



From the President

October 2010

VALLEY WATCH INC

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Creating a sustainable future

A win for Valley Watch! (and a vindication of 'people power')

Don't you sometimes feel you're bashing your head against a brick wall in trying to ensure sustainable development and protect the environment? Well, next time you wonder *Is it worth the effort?* just remember the planned Lawrence subdivision - 35 lots poised above one of the most significant egret rookeries on the east coast.

I know a number of you wrote letters of objection to Council, and so did many Lawrence residents and 'birdos'. I don't know how many submissions they received, but the number and quality of them was such that the Council's Development Planner sent the following letter to Linda Wright, one of our Lawrence members who actively opposed the subdivision:

Hi Linda,
I can advise that after discussions with Council, the applicant has indicated that they will be withdrawing the application.
Council is waiting on a formal written withdrawal of the matter. All submitters will be notified of this on receipt.
Regards,
Patrick Ridgway
Development Planner
Clarence Valley Council

As Churchill said, 'Never give up!'

So how do you like the new format? We've decided on a newsletter because it's more readable and interesting, yet still informative. (Don't forget the minutes are available on request - just send the Secretary an email.) We are **your** Committee, and we would really appreciate your comments and suggestions.



Valley Watch is turning 20!

Valley Watch was established in 1991 and in 19 years has become recognised as a strong advocate for a healthy environment and a keen observer of Council governance.

In 2001 we held a tenth birthday dinner in Maclean with Fiona Wyllie from the Northern Rivers ABC as our guest speaker. This year in April we held a special 'Founders Day' celebration at Ashby to honour our foundation members - wasn't it lovely to have Joyce Plater with us just a couple of months before she passed on?

In 2011 we want to celebrate two decades of advocacy and activism - current ideas are a formal dinner with a well-known guest speaker and perhaps a family picnic day as well later on. Your feedback is welcome!

Your Committee

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

Believe it or not!

Do you remember Ripley's "Believe It or Not", dealing with bizarre events and occurrences? Some of them were so way out I found them hard to believe. Well can you believe this?

A Federal Government loophole means that burning forests is eligible for the same Renewable Energy Certificates as power generated from the sun and wind! It is reported that 20 forest burning furnaces are planned for Australia.

Watch this space for what to do!

Yamba River Markets

On the fourth Sunday of the month, Valley Watch has a stall at the Market. There are some great displays, always a good raffle, and lots of friendship, especially to VW members.

Please drop by for a chat, just to let us know you are supporting us.

Gary

We're on the Web! Visit us at clarencevalleywatch.com