

## Nambucca Valley Conservation Association Inc. AGM - 10 Feb 2018

### President's Report

Our past 12 months have been full and productive and can be summed up in three words – Public Native Forest.

Our Forest Working Group has excelled this year with activities across a wide range of forest related matters eg:

- Numerous days and nights of pre-logging survey work and the rather depressing post-logging audits in Buckra Bendinni SF cpts 384 & 385.
- Post logging audit of Oakes SF along with NEFA lone wolf Joe Sparks. Our relentless attempts to get EPA to do its job and respond to our breach report and request for FC to be penalised for flaunting the logging rules...again.
- Submissions on proposed changes to the Koala SEPP44, NSW Koala Strategy and Save Our Species Koala plan.
- Organising the very successful Don't Bludgeon the Gudgeon rally outside FC offices in Coffs Harbour.
- A day in the forest searching for koalas and talking forests issues with ABC journalist Philipa MacDonald and cameraman Rocky, with some good ABC state wide coverage.
- Numerous Forest Stalls, meeting interested and some not-so-interested folks, with Katie Koala making numerous appearances. One of the more interesting stalls being our gate-crashing efforts at the National Koala Conference in Port Macquarie.
- The finalisation, after a huge effort, of the NEFA mini documentary 'Your Forests' which has been well received and is set to get rolled out at a number of speaking events over the next year. NEFAs Jimmy Malecki, Lyn and I put in many hours, with help on content from various contributors. Lyn's commitment under rather trying conditions in a makeshift sound booth made of Jimmy's doona and a couple of sheets in his lounge room was amazing. Our frustrations at times resulted in some hilarious out-takes that hopefully will never see the light of day! Lyn and I learnt a lot about movie making, the good, the bad and the exhausting.
- In November NVCA was instrumental in organising a 'pop up' action in Lorne SF where we showed ex Labor Environment Minister Bob Debus the horrendous reality of the clear-felling that Forestry Corp are rolling out across our public native forests and have the audacity to call Single Tree Selection. We also had the benefit of a bright young professional drone operator Josh Head from Bello who did an amazing job of capturing our action amongst the clear fell carnage. Bob was horrified and gave an impassioned interview which became a 3 minute you Tube VDO thanks to Josh.
- NVCA folks also participated in the BEC's Gladstone blockade and media event, where FC were logging and planning to log high use koala forest.
- In November we had another wonderful luncheon fundraiser at Wendy and Chris' house, where the movie was shown after a rather tense 15 minutes of technical difficulties. The movie raised some very good question and even

better it raised over \$800 for our forest campaign! A huge thankyou to Wendy and Chris for their generosity in hosting the event and making their home so wonderfully welcoming especially with the beautiful flowers. Also, many thanks to those members who made the day a success with food, stall minding and raffle contributions and to Georgie for selling all those raffle tickets – again! This was our second such luncheon and they certainly seem to work well, attracting some welcome new members.

- I gave a presentation on forest issues, including the mini doco, to the inaugural Regional Greens Forum hosted by the newly formed Nambucca Macleay Greens, at Nambucca Heads.
- Lyn and I have been busy working with BEC folks and NPA in developing concepts and ideas for walking, driving, cycling trails and other tourism ideas within the GKNP. The focus is on developing proposals with a view to demonstrating the potential for significant jobs and economic benefits for our region if the GKNP was to become reality. As we know this will only happen if Labor are elected next year. It is exciting and refreshing to be working on something so positive and which will provide us with some light relief as we scope out potential trails and camping sites over the coming year. Happily, this work is attracting some new volunteers which is lovely to see.
- This week a number of NVCA folk participated in the RFA rally in Coffs Harbour which attracted over 150 people and gained good media coverage.
- NVCA put out a number of forest related media releases over the year and I had quite a few interviews on local ABC and 2NVR radio.

So, as you can see it has been a very busy forest campaigning year. I would like to especially thank Steve Hensler for his invaluable contribution to our field work. Steve has been our driver, camp fire builder, koala sniffer outer, big tree finder, coffee brewer extraordinaire and most recently wearer of the koala costume...it is hard to imagine how we ever got along without him!

Thanks also to our trusty field workers Lyn, Dee, Georgie, Snuff, Alba, Joy and any others whom I may have omitted.

I would also like to say a special thanks to Lyn my partner in crime in the forest for her wisdom, awesome planning skills, camera work and friendship.

NVCA's interaction with Nambucca Shire Council has continued this past year. I met with Grant Nelson to discuss the Environment Levy Program and with Paul Gallagher and Tim Woodward to talk about roadside vegetation management. Lyn and I recently met with the Mayor and General Manager to show them the mini doco and discuss the RFAs and GKNP.

Of course, a big thank you must go to Cr Anne Smyth for her Council reports and keeping us up to date of environmentally relevant council matters and there are plenty!

Committee with me as rep and Phil alternate. Phil is also our representative on Councils new Clean Energy Advisory Committee and Sally Cavanagh is our representative on the Board of Management for Gaagal Wanggaan NP. Thanks Phil and Sal for your willingness to participate.

Last year we became a member group of the National Parks Association of NSW and we donated \$500 to the Honest Govt Ad 'Koalas and Trees' which NPA commissioned from Juice Media and which was a roaring success with 35,000 views.

A big thankyou to Carol our secretary AND treasurer for her tireless work in keeping the books in order and preparing agendas and minutes. Also to Phil for his valuable assistance to Carol and as V. President. Carol initiated our NVCA Updates which go out electronically to members, a great idea – thanks Carol!

Last year we commenced our trial of holding alternate physical meetings and electronic meetings with our first eMeeting last December.

A big thankyou also all those who have helped with setting up, running and dismantling our forest stalls. Seriously, NVCA could not have achieved what it has over the past year without the wonderful team work and contributions either financially or hands on, of you all.

Our environment has never been under such relentless attack than it is under the current Liberal National Coalition State Government. The next 12 months are our chance to keep the pressure up, raise awareness and push for a change of government, for that is our only hope to halt the current short-sighted destruction of our vital ecosystems by greedy corporate interests. We are not alone - forest conservationists and anti CSG & coal mining battlers across the state are likewise shifting gear into election campaign mode. So, lace up your boots, strap yourself in and take a deep breathe its going to be a big year!

Last but not least, I would like to thank my partner Mark for his support and tolerance of my many absences and mad dashes out the door either to work, a meeting or the forest. I couldn't do it all without you Markie!!

With heartfelt thanks and congratulations to you all for a successful year.

Paula Flack

President