

In 1873 explorer George Dalrymple, looking for a port to service the Palmer River and discovery of large stands of massive red cedar trees led to an influx of timber-getters settling in the region to the mouth for shipping, but in 10 short years the cedar was all but gone.

Among the Daintree wilderness is a small and thriving community of farmers, business people and residents providing a welcome passage for visitors, forged from a history as colourful as the rainforest itself. CAPE TRIBULATION RAINFOREST The Daintree Rainforest is one of the

wettest areas in Australia, with an average of almost four metres of rain recorded each year.

The "Green Season", usually between December-March, is a spectacular time to visit the Daintree as replenishing rains reinvigorate the rainforest.



Cape Tribulation was named by British navigator Lieutenant : The first European settlers took up land along the James Cook on 10 June 1770 after his ship Endeavour : river in 1879 and a township eventually emerged scraped a reef north-east of the cape while passing over it. upstream at the present site of Daintree Village.

Cook steered away from the coast into deeper water but a . After the 1899 flood, the village was moved to its . Cow Bay. few hours later the ship ran aground, on what is now named : present elevated location. While crops grew well on Endeavour Reef.

The ship stuck fast and was badly damaged, with a large chunk of the reef breaking off and acting as a plug in the hole which getting produce to market burdened them. Among saved it from sinking and enabled Cook to limp to what is 📜 the crops the early settlers trialled were maize, rice, now Cooktown and make repairs. Cook recorded "...the north 🚦 coffee, citrus fruits, bananas, granadillas, paw paws, point [was named] Cape Tribulation because here begun all 🕴 mangosteen and sugar cane, although none proved first European settlers to move further north to Cape our troubles".



SETTLING THE RIVER

the rich river flats, life was difficult for the pioneers as floods, forest pests, disease and the difficulty in particularly successful.

the construction of Australia's most northerly butter cattle grazing. factory in Daintree Village in 1924, to complement the store, post office, drapery, butcher, baker, café, blacksmith and sawmill office that existed at the

Until the road was built from Mossman to Daintree Village in 1932, the main transport was via the river and the journey to Mossman on horseback took six to eight hours.

FORGING THROUGH THE RAINFOREST

Native police entered a creek 10 miles north of the Daintree River in 1874 which they found "equally prolific in cedar and having splendid sugar land" and named it Baileys Creek, which is now known as

John Moffat, who had mining interests west of Cairns, took up a large tract of land around Baileys Creek and established maize and sugar cane crops but abandoned the land, leaving caretakers there. In 1927 the Mason brothers settled in Baileys Creek, but after suffering farming hardships they became the Tribulation in 1932, clearing sections of rainforest in

Eventually a dairy industry flourished which led to an attempt to grow bananas and other crops as well as fishing and

The company "Almason" planned to farm on a large scale at Baileys Creek and put a huge area under cultivation while also establishing the Kurangee State School before the Depression intervened and the company failed.

A cyclone in 1934 "left only one banana upright – wedged in the fork of a tree" but the pioneer families persisted and following World War II the timber industry regained momentum. Extensive tracts of hardwood forests were logged and by 1955, the Cape Tribulation road was extended north to allow the recovery of felled timber. A ferry began operating on the Daintree River in 1956 and by 1963 the road was bulldozed through to Cape Tribulation.

The road remained a four-wheel-drive track until the early 1990s and was finally sealed all the way to Cape Tribulation in 2002.





THE DAINTREE BLOCKADE

In 1983 bulldozers moved in to clear a walking track to open a road from Cape Tribulation north to Bloomfield.

Conservationists from around Australia gathered to form a blockade, the second-largest environmental protest in Australian history behind the Franklin River campaign.

The idea for a road from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield was originally conceived in the late 1930s but nothing eventuateduntilresidentsformedtheBaileysCreek-Cape Tribulation Development League in 1968 and bulldozed a rough track from Emmagen Creek to Bloomfield.

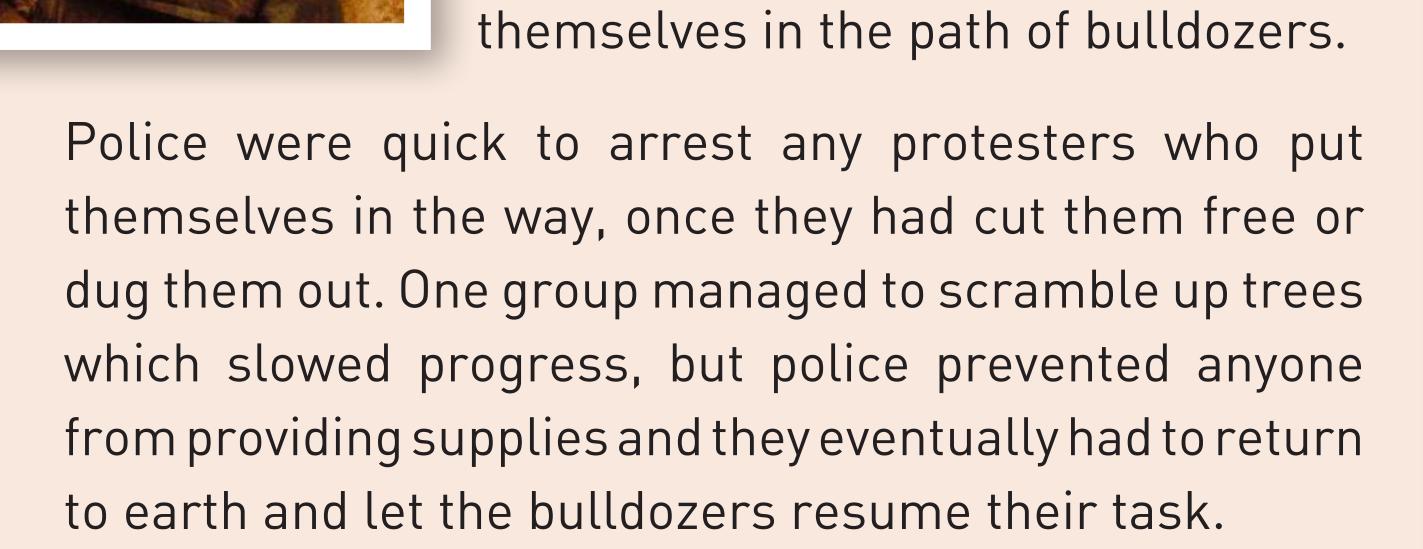
By the late 1970s the track had become overgrown and impassable but popular with hikers. Douglas Shire Council and the Department of Main Roads resumed interest in forging a road through the area and began



construction in November 1983. About 60 people formed a peaceful protest but anyone who tried to prevent access by the bulldozers was quickly arrested.

Work crews bulldozed their way from the north and south and despite their attempts to prevent it, the protesters struggled to have much impact. The Daintree Blockade was attracting growing publicity in the capital cities and in mid-December, as the wet season settled in, the protesters celebrated as the workers and police bailed

Hopes of intervention from the Federal Government didn't eventuate and in August 1984 bulldozers returned



The second coming of the Daintree

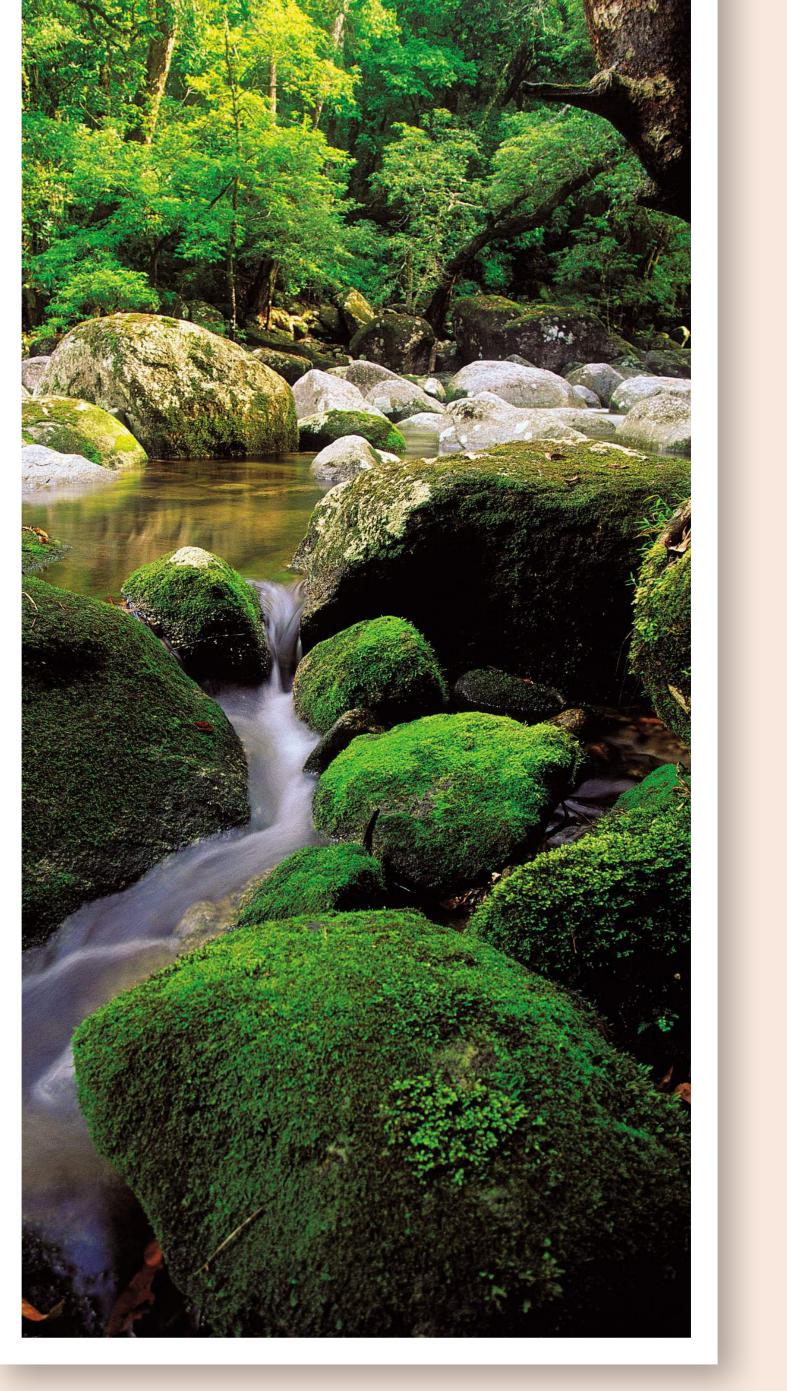
Blockade attracted more radical and

experiencedenvironmentalprotesters

who upped the ante by chaining

themselves to posts and buried

Eventually the protesters accepted inevitable defeat and abandoned the protest. The road was officially opened on October 7, 1984. In an ironic twist, many of the hundreds of people who attended the official opening, so they could be one of the first to drive the new track, became bogged and stranded as the heavens opened, making the slippery slopes impassable.



WORLD HERITAGE RECOGNITION

While the Daintree Blockade protesters failed in their attempts to prevent the construction of the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road, the worldwide attention their efforts attracted, paved the way for the Daintree Rainforest to be proclaimed as part of a Wet Tropics World Heritage Area from Townsville to Cooktown in 1988.

t was a drawn-out process as the Queensland Government tried to thwart the Federal Government's nomination for the Wet Tropics to be declared a World Heritage Area, eventually losing a challenge in the High Court arguing against its validity. The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee finally approved the Federal Government's application for the declaration of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in 1988.

Environmental protesters had lost the battle of the Daintree Blockade but were successful in their ultimate goal of preserving and protecting the Daintree Rainforest for future generations.

DAINTREE BUY-BACK SCHEME

It was not only hippies who discovered the Daintree Rainforest in the 1970s, enterprising developers moved in and converted grazing leases to freehold and then divided them into more than 1100 smaller residential lots.

The subdivision was promoted internationally and many of the lots were snapped up by investors attracted to owning their own slice of rainforest, with some not realising are pockets of banana, vanilla there was no mains power, water connections or understanding the main transport link to the outside world was via cable ferry. Although many of the subdivided blocks were not built on because access was limited and there is no mains power, the developers left a legacy of freehold properties in the heart of the Daintree which were surrounded by the National Park and the World Heritage Area.

These blocks were being steadily developed and prompted Douglas Shire Council to introduce a 12-month moratorium on approval for development in the Daintree while it prepared a Douglas Shire Draft Planning Scheme for the area in 2004. The new planning scheme adopted in 2006 was one of the most controversial ever proposed in Australia and protected 350 properties north of the Alexandra Range, with the Queensland Government contributing \$15 million for the purchase of these properties. The Douglas Shire Planning Scheme 2006 also created "Rainforest Residential Tourism Precincts" where development is allowed and will be concentrated.

LIVING IN HARMONY

These days there are around 700 people in the Daintree Coast community.

Among the pristine rainforest and tea plantations, tropical fruit orchards and nature-based accommodation and tourism

Those who live in the Daintree are proud to share the stunning scenery and natural diversity of the Daintree Rainforest but urge you to help preserve the natural environment by staying on marked tracks and "taking nothing but pictures, leaving nothing but footprints".