

NIMBIN: For \$200, a large tract of land to farm



Dudley Turner, 63, a former Australian Army man, outside the stone cottage which he built from local materials for less than \$50. He enjoys many things about life at Nimbin.

Land Commune. There are other land co-operatives in the district, and some of their members live in deserted houses rented to them very cheaply by farmers. Some newcomers build their own homes.

The Stanton family live in a deserted farmhouse on the commune while they build their own home, a weatherboard house with large triangular walls.

The parents are avid fans of Margaret Mead, the US anthropologist. They came to Nimbin with their three small children over a year ago. Vic Stanton left a well paid executive position in Sydney.

He admitted frankly: "I lost three stone in the first two months, and never felt better."

Said Peg Stanton: "We thought we had to live in the city and make a big wage to provide adequately for our children's upbringing. But we've found that by living simply and closer to nature our family is happier."

Helene and George came with their seven children from Perth two years ago to buy land in Nimbin, having learned that the district is very fertile.

They didn't even know the festival was on, and arrived just before it began. They live their own life in a farmhouse. George is an expert glass engraver. Helene, an artist, has organised the large Rain Forest Art Gallery housed in the basement of the Nimbin Town Hall.

Clever land buy

Ed Douglas, a photographer, is an American. He teaches photography in the Nimbin State School. Other new arrivals teach art, crafts, music. Ed has bought his own property where he lives with his wife and children.

The one thing all the new locals have in common is that they all want the pastoral life.

Owning a large area of some of the most fertile and beautiful land in Australia for only \$200 sounds like a dream to most Australians, but this dream has already become reality for the

members of the Tuntable Falls Co-op.

To find a way around rampaging speculation, and the high cost of credit, this largest group of Nimbin newcomers have pooled their resources. The movement was prompted first by the reluctance of local farmers to subdivide into small blocks and, secondly, by the fact that land cost is much lower when it is bought in large tracts.

This biggest land co-operative, consisting of 429 hectares, was bought last year from local farmer, Sam Mackay, for \$100,000.

Already four-fifths of the 500 \$200 shares have been sold to the numerous members in a tremendous joint effort to pay for this commonly held, undivided "block" which must surely form one of the world's largest true communal land holdings.

Each \$200 share gives a family or an individual and their descendants the complete title and free access to the entire 429

hectares. Rates are low at present because there are no public amenities or services, no subdivisions. Of course, councils have a way of changing things, but so far no objections have been raised.

Membership is established with a legal document. A member who wishes to leave the commune can sell his share; but there is no profit-making. The value of the land is absolutely frozen, at \$200 a share.

Life on the commune is primitive, but not dirty. There are no abandoned cars or beer cans lying about. No cars are allowed within the commune. They have to be picked up outside by those who own them and who want to drive the few miles to the town.

Rainwater from tanks, water from the creek, or trapped in a hillside spring, or from pumps, is used for cooking and washing. Cooking is done on open wood fires or on spirit stoves.

Some people are installing the old cast-iron fuel stoves. There is

no electricity, no telephones, no television.

Bush bucket showers and spring fed or gravity fed tank showers are the nearest anyone gets to mod cons. But the bush bucket showers can be taken warm!

Each hamlet has its own central sanitation point where sewage is buried, and intelligent re-cycling plans, similar to those used by Chinese agrarians for centuries, are being discussed.

Try living in this spartan style, and, naturally, you'll discover that you begin to look a little less tidy and cared for than people who live in modern houses.

All the children love the commune way of life. They have plenty of other kids to play with in the bush, they don't have to worry about getting run over, they enjoy the birds and wildlife and love the gardens, pulling peas from pods and eating them, and so on.

People of all ages go naked within the communes if they wish

— it is considered perfectly natural. Outside, local people's different ideas are respected.

The marriage situation is an open one. I would say about 50 per cent of couples are not legally married. But committed sexual partnerships are respected.

I saw little evidence of drug-taking; people are finding that they don't have the same need for artificial stimulants in this freer environment.

The new Nimbin is not perfect, however. There are tensions. The biggest problem is getting rid of the "bludgers".

A lot of young people who have been taken care of by mum and dad, and who have never worked, tend to look around for free meals. The older people, who don't tolerate them as their parents tolerated them, get them thinking right. Usually they learn quickly.

Minor tensions

There are others who just can't handle the situation of respecting other people's wishes. They eventually leave of their own accord, finding themselves ignored.

And there are still a few minor tensions between old locals and the new; tensions caused by thoughtlessness. For instance, most of the new locals don't drink, but some find the showers at the pub handy; and this just isn't on!

Everyone joins in the decision-making in the communes. The Tuntable Falls Co-op's own "government legislation" is shaped by the democratic vote of its shareholders at a huge fortnightly "tribal meeting".

Discussions are helped by the fact there is no orthodox love of possessions in the communes, no elitism, no class structure. There might be a threat from latent capitalism when someone wants to sell their village home in the future; and recently there was quite a debate on one shareholder bringing a \$5000 pre-fabricated house on to the property. The meaning of "freedom" in such

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'They're not some strange breed: just people with different ideas'

There was so little traffic at times that as a small son, my husband used to pedal his kiddy car along the road.

It was something of a shock to those of us living right beside the road to see the first trickling of what became a flow of strangely dressed people all heading for their destination at Nimbin.

The Aquarius Festival in 1973 saw a flood of such people, and one would not have blamed the townspeople of Nimbin if they had gone into some kind of culture shock.

They survived it philosophically, and many saw the coming of new people as a boon to a dying country town.

It is a long time since the last patrons of the Aquarius Festival dribbled back along the road, but still many people of the alternate

culture live in and around Nimbin.

Some farmers still call them "hippies", but those who live near them have found they are not some strange breed, but just people with some rather different ideas.

We used to pick them up in the car whenever we came upon them hitch-hiking in or out of Lismore.

We have met some intelligent, interesting people in that way, but we've picked up no hitch-hikers of late.

There were two reasons we stopped doing so: first, we could see the personal risk of picking up strangers in a car; and we also began to sense that we were being used.

Motor vehicles are seen as inessential energy consumers to

members of the alternate society, but making use of other people's vehicles seems just a way of avoiding the question.

There seems to have been few face-to-face arguments between district people and the newcomers. At the same time, it is acceptance rather than integration which sets a standard of quiet country living around Nimbin.

The craft work and art of the newcomers shows a great deal of talent, and they have shown much interest in moves for alternate schooling methods around the district.

Some points still "prickle" long-established district residents. They wonder if it is essential to have strange, sometimes bedraggled clothing on men, women and children; and untidy, unkempt hair is not

attractive, especially if accompanied by a strong smell of unwashed human being.

One wonders how much of the "alternative culture" is affectation.

All that emphasis on the simple life is a bit lost on farmers and graziers who have always lived that way.

We make our own bread, grow our own vegetables and enjoy the things of nature, but feel no desire to go over to the alternate society.

One cannot really escape 20th century Australia, especially 1975, and we wonder how the newcomers who bought properties will cope with their shire rate bills — probably no better than the rest of us, financially stricken by the collapsed beef cattle market as we are.

These newcomers are not really part of our lives, but they certainly do not deliberately offend anyone, so perhaps we will look around one day and find we are all part of the one society.

"One of the great Australian myths is that country people have larger hearts and are friendlier than anyone else," says Jennifer Somerville, a journalist with the Northern Star newspaper, Lismore.

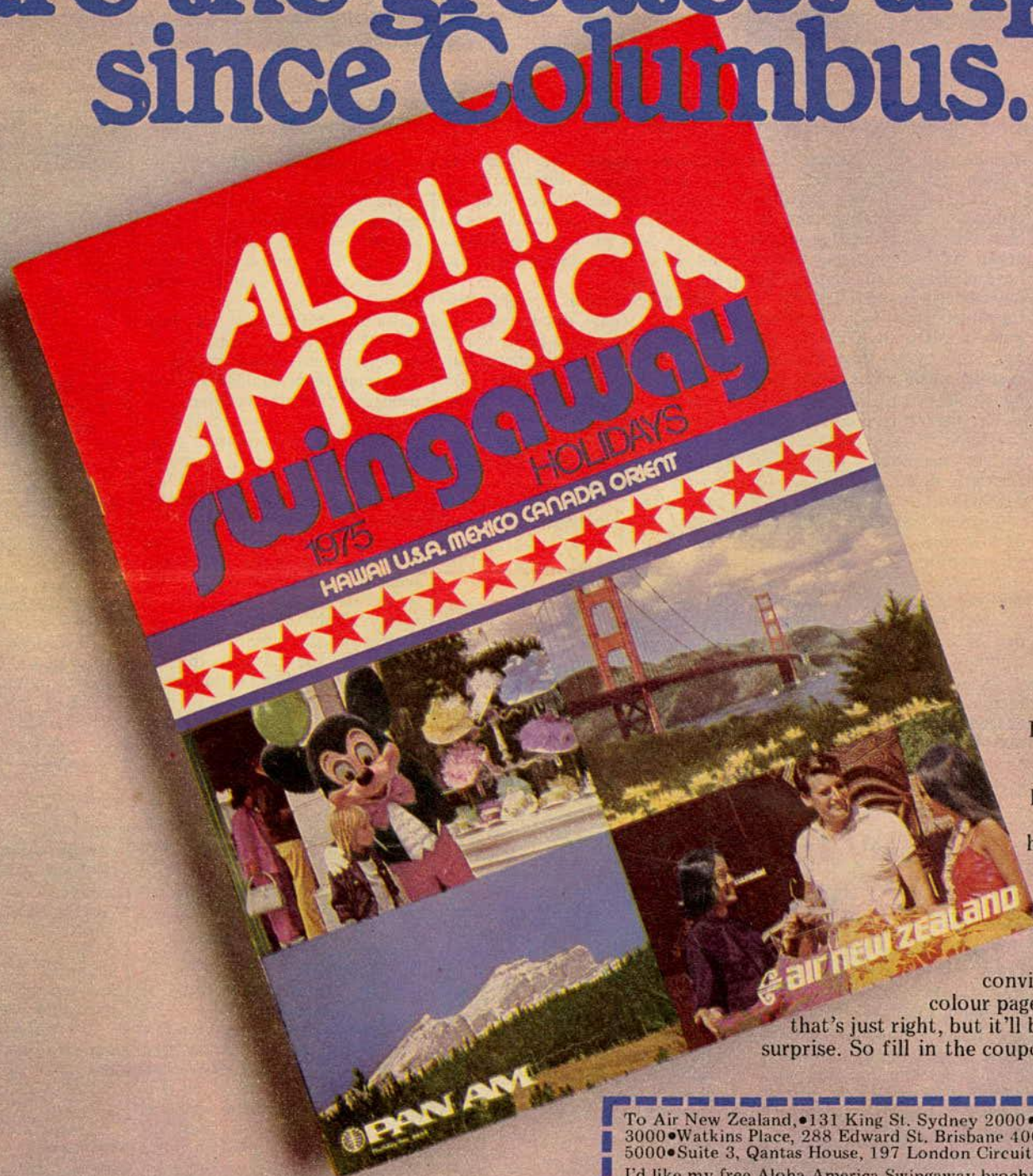
Jennifer is married to a grazier and lives mid-way between Lismore and Nimbin on a family property, with three children, three dogs, two cats, a dozen fowls and two goldfish. She writes:

It would have been a minor miracle if the people living along this beautiful Nimbin Valley had opened their hearts immediately to the strange influx of people seeking an "alternative culture".

The 32km road from Lismore to Nimbin has seen a wide range of traffic since my husband's parents came to live here during the 1930s.

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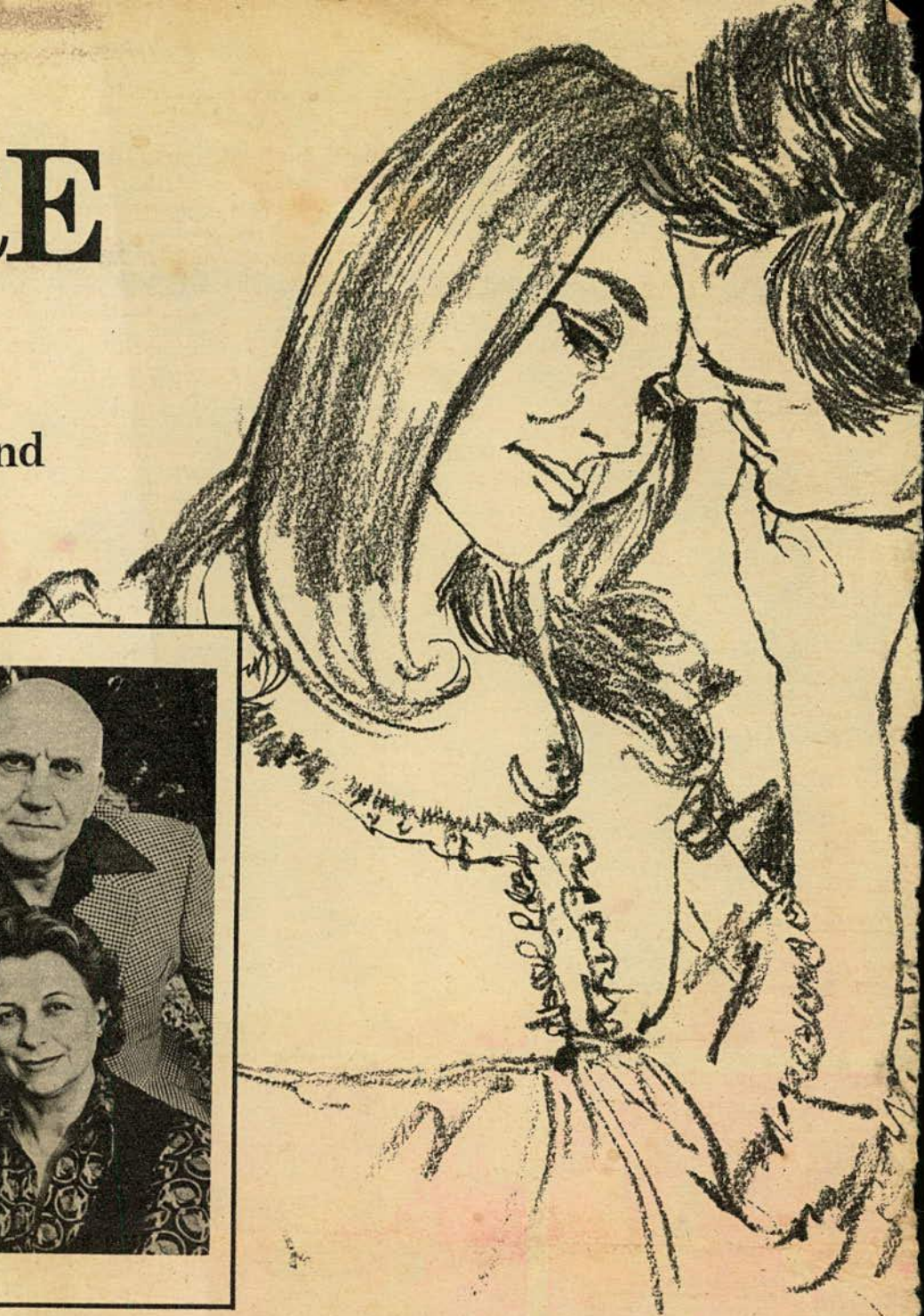
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THE PLEASURE BOND

By WILLIAM H. MASTERS and VIRGINIA E. JOHNSON

Dr William H. Masters and Virginia E. Johnson have long been recognised as the world's foremost authorities on human sexual patterns and problems, through their medical textbooks and their work at the Reproductive Biology Research Foundation in St Louis, Missouri, USA. Their two earlier books, "Human Sexual Response" and "Human Sexual Inadequacy", both runaway best-sellers, were hailed as the most probing studies of sexual behaviour since the Kinsey Report. They are co-directors of the clinic in St Louis, where they provide treatment for couples with severe problems and train therapists and counsellors.



PART 1: Spotlight on young marriages – to show how sexual problems begin and how they can be prevented

Dr William H. Masters and Virginia E. Johnson decided some time ago to get groups of young couples together for informal discussions on sex and marriage. Their aim was preventive counselling: they felt that accurate information and expert advice on minor sex problems in the early years of marriage could prevent many major problems occurring later.

The first discussion group was conducted with five couples who had been married two years or less. Muriel and Sam Gordon, both 24 years old, had been married a year. Muriel was a copywriter at an advertising agency and Sam was taking a university course in sociology. The Jamesons, Nancy and Ted, had been married for two years and had a 10-months-old daughter. Ted, who was 27, was a life insurance salesman; his wife, who was 25, worked as a teacher until the birth of their child. Charles and Jean Gallagher, 26 and 25 respectively, had been married for 18 months. They worked for two different publishing houses, he as an editor and she as a

secretary. Peter Stillman, 31, and his wife, Sheila, 24, had been married for almost two years. Peter was a dentist and Sheila attended art school. Harold and June Snyder had been married for a little more than a year. He was 26, a telephone technician; his wife was a year younger and worked in a bookshop. **BILL MASTERS:** For a number of years Mrs Johnson and I have been interested in counselling young couples. In our experience, however, premarital discussions almost always centre on contraceptive methods. Making this information available is useful and important, but we found that it did not enable us to move towards our primary goal —

learning how to help couples avoid sexual problems wherever possible. Obviously it is better to prevent a problem than to treat it after it has become acute enough to keep a marriage from developing in a healthy, harmonious way. So we hit upon the idea that there might be more value in discussions with couples who have been married from six months to two years or so.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: After they have experienced some of the pleasures of living together — and some of the wear and tear.

BILL MASTERS: In a relatively new marriage it's natural that a number of questions should arise. How do we compare with other people? What kinds of behaviour are matters of choice? How can we handle particular problems? Unfortunately, it isn't easy to get frank and reliable answers. There are taboo areas, subjects that some people believe shouldn't be discussed. Therefore it's hardly surprising

that the commonest cause of marital incompatibility is simply misinformation. Well, we don't have any taboo areas here today. Ask any questions you wish; we'll answer them if we can. Who would like to begin? Or are you all experts?

JUNE SNYDER: Is there any good way to say, "I don't feel like it," aside from the old headache routine?

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: I'm afraid there is no magic formula, but it may help to keep some considerations in mind. Two persons are involved, and it's important for each to become aware of the other partner's needs. If you really don't feel like it because physically or emotionally you feel incapable of responding, say so. But say so with love and not rejection.

The situation, after all, is inevitable. Two human beings with different needs, different moods, a different sense of timing — it simply isn't possible for the two of you to find your desires always dovetailing perfectly. But how can the two of you

reconcile those differences in a spirit of love?

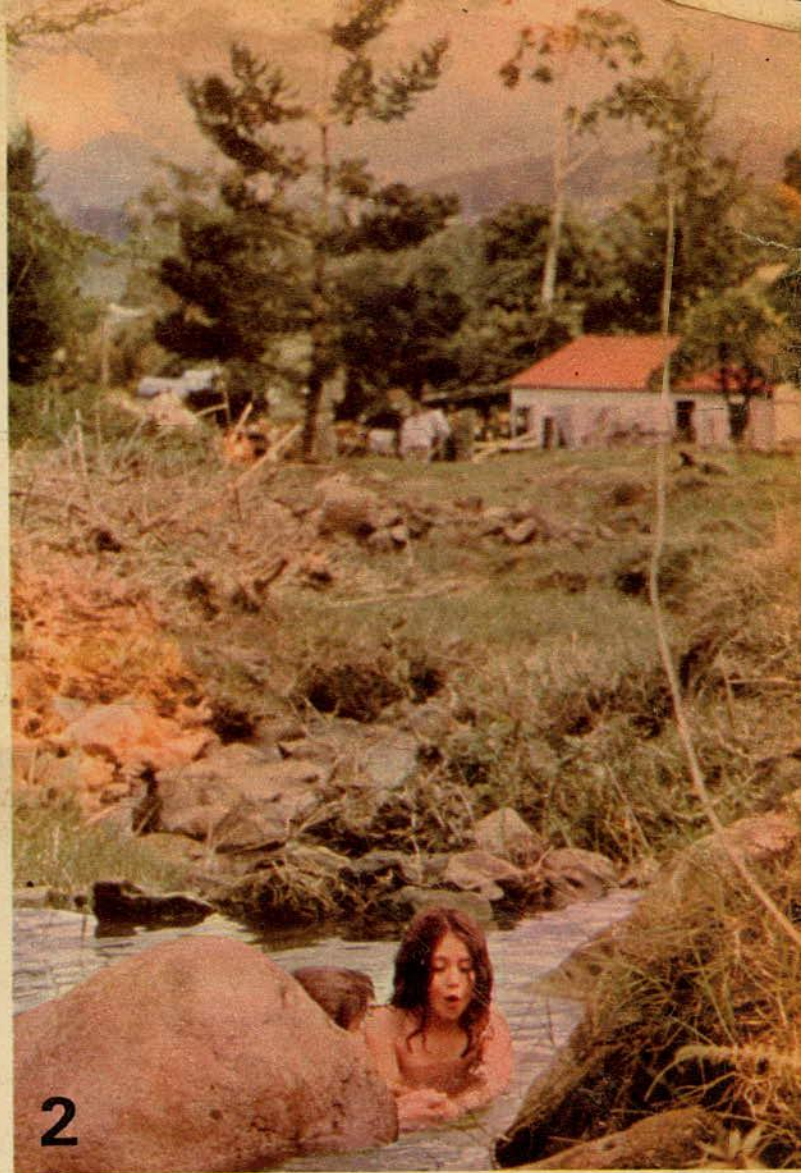
It depends less on what you say in any particular situation than it does on the climate of your marriage. If most of your sex experiences with your husband have been good ones, if you have let him know that you as a woman enjoy him as a man, then he should be able to handle the disappointment of an occasional no without feeling rejected.

BILL MASTERS: We would hope that a wife would understand a similar response on her husband's part.

HAROLD SNYDER: It's not what you say, it's the way that you say it.

JUNE SNYDER: It's not what you say, it's the way that you say it.

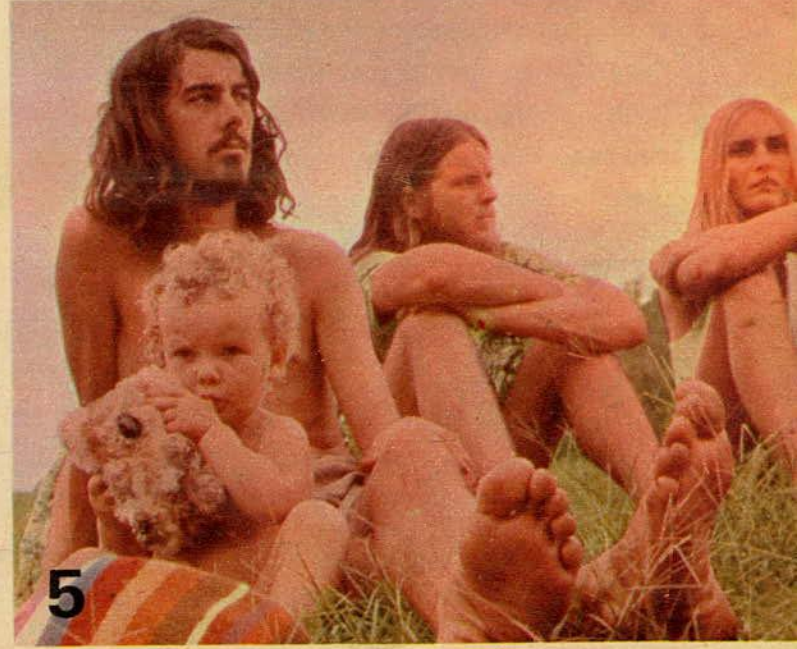
VIRGINIA JOHNSON: Both, really, isn't it? Communication and there's a way often this after now I'd like that lies behind how to



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from a local farmer. George engraves glass; Helene is an artist.
 5. Some of the commune members at a fortnightly "tribal meeting". Here, everybody helps to make the decisions with one vote to each person.
 6. Why hurry, why worry? This is the Tomato Sauce Food Co-op in Nimbin's Main Street, where Benny Zable (centre), artist and dancer from Melbourne, chats with 57-year-old "new" local, Gerhard and with a visitor (in green and yellow shirt). Portraits at left of picture show the influence of Eastern spiritualist



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NIMBIN: So far the cop has not had to arrest anyone

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decisions, and how far one can carry individual freedom without creating discordant feelings, is an issue that might well make or break Nimbin.

Any one of any age or background is welcome to join, provided he or she agrees to abide by the few simple laws.

Dudley Turner, land warden for the Tuntale Falls Co-op, said to me: "Why should senior citizens sit and vegetate in old people's homes? We've got plenty of land here for gardens, as well as many visitors with new ideas. We don't have the time to get lonely or bored from lack of stimulation."

In Dudley's comfortable hand-built stone house he prepared lunch for us. The bulk of the food came straight from his large organic garden. "I can easily live very well here on \$3 a week."

Another older member of the Tuntale community is "Lantana Jack", a vigorous man of 50 whose real name is Jack Starr.

Jack earned his nickname "Lantana" after he alone cleared away, by hand, more than 1 hectare of overgrown lantana scrub to become the founder of one of the first village hamlets, now known as Lantana Island.

A master gardener, he and a group of young members of Lantana Island have one of the most complete gardens on the commune, including orchards in which avocados and almond trees grow.

Crafts people

Some of the young commune members are crafts people, like Sol and Diane. They used to live in Melbourne, selling leather handbags to fashionable shops. Competition became stiff, and they also began to get disgusted with selling purses for \$20 and later seeing them on sale for \$80. Now they sell at \$20 clear and avoid the middle man.

As yet, council housing codes have not been devised to cover the A-frame, wigwam or dome-style houses being put together for a few hundred dollars.

The local council building inspector provides a great deal of technical information, and nothing is done without his approval. In this way the new people of Nimbin have avoided having their homes bulldozed as they have been in another district, Mullumbimby, further north, where a lot of young people are living their own life.

In Nimbin, some commune members who have not reached a self-sufficient level are helped out by local townspeople who need odd jobs done, such as painting, decorating, or help on farms.

24 WOMAN'S DAY, June 9, 1975

Others return annually to the cities to work for a few months for an income which tides them over for the rest of the year in "good old Nimbin".

The fact that money, as a possession, is not important in the new Nimbin is one of the clues to the apparent success of the experiment. Very little money is exchanged. Most things that commune members can't produce themselves are acquired by barter.

Bartering is simple when you live off the land, grow your own fruit and vegetables, make your own clothes. Not only food and craft work, but also services, such as massages, or therapy, are exchanged for goods.

The most surprising of all the surprising things about Nimbin is the way in which co-operation and "brotherhood" are genuinely displacing the need for law enforcement, and other orders.

Conservation

Such rules as no soap in the creek, no cars or motor-cycles on the property and the cutting of timber limited to that essential for building materials, are preventing the natural flora and fauna from being disturbed too much.

Because illegal drugs are at a minimum on the commune there have been no harassing police searches of commune members.

The Nimbin cop thought he was going to have his hands full, but so far he has not had to arrest anyone, and the new Nimbins are very proud of this.

I don't think Australian mothers and fathers need be too concerned when their children grab a rucksack and inform their parents that they are "hitching up north to the commune".

Weeks, or perhaps months, later most of them will return home, probably having become devout vegetarians. They will begin mysteriously re-cycling kitchen and table scraps for organic compost. Around the dinner table they will bring up strange topics, such as fasting, yoga, meditation, and "geodesic domes".

After the meal they will drink something like alfalfa, mint, raspberry or camomile tea. And if little brother falls down they will probably put comfrey ointment or honey on his skinned knee.

One thing is certain. Anyone who visits Nimbin, even for a short while, will return home with a different attitude towards nature, his environment, and most importantly, to his fellow man.

Nimbin is not the only developing commune or co-operative in Australia. There are others: Mullumbimby and Bellingen in New South Wales; Castlemaine and Shepparton in Victoria; Nambour in Queensland; one in Manjimup, Western Australia, and another in Meander, Tasmania.

This kind of decentralisation might even work, because the only people who go to these areas are those who are really interested, and those who stay only do so because they have found the life they want. Perhaps, one day, Australia will no longer be the most urbanised country in the world.

The Pleasure Bond

WAYS OF COMMUNICATING WITHOUT WORDS

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can put that problem aside for now by simply assuming that when either partner approaches the other under mutually acceptable circumstances, sexual function will follow. If it doesn't, then the greatest mistake in the world is for either partner to persist and force the issue or to feel rejected. You should always let your partner know if you're in the mood. Always. Provided that you remain sensitive to your partner's responses, you can't ask too much. You can ask too little.

NANCY JAMESON: If two people are timid, or one of the two is, don't you think they should surge forth and try something different anyway? Because then they'll sort of feel better for having tried it even though at the time it may not have seemed such a good idea.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: Well, Nancy, I don't think they should grit their teeth and close their eyes and say, "I will, I will, I will!" But on the other hand, it seems desirable for a couple to want to experiment together, to move towards experiences that will enrich their relationship.

BILL MASTERS: Such an approach can open up an incredible spectrum of sexual responsiveness.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: But don't expect to like everything. Don't expect everything to represent you —

BILL MASTERS: Not only shouldn't you expect that, but for heaven's sake don't reject something you haven't even tried, saying, "I know I won't like it." Or don't turn away after you've tried it only once — that's a big mistake. You have no idea what you're going to like or dislike until you've had some experience.

PETER STILLMAN: Is there any such thing as normalcy in sexual relationships? Or is it up to the individuals and whatever they're comfortable with?

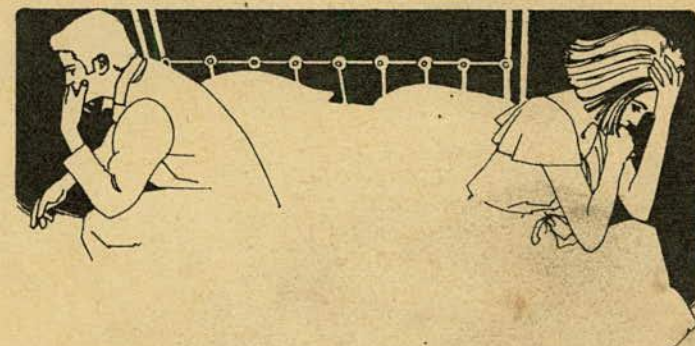
BILL MASTERS: Our basic concept is that any sexual practice taking place in private between consenting adults is acceptable. And by "consent" we don't mean in writing or anything like that. Mutual consent implies that the practice is mutually enhancing, mutually pleasurable or does not occur at either partner's expense.

SHEILA STILLMAN: But what do you do if you know that your partner would like to try something new and yet it makes you feel uptight?

BILL MASTERS: Why do you feel uptight?

SHEILA STILLMAN: Well, maybe just because you've never done it before.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: Can't it be, perhaps, because you're afraid of being graceless or tasteless? You see, with sex we can't suddenly start something new and strange just because we've heard about it or because our partner suggests it. Because it, then becomes something to be done, an act to be performed



instead of a moment to be experienced.

Sex, after all, should be a spontaneous expression of your personality, how you feel at a particular moment. To turn it into a performance, as something with a goal, where you start here and do this, this and this on some kind of checklist, is to lose the capacity to express your most private self. Instead of making your goal to perform with grace and good taste, make it to be yourself: "I'm me, I feel a little scared and foolish, but I'd like to know what other experiences are like." That's the first line of communication — if you're not in touch with yourself, you can't be in touch with anyone else.

But once you're aware of your thoughts and feelings, let your partner know them. If you're afraid, say so. Perhaps together you can discover what you are afraid of and why, and perhaps your partner can help you find ways of overcoming your fears gradually. Then, as you move along the way, you will be acting in accordance with your feelings, not in spite of them. And in time you should be able to include this new facet of experience in your love-making.

SHEILA STILLMAN: Sometimes it's hard to get the words out.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: But there are so many easy, simple ways to communicate without words! A touch, a glance, a sound, can say a great deal.

CHARLES GALLAGHER: A sigh is as good as a paragraph.

JEAN GALLAGHER: If your husband listens!

BILL MASTERS: It's important to understand that this interaction between husband and wife, this spoken or unspoken communication, is crucial to sexual stimulation. There are two basic sources of stimulation.

When you approach your partner and please her with a touch, the greatest reward that comes to you is her pleasure in the approach you took. Her pleasure, communicated to you, stimulates you sexually; both sources bring you pleasure. Fundamentally if you think of any technique of sexual approach as a giving of yourself to get back from your partner —

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: It's a delightfully selfish thing!

BILL MASTERS: — it becomes very self-centred. And a moment's reflection should make clear that orgasm itself, male or female, is entirely a self-centred I-me proposition.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: Because at that moment you are totally involved with your own experiences. But such self-realisation is a real compliment to your partner, of course, since your pleasure has been produced by the relationship between you.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON: It helps to share the experience if you talk about it together afterwards. You don't have to intellectualise it to death. But a little descriptive communication of what it was like will help your husband associate that with what he himself felt and observed. And the next time he may be more sensitive, more aware of your responses, and he'll know what he needs to know. That's how you develop your own private signal system, your own way of communicating without words. Then when you're caught up in that self-centred moment, when you're subjectively enjoying your own experience — as you should be — your partner can share your pleasure and be stimulated by it.

NANCY JAMESON: When you were talking about the I-me, selfish sort of relationship, I just didn't understand. I don't think it's that way at all. I don't think it's a case of "I'm going to please my husband so I can get pleased." Don't you believe that one person can really be trying to please the other?


BILL MASTERS: Certainly. But let me clarify something here. We were not talking about an I-me relationship. And we weren't talking about sex play either. We were talking of the actual orgasmic experience only. That is an I-me situation.

SAM GORDON: Words seem to be getting in our way. When we talk of giving of ourselves to get something back from our partners, it sounds like back-scratching: "I'll do this for you if you'll do that for me." It sounds conditional. But I don't think you mean it that way. My giving is unconditional. My giving is my pleasure. I am not giving because I expect my wife to give something back; I am giving because I get sexual pleasure from it. Is that what you mean?

BILL MASTERS: Exactly. Still, the issue involved is that while the entire mode of sexual stimulation certainly is one of giving, the fact remains that as you are giving, you are also receiving pleasure.

SAM GORDON: I see. Because if I weren't, I would eventually

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A man with curly brown hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, is smiling and looking down at a small, dark, fluffy animal he is holding in his hands. A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white dress with a floral pattern and dark buttons, is looking up at him with a smile. They are standing in front of a wooden fence. The scene is outdoors, with some foliage visible in the background.

I'd always seen him as the formal type. Until one afternoon when he took me for a stroll.

He showed me the pond where he used to catch frogs.

And the cave in the hill that he'd filled with all his treasures.

And it was then, in the orchard where he had picked green apples, that he asked me to marry him.

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Photographed for De Beers by Chantal Wolff.

Two years after the Aquarius Festival...

EVERYONE'S DOING THEIR OWN THING IN THE 'NEW' NIMBIN

Many hopeful utopias have been created, and many abandoned. A recent one was the attempt by a number of Australians to create a new and better life for themselves in Nimbin, a township on the North Coast of New South Wales.

In 1973, when droves of strange newcomers arrived in the quiet dairying district, the "old" locals were startled, and the odds on the "new" locals lasting very long in their communes weren't high.

But so far, the new Nimbin has survived. How? And why?

American John Lindblad, a young freelance writer and photographer, tells the fascinating story of what he found when he visited Nimbin recently during a 56,000 kilometre journey around Australia, for the past two years, collecting material for his book *Alternative Lifestyles in Australia*. This is John's story, accompanied by his photographs.

I was standing in the middle of the largest commune in Nimbin.

Nimbin is beautiful. Around me, mountains on all sides enclosed the lush countryside in which small "new Nimbin" hamlets were marked by their huge, flourishing vegetable gardens.

Near me ran the wide and clear creek. Wild flowers, birds, banana groves enhanced the scene. In the distance the towering rain forest began. In it some of the newcomers to Nimbin choose to live quite alone, calling themselves "free foresters". There is room in Nimbin for all types.

Here are a few comments from several different newcomers.

"You know," Mrs John Smith, 32, told me, "when you can buy potatoes and pumpkin for 6c a pound, a pint of cooking oil for 59c, and a pound of butter or a dozen freshly laid range eggs for 45c, it makes life a lot easier while you're raising a family."

She and her husband sold their house in Brisbane recently and, with their three children, moved 112km south to Nimbin.

Said Dudley Turner, 63, and retired from the Australian Army, "The water here is so sweet and pure you can drink it straight from the creek."

"Man," young, long-haired Trevor Davis remarked, "it has sure been a lot easier to make it on this land with the help of the local farmers. They're a wealth of information."

Making it on the land, in simplistic fashion, reflects the spirit of the new Nimbin, of which Trevor Davis is the public relations officer.

Like all the commune homes in Nimbin, his didn't cost much; yet it is attractive. Trevor lives in a shingled dome built with wood offcuts from the local timber mill. He put it up himself with the help of friends, and instructions from *The Dome Book*, published in America.

The day before I had come into Nimbin on one of the Roadrunner tourist buses from

the Gold Coast. The coach rambled along the unpaved roads and I gazed with as much surprise as its other occupants at the new shops gaily decorated in psychedelic patterns which stood among the old-style businesses.

In them we found we could buy goods which wouldn't even have been seen in Nimbin two years ago: tri-coloured hand-dipped candles, hand woven shawls, pottery, jewellery and leatherwork, all made by artists and craftsmen who have been moving into the area.

Two years ago this little township near Lismore, NSW, saw its population of 300 swell to more than 10,000 during the 10-day Aquarius Arts Festival.

Life and energy

The festival was the brain-child of Johnny Allen, at that time Cultural Director of the Australian Union of Students, which staged the event in a bid to re-cycle shrinking country towns, put life and energy back into non-urban Australia and encourage decentralisation.

Johnny Allen believes that civilisation is at a crisis point right here in Australia. He also believes that the only people who really want to decentralise are those who enjoy living and working close to the land.

Without such people we are in danger of becoming one vast, horrifying suburbia. (At present only 3 per cent of Australians provide food for the other 97 per cent through primary industry.)

By the time the 1973 festival closed some of the visitors had begun to take Johnny Allen's ideas seriously, and they remained to start a new communal, pastoral life in which land would be available cheaply to all those who wished to live simply and to cultivate the land.

A lot of the locals weren't too keen at that time about these goings on, and a lot of the publicity about the new Nimbin was bad. But things have simmered down now.

Although thousands of sight-seers have continued to visit the town over the past two years, the permanent population is still only about 800, but there is a feeling of vigour and vitality, hope for the future, in the air.

When the festival closed it was found that the people who had been walking off their dairy farms in favour of better wages and an "easier life" in the city were being replaced with people from cities who were eager to escape to the simple life.

Some of the new residents were smiling, young, dressed in flared, embroidered jeans, brightly coloured shirts, new gumboots, and wearing their hair shoulder length.

Some were young school-teachers and art teachers with fresh educational ideas. Others who came, and stayed because they liked it in Nimbin, were middle-aged, even elderly people fed up with rush-hour traffic snarls, unrewarding 9 to 5 jobs, pollution and sky-rocketing city rents and prices.

Some were pensioners, like 76-year-old Alf Trimmer, disabled World War I veteran, who makes artefacts and paints Aboriginal portraits. (He decorated the Sydney Town Hall for the 1956 visit of the Queen to Australia.)

It is this leavening of the older generation which has encouraged original residents of the area to feel less apprehensive about the invasion of their town.

Both residents and visitors can now take advantage of the availability of newly arrived naturopaths, osteopaths, acupuncturists, masseuses, herbalists, psychic healers, as alternatives to the more orthodox health care supplied by the local doctor and Nimbin cottage hospital.

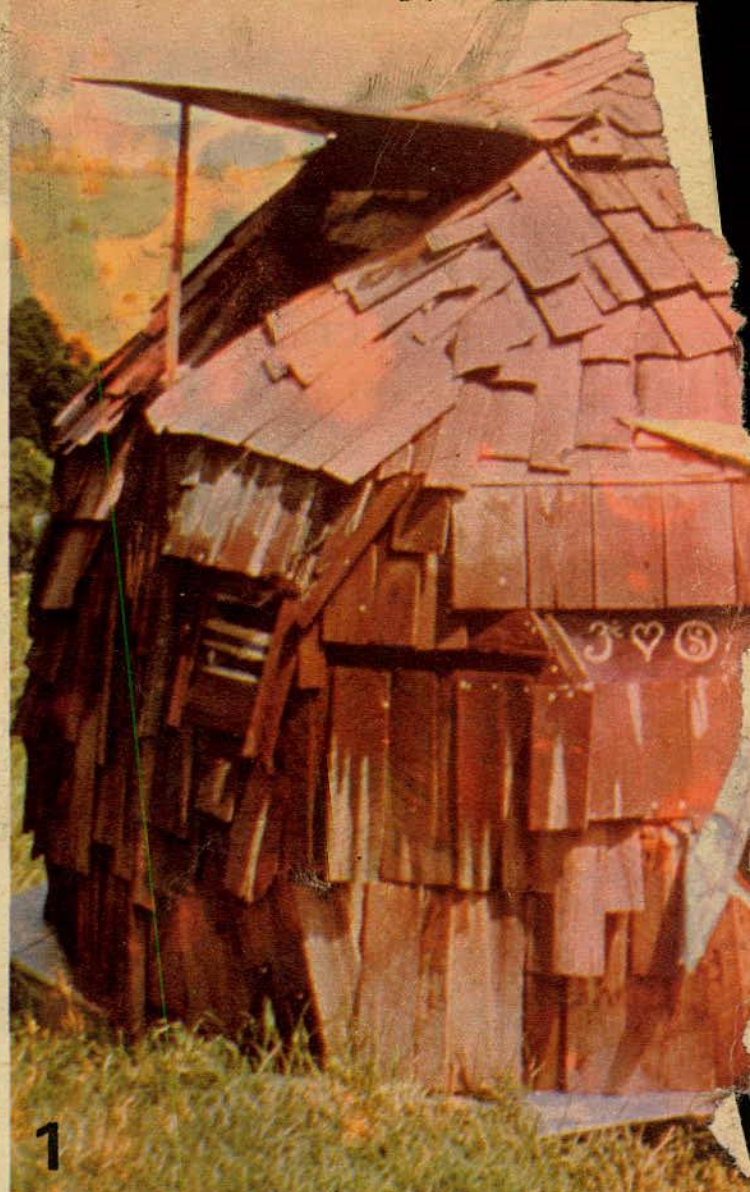
Culture and philosophy have come to Nimbin, too. Weekend art exhibitions present paintings, prints and etchings, photography and craft work.

During the week housewives can take a welcome break from day-to-day chores by attending yoga groups, or the creative dancing classes of the well-known Melbourne artist and dancer Benny Zable.

Ken Armstrong, a preacher in the Nimbin parish, is having his view of life and theology broadened through exposure to newer, freer ideologies.

The old Rainbow Cafe is Nimbin's new makeshift cinema which shows experimental and classic films. Also at the cafe local Nimbin mothers are becoming almost as well informed as the new Nimbin mothers on health diets and vegetarian recipes.

The cafe is non-profit-making now, having been purchased from the town by the 500-member Tuntale Falls Co-



operative Land Commune.

The local baker is catering adventurously for taste buds that demand meatless lentil pies, wholegrain tassajara bread and fruit rolls.

It's mostly the young visitors who are strict vegetarians. They are getting into the ethical question of eating animals and are also concerned that meat these days might contain cancer-causing chemicals.

Today Nimbin has lots of young children. As well as the family groups who arrive seeking something less harassing than the life they've been used to, there are a number of unmarried or deserted mothers who can live cheaply on their allowances.

The qualified schoolteachers are setting up a progressive free school and plans have also been initiated to establish day-care centres.

There is a large communal library which has one of the most comprehensive collections of books and reading material I have ever seen. A lot of these books have been left in Nimbin by people passing through.

Mainly communes

There is a new *Nimbin Daily*, and a learning exchange and information centre in which the events of the day are posted up.

The recent arrivals are even attending the town meetings in large numbers, and some occupy seats on the Nimbin Progress Association.

The settlement is mainly made up of communes. The largest is the Tuntale Falls Co-operative

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1. The more versatile you are, the better you get on in a commune! Trevor Davis, public relations officer of the new Nimbin, built his home with offcuts from the local timber mill.

2. A clear stream, a blue sky, blissful peace and

... the daughter of American photographer Douglas splashes her father's favourite

3. Wild-haired Benny Zable leads his creative dance while improvising flute music chim recorded sound.

4. Helene and G came from Perth 7. children, work garden on land 1'

'NORMIE IS MORE REAL THAN BAZZA MCKENZIE'

Says his creator Bob Hudson
(who also came top
of his class in English)

By HEATHER KENNEDY

THE NEWCASTLE SONG

CHORUS

Don't you ever let a chance go by, oh Lord,
Don't you ever let a chance go by...

Anyway, there was this mob of blokes driving down Hunter Street in the front seat of their hot FJ with chrome-plated grease nipples and twin overhead foxtails.

And the coolest of them all — who got to sit near the window — was young Norm.

They pulled up outside the Parthenon milk bar — all of you who've ever been to Newcastle have probably had a thickshake at the Parthenon milk bar... it's right next door to the Chop Me Out Chinese restaurant...

And standing outside the Parthenon was this beautiful looking sheila...

"OooooooooooooOoo!!!" said young Normie who'd come top of his class in English... "Ooooooooooooooh!" he said... so he leaned out the window, and he said real suave like... he said, er, "Gday... where ya going... d'you do it... Oooooooooo."

And she smiled at him and just as she was about to say "Oooo... Jeeze..." — this nine foot tall Hell's Angel came out of the Parthenon milk bar!

And Normie's mates said "NORM!!!"

Now Norm was no fool, he knew straight away who they were talking to...

Copyright: Leeds Music Pty Ltd. From the LP album released by M7 Records.

Bob Hudson is a smallish, palish, pleasant person. He has a nice wide mouth and he can be very funny. He used to be a school teacher. Then he was a psychiatric nurse.

Now he is one of the biggest names in Australian show business, regretfully knocking back concert offers by the dozen because he simply doesn't have the time to handle them. There is an innocence about him that suggests he doesn't know that he threatens Barry Humphries, but he's been quoted as saying, "I don't want to be famous — I just want to be rich", so maybe he's not so naive.

Hudson is the creator of "young Norm", the hero of the gently satiric *Newcastle Song*, a ballad that rocketed into the Top 40, hit the number one spot all over Australia and stayed there. (The words of the song are above.)

Normie has become almost a folk hero already. He is also the star of a new comic strip run in Sydney, Perth and Brisbane Sunday newspapers, drawn by Brendan Ackhurst and written by Hudson.

"Normie's being developed as a character," Hudson says. "There's been a bit of talk about a television show, so we might do that, too, to launch Normie to the world."

Normie and his friends have already found their way into the Australian trendy vernacular, and "Wot are yer?" and references to hot FJs and the Parthenon Milk Bar, with suitable tonal emphasis, enjoyed brief fame as fashionable things to say at dinner parties.

More enduring has been the pleasure derived by everybody else out of *The Newcastle Song*. Initially it was one track on an LP built around the theme of a young boy growing up in a country town, and Hudson feels the scene would be immediately recognisable to anybody who had lived in either a country town or an outer city suburb in the late 1950s and early '60s, and had gone out on any summer evening. Or any other night of the year.

Hudson, who's now 28, says that the song works on different people different ways, but "it seems to bring up feelings of nostalgia in people as much as anything else".

Hudson says, too, "I've always been fascinated by the unanswerable questions, 'Wot are ya?' 'Ya want a go, mate?' Someone tells you to get lost. What do you say? Normie would probably say, 'Get lost yerself'. That's his idea of really subtle wit."

"Normie's somebody everyone's been able to identify with. Everyone's known somebody like him."

Hudson says that although he was actually "a bit brighter and more articulate than Normie in my younger days" he knew about filling the car with guys and taking it out to cruise the main street. "It was the questing for adventure stage — cruising up and down, looking for adventure. You didn't know what it was going to be, maybe you were going to meet a girl, you didn't really know, you only knew something was going to happen one day."

"Also, there was nothing else to do. Evening cruising was a big thing."

The culmination of years of work

Mr Hudson is clear-eyed and calm about *The Newcastle Song's* enormous success, doesn't expect it to stay on the top of Australia-wide hit parades for any length of time, considers himself more of a satirist than pop composer, but is pleased anyway.

"Everyone thinks, 'Here's something new and exciting', and they all say to me, 'When are you putting out a new album?' To me, making *The Newcastle Song* album was the culmination of years of work," Hudson says.

He was born and brought up in Gosford, a town some 85km north of Sydney. He says his family "is the most un-musical family in the world". He says he has heard his father sing twice in the bath, and that was enough.

Bob, like his brainchild Normie, came top of his class in English — in fact he got first class honours in English when he matriculated.

Hudson was sent to Newcastle 11 years ago to go to teachers' college. He wasn't keen about it.



Above: Bob Hudson... "clear-eyed and calm about Normie's success".
Right: Bob with his wife Kerry.

"That's the whole irony of the New South Wales Education Department," he says. "They tell the kids, 'If you lived in Russia the government would tell you where to work' — and then you find they've transferred you to Broken Hill."

"I got sent to Newcastle because somebody drew a line across the State and I was in the northern bit. My best mate, who lived three miles away from me, was in the other bit and he got sent to Sydney."

Later he spent two years teaching bookkeeping and geography in Sydney and in the Riverina, but gave it up because "I got a bit disenchanted with the education system and I wasn't so keen on living in the bush".

The next job was at Callan Park Psychiatric Centre, Sydney. "When you're moving in the sort of Bohemian set I moved in at the time, the sort of job for a semi-educated person is psychiatric nursing. Later I did straight nursing."

How did he like Callan Park?
"I loved it. Mostly because of the company — both the staff and the patients are very nice in mental hospitals."

"Oh, I've worked in locked wards, where they put the supposedly criminally insane, and nothing happened to me. Oh, I was sitting watching TV with some patients one night — that's the way patients and staff relax at mental hospitals — and this guy came up and knocked me out."

"I came to on the floor and he was looking down at me. He said, absolutely



seriously, 'God told me to do that'.

"I didn't mind that at all. It seemed to me a lot better than these people who bash people in alleys in Kings Cross."

He'd started writing and playing music when he was in his teens, and he became more involved with "the general folkie scene". A Darling Harbour office in Sydney was used as the Folk Attic at night time and he started working there. "I used to work, sing, make coffee and do all those assisting things. We used to get 600 people there a night, all of them in duffle coats, jeans, black sweaters. That was my most nostalgic age. I really loved that."

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Wilson Park — Robinson's Lookout

2 km S-W of Lismore Post Office on Wyrallah Road, and City View Drive. Varies from red gum and bloodwood at the lookout through dry rainforest with hoop pine emergents to sub-tropical rainforest on the creek bank.

Lands Department Reserve.

Rotary Park

10 ha. 2½ km E of Lismore Post Office on highway to Ballina, just past Base Hospital. Sub-tropical rainforest though heavily disturbed and with introductions of foreign species.

Barbecues and amenities.

Lumley Park

1 ha immediately W of Alstonville on Lismore-Ballina highway. Sub-tropical rainforest. Due to its very small area, this park is unlikely to retain its genetic identity, and has in any case been drastically altered from the original.

Boatharbour

17 ha. 6 km E/N-E of Lismore on Bangalow Road. Pepperberry-fig association on flood-prone soil with a classical three-storeyed structure, but somewhat modified.

Recreation Reserve with picnic facilities.

Big Scrub

196 ha. 20 km N of Lismore on Gibbergunyah Range Road at south edge of Whian Whian State Forest. Black bean — purple cherry — white booyong — red cedar association. The largest remnant of the Big Scrub, it is now a flora reserve but was selectively logged for black bean and red cedar in the 1950's.

Turn off is third left north of Dunoon, sign-posted Rocky Creek Dam.

Minyon Falls Picnic Area

25 km N-E of Lismore on edge of Whian Whian State Forest. 120 m falls into sub-tropical rainforest of palm — white booyong association.

Picnic facilities with walking trails provided by the Forestry Commission. Access from Lismore to Mullumbimby Road, signposted.

Boomerang Falls

9 ha. 20 km N/N-E of Lismore. Access by track off road from Dunoon to Goonengerry. At base of falls, warm temperate rainforest with sub-tropical black bean association below, including large red and yellow carabeen, strangler figs, and white booyong. Flora Reserve.

Booyong

13 ha. 18 km E/N-E of Lismore, 5 km south of Bangalow Road. Sub-tropical white booyong association on flood-prone land, contains more soft-fruited species, some unusually large specimens. Recreation Reserve.

Johnson's Scrub

20 ha. 9 km W of Bangalow, 2 km S-W of Eureka. From ridgetop to Cooper's Creek covers four associations, 80 tree species. The eastern section has never been logged. The lower slopes carry excellent black bean association.

Byron Shire Council Reserve. Access 200 metres across a paddock from gravel road. Freehold.

Hayter's Hill

7.5 ha in two fragments, one of white booyong association, the other hoop pine association. Although unusually rich in species, these areas were heavily logged and have dense impenetrable understoreys under smaller regrowth trees. On private property, 4 km from the sea on Byron Bay to Bangalow road.

Victoria Park

8 ha. 16 km S-E of Lismore, 8 km S of Alstonville, to west of Wardell Road, overlooking Tuckean Swamp.

White booyong association of sub-tropical species.

Site of N.P.W.S. rainforest regeneration project, on formerly cleared land adjacent. Nature Reserve.

Davis Scrub

13 ha. 15 km E/S-E of Lismore, 4 km N of Victoria Park adjoining cemetery. 82 tree species in black bean association, including many red bean and purple cherry. It may remain conjectural whether this or Victoria Park is more typical of the flora of the former Big Scrub. Nature Reserve.

Broken Head

40 ha. 6 km S of Byron Bay on Seven Mile Beach Road. Coastal sub-tropical rainforest on steep slopes. Rocky headlands and secluded beaches.

Nature Reserve with Caravan Park.

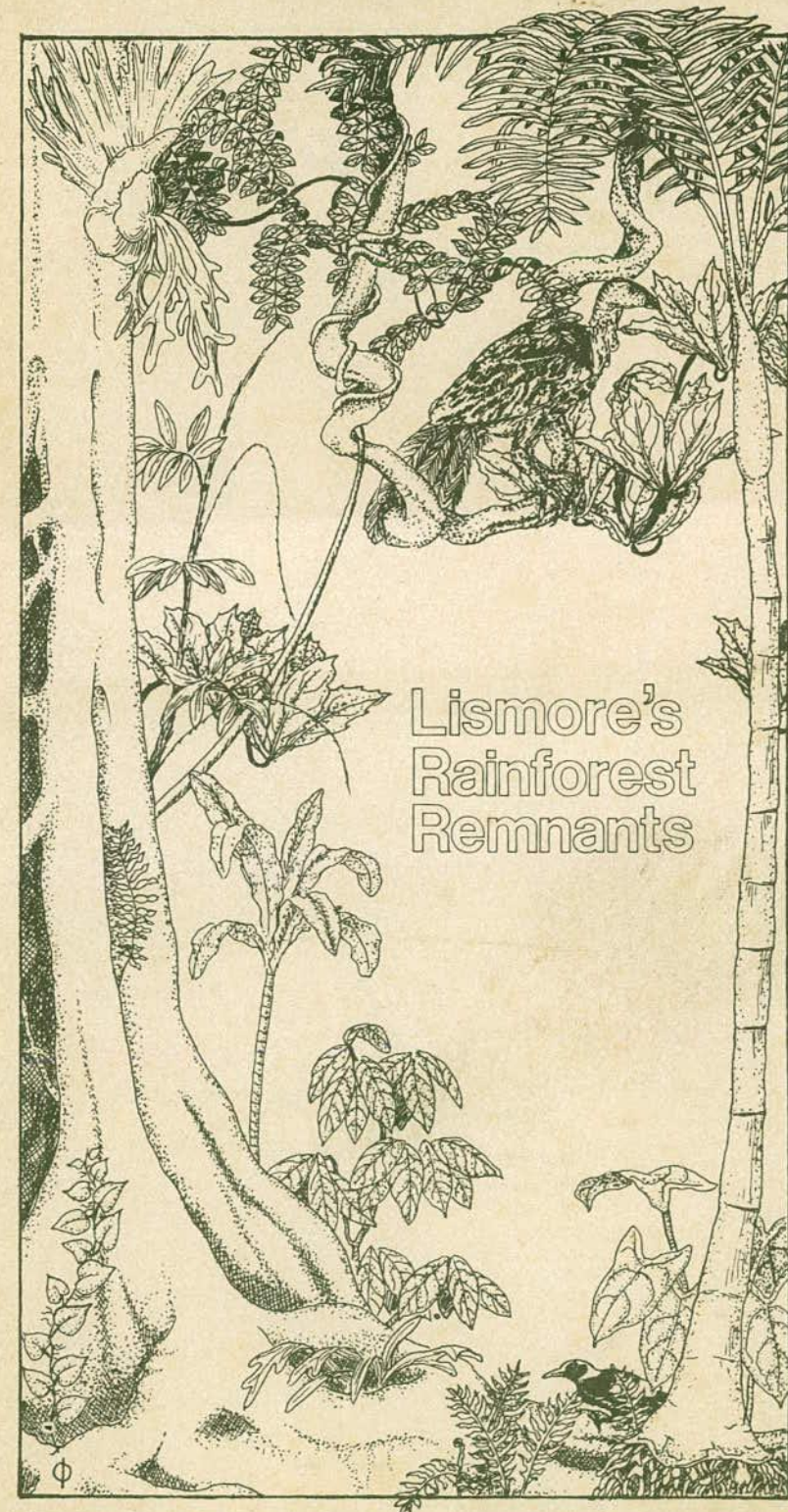
In visiting any of these places, please avoid damage to plants, trees, earth, rock and wildlife. Leave pets at home.

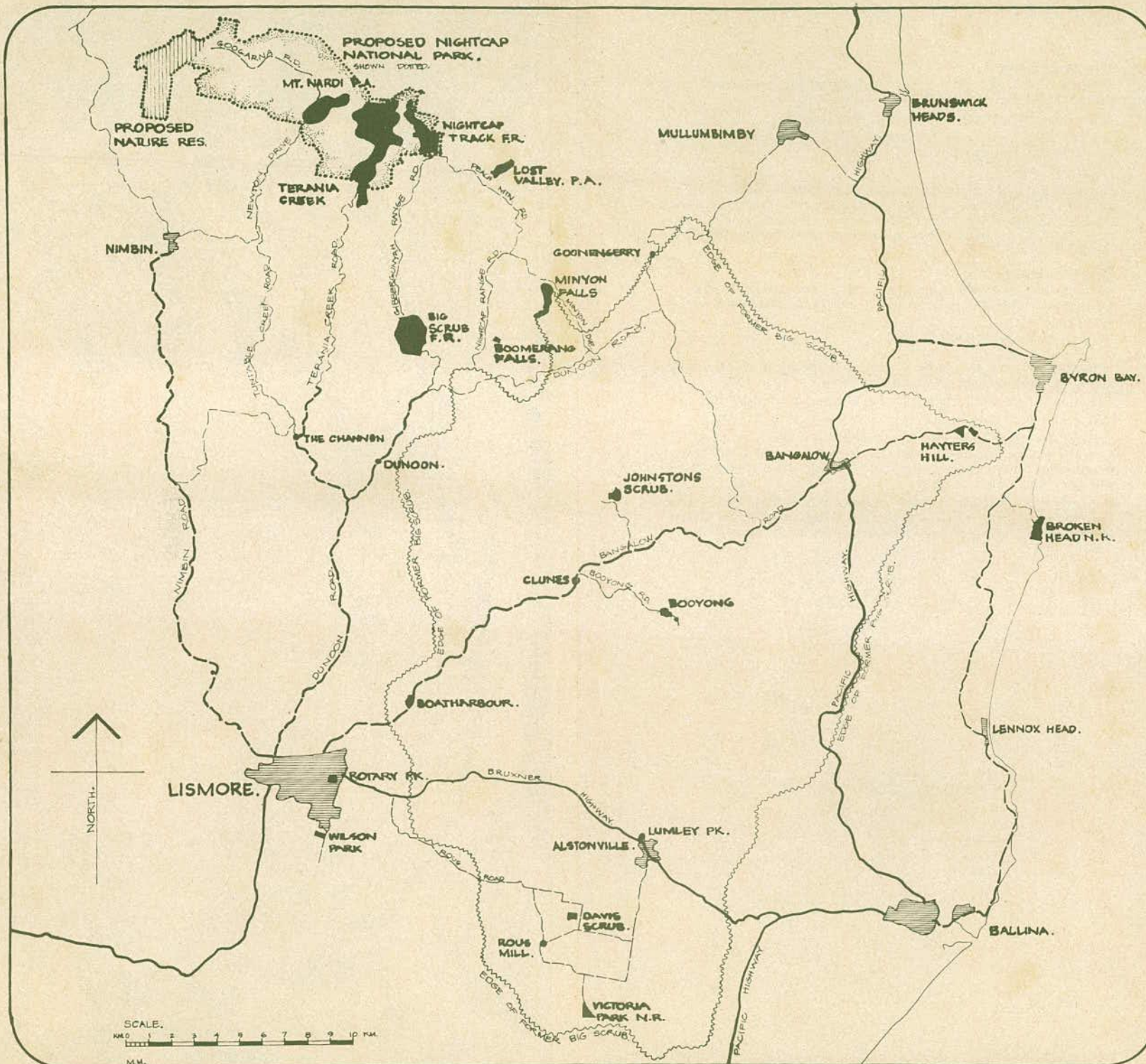
"Take nothing but photographs; leave nothing but footprints."

Guard against all risks of fire.

Unmetalled forest roads are best avoided in wet weather. Drive carefully and be prepared to give way to large vehicles. If going to remote areas, it would be wise to tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

For further information or more copies of this leaflet, please contact The Rainforest Information Centre, cnr. Bridge and Terania Streets, North Lismore, or telephone Lismore Tourist Information Centre (066) 21 1519.





THE BIG SCRUB

The Big Scrub, or Red Scrub, occupied most of the area between Lismore, the Nightcap Range, and the sea. Its size is estimated at between 750,000 and 800,000 ha. Today only these fragments remain.

The largest local rainforest remaining is on Goonimbah State Forest, and although this was not thought of by the early settlers as a part of the Big Scrub, many of the species are the same.

Of this area, what was not rainforest was almost all eucalyptus or hardwood forest associations. Of these, almost none survive in maiden condition, except on the Nightcap Range in small inaccessible pockets.

Goonimbah Forest

3197 ha. 35 km N of Lismore via Nimbin. Main access Googarna Forest Road, turn west 1 km below TV towers. Mostly sub-tropical rainforest of booyong/carabeen association but with significant areas of original wet sclerophyll on drier ridges. A logging operation is presently in progress (August 1981). The structures at the end of Googarna Road were the launching stage of a flying-fox to Kunghur Creek used during logging for a decade after 1944. The surrounding area shows a very early stage of regeneration. The long-leaved wattles are *Acacia orites*, a species thought to have evolved on and still confined to these Border Ranges. The area is all part of the proposed Nightcap National Park. Dry weather roads.

Blue Knob

The forest west of the Sphinx Rock including Blue Knob (Mt. Burrell) is a proposed Nature Reserve. Access is by foot only, and difficult. This forest area, due to its inaccessibility, has never been logged, but does reflect notable damage by cyclones in the variably dense and tangled understorey with wait-a-while vines and stinging trees.

Mt. Nardi Preserve

89 ha. 35 km N of Lismore via Nimbin. All weather roads. Sub-tropical rainforest of booyong/carabeen association surrounds the TV towers. Behind RTN 8 transmitter, a walking trail goes east about 2 km around Mt. Matheson, through sub-tropical rainforest, New England blackbutt and warm temperate coachwood association on the southern side of the crest of Nightcap Range. Spectacular views of Tweed Valley and Mt. Warning.

For bushwalkers, the trail extends around the rim of Terania Basin to connect with the Historic Nightcap Track.

Part of proposed Nightcap National Park.

Terania Basin

740 ha. 25 km N of Lismore at the end of Terania Creek Road, via The Channon.

Complex mosaic of forest types, ranging from the State's largest palm-booyong forest through young crabapple-coachwood with large brushbox (aged over 1200 years) emerging, to blackbutt and flooded or rose gum on higher dry slopes.

Northern part remains undisturbed. State's largest white beech. Large red cedars.

Part of proposed Nightcap National Park.

Nightcap Track

375 ha. On the historic Nightcap Track. Former horseback mail route from Lismore to the Tweed, off Gibbergunyah Range Road in Whian Whian State Forest. Warm temperate and sub-tropical rainforest blending with wet eucalypt forest in original condition.

Flora Reserve, part of proposed Nightcap National Park. Dry weather road access only.

Unique, rare or endangered species of the Nightcap

Giant tree climbing orchid
Onion cedar
Small Bolwarra
Durobby
Ribfruted Malletwood
Glossy Acronychia
Smooth Davidsonia
Corokia
Nightcap Wattle
Scrub Daphne
Filmy Ferns

Galeola foliata
Owenia cepiodora
Eupomatia bennettii
Syzygium moorei
Rhodamnia costata
Acronychia laevis
Davidsonia (undescribed)
Corakia whitiana (unique)
Acacia Orites
Phaleria chermsideana
1. *Microtrichomanes vitiense*
2. *Gonocormus saxifragoides*
3. *Selenodesmium elongatum*

There are over 200 species of birds found on the Nightcap. Of these birds 70% are dependent upon the forest for their primary habitat, need tree hollows as nests or require a mature forest. Destruction of their habitat will greatly reduce numbers, or in the case of the sensitive and endangered species risk extinction.

Richmond Birdwing *Ornithoptera priamus richmondii*
This spectacular butterfly is found only in the Northern Rivers region.

Plumed Frogmouth
Albert's Lyrebird
Double-eyed Fig-parrot
Turquoise parrot
Glossy black cockatoo
Black-breasted button quail
Wompoo fruit dove
Sooty Owl
Olive Whistler
Rufous Scrib bird
Crested Hawk
Spinetailed Chowchilla
Rufous shrike-thrush
Paradise Riflebird
Jabiru
Eastern Quoll
Tiger Quoll
Feathertail glider
Sugar glider
Greater glider
Marsupial Frog

Podargus plumiferus
Menura alberti
Psittaculirastris diophthalma
Neophema chrysostoma
Calyptorhynchus lathami
Turnix melanogaster
Ptilinopus magnificus
Tyto tenebricosa
Pachycephala olivacea
Atrichornis rugescens
Aviceda sclerata
Orthonyx temminkii
Colluricincla megarhyncha
Ptiloris paradiseus
Xenorhynchus asiaticus
Dasyurus viverrinus
Dasyurus maculatus
Acrobates pygmaeus
Petaurus breviceps
Schoinbates volans
Assa darlingtoni

"We have not inherited the Earth from our parents; we have borrowed it from our children."

What you can do

- Write to the Premier (C/- Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000) asking for the gazettal of the Nightcap National Park, preservation of the State's small remaining wildernesses and an end to rainforest logging.
- Donate time or money to our campaign. Cheques may be made out to "Nightcap N.P. Campaign" and sent to 22 Terania St, Lismore 2480.
- Join the Australian Conservation Foundation (whose generosity made this brochure possible). Ordinary membership \$17, students or pensioner \$7.
- Subscribe to ACF's colour magazine *HABITAT AUSTRALIA* (\$15 for 6 issues, \$12 for members).
- Make a (tax deductible) donation to "ACF's Rainforest Fund".

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
6726 Glenferrie Rd,
Hawthorn, Victoria 3122
Telephone: (03) 819 2888



NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK



Rescue the rainforests

VALUES IN PERSPECTIVE

Rainforest once covered the whole of Australia. Climatic changes over the last millions of years have forced them to recede to a few small isolated pockets. They are ancient relics of Australia as a much wetter place in the Tertiary geological era, 80 to 10 million years ago.

Rainforest is the world's oldest surviving and most complex ecosystem. About twice as many kinds of organisms occur in rainforest as occur in all the rest of the world's vegetation types combined. It is the biotic community within which flowing plants — and ultimately ourselves — first appeared upon the earth. If for no other reason, rainforest is worth preserving as a world bank of genetic diversity, still capable of future dividends as important as the eucalypts, which came forth from this great womb some 30-40 million years ago.

100 years ago, when we were all part of the supercontinent Gondwanaland, before South America, Antarctica and Australia drifted apart, even then the rainforest existed. Decisions we make in the next few years will determine whether these most ancient of forest can continue at all.

Gazettal of the Nightcap National Park is our last chance to preserve an ecologically viable section of the original nature of our area.

THE PROPOSAL FOR THE NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK

The proposed park area stands 35km north of Lismore on the west end of the Nightcap Ranges, which form the southern rim of the Mt. Warning volcanic caldera. The terrain is steep and deeply gullied, consisting of a series of summits, up to 933m elevation, connected by narrow ridges falling as a steep escarpment to the north and as gradually declining shoulders to the south. It is estimated that more than half the area slopes steeper than 21°, and it is this inaccessibility that has protected some parts of the area from past logging.

Two State forests lie on the Nightcap Ranges; Goonimbah 3197ha and Whian Whian 6398ha. Whian Whian has been largely cut over in the past and is now on sustainable yield management, with yield estimated at about 2% annual increment. Goonimbah is being generally cut for the first time, though some areas have been worked for timber before, mainly during and following the 2nd World War.

The proposed park adds some areas of vacant Crown Land to Goonimbah State Forest and extends east of Terania Basin to include the present Nightcap Track Flora Reserve and other small recently harvested parts of Whian Whian, for a total area of 4,500ha.

FOREST TYPES

Forest types range from cool temperate palm forest through temperate coachwood-crabapple associations to subtropical rainforest of which booyong and carabeens are the large commercial species. In drier areas on poorer soils large stands of emergent brushbox, flooded gum, grey gum, white mahogany, and some New England blackbutt occur, and it is these which constitute the main commercial attractions, as they are approximately the last fully mature hardwood stands remaining unchanged.

EXTINCTION

The map shows an area of about 2,400sqkm. Prior to our settlement this was almost all forest. There remain now less than 10% describable as tall forest, and most of this is at least 50% degraded.

Biogeographical researches indicate that if only 5% of a given broad area is preserved, then in time only 30%-40% of the local species will survive.

The proposed park covers less than 2% of the map area. Under the present management proposals most of this will have suffered "maximum economic utilisation" by mid-1986.

PROMISES, PROMISES . . .

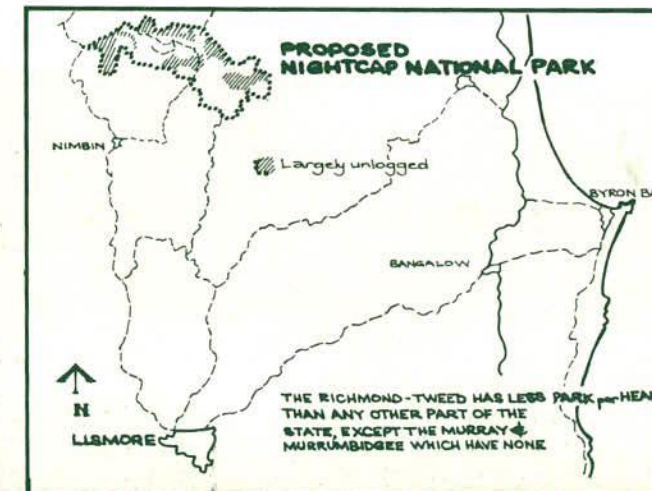
In 1937, the Forestry Commission promised that a 3,000 acre section of the Nightcap Range would be set aside as "...what to all intents and purposes will be a national park for all time." This preservation did not succeed.

From a letter to **The Hon. N. K. Wran, Q.C., M.L.A.**
Premier of New South Wales

"Only 1% of Australia's great land area was covered by rainforest before European settlement and now only one quarter of it is left due to clearing for agriculture and other developments. Australia is not in the relatively happy position that its remaining rainforests are situated in one large area; as you know, the forest exists in patches and each small area is a refuge for a unique collection of plant and animal species. The smaller the size of the patch, the more vulnerable is its living community to any form of disturbance, let alone logging.

"Australia, as you know, is unique in its plant and animal life and it is essential that as much of this as possible is preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of Australians in the future."

(signed) **Gerald Durrell**
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust
Channel Islands, U.K.



The delightful 4.4 km walk to the summit, with its 360 degrees views of the caldera and out to sea, passes through lush rainforest which changes from subtropical to temperate as the track gains altitude. The 3 a.m. start to catch the first sun to strike the Australian continent, is further enhanced by the dawn chorus of the rainforest birds — catbirds, riflebirds, bower-birds, lyrebirds, whipbirds, pigeons, parrots, shrikes and whistlers, to name but a few. Many of the more nocturnal animals can also be seen at this time of half-light.

Whatever time you choose to visit, Mt. Warning will reward you, whether you take the challenge to reach the summit, or prefer to wander amongst the rainforest giants and sit beside the clear, sweet creeks. You will take away the memory of having experienced a "special" place.

BORDER RANGES NATIONAL PARK (30,712 ha).

Extending from the western rim of the caldera abutting Lamington National Park, this park follows the NSW/Qld. border, crossing the main N-S railway line at the Border Loop, westward to encompass Lever's Plateau, Mount Glennie and Mt. Lindesay. Access to the park is via the Tweed Range scenic drive which is signposted commencing on the Murwillumbah-Kyogle road at Lillian Rock or on the Kyogle-Woodenbong road at Wiangarei.

This park provides a wide range of interests and activities for day visitors, campers and backpackers. Facilities are provided for picnics in the rainforest glades at Bar Mountain and Brindle Creek, with excellent adjoining walking tracks, as well as such lookouts as the Blackbutts with its panorama of the old volcano's caldera laid out at your feet. Forest Tops caters for campers, with rainforest walks ideal for nocturnal rambles in search of luminous fungi or spotlighting the abundant night creatures such as possums, gliders, bandicoots, frogs and bats. Experienced (only) bushwalkers can backpack into rugged wilderness areas, such as Lever's Plateau, or north along the rim to Lamington. For family day outings the Tweed Range Drive is a stimulating car trip passing through the intensely dissected terrain and along the escarpment rim through the ancient Antarctic Beech forest past superb waterfalls and breathtaking panoramas, descending into some of the most lush, profuse and diverse rainforest vegetation you are likely to see in Australia.

Rainforest habitats in this park are of international significance and harbour many rare and endangered life forms.

NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK (4,277 ha).

The southern caldera rim. The preserved habitats of many rare species of plants and animals as well as aboriginal and pioneer settlers' cultural heritage present visitors with much food for thought. Mountain walks, curious rock formations, dense rainforest studded with high waterfalls, fast streams and secretive pools all entice the curious and venturesome.

The park has three main points of entry. The eastern part, with access to the Historic Nightcap Track, can be entered from Gibbergunyah Range Road (dry weather access only) which leaves the Lismore-Mullumbimby Road near Dorrroughby. Terania Creek Basin, with its spectacular Protestor's Falls, occupies the centre of the park with access from The Channon. The western of the park, dominated by Sphinx Rock and Mt. Nardi, is a 12 km drive from Nimbin village. Pholi's Lookout on Googarna Road and many stops on the Mt. Matheson Circuit Track (which links into the Historic Nightcap Track), both adjacent to Mt. Nardi, give extensive views out over the caldera and the Mt. Warning massif to the north.

LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK (20,200 ha).

Situated along the northern caldera rim on the Queensland side of the State border, access to this park is via the Gold Coast to Binna Burra resort and via Canungra to O'Reilly's guest house at Green Mountains.

Camping is also possible at the main centres and along the tracks to allow for bushwalkers to hike over a period of some days to such places as the Lost World, or along the Scenic Rim.

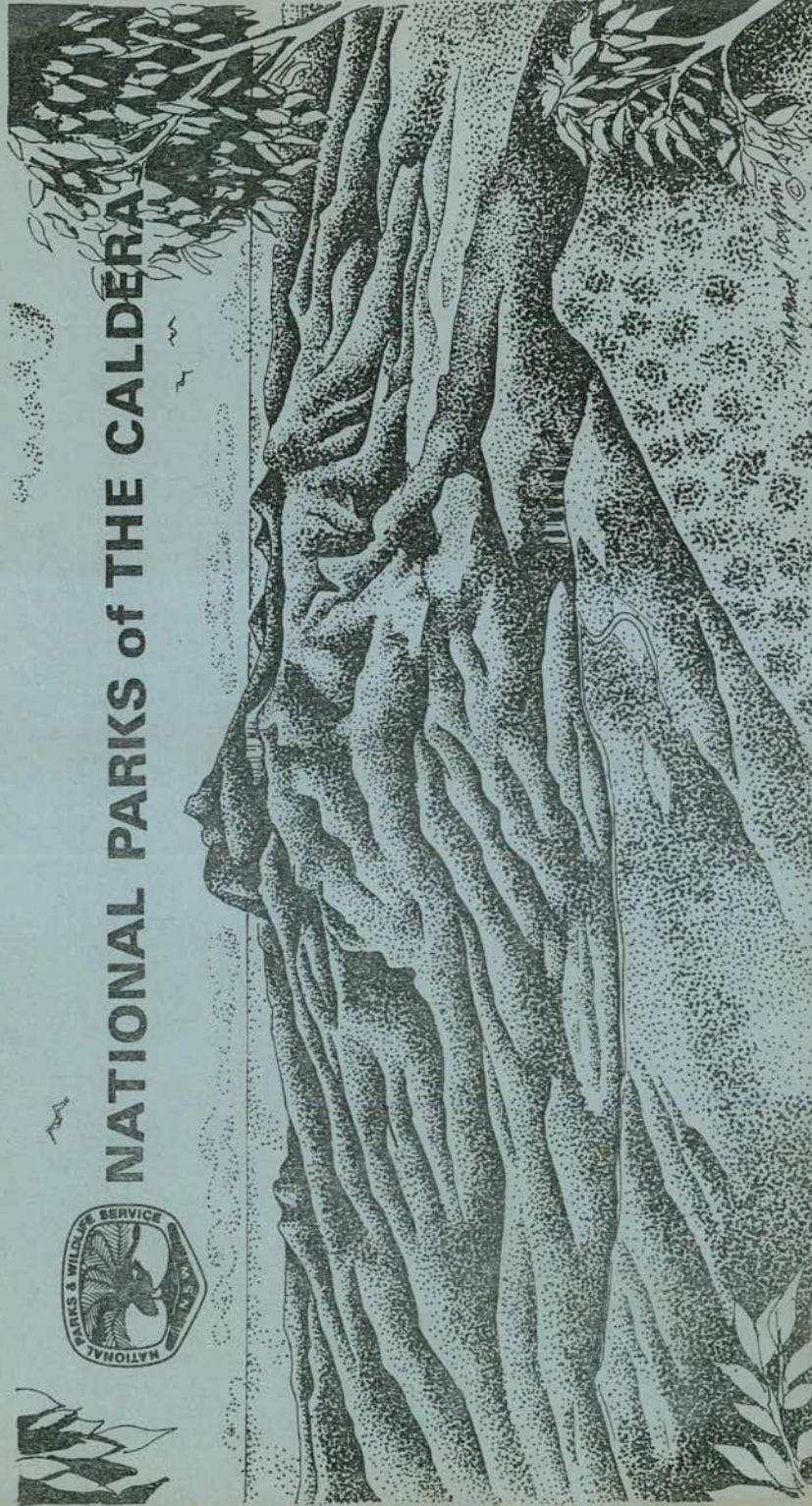
Reserved in 1915, Lamington is one of our oldest national parks and preserves significant undisturbed sub-tropical and cool temperate rainforest habitats, with many large stands of Brush Box and ancient Antarctic Beech. The plateau is deeply dissected with fast clear streams in narrow gorges providing excellent bushwalking through the ever-changing terrain from ferny waterfall few pools to the spectacular panoramic views above the 300 m escarpment cliffs out over the caldera to Mt. Warning and far to the east, south and west. In the north-west the graphic silhouettes of Mt. Lindesay, Mt. Barney and associated peaks testify to further ancient volcanic activity in the region.

Lamington National Park is famous for the profusion of its birdlife, attracting visitors from all over the world in search of a glimpse of some of its rare and curious feathered creatures.

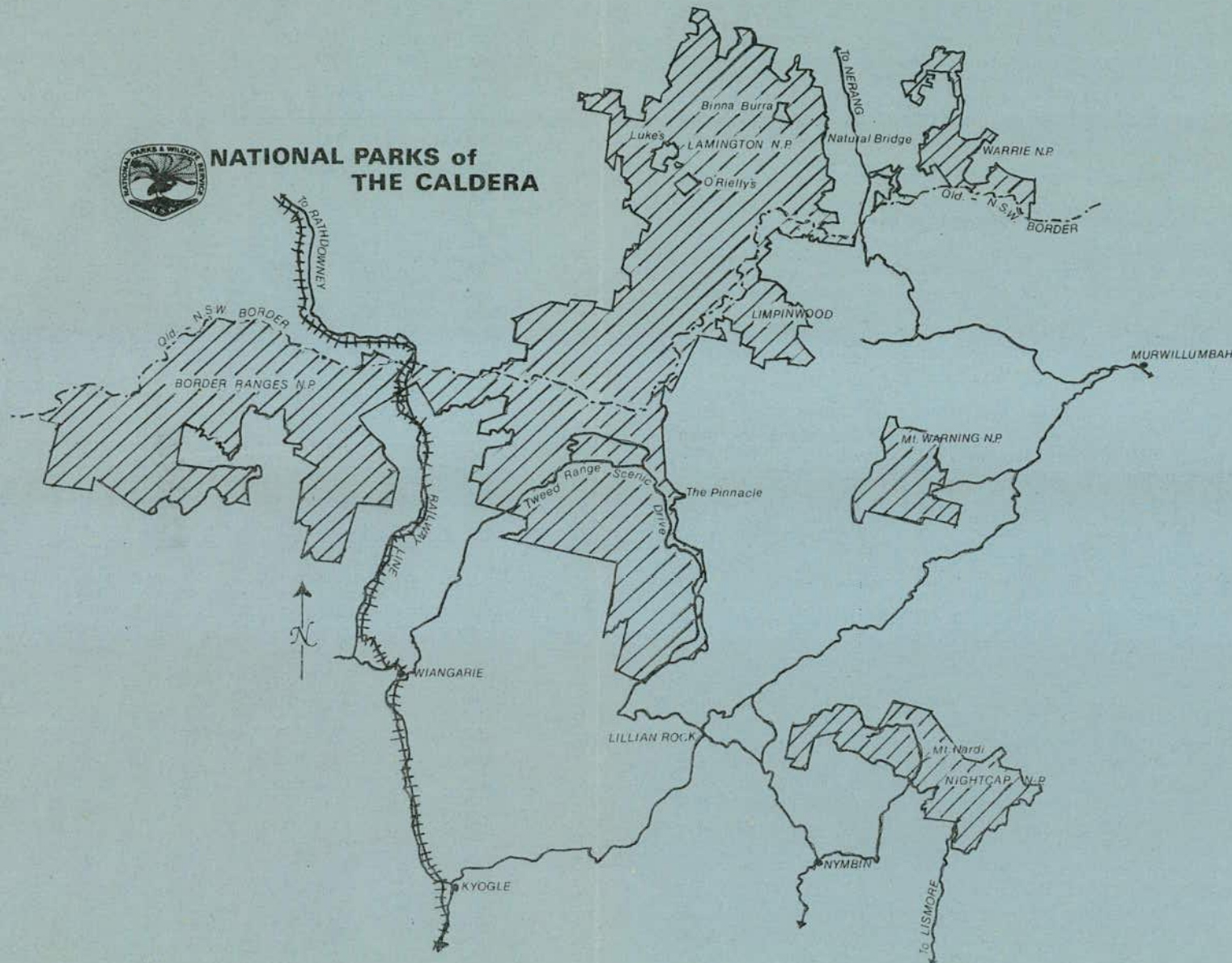
Further information on this park can be obtained from the Queensland N.P.W.S.

All enquiries may be directed to the Senior Ranger, National Parks and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 91, Alstonville 2477. Telephone: (066) 28 1177.

38/5/84



NATIONAL PARKS OF THE CALDERA



Straddling the state boundary of far north-eastern NSW and south-east Queensland is a unique and interesting landform of international ecological significance — the Mt. Warning Shield Volcano.

Since its main volcanic activity ceased, some 20 million years ago, erosion in this high rainfall region has carved out a huge natural amphitheatre or CALDERA around the more resistant igneous rocks of its central magma chamber, Mt. Warning itself. This Caldera is known as the Tweed Valley.

Rising to 1157m, dominating the surrounding Tweed River Valley and visible far out to sea, Mt. Warning was so named by Captain Cook in 1770 on his epic voyage as a warning to mariners of reefs off the coast — the much-eroded remnants of the eastern laval flows of the old volcano.

The caldera landform creates a region of memorable and impressive scenery, with extensive views from the heights and deep gorges, curious rock formations, lofty cliffs and waterfalls in the highly dissected plateaux of the caldera rim. In its present erosional stages it is unique, but it is in the function created by its form that its ecological value lies. Over the eons since its formation, a combination of factors interacting with the main landform-climate with high seasonal rains, temperature, altitude, rich soils derived from the volcanic rocks, coastal proximity and aspect — have served to nourish and support large tracts of rainforest habitats. Many rare and ancient plants, some found nowhere else, have refuge in the conditions created by the landform, as do numerous curious and interesting animals.

Rainforest habitats range from cool-temperate on the often cloud-clad heights of the caldera rim, at Lamington and Border Ranges, through warm temperate and sub-tropical lowland with its notable palm forests, as at Terania Creek in the Nightcap and on the lower slopes of Mt. Warning. Land-clearing practises of the early settlers in this region destroyed vast areas of lowland rainforest habitats. We are fortunate to have most of the remaining rainforests now preserved in the national parks of the caldera — Mt. Warning, Lamington, the Border Ranges and Nightcap National Parks.

MOUNT WARNING NATIONAL PARK (2,138 ha).

The dominant landform of the Tweed Valley, the Mt. Warning massif 10 kms west of Murwillumbah, is the ancient, much-eroded, remnant magma chamber of the original shield volcano. At 1157 metres, its present height is nearly half the height it attained when active, 20 million years ago.

Unique, rare or endangered species of the Nightcap

Giant tree climbing orchid
Onion cedar
Small Bolwarra
Durobby
Ribfruted Malletwood
Glossy Acronychia
Smooth Davidsonia
Corokia
Nightcap Wattle
Scrub Daphne
Filmy Ferns

Galeola foliata
Owenia cepiodora
Eupomatia bennettii
Syzygium moorei
Rhodamnia costata
Acronychia laevis
Davidsonia (undescribed)
Corakia whitiana (unique)
Acacia Orites
Phaleria chermsideana
1. *Microtrichomanes vitiense*
2. *Gonocormus saxifragoides*
3. *Selenodesmium elongatum*

There are over 200 species of birds found on the Nightcap. Of these birds 70% are dependent upon the forest for their primary habitat, need tree hollows as nests or require a mature forest. Destruction of their habitat will greatly reduce numbers, or in the case of the sensitive and endangered species risk extinction.

Richmond Birdwing *Ornithoptera priamus richmondii*
This spectacular butterfly is found only in the Northern Rivers region.

Plumed Frogmouth
Albert's Lyrebird
Double-eyed Fig-parrot
Turquoise parrot
Glossy black cockatoo
Black-breasted button quail
Wompoo fruit dove
Sooty Owl
Olive Whistler
Rufous Scrib bird
Crested Hawk
Spinetailed Chowchilla
Rufous shrike-thrush
Paradise Riflebird
Jabiru
Eastern Quoll
Tiger Quoll
Feathertail glider
Sugar glider
Greater glider
Marsupial Frog

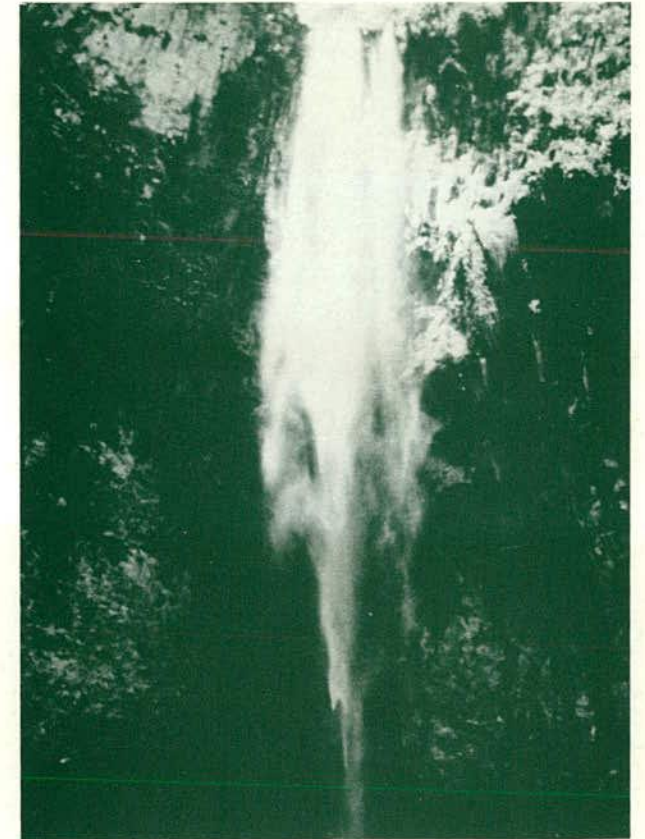
Podargus plumiferus
Menura alberti
Psittaculirastris diophthalma
Neophema chrysostoma
Calyptorhynchus lathamii
Turnix melanogaster
Ptilinopus magnificus
Tyto tenebricosa
Pachycephala olivacea
Atrichornis rugescens
Aviceda leucristata
Orthonyx temminkii
Colluricincla megarhyncha
Ptiloris paradiseus
Xenorhynchus asiaticus
Dasyurus viverrinus
Dasyurus maculatus
Acrobates pygmaeus
Petaurus breviceps
Schoinbates volans
Assa darlingtoni

"We have not inherited the Earth from our parents; we have borrowed it from our children."

What you can do

- Write to the Premier (C/- Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000) asking for the gazettal of the Nightcap National Park, preservation of the State's small remaining wildernesses and an end to rainforest logging.
 - Donate time or money to our campaign. Cheques may be made out to "Nightcap N.P. Campaign" and sent to 22 Terania St, Lismore 2480.
 - Join the Australian Conservation Foundation (whose generosity made this brochure possible). Ordinary membership \$17, students or pensioner \$7.
 - Subscribe to ACF's colour magazine *HABITAT AUSTRALIA* (\$15 for 6 issues, \$12 for members).
 - Make a (tax deductible) donation to "ACF's Rainforest Fund".
- AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
6726 Glenferrie Rd,
Hawthorn, Victoria 3122
Telephone: (03) 819 2888

NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK



Rescue the rainforests



VALUES IN PERSPECTIVE

Rainforest once covered the whole of Australia. Climatic changes over the last millions of years have forced them to recede to a few small isolated pockets. They are ancient relics of Australia as a much wetter place in the Tertiary geological era, 80 to 10 million years ago.

Rainforest is the world's oldest surviving and most complex ecosystem. About twice as many kinds of organisms occur in rainforest as occur in all the rest of the world's vegetation types combined. It is the biotic community within which flowing plants — and ultimately ourselves — first appeared upon the earth. If for no other reason, rainforest is worth preserving as a world bank of genetic diversity, still capable of future dividends as important as the eucalypts, which came forth from this great womb some 30-40 million years ago.

100 million years ago, when we were all part of the supercontinent Gondwanaland, before South America, Antarctica and Australia drifted apart, even then the rainforest existed. Decisions we make in the next few years will determine whether these most ancient of forest can continue at all.

Gazetted the Nightcap National Park is our last chance to preserve an ecologically viable section of the original nature of our area.

THE PROPOSAL FOR THE NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK

The proposed park area stands 35km north of Lismore on the west end of the Nightcap Ranges, which form the southern rim of the Mt. Warning volcanic caldera. The terrain is steep and deeply gullied, consisting of a series of summits, up to 933m elevation, connected by narrow ridges falling as a steep escarpment to the north and as gradually declining shoulders to the south. It is estimated that more than half the area slopes steeper than 21°, and it is this inaccessibility that has protected some parts of the area from past logging.

Two State forests lie on the Nightcap Ranges; Goonimbah 3197ha and Whian Whian 6398ha. Whian Whian has been largely cut over in the past and is now on sustainable yield management, with yield estimated at about 2% annual increment. Goonimbah is being generally cut for the first time, though some areas have been worked for timber before, mainly during and following the 2nd World War.

The proposed park adds some areas of vacant Crown Land to Goonimbah State Forest and extends east of Terania Basin to include the present Nightcap Track Flora Reserve and other small recently harvested parts of Whian Whian, for a total area of 4,500ha.

FOREST TYPES

Forest types range from cool temperate palm forest through temperate coachwood-crabapple associations to subtropical rainforest of which booyong and carabeens are the large commercial species. In drier areas on poorer soils large stands of emergent brushbox, flooded gum, grey gum, white mahogany, and some New England blackbutt occur, and it is these which constitute the main commercial attractions, as they are approximately the last fully mature hardwood stands remaining unchanged.

EXTINCTION

The map shows an area of about 2,400sqkm. Prior to our settlement this was almost all forest. There remain now less than 10% describable as tall forest, and most of this is at least 50% degraded.

Biogeographical researches indicate that if only 5% of a given broad area is preserved, then in time only 30%-40% of the local species will survive.

The proposed park covers less than 2% of the map area. Under the present management proposals most of this will have suffered "maximum economic utilisation" by mid-1986.

PROMISES, PROMISES . . .

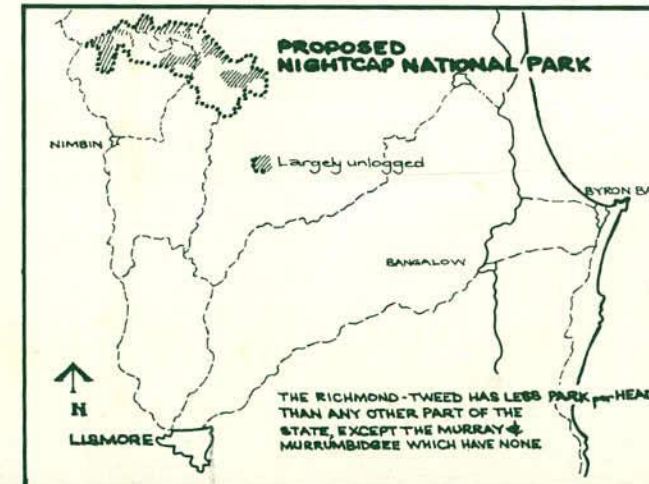
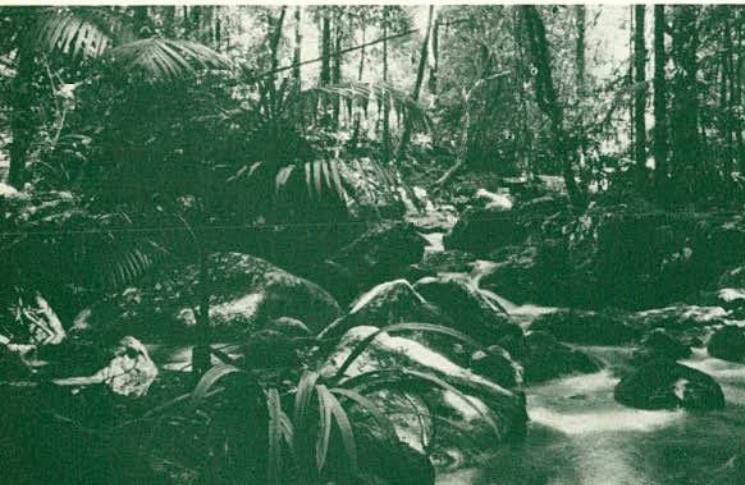
In 1937, the Forestry Commission promised that a 3,000 acre section of the Nightcap Range would be set aside as "... what to all intents and purposes will be a national park for all time." This preservation did not succeed.

From a letter to The Hon. N. K. Wran, Q.C., M.L.A.
Premier of New South Wales

"Only 1% of Australia's great land area was covered by rainforest before European settlement and now only one quarter of it is left due to clearing for agriculture and other developments. Australia is not in the relatively happy position that its remaining rainforests are situated in one large area; as you know, the forest exists in patches and each small area is a refuge for a unique collection of plant and animal species. The smaller the size of the patch, the more vulnerable is its living community to any form of disturbance, let alone logging.

"Australia, as you know, is unique in its plant and animal life and it is essential that as much of this as possible is preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of Australians in the future."

(signed) **Gerald Durrell**
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust
Channel Islands, U.K.



Know your Weather District

UPPER WESTERN

Councils include: City of Broken Hill; Shires of Bourke, Brewarrina, Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett; that part of the Western Division north of the Barrier Highway.

LOWER WESTERN

Councils include: City of Broken Hill; Shires of Balranald, Carrathool, Central Darling, Cobar, Wentworth; that part of the Western Division south of the Barrier Highway.

RIVERINA

Councils include: Cities of Albury, Wagga Wagga; Municipality of Deniliquin; Shires of Berrigan, Bland, Carrathool, Conargo, Coolamon, Corowa, Culcairn, Hay, Hume, Jerilderie, Kyeamba, Lachlan, Leeton, Lockhart, Mitchell, Murray, Murrumbidgee, Narraburra, Narrandera, Urana, Wade, Wakool, Windouran.

SOUTH WEST SLOPES

Councils include: Cities of Albury, Wagga Wagga; Municipalities of Junee, Temora, Young; Shires of Bland, Boorowa, Burrangong, Cootamundra, Gundagai, Harden, Holbrook, Hume, Illabo, Kyeamba, Mitchell, Narraburra, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Weddin.

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

Councils include: Cities of Goulburn, Queanbeyan; Municipality of Cooma; Shires of Bombala, Boorowa, Crookwell, Gunning, Monaro, Mulwaree, Snowy River, Tallaganda, Yarrowlumla, Yass.

SOUTH COAST

Councils include: City of Shoalhaven; Municipality of Bega; Shires of Eurobodalla, Imlay, Mumbulla, Tallaganda.

ILLAWARRA

Councils include: Cities of Wollongong, Shoalhaven; Municipalities of Bowral, Kiama, Shellharbour; Shires of Mittagong, Wingecarribee, Wollondilly.

CENTRAL WEST PLAINS

Councils include: Municipality of Narromine; Shires of Bland, Bogan, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Goobang, Jemalong, Lachlan, Timbregongie, Walgett, Warren, Weddin.

CENTRAL WEST SLOPES

Councils include: City of Dubbo; Municipalities of Forbes, Parkes; Shires of Blayney, Cabonne, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Gilgandra, Goobang, Jemalong, Waugoola, Weddin, Wellington.

CENTRAL TABLELANDS

Councils include: Cities of Bathurst, Blue Mountains, Goulburn, Lithgow, Orange; Municipality of Cowra; Shires of Cabonne, Colo, Crookwell, Evans, Merriwa, Mudgee, Mulwaree, Oberon, Rylstone, Waugoola, Wellington, Wollondilly.

NORTH WEST PLAINS

Councils include: Municipalities of Moree, Narrabri; Shires of Boolooroo, Boomi, Coonabarabran, Namoi, Walgett, Yallaro.

NORTH WEST SLOPES

Councils include: City of Tamworth; Municipality of Quirindi; Shires of Ashford, Barraba, Bingara, Coonabarabran, Gunnedah, Macintyre, Manilla, Murrurundi, Namoi, Nundle, Parry, Tamarang, Yallaro.

NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Councils include: City of Armidale; Municipalities of Glen Innes, Inverell; Shires of Copmanhurst, Dumaresq, Guyra, Kyogle, Macintyre, Nymboida, Severn, Tenterfield, Uralla, Walcha.

NORTHERN RIVERS

Councils include: Cities of Grafton, Lismore; Municipalities of Casino, Mullumbimby; Shires of Ballina, Byron, Copmanhurst, Kyogle, Maclean, Nymboida, Richmond River, Tweed, Ulmarra.

MID NORTH COAST

Councils include: Municipalities of Port Macquarie, Taree, Wingham; Shires of Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Hastings, Kempsey, Manning, Nambucca, Nymboida, Ulmarra.

HUNTER

Councils include: Cities of Gosford, Greater Cessnock, Maitland, Newcastle; Shires of Colo, Dungog, Great Lakes, Lake Macquarie, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Muswellbrook, Port Stephens, Scone, Singleton, Wyong.

METROPOLITAN

Councils include: Cities of Bankstown, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith and Sydney; Municipalities of Ashfield, Auburn, Blacktown, Botany, Burwood, Camden, Canterbury, Concord, Drummoyne, Fairfield, Holroyd, Hunters Hill, Hurstville, Kogarah, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Manly, Marrickville, Mosman, North Sydney, Randwick, Rockdale, Ryde, South Sydney, Strathfield, Waverley, Willoughby, Windsor, Woollahra; Shires of Baulkham Hills, Hornsby, Sutherland, Warringah.

BUSH FIRE COUNCIL OF N.S.W.,
121 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000
(Phone 2 0529)

L.O. 199 D. West, Government Printer

What does TOTAL FIRE BAN mean?



Just what it says...

... during a **TOTAL FIRE BAN**,
the law prohibits **ANY FIRE**
in the open including
incinerators, barbecues
(wood, gas, or electric)



PENALTY:

fine of up to \$1,000
or imprisonment for up to 12 months

When is a TOTAL FIRE BAN applied?

When weather conditions and
dry vegetation produce an
extreme fire danger



How will I know when a TOTAL FIRE BAN is on?

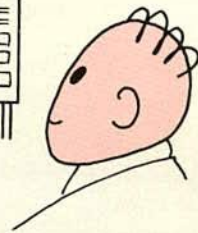
Through newspapers, radio,
and TV (If in doubt, ask Police or Fire Brigade)

How long does a TOTAL FIRE BAN last?

Generally for 24 hours from 9 p.m.

What area does a TOTAL FIRE BAN cover?

One or more
weather districts

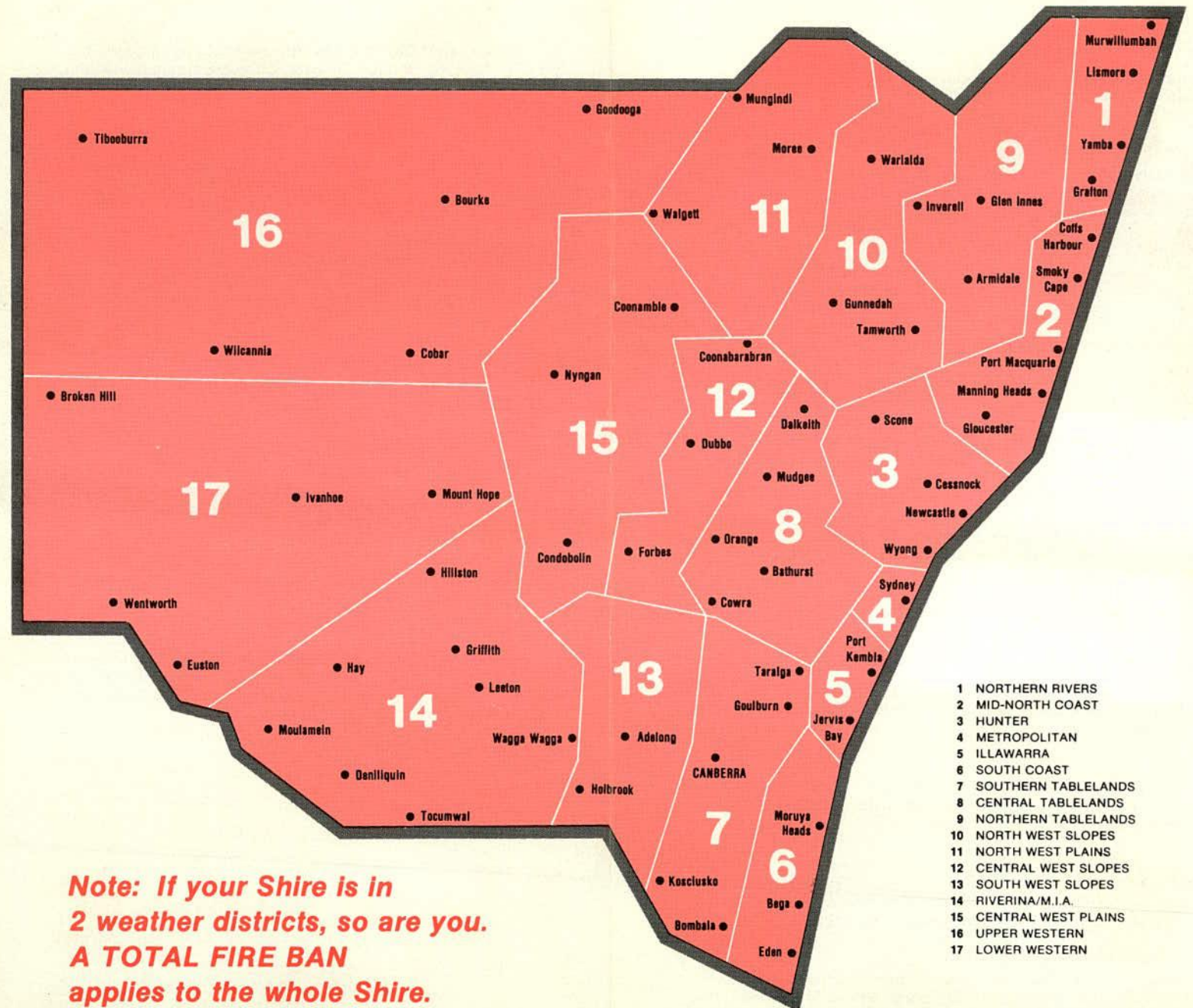


Which is my weather district?

See map opposite and details overleaf

**BUSH FIRES CAN COST LIVES
THEY ALWAYS COST MONEY**

Total Fire Ban Weather Forecast Districts



**Note: If your Shire is in
2 weather districts, so are you.
A TOTAL FIRE BAN
applies to the whole Shire.**

Volunteer Fire Brigade Captain ~ Gordon Hensen Talk delivered at Tuntabla Falls (Co-ord Co-op)

I've selected a few topics for discussion that I hope will be of interest to you. Hopefully you'll consider them in this high fire danger period.

By all reports and looking at the conditions, we're in for a very high fire period. All of the fire authorities and I are aware of it. Although it's eased a bit since we've had a few showers and a few overcast days, it's still very severe.

A few Sunday evenings ago, after the fire at Hamiltons', I came out to have a look and to make a report on the fire, and as Ian and I stood up on the hill and looked around and about I thought to myself, I hope I never see it - and what I was thinking about and visualising was how it looked over in the other valley between Gungas Rd and Mt Nardi on the slope, with the country and terrain practically the same as here. Now put 6 or 12 houses in that burnt and blackened area and I hope you'll agree with me, and hope that we never see it. Now it could just as easily happen here. Not a very nice thought is it? There is no good saying why didn't we do this or why didn't we do that - I'm going to say to you why didn't you do this or that. Now what are we going to do about it? I personally think you're sitting on a powder keg and most of us smoke too heavily to be sitting on one!

So what are we going to do?

Well there are 4 main things we can do to lessen the danger. Consider:

1. Fuels
2. Caution
3. Common sense and perhaps
4. A bit of luck somewhere in between.

or substance

1. Fuels are anything that will burn, any materials that will ignite or burn. So we try to get rid of them from around houses and buildings or inflammable materials.
2. Caution or protection. Clean around the house or property 10-12 metres (that's 30-40 feet) any fuel such as leaves, sticks, stumps or dry or rotten wood - especially leaves in gutters or on rooves; clear old bags or hessian, dry bark or sap on exposed posts. Some of these can be wet down if water is available. Control or reduction burning. Burn off in winter or in a safe period. If you burn in a safe period there's less risk of it getting out of control!
3. Common sense. The main thing is not to panic - take a quick look at the situation to see if you can handle it. If not, send someone to get help. Don't rush around madly and get nothing done. Don't knock yourself up in the first 5 or 10 minutes, just slog away, because you might have a few hours of heavy work ahead of you. If the fire's coming fast, leave yourself plenty of time to get out. Never try to out run a fire, because in the right conditions - with drafts and wind, fire can travel twice as fast as you can, especially in heavy timber and rough terrain where you have a job just to get through it.

Try to find a damp or wet place such as a gully or a dry creek bed and if you get caught in it, let the fire go over you. It only takes a few minutes for a fast moving fire to go over you. So if you do stop down low to the ground in a damp sort of place, then you have a chance of surviving. We're now talking of course about if you get caught - and I hope that never happens.

The same applies if you're caught in a car or a vehicle. Stop in it and lie low on the floor and if you have a blanket, put it over you. It only takes 4-5 minutes for a fire to pass over a car, which probably won't do much more than singe the paint. It won't set fire to the car and a car has to be really burning before you have any problem with the tank igniting. In fact the tyres will burn off a car before the tank will blow up.

Never get too far in front of a fire if you're fighting one. It only takes a change of wind and you're cut off. More or less fight it from behind or the side, and remember if a fire is travelling fast - get going! "He who fights a fire and runs away lives to fight another day." Houses and things can be replaced, but fire fighters are hard to come by, and the only heroes at fires aren't here to tell us about it.

Fire breaks are very helpful at times, it only takes 3 or 4 good workers to cut a fire break - especially if you're working in conjunction with one going ahead and getting the biggest % off and the other cleaning along and widening. It only needs to be about 3-4 feet wide for a fire break, particularly if the fire's not going too fast. Once you get rid of the fuel on the ground, with nothing to burn, the fire burns out.

But if you get a wind fanning it, and the fire jumps - then that's a different matter. Also be careful not to get too close together when you're making the fire break as swinging tools around can cause accidents very easily and we won't have time to take you to a doctor or a hospital. And remember a fire will burn anything in the right conditions - even green trees and bushes, especially if they have a certain amount of gas in them. Fire also forms its own draft, and the more draft you get, the better the fire burns. Fire will also burn over the same area twice. A good, quick fire travels through and just scorches leaves and branches and dies them out. Then you can get a slow burning fire - a back up fire that comes along that takes practically everything in its way.

Backburning.

This is another good way of controlling a fire - but you have to be careful as you're fighting fire with fire. It's not for the inexperienced, as you have to have the right conditions and wind for it. It is a recognized way of fighting a fire. In fact there's a special tool for it referred to as a fire bug - but not for handling if you're not experienced. Wait till you're grey like me! It saves time and is handy when used with respect and caution.

After fire.

Waiting, watching or mopping up. This is what I call a bugger of a job, but has to be done. Some things can be hosed down, particularly if you've stopped it at fire breaks or cut it off. There's always a risk of sparks or logs and stumps starting a fresh flare up. With logs you usually try to get rid of ends, and with stuff that's small enough, you turn it on itself and burn it to get rid of it. Stumps that have burnt down low enough you might be able to douse with a knapsack or cover it with dirt. Once it burns into the ground there's not much else you can do, just maybe put some dirt on it to stop the sparks blowing off into the new unburnt ground. The roots can also stove in underground. There's not much air getting into it, but the fire doesn't go out - it just smolders. You can usually tell which direction it's running under the ground by just running your hand along the ground. It's only roots that are burning. So if you dig down a few feet ahead of where you feel it and cut the roots off you might stop it. You might think it's out, but if you get a shower of rain or put water on it, then you'll get steam coming off it. Some have been known to burn 20-30 feet along the ground, and some for 2 or 3 months. That's where most of the fires are started again after the fire's gone through. People will tell you they haven't lit another fire. But the old one's just smoldering away and the right (wrong?) conditions can set it off again.

Fire truck.

The one we've got is handy to cart water around for a heavy or blazing fire. It's quite good to cart tools and to have the pumps for the water. But it's often a handicap because you can't get into confined spaces with it. It's too big, wide and heavy to get down between the timbers and along the narrow roads etc. The little unit (Toyota) that Ian's building up here (Tuntable) is more my idea of a suitable fire truck. It's light, narrow and although it doesn't cart as much water, you can get in steeper places, it's quicker to get around with and so forth. I think it's ideal for up here. I class it more as a spray unit.

Another handy tool is a McLeod tool. They look ugly - a bit like an overgrown hoe with a rake on the back of them. After you get used to them they're a very versatile tool. You can either dig the earth away or scrape leaves and bushes away. They're a fairly heavy construction - you can even cut roots with them and use them as a beater. Knap sacks are very handy for very confined spaces if you only want a little bit of water to do the job. Beaters - the old wet bag is as good as any, I think. Most beaters on the market only fan the fire. I shy off them altogether. Even bushes for beaters are O.K. Brush hooks and Axes are always handy to have around. Fire bug I've mentioned as needing care. Another handy tool - well I don't know if you'd call it a tool or not - is a water bottle. Because if you're out there fighting a fire, you get very thirsty and dehydrate very quickly. If you don't suck away on a water bottle. You can't go away for 5 or 10 minutes for a drink, cause the fire will catch up on you, and 5 or 10 minutes in the smoke and flames is enough to dry you out. A back up crew is essential to keep the fire under control. Another very important thing in a fire is to take notice of someone who is in charge. Take orders and do as you're told, even if you think you know better. Because experience is essential. Don't panic or dramatise the situation out of proportion. Don't send stories here and there. Just keep cool even though the fire and the weather scene might be pretty hot. Don't wander off by yourself or get out of sight of others - so that you can keep a check on each other. Total fire bang - mean that even technically you shouldn't be able to light a cigarette. No barbecues or anything like that. Even if you've got a fire permit and a Total Fire Ban is announced, that automatically cancels the permit out. Permits. I advise you to get one. They don't cost anything. Conditions are: you've got to let your neighbours know (in writing if possible). You have to have fire breaks around where you're tending and the fire has to be in attendance at all times. Get advice from someone who's got experience with attending fires. It's a dry year so we've got to be careful with permits. When the Nimbri fire crew attend, we might appear pretty casual, but we've got to keep 3 or 4 jumps ahead of the fire and we don't want people running up to us telling us this and that. It's not that we're not interested, it's just that we've got to keep our minds on the job and ahead of the fire and that requires a lot of concentration, and the old ticker's usually going a few revolutions faster than it should! Now to your captains. Just speaking of Tuntabie's captain, you've got a very keen and dedicated man here in Ian, who showed his worth in the last fire, and I'd like you all to give him all the assistance possible. Take notice of him. Take his orders. He's just learning like all of us have to. So he might even make mistakes - we all do - and I'm likely to again. We've all got to learn by experience and I'm sorry to say that the only way that you can get it is with a fire. Thank you all for your attention to this matter and good luck!

Gordon Hansen

NU #141

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Here are some of the questions asked that might also be of help to you.

- Q. What do you suggest if you've got trees right next to the house?
- A. Clear all the old leaves - in the gutters in particular. Old poles with bark and old sap near the house are a great culprit. It's easier to control a fire after the sun goes down because there's a certain amount of damp air and it restricts fire a bit (with no wind), so use this fact when burning off.
- Q. You said that a fire can go through the same area twice. How soon does it follow?
- A. It could be the same hour or 2 days later, but often soon after. The follow up fire is easier to control because it's slower burning. The first one has a lot of smoke and flame and heat so it's hard to control. It beats you.
- Q. A lot of people talk about a back burn fire if a fire comes. What do the conditions need to be before you can succeed with a back burn?
- A. As I say, you have to have the right conditions. You've got to have the wind with you, not actually to fight the fire, but you don't want the wind to change and come back on you. Generally with a back burn there's no fire there. It burns back down into itself and then dies out. Because you've burnt all the fuel this side of it, if a fire comes up to the back burn, it's got no fuel and so it automatically dies out.
- Q. Then do you do it downhill from a fire break?
- A. Not necessarily downhill. You can burn it along a flat, or downhill or uphill. If the wind's blowing across a trail it's asking for trouble to light a fire. It's safe to burn on the flat etc, but the fire that's coming up that's already got a big front on it is something you can't get near. But if you light a fire you can control its size etc. You can make it burn practically any way you want it to burn - as long as you don't get a change of wind and that's something you've got to be careful with. You've got to have enough men there in case the wind changes. Back burning can save a lot of time because you can stand around waiting for 3 or 4 hours waiting for the fire to get to you. If it's rough terrain you can't fight it and you have to wait for it to get out in the open a bit. Now if you've got all of that burnt, then you've got no trouble, because it burns out in that section, and that can mean that you've got the back broken. But you've got to know what you're doing with a back burn. There's a special fuel for it - a mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ kero and $\frac{1}{2}$ diesolene. It's not easy to light so you use a burner - not a flame thrower - a drip torch.
- Q. We've got a few trails around here on the logging level on the edge of the forest. The idea is that if the fire's coming down, maybe to back burn from them, but how far from the trail does it come before you light it? ~~back~~
- A. I reckon 40 to 50 feet, or even 100 feet. A lot depends on the conditions. If you've got the wind coming down with the fire you can light it a long way early as it's going to take 3 times as long for that fire to burn back against the wind as a fire coming down burning with the wind.
- Q. Is there any particular species that will be less likely to catch fire?
- A. Practically anything will burn, don't forget that!
- Q. If you clear slopes, then the soil washes away in the wet.
- A. Yes, burning gives a certain amount of erosion. You have to make up your mind about erosion and fire.

Captain's Comment:

You might lose a little Top Soil, but better this than losing your house or Hamlet or even life.

This is just a broad outline on fires. I did not realise how little I know about fire until I tried to get it down on paper, anyway hope it will be of some help to some people.

NIMBIN VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE CAPTAIN

GORDON HENSEN

, Phone 891 231

P.S. Thank to Jan, and try not to singe Father Xmas' beard or mine...

R R T F News

A few weeks ago the RRTF wrote to most M.O. communities in Lismore, Kyogle & Tweed Shires asking for donations to replenish our empty bank balance. With this request for help was sent a few press clippings about our work, council 'crackdowns' and a Bibliography of information which we have available. If you'd like to help us out, please contact me at the Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesdays.

Our Bibliography has over 100 listings of resource material which we have on file & are prepared to copy for individuals. You can sight it at the Neighbourhood Centre or order a copy of it by sending us three 33c stamps.

Lismore Council has announced a 'Building Amnesty' but it is a Claytons one in that it does not cover or resolve difficulties for those buildings or communities which require a Development Application. This latter step could involve tens & even hundreds of thousands of dollars in conditions! This Council had identified 14 illegal dwellings along one (unnamed) road and one illegal M.O. community on Fox Road. It is threatening to prosecute illegal dwelling owners after June 30. Meanwhile the State government had just increased the penalty for illegal buildings to a maximum of \$2000. (Further daily penalties & fines under the planning legislation are also a possibility).

Kyogle Council is planning on inspecting every rural property in the Shire for illegal buildings and has so far located 27 in Horseshoe Valley alone. It has not yet decided what to do about them.

The findings of the Tweed Commission of Inquiry into M.O. should be out within a few weeks. We are hopeful of the outcome and the government is waiting for this report before it finalises the new State Policy.

If you require any advice or assistance, or would like to become involved with the RRTF, don't hesitate to contact me. Regarding the amnesty and possible future prosecutions, the RRTF has not made a policy recommendation. Rather, we believe each community must arrive at their own conclusion based on all the information available.

Dave

Lambert

Secretary