

New Floz: Mark IV-V

The Floz is burnt – Long live the Floz!
You can't keep a Good Floz Down!



Camp Florentine in its newest latest (5th?) incarnation since last week's attack. (Pic: Mon 17 Sept 2012)

Roll up! Roll up! Ladies and Gentlemen! Last weekend saw a coming together of those who support the blockade to protect the Upper Florentine native forest. Utes, trailers and clean up tools all. But before we look at that, here's the 'floz that was'...



Above left: 'front' view

right 'rear' kitchen view

This is the camp as it existed till last week. It was as far as I can work out, the fourth Florentine Blockade Camp, the previous three having been destroyed, both by FT bulldozer type equipment and once by unknown assailants using night-time attack to set the camp on fire, when SWST members and visitors were actually camped there for the night. It was reportedly a frightening experience, that night-time attack.



The 'living room' as it was, from without, and from within.

Still Wild Still Threatened gets much support from locals, from wider Tassie, the mainland and from further afield. This is a wonderful thing. Look at those pix above, please. I see the love and care that has gone into creating that camp. The life is not easy. Maintaining the blockade, surviving in all weathers ain't easy. Let me take you down the hallway, before the fire...



The 'Dormitory' on the left of the hall.

The wood storage area to its right.

A camp member is unloading a ute-load of firewood that has been brought in from the nearest town, Maydena. There is strong local support for the blockade. Can you see the black upholstered metal chair in between the bunks? I'll show it to you again, in a little while. But first, why not come out the back and have a look at the kitchen? Mind your step!



I loved the kitchen. Everything had a place. There was order, and determination. Remember, this was the fourth camp established to protect the Upper Florentine. This is one facet of PCP ... Peaceful Community Protest.

Now for the darkness...



Foreground: Dormitory, living room;
Beyond: Temp. 'working-bee' shelter.



Reverse direction: Living Room.
Beyond: The Dorm, then 'Fallen Giant').



The Kitchen.

.../ Some contrasts...



The Dorm, with chair.



Kitchen, with ramp.



Chair, no Dorm.



No Kitchen.

Reproduction of messages left in Camp Floz Information Booth Visitors Book:

9-8-2012

Rudel François
*Defendez la forêt contre les dollars des multinationals et le capital.
 Un écologiste de France.*

9/8/12

Josh "The Guillotine Marson"
THIS PLACE IS A BLOODY MESS!! ya fuckers

10/9/12 white car taken (towed away by three males) around 3.30pm: [unsigned]

11/9/12

Anybody who has the passion and commitment to prevent these terrible things happening to beautiful ancient trees deserves a pat on the back, even if you are weed-smoking hippies! Forestry should be sustainable and managed.
 Two English backpackers

**Keep Tassie how it is, it is pristine compared to England.*

12/9/12

*I understand why you would Want to stop stuch at thig happening to this beutiful Forrest but if you smelly fucking hippies really cared about the invirament how could you leave such a fucking mess you should be ashamed of yourselves
 what a disgrace*
 Pat + Elise.



Still Wild Still Threatened's Camp Florentine has been subject to an arson attack in recent days.

"Personal and campaign property has been damaged and destroyed, a car has been stolen from the site, and the information tent and camp structures were torn down and burnt. Police have been notified and are visiting the site today.

"This violent attack on the camp is an assault on the forest campaign. The camp is a peaceful protest movement and this incident is an act of intimidation towards protesters and the community involved in the camp" said Still Wild Still Threatened spokesperson Miranda Gibson.

"Florentine camp has been in place for the past five years as a frontline defence to protect the Upper Florentine. There have been violent attacks on the camp in the past. This valley is one of Tasmania's most iconic high conservation value forests yet the current negotiations have failed to provide certainty for the future of this area. The camp is operating as an information centre, providing opportunities for tourists to take walks through the forest and find out more about the area" said Ms Gibson.

"Environmentalists have been targeted by the industry in calls for durability despite the fact that our actions are always peaceful. The question is, will these same critics be condemning this violent attack on the conservation movement?" said Ms Gibson.

"There has been a great show of support from the community, in response to this act of violence. We have received many calls from people in the Derwent valley and offers of support to help with rebuilding the camp, which has began today" said Ms Gibson." (SWST Media Release)



Stir fry vegies, over open fire, by torchlight.



After dinner music – the Floz goes on.

People had arrived, to take stock, to reaffirm, and to continue. The cleaning up started immediately, and people turned up from near and from far. Cooked in the open, ate, played music, talked and sang. There was some drizzle at times. We coped the best we could. More came in the dark and set up tents. This is the thing about the Floz. All are welcome. There is a universality and commonality around a campfire. Far from the discordant sounds of the 'big smoke', its tinsel, and blaring noises. In the bush, round a fire, talking quietly, with strangers and with friends. It doesn't get better.

After the drizzle, it got colder. Pretty cold. One by one we 'hit the sack'. Most were in tents, some in swags under tarps and under the myrtle, celery top, sassies and protective forest giants. The rainwater froze on my tarp that night. Next morning.../



.../asleep in a sagging hammock, and swagged up on the ground, they slept, and one by one, came back to the morning fire.

The clean up started in earnest...



some of the remaining structures had to come down

... but that chair refused to move! It had concrete feet!



The irony in all of this was that the fires were lit four-five days before the scheduled Spring Clean-Up! It was planned to clean up and reduce the size of the camp. Part of this arises from the reduced urgency in the Upper Florentine. The campaign has largely been successful. Out of one or two dozen proposed logging coupes, only two or so were indeed logged and in the last couple of years no logging has taken place there. The Blockade will be put into caretaker mode.

Bless the Bogan with his match - his lucky stars we did not catch

*Bless them short, bless them tall
turn the page and I'll wrap it all!*



Florentine Phoenix.

We stood down by the road, chatting. There was Jack, the veteran from all those years ago. Alan, with his camera, known to all. Bridie and Georgina. John and Lynda. Lauren, Jen and others whose names have slipped by. There was still more to be done. But we'd 'broken the back of it'. There were a couple of loads to take out and we paused, talking about this and that. From the bush came a pink robin, charming us with its presence. Here it is above, perched robin-like above (just) the ground.



Camp Florentine Today: information booth and shelter; blockade camp entrance.



Today: site of the Mothers Day arrests. We demand the protection of the Upper Florentine and of all our HCV Native Forests



In 2006, a group of grassroots environmental activists representing forests and communities in Southern Tasmania joined together in recognition of the continuing threat to Tasmania's ancient forests. Since this time the Still Wild Still Threatened (SWST) campaign for Tasmania's Southern Forests has garnered significant attention and dramatically raised the public profile of forests such as the Styx, Weld, and Upper Florentine.

SWST advocates for the immediate formal protection of Tasmania's precious Southern Forests using a combination of political and corporate lobbying, community education, research, exploration and frontline direct action. We also promote the creation of an equitable and environmentally sustainable forest industry in Tasmania. Protecting Tasmania's ancient forests: a real climate change solution.