



VALLEY WATCH INC

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Creating a sustainable future

Valley Watch celebrates 20 years of activism



Valley Watch celebrated its 20th year last Saturday night with a dinner at Yamba Bowling Club with Ian Cohen, former Greens MLC, as the guest speaker.

More than forty Valley Watch members and friends gathered for the occasion including four members of Clarence Valley Council (Mayor Richie Williamson and Councillors Sue Hughes, Margaret McKenna and Karen Toms).

Foundation President Peter Wrightson gave a little of the early history of VW and it was great to have him and some of the long-term members present - Barrie Stark, Nicki Holmes and Chris Seale to name but a few.

Ian Cohen's address was both stimulating and entertaining. We all remember him for paddling out to the *USS Oldendorf* in 1986 to protest against the entry of nuclear-armed

vessels into Sydney Harbour, but his first-hand account left us breathless at its audacity. But although that is what he is best remembered for in the public mind, it was his work in preserving rainforests and old-growth forests that he rates as his most valuable contribution to the environment.

Ian paid tribute to Valley Watch for all it had achieved and stressed the importance of local groups such as ours in keeping a watchful eye on development in the valley and on the operations of Council.

Ian generously brought along to raffle a copy of his autobiography *Green Fire* which is no longer in print and quite unobtainable. After his talk he drew the winning ticket which belonged to Chris Seale and then proceeded to autograph it for her.

Fortunately he had bought a second copy which he auctioned, the

successful bidder being Sue Hughes.

So determined was Ian to help Valley Watch raise funds for its activities that he also brought along two autographed and framed photos of himself at the bow of the warship and another of a cover of the now-defunct *Bulletin* depicting Bob Brown. Spirited bidding saw one of the photos and the *Bulletin* cover purchased by Margaret McKenna and the other photo went to Peter Wrightson for \$150!

There are many people to thank for their efforts on the night - Committee members Gary Brisbane, Athena Batchelor, Carolyn Jeckeln, Barbara Whale and Ros Woodward for their decoration of the room and their greeting of the guests, Dom Ferry for some great dinner music, the Bowling Club and especially chefs Craig and Nigel for a truly delicious meal which catered effortlessly with various dietary requirements, and above all the members who supported the evening with their presence. As they say in the classics, "A great night was had by all".

On page 2 there are some photos which show just how much the night was enjoyed. Thanks Athena!

Your Committee

President:	Gary Whale
Vice-President:	Athena Batchelor
Secretary:	Ronwyn Lopez
Treasurer:	David Lopez
Committee:	Gary Brisbane Carolyn Jeckeln Barbara Whale Ros Woodward

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Barrie Stark and Tim Silvester



Ian Cohen and Peter Wrightson



Gary Brisbane and Sue Hughes



Ian Cohen and Ros Woodward



Cath Clark



Jane Mitchell and Jen Smith



Carolyn Jeckeln, Robyn Cuming and Bill Brockie



Peter Wrightson, Jude Lillington and Leonie Blain



Dom Ferry, The Troubador



Gillian O'Brien, Gaz and Ros



Richie and Leonie Williamson with Ros Woodward



Gary and Barbara Whale



Jane Mitchell and Leonie Blain



With thanks to our photographer Athena



Ian and Ros; (background - Nicki Holmes, Chris Seale, Barrie, Anne McPherson and Peter)