unusual things about this campaign is that we are working alongside cattle graziers and outback communities, instead of against them. The enclosed article includes information for your members about the 'Back to the Cooper' weekend being planned for September 27th-29th this year. The local Cooper Creek Protection Group has asked us to invite environmentalists to this event as a chance for informal dialogue between 'city greenies' and the mselves about arid lands conservation issues, so we wholeheartedly encourage you to come if at all possible.

I've also enclosed a sticker for your office.

Yours sincerely,

/ puise

Louise Matthiesson

P.S. I have slides + maps available if you would like a graphic to go with the article

"It has always amazed me" says Flannery. "..that humans (who now utilise about 40% of all primary productivity of plants on the land surface of our planet) have not caused even greater extinctions than we actually have. It is surely in part at least because we are 'exterminator species' dependant until recently on the richer parts of the Earth and not so much upon the less fertile regions, where most of the world's biological diversity lives. Our depredation's, of Australia's more fertile regions have certainly been so great that it is difficult to find a very productive region that has not been grossly altered.

Thankfully, we still have those less productive regions. Some humans have dreams though, to make the deserts bloom and to make the depths of the sea and even Antarctica yield their bounty. As each year goes by, we come closer to developing the technologies that will allow us to realise these dreams. Each year we also feel an increasing need to utilise marginal lands in order to feed our growing population. With our dreams fulfilled we will, I fear, see a wave of extinctions so vast as to dwarf anything that has gone before. For we will have become the exterminator species that broke all the rules. The one that could take not only all the resources of rich lands, but of poor ones as well."



From The Future Eaters' By Tim Flannery.

COTTON GROWERS' SCHEME TO 'GREEN THE DESERT' Cattle farmers and environment groups join forces to save the Cooper Creek

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A band of NSW cotton farmers, fleeing the environmental devastation wreaked by their industry on the Darling River, are ready to set up shop on the Cooper Creek in far south west Queensland where the water is free and the land is cheap.

The Cooper Creek is part of the famous Channel Country - where interwoven strings of water holes scattered across the desert can turn overnight into raging river channels and vast flood plains. Contrary to appearences, the desert ecosystems of the Channel Country have a level of biodiversity comparable with Cape York. Hundreds of plants and animal species maintain a tenuous hold on life in this parched environment. Here everything relies on the permanent waterholes and floods of the Cooper Creek system, including the region's towns and cattle industry.

The local people of the Channel Country are up in arms over a proposed irrigated cotton development on the Cooper Creek near Windorah which will use 42 billion litres of precious water each growing season. The cotton industry has plans to green the desert with a 'significant irrigation area' along the Cooper Creek. The Cooper Creek Protection Group (which consists of local townspeople and graziers) is fighting alongside environment groups to keep the Cooper running clean and free.

Environmentalists and locals alike are concerned about the effects irrigation will have on the internationally significant desert wetlands downstream in South Australia, and about the introduction of pesticides to this unpolluted and closed catchment system. The delicate and unpredictable nature of the Cooper Creek environment makes it totally unsuitable for any irrigation.

To demonstrate the breadth of opposition to cotton the Cooper Creek Protection Group is holding a 'Back to the Cooper' weekend from the 27th -29th of September, on the banks of the river near Windorah. They are planning a protest march of 100 horse riders down the main (and only) street in Windorah, plus workshops, talks and celebrations. If you've never experienced this unique and beautiful area, this is the perfect opportunity to meet the locals and discover just how much life and diversity abounds in Australia's deserts.

Contact the Queensland Conservation Council on 07 - 3221 0188 for details.



Outback Wetlands Sucked Dry For Cotton ? !

Today, the rivers of the Lake Eyre Basin are flowing just as they have for thousands of years - unpredictably changing from a trickle to a flood overnight.

There are no significant dams or weirs and no irrigation in the region and the only water taken is to supply a handful of small towns and scattered cattle stations.

But that could change

In 1994 an application was made to take 42 billion litres of water per year from the Cooper Creek at Windorah in far western Queensland to irrigate a massive new cotton development.(an Olympic swimming pool holds approximately 1 million litres). That is more than the estimated total volume of the Coongie lakes further down stream.

Environmentalists, local residents, Aboriginal groups, graziers and even the Australian Cotton Foundation are all opposed to the cotton proposal for two reasons; the unsustainable water use and the introduction of pesticides to the area. The ecology of the Channel Country is too fragile to grow a crop as environmentally damaging as cotton

No studies have been done to tell us what effects the proposed water extraction is likely to have on the plants, animals and people downstream which all depend on occasional floods and ephemeral wetlands fed by the Cooper Creek.

Although 42 billion litres is only a small percentage of the 'average annual flow' of the river, averages mean little to the Cooper which is one of the most variable river systems in the world. Records indicate that in the past 57 years the river would have been unable to meet this demand two out of every three years.

Probably no agricultural system practised in Australia today destroys the ecological balance as effectively as continuous cotton growing. Hence, cotton farming relies on the use of chemical sprays and fertilizers to control pests. There are widespread and well documented fears about the health effects of some chemicals used in cotton farming.

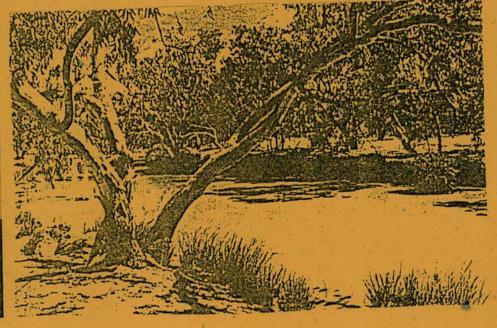
The Lake Eyre Basin is unusual in that it does not drain to the sea. The rivers in the basin all flow into Lake Eyre. Therefore, any chemicals released into the river will remain and accumulate within the basin.

Call the number below to find out how you can help. Donations for the campaign to keep the Cooper flowing free are gratefully accepted.

- Don't let the Lake Eyre Basin become another Murray-Darling....
- Keep the wild rivers of the outback flowing clean and free!

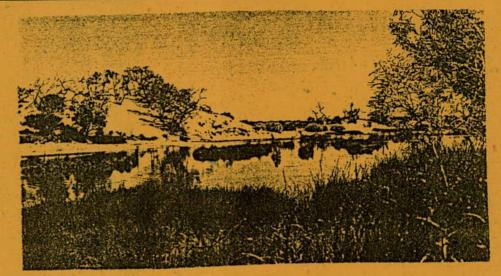
Write to : The Hon. Howard Hobbs Minister for Primary Industry c/o Parliament House Brisbane 4000

For More Info contact: Queensland Conservation Council Phone 07 3221 0188



OUTBACK WETLANDS Oases in the desert

When most of us think of the outback we think of vast, dusty red plains. But hidden within this ancient, weathered landscape are huge wetlands rich in wildlife.



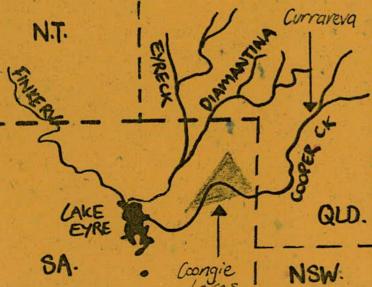
In the outback, more than anywhere, water is a scarce and precious resource. Australia's arid zone - the "outback"- makes up about 70% of our continent.

Outback wetlands are true oases in the desert. Tens of thousands of birds live in or regularly visit these wetlands. They are essential refuges for a host of species- some of them rare or endangered. Every drop of water which makes it's way into the rivers, wetlands and waterholes of the outback is needed to sustain the plants, insects and animals which maintain a fragile hold on life in this otherwise parched environment. Most scientists studying wetlands have focussed their attention on coastai areas, so we know little about the water cycles and ecosystems of outback wetlands. We are just begining to appreciate how precious these places are.

Most of the wetlands of the outback are 'ephemeral' meaning they expand or shrink subject to the flood and drought cycles characteristic of the Australian arid zone. With the floods comes life, as animals emerge from burrows, insects hatch in the thousands, fish breed, seeds germinate and flocks of migratory birds arrive to feast on the abundance.

The largest and most outstanding of Australia's outback wetlands are found in the Lake Eyre Basin

Cooper Creek, Eyre Creek and the Diamantina River flow from western Queensland into South Australia where they feed a vast area of swamps, lakes and floodplains. This region includes the Coongie Lakes which are Australia's largest Ramsar site. A recent study of these outback wetlands, including the Coongie Lakes, Lake Eyre, Goyders Lagoon and the Mound Springs, found that the area posseses World Heritage values.



The 'Channel Country' wetlands (in the Queensland section of the basin) are made up of an extensive system of interwoven creek channels running through arid clay plains, sand dunes, mulga scrub and low stony hills. This landscape creates an extracrdinary range of environments, and consequently the Channel Country has the second highest diversity of fauna of any region in Australia and the most terrestrial species of any arid area in Australia. The Channel Country is also an extremely important refuge area for many species in times of drought.

But tragically, these beautiful and important areas are under threat..... P.T.Ŏ.

NEFA rules! Take all my money.

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This donation is for NEFA's Old Growth Campaign

Send cheques to NEFA, 149 Keen St, Lismore, 2480 Or bank transfers (as above) Name MARIA CEHUN Address 70 Lucenne are Postcode 3078 Phone M9749821 Date 3/95

\$50...... \$20...... \$10...... All my worldly possessions......

INCIUGG

1. What you feel when a bulldozer drives off with your head locked on.

2. Woodchipping does this to forests.

5. A helicopter can fly this way.

7. Resigned from the FPA because Col was such a Dorber.

10. Advocated by the timber industry.

11. Old Growth Forest, Abrev.

12. Wants to force all old cars off the road, Abrev.

13. Colony insect

14. ---- Party of extinction.

16. Souris' statements about Wild cattle Creek were --

18. The industry tries to get political mileage by finding these in mills

19. Ignored by State and Federal governments, abrev.

9. Rhymes with grief, Nefa newsletter
14. Negative response
15. The time to act is -17. One of these still hasn't been completed for Dorrigo.





National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

State Council P.O. Box A96 Sydney South 2000 Telephone: (02) 264 7994 Facsimile: (02) 264 7160

Mid North Coast Branch PO Box 1437 PORT MACQUARIE 2444

22nd March, 1995

The Secretary North East Forest Alliance 88A Keen Street LISMORE 2480

Dear Sir

At our meeting on the 20th March, 1995, it was decided that this Branch would make a donation of \$200.00 to NEFA to support NEFA's active campaign. Accordingly, a cheque for \$200.00 is enclosed herewith.

We would be pleased if you would acknowledge receipt for audit purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Morgaret Smith.

Margaret Smith Secretary