

Letter to the editor, Bega District News

Pardon me for smiling

Dear Editor Your editorial "Protesters need to think a bit" BDN 7 May 2010 criticised members of the local community who walked through town last Tuesday in front of a log truck to draw attention to woodchipping koala habitat in Mumbulla forest. You objected to the fact that we didn't look serious enough. "Judging by the smiles on their faces, [it] appeared to be an act of amusement rather than one of serious protest."

Your photo certainly does not support that, but for the record, we do "think a bit." Getting up at 4.30am for over 5 weeks in a row now, standing out on Mumbulla forest roads in the sun, wind, rain for hours on end and getting showered in dust by log trucks gives us plenty of opportunity to think.

And I can assure you that hearing the thunderous noise of the huge logging machines and the sickening crash and thud as the big old trees fall to the ground wipes the smiles from our faces. Would you prefer tears, Editor? Well, there is plenty of scope for tears. What normal person would not occasionally succumb to tears when they see what is happening to this forest and all the others around the region that are being trashed for woodchips each day?

Rather than criticize us for smiling, you should recognise it as a miracle that anyone could smile after witnessing what we have seen in Mumbulla forest.

Yours sincerely

Harriett Swift