



Newsletter March 2011

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MEET THE CANDIDATES
When Saturday 5th March at 1.30pm
Where StJohn’s Anglican Church hall, Page St, Moruya (next to the RSL Memorial Hall)

The local ABC will not be holding a Q&A session for the State election candidates so Coastwatchers is inviting them to attend the one we are organising. **Please come and bring your friends.** Ask your questions and hear what the candidates have to say about the issues that concern us most.

It will be a public meeting which we will advertise in the local media. After the official start of the meeting each candidate will be given five minutes to talk about whatever issues they wish. While we cannot control the topics that people will ask questions about, we hope that most of the meeting will be focussed on environmental issues. These are not just of concern to our members. The recent IRIS consultation conducted for Council as part of the 2030 Community Strategy highlighted the fact that people want development that is carefully controlled so it fits with the character of the Eurobodalla and has minimal impact on the natural environment.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2011 has already seen a continuing relentless attack on the Eurobodalla natural environment from our Shire Council, State Government and developers..

A couple of years ago Eurobodalla Shire was leading the way in planning for sustainable development with sensitive areas clearly mapped in the Shire’s planning documents. Unfortunately this work is now being undermined by vested interests with development projects in mind, and by changes to state legislation such as those that are supposed to protect vegetation and biodiversity. It is more important than ever that our Council and state government put the capacity of the land and the health of the environment first on the list ahead of supporting rapid population growth in coastal areas. Without this priority a sustainable population for Eurobodalla will be impossible.

Progress towards the draft Eurobodalla2030 Community Strategic Plan continues with Council inviting expressions of interest from community members to attend one or more of four “Deliberative Forums”. These meetings will consider the objectives and strategies to be included in the strategic plan. Various Coastwatchers Committee members sent in expressions of interest in being included in one or more of these Forums and all have been accepted.

Sheila Monahan



Sea Spurge never gives up so keep watch. This reinfestation at Snake Bay, Murramarang National Park, is targeted for removal.

MEETING AT ECO POINT MURRAMARANG RESORT by Reina Hill

In January members of Coastwatchers, Friends of Durras and Eurobodalla Landcare, along with representatives from NPWS and DCCW, attended a meeting with the new owner John Tilton and management of the Eco Point Murramarang Resort to discuss his vision for the Resort and his commitment to the environment.

John informed the meeting that the development is totally committed to its green mission statement in managing eco-sensitive hospitality that minimises environmental impacts, lowers energy consumption and greenhouse emissions and inspires staff and visitors to preserve Australia's natural heritage. The Resort has invested in the world's latest technology for efficient waste and water treatment and recycling of sewerage to the highest world standards and is designed to leave a minimal footprint and to retain the natural beauty of the Murramarang National Park.

John also spoke about the lack of maintenance and over-development that had occurred prior to his ownership and his undertaking to restore the Park to its former glory, in line with NPWS requirements. There will also be calls for responses from the local community to be involved in the restoration of the area.

He explained the preliminary landscape plan they have devised to regenerate the badly degraded dune area by reducing and formalising the number of walkways; replanting the dune with appropriate plantings; fencing the area with post and rail fencing and providing signage to discourage entry into the regeneration area. John was happy to discuss ideas for suitable dune plantings, effective signage and issues regarding access to boat launching facilities, retention of some grassy knolls and the planned removal of a number of cabins to provide more open space.

We also discussed ideas for guests to experience the unique environment of the national park, including the possibility of koala-spotting excursions and spotlighted evening nature walks. John is keen to involve local Koori groups and it was suggested that he contact Mal McCallum regarding the Aboriginal Land Council's new heritage track from Nelligen to Murramarang, with a view to linking it to the Resort.

All in all, it was a very productive and informative meeting and Coastwatchers hopes to be involved in further discussions with the new owners.

CONVERSATION WITH MARK O'CONNOR A SUSTAINABLE POPULATION

Saturday 16 April, 2.30pm
Air Raid Tavern, Moruya – the upstairs room

Coastwatchers has invited Mark O'connor to lead this Community Conversation on the topic that is the basis for Australia's environmental health.

Mark O'Connor is a poet, writer, and environmental activist. He has written two books on the issue of overpopulation, *This Tired Brown Land* and, more recently, *Overloading Australia*, co-written by W J Lines. Mark was a candidate for NSW Senator at the 2010 Australian federal election, representing the unregistered Stable Population Party.

SUSTAINABLE POPULATION

The Commonwealth Government has a discussion paper on exhibition until **Tues 1 March**. Jenny Edwards drafted a brief submission on behalf of Coastwatchers but it would be good if the government received some comments from you as well.

Email to:

sustainablepopulation@environment.gov.au

Fax: 02 6274 2505 or

Mail to: Sustainable Population Strategy,
GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT, 2601

SUMMER OF SUBMISSIONS

Despite the "silly" season, your committee has been hard at work for most of the summer. Several detailed submissions had to be researched and prepared. The full submissions can be found on Coastwatchers website. Only a few points from them are found in this newsletter. Media releases were also written and meetings held. Coastwatchers had stalls at Broulee's Art on the Path in December and January. More are scheduled for later in the year.

Thankyou to our hard-working committee members.

BANGALAY FOREST NOMINATION

Mark Fleming has been researching and preparing a nomination to have Bangalay Sand Forest, such as the forest between Broulee and the airport, listed by the Commonwealth as an Endangered Ecological Community. It is already listed in NSW.

COASTWATCHERS CONCERNS ABOUT GOLD MINE CONFIRMED

President, Sheila Monahan, followed up our submissions objecting to the proposed gold mine in the catchment of the Deua River with a media release in January.

In mid-December the NSW Government Office of Water informed the NSW Department of Planning that it was unable to support the Environmental Impact Assessment (EA) as submitted by Cortona Resources Ltd for the Dargues Reef Gold Project near Majors Creek. Reasons given were inadequate information and a lack of certainty of the impacts of the mine on groundwater, surface run off and flow in nearby creeks. This water runs into the Deua River, which in turn supplies 75 per cent of our Shire's drinking water.

The reasons confirm that the concerns raised by the Coastwatchers Association in our submission to the Department of Planning at the end of October were well founded

A Briefing Paper commissioned by Eurobodalla Shire Council identified thirty risks to our water supply from the proposed mining operation. They related to reduced flows affecting water availability, and increased pollutants through leaching or from dam failure or following storms. In its submission to NSW Planning Council included nineteen recommendations to ensure the Shire's water supply is not put at risk from the proposed mining activities in the catchment.

Submissions from the NSW Environment Department and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority also list similar concerns. In fact around one thousand public submissions have been received by the Department of Planning, most of which object to the proposal.

Unfortunately strong opposition for good reasons does not mean that the proposal for this gold mine (or other gold deposits that are believed to be nearby) will be refused by the Minister. The company has begun an advertising campaign to try to overcome the objections. We all need to be vigilant as this DA progresses. A reliable uncontaminated water supply for Eurobodalla could depend on it.

DRAFT NSW BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2010-2015

This complex strategy was studied by Sheila Monahan who drafted a lengthy submission for us. We agreed that building healthier and more resilient ecosystems is fundamental to biodiversity conservation. Healthy natural ecosystems also provide billions of dollars worth of goods and services essential for the wellbeing of local communities and businesses.

We also welcomed new initiatives and efforts that will target investment in terrestrial, aquatic and marine programs for the next five years. Incentives for conservation on private land and improved integration with land-use planning and natural resource management are a positive step forward.

However, the continuing stresses on biodiversity in NSW are numerous, significant and debilitating and we believe that the Draft Strategy does not deal adequately with these impacts. The decision to confine the purpose of the strategy to directing scarce funds to 15 broad terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in NSW areas represents a "minimalist" approach to biodiversity protection and management.

Here are just a few of the points in our submission:

- The Draft Strategy does not deal with regional strategies at all.
- The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is welcome as a means of providing connectivity for our local area.
- There is no mention of investment in the science and monitoring necessary for effective management.
- Biobanking should not be promoted as a key element in the State's biodiversity strategy because it leads to a net loss in biodiversity. It should only be used as a last resort.
- Biocertification and strategic assessments are not conservation measures.
- Landscape scale assessment is important but it is not a substitute for site-level assessment.
- If the Strategy is to achieve community engagement for on-ground programs a greater emphasis on education for biodiversity conservation is needed
- The Strategy should include the need to manage conservation values on public land outside the reserve system eg public forests, travelling stock routes
- A whole-of-government approach is required, especially for aquatic habitats
- The Draft National Parks Fire Management Plan is not adequate
- The emphasis needs to be on ecologically sustainable production environments
- The monitoring framework is inadequate. The focus should be on biodiversity outcomes, not the intermediate bureaucratic steps identified in the document.

- The direction of 50% of CMA investment in private landholder vegetation management programs toward state-scale priorities by 2015 is of serious concern to Coastwatchers. This target can cause distortion in local investment priorities and overrides the consultative process used to develop the Catchment Action Plan for our Southern Rivers CMA.
- The Maps of NSW Priority Areas for investment in native vegetation management reveal that the Southern Rivers CMA has limited priority areas. This could result in perverse outcomes for our region's biodiversity conservation outcomes.

If our threatened wildlife is to survive real action is needed to prevent further habitat destruction together with careful management of the impacts of climate change. A successful outcome for the Strategy also depends on strong political leadership.

ANTI-CLEARING LAWS TO WEAKEN?

Sheila Monahan prepared a detailed submission for Coastwatchers on proposed amendments to the assessment methodology under the Native Vegetation Act 2003. She emphasised our concerns that they will not maintain or improve environmental outcomes. In an effort to speed up assessments it is likely that biodiversity will suffer.

We are concerned that speeding up assessment will lead to cumulative loss of biodiversity.

- *Clumps of native trees* up to 10 hectares in area should not be eligible for streamlined assessment. This would allow broadscale clearing of native vegetation in good condition without adequate assessment and could result in the clearing of endangered ecological communities that may exist in small patches or clumps.
- Allowing the clearing of *'scattered native trees'* and *'paddock trees'* will reduce the potential for natural regeneration across the landscape. The offset methodology for paddock trees allows replacement of hollow bearing trees by new plantings which will not produce hollows for decades.
- The broad definition of *'not viable or low viability'* will facilitate the clearing of significant areas of vegetation, including endangered vegetation types that only exist in less viable patches due to historical clearing.
- It is inappropriate to apply the streamlined process to areas of native vegetation up to two hectares that are part of larger areas of vegetation. Once again this amendment will facilitate incremental clearing of large areas of native vegetation in good condition without adequate assessment.
- We do not support removing the need for field surveys, especially in large areas of vegetation which is in good condition.
- We recommend that the amendments to the assessment methodology be withdrawn and replaced with a thorough assessment of Property Vegetation Plan processing times. This should be undertaken with a view to reducing time taken without weakening protection for native vegetation, species and ecological communities.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOR WHARF ROAD

Reina Hill, our representative on the Coastal Management Advisory Committee, drafted a submission for us on proposed multi-storey tourist accommodation units, restaurant and general store on and around the site of what was Croakers garage at Wharf Rd, north Batemans Bay. We do not believe the proposal adequately considers the impacts of sea level rise, coastal hazards and other issues

- The proposed development is highly likely to be subject to coastal hazards and sea level rise of 90cm over the planning period of 100 years. Even within 50 years access and infrastructure are likely to be affected. Filling the site and raising the road could impact on surrounding development.
- It will have a significant visual impact and does not complement the surrounding environment, or enhance the natural beauty of the coastal zone.
- The Draft LEP 2010 and recently adopted Development Control Plans should be the main considerations when assessing the proposal – not the old LEP as requested by the proponents.
- Updated information in the *Draft Final Report Eurobodalla Shire Coastal Hazards Scoping Study*, especially in relation to Wharf Road must be taken into account before this proposal is determined.



Wharf Rd where rock was dumped to try to prevent the road being washed away. Part of the development site is on the right (with construction fencing)

This new study is available for viewing on the ESC website:

www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media

euobodalla2030– by Brian Versey

Following discussions with members of the public and organisations involved in the Shire, consultants IRIS Research have published their report which can be found on the Council's website. The Community Engagement Strategy 2010 has been conducted to produce the Eurobodalla Community Strategic Plan *euobodalla2030* as required by the State Government

Coastwatchers is disappointed that the required 'Vision Statement' has been left until later in the process. A progressive, overall Vision may have been compromised by a delay of in-depth discussions as thinking will have been restricted by the process adopted but, hopefully, useful proposed and actual outcomes for the natural environment will eventuate.

Various reports have placed different emphases on the consultant's findings relating to the residents' and ratepayers' expectations and preferences in relation to protecting the natural environment, but it seems that this goal is very high on the list. The extent of protection required will mean different things to different people, but it is a finding that government should find hard to ignore. Hopefully, protection of the natural environment will be recognised as being of higher significance now and in the future.

Following representations by Coastwatchers and other environment groups, the Council has added an environment advocate to the Community Reference Group. Coastwatchers had claimed that although individual members of the initial Group might have some sympathy and understanding of environmental issues, there was no one who represented concerns for the natural environment now and in the future or beyond local issues. Coastwatchers is pleased to report that the environment advocate is Bishop George Browning.

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP – by George Browning

There were two meetings in February and there are to be four others over the next month. The first draft of the report is due to be completed in about one month. This then has to go back to the community and the final 2030 document will probably be completed by October.

There is no question that environmental issues are very high on the agenda, in fact you could be led to believe that the Community Reference Group is loaded with folk who have a bias in this direction rather than a bias towards development no matter what the environmental impact.

It seems the report will address itself to the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Community and Cultural Life | Strengthening the economy |
| Caring for our environment | Managing growth |
| Assets and infrastructure | Proactive leadership |

NEWS IN BRIEF

Opening coastal lakes ~ Attempts were made by visitors and residents to open various coastal lakes along the South Coast over the busy Summer holidays because of a perception this would be of benefit to these lakes aquatic health. This is not the case.

Flooding is an important component of the ecological processes in coastal lakes. It is likely to be especially important in maintaining the character, extent and biodiversity of fringing wetland vegetation communities. Regular and repeated initiation of an early breakout prior to lake water levels peaking may degrade wetlands and riparian vegetation, reduce fisheries production over the long term, and contribute to a decline in regional biodiversity. Whenever possible, coastal lake foreshores, wetlands and aquatic habitats should be preserved in their natural state.

As water in the closed lake goes up and down, vegetation is exposed or covered and there may be strange smells or clusters of algae – but this is all a natural part of these lakes' life cycles. Where there is runoff of sediment or industrial pollution into the lake - particularly after heavy rain - artificially opening the lake to 'flush' it out isn't a solution. The answer lies in stopping the pollution at its source

NCC Regional Conference ~ We have sent an Expression of Interest to have the NSW Nature Conservation Council's conference in Batemans Bay in May. If accepted Coastwatchers will be hosting the event and your offers of assistance will be very welcome.



An unsuccessful attempt to open Durras Lake

Broulee Surf Club Extensions ~ While Coastwatchers has no problem with proposed extensions to the clubhouse, we are very opposed to clearing of dune vegetation to allow it. The clearing is only required to meet bushfire regulations for an Asset Protection Zone but since the development is not for residential purposes we have argued that clearing is not necessary.

CSIRO's Energymark ~ We were invited to set up small local groups to discuss and improve understanding of climate change. However, your committee is already stretched to the limit. We know of one group that has been set up at Long Beach. Please let us know of any others so we can spread the word.

Ducks in danger ~Wood Ducks (actually a type of goose) have a disturbing habit of walking their families across busy roads. As a result the casualty rate for goslings is rather high, especially near Moruya and Catalina Golf Courses and at Mogo. The RTA will not install warning signs as they say there is only a limited time each year when the goslings are vulnerable and the areas already have urban speed limits. So it's up to all of us who drive to watch out for these feathered pedestrians and slow down to give them time to cross. However, we also need to keep ourselves and other motorists safe by avoiding sudden braking or swerving.



Pied chicks fly ~ This summer breeding season Friends of Durras efforts have resulted in the successful fledging of two endangered Pied Oystercatcher chicks along the Murrarang National Park coastline. Community involvement to improve shorebird habitat is more important than ever with the recent listing of Pied Oystercatchers as endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995). This upgrading from their previous vulnerable status is due to the low number of adult birds and the continual decline in the NSW population.

Friends of Durras members liaise with Eurobodalla Shire Council, adjacent Caravan Parks and National Parks and Wildlife staff, as well as talking to dog walkers and beach goers to improve awareness and education on the plight of local endangered shorebirds.

EUROBODALLA KOALAS PROJECT FIELD DAY AT EAST LYNNE by Keith Joliffe

A highly successful field day was conducted on 29th January 2011 at Mark Fleming's property (Old Store Creek, East Lynne area, near Cockwhy and Donovan Creeks and Boyne and South Brooman State Forests). Thirteen people were present, including 5 *Eurobodalla Koalas project* participants, interested locals from adjoining properties and two of their children. Although no scats were found, the group enjoyed a comprehensive experience and learned a great deal, as follows.

History

There's potential for a very interesting history emphasis in the *Eurobodalla Koalas project*. For example, the Connell family were from the Cullendulla area, and some of the now deceased family had told Mark of the early days of that area where Koalas were present. The Ryan family were early settlers who named East Lynne. Mark is checking with some of the descendants regarding the history of Koalas in the area.

The fire history of Mark's block is that it was burnt circa 1982 and May 2009. Four other deliberately lit fires occurred in the nearby in the area around that period.



Koala helpers meet at East Lynne

Project partner Chris Allen (National Parks and Wildlife Service koala specialist) attended, and said he has heard talk of Kioloa (where there is an ANU research facility) having been a previous koala hotspot. He has also heard talk of a koala skin tanning factory having been located at Ulladulla perhaps 100 years ago.

Mark asserts that within the last ten years, a koala walked across his back yard. That event is within the time frame of the other “sightings” in the area, including the confirmed sighting on the highway of ten years ago also, which appears on the Wildlife Atlas maps. In the subsequent decade, however, there has been an intensification of logging, and when the Native Vegetation Act was being discussed, there was apparently a lot of pre-emptive clearing up the Clyde.

Chris’ observation on the day was that this area would have maintained a koala per 20 to 30 hectares in its original state. There might be a few dispersing animals hanging in here now. In earlier times higher numbers would have been along the Clyde River valley. The locals observed that the Clyde is where the logging was from the very start, Nelligen, Batemans Bay and South Durras having been established to get the logs out.

After an observation on an instance experienced by Mark’s neighbour Kerrie O’Connor, Chris agreed there’s a lot of history of older people knowing about koalas in their local area but not talking about it, either to protect them or, in the old days, to protect the children from hearing about the distasteful aspect of hunting, which was not an activity approved of by everybody when it was going on.

Chris related a common story about the chlamydia epidemic: “The koalas all got wet bottoms and weepy eyes, and got to the point where they couldn’t climb the trees, and it was a pitiful sound as they lay in the paddocks until they died.”

Around 1850 to 1870 there was an apparent escalation in numbers, possibly because of European impact on Aboriginal hunting and dingo numbers. Stories of koalas in the main street of Bega and “a koala in every tree” on farms probably come from this period.

Scats

Chris displayed koala scats. As opposed to possum, the koala really chews, so the pellets are not as fibrous as possum, they break cleanly, and they have longitudinal ridges on them. Koala pellets are olive-green when fresh, then they turn black, then brown when they’re older. They last a long time. While the possum tends to have an on-ground latrine site (leaving a pile on the ground) the koala poo is scattered, having fallen from up the tree. Fresh possum poo stinks, whereas koala has a really eucalyptus smell. You can send scat samples for identification to Barbara Triggs, who wrote the book.

Survey techniques

Chris also gave an outline of survey techniques. Different methods have been used over time, and changed as we’ve obtained more knowledge or learned how to apply different methods to different situations:

1. Fifteen years ago, the SWEEP SEARCH TECHNIQUE took 4 to 8 people twice a week for one and a half years to find maybe 100 pellets in the Bermagui area.
2. The TRANSECT-BASED TECHNIQUE modifies this using a compass, offering the advantage of having a record of where you’ve searched. The group forms a line as a team, staying within an agreed short distance of each other and following an agreed direction. The purpose is to check in the litter, keeping an open mind about the type of tree, but tending to concentrate on the bigger trees. Under this technique, the radius searched around each tree is less intensive and controlled than the RGSAT technique.
3. RGSAT (Regularised Grid Based Spot Assessment Technique) provides unbiased sampling by searching litter within a metre of selected tree trunks in plots on the grid on topographical maps. The one metre radius is a result of research into the statistical probability of where scats lie. Looking for scratch marks is also useful. It’s hard to tell the difference between koala scratch marks and those of other animals, but often climbing koalas will drop pellets on the uphill side of the tree very close to the base, having run at the tree from the high-side slope.

Extant koalas

The number of koalas in Bermagui/Murra is less than 50. Other than a possible 3 or 6 in Kooraban, there is no other evidence, including no firm evidence for Eurobodalla.

Terminology

The word “colony” is inappropriate for a group of koalas. Maybe “cluster” is better. Chris uses the term “breeding association” for a “resident group”.

Habitat

The group had a wonderful walk around Mark’s property, and some of the unfenced adjacent State Forest, debating and checking on eucalypt species, collecting fruit for tree identification and having a quick look for scats. The locals told of the resident Yellow Belly Gliders (very vocal, making a louder,



crankier noise than Donald Duck), the large (“as big as a dog”), silent, shiney-eyed Greater Glider, the Sugar Gliders that yip like a little puppy, and the Brush-tailed Possums. It was noticed that the big trees have been very stressed and are appreciating this wet season.

As best the group could judge at the time, species on Mark’s property included:

- Yellow Stringybark Monkey Gum. Ironbark.
- Cabbage Gum. Apple Box. Sydney Blue Gum.
- Sydney Blue Gum hybrid, probably “introgression with Southern Mahogany (Bangalay),
- Mountain Grey Gum. Possibly Sydney Peppermint. Forest Red Gum.
- Angophora Floribunda.

Researcher Elly Stalenberg investigated the effect of foliar chemistry on the use of resources by the Mumbulla/Bernagui koala population and identified a complex feeding strategy in which koalas consistently visited a diversity of eucalypt species with browse of higher quality (higher nitrogen levels in the case of the monocalypts and lower toxins in the case of the symphyomyrtles) when compared with neighbouring conspecifics that weren’t visited. The strategy of feeding from a diversity of eucalypt species may occur because the foliage of eucalypt forest growing on low nutrient soils is usually more toxic than those growing on more fertile sites. In the former areas koalas may use similar strategies to those used by possums and switch between different food sources containing non-interacting toxic secondary metabolites to reduce the risk of poisoning from ingesting a single class of poison.

So farmers, loggers and other conservationists should be preserving a mix of trees like the Box group and the smooth-barked eucalypts, as well as Stringybarks and Ashes. They should also keep any Red Gum growing in fertile soils, because for example the Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis* & subspecies *E. mediana*) is a primary food source for koalas. It is likely that epicormic shoots from a number of other species, including the Peppermints, may also be attractive to koalas.

So, farmers should be preserving a mix of these trees. They should also keep any Red Gum growing in fertile soils, because for example the Forest Red Gum is a primary food source for koalas.

Chris has seen a huge amount of evidence that the epicormic shoots of Narrow-leaved and River Peppermints are very attractive to koalas.

Future activity at this site, and others

Neighbours invited the group to visit their properties when time permits. Some have already put about 160 acres into catchment protection. They have lots of Red Gum, logged about 30 years ago. (Chris and Mark noted that any dark wooded tree is targeted for woodchips). The neighbours want to talk to Forests NSW about preserving a bit more. They think there might be an uninterrupted stretch of this bush across several properties across Cockwhy Creek (unfortunately not everyone is caring for their properties in this way).

The real potential has now emerged for the *Eurobodalla Koalas project* to facilitate some joint ventures, where private landholders with similar attitudes, not only at east Lynne but also at another location of interest, Tinpot, can work together with NPWS, Forests NSW and perhaps university specialists to look at their properties’ koala history and habitat, and to dig deeper into mapping and “ground-proofing” vegetation types for habitat and corridor purposes. It would now be possible for the *Eurobodalla Koalas project* to get a team together from time to time, to “koala assess” a private property. Any landholder interested in this should contact Keith Joliffe, on 0427 546 156.

Stories

Some miscellaneous stories told at the day:

There’s a hearsay story of a developer who relocated koalas to a patch of likely looking forest, then bulldozed the area he’d moved them from, but the koalas returned to their old homesite and just hung around there until they died.



The Koori story says the koala spirit ancestor was deeply offended by the behaviour of people, so he took their drinking containers, dried up all the rivers and waterholes and went up his tree. When the people got thirsty, they begged and begged for him to come down and give them water, until at last the koala said “O.K., but only on the condition you don’t take my skin”. So they could hunt the koala for food but they must only cook him whole. There’s an accompanying story of a white fella bullying an Aboriginal bloke into letting him take a skin. The Aboriginal people came back and talked the white man into letting them bury the skin. When he agreed, they said everything will be alright because they have avoided drought.

RECYCLED PAPER from The Wilderness Society website

Paper use is one of the biggest drivers behind deforestation worldwide. By reducing your paper usage, you will help to contribute to the protection of precious forests and water catchments and to the habitat of rare and endangered species. Using less paper not only saves forests, it saves water and electricity, reduces landfill, reduces greenhouse pollution and saves you money.

Second to reducing overall paper use, buying 100% recycled post-consumer waste paper is the best way to minimise the impacts of your paper consumption.

The Wilderness Society has researched a number of recycled papers that provide the best choice in environmentally responsible paper. Recycled paper requires approximately 90 per cent less energy to manufacture than paper made from trees.

There are four recommended brands of high quality recycled office papers available in Australia.

Evolve - Photocopy white & coloured A4, A3. Evolve Office for high volume printing and copying and Evolve Business for use in colour copiers. Made in the UK

Suppliers: - SCRAP deliver Australia wide, discounts available 02 9825 1062.
ecocern 02 9337 2737

Vision - Pure White - White A4 and A3, recommended for black and white double or single sided photocopiers and printers. Also Vision Magic Colours, 10 tints available. Made in Germany

Suppliers: - Special Equipment 02 9609 2300

Fuji Xerox recycled supreme - Photocopy white, A4, A3. Other colours available

Suppliers: - Fuji Xerox 13 14 11

OfficeWorks Recycled 100% - Photocopy white A4 only

Suppliers: - OfficeWorks 1300 OFFICE

These products are competitively priced and widely available through many other local suppliers.

Australian Paper (owned by Nippon Paper) now produces a recycled paper - **Reflex Recycled**. Whilst this is a welcome The Wilderness Society cannot support the same branding as papers that come from the very forests we are trying to protect. Nippon Paper is also the buyer of export woodchips from our native forests. Whilst this woodchipping continues, we cannot support any of their paper products.

Please, where possible, use less paper! Set targets for minimising paper usage in your office and set printers and photocopiers to double sided copying.

FLOOD PROOFING LIVEABLE CITIES

Some areas of Queensland (*and Eurobodalla*) are so flood-prone they should never have been built on and should be declared no-go zones, according to an international disaster expert, Professor Ed Blakely, who says extreme weather events are becoming increasingly more frequent and far more devastating.

"We shouldn't regard this [flood] as freakish," said Professor Ed Blakely, who ran the recovery of New Orleans after hurricane Katrina and was involved in New York after 9/11. "We should assume they are going to occur because of climate change. They are becoming increasingly frequent and far more devastating."

He warned it was also time to examine the need for Queenslanders to "retreat from the coast" to escape rising sea levels. "It will take 60-75 years, so we have got to start now," he said. "It's very important for us to see not just this incident but the long-term trend and learn from it and plan for it."

Professor Blakely, nick-named "the master of disaster", is professor of urban policy at Sydney University. He will speak on this subject at the 4th Healthy Cities Conference being held at Noosa from the 28th - 29th July 2011. Details about the conference and Professor Blakely can be found at <http://www.healthycities.com.au/>



*A Victorian tree that was sent to
Australian Paper*

COASTWATCHERS COMMITTEE 2010-11

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COASTWATCHERS COOPERATE WITH THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

Broulee Community Association
Congo Area Association
Eurobodalla Landcare / Dunecare
Friends of Durras
Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens
Long Beach Landcare
Maloneys Residents Association
Nature Coast Marine Group
South East Region Conservation Alliance
Tomakin Community Association
Tuross Lakes Preservation Group

Coastwatchers is a member of -
The NSW Nature Conservation Council
Conservation Council ACT Region and
Climate Action Network Australia



Coastwatchers

Eurobodalla's environment and climate action group

ABN 66 003 550 939

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Members can receive the newsletter by email and save our association paper, time and postage. The email contains a link to a choice of full or text-only PDF files that you can download when convenient

For more information, or to subscribe, send a message to

coastwatchers@green.net.au

COMING EVENTS

Sat 5 March, 1.30pm – Meet the Candidates – St Johns Anglican Hall, Page St, Moruya

Sun 6 March CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Sat 16 April 2.30pm – Community Conversation about Population – Air Raid Tavern, Moruya