

From: Cribbes John <xxxxxxx@bigpond.com>
Subject: **RE: The Greens corresponding with us?**
Date: 19 January 2013 1:44:08 PM AEST
To: Roberts Malcolm, Athol Hodgson
Cc: L.Ralph Barraclough

Dear Malcolm,

You have my permission to use my words in any way you desire.

I have cc'd this to Mr Athol Hodgson, former Chief Commissioner for Fire in Victoria. I will not give you his telephone number but I will give him yours which is (0X) XXXX XXXX. I hope he can contact you.

My sources for my beliefs about forestry are founded in

1. My personal visits to the forests of Victoria. I have been visiting the bush of Victoria since 1970.
2. Lately there have been many instances of erosion; in particular, after the 2006/07 fires a great deal of eroded soil was washed down the Macalister River and reduced the holding capacity of the Lake Glenmaggie Reservoir by 7 %. When it arrived at the Gippsland Lakes it reduced the breeding grounds for Bream and the swans were forced to look for food among farm crops. (Talks with fishers and Bairnsdale Advertiser report.)
3. I have seen and photographically recorded the beneficial difference cattle grazing does to the recovery time after a serious bush fire. These photographs have been distributed to many politicians.
4. Forest Fire (Vic) Inc website. Article 'The Facts Behind The Fire', 2003 written by Athol Hodgson.
http://home.vicnet.net.au/~frstfire/docs/The_Facts_Behind_The_Fire.pdf . In particular, an article on page 100 recording the loss of stream flow due to forest fires.
5. 'The Burning Bush – A Fire History of Australia' Prof Stephen Pyne.
<http://www.public.asu.edu/~spyne/Bush.htm>
6. Vic Jurskis, Forestry NSW. Changes in fire regimes since European man arrived. <http://www.forestry.org.au/pdf/pdf-members/afj/AFJ%202005%20v68/AFJ%20December%202005%2068>

[-4/Jurskis.pdf](#)

7. I can't find a reference on the Internet to cover the address given to the Royal Society of Victoria by Alfred Howitt in 1891. It was called 'The Eucalypts of Gippsland' and Mr L.Ralph Barraclough sent me a copy.
8. Angus McMillan eventually settled about 25 kms from here. His writings are available in the Maffra Library.

If there are any topics that need verification I urge people to contact me so that I can take them to the bush and show them the damage caused by ferocious fires.

Regards, JOHN Cribbes

From: Malcolm Roberts <mailto:xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.com.au>
Sent: Saturday, 19 January 2013 8:23 AM
To: John Cribbes
Cc: 'Xxxx Xxxx'
Subject: Re: The Greens corresponding with us?

Thank you, John.

May I please include your comments as a PDF (after removal of email addresses and any other contact details) in an appendix to my review of corruption in government-funded agencies?
And your second brief email on the deciduous forest background of first forest manager?

If you agree, I'll incorporate your comments by copying and pasting both your emails into one Word doc.

...

Do you have any URL links to scientific papers or empirical evidence or

forestry authorities supporting your view.
(I'm not doubting you. I sensed your sincerity when we met and I know from your emails that you rely on facts and data. I'd simply like to provide support for your comments to readers of my appendices.)

Malcolm

Subject: RE: The Greens corresponding with us?
From: Cribbes John <xxxxxxx@bigpond.com>
Date: 19 January 2013 12:55:05 AM AEST
To: Roberts Malcolm <xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.com.au>

I forgot to mention the first Principal of the Australian School of Forestry, Mr Charles Edward Lane-Poole.

A forester trained in the deciduous forests of France, he refused to recognise the difference between a deciduous forest and our eucalypt forests.

His ideas are now extolled by the Green movement. They are totally wrong.

JC

On 19/01/2013, at 12:50 AM, John Cribbes wrote:

Dear Malcolm and Xxxx,

In 1985 I joined the ALP in Victoria. I attended meetings of the Conservation & Environment Committee, sitting (often) with the Minister, Joan Kirner. I noted the dominance of the Green NGO's who, in effect, decided that their organisations policies were adopted by the ALP.

A four wheel driver, I formed a 4WD Club with the intention of building bridges with the Green NGO's. We joined what is now Environment Victoria and for two years I was it's Treasurer.

After the Tasmanian dams campaign, Green NGO's supported John Cain in Victoria and were instrumental in his victory. On environmental issues they called the shots and they demanded that fuel reduction burning should be stopped. Chief Fire Commissioner in Victoria, Mr Athol Hodgson told me that Minister Mackenzie demanded that he stop the fuel reduction programme of about 350,000 hectares/p. annum. This instruction was repeated by Minister Kirner. Consequently, forest fuel accumulated and forestry practices were amended. One idea was to close the fire access tracks used by recreation. In the 4WD clubs we fought this.

The Australian Conservation Foundation at this time had a policy (No 26) MORVINA. Motorised Recreation Vehicles in Natural Areas. Basically, this policy said that, in cases of conflict in the bush, 4WD'ers should give way to physical recreation. This was part of their 'Lock Up The Forest' campaign.

Green NGO's and the Greens. Is there really a difference? In Tasmania, TWS has ruled the roost for decades. In a Winter edition of the TWS magazine, as recently as about 2008, TWS was calling for greater expenditure on fire fighting aircraft in preference to fuel reduction burning. At that time, FRB cost was about \$50/ha as opposed to the horrendous costs of maintaining a huge fleet of aircraft for fire fighting.

Past history. Read 'The Burning Bush - A fire history of Australia'. Author Prof Stephen Pyne, Arizona University. Obtainable on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

When the indigenous people maintained the forest;

- A regime was undertaken that was noted by all early explorers. They all noted the bush burning that was taking place on shore.(Some say this was to scare away the explorers – it doesn't explain the night time blazes that were also noted.)
- Slow moving fires enabled animals and insects to escape. The surface of the savannah floor was scorched but otherwise undamaged.
- Captain Cook likened the bush to an 'English Park' with grassy plains interspersed with trees. Today we call this a savannah, with trees. It was

easy to ride a coach and horses across country.

- Gippsland explorer, Angus McMillan travelled south from the Monaro. At a lookout at Omeo he perceived a grassy plain interspersed with trees. With his party he travelled down to the coast at Port Albert. His journey was often held up due to deep waterways where he had to travel upstream to cross. There are few of these water courses left today.

When the Anglo Saxon settlers arrived;

- Not used to fire, settlers erected fences and took steps to stop regular burning.
- They upset the balance of nature in that insect plagues had been kept in check by regular indigenous burn offs. Read Alfred Howitt, Eucalypts of Gippsland. 1891 and Vic Jurskis Decline of Eucalypts in NSW forests.
- The lack of fire encouraged trees to grow. Too many trees, short lived species falling to the forest floor meant an increase in the volatility of the forest.
- Fires were now much hotter. Soil was burned to ashes which were easily eroded by wind and rain.
- Larger, more intense fires altered landscapes, killed populations of flora and fauna. Filled waterways with sediment.

Today.

- A lack of good forestry reduces the amount of stream flow into our reservoirs and rivers. Rain falling on forest debris is prevented from flowing into water ways.
- In Victoria, intense fires in 1988, 2003, 2006/07, 2009 have removed populations of flora and fauna. Some may now be extinct.
- The regrowth of flora (where it has taken place)soaks up moisture, further reducing stream flow into reservoirs.
- Silting of rivers is changing fish habitat; waterbirds are forced into farmers crops to find food.

After the 1939 fires the Stretton Royal Commission extolled the virtues of good fire in our forests. Up until 1981 the bush regained a lot of its health and if it wasn't for the GREENS?GREEN PARTY opposition to good forestry our forests would be a valuable community asset.

Regards, John Cribbes.

Another separate email:

From: Cribbes John <xxxxxxx@bigpond.com>
Subject: **RE: The Greens corresponding with us?**
Date: 19 January 2013 3:39:33 PM AEST
To: Xxxxx Xxxx
Cc: Roberts Malcolm, L.Ralph Barraclough, David Packham

My reply has to be restricted to Victoria.

After the Bushfires Royal Commission, Parks Victoria and the Dept of Sustainability & Environment were charged to implement the recommendations. As a known stakeholder I was invited to a meeting in Warragul where DSE/PV staff outlined what had to be done.

John Mulligan attended a similar meeting at Bairnsdale and we discussed these meetings, coming to the joint conclusion that these staff were under an obligation to obey orders but that didn't mean that the work would be done. We got the impression that because of the excellent catering they thought that we would believe every utterance.

I have put your question to Licola resident L. Ralph Barraclough. He is the closest thing to a real old time bushman that I know. His response was immediate; they (*Greens party*) endorse hazard reduction so long as it doesn't happen.

I know that Lane-Poole taught deciduous forestry and didn't recognise the significant differences in eucalypt forests - but I don't understand why the Greens hang on to their beliefs.

Take, for instance, the catchments of Melbourne Water. Some of the oldest catchments have had no fuel reduction for very many years. If a closed canopy is needed to keep fire out of the forest, why is it that significant areas of their catchments burned in 2009? If a closed canopy is such a protection against fire, why does Melbourne Water need a very efficient and substantial fire service. In the Esplin Report, after the 2003 fires, Esplin highlighted the efficient anti fire set up at Melbourne Water.

Judge Stretton, in 1939, asked Lane-Poole if he had any evidence that a closed canopy kept fire out of the forest. Lane-Poole had no evidence yet

still his views were treated as proof.

CSIRO and the West Australians undertook much research about five years ago, all of which proved that fuel reduction burning is a cheap and efficient method of fuel reduction. The media never picked that up.