

Public submission

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Our Forests and Our Timber Industry

Let's take a moment and consider what we have in our homes, how many of us can say that we have no timber objects at all in our homes, or in the building of our home, whether they be the house frames, flooring, furniture, tables and chairs, stairs, handrails, decks, and cupboards and even when you open the kitchen draw there are some wooden spoons etc. Another thing to consider what are the kitchen cupboards made of? Its, timber that has been broken down into small particles and compressed with resin to make large flat panels, it's the waste, shavings and sawdust from other timber manufacturing jobs that produce these panels, even your fence could be made of timber posts and rails.

I recall in 1956 my first job was to work in a timber mill sorting and racking timber for seasoning, I have always had a soft spot for timber in my earlier life, carving and shaping little pieces of wood with a pocketknife. I soon worked out soft wood and hard wood. Working with timber you learn to appreciate the age of the logs that are used, and you hate to see waste. In 1968 we moved into the building industry which used hardwood in all our early house framing and construction and into the joinery side as well.

Back in these earlier days around The Dorrigo Plateau and Wild Cattle Creek State Forest, the Forestry Commission maintained and kept the forests roads and fire trails clear, and the industry was thriving and well kept. There were very few fires that destroyed the forests. In parts of Cascade and the Bobo area there were plantation forests that were grown in sparse areas to replenish the forests.

We can't lock up our forests because the Greens say its killing our wild life, but we all know that is not true, the Greens also boycott the loggers and stop the timber from being withdrawn from well-established forests, these do-gooders cut down established young saplings to make tripods to sit on the top of, (who gives them the right to cut a sapling down,) (they are the ones that are trying to stop the cutting down of the trees,) they try to stop the log trucks and tractors from doing their jobs,) they also chain themselves to the machinery and lie-down in front of the heavy machines, who pays for them to cause such havoc and mischief ? they cause a lot of unnecessary government expenses and cost into the bargain as well.

We have been working with timber all our lives, from timber mills to the building of homes, to joinery and cabinet making. Our family still run a well-established joinery business and is very strong in the use of timber. What are we going to use in the days when they take away our forests, we are already using metal in house framing materials and plastic in our industry which deteriorate with age, or it rusts even though they are treated to prevent corrosion and the likes.

Even though we use timber we respect our forests and understand that they should be looked after and respected, and that they should be with us all in the future ages for the use in all types of our industry. Hope these notes can encourage our hearts and minds to appreciate what we have.

Our memories in our younger days and now, John and Gloria Plumba. Sep. 2024