This series of photos are taken in the Garden of Eden Creek area.

Gog Ranges

Central Northern Tasmania

This was once an area of magnificent Mixed Species and Mixed Aged

Once prime Habitat for Astacopsis Gouldii (giant freshwater lobster).Until the streams were destroyed.(juvenile Astacopsis use headwater streams for habitat)

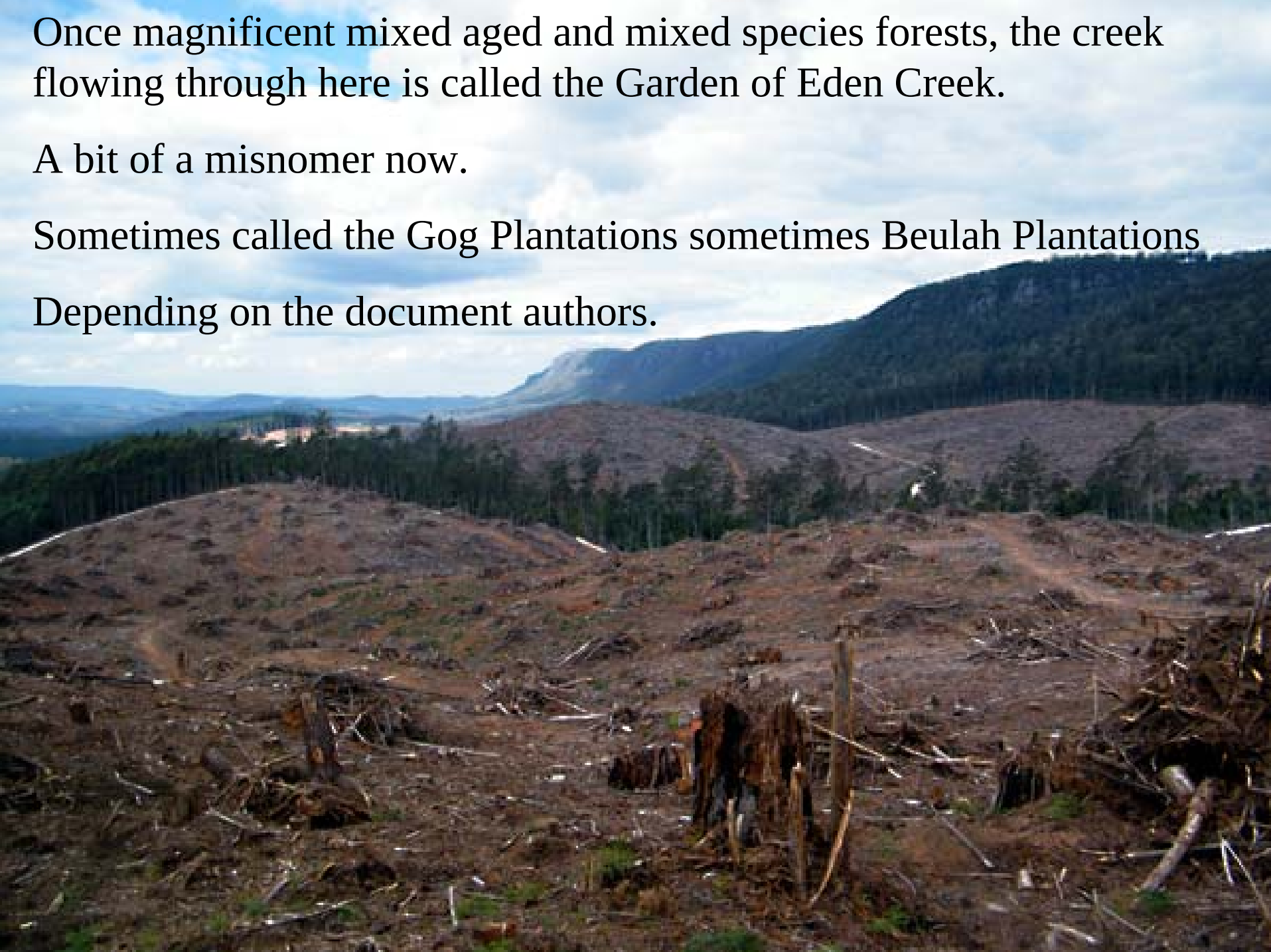
Forestry Tasmania used grant money from the Federal Government (Helsham Enquiry) to put in a 450ha plantation of Blackwood with a Nurse Crop of Radiata Pine as a part of the National Rainforest Conservation Program.

The Blackwood Crop failed because the nurse crop (radiata pine) was not thinned or removed in time. Scientists have been studying the techniques of putting in blackwood plantations since the early 1980's and they showed that the nurse crop had to be removed or heavily thinned for a viable crop of Blackwood.

This did not happen and now the Pine plantation is being heavily logged and the Blackwoods are being destroyed.

This is what happens when a rogue company are given too many grants.

Report prepared by Pete Godfrey March 2011



Once magnificent mixed aged and mixed species forests, the creek flowing through here is called the Garden of Eden Creek.

A bit of a misnomer now.

Sometimes called the Gog Plantations sometimes Beulah Plantations

Depending on the document authors.

Mersey Forest District

Forest Management Plan

December 1999

Plantations comprise seven percent of the Plan Area. *Pinus radiata* has been the main species planted with major plantations at Branches Creek, Long Hill, Gog Range, Virginstow, China Bush,

Smiths Plains and Isandula. Plantations of less than 500 hectares occur in other locations including Castra, Nietta, Paradise, Stoodley and Wilmot. Eucalypt plantations have been established at locations including Cluan Tiers, Round Hill, and Smiths Plains.

A 450 hectare blackwood plantation was established between 1992 and 1996 as part of the Gog plantation.

Gog Ranges Plantations March 2011

Growth and silviculture of *Acacia melanoxylon* plantations in Tasmania

W.A. Neilsen and D.B. Brown
Forestry Tasmania

Research into blackwood plantations has been carried out over a number of years by Forestry Tasmania, with funding from various sources. The blackwood plantation programme undertaken as part of the National Rainforest Conservation Program gave some impetus to the research between 1989 and 1991. Following an evaluation of the status of the blackwood industry, it was recommended that a minimum of 1200 ha of blackwood plantations should be established in Tasmania over the next 30 years (Allen 1992). Following the Helsham Inquiry (DEST 1988), $1.8 million of Federal Government funds were allocated for the establishment of blackwood plantations under the Intensive Forest Management (IFM) Program, for the purposes of increasing forest productivity in Tasmania. Most of these funds have been spent in the Beulah and Castra plantations, south of Devonport, with smaller areas being planted in the south and far north-west of Tasmania.

The national rainforest conservation program now there is a novel idea that Tasmania could look at!

(my comment)

Under the IFM Program, 695 ha of blackwood plantations were established between 1990 and 1995. In addition, 85 ha of research trials had been established, bringing the total area of blackwood plantations to 780 ha. Plantations have been established on good sites with adequate rainfall, with an emphasis on mild

Now we see why FT did not bother to thin the nurse crop . They appear to actually want to crop pine instead of blackwood

(my comment)

The tendency of blackwood to have poor form has led to experimentation with nurse crops (Barr 1981; Nicholas 1981, 1988; Hickey 1988). Nurse crops are fast-growing species co-established with blackwood. Ideally, they create a 'light-well' effect that draws the blackwood up towards the light, encouraging a tall, straight tree with a minimum of branch development. The main problem with using nurse crops is the need to manage the two species so that the blackwood does not become over-topped and, thus, suppressed by the nurse crop. The problem is overcome by careful selection of nurse-crop species and by careful thinning.

The use of dense nurse crops, which would produce the best form and suppress branching in blackwood, is uneconomic, with a high cost of plants, reduced growth on crop trees and high cost of thinning. There is little hope of early commercial thinnings from such nurse crops.


Gog Ranges plantations April 2006

Blackwoods in the Pines, how will they remove the pine?

Tasforests

Dec.1997

Article

In commercial plantations, *P. radiata* was planted at 800 stems/ha and blackwood was planted at 500 stems/ha. The blackwood and the pine nurse crop will be thinned and pruned to provide clearwood sawlogs. Clearwood pine sawlogs will be removed at about 20 to 25 years, with the final blackwood harvest estimated to be at 40 to 45 years.

Although greater numbers of blackwood, in the range of 1500 stems/ha, have been advocated by some authors (Barr 1981; Nicholas 1988; Bishop *et al*. 1985), sufficient final-crop trees can be obtained from a much lower stocking, with suitable pruning.

It appears that the final blackwood harvest came a bit earlier.

Gog Ranges Plantations March 2011

Another site, blackwoods not doing too well here either


April 2006


Beulah Blackwood plantation
Gog Ranges
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Gog Ranges Plantations March 2011


BU108B coupe May 2006
Old growth hardwood
coupe cable logged.


BU108B Sept 2007 (old growth cable coupe regenerating)

BU108B March 2011 Old growth cable coupe


Gog Ranges Plantations March 2011
(e.nitens in foreground)

Gog Ranges Pine Plantations March 2011

Gog Ranges Pine Plantations March 2011


Gog Ranges, pine plantations April 2006
(e.nitens in foreground)

Gog Ranges Plantations March 2011

Gog Ranges Plantations March 2011

Streams and Drainage lines get gentle treatment, filled with logging slash. Not quite what the Code says but oh well.

This is where our pine forests are ending up, Ready for export

March 2011

Bye bye Gog Pine forests. Are we getting a good price?
March 2011


More pine at Burnie for export March 2011