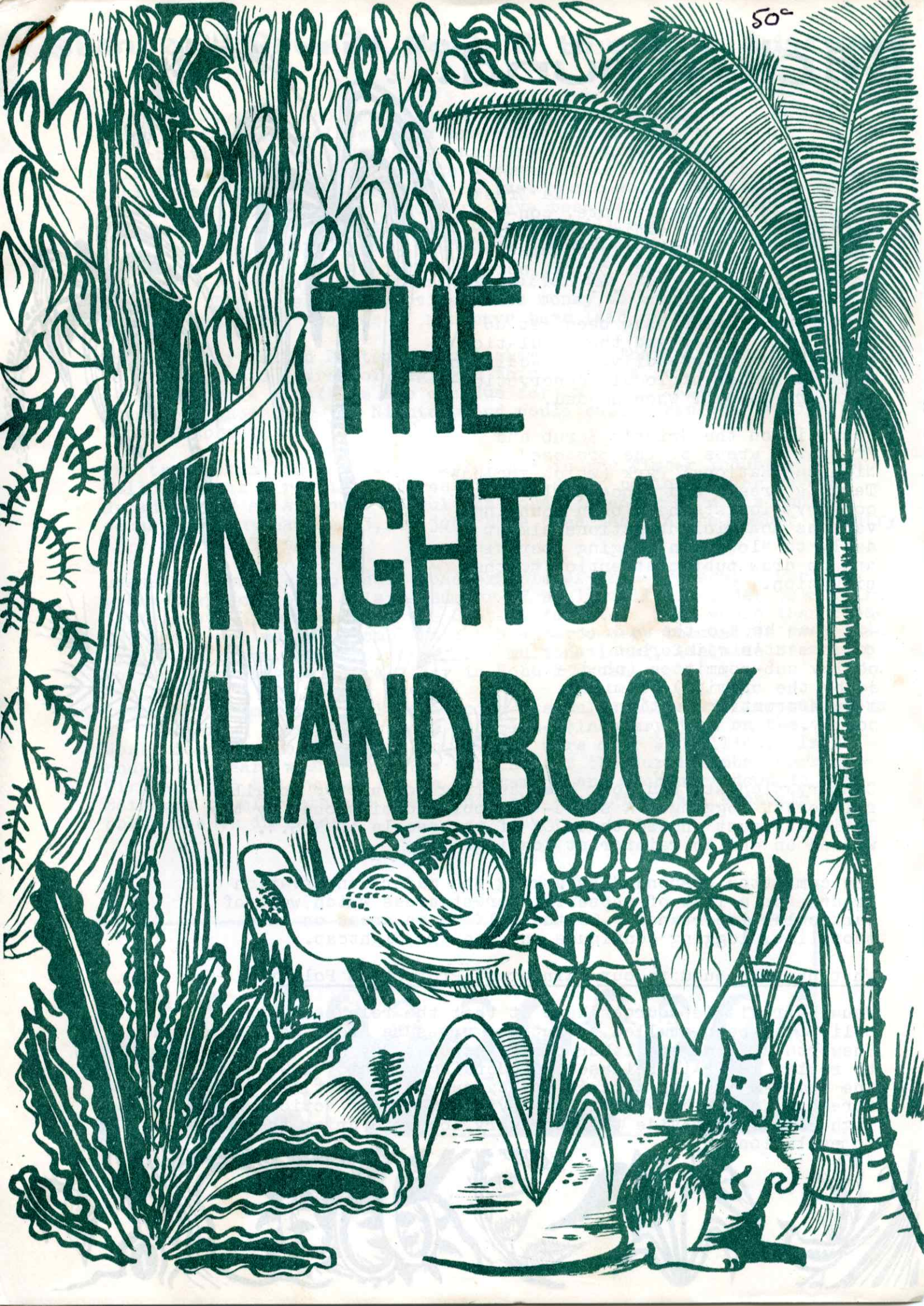


IN THE NIGHTCAP HANDBOOK



Background...

Three years after the Terania Creek rainforest logging dispute, conservationists are again confronting loggers and the Forestry Commission in the Nightcap Range, 35 km. north of Lismore in N.E. N.S.W.

A number of camps have been set up around the forest and the population is building up steadily. In addition a large number of local conservationists are on call when needed.

Focus is on the Grier's Scrub and Mt. Nardi areas of the proposed Nightcap National Park (which includes Terania Creek) and since early August conservationists have been mounting various non-violent actions almost daily to slow down logging operations and to draw public attention to the situation.

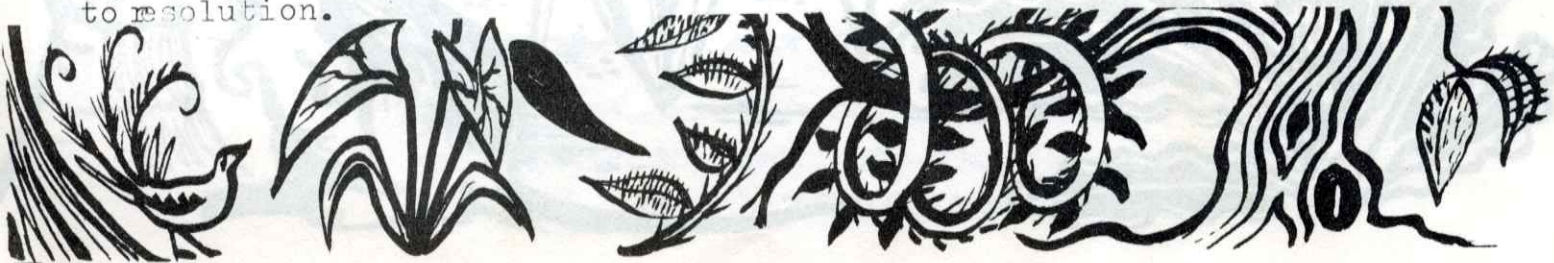
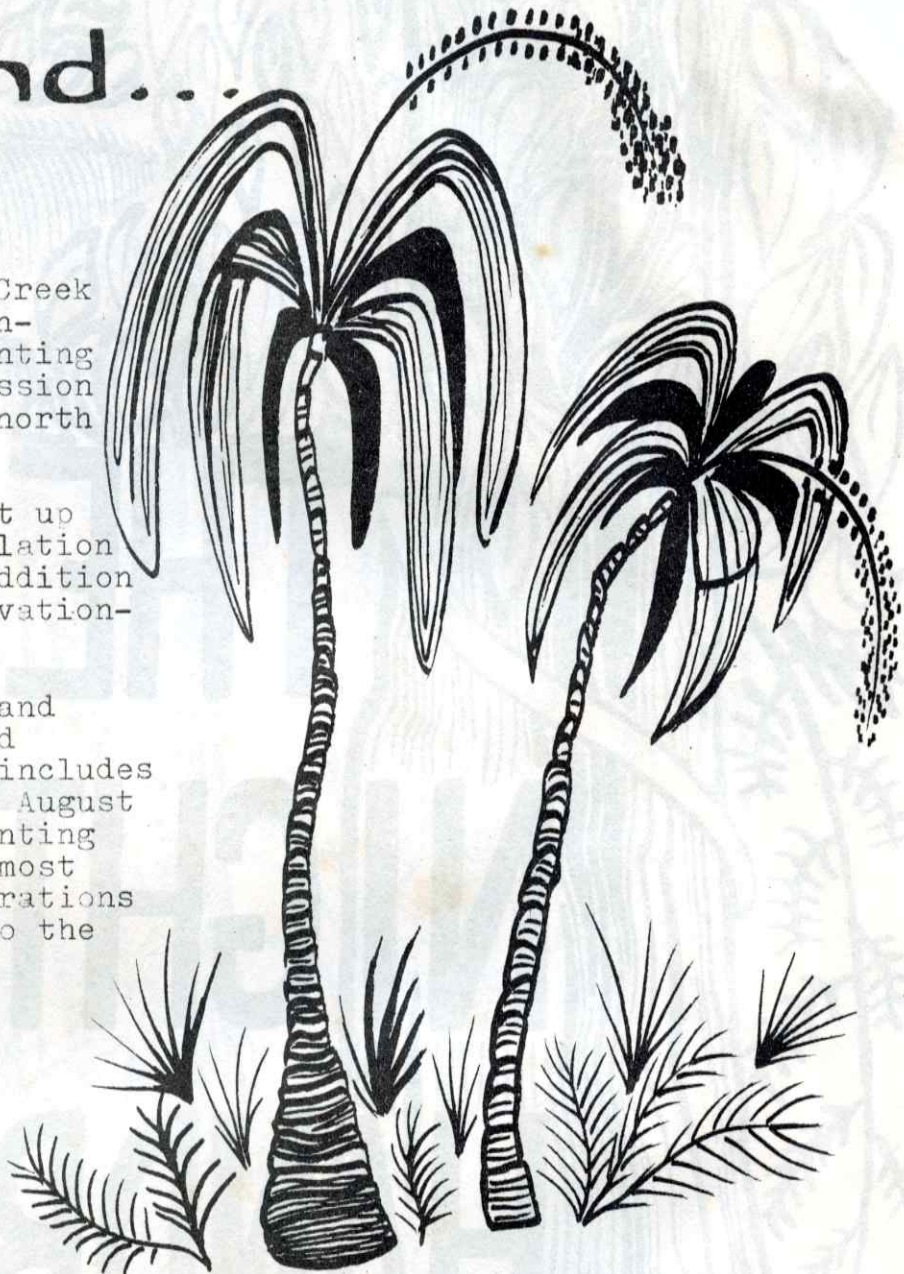
Some months ago the N.S.W. government's rainforest policy sub-committee (chaired by the premier) promised a rainforest protection policy.

Conservationists had long been calling for a stop to all rainforest logging. A state-wide poll commissioned by the National Trust showed that 70% of the people of N.S.W. wanted an end to rainforest logging.

The committee responded by asking the major conservation groups for a list of those rainforest areas which were of particular importance. Of the half dozen areas on this shortlist, logging continues only on the Nightcap.

What has happened to our Rainforest Protection Policy?

Usually reliable sources have it that the release of the policy has been stalled by intense pressure from the Day-Gordon-Unsworth axis of the labor party and that Day has threatened to resign if it is released. According to this view we have the numbers in both cabinet and caucus to protect the rainforest. We anticipate that non-violent direct action on the Nightcap will provide the necessary focus to bring the issue to resolution.



★ The Role of the Forestry Commission. ★

THE FORESTRY COMMISSION - ABOVE THE LAW?

In the absence of Federal Government control, the N.S.W. Forestry Commission is virtually a law unto itself. It is not subject to the same legal restraints as other public or private organisations:

EXAMPLE 1

State Forests are specifically exempted from the provisions of the Soil Conservation Act. Private landowners, developers, public authorities are all restrained by soil conservation laws from cutting trees on slopes over 18°. On the Nightcap the Commission is logging 35° slopes, eroding soil and polluting water catchment for Nimbin in the south, Murwillumbah in the north.

EXAMPLE 2

The Local Government Act states that Local Councils may not "restrict or prohibitthe carrying out of any forestry work by the Forestry Commission....."

EXAMPLE 3

Unmarked Trees. When a tree is selected for logging, the Forester blazes a notch on the butt near the ground. This exposed section of wood is then branded with FC and a number allocated to the marker.

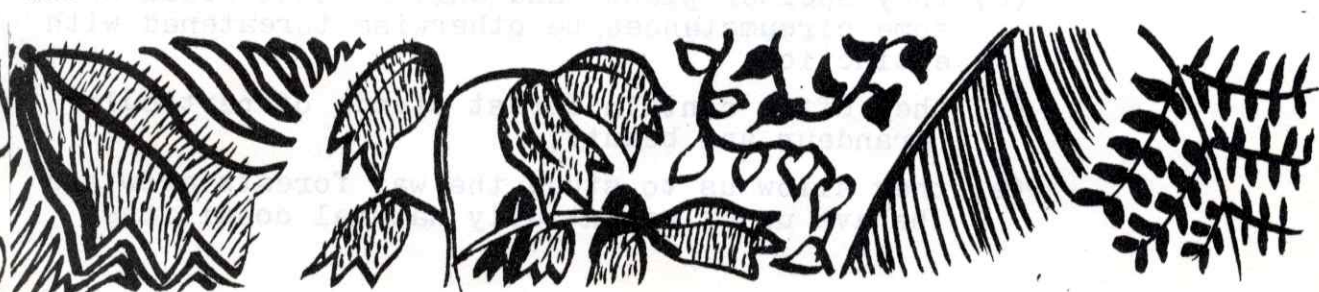
Four unmarked trees have been found in Goonimbah S.F., three brushwood trees logged 8 months ago and one brush box felled in the last month.

On 17th. August, 1982 Sup. Burke was approached in the forest and advised of the suspected theft. He refused to inspect the suspect stumps even though empowered to do so by the Forestry Commission Act.

On 19th. August Forestry Commissioner Gentle was informed of the suspected theft and the lack of action by Forester Lemaire. No action has yet been taken by Police or Forestry Commission to investigate this suspected theft.

Since these events a fourth tree has been found in Griers Scrub and four people were arrested on 26th. August while trying to persuade Sen. Con. Cheesworth and Con. Hayes to investigate.

The matter is now in the hands of the Ombudsman.



EXAMPLE 4

On numerous occasions in the forest operations, Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions or Special Conditions are disregarded. For example, snigging tracks crossing waterways, crossways constructed but inadequate to handle peak stream flows, banks not constructed to a stable slope, heads fallen into creeks and not removed, insufficient care to avoid damage of retained trees.

EXAMPLE 5.

Destruction of exempted species, especially bangalow palms and interference with red cedar.

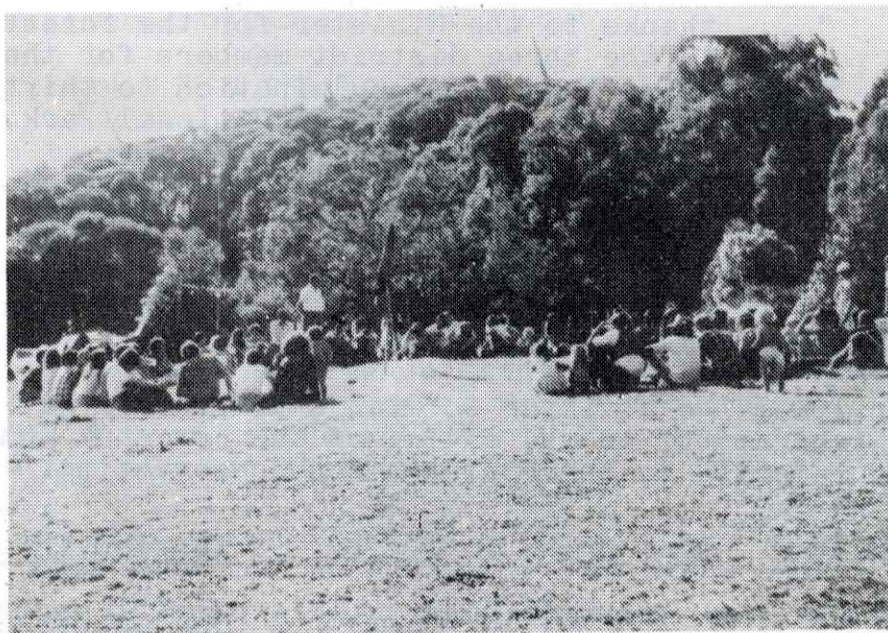
*

A leaked report has revealed that the Forestry Commission is aware of malpractices within its own organisation:

In June 1981, the Forestry Commissioner, Dr. Wal Gentle gave an opening address to the Forestry Commission's Senior Officer's Conference. The leaked transcript of Dr. Gentle's address included an admission that "the Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions are being breached, and seriously, nearly all the time". In particular he mentioned that this applied at Terania Creek. This contradicts the Forestry Commission's submission under oath to the Terania Creek inquiry that logging at Terania was carried out in accordance with erosion mitigation conditions.

He went on to say that....."a very, very big improvement overall by everyone has to be made because those are the grounds on which (and the only grounds on which) we can be pulled into the Land and Environment Court. The grounds are that we are breaching the law, which we are doing".

However, these same logging practices continue in Grier's Scrub and the Commission has taken the unprecedented step of closing the forest to the public.



Bunjalung Aboriginal Leaders
Frank Roberts Talking to the camp.

Why a Nightcap National Park?

The National Parks Association of New South Wales has called on the State Government to declare a National Park on the Nightcap Range north of Lismore, an area of more than 4000 Ha. extending from the Nightcap Flora Reserve in the east through Terania Creek Basin and Goonimbah State Forest to Blue Knob in the west. The Minister responsible for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, The Hon. Eric Bedford, has studied our proposal and states that it has "... considerable merit, especially for the preservation of virgin rainforest."

We have three main arguments to show why this area should be declared a National Park - historical, economic and ecological:

1. Historical: Lismore's long lost National Park.

Since the turn of the century, there have been numerous attempts to have areas of the Nightcap reserved. Finally, in the thirties, a number of councils in the region and local residents made representations to the NSW Government for the establishment of a National Park. Notable among those pressing for the park was the Mayor of Lismore, E. J. Eggins, who sought the dedication of an area centred on the old Nightcap track.

The Government responded by declaring the Nightcap National Forest comprising about 30,000 acres incorporating Whian Whian, Goonimbah, Burringbar and Nullum State Forests. On 15 May, 1937, the Hon. Roy S. Vincent M.L.A., Minister for Mines and Forests in his declaration stated that the management plan for the National Forest would provide for "... what is to all intents and purposes a National Park serving all time." The total park area was to be about 3000 acres. The Northern Star of 17 May, 1937, devoted its front page and two others to stories and photographs of the dedication ceremony at Minyon Falls. Included was a statement by the late Ald. S. J. Hosie, Mayor of Lismore

" ... thanks to the Minister for the Forestry Act and to the three district members for the efforts producing this happy culmination to thirty years' agitation for the Nightcap National Park."

War intervened. Those intentions were never carried out. After the war, the management plans were 'misplaced', not to resurface until 1975. The areas "to all intents and purposes a National Park" have been lost to intensive forestry and even bananas (with the exception of 375 unlogged hectares of the Nightcap Flora Reserve).

Again, in 1963, the Minister for Lands proposed a National Park on the Nightcap but on the advice of the Forestry Commission this was rejected by the Minister for Conservation.

2. Economic: Five years of timber, or tourism in perpetuity?

According to the Forestry Commission's present management plan, the remaining stands of mature trees in the proposed park (some carbon-dated at 1300 years old), will be cut out by 1986. At that time, the one mill in Murwillumbah cutting timber there

will have to close or find alternative timber supplies. We propose that the State Government assist this mill in converting its operations to utilise thinnings or plantation pine.

In contrast to this situation, tourism is booming in this area. "Between April 1979 and March 1980, the North Coast received 2.67 million visitors who stayed an average of 4.78 nights." (Dept. Industrial Development and Decentralisation), This number is expected nearly to double in the next decade. "The North Coast is a major tourist destination. In 1979-80 no other non-metropolitan region in NSW rivalled the North Coast in terms of number of visitor nights". (Dept. Industrial Development and Decentralisation). These visitors last year spent an estimated \$35 million in the Richmond Valley and the same in the Tweed. (Dept. Tourism).

In spite of this trend, the Richmond-Tweed has less National Park per head of population than any other region in NSW, (with the exception of the Murray and Murrumbidgee which are distinguished by having none at all). There is great pressure on the existing parks here, especially Mount Warning which is already in danger of degradation from over-use. The Nightcap quite literally is our last chance to rectify this situation. There is no more natural forest left in the area.

Under the headline "Conservation 'row' may have led to Tourist Boom", the Northern Star of 26 May 1981 quoted the Lismore City Council development officer in charge of the Tourist Information Centre as saying that "...many visitors simply were asking: 'Where is the nearest rainforest?'"

"There has been an increasing awareness of and concern about conservation issues".

"They are asking about our natural forests such as Terania Creek...." said the development officer.

Economic analysis shows that with the number of tourists in the region, the economic benefits of a National Park outweigh the costs by an order of magnitude, even in the short term. With proper management, these economic benefits are ours in perpetuity.

3. The Ecological Argument

The Forestry Commission believes that samples of undisturbed forest are important for a number of reasons:

- (a) they provide an historic link with forests of aboriginal days;
- (b) they represent the original habitat of our native plants and animals;
- (c) they shelter plants and animals that could under some circumstances be otherwise threatened with extinction;
- (d) they often contain forest stands of particular grandeur and beauty;
- (e) they allow us to study the way forests grow and behave under essentially natural conditions;

(f) they provide a recreational resource of great significance in our increasingly urbanised lives."

(Forest and Timber, vol.10, no.1, 1974)

In its Background Paper, Rainforest Policies, 1979, the State Government's National Parks and Wildlife Service states:

"Where previously large tracts of rainforest such as 'the Big Scrub' and 'the Illawarra Brush' have been almost obliterated by clearing, there is justification for maximising the conservation effort for the few remaining vestiges."

(N.P.W.S. Background Paper,
Rainforest Policies, October 1979)

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (of which Australia is a member), would certainly agree with both of the above statements. This body recommends that at least 5% of each country be set aside primarily for the preservation of natural ecosystems. Diamond's work on island bio-geography has shown that even if 5% of a given ecosystems is set aside undisturbed, 60 - 70% of the species originally present will be lost in the long term, due to genetic drift and other factors.

The N.R.C.A.E.'s North Coast Region Resources Inventory and Land-use Planning Guidelines to the Year 2001 suggests that " ... with the extreme diversity of flora and fauna native to the North Coast region, more than 5% of the total land area should be preserved to ensure a greater depth of protection for the region's irreplaceable biological resources."

Far less than one per cent of the region is being preserved primarily for the preservation of natural ecosystems.

The Nightcap is part of the rim of an ancient volcano. When this volcano erupted 20 million years ago, the plug, Mount Warning, was 3,500 feet higher than it is now. Even then the rainforest was 100 million years old.

When we were all part of Gondwanaland, before Antarctica sailed away to the south, Asia to the north, that rainforest existed. Decisions we make in the remaining decades of this century will determine whether this most ancient of forests is to continue at all.

* The Nightcap National Park is the last chance for the people of Lismore to preserve an ecologically viable fragment of the original nature of our area.



Front Lines.

This Poem by Pulitzer Prize winning poet Gary Snyder describes the American experience. But the struggle is the same.

The edge of cancer
Swells against the hill - we feel
 a foul breeze -
And it sinks back down.
The deer winter here
A chainsaw growls in the gorge.

Ten wet days and the log trucks stop,
The trees breathe.
Sunday the 4-wheel jeep of the
Realty Company brings in
Landseekers, lookers, they say
To the land,
Spread your legs.

The jets crack sound overhead, it's OK here;
Every pulse of the rot at the heart
In the sick fat veins of Amerika
Pushes the edge up closer -

A bulldozer grinding and slobbering
Sideslipping and belching on top of
The skinned-up bodies of still-live bushes
In the pay of a man
From town.

Behind is a forest that goes to the Arctic
And a desert that still belongs to the Piute
And here we must draw
Our line.



Nightcap Sacred Sites.

FROM THE NORTHERN STAR 14th August, 1982

"The State Forestry Commission has erected two gate-posts within walking distance of what Bundjalung tribal elder, Mr Lyle Roberts, describes as his totem, or most sacred place.

A spokesman for the Nightcap Action Group said that an attempt soon could be made to log rainforest just below the summit of Mt Nardi, which includes the totem.

Mr Roberts, 87, yesterday visited a conservation camp-site at Googarna Forest Road, to state his feelings on the the gate and the forest, the scene of a dispute between loggers and conservationists.

In addition to the Mt. Nardi site, local aborigines have designated the Blue Knob burial sites and the Terania initiation sites as sacred sites.

Standard Sawmill, Robb & Brown & Adsteam.

Standard Sawmills who are engaged in logging the proposed Nightcap National Park are deliberately provoking a confrontation with conservationists by continuing rainforest logging while unable to sell existing stocks of timber due to a downturn in the building industry. Employees spent three weeks in the last month doing maintenance work rather than milling and 15 workers have been laid off already. Standards are hoping that a confrontation will enable them to retrench a large number of redundant employees and blame conservationists.

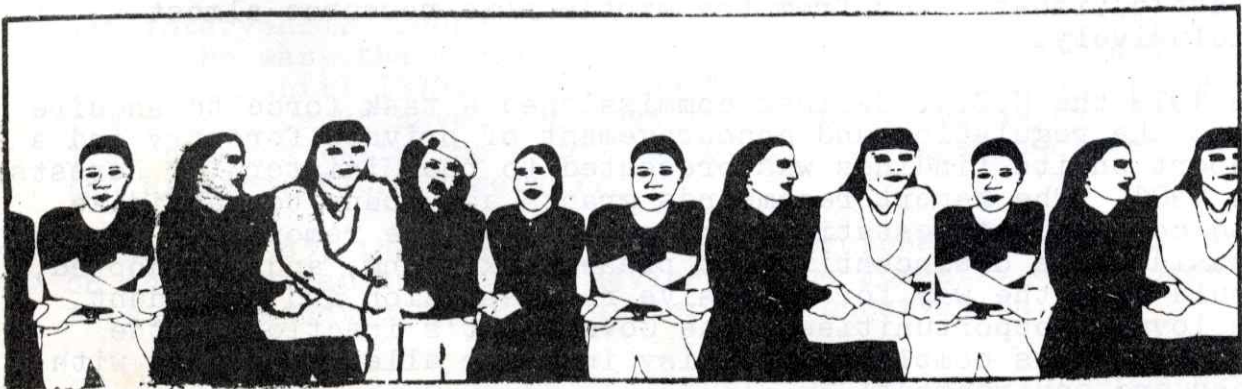
Standards received $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars after the Border Ranges decision in 1978. The government provided this money to ensure continuation of employment, yet scores of men have been laid off since.

The recently leaked Fortech report shows that there are from 10,000 to 12,000 cubic metres of regrowth thinnings p.a. in the Murwillumbah working circle and these are overdue for cutting....This is more than Standards quota for the Nightcap and could easily replace it with no loss of jobs.

The true situation regarding employment in the timber industry is as follows:- As a result of forestry commission policies over several decades, and as a result of multinational takeover of mills and the consequent automation, 3,300 jobs have been lost in the timber industry in N.S.W. in 5 years.

Standard Sawmills provide a good example of this process. Over the years they took over a large number of small mills in order to acquire their quota of timber from the State's forests. They would then close the mills and sack the employees. Standards were themselves swallowed by Robb & Brown. Australia's giant multinational, Adelaide Steamship Co., is the largest shareholder in Robb & Brown.

Adelaide Steamship Co., is financing its multimillion dollar takeovers by plundering both rainforests and timber industry jobs on the North coast. Their profits in 1980-81 were over \$50million. In a couple of years when Standards has cut out the Murwillumbah Working Circle, Robb & Brown will move management and machinery down to the Bathurst pineforests and leave both the ecological and economic environments in ruins.





Taxpayers are subsidising this process by the Forestry Commission's traditional annual deficit (totalling some \$200 million over 20 years.)

The Nightcap Action Group announces a boycott of the Adelaide Steamship Company until they:-

1. Stop rainforest logging
2. Take responsibility for the jobs of their north coast timberworkers.

The Australian Conservation Foundation is publicising this boycott and is writing to the Adelaide Steamship Company to let them know that they are considering sponsoring the boycott. There are over half a million members of conservation organisations in Australia who are being asked to participate in the boycott.

Amongst its numerous holdings, Adelaide Steamship Company controls department stores (David Jones, Georges) and Tooth's Breweries.

In their reply to A.C.F., Adelaide Steamship Company claim that as they only have 3 of the 8 directors on the board of Robb & Brown, they can't stop the rainforest logging activities. Consequently, N.A.G. has written to the State Government Insurance Office, the second largest shareholder in Robb & Brown.

We asked them to join with Adsteam in ensuring a more responsible attitude on Robb & Brown's part. Unless there is a halt to Robb & Brown's rainforest logging, there will be simultaneous demonstrations outside D.J.'s etc. in every capital city in Australia during September. Also in mid-September we will be advising the 100,000 members of conservation organisations in N.S.W. to buy private rather than S.G.I.O. insurance when registering their cars. An opinion poll conducted by the National Trust showed that 70% of people in N.S.W. want an end to rainforest logging.



e Terania Story.

About seven years ago the residents of Terania Creek, a peaceful valley 20 miles from Lismore, heard that the Forestry Commission were planning to clearfell all the rainforest basin at the end of the valley.

The residents immediately formed the Terania Native Forest Action Group (TNFAG), and the first thing TNFAG did was to obtain more information and set up a public meeting to discuss the issue. This meeting was held at the Channon Hall at the entrance to the valley and included residents, mill workers and Forestry representatives. At this meeting the Forestry had revised their original plan to clearfell the entire basin and instead they were going to log the rainforest to a 50% canopy retention and clearfell the buffer zones. As pressure mounted against this proposal, it was again changed, this time to only log the buffer zones to 50% canopy retention. (This is still the current intention). These buffer zones are accepted by world experts as emergent rainforest and are imperative to the survival of the pure rainforest.

After five years of constant lobbying and attempting to get an Independent Environmental Impact Study instigated, all to no avail, it was decided to set up a protest camp on private property at the entrance to the forest.

After 3 weeks of solid protest involving hundreds of conservationists and a daily average of 100 police, the Wran Government decided to call a halt to logging and set up an inquiry. This inquiry was not the Impact Study asked for, but a judicial inquiry headed by a retired Judge appointed by the Minister for Conservation, Lyn Gordon, who had been against the conservationists from the out set.

This Judge failed to understand the situation and was too old to walk in the forest to gain a first hand understanding. He wouldn't allow any discussion on reforestation or the possibility of Terania Creek becoming part of a National Park. His inquiry was not competent to evaluate the ecological evidence presented.

His eventual finding was to allow logging to continue, but the Government has not accepted this finding.

TO MR. WRAN

A HANDFUL OF TIMBER.

D B^m
FOR A WALK IN THE FOREST - WILL YOU THROW US ALL IN JAIL?
D B^m F#
FOR THE MYTH OF EMPLOYMENT - WILL YOU BLAZE THE FINAL TRAIL?
D D
FOR A CHANCE TO USE YOUR POWER - WILL YOU STRIKE THE LETHAL SPARK?
D B^m
FOR A HANDFUL OF TIMBER - WILL YOU TAKE OUR NATIONAL PARK?

*

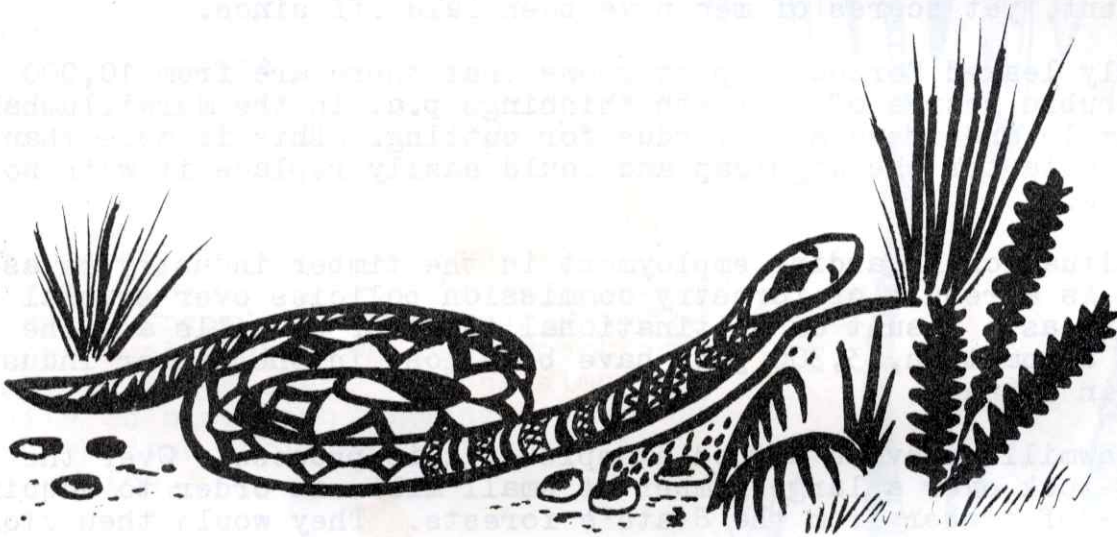
D B^m
FOR A POLITICIAN'S PAYOFF - WILL YOU LET THEM TAKE OUR TREES?
D B^m F#
AND FOR MULTINATIONAL MONEY - CAN THEY DO JUST WHAT THEY PLEASE?
D D
FOR THE LOCAL COUNTRY PEOPLE - WILL YOU KEEP THEM IN THE DARK?
D B^m
FOR A HANDFUL OF TIMBER - WILL YOU TAKE OUR NATIONAL PARK?

*

D B^m
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR EMPIRE - WILL YOU CUT THE FUTURE DOWN?
D B^m F#
FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS TO WITNESS - WILL YOU BE THE CRIMINAL CLOWN?
D D
FOR THE END OF OUR FOREST - WILL YOU GIVE THE WORD TO START?
D B^m
FOR A HANDFUL OF TIMBER - WILL YOU TAKE OUR NATIONAL PARK?

★ Reafforestation = Rainforest + Jobs. ★

Rainforest is a womb of life. We evolved from rainforest and fully half of the species of flora and fauna on earth exist within the rainforests. To destroy rainforest is to be like the most impoverished, drought-stricken people, reduced by starvation to eating the seeds saved for next season's planting. Are we so poor? To save the rainforest and preserve jobs we will have to pay - by employing people to reforest the degraded slopes of the North Coast until there are trees to mill again.



At one end of landscape spectrum we have untouched rainforest, at the other, productive farmland. In the middle we have huge areas of 'marginal' farmland, eroding, weed infested or carrying degraded forest. These areas, the result of past over-clearing, are capable of carrying sufficient forest to meet timber needs without cutting out remaining native forests. Effective reforestation would solve the erosion and weed problems, as well as creating substantial employment.

In N.S.W. , apart from the southern plantations of Radiata Pine, there are no economic incentives for reforestation. This is mainly due to the Forestry Commission's intention to supply the State's timber needs from the exotic pine resource almost exclusively.

In 1979 the N.S.W. Cabinet commissioned a task force to enquire into the regulation and encouragement of private forestry and a report on its findings was presented to the Minister for Forests in 1981. The report recommends grants and loans to subsidize the cost of reforestation work as well as the removal of the considerable disincentives at present existing, and if adopted, would pave the way for extensive reforestation and attendant employment opportunities. The Government's inaction on the report, shows complete hypocrisy in their alleged concern with jobs and environment.

If State finances do not allow positive action to be funded, the Federal Government should take responsibility. Given present attitudes it looks like staying 'the year of the concrete pylon'.

Why Protect Rainforests?

Last year more than 50 of the world's most eminent scientists wrote to the premier, pleading that he preserve the remnants of N.S.W rainforests. The following quotations are from these letters:

Emeritus Professor P.W. Richards, Cambridge:

"The survival of the rainforests of Australia is a matter for serious anxiety...."

Gerald Durrell, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Channel Islands:

... "The world's tropical moist forests hold over one half of the planet's species of plants and animals and these living things have been of immeasurable value to science and human welfare and will be so in the future - if they survive. "....The present rate of our destruction of the planet means that in the next twenty years, half to one million species of plants and animals will become extinct....."

Professor N.W. Moore, University of London and Nature Conservancy Council, London:

" As you will know, some 20 million hectares of the world's primary rainforests are being destroyed or severely damaged each year, so that the complete destruction of the extensive rainforest ecosystem looks to be a matter of time only. The rainforests, as the most complex biotic community in the world, is generally known to be a highly diversified and fragile ecosystem, which is not able to regenerate after destruction. The rainforest ecosystem is a nonrenewable genetic resource of many species of plants and animals which - once displaced by large-scale land use - can never return to re-occupy the area."

Professor Paul R. Ehrlich, Stanford University, Stanford, California:

"In my view, the remaining subtropical rainforests of New South Wales (indeed the remaining forests, especially tropical forests, of Australia) are a national treasure that should be protected at all costs from logging or clearing."

Professor D. Mueller-Dombois, Dept. of Botany, University of Hawaii at Manoa:

".....This would indicate that a threshold size is being approached which when decreased further may indeed result in an irreplaceable loss of a self-maintaining natural forest cover. Further consequences are the loss of potentially useful genetic stock, loss of important wildlife habitat, and loss of a number of intangible scientific, scenic, recreational, and educational values. It is unfortunate that the latter cannot be exactly weighed in dollars and cents like a commercial tree crop. But informed opinion all over the world now holds that unless a nation is really at its existential minimum, these intangible values may considerably outweigh the short-term commercial interests".

Emeritus Professor Heinrich Walter, Botanical Institute, Hohenheim University, West Germany:

"Primary rainforests are the most susceptible terrestrial ecosystem. They never regenerate after clearing or logging and are succeeded by a much poorer secondary forest vegetation."



Peter H. Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden:

".... Rainforest worldwide is being depleted at a rate that suggests that little if any will be left beyond the first few years of the next century. One can easily envision the reason for logging and clearing of rainforest in developing countries, but one might hope that in countries such as Australia which have abundant resources of other kinds, that ways might be found to preserve this priceless heritage for the benefit of future generations".

Dr. Peter S. Ashton, Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University:

"There is no doubt that other, less advanced nations are looking to Australia for leadership in this aspect of land-use which, though not a central one to you, can affect the livelihood, and perhaps the very survival, of millions in many tropical countries".

Dr. Raymond F. Dasmann, Professor of Ecology, University of California, Santa Cruz;

" Unfortunately most of the humid forests of the tropics and subtropics occur in developing countries which often lack both the financial and technical means for preventing their continuing destruction. A special responsibility falls therefore upon those nations which are not so hard-pressed financially and which possess the scientific and technical expertise needed to protect and manage tropical and sub-tropical forests."

Professor P. Greig-Smith, School of Plant Biology, University College of North Wales:

"...Rain forest is the most complex type of vegetation in existence and our scientific understanding of it has still a very long way to go. To destroy it - and it cannot be maintained by leaving small pockets unlogged - is to prevent mankind from ever attaining the full understanding of a major feature of our environment and thus impoverish the heritage of our descendants...."

"...Australia is one of the very few developed nations to include rain forest and there is no doubt that the example it sets will have a profound influence on opinion in the "third-world" nations with much more extensive areas of rain forest. All those with any understanding of rain forests will be waiting anxiously to hear what decision is made and will hope that New South Wales will give a lead to Australia and the world in this very important matter".

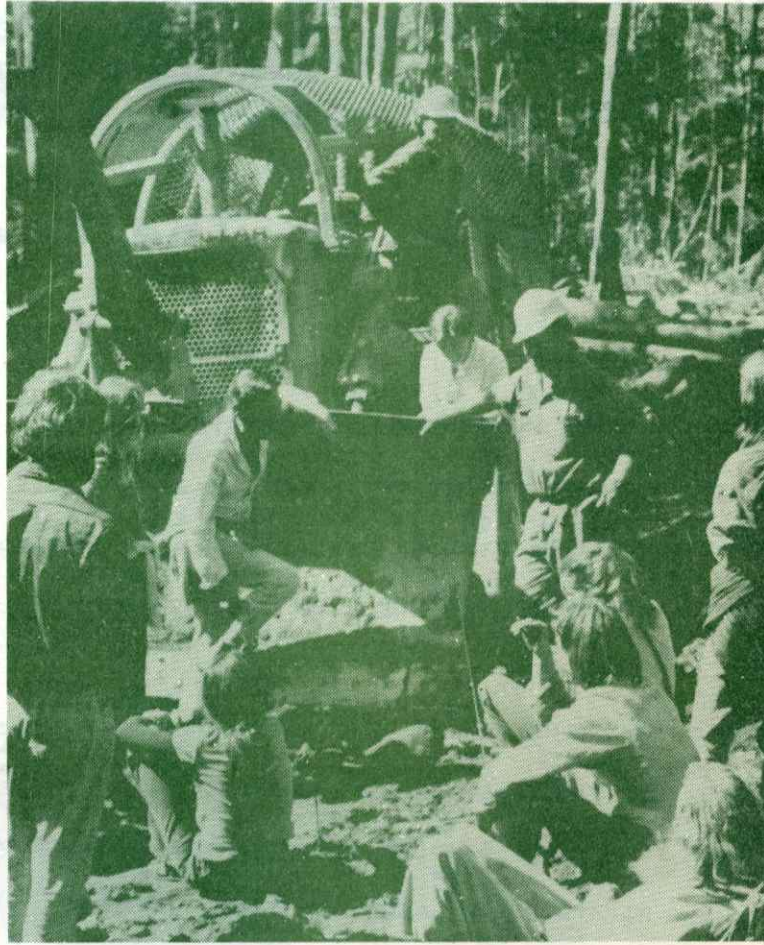
Professor E.J.H. Corner, C.B.E., F.R.S., Emeritus Professor of Tropical Botany, University of Cambridge.

"What will posterity think, if bereft of the magnificent, beautiful, peculiar and endemic vegetation of Australia - unique in the world - with all its living creatures? Must all this be sacrificed for transitory profit, selling timber? Facts, figures, profits, loss, into the exportation of the last board, do not matter: it is the viable sanctuary that will now count. So I hope to hear of the Premier's Park or better, of the Premier's Parks, to the enduring honour of New South Wales"

A 14 page booklet titled "World Scientists Write to Premier Wran about Rainforest", is available for \$1 inc. postage, from the Rainforest Information Centre, P.O. Box 368, LISMORE 2480.



Means and Ends.



Ends: To protect life on earth by protecting earth's rainforest by protecting N.S.W. rainforest on the Nightcap.

Means: Non-violent direct action to hinder logging, thus raising the issue to prominence in the media and in people's minds.

Why non-violent?

1. A statewide poll commissioned by the National Trust found that 70% of the people of N.S.W. want an end to rainforest logging. At present we are the cutting edge of that majority. Perhaps the only way we can fail to get a rainforest protection policy is if we can be alienated from those 70% by being painted as violent or even destructive to property. There's big money and entrenched bureaucracy waiting eagerly to make us look like the red brigades or Charlie Manson. Indeed the traditional way of destroying a successful non-violent action is for an agent provocateur to commit an act of violence to discredit the action.
2. Violence won't work. The state always wins when it comes to violence.
3. When violence fights violence who wins? Violence does. Escalating violence versus violence gets us nowhere.

All we are saying
Is give peace a chance



What is Consensus? Consensus is a process for group decision-making. It is a method by which an entire group of people can come to an agreement. The input and ideas of all participants are gathered and synthesized to arrive at a final decision acceptable to all. Through consensus, we are not only working to achieve better solutions, but also to promote the growth of community and trust.

Consensus vs. Voting: Voting is a means by which we choose one alternative from several. Consensus, on the other hand, is a process of synthesizing many diverse elements together.

Voting is a win or lose model, in which people are more often concerned with the numbers it takes to "win" than with the issue itself. Voting does not take into account individual feelings or needs. In essence, it is a quantitative, rather than qualitative, method of decision-making.

A basic set of rules for a consensus process is:

1. Be clear about areas of agreement.
2. The problem/situation needing consideration is discussed. A clear idea of what decision needs to be made is formulated. A proposal can then be made. (Part of this discussion should bring out the present position or course of action of the group relating to the issue at hand).
3. People present who do not speak are assumed to have no strong feeling on the issue.
4. After adequate discussion, it is asked if there is opposition to the proposal as stated.
5. If there are no objections the proposal can be formally stated and adopted. A consensus has been reached.
6. Opposition to a proposal will block its adoption. Opposition must be resolved for the proposal to be adopted.
7. If the objection can be satisfied, a sense of the meeting can be taken again. If there are no further objections the proposal can be adopted.
8. If an objection cannot be satisfied, and no creative alternative solution can be offered which meets no objections, then a proposal cannot be adopted as consensus. The group would then continue with the last consensus decision it had on the subject, or lacking such previous decision the consensus would be to take no action on the proposal.

There are ways to object to a proposal within consensus:

1. Non-support ("I don't see the need for this, but I'll go along").
2. Reservations ("I think this may be a mistake, but I can live with it").
3. Standing aside ("I personally can't do this, but I won't stop others from doing it.")
4. Withdrawing from the group.

Some guidelines for consensus process:

1. Responsibility - Block consensus only for serious, principled objections. Help others to find ways to satisfy your objections.
2. Respect - Accept objections, trust those who make them to be acting responsibly. Help find ways to satisfy objections.
3. Co-operation - Look for areas of agreement and common ground; avoid competitive right-wrong, win-lose thinking. When a stalemate occurs, look for creative alternatives, or for next-most-acceptable proposals. Avoid arguing for your own way to prevail. Present your ideas clearly, then listen to others and try to advance the group synthesis.
4. Creative conflict - Avoid conflict-reducing techniques like majority vote, averages, or coin tossing. Try instead to resolve the conflict. Don't abandon an objection for "harmony" if it is a real problem you are speaking to. Don't try to trade off objections or to reward people for standing aside.

We all have the same purpose, to non-violently stop rainforest logging. Seemingly irreconcilable differences can be resolved if people speak their feelings honestly and genuinely try to understand all positions (including their own) better.

On Relating to Police.

1. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REMAIN CALM AND POLITE WHEN TALKING TO A POLICEMAN.
2. If you are arrested, you have a right to be informed immediately of the charge.
3. If you resist lawful arrest, the policemen can use all necessary force to arrest you.
4. If the policeman says you are not under arrest you may walk away - however it is not wise to exercise this right unless independent witnesses are present.
5. Whether you are under arrest or are merely under suspicion you are not obliged to answer questions or provide information to the police, but, you are required to give your name and address to the police on request.
6. Every word spoken to the police no matter how casually can be used in court just as readily as a signed statement.
7. A statement may either be written personally or dictated to a police officer who must write down the exact words spoken, may not prompt, and may only ask such questions as are necessary to make the statement correct. If you read it through and acknowledge it to be correct that makes the statement admissible evidence against you.
8. Procedure at a police station. You should immediately ask for bail and request that your solicitor and relatives be notified. Above all do not lose your temper or allow yourself to be rattled, smart or rude. You are not in a good position to score verbal points. Any suggestion from a policeman that by making a statement you will be making things easier for yourself or anyone else should be regarded with suspicion.
9. Once you have been charged, the police may search your pockets, bags, etc. for articles that may have some bearing on the offence charged, or with which you might do some injury to yourself or others while in custody. They may also wish to take your fingerprints and photograph you. If you are eventually found not guilty you should request that the photographs and fingerprints be destroyed.
10. Complaints against the police: If you believe that the police have exceeded their powers you should make a note of the names and numbers of the officers concerned. If you are forced to go to a police station without being arrested; if you are not told why you have been arrested; if you are not permitted to communicate with your solicitor and relatives; if you are obstructed in obtaining bail; or if you have been ill-treated you should ask to see the senior officer at the police station or record your complaint.
11. Make a note of the conversations with the police using as nearly as possible the exact words spoken. Contact any possible witnesses and ask them to remember relevant facts. If you have been physically ill-treated go straight to a doctor and ask him/her to report on your injuries photographed by a competent photographer.
12. Choose your own solicitor - see N.A.G. office for contacts.
13. Never plead guilty unless advised by a solicitor. Do not plead guilty on police advice. In our criminal courts a person is innocent until proven guilty, so the onus of proof is on the prosecution.

TREES - BY HERMANN HESSE

For me, trees have always been the most penetrating preachers. I revere them when they live in tribes and families, in forests and groves. And even more I revere them when they stand alone. They are like lonely persons. Not like hermits who have stolen away out of some weakness, but like great, solitary men, like Beethoven and Nietzsche. In their highest boughs the world rustles, their roots rest in infinity, but they do not lose themselves there, they struggle with all the force of their lives for one thing only: to fulfill themselves according to their own laws, to build up their own form, to represent themselves. Nothing is holier, nothing is more exemplary than a beautiful, strong tree.

When a tree is cut down and reveals its naked death-wound to the sun, one can read its whole history in the luminous, inscribed disk of its trunk: in the rings of its years, its scars, all the struggle, all the suffering, all the sickness, all the happiness and prosperity stand truly written, the narrow years and the luxurious years, the attacks withstood, the storms endured. And every young farmboy knows that the hardest and noblest wood has the narrowest rings, that high on the mountains and in continuing danger the most indestructible, the strongest, the ideal trees grow.

Trees are sanctuaries, whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth. They do not preach learning and precepts, they preach, undeterred by particulars, the ancient law of life.

A tree says: A kernel is hidden in me, a spark, a thought, I am life from eternal life. The attempt and the risk that the eternal mother took with me is unique, unique the form and veins of my skin, unique the smallest play of leaves in my branches and the smallest scar on my bark. I was made to form and reveal the eternal in my smallest special detail.

A tree says: My strength is trust. I know nothing about my fathers, I know nothing about the thousand children that every year spring out of me. I live out the secret of my seed to the very end, and I care for nothing else. I trust that God is in me. I trust that my labor is holy. Out of this trust I live.

When we are stricken and cannot bear our lives any longer, then a tree has something to say to us. Be still! Be still! Look at me! Life is not easy, life is not difficult. Those are childish thoughts. Let God speak within you, and your thoughts will grow silent. You are anxious because your path leads away from mother and home. But every step and every day lead you back again to the mother. Home is neither here nor there. Home is within you or home is nowhere at all.

A longing to wander tears my heart when I hear trees rustling in the wind at evening. If one listens to them silently for a long time, this longing reveals its kernel, its meaning. It is not so much a matter of escaping from one's suffering, though it may seem to be so. It is a longing for home, for a memory of the mother, for new metaphors for life. It leads home. Every path leads homeward, every step is birth, every step is death, every grave is mother.

So the tree rustles in the evening, when we stand uneasy before our own childish thoughts. Trees have long thoughts, long-breathing and restful, just as they have longer lives than ours. They are wiser than we are, as long as we do not listen to them. But when we have learned how to listen to trees, then the brevity and the quickness and the childlike hastiness of our thoughts achieve an incomparable joy. Whoever has learned how to listen to trees no longer wants to be a tree. He wants to be nothing except what he is. That is home. That is happiness.



🌿 The Year Of The Tree. 🌿

THIS IS THE AGE OF UNDERSTANDING.

THIS IS THE TIME OF HARMONY

THIS IS THE DAWN OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE TREE.

THIS IS THE TIME OF NEWBORN VISIONS

THIS IS THE WAVE OF NEW FOUND FREEDOM

THIS IS THE HOUR OF THE DREAMTIME

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE TREE.

THIS IS THE TIME TO THINK OF THE FUTURE

THINK OF YOUR CHILDREN, THINK OF YOU AND ME

THIS IS THE TIME TO PLANT THE FORESTS,

TO PROVIDE FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TO BE

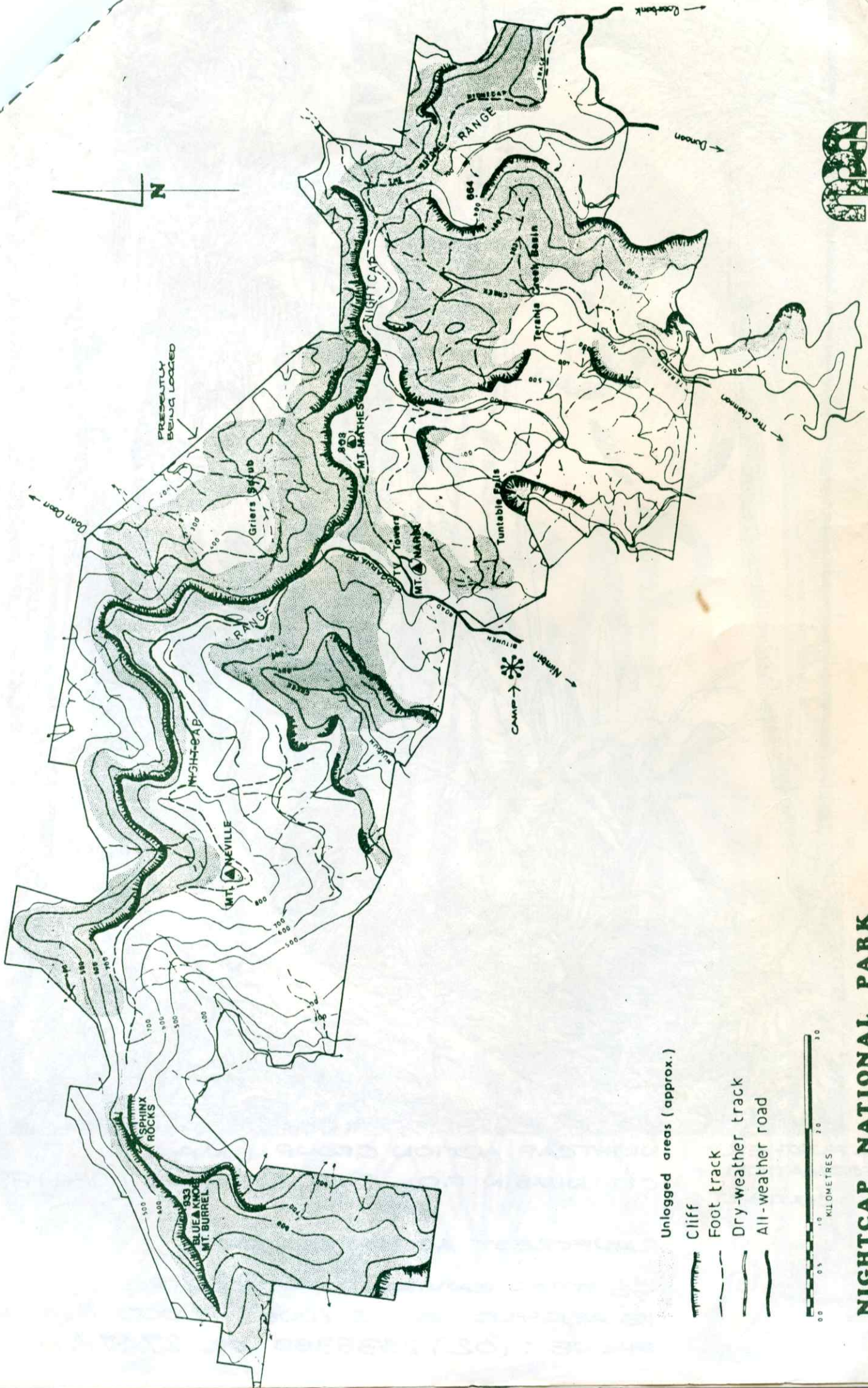
THIS IS THE TIME OF MOTHER NATURE

THIS IS THE TIME TO PLANT THE SEED

THIS IS THE DAY TO GROW TOMORROW

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE TREE

— THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE TREE.



PRESIDENTLY
BEING LOGGED

Unlogged areas (approx.)

- Cliff
- Foot track
- Dry-weather track
- All-weather road



NIGHTCAP NATIONAL PARK



National Parks & Recreation Department of Victoria



FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION
CONTACT:

NIGHTCAP ACTION GROUP (NAG)
C/O NIMBIN P.O. 2480 PHONE (066) 891436



RAINFOREST ACTION CENTRE

C/O TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
18 ARGYLE ST. SYDNEY 2000
PHONE: (02) 2335388 OR 274714