

## **Nambucca Valley Conservation Association AGM 10 February 2019**

### **Presidents Report**

This has been a year of the koala – our little Aussie icon has carried the forest conservation banner to great effect over the past 12 months. The public's awareness of the koalas plight due to habitat loss has increased significantly.

Much of NVCA's forest campaign focus has been supporting and promoting the GKNP, responding to the State Government's dodgy Koala Strategy, fake koala reserves and making the best use of their own koala mapping to slap them in the face with. We also contributed to NPA's cinema advertising campaign for forest conservation and the GKNP, which is running in Nambucca and Sawtell cinemas up until the March State elections.

We lobbied to stop logging in koala habitat in Gladstone State Forest and a few of us spend some time at the blockade there.

Over the past year, we have campaigned hard to raise awareness about the State Government's plans to roll over the Regional Forest Agreements and introduce new logging laws that would see drastically reduced threatened species protection, reduced streamside buffers and legalization the appalling clear felling regime of coastal forests and increased intensification of logging in all other areas.

NVCA hosted a very successful information evening at the Nambucca Entertainment Centre and Lyn and I also organized a similar meeting at Port Macquarie and helped with the Newcastle one.

Despite our best efforts and over 5000 submissions opposing the State Govts TFA and IFOA plans and only a handful of supporting submissions (all from industry), our worse fears came true when the public clear wishes were ignored and the RFA was adopted along with the new logging rules. Forestry Corporation might have the legal go ahead it was after, but it has no social license to continue its rampage of destruction in our public native forests.

All this at a time when climate change is making its presence felt in all the ways that the climate scientists warned us of more than 20 years ago. More extremes of weather, more violent and unpredictable storms, more bushfires, more floods, more droughts....while the LNP continue to stick its head in the sand and push for more fossil fuel investments – but all its OK ... its "clean coal"!

Thanks to everyone who has made our forest information stalls a success and I hope that we can continue this valuable grass roots activity, especially further afield.

Our focus must now be placed on getting state and federal governments elected that will put truly sustainable solutions and a healthy environment before all else, for without that what do we have?

To that end, Dee generously offered her home for NVCA to host a 'Meet the Candidate' session with Andrew Woodward, Federal Labor candidate for Cowper. Members and guests

certainly grilled Andrew and some robust discussion was had. Andrew exhibited a comprehensive understanding of the current NSW forest issue.

Georgie kindly offered her home up for a similarly successful 'Meet the Candidate' session with State Labor candidate for Oxley Sue Jenvey, who answered questions capably and showed good insight into local issues.

To domestic matters....

Miranda and I made progress in developing our new website last year but unfortunately the process has stalled since the Xmas break due to pressing forest and GKNP commitments and now the upcoming elections. Thanks to Carol and Georgie for getting the Lush grant application off to hopefully fund the exercise, which I intend to see finished ASAP.

Likewise, our new banners are on hold for a little while as we push through this very busy time.

In February last year we were flush enough to join the NSW National Parks Association in recognition of its more proactive approach to native forest conservation.

Our coffers were boosted with our very successful Koalas and Tree raffle thanks to Georgie's organising and the donation of the wonderful prizes especially Alf Blakey's amazing handcrafted metal brazier.

We have also been very fortunate in having Deanna join our ranks and apply herself with such zeal to the task of managing our GKNP t shirt sales.

And thanks to the generous donations of NVCA members and members of the public, we have been able to fund an expanded range of forests campaign activities

For a modest little bunch of tree-huggers, we have very been busy little vegemites indeed.

I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your contribution to our special organisation.

I would especially like to thank Carol for her work as our secretary AND treasurer and also Phil whom I know helps Carol with these roles.

Also thankyou to Phil, Joy, Steve and Sal who represent NVCA on various committees.

A special thankyou must go Lyn Orrego for her steadfast support of our forest campaign and always being there when I need her, her depth of knowledge of the NSW forest issue and her wisdom.

We can hold our heads high in the knowledge that we are a group working closely together with passion, integrity and respect, and we get things done!

Thankyou everyone.

For the forests

Paula Flack, President