

TO-DAY (22ND JUNE HERE IN AUSTRALIA) IS WORLD RAINFOREST DAY AND TO CELEBRATE THIS I'D LIKE TO SHARE SOME GREAT NEWS FROM THE DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND.

THIS THREAD STARTS WITH AN EMAIL FROM KELVIN DAVIES, FOUNDER OF THE GONDWANA RAINFOREST TRUST, TO SOME 40 VETERANS OF MRAG: THE MELBOURNE RAINFOREST ACTION GROUP,

THE MOST EFFECTIVE OF THE HUNDREDS OF RAGS THAT WE CREATED WORLDWIDE BACK IN THE '80S AND 90'S. READ ON ...

IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED TO BE PART OF THE NEW MRAG WHICH IS CURRENTLY FORMING, PLEASE CONTACT LIZ melyantree@gmail.com

From kelvinrdavies@gmail.com

Hello MRAG people, **here's some news that may interest you.**

Today, ten formally freehold properties in the Daintree Rainforest transferred into the Daintree National Park. These properties were purchased by the nonprofit organisation Gondwana Rainforest Trust. [See the story here.](#)

The land title for the Daintree National Park (CYPAL) was handed over to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people in September 2021. CYPAL is an acronym for Cape York Aboriginal Land. So the ten properties mentioned above are now owned and managed by the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and not owned by waybal (non Aboriginal people).

Back in 1990 I first visited the Daintree Rainforest and found real estate for sale signs every few hundred metres. The Daintree had been cut up into a rural residential subdivision. I founded the nonprofit organisation Rainforest Rescue in January 1998 and I returned to the Daintree in 1999 and began building support for the buyback of land for conservation.

This work continues on through another nonprofit organisation I founded in 2018 called Gondwana Rainforest Trust. The ten properties are some of the 36 properties purchased in the last seven years for conservation by Gondwana Rainforest Trust and the 91 properties purchased through the organisations and programs that I've created and managed since 1999. No government funding has been received. I have asked people to make a conscious choice to save the Daintree.

This outcome announced today (the ten properties included in the national park) was the first time that land purchased by a nonprofit organisation was included into an Aboriginal owned national park. It took a number of years to establish the process however now that that's been achieved I am expecting to see additional properties added to the national park every year.

This program, called Save the Daintree, is a partnership between [Gondwana Rainforest Trust](#) and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. At the 2021 Queensland

Reconciliation Awards the program won the: Premier's Reconciliation Award and the Partnership Award. It was described as "the only formalised, non-Government program which purchases land for conservation to be owned and managed by its Traditional Owners."

The Daintree Lowland Rainforest is the oldest continuously existing rainforest on Earth and the purchase and protection of these freehold properties preserves rainforest with very high levels of biodiversity and provides habitat for many Threatened species.

Thanks to everyone who has supported me on a personal level and to those of you who have supported this work. My inspiration to continue contributing to rainforest conservation is the compassion and courage demonstrated by the individuals of MRAG all those years ago.

Kelvin Davies
Ph: 0437 423 119

"Our greatness is being able to remake ourselves". Mahatma Gandhi.

REPLY ALL FROM JOHN SEED:

Wow Kelvin, what fantastic news to start my day, you're a legend. Perseverance furthers! I'll include your great achievement in my next mailout. May I lay claim to you as an early successful product of the Rainforest Information Centre?

And for my first move of the day, I'd like to invite you Raggers to chip in to help Liz Downes, Davide Nicastro and me to continue to protect our beloved Los Cedros Biological Reserve. According to Bitty Roy, professor of biology, Uni of Oregon, "the best forested watershed in Western Ecuador".. We're trying to raise \$25k by EOFY and we're over \$14,000. and counting.

So ... some spare change would be hugely appreciated but even more so, please stop and think who you could forward this to.

Please check out and share Davide's [Intsa](#) and [FB](#) reel with soundtrack by Cosmo Sheldrake. The musicians are campaigning to have Los Cedros (who's birds and frogs and monkeys appear on the soundtrack) officially one of the copyright holders. And if you want to give yourself a treat and have your mind blown by Los Cedros beauty, I've been so happy to revisit [Davide's 27 minutes Los Cedros film](#).

Other news ... I'm doing well for 80 years old, geezers rock! River has started high school, I've got a stream of interns helping me to be able to focus on my health and family as well as work.

Moving Deep Ecology into the mainstream will get a boost from Gardening Australia who filmed our Council of All Beings and Cosmic Walk last Saturday.

Here's my latest Substack: [Metabolizing Grief to Nurture the Great Turning](#),

for the Earth

John

On Sun, 21 Jun 2026 at 09:21, Kelvin Davies <kelvinrdavies@gmail.com> wrote:
Thanks for those responses everyone.

Rainforest legacy.

Out of the hills they came, the hippies.

They stopped the loggers at Terania Creek.

The world's first direct action to save a forest.

Amongst them John Seed of the Rainforest Information Center.

Seeking to inspire and activate.

With grassroots roadshows, spreading Deep Ecology.

Rainforest Action Groups emerging like mushrooms (John holding an event in 1988 or 1989 in Melbourne? Can someone share more about this?

Asking the questions, if there was a group working to preserve rainforest would you join?

From this, the seeds of MRAG.

Hundreds of people joining a movement.

Philosophical nonviolence, empowering, uplifting, transforming lives,
revolutionary nonviolence.

John, yes there is a very direct connection between RIC & MRAG and its influence on many. Happy for you to make the connection and share my news.

Terania Creek is located in northeast NSW. A remnant of the world's largest subtropical rainforest, the Big Scrub, was to be logged by the NSW forestry department in 1979. It's now part of the Nightcap National Park and the location where the activists confronted and stopped the loggers is called Protestors Falls.

Regards,

Kelvin Davies

From: Liz Downes <melyantree@gmail.com> (DIRECTOR OF THE RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE)

Sent: Sunday, 21 June 2026 9:38 AM

Thanks for the words Kelvin - these would make a great "World Rainforest Day" (tomorrow! 22.6.26) social media post - could we credit them to you and share as a collaboration between RIC/MRAG pages? We were thinking of doing something like this for WRD, and this is perfect!

John did a [Deep Ecology post on instagram a few days ago](#) and it has gone viral, attracting over a hundred new people to follow the RIC page (in the weird world of Instagram, this is really big cheese). So it would be great to share something of our history for all the keen newbies.

Liz

John Seed <johnseed127@gmail.com>

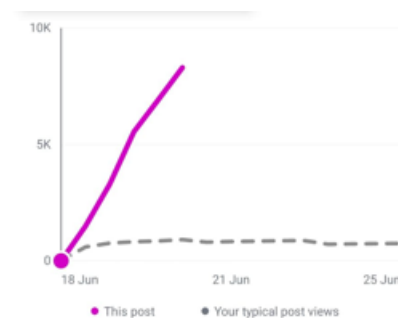
11:55 AM (16 minutes ago)

Beautiful Kelvin, great idea Liz, love you to include a link to the classic MRAG timbership action video in your World Rainforest Day socials post, what do you think? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcGEudKj5I> Great to see young Brendan Condon in his hard hat.

Are we looking for more volunteers for the MRAG reborn posse Liz? .If so, please let people know in the socials post and who to contact and I'll share it to a bunch of "Whats on in Melbourne" etc groups.

The Los Cedros crowdfund has reached \$14,000, please share <https://www.chuffed.org/project/cloud-forest-los-cedros>.

That link that went viral was called "WHAT IS DEEP ECOLOGY" and this is what it looks like:



dotted black line is my other posts, purple line this one. Algorithm must have broken loose, go figger.

for the Earth

John

From: RJBurrowes & AMcKone <flametree@riseup.net>

Subject: Re: Daintree National Park expands with land handover to Eastern Kuku Yalanji people.

Afternoon Kelvin and everyone

Great photos and story Kelvin.

A couple of answers to questions: 'Rainforest Action Groups emerging like mushrooms (John holding an event in 1988 or 1989 in Melbourne? Can someone share more about this?)'

A number of us were heavily involved in organizing/conducting water blockades against US & British nuclear warships 'visiting' Port Phillip Bay in September-October 1988 as part of the so-called 'Bicentennial Naval Review' to mark the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet into Sydney Cove. (Yes, indigenous resistance was enormous!)

Known as the Port Phillip Peace Fleet (or just Peace Fleet) - organized by Rob Larkins - we put swimmers, surfers and kayakers in front of the US nuclear warship 'USS Ingersoll' as it tried to dock at Station (Princes?) Pier on 12 Sep 1988. Some of us arrested etc. etc.

These people included Charley, Norm (Prakash), Graham (Goodes), Thomas, probably Marty, with people like Cos Stambe and Andrew Dyll watching from the shore. The police, fully aware of our plans, were out in force but we managed to get one swimmer on the bow and it led the news that night on all five stations. About a dozen arrests. A subsequent action met a stronger police response! More arrests.

In late October 1988, John, Ian Cohen and others arrived in Melbourne to conduct a Rainforest Roadshow night at a lecture theatre at Uni Melbourne and most of those named above turned up. Some of them, led by Charley, had previously organized activities to raise awareness of rainforest destruction.

Based on the warship experience of blockading warships, several of us including Charley, Norm and others reckoned that we could blockade a rainforest timber ship.

A meeting held at the ACF in early November - attended by 8 people including Tracy and Fiona, Norm and Forest, Canopy... - agreed to continue meeting to conduct a campaign to raise awareness and encourage a boycott of the timbers. The idea of blockading a ship carrying rainforest timbers into Melbourne was aired as a possibility and the notion of using nonviolent principles for meetings and actions. Everyone present was encouraged to invite anyone they thought might be interested to the next meeting. There were more than eight at the next meeting!

Five months of intensive research, planning, organizing later we blockaded the 'Jupiter Island' in the Yarra River on 13 April 1989. Many of you were there, of course.

One correction I should mention to Kelvin's claim in relation to Terania Creek 'The world's first direct action to save a forest.'

In fact, the women of the forests in India probably have that honour. While the Chipko movement in India in the 1970 popularized the term 'tree huggers' - villagers who physically hugged trees to stop deforestation in the Himalaya - in fact there is documentation of the first tree huggers being killed as early as 1604 when two Bishnoi women of Ramsadi village died to protect trees!

Perhaps the best known story in India, however, is the story of Amrita Devi and her three daughters. Forgive the lengthy quote:

'The Maharaja of Jodhpur, Abhay Singh, had decided to build a new palace for himself and so dispatched Giridhar Das Bhandari and a detachment of men to fetch wood for his lime kiln. The Bishnoi village was surrounded by hundreds of trees. Bhandari ordered his men to cut the trees. When she saw the axemen approach, Amrita Devi rushed to the scene and begged them to stop. She explained the faith of the Bishnois. The king's men were unmoved, so Amrita Devi hugged the first tree marked for felling.

She allegedly uttered the now well known couplet of the sect: 'a chopped head is cheaper than a felled tree', as she was cut through by the angered axemen. As her dismembered body fell to the ground she was replaced, in turn, by her three daughters, who were also brutally killed. Bhandari withdrew to gather reinforcements. The Jalnadi villagers also sent out a call for assistance to the eighty-four surrounding Bishnoi villages — only one (to its eternal shame) did not respond.

'When Bhandari's axemen returned there was a major confrontation. He warned the villagers that if they continued to resist, the axe would fall upon them also. But the Bishnois held firm. By the end of the day a further 359 people (294 men and sixty-nine women) from forty-nine different villages had been butchered. Whole families had been wiped out. The axemen had managed to secure only one-third of the required timber and the enraged Maharaja demanded an explanation. When he heard the ghastly story of the 363 villagers who had sacrificed their lives in order to prevent the work of the axemen from continuing, he immediately ordered a stop to the work on the palace and set out to visit the scene of destruction. As the full realization of what had happened impressed itself upon him, the fiery-tempered Maharaja underwent a change of heart. He apologized to the villagers and pledged that in the future the Bishnois would never again be called upon to provide timber, that no khejari tree would be cut and that there would be no hunting permitted "around Bishnoi villages."

These paragraphs are taken from Tom Weber's 1987 book 'Hugging the Trees: The Story of the Chipko Movement' pp. 92-93.

Tough stuff saving rainforests and the fight is not over.

So thanks again for your inspirational work Kelvin, your own long-standing efforts John and everyone here still fighting, one way or another, for a better world.

Love; Rob