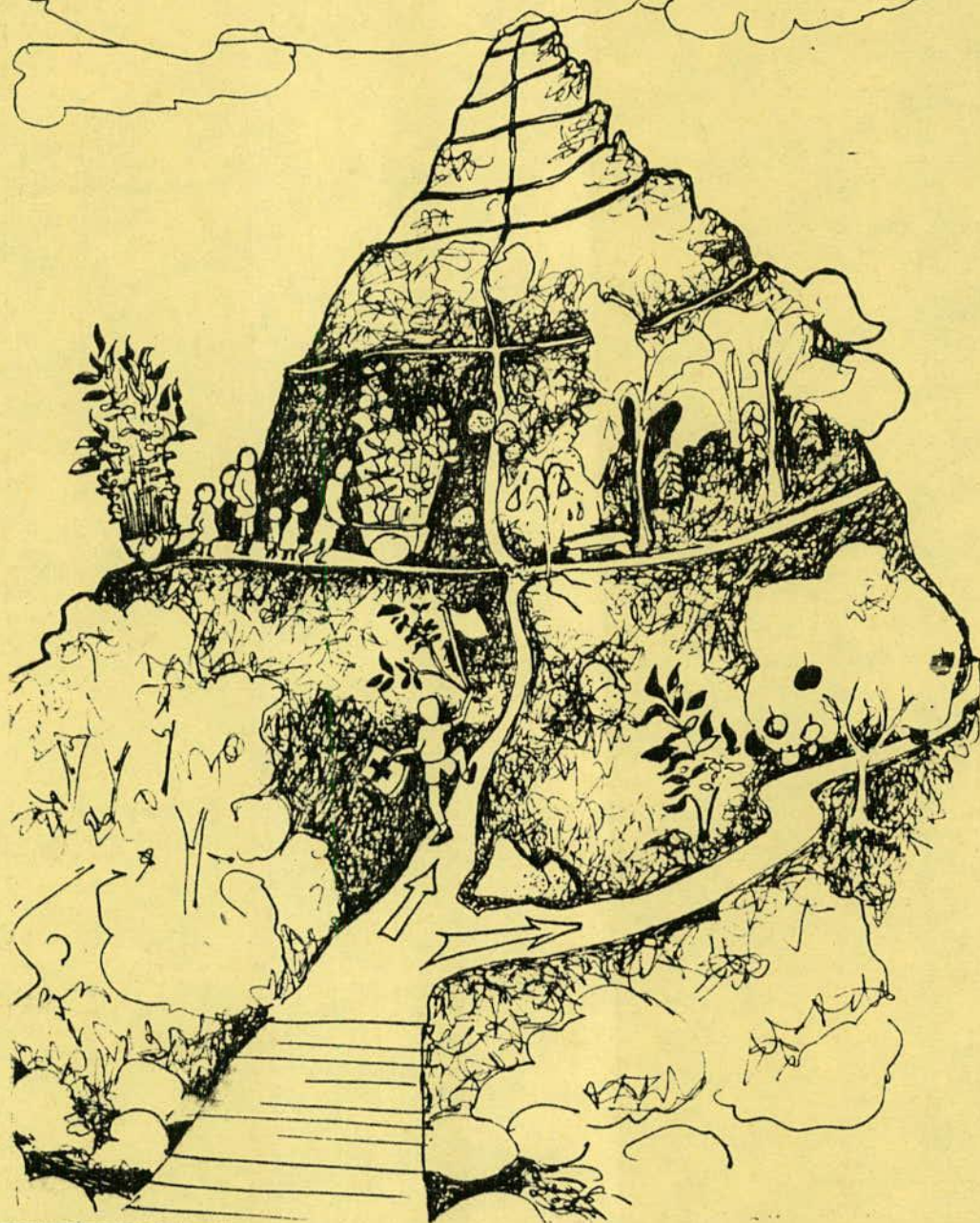


# The We Folk of Bundagen



As we wandered through the forest, we came across a large stream. There was a bridge there. We looked at each other and scampered across. Ahead of us was a little boy, carrying a small flag, a first aid kit and a tree. He was charging straight up the hill.

There was a family too, winding their way steadily up a spiral path. They had carts full of trees and seeds and many flags.

The little boy stopped and gulped at a fountain where the tracks meet, then cut aside the branches that barred his way, and continued on, kicking stones to both sides as if they were his enemy. Some bumps he tended with band-aids from the Red Cross box, and he ate of the small tree in his arms.

Then the family stopped at the fountain to rest. They picked fruit from the trees nearby, and took stock of their energy, then continued on, planting their food trees as they went for others that may pass, and flowers to guide the way. This was close to the edge and dangerous, so they often encouraged each other to take care.

As we watched it began to sprinkle, the rain drops fell gently on the new seeds, enticing them to grow strong and healthy. On the track behind the little boy, the drops gathered and gushed down, tearing out the hill, washing it into the stream. The people down in the village pulled their drinking pipes from the muddy water and looked up from the bank.

We raised our parasol. The clouds cleared for a brief moment from the top of the hill, revealing a small dead tree in the barren ground.

The family stopped once more, this time to gaze at the little boy as he hurried by, eager now to plant his flag. They had seen many such as he, none stopping to notice their path. They had with them a great number and variety of trees and seeds to plant, that they might be safe and happy should any one fail to bear. Their flags of many types were beliefs and ideas to share.

We knew not if they too had a glimpse of the peak.



be much more efficient, faster, than any other method - though patience is needed in preliminary discussion, to listen to one another, especially in a new group, not yet close or identifying strongly with the group, like Bundagen. However, consensus is only a small part of 13 (b) .

④. RULE 82 The shorter version which has been accepted is : " All development on the land shall take place according to an environment plan approved by a general meeting. It is agreed that any development may be altered, in accordance with the provisions of this plan."

⑤. The Constitution provides that by-laws must be accepted by at least two general meetings to be valid (to prevent "stacking" of meetings, e.g.). The following Agreements have, I think , been accepted by at least two G.M.s - 2 , 4(a) , 5 , 8 , 9 , 11 , 14 , 21 , 22 , 28 . This will be verified by scrutiny of the records before the A.G.M. Any of these for which this is not in fact so, will be presented to the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

FINALLY : I am sorry to contribute such a heavy, difficult-to-read report . I think there is now broad agreement, that we need to formalise and be clear about, ... agreements we make with one another, to realise our intentions here in a more harmonious way.

\*\*\*\*\* - Barrie Griffiths.

## The We Folk of Bundagen

... cont. from p. 28

We turned to leave as the rain became heavier - no bridge. The clouds fell back, blanketing the hill once more. The shelter of the village and the forest had gone. Looking to the paths we remembered the old villagers' advice when we spoke of our planned adventure. They said, 'Go to where the paths cross, and there you will find

the fountains of knowledge and wisdom. Seek there the children who come and share with them your tale. When you have done this, set out for the top of the hill with them, stopping only to pick the family fruit and to sow the seeds on the spiral.'

A Story to be continued  
Peter Stevens



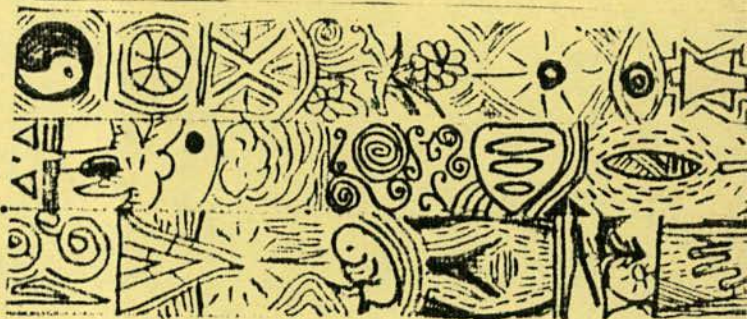
" I AM NOT SAYING THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PLANNING AUTHORITIES , WE HAVE YET DONE SIGNIFICANT HARM : I AM SAYING THAT IT IS PLAIN FOR THEM TO SEE THAT WE HAVE EMBARKED UPON PROCESSES , WHICH IN TIME WILL DESTROY , THE UNIQUELY ' RURAL CHARACTER ' OF THIS LAND."

\*\* 1 \*\* \*\*\*\*\*

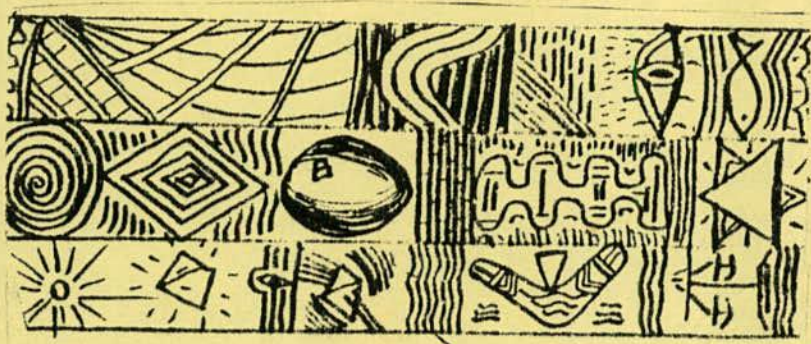
I do not think many residents realise how necessary clustered settlement is, to our argument for zoning approval. The density constraint in the existing rural 1(a) zoning is the "forty hectare" policy, which says you can only have one dwelling per 40 hectares. The intention behind this policy when it was introduced in the early seventies was to "preserve the rural character of rural land", in particular by preventing developers from carving it up into small weekenders, tax lurks, hobby farms for the daughter to ride a horse around, etc, resulting in massive clearing and ugly grids of access roads across devastated landscapes.

The intention was good, but the policy was inadequate in many ways, unable to cope with the diversity involved, for example, in alternative settlements. And so we have the absurd situation that a form of settlement of rural land ideal for its preservation, is illegal according to a regulation designed to protect the rural environment. I refer to the characteristic alternative community, where for the most part groups are settling marginal land at a low density, say 20 people on 200 acres, involved in intensive gardening, not broad-scale farming, not grazing stock, walking the earth, not driving around "the property", conservationist, minimal clearing, lots of planting, etc.

ment is only tolerable here on the basis of a strong commitment to environmental protection, and close-clustered settlement. Other wise, the planning authorities and the Land and Environment Court may not approve. And the conservation and alternative movements would not approve, either.



Existing processes within the resident community are harming this land. If not altered, two types of pattern seem possible, both harmful : we could have 200 or more adults here in dispersed settlements averaging say ten to fifteen adults (14 to 20 "villages"), with vehicle access tracks from the road, all over the place, parking bays occupying huge amounts of space, unbearable (unless you like suburbia) visual and noise pollution, devastating consequences for wildlife and habitat - it would be a nightmare ! Or : Numbers may selfishly be kept well below 100 adults, comfortably sprawled across the landscape.



Such patterns would be the result of general insensitivity, disregard for the land, and for aesthetics, for sustainability. The result of either type of pattern, in terms of harm to the land, would be very similar. We would have ( we are in the process of creating) precisely the type of subdivision the existing regulation very properly seeks to prevent.

We seem to be giving over a significant acreage to the horse-riding pastime : Who can believe it - your very own seaside horse paddock, house block thrown in, early morning rides along the beach, wind-swept tresses trailing.. and all for a mere \$3,500 ! ! ?

We are being naive, foolish, irresponsible. We still do not have a membership policy, except "self-selection" ! This morning, I had a phone call from a fellow, whose girl friend recently stayed here - he thought we

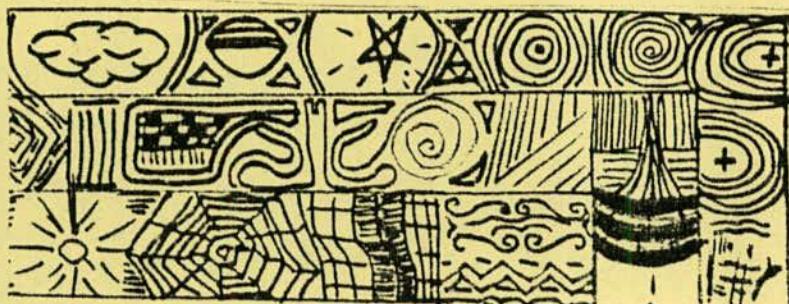
Here at Bundagen, however, its a very different story. This is a rare, precious and fragile piece of land, and we are a large community, intending a high density of settlement - much higher than the developer's subdivisions, which proved so destructive of plant cover and topsoil.

Multiple occupancy zoning recognises, to some extent, the social and environmental benefits of conservationist group settlement. I think it is clear that our high density of settle-



10  
had "allotments" for sale, wanted to beat the price rise. He is not far wrong: by the time they have their "interview", they will realise all you have to do, is pretend you're a conservationist seeking community, and maintain the pretence a week or two, and you're in, and can thereafter live here more-or-less as selfishly, as irresponsibly, and as privately, as you like - it is happening here, now.

If we do not change our settlement patterns now, and our membership "policy", it will be too late.



The people who argue for close-clustered settlement in a small number of villages, those who painfully by consensus formulated the principles and guidelines necessary to ensure settlement of this land does not destroy it, have been misrepresented by those most actively and misguidedly "managing" this "community", and as a result have been misunderstood by the others - the majority of residents who have come more recently. Fortunately, I think more and more residents are beginning to understand:

There is not, nor should there be, any possibility of a large settlement here in any other than a close-clustered pattern, in a small number of villages. Its just not on, - not here.

Perhaps it will take some time for many people here to understand the principles and resolutions of this community, and acquire a real feeling for this land. In the meantime, it is vital that we at least realise that genuine commitment to environmental protection and clustered settlement is essential if we are to gain the legal right to remain here.

And this legal situation is not something we activists are seeking to alter: On the contrary, we are submitting to government most strongly, that environmental controls over private land are weak and ineffective. We have actively sought the interests of genuine, conservationist alternative communities. (At the moment, I don't consider Bundagen is "alternative", or as yet, a "community".) We are certainly not seeking,

legalised destruction of a significant and fragile environment.

And so we have the present pattern of mis-placed buidings, vehicles, horses, fences, roads, access tracks, wrecks, rubbish, ugly excavations, dispersed caravans, abandoned half-built houses, swathes cut here and there, tractor for macho recreation, three years and still buying vegetables (and much else besides!) etc - the usual ocker pioneering havock: the sort of thoughtless enthusiasm we say we are the alternative to.

If up to 200 adults are to live here on a subsidy of \$16,000 a week, we'll have to show we're seriously working now, towards doing it very differently.

And while all this has been going on, we have asked only for moveable dwelling licences - because we said we would tread gently for a year or two, doing a comprehensive environment study, as the basis for our development application. That was our agreement, with one another, with Council and the community. And we would come to know one another, in the course of coming to know intimately, this incredible land we shared a feeling for, and a responsibility towards.

We impressed all this upon Council. And we were at pains to inform them, of the considerable expertise in this community, "the state of the art", as someone here once said. No wonder Council feel we have "led them up the garden path" - we have, indeed.



And so our task is to convince Council, and especially the D.E.P., and possibly the Land and Environment Court, that we are after all genuine, despite appearances, that we are "environmentally responsible", and seriously attempting a viable lifestyle. The situation is by no means irretrievable: Things can be altered, removed - carefully, easily. Everything depends on our capacity to transcend selfishness and impatience, through openness to understanding, and greater sensitivity. And at times, we have shown understanding, and sensitivity.

(cont. on page 33.)



Patterns of Settlement and Impact  
(cont. from page 10.)

Let me repeat : Without environmental protection provisions, and clustered settlement, we haven't a legal leg to stand on, and not a shred of public credibility.

As things stand at the moment, I feel the authorities would be justified in considering a restraining injunction against us, on environmental protection grounds. I am not saying that from the point of view of the planning authorities, we have yet done significant harm : I am saying that it is plain for them to see that we have embarked upon processes, which in time will destroy, the uniquely "rural character" of this land.

And I am saying that we, the conservation and alternative movements, who see this more clearly, and feel it more keenly, simply cannot stand by and watch it happen: If Bundagen continues with present processes, submissions will be presented to Government, that this land together with Skewes' land and A.P.M. land, be declared National

Park, and the title transferred to the local Aboriginal Land Council, who have a very strong claim over this land, which we have acknowledged in our Constitution, and in other ways.

I simply wish it to be clear, at this time, that there are people who cannot be ignored, who are concerned about the protection of this land. And who will act to protect it.

It will take commitment, patience and concerted effort by us all , to achieve clear understanding and agreement about our principles and intentions. To move forward, to a true alternative .

The coming Annual General Meeting, will decide whether we will be together embarking on these new processes.

Please take heed, Bundagen !  
( And be there ! )

- Barrie Griffiths, Green Alliance  
Bundagen.

May 10.84.

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

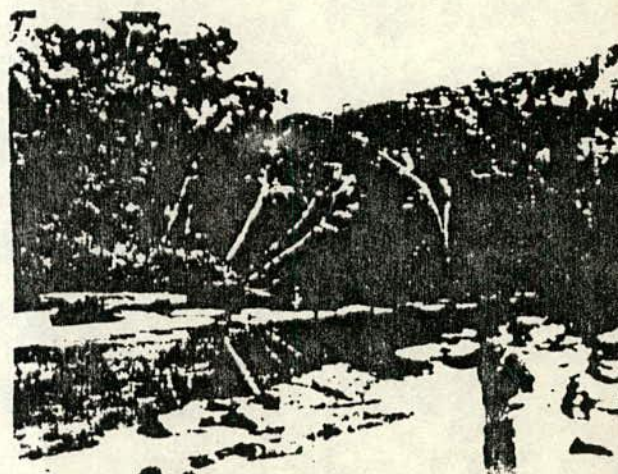
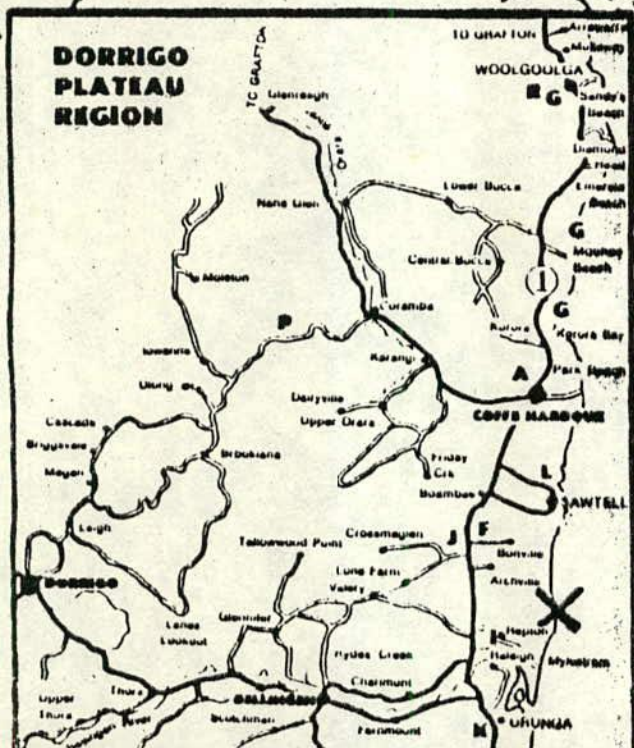
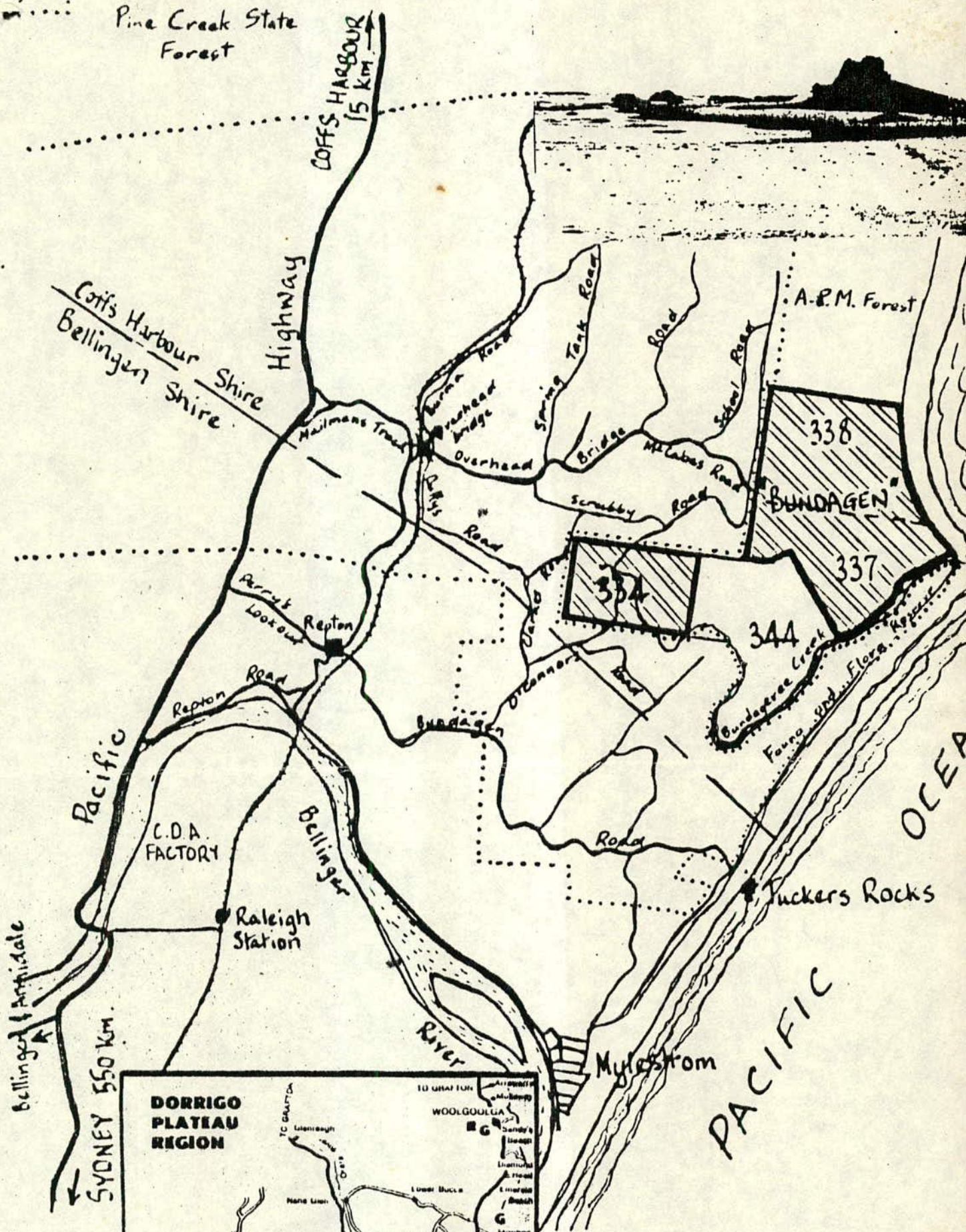
\*\*\*

QUESTION : How many people make up a "village"  
\*\*\* do you reckon ? \*\*\*

BUNDAGERY NEWSLETTER MAY 16.84.



area is the  
Pine Creek State  
Forest





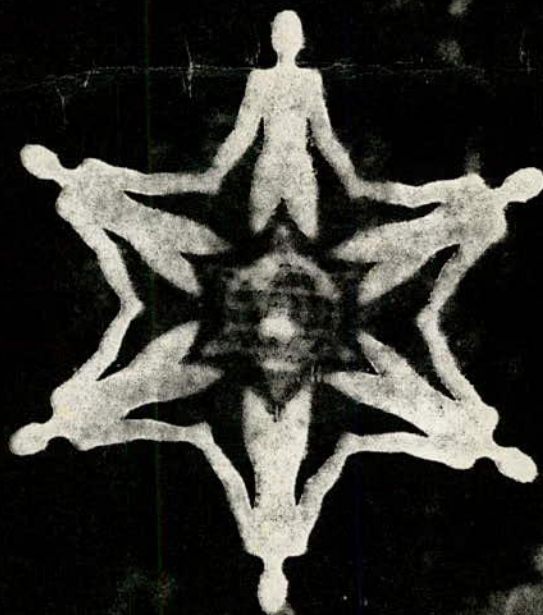
# Bundagen

NEWSLETTER No. 18

5/8/83

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBG5155  
Bundagen c/- Repton P.O. 2454. Ph. No. 066 - 53 4529.

NIMBIN 3-83



LIFESTYLE CELEBRATION

Sept 20-25



Summary of the Minutes from June's General Meeting Weekend

The 8-9 hour meeting managed to get through most of its agenda items, thanks to Alan Martin's facilitating.

New Legal Structure

Our Sydney solicitor, Michael Mobbs, is about to submit the 'Rules' of Bundagen Co-operative Limited to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for approval.

Many thanks to Bob Rosen and Barrie Griffiths for putting in most of the tedious preliminary work and to Dorin and David Wilson for much of the more recent work with the solicitor, Michael Mobbs.

A small group on the land focalised by Barrie Griffith met a number of times before the June A.G.M. to re-word some of the 'draft' rules, using 3 sources of information:

- (1) New decisions out of the Land Management Group discussions,
- (2) Bundagen's previous constitution,
- (3) Tuntable's constitution.

The meeting then empowered the Legal Group, after consultation with any persons that have any concerns about the wording of the rules, to:

finalise and come to full agreement on the wording of the Rules of Bundagen Co-op Ltd. to be submitted to the Registrar of Co-operatives.

The meeting also decided:

that an extra \$500 (in addition to the \$500 allocated at the ANZAC weekend meeting) be allocated for any legal costs the Legal Group sees fit.

Look up! Look up!

As Sunday's circle broke up for lunch, everyone's attention was caught as they looked up and saw 18 pelicans flying over our gathering in an impressive V formation. They appeared to be checking us out with great interest and it seemed to me that they were some sort of favourable omen.

I flashed back to an occasion two years ago on the headland facing Sawtell, at the end of the first seminar to buy the land. We were finishing the whole weekend with an enormous circle and many OMs. As we opened our eyes we became aware, as at this last meeting, of a V of pelicans quite definitely flying over to have a look at us. At that time too I thought 'What an omen!' It seemed somehow as if our efforts to buy the land (even though by the end of that weekend they were financially very slim) would be rewarded. And they were. And the pelicans are still interested in us. I wonder what they make of it all?.....

- Dorin



Outstanding 1983 Levies

There are still substantial numbers of members and part-members who haven't paid their 1982 and 1983 levies. 1983 levies were due in June of this year.

The June meeting decided that in either Newsletter No. 19 or No. 20 a full list of members will be printed - showing whether or not they have paid their '82 and/or '83 levies.

Treasurer's Report for 1/1/83 to 30/6/83

- will be in Newsletter No. 19.

Improvements to the Farm House

After some discussion it was decided that:

\$3,000 will be allocated towards extending and improving the existing farm house, and this to be co-ordinated by Chris Pile.

Thanks were given to Chris Pile and Robert Gay for the work they have been doing in and around the farm house.

Nimbin September Gathering

Anyone wishing to go up to this gathering as a group please contact Barrie Griffiths at Bundagen.

Coastal Study

There was much discussion on the rate of progress of Coastal Study.

Four Bundagen members met with a representative of the Coastal Council in Sydney in mid-July, and as a result of this and a number of Sydney coastal study meetings a re-assessment will be given and probably discussed at our October general meeting.

Late Newsletter

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by the lateness of this newsletter issue No. 18.

- Peter Mitchell





ARMED GUNMAN

HOLDS UP

HIPPIE PARTY!!

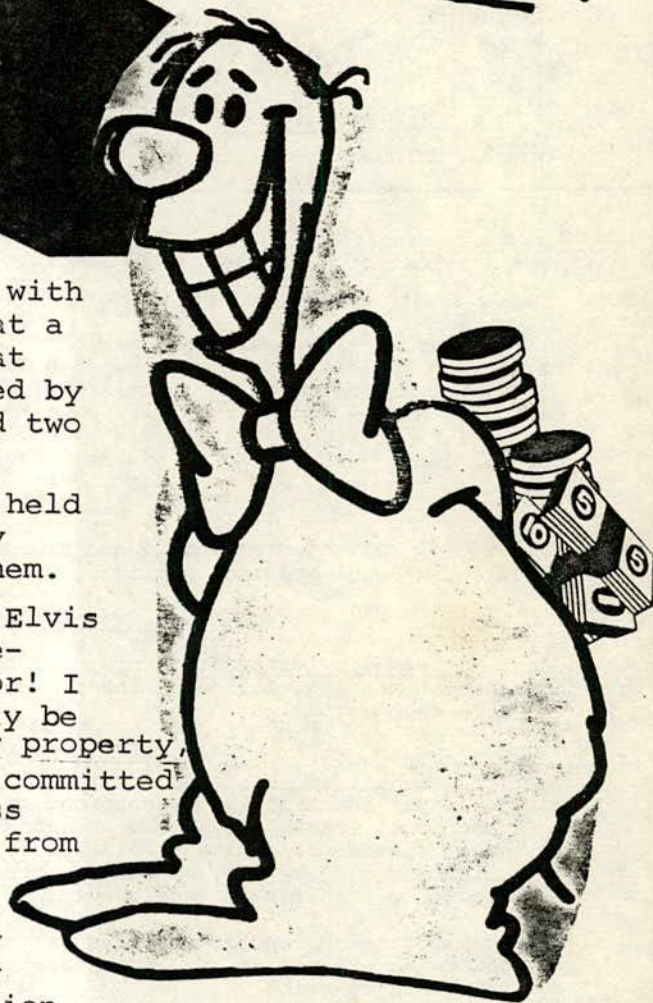
#### ARMED GUNMAN HOLDS UP HIPPIE PARTY

A masked gunman, threatening partygoers with a rifle, broke up a raging dance scene at a coastal commune south of Coffs Harbour at 10.00p.m. Saturday June 12. He was aided by two women, dressed as gangster molls and two armed men, who covered both exit doors.

For 30 minutes stunned party goers were held at rifle point until \$50, or a promisory note, had been extracted from each of them.

The group made off with some \$600. Mr. Elvis Kippman, self-confessed alternative life-styler, said "It was horror, sheer horror! I could not convince them that though I may be a shareholder in a half a million dollar property, I am nevertheless a penniless squatter, committed to a life of voluntary simplicity". His comments were greeted by boos and jeers from bystanding hippies.

Yes folks, you've guessed! It was Bobby Freeman and his gang of maintenance levy collectors at the Bundagen Levy Celebration. DON'T MISS IT NEXT YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



#### LEVY PARTY

Some came out of curiosity, some with amazingly varied excuses, some with paid up levies came to feel self-satisfied and some even came to pay their levies. It was a great party with fireworks to start and music from Peter Griffin (electrics) and Arnoldo (drums).

Bobby Freeman, in showman style, came dressed in fur coat, pin-striped suit and silk scarf, a real ganster complete with realistic looking rifle. With much planning, pushing and whispering, the communications centre was attached (no, more music) the doors were guarded by Lennie and Robert and Bonnie and Clyde with Banker Dorin staged a levy hold-up. Barrie Griffith put on a shameful display, rolling on the floor, howling and sucking his thumb, Elvis made up a boringly, long excuse, Susy produced hers from her long woollen underwear, Peter Mitchell swore over and over he'd already paid, (and we had to believe him), Alan tried to sneak out the door, and Trevor muttered something about being attached by a Spirulina Salesman. Dorin kept up her tireless efforts and extracted \$50, promisory notes, protests and excuses from all. On with the music, bravo Arnoldo and the old house shook with the dancing. A great rage - you can look forward to next years.

Glen hung up his hammer and saw and left at the end of June to visit his family in the States. A catering crew of Trish, Howard, Peter and Susy plus farm contributions served food for a farm party and farewell at the Woolshed, Gunradoo. Bobby staged a fireworks display, ending with a stray rocket shooting right through the crowd, in one side of the shed and out the other. Didn't even singe an eyebrow - but was it blue or was it red? Reports vary.



4.

A solstice meditation and sharing gathering was held to celebrate more light into our days. Bundagaree school and friends gathered under shelter at Susy's and Peter's as the rain prevented a more appropriate beach gathering. The day had much significance for Annie as she feels her baby will be born close to the Spring Equinox.

A Full Moon Party and birthday celebrations for Jessie and Raymond happened on the hill near the shower bananas. The evening was marked by a partial eclipse of the moon soon after it rose, and we shared birthday cake round a bonfire.

Community meals are happening on a more regular basis, now kitchens and gardens are coming together. Work on the house with good kitchen, storage and food co-op operating will make it so that the best is yet to come.

Coming Event: I'm sure there'll be heaps of excuses for gatherings large and small but how about a Spring Ball?? (dare we say in the newly renovated house?)

- Susy.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Quarterly Meeting - 1st - 3rd October

Labour Day Weekend) (our A.G.M.)

Co-Ordinators Meeting No. 4, 1983-84 - Sunday 4th September

10.00 am at the house..

Any Agenda Items for the October quarterly meeting please make a list of them, and send them up to the Sunday 4th September Co-ordinators' meeting.

### Election of New Co-Ordinators

For a report from the 1982-1983 Co-ordinators refer page

The following 18 people were elected to be our 1983-84 co-ordinators:

- |                           |                                   |                    |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ken Farley - Treasurer | 7. Janet Linell                   | 13. Bob Rosen      |
| 2. Barrie Griffith        | 8. Alan Martin                    | 14. Phillip Smith  |
| 3. Isabel Haron           | 9. Peter Mitchell - newsletter    | 15. Rick Wilder    |
| 4. Dori Hart - Secretary  | 10. Geof Moran                    | 16. Trevor Windus  |
| 5. Marie Howell           | 11. Diane Payne - membership sec. | 17. David Wrathall |
| 6. Col James              | 12. Gay Reuter                    | 18. Jack Wyatt     |

### Timing of Quarterly Meetings

Peter Cook suggested we should questionnaire members about having one of our 3 non-Xmas vacation general meetings within a school holiday period.

### Overall Water Plan for Bundagen

As a matter of priority it is proposed that the following be discussed at the next Land Management meeting, following the consensus agreement at this General Meeting, and implemented as soon as possible.

It was agreed to:

1. Set about enacting land management to secure the purity of all water in all the existing catchments, dams, creeks, bores and other water sources. This includes full analysis of water specimens and implementation of appropriate measures to control siltation, catchment quality etc. as well as other factors affecting water quality. This analysis should be paid for if necessary.
2. Provide the appropriate catalyst(s) to bring together all the available experience in observing water patterns and assessing the water potential of land:
  - (i) when it rains
  - (ii) over planned extended periods of a week or more.

The purpose of this is to compile existing knowledge and observations of water patterns and potential and to then engage professional consultant(s) if necessary, to complete our understanding of existing water flow patterns on the land in a water potentials plan.

  - (a) It was agreed that the possibility of a land potentials assessment and management workshop be investigated for the near future as such a catalyst. This would include Keyline practices, Permaculture design and Ecology workshops.
  - (b) That 2 dowers be sought to further investigate the flows of water and provide additional insight into water patterns.
  - (c) That money be made available (with a ceiling of \$5,000) to complete this water potentials assessment.
  - (d) That the co-ordinators seek task-oriented assistance to ensure responsibility is taken for all areas of this assessment in the immediate future.

It was also proposed and agreed that the following system be investigated and costed for the approval of a co-ordinators' meeting and implemented as soon as possible pending that approval:

1. That a maximum of 20,000 gal. in water storage concrete tank(s) be placed in-ground in the appropriate place - either under the new house extensions or otherwise. This tank(s) to have facility for easy removal should the need arise.
 

Consideration should be given to the needs and growth patterns of the nearby fig trees in determining any placement of such tank(s).
2. That a small solar electric pump be purchased to feed a header tank (min. 100 gal.) to provide house pressure.
3. That a solar hot water system be set up to circulate to the bathroom and kitchen of the house. This would provide a complete independant and self-contained water system for the community and visitors.
4. That creative means be explored for providing hot water for special situations and events.





## ROADS

### Roads - a report from Guy

The gravel has now been extracted from Bundageree Creek, but it is too wet to spread and needs to dry for a month (assuming dry weather). The roads to be gravelled have been graded and work on culverts can be completed while the gravel dries. Cost so far have been \$2,200. This exceeds the original costing and there is much work to be done to complete the project. It is important to realise that the original costing was done at a period when unusually dry conditions had been experienced for almost a year. Since May there has been almost unbroken wet weather which has interrupted all work on the land and caused high water table conditions which may not return to a low state for many months. The result has been that extra work has had to be done on the haul road for the gravel & different (also extra) machinery was needed to extract the gravel. Because of the need to dry it out a double haul will be necessary to spread the gravel. A small amount of extra roading has been done improving access to the SW corner and to Pit, Peter and Alan's camp. Estimated costs to complete the work to give us a road of McCabes standard to each carpark (as planned) \$2000-\$2500.

Once the gravel is dry it will take 1 - 2 days to cart and spread. At present the roads are closed while work is done on culverts. Once this is complete roads can be used before graveling, but will be closed if weather is wet. The order of priorities on the work is:

1. completion of main roads to each car park
2. grading and some fill on McCabes road (only last part after School Rd to Bundagen Gate)
3. if any funds still available it might be possible to complete the link from the Gunnadoo/ SE Corner car park to give an all weather track to the existing headland track. This would include a short link into the banana lease. In this way the bottom road could be phased out, making a considerable improvement to the water catchment of Bundagen. Note: further investigation is needed on all this by the Land Management group before any work could take place (irrespective of availability of funding). Some track does need to be maintained to the beach for emergency purposes including beach accidents and bush fires.



### LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

What with about 40 inches of rain falling without much break over the past five months, chances of much physical progress have been limited. Maintaining village continuity and keeping people dry has been a effort! However you will be glad to know the roads, McCabes and ours to the house and the old camping ground (S.E.) have been graded. Three culverts, etc. have been placed at key points for drainage, and the gravel has been extracted from the site on Bundageree. (see roads report) There will be safety signs of 15 kph speed limit placed, and speed bumps if necessary. A need for walking and bike tracks, separate from roads where possible has been discussed.

Another center of working bee activity is the house. With some fine detail from our design group on the plan, the extension should be under way. Materials from building demolition sites have been acquired and tenders for others have been placed. So far work includes a new chip heater for the bathroom; showers in the laundry with a wood copper outside; painting of the office and bathroom; front water tank moved to new stand near back door; extensions marked out and pier holes dug. A new pit toilet, built to health regulations and design is being placed behind the shed at the house. Maybe a piano for the house if one could be found at a reasonable price and condition (anyone got one?)

A lot of struggle has gone on cleaning the burnt shed and area with an amazing success by the people living up that way. Cleaning of the small mango and guava patch is near completion also.

The Anzac meeting saw some discussion and proposals concerning the site for a general workshop and materials storage area, with no decision on a permanent site. However, considering site and sound and access, the general feeling is the area around the bottom car park near the house would be best, with a wall of fire retardant trees around the site.



6.

The need for this area and shed can be realized when one lives and works at Bundagen and Bundageree. So if people have any strong objections please send them in, as site investigation is being considered to go ahead soon. Also much energy has gone into preparing equipment.

Mid March saw the drilling of Bundagen's first water bore; with some reservations and increased cost the drill went to 200 feet, the best flow being air tested at 140 feet. The flow is 250-300 gallons per hour, sufficient to be pumped comfortably by a large wind mill or other pumps, realizing enough water for the house or village. The water was divined by Peter Johnston, of good reputation in this area. He said the stream was 700 gallons an hour at 90 ft. He said it wasn't salt water and those present at the drilling said the taste was clean. Underground streams in this area usually are. However a lab test for salinity is being undertaken.

The matter of pumps is a flexible issue with combinations of short and long term needs and alternative and conventional energy. However, with the possibilities of other water bore sites we may be able to manufacture our own systems or parts thereof.

We are making enquiries to CSIRO energy research, describing our basic situation and hoping for information on pumping systems, etc. There is also much information to be gained from local people, but the time spent tracking down the people makes it an ongoing issue. For about \$300 we could use our fire pump to deliver water from the bore to the house or village, depending on the quality test.

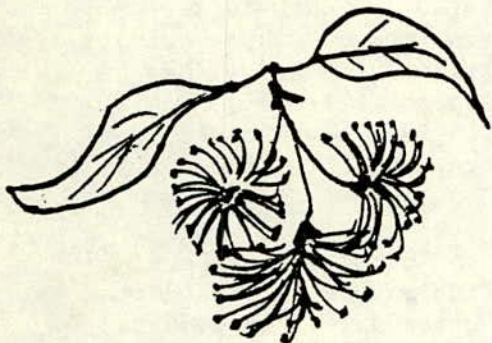
It was agreed at the June meeting to undertake a complete water studies plan for Bundagen and Bundageree. A group are to request a survey by the Water Resources Commission; the opinions of two other water diviners is to be sought; and finally to employ the services of Ken Yeomans, water planer and engineer.

A plant nursery group has been started at Bundagen. The plan so far is to collect information locally and initially grow plants for Bundagen and Bundageree, with a long term aim of making it commercially viable for those involved. The area being considered is near the house. Water is a priority.

At present the zoning map is awaiting more input by those concerned. Thus far our working map has collected information and opinions on a variety of areas - community and village information, wildlife refuge, sanctuary, drainage patterns and fragile areas, car parks and fire protection. It is hoped to have areas of the land declared wildlife refuge with the Parks and Wildlife Department. At present Chris Pile is getting a new base map together with 2 metre contours - giving us finer land formation detail.

Regards,

The people on the land,  
and from the ten foot Basking Goanna  
on the beach Gordey thought was a log.



#### SOUTH-WEST VILLAGE

Like most of us, the rain of past has held up activities we wanted to do; but with this beautiful clear and warm period we have been able to begin with the work.

The main one being slashing of our village area. With the tall grass gone, the fire concern is eased and paves the way for grazing to keep the grass low and lessens the demand of machinery. Mulch has been collected to prepare the future garden and grain areas for spring and for the existing gardens and trees.

Ten citrus trees have been planted around our communal building area, all are well and thriving in the cool conditions near the dam.

As a group, we feel happy and privileged to be part of this village and Bundagen. We hope these feelings are shared by all, as our Bundagen is certainly a unique opportunity and learning experience.

Best wishes, Frank, Phillip, Judy, Terry, Desma, Simeon, Sappho, Arnold and Judith.



BUNDAGEN CO-ORDINATORS - "keeping the kettle boiling" - a report for 1982-83.

With the appointment of 15 co-ordinators at the June AGM (1982) we moved formally into the organizational framework Bundagen had chosen for its ongoing management. The company itself was not finally registered until November '82, but in the meantime we were able to try out our new administrative system and by 'R' day all was flowing smoothly.

It was understood at the outset that the role of co-ordinators and the function of our meetings were ones which would emerge more clearly as situations arose. Most co-ordinators had already been involved in making Bundagen happen and "co-ordinator" was just a new label for a role we, as individuals, had already played.

No-one was eager to produce any great demonstrations of power and authority (wearing a formal 'hat' of responsibility with an alternative society can be some cause for embarrassment! - nevertheless there was work to be done.

The experience of the year has been that it is very important for the effective running of the community to have a core of identifiable committed members who continue to meet on a regular basis between general meetings. The group has been representative of those with a strong interest and involvement in Bundagen at different levels and from different perspectives and has had a broader base than any of the various working groups. Though it is often difficult for people living at any distance from the land to maintain the level of input needed to be a co-ordinator, it is important to Bundagen's overall energies that the administrative responsibilities be spread as widely as possible across our membership.

Meetings

Our aim was to meet monthly and this proved to be a reasonable target and a frequent enough gathering to deal with business. Of our 11 co-ordinators meetings, 3 were the day following our quarterly general meetings (and hence largely consisted of business carried over from the previous day); 3 meetings were held in Sydney after Preparatory Meetings and were often concerned with preparation of material for the next general meeting. The remaining 4 meetings were held on the land and filled the important gap when the whole group of members cannot be contacted but business nevertheless has to be done. The average number of co-ordinators attending these meetings was 8, with the largest gathering invariably after a general meeting. Meetings were always and after the , when a very large number of observers were present, (perhaps to check us out!). We adopted the principle of an inner circle of co-ordinators and an outer one of observers who were given the opportunity to participate. From this point onwards, however, so few members attended as observers that this magnificent principle was never put into practice! Co-ordinators and observers sat in one circle.

Since all of us have suffered at times from "meetingitis" (too many and too long) we have tried as co-ordinators to be models of efficiency re: time keeping, focussing the discussion as closely to the point as we can, and getting things done with a minimum of fuss. And by and large it has worked. Our meetings have been productive, friendly and not too much of an energy drain.

The Co-ordinators (see also list in Appendix)

There was no clear idea at the beginning of the year whether 15 co-ordinators would be an adequate number, or would perhaps be too many and make business cumbersome. During the year 3 co-ordinators (Clarrie, Greg, Mac, Janet and Marnie) resigned because of conflicting commitments and each time it was felt that a replacement was needed and even at times an additional co-ordinator. In this way all interests in Bundagen were better represented and a reasonable attendance at meetings was possible. It seems that, with our ever mobile members, a 30% turn-out of co-ordinators at any one meeting is reasonable, as long as co-ordinators keep themselves informed and in contact with each other and the whole community. Over the year we developed the practice of having phone link-ups on major agenda issues with any co-ordinators who could not attend. This seems to work well.

The Business

Different emphases have emerged over the year as Bundagen itself has grown. Initially our major concern was to satisfy members who wished to withdraw and have their \$3,000 loan reimbursed - this involved a recruiting drive to ensure their replacement. There was also an attempt to open negotiations to purchase Lot 344.

Then came the changeover to Bundagen Land Ltd. and a short period of complacency when everything seemed to be in hand - then Land Tax and the need to be a co-op! Life is never not dull!. In all these matters policy had been set by the general meetings and co-ordinators votes were very much in making sure these initiatives were carried through.

Much of our work has involved the drawing together of information and ideas from across the community - for example the budget submission, the interview questionnaire for new members. Camping guidelines, membership guidelines. Another quite different function has been to act as a forum (at meetings) where disputes can be aired.

Relationship to working Groups

While the Land Management Group has met regularly throughout the year, others have had a more fluctuating activity. It seems that each particular group rises to prominence when needs are great and pressures are strong (eg. the legal group at present). While most co-ordinators are involved in one or other working group, it is important that the working groups continue to function independently of co-ordinators meetings, reporting in on their progress to co-ordinators. The co-ordinators group cannot and should not replace any of these specialised task forces which should draw on a much wider body of members for input.





## Role and Responsibilities

By the end of a year's activities we were much clearer on our role, our last meeting plus input from absent co-ordinators suggested the following guidelines for the 1983-4 group:

### a) Overall Responsibilities as co-ordinators

- to be legally responsible for Bundagen
- to attend all co-ord. meetings
- to make sure co-ord. know what's going on within Bundagen (on the land and elsewhere)
- to be able to act as a source of information re Bundagen
- to follow up decisions at General meeting
- to keep B's business flowing smoothly
- to look after financial matters
- to organise membership records and replacements
- to represent all members with their different news and interests

### b) Specific Individual Responsibilities

Treasurer  
Secretary  
Membership Secretary  
Newsletter  
Council liaison  
Area representatives      Bundageree/Gunnadoo/SW/SE/Sydney/etc.

### c) Particular Functions of Co-ord Meetings

- to act as clearing house for ideas/proposals for G.M.'s
- to settle/suggest methods of settling disputes in period between G.M.'s
- to relieve G.M.'s of routine agenda items
- to check on progress of various working groups.

Note: the meetings should always be open, be held once a month and some should be off the land.

## In Conclusion

It's been difficult in a report such as this to summarize all our activities. It seems to have been a successful year - at least we've had no complaints from members! And I assume that with such a large proportion of co-ordinators making themselves available to continue next year, it can't have been too terrible an experience.....

For myself it's all been very worthwhile, if rather busy. We seem to have made considerable progress as a group at the social interactional level - meetings can even be fun!

I wonder what next year brings.....?

Dorin.



## APPENDIX I

The following summarizes co-ordinators' involvement and interests in Bundagen during the year 1982-83.

Obviously many other members have also been part of Bundagens activities. Thanks from us to everyone - without you there would be no Bundagen!

### ALEX LEVAK

Resident south-east corner then Gunadoo - during the year bought the banana lease. Attended almost all meetings on land

### BOB ROSEN

1½ hours away at Bowraville. Treasurer until February '83 when handed over to Ken. Spent immense amount of time verifying accounts and membership records ready for transfer to Bundagen Land Limited. Heavy involvement with legal group in the mechanics of transfer and now the conversion to co-op. Often not able to attend meetings but always in contact over issues.

### CLARRIE

Resident, near house. Caretaking at house and active role in land management and preparation of budget. Resigned at meeting (3) saw need for more co-ordinators on land to keep up with work. Replaced by Alan Martin. Continued to be heavily involved in land management.

### COL JAMES

Sydney. Involved in planning issues (especially community house) liaison with Council and land tax submission.

### DAVID WRATHALL

Sydney and "on the road". As a result managed to attend meetings regularly. A member of Environment and Planning Group and also "business manager" of Coastal Study.

### DEBBIE CLARKE

Sydney. Difficulty in attending meetings. Took over mailing list and updating from Lothar in November.

### DORIN

1 hour away at Thora. Secretary. Link person (especially before phone on the land) Heavily involved in meetings - procedure and recording. Managed to be at all 11 (phew!) Taking information etc from the land to Sydney when meetings there.

### GREG RYAN

Sydney. Formerly treasurer on land. Found it difficult to keep contact once living off the land. Phone list person for Sydney members until resigned September to travel to India.



IAN MACARTHUR (MAC)

On the land then 1½ hours away in Dorriggo. Initial involvement building and construction especially mud bricking barn, had difficulty in attending meetings. Resigned November to allow another representative from the land - replaced by Rick Wilder for Bundageree.

ISABEL HARAN

Resident S.E. corner then Gunnadoo. Treasurer 1981-82 - in aboriginal liaison group.

JACK WYATT

Coffs Harbour. Originally media contact still maintains informal links. Involved in negotiations/dealings with Coffs Harbour Council and any matters concerning design and building e.g. Amenities block. Not always able to attend meetings but in close contact with people on land and always available for consultation.

JANET RENTZ

Bonneville, then moved back to Sydney. Difficulty in attending meetings. Resigned April to travel overseas.

JUDY WHISTLER

Brisbane and 'on the road'. Energetic input when able to attend meetings.

KEN FARLEY

Bonviller then resident at Gunnadoo. Assistant treasurer until February when took over from Bob. Regular attendance of meetings on the land.

LOTHAR

Sydney. Much energy put into recruitment group and mailing list (subsequently taken over by Debbie) and heavy involvement in legal group land tax submission. Regular attendance at meetings. Had to ease off later in year due to family commitments.

PETER MITCHELL

Sydney. Immense energy into newsletter production. Became link person in Sydney for most Bundagen business; also focus for co-ordinators in Sydney.

ALAN MARTIN

Resident at Gunadoo then "the centre". (replaced Clarrie) Regular appearance at meetings; particular involvement with building and maintenance of community spaces and land management in general.

RICK WILDER

Bundageree (replaced Mac November) Regular attendance of meetings on land. Heavy involvement with all planning for Bundageree.

MARNIE (LEONIE MARNIER)

Moved back to land from Sydney October. Initially Repton then Gunnadoo. Membership Sec. appointed January as additional representative from the land to fill need of specific Sec. Heavily involved with development on land (especially social and educational). Resigned May to go to S.A.

MAREE HOWELL

Resident S.E. corner then Gunnadoo. Appointed January an additional representative from land.

GEOFF MORAN

Resident S.E. corner (replaced Janel Rentz April) continued involvement in land management since move to land. Coffs Council honorary warden for Bundagen Beach. In access task force and Council liaison group also legal group.

DIANN PAYNE

Resident near house (replaced Marnie April) Membership secretary. Involved in land Management and legal group.





## LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

I suggest that this work follow a process similar to that set out below. The order of the process should provide a slot for each factor which needs to be considered more or less in the order set out.

### 1. (a) PRINCIPLES:

- . ENVIRONMENTAL
- . SOCIAL
- . ECONOMIC

### (b) BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

### 2. INFORMATION, ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSALS:

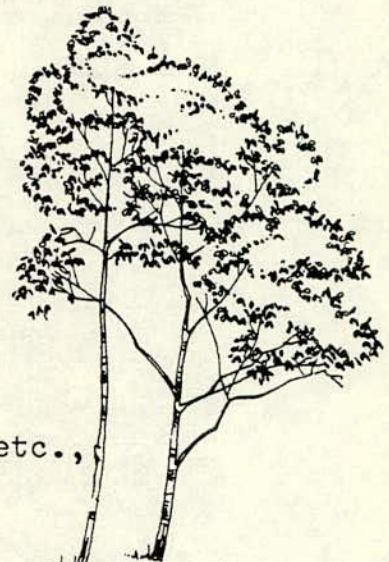
This section may be best documented and presented in the form of annotated overlays over the photographic base with 2 metre contours, with supporting notes where necessary.

#### (a) Existing Information;

- (i) spiritual places and community spaces,
- (ii) vegetation,
- (iii) soil and water,
- (iv) fire history,
- (v) history of agricultural usage, ..... etc.,

#### (b) Assessment of Information:

- (i) effect of prevailing weather patterns,
- (ii) water patterns,
- (iii) special flora and fauna areas,
- (iv) areas required for viable forests,
- (v) patterns of access: natural, past & recent,
- (vi) pattern of agricultural development, ..... etc.,



#### (c) Special, Sensitive and Fragile Areas:

- (i) Aboriginal and other special places,
- (ii) fragile habitat: animal and plant communities,
- (iii) sanctuaries,
- (iv) forests requiring regeneration, ..... etc.,

#### (d) Constraints and Opportunities:

- (i) permaculture potential,
- (ii) ecologically sustainable human settlement and agricultural areas,
- (iii) special, sensitive and fragile areas, ..... etc.,

The basic consideration in this section is that an opportunity needs to be weighed against other potential opportunities.

#### (e) Zones:

The activities and land use for various areas may be shown specifically in terms of say a road or a water catchment area but in terms of a potential forest, garden or living area would be shown in general terms, overlapping adjacent zones where no specific constraints exist.

#### (f) Detailed Proposals:

This is the last and top sheet. A proposed activity or development may be plotted on this sheet. The sheets underneath should contain all information required to consider a proposal. Where underlying sheets are not completed then further work may need to be done before it would be reasonable to expect a decision from say a General Meeting on any proposal of a significant nature.



I appreciate the work being done by the people on the land toward preparing the land use and development guidelines. I have attempted to set out this comprehensive approach and systematic process to maximise the effectiveness of this work both in the long term and the short term. I feel that we Bundaginites could be concentrating our time on achieving progress in this form of activity and suggest that Land Management again consider arranging a workshop for those interested to assist.

- David Wrathall

Taken from "The One-Straw Revolution"  
by MASANOBU FUKUOKA.

"The autumn nights are long and chilly. The time would be well spent gazing into glowing coals, hands pressed around a warm cup of tea.....stirring the fire while making hearthside conversation on daily affairs. How can I ask anybody to put up with an old farmer's foolish notions?".....

....."If you look across the country you might notice that quite a few communes have been springing up recently. If they are called gatherings of hippies, well, they could be viewed that way too, I suppose. But in living and working together, finding the way back to nature, they are the model of the "new farmer". They understand that to become firmly rooted means to live from the yields of their own land. A community that cannot manage to produce its own food will not last long".....

....."When it is understood that one loses joy and happiness in the attempt to possess them, the essence of natural farming will be realized. The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings."



### SOME FEELINGS ON GENERAL MEETINGS

All agenda items have to be discussed at a land management and co-ordinators meeting before being accepted. The idea being that a proposal should be researched fully by small groups and then presented to a General Meeting.

The co-ordinators would take a greater roll in saying what goes on the agenda.

This would make a quicker, more enjoyable meeting, avoiding personality clashes and one persons proposal taking up large amounts of time with no immediate results.

I would like some feed-back on this, so maybe a group could put some positive changes forward to bring about a more beautiful general meeting.

Love and peace  
Geoff Moran.

## A TALE OF JILL (AND JACK)

"A sociological publication, 'Racism and Sexism in Children's Books', warns parents against reading stories like *Dr Doollittle* or *Mary Poppins*."

—News item

THANK goodness my children are old enough now to fall asleep listening to Fleetwood Mac and not me reading bedtime stories, otherwise this might occur:

"Jill and Jack went up the hill....."

"You mean Jack and Jill don't you?"

"No, Jill is just as good at mountain climbing as Jack. There is no reason for Jack to go first."

"But Jack always goes first."

"Jack used to go first but once upon a time Jill attended a consciousness raising session

and she realised that Jack was being sexist."

"What's sexist?"

"Well it's when Jack insists on going first because he thinks Jill should be happy with being second."

"Why isn't Jill happy with being second? She used to be."

"Because Jill has been to an assertiveness training course. Before they went up the hill she told Jack to back off or she would have his guts for garters."

"That doesn't sound like the Jill I know."

"Maybe, but girls like Jill are tired of being showpieces. They have opinions and want to be heard."

"Why does Jill want to beat Jack up the hill?"

"Jill doesn't want to beat Jack. Jill wants to exercise her right to equal opportunity in hill climbing with Jack. Jill knows since International Women's Year that she would be letting herself be subject to male dominance if she let Jack go first this time."

"But if Jill goes first isn't Jack being subject to female dominance?"

"Yes, you might think that, but during this transition time Jill is entitled to some positive discrimination."

"Get on with the story."

"All right. Jill and Jack went up the hill to fetch a pail of water."

"Who is carrying the bucket?"

"Does it matter which person is carrying the bucket?"

"Yes, because if Jill went first then Jack must be carrying the bucket. Girls are too weak to carry buckets up hill by themselves."

"Now you know that isn't true. Jill is just as strong as Jack. She has been to judo and Karate classes, plays touch football, chess and plans to be an engineer. She is carrying the empty bucket in one hand."

"What is she doing with the other hand?"

"Jill is helping Jack up the hill with her other hand."

"You are kidding."

"Not at all. Jack winded himself trying to beat her up the hill and is forced to accept her help. It is a very meaningful moment in his development."

"Jack sounds like a bit of a sissy."

"That is not true. Jack doesn't have to be a macho man to relate to Jill. He can admit his weakness and find fulfilment in a relationship

based on respect for others' strengths and weaknesses."

"How do you know Jack is weaker than Jill?"

"Because Jack fell down and broke his crown."

"I bet Jill pushed him when he wasn't looking."

"That's unfair. Jack lost his balance because unlike Jill he didn't have perfect co-ordination. Had he gone along to jazz ballet classes with her he would not have stumbled on the rocks."

"What happened to Jill?"

"She came tumbling after."

"A long time after. I bet,

because she enjoyed watching Jack fall."

"Up Jack got and home he trot as fast as he could caper, and went to bed with a mended head of vinegar and brown paper."

"Vinegar and brown paper?"

"What sort of treatment is that?"

"Alternative medicine is just as good as establishment methods of white middle-class society."

"You mean..."

"Yes, Jack and Jill are a mixed race couple in a Third World country emerging from colonial oppression and determined to usher in a new order of peace and harmony."



## BUNDAGEN BUBBLES ooo compiled by Peter Geddes.

We're all ready getting paid --- we're on the dole aren't we?  
Yeah, and living in paradise.....

The sentiments above were expressed at a Coastal Study workshop on the beach in June attended by 15 people. It was a beautiful day and those present were grateful to David Wilson for shocking the annual general meeting into considering returning the \$5,000 coastal study grant. Chris Pile, who convened the Bundagen meeting said he appreciated the support for the study and conceded that we needed an extension of time.

Surfers complained the beach had lost huge amounts of sand from its banks and spoilt the wave action and four wheel drives and motor bikes still alarm mothers (and brothers). Geoff Moran attended a Bellinger Plateau Conservation Society meeting to discuss off-road vehicles. A majority of the 70 people present were amateur fishermen alarmed that their access was threatened by complaints about dangerous driving on the beaches.

Rose witnessed the unusual spectacle of about 25 dolphins converging on the headland from many points and the same weekend an enthusiastic group joined Peter Dolphin in Bellingen.

A Lyre Bird was seen on the west side of Bundageree and there have been three reports of owls flying into peoples homes and catching mice. Susy and I share a Butcher Bird who perches on our kitchen fruit basket to hunt mice. Much more effective than traps and cats. For RATS (and we had quite a few) we re-invented the Dreamtime Rat Trap.

Tie some bait (a pumpkin seed is probably better than cheese) on a stick balancing on the edge of a table with a garbage pail  $\frac{1}{2}$  filled with water underneath: We used a bucket, but, they jumped out. It just wasn't deep enough. The record catch established in Darkwood Winter 1979 was 50. Okay compost.ooo

Two yellow and black Regent Bower birds are frequent visitors in our garden and cynics maintain the birds are just waiting on our papaws ripening. A Koala cries at night and just three nights after seeing a V-formation of 13 Pelicans flying south over the headland we saw three black swans head north at sunset. After the wettest June since the 1950's a bit of sun is welcome. What are you supposed to do when 30 black Cocatoos gather in a tree directly above you. The bird is reputed to bring rain and bush people reckon to expect a days rain for each Cocatoo sighted. At times we see feral cats and sometimes a dog.

Coffs little FM radio station boosted its power recently and comes in loud and clear at 104.5. In Bellingen with 2BBBfm hoping to go to air this season the co-ordinator Steve Abel is entirely confident that Bundagen will get a strong signal. Recent tests were poor at Bundagen but Steve says the Bello FM will really shout out. They need money - just \$7,800 but everything when you're broke. Growing slowly the Coffs station now takes in \$140,000 a year and sounds so much better than our battered tapes.

### COMMUNICATION

I was really hurting, and I found myself looking around the group and wondering if anyone cared how I felt or whether they were more interested in making rules. I wondered if there was anyone there who would give me a hug.

oooooooooooooooo

I'm learning how to express myself better, but for a long while I felt crushed and cramped at Bundagen meetings. I'm trying to get into a space where I express my feelings rather than my thoughts. One person says he can present a logical argument in favour of anything. I thought of asking him to present my argument for me. Like hiring an advocate or lawyer.

oooooooooooooooo

There needs to be some pats on the back. I reckon Bundagen is wonderful and I know communities 10 years old that aren't as together as Bundagen.

oooooooooooooooo

I've always been able to hold my own until I came to Bundagen. I try to say something at a meeting and my voice isn't strong enough to compete with six loud males. By the time I finally get a chance to speak my contribution is irrelevant. It was easier in the city. If nothing else worked I could always wear high heels and flutter my eye lashes.

oooooooooooooooo

A skilled debater just talks you down and leaves you feeling like you've got a speech impediment.

We could have a communications workshop and learn how to loosen up, project ourselves, act out roles etc. or live in trust and friendship and caring.

### WORK

Two major themes seemed to evolve from a one-day conference into work opportunities held in Bellingen July 2.

One: There is going to be plenty of government money available to assist unemployed.

Two: It is the unemployed who must initiate the employment ideas and put forth the proposals to get the money.



The conference which was sponsored by the Bellingen Learning Group in conjunction with the University of New England's Australian Rural Adjustment Unit, came out strongly in favour of co-operative enterprises.

We need to gather like-minded people together to have the strength and expertise to realistically conduct small business operations that provide meaningful services and wages, it was decided by 60 persons attending. It was envisaged that thousands of people would line up for grants virtually swamping the bureaucracy, but only well-researched professional applications would catch the first waves.

They could be considered small business loans at low interest and government guaranteed, and involving sufficient capital to pay union wages and capital expenditures for set-up and a two-year running period with extensions as necessary.

It was recognised that Bellingen had an amazing untouched pool of managerial advice in its retired people's community that included former bankers, accountants, legal and market research people.

An appraisal committee was formed based on the Bellingen Learning Group where written proposals will be considered and development advice made available to anyone interested. It was considered that six months to a year was necessary to properly research key areas such as product, people, market, premises, money, budget and advisers. It may be possible to get advance funds towards covering the cost of research and developing.

-Peter Geddes

#### Talk with Runner-Bill

....I look at Bundagen from the point of view of farmer. I don't like to see the scrub coming back. The property looked better when the cattle used to wander in from Bundageree. Bundagen has enough forest around it. Develop the open land - make it produce.....

That's our neighbour Bill O'Donnell talking. Better known as Runner Bill and a common sight jogging through Bundagen and body surfing on the beach.

Bill grew up on his father's 20 acres on the Big Ridge at Woolgoolga north of Coffs and like many a country lad, fled as soon as he left school. But he has been surfing at Bundagen since 1958, and quite familiar with the 'old Souris place'.

"Stick to basics", is Bill's main message. "I've gone broke growing strawberries. You need something with a long shelf life. We're a long way from the big markets here.

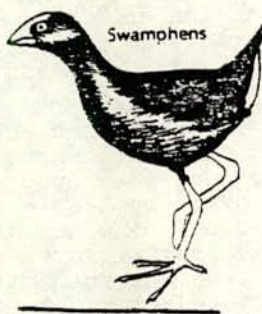
"There's a fortune in lemons. I get 950 off one big Eureka and it bears fruit year round. Every housewife buys two lemons a week. And oranges: You could buy year old free-rooted oranges for \$2.75 (seconds are even cheaper) pot them and sell them at three years for \$12. You could put everyone out of business by sellin them at \$8 if you got into it in a big way. Everyone plants citrus. Every new home in Coffs is just waiting for several, and coffee beans, they're easy as pie to grow and sell for three dollars."

He sees bananas as an important asset for Bundagen: "Souris would have had to eat the paint off the walls like the other locals in the fifties if it hadn't been for the banana boom. Bundagen is lucky to have its frost-free areas. The bananas make a perfect host for avocados and can be grown organically."

"But the best return per acre must be papaws, there's good money to be made with pumpkins, and Bundagen would be a good spot for pre-Christmas water melons."

It is a fickle market, Bill is quick to point out. He remembers when papaws rotted on the ground and now avocados and kiwi fruit are cheaper as well as pecan nuts.

- Peter Geddes.



#### NURSERY

A Nurserypersons's Guild has been formed at Bundagen with the aim of investigating the establishment of a large commercially viable tree nursery.

Recognizing Bundagen's enormous need for trees and that of the North Coast generally, it was considered opportune to start research immediately. Suggestions at the initial meeting included:

- Everything points to government funding becoming available to communities like Bundagen that are composed largely of unemployed.
- That we had a strong core group of at least seven people who were committed to the task.
- That we should think on a large scale as the need for regional plant was apparent.
- That we had the skill and work force to offer a consultancy for other communities, and provide labour for design, planting, landscaping and workshops.
- That we are in a blessed situation to raise a large variety and that there is very little competition in a very worthwhile business.

Those attending the meeting resolved to initiate independent research and meet in a fortnight. Hopefully we'll hear a lot more from them.

- Peter Geddes



### BUNDAGEN VISIT

This M.O. property is located near Repton, south of Coffs Harbour. This beautiful property of some 300 ha borders on the ocean and is largely surrounded by forested areas. Its share/membership ceiling is limited to 1 person/ha and I believe about 50% have expressed an interest to live on the land one day, though only about 30 do so at the moment.

They are a non-profit company limited by guarantee but are now taking steps to change to a Rural Society as their annual Land Tax bill is in the vicinity of \$12,000. They have 4 General Meetings a year, co-ordinators meetings, land management meetings and weekly meetings for residents and they seek to achieve agreement by consensus on all matters. Their GM's are held over long weekends and many of their non-resident members attend.

Dave Gittus<sup>+</sup> were invited to attend their last GM to offer any ideas on their proposed switch to a Rural Society. Their meetings are markedly different from ours in several respects. These meetings are held under a large army tent which can seat some 80 odd people in a circle. The

meeting commences by a minute of holding hands and letting the energy flow. Because they seek consensus the chairperson does little to limit, shorten or focus discussion. An hour or two is spent to decide what should go on the agenda and in what order, and many items are discussed for one or two hours. In their effort to achieve this consensus, their members are content to patiently attend long meetings that sometimes extend past sunset. This has led to a very trusting and caring community and unlike our community with very few cynics. They do not need to raise their hand to speak as somehow the discussion flows smoothly and folk DO NOT interject or interrupt other speakers.

A membership committee interviews all applicants for membership, though I understand that only a few are rejected or talked out of applying. Whether or not this selection leads to a more cohesive community is open to debate and their experience over the next several years. My own view is that it won't make much difference.

Their land management policies are very similar to our own policies, By-laws and Council Development Plan - ie a great concern for the environment, no dogs + cats, no dwellings in forest + environmentally sensitive areas and no vehicles in certain areas. They are applying to become a Wildlife Refuge and they are attempting to focus all dwellings within particular hamlet/village areas.

The property is a lot flatter than our own but has large areas of littoral forest, heath and coastal wetlands. The soil is quite fertile considering its proximity to the ocean and some areas of the property were once used for market gardens and still has a banana lease of a few hectares. They do not have as much fresh water supply as we have and generally rely on pumping and rain water tanks. Being close to the ocean they do not have any frost and their summers would be a little milder than ours. Their forest is not as 'lush' as our own and most closely resembles the blackbutt type of forest found on our ridge such as along Wallace Road.

Because we all found our visit to be mutually interesting, informative and educational and because several Bundagen members expressed an interest to visit our property for a longer period than our normal one day limit I am suggesting to both communities that the member/shareholders of both can visit each others property for one week providing:

- a) visitors camp in area designated by host community and are self-sufficient with respect to food + shelter - ie tent or van,
- b) host's land management policies/by-laws be respected including no dogs, cats + weapons and a very careful use of camp-fires
- c) host community can evict any objectionable guest at their discretion at any time, and
- d) no camping fee or an equal camping fee be charged by both communities.

Such an exchange would allow each others members to experience another M.O. community and a different ecological environment. Being some 4 hours drive apart I doubt if either community would flood/overwhelm the other with guests and either community could terminate the exchange if there were any problems.

It is interesting to note that at least 3 of our members are also members of Bundagen. I hope that the good vibes and exchange of ideas + info can continue to grow between both our communities. We can both learn a little from each other.

— Dave Lambert





A. MEMBERSHIP.

1. Acceptance of a share in Bundagen Co-operative implies general agreement with the ideals, objects and constraints as set forth in the constitution and by-laws, and a commitment to co-operative living and consensus decision-making.
2. A share in Bundagen Co-operative entitles each nominee to participate in decision-making, and allows each shareholder or part-shareholder right of entry to the land.
3. A membership committee shall arrange interviews for prospective members, and make available to them copies of the constitution and by-laws and other printed information, and generally assist their introduction to the community. If approved at an interview, prospective members may apply to the co-ordinators for membership after an interval of at least two months, allowing time for them to visit the land, and attend meetings. Such applications shall be considered at a residents' meeting, after at least one week's notice of the application has been given by the co-ordinators.

B. SETTLEMENT.

4. (a) Persons coming to live on Bundagen should be prepared to work for the development of the community as a whole. (b) Persons wishing to live permanently on Bundagen must spend at least three months living and working in the community before erecting a dwelling structure, other than a tent.
5. All dwellings, including tents, must be sited in proposed village sites or in the designated camping area. Until permanent villages are sited, such dwellings shall be temporary structures only.
6. Each proposed village site should have a communal area where shelter is provided for visitors and prospective members, and provision made for collection of fees, notice board to display by-laws and current Land Management decisions and agenda items, information on rubbish disposal, fire and water safety, environmental safeguards, etc.
7. In view of the present dispersed pattern of temporary settlement, no new settlement sites shall be designated, until an environment plan has been drawn up, and permanent villages sited.
8. The siting and design of buildings, and the materials used in their construction, should be appropriate for a community committed to :
  - (a) low environmental impact
  - (b) frugality in consumption of energy and other scarce resources.
  - (c) the use of re-cycled and renewable resources.
  - (d) to sensitive regard for aesthetic considerations and the creative and innovative blending of materials into landscape.
  - (e) to the use of alternative forms of energy.
  - (f) to clustered rather than dispersed settlement, and a predominance of shared facilities rather than facilities which are duplicated in individual dwelling units.

C. DEVELOPMENT.

9. All development on the land shall take place according to an environmental plan based on the ecological principles set forth in rule 8I of the constitution, and approved by a general meeting. The plan should specify conservation, regeneration, resource and development areas, and include areas zoned for permanent and temporary dwelling, horticulture and grazing areas, vehicle and pedestrian routes, and other approved activities. The plan shall promote human occupation as a part of, and responsive to, a unified and dynamic natural ecosystem. Until a plan has been drawn up and adopted by a general meeting, all development must be considered temporary and provisional, and is to be in accordance with the rules and by-laws of Bundagen Co-operative.
- 10(a) Notice of any proposed development shall be given at a Land Management Meeting, for consideration at the next or a succeeding meeting. In the case of structures or other major developments, a site map, plans and appropriate details should accompany the notice, for display on the notice board at least one week prior to the meeting. No development is to commence prior to approval by the meeting. (Note: 'development' means "any activity or project affecting the community or the environment which, once done, involves significant difficulty or loss of resource to undo, or upon which agreement cannot be assumed.")
  - (b) The impact of any new machinery or land use must be assessed before implementation

II. The headland shall remain a sanctuary.

12. Care should be exercised in bushland, especially such fragile areas as the rain-forest, foredunes, and fire-damaged eucalypt forest : keep to tracks where possible, avoid trampling regrowth, etc.



## 15. D. SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS.

### Pollution.

13. (a) There is to be strict control of use of pesticides, fertilisers, chemicals and other toxins, and the Land Management Meeting must be consulted where there is any doubt as to the potential polluting effect of any substance.

(b) Provision for sorting and disposal of garbage and waste should be made at each settlement area. Visitors should be asked to take away with them, material which are not re-cyclable. Separate toilets for non-vegetarians, people on synthetic medication, etc., are desirable. The use of environmentally undesirable substances (such as plastic and aluminium - especially cans-etc.) should be avoided to the extent possible.

(c) Consideration for others is expected in the use of noisy machinery such as tractor, chain saw, generator etc. Subject to flexibility, (consultation with neighbours, allowance made for the urgency of the work etc.) machinery noise should be avoided before 8.0 a.m. and cease one hour before dusk. Weekly consultation among intending machinery users at Land Management Meetings would enable agreement on a number of "quiet days" each week. A noisy machine should not be used for work which would not be unduly labourious to perform manually (e.g. sawing modest quantity of small diameter timber.)

(d) Consideration for others is expected in relation to smoking and the cooking and eating of meat in communal areas, and similar matters.

(e) "Visual pollution" is to be avoided.

14. Cats and dogs shall not be permitted on the land. All feral or stray domestic animals shall be removed.

15. Domestic Animals. Pending the inclusion of a policy on domestic animals in the environment plan, proposals to introduce animals must be notified one week in advance for inclusion on agenda of Land Management Meeting, and no animals shall be introduced until approval is given. The notice should be displayed on the notice board, should include a site sketch, details of proposed fencing, and a statement assessing the environmental impact of the proposal, and indicating the benefits to the community as a whole of the proposal. Owners should be responsible for the animals and their impact on the land or community.

16. Firearms must not be brought on to the property at any time under any circumstances.

17. Vehicles. Vehicles should be left in the carpark near the house or the south-east campsite carpark. Caravans should be parked in the area near the house, except for such short-term use elsewhere as the Land Management meeting may approve. Use of vehicles on the land should be kept to a minimum. No vehicular access to the headland or beach will be permitted.

18. Machinery. Persons should not use machinery unless they have received instruction in the use of the machine, or otherwise satisfied the machinery co-ordinator of their competence. If not being used for a community purpose, the user should pay \$ per hour to cover fuel and maintenance costs. Full details of hours and work performed should be entered in the log book. See 13 (c).

19. All members and residents should be familiar with agreed procedures for water safety and such emergencies as fire etc., and be able to use the appropriate equipment. Firefighting equipment should be on hand in all settlement areas.

20. Fire Safety Precautions and Emergency Procedures. (To be drafted.)

## E. MEETINGS.

21. Decisions will always be attempted on the basis of consensus; if consensus cannot be reached following full discussion including discussion in small groups, and strong opposition is still evident, the decision will be deferred. If there is not strong opposition, the matter may be decided according to the prevailing view, and the meeting shall record any reservations persons may wish to include in the minutes.

22. All policy decisions shall be made on the land by a general meeting.

23(a) Any general, land management or co-ordinators' meeting may delegate specified powers to a member or working group or committee. (b) The meeting should clearly stipulate conditions which are to be adhered to in the exercise of such powers. (c) Notwithstanding such delegation, the meeting may continue to exercise all or any of the powers delegated. (d) The exercise of such delegated powers should be in accordance with our commitment to consensus, and where doubt exists, the meeting should be consulted.

24. Land Management Meetings. (a) Four days' notice should be given for agenda items other than development proposals. (see 10 above.) Notices of agenda items and development proposals should be placed on the notice board, and signed. (b) Minutes should be taken at meetings, with decisions correctly worded and underlined. A separate book should list all decisions made, distinguishing those for referral to a general meeting and those which are to be published in the newsletter. The minute-taker should arrange that decisions be placed on notice boards in the house and village areas where appropriate. (c) all residents are urged to attend meetings, to be on time, to consider agenda items beforehand, and to stay until the close of the meeting. The duration of meetings should be agreed at the commencement. (d) meetings should have a facilitator, who shall ensure that all who wish to speak are heard, that the meeting is considerate of people's feelings, that speakers keep to the point, that proposals are considered



in logical order and discussion is not unduly lengthy, and to seek out areas of a 17.  
agreement. (e) A positive attitude of sharing views and seeking to reach agreements  
which are in accordance with our ideals and objectives as set out in the constitutive  
and by-laws will be productive and promote harmony.

#### F. CONTRIBUTIONS.

25. All existing part-shareholders and non-shareholder residents are required to become members, and where circumstances necessitate, may arrange to achieve this by regular payments.

26. All members and non-member residents shall pay the annual levy. Persons more than 12 months in arrears shall lose all privileges of membership or residency. ("residents" are persons who have resided on the land for more than 2 months.)

27. All visitors and guests shall pay a camping fee of \$2 a night, or \$10 a week. Hosts should be responsible for guests' fees; visitors who are not guests are to camp in an approved area, where provision should be made for collection of fees.

28. At each general meeting, those attending shall be asked to contribute \$5 each, for a purpose to be designated by the meeting.

29. Members visiting Bundagen shall contribute a minimum of \$5 a week towards routine expenses.

30. All residents shall pay an agreed amount into a special projects fund each week, to be used for such purposes as the Land Management Meeting shall determine.

#### October General Meeting - Foreshadowed Motions. - Barrie Griffith

1. <sup>that</sup> an amount representing 10% of our 1983 Land Tax assessment be allocated annually, from 1984, to directly furthering the cause of Aboriginal people; and a similar amount be allocated annually, from 1984, to furthering our objectives in the wider community, recipient(s) to be chosen at the A.G.M.; and that funding for these is to come from the annual levy. See 2 below.

2. That the annual levy for 1984 be increased to \$65.

(COMMENT: this will leave a surplus after providing for 1. above. The reason for putting these proposals at this time is that a number of the members of the group originally formed to investigate and implement application for exemption from Land Tax felt that the above proposal should be a pre-condition for such exemption, particularly since a proportion of the revenue collected as Land Tax is allocated for Aboriginal welfare, and we have now made application for registration as a Rural Co-operative, which will give us exemption from Land Tax. We only have consensus for this application if proposal 1 above is accepted. The proposal should therefore be put prior to formally transferring to a CO-OP., at the Formation Meeting, which hopefully could be the October meeting.)

3. That the draft "Bundagen Community Agreements" (By-Laws), as amended by the meeting, be adopted as Interim By-Laws, and a committee be formed to prepare a revised set of by-laws for publication in the newsletter prior to the next general meeting, for ratification at that meeting. Comments and suggestions to be forwarded to the committee.

Bundagen Co-ordinators' Meeting No 11 1982-83 29.5.83 10.30am at the house

Present: Alan Martin, Alex Levak, Diann Payne, Dorin, Geoff Moran, Ken Farley.  
Maree Howell, Rick Wilder

note: input received by all absent co-ordinators by letter or phone

#### Decisions:

##### 1. Membership guidelines

- written agreements should be made between Bundagen and part-paid members living on the land as to the date by which payment of membership will be complete
- people with a deposit on membership should have the same rights only as visitors to the land
- first option on a vacant membership should be given to those living on the land with a deposit down. Priority after this should be to a person interviewed and accepted with their \$3,000 ready to pay.

recommendations: - in future no 'credit' should be given by Bundagen. All payments towards membership should be simply regarded as deposits

- the whole situation re status of visitors should be looked at. Tuntable's example may be worth considering. There a personal guest of a household may stay, but has to pay the yearly maintenance levy. If 4-5 members object to such a person's presence s/he is asked to leave. Short term visitors are catered for in a separate camping area.

#### Other business:

Legal matters - programme of work to be done towards the conversion of Bundagen Land Ltd to a co-op drawn up

Co-ordinators' Report for 1982-4 - general discussion of role of co-ordinators (final report on this on pp. 7, 8 & 9)

Please send comments or queries on these proposals or the proposed by-laws to me at Bundagen.  
- Barrie Griffiths.





Bundagen Co-ordinators' Meeting No 1 1983-4 13.6.83 at Barn-tent 1.30

Present: Alan Martin, Barrie Griffiths, David Wrathall, Dorin, Geoff Moran  
Guy Reuter, Isabel Haran, Ken Farley, Maree Howell, Peter Mitchell,  
Trevor Windus, Phillip \*  
+ 8 other members in attendance

Decisions:

1. Meetings.

- various dates set (see p 4.)
- pre-meeting for the next general meeting to be held on the land 3rd or 4th September. All agenda items from those unable to attend to be mailed or phoned in by 4.9.83
- general meetings for the rest of the year - more research needed on this to find most suitable times

2. Memberships

- 3 part-paid members living on the land given until 31 December to complete their membership payments. No other credit agreements of this type to be set up.
- to be on waiting list a person must first have been interviewed and accepted. No \$100 payments to be accepted in advance of interview etc
- all interviews until next general meeting to be held on the land. procedure for defecting new members to be reviewed by next G. Meeting

3. Levies

- weekend collection (see p 2.) to be followed up by letters to those still unpaid. John Fisher & Elvis to do this

\* Phillip accepted as co-ordinator from the SW corner.

BUNDAGEN CO-ORDINATORS' MEETING No 2 1983-4 10.30 am at the house

Present: Alan Martin, Barrie Griffiths, Diann Payne, Dorin, Guy Reuter Ken Farley

Decisions:

1. Membership - Diann will be away for 3 months - Dorin, Frank Studt, Trish Liu to fill in for her

- acceptance of new members - concern expressed (see also previous meetings that our current procedure too sloppy. Proposal on new system needs to be worked out for October General Meeting. All suggestions welcome. Co-Ordinators do have final responsibility for Bundagen's membership therefore:

interim policy until October meeting

- a) interviews (as now) by any 2 members, using questionnaire - preliminary acceptance
- b) potential members to organise a stay on the land when no general meetings in progress and to attend community meetings (whether general, land management, co-ordinators etc) Note: this best before a) takes place
- c) when a) & b) complete potential members to present themselves to co-ord. meeting so that co-ord can be sure that new members are making an informed decision about joining the community. Final decision on membership then.
- d) on payment of \$3,050 (membership fee + this year's levy) person becomes member (receipt and letter of acceptance sent)

2. Finance - Geoff Moran to replace Diann as cheque signatory for her absence

3. Roads - Guy reporting on progress; request for additional funds now that bad weather conditions (see p. 5.) have increased costs. A further \$2,000-\$2,500 to be available for the completion of the work in hand
- vote of confidence in Guy's ability to handle work of organising outside operators. Suggestion that he be part of small group organising road building; any concerns to be taken to this group; group to report each week to Land Management meeting
  - Land Management to look at need for all weather track past Gunadod to link to headland track. (This would mean bottom road could be phased out & no longer interfere with water catchment)

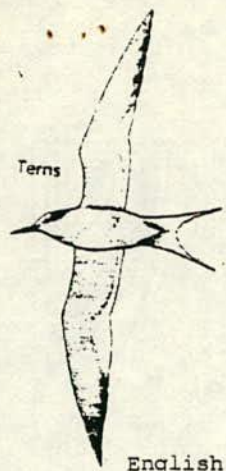
Reports and discussion: - progress of legal group & work to be done (Barrie)  
(Rules now being vetted by solicitor, Formation Statement to be done, submission near)

- possibility of 'Heavy Mow' being purchased by Bundagen as part of fire control work
- water resources plan

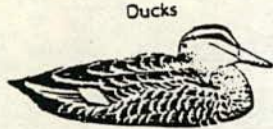
Meeting finished 2.30 pm Next meeting 7 August 10.00am at the house

Scribe: Dorin

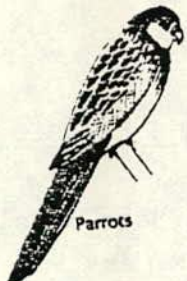




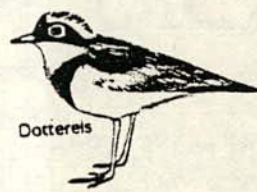
Terns



Ducks



Parrots



Dotterels



Shearwaters

## BUNDAGEN BIRD LIST

English names generally accord with those given in "Handlist of Birds in New South Wales" by Morris, McGill & H. lmes. 98. Published by the NSW. Field Ornithologists Club.

### Cormorants & Allies

- Australian Pelican
- Australasian Gannet
- Great Cormorant
- Pied Cormorant
- Little Black Cormorant
- Little Pied Cormorant

### Hérons

- Pacific Heron
- White-faced Heron
- Mangrove Heron
- Eastern Reef Egret

### storks and Allies

- Black-necked stork

### Dutch and Allies

- Pacific Black Duck
- Maned Duck

### Hawks and Allies

- Osprey
- Black-shouldered Kite
- Black Kite
- Brahming Kite
- Whistling Kite
- Crested Hawk
- Collared Sparrow hawk
- Grey Gashawk
- White-bellied Sea Eagle
- Little Eagle
- Australian Hobby

### Megapodes and Quail

- Stubble Quail
- Brown Quail

### Rails and Allies

- Purple Swamp-hen

### Waders and Plovers

- Sooty Oyster catcher
- Mashed Lapwing
- Lesser Golden Plover
- Red-capped Plover
- Roddy Turnstone
- Eastern Curlew
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Red Knot

### Skvas, Gulls and Terns

- Silver Gull
- Little Tern
- Crested Tern

### Pigeons

- Topknot Pigeon
- White headed Pigeon
- Spotted Turtle-dove
- Brown Cuckoo-Dove
- Peaceful Dove
- Bar-shouldered Dove
- Emerald Dove
- Crested Pigeon
- Wonga Pigeon

### Parrots and Cockatoos

- Glassy Black-cockatoo
- Funereal cockatoo
- Rainbow Lorikeet

### Parrots & Cockatoos Cont.

- Scaley-breasted Lorikeet
- Mush Lorikeet
- Little Lorikeet
- Australian King-Parrot
- Crimson Rosella
- Eastern Rosella

### CUCKOOS

- Fan-tailed cuckoo
- Common Koel
- Channel-billed Cuckoo
- Pheasant Coucal

### Owls and Nightbirds

- White-throated Nightjar

### Swifts

- Spine-tailed swift

### Kingfishers, Rollers & Bee-eaters

- Asure Kingfisher
- Laughing Kookaburra
- Forest Kingfisher
- Sacred Kingfisher
- Dollarbird

### Swallows

- Welcome Swallow
- Tree Martin

### Cuckoo-Shrikes & Trillers

- Black-faced cuckoo-strike
- Varied Triller

### Bulbuls

- Red-whiskered Bulbul

### Whistlers, Robins & Flycatchers

- Eastern Yellow Robin
- Jacky Winter
- Strike-tit
- Golden Whistler
- Grey Strike-thrush
- Black-faced monarch
- Leaden Flycatcher
- Rufous Fantail
- Grey Fantail
- Willie Wagtail

### Logrunners and Allies

- Eastern Whipbird

### Old World Warblers

- Golden-headed cisticola

### Malurine Wrens

- Superb Fairy-wren
- Variegated Fairy-wren
- Red-backed Fairy-wren

### Acanthizids

- White-browed Scrubwren
- Brown Thornbill
- Striated Thornbill

### Sitellas and Treecreepers

- White-throated treecreeper

### Honeyeaters and Allies

- Red Wattlebird
- Little Wattlebird
- Noisy Friarbird
- Noisy Miner
- Lewins Honeyeater
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater
- New Holland Honeyeater
- White cheeked Honeyeater
- Eastern Spinebill
- Scarlet Honeyeater

### Pardalotes

- Striated Pardolote

### Silvereyes

- Silvereye

### Finches and Allies

- Red-browed Firetail
- Chestnut-breasted-Mannikin

### Starlings, Orioles & Drongos

- Common starling
- Olive-backed Oriole
- Figbird

### Bowerbird & Birds of Paradise

- Regent Bowerbird
- Satin Bowerbird
- Green Cat Bird

### Australian Mudnesters

- Magpie-lark

### Butcherbirds and Allies

- Grey Butcherbird
- Pied Butcherbird
- Australian Magpie
- Pied Currawong

### Crows

- Torresian Crow

Can you help build up this valuable information? Please send any additional bird sightings or observations that you may have recorded on Bundagen/Bundageree to -

LARRY CROWLEY  
47 Ryan Street  
Lilyfield. 2040

Thanks.



Storks





# RADIO

## HOW TO FOUND A RADIO STATION



Over five years of effort by almost 200 people have gone into putting 2BBB-FM, an FM stereo, community-based, non-profit radio station, on air.

At the beginning of September 2BBB-FM will begin its regular broadcasts of local news and information, and quality music of all kinds. These programs will be produced and presented by volunteers from throughout the community.

We need an additional \$6000 to complete our transmitting system. The 400 watt system we are installing in Bellinger and the 100 watt translator in Dorrigo will ensure strong, stereo signals throughout the Dorrigo Plateau, the Bellinger River valley, and the seacoast including the Bundageree headland.

Founding Patrons of 2BBB-FM have already made contributions ranging from \$10 to \$1000. We ask you to become a Founding Patron and help establish this vital local community service. Now is the time we really need the extra boost -- to get on air for good.

Please respond as soon as possible using the form below. Your name will be included on a plaque in the lobby of our studios and will be listed in our time capsule to be buried on site for future generations.

# BELLINGER

MAIL NOW TO FOUND ONE HELLUVA RADIO STATION!

- \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose \$10 for a standard FOUNDING PATRON's certificate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a special FOUNDING PATRON's certificate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like my FOUNDING PATRONAGE to be tax deductible.  
(All amounts of \$10 and over are fully tax deductible if applied for on a form which we will send you on request)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques, money orders, etc. payable to:-

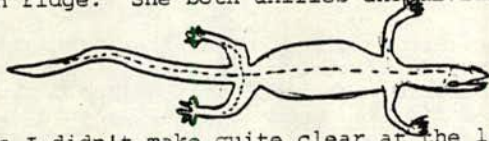
BELLINGER COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP LTD.,  
Box 104, Bellinger, N.S.W. 2454.





Tuesday 14th June .....

..... The central ridge of Bundagen has been described as the back of a goanna. She reaches from the headland right back into the forest....Her many legs are smaller ridges and spurs extending off the main ridge. She both unifies and divides us.

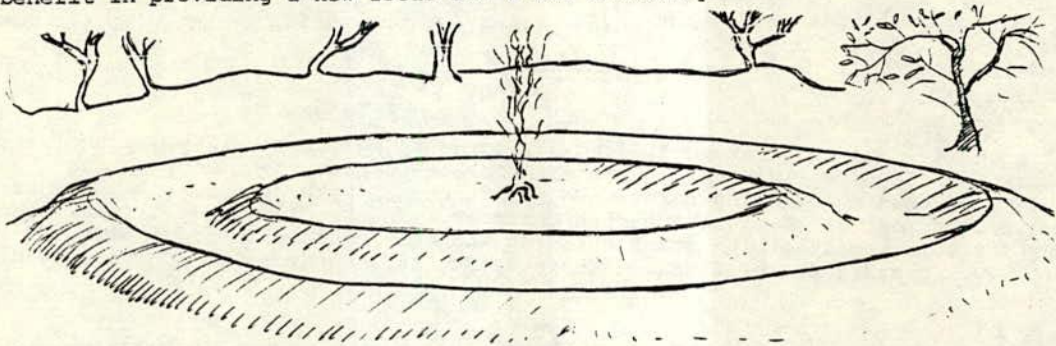


One point that perhaps I didn't make quite clear at the last G.M. was that the proposed improvements to the old farmhouse are, in my view, not to be seen as a substitute for the much discussed Bundagen House. It will help satisfy some immediate community needs but I believe a community centre is needed in a much more central location on the land.

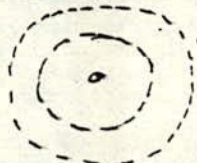
Two or three places along the main ridge lend themselves favourably to such a centre and I feel it would be right for us to identify the right place as soon as possible. My personal feelings tell me that the best, most pleasant sites on the land should be shared by all. There's already one very favourable community site that is now taken up by houses.

Once firmly identified, we could begin to gather at this site in sunny weather for picnics, meetings, meditation. We could in our own way bless the place.....create a mounded meeting circle - a bora ring....or a few concentric bora rings. We could provide water and plant fruiting and fragrant trees and herbs.

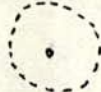
These are simple things we can do now....no fuss from Council - little effort for us - but much benefit in providing a new focus for a new community.



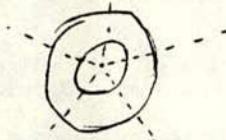
When we gather again for our next G.M. it will be springtime.....a time for growth. Could we take the opportunity to let our growth as a community be towards finding the place that feels right for a centre to grow? and have part of our meeting at that place?



It's quite likely that the place chosen will have been used as a meeting place for aboriginal people for thousands of years. Two bora rings have recently been found in forested parts of the Bundagen area. Several stone artifacts as well.

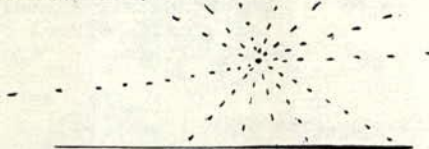


My dream is that the new community centre would help facilitate and focus all of the positive and creative energies in Bundagen - a place to share in learning, creating, exchanging, personal growth. I am envisaging an area of gardens and trees, of open spaces, buildings and pleasant walkways between, a hall for music, dance, film yoga, an outdoors meeting/bora ring; a library/learning centre, kitchen and dining space, office/admin, orchard and green house, woodwork shop, studio, visitors centre. No doubt the list will grow as does Bundagen



Many of the feelings expressed here have been expressed before.....I feel that perhaps now is the time to start expanding on these ideas.

Love from Chris.



### Subsidy Scheme for Unemployed Workers

To encourage employment opportunities the Commonwealth Government will pay a subsidy to an employer who will engage unemployed workers in full-time employment.

To qualify for a subsidy a person must be:

- . 25 years of age or over.
- . unemployed and registered with the C.E.S.
- . unemployed for 8 months in the last 2 months.

A subsidy of \$100 per week will be paid for the first 17 weeks and \$75 for the following 17 weeks.

Where a person is aged 45 years or over and has been unemployed and registered with the C.E.S. for at least the previous 2 months, the wage subsidy is \$ 25 per week for 2 months.

Bundagen has plenty of work to be done; here is a scheme that could be put to good effect - it needs to be further explored.



Letter from Jack Wyatt

I came to the June meeting intending to resign as a co-ordinator of Bundagen for a number of personal reasons, one being pressure of work, which have affected my ability to attend co-ordinators meetings. I feel that I have not been able to give good value as a co-ordinator, especially of late and I sincerely regret this and wish to apologise to members for this situation.

I found upon arriving at the quarterly meeting and making my feelings known that I was asked not to resign because of my close contact with our local council if for no other reason. I reluctantly agreed although I still feel that perhaps another person could give more consistently, as my situation foreseeably will remain unchanged. If anybody is unhappy with this situation then I am still prepared to resign as a co-ordinator, otherwise thanks to the group who re-elected me and congratulations to the other co-ordinators. Let's hope we move towards realising our ideals a little more tangibly this coming year, including achieving our multiple occupancy and lots more!

Peace and Love  
Jack Wyatt

BUNDAGEN COASTAL STUDY

A meeting with a representative of the Coastal Council has been held with David Wilson, Peter Stevens, Margaret Hastings and David Wrathall. The Council's concerns and expectations regarding the study were discussed. A full discussion re the coastal study will be held at the October General Meeting.

- David Wrathall

ALUMINIUM DOME FRAME FOR SALE

18 foot diameter dome frame. (please note it would require a canvas cover to be made for it.) \$500 o.n.o. - any enquiries please contact David Miller C/- Dreamtime Community, Upper Thora Rd., Thora 2454 Ph. No. 066 - 55 - 8537.

SHAREHOLDERS WANTED

We are 9 Adults and 4 young children purchasing 357 acres at Kangaroo Valley, part cleared, part virgin bush and 25 years regrowth, views, rain forest pockets, permanent springs, good soil and rainfall, access to swimming holes. We are concerned with conservation, a shared lifestyle, organic gardening, co-operation with children, wider social and political issues. We are looking for 4 more people plus young children who want to live on the land soon. Shares are \$14,000. Contact Dee or Linda 26 Christie St. St. Leonards 2065 Ph. 439 5094.

## NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

At the last meeting of Council it was resolved to seek information from member groups on their opinions as regards vehicles on beaches both inside and outside national parks with a view to Council and individual groups taking concerted action along the north coast.

1. We previously adopted a resolution in February, 1980 which states that in national parks we would like to see all vehicle use restricted to formed roads designated for public use.
2. We are in receipt of a 4-page detailed letter dated 4th March from the Regional Director of National Parks & Wildlife Service setting out the Service's position. (Copies may be obtained from N.C.E.C. on request - Box 425 P.O. Grafton. 2460).

In most cases, national park reservation extends only to mean high water so the Service can only control access where a beach is totally enclosed by national park. As management plans for parks are developed, vehicle access is considered. In the Iluka area, for example, a plan, considered successful by the Service, was developed in consultation with the Maclean Council. It does allow considerable vehicle usage of some national park beaches however.

Professional fishermen have been accommodated by a locked barrier with the lock renewed each year. A key is provided at a nominal fee to professional fishermen who request one.

The Service would obviously welcome our input and comment at the discussion stage when draft plans of management are on display.

Basically the letter indicates that the service must bow to public pressure, which is where we as a lobby group must play our part.

3. Coastal Access Committee Unfortunately a small group calling themselves the Coastal Access Committee is becoming increasingly professional in their lobbying efforts. As well as pressuring the Service, they are lobbying all local councils along the coast both by letter and personal meetings.

I believe this is an issue on which we will find there is considerable latent support. The majority of Australians have traditionally regarded the beach as one place where they can relax free from the tensions and pressures of modern living and come home refreshed and relaxed. Off-road vehicles destroy any possibility for this tranquility as well as posing a physical threat, particularly to children.

Frank Dennis from Mid-north Coast N.H.A. has been organising a public survey of attitudes to this issue. Preliminary results will be available for the next N.C.E.C.

Issues you might like to consider are :-

1. Do we want vehicles on beaches in national parks? If yes, to what extent and how managed.
2. What restrictions should be placed on usage of beaches outside national parks? I enclose the Coffs Harbour Shire Council regulations as an example.

I strongly recommend that the N.C.E.C. develop a policy at its next meeting and convey this to all Shire and Municipal Councils. At the same time we should issue a press release on the subject to all media outlets along the coast. Individual organisations efforts can then flow from this, depending on how much work groups wish to do. (Groups from areas where N.P. Management Plans are due to be released should be alerted to the need for their input.)



Coffs Harbour Shire Council

#### VEHICLES ON BEACHES

Attention is drawn to Council's regulations which prohibit the driving of motor vehicles and the riding of motor cycles on certain beaches in the area. Those beaches are signposted and the public's co-operation in the observance of the regulations is sought.

The driving riding of motor vehicles motor cycles is prohibited on the following beaches:

- (a) Sawtell surfing beach from a point opposite Boronia Park to a point 500 metres north of Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club House.
- (b) Coffs Harbour Jetty Beach from the Jetty to the southern breakwater.
- (c) Pork Beach Coffs Harbour full length.
- (d) Macauleys Beach Coffs Harbour full length
- (e) Emerald Beach from a point 500 metres north of Fiddamans Road to the headland and at the southern end except for the use of vehicles for the launching of boats.

- (f) Sandy Beach from a point 200 metres north of Diamond Head Drive to the southern headland including the sand dunes adjacent to the coloured sands excepting the use of vehicles for the launching of boats.
  - (g) Woolgoolga Beach from the boat launching ramp to a point 500 metres north of the Surf Life Saving Clubhouse excepting the use of the area adjacent to the boat launching ramp for the launching of boats.
  - (h) Korera Beach from the headland immediately north of the Banana Bowl Caravan Park to the northern headland of Charlesworth Bay.
  - (i) North Sapphire Beach between White Bluff and Green Bluff.
- The driving of motor vehicles and the riding of motor cycles on dunal areas is completely prohibited and action will be taken against any person offending against that regulation.

R.F. Firman  
SHIRE CLERK

Civic Centre  
Coffs Harbour 2450  
10th February, 1983

## 3 PERMACULTURE CONFERENCES & A PERMACULTURE FESTIVAL

PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE - Sept. 4th to 17th, 1983  
at PERMACULTURE INSTITUTE, STANLEY, TASMANIA. BILL  
MOLLISON, Instructor.

For further information write to:  
PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE,  
P.O. Box 73  
STANLEY, TASMANIA,  
7331

①

#### Mid-North Coast Permaculture Group

#### 4-day Conference - then 2-day break - then 3-day Festival

Date: Early to mid October

Consultancy: Hans Erken, Peter Stenz, Ed Coleman, Grant Edwards

Technology Consultant: John Horder

All Enquiries: Mid-North Coast Permaculture Consultancy  
Glen Esk Road, Rollands Plains, NSW, Australia 2441. Tel: (065) 85 8283, 85 8294

#### The Plan:

The intention is to hold the Consultants Conference for four days at the Papinbarra Field Study Centre.

Most of the time will be allocated to delivering papers on conference streams, with some time set aside for workshop and 'think tank' sessions.

You are asked to prepare a paper on any of the subject matter referred to in 'Streams', wherever possible backed up with slides, film or video. We intend to publish a book containing these papers for use during the conference.

To enable this, papers will need to be in at least 6 weeks prior to the conference.

Between the conference and the festival there will be a 2 day break for recreation and field trips.

The festival will go for three days over a weekend period and is planned for some thousands. Its aims at present are:

- to serve as a popular exposition of permaculture - the state of the art.
- to provide an opportunity to start a National Association.
- to aid in establishing an alternative economy, based on socially responsible and ecologically sound investment.

We are inviting to the festival all interested people and groups, including all P.C. Associations and allied groups (organic growers, soil associations, Friend of the Earth etc.), manufacturers of alternative technologies, Wildlife & Fisheries Depts. etc.

We hope that consultants and Permaculture Association members will make up the main force of speakers at the Festival. Manufacturers and allied groups will be invited to set up information stalls and participate in workshops.

#### Permaculture Festival

It will be held at the Rollands Plains Recreation Grounds, also in the Port Macquarie area.

Features will include:

- Campsites for vans and tents (some billited accommodation with local new settlers is available.

②





- Marquee tent to seat 2,000
- Some small marquees for info., stalls, etc.
- Food stalls of great variety.
- A hall, seating 400
- Toilets and showers
- P.A. systems
- Audio-visual equipment
- A computer facility
- Photocopying and duplicating facilities
- Kids centre. (Any creative suggestions for the kids?)

#### Streams at the Conference:

##### HOUSE & GARDEN DESIGN

ARCHITECTURE: Passive energy design, etc. Retrofitting.

##### BROADSCALE TREE PLANTING PROJECTS & TECHNIQUES

SOIL FERTILITY MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES: Traditional & non-traditional

RAMPANCY: Some species are useful in one region and rampant in another. Important in species listing and bio-regions.

GLOBAL BIO-REGIONS: Criteria for setting up bio-regions.

SPECIES LIST NETWORKING: Can we co-ordinate the compilation of species lists.

FIRE & OTHER CATASTROPHIES: Designs, Species lists & Strategies, etc.

##### AQUACULTURE

##### SMALL LIVESTOCK

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY: Update on small scale harvesting/processing equipment, Irrigation equipment, Solar collectors, etc.

NURSERY TECHNIQUES: Fundamentals of nursery practice.

PEST CONTROL: We would like some input from U.S.A. on Integrated Pest Management.

ESTABLISHMENT TECHNIQUES: Sheet mulching, Pioneer succession.

RETROFITTING COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES: Farms, orchards, etc.

EDUCATION: Teaching techniques

DEALING WITH GOVERNMENT BODIES: Lobbying, applying for grants, etc.

HOW TO MAKE A LIVING AS A CONSULTANT

STARTING & RUNNING PERMACULTURE GROUPS

LEGALITIES: Environmental law, Community and business, Legal structures for land ownership.

POLITICS: Green parties & global strategies.

NETWORKING: National & International.

FINANCE: Alternative economics.

COMPUTERS & PERMACULTURE: Networking, data base management, design aid.

### PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE FOR WOMEN

DATE 13th to 26th November, 1983.  
LOCATION Tweed Valley, North Eastern N.S.W.  
INSTRUCTORS Judith Turley, Susie Edwards, Lea Harrison.

As there have been only a relatively small number of women trained as Permaculture Consultants in Australia, this course is only for women, to help equalise the numbers. To this end, child care will be provided, and the cost of the course is being kept as low as possible.

COURSE CONTENT Lectures on all aspects of permaculture design, both urban and rural; workshop; outdoor practical and observation; and a practise design.

COST \$200

FURTHER INFO. LEA HARRISON  
 STODDARTS ROAD,  
 TYALGUM. 2484.



# ...CO-ORDINATION CO-OP LTD...

P.O. Box 26, Nimbin 2480.

This co-op generally accepted all applicants for membership on a first come, first served basis and did not attempt to select folk on the basis of their political, religious or philosophical beliefs, or their age, financial situation, emotional problems, energy/laziness or occupation. This produced a very diverse and varied membership which has both its weaknesses and strengths with few common goals. It is therefore more of a village than a commune/community. Other communities now in the area include some sharing a particular religion or philosophy or common goal and they often use some selection process to accept and refuse new members. Many are smaller with 3 to 12 largely nuclear families sharing a property and some of these attempt to offer more security of tenure and personal freedom.

## MANAGEMENT & MEETINGS

Co-ops have an Annual General Meeting to elect a Board of Co-ordinators/Directors which have the responsibility of managing the co-op between General Meetings. At our co-op resident members attend and take part in these Board Meetings which have become known locally as Tribal Meetings. 21 days notice for agenda items is required for General Meetings and a copy of the agenda is posted or delivered to all members. 4 days notice for agenda items is required for Tribal Meetings and these agendas are posted on school, NE + W.E. notice Boards. Tribal Meetings are generally held at noon on the first Sunday of each month.

## RULES

This is the formal constitution and may only be amended by a 2/3 majority Special Resolution at General Meetings and subsequently approved by the Dept. of Co-op Societies. The Rules provide for payment of an Annual Levy, presently set at \$100, by all residents staying at the co-op for 3 months or longer in any 12 month period. This covers costs such as Council rates, insurance, telephones, fire brigade expenses and some community improvements.

## BY-LAWS

These may be passed by Tribal Meetings by a simple majority and generally refer to land use policies such as flag-raises, pollution, noise, no dogs & cats, prior consent for bulldozing, forest use policies, fire prevention, poisons, car dumping, selling & leasing of houses, share policy etc. Members living at Tuntable or intending to do so should obtain a complete copy of the by-laws from the Secretary or Publicity Co-ordinator.

## VISITORS & GUESTS

Because of continuous publicity on a national scale over the past several years, residents are no longer keen to have their lives inspected by the public and generally an attempt is made to answer peoples inquiries by publications such as this one. Visitors may however camp for one night in a Visitors Field and may seek advice from a Visitors Co-ordinator. Occasionally a tour may be arranged for small groups interested in education, conservation, permaculture etc. Write to the Visitors Co-ordinator at the co-op's address some weeks in advance if you desire such a tour. Members may camp and stay on the property for 3 months or longer. You might be asked for proof of identity to confirm that your name is on our Share Register. A caravan park, Youth Hostel and Hotel are located in Nimbin.

## CONCLUSION

For some this co-op has met their expectations and dreams: for a minority it has not for a wide range of reasons- too crowded, too humid & wet, too inaccessible, hassles with neighbours, lengthy & complex meetings, limited security of tenure etc. For some of these folk another Multiple Occupancy property is the answer, for others a private block of land or a return to the city is the answer perhaps to continue to use the co-op as a vacation/holiday resort. As high unemployment, soaring land prices and alienation from the big polluted cities increases, the need, scope and diversity of Multiple Occupancy properties will increase dramatically. For many this type of lifestyle is the best alternative for them- and a happy & healthy one at that.

May 1983

Publicity Co-ordinator

In May 1973 Nimbin was chosen as the site for the now famous Aquarius Festival which was organized by the Australian Union of Students. The festival was attended by some 5000 'new age' folk who gathered together to have a good time with a community of people drawn together by music, dance, love, good vibes and a political desire by many to improve society and to seek a viable alternative to mainstream society.

A few days after the festival on 28 May 1973 the nucleus of those about to form a new land sharing co-op visited a property at Tuntable Falls owned by Sam Mackay. This new co-op was to become known as Co-ordination Co-operative Ltd. and was registered on 19 Oct. 1973 as a non-profit Community Advancement Society. During subsequent years this co-operative purchased a total of 564 hectares of land in the Tuntable Falls valley, along with the Nimbin Rainbow Restaurant and a one-sixth share in another Nimbin building variously known as the RSL Building, the Union Jack Building and the Kedis Center.

Some 10 years later the co-op decided to expand its registered Objects and Powers and changed its 'kind' to become registered as a non-profit Rural Society on 5 Jan. 1983.

In January 1983 the co-op had about 750 members holding 800 shares with a par value of \$200. each. Because the co-op is of a non-profit nature the value of the share remains fixed and no dividend or interest can be paid on this capital. Over the years a Joining Fee has been charged to new adult members of between \$50. to \$350. in recent years. All share capital has been used to purchase land while the Joining Fee has been used as a development fund to encourage dam construction and capital expenditure on such items as school buildings and fire brigade equipment. Less than 200 members and their 100 children now reside on the Tuntable property

## LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHY

The Tuntable Falls valley is located some 8 km from Nimbin village in N.E. New South Wales on the southern slopes of the Nightcap Range below Mount Mardie. The co-op's property borders on the Nightcap National Park which was created following widespread protests by conservationists concerned about the State Government's lack of a Rainforest Policy to preserve dwindling remnants of the State's rainforest. After some months of concerted activity which resulted in over 100 arrests being made and a successful Injunction obtained from the Land and Environment Court, the State government on 26 Oct. 1982 announced that some 90,000 ha of rainforest, including the 4500 ha Nightcap Park would be preserved under the management of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The park has a diverse range of forest types ranging from cool temperate palm forest through temperate coachwood-crabapple associations to sub-tropical rainforest. A number of walking tracks are provided for the public to enjoy this rather unique environment.

The co-op's property had been previously extensively logged for many years except for a few rugged and inaccessible locations. Good stands of wet sclerophyll species such as brush box, flooded gum and black butt are now emerging and being allowed to regenerate. The co-op has agreed to leave fairly large areas of its forest untouched as wilderness. The remainder is used in an environmentally sensitive manner to provide some timber for domestic requirements.

The co-op and the NPWS are now working together to formulate a Management Plan to protect, study and enhance the environment and to formally notify the co-op's property under the NPWS Act as a Wildlife Refuge. Environment, Forest and Fire Co-ordinators are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting to look after our forested areas. The Fire Brigade is now well equipped with a 4WD spray unit and a 6WD tanker which have been purchased by the co-op.



The lower slopes were once clearfelled for pasture and dairy farming. Over the years these areas have largely been taken over by introduced weeds such as lantana and crofton weed as the slopes were too steep to manage and slash with conventional farming machinery. Today these slopes are being used for hamlets and dwellings, orchards and gardens and reforestation with native species.

The lowest slopes and creek flats are largely pasture grazed by horses and cows and reserved as common open space for communal facilities and activities.

The climate is sub-tropical with over 2000 mm of rain received annually, most of it during the summer months. The soil is generally red volcanic and reasonably fertile capable of growing a wide range of fruit trees including avocados, litchis, mangoes, custard apples and macadamias.

#### MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY

Originally rural property was only permitted one or two dwellings per title/property. After several years of controversy and negotiation the NSW government in Feb. 1980 passed enabling legislation to permit Multiple Occupancy (M.O.) on a statewide basis. However, local Councils retain considerable control over which particular areas where such development might be approved and under what conditions. The maximum population density permitted by the legislation is one person per ha. A leaflet, Multiple Occupancy- how it works, is available free from the Dept. of Environment & Planning, GPO Box 3927, Sydney 2001. This Dept. also publishes an excellent book, Low Cost Country Homebuilding.

#### DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council approval was granted to the co-op after a Development Plan had been lodged and accepted. This is a sketch plan/map of the property which delineates areas as suitable for hamlets/dwellings, common pasture areas, forest and wilderness areas. No dwellings may be constructed within 50 meters of any creek and the maximum number of residents is limited to 564 persons. All buildings must be approved by Council.

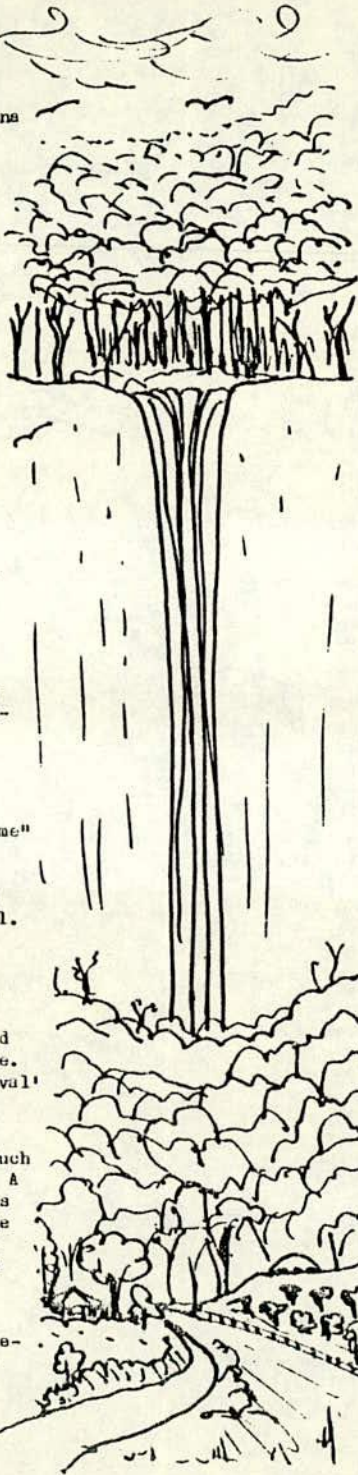
In dealing with Council over the years the co-op sought to achieve a compromise between folk who felt it their moral right to "build anything, anywhere at anytime" and Council who felt it their legal right and obligation to rigidly enforce all building standards and regulations. Most now agree that relations with Council are cordial and a considerable feeling of compromise achieved over the years. A few 'new settlers' are usually elected each year as aldermen on the local Council.

#### BUILDING AND POPULATION DENSITY

A member wishing to erect a dwelling or other permanent structure selects a site within the area zoned for hamlets on the Development Plan and erects a flag on the site to the maximum height of the proposed structure. A meeting of the Board and resident members known as a Tribal Meeting is then notified of the flag-raise. At a subsequent Tribal Meeting, Council plans are submitted and final 'site approval' applied for.

During the site selection process the intending builder should meet with all proximate neighbours to obtain their agreement to his/her building proposal. Such neighbours have a strong say and virtual veto over who may build close to them. A member having difficulty finding a house site or believing neighbour's objections to be unreasonable may put his/her case to a Tribal Meeting. Regretably the size and geography of the co-op's property and the legal limitation of a maximum population of 564 persons makes it impossible to accommodate all of the co-op's 750 members.

However, it has been largely accepted that many of the co-op's members never intended to live at Tuntabul and the co-op is attempting to assess future requirements of its non-resident members by surveying those with a known address. For several years the co-op has sought to lower its number of members by refunding shares on request and it is expected that this policy will continue.



#### HAMLETS

These are small clusters of dwellings which may share one or more of the following: kitchen, toilet, laundry, garden, orchard, water supply, 12v or 240v power & phone. Not all dwellings are located within hamlets. Some are very close communities united by common philosophical, artistic or agricultural goals. Others are merely a collection of dwellings brought together by fate or geographical considerations.

#### COMMON FACILITIES & ACTIVITY

Communal work is generally limited to hamlet projects or occasionally a special purpose activity such as school construction. This is because of the diverse nature of the membership and the large size of the property. Sometimes the entire community is drawn together by a common 'enemy' such as a bush fire, rainforest loggers or police activity which has upset the community. The co-op has rejected compulsory work activity generally believing that 'forced' labour to be counter-productive, unfulfilling and not worth having.

Gradually the community is coming together and over the years a car pit has been constructed, significant reforestation taken place, Pre-school and Primary Schools constructed. A Community Center with hall, shop and kids' room is now being actively planned. A few dams have been constructed, paid for by the users often with a short term loan from the co-op.

The co-op provides premises for a Pre-school run by a community association and directly runs a Primary School. About 25-30 children attend each school and both receive significant government funding. Some children attend schools in Nimbin and a daily school bus takes them to town.

#### SHARE SALES AND NEW CO-OPS

As outlined earlier the co-op is attempting to reduce the number of its members in order to decrease future demand for new house sites which are now rather limited. In general terms new shares are only issued to existing members, their children, spouses, relatives and in very rare circumstances to long term guests who are very close friends.

Folk wishing to join such a co-op should consider joining other similar communities. Contact Nimbin Information Center, Cullen St., Nimbin 2480 and Earth 'N' People, 1 Nullum Street, Murwillumbah 2484 for current listings of new Multiple Occupancy properties. Check out alternative publications such as Earth Garden, P. O. Box 378, Epping 2121 and Grass Roots, P. O. Box 900, Shepparton, Vic 3630.

To assist folk to form new co-ops the following may be ordered from the Publicity Co-ordinator, Co-ordination Co-op Ltd, P. O. Box 26, Nimbin 2480:

- 2 stamps- Co-ordination Co-op Ltd Essay (ie what you are now reading)
- 1 SAE - By-laws of Co-ordination Co-op Ltd
- 1 SAE - Legal Structures for Group Land Sharing by David Spain
- 4 stamps- Rules of Co-ordination Co-op Ltd

The "Rules" is a formal registered constitution and is only suggested for those in the final stages of forming a co-operative. The By-laws are generally land management policies and would be of more interest to most folk.

Standard Rules, Information leaflet and Instruction Sheets are available from the Dept. of Housing & Co-ops, P. O. Box 972, Parramatta 2150.

A copy of the Co-operation Act + Regulations + Amendments may be ordered from the Government Printing Office, P. O. Box 75, Pyrmont 2009.

#### TYPES OF COMMUNITIES

Because of skyrocketing land prices in this area over the past few years, most land shares now cost between \$5000 to \$10,000, although most would offer a lower population density than this co-op for this amount of money. Some folk are investigating cheaper land out west. The range of alternative communities is now very diverse and a wide choice available to choose from.



CO-ORDINATION CO-OPERATIVE LTD. SOME FRUIT TREE RECOMMENDATIONS

ALPINIA GALANGAL: eat rhizomes, flowers & buds (steamed)

AMOMUM CARDAMONUM: young shoots eaten raw or cooked; seed as spice

AVOCADO: cv. in order of seasonal maturity: Jalna, Zutano, Bacon, Fuerte, Edranol, Sharwil, Hazzard, Bass, Reed & Wurtz. With a range of cv. you can eat avos 7 to 10 months a year. Bass is the heaviest & most consistent bearer; resistant to anthracnose & fruit spotting bug because of very thick skin. Possums ring bark trees in winter- copious quantities of high tensile barbed wire is the only answer. Ag. dept. research shows you can double yield by using gypsum instead of dolomite together with chook shit; Avos planted near forest in grey gravelly soil at CoCo have died within 3-5 years. Plant in well drained, red soil in sunny position. Shade for first year. Mulch heavy at all times. Irrigate after flowering has commenced. Will take heavy frost. Remove low hanging branches to discourage possums, rats & reduce anthracnose. Fence young trees for wallabies!

BARBADOS CHERRY (Malpighia glabra): Mine has not borne very heavy & stem broke after becoming top heavy. Fruit is fair, susceptible to fruit fly

BRAZIL CHERRY: Attractive, heavy bearing shrub. Fruit fair, gets some fruit fly and does not store well. Takes heavy frost & grows easy from seed.

BLUEBERRIES: Likes very acid soil. Fruits OK, grows from cuttings, takes heavy frost cv. Sharpblue & Floridablue;

CHERRYMOYER: Like custard apples. Will NOT take heavy frost; cv. Delicisoa

CHINESE RAISIN: Very vigorous upright grower; deciduous- takes heavy frost; fruit is sweet

CHINESE GOOSEBERRY: (Kiwi fruit) needs strong trellis. Plant in well drained red soil; takes heavy frost, irrigate regularly, flying foxes like them

CITRUS: Mandarins & grapefruit appear to be easiest to grow. Watch out for ring-barking grub. Find hole & insert wire to kill or squirt metho or pyethrum in hole. Aphids and black scale can usually be squirted off with plain water under pressure. White oil for red scale. Lemons need pruning. Needs lots of fertilizer

CUSTARD APPLES: African Pride fruits much better than Pinks Mammoth. Untried cvs. are Island Gem & Geffenera. Prune lightly in winter. Avoid weak crotches. Will NOT take heavy frost.

FEIJOA: Plant at least 2 for cross-pollination. Mine flower well & beautifully but have only borne fruit once in 5 years. Will take heavy frost. Gets fruit fly

FIGS: Brown turkey is best cv. Takes heavy frost; gets grub in twigs

FIVE CORNER FRUIT: Attractive shrub & fruit. Will fruit in 4-5 yrs. Water regularly when small; medium frost only; doesn't like transplanting

GUAVAS: Very susceptible to both fruit fly and ring-barking grub. Will grow easily from seed, marcots & cuttings. Will take moderate frost

INDIAN FIG (Opuntia): Attractive large fast growing cactus. Will take heavy frost. Fruit is good, like Kiwi fruit (burn off prickles with fast flame). Grows easy from pad cuttings

JABOTICABA: Very slow grower; moderate frost; grow 2-5 years in large pot in nursery

JAK FRUIT: Attractive fast growing tree; very large aromatic fruit; seeds are edible and supposedly young leaf buds; Will fruit in 4-5 yrs; grows easy from seed

KEI APPLE: will take heavy frost, shrub, plant 2 or more together for pollination.

LITCHI: Will take moderate frost. Plant several cvs. as each cv. is variable in seasonal yield. Not considered to be a heavy or reliable bearer. Fruit gets eaten by a grub and flying foxes. Fruit of each cv. ripens all on one day; fruit does not store well except with refrigeration & treatment; shade & water regularly in first year - marcots (avoid weak crotches)

LONGON: similar to litchee

LOQUAT: will take heavy frost; cvs. Herds Mammoth & Enormity (avoid weak crotches)

LOVE APPLE (Solanum a.): Poor quality fruit. Attractive small shrub; takes heavy frost

MACADAMIAS: will often bear well from seed. Grafted cvs. will NOT take heavy frost water well & mulch; can be grown where avocados die. Pruning out center branches lets birds get in to eat grubs. Avoid weak crotches- susceptible to wind damage

MANGO: Stop fertilizing when tree begins to bear fruit in 3-5 years- also stop irrigation Common cvs. can be grown from seed which is polyembryonic- only allow one shoot to grow

MULBERRY: White cv. doesn't fruit well here. Plant close to house to beat birds to the fruit. cv. Russian is supposed to be good for high blood pressure

NATAL PLUM (Carissa g.): Attractive shrub & fruit; aromatic flowers several months a year. Light bearer; fruit is good but probably gets fruit fly; takes heavy frost; grows easy from seed; makes good hedge. has thorns.



NECTARINES: rather hopeless in my opinion because of fruit fly

OLIVE: will take heavy frost; watch out for ring barking grub; likes dolomite; cv Parragon

PANAMA BERRY: No frost; bears in one year; grows from seed or leafy tip cuttings, fence for wallabies

PECANS: slow growing and slow to bear; takes heavy frost; likes water, even flooding

PAW PAW: moderate frost; seed planted in Nov & force to grow 2-3 feet high so as to survive first winter. Some shade & water for first 1-2 months. Likes lots of dolomite and protection from winter wind very important; Fence for wallabies!

PEACHES: New Florida type cvs. can sometimes beat fruit fly. Fruit is good but does not store well; flying foxes like them

PERSIMON: takes heavy frost; several cvs. available; flying foxes like them

PITAYA: Attractive slow growing cactus; possibly 2 cvs. needed for cross-pollination-takes heavy frost

PLUM: Early cvs. like Wilson can sometimes beat fruit fly. Takes 4-5 yrs. to fruit

POMEGRANATE: Attractive slow growing shrub; takes heavy frost; grows from cuttings

ROSE APPLE: (*Eugenia jambos*): Attractive shrub/tree with flowers 5 cm in diameter; fruit is aromatic & fairly good; gets fruit fly; moderate frost; grows easy from seed

SAPODILLA: Very slow grower. Considered to be one of the best fruits in Asia. Grafted trees are very rare but worth it if you can get one. Fence for wallabies & possums!

SAPOTE (WHITE) (*Casimiroa edulis*): Fruit is highly recommended by several sources. Can be picked hard to avoid fruit fly; heavy bearer; should take heavy frost. cvs. include Denzler, Chapman, Blomendral, Hawian Supreme and many more soon to become available. Avoid weak crotches

SAPOTE (BLACK) (*Diospyros ebenaster*): Fruit is sweet like fig or chocolate pudding. Medium frost; attractive tree; fairly fast grower

SIMPOH (*Dillenia indica*): Attractive tree; large poor quality fruit; medium frost

SOURSOP: Shy bearer, slow grower, NO frost; delicious fruit

STRAWBERRY TREE (*Arbutos unedo*): Attractive slow growing shrub- still no fruit after 5 years; takes heavy frost

TAMARILLO: Often die after 1-3 yrs from virus or root fungus

WAMPT: Attractive upright tree; poor quality fruit

WAX JAMBU: Large, attractive, fast growing & spreading tree; fruit in 3-4 years of good quality and no fruit fly; grows from marcots or cuttings; medium frost

WINE PALM (*Butia capitata*): Attractive fast growing palm- will take heavy frost

YELLOW MANGOSTEIN: Very slow grower; grow in large pot for 3-5 yrs. in nursery. Not related to purple mangostein

BURDEKIN PLUM: Q'd native; fast growing shade tree; fruit is fair; moderate frost- a bit similiar to Caffir plum

MISC. TREES PLANTED (recent arrivals- little info available to date): Brush cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum*); Cape Fig (*F. capesens*); Star gooseberry (*Phyllanthus acidus*); repino gold; Pond apple; yellow sapote (*Pouteria c.*); Chinese date; date palm, Moringa

TROPICAL TREES (doubtful if could grow anywhere here): Purple mangostein, Malay apple; Rambutan, Durian, Cashew nut; Betel palm nut; Coconut palm; Indian almond; Ambarella & granadilla

When buying trees first consider shareholders & local residents like Neil Roberts, Nick Mike Puckey, Any Frame & occasionally myself. Send 2 stamps for catalogue from Archers Nursery, Main Rd., Grandchester, Q 4340. Check out John Van de Bryl at Main Arm and Paul Recher at Lorrourby. (Phone them first)

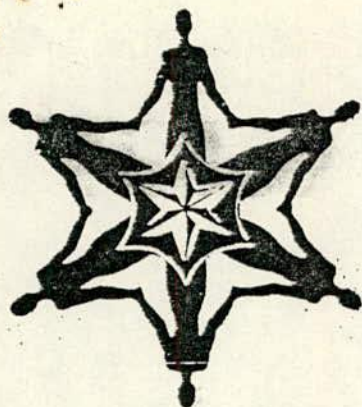
Visit Alstonville Tropical Research Station- phone first to ascertain times of free guided tours. Lismore Agric. Office has large range of leaflets on fruit growing.

When planning orchard, consider how fast & large the trees will grow, irrigation and water supply, mowing & control of weeds, fire breaks, on what basis will work, cost & fruit be shared with hamlet partners and work out how you will fertilize and look after them. Avoid future disagreements by deciding on these matters before planting your orchard.

For the dedicated fruit grower Manual of Tropical & Subtropical Fruits by Ponence from Noah Ark is the best reference. Newsletters from Rare Fruit Council, P.O. Box 707, Cairns 4870 is also good. Michel Fanton has several rare books written for Dutch and French 'colonies'.

Dave Lambert- Tumble Falls 2480.





# NIMBIN 73-83

## LIFESTYLE CELEBRATION

SEPT.20-25

P.O. NIMBIN 2480  
Phone (066) 891408 891470

I am writing to you from the site of the NIMBIN LIFESTYLE CELEBRATION to be held this coming Spring from September 20th to 25th.

Ten years ago, people came to Nimbin to establish a lifestyle by choice. This time they (we) are coming to learn about that lifestyle out of necessity. Of course, Nimbin is only one manifestation of that lifestyle. Perhaps not all its aspects are fully developed here, but Nimbin was the first public coalescing of those aspects into a community lifestyle, and its tenth anniversary should of course be celebrated.

But this celebration can and should be more than that. Nimbin is really just a physical expression of the very sound philosophies for, and strategies of change that we are all, in our own areas, working to effect. We have all shared the jubilation of the successful people's action in Tasmania, and this is also a good reason to celebrate.

What has captured my imagination is the realisation that until this point all our successful public action has been defensive. This celebration gives us the chance for some very creative public action. For the first time we can control the scenario. And the scenario, despite some local opposition is shaping up to be the rich and full cultural event so many of us have spoken about for so long.

To give you an example: Lyall Roberts, Bundjalung elder and well-known Aboriginal spokesperson, chose the site for the bora ring, directly behind the stage. The organisers had unknowingly chosen the major East Coast intersection of the ancient Aboriginal song lines from which to stage the celebration. The Bundjalung have also chosen to share their initiation rites with select males during the festival. Such remarkable synchronicity and support is happening here on so many fronts. So much so, that the celebration has a momentum all its own, and what a small group of skilled individuals began as a community festival has grown into a major cultural and social event. Its success depends upon our ability to recognise that and to contribute what we can in our own areas, just as the Bundjalung have done.

Already groups like the Peace on Earth Team are co-ordinating diverse special interest groups to create a peace show to present the message most effectively.

Such a linking together is possible for all of us. We could make it a national gathering of key people and networks sharing knowledge, formulating plans, initiating projects, and having a good time in the process. Learning experiences should always be like that.

Well my friend, that is the message. If you want to be involved, there is plenty to do. If you have any special interest you feel should be part of the celebration; if you have any practical experience in any aspect of organising such an event; if you have resources, information, skills or time, contact the organisers. You'll find that if you have something real to offer it is very easy to make it your festival too.



There is another aspect of this I'd like to share with you, and that is the way this whole celebration is being funded. Money, its use and abuse, always raises its head at these events : who will profit, who will lose, and who's behind it all. So far the celebration has been funded by the organisers from their own bank accounts, dole , cheques and market takings.

According to professional estimates set before the process began, \$30,000 should have been spent by now. But this is a celebration of giving, salvaging, re-cycling and maintenance, and money has been approached like any other energy - obtained honestly, spent well, and passed on in a positive direction. As such it is also an exercise in alternative funding. Money to operate depends on the pre-registration, donations, market bookings, tithing and personal loans. Since the work on site has reached the stage of major capital works such as sinking a bore for fresh water, financial support is especially important.

There is a "Karavanseri" travelling to interested communities to promote the festival and perhaps you could arrange a benefit concert with them when they are in your area. Other assistance to keep the funding of the celebration in our own networks would be appreciated. The profits from the celebration go to the groups mentioned in the leaflet.

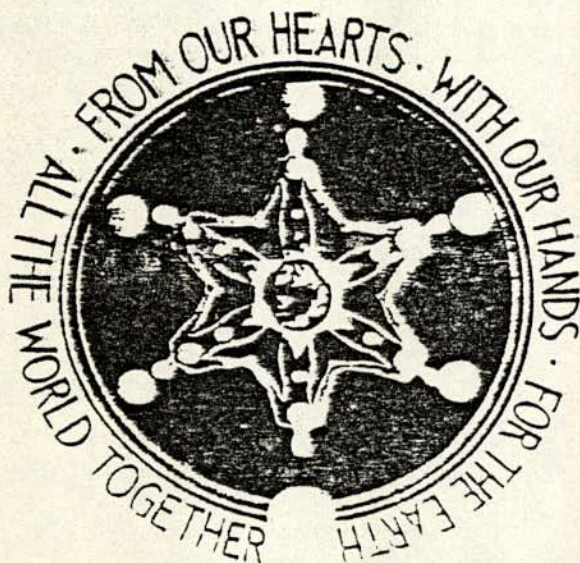
I'm sending this letter to 500 other dreamers, schemers and doers. Please spread the word, so that forethought, discussion and preparation throughout the networks will ensure a most productive gathering.

Looking forward to hearing from you



for the Workshop Co-ordinators,

NIMBIN LIFESTYLE CELEBRATION.





# SUBSCRIBE!

NIMBIN 73/83

LIFESTYLE CELEBRATION

PARTICIPATION FUNDING

BUY YOUR TICKET NOW AND HELP  
THE CELEBRATION BECOME A REALITY  
!!! = SUBSCRIBE = !!!



\$ 30. UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1st.

\$ 35. AFTER SEPTEMBER 1st.  
AND AT THE GATE.

T / SHIRTS \$ 7. @ state size



NAME

ADDRESS

Postcode

State.

DO YOU WISH TO HOLD A WORKSHOP?  
OR SHARE YOUR SKILLS

State here.

I ENCLOSE \$30. BOOKING FEE .....

I ENCLOSE \$ 7. FOR T / SHIRT .....

Make Cheques Payable

Nimbin Lifestyle Celebration  
P.O. Box Nimbin 2480 N.S.W.  
Phone (066 - 891408 )

Artist of all persuasion, animators, visual designers, mythmakers, scriptwriters, dream-weavers! You are invited to form a body of talent to participate in the Greatest Theme of our Times. You are the vanguard of CHANGE. Your imagination, dreams and creations weave the collective vision. We have a chance to awaken the mass mind to avert imminent planetary upset. We could create a theatre of Celebration, as opposed to War. We can focus available talent and technology - the challenge to work with what is NOT synthetic - "living art" It is within our power to create and promote a vision of the future we choose.  
JOIN US

Have you seen the New Age Vision  
Glimpsed the possibility  
Have you grasped the implications  
Of just what this land could be  
Have you felt the new vibrations  
Have you heard the cosmic call  
All we need's co-operation

One and all

Could it be that we are leaders  
Of the world in something new  
That the planet and the governments  
Are watching what we do  
There's an opportunity right here  
We're really in the light  
We can model for the world

Let's do it right

There's a lot of work to do  
Do you get it's up to you  
Are you with us learning how  
Where if not here?  
Who if not us?

When if not now?

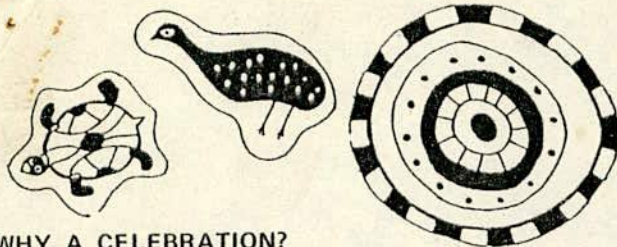
NIMBIN 73-83



LIFESTYLE CELEBRATION

Sept 20-25





## WHY A CELEBRATION?

Ten years ago the Aquarius Festival was held in Nimbin. Its theme was survival and the exploration of creative lifestyles. This year, the 10th anniversary of the Festival, energy is once again gathering around Nimbin.

Since 1973, the physical community of Nimbin and the larger community of ideas which it represents have become a unique focus for the expression of a whole new lifestyle. Many things begun there have broken new ground and set examples in environmental concern, methods of land settlement and communal living. New laws have been forged, together with an awareness of physical and mental health which reflects the dramatic changes now rippling through an ailing society.

With current interest from Federal and State government bodies now seeking viable alternatives, Nimbin is being recognised as a potential model for the development of rural communities.

We see the Lifestyle Celebration as a gathering of some of the finest minds in the movement for a rapid burst of problem solving before some of the examples of Nimbin are taken up and copied on a wider level. We see it as an affirmation that we do create our own realities and are responsible for our own lives.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The Celebration is really a big cultural fair. You can expect to find facilities for off-site parking, on-site camping, with a continuous free bus service. Healthy food and meals will be readily available. There will be a people's market with the main emphasis on artist/artisan cottage industry. A workshop program will explore many aspects of environmental and lifestyle issues. Several stages are planned, the main stage to be programmed and the others to be open to free access participation from a rich variety of speakers and entertainers.

The Lifestyle Celebration resembles a tribal gathering and we encourage you to give some thought and planning towards coming in self sufficient tribal units.

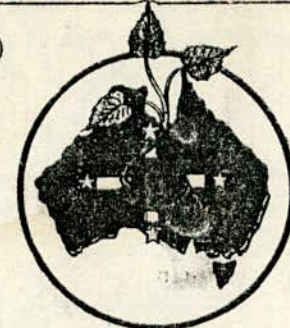
For further information contact the Administrator, Heather Schmidt, P.O. Nimbin 2480, Tel: 066/891408.

## A COMMUNITY TAX - YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE COLLECTIVE TRUST

All profits from the Lifestyle Celebration will be distributed to local groups manifesting the statements of the Celebration Manifesto agreed upon in the May Celebration Creation Workshops. Please number your priority 1 to 7 in the boxes provided. Your vote will help determine the priorities of how any profits are distributed.



### MANIFESTATION



### IMPLEMENTING GROUP

**CHOOSING OUR FUTURE:** Responsibility begins with the individual as we collectively plan for a liveable and sustainable future. We wish to encourage an increasing consensus towards unifying and healing action strategies to inspire the deepest commitment from all.

Rural Resettlement Task Force - to be used to further the aims of the rural community movement. ☐

**LAND RIGHTS:** We belong to the earth - we cannot own it. The SPIRIT of our Earth supports and sustains all life. Respecting this, we can work together, brothers and sisters, black and white.

Bundjalong and Gidabal tribes - to be passed on to a local Aboriginal community group represented by Lorraine Mafi-Williams to further their initiatives. ☐

**NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT - WORLD PEACE:** We urgently need to learn how to resolve conflict without violence. We must increase awareness of the looming dangers and unite into action for peace, justice and life.

Women's Action for Global Peace - to be utilised in whatever peace initiatives they consider appropriate. ☐

**CHILDREN:** Children are the future. We all support them in making it their festival too, with kids and adults sharing and learning from each other. (We should open ourselves and listen to the children).

To be distributed by a committee representing -  
Nimbin Community School  
Tuntabul School  
Nimbin Youth Group ☐

**COMMUNITY:** Learning to live together, furthering the tribal network for collectively agreed upon needs.

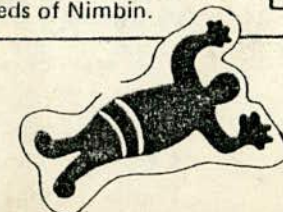
Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre - to be used to fund and assist local community groups and projects. ☐

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Earth is sacred, we must act together to protect it and learn to live in harmony with nature. Let the LAND tell its story.

To be distributed by a committee representing -  
Nightcap Action Group  
Treeworks  
Toxic Substances Group ☐

**CULTURE:** "From our heart, with our hands for the earth, all the world together" ... sustaining and preserving our tribal relationship with the land and each other.

The Nimbin Community Arts Collective - a group to be formed under the auspices of the Neighbourhood Centre to further the cultural needs of Nimbin. ☐





# Bundagen

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBG5155  
Bundagen c/- Repton P.O. 2454. Ph. No. 066 - 53 4529.

NEWSLETTER

NO. 14

6/12/82

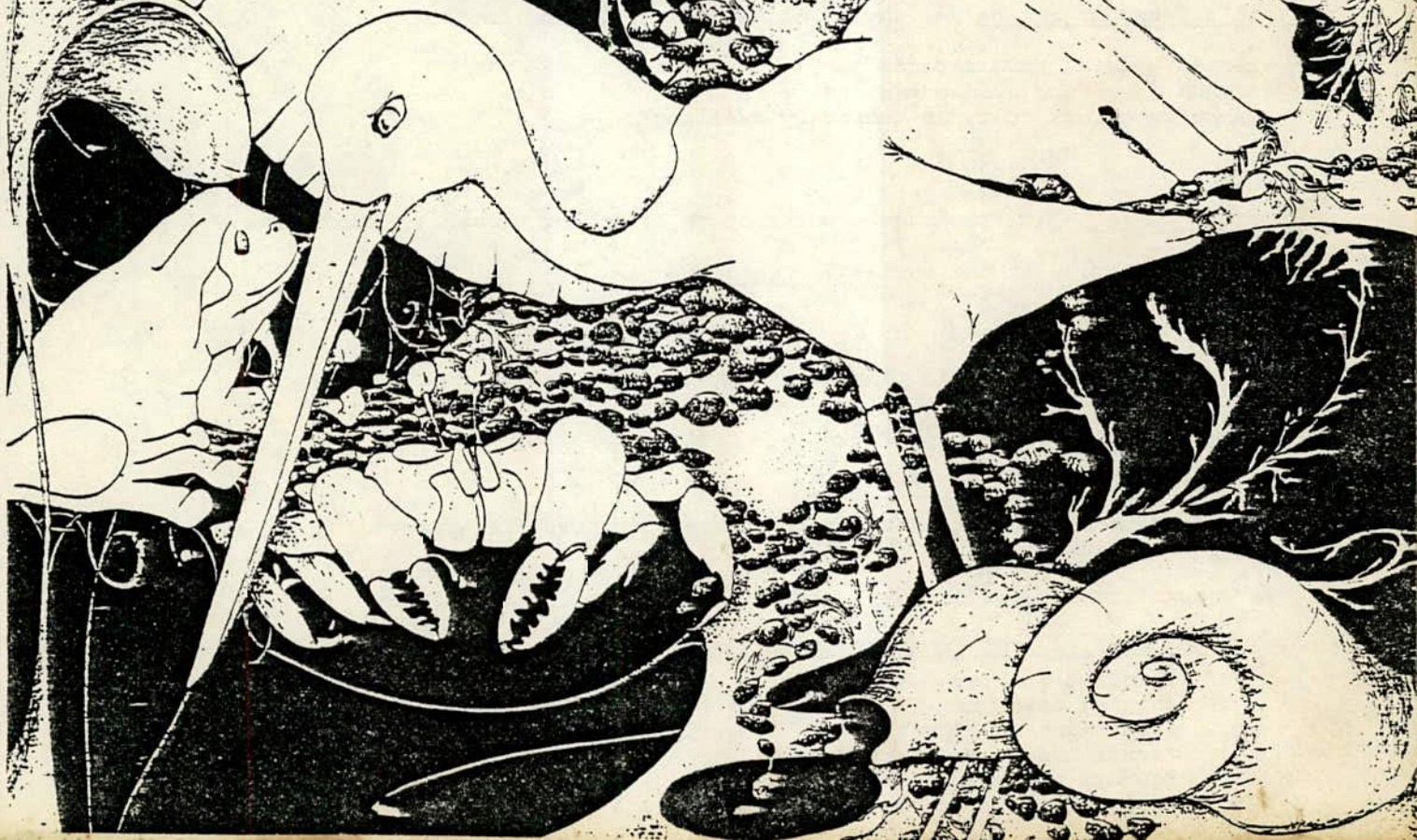
# Our Coast & its future

hopes & memories

A Study has been initiated of the Coast from Tuckers Rocks to Sawtell with the support of the State Government Coastal Council. Your help is needed to share knowledge of the history and changes within this area.

Your thoughts & memories are important & your involvement welcome, toward the long term care & management of this our Coast.

Contact:  
Bundagen Coastal  
Study  
P.O. Repton  
2454





2.

COASTAL STUDY POSTER - re-produced on the cover -

full size 2' x 3' (50cm x 75cm), glossy finish and truly beautiful - congratulations to Peter Stevens - the Artist.

Copies available from Peter (02) 95 5518 or Bundagen (066) 534 529

free if you are posting one up to gain help for the study  
\$2.00 if you want personal copies

PROGRAMME FOR THE NEWYEAR MEETING WEEKEND - FRIDAY 31ST DECEMBER - MONDAY 3RD JANUARY.

LOCATION: The House

Reports are requested on the following topics:

Progress on beach safety; materials depot/workshop; house extensions; legal road access + usual groups contribution:

Law Management, Aboriginal Liaison; Planning and Environment, Coastal study, Health, any local groups.  
Treasurers Report

Please get them to the house notice board for Friday 31st to give people plenty of time to absorb!

Camping - around the farm house or at the old camping ground.

Meals - everyone to bring their own food.

- 3 main shared meals - 3 people have volunteered to organise the 'pooling' of anyone's food 1 hour before Saturday tea, Sunday lunch and tea, (all at the house) to prepare a large meal at each of these 3 meal times. (please bring your own plate and cup)

- rest of the meals - people prepare their own.

Fireban - if a fireban is imposed over the Christmas, New Year period there is gas cooking facilities at both the farm house and at the old camping ground.

Water - there should be sufficient water - but remember to bring your own water containers.

Friday

- working bees - see noticeboard at house.
- time to absorb reports and generally prepare for the meetings
- New Year's Eve!

Saturday Afternoon 2.00p.m. at the house

Small Group Discussions

- issues arising from reports
- agenda items for Sunday's meeting
- Canberra groups query on moveable dwelling
- editing guidelines for newsletter
- non-participant members - suggestions!

THE RED PHONE IS ON!!!!

(066) 534 529

Selection of facilitator (s) for Sunday's meeting

- this will give the person(s) time to fully prepare themselves for the morning's session.

Small discussion groups - any/or all of the following topics:

- issues arising from reports
- agenda, items for Sunday meeting
- Canberra groups query on temporary dwelling

Saturday sunset - at the house - workshop on brief for community house (See P 4.)

Sunday 10.00a.m. - at the house - Decisions

Agenda.

1. "Getting rid of what's on top" - Col will explain!
2. Style - forming the meeting
  - setting the order of agenda
  - allocation of time to each
  - deferment of routine business to co-ordinators (if approved)
  - finishing time

Note agenda items below have yet to be put in order for discussion.

3. Items carried over from last meeting

- a) Headland shelter (see P.18.)
- b) Joining fees; max No. of members, waiting list (Newsletter 12 P23-24)
- c) Shed/materials depot/workshop Newsletter No. 12 P.28)
- d) Banana Lease (Newsletter 13 P.10)
- e) Roundup of budget items (ratification) (Newsletter No. 12 P22 3d)  
(some of these may no longer be relevant)



- 3.
- f) Review of decision to transfer membership to Bundagen Ltd. only those people who have paid \$50 maintenance levy (Newsletter 13 P3 No. 3b)
4. Settlement on the Land
- a) Number and approval of temporary sites (see P13.)
  - b) Visitors accommodation (see P13.)
  - c) Community house proposal (see P.4.)
  - d) Multiple occupancy of Bundageree (see P.4.)
  - e) S.W. corner people - a proposal (see P13.)
5. Financial Matters
- a) Expenditure on items less than \$500 (see P13.)
  - b) Payment for the use of Bundagen (p.13)
  - c) Any specific items needing authorisation from the meeting (see P17.)
  - d) Land Tax (p.13)
6. Legal Matters
- a) Increase of no. of co-ordinators from 9 to 16 (see P17.)
  - b) Appointment of additional co-ordinators (see P17.)
7. Confirmation of past decisions within the new legal structure
- A) By-Laws (see P16 and P17)
  - B) The Development of Bundagen:

Guidelines and principle (see Newsletter 11 P12-13)

SUNDAY NIGHT





This is the call for ideas, thoughts and specific requirements to formulate a written brief for -

## BUNDAGEN HOUSE

.... a large communal house on a site to be located on Bundagen property.

This is envisaged as one of three additional homes that we are legally entitled to construct under the present rural zoning.

This does not preclude our multiple occupancy application for Bundagen, but should be complementary to it. It could also consolidate some comfort and activity on Bundagen while the M.O. of Lot 334 is going through. But more than that it may capture the enthusiasm of most members as it should be a true communal building, owned and used by all.

Technically, or legally, it should be a house, but there are no defined limits to size and comforts, providing it has a kitchen and some sleeping and bathing and looks 'domestic'.

Col James

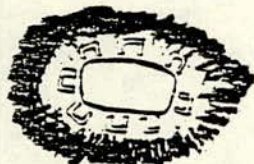
Thoughts to go on ..... extracts from 'A Pattern Language'

Give every institution and social group a place where people can eat together. Make the common meal a regular event. In particular, start a common lunch in every work place, so that a genuine meal around a common table (not out of boxes, machines, or bags) becomes an important, comfortable, and daily event with room for invited guests. In our own work group at the Center, we found this worked most beautifully when we took it in turns to cook the lunch. The lunch became an event: a gathering: something that each of us put our love and energy into, on our day to cook.

When people eat together, they may actually be together in spirit—or they may be far apart. Some rooms invite people to eat leisurely and comfortably and feel together, while others force people to eat as quickly as possible so they can go somewhere else to relax.

Above all, when the table has the same light all over it, and has the same light level on the walls around it, the light does nothing to hold people together; the intensity of feeling is quite likely to dissolve: there is little sense that there is any special kind of gathering. But when there is a soft light, hung low over the table, with dark walls around so that this one point of light lights up people's faces and is a focal point for the whole group, then a meal can become a special thing indeed, a bond, communion.

Therefore:



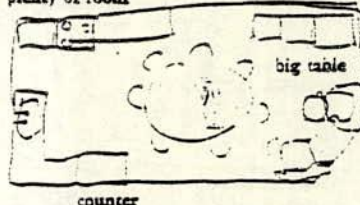
light in the middle

Put a heavy table in the center of the eating space—large enough for the whole family or the group of people using it. Put a light over the table to create a pool of light over the group, and enclose the space with walls or with contrasting darkness. Make the space large enough so the chairs can be pulled back comfortably, and provide shelves and counters close at hand for things related to the meal.

The isolated kitchen, separate from the family and considered as an efficient but unpleasant factory for food is a hangover from the days of servants; and from the more recent days when women willingly took over the servants' role.

Make the kitchen bigger than usual, big enough to include the "family room" space, and place it near the center of the commons, not so far back in the house as an ordinary kitchen. Make it large enough to hold a good big table and chairs, some soft and some hard, with counters and stove and sink around the edge of the room; and make it a bright and comfortable room.

plenty of room



Therefore:

To strike the balance between the kitchen which is too small, and the kitchen which is too spread out, place the stove, sink, and food storage and counter in such a way that:

1. No two of the four are more than 10 feet apart.
2. The total length of counter—excluding sink, stove, and refrigerator—is at least 12 feet.
3. No one section of the counter is less than 4 feet long.

There is no need for the counter to be continuous or entirely "built-in" as it is in many modern kitchens—it can even consist of free-standing tables or counter tops. Only the three functional relationships described above are critical.

## Bundagaree

## Planning

## Workshop

- The early December planning workshop at Bundagaree did happen, despite the notice being delayed in the Newsletter. It was projected at the last General Meeting and took place over the weekend of December 4 and 5.
- The objective was to consider the possibility of a multiple occupancy application for Bundagaree as our next move toward some permanent settlement. This notion would be consistent with our undertaking to Coffs Harbour Council to submit an application within 12 months of the granting of our 15 camping permits and amenities.



- However, after long and fruitful discussions at the Bara, and at Bundagen, it was agreed to make the following recommendations to the January General Meeting.

THAT WE MARSHALL OUR RESOURCES AND CONCENTRATE OUR COLLECTIVE ENERGY TOWARD A NEW CENTRE FOR EVERYONE, RATHER THAN PERMANENT HOUSING FOR A FEW.

This was variously described as, Bundagen House (see elsewhere in the Newsletter), a place to meet and eat for 200, and a communal space.

If this was judged in January to be our FIRST priority then the following options would follow further consideration.

1. Submit a development application for a communal house on a site to be determined. (We thought a site between the Bundagen gate, including the burnt out house and down to the stockyards offered great potential).
2. Seek an extension of 12 months on the 15 (or more) camping permits (movable dwelling Licenses), on Bundagen, pending further information on our legal access status and potential to buy our neighbour. Seek 15 (say) camping permits on Bundagaree.

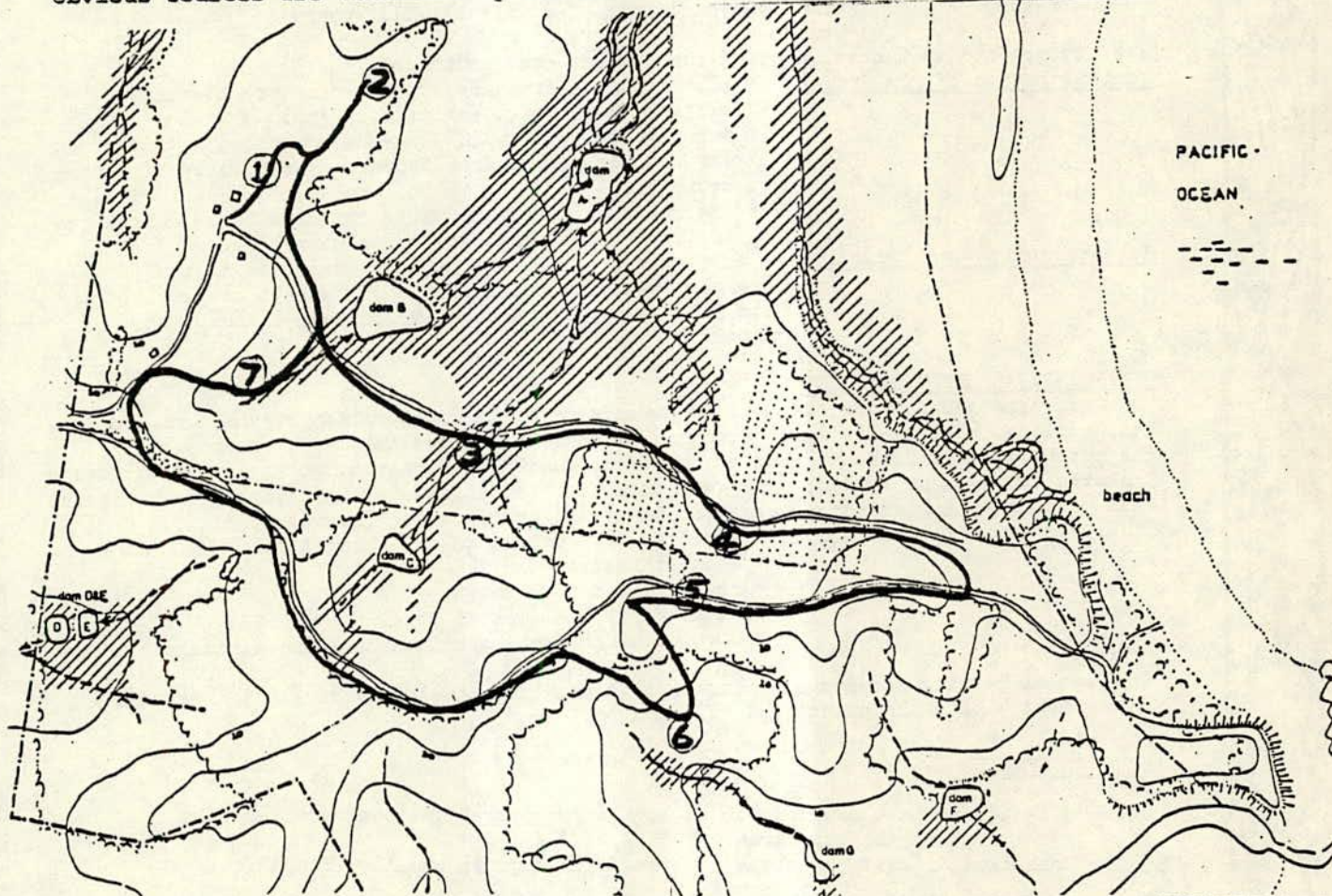
Challenge the Council requirement for 2 lane sealed road access for multiple occupancy.

Pursue the concept of 'permanent' movable dwellings as model development (see the Teepee and Yurt at Bundagaree.)

#### WATER RESOURCES - CLARRIE

Water divining or dowsing by Peter Johnston.

On the 7th November Peter Johnston, a local diviner of great repute spent the afternoon wandering Bundagen and some of Bundagaree, searching for underground water in spring, stream or whatever. Followed by his fascinated markers and recorders Ken and Clarrie, with deft and assuring thoroughness Peter moved across the landscape, the brass rod turning, he moving to the side or back a few paces to get direction of flow, marks a spot, then uses a tuner to tell if its a metal vein, salt water etc., the depth and quantity are found with another rod. In consideration of Bundagaree Peter said the obvious sources are windmills by the creek and dams in the higher gullies.



shows the path taken, sites marked and the respective flows and depths are

The map

SITE	GALLONS PER HOUR	DEPTH FT.	SUGGESTIONS
1	700	80 & 70	Windmill
2	600	80	
3	500	60	
4	800	70	
5	50	50	Small dam
6	60	60	
7	300	50	

It presently costs \$1200 to drill and line a 6 inch bore hole to soft, where our two best flows are, plus second hand windmill to assist lift costs \$300 to \$600 and a large storage tank or dam. Site one seems an ideal position with flow, wind and gravity feed to areas.



# REPORT FROM GUNNADOO

As members of Bundagen we have all agreed to live by three basic principles i.e. Social Harmony, Environmental Responsibility and Financial Independence.

A year of coming to know each other and the land better has led us to detail these principals further and make proposals for their implementation.

## SOCIAL HARMONY

Initially 12 months prohibitions on development was adopted by Bundagen to allow time to understand the land and its potential.

During this time a small group of people resident at Bundagen; initially strangers have recognised the social and psychological implications/demands of high density living, especially in pioneering conditions.

Limitations on outward development have caused us to pull together as a group, enabling both individual and group growth.

We feel that the previous 12 months experience and the social aspects of the Gunnadoo experiment are valuable to other members.

Now that a period of 12 months is no longer compulsory we wonder what other ways will emerge to enable this growth to happen. We hope the development of improved visitors facilities will make it possible for more members to take the time necessary to experiment with the implications of living according to the principals of Bundagen. Representatives from Gunnadoo would be interested in having discussions with members at a time appointed at the next General Meeting.

### Proposal

Approval by the General Meeting to the principal of funding an ablution block and water supply to house.

Items of Expenditure - \*Bore (refer to Water Divining details at General Meeting)  
\*Windmill  
\*Holding Tank  
\*Overflow Dam  
\*Building - amenities block  
\*Solar Hot Water  
\*Showers and Bath  
\*Wind powered washing machine  
\*Wind powered lights (2-6 volt bicycle generator)  
\*Drains

See noticeboard at General Meeting for project cost estimate.

### Administration of the Project

- \* Allocation of expenses by co-ordinators meetings subject to thorough estimate of job.
- \* Working bees every 2nd week - and comprised of rostered car load of people from Sydney, local members and residents.
- \* The question of paying wages may have to be considered if insufficient nos. attend working bees.

### Relationship With Council

We have agreed to provide certain amenities in our Moveable Dwelling application. If we fail to comply with this we may jeopardise any further liason with council.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility to the land is to safeguard the regeneration of the land and its wildlife. Seeing the land through four seasons has enabled us to recognise the potential of different areas of Bundagen. Such as - Conservation areas/Sanctuaries Domestic areas, Land suitable for various horticultural uses as in tropical fruit areas, cash crops etc. Regeneration areas, Community and prospective village sites. Other responsibilities include

- \* Firefighting Prevention and Control Plan
- \* Weed extinction
- \* Preservation of Dunes
- \* Beach Survy and Coastal Study
- \* Low impact domestic, horticultural and agricultural use.

### Proposal

General Meeting accepts a zoning plan to provide guidelines for maintenance and development within the principles of Bundagen.

## ABOUT CONSENSUS

Consensus - A process through which an entire group seek out the best decision to which all can agree.

In The Consensus Process \*An issue is brought to a group usually in the form of a proposal

- \* The issue is discussed and questioned and concerns raised
- \* Differences and disagreements as similarities are drawn out and encouraged
- \* Modifications and adaptations of the original proposal are made.
- \* The group creates a new proposal based on ideas raised in discussion.
- \* The group reaches a decision that is acceptable to all in spite of reservations or differences.

Consensus is not unanimity- It is not necessary for every person in the group to feel that this is the solution that they would most want, or even think is best. Members may feel that this is the best solution that can be reached at this time under these circumstances.



# REPORT FROM GUNNADOO

## When to use Consensus

Consensus can be used effectively only when there is common agreement to find solution acceptable to the entire group. This occurs more often when it is a feeling of the group that no decision more important than the group itself.

## The Atmosphere that Helps Consensus

It is important that there be an atmosphere in which peoples intelligence and thinking be affirmed. Group members must be confident that they will be heard and their idea respected.

There should be the willingness to bring out, listen to, and deal with hidden feelings that are affecting peoples willingness or ability to hear ideas and make decisions.

For a group to use consensus successfully it must be understood the necessity of surfacing and sensitively dealing with grudges and conflicts that are affecting the group.

For a group to operate at its full potential and make it's best decision, power relationships must be continuously pointed out and examined carefully. It is no longer appropriate for decisions to be influenced by people simply because they are older/stronger/more wealthy/male or louder.

It is necessary to have the expectation that the best decisions reflect the thinking and agreement of all members.

## Conditions for use of Consensus

The group needs to understand the process and agree to it.

There needs to be a facilitator/clerk or chairperson with both flexibility and firmness.

The group should have a fairly high degree of homogeneity or bonding philosophy

People in the group should have some commitment to the ongoingness of the group rather than just to their own personal agendas.

There needs to be a general assumption that everyone has something valuable to say.

This article taken in short from 'Building Social Change Communities' gives an outline of how Gunnadoo wishes to support and live by Consensus.

## FINANCIAL INDEPENDANCE

For Bundagen to realise its goal of self sufficiency, individuals and groups may initiate projects to generate income independant of government or any other assistance.

## Proposal

Members make proposals to Land Management Committee to lease land from Bundagen on a seasonal basis for cash crops. Proposals must be in accord with the zoning and ecology principals of Bundagen.

Similarly other income producing initiatives involving Bundagen are encouraged with terms to be negotiated.

Lets hope this coming year will be productive and creative and Christmas wishes

## Gunnadoo report No.2.

At formation the Gunnadoo village levied \$ 100 from each of its members and commenced a series of working bees to prepare a dam site for the village and a new ridge road to the parking lot that also serves the south-east camping ground and the proposed south-west village. - Both projects were spectacularly successful. The new ridge road starts just inside the single front gate, crosses through the pines, past the burnt-out house, and into the forest to the right of the old road.

It is beautiful. Cool, tree-shaded and smooth. Thanks Steve Gorell for all the professional advice.

And the dam nestles on the side of the emergency high road to the beach. It is the first thing you see when you step out of the trees beside the shower bananas, and across its surface, the site of one of the Gunnadoo village clusters. The dozer has made a path from the dam overflow right round the contour to Alex and Bobby's bananas. A water pipe to serve the village clusters and tropical gardens will be laid along it and it will act as a drain during storms.

A second channel higher up the hill was also surveyed by Guy and Brian to divert water into the dam and effectively drain the road. Before earth moving commenced a water diviner was employed who confirmed the dam siting and several sites on the property for potential water bores and wind mills, and these have been mapped.

Six kilograms of mixed grass seed and several dozen native trees have been planted round the dam to consolidate the earthworks that can contain one million lit s. In the absence of rain, villagers have been watering the dam by pump from the melaleuca dam, and have commenced installation of a half-inch pipe water system for gardening and bathing.

Three sites for clusters were smoothed by the dozer, and some villagers will be resident on site by the January meeting. There has been discussions about having a tea room and camp store in the village this summer in line with the village's plan to have economic independance. Gunnadoo meets sunset Sundays with everyone bringing a plate, a high degree of enthusiasm and an occasional beef. (Who borrowed my mattock, and didn't bring it back?)

Meetings are run by consensus, and major decisions like dozing the dam occupied big parts of four meetings before the decision felt good. Villagers are very conscious of their responsibility to the land, and some of them were justifiably nervous about using even a gently driven D4 bulldozer like Bluey's.



## REPORT FROM GUNNADOO

At a meeting October 22, it was decided to press ahead on the formation of a village because "we believe in working and living together in a sharing way."

To this end members are paired off weekly to spend at least two hours together in a "getting-to-know-you" situation. Occasional social meetings have been held, and there is a weekly Tai Chi class for the village.

Alex's new banana packing shed was scheduled to be christened November 27 with a dance and film night. It has been built at the northern extremity of his banana lease, and has been painted banana green. You can catch a glimpse of it from the Gunnadoo dam.

Villagers have chosen a site beside the big stump for a community centre and amenities and shade house. A circus-like tent will serve the purpose initially with a more substantial temporary building later.

Several small shelters have been discussed. Simplicity is the word most used with emphasis on the garden surrounding the house rather than the dwelling itself.

A general style for the village is being discussed with emphasis placed on harmony with the landscape. The Gunnadoo village site has just received its third slashing with the tractor and several new tractor operators have been trained.

Trevor, who used to be solely responsible for maintaining the tractor's log book, is moving to Bundageree, and responsibilities are now done by individual operators with no problems to date. *the log book*

An indication of the spring is that when Gunnadoo was slashed by Clarrie early in Spring it was necessary to mark the wattles with ribbons. Now there is hardly a tree under two metres and some are four metres high. By Easter they could double their sizes.

The Gunnadoo village is sponsoring the first annual Recovery Beach Ball on January 2nd and with an anticipated expenditure of \$500 is hoping for good support from members.

"We're conscious of members having to go outside for entertainment during meeting weekends, and feel a party on the land would be a good opportunity for us to be together", Marnie said.

### Bundagen Land Report compiled 23.11.82

Appropriately Spring has been a season of growth and vitality at Bundagen and Bundageree. Warm to hot temperatures have been tempered by steady north-easterly winds that have kept the surf mostly flat and on occasion have left big seaweed deposits.

Today there are 32 adults on the land and 15 children.

Bundageree is a growing little community, the village between the bananas has been established, a feasibility study is being conducted to site a village in the South-West corner, and newly - arriving members are being accommodated in the south-east camping ground and around the house.

General working bees have been focussed on the house every Tuesday followed by a shared lunch and a general discussion with Land Management meetings following on the first Tuesday of the month.

An attempt was made to tabulate how much work went into preparing the ridge road for the bulldozer, but our mathematicians gave up with a tally of "hundreds". The new road means we have only one front gate now. All traffic is directed to the house where two residents are scheduled daily to assist visitors, and answer the new red telephone in the office. This is a nine to five service and the number is (066) 534 529. Long distance calls can be received, but not made unless charges are reversed.

----- Phone (066) 534 529 -----

Working bees have included the following projects :

- Levelling house
- Gutting house
- Completing house toilet
- Cementing damaged water tanks
- Extensive slashing for fire protection including south-west, north-west, house and Gunnadoo areas.
- Repair of fire tanker and visit from district fire officer to discuss fire prevention on property. Also residents attendance at local brigade meetings.
- Old cream shed repaired and converted to tool shed
- Lantana clearing. Particularly noticeable in figs round house. Need further general membership assistance clear groundsell and bitou.
- Surf rescue equipment being purchased and notice board being erected to show rips, rocks..

Unanimous approval has been given to a 13-member group to do a feasibility study into setting up a permanent village in the south-west corner. The group is interested in Permaculture principles, and intends including the existing dam in those plans.

Bundagen meetings are characterized by long discussions. There is an attempt at efficiency. At Gunnadoo, villagers are experimenting with the environmental, social, horticultural implications of high density living and growing.



# REPORT FROM BUNDAGEREE

## BUNDAGEREE: WINTER AND SPRING

The reality of Bundageree as a sanctuary grows; a forest encircled valley, dwellings at the rim, focus at the barn-the communal centre. If the people accept a basic and nutritious diet, simplifying their desires, then within 5 years of getting joyfully and devotedly stuck into it, the valley will provide almost all food and healing requirements. As this happens the need for money, vehicles, journeys, drops drastically, and increased energy will get directed into the crafts, music, dance, beach, healing, self-development activities, education of the children, centring on the land in all ways. 'Pie in the sky??' no! its already begun, using whats around, and bringing in no poisons from chemicals to bad thoughts.

Since early winter, rain, heralded by black cockatoos, has come regularly on new, full or quarter moons from the south west, to water trees and garden. Wide flooding, bridge 2ft. underwater, in late october showed where the bogs were, and how close plantings to the creek can encroach. A windmill (small Southern Cross) scored from a classic old Bellingen farmer is nearly in operation-Richard welded, cleaned, replaced broken parts, and decided on its location in the centre of the valley where it will catch most of what winds come into here-its an experiment, but will supply the barn and garden adequately to begin with, pumping into a new - old tank there which will be set up by the ramp. If this is successfull, a larger windmill and holding tank system might be used later. Another possibility being seriously considered, is to build a 20-30 thousand gallon concrete tank at the south west gate which would gravity feed orchards and crops down that slope. Daming is difficult in the valley because of underlying quartz, causing leakage.



## FOOD

The idea is to work towards growing and storing a years supply of two or three high quality grains, potatoes, onions, pumpkins, nuts, seeds, beans, and seasonal vegetables and fruits-what else do you really need to eat? Can anyone help with detailed info on cultivating Spirulina? This almost complete food could perhaps grow in the creek here.

### TREE PLANTING:-

Having discovered pockets of soil from deep black loam, to red clay, bog, eroded hill top; and considering frost tenderness etc., about one hundred trees have been planted in groves or natural terracing, concentrated mainly around the barn, one hill good for nuts especially, and at the bees. These include different kind of Macadamia nuts, pecans, citrus, guava, peach, mulberry, fig, feijoa, advocado, pawpaw, tropical fruit, wild fruit (eg. Davidson's Plum); also passionfruit and boysenberry. Donations of trees preferred are tropical and early maturing fruit (avoid fruit fly), black loquat, mulberry (for use as fire breaks), which will be cared for in the garden nursery until out-planted. During the wet, tree planting can really go ahead-this valley could become one big picnic garden.





**THE BARN GARDEN:—**

Aims to supply valley dwellers and workshop visitors with fresh veg., to beautify barn surrounds, to experiment with plant varieties and gardening methods suitable for this climate. After four and a half months, half our veg. needs are being met; the basic area has been dug, manured, composted, mulched and planted. This area, well maintained, is ample for the "kitchen garden." Next winter larger plantings of root veg., pumpkins, and melons will be made. Flowers useful for their herbal and insect repellent properties, have been interplanted also for their auric colours and to attract positivity and people to aid plant growth. Healing herbs and tea herbs have been planted. Big heaps of compost to be ready for the winter plantings are cooking away. Many kinds of mulching against the ever strong kikuyu leave us with two favourites: cardboard+straw+bark along edges; and to kill a patch-mow down to the roots, spread with manure and fresh seaweed, cover with black plastic for two months. Liquid seaweed manure and herbally activated animal manure are working well. A detailed garden log book is in Rose's care for those interested in more details.

**SMALL CROP EXPERIMENTS:—**

Reading, and direct advice from locals and Rodger Elliot, indicate the following small crops could be successful here, and work towards trying them is gradually being done: corn, maize, jerusalem artichoke, strawberry, potato, amaranth, buckwheat, triticale, kiwi fruit, boysenberry (no thorns)... An old world variety of maize high in vitamin B12 is at present 7ft. tall and going well. At the barn a large circle has been prepared for planting corn to grow during the wet. Suitable patches for different crops have been identified and some will be worked next winter.

**WILD GARDEN EXPERIMENTS:—**

Tropical tomatoes, lablab, and maize have been planted into bracken mulch, without further weeding or watering. Pumpkins, melons, luffas, choko, passionfruit, and tomatoes have been planted under many of the fruit and nut trees, to benefit from their watering, and to eventually seed and naturalise themselves. In a few months there will be a wild food workshop with aboriginal woman.

**BEES:—**

Are feeding off a variety of ti-tree and melaleuca, and wild flowers. The "bee man" has treated us occasionally to pollen-packed honeycomb, and the bees gave us a few stings.

# SHELTER

The barn is seen as the focal community space, providing kitchen (Jochen has begun work there), hot water (a slow-combustion stove with tank awaits installation), mouse proof food storage (of co-op food and/or home grown crops and herbs), and space under cover for during the wet, workshops, dance, etc.. Cleaning and levelling of the floor has begun; Mick has propped the sagging roof with a carved totem pole; guttering supplies half the roof to the one mended rainwater tank on the west side, and is planned for the other half, with extended eaves and a second rainwater tank.

**TEMPORARY, MOVEABLE, EXPERIMENTAL:—**

At the rim, along the ridges and hilltops dwellings which are, and will be, strong energy focusing shapes. Rick and Rose's tipi has a new floor—slightly humped, well guttered, packed clay+ant bed and fresh cow manure, beaten in with deep ochre and bees-waxed over-hard and beautiful. The yurt will be gone in two weeks to return next winter. Mick and Sharlie are lighting their bus with solar power. On windy ridge at the north east gate Taro intends building a Yurt; Martin and valley helpers have half sewen a large 22ft tipi; and eight carriers carted a nicely worked solid tree trunk to Jochen's dwelling site and planted it there, as the centre pole for an eaved, circular, bamboo framed structure. Trevor intends to move here soon. It's good to imagine know people concentrating positive thoughts within powerful structures daily.

Mick and Annie want to build a large pyramid on mosquito hill.

Martin and Jochen plan to make a good woodworking shed at Windy Ridge, with a large roof for catching rain water to supply the village.

At the moment there are deep pit toilets sealed against rain and using tallowood sawdust against flies. Composting toilets on the two hills and at the barn are seen as the ideal next step.

Most of the washing is done in the bush laundry:—lashed pole construction consealed in the forrest plus expansive clothes line, for nappies mainly! Water heated on the fire, eucalyptus oil, coconut soap, scrubbing brushes, lots of chatter.

## LAND MAINTENANCE

**Fire Breaks:—**

During winter, Clarrie, and recently, Trevor, slashed large areas around the barn, providing valuable mulch for the garden. Wide strips are to be slashed around the base of hills, and fire retardant plants—black loquat, comfrey, borage, mulberry (the last 3 being propagated presently in the garden for planting out)—will be put in as protection belts. Whiskey grass will be selectively slashed before the seeds mature again.

**Noxious weeds:—**

Lantana is gradually being replaced by food trees. We have yet to attack the groundsel in the northern corner. Steady effort has gone into grubbing out the foot-spiker thistle, but since it will soon go to seed, a day of all hands on deck combing through the valley is about to happen.

**Animals:—**

After the horses were moved rain cleansed the creek, which now grows thickly with an interesting variety of potential weaving reeds and



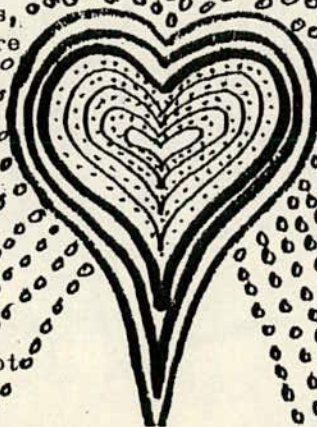
flowering water plants. Wild cows were eating down the N.E. side, which is fenced off; and presently somebodys cattle and a large bull are in there, having been chased out of the valley through the east gate early one morning. Because of these events all gates are now always kept shut. Eventually the fence will need some minor repair on the N.E. side where a tree fell on it, and many repairs on the western side, so that plantings can go ahead there.

**The Bridge and the Road:** All cars are left at the top gate (east) or on the clay strip down from the s.w. gate. Very rarely a car drives in and is felt by all; one gets soon adjusted to walking and carrying. It is unlikely that there will ever be approval from valley dwellers for work on the bridges or road, sanctioning traffic, since this special quiet peace has been experienced and foot paths are replacing wheel tracks.

#### LEARNING, GROWING AND GIVING OUT.

On the October new moon, when energies were opening out, and information more easily assimilated, a Tai Chi workshop was held at the barn 5 days by John Burke, a man well-informed and generous with vital healing information from many sources. 9 valley dwellers learned the first quarter of the Cardre, and were strongly bonded by this uplifting experience, spending the whole day together in the sun; eating salad lunches out of the garden (which continues and happens frequently, as we work together at the barn), and benefitting from many fascinating conversations in the shade of the trees, or receiving holistic "treatments" from John. 3 more workshops will happen in the course of a year, as ligaments learn to stretch, in order to complete the whole Cardre. He also told us that there were two interesting ley lines on Bundageree which could actually be seen, one of them passing through the barn area. John mentioned that it was usual for people to instinctively gravitate to areas of power, building there or being active at these spots. He suggested, and this concurred with our own feelings, that Bundageree was a sanctuary place and we might consider at some time reserving a special spot

on mosquito hill for a temple to enhance the energy there and thus benefit all the environs. Quite a few people have now experienced the cleansing and exhilarating effects of the sweat down by the creek—glowing mound of red hot mountain stones in the dark, prayer and song rising with the hissing steam, wonderful emergence into starry nights or cool mists, and plunging into the calm cold creek, dreaming and warming around the pit of fiery coals, silken skin and cleared minds followed by the deepest of sleeps. There have been between 5 and 8 children in the valley over the last 6 months. Mums are trying to teach them, and adhere themselves to simple good food combining rules to avoid bloated bellies and spoiled meals. Slowly including the children in all activities means patience and humour, but satisfaction on all sides too; ochre painting, making little books, cards, "embroidering" sacks, doing the washing (which may need to be redone!) cooking Chapaties, planting potatoes and carrot tops; weeding, watering, mulching the garden; learning the names of trees going and many wild plants in constant forages; the habits of birds and insects; learning to swim at the creek, trips to the beach; starting to play flageolets with mick as per the Suzuki system where mother and child learn together. A good life for children, 2 children may start at the Thora Steiner school next year, and the mothers, becoming involved, will be able to bring back info necessary for getting together here a learning centre for the children, perhaps making use of the many skills people now on Bundagen have to offer. In between children and pioneering, a little bit of exploratory craftwork has been going on; spoons of different forest woods, whisky grass makes good mats and light whisk brooms, hessian bags and sea sponge sun hats, the Kennedia vines everywhere make strong coiled baskets.



## RAINBOWS AND DOLPHINS

In early November Estelle Myers "the Rainbow Dolphin Lady" came with remarkable films, videos and slides, of underwater birthing, infant swimming and dolphins—some of which were shown at an evening in Crystal Waters caravan park, about 70 people who were absolutely amazed at the playful, relaxed grace of newborn babies and young children going from water to air as though the two mediums were no different. Mothers suckling babes underwater, children underwater, leaping, smiling totally at ease. It all gave credence to Estelle's claim that the human race, to develop further, will be taking to the water, and the dolphins are here to help us.

Supper prepared by Bundageree folk was a marine surprise of nori rolls, hand-cut dolphin biscuits etc. served on Bundagen banana leaf plates. The following morning Estelle gave several mothers and children some good guidance on learning to swim, at the creek mouth, Bundagen Beach. Afterwards this very swift moving, constantly ecstatic person streaked off to Coffs Harbour for a rendezvous with hospital staff and doctors on underwater birthing. Several Bundagen people met her later at the Dolphin pool to swim with the Dolphins, and if lucky even get a ride. Rose and Alana were photographed with the Dolphins for a Coffs Harbour newspaper.





Mrs. Myers said that although Alana was only the third water baby born in Australia, more than 300 had been born throughout the world.

The Russians, she said, had been doing it since 1962. The famous gymnast, Nadia Comaneci, was born under water.

There were many advantages for this way of birth, she said.

"Research and my experience with water babies has shown me they are fearless, non-violent children," Mrs. Myers said.

"They have the inbuilt qualities of the dolphins. They develop stronger and with greater co-ordination and intelligence—but they have to be in the water every day for this to happen."

"Babies born the traditional way experience a sudden change in medium, temperature and gravity."

"This is most traumatic for them. Research has shown that criminal behaviour and mental illness can be traced to a traumatic birth."

She said that birth was also a lot easier on the mother.

Several folk were fortunate enough to see the rest of Estelle's films at a private house, and present her with \$100, the takings of the film night, to assist her work through the Tutukaka Centre in New Zealand, which she founded in the effort to promote positive communication

between all peoples and Dolphins, as one part of the drive to rebirth this planet and its inhabitants into an era of positive change and growth. Her zest and joyfulness

inspired us all the more to go for it in our own lifestyle & work on the land.



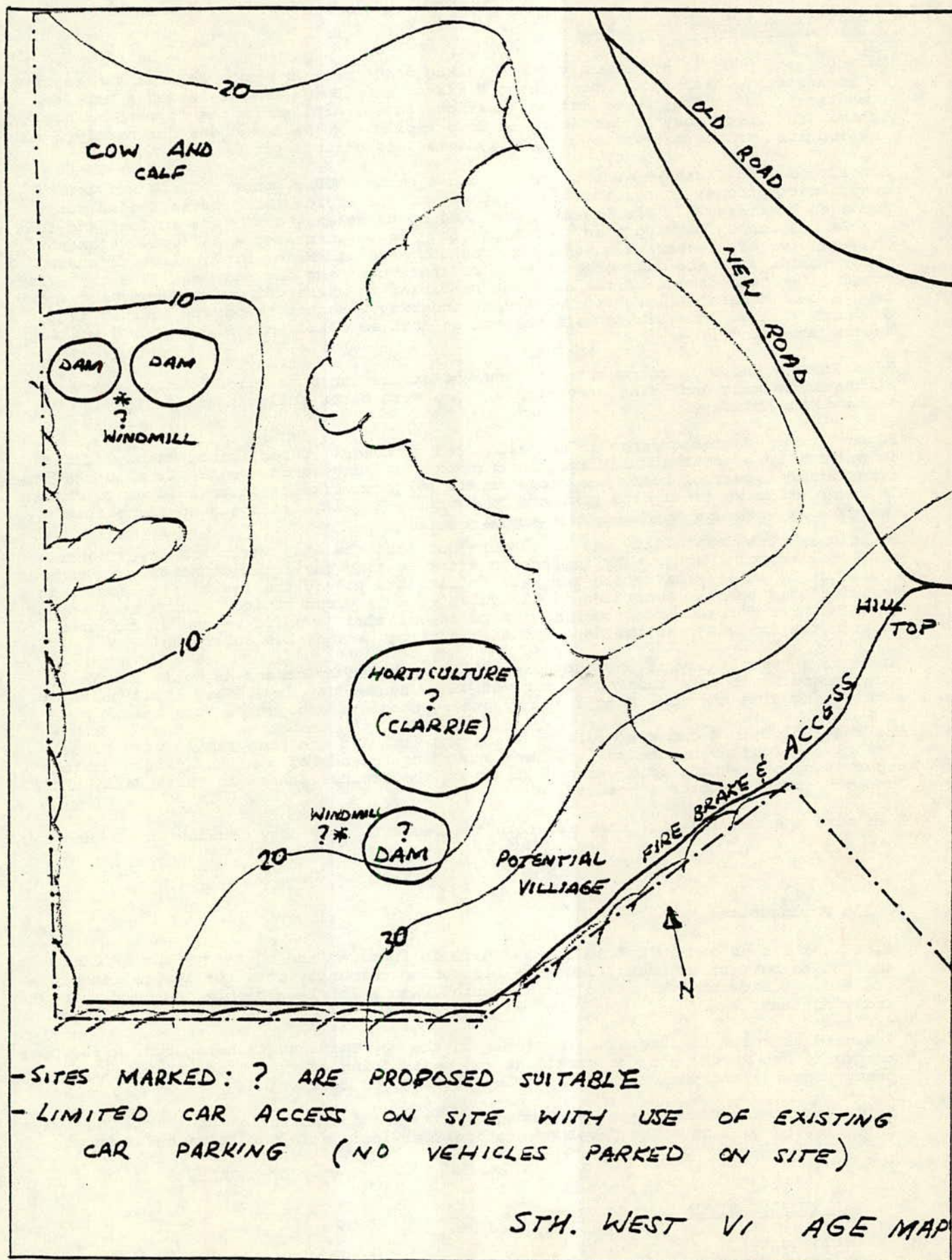
## CH'EN DEVELOPMENT (GRADUAL PROGRESS)

THE IMAGE OF A TREE GROWING ON A MOUNTAIN, WHICH DEVELOPS SLOWLY ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ITS BEING AND THUS STANDS FIRMLY ROOTED. THIS GIVES THE IDEA OF A DEVELOPMENT THAT PROCEEDS GRADUALLY, STEP BY STEP. SO IN OUR EFFORTS TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON OTHERS AND DETERMINE THE COURSE OF EVENTS THE ESSENTIAL FACTOR IS A CORRECT WAY OF DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CULTIVATION OF ONE'S OWN PERSONALITY. WITHIN THE PERSONALITY TOO, DEVELOPMENT MUST FOLLOW THE SAME COURSE IF LASTING RESULTS ARE TO BE ACHIEVED. GENTLENESS THAT IS ADAPTABLE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME PENTETRATING, IS THE OUTER FORM THAT SHOULD PROCEED FROM INNER CALM. THE VERY GRADUALNESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT MAKES IT NECESSARY TO HAVE PERSEVERANCE, FOR PERSEVERANCE ALONE PREVENTS SLOW PROGRESS FROM DWINDLING TO NOTHING.

HERE WE CAN SEE THE RELEVANCE OF THE HEXAGRAM (WHICH CAME FROM A MEDITATION AT BUNDAGEREE) FOR BUNDAGEN AS A WHOLE. THE TREE ON A MOUNTAIN IS VISIBLE FROM AFAR, AND ITS DEVELOPMENT INFLUENCES THE LANDSCAPE OF THE ENTIRE REGION. IT DOES NOT SHOOT UP LIKE A SWAMP PLANT: ITS GROWTH PROCEEDS GRADUALLY. SO THROUGH CAREFUL AND CONSTANT WORK ON ONE'S MORAL DEVELOPMENT THE PERSONALITY ACQUIRES INFLUENCE AND WEIGHT, AND THUS THE EFFECTS OF ONE'S ACTIONS WILL BE LASTING, FAR REACHING AND TRUE.



Judith, Arnoldo, Frank, Peter, Gina, Peter, Pit, Terry, Desma, three children, Phillip intend to investigate for a potential village.  
 Arnoldo and Judith moved onto the site in November.  
 We will establish a water source, i.e. water tank, for immediate use.  
 We would like to have gardens and fruit trees following permaculture principles and to include the existing dam in those plans.  
 We are open to further ideas and people interested in joining. Our hope is to establish a harmonious relationship between our environment and fellow members.  
 Further suggestions and ideas to our map are most welcome and needed.



- SITES MARKED: ? ARE PROPOSED SUITABLE
- LIMITED CAR ACCESS ON SITE WITH USE OF EXISTING CAR PARKING (NO VEHICLES PARKED ON SITE)

FOR SALE: At Bundagen, 18 foot Viscount Caravan Sleeps 6, Available during or after January. \$2,000. See Susy at Gunnado, Bundagen.

REMINDER: RECOVERY BEACH BALL, JANUARY 2, BUSH BAND, \$5, BUSH TUCKER AT BUNDAGEN.



14. This is a story about people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.....

There was an important job to be done and  
Everybody was asked to do it.  
Everybody was sure Somebody would do it.  
Anybody could have done it, but  
Nobody did it.  
Somebody got very angry about that because  
it was Everybodys job.  
Everybody thought Anybody could do it but  
Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.  
It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when  
Nobody did what Anybody could have done.....

- from IZZY.

#### SCHOOL AT BUNDAGEN?

No, not yet. But it's certainly being talked about more and more here as babies grow to youngsters. With my children being 9 (Kate) and 13 (Jason) we needed a more immediate solution to the education question, so we enrolled in the Correspondence School, for which they both qualify as Home Pupils. We've been here for nearly 3 months now and its working out well, with only these reservations/problems:

Schoolroom: At first we were using the house daily. This presented the problem of many interruptions, no private, quiet space and the office being often needed for Bundagen business. It also meant I was tied up daily away from "the action" and felt unable to join in working bees, building etc. So we purchased a caravan, which not only gave us dry, separate sleeping spaces for Jase and Kate, but a place to store their school work and guarantee it will be there the next day, as well as a dry, wind-proof quiet schoolroom. I can also now be closer to where things are happening and lend a hand occasionally. We are already underway with our temporary shelter in Gunnadoo village and wish to sell the van as soon as children's sleeping and working spaces come about.

Peer Group: There is no consistent group of similar aged children, though there is a constant coming and going of visitors, some with older children either for the day, weekends or holiday.

Supervision: Correspondence is not all a bed of roses. Supervision, mainly of Kate in primary is a constant task and can turn into a 7 day school week. It also has its frustrating aspect of being too close to the subject, like teaching a lover to drive. It has been known to try the patience of saints. But it also opens up incredible freedoms and makes a Bundagen life-style possible.

Solutions: One possibility was to venture out into the wide world and investigate the local school, Repton. My impression after meeting the local principal was that it would not be an easy situation for Kate to fit into, to say the least. (He admits to "running" his school 'according to the rules' and is proud of it.) There also appears to be no hope for the local bus service to be extended "even if we had 35 children waiting for the bus", as the department is cutting back on bus subsidies.

There is a possibility of the supervision to be shared by others as well, thanks to some offering to take this on as part of their house duty day. This could halve my supervising time and make Kate's and my other school time together more valuable.

The best solution I can see would be in having at least one more family with older (school age) children come to live here providing friends of similar age and shared supervising or setting up a car pool to go to the Steiner School in Thara daily until Bundagen school becomes a reality.

I am sure the answers will come about in the beautiful way they usually do at Bundagen.

SUSY (Howard)

Hello Bundagenites,

Last week I received my refund for my share in Bundagen and must say felt a little sad not to be part of what I see as a blossoming community on a really idyllic piece of land. I have however opted for something with a lot less people and more scope for individualism.

I wanted to write to congratulate people on the way Bundagen is being run, with special thanks to Bob Rosen, for the excellent job he is doing as treasurer, especially his prompt replies and patience with people haggling for refunds!

Good luck in the future years of Bundagen, I am leaving Australia now but will always be following with interest developments and feel optimistic for Bundagens future.

- JUDY SEARLE.

#### NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Desma Lefty,  
Rosebery Creek Rd.,  
Rosebery Creek.  
(P.O. Box 322,  
Kyogle. 2474)

Alan Martin,  
P.O. Box 22,  
Nimbin. 2480

Verelle Sugano,  
C/- Thora P.O. 2454.

Jack M. de Gail,  
23 Grace Street,  
Camperdown. 2090.

Frank Studt,  
C/- Bundagen,  
Repton P.O. 2454

Alan Miles,  
8 Coronation Ave,  
Sawtell. 2452



★ NO. 6 1982-3 10.30 a.m. on the land at the house, ;7/11/82.

Co-ordinators Present: Alan, Alec, Dorin, Judy, Jack, Ken

In attendance: 8 other members, 3 visitors

1. Alan Marks was confirmed as replacement co-ordinator for Clarrie.

2. Interviewing Guidelines

It was decided that in the interests of consistency the guidelines, as approved by co-ordinators and used in the interviewing workshop (6.11.82) be used for interviewing prospective members (see also P 19. )

3. General Discussions

Much time was spent on the proposal by several new members :(see P 13. ) to move into the S.W. corner, near Phillip's 'Mobile Investigation Unit' platform. Co-ordinators did not see themselves as permission given for such an action. Their advice was :

- that with the agreement of the Land Management Group, people camp for short periods to get the feel of the area.
- a written proposal be prepared for a meeting on the site of all residents for general comment
- a refined proposal be put to a general Meeting for ratification (see P 13. )

★ No. 7 1982-3 2.30p.m. Environment Centre, Sydney 27/11/82

Co-ordinators Present: Col, Debbie, Dorin, Janet, Lothar, Peter.

In attendance: 3 members, 1 visitor.

1. Rick Wilder (nominated by the Land Management Group) was accepted as replacement co-ordinator for Mac. (Ian MacArthur) who recently resigned.

2. Land Tax (see P 13. )

3. Finance

There was considerable concern that payment of the maintenance levy (\$50) for the calendar year 1982 are far from complete. Co-ordinators in a difficult position when bills come in! Decision to renew efforts at reminding people to pay (see enclosure with this newsletter!)

★ Preparatory Meeting - Environment Centre, Sydney 27/11/82 10.00 a.m.

Present: 6 members  
2 potential members

1. Reports were received from: The Land Management Group. Gunadoo, Bundageree, Canberra, Balmain, Thora Eastern Suburbs, Planning and Environment, and a copy of the Progress Report of the Coastal Study (produced for the Coastal Council). Great stuff everyone! What happened to the other groups???

2. The rest of the morning was spent drawing up a programme for the January Meeting.

Even though there were only a few of us sorting out the programme does take time and the meeting was well worth while. Getting it all together for the newsletter however takes even more! MORE HELP NEEDED PLEASE, ESPECIALLY TYPISTS.

PETER AND DORIN.

★ SEAL DAY 15TH NOVEMBER 9.30 A.M. AT STEVE PRATT'S OFFICE, COFFS HARBOUR

Present Bob Rosen, Jack Wyatt, Dorin Hart, Isobel Horan, Ken Farley, David Wrathall

In Attendance Maree Howell, Alex Levak, Bob Freeman, Kel O'Keefe, Edna Konitschoner, Steve Pratt

All in a 10 foot square room - PHEW!

In an amazing alternative corporate affairs scenario orchestrated and scripted by Bob and Kel with 40 + documents floating around for signature we held:

1. The incorporation meeting of Bundagen Land Ltd.

at which Ken Farley, Isobel Haran and David Wrathall were appointed co-ordinators. This with the original 6, Jack Wyatt, Col James, Peter Mitchell, Dorin Hart, Robert Rosen and Judy Whistler brings the number up to 9, currently allowed in our Articles. The other 7 co-ordinators will be appointed at the January General meeting.

We then did a take-over of Bundagen Pty. Ltd. which purchased Bundagen for us.

2. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting of Bundagen Land Ltd.

at which it was resolved that the name of the Company be changed to Bundagen Ltd.



3. The Annual General Meeting of Bundagen Pty. Ltd.

The Directors (Bob and Dorin, representing the owning company Bundagen Land Ltd.) resolved that transfer of creditors funds (all the \$3,000 shares) be permitted where creditors request such transfers. (This now opens up the way for us all to be members.)

and finally

4. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting of Bundagen Pty. Ltd. at which the directors resolved that the name of the company be changed to Bundageree Pty. Ltd.

What all this amounts to is that our legal affairs are at last almost all in order! Once the new names have been accepted by the Corporate Affairs Commission we can start transferring members \$3,000 loans to Bundagen Pty. Ltd. into membership of Bundagen Land Ltd.

The members present then actually had their loans transferred into membership and I suddenly got an incredible and unexpected high as I realised that something early shareholders had really been concerned about had been achieved - that members not, an off-shelf company are legally custodians of Bundagen's future.

We got great fun out of the Common Seal (designed by Col) and all came out of the meeting with our hands stamped like pass-outs!



DORIN

DECISIONS

It was decided at Co-ordinators Meeting No. 4 that we needed to review decisions made before incorporation, carrying on the work started in Newsletter 8, to set things in order for our new legal structure - so here goes!

A. CLASSIFICATION OF DECISIONS

Decisions affecting the functioning of Bundagen fall into the following categories:

A. 1. Memorandum And Articles

Our legal framework primarily for functioning with the outer world. These (now registered) cannot be changed without a General Meeting and each change must be registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

A. 2. Bv-Laws

Decisions which could be classed as rules for 'day to day' running of the place (as long as they are not likely to be frequently changed) are suitable for by-laws. They are legally binding, but do not have to be registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission. They need to be quite specific and may be used to expand the articles, but not to qualify them. After consulting with the legal group, it appears that some of the decisions the General Meeting has asked to become by-laws are not suitable. A more suitable term for them might be "Guidelines for Co-ordinators".

a) Decisions already taken and suitable for Bv-Laws

These simply need ratification by the general meeting and are therefore presented as agenda proposals (see P 19. )

b) Other suitable material for Bv-Laws

These are suggestions which have been recorded at some point but no decision has been taken since purchase. (given the length of the agenda at the January meeting, it may be best to leave a review of these until Easter)

PROPOSED

(i)	that the headland be a sanctuary (N.B. the precise area limits of "the headland" need defining)	3/1/82 constitution
(ii)	the impact of any new machinery or land use must be assessed before implemented	26/6/82 Env. & Plan. group
(iii)	normal vehicular traffic will be restricted to roads	story board* 1.1.81 E. & P. group 22.6.82
(iv)	4 wheel drives, dune buggies and trail bikes will not be allowed through Bundagen onto the faredunes and beaches	Storyboard* 1.1.81 E & P Group 22.6.82
(v)	all feral or stray domestic animals will be removed.	E. & P. Group 1.1.81 22.6.82



- (vi) until a policy has been agreed upon for domestic animals, other than cats and dogs, there will be a moratorium against bringing any animals onto the land

17.  
E. & P.  
Group  
1.1.81,  
22.6.82  
2.9.81  
meeting

\* Note due to an error these items did appear in Newsletter 8, along with other Storyboard principles for PLANNING & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT as decisions - though in fact they were only suggestions for our consideration (see storyboard paper 1.8.81).

These are other sets of decisions which have been taken and therefore should be adhered to by members, but are not necessarily 1. or 2. material.

A. 3. Other Sets of Policy Decisions Taken at General Meetings

a) Guidelines for Co-ordinators

These cover such things as membership refunds, financial matters etc., i.e. how the group wishes the co-ordinators to act - a list of these have been started.

b) The Development of Bundagen: Guidelines and Principles (accepted in principle 15/10/81)

(see Newsletter 10) These still need the ratification of a general Meeting (see Agenda item 7b) plus all others recorded in newsletters.

A. 4. Decisions Taken Between General Meetings by Authorized Groups

a) Co-ordinator's Decisions

- reports of meetings appear in Newsletters and are filed at the house.
- much of this relates to issues delegated by the General Meeting to co-ordinators.

b) Land Management Group

- responsible for day to day management of the land. Producers Camping Guidelines etc. often need to refer back to General Meeting.

c) Other Working Groups

- responsible to co-ordinators and the General Meeting, always refer back to them, just operational (not policy) decisions.

B. RECORDS OF DECISIONS

All decisions made at General Meetings are recorded in the newsletters as well as the minutes. Newsletter 8 P.7 presents a summary up to 29/6/82 though note that items under 'PLANNING' and 'SOCIAL' are suggestions only.

C. MATERIAL ON RECORD BUT NOT YET PASSED BY A GENERAL MEETING

C. 1. Appropriate for By-laws (see above 2b)

C. 2. CONSTITUTIONAL ITEMS\* STILL NOT PASSED OR APPARENTLY INCORPORATED ANYWHERE WITHIN OUR LEGAL STRUCTURE (these also are not suitable for By-laws)

COMMENT

- No. 11. The land or part of it shall never be sold

Legal Advice: This cannot be achieved through a By-law. It needs some other method. e.g. a covenant on title.

- No. 12. The land shall never be sub-divided so as to enable an individual shareholder or groups thereof to gain title to the land or part thereof.

Personal comment: (Dorin)

These proposals are important and still need to be put to a general meeting. If accepted in principle we should work towards legally achieving what we want.

- No. 17. All development and intra-structure will remain the property of the community. It is up to the discretion of the general meeting to compensate shareholders for any development by individuals.

Legal Advice: It is unnecessary to specify this in the articles since fixtures are always part of the land and Bundagen Ltd. owns the land. It is however something we should be aware of ourselves. It is possible that, provided private dwellings are legal, sales could be made between members on 'gentle persons' agreements.



\* Source Newsletter 4 (6.12.81) P.5

C. 3. OTHER SUGGESTIONS/PROPOSALS

These are recorded by the dozen throughout our minutes and newsletters. The fact that we do record them and not just the decisions taken (as happens in formal minute taking) does sometimes present a confusing picture. Nevertheless, all suggestions are of immense value and I feel are always worth recording.



To convert a suggestion to a decision is simply a matter of presenting it as a proposal to a General Meeting and gaining its acceptance there.

I have extracted a list of suggestions on record (not room to print here!) and will post it up at the January meeting. The rest is up to you!

LOVE DORIN.

#### Headland/Beach Shelter

Note: This is not the back pack camp. It has been an item suggested for some time now and got much support at the planning workshop.

It would house first aid/surf life saving equipment and possibly form shade for small babies etc. Site to be determined.

Suggestion from Col: "underground"?

#### c. 4. a) Number and approval of temporary sites

We need to be clear as to which are the 15 Council Approved sites and who are their occupants, as opposed to 3 day campers.

#### b) Visitors accommodation

##### (i) Proposal

That a limited number of caravans be allowed in the area near the house. The actual sites would be carefully selected to fit in with landscaping which would include fruit trees, shrubs and vines such as grape. At least two or these sites would be reserved and bookable for periods of say a week by non-residents.

DOROTHY PHILLIPS

- (ii) We are considering the possibility of establishing a temporary dwelling that Canberra People travelling to the land could occupy. The site could be used by others when no-one from Canberra was there. Is this feasible? If with the restriction on the number of dwellings. Any objections we haven't seen?

Bill Boswell, Ros and John Kossen, Doug Capp, Richard Ellis, John Murray, Lorraine and Mike Thompson.

Proposal: That in principle people from Canberra be allowed to erect a ~~moveable~~ dwelling for theirs and other visitors use.

#### b) (iii) Storage of camping gear for visitors

Proposal: that space be provided (e.g. the banana shed), for visiting members to store their camping equipment.

Proposer: Col James

- c. 5. a) That an amount of up to \$500 for any single item may be paid out by the Treasurer without approval from a general meeting.

Proposed: Ken Farley, Dorin.

- b) That in principle any non-member engaging in income earning activities on Bundagen (e.g. running a workshop) be required to make some payment for their use of the land.

Proposed: Dorin

- c) Proposal: That funds be allocated for provision of ablution facilities plus a 20,000 gall. water tank. This was our commitment to Council last June.

Proposed: Ken Farley

#### d) Land Tax

At the moment Bundagen is liable for Land Tax on Lots 337 and 338 for 1982. This tax should have been paid at the beginning of this year. (Land Tax, an annual tax, is supposed to be paid in advance) The tax amounts to some \$8,000.00, with late payment fines it could be more.

As from 1st January 1983 we will be liable to pay tax in respect of Lot 334 as well, taking our liability each year to well over \$10,000.00.

The only way out of the tax is to come within one of the narrow categories the Land Tax Management provides for exemption from the tax. Urgent work needs to be done on this.

Bundagen is not alone in this problem. Other North Coast communities e.g. Turntable Falls, are currently liable. There seems to be a definite gap in the legislation if non-profit societies such as Bundagen are not exempted from such a tax when primary producers, licenced clubs etc. are.

A philosophical problem for the community to consider is that by making a noise about land tax we might be seen to be sailing against the aboriginal land rights tide. It seems that some 70% of all land tax revenue is going to be the source of funds for land rights claims.



Decision of Co-ordinators meeting No. 6, 27th November.

19.

Kel and Lothar to start investigation into whole matter.

S.O.S. Kel and Edna are going overseas soon leaving a legal group of ONE - Bob Rosen. Land Tax is a serious issue which needs work on it - much of this in Sydney - Phone Lothar (02) 371 9129

c. 6. a) The articles as they stand allow for 9 co-ordinators. As of the June meeting we have 16 and more are proposed. We therefore need to amend the articles.

b) Nominations: the following people are nominated as additional co-ordinators -

Maree Howell  
Leonie Marnier  
plus one person from the south west village  
nominated by: Land Management Group

c. 7. a) See also "Decisions" PP.16 & 17)

#### Proposal

That the following decisions subject to any legal rectifying necessary, already taken by the community form part of the By Laws of Bundagen.

(i) A member has right of entry to the land.

(ii) All development on the land shall take place according to an environmental plan approved by the shareholders, showing conservation regeneration, resource and development areas. The plan shall include areas zoned for permanent and temporary dwelling, horticulture and grazing, vehicle and pedestrian access routes and other approved activities. The plan shall promote human occupation of the land as part of and responsible to a united and dynamic natural ecosystem.

(iii) There is a moratorium of twelve months from 27.5.82 before any permanent buildings are erected.

b) Proposal:

That the summary of all material produced to date "The development of Bundagen - Guidelines and Principles" (see Newsletter 10 pp 12 - 13) be accepted.

#### INTERVIEWING GUIDELINES

To help interviewers and to enable us to maintain a consistent approach when dealing with potential members guidelines have been produced, revised and tested out at the interviewing workshop at the house on 6th November.

They are now available and should be used by anyone interviewing prospective members. There are copies at the house, with the recruiting group (Lothar (02) 371 9129 also Dorin (066) 558 514) and each local group contact point (see also Co-ordinators Meeting No. 6)

MAILING LIST DEBBIE CLARKE is now keeping this up to date. So please let her know of any postal changes.

8 Robert Street,  
Artarmon. 2064

Information Sheets for prospective members also now held by Debbie Clarke, 8 Robert Street, Artarmon. 2064.

#### Payments

Until the new names are approved all cheques still to Bundagen Pty. Ltd. Please.

#### Change of Names

Please note that the name of Bundagen Land Ltd. is to be changed to Bundagen Ltd. and the name of Bundagen Pty. Ltd. will become Bundageree Pty. Ltd.

#### Articles of Association Bundagen Land Ltd.

These are being printed and will be available for viewing on the land and at all contact points. Anyone who wishes for their own copy, please write/phone LOTHAR.





## HEALING WITH COLOUR, CRYSTALS &amp; VISUALIZATION

a weekend workshop with

## SOOZI HOLBECHE

THIS WORKSHOP WILL BE IN BELLINGEN - for further enquiries  
ring Shirley (066) 551 029  
Dorin (066) 558 514

TIME: Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th December (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

COST: \$50 (pensioners, students, unemployed \$40) teas provided,  
bring own lunches

BOOKINGS: New Awareness Centre, Chatswood. Tel (02) 412 2609  
or at the door

During the past 5 years Soozie has worked extensively throughout Europe, USA, Australia and South Africa, teaching and developing healing methods and meditation techniques.

This workshop will focus on working with the vibrational effects of colour and sound to change consciousness on physical, mental & emotional and spiritual levels, & to open up to healing. Exercises include stimulation of right brain and left brain activities, guided experiences to develop the ability to visualize, a way of using colour to tap into your Akashic record. There will also be some practical work with crystals

Subscription to Bundagen Newsletter for Non-Members

\$6/12 months (which includes the postage costs) (each year between 10 and 12 Newsletters are produced.)

Back copies of Bundagen Newsletters

60 cents each (which includes the postage costs)

No. 1 - 3/8/81 - 6 pages

No. 4 - 6/12/81 - 6 pages

No. 7 - 17/3/82 - 12 pages

No. 10 - 22/6/82 - 12 pages

No. 12 - 12/9/82 - 40 pages

No. 2 - 20/9/81 - 10 pages

No. 5 - 10/1/82 - 16 pages

No. 8 - 29/6/82 - 16 pages

No. 11 - 17/8/82 - 32 pages

No. 13 - 18/10/82 - 18 pages

No. 3 - 29/10/81 - 2 pages

No. 6 - 12/2/82 - 16 pages

No. 9 - 24/5/82 - 6 pages

(includes members names, addresses)

No. 14 - 6/12/82 - 20 pages

Bundagen Newsletters 1 to 12 in 'Book' Form (Volume 1)

\$7 each (which includes the postage costs).

7 Large (A3 size) Maps of Bundagen - prepared by Steve Gorrell.

\$2 for the set of 7 maps (which includes the postage costs)

The first six maps are of lots 337 and 338 and are headed: Vegetation resource analysis; Water resource analysis; Soil analysis; Conservation strategies; Intrinsic suitability map; Draft village layout. The seventh map is a general map of Lot 334.

for subscriptions, back copies, 'books' of newsletters, and/or sets of 7 maps send the \$ and the request(s) to Peter Mitchell 65 Dargen St., Glebe, 2037 2011, New Ph. No. (02) 660-6551  
(All payments will be receipted and all \$'s forwarded on to the Treasurer)



ATTENTION!



ATTENTION!



\$50 MAINTENANCE LEVY

Please note: the levy for 1983 is payable from January 1, so bring your wallets to the land

There may still be people who have not yet paid their \$50 for 1982. Please remember you must be a financial member to:

- be a co-ordinator
- vote
- have your loan of \$3,000 in Bundagen Pty. Ltd transferred into membership of Bundagen Land Ltd. (our own Co. Ltd. by Guarantee)

Also our rates bill has just come in for 337 and 338 - \$3,800 and Bundageree's (334) is still to come

Dear Bob,

Please find enclosed \$50 for my maintenance levy for 1982

Mail to: Bob Rosen, Box 27, Bowraville. N.S.W. 2449.

Signed:.....

Dear Bob,

Please find enclosed \$50 for my maintenance levy for 1983

Mail to: Bob Rosen, Box 27, Bowraville. N.S.W. 2449

Signed:.....



## WEEDS: GUARDIANS OF THE SOIL

It is a fact that weeds have a place in the ecosystem. Often because they are hardy and prolific they are regarded as pests. Often what we call weeds are plants which have extensive root systems but this system exists for important reasons, for example to hold eroded gullies. It is worth noting that by removing a weed such as cotton weed, one does not introduce a void, in fact it could be creating the conditions suitable for a different weed, for example, groundsel, thistle

### BRACKEN

Its presence indicates that the area has been subject to frequent burning off, that the soil is leached of nutrients and that the soil is unstable. In such conditions bracken abounds to fix nutrients (It is very rich in potash) and to bind the soil with its extensive network of roots.

1. Soil stabiliser
2. Nutrient fixer
3. Nurse crop
4. Pig forage
5. Food source
- 6 medicinal
7. Mulch
8. Clothes dye
9. Bedding straw

} performs these tasks exceptionally well because of its resistance to predators. Bracken has harmful effects on horses cattle and sheep.

It is worth noting that the stem of the curly green new plant when applied to ant stings soon relieves pain.

### Groundsel

List of positive aspects.

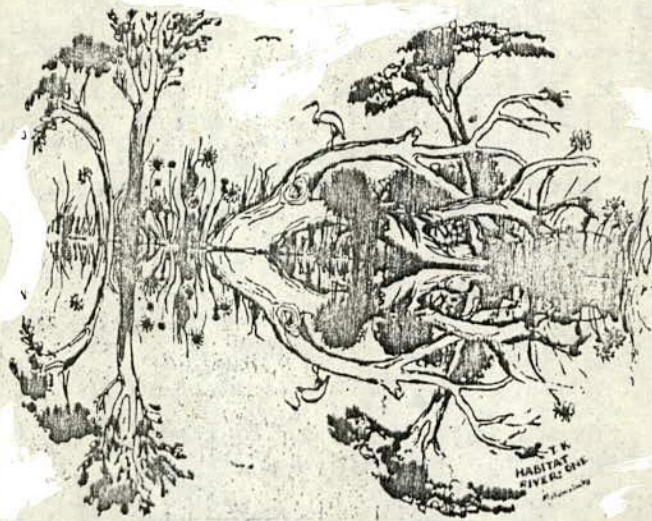
1. Soil stabiliser - quick growing, deep rooted.
2. Increase fertility
3. Nurse crop
4. Bee forage - light amber honey
5. Good source of protein especially in coastal areas in autumn
6. Good indicator of possible land slip

Groundsel can invade infertile and unstable sites that are subject to erosion and leaching. Here the bush tells us that a deep-rooted, quick growing shrub is needed to stabilise this site or permanent damage may occur. All plants invade for a reason: understand the plant then one understands the reason.

### Bibliography

Cocarnover J.A. (1980) Weeds guardians of the soil.  
Holmgreen D. (1980) The Place of Weeds .

- from Nick, Judy, Janet, Trevor and David.



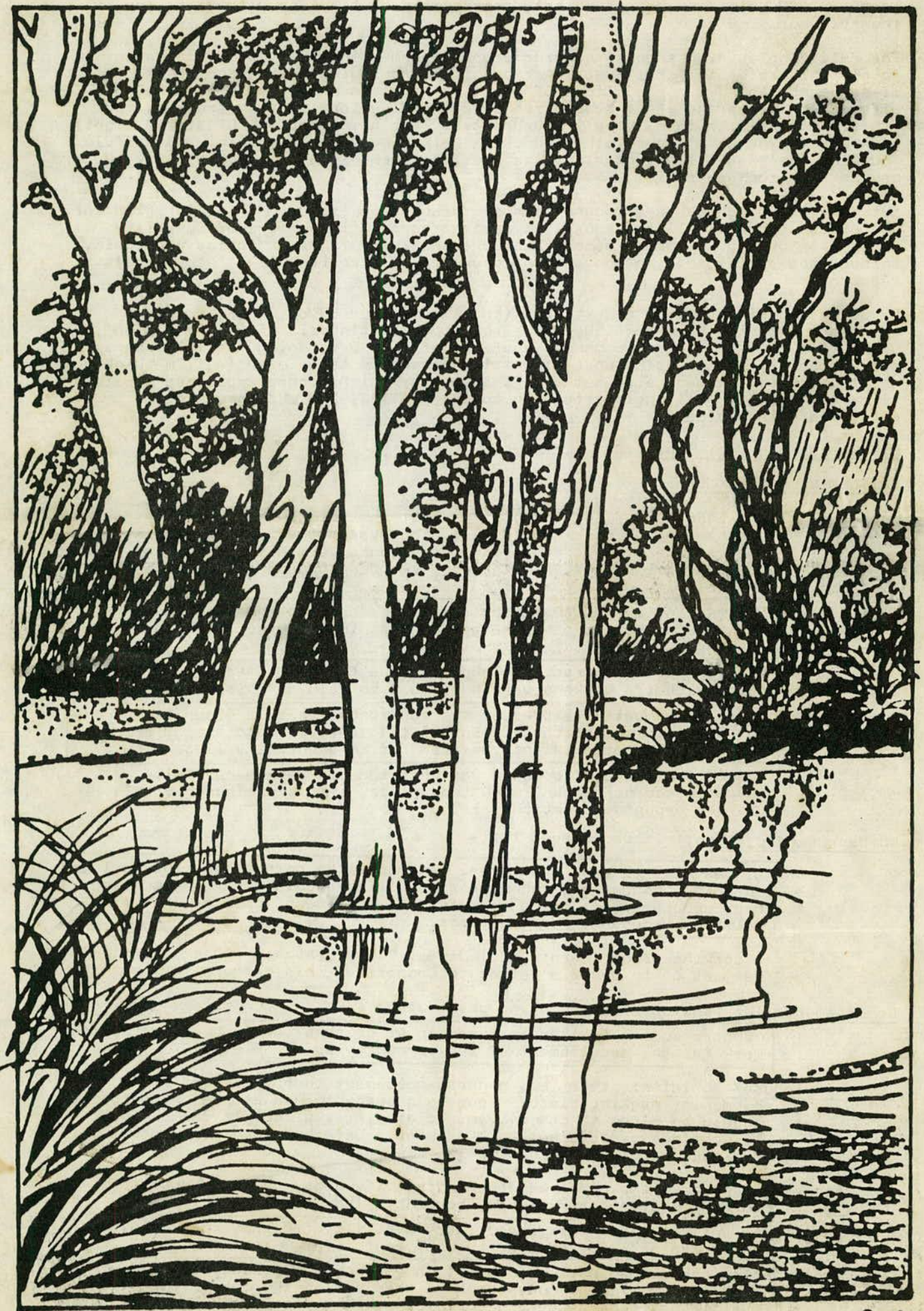


# Bundagen

NEWSLETTER No. 15.

15/1/83

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBG5155  
Bundagen c/- Repton P.O. 2454. Ph. No. 066 - 53 4529.





BUNDAGEN QUARTERLY MEETING - JANUARY 1983

The meeting weekend started off wet, wet, wet, with Alan Martin and crew battling to finish the 60' x 40' tent-barn at the western edge of the 'village green' in front of the house, and much concern that the Recovery Beach Ball, planned for Sunday, would be washed out. As usual, however, despite bad weather, everything turned out well.

New Year's Eve was celebrated in style at the house. Peter & Geof (helped by Dave's generator) gave us ELECTRIC LIGHTS and QUADRAPHONIC SOUND! The result was spectacular. Just before midnight, our special guests of the weekend arrived - Guboo Ted Thomas, his family and co-workers. Guboo was the initiator of the 'Renewing of the Dreaming' camps and, knowing of our commitment to Aboriginal involvement, had been eager to visit Bundagen while touring communities in northern NSW. It seemed particularly appropriate that he was with us to see in the new year.

The following evening about a hundred people crammed into the house to listen to him talk about the spiritual relationship of Aborigines with land, & he illustrated this with his slides of Mumbulla Mountain near his home. Anne, his wife, also talked and after songs from Evie and digeridoo playing from Jo, who are travelling with them, we all moved outside for a meditation. Clustered tightly together (as we have done on other Bundagen gatherings) we joined in a beautiful 'humming bee' meditation, humming like bees, and sent love to the World Bike Rider now so far from Australia.

Saturday afternoon had been spent in small discussion groups. This clarified for all of us which of all the equally important agenda items were of immediate concern on Sunday. As usual each group covered a wide range of topics and again, through the social interaction set up, provided an excellent lead into Sunday's session.

By Sunday morning the rain had stopped (or almost) and 80 of us (60 members) gathered under the barn-tent. We had a round of 'Getting rid of What's on Top', which (for those of you who wonder what on earth we were doing) simply means each person in turn stating what is buzzing around in their mind (eg "I'm thinking about whether I'll manage to get a lift to Sydney") which, once expressed & released allows them to give all their attention to the meeting. The process was most effective - thanks Col!

Discussion and decisionsSETTLEMENT & LAND USE

Land zoning: The Land Management Group (LMG) felt that it now has enough experience of the land to work towards a zoning system that would help in managing the land effectively. Once zones were established for such uses as fire breaks, camping, gardens development could proceed with more clarity.

The meeting agreed that work should go ahead on this and that the LMG should prepare a map of proposed zoning for the next quarterly meeting.

Everyone was encouraged to submit ideas for the zones and it was decided that a weekend workshop would be held on this (see p 5.)

South West corner: the meeting expressed its confidence in this group and was happy to accept their proposal that they move to the SW corner and test the potential of the area for an eventual village site

The only element of concern was that the dam site be carefully investigated before any work took place. Pit explained that this was the group's intention

Number of camp sites: It was agreed that-

it was time to seek additional camping sites on Bundagen and include in this Gunnadoo and the SW corner. Sites should also be requested for Bundageree, it being premature to put in an application for Multiple Occupancy for that area.

A working group (Marnie, Col James, David Wrathall & Jack Wyatt) was set up to draft a letter to Council on this matter

Commitment: The feeling of the meeting was that:

members coming to live on Bundagen at present should be prepared to work for the development of the community as a whole.

Community house/ building: there was general agreement that some sort of community meeting place/ focus is needed, though at present priority should be given to other items eg amenities block. It was decided to continue discussions on Monday at a workshop to explore ideas for such a building.

Road access: much work remains to be done on this if we are to move towards an application for Multiple Occupancy. The decision was:

to set up a new task force (Jack Wyatt, Geof Moran, Fred Cole, Lothar Voigt & Guy Reuter) to work on this.

Domestic animals (other than cats and dogs): In view of the fact that there are 2 horses, 1 milking cow, chooks & bees now on the land, it was clear that it was time to make a policy on these matters. This was also important for the zoning plan. The item was therefore added to the



agenda. To date, any animal on the land was there at the discretion of the LMG. Guideline thus far were:

- that there should be no 'community' animals
- that any individual or village with an animal be responsible for it (this includes fencing)

The LMG was anxious to hear from other members, so that a firm policy might be arrived at. Anyone with a contribution was therefore invited to the LMG meeting on Tuesday 4th January

#### FINANCIAL DECISIONS

Donations At each meeting (just before lunch) a hat should go round to receive donations for the weekend. The money received should be used as follows:

- to cover the costs of the meeting
- that a tithe be taken out and allocated to a worthwhile activity
- the rest of the money be spent on a nominated project or activity on the land

Expenditure on items less than \$500:

On approval by the Land Management Group, the Co-ordinators be permitted to allow expenditure of up to \$500 on specific matters on the land without going to a general meeting. This expenditure is limited to a maximum of \$2,000 between general meetings.

Land tax:

We should make a case to the Land Tax Commission showing our situation - articles, newsletters, coastal study etc (as necessary) indicating our ideals, motivation and progress and seeking exemption from Land tax

The group preparing this submission to be:

Judy Whistler, Lothar Voigt, Adam Szumer, Dudley Leggett, Bob Rosen, David Wrathall, Col James, Nick Monas, Barry Griffiths, Audrey Askham, David Wilson.

all the decisions of this group must be by consensus

Authorization for specific items:

Amenity block - up to \$2000 to construct the facility described by Jack Wyatt (see p )

water supply - up to \$2,000 to be spent to provide a bore, windmill, holding tank and small overflow dam at a suitable location to serve proposed amenity block and house camping area, or to provide a more suitable system within the cost and amenity guidelines discussed

Tent-barn - Alan Martin to be reimbursed the \$600 spent on tent poles, tents and waterproofing. This money would be recouped from meeting donations from this, and if necessary, the next meeting

Radio Bellingen \$100 for 50 shares in Radio Bellingen the new community FM station

#### LEGAL MATTERS

Co-ordinators: The meeting gave power to the co-ordinators to increase their number to meet the current situation (see p 16. )

MEMBERSHIP That a waiting list for memberships at a charge of say \$100 be set up. This would allow them to receive a newsletter and would provide a list of real prospective members. The money would be refunded to them if they do not join. This to be reviewed at the next meeting

note: the proposed increase in the cost of membership (see Newsletter 14) - was deferred.

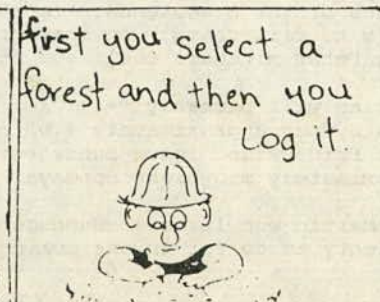
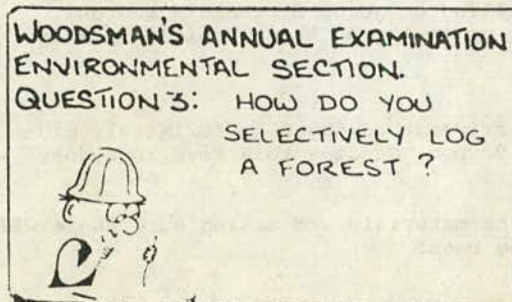
#### VISITING STUDENTS

The meeting agreed that Marr Grounds (Bundagen member and lecturer in architecture) should be allowed to bring 77 students to Bundagen for four days in March to do a project on village development at Bundagen.

#### RAINBOW PEACE GATHERING

To be held on the land at Easter (for full details of this decision see p 9 & 10)

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.00pm





4.

On Monday we had another full day of meetings !

- community house workshop 10.30 am
- Rainbow Peace Gathering 11.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Land tax workshop 3.30 pm - 5.00pm
- Co-ordinators meeting 5.00 pm - 7.30 pm

followed by on Tuesday:

- Landmanagement Group weekly meeting
- Rainbow Peace Gathering communication group
- Rainbow Peace gathering liason group

All in all an amazing amount of sharing of ideas and work on Bundagen's business went on over the 'weekend' - but we still had time to play:  
The Beach REcovery Ball was a huge success (at Boneville because of the rain) and with the generator still available on Monday evening a film was shown at the house. The weather kept improving so we fitted in some time on the beach too -

A GREAT WEEKEND - and, as Guboo told us, "THE BEST IS YET TO COME"

- Dorin

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- ★ Horticulture Workshop - Sunday 30th January (refer page 8)
- Zoning Workshops - 23rd Jan, 5&6, 26&27 Feb; 5 &6, 12&13, 19&20, 26&27 March
- ★ Ablution Block Working Bees - 5&6, 26&27 Feb; 5 &6, 12&13, 19&20, 26&27 March
- Co-ordinators meeting No. 8 1982-3 10.00 a.m. - Sunday 6th February at the house.
- ★ Pre-quarterly meeting - on the land - Saturday 12th March (10.00 a.m. at the house)  
- in Sydney - Saturday 19th March (10.00 a.m.\* Environment Centre.)
- ★ Rainbow Peace Gathering - 1st - 4th April (Easter weekend)
- Next Quarterly Meeting - 23rd - 25th April (Anzac weekend)
- ★ Co-ordinators meeting No. 9 1982-3 - Saturday 19th March (2.00 p.m.\* Environment Centre)

\*Environment Centre 399 Pitt St. Sydney.



## WE WANT YOU FOR BUNDAGEN'S MUDBRICK ABLUTION BLOCK WORKING-BEES.

6 CHANCES TO MAKE A TWO-DAY COMMITMENT TO HELP BUILD BUNDAGEN'S MUDBRICK ABLUTION BLOCK (see plans opposite page)

#### 6 ABLUTION BLOCK WORKING BEES

A choice of 6 weekends during February and March

- Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th February - pour the concrete floor slab  
- start erecting the 15 upright poles
- Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th February - finish erecting the 15 upright poles  
- start on the roof construction
- Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th March - finish roof construction  
- start mud brick wall construction \*
- Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th March - Mud brick wall construction  
- start mud brick paved verandah
- Saturday 19th - Sunday 20th March - finish mud brick wall construction  
- finish mud brick paved verandah
- Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th March - anything that is still unfinished with the  
ablution block  
- plus help prepare temporary structures for the  
Rainbow Peace Gathering (April 1- 4)

It's hoped that all members will make the effort to get to Bundagen for at least one of these weekends. (The more people that go up, the faster the work will be done leaving more time to socialise and relax.)

For Sydney members there's at least one vehicle already arranged to go up to Bundagen on each of the 6 weekends. (more vehicles are willing to go up if there's enough people to fill them.) Anyone interested in going up in one of these vehicles please phone Peter Mitchell (02) 660 6551.

Vehicles will probably -  
leave Sydney approximately 4.00 p.m. Fridays to arrive at Bundagen approximately mid-night Fridays and leave Bundagen approximately 4.00 p.m. Sundays to arrive in Sydney approximately mid-night Sundays.

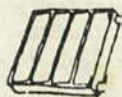
Alan Martin who lives at Bundagen is organising the materials and making sure there will be plenty to do for anyone coming to the 6 working bees.

\* By this weekend we hoped to have purchased our own mud-brick press (Dalrac Press) which is superior to the Sinva Ram - and our own petrol driven concrete mixer.

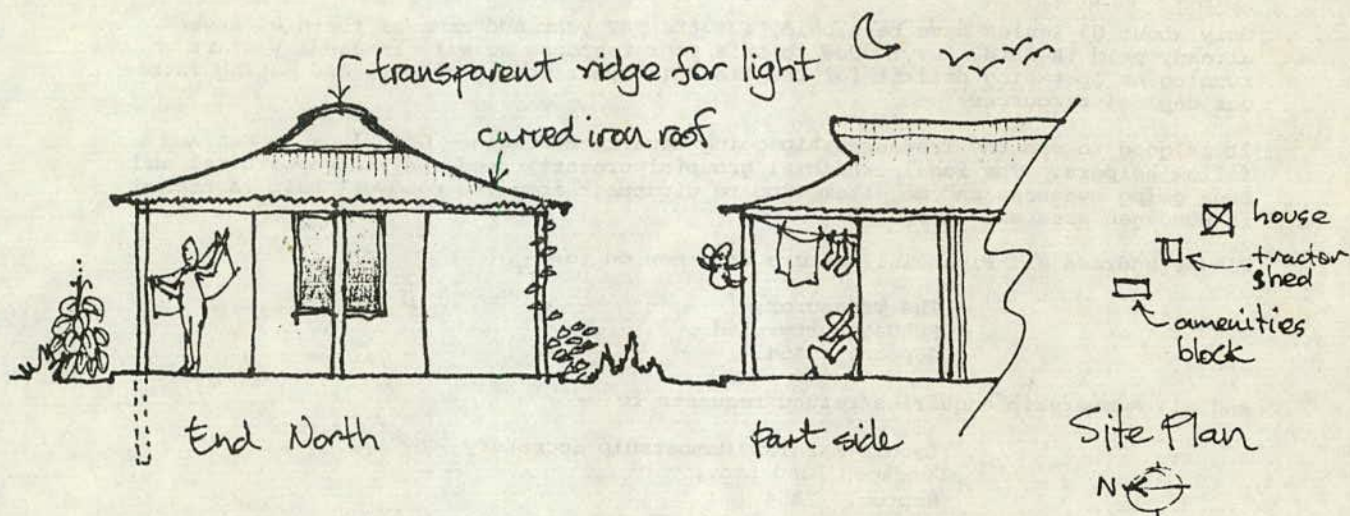
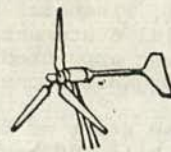


# Plans for our Future Ablution Block

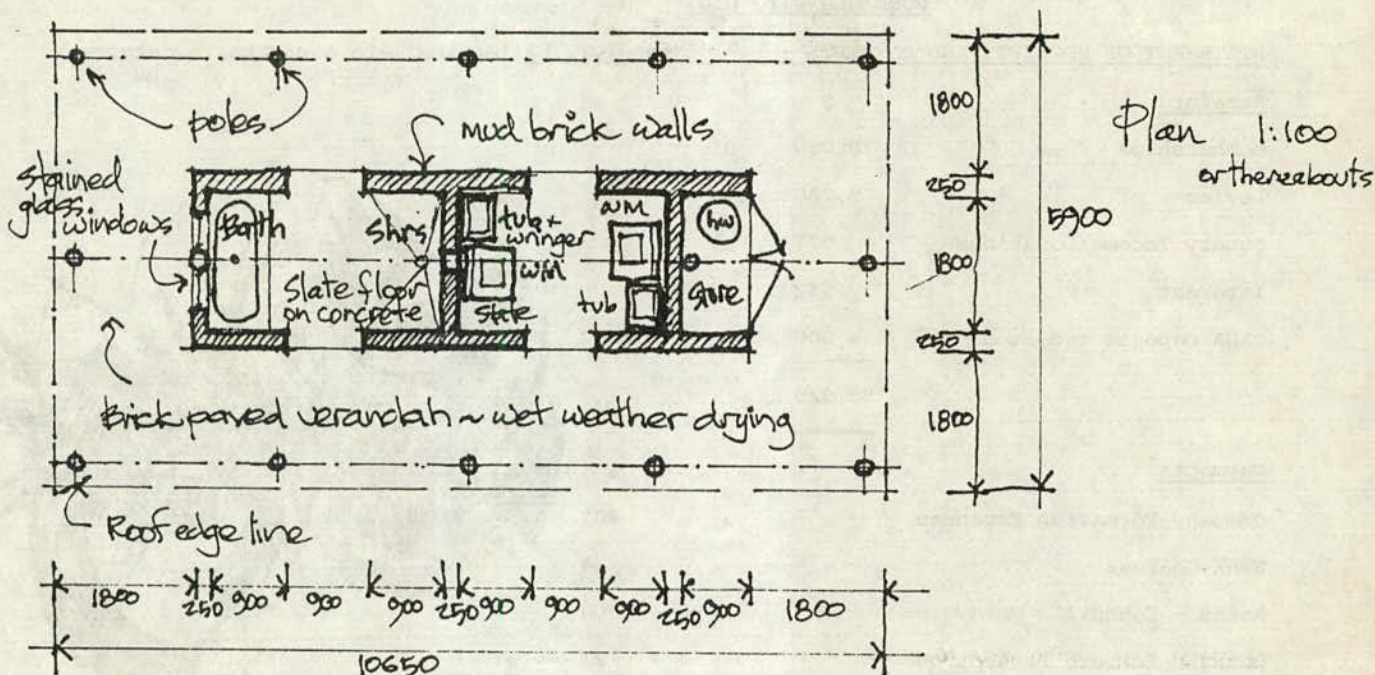
- these were drawn up by Jack Wyatt -
- we have agreed with Council to provide these amenities as part of our Moveable Dwellings Application.



its planned that a solar hot water system, an alternative powered washing machine; and alternative powered lights (2-6 volt bicycle generator wind-driven) will be incorporated in the final product.



## Proposed Ablution Solution



## ZONING WORKSHOPS

With the coming of more shareholders to Bundagen the need for land use guidelines becomes more obvious. Therefore we are working on a series of zoning maps. To facilitate the involvement of as many Bundagen members as possible who wish to be involved in the creation of these maps we are holding a series of workshops on the land. The first of these will be on Sunday 23rd January then 5th, 6th February, 27th February then every weekend until Easter. Peter Mitchell (02 - 660 6551) is co-ordinating transport to the land for the 6 working bees on the oblution block behind the house (see page 4 ). Zoning workshops will coincide with these working bees. If you cant come personally please send written input.

Zoning overlays planned are -

- (1) Contours
- (2) Historical Land Use
- (3) Conservation and Regrowth
- (4) Roads and Residential
- (5) Water Resources

- Marie.



TREASURER'S REPORT

This is my last Treasurer's Report, although I will be preparing a proper set of financial statements for the 6 months ending 31.12.82.

The number of members at 31.12.82 was about 226 - not far from the upper limit although refund requests continue to come in but not as fast as new memberships.

The 7 months I have been Treasurer has seen a lot of progress in the Legal/Financial area. The framing and incorporation of a new legal structure - which included a seemingly endless amount of paperwork and form filling is almost complete now. The period has seen a change from a precarious membership position with a long waiting list for refunds to our current very healthy position. Thanks must go to those involved in the membership drive.

Our Membership, Financial and Statutory records have been upgraded and a comprehensive set of Financial Statements (11 pages!!) have been prepared for the year ended 30.6.82. Ron Day has been appointed as our auditor - Ron has been involved in auditing a number of Community Organisations in the District.

However, at the start of the New Year we have a few problems remaining - a potentially high Land tax Bill and high Council Rates (about \$4,660 per year) - However our ongoing controllable costs have been kept admirably low, our only indulgence being our excellent newsletter.

Only about 85 levies have been paid, for the '82 year and some of these 85 have already paid their 83 levy! Due to this poor response we will in January start running an operating deficit for the financial year ending 30.6.83 and eating into our capital resources.

It is good to see the Treasurership going back to Bundagen - Good luck to Ken and fellow helpers. The legal/financial group(s) urgently need assistance with Kel and Edna going overseas and me attempting to disappear into the woodwork help is needed in Bundagen area and in Sydney.

Please address all Financial Matters from now on to -

The Treasurer,  
Bundagen Pty. Ltd.,  
Repton. 2454.

and all Membership enquiries/refund requests to -

Leonie Marnier, Membership Secretary  
Bundagen Land Ltd.,  
Repton. 2454.

- Peace and Harmony for 1983

BOB

BUNDAGEN PTY. LTD.STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - 1.7.82 to 31.12.82 (Approximate & cash basis only)

<u>Receipts</u>	\$
Memberships	78,000
Levies	5,200
Sundry Income/Donations	577
Interest	552
CAGA Deposit redeemed	4,000
	<u>88,329</u>
<u>Payments</u>	\$
Company Formation Expenses	402
Bank Charges	44
Rates - Council	800
Rates - Pasture Protection	21
Insurance	75
Road Clearing	500
Water Divination	40
Newsletter	1,346
Postage, Printing and Stationery	182
Meetings	107
Motor Vehicles & Cartage	355
Building Materials	442
Sundries	566
Repayment of Members Loans	61,000
	<u>88,329</u>
 Liquid Assets at 31.12.82	 \$
CAGA	14,300
Hill Samuel Cash Management Trust	22,000
Bank account	17,221
	<u>\$53,521</u>



\* (excludes accrued)  
\* (interest )



8. HORTICULTURE ONE DAY WORKSHOP

Sunday 30th January 1983 Roger Elliot will instruct another workshop at Bundageree and Bundagen.

(Please note, its intended that this workshop will conclude late on Sunday, but if there's enough interest it could carry over to the Monday.)

Roger who operates "research Consultants" alternatives in agriculture Personal and Environmental Health, from his 200 acre mixed crop and tropical fruit property near Lismore, has considerable experience in alternate agriculture etc. including north Australian Aboriginal, India, Mexico, California, Hawaii and Findhorn, also runs an anti P.V.R. seed bank an an extensive information library and works with A.P.A.C.E.

The workshop will be advertised in northern communities and will incorporate experimental gardening, low irrigation and fertilizer methods, broadcast and drill seeding, micro climate control, live mulch, seed collecting and storage, old world non- hi-breed seeds, cultivation methods, crops for income, low cost pumps, animal husbandry and bananas workshop with alternate methods on tropical fruits and nursery. Local organic organic fruit grower Tom will advise on varities and climate. Sandra Fritz from Sydney will talk on food politics, c-ops and village gardening, Sandra is advisor to State Government on organic agriculture.

Commencing 9.A.M. on Bundageree \$5.00 for the day plus the cost of lunch.

- CLARRIE ARMSTRONG.



LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT - January 1983

Dear fellow members - some necessary pre-wet season works have been successfully initiated. The new road was surveyed by Steve Gorrell, Guy Reuter and David Wrathall in the winter of 1982. Many hours were contributed by residents. Ken's truck was put to maximum use, proving our constant need for a vehicle of this nature. The road has yet to be graded and graveled in some sections.

Work on the house and house site has continued - new shower, tank and guttering put up on shed, house tank concreted, house guttered and levelled, house toilet completed, extensive slashing, repair of fire tanker and visit from district fire officer to discuss fire prevention on property, old cream shed repaired and converted to tool shed, lantana around house cleared, laundry tubs up.

A chisel plow has been loaned to break old road with terracing and replanting to be initiated.

The tent barn is for the meeting and dance and ongoing use.

The red telephone is limited to local calls, not including Thora and Dorrigo. More information is needed on adapted std green or the new p.t.3 phone due for release in June.

Regarding fire prevention, the Bonville Fire Brigade expressed concern about our vulnerability due to degenerated pasture and neglected forest lines. Unless we adopt a policy of proper land management we may not receive any assistance in the event of a major fire. ( see zone map for land management proposal regarding fire control) The Bonvill Fire Brigade meetings are being attended by members. A donation was given with napsac's and equipment in return. Slashing has been done in main areas.

Sign board and emergency bell have been placed at the beach. Jeff, a trained lifesaver, hopes to have a beach safety workshop. Rescue equipment is being installed with map of rocks and rips. Jeff has also applied for honorary ranger status with the council and will be accepted in January.

Christmas day was enjoyed by all on the Land with nice food, music and spirit.



At short notice on Sunday, an additional item was placed on the agenda: that Bundagen host a Rainbow Peace Gathering at Easter for up to 1,000 people. This would be co-ordinated by P.E.A.C.E.

Dudley Leggett (Bundagen member and P.E.A.C.E. representative) explained that the gathering would form part of a process of spiritual regeneration focussing on peace on earth. In Australia, this started with a small group at Blackheath, NSW, in December '82. This would gain momentum through the year with a larger gathering at Blackheath in February (see p 13) and a further increase at Easter. Other meetings might follow in Australia and there were hopes of linking in with the Planetary Initiative at the June Equinox & the Global Rainbow Gathering in July, both in North America.

The commitment from enough P.E.A.C.E. members to work towards an Easter meeting was not assured until December. This was too late for Dudley to be able to have his proposal placed on the agenda for our January meeting (Newsletter 14). Nevertheless he felt it important that Bundagen be given first offer of hosting the Gathering.

The topic was opened for discussion late in the day of Sunday's meeting. There were few people left and the time available was totally inadequate to deal with an obviously complex item. Four people dissented from a decision to hold the Gathering at Bundagen and were not prepared to put their energy behind the larger group. The decision of the meeting, therefore, was to continue the following day and not to proceed with the Gathering unless the dissent was withdrawn.

The next morning about 50 people assembled (35 members) and the whole issue was fully aired. There was much support for an Easter Peace Gathering in principle. Attention was then turned to whether Bundagen was ready for such an event.

Here is a summary of the points raised in discussion:

#### ADVANTAGES FOR BUNDAGEN

- IDEALS: it would provide a focus on the broader issues of environmental harmony and world peace & would keep us looking outward
- INSPIRATION: stimulus and momentum could be gained for our own development from the energy generated by such a meeting
- LEARNING EXCHANGE: between their workshops and our ongoing community experience
- COHESION: of members from working together towards the success of the project
- SUPPORT for the members among us who already participate in the P.E.A.C.E. group
- PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS: eg road restoration, possible left over toilets, etc

#### CONCERNS EXPRESSED

- TIME: too soon for such a large undertaking
  - preparation time too short
  - Bundagen is too young to host such an event
- PROCEDURE: there was not adequate notification of this issue; it should have been on the agenda prior to the meeting
- PRIORITIES: should we allow an outside group to have priority on the use of our land when it clashes with a Bundagen quarterly meeting?
- SCALE: can we cope with this number of people on the land?
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: especially as the Easter weekend is towards the end of the wet season
  - transport in and out (strong feeling no individual cars)
  - downgrading walkways (should be past the front gate)
  - compaction of the soil through camping etc
  - toilets
  - water situation
  - rubbish
- HEALTH RISK:
- ECONOMICS: who pays? profit?
- POLITICAL: that we might be seen to be affiliated with P.E.A.C.E. when in fact, as a group, we are non-aligned  
Who are the members of P.E.A.C.E.? What sort of an organisation is it?
- PUBLIC RELATIONS: we have no wish to prejudice our standing with the local community or council
- SPIRIT OF THE PLACE: will the quiet be shattered by large masses of people?  
will our growing sense of community strength be jeopardised?



#### DUDLEY'S COMMITMENT

- that P.E.A.C.E. will be responsible for organising the project
- that P.E.A.C.E. will work with a Bundagen liaison group to make sure all concerns are satisfied
- that P.E.A.C.E. will restore the land and amenities to a condition at least as good as when they arrived



## 10. AN IMPRESSIVE MEETING

After all possible issues were explored, we sat respectfully silent while each individual expressed their feelings & opinions. They were listened to in turn with full attention by the whole circle. Statements from each member were carefully thought through and reflected genuine concern and great depth of feeling for both the land and the issue of peace.

At the end of a three hour discussion the following decision was taken:

THAT BUNDAGEN ALLOW P.E.A.C.E. TO HOLD ITS GATHERING AT EASTER AT BUNDAGEN subject to:

1. a liaison committee being set up to
  - work out a set of guidelines to be followed by P.E.A.C.E. (this to include all the requests made at the meeting)
  - continue to liaise with P.E.A.C.E. before, during and after the gathering
2. a communication group\* be set up to inform all absent members of this meeting and its decision

A suggestion was made that the Quarterly Meeting of Bundagen and the Peace Gathering be held at different times.

Three people (Judy Whistler, Nick Monas & Larry Crowley) still wished their dissent to be recorded, but agreed to support the group decision. The liaison group (Alan Martin, Geoff Moran, Fred Cole, Narelle Garlic & David Wrathall) and others interested had their first meeting with Dudley the following morning.

### CONCLUSION

It should be understood that the decision is not a precedent for disregarding meeting procedure. People present were most concerned that all members be informed of the process and the content of the meeting as soon as possible so that they would be able to participate if they wished in:

- a) the formation of guidelines for the use of Bundagen land by the P.E.A.C.E. group
- b) the gathering itself and lead-up activities

The communication group\* decided this should be done through the newsletter and through local group meetings

\* Kayla, Janet Linnell, Dorin, in consultation with Dudley

It is suggested that Bundagen members make themselves known at the P.E.A.C.E. centre in Pitt Street\*, that they familiarise themselves with the aims of P.E.A.C.E. and the people involved. This would help to ensure P.E.A.C.E.'s policies are in harmony with Bundagen's ideals and that the organisation for the conference does reflect consideration and respect for the land. \* 2nd Floor 241 Pitt St. Sydney.

### LOCAL GROUPS

#### WANT TO HEAR AND DISCUSS REPORTS FROM THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETINGS?

##### CANBERRA

Date: Thursday 3rd January  
Venue: Bill Boswell  
3 Bancroft St.  
Dixon

Time: 8.00 p.m. Those willing to share a meal please phone Bill on 48 9106.

##### SYDNEY

###### Balmain Area

Date: Wednesday, 2nd February  
Venue: Ros Hunter  
2 Theodore St.  
Balmain

Time: 6.30 p.m. for a shared meal. Please phone Ros if coming on 818 3357

###### North Shore Area

Date: Thursday 3rd February  
Venue: Kayla and Adam Szumer  
179 Tryon Road,  
East Lindfield.

Time: 7 p.m. for a shared meal. Please phone if coming 46 2610

###### Eastern Suburbs

Date: Thursday, 10th February  
Venue: Mathew Carr,  
7 Gaerlock Ave.  
Tamarama

Time: 7.30 for a shared meal. If coming, please phone Mathew on 300 9605







# ABOUT RADIO BELLINGER



## STEREO FM RADIO IN BELLINGEN.

Noise-free, clear radio reception for the first time in this area in Stereo and the New Year General Meeting decided to spend \$100 on 50 shares @ \$2 each.

The exciting new Australian concept of publicly operated, non-profit community radio. Unlike the commercial stations on AM there are no ads. Unlike the ABC programmes are made locally by our friends and neighbours - and you. That means we can broadcast the kind of music that suits the tastes of our own community.

## WHEN DOES IT BEGIN?

May 1983, if volunteers can construct our studios in time and this mainly means money.

## WHAT YOU'LL HEAR.

Community events, interviews, local sports and weather, live local concerts, radio drama, community announcements, flood reports, documentaries and anything else you like. And, of course, good music for all tastes, country and western, classical, jazz, popular, easy listening, rock, folk, foreign - you name it. Also rebroadcasts from other community stations.

## GOOD FOR THE WHOLE SHIRE

Community radio develops community spirit and understanding. Get to know neighbours and invite them to share interests. Participation in Bellingin events is encouraged, as well as support for all local enterprise. A healthy, expanding local economy will benefit all.

## BUILDING THE STATION...

Work has begun on the world's first mud brick radio station, designed by Bundagen Member Jack Wyatt, sited in Wheatley Street, North Bellingin, just next to the doctors. See what dedicated volunteers from our community have achieved already. Much still remains to be done though, perhaps you can work a day or two to help build our station. It will be a great community service, a source of pride to all. This is a most exciting time for radio, so join us now!

## WHO PAYS FOR IT?

Finance comes from a variety of sources; sponsorships from local businesses and social clubs, private subscribers, federal grants (only \$9,000) concert and dance promotions, sale of programme guides, donations and membership. Station subscribers will receive regular programme guides (cost \$20 per annum) also shopping discounts from participating sponsors, free films, a picnic on the station's birthday and other benefits. Businesses becoming sponsors are thanked on air for their support and names printed in the programme guide, also they may display the radio station's symbol. Social clubs will have a scheduled time slot weekly to announce their news and coming events.

## WHO'S RUNNING IT?

Bellingin Shire's FM radio will be run by interested people from our own community - and that means you or anyone else! Become a station member and help direct the organisation. Elections for officers are held annually and meetings monthly. Any community member may participate in making programmes for air. Our successful test transmissions in February 1980 and May 1981 drew on the talents and efforts of nearly 100 people representing all sections of the community.

## RADIO BELLINGER IS A CO-OPERATIVE.

Membership is achieved by buying a minimum of five \$2 shares, total cost \$10, be in it.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? JUST RING (066) 55 1691  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

or write to: - COMMUNITY RADIO BELLINGER  
BOX 104  
BELLINGEN. 2057

## INVITATION TO WORKING BEE -

Anyone wishing to help erecting the building please ring Pattie, the Building Volunteer-co-ordinator, on (066) 55 1873





DETAILS:

- DATE:** 5 days from Saturday February 19 to Thursday February 24, 1983 - Arrive Friday evening. (Opening with a welcome and sunset ceremony)
- PLACE:** Art Haven, Parklands Hotel, 140 Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath, Blue Mountains, N.S.W. 2785 (047) 878407. Set on 22 acres.
- COSTS:** \$65  
Advance bookings \$55 before February 12, 1983, all food included.  
Concessions available. Children 5 - 15 half price; under 5 free.
- PLEASE BRING:** Sleeping gear/acoustic instruments/art paints/eating utensils
- TRANSPORT:** A 'Peace Train' leaving Sydney for Blackheath on Friday can be hired for \$5 per person. Those wishing to use this service please contact us by February 12 to reserve seats. Minimum 60 required. Music, banners, party gear and video equipment welcomed.
- GATHERING PREPARATION:** People are invited to arrive on February 1st or 10th to join with the Rainbow Peace team preparations. Accommodation is \$15 per week and complimentary tickets are offered.
- FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**
- Sydney:** - Nimmity Bell (02) 977 4470
- Blue Mountains:** - Lindsay (047) 87 8407
- MAIL:** - Post to 'Parklands Hotel' 140 Govett's Leap Road, Blackheath 2785. Include stamped addressed envelope for reply details.

Yours in peace,

Andrew Mignot

Dudley Leggett

*Andrew Mignot*  
*Dudley Leggett*

Co-ordinated by Peoples' Environmental Action Co-operative Enterprise  
P.E.A.C.E.

'Let us now dedicate our combined energies to the task of spreading light upon the planet and affirm our allegiance to the governing force of love within us for the caring of all life'





TREE PLANTING FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT

There is a possibility that Bundagen could be deriving income from Nursery work and contract tree planting within twelve months.

Proposal that a group of people be empowered to prepare submissions to both State and Federal Governments for the establishment of a native tree nursery and a tree planting association at Bundagen.

1. In 1981 State Cabinet appointed a Task Force to enquire into the Regulation and Encouragement of Private Forestry. The report of the Task Force has been presented to Cabinet and its recommendations include, in particular:

- \* that existing dis-incentives be removed by reforming various income, sales and land tax provisions, and changing Federal, State and Local Government rating systems;
- \* the provision of technical and especially financial assistance to landowners for re-forestation projects.
- \* that priority zones be established in areas which would give "the most readily demonstrated silva-cultural and environmental benefits".

A draft of this report came to our attention as early as August 1981. It seems that, as with the rainforest issue, it will need a final extra push to ensure that Wran implements the Report's recommendations. The best time for this push is now and over the next three months before the Federal Election, in conjunction with similar pressure on the Fraser Government.

One of a host of significant consequences of the reports implementation would be that communities, unemployed persons, work co-operatives etc. would establish viable businesses engaged in nursery work and contract planting. These are compelling reasons for the North Coast being given top priority for funding.



2. Recently Wran announced the allocation of \$10 million for job creation, the largest proportion to the Forestry Commission for "clearing and replanting". This seems to mean clearing eucalypts and planting pine in Southern NSW, despite the fact that:

- \* Australia is facing a surplus of pine, particularly pulpwood.
- \* Both conservationists and timber companies have urged that funds for hardwood re-forestation be allocated to the North Coast, so as to protect jobs and timber supplies.

3. Acting Prime Minister Anthony recently announced that most of the \$300 odd million saved by the twelve months wage freeze would be spent on "job-related" programmes. It is vital that this money be allocated to socially and environmentally useful work.

- \* the need for re-forestation constitutes a national emergency. The current drought is unprecedented in its severity. Unemployment levels continue to soar. This is the Year of the Tree. There is to be a Federal Election, probably in April or May. The Rainforest Issue in NSW, the Franklin dam in Tasmania, indicate that public opinion can change State and Federal environment policies. On 19th December last, a National Co-alition of conservation groups, concerned about the Franklin Dam issue was formed to campaign in the coming Federal Elections.

- \* The Federal Government has endorsed the Year of the Tree, and Fraser launched it last June with a planting ceremony and a Year of the Tree Message "to all Australians". Yet the Federal Government has allocated a mere \$500,000 to be spent on a cosmetic smattering of little projects across the country, and especially on an advertising campaign.

In effect, the Year of the Tree has been taken over by Governments, Forestry Departments and Nurserymen's Associations as a Public Relations Campaign.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

PLEASE

- \* write to Wran urging that the recommendations of the Task Force on Private Forestry be implemented and substantial funds allocated to re-forestation projects on the North Coast.
- \* write to Fraser urging that money saved by the Wages Freeze be allocated to socially and environmentally useful work, especially re-forestation.
- \* write to Fraser demanding that the Federal Government intervene to stop the Franklin dam.
- \* contribute financially to the re-forestation campaign by sending a donation to: GREEN ALLIANCE, Box 158 Paddington NSW 2021.

Please also urge other to write and donate similarly. At this time, personal letters on these issues will be most significant in determining the outcome.



On New Years Eve, just before mid-night, Guboo Ted Thomas, his wife Anne and 4 of their children, including Guboo's elder son Rocky arrived at Bundagen in the middle of a New Years party and drenching rain. The next evening Guboo showed slides and gave a talk and when it came to a hug and a humming bee at the end, it was suggested that the close on a hundred people move outside as the weather had cleared and the moon could be seen through the flying clouds.

The circle, with the energy and good, close feeling generated by making sounds together helped set the tone for what was to be an unusually co-operative, harmonious and open meeting on the following days.

Joe Truman who, along with Evie Pickler, was travelling with the group and playing the didgeridoo told later of a very special high that happened for Anne on the night of the humming bee. Anne was brought up in the Taree area but obviously felt Bundagen was a very special place. While Jo was playing the didgeridoo Anne turned to her and said: "Oh I feel so good. I feel like I want to dance. I feel so good at Bundagen, its like coming home."

Jo said her face was shining with joy and she could hardly stand still but was too shy to let go in front of all the people.

Could we send Anne a letter giving an open invitation to her and her family to come and stay at Bundagen anytime?

- SUSY HOWARD.

#### Gunnadoo and the Banana Lease:

Alex and Bob, the new banana leaseholders are considered so much a part of the Gunnadoo village that their presence in the bananas is not questioned by us. They are Bundagen shareholders, Financial members of the village and attend all the Gunnadoo village meetings. This is a different situation to the previous leaseholders with whom we had very little contact.

While the boundary fence legally determines the Banana lease area, Alex and Gunnadoo regard the natural basin formed to the northern side of the headland ridge, including the whole banana lease, as the area of which they are caretakers.

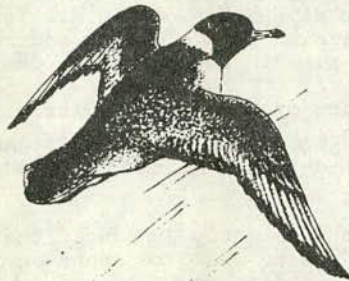
Alex bought the banana lease and Gunnadoo chose that natural basin after considering two other sites, with the intention of studying the possibility of developing tropical orchards in addition to bananas.

During the coming decade our purpose will be two-fold; to develop the whole site as mixed tropical orchards away from banana monoculture (as we have been advised): secondly to work towards completely organic orchards throughout the basin.

Alex has already made lease land available to the village for experimenting with permaculture use, and we feel we are working towards a Gunnadoo basin which we will be proud to present to Bundagen when the lease expires.

We will be happy to share our principles of consensus and co-operation with others who wish to join us in the experiment.

- Marnie, Lenny, Marie, Alex, Izzy, Bobbie, Peter, Susy, Narelle, Glen Dianne, Alan, Al.



HOODED PLOVER

Co-ordinators' meeting No 7 1982-83

Present: Alan, David, Dorin, Jack, Judy, Lothar, Ken, Marnie, Maree, Rick  
+ 6 others in attendance

It was decided that:

1. Leonie Marnier (Marnie) & Maree Howell be accepted as co-ordinators, bringing the total number to 18
2. The appropriate change be registered in the articles to allow 18 co-ordinators
3. Expenditure on both amenities block and the water (see p3.) should come from capital
4. There should be working B's every second weekend (starting 5-6 February) for building the amenities block. Car rosters would be arranged to help Sydney members attend.
5. The next quarterly meeting will be Anzac long weekend, 23-25 April
6. Any article written by a member about Bundagen should be submitted to 2 co-ordinators for approval, before publication.
7. The next co-ordinators' meeting will be at 10.00am Sunday 6th February at the house.

Dorin



Ocean people are different from land people. The ocean never stops saying and asking into ears, which don't sleep like eyes. Those who live by the sea examine driftwood and glass balls that float from foreign ships. They let scores of invisible imps loose from found bottles. In a scoop of salt water, they revive the dead blobs that have been bleached in storms and tides: fins, whiskers, and gills unfold; mouths, eyes and colours bloom and spread. Sometimes ocean people are given to understand the newness and oldness of the world; then all morning they try and keep that boundless joy, like a little sun, inside their chests. The ocean also makes people know immensity

Quote from  
"China Men"  
Maxine  
Heng  
Kingston.



#### Articles and Graphics, etc. for Future Newsletters

To speed up the newsletter production, lets try in future to stick to a one week deadline in which all newsletter contributions should have arrived at 65 Darghan St., Glebe, 2037 before or on the Monday following the 4 General Meetings. The typing, pasting up, printing and posting could then be done by the end of that second week. (As for the 4 newsletters that follow the 4 pre-meetings, all newsletter contributions should be sent or brought to the pre-meeting)

-Peter Mitchell.

#### AN OPPORTUNITY

A 3 bedroom house to rent in Repton for \$65 a week beginning during February - Ring 066-55 4394

- Marnie

#### INVOLVEMENT ON THE LAND

People who come for short visits to Bundagen may feel more satisfied if they organise a group of people to work together to complete a small section of a particular project - e.g. erosion control, tree planting

- Pit.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday, January 12, 1983

## 'New settlers' find an alternative

A WATER tank on a farm near Bellingen, painted with the yin and yang sign for wholeness, marks the southern end of the so-called rainbow belt of northern NSW.

Since the hippy festivals at Nimbin in the early 1970s, the northern coast of NSW has been the centre of alternative communities, exploring a wide range of new lifestyles including herbal medicine, astrology, vegetarianism, meditation and organic farming.

The area around Bellingen, nestled in the foothills of the New England Ranges, supports about 30 separate communities of "new settlers" — the name the City refugees prefer rather than "those hippies" imposed on them by the local farmers.

Many of the people in the communities are now in their 30s and 40s and have created a comfortable and cheap, if simple, existence.

The Homeland community near Thora provides a base for a floating population of about 30 people of various ages and interests.

Yvonne, in her forties, one of the founding members of the community and its financial adviser, said Homeland was based on the Findhorn community in Scotland,

where an extremely fertile garden emerged from barrenness and the people believe in spiritual development through meditation and co-operative living.

She said the Homeland community had changed a lot since it was set up about six years ago and continued to change with the influence of each new member. They share daily meals and volunteer their labour to grow fruit and vegetables and to work in the alfalfa sprout business that generates a small income for the payment of rates and bills.

The members live in small huts and caravans dotted about the 100 or so hectares. The central farmhouse has a small library, a "healing" room, a children's playroom and a communal eating area and kitchen. There is a separate building with showers and toilets.

Ian, 29, lives at Homeland and is the main gardener. He used to live in Sydney, where he worked in parks and gardens for a living. He, like many new settlers in the area, believes the world is going through a spiritual and material crisis. But he says the crisis may produce positive results, and signs such as a return to healthier eating habits

and concern about conserving natural resources are encouraging.

There are many young women living at Homeland, some with small children. They seem to enjoy the peaceful life where everyone helps each other with childminding and domestic work.

In the same area, but closer to the coast, is the communal property called Bundagen, shared by more than 200 families, many of them living in Sydney.

The project to buy the large coastal property, in two sections, began in 1981. Members bought shares for \$3,000 and many different people were attracted to the idea. Decisions are made about the property at communal meetings held at weekends. The main aims of the project are environmental harmony, social co-operation and financial independence.

The Bundagen members believe they are protecting the land from exploitation and improper use. They have declared the area a wildlife sanctuary and carefully protect Aboriginal sites after frequent consultation with local Aborigines.

Plans are being drafted for a series of communal buildings to blend with the landscape and utilise

the area's natural resources. Community members are undertaking a coastal study and an environmental impact study.

A city member, John Fisher, says Bundagen is like an "insurance policy from the rat race." He says about 30 people live at the community permanently and other members come and go with their families.

The State Government's Multiple Occupancy legislation will allow the Bundagen people to build many more dwellings on the land than the shire council has previously allowed.

There is a mystical and spiritual side to the community, although the large number of people from different backgrounds makes consensus slow but stimulating, as can be seen from reading the Bundagen newsletters, produced at regular intervals.

An extract from last year's August newsletter said: "The ultimate aim in developing Bundagen is to attain a balanced and sustainable future for the land, sea and their inhabitants. . . . We must make ourselves as aware as possible of the spirit and energy of the place as well as its natural resources."



MAILING LIST DEBBIE CLARKE is now keeping this up to date. So please let her know of any postal changes.

8 Robert Street,  
Artarmon. 2064  
(02)411-3394

Information Sheets for prospective members also now held by Debbie Clarke,



Being the non-member of a one-membership couple is discriminating and causing unhappiness at Bundagen.

My Mate and I have a share. It is in her name. We live together on the land.

After a three-hour discussion about the Easter Peace gathering members were asked for a show of hands. We resident, and very involved non-members had been allowed to speak but not "vote",

Earlier, after being appointed to focalize a committee, it was revealed that I was a non-member and therefore inelegible. It was proposed I be a co-ordinator until my non-membership was challenged.

My Mate and I are considering swapping the membership back and forth every month to achieve some equality.

I live here, but could I pass an interview? (Mrs. Hitler was rather nice we've heard) And how come I live here free while members pay maintenance levies? Does Bundagen not even record my existence even though I call her home?

Therefore I propose:

- \* all adult residents contribute to maintenance levy (or pay weekly camping rate in lieu if claiming temporary residency) and be afforded all membership privileges without actually owning a share.
- \* that their part in decision making be considered valid.
- \* that they not be segregated from committees, co-ordinators positions etc.
- \* that both parties of a single-share couple be interviewed when applying for membership.
- \* that "de facto" members be allowed continued attendance at all working bees.
- \* that there be no distinction among us

- Sincerely,  
PETER GEDDES (a non-member)

An afterthought: If a member dies and the share reverts to Bundagen what provision for the co-share holder?

This letter raises a series of important issues for Bundagen which as a young community we have to deal with sooner or later.

In particular there is the difficulty of balancing the legal and financial set up of a community with human relationships which we should all be sensitive to -

Points of information :-

- 1) There are no longer shares in Bundagen, only memberships. (Those group memberships (that still exist) are entitled to only one vote and have only one nominee.)
- 2) No group memberships have been available since December 1981.
- 3) There was no vote at the Easter Peace Gathering Meeting. (people were asked to indicate if they wanted to be recorded as dissenting.)
- 4) To be a co-ordinator one must -
  - a) be a member and
  - b) have paid their maintenance levies (see the Articles of Association)
- 5) At the June '82 quarterly meeting part of a decision that was passed by that meeting regarding the \$50 maintenance levy read as follows -
 

"People not on the membership list who spend regular time at Bundagen or who are committed to Bundagen are encouraged to contribute \$50." -refer page 4 newsletter no. 10.
- 6) In the case of death the \$3,000 paid for membership could be refunded at the discretion of the co-ordinators and would be considered part of the estate of the deceased. In which case the person inheriting the \$3,000 could of course apply for membership in their own right.

- Peter Mitchell (Newsletter)

P.S. On the Tuntable Falls Community (they have shares, we have memberships) Shares are in one persons name, and that person and only that person has the right to vote. Most couples have taken out a share each. To be elected onto their board of councillors you need to be a shareholder. Also anyone (shareholder or visitor) over the age of 16 must pay their \$75 annual maintenance levy if they've been living there for a total of 3 months in any given 12 month period.



# Bushfire: fire control for the conservationist

The following pages have been extracted from "The Rock of Earthly Delights" by Neil Douglas and Abbie Heathcote, and were sent in by Judy Whistler.

When I was a child in Porepukah the bushfire came, and my father sent me on my pony to warn our neighbour. It was night-time and as I rode along I could see the fire burning slowly downhill about two miles away. It turned and began to burn uphill, slowly at first; then a dreadful forced draught seemed to build up and suddenly the whole landscape was lit up for miles-- I could even read the print on the newspaper tucked into my saddle flap.

The single huge flame rushed up the three thousand feet of forested mountain in twenty seconds, from bottom to top. For this brief moment in time, the mountain was all alight at once. Above the mountain top, a further three thousand feet of sheer, spectacular flame projected up into the black night sky, lighting up the distant ranges. Above this again, a boiling rolling monster of smoke reared up to ten thousand feet.

Then, just as suddenly, it was all over, and only a red glow remained on the slope. Ten years after, there was still no regeneration of that vanished forest-- even the rocks were shattered, and huge logs were burnt to powder. Such is the unimaginable savagery of heat-blast and wind in a bushfire.

The bush has always been inflammable, but not nearly as easy to light, nor as quick to burn, as paddocks of improved pasture. Moreover, in the bush there is often something to lie down behind, or shelter under, as the fire races through. In open paddock there is nowhere to go: the blaze will come rolling and somersaulting in great fiery plumes, building up its own draught and adding to its own terrifying momentum. In one fire some people were burned to death in the middle of a four-lane highway in open grass paddocks, with hardly a tree in sight!

After I first moved into a house in the bush, I spent years preparing for the inevitable bushfire. One man, who hadn't seen Mount Porepukah burning, said to me one day, 'No one else carries on like this! You're an old woman about fire!' To which I replied, 'Ours will be the only house to come through untouched by fire.' I mowed the grass right to the ground, and established a moss lawn with no dead leaves or sticks. I laid gravel around the house. I made barrier beds of ground cover plants, with ditches in front of them, to stop rolling burning gum leaves from blowing under the house and setting it alight. I had discovered that when a bunch of green gum leaves was put into a fire, it would instantly burst into flame, where a bunch of green wattle would only crackle and smoulder. I therefore planted lots of wattles in barriers, in particular against the wall of the house, hoping thus to deflect the heat off the wall and up over the house. When, one day, my neighbour told me she had received the award for best protected house and farm for the second time, my comment was that I would be worried about the cyprus hedge around the tennis court. To that, she exclaimed 'Good heavens! That's forty feet away!' But I had allowed a distance of sixty feet just for flame, and therefore double that for heatblast, which gave a distance of one hundred and twenty feet from the house. For this distance in every direction, I had mowed, raked and established shield beds of fire resistant wattles.



In 1968 the bushfire came to the house. It was a day of record low humidity, the temperature was over 100 F, and winds were measured at 80 miles per hour. The fire truck was overtaken by the fire at our corner, one hundred paces from the houses. The men had to leap out and shelter on the offside with the hoses going. My eldest boy Linden had driven out in his truck, as I had often instructed him to do, after filling the spouts with water and putting buckets of water around. He was to come back as soon as the fire had gone through. He drove along, watching the fire overtake him on both sides, and had to change down to lower gears as the engine laboured under shortage of oxygen. He managed to drive into a refuge hollow just as the smoke swept over his head. Such was the strength of the fire gale, that the fire went out at this point. Being unable to burn downhill it was projected out into the air, and as the paddocks below were overgrazed, they did not ignite. Linden followed my instructions and returned home immediately, expecting to find nothing but the smoking remains of the home, amid a totally blackened landscape. But, there it was --without a blister on the paint!



Linden started looking around, but then heard the sound of crackling flames. At first he couldn't locate it, but finally discovered that a few sparks had got in under the house. It was too low to get in with an ordinary bucket, so he had to fill a toy bucket and crawl under to put out the fire with that! This was the only point where my shielding beds hadn't overlapped--because I had wanted a view through to the hills!

That night the fire brigade was mopping up in the area, and at two in the morning the head of the brigade came to have a look at our house. He had inspected the house before the fire, and had wanted me to take out the wattles that were touching the walls. Upon my explaining that they were there to deflect the fire over the house, he had grudgingly allowed them to stay. Now he was checking up to see if they had done their job, and started searching with a torch for scorch marks on the pine walls, which were coated with a linseed oil-based paint. He thought everyone in the house was asleep, but was nevertheless heard to mutter to himself, 'The old bugger was right after all!' He later brought in his men to take photographs of the success of my novel precautions. And as for the C.F.A. award-winning house, solid brick and standing in an ideal paddock--it was burnt right out! Everyone thought it was a miracle that our old house was still there among sixty-two burned houses in the Eltham Shire and thirty-nine in our immediate locality. But to call it a miracle is to miss the method!

## *Bushfire: the practical side of it all*

To start with, the very word bushfire is misleading. This is the first thing you need to know when you are wondering how to save your house. Almost all of the disastrous fires in Australia are grassfires, some of which happen to pass through the bush. When the bush is full of grass and undergrowth, the fire may become a crown fire, which is the only true bushfire.

It is not necessary to remove the bush to save your home. It is the introduced pasture grasses that are the worst fire hazard.

The first thing you must look at is the lie of the land. Fires most often come from the north and the west. The worst, most destructive fires are those travelling uphill, because the fire creates its own updraught. If you are on the top of a long hill facing north, you are in the most vulnerable position imaginable, but a long hill below the house in any direction is dangerous.

There may be a natural barrier, like a change in level or a hump, which may deflect the fire over your house. You can make an artificial barrier by building a dam or stone wall to deflect the heat, or by planting a wall of wattles or other shrubs with low inflammability.

There are different aspects of the fire to be considered. First there is the heat-blast. This extends far ahead of the fire in uphill or windy conditions. Heat-blast can melt can melt windows and dehydrate people and animals in an instant, 'freezing' them in mid-step. Then there is the actual flame, which also extends far ahead of the burning area in a high wind. Rolling burning leaves and sparks also blow ahead of the fire, and if they build up under eaves or in spouts they can cause fires. Houses can explode before the fire reaches them. This is a result of the vacuum effect of the fire, and can be avoided if all doors and windows away from the fire are open.

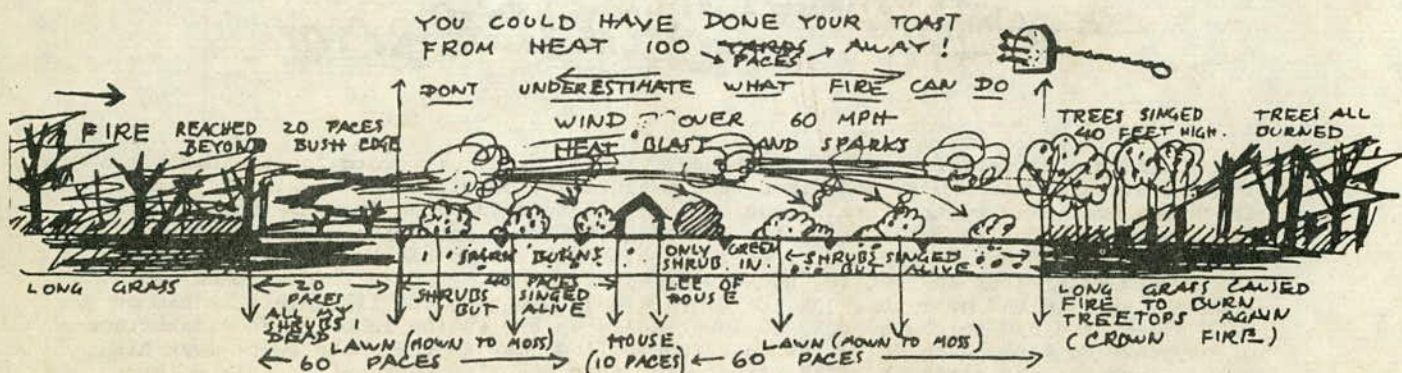
Before thinking how to clear out the bush, try to build a fire-proof house. Mud bricks and other similar materials won't burn. Big hardwood beams won't readily catch alight as the fire races through, but may begin to smoulder if burning leaves pile up against the wall. The eaves must be carefully mudded in to stop fire from getting in under the roof. Build the house flat on the ground or make sure that there are no openings where fire can get under the house. Windows can be protected by fire-proof shutters, or by screens of non-flammable plants arranged in such a way that they stop fire without obstructing the view.

The fuel on the ground can be artfully reduced by raking and mowing and cool-burning, using different methods in different areas to test the success of each. The aim is still to have a natural looking bush area, with some island of tussocks and bush floor. Every possible method is used to get rid of any pasture grasses. We even have a Porta-Gas blow-torch to burn off weeds in the spring when it is too wet to cool burn.

You must have a strategy for when the fire comes. Woollen clothes and a hot of felt or leather are the only things to wear for fire fighting. Wet blankets can be used to protect the heads of people in a dam. The water in the dam will not heat up if the bank is wide and fuel in the surrounding bush has been sufficiently reduced.

The worst fires happen on days with a high wind, when the fire sweeps through in a few seconds and is gone. Afterwards, quickly check up and put out all the little spot fires that would burn down your home were no one there to stop it. Fires that happen on still days are easily fought and deflected away from dwellings by using wet bags, leather beaters, knapsack sprays, hoses, etc.

There is nothing anyone can do to stop the real fire on a dry day with a high wind, but all the precautions I have mentioned will mean that your house is still likely to be standing after the holocaust has raced past.



This diagram shows the house of Abigail Heathcote and Neil Douglas and how their planted fire break saved their home.