

**LETTER To: Bega District News, 19.07.2011**

From: Suzanne Foulkes.

Subject: Blinding self interest

Dear Editor,

A response to the somewhat rabid attacks on myself and others from Mr Peter Rutherford in BDN 15/7/11

Mr Peter Rutherford's (Eden Chipmill) attacks on individuals in our community have reached fever pitch.

Not only are his correspondences grossly inaccurate, distorted beyond recognition, taken out of context and attributed to the wrong people, they also have the ring of a desperate man trying to defend the indefensible.

The self interest and tunnel vision that prevents Mr Rutherford from grasping the concept of "The Common Good" is the first problem.

We do not all receive money from the destruction of our native forests as Mr Rutherford does in his daily employment.

This allows a clearer picture and a more considered position for most of us. Self interest being a leading cause of blindness.

The many millions of people who have protested world wide against the destruction of the planets remaining forests are working for, and thinking of, the common good. That is, their children, clean air, healthy waterways, the survival of our unique wildlife, and the survival of our forests which are in serious decline due to 40 years of industrialised logging for pulp. The massive soil erosion alone has altered the prospects of forest recovery, with many species on the brink of extinction.

These people that you despise so much would likely understand the responsibilities that come with education and do their best to counter injustice and environmental vandalism. This realisation is an important part of the democratic process. The environmental movement is in fact a branch of the civil rights movement. I'm sure you are all for civil rights Mr Rutherford?

International science agrees that natural forests are the most efficient carbon banks on the planet and if humanity is to secure a future then industries that destroy these assets destroy our hopes for the future.

Mr Rutherford cares nothing for these facts and launches personal attacks on those who work hard to save our most valuable assets, not for themselves but for all of us.

Suzanne Foulkes.