

MONGA FOREST RESCUE

by Shau Teo

Sunday 8th of July 2001: Monga State Forest south east New South Wales



PHOTO 1

Trish and I meet up with fellow forest crew from all round Australia, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney Canberra, Newcastle, Gippsland, Wollongong you name it. Here we are lashing up a tripod in the rain.

SHIT, we parked the Kombi on the wrong side of the road!



PHOTO 2

Woohoh! It's up, no state forestry vehicles and machinery are getting past this.

Um, how are we going to climb up the thing?? I'm not doing it, too high man! Anyone got a cherry picker lying around? Back to the camp to make final plans for tomorrow when state forests plan to continue roading into significant old growth areas.



PHOTO 3

Go Gang-Gang you koala! Why didn't we sleep in? It's 7:30 and no everyone is pretty calm and the laughs are going around. We managed to get a roaring fire started with wet wood and have decided to cook up a four course meal. Shit is that a car we can hear? No just the local Eco-legends turning up for support. After about three false alarms, I realised that there was no point in being edgy. State forestry vehicle finally turns up, flashes his lights and then backs off...word is going round that its too wet for the machines to move in, yeah plus the fact that there are over 30 people who are going to stop yas.



PHOTO 4

Trish and I head back to the camp. A feeling of relief yet regret sweeps over me. I feel uncomfortable and frustrated that I can only stay for a couple more days and that the next time I come back nothing will live here.



PHOTO 5

I decided to go check out the damage the our State Government is doing, and we are subsidising. These are some of the photos that I took of one of the compartments marked out for logging.

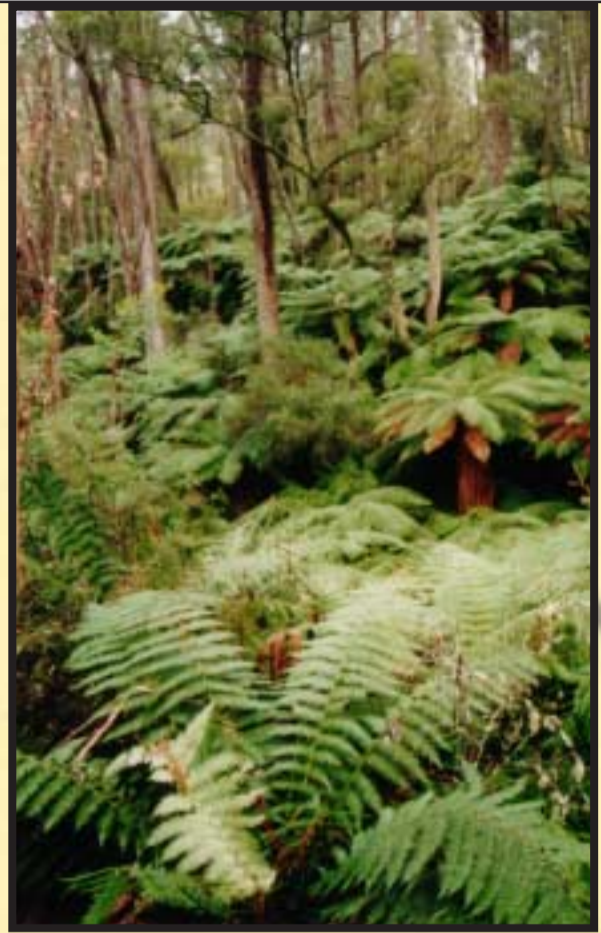


PHOTO 6

Monga contains many ancient tree ferns



PHOTO 7

This is my boot against a tree. Old growth trees contain hollows, which are essential habitats for endangered species. 7000 hectares of forest like this in the south east region are open to intensive logging and woodchipping. This Forest is an important catchment for the Mongarlowe River



PHOTO 8

Remnant Gondwanan rainforest are found in the area.



PHOTO 9

State Forests...managing our native forests. Logging this area will create a large hole between Budawang and Deua National Park. Wildlife corridors will be destroyed and an important link for migratory species will be lost.



PHOTO 10

It's okay, we are only here to protect trees and animals guys, no terrorism or plans for mass destruction happening here fellas!

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