

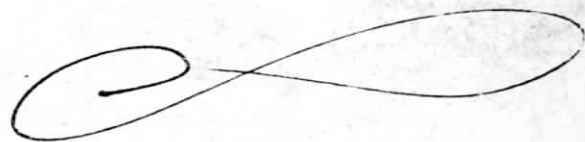
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Kathy Schelltema

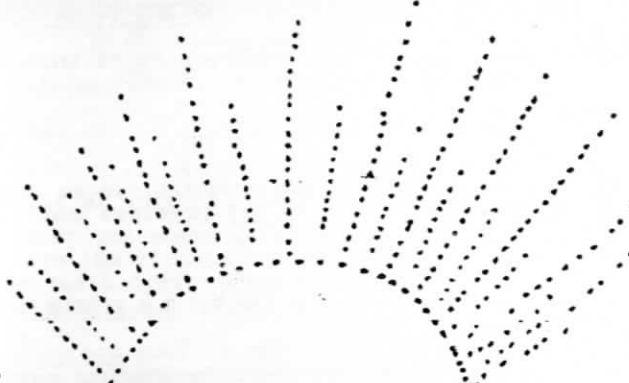
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for the Rainforest
Conservation Society
Cairns



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Daintree



Handbook



June 1984

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DAINTREE TROPICAL RAINFOREST - WORLD HERITAGE

The wild tropical rainforests which blanket the mountain ranges and valleys between the Daintree River and Cooktown are precious and beautiful.

Here along the coast, is our last major intact area (120,000 ha) of virgin tropical rainforest, contained within a 350,000 ha region of rainforest and associated vegetation.

Living fringing coral reefs and white beaches form the eastern margin. (South of the Daintree many fringing reefs have been killed by siltation and pollution following land development.) Huge laurels (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), cottonwoods (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) and wild frangipanni (*Cerbera mangas*) overhang the beach on the edge of the rainforest.

From the coast the rainforest climbs abruptly over 1000 metres to giant boulder outcrops of Thornton Peak and Pieter Botte. The Roaring Meg Creek silently gathers its headwaters in this granite upland before crashing seawards in spectacular falls.

Beneath the forest canopy is a clear understorey with knotted lianes, and a profusion of small trees, palms, fungi, vines, ferns, mosses, and leaf litter. Buttresses protrude from the forest giants, often covered with flower or fruit. The still blue pools of the unpolluted creeks abound with jungle perch, turtles, crayfish, water snakes and eels.

Everywhere there is an intensity of life.

THE ISSUE

We are committed to the preservation of all rainforests and associated vegetation in the Australian Wet Tropics. A bulldozed scar was pushed through from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield in December 1983 by the Douglas Shire Council. This road violates the existing Cape Tribulation National Park.

IT IS ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IN MANY WAYS AND WILL RESULT IN -

- * Destruction of lowland Tropical Rainforest
- * Division of the ecosystem so there is no longer continuous rainforest from high tide mark to the top of the coastal range
- * Destruction of the wilderness value of this last coastal rainforest wilderness
- * Pollution of streams
- * Siltation of the fringing Barrier Reef
- * Uncontrollable access by people to delicate dune rainforests and beaches
- * fires
- * invasion by exotic plants and animals (eg Cane Toads)

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SUMMARY OF VALUES

Rainforest in Australia comprises 0.25% of Australia, much of it has been logged. However, the area includes -

- * 50% of all Australian Plant Species
- * 30% of all known vertebrate animals in Australia
- * 50% of butterflies depend entirely on rainforest
- * tropical humid rainforests from Ingham to Cooktown (see map Fig. 1) are the richest and most diverse in Australia

AIMS AND GOALS

A longterm goal of the conservation movement in Australia is protection of all remaining rainforest, the listing of these rainforest as World Heritage and the creation of a National Rainforest Policy. (This policy, which would be the responsibility of the Federal Government, was proposed by 60 rainforest experts at a National Rainforest Conference held at Griffith University in Brisbane, December, 1983).

THE PRIORITIES OF OUR CAMPAIGN ARE -

1. World Heritage Listing of all Tropical humid Rainforests between Ingham and Cooktown by the Federal Government (see map)
2. The Declaration of the Greater Daintree National Park (see map) by the Queensland Government. This contains an area of 350,000 ha from Mt Lewis in the South, almost to Cooktown in the north and includes the Mt Windsor tablelands in the west.
3. Maintain Wilderness values in these areas.

THEN THE OBJECT OF THE PROTEST IS -

1. The cessation of roadworks, immediate erosion control and reforestation of the bulldozed track.
2. Have the road gazettal revoked.

VALUES AND THREATS

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is an internationally recognised area of unique and rare beauty. It has already been listed with the United Nations as a World Heritage area. The Greater Daintree area should also be listed as World Heritage, as part of the Wet Tropical Rainforest World Heritage Proposal.


1. The proposed Greater Daintree National Park contains -
 - a) The largest contiguous area of virgin rainforest in Australia
 - b) It is a large area of lowland tropical rainforest which has the highest conservation value
 - c) A coastal rainforest wilderness and an inland rainforest wilderness, and has been identified as one of only 4 areas in Queensland with wilderness character
 - d) It contains Refugia. This is an area in which because of climatic and physiographic factors, there has been a continuous line of descent from the earliest forests of flowering trees in the Cretaceous era, when Australia was joined with South America,

Antartica, South Africa and India in the Supercontinent GONDWANA, 150 million years ago

- e) The area contains many, rare localised, or restricted plant and animal species (Idiospermum Australiense, Bennetts Tree Kangaroo, Muskrat Kangaroo, Cassowary)
 - f) It is a scenic treasurehouse - granite peaks, covered with rainforests
 - clear streams
 - waterfalls
 - upland rainforest valleys
 - g) Continuity with the last remaining inshore fringing reefs in Category B Marine National Park and the dense middle and outer zone reef complex.
2. Mt Windsor Tableland is currently being devastated by logging operations. It is expected to be depleted of timber by 1986. The threat of logging the remainder of the proposed Greater Daintree National Park will increase with time.
 3. Mining for tin is occurring in a number of places in the proposed National Park, with many detrimental environmental effects.

The Greater Daintree National Park (see map Fig. 2) will protect an entire ecosystem and provide opportunities for natural history studies, medicinal remedies and outdoor pursuits. Declaration of this park would be a major step toward the conservation of rainforests in the humid tropics of QLD. It will ensure that the area remains the natural wonder that it is. World Heritage listing would confirm the national importance of the area and protect it. The responsibility for nominating the area for World Heritage rests solely with the Australian Federal Government.

WHAT TO DO

- 
- * Gather information, become educated about the rainforest, walk in it and learn what makes it tick. Gain first hand experience of this rich and beautiful land. Become familiar with the complex network of habitats which make up this unique ecosystem. See what affect a road has on such a fragile environment.
 - * Use this experience and understanding of the rainforest to create an awareness of the issue in your community. You can do this by holding a slide night or discussion about the Daintree when you get home. Or you could contact your local conservation group and offer to share what you have learnt up here in the rainforest (if you require any assistance with this contact CAFNEC in Cairns, or ask anyone who is familiar with public education and networking and they will assist you.)

Remember, it's only when there is a great groundswell of national pressure (like that generated with the Franklin issue) that the Federal Government will intervene, so it's up to all of us to generate that awareness.

- * The blockade. You may have arrived anticipating a blockade. At present there is no knowing when or if work on the road will recommence. Work stopped in December when the wet season commenced.

It is still very wet now, and funds available for the roadworks are very limited. There is some thought that no more money will be available to the Douglas Shire until July or August. Yet they may continue work tomorrow.

Preparations for peaceful blockading of attempts to continue with the road are going ahead.

A camp, information centre and kitchen have been set up at Cape Tribulation and people are beginning to set up the same at the North end of the track at Bloomfield. There is still lots to do, and all willing hands can soon be put to work in helping prepare for a blockade. Please contact the Cape Tribulation job centre.

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

Because the focus of the campaign is to convince the maximum number of people that the area must be preserved, there are a number of things to consider regarding our image (ie how we present ourselves) and our impact on the wilderness:

1. Please try to appear well groomed by wearing washed, mended and tended clothes and bodies. It is important for people to focus on the beauty of the wilderness, and clean appearance offers less distraction.
2. Please don't remove from the National Park or road zone any forest materials. (even if they have been cut down etc by the workers). Obviously this would look bad recorded on film.
3. Camping in National Park is illegal unless you have a permit.
4. No food scraps littering the blockade area - it looks bad and smells bad. It's better for it to go in the compost heap.
5. The Camp toilets are for shitting in, Don't Shit in the forest.
6. Symbols used for placards and banners should be directly related to Wilderness, Reef and Rainforest issues, so as not to confuse the public and loose their support.
7. Dogs are a nuisance in a large group of people. If you have a dog with you, keep it tied and quiet. Remember that dogs are not allowed in National Parks.
8. Children - No Childcare will be available. It'll be hard enough looking after ourselves at the blockade site. We really can't take the responsibility of looking after kids. Individuals or groups including children must take responsibility for those children and ensure they are kept away from the actions.
9. Mindbenders - Alcohol is discouraged at Camp. This is not a party. Experience has shown us how badly alcohol can affect a situation. Illegal drugs on camp can jeopardise the whole credibility of our campaign, constitute a threat to the landowner and are therefore banned. Those caught with illegal drugs will be dissociated from the conservation groups planning this blockade.
10. Hygiene - Close living in Tropical conditions requires that immaculate standards of hygiene be maintained. For those who have not developed a resistance to them, tropical ulcers are a major problem in this environment. Any puncture of the skin, especially insect bites, will ulcer unless disinfected several times a day. Please pay attention to this as infection travels quickly when people are under stress. There is an unlimited supply of water for washing purposes. NO SOAP OR SHAMPOO IN THE CREEKS PLEASE.

THE CAMP

The major camp is on private property at Cape Tribulation. (other camps are being established at Bloomfield and Cowie Bay). Tent Spaces are arranged in groups of 6 or 8 with a shared fireplace to minimise damage to the grounds and to lessen the demand on available wood. Sleeping quarters for those who need them are divided into smoking and non-smoking. Please respect others who are sharing with you and keep your area clean and tidy. Please take responsibilities for your belongings, if an item is mislaid, note it on the lost and found board.

An Information Centre has been established by the Wilderness Action Group (W.A.G.). Please refer to this for queries or problems of any sort. The centre also serves to hand out information to people arriving on site (eg tourists etc).

Meals are provided for active participants on a pay at the door system, \$15/week or \$1-00 per meal with payment for lunch at breakfast. The kitchen is closed to all between meals. Firewood and fireplaces are available for those who cook their own meals. People on special diets should attend to their own meals.

Meetings are held most nights at 6.30 pm. The group may be broken into smaller groups with elected representatives if it becomes too large. We hope that every person will have an input into how we operate, and that all will have an equal say in decision making.

A day of on site preparation has been organised for everyone so they can become more familiar with the issue and the area. We'd like everyone to come along.

Arrivals please refer to the information centre on arrival to the camp.

Departures please also notify the information centre when you leave, as the cook needs to know how many to cater for and so we know you're not lost in the forest.

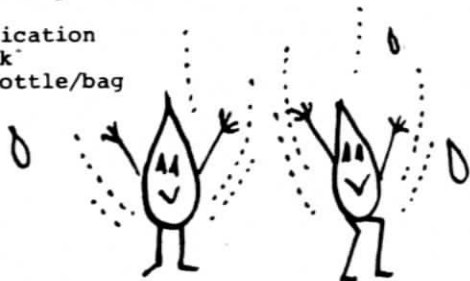
WHAT TO BRING

It is essential to clearly and indelibly name all your possessions keep possessions to a minimum.

Essentials

waterproof tent and ground sheet
sleeping bag
waterproof jacket
boots or strong shoes
long sleeved shirt and long pants
plate/bowl/mug/spoon/knife/fork
torch and spare batteries
money
identification
day pack
water bottle/bag

candles
toiletries
insect repellent
sunburn cream
hat
matches or lighter
pen and paper
plastic bags for waterproofing (all sizes)
nylon cord eg a 6 m length for repairs, emergency's etc
small sharp knife for repairs



If you have them

small stove
billy/cooking pots, wok
camera and film
walkman cassette to record actions
Maps of the area (can be purchased in Cairns at Sunmap, 25 Lake Street)

If you can lend much equipment, we desperately need tarps and large tents. Also woks and large cooking pots and radios. Please contact CAFNEC if you have anything which might be useful. Donations of food etc would be welcome.

FIRST AID

A tent for first aid has information on preventative medicine for living in the tropics as well as immediate first aid (see notes on hygiene).

- * In case of snake bite - do not move. Place a pressure bandage over the snakebite. Wait to be carried to medical aid.
- * In case of injury, seek medical attention immediately.
- * Do not move an injured person unless essential. If unconscious maintain an airway by tilting the head backwards.
- * Control any bleeding by applying direct pressure and elevate bleeding limbs.
- * Give the person nothing to eat, drink or smoke until medical opinion has been obtained.
- * Keep warm by covering. Do not Massage.
- * Apply water liberally to burns.
- * Remain calm and reassure the injured person.

MEDIA

The blockade on the road is part of our campaign to persuade the government that these tropical humid rainforests must be preserved for all time. It is a public focus, and the media carries our message from the blockade to the rest of Australia.

It is essential that the media gets our message clearly. There are sections of the media that will aim for sensationalism, eg. "dirty hippies arrested by police in violent scuffle" - This clearly doesn't get our message across.

For this reason, we have elected spokespeople to talk to the media, to convey the message of our campaign clearly. It is preferable that these people guide the media when they visit the protest site. Since anyone in the blockade could be intercepted by media it is essential that everyone acquaints themselves with the issue and the campaign for the wet tropical rainforests so that a brief statement can be made.

Remember that television reaches the largest number of people. It's good if everyone maintains awareness of being on show.

CONTACT WITH POLICE

1. It is essential to remain calm & polite when talking to Police. Obscene language or insulting words used to a Police Officer are often the first charges laid.
2. Try and remember that Policemen/women are individuals as well as a uniformed, armed group. Be courteous, treat them as people- this will make life easier and peaceful for everyone.
3. The difficulty is often not so much a lack of knowledge about what to do, but rather a lack of confidence. In order to give yourself more of a chance of coping with the Police, try to remember the following:
 - * breath deeply, look around you, taking in the surroundings and useful information like the number on the policeman's uniform.
 - * remind yourself that you are perfectly within your rights to remain silent & that you are entitled to appear in court within 24 hours of arrest, and are likely to be granted bail shortly after your arrest.
 - * when questioned by the police you may repeat politely that you have no comment to make and wish to contact your solicitor.

ARREST

An arrest can be made by either telling you that you are under arrest and/or, by some physical contact. Once you are under arrest, if you do not cooperate with police, you may be charged with 'resisting a police officer in the execution of his duty'.

Going limp is not generally regarded as resisting arrest, but could aggravate police. It must be considered carefully - the effect on police, and media, and on yourself.

If you resist arrest, by struggling or running away, the police can use all necessary force to arrest you.

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..

CHARGES

Upon arrest, you have the right to be informed immediately of the charge. (If you are not told, or if the charge is changed later, it could be used in your defense in court)

Charges likely to be laid are:

Police Act: ASSAULTING POLICE; RESISTING ARREST; OBSTRUCTING POLICE; HINDERING POLICE.

Traffic Act: DISOBEYING A LAWFUL DIRECTION; OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC; TAKING PART IN A UNLAWFUL PROCESSION; CARRYING A PLACARD; HANDING OUT LEAFLETS;



POLICE QUESTIONING

Whether you are under arrest or merely under suspicion, you are not obliged to answer questions or provide information to the police, but, you ARE required to give your name & address. If possible, establish a local address, it increases your chance of being released on bail.

Every word spoken to the police no matter how casually can be used in court just as readily as a signed statement..

It is advisable not to sign anything or make any statements to the police until you have had legal advice from a solicitor. Any suggestion from a policeman that by making a statement you will be making things easier, should be regarded with suspicion.

Pay careful attention. Remember you have a right to be silent. You may answer questions: "I do not wish to comment"

AT THE POLICE STATION ...

You should ask immediately for bail, and request that your solicitor and relatives be notified. Above all do not allow yourself to be rattled, smart or rude. Try and keep your temper under control. You are not in a good position to score verbal points.

Police may search your bags, for evidence or anything to cause injury to you in custody. The presence of a knife, a dangerous weapon, or any other illegal substance, may result in other charges being laid.

Photographs, and fingerprints may be taken. Should you be found not guilty of the charge, you should request that these records be destroyed.

BAIL

Bail may be granted either by a deposit of cash, or by entry into a recognisance. It is more likely to be granted if you have a local address. If Cash Bail is accepted it is usually based on the police officer's guess of what the fine will be.. If you do not turn up in Court in answer to the cash bail, usually the court orders the money be forfeited.

If you sign a paper undertaking to appear in court (without depositing any money) you make yourself liable to max. penalty: \$1,000 or 2yrs gaol. if you fail to appear on that date. If you make no effort to comply with bail, you may be arrested on a warrant & brought to court & fined or gaoled for Breach of Bail.

LEGAL ADVICE

Legal advice can be obtained by-

- (1) Attending the Legal Aid Office, Virginia House, 68 Abbott Street, CAIRNS.
- (2) Making an appointment to see a solicitor in private practice who may give a fixed fee 20 minute consultation for \$10, or apply for legal aid on your behalf.
- (3) Contacting CAFNEC office (phone 070-511204) where you can be referred to a solicitor.

In Court...

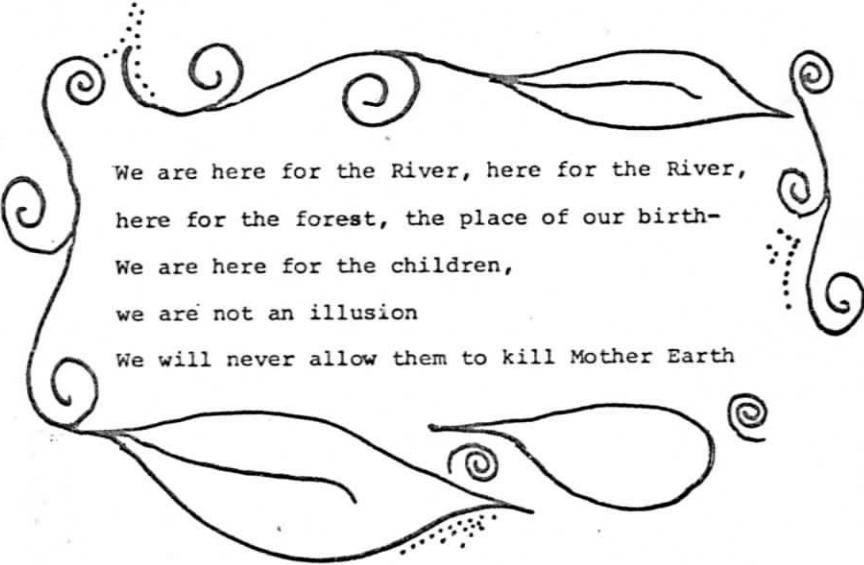
On your first appearance in court , you will be asked whether you want a remand for legal advice or any other purpose. If you are in doubt as to how you should plead, ask for a remand- which will usually be for 7 days, or until the next Magistrates Court.

If you do not ask for a remand, you will be asked whether you plead guilty or not guilty. If you feel that you are not guilty, or you are unsure, plead "not guilty".
Do not plead guilty on police advice. If you plead not guilty, your hearing will be remanded to a date months in the future.

In our courts system, a person is innocent until proven guilty, and the onus of proof is on the police prosecution.

You are not obliged to say anything else in court. In particular, you are not obliged to tell the court about the organisers, the organisation, and/or the plans of the direct action. Please make no comment on these matters. This will help ensure the continued effectiveness of the campaign.

A paper is available at CAFNEC on how to conduct your own defence , should you require it.



We are here for the River, here for the River,
here for the forest, the place of our birth-
We are here for the children,
we are not an illusion
We will never allow them to kill Mother Earth

HOW TO TREAT YOUR LOCAL FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) provides a library and resource centre for conservation groups and individuals in the community. It is a small office workplace. It provides facilities for the Daintree Campaign and other conservation groups to use.

People are welcome to use these facilities to perform conservation work. CAFNEC board has authorised certain people to supervise and manage the office. It is important you ask these people for permission to work there, use the telephone and help out etc.

The office is not a home away from home for people in the Daintree Campaign.

Please help us to run the environment centre efficiently and keep on good terms with our landlord by refraining from using the office as a place to hang around. Please feel free to call in for information or to volunteer your help.

ACCOMODATION IN CAIRNS

In Cairns people may be able to get assistance from the blockade organisation but this is not guaranteed.

HOSTELS

1. Backpackers Hostel 255 Lake Street. 519 166 \$5.50 night. You must be a member of Youth Hostels Australia.
2. Parkview Hostel 172 Grafton St., Cairns \$6-00 night
3. Caravella Hostel 77 The Esplanade Cairns \$5-50 night

CARAVAN PARKS

1. Cairns Golden Key 532 Mulgrave Rd., Earlville, Cairns 54 1222
2. City Caravan Park Cnr James and Little Streets, Cairns 511467 (walking distance to city)
3. Coolwaters Caravan Park Brinsmead Rd., Brinsmead Cairns 53 3949

There is a camping reserve at Holloways Beach where there are cold showers and toilets. It's closed at the moment but its O.K. to stay there.

REFUGES

1. Centennial Lodge (Salvation Army) 369 Sheriden St. Cairns 51 2887 hours 4 pm - 8 am. A night refuge for homeless men 18 years and over. Meals provided 5 pm and 7 am. Must be in residence by 9 pm. Cost - accomodation with meals \$3-50 night.
2. 16 Water Street, Cairns 517979

Emergency or temporary accomodation for men of any age. No alcohol, drugs, drunk or doped people allowed. Cost \$3-00 night/no food provided.

3. Waringu Womens Shelter

Contact Waringu Resource Centre
38A Spence Street, Cairns 517786
Provides Crisis accomodation for women and children who find themselves homeless.

4. Ozanam House Youth Refuge Cnr. Draper and Spence St., Cairns 516550 Provides accomodation for homeless young men and women 18 years and under. No drugs or alcohol allowed. Run by St Vincent De Paul.

FOOD IN CAIRNS

The Krisna Vegetarian Restaurant, Healthy Wealthy and Wise, provides free meals on Sunday night. Open everyday. All you can eat Lunch \$3.50 Dinner \$5-50

Ozanam House - Cnr Draper and Spence St., Cairns 51 6550 provides Breakfast and evening meals mon.to fri.and lunch Sat. and Sun. for homeless and needy people

Centennial Lodge - 369 Sheridan St., Cairns 512889 provides breakfast and an evening meal for homeless men.

DIRECT ACTION - A General Approach

Throughout history, humankind has used violence and destruction to dominate the environment.

It is because of this aggression that we find ourselves on a planet which is on the brink of ecological disaster. Everywhere we look, we see the air, the streams, the land and the oceans being poisoned.

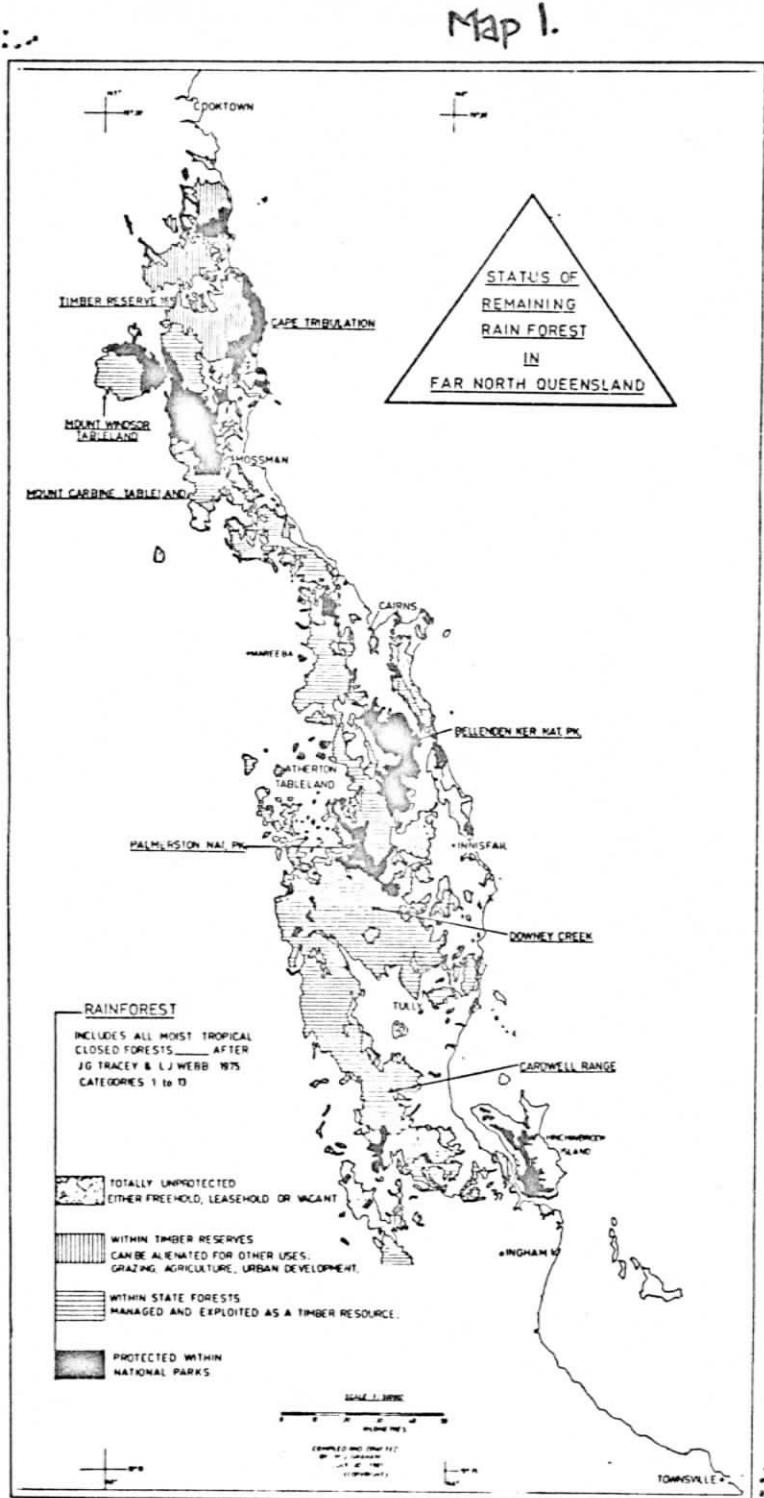
In order to turn this around, to clean up the Earth, and salvage the remnants of the pure and clear natural places, we must change the approach. From violence and destruction on each other and the Earth, we must begin to use peace and care to bring about positive change, in a constructive way.

This applies to every facet of campaigning. Direct Action is far more than blockading. It entails taking a peaceful, caring and determined approach, and directing it towards points of change. This may be in the minds of those people living around you, or the community and business leaders, or the politicians or in the forests or places of destruction. The key is taking the "new energy" and directly acting upon it.

For this reason, it is necessary for us to use our wits to initiate change without invoking violence. It is very easy for the authorities to use violence and force to stop confrontation. So, in a blockade situation, we not only must begin in a peaceful, caring way, but try to maintain that atmosphere throughout the action.

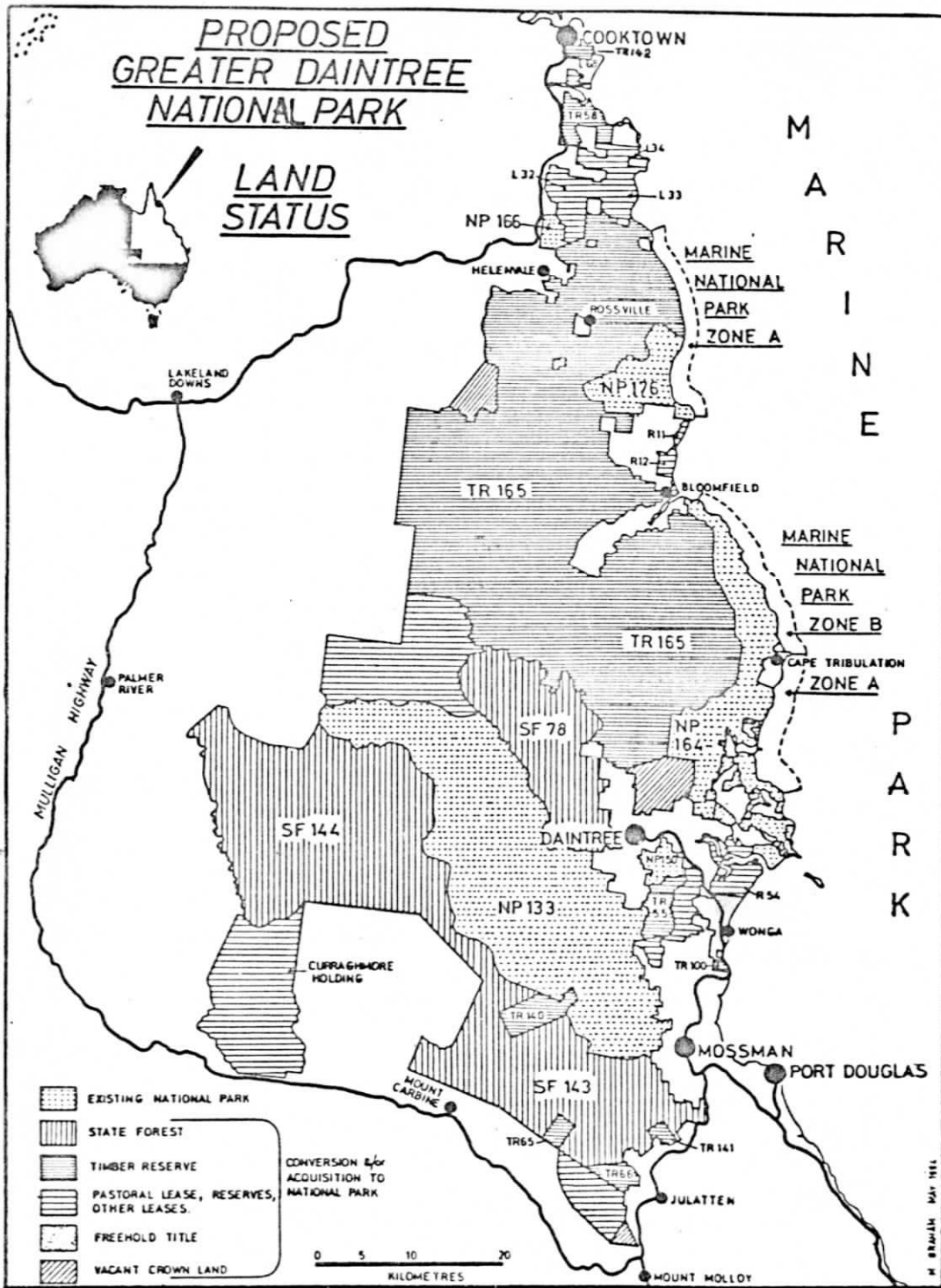
Together, in a peaceful and sensitive way, we can and will mount sufficient pressure on those in power, to change their destructive practices and preserve the Greater Daintree for all time. Hence, in all our actions, it is vital that we be calm, peaceful, gentle and creative towards those opposing us. This is the only way we can hope to achieve a positive result.

The same care and respect that we feel for Mother Nature can also be applied to our fellow humans, be they Police, dozer drivers, politicians or our comrades. The only way we can hope for global peace, is to be at peace ourselves, in our defence of Mother Earth.



PROPOSED GREATER DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK

LAND STATUS



GREATER DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

