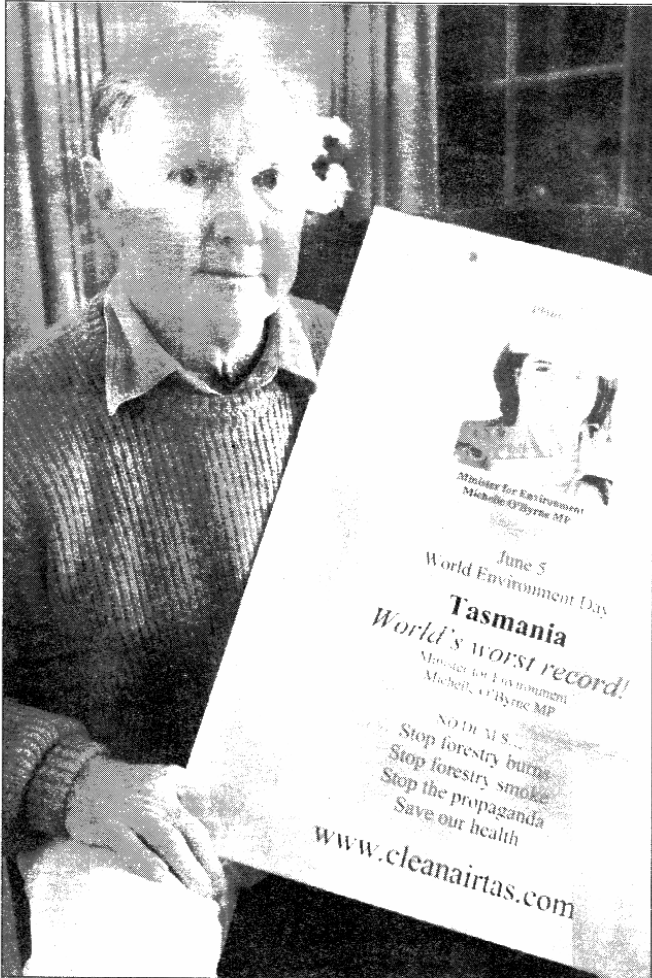


FRIDAY JUNE 6, 2008

Flare set off in anti-forestry protest



ENOUGH'S ENOUGH: Asthma sufferer Clive Stott took drastic action to protest forestry burn-offs that aggravate his medical condition. Picture: ROSS MARSDEN

NICK CLARK

CLIVE Stott let a flare go in the foyer of Launceston's Public Buildings yesterday as a "peaceful" protest for World Environment Day.

Mr Stott, 59, of Grindelwald north of Launceston, blamed forestry burn-offs for aggravating his asthma.

The burnt flare smoked out the building, leading to an evacuation, but luckily no one was harmed.

Mr Stott said he had suffered chronic airflow limitation for five weeks.

"Even today they could not stop forestry burn-offs just for a day," he said.

"I have got pain in my chest and pulmonary embolism in my legs and have been confined to a chair. I had my third visit to hospital on Sunday."

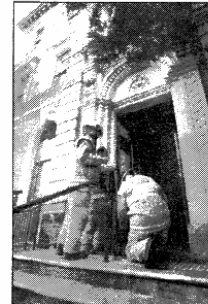
Mr Stott said he was prepared to face the consequences.

"If that [police questioning or charges] happens, it happens," he said.

"I can deal with what I did today quite happily."

He said he had become frustrated after failing to get an appointment with Environment, Parks, Heritage and Arts Minister Michelle O'Byrne.

"What more can I do? I have tried to do it the proper way and try to speak to the Minister," he said.



QUICK RESPONSE: Fire fighters outside the Public Buildings.

"So I just stood there and held a smoke bomb."

"Nobody is doing anything about it and people are suffering bad."

He said he and his wife moved from Scottsdale to Grindelwald seven years ago to be "above the smog line".

Acting sergeant Dean McMahon confirmed a male had activated a hand-held flare in protest against forestry burn-offs at 2.47pm.

"The burning of the flare caused smoke to spread within the building, which resulted in it being evacuated," he said.

"Tasmania Fire Service rendered the flare safe and then assisted the building evacuation."

Police said last night they were following a "specific line of inquiry" with a view to charging the offending male.