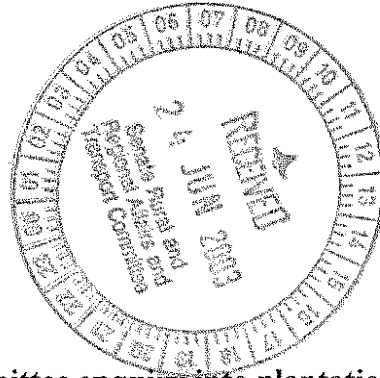


"The Valley"
Ellendale
Tasmania 7140
21st June 2003

Trish Carling
Senate Rural & Regional Affairs &
Transport Committee
S--G--62 Parliament House
Canberra 2600



Dear Trish,

Please find enclosed submission to the Senate Committee enquiry into plantations.

The urgency to change forest management practices and stop the conversion of Native Forest to plantations and mono-cultures cannot be overstated. There is very little time left to manage Tasmania's remaining native forests for all their values or the opportunity will be lost forever.

I am one of the many individuals and small businesses who do not have the funds or the time to employ professional lobbyists whose spin promotes the rhetoric of a few at the expense of many communities and society at large.

There are a lot of people whose livelihoods businesses and future are being threatened and will disappear if change does not take place.

Yours Faithfully

Richard Davis.

P.S. Have a look at <http://www.transformaustralia.com.au/>
it may be that much of our
plantations will be redundant.



100

100

100



CLEARFELLING

**THE
FUTURE**

THE EFFECTS ON RURAL COMMUNITIES


THE SPECIAL TIMBER INDUSTRY

AND

TIMBER WORKERS

RICHARD DAVIS

**FARMER, SAWMILLER, SALVAGE
OPERATOR, FURNITURE MAKER
AND BOAT BUILDER.**

A black and white photograph showing a large, dense pile of straw or hay. The straw is piled high and appears to be in a storage area, possibly a barn or a field. The lighting is bright, creating strong highlights and deep shadows within the pile. A vertical text overlay is positioned on the right side of the image.

WORLDS BEST PRACTICE !!!

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FIRST EDITION OF THIS PAPER 1990. UPDATED IN 2003.

INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER IS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES OF CLEARFELLING NATIVE FORESTS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANTATIONS, MODIFIED REGENERATION AND THE USE OF FIRE. IT ALSO DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE EFFECTS THESE PRACTICES ARE HAVING ON RURAL COMMUNITIES, THE SPECIAL TIMBER INDUSTRY AND THE PLIGHT OF TIMBER WORKERS.

OVER THE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A PLETHORA OF INFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION IN A FORESTRY DEBATE WHICH HAS BECOME HOPELESSLY POLARISED AND WHERE ANY SENSE OF A SANE MIDDLE GROUND HAS BEEN LOST IN A SEA OF PROPAGANDA.

THIS PAPER DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE AN ACADEMIC EXPOSE. IT IS A REFLECTION OF MY EXPERIENCE, OBSERVATIONS AND RESEARCH OVER 45 YEARS AS A FARMER AND 30 YEARS IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

THIS PAPER SUPPORTS A STRONG, VIABLE, HIGH VALUE ADDING, HIGH EMPLOYING, ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FOREST INDUSTRY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT DRAWS ATTENTION TO AND CHALLENGES THE UNSUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN TASMANIA'S NATIVE FORESTS.

THE MANAGEMENT PRACTICE OF CLEARFELLING, REPLACING NATIVE FORESTS WITH PLANTATIONS AND MONO-CULTURE REGROWTH AND THE WAY REGENERATION FIRES ARE CARRIED OUT IS CHANGING THE NATURE OF TASMANIA'S FORESTS FOREVER, SIMPLIFYING NATURAL SYSTEMS, DENYING FUTURE GENERATIONS A RICH RESOURCE BASE AND PROFOUNDLY AFFECTING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OF MANY RURAL COMMUNITIES.

WITH TRUE ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP, TASMANIA COULD STILL BE THE FURNITURE MAKING, BOAT-BUILDING, JOINERY AND CRAFT CENTRE OF THE WORLD.

WHILE THE EMPHASIS OF THIS PAPER IS ON MIXED WET FORESTS AND RAIN FORESTS, THE BASIC PRINCIPLES APPLY TO ALL OTHER FOREST TYPES.



"SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN A MANIFESTATION OF A CULTURE WHOSE UTILITARIAN ETHOS ONLY VALUES CORPORATE MONOPOLY AND MANIPULATION AND WHERE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL THE PEOPLE IS FORGOTTEN AS ANY QUEST FOR TRUTH AND HONESTY BECOMES SUBSERVIENT TO EXPEDIENCY"

THE ISSUES

*"MASSIVE WASTE, EXTREMELY POOR RESOURCE UTILISATION
AND UNSUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ARE
ENDEMIC IN TASMANIA'S FORESTS."*

- Present forest management practices are not sustainable. Clearfelling is changing the nature of Tasmania's native forests forever.
- Experience clearly shows that substantial modification to natural systems in an attempt to meet short term economic demands will fail. The resulting simplified systems have insufficient diversity to maintain themselves and suffer all the inherent problems associated with mono-culture production.
- Present forest management is prejudiced in favour of fast growing Eucalypt and Softwood production which only suits the----highly mechanised,----high resource consuming,----low value adding----and low employing industries.
- Blackwood, sassafrass, myrtle, celery top pine, leatherwood, silver wattle, tallow wood, horizontal scrub, musk and melaleuca are just a few of Tasmania's special timbers which continue to be smashed up and burned wherever clearfelling native forests takes place.
- Clearfelling native forests at the unprecedented rate of approx 16,000 ha/year is guaranteeing---**THERE WILL BE NONE**---of these special timbers available to the----low resource consuming,----high employing,----high value adding furniture, boat-building, joinery, craft and beekeeping industries within a very few years.
- By way of illustration, one super ft of wood when chipped (432 Sft = 1 M3) returns approx .016 cents /Sft ie, \$7 / M3 in royalties, or approx .208 cents / Sft ie, \$90 / M3 to all sections of industry , from the faller through to seeing it off on a ship.
- The same super ft of wood when recovered as a category 4 sawlog is worth 138 cents / Sft ie, \$60 / M3 in royalties and when value added by the furniture, boat-building, joinery or craft industries, returns at least \$20 / Sft ie, \$8,600 / M3.
- Large quantities of sawlogs continue to be chipped. (Figure 1 Page 4)
- The exporting of whole logs is denying local employment opportunities.
- A failure to obtain maximum returns for all forest products.
- A complete failure to take into account any eco-system services costs.

- Many rural communities have been disempowered and disenfranchised in the place where they live with employment and regional development opportunities lost forever as their resources disappear and their landscapes are transformed into plantations and mono-cultures.
- Returns to the public purse from the exploitation from what is a public resource, is scandalous, with less than 1% being returned in the 2001-2002 financial year, while at the same time in the 2002 calendar year, industry lost over 800 jobs (ABS). Compounding this scandal, since 1988 Forestry Tasmania has received net grants, loans and forgiven loans totalling \$389 million. (Greg Buckman report & Forestry Tasmania's report 2001-2002).
- It is unconscionable that legislation was ever allowed to be crafted and enacted which created Forestry Tasmania as a quasi Corporate entity enabling Forestry Tasmania to carry on the business of "managing" what is a public resource while at the same time:--

They are not accountable to their shareholders (the public of Tasmania)

They are exempt from freedom of information.

They carry on all their business as "commercial in confidence".

They are able to prevent a third party from having standing and the ability to appeal forest management practices.

They are failing in their "duty of care" to ensure Tasmania's native forests are managed for all their biological and physical factors and managed for the full range of resources provide for all interests and industries for this and future generations.

They are an unelected body and yet they are using the funds obtained from the exploitation of what is a public resource to carry on all manner of entrepreneurial activities, self promotion, sponsorships and grants without being held accountable for those funds.

***CLEARFELLING MUST STOP.—IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSIVE
ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION,—IT IS ECONOMIC INSANITY,
—ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM AT ITS WORST AND—A SOCIAL
DISASTER,—WE INTUITIVELY KNOW IT IS WRONG,—WE WITNESS
A DEGREE OF DESTRUCTION WE CANNOT RECREATE,—IT IS
OBSCENE IN ITS ENTIRETY,—IT MUST STOP.***

**(Graham Green ---Clearfelling and Woodchipping in Tasmania---
an Economic Appraisal---May 2003)**

Woodchip production from state forest has doubled in the last decade (Figure 1) however, profit margins are in decline (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Native forest wood production from state forest 1990-2002

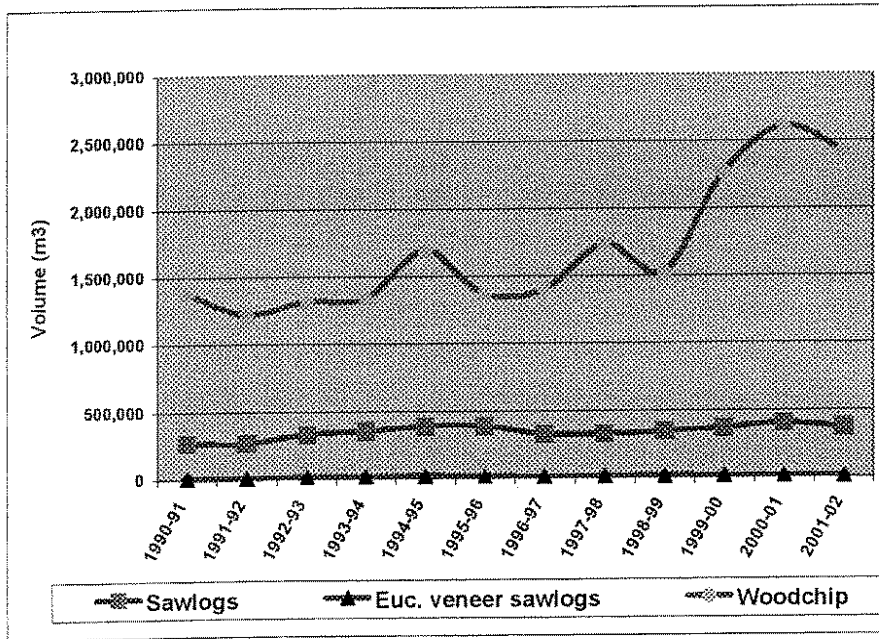
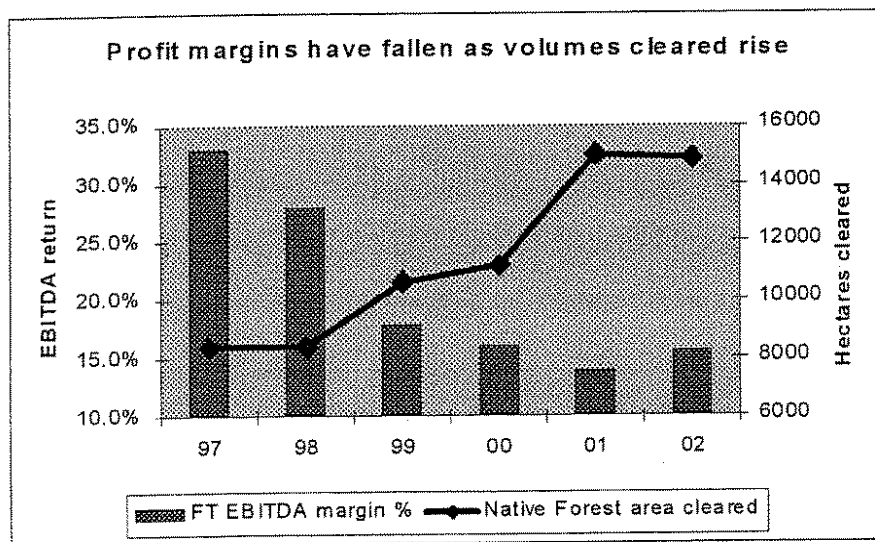


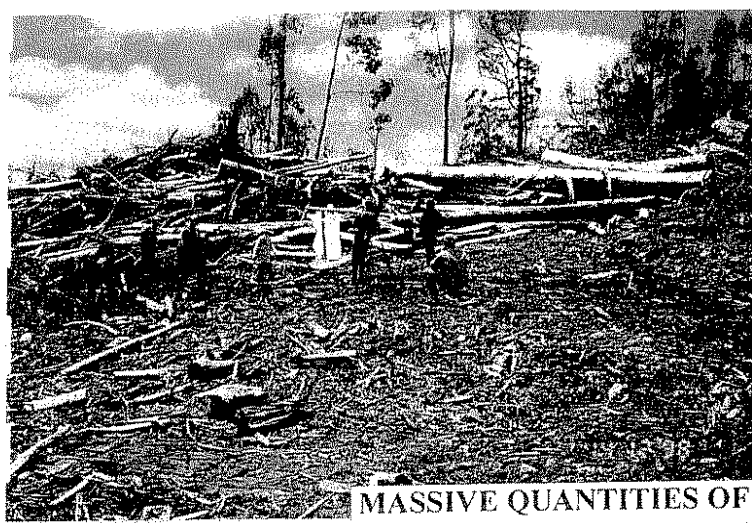
Figure 2: Forestry Tasmania's profit margin versus hectares of state forest cleared



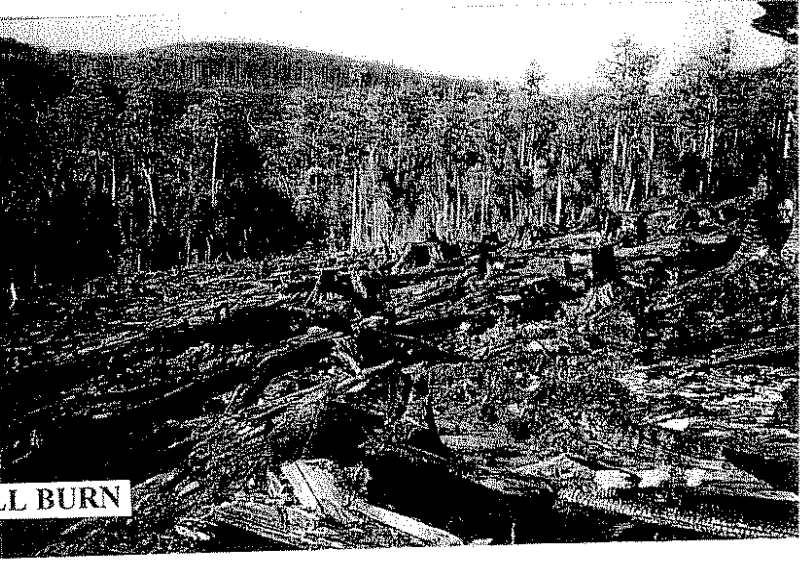
*All data for Figure 2 is derived from Forestry Tasmania annual reports

EBITDA = Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization - the finance markets preferred measure of earnings

NB;-- Even though the area of native forest flattened since 1998-99 has just about doubled, saw log recovery has remained static, this is because large quantities of sawlogs are being chipped.

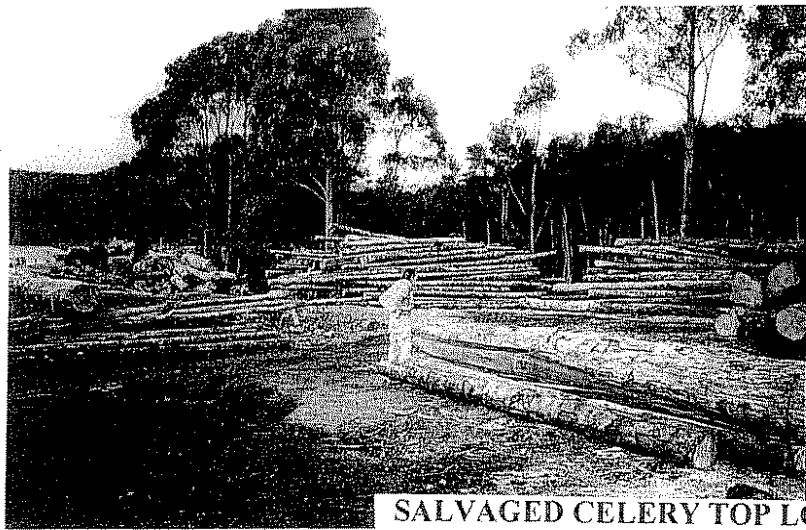


**MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF SAWLOGS AND CHIPLOGS
WERE BURNED TO REPLACE NATIVE FOREST WITH
PINE PLANTATION**

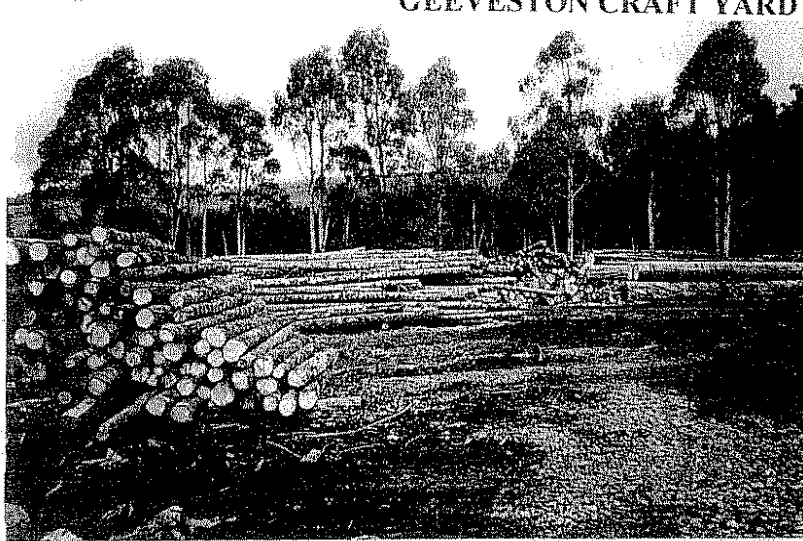
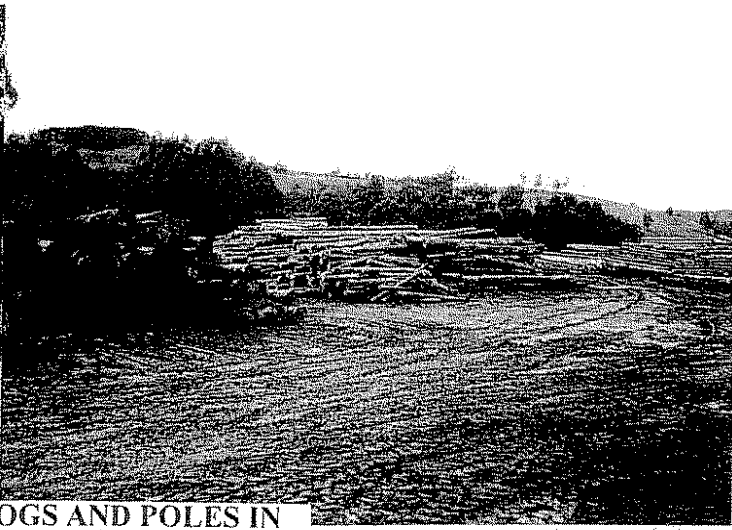


CLEARFELL BURN

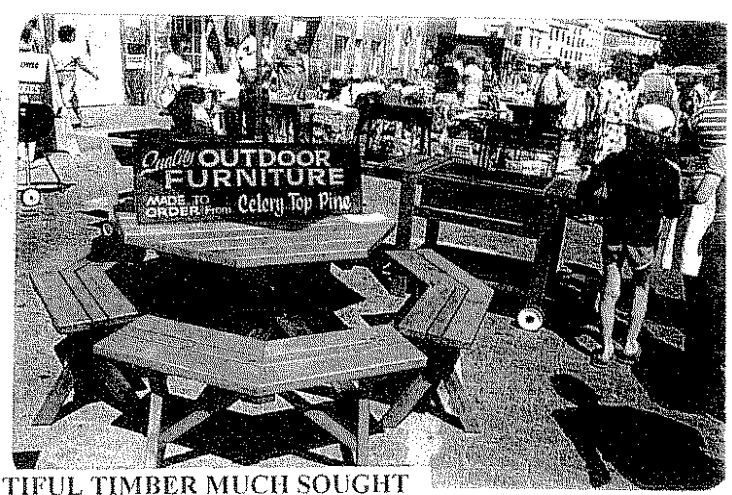
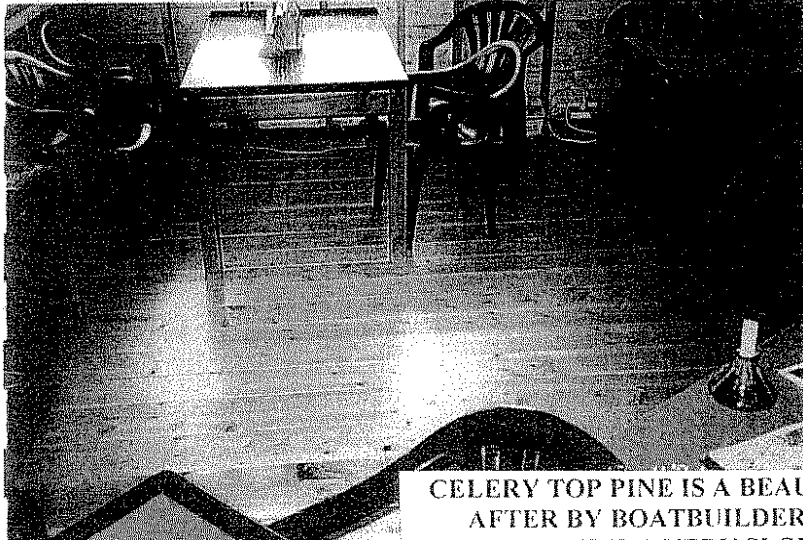




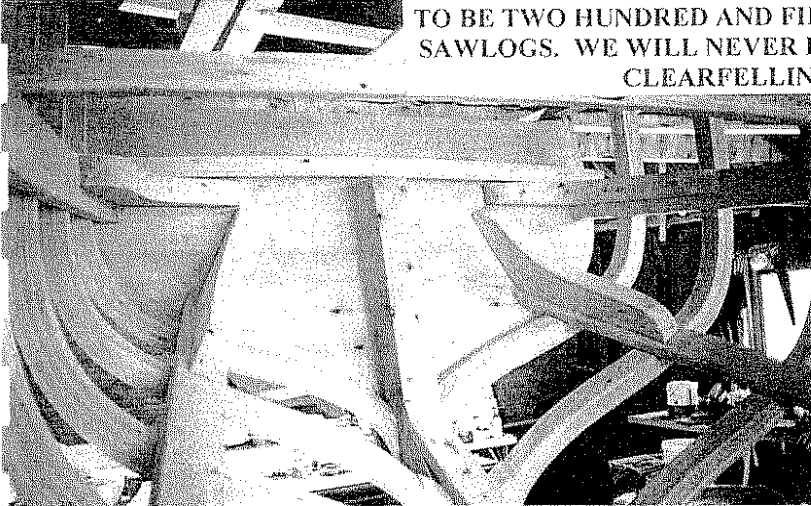
SALVAGED CELERY TOP LOGS AND POLES IN GEEVESTON CRAFT YARD



MORE SALVAGED CELERY TOP



CELERY TOP PINE IS A BEAUTIFUL TIMBER MUCH SOUGHT AFTER BY BOATBUILDERS, FURNITURE MAKERS AND JOINERS. IT IS A VERY SLOW GROWING SPECIES NEEDING TO BE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS PLUS FOR SUITABLE SAWLOGS. WE WILL NEVER EVER SEE IT AGAIN WHEREVER CLEARFELLING TAKES PLACE

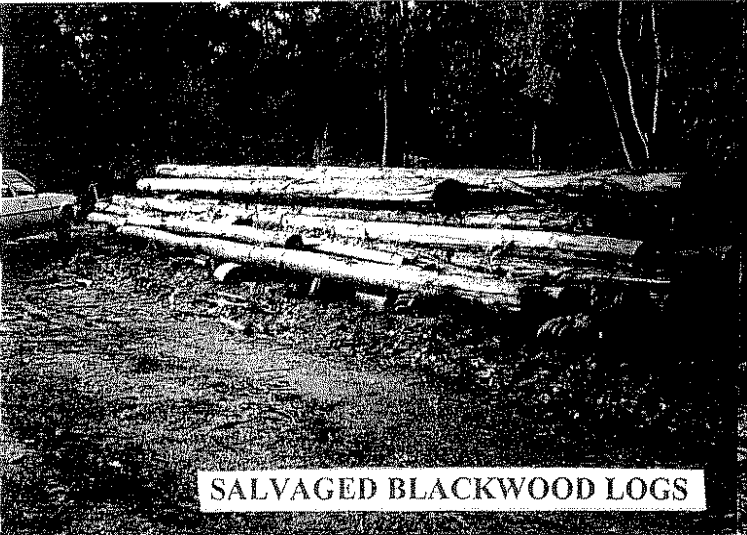




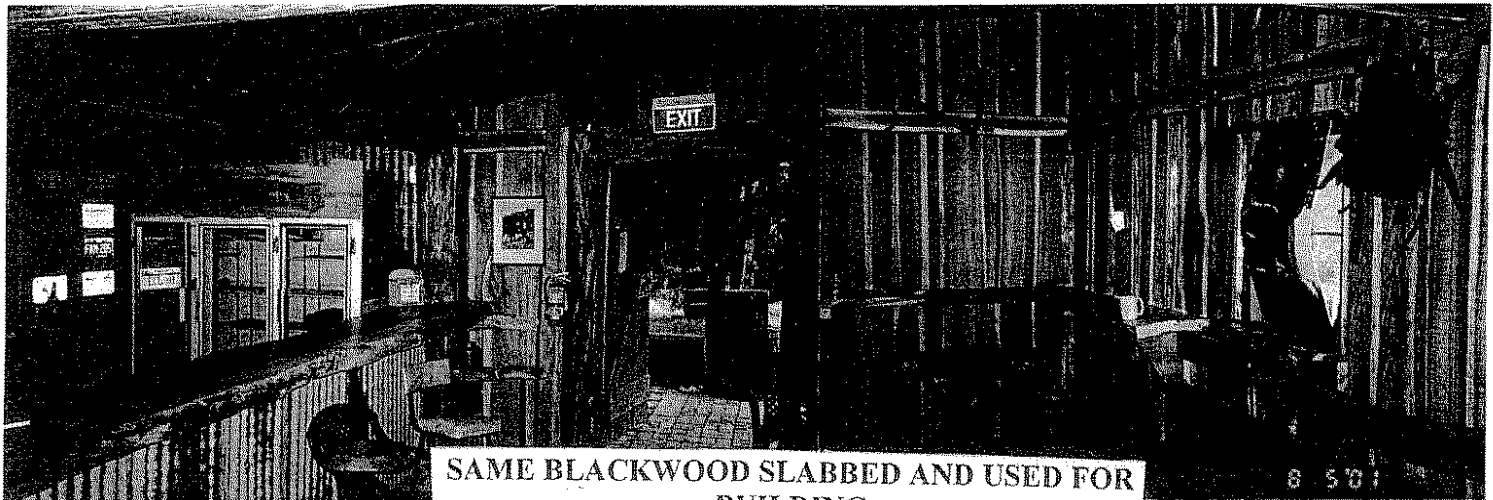
BLACKWOOD AND MYRTLE HEAPED UP TO BE BURNED



SALVAGED BLACKWOOD LOGS



SALVAGED BLACKWOOD LOGS



SAME BLACKWOOD SLABBED AND USED FOR

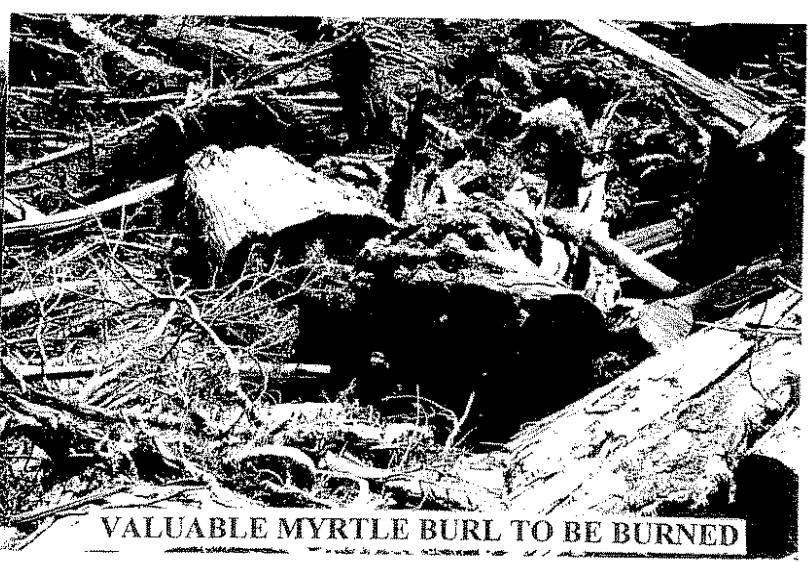


AUTHORIZED PERSONS ONLY
WFO02e
E 1742D
Lee Wolfelt
Gunnys

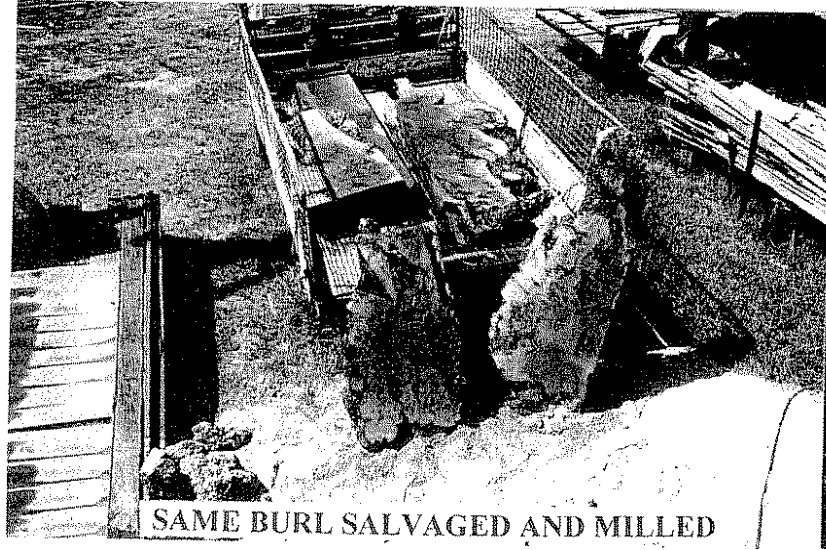
LARGE QUANTITIES OF MYRTLE HEAPED UP TO BE BURNED



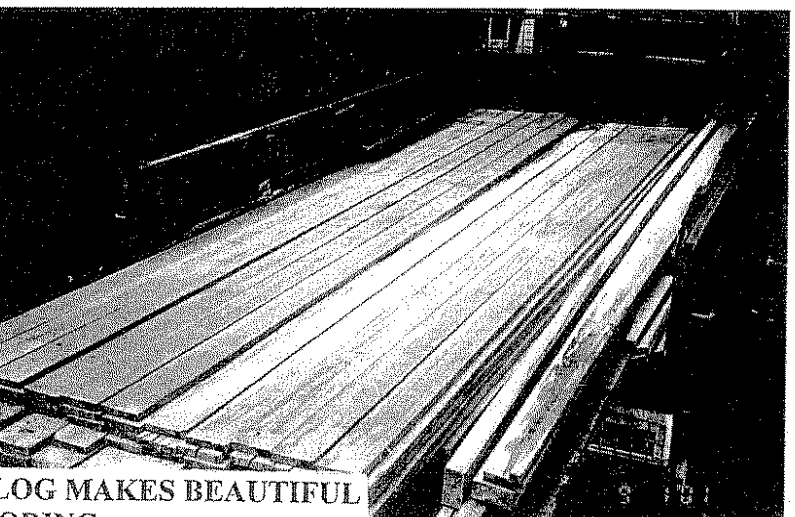
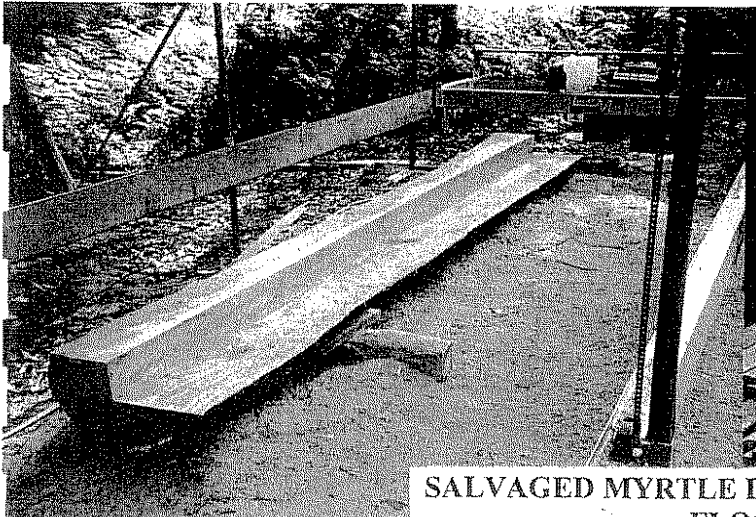
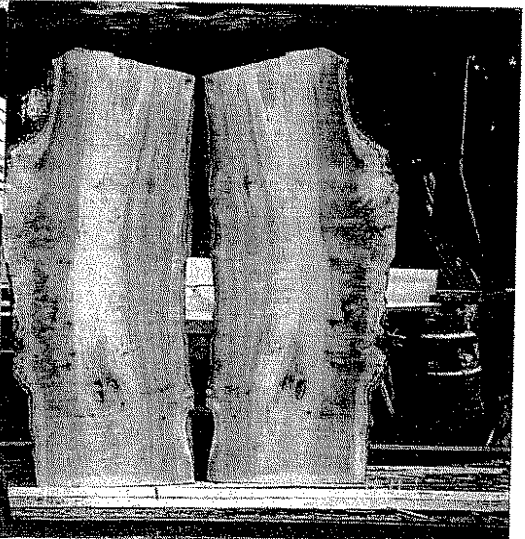
MYRTLE LOG LEFT TO BURN



VALUABLE MYRTLE BURL TO BE BURNED



SAME BURL SALVAGED AND MILLED



SALVAGED MYRTLE LOG MAKES BEAUTIFUL FLOORING

THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES OF CLEARFELLING.

STYX VALLEY 2002



MASSIVE WASTE AS MORE CELERY TOP PINE AND MYRTLE ARE LEFT TO BE BURNED



THIS CELERY TOP PINE IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS "THE PRESCRIBED TARGET SPECIES" SO IT IS TO BE BURNED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT TO GROW FOR ANOTHER 200 YEARS TO REACH A SUITABLE SAWLOG SIZE AND THEN ONLY SELECTIVELY LOGGED



THREE HUNDRED YEAR OLD CELERY TOP PINE TO BE BURNED

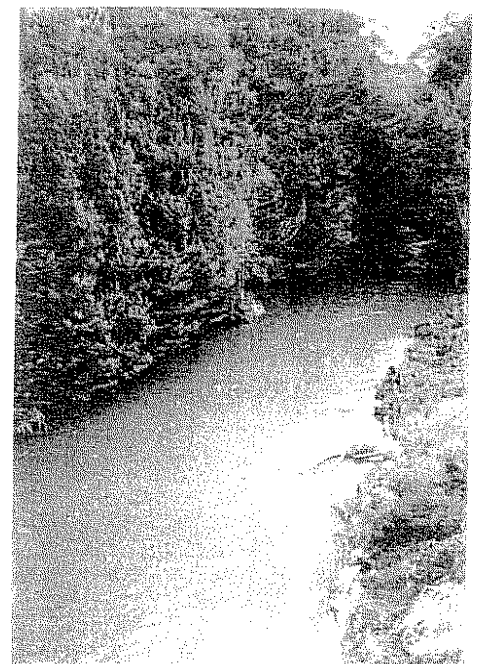
The management practice of clearfelling is changing the nature of Tasmania,s forests forever resulting in the following consequences:--

- Micro-climate change:-
 - total disruption to the water cycle
 - alters the hydrology of the land
 - alters river and stream flow patterns
 - alters the water productivity of the land for at least 150 years ref (Melbourne Water Status Report 1991).
 - lowering of rainfall patterns to the surrounding forests and agricultural land.
 - changes the total leaf area
 - loss of vertical turbulence.



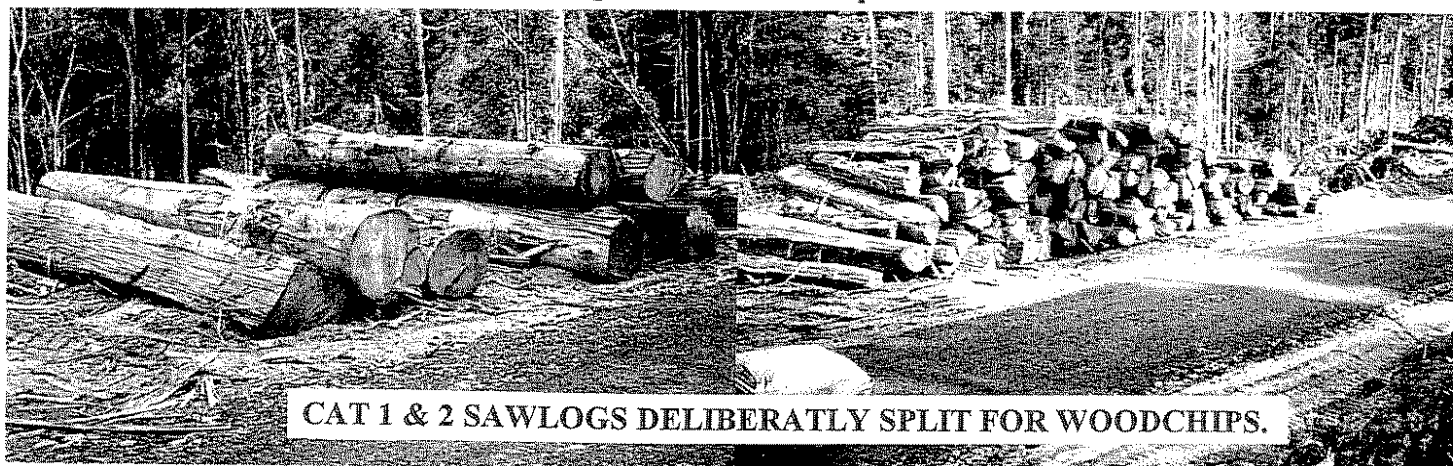
- substantial loss of humidity.
- increase in radiated heat.
- lower ground temperatures which increases the difficulty of seedling survival at higher altitudes due to frost damage.
- increased wind effects.
- increased drying out of the land and adjoining areas.
- corresponding increased fire risk.

- Extremely inefficient use of the resource.
- Massive unconscionable waste.
- Corresponding loss of economic opportunity.
- Loss of bio-mass, as 60% of the above ground vegetation and below ground root systems are destroyed and lost.
- Continue to burn massive quantities of resource, (colloquially known as “non target species” which are the very valuable special species timbers which may or may not be mature enough to be of commercial value).
- Adds substantial quantities of carbon to the atmosphere thereby compounding the problems of global warming.
- Facilitates erosion problems.
- Loss of soil nutrients:--
 - loss of associated micro-flora and fauna essential for the breakdown of the bio-mass.
 - changes to the soil structure.
 - changes to the rhizome activities.
 - mono-culture regrowth or plantations profoundly alters the whole ecological balance and nutrient base.
- Loss of filtering and purification effects of bio-mass.
- Increased nutrients entering waterways.
- Increased algae formation in waterways.
- De-oxygenation from excessive vegetable matter entering water ways.



- Loss of and changes to the aquatic flora and fauna ie. fresh water crayfish
- Loss of habitat, diversity, identity and integrity of flora and fauna.
- Contributes to the siltation of rivers and streams, estuaries and coast lines with the resulting loss of sea grasses, kelp beds, habitat and breeding grounds.
- Use of 1080 baits adjacent to rural towns and farms ie, Middleton in Tasmania, for the control of vermin (protected native wildlife).
- Use of herbicides for the control of woody weeds (native forests).
- Deny this and future generations access to natural landscapes and the resource which supports all present and future economies and opportunities ..ie:---

high value added furniture, boat-building, joinery construction and craft products produced from Tasmania's exotic timbers as well as all other timber products. In addition expanded tourism, nature based tourism, honey gathering, potential medicinal compounds, bush-tucker and herbs etc, together with life's experience.

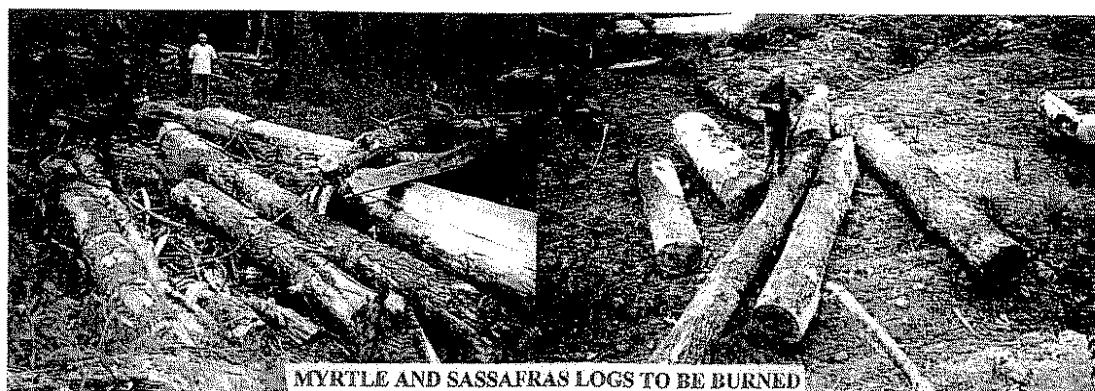


CAT 1 & 2 SAWLOGS DELIBERATLY SPLIT FOR WOODCHIPS.

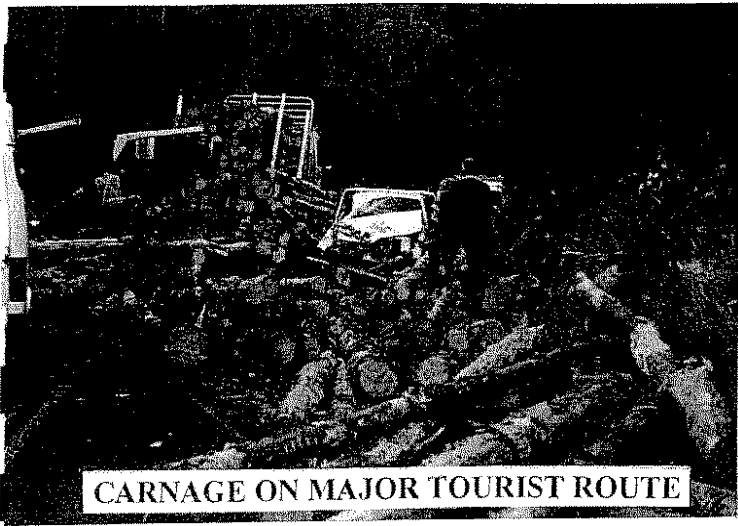


SEVEN METRE DIAMETER EUCALYPT STUMP

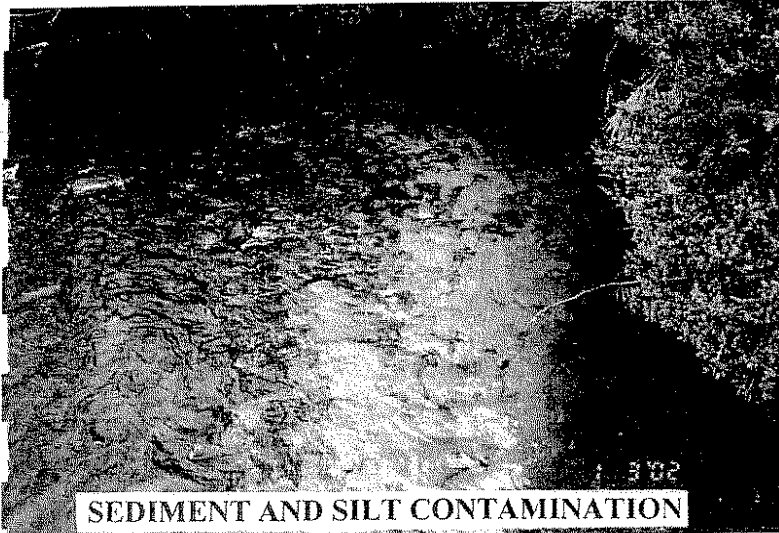
MASSIVE EUCALYPT BURLS TO BE BURNED



MYRTLE AND SASSAFRAS LOGS TO BE BURNED



CARNAGE ON MAJOR TOURIST ROUTE



SEDIMENT AND SILT CONTAMINATION



BURNED STREAM SIDE RESERVE



NO STREAM SIDE RESERVE



EXPORTING LOGS=EXPORTING JOBS

THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CONVERTING NATIVE FORESTS TO PLANTATIONS AND MONO-CULTURE SEEDED REGROWTH.

The primary objective of present management practices is to maximise wood and fibre production of specific and limited species. Unfortunately, most industry and private foresters can only focus on applying silviculture methods to achieve short term financial gains for large resource consuming industries at the expense of long term sustainability.

Many of the problems resulting from these management practices are:---

- All of the aforementioned problems associated with clearfelling.
- The deliberate seeding or planting of specific species (which only suit the requirements of large industries and corporate interests), creating mono-cultures and destroying diversity.
- Vigorously growing mono-cultures shade out slower growing understorey species, resulting in a loss of diversity.
- Loss of nitrogen fixing species ie, acacias.
- Evapotranspiration rates, together with the micro-climate, are changed as the overall leaf area, is altered (which effects the moisture retention within regrowth) which together with the shorter regrowth, vertical turbulence is changed and so the water cycle is disrupted.
- Loss of bio-mass as a result of lower leaf fall results in faster run-off creating all the complex problems referred to earlier. Research by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Water Board on the hydrological effects on plantations and regrowth show there is an increased run-off for about the first 10 years by which time vigorously growing trees use higher quantities of ground water until, at about 150 years, hydrological effects start to stabilise.
- Stream flows are reduced by up to 50% at age 50 due to increased evapotranspiration.
- Where pulp rotations of about 20 years and sawlog rotations of about 60 years take place, the natural hydrology is destroyed forever.

- Heavy snow falls can cause extensive damage to regrowth up until approx 10 years of age, only then do trees become strong enough to withstand the weight of the snow. With the protection of an overstorey as in a natural forest, this problem does not occur.
- Most of the soils in our forests are poor, low in nutrients and will not support regular rotations of tree farms or timber supply lots.
- Nutrient loss in wet forests is greater as vigorous growth rates in higher rainfall areas, enables shorter rotations. Dry-land regrowth is much slower growing and has a greater ability to build up the nutrient base unless too frequent fires remove the litter.
- Mono-cultures attract disease, fungal infection and insect attacks by leaf beetles, caterpillars and the Californian thrip which is now resident in Radiata plantations. Growth rates can be effected by anything up to 50%. Control is by aerial spraying. Sprays such as pyrethroids when entering rivers and streams in parts per billion can decimate aquatic life.
- The widespread use of 1080 poison results in the wholesale slaughter of wildlife contributing to species extinction, particularly when used adjacent to National Parks, reserves and World Heritage areas.
- Pine plantations and mono-culture regrowth cause a plethora of problems when located adjacent to rural communities, along tourist routes and where landscapes are an important issue, ie.—
 - Loss of water quantity and quality.
 - Chemical contamination of rivers and streams.
 - Increased fire hazard.
 - Respiratory problems from Radiata Pine plantation pollen.
 - Loss of revenue to local councils.
 - Loss of support services and facilities.
 - Drastically reduced land values.
 - Destruction of the diversity of economic opportunities within those rural communities.
 - Destruction of the landscape and life's experience in the place where we live.

STYX--VALLEY
2002

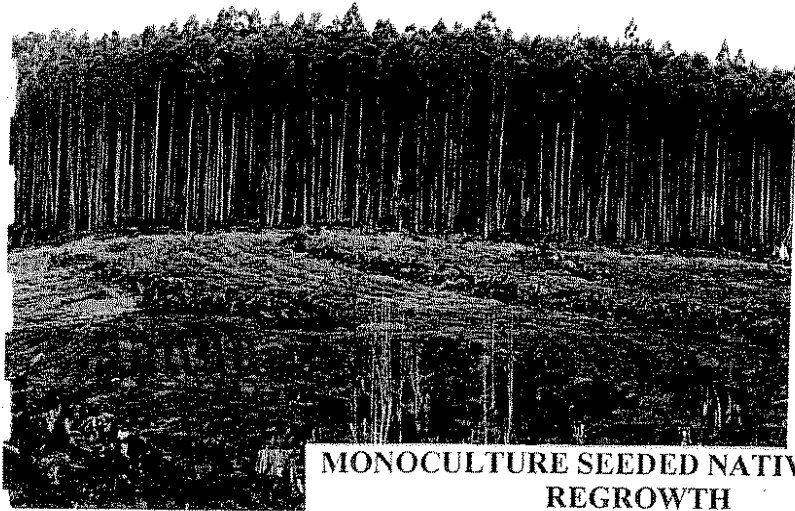
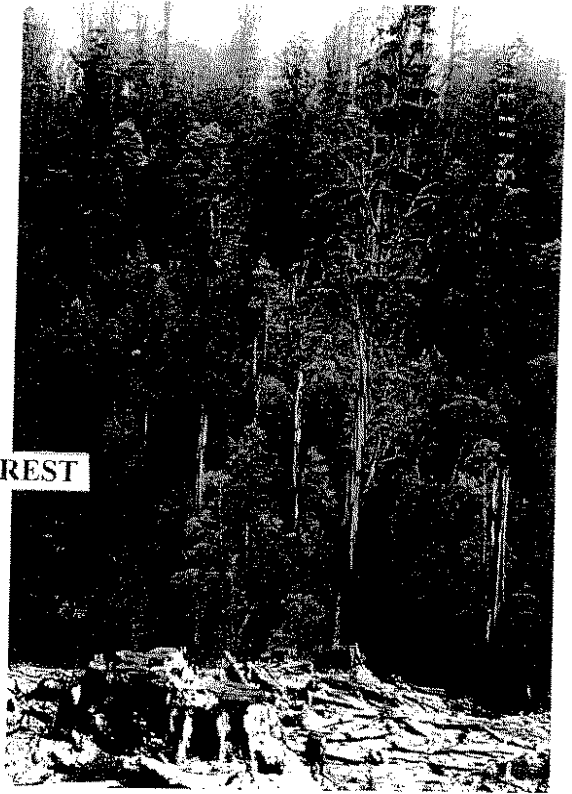
AERIAL SEEDED MONO-CULTURE
EUCALYPT IN THE BACKGROUND.

EUCALYPT PLANTATION IN THE
FOREGROUND.





RAINFOREST AND TALL EUCALYPT FOREST



**MONOCULTURE SEEDED NATIVE FOREST
REGROWTH**



**THIS TYPE OF MONOCULTURE REGROWTH IS ONLY
SUITABLE FOR PULP PRODUCTION AND NOT FOR
FUTURE SAWLOGS**



THE CONTENTIOUS USE OF FIRE.

There must be a totally new attitude to the use of fire for regeneration.

The way fire is used and its frequency does not in anyway emulate nature as our "forest managers" would have us believe.

In nature, fires in wet forests and rainforests are extremely rare. The very nature of these forests constrains naturally ignited large intensive very hot fires. Most regrowth occurs naturally *without* fire, the proof of this statement is readily seen in undisturbed mixed wet sclerophyll native forests where the age of trees varies greatly with many species being in excess of 500 years and it is not unusual to find trees over 1000 years old.

However, if fire is introduced, unlike dry sclerophyll forests, which have evolved with a more regular fire regime, wet mixed forests are very sensitive and will be readily killed if subjected to hot fires. The natural succession after such fires from eucalypt and acacia back to mixed forests or pure rainforests takes hundreds if not thousands of years.

Ash forests *do not* require fire to regenerate, they require sunlight first and foremost, this can be enhanced by soil disturbance. The use of fire creates a situation of no competition where a vigorously growing eucalypt mono-culture results, this only suits short rotation wood chip production. Fire, smoke or smoked rain does however help the germination of a number of forest species ie, banksia's, acacia's etc.

The unnatural conditions created by clearfelling together with the technique of aerial bombing with napalm to achieve a scorched earth burn does not in any way emulate nature.

The truth is that intense fire is used because it is the most cost effective way of regenerating mono-cultures that suit corporate interests.

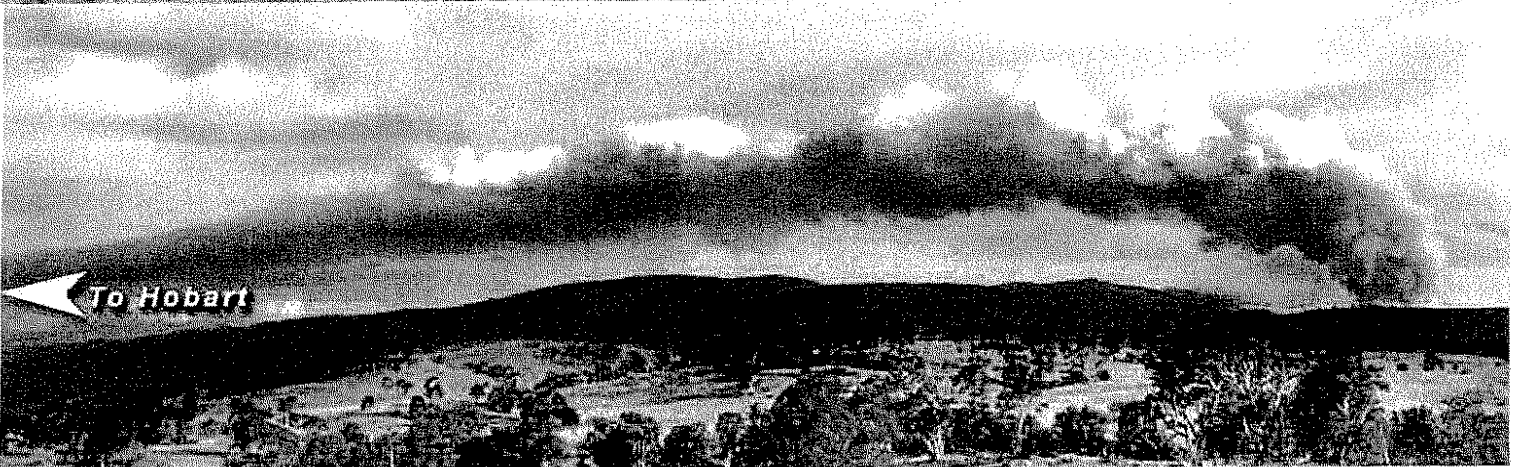
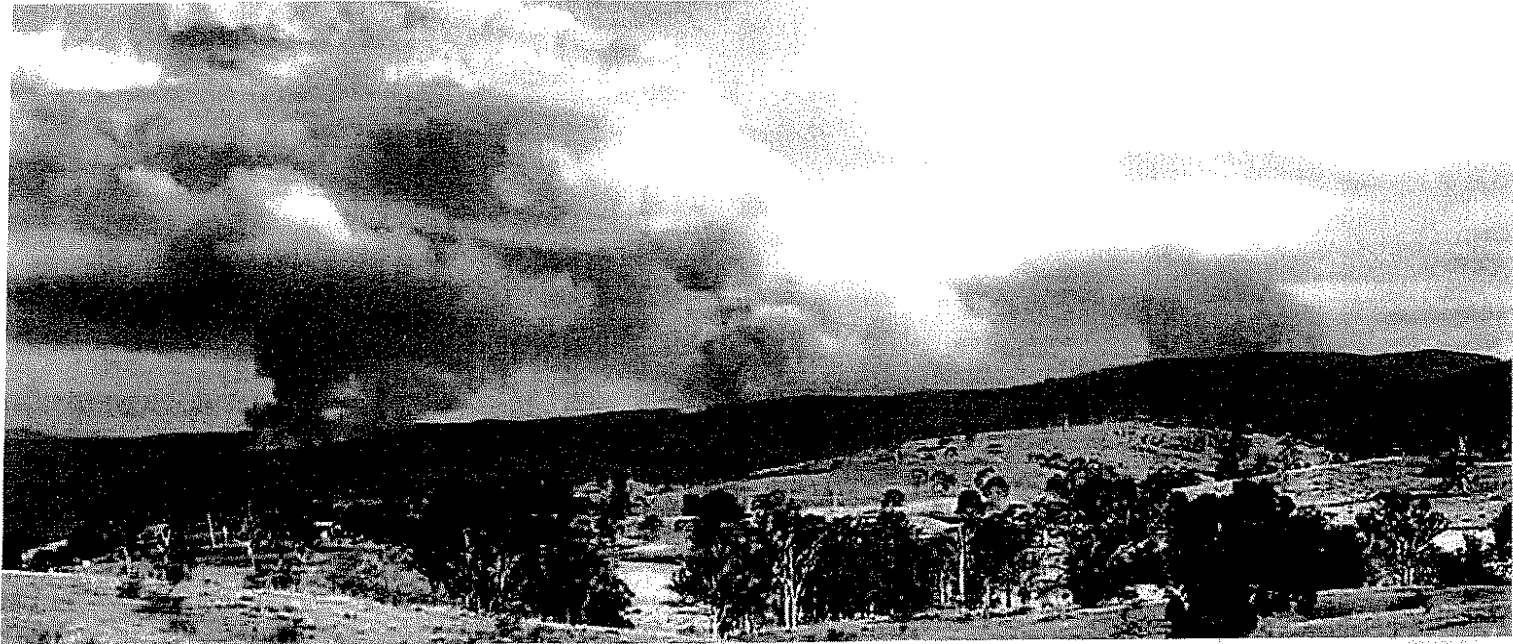
Continued and extensive use of fire will simplify natural systems and eventually lead to desertification.

The more frequent the incidence of fire the more the landscape is dried out, more fire prone it becomes with a greater corresponding loss of nutrients.

There is a substantial loss of Co₂ into the atmosphere which is not reclaimed by plantations or mono-cultures. C.S.I.R.O. research indicates there is a 60% net loss of carbon into the atmosphere compounding the problems of global warming. Carbon credits will not offset the quantities being released.

There must be a totally new approach to fire management, the importance of *preventing* too regular fire regimes cannot be overstated. Most fires if they can be got to within the first half hour to an hour can be contained if sufficient resources are used.

Herculies, Carribou and other heavy freight aircraft capable of carrying large quantities of water should be strategically placed so that they are within ½ to an hour of any point in the country during bad fire conditions. Fire bombing with large quantities of water would also be good training for the armed services .



OPTIONS AND SOLUTIONS.

The first objective of forest management must be the maintenance of the forest ecosystem itself. It must encompass all the biological and physical factors outlined in the previous pages.

If the right and responsible decisions are made now while the opportunity still exists, there can still be a constant, although decreased, availability of all categories of the resource until the regrowth from those areas which were not subjected to hot burns and aerial seeding, can have time to mature.

Present management techniques are directed to manipulating the forest resource to fit a very limited and specific demand instead managing the forests for all end users and beneficiaries.

Tasmania's unique and special timbers could still support a substantially expanded labour intensive and profitable industry. There is only 10-12 years of mixed wet forests left and continued clearfelling will decimate this opportunity.

A total reappraisal of present forest practices must take place. Changes must be made to the management techniques of the remaining biologically diverse native forests. Classifications and definitions of forest types and wood values must be changed. The price obtained for the resource must reflect its ecological value and not just the superficial economic value.

Selective single stem or small scale group extraction of the high value target species in a manner which does not interfere with the basic ecology or hydrology of the land, must be the fundamental approach. Logging methods must allow for the highest possible values to be obtained from the resource.

Outlined below are some of the basic requirements which could be followed:--

Management and forest workers should have basic training as ecologists with the emphasis on having a respect for the resource.

New and innovative technologies must be developed to enable access to forests and the extraction of timber in a manner which does not damage non target species, and does not allow the introduction of exotic weeds.

No area should be over-felled. The near total bio-mass must be retained. The percentage of each species to be extracted should bear a direct relationship to the diversity of age, size, quality, type, quantity and use as habitat, which exists in each location.

Trees, not suitable for sawlogs, veneer or craft material, should be left where they are to be habitat for all the flora and fauna essential for the maintenance of stable eco-systems, and a support system for the whole process of regeneration, nutrient replacement and climate stability.

Forests occurring on very steep slopes or in areas sensitive for ecological reasons should be left alone.

Pulp requirements for locally based mills should only be sourced from sawmill waste and agro-forestry multi-species plantations. Farmers should be encouraged to established at least 30% of their properties to timber production. Experience shows this would help to increase the overall productivity as greater biological diversity is re-established and humidity is enhanced.

Areas for pine plantation establishment must be very strictly assessed and delineated. Pine plantations must not be established in traditional wet forest and rainforest areas, or in any other contentious area which may be compromised by their establishment.

Other than agro-forestry, plantations should only be established on degraded land and in particular anywhere in Australia where there are problems with rising water tables and the threat of salinity.

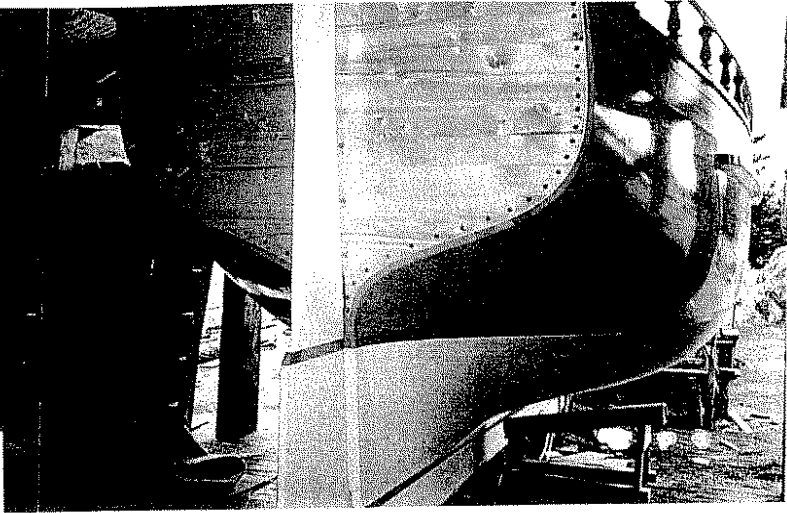
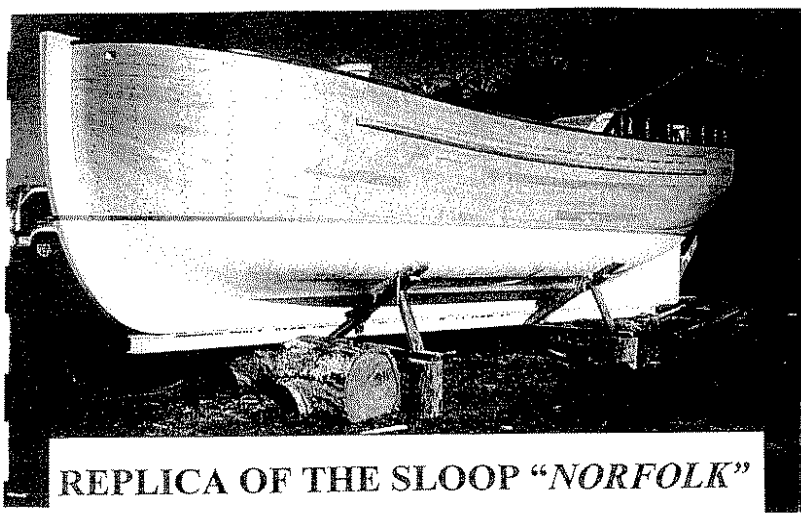
Existing plantations in any contentious areas must be re-assessed when harvesting next takes place. Where these areas are traditional wet forest and rainforest, they should be regenerated to their indigenous species.

Forests on private land must be required to comply with new enlightened forest management practices which must be established on public land.

There should be no more clearing of land for agriculture.

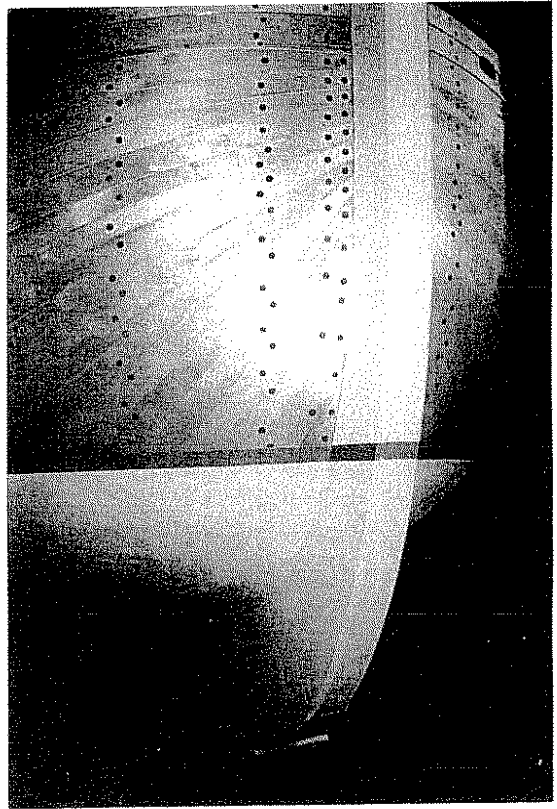
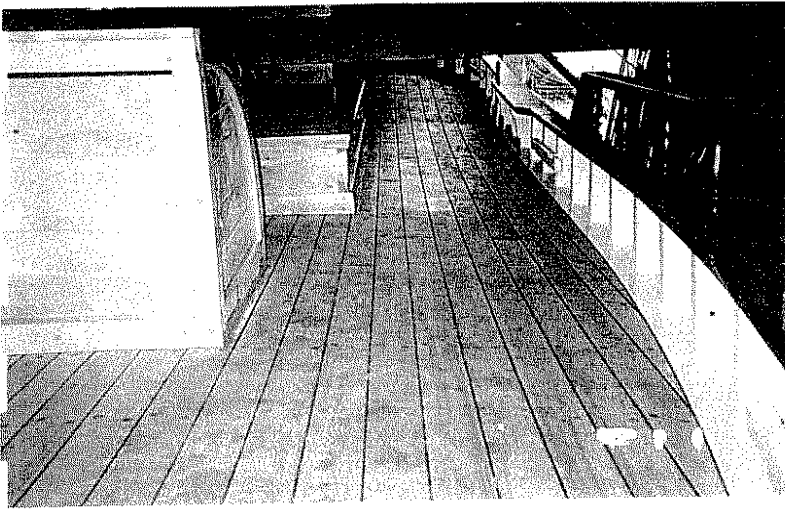
Sawmill practices must return to the high recovery rates which once existed and where there was greater employment. Average recovery rates from a category 1 eucalypt sawlog when processed through automated mills is approx 28% if processed by a small sawmill, the recovery rate for the same log would be in excess of 60%. Recovery rates of regrowth logs through automated mills is less than 18% (stable maturity in a eucalypt sawlog is approx 120). The older the log the better the recovery rate. The establishment of narrow gauge band mills would also enhance recovery rates.

"In conclusion, we must completely rethink and change our attitude of mind which is turning the last ancient forests into frivolous magazines, tabloids, packaging and junk mail. It is time the extravagant use and mindless consumerism of these vital and irreplaceable life support systems ceased."

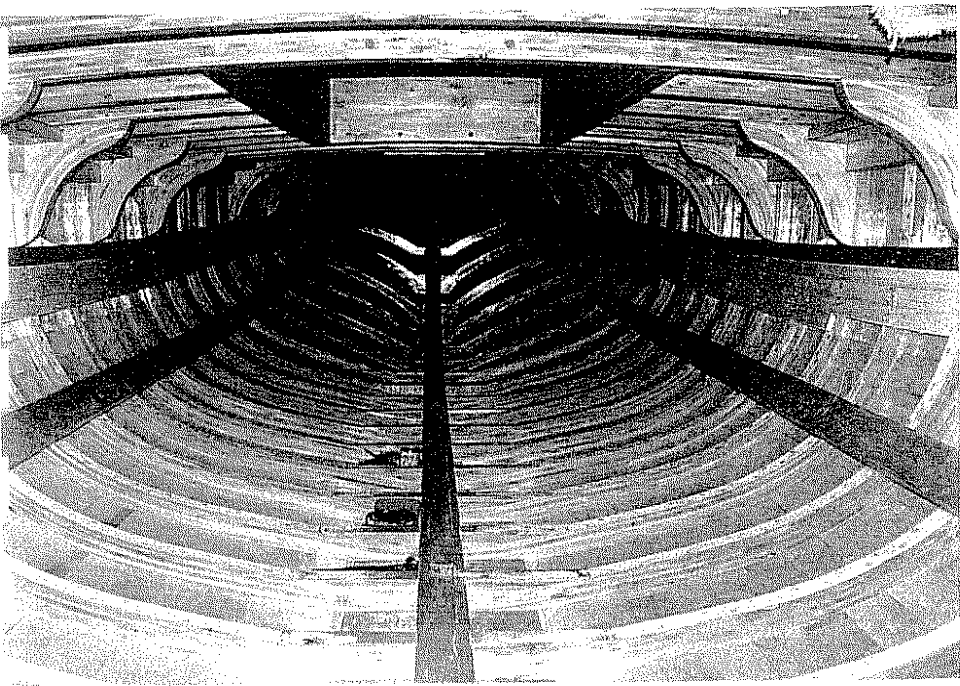


REPLICA OF THE SLOOP "NORFOLK"

THIS VESSEL WAS BUILT FOR THE BI-CENTENNIAL RE-ENACTMENT OF MATHEW FLINDERS CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF TASMANIA



THE VESSEL WAS BUILT WITH *CELERY TOP PINE* FRAMING & DECKING AND PLANKED WITH *HUON PINE*



"WHERE IS THE TIMBER TO BUILD BOATS LIKE THIS GOING TO COME FROM IN THE FUTURE"??

The following is an approximate timescale for growth of various species to stable maturity or a usable size and quality.

Eucalypts & Acacia's have vigorous growth rates for the first 10-20 years after which growth rates slow as competition & available nutrient levels take effect.

In general, quality and stability in timber comes with age.

SPECIES	DIAMETER GROWTH RATE	STABLE MATURITY OR USABLE SIZE
Eucalypt sawlog	25-30 years per 30cm. / 1ft.	120-140 years
Eucalypt pulplog	Rotations 15-25 years Diam. 20-30cm. - 8in. / 1ft.	15-25 years
Silver Wattle	25-30 years per 30cm. / 1ft.	70-80 years
Blackwood	70-100 years per 30cm. / 1ft.	150+ years
Myrtle	60-80 years per 30cm. / 1ft.	150-180 years
Sassafras	80-90 years per 30cm. / 1ft.	150-180 years
Celery Top Pine	120-150 years per 30cm. / 1ft.	250+ years
King Billy Pine	140-150 years per 30cm. / 1ft.	250+ years
Huon Pine	200+ years per 30cm. / 1ft.	250+ years

CONCLUSION

“THERE IS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT THE ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LAND DEGRADATION, THE DESTRUCTION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, IS AUSTRALIA’S AND THE PLANETS MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUE”

“IF OUR DECISION MAKERS DO NOT EMBRACE A PHILOSOPHY BASED ON MODERN ECOLOGICAL REALITIES, THE RESOURCE BASE FOR PRESENT AND MANY ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS WILL COLLAPSE”

“TRUE ENLIGHTENED FOREST MANAGEMENT MUST ENCOMPASS THE WHOLE FOREST ECOLOGY INCLUDING ALL ITS BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL FACTORS. IT IS THAT VAST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WHICH HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTAL TO MAINTAINING RELATIVE STABILITY IN THOSE FORESTS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS”

**“GOVERNMENTS , THEIR AGENTS AND INDUSTRY, SHOW GREAT DETERMINATION IN CONVERTING BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE FORESTS INTO VAST MONO-CULTURES OF PLANTATIONS OR WOOD LOTS WHICH HAVE A VERY LIMITED AND SPECIFIC USE”
-:e.g. WOODCHIPS.**

***THEY IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THIS GENERATION
AND THE UNKNOWN NEEDS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS***

***“THE DECISIONS WE MAKE NOW SHOULD STAND THE
JUDGEMENT OF SEVEN GENERATIONS OF OUR
FOREBEARS AND THE JUDGEMENT AND EFFECTS
UPON SEVEN GENERATIONS OF OUR CHILDREN STILL
TO COME.”***

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN ORATORY

Personal

It was the peace and tranquillity, the magic and the beauty of the valley and the surrounding unblemished landscape and mountains which attracted me to want to live and farm in the district of Ellendale 30 years ago.

At the time, Ellendale was a thriving rural hamlet with hop and small fruit farms together with fat lamb, wool and vealer production. There was a school, two stores, a garage, and a number of small sawmills. This was a viable self-supporting community where people earned an adequate income and enjoyed a great quality of life.

Now 30 years later, there are no hops, no school, one store and only one small fruit farm left. Our children and many members of the community have had to leave or travel to find work and those who are left, have to suffer all the problems created by corporate governance and vested interests, (who only see the world and its resources through the eyes of profit and speculation) and the effects their actions have had on the place where we live and our whole way of life.

The timber industry in this district used to be a large employer, however, due to mechanisation, automation and monopolisation of our resources by global and home grown corporate interests, their insatiable demands have not only changed the face of our landscapes forever, but have also destroyed present and future employment and business opportunities.

The social structure of our community is being destroyed as small farms and native forests are being devoured by the insidious cancer of sterile mono-culture plantations, in our case, pine plantations. Where these plantations are in close proximity to small towns like Ellendale, they are displacing part or whole communities, creating all the problems referred to earlier in this paper. These problems raise the whole question of the need for compensation, and who is responsible for compensating those effected towns and communities.

As a small sawmiller supplying the furniture, joinery, building and craft industries with Huon Pine salvaged from Lake Gordon and Celery Top Pine, Myrtle, Sassafrass and many other special species salvaged from clearfells, I am particularly concerned that the present forest management practices are not sustainable and are *guaranteeing there will be none of these special timbers available for these industries in the future.*

Our children and grand children should have the right to the same opportunities and quality of life we have enjoyed. They should not be forced to exist in a world where dull and mediocre manufactured wood products ie, craftwood, plywood, laminated chip board and crap radiata pine, is all that exists and where in the pursuit of economic advantage, our resources has been grossly manipulated and altered by a few.

In 1960 after graduating from Hawkesbury Agricultural College, one of my first jobs was as an interstate truckie. I carted machine parts and power cable into Eucumbene, Khancoban and Island Bend. It seemed like a great thing at the time, but now 40 years later, because of damming, restricted water flows, over clearing, over use by irrigators, chemical and nutrient contamination from agricultural pursuits, town sewage discharges and the overwhelming salinity problems, the Murray Darling river systems are half a breath away from being dead.

During the mid sixties to early seventies, I was a "new-land" wheat farmer and agricultural contractor in Western Australia. I was part of the process, which in the name of "progress and development", turned millions of hectares of sand plain into a vast biological desert. The resulting problems caused by salinity and wind erosion are causing monstrous problems which could well be insurmountable.

In the early eighties I owned and operated a crayboat out of southern Tasmania. After a brief period I realised the industry was in fast decline and facing major problems. Extensive depletion of many marine species continues unabated. No longer are crays and scallops an every day experience for ordinary Tasmanians.

The speed of change and the degree of exponential growth we are experiencing, not only in population (if I live for another 10 years world population will have doubled twice in my lifetime) but also in consumerism and the destruction of our resources, is simply not sustainable.

When we are told our public forests are being "managed sustainably" we are being lied to. It is not possible to grow balanced ecosystems back in "five minutes" while we change the fundamental rules of nature.

These problems bring into sharp focus the overwhelming urgency for us to very carefully nurture the life support systems we still have left, to move to a "care and maintenance" system, to "live off the interest" instead of mining our capital, and to make every effort to repair the mistakes and destruction of the last 200 years.

History clearly shows the only cultures to survive for any appreciable period of time, are those who realised their place in relationship to the world around them and learned to live in harmony with it.

Acknowledgments:---To the various authors whose quotations may have been used in part or in full and whose names are unknown.