To:
The Committee,
Wombat Forest Society.

From:
Tim Anderson.
RMB 3473, Daylesford.
3461.
18/10/95.

COMMITTEE

It is with much regret that I hereby formally tender my resignation from the Wombat Forest Society. As most of you are probably aware it has been a tumultuous week for the Society. I have been informed that I have been acting in a way that has not had the support of the committee, that I acted in a manner on Monday night at the airport that was against the interests of the committee and that I am corrupted and a lackey to VAFI. I will briefly set out my reasons for resigning.

It has hurt me that the committee feels that I have been embarking on a strategy that would undermine the objectives of the WFS, and to play into the hands of Industry. I have not made a conclusion on the best course for the future, I am still looking at the evidence.. I have spent alot of time doing research and talking to all the players. Twice now the Wombat has had bad decisions made for it and will be a tragedy to do it a third time. I do not support a random "shoot from the hip approach". The credibility of the Society is founded on the strength of our argument and our passionate local concern. We have never had to go into meetings etc shouting and being intimidating, we had the truth and the facts behind us. Don't sell yourselves short. You all make up one of the best forest groups in Australia.

I was proud of the committee on Monday night . I believe that we kicked Midways out of the Wombat, and when it happens your celebratory drinks will taste all the sweeter , you all had a direct hand in it. Congratulations.

At that meeting on Monday night I contradicted Alan because I was of the belief that the WFS did not want a lock up of the forest. I don't know what your up to Alan but the DFA does close up the forest pending the RFA assessment. You have claimed that it only kicks out the export woodchip license, egad !!! Did you push us into the DFA process not knowing it meant a total lock up or was this a play to actually lock up the forest. The point I make on that is it is immoral to use an alliance with the local industry to gain the Societies initial credibility and the stab it in the back at the last minute.

This is a complex argument and I certainly do not give myself any " airs" that I have the right to make a decision for the whole Wombat. It is for the community to decide, hence the "Community Management Plan". I am in the WFS as a representative of my children, I am defending their right of access to the forest, I don't believe you can borrow from the next generation. In doing my research the reality of the mismanagement of the forest exceeds my worst nightmare. It is too simplistic to say "well lets lock it up". We need an independent professional assessment of all the values of the forest. Then you can make an informed decision. Loris and I have put alot of time into getting the NWO scheme happening. Why? Because we all know the regrowth needs thinning and that Daylesford has water problems,it is a step towards giving our children a better forest and a healthier environment.. It has also been a vehicle on which some good rational debate on the big problems to the Wombat's problems has gone on. I also believe it has brought all the players to a common conviction that Shelterwood has failed and that regeneration burns don't help the problem. All without shouting. This is why I was telling the Feds that the DFA isn't exactly what we want and that we needed another non-state agency to do a broad "Resource Equity" analysis, to properly value ALL of the Wombat's Values. As Loris says "bring on the economic rationalists", thats when the Flora and Fauna , water, tourism and the bio-diversity values will gain legitimate rights.

Greg has often made comment about the juggernaut we are fighting with only a budget of $6,000. Well you can throw yourself against a brick wall as much as you like, you'll only bounce off. Another approach is to undermine the foundations and dismantle the wall brick by brick. Loris and I have been embarking on this course this year. We have spent alot

candidates, Fed Pollies, Fed Opposition, State and Federal Beaurocrats, Academics, Earth Scientists,Schools, Universities, Government Authorities,Yes VAFI, the Union Movement, Local Timberworkers, Sawmillers,Community Groups,Service Groups, Green Groups and the wider community. This means that while this debate progresses we are now dealing with the issue of what is the best outcome for all, not having to repeatedly prove and reprove the case that something is wrong.

As to this bit on Loris and I going to Canberra. We did bring it to committee, I discussed the documents we needed to assemble and had quite a discussion on it second last meeting. We never asked for Societies funds and if the Director wants to play power games with the final step towards wrapping up the Wombat , then I haven't got time for playing games. We have the key to getting Midways out. I can't help feeling that the desire that you have Alan to be the first ofd the gang to kick out an export woodchip license kept you from participating as closely with the committee this year. Greg is apparently saying if we wanted to stand against Alan we should go by the proper procedures. Greg , I didn't want that. I wanted an integrated team with a common goal. I haven't got time for power games. The way to clinching Midways out isn't with the DFA's. I believe Alan is grasping at this process to lock up the forest, and hang the consequences I 'm going to do it. Loris and I will present the information the Feds want, when Midways is kicked out you won't see mass press releases from us ,were not in it for the fame.

Alan has pushed the Society into a process we bearly fit into. He seems to not fully understand the DFA process (saying it only wipes out export woodchip). We should participate in the DFA process in as much as the Feds want feed back on what we perceive as the States role and what criteria have they missed. The RFA process is the one where allhe other values are assessed, thats the one for you Flora and Fauna mob want to be ready for.I have now asked six people from Govt to Greens , they all agree that the DFA locks the forest pending RFA analysis. The argument is so tenuous that we fit into the DFA's, the Wombat will be one of the first when they have to prune the final list. As happened under the High Conservation Value process last year. REMEMBER we didn't even fit that.

Alan has suggested that the Feds aren't interested in "breaches etc". If Alan you had come to more meetings you would have heard that the submission was to be based on David Bedall's decision paper and what Loris and I (again only us, Bill MC was the only one to fill in the stuff we asked the committee to do) prepared as the basis of our court case. There are a number of other documents as well. This just happens to be exactly what the Feds want to justify kicking Midways out. If instead of getting caught up in the snow job the ALP has put up to buy them peace in the woodchip debate. In the discussion Loris and I had with Frank Downing and the Heritage Commission etc ,it is exactly what they want. Loris and I will be still going to Canberra to do this. . I'm sorry Alan but it isn't fair the way you have had slabs of time off this year and when you have come back you have jumped in with your new project. I have found it insulting that you have not bothered to find out what we've been doing and asking if your idea fits into the strategy. It reeks of a Director who sees his committee as a back up to him. I believe in working as a team on a consensus basis. I wore alot of this because I accept that that is your way but at somestage people get sick of it and stop participating.

I have also had enough of cleaning up after you Alan. What you did in Canberra bought disrepute on the Society and it broke the directive the committee gave you to observe and to fact find. You broke the Greens stategy and down valued the Australian publics view of the environment movement. You then denied to Greg, Loris and I. at southgate, that you were representing the WFS. Why did you contact WFS committee members for permission to go. Loris and I had to spend two days apologising to Beaurocrates and Greens on behalf of the Society. I reckon I can contribute to the Forest Debate and as such I can't afford to have my reputation jeopodized. What Alan did in Canberra is now the committee's problem. I see from the Courier that Alan is already proclaiming his glory by telling all he's going to Canberra with a submission. Did Alan ask the committee? Talk about broadcasting your punches. To the committee, the forest movement is really angry with Alan despite what he says. This has devalued the Wombat Forest Society to the rest of the enviromovement. Really consider if Alan hasn't forfeited

To the Committee

Here are the names and signatures of more than 5% of the membership of the WFS. My initial list of names of people who have verbally agreed to the motion etc is almost as many again. I didn't have the time to visit all the members on my list.

If you people are really afte the interests of the Wombat Forest and the Society you should call the meeting as soon as possible.

The alternative would be to call an early AGM, again as soon as possible.

With regards to the sentiments put forward to me the other night, I don't have a problem working with any of you in the future.

I am appalled that half way through the submission period for the Midlands