



N.E.F.A. LEAF

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

July 1994

This issue...

STATE GOVTS.
PLAN TO BURN BUSH !

STATE FORESTS :
IN BED WITH BORAL

WOODCHIPPING:
WHAT WE CAN DO ?

AUDIT COUNCIL
CAN NRAC OFF

LOCAL
MANAGEMENT AREA
UPDATES



ASSESSOR RIDING

By Thomas J. Smith

There is a great deal of talk about the importance of the assessor's role in the horse industry. It is often said that the assessor is the "gatekeeper" of the industry, and that he or she is responsible for the quality of the horses that are shown. This is a very important role, and one that should not be taken lightly. The assessor is the person who is responsible for the horses that are shown, and he or she is the one who is responsible for the quality of the horses that are shown. The assessor is the person who is responsible for the horses that are shown, and he or she is the one who is responsible for the quality of the horses that are shown.

Who is NEFA anyway?

NEFA is:

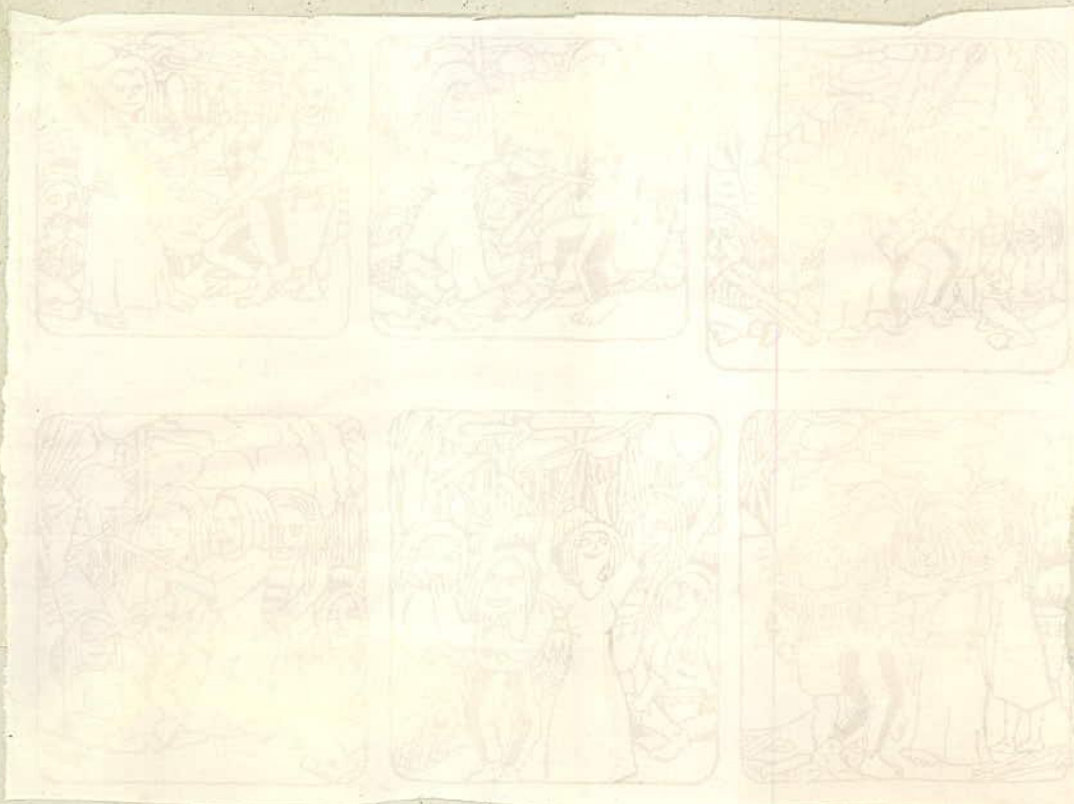
- * a network of individuals and community forest protection groups working to protect old growth in NSW.
- * an unincorporated, non-hierarchical collection of activists.
- * a volunteer, decentralised alliance drawing on ecological, economic, legal and bushcraft expertise to pursue our aims.
- * committed to a policy of non-violent action in defence of the earth.

North East NSW is defined as the area North of Sydney east of the New England Highway.

NEFA'S CAMPAIGN AIMS

NEFA has been campaignig to achieve;

- Protection of old growth forests, rainforests, endangered species, water catchent and wilderness.
- To have rainforest defied and mapped on ecological criteria rather than timber values.
- For old growth forests to be identified and mapped.
- To ensure that Noth East NSW has a comprèhensive, adequate and representative reserve system, that is based on the best scientific research available and attainable.(This is in line with the National Forest Policy which requires that an adequate reserve system is properly implemented)
- Ecologically sustainable forestry industry.
- Public participation and accountability in public resource magement by public authorities.
- Effective Freedom of information procedures and open access to relevant information
- Recognition and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.



BORAL AND STATE FORESTS; SEPARATE ENTITIES OR ONE AND THE SAME?

The suspicions of North Coast sawmillers and environmentalists centre on the extraordinary benevolence of the former Forestry Commission (now State Forests) in granting a monopoly of logging licences to the corporate giant, Boral. The friendly embrace of Boral and public property began under a labour administration; it continues with the active participation of the liberal/national party state government and State Forests.

Milling of native timbers was once the domain of many smaller sawmill operators; now our public forests have licensing agreements which have monopolised this working asset. Activists who speak to timber workers and some State Forest employees are well aware of the discontent felt towards Boral. The question is:- are we working for a statutory body or Boral?

Three years ago Boral had access to 74% of State Forests in the Port Macquarie/ Coffs Harbour region. In other areas the percentage is larger and still growing.

If political parties had genuine concerns about Boral's plans for monopoly enhancement activists would have expected an outcry by now. We are left with political silence from parties who wear the devotion to Small Business on their sleeves. This silence raises a few questions:-

*How much do Boral and associated companies donate to Labour, Liberal and National party funds?

*Can Boral, State Forests and the three political parties explain why log access should be dominated by a monopoly at the expense of the traditional small operator?

At the end of June 1994 the State Government announced a \$6 million plantation program to be administered by State Forests on private land. While any moves towards a plantation strategy are to be commended, this is a minuscule amount compared to third world expenditure on eucalypt plantations. Many activists feel it is a token strategy to divert attention from logging of contentious areas.

There is yet another angle to the plantation program that is not immediately apparent. The majority of North Coast woodchip and timber production now comes from Boral's automated, low labour cost mills. Boral stands to receive a considerable boost to its fortunes when Chipping and milling of the state scheme begins. By any definition this is a golden hand shake for Boral.

The schemes beneficiary is a business amalgam of banks, insurance, superannuation, and other interests. As such the \$Billion Boral group has reserves that are ideally suited for 12 to 50 year investments; plantation forestry. But no way!

Boral the short visioned giant, coming soon to a native forest near you.
Warren Tindall - Bellingen

**THIS IS AN
INVASION**
STOP THE CORPORATE TAKEOVER
BUY LOCAL DURABLE GOODS

CARING FOR YOUR HEALTH AND THE ECOLOGY



WHOLE IN THE WALL
ORGANIC
SUPPLY & EXCHANGE

BRIDGE ST NORTH LISMORE

NEWS RELEASE 14 JULY 1994

MINISTER FAULKNER DISAPPOINTS ON NATIONALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

Environment Minister John Faulkner's failure to respond to a request for action to protect nationally endangered species from woodchipping operations on the North Coast has been described today as "very disappointing" by President of North Coast Environment Council Inc., Mr Terry Parkhouse.

Mr Parkhouse's comments follow an application to the Minister for the Environment by NCEC solicitors, the Environmental Defenders Office, seeking Senator Faulkner's agreement to issue an Interim Assessment Conservation Order (IACO) under the Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act 1993.

The IACO application named 8 animals and 67 plants, listed on the national schedule of endangered species, as being present in north coast woodchip supply zones and at risk from logging and chipping operations. It sought a ban on obtaining woodchips from private property since these areas had not been assessed for impact, a prohibition on taking large 'old growth' "cull" trees or woodchipping in 'old growth forests' and sought the imposition of strict conditions to protect endangered species in silvicultural thinning operations.

The application was made to Senator Faulkner on 21 June 94 before the Minister for Resources Mr David Beddall extended, on 30 June, for 3 months, a woodchip export licence for the Boral company Sawmiller's Export P/L, for woodchips taken from north coast forests. The application sought Senator

Faulkner's urgent intervention to prevent the Resources Minister from allowing further threats to endangered species from woodchipping operations conducted without assessment of impacts on these species.

"We have heard nothing from the Minister for the Environment and no IACO has been issued. The specific concerns which we foresaw have come to pass despite the Minister having plenty of time to act. Mr Beddall didn't consult Senator Faulkner and took his own action to continue Boral's woodchip supply, but regrettably Senator Faulkner failed to take any action on our urgent request," Mr Parkhouse said.

"This lack of action by Sen. Faulkner does not sit well with his media comments. Unless he can effectively protect endangered species, speeches are worth nothing," he said.

Mr Parkhouse said that both the Minister for Resources and the Minister for the Environment had been sent further solicitor's letters asking for the reasons for issuing a further export licence and for failing to act to protect nationally endangered species.

"Both Ministers have less than 28 days to explain their actions to the north coast community. If their reasons are unsatisfactory the Environment Council will consider legal action to challenge their decisions in the Federal Court", Mr Parkhouse said.

ends...

For more information: Phone Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771 h+W



"FEDERAL GOVT. IN BEDDAL WITH BORAL"

ACTION REPORT

A small NEFA contingent joined forces with the Brisbane Anarchy crew last week to put pressure on David Beddal's weak spot, his home electorate.

The Federal Resources Minister depends on the green vote to maintain his place in the marginal seat of Rankin, (outer southern Brisbane suburbs), so we decided to let his **voters** know what he's been up to, and then let **him** know how they felt about it. A ten foot high set of scales, fashioned out of a tripod, was erected outside Beddal's electoral office, with trees on one side and woodchips on the other. The accompanying banner raised the question of the relative values of short term cash verses long term survival.

We were well received by the people of Rankin. Many were interested and concerned about the woodchipping issue and a number of these were keen to write to their MP and urge him to do the right thing.

In the few hours that we were there, about 80 people took home info in order to write a letter and 26 wrote one, on the spot, for us to post. A fax was sent off to Beddal in Canberra, (from his own fax machine) to inform him of the results of our little survey. The action was supported by NEFA, NCEC, Queensland Greens, Queensland conservation Council and of course Brisbane Anarchy, (who were right on the ball, providing much needed bods and beds at very short notice, Thanks heaps.) and coincided with woodchipping actions in Newcastle and Melbourne organised and supported by TWS, FOE, ACF and Native Forest Network, all working together to UNSETTLE BEDDALL. It's a bold Resource Minister who ignores a line up like that!

DON'T SIGN IT DAVE !!



MONEY, LOGGERS AND FORESTS

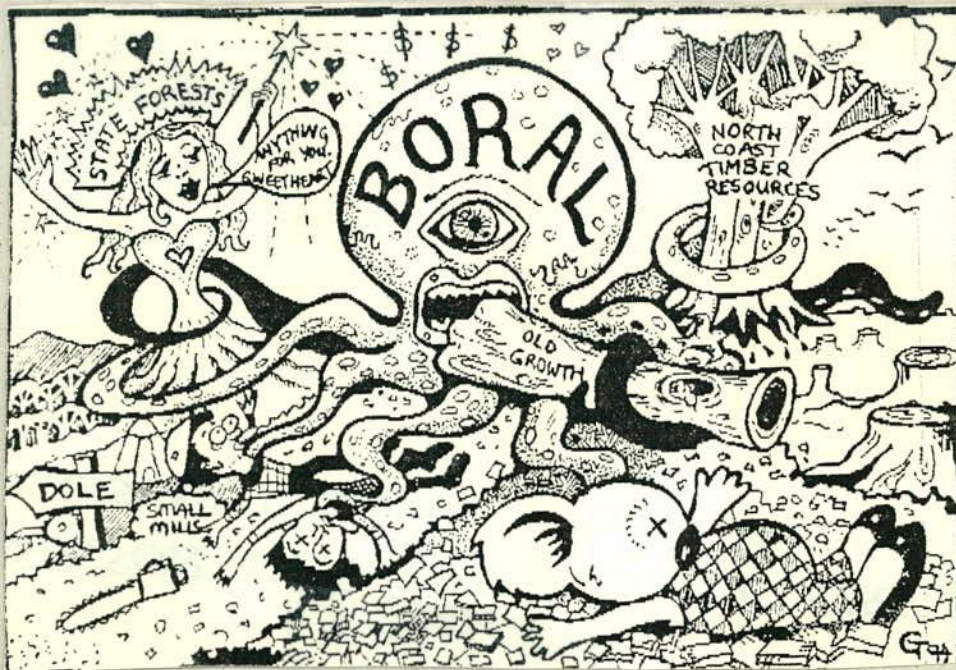
There is something that has been made very clear to me during my two week stay at the Wild Cattle Creek information camp. Not only are the timber companies and the State Forest Corporation ruthlessly destroying our forests they are also unfairly ripping off the local timber workers and residence.

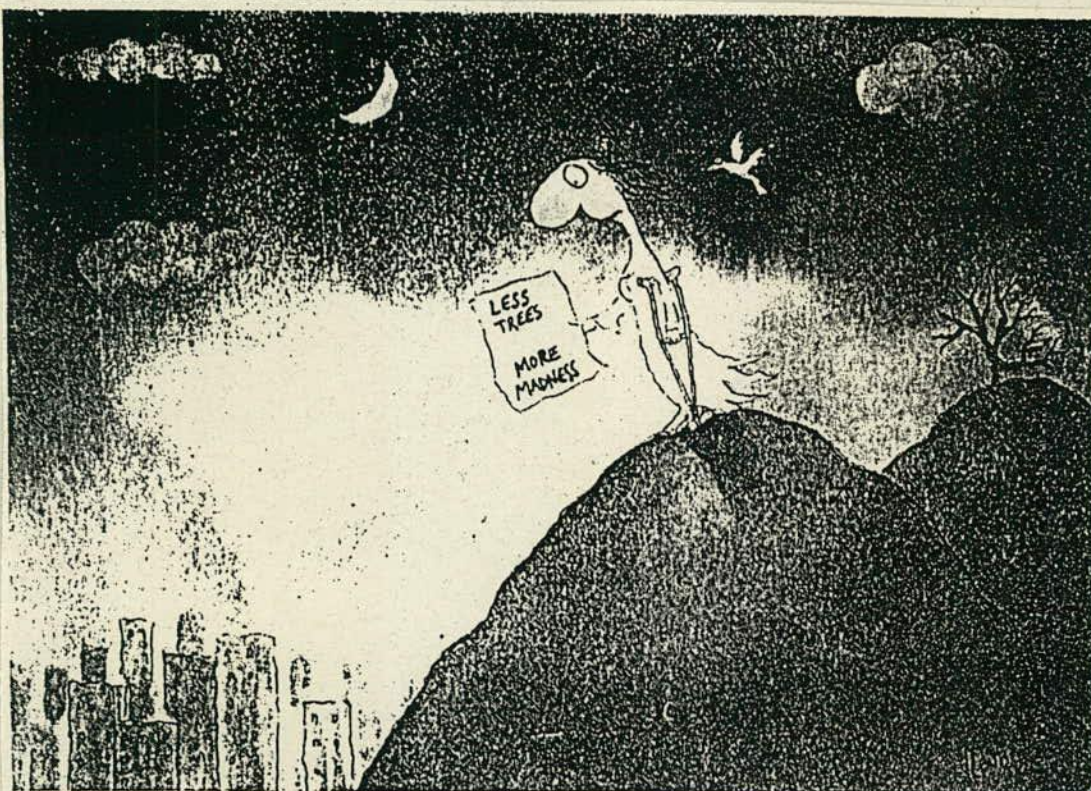
After having numerous conversations with the workers it was found that there is much common ground. Both timber workers and conservationists want a sustainable timber industry. Both agree that State Forests has grossly mismanaged the forest resource. What probably angered the workers most was that the timber harvested in Wild Cattle Creek was being transported to distant mills in Walcha (Fennings) and Grafton (Boral). This strategy maximises profit for the greedy timber companies with little sympathy for local jobs or environment.

One of our most unpleasant visits to the information camp came from two Boral representatives. They drove through our camp barely disdaining to wind their windows down, sneering at our attempts at friendly conversation. In the narrow world of profit sheets and computer readouts it must be hard to confront the reality of the ecosystem, in its all encompassing enormity.

Nature is unpredictable, unlike the digital certainties of corporate finance. When people like our two smug visitors juggle figures in their computers they have no conception of the implications for the real world of their decisions, such as the destruction of a vitally important ecosystem. How can they possibly comprehend the interconnected web that human beings exist within when their experience is largely dominated by a video screen.

It is becoming more apparent that the Government and all their fine sounding recommendations are powerless to control these corporations and their plundering. Infact the line between Government and Corporation is becoming more blurred in the wake "Corporatization" of the Forestry Commission. The evolution of The Forestry Commission into the ominously named State Forests is, in economic terms, the equivalent to liquidation of the forest asset. Our valuable native forests are being placed on the market in the form of long term timber contracts. As recent indications seem to show, the Forestry Commission has consistently overestimated the amount of timber in our forests. This is a dangerous situation. The NSW Government has been locked into supplying huge amounts of timber to the Corporation. This is timber the Government cannot possibly supply without fatally damaging the ecosystem.





Mother Nature delivers her budget for the coming year.

At the heart of the problem are the financial institutions. The "major players" of the stock exchange shuffle enormous sums of money through the buying and selling of shares. At each stage in the process money is extracted, in the form of interest rates, by each investor. This constitutes lost energy in the real world.

A simple example of this is the trucking of logs from Wild Cattle Creek to Walcha, a distance of 200km, rather than mill them at a local mill, a distance of maybe 20km. This enables investors in Fennings limited to extract a return rather than this profit being fairly distributed amongst the community who's resource has been devaluated.

So what can you, the enlightened reader, do to stop this corporate invasion. Firstly, consider what gives these corporations their power. Its the money that we as consumers invariably direct their way. By spending sensibly you can avoid increasing the profits of these corporations. Buy locally produced durable goods. Support local small business's, rather than the giant supermarket chains. If you have money invested in financial institutions write them a letter demanding that they invest ethically. Withdraw your investment if they don't. Remember money is the language the corporation speaks. Let your money say "hands off".

David Julian

BORED ?

Long term unemployed will be aware of recent changes to job search allowance forms. Every two months they are presented with two employer contact certificates which require employers signatures for an advertised position.

Alot of long term unemployed are greenies busy saving the planet. This seems like alot of bureaucratic hogwash, distracting Green Extremists from their valuable work.

POSITIONS VACANT

FORESTSURVEYORS,
BLOCKADERS
LETTER WRITERS
AND OTHER ANTICORPORATE
SUBVERSIVES
QULIFICATIONS;GREEN EXTREEMEST
UNCORRUPTED BY MEDIA CRAP.

APPLY NEFA

Kempsey/Wauchope Update

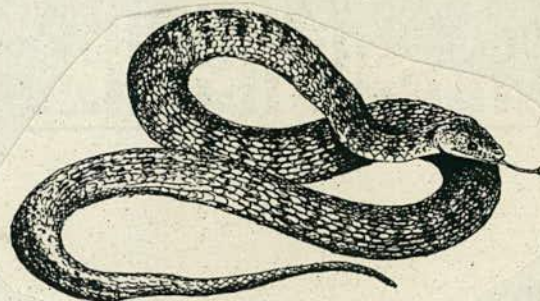
The Kempsey/Wauchope EIS covers two management areas which include coastal and hinterland forest from Kempsey in the north to south of Wauchope. The western boundary of this area lies at the edge of the New England Tablelands. As with most of the Management Areas in the North East, most of the remnant patches of old growth forest occur in the inaccessible upper reaches of the main river catchments, such as the Macleay River.

The Kempsey/Wauchope Management Area covers approximately 300,000 hectares of State Forests and Crown Timbered lands. It includes a number of highly significant conservation areas, such as the ecologically rich Petroi and Carrai Plateaux, with their high rainfalls, gentle slopes and remnant pockets of old growth forest. These areas have been identified as wilderness by National Parks but are not yet gazetted by the NSW cabinet. They have therefore been included in the order of working for the next ten years according to the recently determined Environmental Impact Study. Due to amendments to the order of working by the Minister of Planning, Robert Webster, the most important areas are to be logged in the near future.

State Forests are allowing most of the identified forest of high conservation value in Doyles River (S.E. of Werikimbee National Park) and Styx River (Petroi Plateau) State Forests to be logged soon. This is in breach of the National Forest Policy Statements requirement to avoid activities in old growth forests of high conservation value.

NEFA has a history of dispute in this area, particularly in the Kempsey Management Area, where a blockade was held in late 1992, in an attempt to stop the logging of the last remnant old growth forest on the Carrai Plateau. Unfortunately this blockade was unsuccessful, and now no high conservation value old growth forest remains in this area of approximately 20,000 hectares.

Conservation measures proposed in the Kempsey/Wauchope EIS are clearly insufficient



if they are to fulfil the need of preserving the ecosystems that exist in this area. They are not based on clear objective criteria and no integrated system of wild life corridors is proposed. There has been no further reservation of 'unlogged' compartments aside from a few steep and unloggable parts of compartments. It is these areas that comprise the farcical corridor in Nulla Five Day State Forest and a similar compartment in Mt Boss State Forest.

Over the next ten years old growth forest remnants within the New England and Werikimbe Wilderness Areas (as identified by NPWS) will be virtually completely logged, leaving these areas significantly denuded of their existing value.

The EIS, which was determined by the Department of Planning on the 25th of March 1994, is obviously inadequate and should have been rejected by the Minister for Planning because it does not fulfil the legal requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. This determination tried to patch up the inadequacies by making a number of recommendations that State Forests had to legally fulfil within a three month period ending on the 1st of June.

State Forests have prepared a Fauna Impact Study as part of their conditions of their License to Kill or Harm Endangered Species which is issued by NPWS (this is legally required by the Endangered Fauna Act). This FIS has been prepared as part of the EIS, and it is the responsibility of The NPWS to determine whether it fits the legal requirements. Even though an EIS was determined over three months ago, the FIS will not be determined until the 14th of August.

NEFA has much more work to do, both with field surveys and information dispersal. The Kempsey/Wauchope EIS is one of the most inadequate and it is crucial that it be challenged by the public of NSW if we are to protect the last remnants of old growth forest, in line with national agreements.



Little Wonder Update

The forests of little Wonder and Leagues Scrub are located some 30 kms inland from the village of Bowraville, near Macksville and Nambucca Heads. The New England Wilderness is close by - Little Wonder and Leagues Scrub forming the buffer between the cleared cow country on the East and the Wilderness of the Escarpment National Parks to our West.

We have had a camp established in the forest for over a year, occupied by folk who spend their days walking in the area simply enjoying the majesty of where we live or extending our knowledge of our fellow residents. This is accomplished by night time walks with spotlights to identify tree dwelling possums and gliders; collecting scats for later identification and using binoculars to identify the birds who live around us.

As to the forests themselves, there are large areas of warm temperate rainforest with the occasional rare pocket of subtropical rainforest hidden in steep sided gullies, and grandiose Brushbox and eucalypt forest on the higher ridges. Leagues Scrub Flora Reserve is very close by and is a rainforest to inspire awe and wonder in all who visit. We have recently discovered a hollow strangler fig tree which allows adventurous souls to climb up the inside for some 30 or 40 metres- almost into the upper canopy!!

State Forests in all their wisdom have decided that they can log Little Wonder with little or no effect on the ecosystem. We dispute this hotly of course. State Forests have adopted a policy of minimum conflict, after the disastrous happenings of Wild Cattle Creek in 1992 and Mistake last year. To this end we were invited to another

round of negotiations for compartment 375 several weeks ago.

Concessions were granted.

Amongst other things State Forests have undertaken not to burn 375 after logging is finished.

A 100m wide corridor has been established along the boundaries of Leagues Scrub and Little Wonder Creek, areas of rainforest have been linked to the creek, and an area of Yellow Bellied glider habitat is not to be logged until further joint investigations have taken place!

It doesn't sound like a lot but it is the first time State Forests have actually sat down and negotiated with us. However, it really is only a sideshow for the much more important work of the local Aboriginal Tribe, the Gumbangyirr. A land claim has been made for all of the Mistake, Oaks and Buckrabendinni Forests which include Little Wonder and Leagues Scrub. We have a close relationship with the Gumbangyirr, just as they maintain close ties with the forests. Woe betide state forests if they continue with their earth rape attitude.

For further info on how to get involved etc, ph: (065) 644108



From: Bowraville Local Aboriginal Lands Council

To: The District Forester, Urunga Forestry Management Area

Dear Sir

We the local members of the Gumbangirr People, who have always lived in our tribal homelands and are still connected to the land, forests, rivers and mountains do hereby declare our sovereign Native Title to all areas within these ancient boundaries.

Recognising that invasion and conquest have - until this time - resulted in our loss of natural Justice, we are now prepared to discuss the return of available unoccupied crown land to its true status under Native Title Legislation. (1993)

We hereby affirm our occupation of our ancient Dreaming sites, walking tracks, waterways and forests as part of our rights under Native Title, as well as normal rights of access and ownership under Commonwealth law and all resources therein

We hereby claim all Crown leases and lands that have reverted from Crown land to State Forests in the Nambucca valley, including all those transferred since November 1975. We announce our intention to pursue compensation claims for land irretrievably lost or damaged.

We hereby affirm that the Crown land under the present administration of State Forests NSW is truly the land of the Aboriginal people who continue to occupy and have many links with their ancient homes. The land currently called Oakes State Forest, the Mistake State Forest, Buccrabendinni State Forest, Nambucca State Forrest and other areas within our tribal lands is infact Native Title as no major structures or infrastructures have been built in them.

Yours Sincerely

Shane Jarret

Jason Buchanan

Tim Ballangarry

Dallas Walker

Bob Kelly

On Behalf of the Bowraville Aboriginal Land Council



District Bushfire Management Committees

The NSW Cabinet Committee into the January bushfires made thirty recommendations. 11 have been acted on by amendments to the Bushfire Act pushed through in the closing hours of the May sitting of Parliament.

District Fire Management Plans are now compulsory. Draft plans which are to specifically include fuel management plans are to be prepared by the District Bushfire Management Committees by August/September this year and submitted to the Bushfire Co-ordinating Committee for approval. There is no mandatory environmental representation on this committee.

Apparently the focus of the fire management plans is to identify the threat to life and property. Planning is to be based on this. There is no regard given to ecological factors, native flora or fauna. There is however a provision for a nominee of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW on each District Bushfire Management Committee.

Fire and fuel plans are not required to be publicly exhibited for comment. The best way to signify the importance and necessity to consider ecological factors if these plans are to have any hope of being useful is, at this stage, to become involved in the preparation of the plans. RING YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL. Determine the boundaries of your fire

district. Find out who is on your District Bushfire Management Committee. There may be a Nature Conservation Council representative already on your District Committee who would be likely to appreciate your support and consultation. If there is no one representing the interests of the environment in your area or you can propose someone to work on the committee, PLEASE CONTACT NCC, 022474206.

Many Districts will already have section 41A Fire Plans, but few are likely to have Fuel Management Plans. All plans are to be adequate at current. (recommendations 3,4).

Other recent changes to the Bushfire Act the exemption of fire permits from the provision of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act Part 5 which in effect requires no environmental assessment; Section 13 of the Bushfire Act requires empowers Fire Control Officers to enforce plan requirements on private land owners and other land managers including even NPWS, where a fire hazard is identified. There is no right of appeal for the individual save using Common law rights which would be expensive and unwieldy.

WE need to be involved with this Bushfire Management Planning now. FIND OUT THE SITUATION IN YOUR DISTRICT.



WILD CATTLE CREEK UPDATE

As detailed in the April Nefa Leaf;

April 12 : NEFA's Wild Cattle Ck Old Growth Study is out there and published - acclaimed by those who know and rejected by those who don't want to know!

March 27 : NPWS pulls the "section 120, Licence to Take or Kill Endangered Species" in Cpt 579 (the star O.G compartment in Wild Cattle Creek) and demands extra wildlife studies.

April 14 : NEFA applies to NPWS for Interim Protection Order on WCC O.G. and to the Heritage Council for an Interim Conservation Order on the same area.

Since April;

* NEFA maintained a forest watch and information camp at Cpt 579 Downfall Ck Rd. The Watching crew has varied from 3 to 20 and lots of interested visitors, green or definantly otherwise have come for a look and a chat.

Forestry have done some looking into the endangered frog situation in 579 but NPWS have not returned the section 120 Kill Licence YET!

The IPO application has disappeared without a trace into the NPWS beauracracy, we await its reappearance with the correct answer attached. In the mean time, no news, I suppose, is good news.

The Heritage Council has met several times to consider our ICO application. NEFA has gently reminded the council that it has a clear duty to properly consider the issue. The Heritage Council remains the only mechanism in NSW for considering public concerns about places and areas of significance. The Council has not saved any areas of National Heritage during the life of this government and only has the power to make recommendations to our National party Minister for Planning. Call me cynical but I'm not holding my breath!

In May NEFA began a series of meetings with Regional and District Foresters about our concerns with the magement of WCC and the Dorrigo management area generally. The preliminary talks were quite cadid and wide-ranging, but when it

came to the big formal "dispute mediation" sessions our worst suspicions were confirmed as Forestry refused to discuss each issue in turn while attempting to show up NEFA as being unreasonable.

The only apparently firm outcomes of the meetings were agreements that Forestry would inform NEFA of it's intention to start logging of any disputed areas, and that there would be an independent assesment of the old growth and habitat values of Cpt 579 and 562, before logging. This was apparently agreed to by the Commissioner and Managing Director of Forestry. However at the last moment the plug was pulled on this one. Forestrys lame excuse was that they had not been informed of our ICO application. Never mind that they'd known about the ICO for weeks and that the independet assesment would be of obvious value to the Heritage Council for their accurate appraisal of the areas.

Time Passes.....

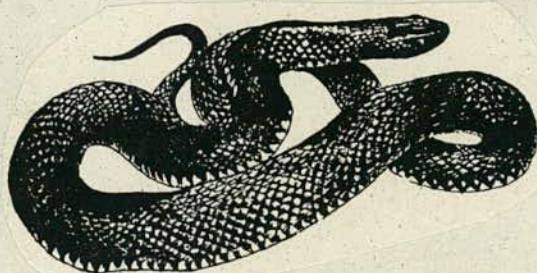
On Thursday 23 June, NEFA accidentally discovered that Forestry had begun to road and log Cpt 562.

On Monday, 30 assorted concerned public wet to 562 to ask what the hell was going on and to survey for koalas.

SPRUNG!.... A quick check of the area of dumps 1 and 2 found very high levels of koala use. Forestry's highly trained and enthusiastic staff had marked three koala trees where we foud others with scat count of between 1 and 74!

NEFA also ound a area of Old Growth from where blue gums had been removed without the benifit of any marking for koalas, habitat trees, rainforest borders, filter strips etc.

When it was put to Forestry staff that this constituted a breach of the harvest plan, code of logging practice and the section 120 kill licence conditions, much shuffling and boot toe examination ensued, and Forestry agreed to stop work pending further koala surveying and to accept the results of NEFA's examination of the area.



Things became a little less clear after that. NEFA has ideas on what the koala survey and prescription regimes should be, Forestry has a very minimalist idea and National Parks have several depending on who you talk to. NEFA has demanded that NPWS act to stop logging until proper surveys are done and prescriptions specified and imposed since Forestry obviously cannot be trusted to do the right thing.

On thursday NEFA reps were invited by the Northern Region Police Commander to a very weird meeting with other senior police and the parties to the WCC dispute. The police made valueable expressions of concern for the avoidance of conflict etc. The district Forester said not much. NEFA explained it's position and the logging contractor offered to pull out until Friday... but with dire warnings of the consequences should he "further interfered with". The contractor is "sick of beig the meat in the sandwich" and expressed equal contempt for NEFA and Forestry management.

Friday the rain came down and continues at the time of writing, providing a nice little breathing space. NEFA's koala surveys, nasty letters and press releases are flying thick and fast.

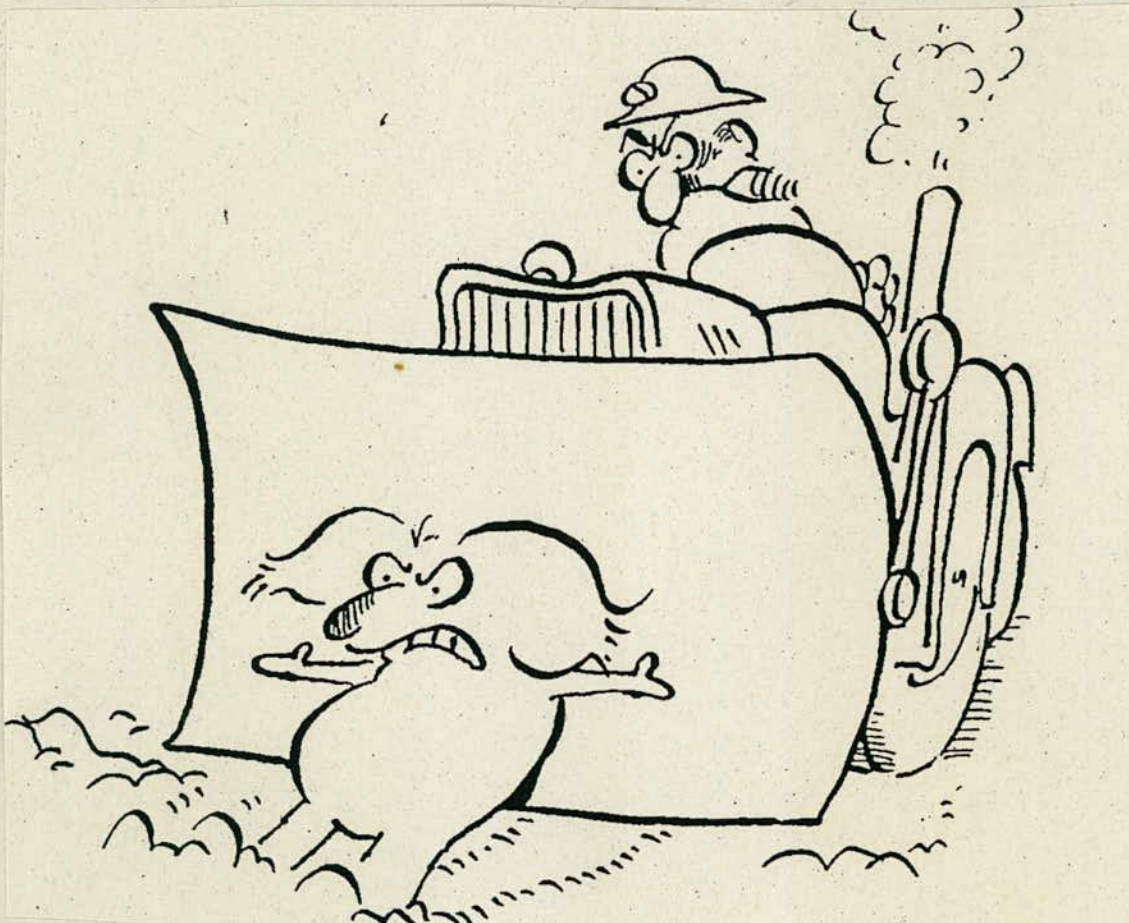
At 4.57pm the same day a fax arrived from D.O.P advising that Forestry intended (pending granting of a section 120 Licence to Take and Kill Endangered Species) to log 571 and 561 on Monday, July 4th. Panic stricken enquiries to S.F and NPWS were answered with assurances that they knew nothing about it, but **be warned!**


NPWS assurances are as vague as ever and State Forest assurances are usually bullshit.

Wild Cattle Creek's green alert could go right through yellow to bright red at any moment. OK you've heard this before but that's because it's true!

A lot of ground work has gone in and Nefa is in a strong position here. Stand by your fax machines!!

For further info ph: 550027
Find out how you can help.





Audit Council can NRAC off!

EARLY HISTORY Reinvented by John Fahey after the Natural Resources Management Council (and the Package it was wrapped in) was dropped like a hot potato in 1992, the Natural Resources Audit Council (NRAC) has as its brief "to conduct a systematic and comprehensive audit of all values of public lands and natural resources" in the catchments of the Tweed, Brunswick, Richmond and Clarence Rivers.

WHOSE AUDIT? HOW?

Exactly how this 'audit' is to be carried out is still extremely uncertain due to a lack of publicly available information about the Council, its objectives or its methodologies. NEFA's suspicion has been that it will be a hurried, inadequate and industry bias audit aimed at resource security for timber, mineral and gravel industries.

Announced in late 1993, and comprised of mainly NSW Government chief executive officers (CEO's) for major government departments, NRAC has a \$5+ million budget but has no financial accountability to the NSW public, or the NSW Parliament (even if it did sit!) No public input has been permitted on this budget carve up. No person represents conservation interests on the Council, but resource exploiting industries are represented by a Farmers Federation 'activist' and the MD of Koppers Australia - makers of Koppers logs!

GREENIES UNITE

NRAC published a vague, non-committal, draft 'outline' in early 1994 and sought submissions from the public. While only a handful of submissions were made, 13 green groups, including NEFA, banded together as the Far North Coast Environment Groups and made a combined constructive submission which included a series of questions and 28 recommendations. The thrust of that submission was that NRAC could be acceptable to north coast environment groups if it dovetailed into the National Forest Policy Statement's assessment

process, and made changes to increase accountability and public participation.

AUDIT WITH HOLES

One critical issue is the 'jig-saw puzzle' approach of assessing natural resources on public lands only - ignoring private lands, when NFPS requires assessment and reserve creation across all land tenures.

TOKEN MEETINGS

Two meetings were held in Lismore, in February and May, with NRAC Chair Alex Dix and Director Anne Conway, but both concluded with a deepening suspicion that NRAC was not a part of the solution to forest conflict, but rather a new major player on the side of industry and the National Party. After the second unsatisfactory meeting, and an absence of considered written response to our joint submission, the conclusion became inescapable that NRAC was set up to deliver to industry what it wanted (i.e. resource security) and to allow Fahey to escape from his commitments under the NFPS.

COMMONWEALTH NOT IMPRESSED EITHER

Conversations with federal bureaucrats in Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and DEST indicate that the Commonwealth government is not impressed either and have refused twice to place "full faith and credit" in the NSW NRAC process.

\$3/4m OGF STUDY TO BE RORTED BY INDUSTRY?

\$750,000 of NRAC funding for a 'pilot study' in 'old growth' forest across the FNC region became a focus for green groups discontent when NEFA's Dailan Pugh, Megan Edwards and Sandy Gilmore were refused access to join the Technical Working Group.

Dailan and Megan were told that they didn't have the necessary 'academic qualifications' despite their years of experience! The reason for refusing Sandy Gilmore, who has good qualifications and experience is not known!

Appointed to oversee the project is an ex-Queensland forester who brought nothing but trouble to Qld greenies (so we've been

told). The chance of the OGF study going horribly wrong seems alarmingly high. Thus the Government's refusal to appoint skilled and experienced people onto the TWG and its preference for an industry biased forester has now significantly undermined the Groups already low and eroded credibility.

LOG NATIONAL PARKS!

Added to this list of concerns was a biased and distorted methodology for the economic evaluation of natural resources and NRAC's commissioning of a paper by Dr Hans Drielsma (remember him?) on assessing the timber values in National Parks! Priority and agreement exist in NRAC for those issues but there's no agreement and no progress on public participation...

SHOWDOWN!

All these matters were brought to a head on 12th July in a meeting proposed by NRAC to be "informal consultation with a chance to chat" in the Palm Valley picnic area of the Cape Byron Reserve. 10 green groups (approx. 18 people) met before the scheduled NRAC meeting to prepare a strategy to communicate the depth of our concerns, in the Audit Council.

20 minutes late, and without Dr Neil Shepherd (DG of EPA) or Ms Robyn Kruk (new Director NPWS) being present, NRAC arrived to "consult".

After a pleasant intro from the Reserve Trust, NRAC members were told in no uncertain terms about the dis-satisfaction with NRAC, its chairman and staff, its processes and projects, its priorities and objectives (or lack of), its industry bias and its ultimate political purpose.

NO CONFIDENCE

The vote of no confidence was put and carried to the audit council's members disbelief. After telling NRAC it must come up with a credible public participation process before any more time or information was provided to it, the groups walked out of the park, ignoring the fizzy drinks and finger food on offer, to the now stunned senior bureaucrats.

If it was the first time in years that these CEO's had met people who were not in fear or awe of them, and who were prepared to

walk out of a meeting with them in protest without risking their "jobs", it was the first time for many of the greenies too.

Hence, it was an excited group of greenies who adjourned to the new Byron Environment Centre Inc. premises to debrief and draft a news release explaining what had happened and why.

News of the walk out, & the "fizzy drinks" quote quickly spread via radio and local newspapers included our late afternoon release in the "good news" stories that had been prepared that morning - so much for NRAC's 'feel good' message!

WHERE TO NOW?

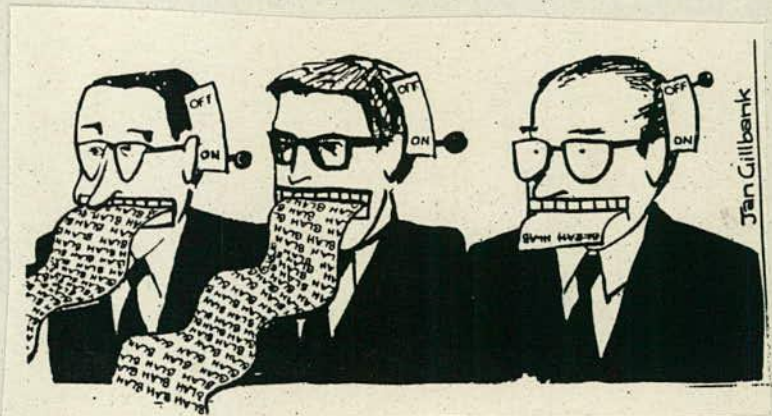
Where we go from here partly depends on what NRAC does next, if anything! We plan at this stage is to maintain our opposition to Common-wealth recognition of NRAC under NFPS and to campaign strongly against Fahey, the National Party, the timber industry and their NRAC in the state election campaign.

LABOR and REGIONAL ASSESSMENT?

NOW! what exactly is the Labor Party's position on NRAC and what's their policy on completing a comprehensive regional assessment in NE NSW?

No points will be awarded for relying on their experience in SE NSW. There can be NO REPEATS of the ALP approved assessments done there to appease industry and rort conservation objectives.

Stay tuned for further developments...
JC 14/7/94



ENROL AND VOTE

The first of many exhortations to appear in the next 9 months leading up to the State election. The coming State election will decide whether NSW old growth forests survive the next century. The coalition has already promised they will introduce resource security for Boral. The major political parties are all trying to distract attention away from the forests, it's up to us to keep the issue alive. Every year the electoral cancels thousands of enrolments of people who have changed address. Don't assume you are still enrolled.

REMEMBER: In 1991 Premier Greiner formally announced the election date at 11:00am, voters had only until 5pm the same day to ensure their enrolment. The rolls were then closed despite the election being some four weeks distant. Don't wait until it's too late, ENROL NOW!

REMEMBER: The N.S.W term of government is now 4 years. If the Fahey Coalition secures a clear mandate we'll be stuck with resource secured carnage until 1999!

REMEMBER: Ian Cohen was beaten last election by the Reverend Fred Nile for the final upper-house seat - THE BALANCE OF POWER- by one of the narrowest margins ever.

REMEMBER: Last Federal elections Harry Woods beat the National party candidate by only 176 votes. The greens had enrolled 200 voters prior to the election. On the Far North Coast the fight is very close and every single vote counts.

This is serious. With a coalition majority in both houses you can kiss our remaining old growth goodbye.

You have to act now. Make sure you are on the election roll and far more importantly, VOTE! Talk it up, spread the word, the fate of the old growth forests is at our hand. Enrol and vote !

Tim Somerville, Toonumbah

ACT NOW !!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

There is no excuse for doing nothing.
Stop the corporate plundering of OUR resources

BOYCOTT BORAL!

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION Update

WFA's challenge to NPWS decision to license Forestry to take and kill endangered species for the next ten years will be heard from August 1 in the land and environment court in Sydney. The case is expected to take three weeks and is the first challenge of it's type.

State Forests has become a respondent to the case and we hear they have retained Allen & Hensel's who have two ex-Land and Environment Court judges, ex-Chief Justice Gerry Cripps QC to advise and ex-Judge Noel Hemmings QC to appear. It's good to see their taking us seriously.

Meanwhile we have many of the top fauna experts in NSW lined up to give evidence.

Last month we conducted a week long survey of the area's old growth forests and found eight species of endangered fauna; Powerful and Sooty Owls, Koalas, Tiger Quolls, Parma Wallabies, Glossy-Black Cockatoos, Red Legged Pademelon and a Yellow Bellied Glider, all on schedule 12 of the Endangered Species List. These animals are on the verge of extinction. The mountains, and the old growth in particular are their last refuge, there's nowhere for them to go if this habitat is destroyed.

We camped at Maxwell's Flat in Doyle's River SF, dozens of people came to help from near and far, the "Mother's Club" distinguished itself by the piquant and plentiful catering.

The field workers tirelessly surveyed, with 200 Elliot traps, 150 hair tubes, spotlighting and "Owling"- call playback from taped night bird calls.

The highlight of the week was the visit to the camp by a Sooty Owl witnessed by over 20 people. The Sooty and it's mate gave a duet lasting several minutes. It coincided with a visit to the camp by the local access TV crew who were able to get some of the performance on film. This film and some audio is available for other media. This can be obtained from Bulgong Access TV (065) 504442.

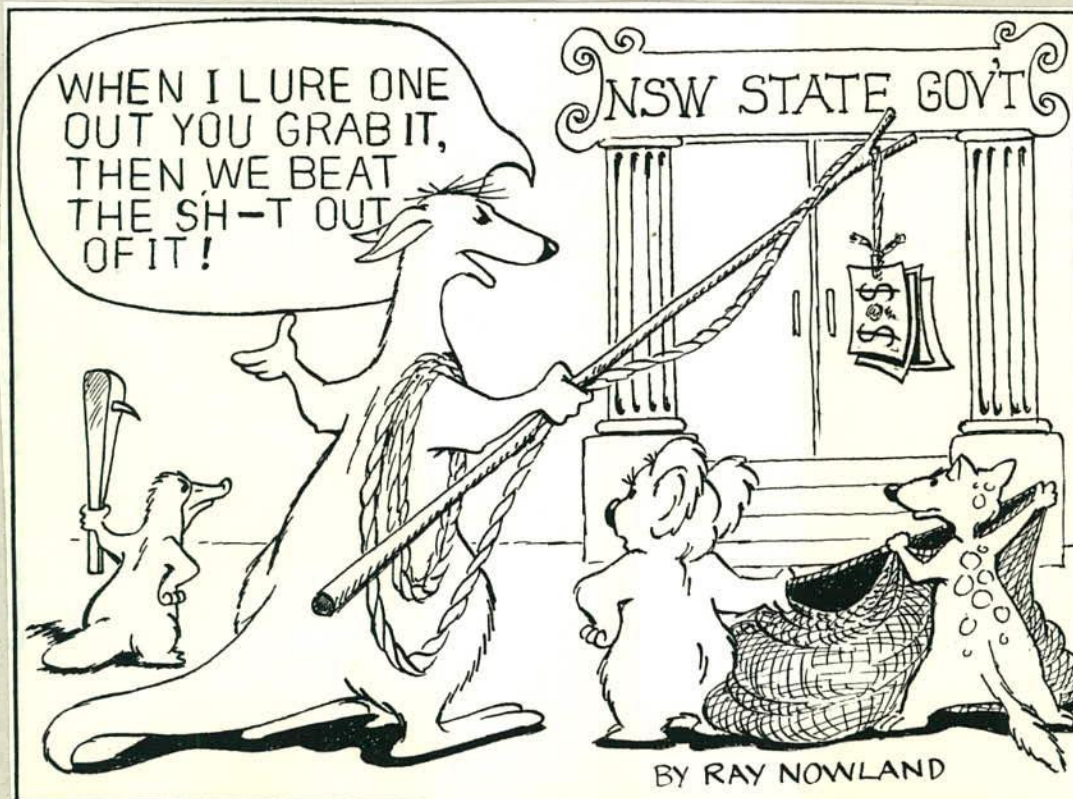
\$50 GREEN GOLD RAFFLE EXTENDED

At the time of going to press we have sold half of our 250 Green Gold raffle tickets. Legal costs are expected to reach \$30,000. We desperately need your help.

Because there are any of you or your friends out there who would still like to buy a Raffle ticket to help fund the land and environment court action we have decided to postpone the draw from the 23rd of June until the 1st of August to give you a chance to be in it.

First prize is 2 ounces of gold (value \$1100), Second prize is one ounce of gold (value \$550) and the third prize is 1/2 an ounce of gold (value \$275).

There are a further 47 prizes for runners up including \$100 gift vouchers, videos and mystery prizes. Yes, that's right, one in five wins a prize.



BY RAY NOWLAND



THEY HAVE SURVIVED...WILL YOU?

The last intact subtropical forests have successfully defended themselves through two centuries of western decimation. The ranges, which descend to the coast between Kempsey and Grafton, are the furthest from Sydney and Brisbane. They are the least economically viable coastal forests to log. Yet these forests are readily accessible by road and many are regularly visited by tourists. This is the subtropical belt as it remains today - the rainforest foot hills of the Great Escarpment.

Many mountains in this area are still capable of drawing themselves to what ever is required to defend them. (If you think this is a mad statement then read no further) These sites are consciously drawing human and elemental defenders (fire, rain etc) to them - not just to 'save' them but to interact with them PASSIONATELY. These sites have been working with (and in some cases most definitely WITHOUT) human beings for tens of thousands of years.

While this area is one of abrupt and extraordinary transformations and apparent turmoil, it is a blink of an eye from the perspective's of the mountain; a transient blip of chaos in the eternal Dreaming. The mountain forests have, and will always be places of retreat, of initiation, of dying and spiritual rebirth. If we are aware of there nature our interaction will bring the positive aspects of these important transitions back to our lives and our lives back in tune with them. If, on the other hand, we enter these forests with any feelings other than respect - fear, pity, condescension, military planning, etc- we ARE the enemy of these places.

In these forests your own motives become apparent to you and those around you. They are places that thrive on INTENSITY and PASSION. The elemental force in these regions will magnify any emotions you have, bringing them to the fore. This is not merely to allow you to witness your own buried treasure of shit. It is because these places literally feed of intensity in the Dreaming. Intense love or lust is the same as intense pleasure or pain. Raw energy. They will draw out what

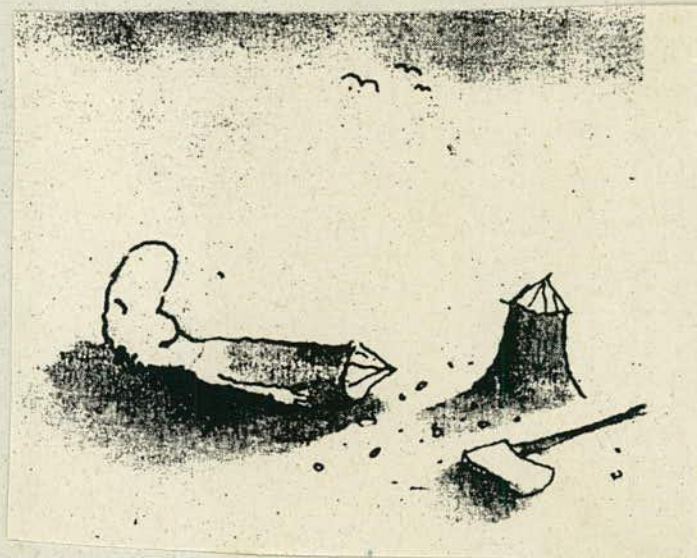
ever they need, what ever you bring them. They are not vampiric, they see humans as components of their structure- an organ in the body of a Goddess.

Many of these sites have been programmed to Wise People to do specific things to any one who encounters them. A filter has been set in place around these areas to draw in the types of people the place requires, and to keep out or drive off those it does not. These may be children, men, women, loggers, pagans or other subsets of beings. If you intend to meditate or work magickally while in these areas first ensure that you belong to one of the groups this area is programmed to relate to. In the North East forests there is no excuse for ignorance. The Bunjalung and Gumbayngirr people still live here. The place IS their Dreaming and the Dreaming of their ancestors. They are very approachable, if you come with respect. But if you are male - ask a man, if you are female - ask a woman. If you don't like it, if you think it's archaic or sexist - try Europe.

Don't kid yourself thinking your coming here to save these places. They'll more likely either save or destroy you, or both. And these are training grounds. The highland forests are far less forgiving.

We are not here to save the forests. We're really here to learn about our heritage, and once you've begun there is no turning back. Bon Voyage and good luck. You'll never be the same again.

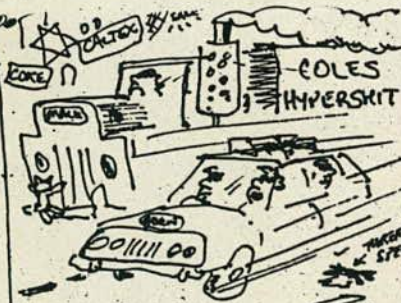
- Purple Punpernickel



The Adventures of JD

Part II } Ten goes in search of "Meaning"

After a week of slaving at Burt's Burke Street Burger Bar our hero decides to go off in search of meaning



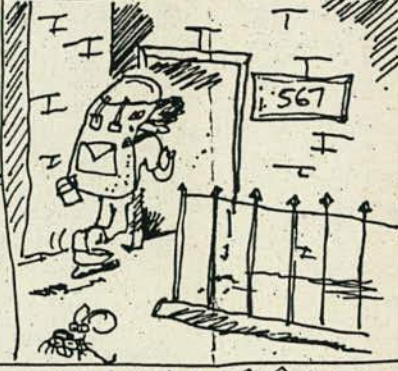
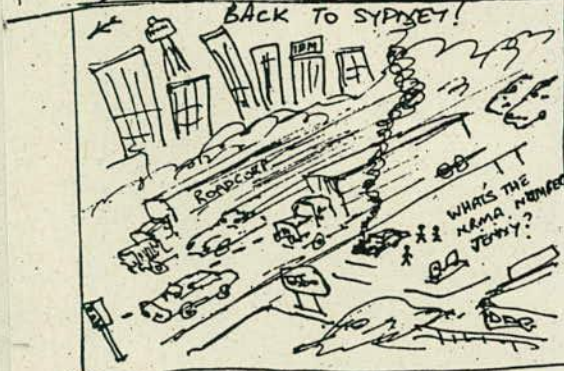
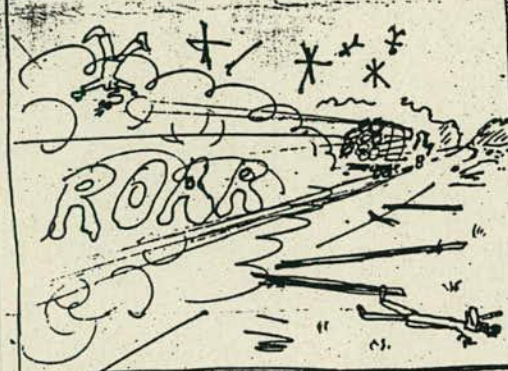
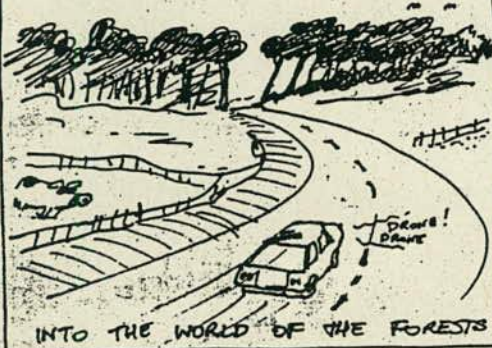
Off to the forests! (via 3 hrs of Sydney's beautiful suburbs.)



Right! Here's the plan!
12 tripods, 48 kippor locks,
142 concrete pipes,
and a double pointer
concrete lateral
manipulator.



ONLY ANOTHER 2,472 LITRES OF FOSIL FUEL AND WE'LL BE THERE



National Forest Campaign Update

Australian Conservation Foundation, Friends of the Earth, The Wilderness Society, Environment Victoria, Nature Conservation Council, Western Australia Conservation Council, Conservation Council of Canberra and the South East Region, Queensland Conservation Council, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Western Australian Forest Alliance, Australian National Parks Council, North East Forest Alliance, North Coast Environment Council Inc., South East Forest Alliance, Rainforest Information Centre, The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, Native Forest Network, Great Western Tiers National Park Campaign, Geelong Environment Council, Tasmanian Greens, Australian Democrats and the Office of Senator Christabel Chamarette

50 forest campaigners from 20 active forest campaign organisations met in Canberra on the weekend of 16-17 July, and agreed to a co-ordinated national forest campaign to end export wood-chipping and protect high conservation value forests. To make this historic national campaign work you are asked to join in.

KEY OUTCOMES include:

- * issuing a joint statement **declaring the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) 'dead in the water'** see media release July 18 1994;
- * produce a leaflet **explaining in detail the failures of the NFPS** including examples of why governments have failed to honour their commitments to avoid activities which significantly affect 'old growth' forest and wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value;
- * **build alliances/networks** inside & outside the environment movement;
- * pressure ALP to ensure that Faulkner honours his promise to **assess forest in Tasmania for World Heritage values**;
- * pressure Faulkner to **use his powers under the Federal Endangered Species Protection Act 1993 to protect nationally endangered species, including overruling the States**;
- * develop proposals for Commonwealth **environmental law reform**;
- * explore **international opportunities** to highlight Australia's lack of ecologically sustainable forest management;
- * develop a detailed proposal, as a budget submission, for funding strategies for **transition to plantation forestry**;
- * explore options for ongoing national and international forest campaign co-operation through the **Native Forest Network**;

WOODCHIP CAMPAIGN OUTLINE

The major part of the weekend strategy focussed on co-operation in a co-ordinated national campaign to **end export woodchipping from native forest a.s.a.p!** It was agreed to:-

- * co-operate in compiling a **national list of HCV forest at risk** from export wood-chipping, after seeking \$\$\$ for each state. To be followed by a national list and maps of all HCV forests known to forest groups;
 - * demand that **no more export woodchip licences** from native forests are granted and that **ALL export woodchip licences** have re a Commonwealth environmental impact assessment;
 - * publish a **leaflet & poster** which identifies export woodchip, pulp & paper corporations for a **consumer campaign** & sets out strategies for **transition to plantation based forestry**;
 - * mobilise for a **National Day of Action** against export woodchipping on Thursday September 1; using a wide range of tactics. This will also be the launch of a **national letter writing campaign** against export woodchipping;
 - * co-ordinate a **political strategy** to ensure Cabinet outcomes on export woodchipping are what we want, including:
 - * lobbying now! locally and in Canberra, of key ALP Caucus, Committee & Cabinet MPs by forest lobbyists;
 - * with major Canberra lobby session in week of August 23,
 - * a major presence at ALP National Conference in Hobart on Sept. 26-30, &
 - * a Canberra lobby in National Forest Embassy week mid Nov.;
 - * meet for a **further campaign strategy session in Shepparton** in late October after the Native Forest Network 'Towards a national forest action plan' Conference in Melbourne 24-25 Oct;
 - * stage a **major week of action in Canberra** in mid-November, while Parliament sits, on dates to be advised by an already agreed Canberra national action planning group;
- STOP PRESS:** 41 new export woodchip licences issued without any EIS's! incl. SE Qld-NE NSW for an as yet unknown company @ 140,000 tonnes p.a. Grrrr! More detailed info will be available at the next meeting!

WHAT CAN I DO?



COMING ATTRACTIONS

* SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST:

SUGGESTED DATE FOR NEFA MEETING AT KALANG HALL. We are hoping that, since people have had the opportunity to get up to date by READING THE NEFA LEAF, the meeting will have more of a chance to flow smoothly and quickly.

* **AUGUST 12 AND 13:** Linky Gordon, Bunjulong Elder has generously agreed to spend these two days with us, camping and walking in the bush out at Baryulgil.

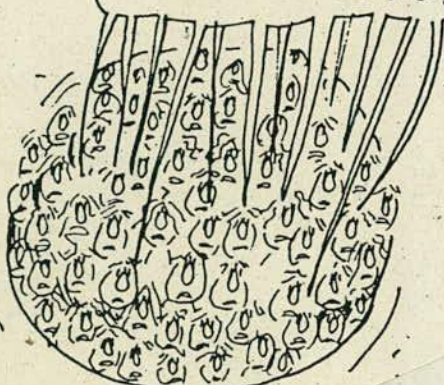
He has promised to share a favourite camping spot by the river, where we will stay Friday night. The Bunjulong dancers have also said that they will be there. Then on Saturday Linky will show us some Koori walking trails and teach us about the bush food and medicine along the way.

If you would like to come along contact Karen at Clarence Environment Centre. Ph: (066) 431863.

* **SEPTEMBER 1ST: NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST EXPORT WOODCHIPPING** see "Woodchip Campaign Outline". What action can you take?

* **MID-NOVEMBER:** Week of action in Canberra, **FOREST EMBASSY**, while Parliament sits. Dates to be advised.

WHAT CAN I DO?



GET ACTIVE!

- submit!!

articles, stories, drawings, cartoons, poetry, photos crumpled bits of newspaper? anything you think might be relevant to the LEAF

DEADLINE FRIDAY 11TH

NOVEMBER

- **WRITE LETTERS TO PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MESS** EG politicians, the media and greedy corporations. **Let them know that your pissed off and will not tolerate blatant disrespect for the ecosystem!**

- Forest surveys Camps

There is always a need for people in the forest green policing, surveying, and in the last resort blockading. Check out what evil deeds State Forests are up to in your area or get in contact with Wild Cattle Creek info. camp (Ph. 066 550027) or Little Wonder forest camp (Ph. 065 644108)

- Fundraising

nefa funds are always in need of a boost, there is still outstanding legal bills as well as the usual day to day activities involved in saving the world. New and imaginative schemes for making money are always welcome. There is always T shirts to sell, gigs to organize, and donations to be extracted.





HABITAT TREES

TEC SAYS NO
TO OLD GROWTH LOGGING

"Hollow bearing trees, and with them hollow dependent species, have already been decimated within vast tracts of forest. The problems such fauna are facing is expected to exponentially worsen as the few remaining tall old growth forests continue to be felled and currently retained habitat trees (in both forests and pastoral lands) die out without replacement trees being available. The full ramifications of irreversible changes already set in place will take a century or more to fully manifest." (Dallan Pugh, 1993)

Up here at Toonunbar we've been keeping a close eye on State Forests activities in several compartments and despite very spiffy and colourful harvest plans that are just about up to standard, our on ground inspections have shown many flaws in both harvest plan prescriptions and their implementation, particularly in regard to fauna.

Being an area rich in wild life, one of our main concerns is the protection of habitat. Besides prescriptions for the retention of filter and protection strips along water ways and promises to minimise disturbance of under story vegetation, the only prescriptions for protecting habitat are for the retention of some hollow bearing habitat trees.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service require that habitat tree retention be between four and six habitat trees per hectare, depending on forest type. This is regardless of the differing flora and fauna characteristics of each compartment. So, for example, an area rich on arboreal fauna such as Yellow Bellied Gliders and Pascogales will have the same number of hollow bearing habitat trees retained as an area predominantly populated by ground dwelling species such as Wallabies. There is no way that adequate habitat tree retention can be guaranteed until the type and extent of fauna dependant on that habitat is known. Site specific surveys are needed before suitable habitat prescriptions can be applied.

What makes a habitat tree? The only NPWS requirement is that it be hollow bearing. There is no specification of the size of the tree or the size of the hollow. We have discovered many trees marked for retention as habitat trees that have been non hollow bearing or had small hollows unsuitable many of the endangered

fauna species known to occur in the area that are hollow dependant.

Arboreal marsupial the size of Yellowed Bellied Gliders and larger require hollows greater than 100cm sq entrance size. (Mackowski 1987 p119) One habitat tree we documented had a entrance of only 50 cm sq. It is clear that there must be more consideration given to the desired aims of habitat tree retention.

The NPWS require that "Sufficient recruitment of habitat trees to sustain the retained density of habitat trees into perpetuity". Only within a few weeks have I seen the adoption of marking recruitment habitat trees with an 'R'. It seems to be purely a token effort as there are less trees marked 'R' than 'H' (habitat) and the marked trees are either stunted damaged or a less desirable timber species.

Nether NPWS or State Forests have any formula or procedure to determine how many recruitment habitat trees are required to sustain numbers of habitat trees in perpetuity, which makes compliance with the prescription impossible.

So now, assuming that adequate numbers of habitat and recruitment trees have been calculated, how is it this implemented? I spoke to a Forestry foreman (responsible for tree marking who couldn't tell me of any method he used to accurately assess which trees and how many of them to retain. An accurate and practical method of calculating the required numbers of habitat and recruitment trees to be retained needs to be implemented.

The TEC has made a report of the breaches we have found and are still waiting for a response from the NPWS and State Forests. In the mean time we have taken to doing some tree marking ourselves, as well as continuing to inspect logging operations for breaches.

Georgia Beyer
Toonunbar Environment Centre

Toonumbah Report

Following our successful action at Cpt 211 Richmond Range State Forest last year there have been some significant changes in the standard of harvest plans in the Urbanville Management Area.

At Cpt 211 we successfully amended the existing harvest plan to incorporate the 1993 Standard Erosion Mitigation Guidelines and current NPWS fauna licence conditions, as well as achieving a fauna habitat corridor.





When we recieved the 1994 Order of Works for the Urbanville area, we were concerned to check that the new harvest plans were up to standard.

Fortunately the local office appears to have learnt something and the plans were at least in accordance with current standards of other agencies.

It is all very well to have erosion mitigation conditions, habitat tree requirements and so on but usually they mean no more than someone in a yellow hardhat ticking a box to say they've been followed. Consequently Toonumbah Environment centre has now taken on the "Green Policing" role of

checking up on existing operations, checking compliance with harvest plans, reporting breaches, and making recommendations for improvements.

At this stage we have individual members working on each of the separate areas of the order of works.

In Cpts 249, 250 EdenCk area, we have revealed breaches of habitat tree requirements and breaches relating to the felling of trees into reservedrainforestareas.

In Cpts 261, 262, O'Donnel Ck area we have reported incidences of unsuitable selection of habitat trees and inadequate numbers of both habitat and recruitment trees.

At this stage, State Forests is failing to mark all the trees supposedly reserved for habitat and recruitment, consequently there is no distinguishing between reserved trees and those intended for future logging.

TEC has formally complained as to the lack of habitat trees and has requested the marking of all trees reserved.

At Cpt115,116 of Beaur State Forest near Urbanville, TEC is recommending reservation of remaining stands of Dunns White Gum and remnant Hoop Pine and Booyong stands together with a buffer strip around all rainforest stands.

Whilst "Green Policing" may not stop logging it may help to minimise the impact. In the medium term logging contractors in this area will learn to be very careful in all operations with the knowledge that there is always likely to be a Tec operative with a tape measure and a camera following them around.

State Forests are still vacillating over their intentions for Dome Mountain. At this stage their appears to be a very clear political directive to delay any decision until after the state election, so enrol to vote, enrol your friends.

Cheers,
Toonumbah E.C.

Do you have skills or resources which would make Nefa more effective?

eg computing, legal work, research, forest ecology, media, theatre, rigging, tree climbing, bush skills, art, fundraising, printing, conflict resolution, film, cooking for large numbers, mechanics, underwater basket weaving. Let us know and we will put you on our "skills register"...Then beware...we have you on our files!



Thanks to **Big Scrub Environment Centre** for putting up with the nefa invasion of their office space and coffee machine. Big Scrub would appreciate contributions of time and energy to help with the maintenance of the resources that have been so kindly made available to us.



LEVEE CONCERNS - Alternatives

□ For possible alternatives to be worth looking at, they don't have to stop Lismore from flooding (the levees won't do that!). They just have to be a plausible part of a broad strategy for Lismore's flood situation.

Bearing in mind that it's Council's job to assess the alternatives, some possibilities that have not been adequately assessed include:

□ A mixture of catchment wide measures to help

i) slow the floodwaters before they reach the Lismore basin

including 'conservation farming' techniques such as swales, contour banks, dam(s), retarding basins, massed tree-plantings, etc. Retarding measures that slowed the progress of waters to the Lismore basin by only 24hrs would have a significant effect in reducing flooding.

ii) allow floodwaters to leave the Lismore basin more quickly

the bottleneck effect in Lismore is increased by waters from Richmond River joining Wilsons River. Measures to address this could involve reducing the flow from the Richmond River into the Wilsons River, using any of above measures, or even larger dam(s) on the Richmond.

□ **Keep small floods out of the CBD** without causing unacceptable rises in residential areas, such as the 'flowerbox' proposal involving low level levees in the central CBD area.

□ Assist businesses in flood affected areas to cope better with their situation

- the EIS says 90% of losses during floods are commercial losses, but some premises in town are very flood prepared and rarely lose stock while others are severely affected. Financial losses might be greatly reduced by assistance including:

- Consultants to help flood affected businesses make comprehensive flood plans
- Requirements for businesses in flood to have Flood Plans and be familiar with them (similar to requirements for fire safety)
- Businesses with ground floor premises in flood encouraged to use fittings that are flood compatible

□ Flooding in Lismore is an effect caused by a range of factors across the whole river catchment, and a range of measures across this area may well be needed to address the problem. Levees in Lismore are a partial and short-sighted solution to the problem, only looking at a small part of the whole situation.

Have your say.

Write to Richmond River County Council and Lismore City Council today.

They will listen if enough of us say what we think.

DAILAN

IF

you ARE HOME

Phone Ned at Big Scrub.

Your phone doesn't seem to
be working.

Ned.

(2) Significant Archaeological Values:-----

(3) Significant Historical Values:-----

(4) Significant Catchment Values:-----

(5) Significant Recreational Values:-----

(6) Significant Community Values:-----

(7) Significant Scientific Values:-----

7. RESERVATION VALUES

(1) Identified World Heritage:-----

(2) Identified Wilderness:-----

(3) Listed/Nominated for National Estate:-----

(4) Wild and Scenic River:-----

(5) Inadequately Reserved Environmental Domain:-----

(6) Inadequately Reserved Plant Communities:-----

(7) Proposed, Referenced, etc. Reserve:-----

9. COMMENTS:-----

WILL BE NO MORE FREEBIES (if you think you merit an exception then give us a call our
toecutters can be very accommodating)

It's only \$20 for groups / \$15 for employed / \$12 concession. THERE



N.E.F.A. LEAF

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE newsletter

ISSUE III : NOVEMBER '94



NEXT NEFA MEETING- DECEMBER 10 & 11

Wingham Forest Action invites you to the next NEFA meeting to be held just out of Elands. For directions ring (065) 504443 or (065) 504572. Bring camping gear and your own bowl, cup etc.

NEFA'S WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

The 1992 World Heritage nomination proposed by the NSW, Queensland and Australian governments was so stingy that it was rejected as inadequate by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), the international body monitoring World Heritage areas. The IUCN independently suggested six additional areas in NSW alone.

In 1993, NEFA decided to help the Australian government along a bit and we submitted our own proposal regarding the north-east forests for listing on the World Heritage Register and the National Estate Register. After all, we could certainly do with some international help when, in 1994, State Forests are still licenced to kill forests and animals that are globally endangered.

NEFA's nomination, "The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia", is to be taken seriously. It is not an ambit claim, but represents rational, justifiable boundaries enclosing forest areas of international heritage value. The proposal has demonstrable scientific and ecological merits and is based on extensive readings of relevant scientific literature, ecological theory, discussions with eminent scientists and many field investigations.

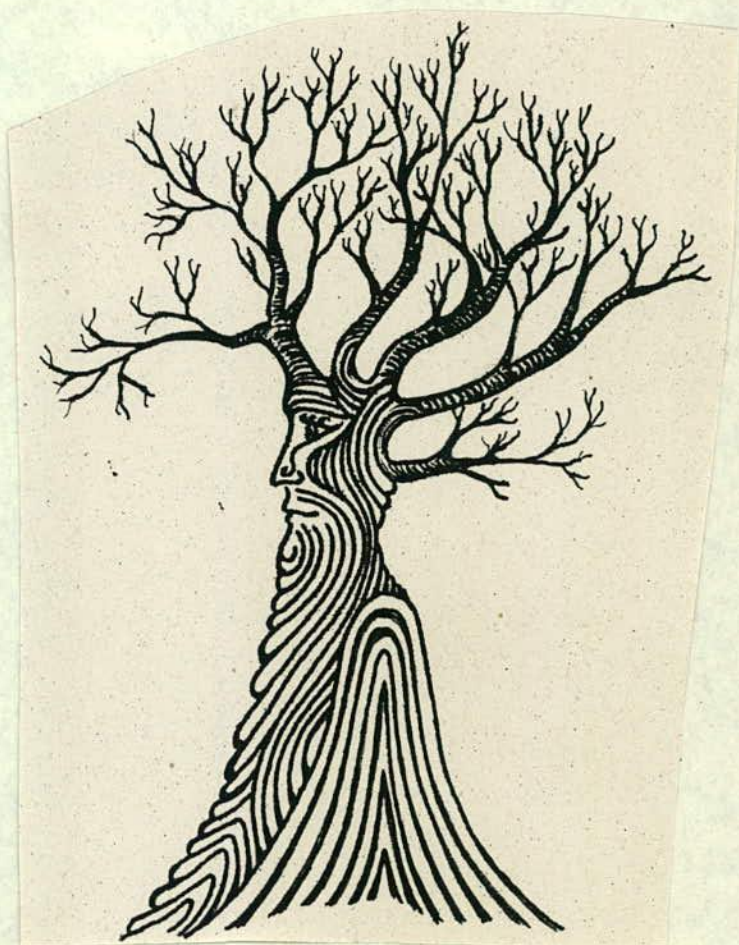
Each area is justified on the World Heritage Register by adhering to at least one of its set criteria, ie-

- 1) be outstanding examples representing the major stages of the Earth's evolutionary history
 - 2) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment
 - 3) contain unique, rare or superlative natural phenomena, formations or features of exceptional natural beauty
 - 4) be habitats where populations of rare or endangered species of plants and animals still survive
- Many of the areas included in NEFA's proposed nomination qualify on all four criteria.

The Commonwealth Government are taking our proposal seriously as are senior bureaucrats who have supported our nomination. But, of course, this is not so with Fahey's State Government. Hopefully, the Commonwealth government will be forced to intervene over World Heritage and with the State elections coming up the Libs/Nats will be shown up as the outrageous rednecks that they are.

On a local level we need to push our nomination and give it as high a public profile as possible. Copies of a 2 metre display have been made up and will be exhibited in environment and community centres from Sydney to the Queensland border. Submission forms will be provided for people to show their support for the nomination or to make additions or adjustments. Getting the Nationals outraged and steaming would draw attention to the real requirements for nature conservation and show them up as extreme-right radicals, especially if there were Commonwealth intervention.

The State and Federal governments promised to complete a comprehensive reserve system on public land before the end of 1995 so there should be some action on this within the next year. Tragically, the nomination includes sections of Old Growth from Wingham State Forest that are currently being logged.



Federal Government employs Greenies

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Senator John Faulkner, the Federal Minister for the Environment, has recently decided to fund a research project to ascertain areas of high conservation value forest due to be logged for woodchip before Dec '95. Assessments are being made of Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria and the north and south-east of NSW. Though the reports are confined to assessing areas under immediate threat and are not at all considered overall assessments, this is nevertheless a very positive move.

Another positive aspect is that the funding for the project is being directed through the NCC (Nature Conservation Council) - a non-government organisation! Yes, that's right. The money is not going to a bunch of overpaid bureaucrats, it's going to a bunch of greenies!

Even more miraculous is the fact that through the NCC, NEFA activists are being paid to assess high conservation value forests! Green extremists who have been doing similar work for years for free are suddenly earning an income from the government for their expertise!

Well guess what? Surprise, surprise, this is freaking out David Beddall (the Minister for Resources) who signs the export woodchip licences. This is a serious threat to his credibility as suddenly the Environment Minister will have a huge amount of data on all the lush forest that is being woodchipped. "All the better to fry you with my dear...!"

Faulkner and Beddall have already had a few clashes because David Beddall signed export woodchip licences without even consulting Faulkner (the Environment Minister). Since Faulkner has funded this project Beddall has been quite upset on the radio about the green assessment of

the South East forests. He claims that State Governments are being "spied" on. Sounds like he's panicking to NEFA!

The data being gathered will go to Faulkner so that he will have a large information base from which to formally advise Beddall of the correct action to take in regards to the 1994/95 export woodchip licences. The results of the assessment should be highly embarrassing for Premier Fahey and Minister George Souris. With the National/Liberal party in control of NSW, old growth and high conservation forests have been going fast and more destruction is planned.

Our most precious forests are being deliberately targetted before the next State election in March '95, so they're out to cash in as quickly as they can. If there is a change of government (please God please) perhaps some of these forests will be saved.

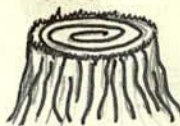
With information gathered from these High Conservation Value Forest Assessments and with Faulkner's follow-up, it is likely that the issue could extend further than just woodchipping and (dare I say it) may stop logging in these areas completely. Well, hope and pray and cross your fingers. Alternatively, you can write to John Faulkner, Minister for the Environment, c/o Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600 and Prime Minister Keating (same address) and tell them to give Beddall hell.

EXTRA DOLE

The Federal government has a new program to encourage volunteer work in community groups. Now, if you do 15-20 hours per week as a volunteer for a registered organisation you will be given an extra \$30/week on top of your dole and the centre where you work will be given \$10. The program is called CAP - Community Assistance Program. See your local environment centre or other charitable organisation if you're interested....but preferably your environment centre, hey.

Right on Paul!!

Wingham's huge areas of Old Growth - on the chopping block



The State Forests covered by the Wingham area contain about the third largest area of Old-growth in north-east NSW, and that's only 10,000 hectares. The EIS for Wingham was "determined" by Webster, the Planning Minister, in March 1993. Not surprisingly he gave the green light for logging. Then the National Parks and Wildlife Service gave the Forestry Commission a Licence to Take and Kill the 33 Endangered Species known or expected to occur in the Wingham area.

Wingham Forest Action challenged the Licence decision and spent August in the Land and Environment Court. The decision handed down in September basically rubber-stamped the original Licence decision with a few crumbs to us for our efforts.

The wins were that Habitat and Recruitment Habitat trees have to be permanently marked and monitored; no new grazing leases are to be issued or extended; and that IF species of endangered frogs or bats are found then the Director-General of National Parks should take steps to see they are protected.

The problem with this is that the Licence DOES NOT require the Forestry Commission to do proper surveys before it logs so the chances of finding most endangered species is almost nil. The Licence lasts for 10 YEARS. The judge ignored the evidence of our expert witnesses and the bulk of scientific literature which we put before him.

Due to financial problems we ended up running the case ourselves, and it was still incredibly expensive, leaving us with large debts. Lack of funds makes an appeal impossible even though we have some basis for appeal.

It is unbelievable that Old-growth forest is still being logged. We suspect it may be a cosy little deal worked out with BORAL and the Nationals and Forestry. For us it will be back to political pressure and direct action.

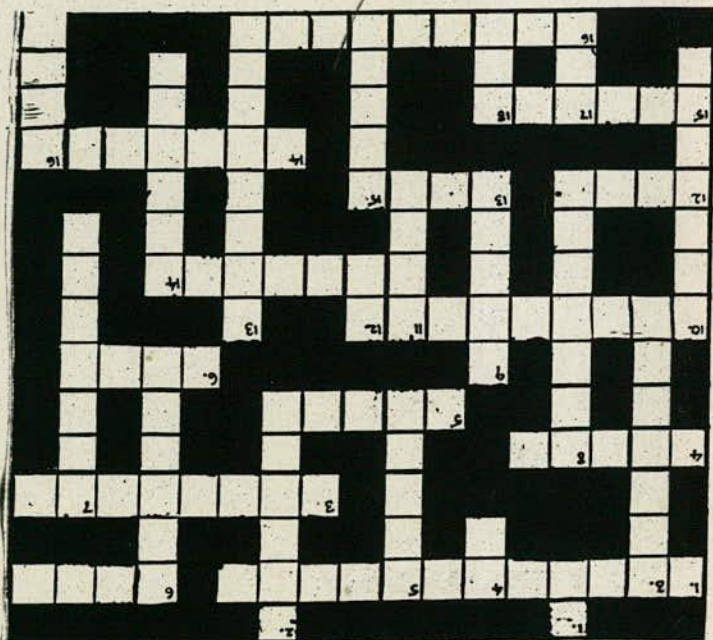
Wingham Forest Action

P.S. Donations to the legal debt gratefully received



NEW RULES FOR FINE DEFAULTERS

Recent changes in the system mean that fines can always be paid off by doing community service. What's more, there has been a community service pay increase from \$12 to \$15 per hour. If you default on your fines they are obliged to give you 7 days to convert your warrant into a community service order.



AUDIT COUNCIL LOSES SUPPORT

The Natural Resources Audit Council's reputation continues to sink. Despite its enormous budget, NRAC (pronounced en-rack) can't seem to win the support of anyone other than the rednecks keen to see the environmental assessment process rorted. Other regional resource assessments done by the Tasmanian, Victorian and Western Australian Governments have been rejected by various conservation groups across Australia for being dodgy and/or non-comprehensive (ie. not including water, habitat etc.)

Due to public pressure the Federal govt have so far refused to accredit NRAC or formally endorse it. Consequently, the NSW Labor Oppostion and Federal Governments have shown little confidence in the NSW project. Pam Allan, the Shadow Environment Minister, has promised that there will be no NRAC under a new Labor government. Fahey won't call NRAC a comprehensive regional assessment (and just as well); he just calls it information gathering.

The Federal Government has decided to do its own assessment of the north coast's natural resources (to meet its various obligations, such as World Heritage protection) as soon as it decides how it would best be done. A Federal assessment could turn out to be a 2-year, multi-million dollar project and expose once and for all the enormity of the north coast's environmental treasures.

The North Coast Environment Council (NCEC) have joined NEFA in officially declaring that NRAC is unacceptable in its current form. NCEC rejects NRAC because of its "swiss cheese" approach to resource assessment: not including private land, not involving Kooris or the community, not disclosing how the audit will be used, lack of accountability etc, etc etc.

NCEC have refused to give NRAC any further information or attend meetings until NRAC get it right. As NCEC are a major player, this makes NRAC an even bigger sham.

Financially, NRAC has also proved majorly inefficient. Compare these :

NRAC's assessment so far -	
20,000 hectares for	\$1,000,000

Victoria's resource assessment -	
1,000,000 hectares for	\$300,000

NRAC's latest move has been to put out discussion papers on the "community consultation process". Only local knowledge and expertise could possibly provide any real database of local natural resources. Yet when the "community" finally are consulted after all the main decisions have already been made, the old growth forest group, technical advisory group, community consultation panel etc, get to report back to the steering committee who can either accept or reject their information. Then the community input gets filtered through the National Parks and Wildlife Service who can either accept or reject it and what's left gets filtered on to the Cabinet Office and finally the NSW Cabinet, who can also choose to accept or reject any part of it. You can well imagine the type of information that gets lost along the way. Their "consultation" process is obviously a farce.



AN INTRODUCTION TO COMPARTMENT 366 MISTAKE STATE FOREST

Compartment 366 is due to be logged soon. Mistake State Forest falls within the proposed Dunggir Conservation Area prepared by Earthspan for Nambucca Valley Conservation Association (NVCA). It will also be the subject of an application for an emergency order (under section 136 of the Heritage Act of NSW, 1977) by the NVCA, on the scientific, natural and cultural values identified by NVCA inspections. If granted this will prevent logging for a period of 40 days, which will keep State Forests out until next season, and the Heritage council will consider the issue of an Interim Conservation Order (ICO) for compartment 366, which will last for 12 months. The National Party Minister, Robert Webster, vetoed this tactic for Chaelundi so there is only a slim chance he'll agree.

WHAT DOES COMPARTMENT 366 REPRESENT ?

Compartment 366 is the habitat of rare and endangered fauna (as listed on Schedule 12 of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act), contains flora with a Rare or Threatened Australian Plant (ROTAP) and rare and inadequately conserved forest types and rainforest sub alliances.

Compartment 366 presently acts as a wildlife corridor between the eastern portion of Mistake State Forest and the north west portion of the Mistake, the Oakes State Forest and hence the New England National Park. It is crucial that this wildlife corridor be kept intact; to minimise exposure of endangered fauna to feral animals, and to allow for the dispersion of endangered fauna within the Mistake State Forest. If compartment 366 is allowed to be logged the proposed main logging track will provide easy access to feral predators, not only to compartment 366 but also to the isolated eastern portion of Mistake State Forest.

WOULDN'T BE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES FOR QUIDS!!

Concern for the continued survival of threatened species in compartment 366 stems from lack of decisive action by NPWS. Following the EIS for Mistake State Forest being found to be "inadequate in its description of the fauna", a Fauna Impact Statement (FIS) for Mistake SF was required. This was released in August 1992 and even though clearly and grossly inadequate, has still yet to be determined by NPWS over two years later, while logging is allowed to proceed.

Of major concern is the effect of any logging operation on the Koalas of compartment 366. A breeding population has been discovered, which Steve Phillips of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) believes to be in recovery from logging operation of 40 to 50 years ago. The Threatened Species Unit of NPWS visited the area and due to pressure from State Forests, issued a series of limpid prescriptions (including approval for roads and snig tracks through the area of the breeding population) which will do little to protect the Koalas of compartment 366 and will most likely contribute to the escalating decline of the Koala in NSW. This highlights the inability of NPWS to protect endangered fauna in the current political climate of NSW.

Other endangered fauna species found, or likely to be found in compartment 366 are Sphagnum Frog, Sooty Owl, Tiger Quoll, Parma Wallaby, Long Nosed Potoroo, Red Legged Pademelon, Yellow Bellied Glider, Common Bent Winged Bat, Golden Tipped Bat and the Wompoo Fruit Dove.

ENDANGERED OR SIGNIFICANT FLORA.

In addition to the endangered fauna, compartment 366 contains

a spectacular bio diversity of flora. Over 80 rainforest tree species have been noted to date with at least another 20 or 30 as yet unidentified. Extremely diverse rainforest communities often intimately associated with Brushbox are found and the integrity of these unique associations will be permanently lost if logging operations are allowed to proceed. Mixed forests which defy typing or classification have been found by NVCA field workers ; in one instance 6 rainforest communities were found walking up one ridge, the top of the ridge containing rainforest with a scattering of Brushbox, Tallowood, Blackbutt and Turpentine.

OLD GROWTH

Approximately 1/3 of compartment 366 has been identified as Old Growth by NVCA workers. Crown characteristics, height size classes together with little or no evidence of anthropogenic disturbance means the areas identified by NVCA fall into the category of Old Growth.

POST LOGGING THREATS

Feral Animals

In addition to the disturbance caused by logging operations, endangered fauna in compartment 366 will face a new threat to their survival in the form of feral animals.

It should be unnecessary to have to point out that feral animals, in particular foxes, dogs, cats, dingoes (and trail bike riders) utilise roads and snig tracks to access forested areas for hunting purposes. Female Koalas carrying young, dispersing juveniles as well as animals routinely moving from tree to tree are to be increasingly exposed and vulnerable to predator attack if roading is allowed through the areas used by the breeding populations. Of future concern is the advent of bands of feral deer which will follow, which have catastrophic effect on native vegetation.

Feral Plants

It is an erosion mitigation practice of State Forests to sow areas with Japanese Millet to hold the soil together after logging and clearing. The CSIRO have no information

on how Japanese Millet competes with native vegetation, or its behaviour in fire situations (ie is it likely to exacerbate fire hazard, after burning how it will compete with native vegetation?).

Lantana infestation and crofton weed are common throughout the Nambucca region. Logging activities provide these weeds with an ideal opportunity to spread further. The harvest plan for compartment 421 and 422 in Thumb Creek State Forest (south of Mistake) advises that, after intensive logging operations in the 1960's, there were "some extensive areas of poor revegetation due to invasion by lantana and vines.

Fire

Post logging burning poses a threat to the wet sclerophyll portions of compartment 366, as these forest types would be unlikely to regenerate satisfactorily after fire and instead be replaced by drier forest types and invaded by lantana and other exotic species. The wet sclerophyll portions are the preferred habitat of the endangered Parma Wallaby, and used by many other endangered species.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons listed above, compartment 366, Mistake State Forest is too valuable to lose. As endangered species are pushed further toward the precipice of extinction we must realise that every available gene pool is of immeasurable value. To those who say the breeding population of Koalas in 366 will recover in 40 to 50 years, as it has done before, the Koala can't afford a 40 year interruption of their breeding cycle, anywhere. As the destruction of habitat, and the depletion of numbers of healthy, mature individuals decline due to development, logging and fire, the importance of breeding populations and areas of preferred habitat, like compartment 366, magnifies exponentially. To put this all this at risk, as proposed logging operations will do, can at best be described as reckless endangerment of our natural and cultural heritage.

STAY TUNED FOR A SHOW DOWN
WITH STATE FORESTS IN
COMPARTMENT 366 !!!

POLLUTION CONTROL IN THE SUPREME COURT

A landowner whose property lies in the Nambucca district catchment, downstream from a logging operation, has argued before the Supreme Court that forestry operations have deposited so much silt & debris in the river that it has adversely affected the quality of her water. (Access to water is a property right under common law).

This case shows that although Pollution Control Licences have been issued by the NSW EPA, locals landholders can still have a say in landuse decisions.

A case is valid if it involves a change in water quality or quantity. The case has been heard and if successful, will force State Forests (FCNSW) to consider the private property rights of farmers (or anyone) with a watercourse on their property.

This test case is important with so many people potentially affected.

The outcome is due by the end of '94.

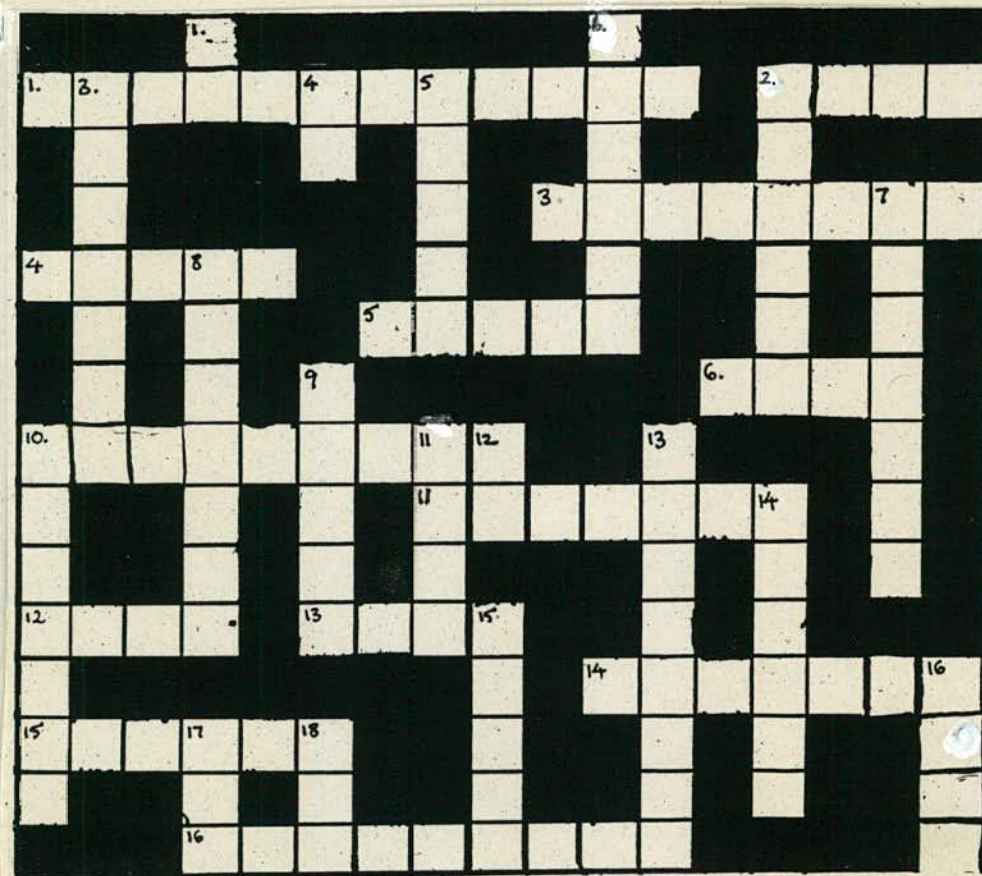
Thanks to all who worked on this case! Bev, Lyn, David, Tim & Mark



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

NEFA is often prevented from more effective action in its campaigns because of Freedom Of Information Act violations. This law is supposed to protect public access rights to public information. It is, however, often disrespected when it's in a government department's interests to keep this information secret.

NEFA objected constantly until now the Ombudsman wants to meet with NEFA representatives so that we can attempt to resolve these breaches of the Freedom of Information Act. YAY! The Ombudsman has received our log of complaints. Each complaint will be dealt with individually and be decided by the Ombudsman with a signed and settled outcome. It has taken years to get this far. Lets hope this will smooth the pathway for much easier access in the future.



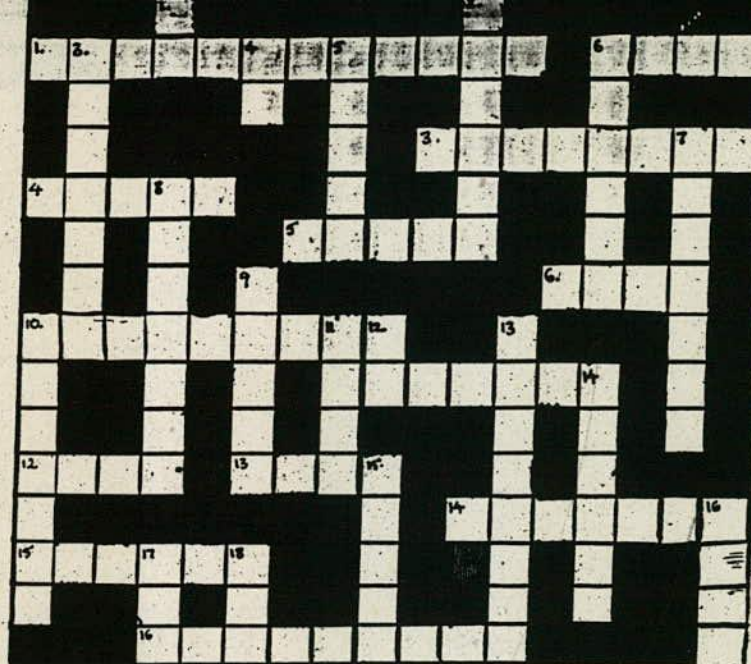
CROSS WORDS

ACROSS

- 1-Saves forest (6,6)
- 2-What the police do while chasing feral girls through the forest (4)
- 3-Otherwise known as Dr Death (8)
- 4-When a forestry foreman sees evidence of this animal they must not cut down that tree until the next day (5)
- 5- When forest is cut around a water course, clean waterflow.....(5)
- 6- What are at the ends of your legs (4)
- 10-Substantially unlogged forest (3,6)
- 11-A condition acquired standing in the hot sun admiring cleared land and land lice (3,4)
- 12-Illegal smoking implement (4)
- 13-The Forest Protection Association and the Forest Products Society take responsibility for publishing these (4)
- 14-Most National Party ministers are (7)
- 15-Very few gliders left have bellies this colour (6)
- 16-The best thing that could happen to the Fahey government (9)

DOWN

- 1-Who can make an important difference in the fight to save the planet (2)
- 2-National Party stooge in charge of catchment deforestation (6)
- 3-A rhyme: Boral is ...(7)
- 4-The opiate of the masses (abr) (2)
- 5-The decision of the is final, until overturned by arbitrary regulation or legislation (5)
- 6-Known for saying "We're just doing our job." ie. keeping NSW safe for hypocrisy. Also known as the 'rum corps' (6)
- 7-Little Wonder that people consider Old Growth logging to be a serious.....(7)
- 8- euphemistically referred to as "timber harvesting"
- 9-Multinational earth raper bastards bugger bush (5)
- 10-Farmers and timber industry club responsible for genocide (3,4)
- 11-"I think that I will never see, a poem as lovely as a ...(4)
- 12- 3rd person, singular, male pronoun
- 13-NEFA demands an adequate..... assessment (8)
- 14-Brothers and sisters fighting for survival against the white forces destroying the ecology (6)
- 15-Old Growth logging gives me the (5)
- 16-A group of people working together for a common goal
- 17-Woodchipping has...to job losses (3)
- 18-The timber industry ... viable before woodchipping (3)



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Rally to Stop Export Woodchipping

Be part of the historic Forest Embassy from 4th to 8th November in Canberra. Come and enjoy camping, music, theatre and protest actions on the lawns of the NEW Parliament House. Let Keating know this is an issue that won't go away and come and lobby on behalf of your precious patch of wild forest. Bring a tent, banners and information for displays

Parliament House
Canberra
4-8 November 1994

**BIG RALLY
SUN 6 NOV**

Bus leaving from Lismore
pre-booking essential.

Contact Lisa, BSEC, 213278

Presented by Australia's conservation groups
Contact (06) 2496491

WHIAN WHIAN STATE FOREST- ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Logging in Lismore's water catchment has been increased five fold by State Forests in Whian Whian State Forest. This means they are now 15 years ahead of their planned cutting cycle.

Forestry claims that due to the drought Whian Whian is the only forest that can supply the timber quota they have contracted to Boral.

The condition of the council roads being used to transport 10 fully laden truckloads of timber per day is deteriorating rapidly.

We are subsidising State Forests, through our taxes, to not only denigrate our water catchment, but also to ruin roads we don't have the funds to repair.

The added irony is that as the trees are being hauled out of Whian Whian, the forester is currently gathering the data required for the preparation of the long promised EIS.

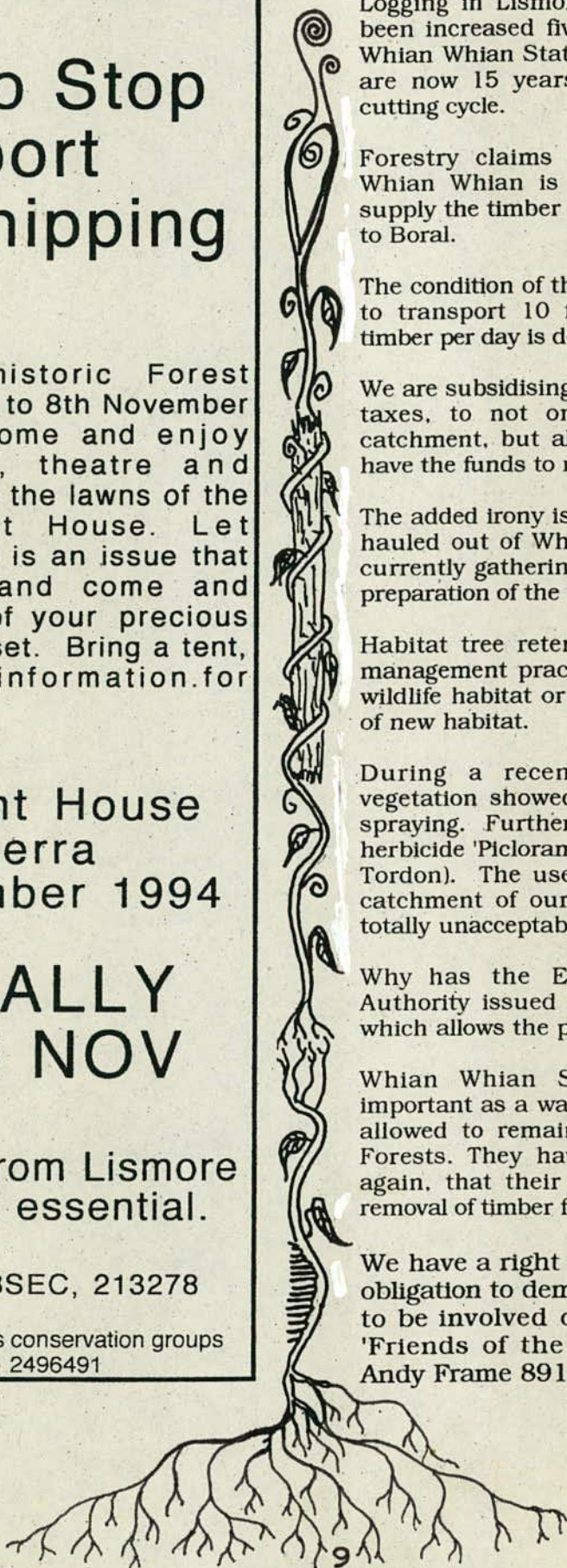
Habitat tree retention is negligible as past management practices have failed to protect wildlife habitat or to provide for the creation of new habitat.

During a recent inspection road side vegetation showed obvious effects of recent spraying. Further inquiry indicates that the herbicide 'Picloram' (which is a constituent of Tordon). The use of herbicides within the catchment of our regional water supply is totally unacceptable.

Why has the Environmental Protection Authority issued a licence to State Forests which allows the pollution of our water?

Whian Whian State Forests is far too important as a water supply catchment to be allowed to remain in the control of State Forests. They have proved, time and time again, that their sole consideration is the removal of timber from this area.

We have a right to be angry, we have an obligation to demand change. If you want to be involved contact Steve Duthy of 'Friends of the Forest' on 223848 or Andy Frame 891516.



WOODCHIPPERS & Associates PTY LTD

END EXPORT WOODCHIPPING BEFORE THE YEAR 2000 !!

The Federal Minister for the Environment, John Faulkner, officially promised to end export woodchipping before the year 2000.

Being the Federal minister, that should mean that in 6 years time no woodchip will leave Australian shores.

Why is it then that Queensland, who up until now haven't been into exporting woodchip, now has a new export woodchip proposal?

"Queensland Hardwoods P/L" are proposing to export woodchip taken from land between Rockhampton and Coffs Harbour. NEFA is concerned that NE NSW will be further woodchipped to fill new Queensland quotas. Now we've just learnt that BORAL wants an additional licence for more than its present 500,000 tonnes p.a.! Woodchipping is obviously not being wound down at all! Instead, current licences all over Australia are being expanded and new ones introduced.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING SENATOR???

WOODCHIP LICENCES RENEWED

BORAL subsidiary, Sawmillers Export P/L, infamous for exporting north coast woodchip, were temporarily prevented from exporting woodchip for a couple of weeks. This was only because their licence expired at the end of September. This, however, did not stop SEP/L from stockpiling woodchip ready for export, it just prevented them from physically exporting it. A new, not just renewed, licence had to be issued before they could recommence exports.

Of course, Minister for Resources couldn't let their profits suffer so and issued a fresh licence earlier than planned. The licence included only a few of the conditions laid down by Senator Faulkner. Beddall, just to be difficult, refused to make public these licence conditions until requests were made formally in writing.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEKKK!!!!!! NOT HARRIS DAISHOWA !!!!
There is great concern about rumours that the even more infamous and ruthless Japanese company, Harris Daishowa, may be buying out Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd. Harris Daishowa are already renowned for their international eco-destruction and their woodchipping activities in the south-east forests. Now it looks like they may be moving in on the north-east forests as well.

But don't panic. Well do, but at least the Native Forest Network is focussing on the issue of export woodchipping and is uniting environmental groups in a nationwide campaign eg the National Day of Action in September (with its letter-writing focus), the Tent Embassy in Canberra in November and its "100 Anti-Woodchip Actions" campaign (co-ordinated by Newcastle Wilderness Society).

The Decimation of Wild Cattle Creek

There are some places on this planet that command respect. When I first visited the forests of Wild Cattle Creek in early 1992 I was struck with a sense of reverence and awe generated by the sacred forests. These towering Brushbox and Tallow wood forests are unique to this part of the Dorrigo plateau. As I breathed the silent air from the forest floor I felt privileged to exist in the same space with these ancient giants. Sadly this privileged will not be experienced by humankind again as the last of these giants are slaughtered.

Wild Cattle Creek has been a flash point of confrontation ever since the Koories were brutally forced from their homes last century. Since then the land has been ruthlessly cleared, leaving a few isolated pockets of Old Growth. It is these last few major stands that conservationists have been fighting to save.

In September 1992, after negotiations failed, a group of locals, the Bellingen Environment Centre and concerned individuals, collectively united under the name of the Wild Cattle Creek Protection Group, set up a blockade at the entrance to an old growth compartment that was threatened by logging. This initial blockade was broken early one morning by a group of angry timber workers. The compartment was closed to the public and work commenced. The next two weeks consisted of frantic attempts at stopping work. This involved what latter became known as "black wallabying", that is, getting in the immediate vicinity of the operation, alerting the workers of our presence and stopping work for fear of injuring us. Unbelievably work continued. Trees were felled on protesters. This was witnessed by thirty or so police and loggers. Amazingly no one was seriously injured. For several weeks, after numerous arrests and under the protection of dozens of police, we watched the grandeur of the forest be reduced to a tangled mess of debris. Pleas for help to the larger conservation network were not acted upon on the basis that Wild Cattle Creek was not on the larger political agenda and the overworked network was already stretched to its limit. The media and political entities ignored us. I could not believe that such a place could be decimated without an outrage that was only experienced by the few who witnessed it.

In the next two years logging continued, targeting many of these valuable areas until most of the prime areas of Old Growth were confined to a few dozen hectares in compartment 579. During this time an Old Growth study of Wild Cattle Creek was undertaken by fellow environmentalists with the support of NEFA and the North East Environment Council. In this detailed work key areas of Old Growth Forest and high conservation value forests were mapped. This, in a sense, legitimised the argument for saving these forests. The political value of Wild Cattle Creek could not be ignored.

It was on the road to compartment 579 that an information camp was set up, and where I spent several weeks in April of this year. This gave us an opportunity to talk to the locals and distribute information. The local feeling was mixed. Many people expressed concern at the effects logging would have on their water supply and health of their bioregion. A few suspicious corporate types and some timber workers and their allies visited also. The latter expressed a deep concern for their jobs and being able to support their families and current lifestyle. There was also, in some instances amongst the timber workers, a mutual distaste for what Boral is doing to the north coast timber industry. The timber from Wild Cattle Creek is trucked hundreds of kilometres to be milled at Grafton and Kempsey and the smaller local sawmillers are being pushed out of the market. The operations in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest are only providing a few Dorrigo jobs.

The Decimation of Wild Cattle Creek cont.

Logging, which had just begun when the information camp was first established, was halted, while fauna surveys, demanded by environmentalists, were completed. These licences were reissued by National Parks and a large area of forest surrounding the compartment was closed.

When work recommenced in late September a blockade 'red alert' was called. Early one morning tripod was erected on the road leading to the compartment. Further down the road, another blockade was constructed consisting a tripod and a 'dragon' (a device for securing a persons arm into the roadway). This took police six hours to remove and once again logging recommenced. During the next few weeks several more blockades were built and systematically dismantled. On two occasions people were pulled from blockades by police, loggers, and security personnel, resulting in injury. This led to an outcry against industry, police violence and police bias and inaction. Negotiations with police and environmentalists began. The role of the police in these situations was clarified. Their presence there should not be simply to ensure logging continues but to ensure the safety of the protesters.

With the full environmental network activated several hundred people passed through this blockade. At one point 42 people were arrested for walking into the enclosed area. Several days later 25 people were arrested for the same reason. One of these people remained on a "fast for the forests" in jail for not signing bail conditions prescribing a thousand dollar fine for re-entering the vicinity of Wild Cattle Creek. Several other people began a "fast for the forests" in solidarity.

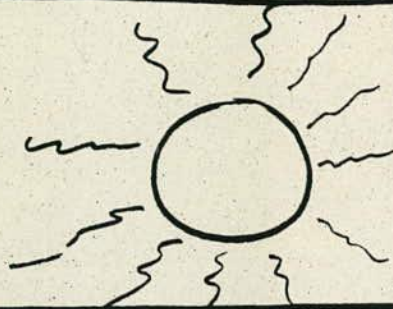
With so many people risking their lives, suffering the humiliation of arrest, and enduring such hardships to stop logging the realisation has to be made by the wider community that something is severely wrong. Local communities cannot have their resources taken from them for the scant reward of several difficult and dangerous jobs.

We have lost the priceless forests of Wild Cattle Creek. We must act on our knowledge that the culprit is State Forests of NSW who will do anything to assist the Boral corporation. To support Boral is helping them to destroy our environment and endanger our future wellbeing.

BOYCOTT BORAL!!!

David Julian

TANDBERG



WOODCHIPPING'S DONATION TO THE
AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE

Help me Wanda Help pulp me Wanda

Wanda O'Boral's Mailbag

Now kiddies don't believe those scary stories you hear about fluffy animals losing their homes, Wanda O'Boral will set the record straight with information straight from the vested interests' mouth.

Dear Wanda,

My friends have been telling me that now that Boral has a monopoly over North Coast timber resources that it will continue to close down mills and sack workers. Is it true that corporate takeover is the greatest cause of job loss in the timber industry.?

Yours sincerely,

Uninformed, Kyogle.

Dear Uninformed,

Don't you worry about Boral, they are very nice people. The man from Boral wears a decent suit and and has a neat haircut and he personally assured me that Boral wouldn't sack any workers until they could make it look like the greenies fault.

Yours (with fingers crossed behind my back)
Wanda.

Dear Wanda,

I have heard that NEFA has won eight court cases against State Forests since 1989. Does this mean that State Forests will now be forced to radically alter their mode of forest management and reduce old growth logging.

Yours sincerely,
Curious, Armidale

Dear Wondering,

I was afraid of the same thing a few years back but now I have seen that it doesn't really matter what the courts decide, as State Forests can always use its friends in high places to get around legal requirements.

Remember after that dreadful Chaelundi case for example, well the nice National Party minister simply rushed through a special regulation to overcome the courts decision whilst it was still on appeal. We don't even worry about the Fauna Act

either, the nice people in the National Party keep a firm hand on National Parks to make sure they don't upset any of the good old boys.

You see everything is quite safe as long as Dr Death is still in the chair and there's always good boys like Ian, Gary and George to see to it that Boral gets it's own way then there's no need to worry about those pesky courts and all those nasty scientific experts that NEFA has working for them.

Yours, never a truer word spoken,
Wanda.

Dear Wanda,
A friend of mine told me that there is a secret organisation operating in Australia with international links, which is designed to protect the interests of the timber industry at any cost, and that they have even been involved in assassination of judges in Papua New Guinea.

Yours,
Troubled, Lismore

Dear Troubled,

I don't know who who you are talking about. Theres nobody in the NSW industry or present state government who who would be members of such an organisation. Who who ever told you that is just a no good hippie and if only we knew who who they were we would jolly well fix them right up.

Hoo Hoo
Wanda O' Boral

If you'd like to have Wanda set you right, send your letters with a \$20 handling fee to : NEFA LEAF SUBSCRIPTION, c/o 149 Keen St Lismore, 2480.



Baker.

Jeeze, that's slack! The rubbish 'we left down there last year hasn't been cleared away yet !!

UNION VS BORAL ??

The timber unions are becoming increasingly angry over Boral and have been making this public. It is very positive for the CFMEU (Construction, Forestry, Mining and Engineering Union) to have their stance made public. Knowing they have the union's support encourages Labor to stand up to Boral.

Foresters are, however, not renowned for their avid union membership, so the CFMEU aren't that keen to avidly take on the issue. With so many initials in their name I imagine they have more than enough on their plate already.

get into the water !

Water seems to be the issue of the future. Joe and Jane Bloggs may be indifferent to the death of ancient forests and a few fuzzy animals but if they 'aint got no water for the geraniums, now that pisses them off. Dirty water=expensive water= rare water. Despite the power of the arguments in the Thompson River catchment study done in the Melbourne water supply area, data showing how logging effects water quality and quantity, water flow, blue-green algae etc in the north-east of NSW is needed.

So who's interested in studying water from Old Growth and comparing it to cut-out areas? Got a few decades to spare? Examples need to have similar catchment areas. Any suggestions? The Macleay River could be a good one for this. As most people have heard, there is a general panic as it is literally about to stop flowing any day.

If you're into it, come to the next NEFA meeting. In fact there are thousands of green projects to choose from. The hours can be long, the pay non-existent, the gratitude little (everyone else is working their ring off too) but not non-existent. At least it'll get you off the hook when your grandkids have a go at you. All welcome.

WILDERNESS

Last year the Liberal NSW Premier, John Fahey, made a big scene about approving 350,000 hectares of forest to be protected as Wilderness. This was just over half of the 600,000 ha that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) had officially identified as remaining Wilderness. The remaining 250,000 ha, Fahey promised to "consider" in the future. He called this his "Christmas present to Australia" and well, hey, Fahey doesn't give us much so it had to be a bit of a good thing.

After the media grandstanding of Fahey gloating over his own benevolence, guess what happened next ! Yes, shortly afterwards he was forced to back down by rebel Liberal and National MPs, abandoning the greater part of the 'Christmas present' announcement aswell as his promise to consider the remaining area. The NSW Labor Opposition moved a censure motion against Fahey for promising to deliver this and then recalling it. Ultimately he re-announced only 113,000 ha in 'little' patches which preserve 4WD'ers rights to run over anything they like!

The tragedy remains that, in the meantime, identified wilderness areas are still totally unprotected while the numerous small patches of wilderness that still haven't been recognised by the NPWS get pushed further down the agenda.

The National Party openly oppose the concept of wilderness which is pathetic but hardly surprising. Such regressive attitudes are fortunately on the verge of extinction and gain little popular support, particularly on the Liberal voting North Shore. Because of their pig-headed, nature-fearing opinions, the Nationals' stance on the Wilderness issue threatens to split the Liberals from the Nationals with real consequences for their coalition government.. Yay!

ACRONYMS- huh ???

Question: What is an acronym and why do they give most people the shits?

Answer: The NCEC and BSEC complained to NPWS and CALM about NRAC and the lack of EISs, FISs and SEMGLs. Huh?

An acronym is a word in capitals formed from the first letters of a longer name. Yes, unfortunately even NEFA is an acronym (North East Forest Alliance). Acronyms can be very annoying things because they can make people feel like others are talking in code that they can't understand.

For this reason, whenever the "Leaf" uses acronyms, the first example is always spelt out eg. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), but as you can see, writing titles out in full takes up heaps more room. The above example would look like this :

"The North Coast Environment Council and the Big Scrub Environment Centre complained to Coast And Land Management and the National Parks and Wildlife Service about the Northern Rivers Audit Council and the lack of Environmental Impact Studies, Fauna Impact Studies and Soil Erosion Mitigation Guide Lines".

Instead of being one line, it becomes four.

Many people question the degree to which organisations such as NEFA adopt this sort of lingo. Some claim that using this sort of jargon just empowers their corrupt system. Personally, I compare it to the plight of the Kooris as the whites invaded Australia. The Kooris had only 2 choices.

#1- fight. (This would be the same as blockading. It holds them off for a while but the invaders have got much gnarlier weapons)
#2- learn English and fight them through the system.

(The equivalent would be NEFA fighting through legal, political and media channels)

Why should Kooris have to learn English?
Why should greenies have to learn all these acronyms?

Acronyms seem daunting at first but there are really only a dozen or so that are used regularly. Once you're familiar with them it's heaps easier to get a handle on their system and how you can work it to a green advantage.

Oh, and just to be confusing, strictly speaking EIS, FIS and NPWS etc are not true acronyms because they are read as initials, not read as one word (eg. E.I.S.). CALM and NEFA are true acronyms because they are read as a word.

Ready Reckoner Examples -

The goodies:

ESD- Ecological sustainable development
ERIN- Environmental Resource Information Network
NCC- Nature Conservation Council of NSW
OGF- Old Growth Forest
HCV- High Conservation Value
AHC- Australian Heritage Council
TEC- Total Environment Centre (Sydney)
FOE- Friends Of the Earth
TWS- The Wilderness Society
ACF- Australian Conservation Foundation
WWF- World Wildlife Fund
IUCN- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
NVCA- Nambucca Valley Conservation Association
NFN- Native Forest Network

The Not-so-goodies

FPA- Forest Products Association
AEC- Australian Electoral Commission
EPA- Environment Protection Authority (NSW)
CEPA- Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency
SF- State Forests of NSW
(previously Forestry Commission)
ALP- Australian Labor Party
SEP/L- Sawmillers Export Propriety Limited
FPS- Forest Protection Society
TIIP Act- Timber Industry Interim Protection Act
DEST- Department of Environment, Sport and Territories
DPIE- Department of Primary Industry and Energy



ARE YOU A "LERT" ?

Green alert = survey and reconnaissance work.
Extra bods needed.

Amber alert = the lead up to an action is being prepared.
Extra bods needed.

Red alert = a set action is planned and a crew are already there ready and prepared to do it on a set date. The action has the momentum to go ahead regardless.
Extra bods needed.

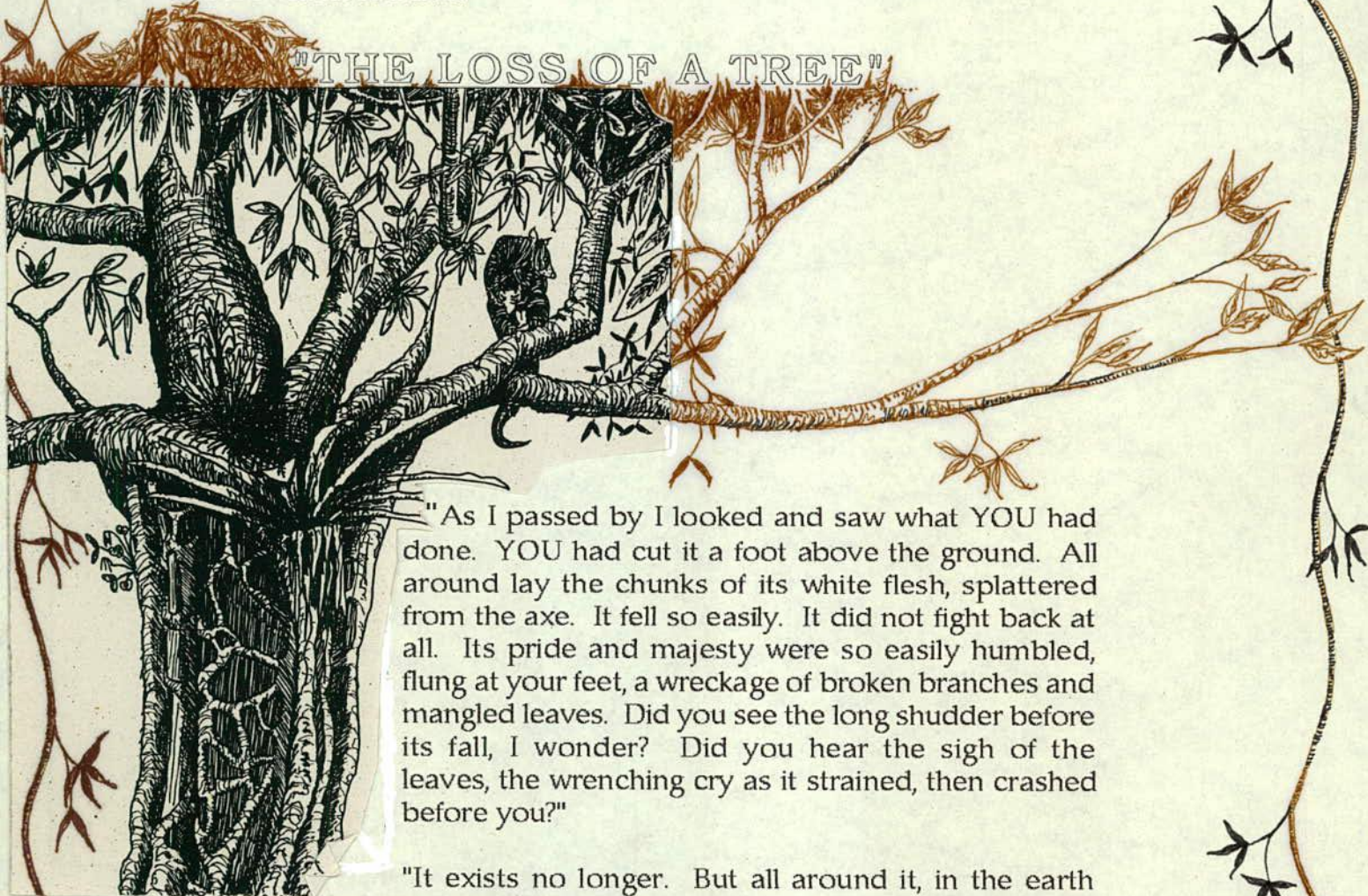
THE LOSS OF A TREE

There was once a time when the Department of Forestry and timber cutters held The Tree in great respect and awe. Over the past 30 years the timber industry has become so commercialised and greedy that they have lost sight of the interrelatedness and interdependence of all things and the majesty of The Tree.

The following is an extract from "Valuable Queensland Timbers" a pamphlet issued by the Department of Forestry in 1963. It contains useful information on names, distribution, utilisation and identification of Queensland trees. It ends with this poem and this brief warning:

"In closing this brief review... the following lines... are quoted to warn the wanton axeman of the serious consequences which well may follow the needless destruction of a tree:-

"THE LOSS OF A TREE"



"As I passed by I looked and saw what YOU had done. YOU had cut it a foot above the ground. All around lay the chunks of its white flesh, splattered from the axe. It fell so easily. It did not fight back at all. Its pride and majesty were so easily humbled, flung at your feet, a wreckage of broken branches and mangled leaves. Did you see the long shudder before its fall, I wonder? Did you hear the sigh of the leaves, the wrenching cry as it strained, then crashed before you?"

"It exists no longer. But all around it, in the earth and in the air, war has been declared against YOU. The air for your breathing is less sweet than before. The birds have forsaken you, leaving the insect pests and rodents to their work of destruction. The wind will batter you more harshly. The rain will belt the earth more piteously, its fall unbroken by that leafy screen. The unanchored soil will be stolen away by the rivulets of wasted water... That tree did not fight back, but its friends will fight for it. And long after the needless felling of the tree has been forgotten, their revenge will continue..."

LITTLE WONDER LOGGING OVER

On behalf of the Forest Dwellers who lived in the area for over a year, I would like to dispel some of the myths surrounding the Little Wonder dispute.

On the 30th of September, 1994, the contractor employed to cut compartment 375 of Buckrabendinni State Forest (also known as "Little Wonder") finished and removed his machines. So ended a reasonably quiet protest action which lasted for about a year.

First of all, we believe we did really well in saving about two-thirds to three-quarters of the compartment. In the Harvesting Plan, the estimated volume of timber was 4000 cubic metres. The contractor and State Forests told us that they would only be getting about 1000 m³ because of our negotiations to protect the rainforest patches, the endangered yellow bellied glider habitat in the top of the compartment and the establishment of the 100m wide filter strip on the creek. This filter strip was extended to 350m after the Buckrabendinni Water Users Group kicked up a stink as well, but State Forests may log this extra 250m when they cut the compartment next door, sometime next year.

The Forest Dwellers were incensed that State Forests had not completed the negotiations before the day that logging commenced. We stopped them the first day by finding koala scats 10m away from where the 'dozer had got to, and demanding to have an independent expert look at the yellow-bellied glider colony.

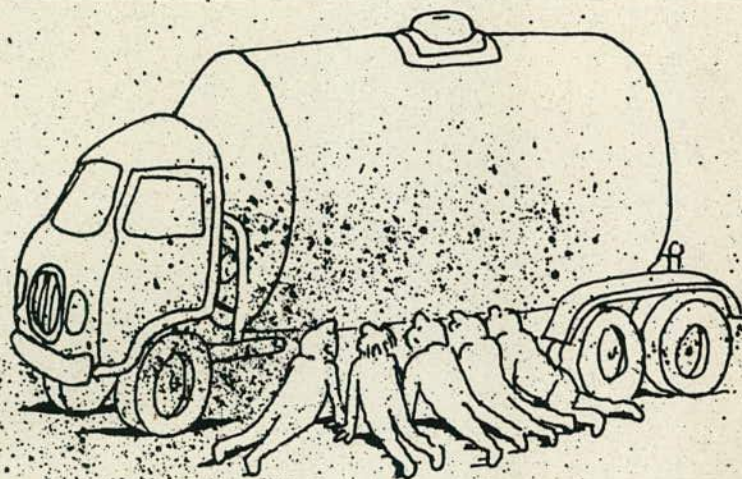
Of course, State Forests refused this reasonable request, so we set up the "rat trap" or "little wonder", a pair of tripods and a cantilever which stopped them cold. Two women managed to lock on to the 'dozer and State Forests grader in the log dump, even though they were being watched by security guards!

When the cops and State Forests arrived en masse, there was nothing that they could do to get through the blockade. Our independent expert arrived about lunchtime and was escorted to the disputed glider colony area by Forest Dwellers. Unfortunately, he could not say for certain that the scratch marks were made by yellow-bellied gliders. He recommended to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) that logging be restricted to those areas where there were absolutely no sign of yellow-bellied gliders - further down the slope. NPWS agreed.

The District Forester arrived and was nearly apoplectic that we had blockaded after the negotiations that we had been involved in. But he had not finished them! We had agreed to check the marking foreman's work, check a patch of rainforest which we had discovered and State Forests wanted to log and check the disputed glider colony. This did not happen prior to the bulldozers arrival.

This left the Forest Dwellers no option but to blockade. The blockade achieved two of the three checks, resulted in no arrests (the two women and their two support crew were given a lift to outside the forest and the two tripod/cantilever sitters were given a lift back to our camp!!) and the innovation of a brand new tripod arrangement which is cherrypicker-proof!! We also formed a very strong bond with the local landowners, who helped us all the way with the blockade. On the down side, we managed to get 6000 hectares of forest prohibited and pissed the District Forester off no end - we doubt he will negotiate with the Forest Dwellers ever again, even though it was his fault we blockaded.

Jarrah, for the Forest Dwellers.



LOFO

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19th - 20th November 1994



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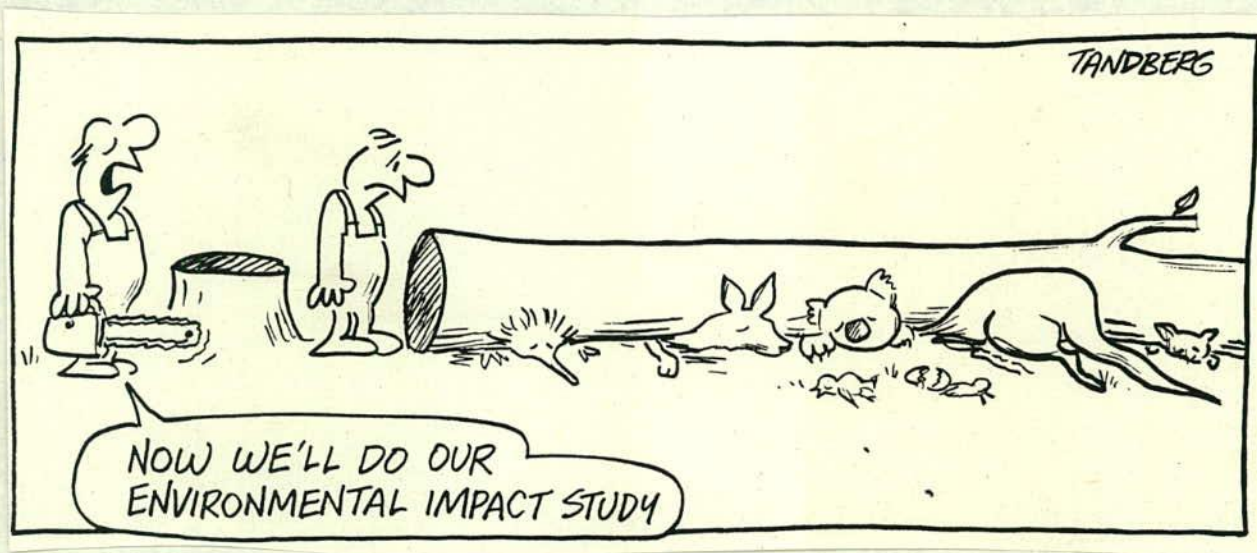
Fee: \$130.00 for 2 days,
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(02) 247 4714

FAST for DISAPPEARING FORESTS

Brook Watson and his friend, Lisa, are on what they call a "Fast for the Forest" on Macquarie St, outside NSW Parliament House. Brook is an ex-timber worker from Tasmania who is supporting the protection of Wild Cattle Ck and an end to all Old Growth logging. They have been there since the 13th of Sept and intend to stay there, fasting, until George Souris, the State Minister for Land and Water Conservation, speaks with them. They have kept up an effective media campaign throughout his fast, networking all over NSW and attracting heaps of good media.

Mark Campbell, another person doing a fast for the forests, fasted for 20 days in Grafton gaol after being imprisoned after the Wild Cattle Ck blockade. His bail conditions included not returning to Wild Cattle Ck and as he felt morally obliged to return and protect it, he could not accept his bail conditions. His only option was to remain in gaol until his court case. His fast staked his claim as a prisoner of conscience. Although he had the support of fellow inmates, the death of a close activist friend forced him to break his stance.



LOGGING CODES

Under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), Forestry agencies are now required to have state-wide logging codes and not just regional ones. This development makes such codes easier for us to use. Official "Plantation Logging Codes", new codes for state forests, "Private Land Code of Practice" have been prepared and are readily available from office of State Forests. Environment centres may also have copies.

By using these codes as a reference, green policing can catch State Forests breaking their own logging codes. Though required under the NFPS, such breaches are only legally enforceable through the Pollution Control Licences (Licences to Pollute) issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

POSSIBLE ACTION IN NSW PARLIAMENT OVER NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) is just that, a policy statement about forests made between the Australian government and all of its states (except Tasmania). The major breakthrough for greenies in the document is that it states that:

"forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value"

When representatives from the different states signed this agreement in December, 1992, it became national policy.

"Great! Yay! Finally!" we all said. Others think "But now in '94, surely we're not still logging Old Growth Forest." Such is the ignorance of a depressingly large percentage of the community, after all the Federal government made a policy years ago saying this would be stopped.

What is really happening is that due to lack of research, neither the Federal or NSW government even know where the Old Growth is. What's worse, when environmentalists show them the Old Growth Forest and show them the logging underway, neither government wants to know. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are too afraid of upsetting the Forestry Commission to make any sort of stand on this.

Wild Cattle Creek State Forest (SF) is an even more tragic example. The evidence showing that Wild Cattle Creek SF contained sections of Old Growth Forest was so undeniable that even the NPWS came to the party and acknowledged it as such. The Department of Conservation and Land Management, another government department reluctant to offend State Forests, was forced to admit Compartment 579 contained Old Growth Forest after a field inspection.

So you'd think that with the two main government bodies agreeing Wild Cattle Creek SF included old growth, that the National Forest Policy would be adhered to and logging halted, wouldn't you?

Well, guess what? The man responsible, George Souris, the state Minister for Land and Water Conservation, with these 2 documents in front of him, found there was no reason to stop logging in the area and gave the go-ahead for more destruction of ancient forests. Pathetic, huh? But then that's the coalition government for you.

Cpt 579 of Wild Cattle Creek SF is such a clear-cut breach of the National Forests Policy Statement that the NSW Labor Opposition government could move a censure motion against Fahey for not adhering to the State's commitments. The Federal ALP Minister for the Environment, Senator John Faulkner, could yet intervene to enforce the Commonwealth's policy. This would benefit the NSW Labor Party in the next elections and hopefully encourage them to take a strong green platform.

WILL PAM HELP IF JOHN DOESN'T?
On October 7, Pam Allan, NSW Labor Opposition Environment spokesperson came to the Toonumbah Environment Centre to discuss forestry issues and the potential for pressure on the NSW government on forest assessment and protection. She agreed that the Labor Party, both state and federal, needed to act before the election for green promises to be seen as more than pre-election hype. Around early November all of this may come to fruition if Pam keeps to her word and raises Fahey's forest failures in Parliament.

Pam asked for concise reports explaining how different regions have had the NFPS broken, so send your SHORT lists to her @ Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, 2000. Pam was also told that NEFA and the North Coast Environment Council want comprehensive forest assessment for all high conservation value forests. This is vital if the protection of such forests isn't merely dependent on the random strength of local lobby groups.



Special thanks to publisher of "BLACK 'n' WHITE 'n' GREEN" for allowing the use of 'ENVIROBOOK' cartoons (available at 'Big Scrub Environment Centre')!

FREE! WITH EVERY PACK OF N.P.W.S.
FOREST FLAKES !!



1. LICENCE TO TAKE AND KILL
2. STUFFED ENDANGERED SPECIES
3. PLASTIC BULLDOZER
4. FORESTRY DEGREE

POSSIBLE ACTION IN NSW PARLIAMENT OVER NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT cont.

Fahey's forest folly in failing to implement the National Forest Policy deserves to be highlighted in the media. It will be interesting to see if Labor actually have the guts to expose it. Will Faulkner come to the party and censure Fahey for his environmental negligence? Will Keating use this to help Bob Carr win over Fahey in the NSW elections in March 95? If elected, will Bob Carr really create the 20 new National Parks and 10 new Wilderness areas in his first year of office as he promises? Stand by for more political hoo-haa.



CONSERVATIONISTS DEMAND FAHEY INTERVENE TO STOP BREACHES OF NATIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Sydney: 5 October, 1994. Conservation representatives on the NSW Government 'Forestry Policy Advisory Committee' (FPAC) demand direct intervention from Premier John Fahey to stop logging in high conservation value forests, which is in violation of the National Forest Policy statement (NFPS).

"The NFPS was signed by Premier Fahey in December 1992. To date the NSW Government's progress in achieving the conservation pledges of the NFPS has been pitifully slow- and in practice the NFPS has been little more than a recipe for 'business as usual', said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and one of the four conservation representatives of the FPAC.

"Evidence has now come to light that the Minister for Forests, George Souris, has authorised blatant breaches of the NFPS, and may have misled Parliament over plans to continue logging high conservation value forest in the south east forests" said Mr Walker.

"On the north coast, in the Dorrigo Management Area at Wild Cattle Creek State Forests, a particularly outrageous example of an NFPS violation is continuing, as trees up to 2,000 years old are logged destroying potential habitat for over 50 threatened species" said Lyn Orrego, a coordinator for the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) and FPAC conservation representative of the North Coast Environment Council Inc.

"In an attempt to avoid conflict over this area, an independent arbitrator was agreed upon between NEFA and State Forests. He concluded that NEFA was correct in its assessment that the area

(compartment 579), is substantially unlogged Old Growth Forest. The National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) have also indicated that the area has high conservation value and should be reserved under the NFPS" Ms Orrego added.

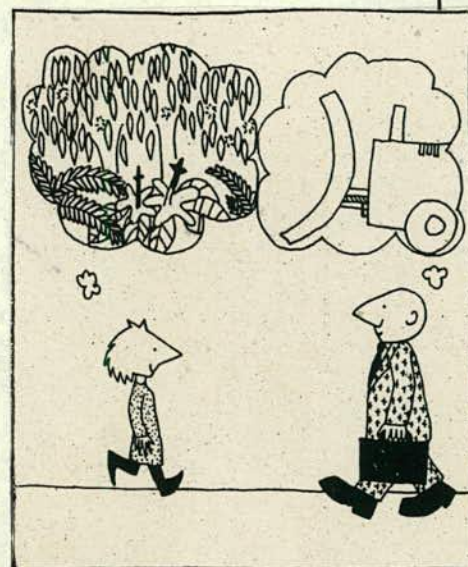
"Yet logging continues, in spite of all appeals protests and the arrest last week of Parliamentarian Richard Jones. Mr Souris has ignored expert advice and claims the logging is legitimate" she said.

"It is particularly ironic that this logging in Wild Cattle Creek is not even to supply local sawmills and sustain local employment. These magnificent and ancient trees are being trucked to the Boral sawmill at South Grafton, many miles away" she added.

"The patience of the NSW community is running out over continued mismanagement of our native forests" Mr Walker said.

"We appeal directly to the Premier to take the precautionary approach required by the NFPS- and stop roading and logging in all Old Growth Forests likely to have high conservation value throughout the state- especially in compartment 579 Wild Cattle Creek and in the south east forests 'moratorium' areas" Mr Walker said.

"Failure to do so would destroy the Premiers own credibility over forest management in NSW. The NFPS- the only forest policy which NSW has- bears his personal signature" Mr Walker concluded.



ANOTHER GOVERNMENT PORT - the FPAC

NEFA has been represented by Dailan Pugh in the Forest Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) but sadly to say, once again we have cause to be disappointed in the level of consultation. It seems that most attempts at community consultation in government-based committees are less than serious. The "community" representative is the well-known Rhonda O'Neill from the Forest "Protection" Society and Col Dorber from the Forest Products Association. That gives you an idea of what the environment group representatives are up against.

Most of their time has been spent discussing the "Plantation Resource Security Bill". Our representatives argued through each point so that green views could be included but when decisions were being made all our points were dropped from the Bill. The worst point in the document was that once a plantation is accredited then it has "Plantation Resource Security" and is no longer subject to endangered species restrictions.

The Federal government is still considering establishing a National Forest Policy Advisory Committee to support the National Forest Policy two years after it announced the committee. I wonder why environmental groups aren't keen to be involved?



HOLLOW-BEARING TREES = LIFE

Hollow-bearing trees" is a term used frequently when discussing logging harvest plans. They are trees reserved from logging to remain as habitat for fauna that require a hollow for shelter or nesting ie. to survive and reproduce. Birds, bats, gliders and possums all require hollows.

However, there has been some argument as to the exact definition of a "hollow-bearing" tree. For example, a Toonumbah Forestry definition was "a tree that's hollow", irrespective of whether it can provide suitable conditions for any endangered species.

NEFA's definition recognises that many mature or over mature trees produce gaps in trunks or have hollow branches while still 'solid' at breast height. These hollow-bearing trees often have numerous 'hollows' of various sizes and orientations, used by a variety of species. When (and if) such trees are left after a devastating logging operation (and there are seldom many of them), these hollow-bearing trees are often the sole shelter and sites for reproduction for many animal types for a long, long time. Hollows = life.

NPWS needs to have "hollow bearing tree" and "habitat tree" definitions imposed on forestry operations and effectively enforced. Some argue that hollow-bearing trees should be our highest priority in terms of tree protection.

As it is at the moment, habitat trees are rarely ever marked. Without permanent marking it is impossible to prove which trees have been left for habitat. This makes them liable to be logged the next time round. Permanent habitat and recruitment tree marking is crucial. Foresters could be fined for logging hollow-bearing trees.

Although the Wingham Forest Action's court case was disappointing, a major achievement was the agreement to have all such trees permanently marked.

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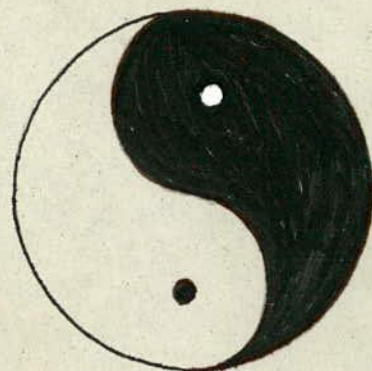
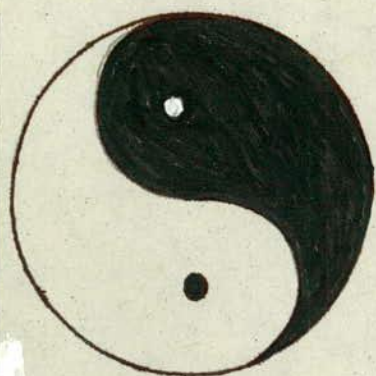
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By using these codes as a reference, green policing can catch State Forests breaking their own logging codes. Such breaches are legally enforceable through the National Forest Policy.



IN MEMORIAM
Hans (Von Gaia) Stadler
&
Shane Mcnear

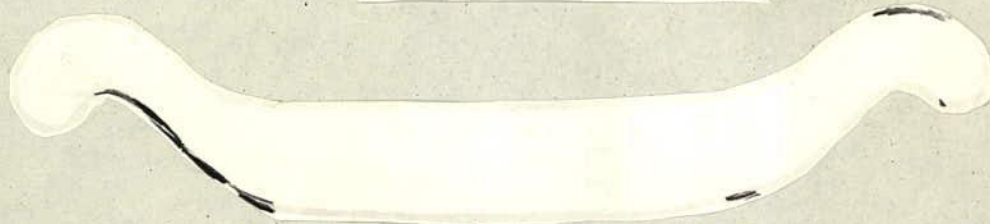
Died in an accident at Buccarumbi on the
19th of October 1994. Their parents,
friends, the environment movement
and the planet will sadly miss their
physical beings, but their energy and
spirit lives on!

"OM GAIA"

I personally thank Hans and Shane for the
important contribution they made
to our Mother earth and for sharing part of
themselves with me. I will remember them.

Two brothers will be missed Like all good
things, we didn't know what or who
we had until they were gone!!!

Love Teo



STATE ELECTION- MARCH '95

Should another right wing majority get into Parliament at the next state elections the impact on NSW forests and the environment movement would be disastrous.

Major concerns are not only the future of rainforests, old growth etc, but also the privatisation of forests and the introduction of new anti-protest laws. Local green activist Ian Cohen will make it into the Upper House on the Greens ticket. Hopefully the Greens will manage to get 2 seats

NEFA members will be launching an "Enrol and Vote" campaign leading up to the election, especially in the marginal seats. Please check your enrolment and that of your friends. People who have moved around a lot may have been taken off the electoral role and need to re-enrol.

John Corkill was recently elected to the position of Secretary, NSW Greens. He is also on the campaign committee to get Ian Cohen and Jo Faith into the Upper House.

NEFA will be targeting candidates in marginal electorates such as Murwillumbah, Clarence, Coffs Harbour and Ballina. Hopefully we will manage to oust Andrew Fraser, Ian Causley etc.

The Greens are keen to contact anyone who wants to be a Greens candidate, especially in Tamworth.

Coffs Harbour also needs a Greens candidate. If anyone knows somebody who would consider running, please encourage them. The more Greens candidates the better.

A decorative floral border with intricate scrollwork and circular patterns, framing the right side of the page.

STREAM WATCH

David Ferguson from TCM radio is keen to get Streamwatch kits into high schools. The kits are excellent for proving exactly where pollution is coming from. It is possible to do 7 studies per day following consecutive sites downstream, studying pH and dissolved oxygen. Towns are the worst polluters followed by Forestry although the Forestry Commission are trying to blame farmers. The kits cost \$2,500 plus \$600 for an incubator but by applying for grants through this scheme schools will only have to pay a small part of the cost. Schools must pay up to 50%, but some are given with only a few hundred paid by the school. If no cash is offered the grants are refused. Soon there will also be Rivercare Enhancement Funding available.

At our meeting we agreed to NEFA making a donation to Dorrigo High School to encourage their purchase of a kit. So we'll soon send them a letter proposing the donation. Perhaps Chrysallis Primary School should be made a similar offer.

ENROL AND VOTE !!!!!!!

The first of many exhortations to appear in the next 4 months leading up to the State election.

The coming state election will decide whether NSW old growth forests and wilderness areas survive to the next century. The Liberal/National Coalition has already promised they will introduce resource security for Boral.

The major political parties including the Australian Labor Party (ALP) are all trying to distract attention away from the forests. It's up to us to keep the issue alive.

Every year the NSW electoral office cancels thousands of enrolments of people who have changed address but not amended their voting registration. Just because you were once enrolled, don't assume you are still enrolled.

REMEMBER: In 1991 the then Premier Greiner formally announced the election date at 11:00 am, voters had until only 5:00pm the same day to ensure their enrolment. The rolls were then closed despite the election being some four weeks distant. Don't wait until it's too late. **ENROL NOW!**

REMEMBER: The N.S.W term of government is now 4 years. If the Liberal/National Coalition secures a clear majority in both houses we'll be stuck with resource-secured

carnage until 1999.

REMEMBER: Greens candidate Ian Cohen was beaten last election by the Reverend Fred Nile for the final upper-house seat- **THE BALANCE OF POWER**- by one of the narrowest margins ever.

REMEMBER: Last Federal election Harry Woods beat the National Party candidate by only 176 votes. The greens had enrolled over 200 voters prior to the election. On the Far North Coast the fight is very close and every single vote counts.

This is serious. With a Coalition majority in both houses you can kiss our remaining Old-growth forests good-bye.

You have to act now. Make sure you are on the electoral roll and far more importantly, **Vote!** Talk it up, spread the word, the fate of our Old-growth forests is at hand. **ENROL AND VOTE!**

Tim Somerville.

RAPIC

Yet another button to try and push, but a potential plus for environmentalists, is the newly established "Regulation And Public Information Committee" (RAPIC). It is a new section of the Timber Industry Interim Protection Act. (Often referred to as the TIP Act).

CARB covers the whole of NSW and its role is to overview harvesting decisions. It is obliged to keep a register of its actions and decisions, so it will be easy to hold it accountable for any f*ck-ups.

ANTI-GREEN VIOLENCE

Lots of this at Wild Cattle Ck from police and especially from loggers and a security company working for Boral. NEFA has the name of one security guard in particular who was sent from the blockade due to his violence, but not charged! After liaison with police NEFA established the right to have a "buddy" with each action (in theory, this wasn't always applied and buddies were chased away by loggers).

In future, to formalise the system, buddies should wear an orange armband. Before actions take place time should be taken to brief police, ensuring that ALL police, security workers and loggers understand the buddy system and the procedure to be followed when confronted with a blockade. It is important to confirm with the sergeant in charge that no junior officer is to touch a blockade or person until a senior officer has been consulted. This should avoid the situation where some irresponsible, young cop endangers someone's life through rash action.

It is imperative that police violence is documented through statutory declarations written as soon as possible after the act, so that the Police Commissioner and Ombudsman can't be short of facts. The role of the police is not to ensure the continuation of logging but to keep people safe. They often have trouble remembering this so it can help to remind them. The "Coalition Against Police Violence" is to put out a newsletter soon and are keen for contributions. Send them to PO Box 558, Sth Brisbane, Qld, 4101



EROSION CONTROL - OUT OF CONTROL

The 1992/3 Standard Mitigation Erosion Guidelines for Logging (SEMGLs) put out by CALM (the Department of Conservation and Land Management) were appalling and ridiculous. Instead of laying down strict rules to prevent increasingly devastating soil erosion, the guidelines were full of flexible conditions that say "if possible", "where practicable" etc. The SEMGLs also allowed logging supervisors to make "on the spot" decisions not to follow the guidelines. The fact that these are just "guidelines" and not enforceable conditions in the first place makes it virtually impossible to legally enforce erosion control and protect water quality. With these additional exemptive clauses, the situation becomes laughable. That is, it might be if it wasn't destroying the waterways and forest soils of NSW.

As if this wasn't bad enough, the recently "updated" Standard Erosion Mitigation Guidelines for Logging (SEMGLs) for 1994 are even worse. Tree-felling is now permitted in filter strips as well as protection strips, a potentially devastating development. Previously these areas prevented soil disturbance in strips up to 20 metres either side of waterways. In some cases felling is now allowed directly within water catchment channels. Many prescriptions, claimed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect endangered fauna, rely on the habitat retained in these filter strips, so the ramifications are tragic not only for soil quality, aquatic ecosystems, and the health and survival of our waterways but for the many endangered species that live within the areas along creeks.

CALM is also maintaining in these guidelines that it is still acceptable to log slopes of 35 degrees despite having no science to justify this as ecologically sustainable. Readers may not realise just how steep a 35 degree slope hill is, but once you've climbed one (and imagine that it's as easy for the topsoil to wash down as it is hard for you to climb up) you soon find their stance unbelievable. NEFA maintains that logging on slopes of more than 25 degrees is contrary to the 'precautionary principle' of ecologically sustainable development.

"BLOCKHEAD"

A Poem by Tom Stonham

Hey, stupid ant, what's your life worth...?
Small, crawlin', crowded in the earth...
Somehow, 'till now, you've lived...(Survived)...
But things sure changed when man arrived.
"ADAPT OR DIE" ... That's nature's law,
your doomed, Ant, like the dinosaur-
YOU'RE STUPID... You're sure stupid

You're on the skids, Ant, past you're prime,
you watched us start our long, long climb.
When we were wet behind the ears, why,
you'd been dry a billion years.
No fire, no wheels, no books, no art, No Money!
Ant, you jest ain't smart
YOU'RE STUPID...Dumb bum stupid

SIEG HEIL! The mighty human race....
Crowned kings of science, lords of space!
Whats diggin dirt and milkin' grubs
to nerve gas, hell bombs, missile subs!
Your nuthin', Ant, no use to me... Mans verdict...
Death by D.D.T.-
YOU'RE STUPID....Mind blind stupid

Hey, stupid BIRD that flies and sings,
No guns, no napalm lines on you're wings.
Birds can't exceed the speed of sound
you're chicken when the chips are down
fried legs, fresh eggs...but free...your pests
We'll take your trees to build our nests-
YOU'RE STUPID... Low slow stupid!

Hey stupid FISH, cold blooded, crude...
You're raw protein, self raisin' food,
with radar, sonar long line mesh,
we'll sweep your seas and eat your flesh
your lifes worth nill until you're dead...
Then man and fat, pet cats are fed-
YOU'RE STUPID... Caught short stupid!

Hey stupid SHEEP,PIG,GOAT,COW,
BULL...
We need your meat, skin, cream, milk wool,
we grow your hay, spray, fence, slash, burn...
You sleep, feed, breed without concern,
no strife your life's safe, free from fuss...
No wars, no predators....but us!
YOU'RE STUPID... null dull stupid.

Animal, fish bird, tree...hear this...
Mankind is multiplyin' fast,
the sham of "share the world" is past
we want the land, the sea, the sky...
We want the lot!... You'll have to die-
YOU'RE STUPID.... Meek, weak, stupid!

OH, STUPID MAN... Whats your life worth?
You'll starve on plundered poisoned earth,
your greedy grab at every crust
grinds once green Eden into dust....
Insane vain glories fill your plate,
you'll kill, gorge, garbage 'til to late-
YOU'RE STUPID.... Dark stark stupid!

This time the tract is fact,
"The end is nigh!"
No, I'm not dead...I'M GOD, BLOCKHEAD!!

GOODBYE!

Tom wrote this poem in 1964. He's now retired to his own paradise, near Wild Cattle Creek, surrounded by forested mountains and "flowing" creeks, living simply, away from the madness of this world. Tom doesn't have much to say about "forest issues". Less than 1km I walked through pristine Old Growth Forest and saw for the first time forest that has never been logged before, giant upon majestic giant, the ground under the deep leaf litter has never seen the light of day. I listened to the bulldozers and chainsaws and felt the earth shudder as thousands year old tallowoods and Brushbox fell a few hundred meters from where I walked.
30 years on and the madness follows you Tom!

Love and support to Mark Cambell and Glen, prepared to go hungry for the Old Growth Forest. Good on you guys!!

TAX DEDUCTABLE DONATIONS

Tax deductible donations can now be made to NEFA via the NCEC, (North Coast Environment Council) addressed to Jim Tedder, Pavans Rd, Grassy Point (via

N.C.E.C. CHALLENGES BEDDALL IN COURTAND WINS!!!!

North Coast Environment Council Inc. (NCEC) has recently commenced a challenge to the Federal Minister for Resources in the Federal Court. The NCEC were successful in the first skirmish and have been awarded costs!

NCEC is challenging Beddall's decision to issue a woodchip export licence without an Environmental Impact Study being completed, particularly since the adequacy of the EIS prepared by Boral is seriously in question.

The main obstacle was Beddall's refusal to send us information and reasons in response to questions posed in official requests prepared by the Environmental Defenders Office for NCEC.

Beddall maintained that our questions didn't warrant a response because the NCEC was not an "aggrieved party". The court will rule on this question of the Environment Council's standing later in November. If Mr Justice Sackville agrees that NCEC is an "aggrieved party", in the future Beddall will be obliged to provide information & reasons required for a legal challenge to any further Commonwealth approval for future Boral export woodchip licences.

At first, Government solicitors tried to oust the court action, claiming that the case was futile because the licence had since expired!!!! This is similar to dismissing a murder case because the person in question has died. Fortunately the Judge did not agree and their application for dismissal was rejected

BEDDALL UNDER FIRE IN TWO SEPARATE COURT CASES

Beddall is also being challenged in the Federal Court by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust for granting Gunns a 200,000 tonne/year export woodchipping licence with no EIS. This case is similar to ours in that Beddall made the decision without any warning or information and without consulting Senator John Faulkner, the Minister for the Environment as he is legally required to do.

This literally puts Beddall in the hot seat, especially after our initial court success. He hoped for our North Coast case to be dismissed so that he would only have one court case pending. However, a further hearing over the EIS is still to take place. Now he finds himself paying our legal fees for round one and still facing two ominous court cases - from the north coast of NSW and from Tasmania.

LICENSED TO POLLUTE

The "Forestry Commission" renamed itself "State Forests" when its former name became irreversibly tarnished and the "State Pollution Control Commission" was renamed as the "Environmental Protection Authority". NEFA showed that the S.120 licences issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Services were licences to "take and kill" endangered fauna. Now we suggest that "Pollution Control Licences" be more accurately renamed "Licences to Pollute".

In this area some solid progress appears to have been made. New Licences to Pollute, issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), are 23 pages long with 55 clauses.

(including the 66 recommendations given to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) by the North Coast Environment Council stating how the EPA should protect the environment when giving logging licenses to State Forests).

More good news it that State Forests are now obliged to keep an official complaints register, so our complaints can't just casually "disappear". One recommendation made by environmentalists is that "the EPA will act on proven breaches shown to them", so gone are the days when they can just waste time.

State Forests also have to make issued "Pollution Control Licences" available to the public. The logging becomes illegal if it breaches their licence to pollute.

... A common enemy ...

by David Julien

These are intense times. A successful forest festival, the devastation of Wild Cattle Creek and overshadowing all this the tragic loss of two very dear friends. The shock of grief gives us a glimpse beyond our own day to day lives as individuals and helps us to understand the role we play in the eternal cosmos. This is an opportunity for us to step back and contemplate the bigger picture.

It is easy for hard working environmental activists to become frustrated with the enormity of the enemy we face. What makes it more difficult is that we are unsure who this illusive enemy is. It is simplistic to think that it is the loggers who are our opponents. The motivations behind forest destruction leading to wholesale earthrape are not directly malevolent, just misguided. In most cases it is simply people going about their daily work as they have done for generations. Timber workers' reaction to environmentalists are probably the same as any ones when their way of life is threatened. The same could be said of those individuals working for the government agencies and the timber corporations. Usually they are well meaning people simply maintaining their way of lives and supporting their families.

So who then is the enemy and how can we design strategies to conquer them? It is important carefully examine the role blockading plays in all of this especially in the light of recent events in Wild Cattle Creek. Is the role of a blockade to create public awareness through the media. There are several problems with this. It must be understood that it is not the importance issues themselves that attract media coverage. If this were the case then the media would be saturated with stories of our decaying ecosystem. What does attract media is the potential for a good news story. Confrontation, violence and aggression are all good news stories and weirdly enough attract lots of viewers. The media thrive on shots of arrests, stories of people being pulled from tripods, outraged loggers and protesters locked in violent confrontation. The issues take a back seat to the action itself. It becomes difficult to focus media attention on the importance of the issue and not to unwittingly create unnecessary conflict. This is dangerous because it antagonises those who most need to understand the importance of protecting our environment: the timber workers and local business people.

If the role of blockading is to stop logging then we are clearly failing. This is not to deny credit to all the hard working people involved in the Wild Cattle Creek campaign. The full implications have yet to unfold and it is pointless to view it in simplistic terms of winning or losing.

The problem for environmentalists is how they can most effectively devote their time and energy. How can we know in advance which avenues to pursue, which buttons are going to produce results. It is easy to become overwhelmed and frustrated that much hard work can appear to lead to no tangible results. I don't think it is naive to believe that if our motives are honest, and not corrupted by personal ambition then they cannot help but lead to positive results.

Greed, selfishness and personal ambition are the true enemies of the environmental cause and it is just as destructive when these qualities manifest themselves in our colleagues or in our opponents. If we are serious about defending our environment we must recognise these negative qualities in ourselves and our colleagues and minimise action resulting from this.

Our strength lies in our commitment to a common cause. We must appreciate and act in sympathy with the other hard working activists in the network. We must also take the time to listen, understand each other and have fun.

By acting on the pure motives of the common good and encouraging others to do so is ultimately the only way we can conquer the enemy of greed and ambition. If we can do this then saving of the forests will naturally follow from this.

Our strength lies in our commitment to a common cause. We must appreciate and act in sympathy with the other hard-working activists in the network. We must also take the time to listen, understand each other and have fun.

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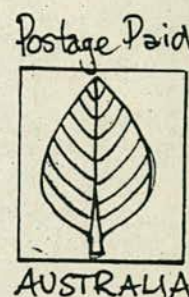
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