ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

RAINFOREST STUDY GROUP

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" BECAUSE MANY FOREST PLANTS PRODUCE MOST NECTAR AT NIGHT, THE NOCTURNAL POLLINATORS BATS, POSSUMS, GLIDERS AND MOTHS - ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE FOREST."

SYDNEY " BRANCH " MEETINGS/ GET TOGETHERS ARRANGED FOR MAY AND JULY (PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY !)

MY THANKS TO JEREMY TRAHAIR FOR HIS EFFORTS ON THESE ACTIVITIES.

13 TH MAY (SAT.) AT BETTY RYMER'S 48 ANNANGROVE RD KENTHURST (PHONE 02 654 1831). PHONE BETTY FOR DIRECTIONS, BUT SHE WOULD APPRECIATE A CALL CONFIRMING YOUR INTENTION TO VISIT. TIME - AROUND 2PM TO APPROX 4.30. TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION IS GROWING SUCCESSES/FAILURES WITH 'DIFFICULT' SPECIES AND ALSO BRING ALONG ONE OR 2 OF YOUR SURPLUS PLANTS TO SWAP AND DESCRIBE HOW THEY WERE GROWN

22 ND JULY (SAT.) AT ALAN BATLEY'S PROPERTY ON KURRAJONG HEIGHTS, WEST OF SYDNEY AND ABOUT AN HOURS DRIVE FROM PEARCES CORNER, HORNSBY. BETWEEN 2 -4 PM. YOU CAN CONTACT ALAN ON THE DAY ON 045 677 401 OR PRIOR TO THAT AT HIS SYDNEY NO - 909 8050. THE PLACE IS NAMED "YANDRA" AND IS IN EAST ST, KURRAJONG HEIGHTS. EAST ST IS A CONTINUATION OF DOUGLASS ST WHICH RUNS OFF BELLS LINE OF ROAD, TO THE RIGHT, JUST BEFORE THE POST OFFICE/STORE AT KURRAJONG HEIGHTS. THEY ARE ABOUT 300 YARDS DOWN THE HILL FROM BELLS LINE; ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD.

ANY COMMENT ON THE NEW TYPE USED IN PRINTING THE NEWSLETTER ? ? ?

THERE HAD BEEN A COUPLE OF COMMENTS PREVIOUSLY THAT THE N/L FORMAT OF REDUCTION BEFORE PRINTING MADE IT DIFFICULT TO READ. I WAS GIVEN SOME DIFFERENT 'GOLFBALLS' RECENTLY, AND USED AN "ORATOR" STYLE TYPE ON THIS AND THE PREVIOUS ISSUE. ANY DIFFERENCE,OR SHOULD I GO BACK TO THE PREVIOUS PRINT? OR, DO I HAVE THE PAGES PRINTED WITH NO REDUCTION AND INCREASE THE SUBS. TO SAY $8 PA ?

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE BY JULY (OR OVERDUE) A REMINDER IS ATTACHED

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY STAMPS (45CENTERS PLEASE) OR CASH IF YOUR BANK CHARGES A FEE GREATER THAN THE $5 SUBS -AND IT SEEMS MANY DO - YOU MAY CONSIDER PAYING FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS AND TRUST THAT THE GROUP DOESN'T REVERT TO A PREVIOUS DORMANCY. HOWEVER IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO RETAIN M'SHIP, A BRIEF NOTE, EVEN THE MERE 2 WORDS - "I RESIGN" WOULD BE A COURTESY. IT MAY EVEN SAVE SOME OF THE WORLDS DIMINISHING RESOURCES BY ME NOT SENDING AN UNWANTED N/L AND A WASTED REMINDER, POSSIBLY.

SEED BANK UPDATE (CURATOR - PATRICK BENNETT 20 BELMORE COURT PINE MOUNTAIN 4306)

HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PATRICK LISTING 36 SPECIES OF SEED AVAILABLE. SOME OF IT HAS BEEN IN STOCK FOR A FAIRLY LONG TIME AND MAY NOT BE VIABLE, BUT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TRY THOSE AS A VIABILITY TEST , AND MAYBE ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEY KEEP INDEFINITELY - PARTICULARLY THE 'PIONEER SPECIES. TO ENABLE A RECORD OF MEMBERS RESULTS TO BE MAINTAINED, PATRICK HAS DESIGNED A FORM OF PROPAGATION DETAILS A COPY OF WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED WITH EACH BATCH DRAWN FROM THE BANK, AND TO BE SENT BACK IN DUE COURSE. RESULTS WILL BE SUMMARISED FROM TIME TO TIME AND PUBLISHED IN THE N/L. YOUR ASSISTANCE WILL BE APPRECIATED. SEED CURRENTLY AVAILABLE -

ALCHORNEA ILICIFOLIA
ARAUCARIA CUNNINGHAMII
ARCHONTOPHOENIX ALEXANDRAE
ATALAYA SALICIFOLIA
BACKHOUSIA CITRIODOR
CAPPARIS ARBOREA
COMMERSONIA FRASERI
CORDYLINE STRICTA
ELAEOCARPUS GRANDIS
FICUS HILLII
FICUS RACEMOSA
F. VIRENS
FLINDERSIA XANTHOXYLA
GMELINA LEICHHARDTII
HIBISCUS HETEROPHYLLUS
HYMENOSPORUM FLAVUM
JAGERA PSEUDORHUS
LOMATIA ARBORESCENS
MELIA AZEDARACH
MICROCITRUS AUSTRALIS
MORINDA JASMINOIDES
NAUCLEA ORIETALIS
NOTELAEA MICROCARPA
OREOCALLIS WICKHAMII
PANDOREA JASMINOIDES
P. " (WHITE)
P. " (DEEP PINK)
PASSIFLORA SP. (CAPE HILLSBOROUGH - MACKAY)
PITTOSPORUM BICOLOR
P. REVOLUTUM
PITTOSPORUM RHOMBIFOLIUM
POLYSCIAS ELEGANS
SCHIZOMERIA OVATA
STENOCARPUS SINUATUS
SYZIGIUM OLEOSUM
S. WILSONII SSP. WILSONII
TRISTANIA LAURINA

RECENT DONATIONS - TRAHAIRS, JENKINSONS.

SOUTH - EAST QLD " BRANCH " MEETINGS ARE ON THE 2ND SATURDAY OF ALTERNATE MONTHS

MEETINGS FOR THE REST OF 1995 ARE MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER AND COMMENCE AT THE SELECTED VENUE FROM 9.30AM FOR MORNING TEA, AND A PICNIC LUNCH USUALLY. FOR FURTHER DETAILS PHONE PETER JURD ON (07) 345 1445.

WOODCHIPS v. FORESTS OR JOBS ? HEARD IT ALL BEFORE AS " SAND - MINING v. COASTAL VEGETATION OR JOBS "

OTHER 'CHAMPIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT' WILL REMEMBER THE RUTILE MINING UP AND DOWN THE COAST IN THE '60S AND 70S. INITIALLY OPERATIONS WERE SMALL (AS WERE BUSH SAWMILLS) AND WITH SIMILAR, FAIRLY UNDESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS AND ONLY MINOR DISTURBANCE (WAVE ACTION REPLACED THE SAND AND TREES REGENERATED QUICKLY IN THE BUSH). BY THE TIME THE EASILY ACCESSIBLE RUTILE HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED (DEMAND HAD INCREASED, AS HAD CAPITAL INVESTED); THE MINERS DEMANDED AND WERE GRANTED ACCESS TO USUALLY MARGINAL DEPOSITS IN THE DUNES AND SWALES (AS LOGGERS ARE NOW DOING ON ONCE-UNAVAILABLE AND INACCESSIBLE SLOPES AND VITAL WATER CATCHMENTS).

THERE WAS MUCH OPPOSITION TO THE COASTAL DESTRUCTION - PEOPLE STANDING IN FRONT OF BULLDOZERS & DREDGES, ARRESTS, POLICE OPERATIONS, LOCAL COMMUNITY DIVISION, POLITICAL ARGUMENT (SAME AS IN THE FORESTS TODAY). USING THE SAME SCRIPT? SIMILAR SHORT-TERM VESTED INTERESTS? WHY KEEP ANYTHING ANYWAY?

TODAY, LITTLE REMAINING LITTORALRF & ASSOCIATED VEGETATION. AND NO INDUSTRY -- NO JOBS.

TOMORROW, FEW SURVIVING OLD GROWTH FORESTS. AND NO INDUSTRY -- NO JOBS.

WHALING WAS THE SAME - IT CEASED ONLY WHEN THE RESOURCE WAS SO DEPLETED (IN THE '50S AROUND 2000 WHALES WERE SLAUGHTERED HERE EACH YEAR) THAT IT WAS NOT ECONOMIC TO CARRY ON (1960S). WE CAN GO ON - CROCODILE HUNTING (50 KOALA FUR TRADE (1920S) CEDAR GETTING (LATE 1800S), WILL WE EVER LEARN ? DON'T ANSWER THAT, I'M TOO SADDENED ALREADY.

FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER

I AM ALWAYS PLEASED TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS ON ANY PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MATTERS; IT INDICATES THAT SOME PEOPLE, AT LEAST ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICULAR ITEMS, AND COULD LEAD TO AN ONGOING DISCUSSION ON PERHAPS IMPORTANT OR RELEVANT TOPICS.

FROM GOSFORD, JUST NORTH OF SYDNEY, RHODA JEAVONS COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND ASKS IF WE ARE AWARE THAT AN UNKNOWN STRAIN OF PHYTOPHTHORA IN TASMANIA IS KILLING ANCIENT HUON PINES AS WELL AS OTHER SPECIES INCREDIBLY QUICKLY. THIS INFORMATION WAS INCLUDED IN A PAST ISSUE OF "GEO" ON EXPERIMENTAL WORK ON PHOSPHORUS AS A PREVENTITIVE AND CURATIVE AGENT AGAINST P. CINNAMOMI. RHODA ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THIS BUT HAS NOT HAD ANY RESPONSE, SO IS SOMEWHAT UNIMPRESSED WITH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED.
REGARDING PLANT LABELS - AFTER MANY TRIALS THEY FOUND THE BEST FOR 'FANCY' GARDEN PLANTS IS THE "DYMO" VINYL TAPE STUCK TO SLATS FROM OLD ALUMINIUM VENETIAN BLINDS (TRY YOUR LOCAL OP. SHOP FOR THESE). PLACE THE LABELS IN THE SHADIEST PLACE TO REDUCE FADING AND THEY SHOULD BE LEGIBLE FOR YEARS. FOR SHORTER USE, SUCH AS POT PLANTS, CUT THE BLINDS INTO SHORT LENGTHS AND USE A PERMANENT (?) MARKER THEN BURY THE WRITTEN SECTION TO AVOID FADING AND WITHDRAW THE LABEL WHENEVER REFERENCE TO ITS DETAIL IS REQUIRED.
ANOTHER IDEA IS TO USE ORDINARY BLACK ACRYLIC PAINT APPLIED WITH A BROAD CALIGRAPHY NIB TO RECORD WHATEVER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED. THEY FIND THAT THIS IS THE MOST SATISFACTORY METHOD FOR THEIR PLANTATION/WOODLOT AREA.

IN THE GARDEN, AN ICY GALE AT THE END OF WINTER KILLED EVERY PLANT OF ELAEOCARPUS GRANDIS SO EASILY GROWN FROM CUTTINGS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. THEIR LARGER PARENT TREES SURVIVED THOUGH ALL OF THE LOWER BRANCHES WERE 'BURNED'; THEY HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR NORMAL RAPID GROWTH SO DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SET BACK AT ALL. AN AREA WAS PLANTED WITH CARIBEAN CEDARS (CEDRELA ODORATA) LAST AUTUMN. THEY GREW STEADILY UNTIL THE WINTER CHILL WINDS ARRIVED - THOSE THAT WERE LEAST SHELTERED DIED, THE REST LOOKED TERRIBLE UNTIL THE WEATHER WARMED UP IN SUMMER AND DESPITE LITTLE RAIN AND NO WATERING, THEY RESUMED THEIR GROWTH AND HAVE DOUBLED IN SIZE.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING (EARLY FEB.) A SUPERB GOLDEN PENDA (XANTHOSTEMON CHRYSANTHUS) WAS IN FULL BLOOM FOR WEEKS, SYZIGIUM WILSONII COMMENCED FLOWERING BEFORE XMAS AND ONLY JUST FINISHED, WHILE BACKHOUSIA CITRIODORA WAS A MASS OF WHITE FLOWERS.. FINALLY, MORE ON HOOP PINE GERMINATION - LAST YEAR WE TRIED THEM WITHOUT SOAKING OR PRE-TREATMENT AT ALL AND HAD AT LEAST 80% RESULT. LOST MORE BY TRYING TO REMOVE THE WOODY SEED CASES BEFORE GERMINATION WAS COMPLETE THAN FROM NON-GERMINATION.

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BARBARA HENDERSON OF SAMSONVALE Q. WHO IS ALSO LEADER OF THE WALLUM STUDY GROUP KEEPS IN TOUCH REGULARLY AND HAS PRETTY WELL RECOVERED FROM AN ACCIDENTAL DOG BITE RECEIVED WHILE TRYING TO STOP A FIGHT BETWEEN A COUPLE OF THEIR FARM DOGS. KEPT HER OUT OF ACTION FOR A GOOD WHILE, REQUIRED STITCHES, ANTIBIOTICS AND A LONG RECOVERY TIME. EVEN AFTER THIS VALIANT ATTEMPT, ONE OF THE DOGS HAD TO BE PUT DOWN AS SHE WAS SEVERELY INJURED, WHILE SADLY A COUPLE OF MONTHS LATER, THEY LOST ONE OF THE PUPS WHICH HAD BEEN BITTEN BY A BROWN SNAKE.
DEPITE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO SAVE SOME OF THE EVER-DECREASING COASTAL BUSH, AND IN SALVAGING MANY WALLUM OR HEATH PLANTS BEFORE SITES ARE BULLDOZED, BARB KEEPS AT THE RF GARDEN AND WRITES " PRESENTLY THE RF HAS A MARVELLOUS GROWTH OF HEALTHY WEEDS, MAINLY COBBLERS PEGS. NEVER FAIL TO MARVEL AT HOW THE RF PLANTS KEEP GROWING SO WELL IN SPITE OF THE DRY - IT IS RARELY WATERED, NEVER MULCHED (EXCEPT THE LIVING ONE OF WEEDS) BUT ONCE PLANTS ARE ESTABLISHED THEY JUST GO UP. IT IS GOOD SOIL, AN OLD BANANA PATCH, PERHAPS THERE IS SOME REMNANT FERTILIZER STILL LINGERING.

RECENTLY PLANTED AN ARISTOLOCHIA PRAEVENOSA AND SOMEDAY HOPE TO FIND RICHMOND BIRDWINGS USING IT. (THEY ARE IN THIS AREA, AS WE FOUND A PAIR OF WINGS FROM ONE ABOUT 12 YEARS AGO) OF NOTE (AGAIN EARLY FEB.) CELASTRUS SUBSPICATUS (GROWS LOCALLY IN A BIT OF REMNANT SCRUB) KEEPS FLOWERING AND FRUITING. ELAEOCARPUS RETICULATUS WAS COVERED IN FLOWERS, REALLY LOVELY, AND IS NOW IN FRUIT. SYZIGIUM PANICULATUM - DWARF - IS ABOUT 2M HIGH, FLOWERED WELL AND HAS FRUITS BUT SOMETHING IS SPOILING THEM. OCHROSIA ELLIPTICA IS A LOVELY ROUNDED SMALL SHRUB SO FAR, ITS LEAVES ARE CLEAN AND UNTOUCHED AND IT IS STILL FLOWERING THOUGH NONE OF THOSE BEAUTIFUL RED FRUITS AS YET. EUGENIA REINWARDTIANA FRUITING WELL, A BIT SMALL BUT STILL GOOD EATING AND ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PLANTS. CUPANIOPSIS SERRATA, PLANTED MANY YEARS AGO HAS SUFFERED FROM COMPETITION BUT FLOWERED THIS SUMMER - PENDANT SPRAYS OF TINY, SOFT PINK FLOWERS. HOPE TO SAVE A FEW SEEDS. IT IS ALSO A LOCAL SPECIES - GROWS AT MT. GLORIOUS. GREVILLEA BAILEYANA ALWAYS LOOKS BEAUTIFUL WITH ITS BRONZE UNDERLEAVES."

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AN UPDATE ON SOME OF THE RF FERNS FROM STEVE SINCLAIR IN MELBOURNE. FIRSTLY, HE SEEKS INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS ON ALTERNATIVE PROPAGATION METHODS AND WRITES " THERE IS A TREE FERN GROWING NEAR MELBOURNE THAT IS PROBABLY A HYBRID BETWWEN CYATHEA AUSTRALIS (ROUGH) AND C. CUNNINGHAMII (SLENDER TREE FERN) THAT IS KNOWN AS THE 'SKIRTED TREE FERN BECAUSE A SKIRT OF DEAD FRONDS HANG OVER THE BLACK TRUNK. IT IS QUITE LARGE AND VERY IMPRESSIVE BUT I BELIEVE IT IS STILL UNCULTIVATED, BECAUSE ITS SPORES ARE APPARENTLY STERILE AND EVEN LARGE SPECIMENS RARELY CARRY ANY SPORE AT ALL. I MENTION THIS BECAUSE A NUMBER OF RFSG MEMBERS HAVE MENTIONED METHODS SUCH AS "EMBRYO CLONING", TISSUE CULTURE ETC. I KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THESE ALTERNATIVES BUT THINK THIS MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO GROW THIS TREE FERN. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF SOMEONE COULD SUPPLY PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS; PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND SPACE IN THE N/L IF OTHERS ARE INTERESTED?"

STEVE THEN MENTIONS THAT HE HAD SUCCESS WITH HIS ATTEMPTS WITH THE PRICKLY TREE FERN WITH ABOUT 60 SMALL SPECMENS (FERNLINGS ?) AND ABOUT 40 MUCH SMALLER CYATHEA REBECCAE. HE THINKS IT WILL BE 12 TO 18 MONTHS BEFORE THEY WILL BE A DECENT SIZE TO EITHER SWAP WITH OR GIVE AWAY TO OUR MEMBERS AND WILL KEEP US POSTED. HE WAS PRETTY EXCITED AT FINDING, WITH FRIENDS, 2 PLANTS OF THE OVAL FORK FERN, TMESIPTERIS OVATA, GROWING WELL ON TRUNKS OF ROUGH TREE FERNS ON THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. IT HAS ONLY BEEN RECENTLY LOCATED SO CLOSE TO MELBOURNE. PREVIOUSLY IT WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE ITS SOUTHERN LIMIT AT FAR EAST GIPPSLAND, 300 KM TO THE NORTH.

TRYING TO FIND A SOURCE OF SEED OF NOTHOFAGUS AND ATHEROSPERMA FOR OUR SEED BANK BUT MENTIONS THAT IT IS REALLY HARD TO FIND, AS WELL AS BEING DIFFICULT TO GERMINATE. THE FEW HE HAS TRIED TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY DISAPPOINTING AND WONDERS WHETHER HE SHOULD USE THE FRIDGE TO HELP THEM ALONG? (ED. YES, I FAILED ON MY ONE & ONLY ATTEMPT WITH NOTHOFAGUS, BUT DID GET 2 SURVIVORS FROM ROOTED SEEDS AT COTYLEDON STAGE. THEY ARE STILL IN POTS AFTER ABOUT 7 YEARS. FAST GROWING INITIALLY, BUT THOSE GIRDLING GRUBS LOVED THEM AND SET THEM BACK IN THEIR EARLY YEARS, AND THEY'VE NEVER REALLY RECOVERED.) COLLECTED FROM A MOSS-COVERED ROCK.

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JUDITH BRASS HAS OFFERED TO PARICIPATE IN THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS PREPARED TO SUPPLY SEED 'IN SEASON' SO WE NOW HAVE 2. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPANY JUDITH. THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE AVAILABLE:- ALPINEA ARUNDELLIANA, A. CAERULEA (FEB); BRACHYCHITON ACERIFOLIUS (JUL-AUG); BUCKINGHAMIA CELSISSIMA (JUL); DARLINGIA DARLINGIANA (JAN-FEB); EUODIA ELLERYANA (SEP-OCT); GLOCHIDION FERDINANDI (VARIOUS); PANDOREA JASMINOIDES (FEB-APR); PITTOSPORUM RHOMBIFOLIUM, P. VENULOSUM (APR); RANDIA FITZALANII (FEB-MAR); STERCULIA QUADRIFIDA (FEB-MAR); TERMINALIA OVATA (JUN).
WE COULD DO WITH A FEW MORE OFFEREES ON THE LIST, BUT BEAR IN MIND THAT WE DO HAVE A SEED BANK, WHERE ANY SPECIES SEED THAT IS ABLE TO BE STORED FOR A REASONABLE TIME SHOULD BE SENT TO PATRICK; ONLY THOSE PLANTS THAT REQUIRE FRESH MATERIAL, AND THOSE WITH ERRATIC FRUITING TIMES OUGHT TO BE TRADED ON THE 'FUTURES' LIST.

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ANYBODY ABLE TO OBTAIN SEED OF ARISTOLOCHIA PRAEVENOSA ? IF SO, JUDITH BRASS WOULD APPRECIATE OBTAINING SOME AS LOSSES HAVE BEEN HIGH IN AN ASSOCIATED SCHOOL GARDEN (SEE DETAILS ELSEWHERE IN N/L). (ED. I'VE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS CREEPER, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS VERY EASILY GROWN BY CUTTINGS, AND MAYBE SOMEONE COULD PASS ON SPECIFIC POINTS OF THE METHOD VIA THESE PAGES.)

AROUND THE STATES WITH S G A P -- A SELECTION OF ITEMS OF RELEVANT INTEREST

MORE ON "SMOKE GERMINATION" FROM ASGAP's SEPT 1994 N/L. RESEARCH ON THIS TECHNIQUE IS CONTINUING IN W.A., AND CONTINUES "THE SMOKE WAS DERIVED FROM A RANGE OF BUSH MATERIALS AND WAS APPLIED AS A FUMIGANT, A LIQUID AND IN SAND. ALL METHODS OF APPLICATION INCREASED GERMINATION BUT FUMIGATION WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND CONSISTENT. THE TEAM ARE NOW WORKING TO IDENTIFY THE CHEMICAL COMPONENTS OF THE SMOKE WHICH STIMULATE GERMINATION. 41 SPECIES OF 30 GENERA HAVE RESPONDED TO THE TREATMENT INCLUDING 'DIFFICULT' GENERA AS VERTICORDIA, CONOSPERMUM, ERIOSTEMON, PIMELIA, LESCHENAULTIA. TO CONFIRM THE SMOKE AND NOT HEAT WAS THE IMPORTANT FACTOR, RESEARCHERS COOLED THE SMOKE BEFORE EXPOSING SEEDS TO IT. THE DISCOVERY WILL HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS IN THE CONSERVATION OF RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES."

ON CONSERVATION THE SAME N/L COMMENTS "IT IS OBVIOUS THAT OUR SGAP GROUPS ARE MUCH MORE INVOLVED IN CONSERVATION THAN WE ARE SOMETIMES GIVEN CREDIT FOR AND WE MUST BE MORE ACTIVE IN MAKING THIS KNOWN. AFTER A MOTION AT LAST YEARS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, A LETTER WAS SENT TO ALL DISTRICT GROUPS URGING THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT OF, AND INVOLVEMENT IN, LOCAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE PRESERVATION OF REMNANT VEGETATION. IT IS AT THIS LEVEL THAT WE CAN REALLY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION BUT IF YOUR COMMUNITY PROJECT CAN BENEFIT FROM A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM ASGAP AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATING VOICE, PLEASE LET US KNOW." THE N/L THEN MENTIONS A COUPLE OF SPECIFIC INSTANCES WHERE SUPPORT HAD BEEN GIVEN.

VICTORIA REGION'S DEC. 1994 N/L CONTINUES WITH THIS THEME IN AN ITEM CONSERVATION POLICY BY OUR OWN MEMBER NEIL MARRIOTT WHICH INCLUDED " THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONSERVING OUR PLANTS ... IS BY CONSERVING A WIDE RANGE OF HABITATS IN THE FORM OF VIABLE SIZED AREAS OF EVERY POSSIBLE DIFFERENT TYPE OF ECOSYSTEM. IT IS THIS PHILOSOPHY THAT LIES AT THE HEART OF SGAP VIC'S WHOLE OUTLOOK. 'PRESERVATION BY CULTIVATION' IS THE SOCIETY'S MOTTO, BUT WE CANNOT CULTIVATE ALL OF AUST'S. PLANTS INSTANTLY; WE MUST FIRST PRESERVE THE BUSHLAND WHERE THESE PLANTS NATURALLY OCCUR. IF GOOD BUSHLAND AREAS ARE PROTECTED AROUND THE WHOLE OF AUSTRALIA THEN THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF GROWERS OF OUR PLANTS. SGAP VIC CONSERVATION POLICY THEREFORE AIMS TO PROMOTE THE PERMANENT PROTECTION OF ALL IMPORTANT NATURAL AREAS BOTH ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND THROUGHT VICTORIA. ... IT IS INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS CAMPAIGNS, BOTH FINANCIAL AND ACTIVE, TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF NEW N.P.'S AND RESERVES. IT REGULARLY ASSISTS DISTRICT GROUPS WITH ADVICE AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION ISSUES, AND REGULARLY CORRESPONDS WITH GOVERNMENT AND GOVT. INSTRUMENTALITIES ON ISSUES SUCH AS THE PRESERVATION OF ROADSIDE VEGETATION, THE STRATEGIC USE OF FIRE RETARDANT NATIVE SPECIES, THE PROTECTION OF UNDERSTORY VEGETATION ADJACENT TO POWER LINES AND THE PROTECTION OF ALPINE AREAS...."

A HINT FOR WINTER FROST PROTECTION WAS INCLUDED IN THE FOOD PLANTS STUDY GROUP N/L OF OCT. 1993, WHERE A SYDNEY MEMBER, FRED BELL, WROTE "SOME MEMBERS MAY BE INTERESTED IN A BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT ON MY ATTEMPTS TO GROW A NUMBER OF NTH. QLD. FOOD PLANTS IN THE SYDNEY AREA. A NUMBER OF SPECIMENS ARE NOW SURVIVING THEIR 2ND AND 3RD WINTERS AFTER BEING PLANTED OUT IN A SHELTERED, FAIRLY SUNNY SPOT WITH 3 OR 4 LIGHT FROSTS PER YEAR. NEWSPAPER SHEATHS AROUND THE MAIN STEMS OF EACH FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER SEEM TO PROVIDE SATISFACTORY PROTECTION." FRED WENT ON TO LIST SPECIES THAT ARE FARING QUITE WELL WITH THIS TREATMENT - ELAEOCARPUS BANCROFTII, DIPLOGLOTTIS BRACTEATA, EUGENIA REINWARDTIANA, ATHERTONIA DIVERSIFOLIA, PLEIOGYNIUM TIMORENSE, ELAEAGNUS TRIFLORA; WHILE THESE 3 SUFFER SOME DIE-BACK IN WINTER BUT RECOVER WELL - GARCINIA WARRENII, SYZIGIUM RUBRIMOLLE, DIMOCARPUS AUSTRALIANUS. SEEMS TO BE A GOOD IDEA, SO I'LL TRY IT OUT THIS WINTER. THOSE PLASTIC 'GROWTUBES' ARE PRETTY GOOD PROTECTION, BUT ARE SOMEWHAT EXPENSIVE.

OUR GROUP EXCHANGES N/L'S WITH THE BIG SCRUB ENVIRONMENT CENTRE; THEIR SUMMER 94 ISSUE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. TOPICS INCLUDED THE THREAT TO WHIAN WHIAN, THE SHOCK OF THE DEC. WOODCHIP DECISION, HAZARD REDUCTION BURNING AND THE GREENHOUSE 'DILEMNA', AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING ITEM THAT SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO ALL OF US, SO I WILL INCLUDE MUCH OF BIG SCRUBS REPORT IN THEIR N/L. *as follows.*

FROGS IN HOT WATER

A STUDY OF QUEENSLAND FROG POPULATIONS BY ECOLOGIST DR. BILL LAURANCE, BIOLOGIST KEITH MCDONALD AND VIROLOGIST DR. RICHARD SPEARE HAS PROVIDED EVIDENCE THAT A VIRAL INFECTION MAY BE ENDANGERING FROG POPULATIONS WORLDWIDE. SINCE THE EARLY 1970'S SEVEN QLD FROG SPECIES HAVE GONE MISSING, PRESUMABLY EXTINCT, FROM MOUNTAIN AREAS BETWEEN BRISBANE & CAIRNS, AND 7 OTHER SPECIES HAVE BECOME RARE. QLD CONFIRMS A GLOBAL TREND OF HIGHER-ALTITUDE STREAM-DWELLING FROG EXTINCTIONS ON ALL OTHER CONTINENTS. SUGGESTED CAUSES INCLUDE SENSITIVITY TO CHEMICALS, UVB RADIATION DUE TO OZONE DEPLETION.
HOWEVER, THE SIMULTANEOUS LOSS OF FROG POPULATIONS FROM PRISTINE AREAS ON SEVERAL CONTINENTS AND THE FACT THAT OZONE DEPLETION BECOMES MORE PRONOUNCED FROM THE EQUATOR TO THE POLES, IN QLD THE RESEARCHERS PLOTTED A WAVE-LIKE PATTERN OF FROG EXTINCTIONS FROM THE CONONDALE RANGES (NEAR BRISBANE) IN THE SOUTH ADVANCING TOWARDS THE NORTH, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT SOME OTHER CAUSE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECLINING FROG POPULATIONS. THE RESEARCHERS ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A VIRAL EPIDEMIC IN THE COASTAL RANGES, AS THE EXTINCTIONS MOVING NORTH AT A RATE OF 100KM PER YEAR WERE CHARACTERISTIC OF A VIRAL INFECTION. A CANDIDATE VIRUS HAS BEEN CONSIDERED, AND IT HAS BEEN TENATIVELY CALLED THE BOHLE VIRUS. WHILE IT IS RARE FOR A VIRUS TO CAUSE THE EXTINCTION OF HOST SPECIES THIS RULE MAY NOT APPLY TO THE BOHLE VIRUS DUE TO ITS CAPACITY TO INFECT A GREAT NUMBER OF FROG SPECIES. IN NTH. QLD. SOME FROG SPECIES THAT RANGE BETWEEN COASTAL AND HIGHLAND AREAS HAVE ONLY BECOME EXTINCT AT ALTITUDES ABOVE 300M.
DR. LAURANCE SAID THE FACT THAT THE EXTINCTIONS WERE HAPPENING ONLY AT RELATIVELY HIGH ALTITUDES MAY BE BECAUSE THE BOHLE VIRUS FUNCTIONS BEST AT COOLER TEMPERATURES OR WAS BEING TRANSMITTED BY AN INSECT, POSSIBLY THE MOSQUITO, THAT PREFERS MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENTS.

IS ANYONE GROWING PISONIA GRANDIS ?? THIS ONE IS FEATURED BY THE AUST. FOOD PLANTS STUDY GROUP

THAT GROUPS N/L OF JUNE 1994 DESCRIBES THE LEAVES OF THE PISONIA TREE AS BEING LARGE, FLESHY AND EDIBLE. AND MAY BE USED RAW IN SALADS, OR COOKED AS A PIE DISH. (ED, THE PLANT IS EXTENSIVELY CULTIVATED IN THE MALASAYIAN REGION WHERE THE YOUNG LEAVES ARE A FAVOURITE FOOD.) IT IS BASICALLY A COASTAL SPECIES WITH A PREFERENCE FOR CORAL-LIMESTONE SANDS, AND ON SOME ATOLLS OR ISLANDS IS THE ONLY ARBOREAL GROWTH. AS AN EXAMPLE, ON HERON ISLAND IT FORMS MUCH OF THE DENSE INNER FOREST, AND COVERS 3/4 OF THE CAY. IT CAN REACH 20M HIGH AND LEAVES HAVE A VERY HIGH WAX CONTENT TO REDUCE EVAPORATION. RESEARCH ON HERON ISLAND SHOWS THAT TRUNKS OF THESE TREES ARE BETWEEN 200 - 300 YEARS OLD, THOUGH THE UPPER LIMBS ARE MUCH YOUNGER (BECAUSE LOCALLY ITS MAIN WAY OF PROPAGATION IS FOR A TREE TO SUDDENLY FALL OVER AND SEND UP NUMEROUS FRESH SHOOTS FROM THE STEM)

ANOTHER METHOD IS BY DISPERSAL, WHERE LIKE ITS SIBLINGS P UMBELLIFERA, SEEDS ARE VERY STICKY AND EASILY ADHERE TO LAND ANIMALS AND BIRDS. BECAUSE FORESTS OF PISONIA DOMINATED PLANTS ARE FAVOURED NESTING SITES FOR GANNETS, TERNS AND OTHER OCEAN BIRDS, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THEM (PARTICULARLY CHICKS AND YOUNG NESTLINGS) TO BE IMMOBILISED BY LARGE QUANTITIES OF STICKY SEEDS AND UNABLE TO FLY. STARVATION RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF THESE BIRDS AND THE DECOMPOSING OF THEIR BODIES ENSURES A FERTILE SPOT FOR THE SEEDS TO GERMINATE AND BECOME ESTABLISHED QUICKLY IN AN OFTEN HARSH ENVIRONMENT. PERHAPS MANY OF THESE PISONIAS SHOULD BE GROWN IN OUR CITIES WHERE IT MAY REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF SUCH PESTS AS STARLINGS, INDIAN MYNAHS AND SPARROWS ?

P. GRANDIS HAS A NUMBER OF COMMON NAMES - BIRD-CATCHING TREE, LETTUCE TREE, CABBAGE TREE, WHILE P. UMBELLIFERA IS THE BIRD-LIME TREE. THE THIRD AUST. MEMBER OF THE GENUS IS THE PISONIA VINE, P ACULEATA OF OUR NORTH. WORLD WIDE, 50 SPECIES HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED. I WONDER HOW THIS ONE WOULD GO IN A GARDEN SITUATION, SO AGAIN, CAN ANYONE CONTRIBUTE ANY DETAILS OF SUCCESSES OR FAILURES, EVEN HEARSAY ?

A BRISBANE RAINFOREST GARDEN PROJECT - MACGREGOR HIGH SCHOOL

CLAIRE SHACKEL HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SETTING UP THIS GARDEN THAT IS USED AS A TEACHING RESOURCE AND RELATES ITS HISTORY AND PRESENT CONDITION. IT WAS STARTED IN 1991 WHEN AN AREA OF APPROX. 40 X 20M WAS RIPPED AND MULCHED WITH HAY. THIS WAS DISASTROUS AS THE DEPTH WAS INSUFFICIENT TO CONTROL WEEDS, AND INTRODUCED BURRS. SO CARDBOARD WAS USED TO COVER THE WEEDS AND THEN MULCHED WITH LAWN CLIPPINGS WHICH HAS CONTINUED, TO MAINTAIN THE PROTECTION. TWO LOADS OF STUDENT-MOVABLE ROCKS WERE PURCHASED AND USED TO HOLD THE SOIL ON THE BOTTOM SIDE OF EACH PLANT. AS THE SITE HAS A WESTERLY ASPECT, MYRTACEAE WERE PLANTED ALONG THE LOWER EDGE WITH THE HOPE THAT THE SMALL LEAVES AND LOW BRANCHING WILL REDUCE WIND DAMAGE. ORTHOSIPHON ARISTATUS AND ABELMOSCHUS SWANIHOI (?) HAVE BEEN USED AS FILLER PLANTS UNTIL TREES ARE ESTABLISHED. LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA, PARTICULARLY WHEN IN FLOWER, ALONG A PATH EDGE DISCOURAGES STUDENTS FROM SHORT CUTTING THROUGH THE AREA - I HAVE RESISTED PLANTING WAIT-A-WHILE AND STINGING TREES.

TALLEST TREES ARE ELAEOCARPUS GRANDIS (11M) TOONA AUSTRALIS (9M) AND EUODIA ELLERYANA (8M). CISSUS HYPOGLAUCA WAS REMOVED AS IT WAS TOO VIGOROUS WHILE FAILURES WERE HICKSBEACHIA (3) PITTOSPORUM UNDULATUM (4) (ED. AMAZING, MOST PEOPLE CLASS IT AS A WEED) EUODIA VITIFLORA (2) RANDIA CHARTACEA. THE AREA HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT EXPANDED AND NOW HAS OVER 200 SPECIES INCLUDING 16 CLIMBERS, 20 FERNS, 6 PLECTRANTHUS AND 5 DIANELLA. THE FOLLOWING TREES & SHRUBS HAVE FLOWERED:- (MOST HAVE NOT SET SEED)

ACMENA SMITHII
ALPHITONIA EXCELSA
A. PETRIEI
ALYXIA RUSCIFOLIA
AUSTROMYRTUS LASIOCLADA
BACKHOUSIA CITRIODORA
B. MYRTIFOLIA
BARKLYA SYRINGIFOLIA
BRACHYCHITON ACERIFOLIUS
CALLICARPA PENDUCULATA
CALLICOMA SERRATIFOLIA
COMMERSONIA BARTRAMIA
DYSOXYLON RUFUM
DAVIDSONIA PRURIENS
ELEAOCARPUS RETICULATUS
EUODIA ELLERYANA
GLOCHIDION FERDINANDI
GRAPTOPHYLLUM SPINIGERUM
GREVILLEA BAILEYANA
HYMENOSPORUM FLAVUM
MACARANGA TANARIUS
OMALANTHUS POPULIFOLIUS
PARARCHIDENDRON PRUINOSUM
PETALOSTIGMA TRILOCULARE
PITTOSPORUM REVOLUTUM
P. VENULOSUM
P. RHOMBIFOLIUM
PLEIOGYNIUM TIMORENSE
RAPANEA VARIABLIS
RHODAMNIA RUBESCENS
RHODOSPHAERA RHODANTHEMA
STERCULIA QUADRIFIDA
SYZIGIUM AUSTRALE
S. LEUHMANNII
S. PANICULATUM
TOECHIMA DASYRRACHAE
TREMA ASPERA
WATERHOUSEA FLORIBUNDA

RATHER THAN TRYING TO CREATE A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WE WENT FOR A WIDE DIVERSITY - PLANT FAMILIES; LEAF TYPE: METHODS OF CLIMBING. BEING A SCHOOL, WATER IS NO PROBLEM - ONLY MY WILLINGNESS TO SHIFT SPRINKLERS HAS CAUSED LOSSES. IN 1994 THE AREA WAS USED FOR A BIOLOGY ASSIGNMENT BY THE SENIOR SCHOOL; THIS YEAR IT IS PLANNED TO INCLUDE DATA COLLECTED FROM THE AREA IN A COMPUTER/RAINFOREST INTERACTIVE PROJECT FOR A JUNIOR YEAR LEVEL SCIENCE CLASS.

I ENJOY MY OUTINGS WITH THE BRISBANE GROUP AND THE SCHOOL HAS GAINED MANY PLANTS FROM THOSE MEMBERS. YES, THE N/L IS INFORMATIVE, ENTERTAINING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND IS EAGERLY READ WHEN IT ARRIVES. KEEP IT UP.

UPDATE ON THE KURRAJONG (NEAR SYDNEY) GARDEN WHERE A GROUP MEETING WILL BE HELD IN JULY

ALAN BATLEY PASSES ON A COUPLE OF POINTS OF INTEREST. ONE OF OUR BUCKINGHAMIAS (CELCISSIMA) IS (MID FEB) ABOUT TO BURST INTO FLOWER - IT IS NOW ABOUT 2 METRES, BUT THE ONES THAT I HAVE GROWN FROM SEED HAVE NOT FLOWERED ALTHOUGH THEY ARE ABOUT THE SAME SIZE. NOR HAVE THE B. FERRUGINEANA. THE FIRETAIL FINCHES HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE LARGE LEAVES OF THE ATHERTONIA IS A GREAT PLACE TO CONCEAL THEIR NESTS. IT IS GOOD TO SEE THE RAIN AGAIN. AND NOW A QUESTION, ... OUR DARLINGIA DARLIGIANA FLOWERED STRONGLY THIS YEAR - IT IS NOW ABOUT 3 - 4 METRES HIGH BUT I IMAGINE IT MAY NEED ANOTHER PLANT TO ENABLE SEED TO SET ?

(ED. I'D SAY YOU WOULD NEED A MATE. AND NO DOUBT RE THE B. CELS, CLASSICALLY IS BEHAVING LIKE MANY OTHER PLANTS WHERE CUTTING GROWN STOCK FLOWERS, FRUITS, ETC, OFTEN YEARS BEFORE THEIR SOURCED-FROM-SEED FELLOWS. ANYONE ELSE PREPARED TO "PUT IN THEIR THREE PENN'OTH" ON THESE QUERIES ?

RALPH WOODFORD ANSWERS SOME ENQUIRIES AND ADDS TO THE DEBATE ON A COUPLE OF " ISSUES "

"THE YEAR HAS BEEN A BUSY ONE AND OF EXTREME INTEREST WHEN LOOKING AT THE FOREST, AND TREES PLANTED; BEING EXTREMELY DRY AND THE COLDEST WINTER HERE SINCE 69. IT ALSO HAPPENED THAT I PLANTED OUT ABOUT 10,000 TREES LAST YEAR IN FROSTY AREAS. I HAD AROUND 25 TO 30 % LOSSES OVERALL COMPARED TO 5 - 10% IN A NORMAL YEAR. TREES WERE DEFOLIATED BY FROST AND BECAUSE THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO LATE WINTER OR SPRING RAIN - ONLY HOT, SUNNY DAYS - THE TRUNKS OF THE SEEDLINGS WERE SUNBURNT WHICH KNOCKED THEM BACK TO GROUND LEVEL AND SOME NEVER RECOVERED. KEEPING LEAVES ON YOUR TREES IS VITAL! ANOTHER THING TO BE AWARE OF IS REFLECTED HEAT. THIS IS OFTEN A PROBLEM IF LIGHT COLOURED MULCHES ARE USED. IF THE TEMPERATURE GOES BELOW -3C ALMOST ALL TREES ARE DAMAGED. IF IT DOESN'T GET THAT COLD, THEN SOME TREES DO BETTER THAN OTHERS.

RE BIG SCRUB REMNANTS UNDER THREAT BECAUSE OF THE FEDERAL DAM PROPOSAL, I CAN FILL YOU IN WITH SOME INFORMATION. WE ARE AWAITING THE PRIORITIZING OF SITES, THERE ARE THREE:- FEDERAL, DUNOON AND TOONUNBAR DAM. ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL IS WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE STATE ELECTION TILL THEY'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE A DECISION. BUILDING DAMS IS THE LAST THING THE NORTH COAST NEEDS. LETS GET RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN WATER NEEDS. ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL IS STILL TALKING ABOUT RAISING ROCKY CREEK DAM IN THE SHORT TERM SOLELY TO ALLOW DEVELOPERS TO CONTINUE PUTTING HOUSES ON SOME OF THE BEST HORTICULTURAL LAND IN AUSTRALIA. THEY DON'T EVEN CONSIDER THE FACT THAT IN RAISING THE DAM THE ONLY KNOWN SPECIMEN OF ELAEOCARPUS SP (MINYON) IN THE WILD WILL BE LOST. TO ME THIS EQUATES TO THE LAST TIGER OR THE LAST OF ANY ANIMAL SPECIES; JUST 'CAUSE IT'S NOT FURRY AND CUDDLY DOESN'T CHANGE THE ISSUE. TALKING ABOUT CUTTINGS - ANOTHER ARTICLE IN THE LAST N/L - WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY GROWN THE TREE FROM CUTTINGS TAKEN IN APRIL-MAY, ONLY THOSE MONTHS, OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS. AN ATTEMPT AT CLONING FAILED LAST YEAR. ITS A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME IN THE CLONING BUSINESS, NO ONE HAS WORKED WITH THE ELAEOCARPACEAE FAMILY BEFORE AND ALL THE RIGHT HORMONES FOR THE AGAR JELL MIX AIN'T TOGETHER YET, SO THERE IS A NEW PERSON AT GATTON THIS YEAR WHO WANTS TO GET IT TOGETHER, AND I'VE SENT HIM UP SOME OF MY BEST CUTTING GROWN PLANTS FROM LAST YEAR. WITH THOSE ESTABLISHED STRUCK CUTTINGS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CUTTINGS NEXT YEAR FROM WINTER ONWARDS, AS THE CUTTING GROWN TREES CONSTANTLY FLUSH FROM SPRING ONWARDS, GIVEN THE RIGHT CONDITIONS AND THE OLD STORY THAT CUTTINGS STRIKE FAR MORE READILY FROM CUTTING GROWN PARENTS. THE MOTHER TREE HAS A HUGE CROP OF FRUIT ON THIS YEAR - MAYBE THIS IS THE YEAR FOR VIABLE SEED? (ED. SELF-POLLINATING ?)

CHANGING THE SUBJECT TO THE WOODCHIP ISSUE, IT SEEMS CLEAR AND SIMPLE TO ME - ARE WE TALKING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY ? THEN, IF THE STEMS ARE TAKEN OUT FOR A SAWLOG AND THE HEAD IS WHAT THE WOODCHIPPERS WANT, WHAT'S LEFT? IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF WE TAKE, TAKE, TAKE, THE FOREST IS NOT BEING REPLENISHED. WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

THE OTHER ISSUE THAT CAME UP IN THE N/L THAT I CAN ADDRESS IS THE GERMINATION OF OCHROSIA MOOREI. WHILE WORKING IN BOATHARBOUR NATURE RESERVE WE COLLECTED SEED OF OCHROSIA AND I GERMINATED 30 SEEDLINGS. THE SEED-POD OR RED FRUIT HAS TWO HALVES, WITHIN EACH THERE ARE 4 TO 5 SEEDS. WITH CAREFUL CUTTING, THE SEEDS CAN BE REMOVED AND GERMINATION OCCURS. IN THE WILD THE HUSK BREAKS DOWN AND SEEDS GERMINATE AFTER A YEAR OR SO. DON'T BE DAUNTED, FRUIT THAT I DIDN'T CUT OPEN ARE STILL GERMINATING IN THE LONG TERM SEED BED.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, THE AMOUNT OF ISSUES YOU GENERATE IS UNLIMITED, I'LL BE BEYOND A PAGE IF I'M NOT CAREFUL. JUST ONE LAST POINT, ON A HIGH NOTE. I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A SMALL REMNANT CONTAINING 2 LARGE OWENIA CEPIODORA (ONION CEDAR) TREES. THEY ARE RIGHT ON THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN PROPERTIES AND I HAVE TALKED BOTH PARTIES INTO PLANTING UP THE AREA AROUND THE TREES. GREAT NEWS IS THAT THE TOP TREE HAS A LARGE CROP OF FRUIT ON NOW AND SOME SEEDLINGS WILL FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE EXTENDED PLANTING. ANOTHER FRUIT THAT HAS A HARD OUTER CASING THAT NEEDS TO BE REMOVED TO ENABLE FASTER GERMINATION. ENOUGH FOR NOW - THE RAIN FALLS DOWN ."

A GARDEN AT KARALEE NEAR BRISBANE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A WILDLIFE HABITAT

THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL AIM OF JUDITH BRASS - TO PROVIDE A YEARROUND SMORGASBOARD OF FRUITS, FLOWERS & FOLIAGE FOR THE LOCAL WILDLIFE. SHE BELIEVES THAT AFTER 6 YEARS EFFORT THIS IS BEING ACHIEVED AS A VARIETY OF BIRDS VISIT THE GARDEN BUT WHILE ONLY 2 NESTS - DOUBLE BAR FINCHES AND KINGFISHERS - WERE MADE IN 1994, THE PREVIOUS YEAR THERE WERE 7, THOUGH ONLY THE MAGPIE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CHICK SURVIVAL. THAT YEAR CATS KILLED THE MOTHER KINGFISHER SO JUDITH UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO RAISE 2 YOUNG. THE NUMBER OF BUTTERFLIES THIS SEASON IS ALSO DOWN, AND THERE ARE ALSO FEWER VARIETIES, BUT IT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY DRY (CONSTANT WATERING HAD TO BE DONE WHICH REDUCED PLANT LOSSES TO ONLY 4 OR 5 AND FURTHER PLANTING HAD TO BE DEFERRED UNTIL RECENTLY). A SMALL GREEN TREE SNAKE HAS SETTLED IN AND SIGHTED MOST DAYS, A MALE POSSUM VISITS EACH NIGHT WHILE SEVERAL SPECIES OF FROGS ARE BREEDING IN THE PONDS. RECENTLY ADDED ANOTHER POND, AND SEVERAL MORE ARE PLANNED.

THERE ARE NO CANE TOADS RESIDENT IN THE GARDEN NOW (SINCE THE LAST 2 YEARS) BUT I STILL COLLECT 2 TO 4 EACH NIGHT THAT COME IN FROM NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES. HOWEVER ON WARM HUMID NIGHTS MORE NATIVE SPECIES THAN TOADS ARE SEEN. THE MOST COMMON FROGS ARE THE BROWN STRIPED, LIMNODYNASTES PERONI WHICH CALLS MOST NIGHTS, EVEN IN WINTER. L. ORNATUS IS COMMON AFTER HEAVY RAIN - HAVEN'T SEEN TOO MANY LATELY ! OCCASIONALLY L. DUMERILII & L. TERRAEREGINAE ARE SEEN AND 2 LARGE GREEN TREE FROGS, LITORIA CAERULEA ARE ABOUT MOST NIGHTS.

IN THE GARDEN IN FEB. (THE TIME OF WRITING) THESE PLANTS WERE EITHER IN FLOWER OR BUD ;- BUCKINGHAMIA CELSISSIMA, AUSTROMYRTUS BIDWILLII THOUGH LESS THAN A METRE HIGH, BACKHOUSIA CITRIODORA, PILIODISTIGMA GLABRUM, WATERHOUSIA FLORIBUNDA, ACRONYCHIA LITTORALIS (ALSO TINY), ALECTRYON TOMENTOSUS, HARPULIA PENDULA, GLOCHIDION FERDINANDI (HAS A BEAUTIFUL SCENT AT NIGHT) ALPHITONIA EXCELSA, MACKINLAYA MACROSCIADIA, PITTOSPORUM VENULOSUM, PLEIOGYNIUM TIMORENSE, GINIUM PEDUNCULATUM, ELAEAGNUS TRIFLORA, PANDOREA JASMINOIDES. OTHER SPECIES ARE IN FRUIT OF VARIOUS STAGES.

JUDITH IS INVOLVED WITH PLANTINGS AT THE SCHOOL WHERE SHE WORKS, BUT LITTLE PROGRESS DUE TO DROUGHT AND VANDALISM TAKING THEIR TOLL. AROUND 50 RF PLANTS WERE USED BUT ONLY A DOZEN HAVE SURVIVED, INCLUDING ONLY ONE OF 10 ARISTOCHLOA PRAEVENOSA. ALL THE WHITE CEDARS WERE LOST, PROBABLY BY ROUGH HANDLING OF THE SEEDLINGS BY THE STUDENTS. FINDS THAT MELIA BERRIES PICKED FROM THE TREE INVARIABLY FAIL TO GERMINATE, BUT THOSE 'PROCESSED' BY FIG BIRDS AND FRUIT BATS GERMINATE READILY.

RAINFORESTS AND BEES -- RESEARCH AROUND WARWICK QLD. UNDER WAY

ALSO FROM JUDITH, AN ITEM DESCRIBING GATTON COLLEGE AND QLD. UNI, COLLABORATING ON A STUDY TO ASSESS THE EUROPEAN HONEY BEE'S IMPACT ON OUR RF PLANTS AND ANIMALS, SAID TO BE THE ONLY STUDY OF ITS TYPE IN AUSTRALIA. BOTANY LECTURER, DR. DAVID YATES SAID THE STUDY WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE MANY COMMERCIAL APIARIES OPERATED IN OR NEAR RF'S AND IT COULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR THEIR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT. HONEY BEES COULD COMPETE WITH THE NATIVE COLLECTORS OF POLLEN AND NECTAR AND HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THEM. THEY COULD ALSO INFLUENCE THE NATURE OF POLLINATION IN NATIVE SPECIES. THE CONCERN IS THAT THERE WILL BE ECOLOGICAL CHANGES IN BOTH ANIMAL & PLANT POPULATIONS OVER THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM. THE 10 MONTH STUDY INVOLVES PLACING BEE-HIVES IN AND AROUND RF AREAS AT GAMBUBAL STATE FOREST NEAR WARWICK.
AND A REQUEST FROM JUDITH -" CAN ANYONE SUPPLY INFORMATION ON NATIVE BEES ? THE COMMON ONES IN THIS AREA ARE TINY BLACK BEES WHICH BUILD HIVES IN TREE HOLLOWS, AND ROBUST BLUE-STRIPED SOLITARY BEES WHICH BURROW INTO SOIL ".

AT PORT MACQUARIE N S W A MEMBER IS REVEGETATING A KOALA FOOD TREE AND RAINFOREST CORRIDOR

THIS IS A COUNCIL RESERVE, AND OWEN SNEDDON IS WORKING ON THE SECTION ADJACENT TO HIS OWN PROPERTY, A GOOD SITUATION AS HE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON IT AND WORK THERE EVEN FOR BRIEF MOMENTS. SOIL IS MOST FERTILE RED VOLCANIC WITH A WATERCOURSE (THOUGH ONLY EPHEMERAL) WHICH DOES HELP WITH THE WATERING. PLANTS USED HAVE BEEN GROWN BY OWEN, DONATED OR PURCHASED. THOUGH PLANTING COMMENCED ONLY A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO OWEN STARTED TO COLLECT PLANTS 5 YEARS AGO, EVEN NOW MANY ARE STILL CONTAINED IN POTS, AS IT HAS BEEN TOO DRY TO BOTH PREPARE THE GROUND AND TO KEEP THE WATER UP FOR MASS PLANTING, AND OF THE 120 SPECIES ON THE LIST, ONLY ABOUT HALF ARE ESTABLISHED. ABOUT 1/3 ARE LOCAL, THE REST FROM AS FAR AFIELD AS NTH. Q. THOUGH MANY OF THESE ARE FROM THE COOLER DISTRICTS SUCH AS THE ATHERTON.

THE CORRIDOR HAS SOME REMNANT VEGETATION - FLOODED GUMS, EUCALYPTUS GRANDIS, AS WELL AS HARDY RF SPECIES - ALSO THE UBIQUITOUS EXOTICS. WHERE WEEDS WERE CLEARED, THERE HAS BEEN DENSE NATIVE REGROWTH ESPECIALLY SUCH FAST GROWING RF SPECIES AS CRYPTOCARIA, OLEA, EUPOMATIA, RHODAMNIA, CINNAMOMUM. OF THE PLANTINGS, ACMENA HEMILAMPRA HAS BEEN THE MOST RAPID GROWER. THERE IS AN ADJOINING RESERVE, OLD BANANA LAND, THAT HAS A GOOD PATCH OF THE ORIGINAL DISTRICT'S RF, AND IS THE SOURCE OF MUCH OF THE REGROWTH ON THE CORRIDOR.

RIGHTO ! THIS IS SERIOUS ! HOW ARE WE GOING TO ASSIST MELBOURNE'S ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS ?

ROB CROSS, HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH OFFICER AT THE GARDENS HAS WRITTEN TO THE GROUP - "AS A MEMBER OF SGAP I AM INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF THE RFSG FOR BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL REASONS. AT THE GARDENS WE HAVE RECENTLY EMBARKED ON A HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAM, WITH ONE FOCUS BEING THE SELECTION OF SUPERIOR FORMS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIMAL ASEXUAL PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES FOR MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY PROTEACEAE. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE PROTEACEAE OF N.E. QLD. AS ONE AREA TO STUDY DUE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF GENERIC ENDEMISM. WE ARE THEREFORE INTERESTED TO ACCESS INTO OUR COLLECTIONS AS MANY TAXA FROM THE AREA AS POSSIBLE. DOES THE STUDY GROUP HAVE A SEED BANK OF AUST. RF SPECIES, AND IF SO, DO YOU EVER HAVE SEED OF PROTEACEAE?

I HAVE PERSONALLY HAD AN INTEREST IN AUST RF PLANTS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND HAVE A NUMBER OF TAXA GROWING IN MY GARDEN IN MELBOURNE. EVER CURIOUS, I AM INTERESTED TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THIS GROUP OF PLANTS. AT PRESENT IT IS AN INTEREST AT A PERSONAL LEVEL, BUT POTENTIALLY THE PROPAGATION AND CULTIVATION OF RF PLANTS MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO THE HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAM HERE. WE HAVE HAD A LONG HISTORY OF GROWING AUST RF PLANTS AT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, AND ARE CURRENTLY REDEVELOPING A NUMBER OF BEDS WITH EXISTING RF PLANTS SO THAT THE RF THEME WILL BE STRENGTHENED, AND ULTIMATELY REPLACE A MORE GENERAL AUSTRALIAN THEME.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW OF THE WORK OF THE RFSG. I AM INTERESTED IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE OF STUDY, WHAT SORT OF RESEARCH YOU UNDERTAKE, AND SO ON."

I HAVE REPLIED OF COURSE, WITH WHATEVER (FEW) DETAILS I COULD, AND REALISE THAT I KNOW LITTLE, OR EVEN LESS OF WHAT ASPECT OF THE RF SPECTRUM THAT EACH OF YOU IS SPECIALISING, RESEARCHING, OR EXPERIMENTING WITH. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY REPORTS OVER THE YEARS OF GENERAL HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL SPECIES, BUT RESEARCH OR STUDY ? LOOKS LIKE YOU WILL HAVE TO FILL IN ANOTHER BLOOMIN' SURVEY SHEET FOR ME.

IN HINDSIGHT, THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF OUR PRIORITIES, BEING AWARE OF WHAT EACH OF YOU IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WOULD MAKE IT A LOT EASIER TO PUT OTHERS IN TOUCH WITH THE APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS. IN THE MEANTIME, IF ANYONE HAS INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USEFUL TO ROB, COULD YOU SEND IT TO ME TO PASS ON ? IT WOULD NO DOUBT BE APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE SUCH INFORMATION IN A N/L IN FULL OR SUMMARISED.

THE N S W GOVERNMENT IS TO INCREASE FORESTRY JOBS WHEN/IF IT IS RE-ELECTED

A PRE-ELECTION PROMISE BY THE MIN. FOR WATER & FORESTS PLEDGED TO SPEND $23 MILLION ON EXPANDING TREE PLANTATIONS, 'CREATING' 5,000 JOBS. THIS EQUATES TO ONLY $4600 FOR EACH POSITION TO COVER WAGES, RAW MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS, SO THIS PROMISE SEEMS UNLIKELY TO BE MET. IF IT IS THOUGH, DUE CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN IN CAPITAL LETTERS AS THIS IS THE VERY THING WE HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR OVER MANY YEARS.

RAINFOREST FAUNA ENDANGERED OR BELIEVED TO BE AT RISK --- 13 FROG SPECIES

THERE IS A GROUP KNOWN AS FATS (FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP OF NSW) WHO PUBLISH A N/L CALLED "FROGCALL". TED TEUTSCH PASSED ON TO US THE NOVEMBER 94 ISSUE WHICH LISTED 21 SPECIES OF AT RISK FROGS IN NSW THAT ARE BEING SURVEYED WITH THE HELP OF A PART-FUNDING THROUGH THE NATIONAL E STATE GRANT PROGRAMME. NO DOUBT THEY COULD USE THE ASSISTANCE OF NON-MEMBERS, SO FOR THAT REASON, OR MERELY AS A MATTER OF INTEREST WE LIST THOSE THAT ARE FOUND ONLY IN RF OR WHICH INCLUDE THIS HABITAT IN THEIR PREFERRED RANGE.

(THE OTHER 8 SPECIES ARE:- CRINIA TINNULA (WALLUM FROGLET) LITORIA CASTANEA/FLAVIPUNTATA (MONARO BELL FROG/ NEW ENGL. BELL FROG) LITORIA LITTLEJOHNI (HEATH FROG) L. OLONGBURENSIS (WALLUM REED FROG) L. RANIFORMIS (GROWLING BELL FROG) L. SPENCERI (SPOTTED TREE FROG) PSEUDOPHRYNE CORROBOREE (CORROBOREE FROG) P. AUSTRALIS (RED-CROWNED TOADLET)

THE RF GROUP :-

ASSA DARLINGTONI	MARSUPIAL FROG	NSW/QLD BORDER (ONLY)	ANTARCTIC BEECH & ADJACENT VEGN.
HELEIOPORUS AUSTRALIACUS	EASTERN OWL FROG	VIC - CENTRAL NSW	COAST & RANGES FORESTS
LITORIA AUREA	GREEN & GOLDEN BELLFROG	N.E. VIC & EASTERN NSW	PREFERS PERMANENT WATER
L. BREVIPALMATA	GREEN-THIGHED TREE FROG	N.E. NSW & S.E. QLD	WETTER FORESTS (ISOLATED COMMUNITIES
L. PIPERATA	FRECKLED TREE FROG	NSW NEW ENGL. TABLELAND	VARIOUS FOREST TYPES
L. SUBGLANDULOSA	TABLELANDS TREE FROG	N.E. NSW & S.E. QLD.	TABLELANDS & HIGHLANDS
MIXOPHYES BALBUS	GREAT BARRED FROG	VIC - NTH. NSW EAST OF DI	RF & WET SCLEROPHYLL
M. FLEAYII	BORDER RANGES GREAT BAR FROG	CLARENCE R. TO CONDOBOLIN	" " " "
M. ITERATUS	GIANT BARRED FROG	BUNYA MTNS. - NAROOMA NSW	" " " "
PHILORIA KUNDAGUNGAN	YELLOW-BELLIED MTN FROG	MISTAKE MTNS -TEVIOT FALLS (S.E. QLD)	MONTANE FOREST
P. SPHAGNICOLIS	SPHAGNUM FROG	EBOR/DORRIGO - TO BARRINGTON TOPS NSW	WET FORESTS (BY WATERFALLS)
PSEUDOPHRYNE BIBRONI	SOUTH EASTERN TOADLET	TAS. & S.A. TO CENTRAL Q.	WIDESPREAD & DIVERSE LOCATIONS.

FURTHER REFERENCE - REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS OF AUST, COGGER 1992. REED BOOKS
FURTHER ENQUIRIES - F A T S PO BOX A2405 SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS IN S. E. QLD. --- AT LEAST ONE SHIRE SEEMS CONCERNED

I DON'T KNOW WHICH SHIRE IT IS, BUT THE SOUTHERN SUBURB (?) OF SHAILER PARK IS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES. THE STORY IS THAT WE RECENTLY HAD PEOPLE FROM OVERSEAS STAY HERE FOR A WHILE AND MENTIONED OTHER FRIENDS IN QLD. WHO SHORTLY AFTERWARDS CONTACTED US SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR RURAL ACREAGE. I REPLIED WITH WHAT LITTLE INFO. I COULD GIVE THEM BUT WONDER WHETHER IF MEMBERS WHO MAY BE IN THE AREA WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST THEM FURTHER AS THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY QUITE KEEN AND IT WOULD BE GOOD TO ENCOURAGE THEM ?

THEIR ENQUIRY INCLUDED " BEEN ADVISED BY THE SHIRE COUNCIL THAT THERE IS A GREAT POSSIBILITY THAT ON THEIR PROPERTY ARE SOME RARE & ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES. UNFORTUNATELY COUNCIL HAS NO PICTURES OR DESCRIPTIONS OF ANY KIND SO WE THOUGHT OF YOU AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND ENTHUSIASM AS FAR AS PLANTS ARE CONCERNED AND WONDERED IF WE LIST THE SPECIES MENTIONED WHETHER YOU COULD HELP. THEY ARE FONTAINEA VEROSA; PLANCHONELLA EERWAH; CROTON STIGMATOSUS; ACACIA BAKERI; NOTELAEA JOHNSONII; MACADAMIA INTEGRIFOLIA; GREVILLEA HELMSIAE; AND SYMPLOCOS SP. NOV. COULD YOU SEND SOME DESCRIPTION AND IF POSSIBLE PICTURES OF THE PLANTS? (ED. I COULD ONLY REFER THEM TO 'TREES & SHRUBS IN RF NSW/QLD' PLUS A COUPLE OF NAMES I THOUGHT MAY HELP).
THE FARM IS QUITE HILLY AND ROCKY WITH AREAS OF REDDISH AND CLAYISH SOIL (VOCANIC ?) AND OTHERS WITH DUSTY GREY SOIL. THERE IS A CLOSED IN RF ON THE SOUTHERLY SLOPE, AT THE BOTTOM IS A HUGE STRANGLER FIG AT LEAST 6M ACROSS, WITH OLD, ABOUT 30CM THICK LIANAS. LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE AMAZED AT THE SIZE OF THIS LIANA AND SAY THEY HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. IS THERE ANY WAY OF FINDING OUT THE APPROX AGE OF THESE TWO ?
SHOULD WE LOOK FOR THE ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE CLOSED IN RF OR COULD THEY GROW ON ANY PART OF THE PROPERTY?"

THEIR PLACE SEEMS VERY INTERESTING, IT SURELY WOULD BE WORTH A LOOK AT, SO IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST THEM WOULD YOU MIND CONTACTING ME FOR MORE DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS. I THINK THAT 'SPREADING THE WORD' AND GETTING OTHERS INTERESTED AND ENTHUSED WITH RF AND NATIVE PLANTS GENERALLY IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RFSG.

WOULD YOU LIKE A RAINFOREST PROPERTY OR TWO TO BE AN " EARTH SANCTUARY " ? ? ?

I HAVE MENTIONED EARTH SANCTUARIES LIMITED PREVIOUSLY, AND AM AWARE THAT OTHER MEMBERS ALSO SUPPORT THEIR CONCEPT AND HAVE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THAT COMPANY.. SOME TIME AGO I HEARD JOHN WALMSLEY BEING INTERVIEWED ON THE LOCAL ABC WHERE HE EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN SETTING UP A SANCTUARY ALONG THE COAST TO COMPLEMENT HIS CURRENT DRYER AREAS' PROPERTIES. I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT "THIS IS THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME - WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO BE INVOLVED IN SUCH A PROJECT" AND PROMPTLY PHONED THEM PRIOR TO PUTTING SOME IDEAS IN WRITING. THIS IS THEIR REPLY -- "THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER IN REGARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EARTH SANCTUARY IN YOUR AREA. AS ALWAYS, THE ONLY LIMITING FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SANCTUARY IN ANY PART OF AUST. IS FINANCE. WE HAVE HAD MANY OFFERS OF LAND OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS BUT NO OFFERS OF THE FINANCE TO PURCHASE AND DEVELOP THEM. AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING THE LAND WE ALREADY OWN WITH THE INVESTMENT FINANCE WE ARE PRESENTLY RAISING.. TO PURCHASE AND DEVELOP MORE LAND AT THIS STAGE WOULD NEED A GREATER INJECTION OF INVESTMENT CAPITAL. THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO ACT AS CONSULTANTS AND SUPERVISORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND OWNED BY INTERESTED PERSONS WHO CAN FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT ON THEIR OWN BUT LACK THE EXPERTISE TO DO SO. THE ON-GOING MANAGEMENT OF THE SANCTUARY COULD THEN BE SERVICED BY EARTH SANCTUARIES THROUGH SOME FORM OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT.

I'M SURE THAT THE RIGHT PIECE OF LAND EXISTS IN THE RF AREAS OF NSW TO DEVELOP AS AN EARTH SANCTUARY. IF IT SITED IN THE RIGHT PLACE IT IS BOUND TO BE A FINANCIAL SUCCESS. IF YOU FIND SOMEWHERE THAT WOULD BE SUITABLE AND SOMEONE WITH THE MONEY TO DEVELOP IT, LET ME KNOW"

WHAT DO YOU RECKON - ANYONE INTERESTED ? IMAGINE, MAKING A LIVING AND DOING SOMETHING USEFUL AT THE SAME TIME. (ACTUALLY THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS REGION WHO ARE LOOKING FURTHER INTO THE IDEA). BUT WE NEED VERY MANY SUCH PLACES - ALMOST EVERY PATCH OF FOREST REMAINING IS UNIQUE, DESPITE THE SO-FREQUENT GLIB STATEMENTS LIKE "THERE ARE ADEQUATE AREAS OF SUCH & SUCH HABITAT /FOREST ASSOCIATION RESERVED IN THE STATE."

WE SHOULD HAVE TOLERANCE FOR THOSE WHO MANAGE OUR FORESTS

DAVID THOMAS OF SYDNEY URGES US TO HAVE SOME SYMPATHY WITH FORESTRY PEOPLE. WHILE SOME OF THEM ARE PROBABLY WILLING TO SACRIFICE THE FORESTS TO FOLLOW THEIR CAREER PATHS OR A POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, OTHERS DO HAVE THEIR HEARTS IN THE RIGHT PLACE. SOME ARE IN A PINCH BETWEEN THEIR BOSSES AND A NEW, GROWING SET OF ENVIRONMENTAL RULES THAT THEY ARE UNSURE ABOUT HOW TO IMPLEMENT, AND CAN EVEN LAND THEM IN COURT.

THEY ARE UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE, AND JOB STRESS IS AFFECTING THEIR LIVES AT TIMES, AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT MANY OF THE CONSCIENTIOUS PEOPLE ARE GETTING LITTLE SUPPORT DURING THE CHANGES THAT ARE GOING ON IN THE INDUSTRY AND ITS ADMINISTRATION (IF HIS OWN RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE PUBLIC "SERVICE" IS ANY INDICATION.)

BUT WE MUST SHOW OUR ABHORRENCE AT THE VIOLENCE RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED IN SOME FORESTS

THERE HAVE BEEN 2 WELL PUBLICISED INSTANCES OF THIS RECENTLY, AND GENERALLY, COMMUNITY ATTITUDES HAVE BEEN APPALLED. UNFORTUATELY SOME OF OUR 'LEADERS' WHILE STATING THAT THEY DO NOT CONDONE THE ATTACKS ON PROTESTERS ADDED "BUT WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY IT HAPPENED", DAMNING WITH FAINT PRAISE? ONE OF THE MOST DISGRACEFUL COMMENTS THOUGH, CAME FROM A TRUMP IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY WHO SAID ON TV THAT HE DID NOT BLAME THE PERPETRATORS, AND LATER CONFIRMED HIS STATEMENT ON RADIO. AT LEAST HE LOST A FEW OF HIS MORE CONCERNED & INTELLIGENT MEMBERS OF HIS LOBBY GROUP WHO RESIGNED [illegible] WELL DONE MR. P.

RAINFOREST IN VICTORIA

JEFF OLSEN FEELS WE SHOULD PUT IN A 'PLUG' FOR HIS STATE'S COMPARATIVELY RARE BUT NEVERTHELESS INTERESTING AREAS AND KINDLY SENT ME A RELEVANT PAMPHLET FROM THE DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES THAT STATES " RAINFOREST IN VICTORIA IS RESTRICTED TO SMALL SCATTERED PATCHES, MOSTLY LESS THAN 100 HA. BORDERING GULLIE STREAMS AND RIVERS. ALTHOUGH THEY ACCOUNT FOR PROBABLY LESS THAN 1% OF AUSTRALIAS RF, THOSE IN VIC. ARE NEVERTHELESS OF ECOLOGICAL, BOTANICAL, RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT TYPES: COOL TEMPERATE RF WHICH OCCURS IN THE OTWAY RANGES, THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, STRZELECKI RANGES AND ON ERRINUNDRA PLATEAU IN EAST GIPPSLAND; AND WARM TEMPERATE RF WHICH OCCURS IN EAST GIPPSLAND. SOME RF ON WILSON'S PROMONTORY HAS CHARACTERISTICS OF BOTH COOL AND WTRF.

RAINFOREST IN VIC. IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BOTANICAL AND LANDSCAPE ASSET AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE CONSERVED AND CAREFULLY MANAGED. (ED. WHY THEN IS PRISTINE RF DOMINATED FOREST ON ERRINUNDRA BEING LOGGED ?) RAINFORESTS ARE ALREADY PROTECTED IN VIC., EITHER IN RESERVES SUCH AS NATIONAL PARKS OR BY MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS. TIMBER HARVESTING IS EXCLUDED.

THE SOUTHERNMOST OCCURRENCES OF WARM TEMPERATE RF IN AUST. ARE IN GIPPSLAND. THIS TYPE IS MORE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED IN NSW. CONSEQUENTLY, GIPPSLAND IS THE DISTRIBUTIONAL LIMIT OF NUMEROUS RF PLANT SPECIES. CANOPY SPECIES ARE LILLY-PILLY, KANOOKA, SWEET PITTOSPORUM, MUTTON-WOOD, AND, MORE RARELY, YELLOW-WOOD, LEATHERWOOD AND BLUE OLIVEBERRY.

COOL TEMPERATE RF CANOPY SPECIES ARE MYRTLE BEECH, SASSAFRAS, BLACK OLIVEBERRY AND SOMETIMES BLACKWOOD. AN UNUSUAL VARIANT OF CTRF OCCURS AT GOONMIRK ROCKS AND SURROUNDING AREAS ON THE ERRINUNDRA PLATEAU. THIS IS DOMINATED BY MOUNTAIN PLUM PINE, MOUNTAIN PEPPER, GIPPSLAND WARATAH, FOREST LOMATIA, PRIVET MOCK-OLIVE, BANYALLA, FOREST GEEBUNG AND A SUB-ALPINE BEARD HEATH.

FIRE IS A MAJOR DETERMINANT OF THE DISTRIBUTION AND EXTENT OF RF IN VIC. CERTAIN RF SPECIES MAY ALSO OCCUR IN ADJACENT SCLEROPHYLL FORESTS WHERE, HOWEVER, FIRE USUALLY PREVENTS THEM FROM DEVELOPING BUT ENCOURAGES PERIODIC REJUVENATION OF THE SCLEROPHYLL SPECIES. IF FIRE WERE EXCLUDED FOR CENTURIES FROM SCLEROPHYLL FOREST A MORE OR LESS CONTINUOUS UNDERSTORY OF RF SPECIES MIGHT DEVELOP. A POINT WOULD THEN BE REACHED WHERE REGENERATION CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF RF RATHER THAN SCLEROPHYLL SPECIES. RF MAY EXPAND AND CONTRACT IN AREA, DEPENDING ON THE INTERVALS BETWEEN WILDFIRES. VICTORIA IS ONE OF THE MOST FIRE-PRONE AREAS ON EARTH AND WILDFIRE OCCURS AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS IN ALL BUT THE MOST SHELTERED PLACES. FIRE USUALLY INTERVENES ON MOST SITES OCCUPIED BY SCLEROPHYLL FOREST BEFORE A RF UNDERSTORY DEVELOPS SUFFICIENTLY TO FORM A CLOSED CANOPY ".

RAINFOREST SPECIES VARIATION IN MY AREA -- PORT MACQUARIE TO COMBOYNE - N S W COAST & HINTERLAND

I DO LOVE THAT WORD HINTERLAND BUT SELDOM GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE IT OTHER THAN ON QLD. WRITE-UPS, WHERE THE TERM IS COMMON. BUT, TO THE POINT. WE ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING REGISTERING OUR PROPERTY " BOOYONG " WITH THE NP&WS AND HAVE IT PROCLAIMED A WILDLIFE REFUGE , BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT IT IS SO WE MAY AS WELL HAVE IT OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED. THE SERVICE REQUIRES BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE VARIOUS HABITATS, FAUNA SPECIES KNOWN TO BE ON THE PLACE, TYPE OF VEGETATION, ETC., SO I THOUGHT WE MAY AS WELL DO IT PROPERLY - AS MUCH FOR OUR OWN BENEFIT AS WELL AS THEIRS. NATURALLY MY FIRST PROJECT WAS TO LIST THE RF FLORA SPECIES, AND I DECIDED TO INCLUDE THIS AS A SUMMARY AND A COMPARISON WITH OTHER PLACES IN THE DISTRICT THAT ARE PROTECTED AND FOR WHICH I HAVE VEGETATION LISTS. AT THIS STAGE, I HAVE DONE ONLY THE TREES AND SHRUBS BUT WHAT A MOST INTERESTING AND EXCITING RESULT !

THE THREE OTHER LOCATIONS COMPARED ARE QUITE DIVERSE AND ARE:- SEA ACRES RESERVE ON RICH VOLCANIC SOIL ADJACENT TO THE OCEAN BEACH, BAGO EDUCATION AREA (IN A STATE FOREST FLORA RESERVE) 20KM TO THE WEST AT THE FOOT OF A LOW RANGE, AND BOORGANA NATURE RESERVE, A FURTHER 30KM SOUTHWEST THAT IS ALSO VOLCANIC SOIL BUT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 600M. OUR PLACE IS ROUGHLY HALF WAY BETWEEN SEA ACRES AND BOORGANA, ABOUT 40 - 80M ALT. MY TALLY OF PLANT SPECIES LISTED OVER THE 4 AREAS IS 173, OF WHICH 72 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AT BAGO, 98 IN BOORGANA, 102 AT SEA ACRES AND TO DATE 105 HERE. SPECIES FOUND AT ONLY ONE LOCATION ARE:- BAGO 2, BOORGANA 14, SEA ACRES 17, BUT ONLY 14 ON "BOOYONG". OUR PLANTS ARE ALECTRYON TOMENTOSUM, BRACHYCHITON POPULNEUS, CANTHIUM VACCINIFOLIUM, CLERODENDRON TOMENTOSUM, CUPANIOPSIS PARVIFOLIA, ENDIANDRA VIRENS, GEIJERA SALICIFOLIA V. LATIFOLIA, MAYTENUS SILVESTRIS, MISCHOCARPUS SUNDAICUS, PERSOONIA ATTENUATA, POLYSCIAS SAMBUCIFOLIUS, SYMPLOCOS STAWELLII, RHODAMNIA ARGENTEA, AND (ADMITTEDLY A HERB) THE UNUSUAL SPARTOTHAMELLA JUNCEA. A BIG SURPRISE IS THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PITTOSPORUM UNDULATUM, THOUGH IT IS LISTED FOR THE OTHER 3 PLACES. OTHERS NOT HERE BUT ARE ON THE OTHER SITES ARE CYATHEA AUSTRALIS & C. LEICHHARDTIANA (WE HAVE NO TREE FERNS OR PALMS AT ALL), DYSOXYLON FRASERIANUM, LINOSPADIX MONOSTACHYS, LITSEA RETICULATA.

THERE ARE JUST 25 OF THOSE 173 SPECIES COMMON TO ALL FOUR SITES, WHICH ADMITTEDLY ARE ON TWO COMPLETELY DIFFENT SOILS, SEA ACRES AND BOORGANA ON VOLCANICS, BAGO AND BOOYONG ON (PROBABLY) LEACHED, ALLUVIAL MATERIAL ONLY BOORGANA IS AT HIGH ALTITUDE, BUT ALL RECEIVE A RELATIVELY HIGH RAINFALL. ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A BIT MORE COMMONALITY, SEEING THAT THEY ARE IN A VIRTUALLY STRAIGHT LINE OF ONLY 50 KM DISTANCE.

IT JUST GOES TO PROVE THE OLD POINT, I SUPPOSE, THAT INDIVIDUAL RF LOCATIONS ARE JUST THAT - INDIVIDUAL AND PROBABLY UNIQUE IN THEIR COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE. DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE A SIMILAR COMPARISON FOR OUR ENLIGHTENMENT AND RECORDS ?

SUBSEQUENT TO THIS, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK A SPECIES LIST THAT VAN KLAPHAKE PREPARED FOR SITAH PARSONS PROPERTY JUST 6 KM SOUTHWEST OF BOOYONG, AND DIRECTLY UNDER THE COMBOYNE PLATEAU, AND NOTED THAT CUTTSIA VIBURNEA, PENNANTIA CUNNINGHAMII AND AKANIA LUCENS ARE INCLUDED. THE LATTER TWO ARE LISTED ONLY FOR BOORGANA - THEY HAVE OBVIOUSLY SPREAD TO SITAH'S, BUT HAVE NOT MOVED MUCH FURTHER AFIELD.

RAINFORESTING WITH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES IN EUROPE -- THOMAS CARLSSON'S RECENT ACTIVITIES

I MAY HAVE SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT BY GOLLY IF ANY OF US THINK WE ARE GROWING OUR GARDEN OR CARETAKING A FOREST WITH EVERYTHING GOING AGAINST US - DROUGHT; FLOODS; HEATWAVES; STRONG WINDS; FROSTS; ANIMAL OR INSECT PREDATION - JUST THINK HOW YOU'D GO IN SWEDEN ! THE WEATHER OVER THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN VERY KIND TO THEM; THOMAS RECENTLY WROTE, AND SAID THAT THE WINTER THAT THEY JUST HAD HAS BEEN THE MILDEST SO FAR, AND I MUST PRESUME THAT IT HAS BEEN THE WARMEST ON RECORD. IT WAS FROST-FREE HALF THE TIME, AND EARLY FEBRUARY HAD TEMPERATURES OF 7 DEGREES BECAUSE OF WARM WINDS OFF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. THE SUMMER OF 1994 WAS ALSO UNSEASONAL WITH A 2 MONTH LONG DROUGHT WHICH REQUIRED HIM TO WATER HIS RF AND SEEDLINGS CONSTANTLY. AS WELL, IT WAS VERY HOT - 35 DEG. IN THE SHADE.

THOMAS HAS GROWN VERY MANY SPECIES OF OUR PLANTS, AND REPORTS ON RECENT RESULTS. HE SAYS THAT IN WINTER HE KEEPS ALL SEED TRAYS OVER A HEATER INSIDE THE HOUSE AND NEXT TO THE TV SET (FOR ADDITIONAL LIGHT & HIGHER BACKGROUND RADIATION ?) WHERE IT IS ABOUT 35 C AROUND THE TRAYS. ABOUT 20 FLINDERSIAS GERMINATED DURING WINTER, 5 HERNANDIA BIVALVIS, & 5 ARAUCARIA SP, ADVANCED SEEDLINGS ARE POTTED ON INTO INDIVIDUAL CONTAINERS AND PLACED UNDER NEON LIGHT TUBES, ALSO IN THE LIVING ROOM. PS. 3 OREOCALLIS WICKHAMII NOW UP !

MORE ADVANCED SPECIMENS ARE PLANTED IN THE GROUND, IN A GLASS-HOUSE WHERE THE TEMP. REMAINS ABOVE +2. RECENT ADDITIONS HAVE BEEN - 10 CAPPARIS ARBOREA, STILL WITH THEIR COTYLEDON LEAVES AND BETWEEN 5 & 7 PAIRS OF TRUE BUT JUVENILE LEAVES; 5 FAIRLY ESTABLISHED HERNANDIA BIVALVIS ARE AROUND 30 CM HIGH AND LOOK VERY HEALTHY AS DOES A 60 CM TREMA ASPERA. THOMAS HAS ASKED ME FOR SEED OF BALOGHIA INOPHYLLA (WHICH I'VE JUST SENT OFF) AND SYZIGIUM FRANCISII WHEN AVAILABLE, BUT I THINK THIS ONE MAY BE A VERY ERRATIC FRUITER AS YOU DON'T SEE MANY (ANY?) SEEDLINGS/SAPLINGS IN THE BUSH, SO IF ANY OF YOU HAS A TAME PLANT THAT WANTS TO BE A MUM COULD YOU SEND HIM DIRECT (OR VIA ME) SOME SEEDS PLEASE ?

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PAGE

RECENT DECISIONS THAT WILL EFFECT THE N S W COASTLINE AND TWO LITTORAL FORESTS

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO I MADE A PERSONAL SUBMISSION TO THE R.A.C. COASTAL ZONE ENQUIRY. AS WELL AS SENDING ME COPIES OF THE DRAFT AND FINAL REPORTS, A GROUP CALLED THE MARINE & COASTAL COMMUNITY NETWORK HAS KEPT IN TOUCH VIA THEIR BI-MONTHLY N/L " WAVES " WHICH OFTEN INCLUDES ITEMS RELEVANT TO OUR OWN INTERESTS, BUT I DON'T OFTEN HAVE SPACE TO INCLUDE THEM. HERE ARE A FEW RECENT REPORTS.

A NEW COFFS HARBOUR NATIONAL PARK ?. 570 HA OF LAND HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT BONVILLE, SOUTH OF COFFS (AFTER THE URGING OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS BY MANY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS). IT INCLUDES SOME OF THE COASTS' LAST REMAINING PRISTINE LANDFORMS - ONE OF THE FEW IMPORTANT LITTORAL RFs LEFT IN NSW, SIX SEPP 14 (PROTECTED)WETLANDS AND 30 SPECIES OF ENDANGERED FAUNA AND FLORA. THERE IS A FURTHER 80 HA ADJACENT TO THE PARCEL STILL FOR SALE, AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS TOO WILL BE PURCHASED AND ADDED AS A BUFFER TO THE MORE PRISTINE AREA, TO PROTECT IT FROM POLLUTED RUN-OFF, WEED INVASION AND AS A LOGICAL SITE FOR RECREATION AND PARK FACILITIES. THE LAST NEWS ON THE 570 ha WAS THAT IT STILL HAD NOT BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT BE HANDED OVER TO THE NP&WS AS IT IS BEING USED AS A PAWN IN THE COMING STATE ELECTION.

FURTHER SOUTH, AT HAWKS NEST - PARADISE LOST ? THERE IS PRESENTLY AN UNTOUCHED 'BUFFER' TO THE NORTHERN EDGE OF MYALL LAKES NP THAT CONTAINS LITTORAL FOREST - CLOSED COASTAL SCRUB AND FRINGING OPEN FOREST - AND WETLANDS (BOTH ESTUARINE & SEPP 14). IT IS CROWN LAND BUT THERE IS AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP IT FOR 90 RESIDENTIAL LOTS AND THUS EXTEND THE NEARBY RIBBON DEVELOPMENT URBAN SPRAWL. LOCAL OPPOSITION HAS BEEN MOBILISED TO TRY AND PROTECT THE SITE.

NEAR BYRON BAY IS "NORTH OCEAN SHORES" WHERE DAMAGE HAS BEEN CAUSED TO PROTECTED SEPP 14 WETLANDS BY THE DREDGING AND DRAINING OF UNPROTECTED WETLAND ADJACENT. THE REASON ? TO HELP FUEL THE CONSTANT EXPANSION OF SUGAR CANE PRODUCTION. AS IS THE PROBLEM WITH SO MUCH OF THE NSW NORTH COAST, THAT PARTICULAR SPOT HAS 'ACID SULPHATE' SOIL, DISTURBANCE OF WHICH LEADS TO THE LEACHING OF THE COMPOUNDS WHICH END UP, VIA NATURAL AND IRRIGATION RUN-OFF IN THE OCEAN, AFTER POLLUTING WETLANDS, CREEKS AND RIVER SYSTEMS. THIS IS THE REASON FOR THOSE ALMOST DAILY REPORTS OF FISH KILLS SOMEWHERE ALONG THE COAST. DESPITE THE AREA BEING RECOMMENDED TO BE ZONED 7K HABITAT TO PROTECT THE NEARBY WETLANDS BY A COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY IN 1990, AND BY THE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES, NP&WS, THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT GROUP AND COUNCIL'S OWN PLANNING DIRECTOR, BYRON COUNCIL IGNORED ALL THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROCEEDED TO ZONE IT AS GENERAL RURAL, WHICH ALLOWS AGRICULTURE.

PROTECTING THE LAST REMAINING OLD GROWTH FORESTS -- IS THIS AN EXCERCISE IN FUTILITY ? ? ?

WHAT A FARCE THE WOODCHIP DECISION(S) HAVE BEEN. THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH BRINKMANSHIP, DITHERING, PROMISES, THREATS AND SEEMING TOTAL UNAWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE PLACES TO BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT, AS WELL AS FOR AESTHETICS AND THAT VITAL RESOURCE - WATER - AS A CATCHMENT , QUALITY AND QUANTITY AND AREA FOR (GROUND) STORAGE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT VIRTUALLY NOTHING WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE FUTURE, UNLESS PUBLIC SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IS GIVEN TO THOSE TRYING TO SAVE PRECIOUS AREAS.

IF THE WAY THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN HANDLED BY THE COUNTRY'S DECISION MAKERS, WHOSE INFLUENTIAL BACKERS AND CONTROLLERS SOLE AIM IN LIFE APPEARS TO BE TO EXPLOIT WHATEVER ASPECT OF OUR PLANET THEY ARE ABLE, IS TYPICAL OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY'S ORGANISATION, HEAVEN HELP US. OK THIS IS NOT MEANT TO PUT ANY OF YOU OFFSIDE, BUT REMEMBER SOME OF THE OTHER RECENT FIASCOS OF OFFICIALDOM LIKE SYDNEYS' REPLACEMENT RUNWAY, PAY TV, CROSS MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL, ABORIGINAL MATTERS, FOREIGN DEBT - WE COULD GO ON FOR AGES.

DO WE REALLY THINK THAT THE ' SYSTEM ' AS IT NOW EXISTS WILL ASSURE THE LONG TERM SURVIVAL OF OUR NATION/PLANET - ITS ANIMAL LIFE AS WELL AS OURSELVES, LET ALONE THE FORESTS AND ASSOCIATED FLORA ? ARE WE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE THE LAST OF THE MAN-UNAFFECTED ECOSYSTEMS, AND MAINTAIN OUR GENERAL, ALMOST TOTAL UNCONCERN AT THE DOZENS OF SPECIES BECOMING EXTINCT EVERY DAY ?

I AM NOT, BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU. I HAVE 3 CHILDREN (WELL, ALMOST MIDDLE AGED ADULTS) FOR WHOM I MUST ACCEPT LONG TERM RESPONSIBILITY, AS WELL AS TO DO WHATEVER I CAN FOR ALL THOSE OTHER SPECIES ON THIS EARTH, EVERY ONE OF WHICH BEARS US NO MALICE TO US. THEY DO NOT GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO INTERFERE WITH US OR THREATEN OUR SURVIVAL, AS WE ALL TOO FREQUENTLY AND KNOWINGLY ATTEMPT TO DO TO THEM.

IS THE BEAUTIFUL CAIRNS BIRDWING BUTTERFLY ON THE ROAD TO EXTINCTION ? ? ?

THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CONCERN LOCALLY THAT THIS COULD BE THE CASE. ORNITHOPTERA PRIANUS IS THE LARGEST BUTTERFLY IN OZ AND CAN BE FOUND FROM AROUND MACKAY TO COOKTOWN, IN TROPICAL RF AND NEARBY. FEMALES HAVE A WNGSPAN OF 190MM - 7½" - MALES ABOUT 6.4". MY REFENCE NOMINATES ONLY 3 SPECIES OF THE LOCAL ARISTOLOCHIA AS HOST PLANTS, WHILE SOME OF THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INSECTS DIMINISHING NUMBERS DIPLOMATICALLY POINT OUT THAT PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT "WE ARE GROWING THE WRONG PLANTS IN OUR GARDENS'. A NICE WAY OF SAYING THAT LOSS OF THEIR HABITAT IS THE BASIC CAUSE OF THEIR DEMISE. COINCIDENTALLY I HEARD THIS ON A NEWS REPORT WHILE I WAS TYPING THE ABOVE SEGMENT. I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN HAVING THOSE VIEWS CONFIRMED SO SOON. IF THE BIRDWINGS VANISH, WHAT FLORA RELIANT ON BUTTERFLY POLLINATION WILL FOLLOW ?

UPDATE ON TASMANIAS TARKINE WILDERNESS -- THAT ROAD IS BEING CONSTRUCTED AS I WRITE

PREDICTABLY, WISER HEADS DID NOT PREVAIL OVER THIS DESTRUCTIVE ACTION, AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGAIN SHOWED THAT IT WAS NOT PREPARED TO BLOCK THIS SEEMINGLY UNNECCESSARY 4 W.D. TRACK. THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE PROTESTING AND AS EXPECTED A NUMBER, INCLUDING BOB BROWN WERE ARRESTED AND GAOLED FOR A TIME, OTHERS LIKE TRISH CASWELL WERE MERELY ARRESTED AND CHARGED. THIS PROVES THAT WE DO HAVE DOUBLE STANDARDS - THOSE DISRUPTING OPERATIONS OF 'DEVELOPMENT' ARE THREATENED OR PENALISED IN SOME WAY, WHILE THOSE PEOPLE WHO DISRUPT THE RUNNING OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE, AND INCONVENIENCE THE ACTIVITIES OF MANY PEOPLE OF CANBERRA FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME APPEAR TO DO SO WITH IMPUNITY.

WILL KAKADU'S WORLD HERITAGE MONSOON FORESTS GLOW IN THE DARK IN FUTURE ? ? ?

THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE IS "NO ALTERNATIVE" TO RELEASING RADIO-ACTIVE CONTAMINATED WATER FROM THE RANGER URANIUM PLANT AT JABIRU RAISED FEW EYEBROWS. THE HOLDING PONDS ARE TOO SMALL TO CONTAIN THIS YEARS ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL. (BUILD ANOTHER ONE? NO - IT COSTS MONEY!). THE N.T. GOVT. IS PRETTY RELAXED IN APPROVING THE RELEASE, SUCH GLIB STATEMENTS AS "NO DANGER TO THE ENVIRONMENT", "YOU CAN SAFELY DRINK THE WATER" WERE QUICKLY DEVALUED WHEN KAKADU'S ABORIGINAL CUSTODIANS SUGGESTED IF IT WAS THAT SAFE IT SHOULD BE TRUCKED TO DARWIN AND RELEASED INTO THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY. THIS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED - WAS THE TERSE REPLY.

IN NEW GUINEA THAT GOVERNMENT GAVE (INITIALLY) TEMPORARY APPROVAL FOR THE WASTE FROM THE OK TEDI MINE TO BE DUMPED INTO THE RIVER SYSTEM TO END UP IN THE GULF OF PAPUA. YEARS LATER, THERE IS STILL NO CONTAINMENT OF THE SPOIL AND THE WATER IS SO POLLUTED THAT THE PEOPLES TRADITIONAL LIFE HAS BEEN DESTROYED, AS WELL AS THE DEGRADING OF THE REGIONS FORESTS AND DAMAGE TO THE ECOSYSTEM.

BETTER NEWS IN WA THOUGH, A COMPANY DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR POLLUTING A WETLAND HAS BEEN GAOLED FOR THREE MONTHS. OBVIOUSLY HE FAILED TO SEEK APPROVAL IN THE CUSTOMARY MANNER, AND WILL KNOW BETTER NEXT TIME.

WHAT WOULD A HUNDRED FEET OF RED CEDAR BE WORTH TODAY ? ? ?

" THE VALUE OF THE TIMBER HAS INCREASED AS PRODUCTION HAS FALLEN; AT THE END OF 1955 SAWN RED CEDAR WAS QUOTED AS £12.9s. ($24.90) A HUNDRED FEET" (AUSTRALIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIA 1963). THE REFERENCE ALSO MENTIONED THAT IN THE EARLY DAYS, ONE TREE YIELDED 33,000 FEET OF MARKETABLE CEDAR - WHICH WAS LOGGED IN THE RICHMOND RIVER AREA . . . . WHAT A MAGNIFICENT GIANT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN.

A BASIC VERY BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE TYPES OF FRUITS

MY THANKS TO GEOFF AND ANN LONG OF SYDNEY FOR SENDING ME THIS CLASSIFICATION OF FRUITS FROM "TAXONOMY OF FLOWERING PLANTS," C.L. PORTER (UNIV. WYOMING) 2ND ED. W.H. FREEMAN CO. SAN FRANCISCO (1967) THAT THEY FOUND OF INTEREST AND THOUGHT MAY BE SHORT ENOUGH FOR OUR N/L. IT IS GOOD TO GET SOME HELP ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH MANY OF US FIND CAN BE SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT.

" FRUITS - THE FRUIT OF A FLOWERING PLANT MAY BE DEFINED AS A MATURED OVARY AND ITS CONTENTS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER FLOWER PARTS THAT MAY SOMETIMES ADHERE TO IT. THE FRUIT IS OFTEN AN IMPORTANT DIAGNOSTIC FEATURE OF A FAMILY OR GENUS; THE LEGUME OF THE PEA FAMILY, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE AGGREGATE OF DRUPELETS OF THE BLACKBERRY AND RASPBERRY (RUBUS). WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT FOR THE TAXONOMIST THE SAYING " BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM " TAKES ON REAL MEANING!

THE OVARY WALL, KNOWN AS THE PERICARP, CONSISTS OF THREE LAYERS IN FRUITS: THE EXOCARP, OR OUTER LAYER, WHICH IS OFTEN THE SKIN; THE MESOCARP, OR MIDDLE LAYER, WHICH MAY BECOME FLESHY; AND THE ENDOCARP, OR INNER LAYER, WHICH IS SOMETIMES MODIFIED IN VARIOUS WAYS.

AS YET WE HAVE ONLY AN ARTIFICIAL CLASSIFICATION OF FRUITS, BASED ON THEIR GROSS MORPHOLOGY RATHER THAN ON THEIR MODE OF ORIGIN. UNTIL A BETTER CLASSIFICATION AND A BETTER NOMENCLATURE OF FRUITS ARE FORTHCOMING, THE FOLLOWING KEY WILL DISTINGUISH THE COMMONLY RECOGNISED KINDS. (IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE TERM 'POD', WHILE MEANING SOME SORT OF DRY AND DEHISCENT FRUIT, HAS NO PRECISE MEANING TO THE TAXONOMIST.)

KEY TO TYPES OF FRUITS

1. FRUIT DERIVED FROM SEVERAL FLOWERS. — MULTIPLE FRUIT (PINEAPPLE, MULBERRY, FIG)

1. FRUIT DERIVED FROM A SINGLE FLOWER
2. DERIVED FROM MORE THAN ONE PISTIL. — AGGREGATE FRUIT (RASPBERRY, STRAWBERRY)

2. DERIVED FROM A SINGLE PISTIL. — SIMPLE FRUITS (AS FOLLOW)

3. FRUIT FLESHY, USUALLY INDEHISCENT (NOT SPLITTING)
4. FLESH OF FRUIT DERIVED FROM A HYPANTHIUM THAT SURROUNDE THE PAPERY CARPELS. POME (APPLE, PEAR, QUINCE)
4. FLESH OF FRUIT DERIVED FROM THE OVARY WALL
5. PERICARP WITH AN OUTER FLESHY LAYER & AN INNER BONY LAYER (THE STONE). DRUPE (PEACH, CHERRY)
5. PERICARP WITHOUT AN INNER BONY LAYER, MORE OR LESS FLESHY THROUGHOUT. BERRY (TOMATO, GRAPE)
(MODIFICATIONS OF THE BERRY TYPE OF FRUIT---
6. SEPTA EVIDENT IN CROSS SECTION; THE OUTER LAYER LEATHERY. HESPERIDIUM (ORANGE, LEMON)
6. SEPTA LACKING; THE OUTER LAYER LEATHERY TO HARD & WOODY. PEPO (CUCUMBER, MELON, PUMPKIN)

3. FRUIT DRY AT MATURITY, DEHISCENT OR INDEHISCENT
7. FRUIT INDEHISCENT (NOT SPLITTING OPEN)
8. WITH ONE OR MORE WINGS. SAMARA (MAPLE, ASH, ELM)
8. WITHOUT WINGS
9. FROM A COMPOUND PISTIL, BECOMING HARD & BONY-SHELLED. NUT(OR NUTLET IF SMALL) (OAK, MACADAMIA, WALNUT)
9. FROM A SIMPLE PISTIL, OFTEN WITH A THIN SHELL BUT NOT BONY.
10. PERICARP FUSED TO THE SEED. GRAIN (CARYOPSIS) (WHEAT, RICE, CORN)
10. PERICARP SEPARABLE FROM THE SEED. AKENE (SEDGES, SUNFLOWER, ASTER)

7. FRUIT DEHISCENT (SPLITTING OPEN)
11. FROM A SIMPLE PISTIL (1 CARPEL)
12. SPLITTING ON 2 SUTURES. LEGUME (PEA, BEAN, ALFALFA)
12. SPLITTING ON ONE SUTURE. FOLLICLE (GREVILLEA, HAKEA)
11. FROM A COMPOUND PISTIL (CARPELS 2 OR MORE, UNITED)
13. CARPELS SEPARATING FROM EACH OTHER BUT EACH RETAINING ITS SEED. SCHIZOCARP (PARSNIP, CARROT)
13. CARPELS SPLITTING, RELEASING 1 OR MORE SEEDS
14. FRUIT 2 CELLED, THE 2 VALVES SPLITTING AWAY FROM A PERSISTENT THIN PARTITION OR SEPTUM (REPLUM) SILIQUE (OR SILICLE IF SHORT) (TURNIP, CABBAGE)
14. FRUIT 1 TO SEVERAL CELLED, THE PARTITION NOT PERSISTENT IF FRUIT 2 CELLED. CAPSULE (SLOANEA, IRIS)

(MODIFICATIONS OF THE CAPSULAR TYPE OF FRUIT ARE CALLED UTRICLE, PYXIS, PORICIDAL CAPSULE, LOCULICIDAL CAPSULE AND GENERALLY APPLY TO SMALLER HERBS AND A FEW LILLIES.)

AND, AS I TYPED THE FOLLOWING SECTION INADVERDANTLY, I SHALL INCLUDE IT AS WELL, SEEING THAT IT IS OF INTEREST.

" OVULES AND SEEDS - A SEED IS A MATURED OVULE. IT SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH A FRUIT, WHICH, THOUGH IT MAY RESEMBLE A SEED, IS REALLY A MATURED OVARY CONTAINING ONE OR MORE SEEDS. THE TYPICAL SEED CONSISTS OF AN EMBRYO SURROUNDED AND PROTECTED BY A SEED COAT, WITH OR WITHOUT A QUANTITY OF STORED FOOD, KNOWN AS THE ENDOSPERM, IN WHICH THE EMBRYO IS IMBEDDED. THE EMBRYO IS THE YOUNG PLANT WITHIN THE SEED. IT MAY BE VERY MUCH SMALLER THAN THE SEED, IN WHICH CASE IT IS LIKELY TO BE SURROUNDED BY A QUANTITY OF ENDOSPERM, UPON WHICH IT DRAWS FOR NOURISHMENT UNTIL IT IS INDEPENDENT. IT MAY BE LARGE ENOUGH TO FILL THE SEED CAVITY, IN WHICH CASE IT USUALLY CONTAINS RESERVE FOOD WITHIN ITSELF. THE PRINCIPAL PARTS OF THE EMBRYO ARE THE COTYLEDONS WHICH ARE A PAIR OF LEAF-LIKE ORGANS IN THE DICOTYLEDONS, A SINGLE ONE IN THE MONOCOTYLEDONS, A WHORL OF SEVERAL IN THE GYMNOSPERMS; THE EPICOTYL, PROJECTING ABOVE THE POINT OF ATTACHMENT OF THE COTYLEDONS, WHICH WILL BECOME STEM AND LEAF; THE HYPOCOTYL, A TRANSITIONAL STEM-LIKE PORTION BETWEEN THE ATTACHMENT OF THE COTYLEDONS AND THE ROOT FORMING PART; AND THE RADICLE, OR ROOT FORMING PART. THE HYPOCOTYL MAY BE POORLY DEVELOPED IN SOME EMBRYOS AND WELL DEFINED IN OTHERS."

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU WANT TO IMPORT OR EXPORT SEEDS

COLIN ANDERSEN HAS CHECKED THE GUIDELINES FOR SEED IMPORTATION AND ADVISES " THE BASIC RULE OF THUMB IS ALWAYS TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT YOU ARE IMPORTING IS DECLARED BY THE SENDER; SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF 'TREE SEEDS OF NO COMMERCIAL VALUE.' THE CORRECT BOTANICAL NAME(S) SHOULD APPEAR WITHIN THE PACKAGE. WHEN RECEIVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL EXCHANGE THE PACKAGE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE AUST. QUARANTINE & INSPECTION SERVICE WHERE IT IS SCREENED FOR PROHIBITED MATERIAL. THE LATTER (IF ANY) IS REMOVED AND THE REST IS YOURS. LIKEWISE, IF SEED IS SENT OVERSEAS IT HAS TO BE DECLARED ON ONE OF THOSE GREEN CUSTOMS DECLARATION STICKERS AVAILABLE FROM ANY POST OFFICE." ---- THANKS FOR THAT COL, I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE PROPER PROCEDURE.

UPDATE ON THAT AMAZING " WOLLEMI PINE " (FROM MID NORTH COAST SGAP MARCH 95 NEWSLETTER)

(THEY IN TURN PASSED ON THESE DETAILS FROM THE NATURE COSERVATION COUNCIL) " ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING BOTANIC FINDS OF THIS CENTURY ON A WORLD BASIS"(R.B.G.) THE NSW ENVIRONMENT MINISTER COMMENTED "THE FACT THAT SUCH A LARGE PLANT CAN GO UNDISCOVERED FOR SO LONG IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE WE CAN SAY WE UNDERSTAND OUR ENVIRONMENT." "MR HARCHER IS CORRECT. IF THE PINE WENT UNNOTICED HOW MANY SMALLER NATIVE PLANTS (AND ANIMALS) HAVE YET TO BE IDENTIFIED? THE WOLLEMI PINE DISCOVERY ALSO HINTS AT THE BIOLOGICAL RICHES WE ARE LIKELY TO LOSE THROUGH GOVT -SANCTIONED LOGGING OPERATIONS - MANY OF WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT WITH NO PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT. IT ALSO EMPHASISES THE FOLLY OF INDISCRIMINATELY APPLYING ARTIFICIAL FIRE REGIMES TO NATURAL BUSHLAND."

A SUBSEQUENT REPORT ADVISED THAT "UNKNOWN PERSONS HAD LOCATED THE SITE OF THESE PLANTS AND OBVIOUSLY TRIED TO SOUVENIER A SEEDLING, WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED." . WONDER WHO HIS RELATIONS ARE ?

CAN AUSTRALIA SUPPORT A POPULATION OF TWO HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE NEXT CENTURY ? ? ?

THIS FRIGHTENING, AND TO ME AND MANY OF MY ASSOCIATES CHILLING, FORECAST WAS MADE BY MR. PHIL RUTHVEN OF 'IBIS' IN AN ADDRESS TO THE RECENT NATIONAL IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION OUTLOOK CONFERENCE IN ADELAIDE. HIS ADVICE IS THAT WE SHOULD HAVE THE FORESIGHT TO START PLANNING FOR A PREDICTED POPULATION OF 200 MILLION BY THE YEAR 2100, AND WORK OUT WAYS THAT THOSE NUMBERS DO MINIMAL DAMAGE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT. PEOPLE MUST REALISE THAT IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION WHICH HAD DESTROYED OR DEGRADED MANY AREAS IN THE PAST, BUT THEIR ATTITUDE, HABITS AND ACTIONS AND THAT MUCH OF THIS HAPPENED A CENTURY AGO, WHEN ONLY 3 MILLION LIVED HERE. HE CRITICISED THOSE "FANATICS OF ZERO-POPULATION GROWTH" AND THEIR 'MYTH' THAT THOUGH WE HAVE A LOT OF LAND, MUCH IS DESERT AND UNINHABITABLE.

A QUARTER OF THE CONTINENT COULD BE LIVED IN, THE SAME SIZE AS INDONESIA WHICH PRESENTLY SUPPORTS 197 MILLION. AND THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF WATER, WITH 60% AVAILABLE IN THE UNPOPULATED NORTHERN QUARTER. QUESTIONED ON THE RATE OF INCREASE AND ITS AFFECT ON OUR SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR NUMBERS INCREASED 6 FOLD SO FAR THIS CENTURY WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS AND THAT THE SAME RATE OF GROWTH CAN EASILY BE ACHIEVED IN THE FUTURE. MR. RUTHVEN CLAIMS THAT AS A FORECASTER HE HAS AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF BEING RIGHT.

THE FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 23/2/95 CARRIED A BRIEF REPORT OF HIS SPEECH TO THE POPULATION CONFERENCE, WHILE VARIOUS ISSUES AND IDEAS WERE DISCUSSED ON A "LATELINE' PROGRAMME WHERE HE WAS INTERVIEWED ON HIS PROJECTIONS.

IF WE CAN CARRY THIS OFF, THAT'S 2% OF A CENTURY'S WORLD POPULATION INCREASE (AT THE CURRENT RATE). WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OTHER 98% MAY I WELL ASK ?

THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY FOR A MUCH HIGHER POPULATION. A SMALL MINORITY OF SUBMISSIONS TO LAST YEARS 'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIAS HUMAN CARRYING CAPACITY' FAVOURED SUBSTANTIAL POPULATION GROWTH. A BENDIGO VIC. 'COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNION' WOULD LIKE A POLICY TO EXPAND OUR NUMBERS TO SAY, 50 MILLION AND THEN 100 MILLION REQUIRES VISION , THOUGHT AND PLANNING'. MELBOURNE BASED 'COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST' OFFERS SEVERAL OPTIONS INCLUDING EXPANDING MIGRATION INTO PERTH SO THAT BY 2100 OR EARLIER, THERE IS A DENSE URBAN DEVELOPMENT RUNNING UNINTERUPTEDLY FROM GERALDTON TO ESPERANCE, SUPPORTING A POPULATION OF 40 MILLION.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THESE SUBMISSIONS CAN BE FOUND IN THE " AESP NEWSLETTER" OF MARCH 1995.

SOME OF OUR 'CONTRIBUTION' TO GREENHOUSE IS FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF RAINFOREST

THE LATEST BREAKDOWN OF THE SOURCES OF AUSTRALIAS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INCLUDES AN ASTONISHING 27% FROM LAND CLEARING ALONE. STATISTICS DID NOT NOMINATE THE AMOUNT OF RF CLEARED COMPARED TO OTHER VEGETATION, BUT IT WOULD BE MORE THAN WE CAN AFFORD TO LOSE. SOME OF THE LAST OF THE ONCE VAST TRACTS OF CENTRAL QLD BRIGALOW ARE STILL BEING DESTROYED - FOR GRAZING ! THE 'CLEARING' OF VEGETATION AVERAGES 660,000 HECTARES EACH YEAR, MAINLY IN QLD., NSW, AND WA, AND THERE ARE NO TAX BENEFITS AT ALL MIND YOU, AS THERE WERE UNTIL ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO. IF YOU NEED TO CLEAR A PADDOCK THESE DAYS, YOU GET THE CONTRACTOR PUT IN A SMALL DAM AND INVOICE YOU FOR THE CONSTRUCTION 'OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE DAM EVER BUILT IN THE WORLD', HAPPENS A LOT. BUT, BACK TO THE STORY..... THAT LAND 'CLEARING' IS A STAGGERING 2,500 SQUARE MILES A YEAR AND WORKS OUT THAT DURING OUR AVERAGE LIFE SPAN, AN AREA EQUIVALENT TO CAPE YORK PENINSULAR, ALL OF VICTORIA AND TWO FRASER ISLANDS COMBINED ! WE MUST BE ABLE TO AFFORD THIS, OR ELSE WE WOULD NOT BE DOING IT.

A NEW SERVICE TO MEMBERS --- A " FOR SALE " COLUMN ON A TRIAL BASIS

THIS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY COLIN ANDERSEN WHO MENTIONED THAT HE IS FACED WITH AN EVER EXPANDING COLLECTION OF POTTED NATIVE AND EXOTIC RF PLANTS, ALL OF WHICH HE GERMINATED HIMSELF, AND A WIFE WHO WORRIES NOT A LITTLE ABOUT THE MONEY SPENT ON QUALITY POTTING MIX. COLIN FELT THAT A 'FOR SALE' SECTION MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA - NOT AS ANY GREAT MONEY MAKING VENTURE, BUT SIMPLY TO RECOUP THE COST OF MATERIALS NEEDED.

"ALL YOU'D NEED IN THE N/L IS A NAME, THE PHONE NO. AND A SPECIES LIST. THE PRICE AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE NEGOTIATED OVER THE PHONE. IF YOU LIKE THE IDEA, HERE IS MY INITIAL LIST."

WE'LL TRY ANYTHING COL - ALL I DO IS PUT THE N/L TOGETHER AND KEEP MY FINGERS CROSSED THAT I DON'T COP TOO MUCH CRITICSM FOR DOING SO. AND A SIDE-EFFECT OF SUCH A SCHEME COULD WELL LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN CONTACT, AND BROADEN THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION, AS WELL AS EXPAND THE RANGE OF PLANTS BEING GROWN BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. --- COULD I HAVE SOME FEEDBACK ON THIS MATTER, PLEASE ?

COLIN CURRENTLY HAS AVAILABLE :- NATIVES ARE CUPANIOPSIS NEWMANII, PETALOSTIGMA TRILOCULARE, SYNOUM GLANDULOSUM, CRYPTOCARIA LAEVIGATA, ATHEROSPERMA MOSCHATUM. EXOTICS (AFRICAN) EUGENIA ZEYHERI (MYRTACEAE), (ASIAN) GLYCORMIS CITRIFOLIA (RUTACEAE) SIMILAR TO OUR OWN G. PENTAPHYLLA - EDIBLE FRUIT. (TROP. AMERICAN) - CARLUDOVICA PALMATA (CYCLANTHACEAE) PANAMA HAT PLANT, CECROPIA PELTATA (MORACEAE) HUGE PALMATE LEAVES - HIGHLY ORNAMENTAL, MYRCIARIA PARANENSIS (MYRTACEAE) CLOSE RELATIVE OF THE JABOTICABA - FRUIT HIGH IN VIT.C PACHIRA AQUATICA (BOMBACACEAE) VERY ORNAMENTAL WITH EDIBLE NUT, PSIDIUM QUAJAVA (MYRTACEAE) V. ORNAMENTAL WITH DARK PURPLE LEAVES & TASTY FRUIT, INGA MORTONIANA (LEGUMINACEAE) THE ICE CREAM BEAN. PHONE NO. IS 047 394 374 AT LAPSTONE - WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF SYDNEY.

A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY -- INFORMATION SOUGHT ON THIS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

I AM NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILS AND RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS STRATEGY, ITS EFFECT ON THE COMMUNITY, INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE PRESENT SITUATION OF "BIODIVERSITY". OBVIOUSLY MANY OF OUR GROUP WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT SO I WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT GOES. MY ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE STRATEGY A FEW DAYS AGO, WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE NSW GOVT. WOULD SIGN AN AGREEMENT, JUST DAYS BEFORE THE STATE ELECTION. APPARENTLY WA IS THE ONLY STATE THAT HAS NOT SIGNED THE DOCUMENT, OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE BROUGHT IN NATIONWIDE. PREMIER COURT OVER THERE HAS SET A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS TO BE MET BEFORE HE IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH IT.

O K --- HOW MUCH RAINFOREST DO WE HAVE LEFT ANYWAY ? ? ?

THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF 'DISCUSSION' (ARGUMENT) IN THE LOCAL PRESS, RESULTING FROM A LETTER POINTING OUT THAT THERE IS SO LITTLE RF LEFT IN OZ, THAT IT SHOULD ALL BE PROTECTED AND THAT SOME IMPORTANT STANDS HAVE BEEN , AND STILL ARE BEING DESTROYED BY LOGGING EMERGENT BRUSH BOX AND EUCALYPTS IN OLD GROWTH, STABLE AND OFTEN PRISTINE FOREST. I DON'T BUY THE LOCAL PAPER SO ADMIT TO NOT BEING FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE ACTION ON THE TOPIC, BUT I DID SEE A LETTER FROM THE OWNER OF A TIMBER MILL ATTEMPTING TO RUBBISH COMMENTS OF RF BEING SCARCE. THE MILLER ARGUES THAT WE HAVE 60% OF OUR ORIGINAL RF LEFT, BUT HE DID NOT SUPPORT HIS POINT WITH ANY FACTS OR EXAMPLES OF REMNANT, LARGE FORESTS AND THEIR LOCATION.

NOW, I ADMIT THAT I AM NOT WELL QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE WHAT FRACTION SURVIVES, NOT BEING HERE 207 YEARS AGO AND NEVER HAVING THE GOOD FORTUNE TO SEE THE INVENTORY THAT GOVENOR PHILLIP SURELY WOULD HAVE DRAWN UP AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY. BUT I DO KNOW THAT I HAVE READ MANY REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM GENERALLY IMPARTIAL WRITERS, OFTEN KNOWLEDGABLE SCIENTISTS AT THAT. AS WELL, I HAVE TRAVELLED AS FREQUENTLY AS I COULD AND SEEN MANY AREAS OF PRESENT AND PAST CONTROVERSIES, AS WELL AS DISTRICTS NOW DEGRADED, BUT WHERE EARLIER RECORDS CONFIRM WERE ONCE DENSE AND IMPENETRATABLE. SPACE HAS RUN OUT, BUT I WOULD HOPE TO INCLUDE IN THE NEXT N/L AN EXTENSIVE ARTICLE LISTING BOTH LOCATION AND AREA THAT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, AS WELL AS PLACES RETAINING INTACT FOREST. TIL THEN ....GOOD GROWING. AND WHILE YOU ARE AT IT, PLEASE SEND ME SOME DETAILS OF AREAS YOU KNOW OF WITH RF REMAINING, OR NOW TOTALLY CLEARED