WOMBAT FOREST GUARDIAN

No 7
October '96
Spring Edition

WOMBAT FOREST SOCIETY
PROPOSE AUSPICING
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Have your say in what direction the Wombat Forest Society takes

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PRESIDENTS REPORT:

What's been going on in Robin's absence;

New Committee, New focus.....

- Review of Aims & Objectives (Brainstorming with Elsa)
- Networking with other groups (Seymour forest conference, Barfold Quarry, Fosterville Gold Project, Otways Regional Environment Network etc.)
- Possibility of WFS auspicing Springs Region Environment Network

More lobbying in Canberra.....

- Understand process under new government
- Speed up RFA process
- Keep Midway out until RFA's completed
- Proper compensation for workers

Whats coming up for WFS

- More bus tours (on request)
- WFS enters cyberspace
- Forest festival

MIDLANDS FMA PLAN UPDATE.

Tim Anderson

Article for Support for

In the beginning was the plan
And then came the assumptions
And the assumptions were without substance
And darkness was upon the face of the employees
And they spoke amongst themselves saying
"This is a crock of s__t and it stinks
And the employees went unto their supervisors saying
"It is a pail of dung and none can abide the odour thereof."
And the supervisors went unto the managers saying
"It is a container of exrement and it is strong such that none can abide it."
And the managers went unto their divisional managers saying
"It is a vessel of fertiliserm and none may abide its strength"
And the divisional managers went unto their systems managers saying
"It contains that which aids plant growth and it is very powerful."
And the systems manager went to the general manager saying
"It promotes growth and is very powerful"
And the general manager went unto the board saying
"This new plan will actively promote the growth and efficiency of this organisation."
And the board looked upon the plan and saw that it was good.
And the plan became policy
This is how s__t happens.

FOREST PROTECTION SOCIETY

To The Editor,

The recent establishment of the Daylesford Branch of the Forest Protection Society (Hepburn Shire Advocate 7/8/1996) is yet another example of timber industry funded groups pushing industry rhetoric at the expense of reasonable rational debate at a local level.

The powerful pro timber industry lobby would, no doubt, like the Wombat Forest issue to fade away together with the Wombat Forest Society and all in our community who are genuinely concerned with how our forests and water catchments are managed. It would appear our local issue has created some very big waves indeed.

The FPS claim that most of their aims included the protection of timber workers' jobs and the protection of high conservation areas, however documents obtained from the Australian Securities Commission show the principle activity of FPS is "TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE ROLE OF THE FOREST INDUSTRIES IN AUSTRALIA".

Although FPS claim that most of their funding is received via donations and membership fees, (approx 3000 members @ $10 p.a) their 92-93 annual report lists the subsidy from the National Association of Forest Industries as $637,914 (B.Burton). Mr Robert Bain executive director of NAFI has been a director of FPS since 1990.

With a wage package of $35,000 plus, paid directly by industry, and an office in the Victorian Association of Forest Industries plush new building at 320 Russell St Melbourne, it would appear that Ms Silvana Nagl FPS State Co-ordinator is in a rather curious position.

Whilst purporting to be supporting timber workers jobs she collects wages from the very people who have forced forest workers wages and conditions to decline considerably in the greedy pursuit of greater profit margins for sawmill owners.

Mr Wayde Thiele, secretary of the newly formed Daylesford branch of FPS, should most certainly be encouraging timber workers to take a stand against the lies being told about their industry and the condition of the Wombat Forest, after all this is exactly what many in our community have been doing for a number of years.

I f as Mr Thiele claims, the management of the Wombat Forest has been done on a scientific and sustainable basis, why is it necessary for the State and Commonwealth governments to persist, through "Business Exit Programs", in bringing about a reduction in timber harvesting in the Wombat Forest.

Quite clearly the Wombat Forest has been overharvested and the situation simply cannot continue, this is a fact of life.

As a consequence of over harvesting and the inability of the state department to manage the Wombat Forest on a sustainable basis, less timber will be available to the sawmilling industry, timber workers jobs are being lost and other important forest values have and will continue to be compromised.

- **GET SYLVANA'S RESPONSE FROM BACK EDITION OF HEPBURN ADVOCATE**

- **WRITE COMMENTS**

- **RE-DO LAYOUT**

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Earlier this year WFS lodged a nomination with the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) for the Mineral Springs and their recharge areas to be listed on the register of the National Estate.

The mineral springs in and around the Wombat Forest are unique, they represent 80% of all mineral springs in Australia.

The nomination was put forward by the Society in recognition of the importance of the springs to our local region already referred to as "The Mineral Springs Capital of Australia"

Listing on the register of the National Estate requires studies to be undertaken to identify all National Estate values and the merits of the nomination. This was seen by WFS as an opportunity for further research to clarify a number of issues whilst involving a broad range of the community.

Who are the AHC?

The Commision is a statutory authority under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 as the Federal Government's policy advisory and administrative body responsible for the National Estate, which is defined in the legislation as;

'those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia, or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community.'

"There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things, because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the New".

Machiavelli "The Prince"
1513

WOMBAT FOREST SOCIETY REVIEWS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

COMMONGROUND

facilitating the power to change

Commonground is a team of professional facilitators dedicated to supporting effective change within the individual, the organisation and the community. Using our wealth of experience in community organisational management....from local groups to local government.....

Commonground provides a broad range of facilitation options. You can use our facilities or we can come to you.

We have two residential workshop venues - the Wedge and Octagon. These are managed by our experienced workshop team and are available with or without us as facilitators.

Working and living together since the early 80's our team weaves a very special magic which nurtures and encourages you and your organisation.

ENVIRONMENT VICTORIA



Address
Phone No

Environment Victoria has been in existence as an environment group for over 25 years. Our beginnings arose from the campaign for protection of the Little Desert in Northern Victoria. Formally known as the Conservation Council of Victoria the name was changed to avoid confusion with government bodies such as the Land Conservation Council.

Environment Victoria is managed by an elected, voluntary, executive committee. Each year this committee is elected by a 'Council' representing around 100 affiliated groups and over 1500 individual members. The Council meets regularly to set policies. The day to day running of Environment Victoria is carried out by staff and a large team of volunteers.

Over the years Environment Victoria has been involved in a number of campaigns. Recent campaigns include;

Smogbusters: Reducing air pollution by increasing the use of public transport.

Westernport Bay: Working with local groups to protect the Bay from oil spillage

Toxic sewers: Working on cleaning up sewerage to make it less toxic to our environment.

Green Homeshows: Promoting energy efficient household appliances

One of our major campaigns has focussed on the protection of native forests. We have worked particularly to highlight the role plantations can play in protecting our native forests from logging and woodchipping while delivering the jobs, timber and other wood products that we need in Australia.

As part of the National Forest Campaign we have worked with environment groups around Australia including the Wombat Forest Society to stop export woodchipping in native forests. Our policy on native forests is:

- to stop export woodchipping in Victorian Native forests.
- to achieve full protection for allhigh conservation value native forests in Victoria.
- to speed up the existing transition of the wood products industry from native forests to plantations.

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION



Address
Phone No

The Victorian National Parks Association seeks to:

- secure a fully representative system of well managed national and state parks, flora and fauna reserves and other areas of conservation, scientific or heritage value on public and private land;

- conserve indigenous flora and fauna and natural resources on land and sea
- foster public interest and promote education to these ends.

The VNPA is an independent, non-profit, non-government, member based nature conservation organisation which was founded in 1952 to promote national parks and strive for their welfare. Now with a broader charter, the VNPA continues to play a leading role in nature conservation in Victoria and has been closely associated with many major achievements for parks, and flora and fauna generally. Membership is open to anyone who shares the VNPA's objectives.

The VNPA is working towards Victoria having a comprehensive and properly managed reserve system by 1998 - Victoria's centenary of parks will celebrate the founding of Mt Buffalo and Wilson's Promontory in 1898. Major goals of the Association include; protection of the remaining 15% of Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands; a representative and extensive marine reserves system; a native grassland and grassy woodland reserve system in each grassland region of Victoria; comprehensive management plans for parks and protection of conservation values; and safeguarding native flora and fauna to allow plants and animals to flourish in the wild.

Critical components of the VNPA's Forest Policy which relate to the Wombat Forest include:

1 1.A fundamental goal for native forest management should be the conservation of all ecological communities and species of flora and fauna in viable reserves where they may flourish and maintain their capacity to evolve.

1.9 Forest management activities such as fire management, recreation management and logging should be based on a sound understanding and application of ecological principles for the forest types in question and conducted to maintain diversity and minimise adverse effects on the land, the waterways and the full range of flora and fauna species.

NATIVE FOREST NETWORK



Address
Phone No

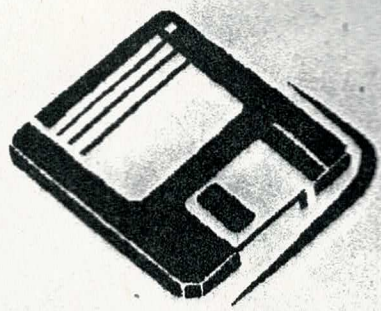
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH



Address
Phone No

Friends of the Earth (Fitzroy) is an autonomous, community based organisation working towards an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable future. It is affiliated with FOE Australia a network of 12 groups which in turn is part of FOE International, composed of branches in 53 countries. Collectively FOE network is the largest environment group in the world, while still allowing autonomy at a grassroots level and great diversity amongst individual groups.

GREEN NET



Address
Phone No

Paradigm4 is a non-profit, volunteer organisation offering various free grants to 'acm'* groups in a wide range of internet and related services. You do not have to have a computer, or even access, to have your organisation in touch with kin groups, resources, and relevant information. With a personal placement page and an email connection service you can have instant local, regional national and worldwide communication.

People who work in this group have been around in the field since the birth of the internet in Australia. With Glasswings being the first web site in Australia, our work includes an extensive array of web sites from Radio Australia to the Australian Institute of Management, and two of our home sites rate in the top 5%. With the money we receive from these type of organisations we are able to provide many free grants to groups who need it, and we have already put a number of them on the net. We are also involved in the formation of RICE (Research in Computers and Education) based at Deakin University, and holda long interaction in various 'acm' groups

* Indent paragraph
* write intro.

P.14

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ISSUE 7 OCTOBER 1996

RETIRED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

I note the mention of the "Retired Forester's Association" in the "Hoo's Hoo" section. There are some errors of fact there, which I would like to correct, if some space could be allowed in the next edition.

The correct name is "FORESTS COMMISSION RETIRED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION"

This commenced about 1980, and membership was open to anybody employed by the Forest Commission, plus spouses. As the Commission ceased to exist about 1984, you can see that the membership rules contain an in built attrition factor! It embraces all categories of employees - foresters, forest technicians, other technical and professional staff and administrative and clerical officers. The present membership is in excess of 180, and approx. half would be retired foresters.

Its function is almost entirely social - lots of fellowship and nostalgia, with only one or two serious activities occasionally thrown in for good measure. In the early years we undertook some amenity tree-planting at a Spastic Centre at Altona and a Salvation Army establishment at Sunbury.

The only lobbying we have undertaken has been to do with the departmental central library and its forestry content, access to old departmental files for historical research purposes, and also our present project, still on the drawing board - the establishment of a forestry museum at Toolangi.

As regards the alleged "critical comments" etc. which you attribute to our Association, these really belong to a very small group of like-minded retired foresters, who for the past 7-8 years have been lobbying at the Federal and State government levels, on forestry and timber industry matters. I personally have been doing the same thing, both as part of this group and separately under my own name and responsibility.

You wrongly state that the Association (and particularly me) have been involved in the suggested "Education Resource Centre" in Daylesford. The true position is as follows.

For several years we have been moving to have a Forest Management Museum established at Toolangi, and were promised support by the then Minister Coleman and the departmental management. In the event, the financial and logistical support we had hoped for has not materialised, and in recent months we have been casting about for an alternative venue.

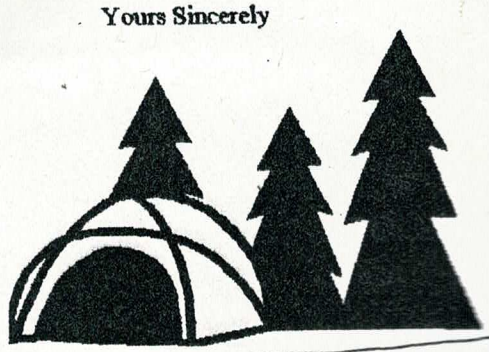
We have looked into the Creswick possibility, and have had discussions with the University School Management and the Creswick Historical Society. The prospects do not look good, but we are persevering.

In the course of these enquiries we have come across the proposal for the "Education and Resource Center at Daylesford. (One of the promoters of this has been my son David, which has probably confused you). We have had no part in this scheme, but we think it is an excellent idea, if it can be shown to have good financial prospects.

If our Creswick efforts fail, then we could well think about whether our plans could in some way be integrated with the Dayleford proposal, but not until then.

Your misunderstanding on the above points no doubt arise from the sketchiness of the information I have in the past given you, for which I apologise. I trust I have made everything clear.

Yours Sincerely



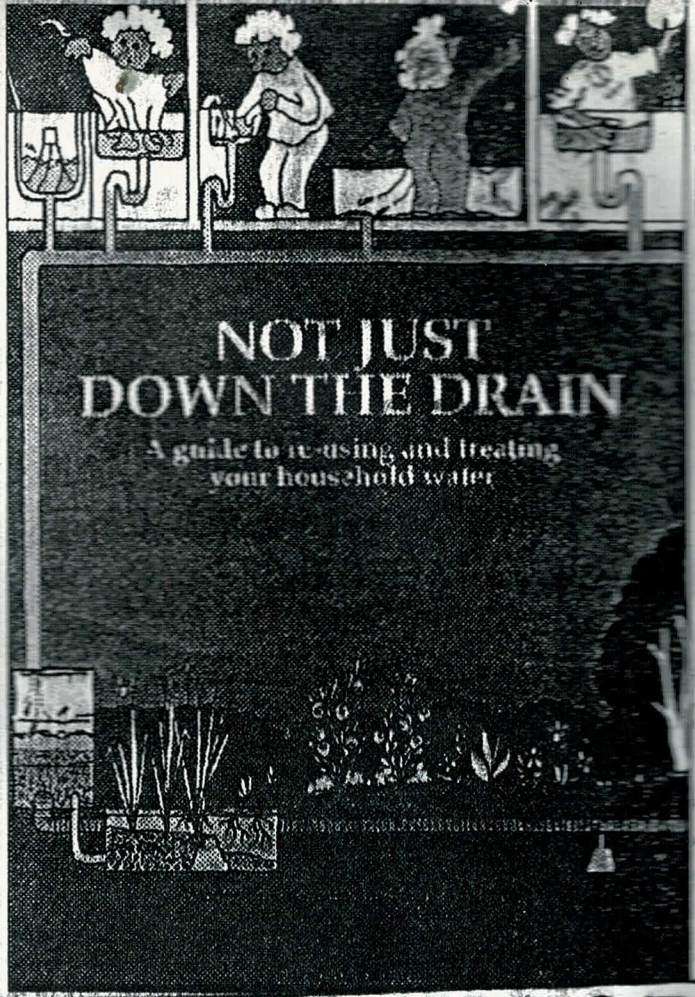
WFS promotes open + transparent debate.
Mr Norman Emlacott
blah! blah

Friends of the Earth **Bookshop** New Title

Not Just Down the Drain:

A guide to re-using and treating your household water

59 pages, 54 illustrations



Water is something we all share.It passes through our households on its way to somewhere else. To get to us it's been on a long journey through time and space and many different forms. It has passed through the seas, soils, rivers and atmosphere, sustaining our planet and all its life along the way.

Take a shower, flush the toilet, wash the dishes or do a load of washing and all this used water usually ends up in the pipe heading for the sewage treatment plant or the septic tank.

This booklet aims to be a practical and simple guide to help you build a picture of your household water usage, the options for reducing this, and potential for re-using and treating used water where you live.

Whether you live in the city or country, a house or flat, hopefully you will find some useful ideas in this booklet.

Friends of the Earth **Bookshop** New Title

GOOD WOOD GUIDE

THE GOOD WOOD GUIDE



The responsible and sustainable use of timber.

Good news THE GOOD WOOD GUIDE *is back and better than ever!*

Friends of the Earth is proud to publish this extremely useful and important guide for the responsible and sustainable use of timber.

This publication is sought after by builders, architects and all sorts of home handy-people who want to make sensible and wholistic choices when using wood.

THE GOOD WOOD GUIDE is on the 'cutting edge' in terms of responsible use of forest products.

The new edition of THE GOOD WOOD GUIDE *is A4 size and 133 pages.*

When the Wombat Forest Society brings out a newsletter I thought I might just add a few things to interest you younger people. Interesting & exciting things to see, do and explore when you visit my friends and I in the Wombat Forest.

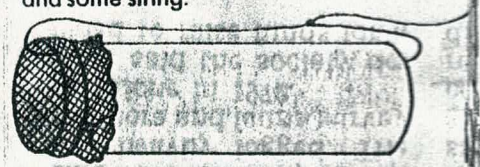
Walter Wombat

Wildlife Words

Watching Nature

Making a torch trap

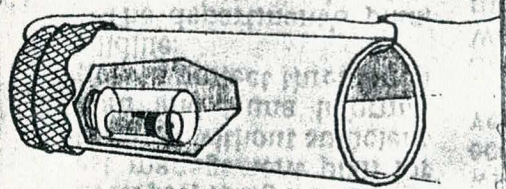
Many small water creatures are inquisitive and you can use this curiosity to help you catch them in a light trap. To make this trap, you will need a length of stone pipe, a piece of netting, a clear jam jar, a small torch and some string.



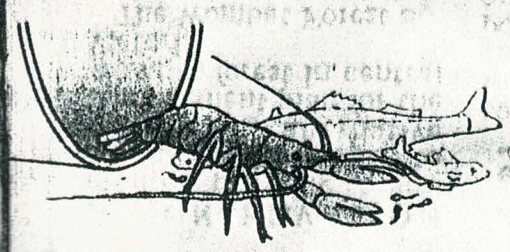
1 Tie the netting over one end of the pipe and thread a long piece of string through it. Tie in a knot as shown in the picture.



2 Switch on the torch and put it in the jam jar. Tighten the lid firmly and put the jar down in the pipe, near the netting.



3 Lower the pipe carefully into the creek with the netted end downstream. Evening is the best time to do this.



4 After an hour or two (don't leave it any longer than this) pull out your trap. Tilt it upwards as you do so, otherwise you may lose your catch. Which animals were attracted to the light? Do you get a bigger catch if you use meat for bait? Note down what you discover in your Nature Notebook.

Walking

Bushwalking is a fun healthy activity. Stay on trails as it is easy to



RIDDLE