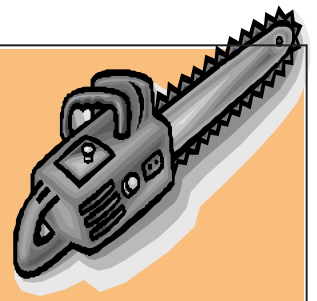


chipstopper



Peter Garrett in bed with logger

When ex-greenie turned politician, Peter Garrett visited Bega and Merimbula on 2 August he came face to face with a live art installation depicting himself in bed with a logger.

A bed was set up outside the art gallery where he was the star attraction at an arts board reception.

The bed was occupied by a logger (fluoro vest, ear muffs, hard hat, chainsaw) and "Peter Garrett" (tall person in suit wearing Peter Garrett mask, guitar). A message on the bed cover said: *Who's in bed with the Labor Party? The woodchipping industry.* A sign on the back of the bed said: "Just Married."

It was very popular. Just about everyone stopped for a look and a chat, except of course, Garrett himself who was not im-

pressed and sped past. Greenies who spoke to him afterwards got a rather tetchy response and a string of platitudes from Kelly about "balance".

Our message was all too pertinent. At a \$60 a head ALP dinner in Merimbula last night, two notable guests were Peter Mitchell (General Manager, South East Fibre Exports) and Vince Phillips (Corporate Affairs Manager, SEFE).

Labor has not just jumped into bed with the woodchippers, it has promised to pay them \$20 million for the privilege. ◀



Gulaga blockade

The Gulaga blockade was a peaceful, non-violent protest against the logging of the foothills of a mountain sacred to local Koori people. The blockaders pulled up stumps at the end of August after three months.

They made a heroic effort, braving cold, wet, windy conditions and the stress of hearing the chainsaws and the trees falling, as well as clocking up thousands of dollars in fines.

A highlight was when almost 20 traditional owners and elders issued an eviction notice to Forests NSW, calling for a halt to logging. ◀

Labor gives in to union thuggery on forests

ALP candidate for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly's capitulation to logging industry union thuggery comes as no surprise.

During his numerous visits to the south east, Mr Kelly has repeatedly refused to meet with forest campaigners, saying he was too busy setting up his office. Now we understand why.

The loggers union, the CFMEU has given over \$1 million to the ALP in the last two years of Australian Electoral Commission returns, donating more than 8 times all donations to all parties by giant woodchipper, Gunns Limited.

Labor Forestry Spokesperson, Martin Ferguson is on record as wanting to burn 5 million tonnes of native forest wood each year, almost doubling current woodchip levels, and calling it renewable energy.

Mr Kelly is also recycling the \$20 million that Rudd announced in Tasmania.

While it is hard to imagine many loggers being impressed by \$20m (most would

snear at such a derisory amount!), they will be even less impressed if they realise it is being shared around a few other states.

The fact that Kelly lumps together Eden, Tumut and Tumberumba seems to suggest he doesn't yet get the difference between the native forest and plantation sectors.

It's full of horrors, but particularly mystifying is: "\$8 million to prepare the industry for the impact of climate change."

With a policy like this, climate change must be almost inevitable.

Don't look for Mike Kelly's statement on his website. It's not there. You wouldn't want your pre-election statements coming back to bite you, would you? ◀

Postscript: On 23 August, Mike Kelly visited the Eden chipmill for the THIRD time since he was endorsed.

Howard's battlers?

There was a job advertised in far south coast media in July for a log truck driver - 5 day week - new truck, for \$75,000 to \$80,000 a year. The usual pretext for keeping this industry afloat is "employment". When there is a national shortage of both loggers and truck drivers, this argument falls over. There is a parliamentary inquiry going on into the shortage of truckies and a special immigration category has been introduced for loggers because it is deemed to be an occupation in short supply. Why, then, are we propping up this industry? ◀

Woodchipping magnate honoured

The Bega Valley Shire Council has bestowed a remarkable honour on Eden logging millionaire, Lloyd Cocks, a man with many chainsaws at his disposal.

On the recommendation of his wife, Mary, BVSC has named a park in Eden after Mr Cocks.

The park, which is mysteriously treeless, is located between the Cocks residence and an unimpeded ocean view. Chipstop convener, Harriett Swift, addressed Council to oppose the naming of the park after Mr Cocks.

The Eden woodchipping industry causes between 2,500 and 3,000 trees to be cut down every working day.

On a typical day, logging crews employed by Mr Cocks' company accounted for about 12% of truck loads to the Eden chipmill, roughly 300 trees.

Even if there were 300 trees on the reserve, they would not last more than a day under the tender care of this company.

This puts into perspective any efforts that might have been made to protect and beautify the park in question.

The woodchipping industry, via Forests NSW has been getting a free ride from Bega Valley ratepayers for years, worth upwards of a million dollars a year. Its anachronistic exemption from Local Government rates allows Forests NSW to keep on charging below market royalty prices for trees.

In recent years, it has cost Forests NSW about \$3.5 million a year to run its woodchipping operations over and above what it receives in royalties for pulplog

Logging companies have also received enormous cash grants from Commonwealth and State Governments for so-

called structural adjustment.

The Cocks companies have received well over half a million dollars in cash to buy new machines which actually put loggers out of work.

An aerial photo of Lloyd Cocks park shows it to be totally devoid of trees. A closer inspection shows there are still some visible tree stumps.

This may be coincidence, or it may be the result of Mr Cocks' stewardship of the park. ◀

NAFI snout in trough

Judith Ajani in her new book "The Forest Wars" gives a very clear picture of the role of the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) in stopping the transition from native forests to plantations. One thing the book does not tell us is how deeply NAFI has had its snout in the public trough. An answer to a Question on Notice by Senator Kerry Nettle reveals that NAFI has received \$406,775 from the taxpayer since 2003.

Shocking as that is, it is incomplete. It does not include a couple of significant items: \$250,000 in 2005 for an Indigenous Employment Strategy and \$50,000 in June 2006 for a promotional tour of China to flog the discredited Australian Forestry Standard. This makes a grand total of \$700,000 Commonwealth government payments to NAFI in the past 4 years. It may well be more. ◀

Log truck message for PM on global warming

A truck laden with logs destined for the Eden woodchip mill was stopped in the main street of Bega for 3 hours during the Prime Ministers visit to Bega. The action aimed to highlight the role of native forests in combating global warming. If the Prime Minister is serious about stopping climate change, he has to stop woodchippers destroying our most valuable carbon sinks. Greenhouse emissions from logging for the Eden chipmill are massive. We could save more than twenty times the amount of CO2 saved by the whole of Australia by banning the incandescent light globe if we stopped this logging.

Eden woodchipping generates more

than 250 times what the Bega Valley Shire Council will save by switching to green power. ◀



Deforestation does cause global warming, but only overseas

Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull told Kerry O'Brien on the 7.30 Report: "Well, Kerry, one of the great fallacies of Kyoto, let me tell you, is that it ignores forestry almost completely.

Now the second largest source of emissions is from deforestation... Now we, Australia – is not lagging, leading. We are leading the charge to put forestry and the deforesta-

tion issue on top of the climate change agenda. We have a global initiative on forests and climate"

This could explain why the Howard Government has given \$200 million to stop logging Indonesia, but continues to subsidise it at home. ◀