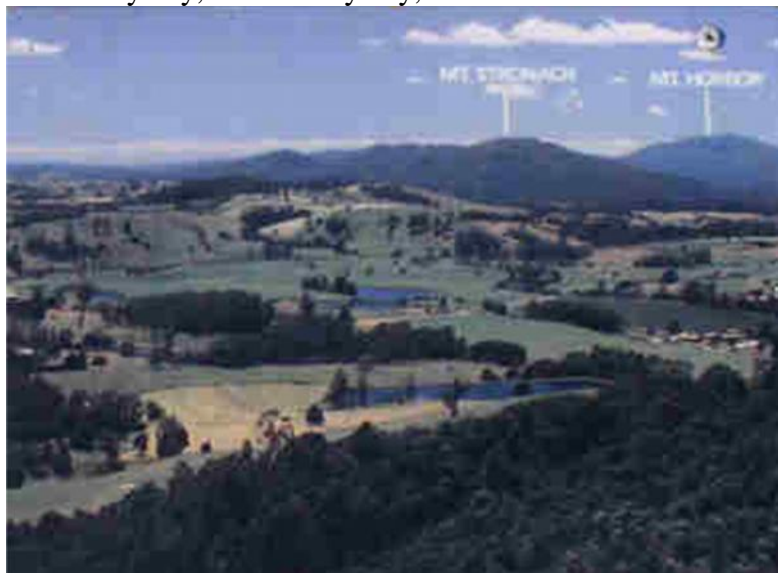


18-19/10/2008 Smoke Watch

Fri Oct 24, 2008 4:19 pm

Weekend Madness 18-19 Oct 2008 by Garry Stannus.

Idyllic, the picture on the forestry information plaque never changes.
On a rainy day, on a smoky day, the sun still shines.



Observation Plaque at the Sidling Lookout

Image2.jpg (7.95 KiB)

Above: Such a loving landscape

It is a Forestry fabrication.

The truth is below.



Smoke covers any landmarks

Image3.jpg (4.26 KiB)

The same scene Sunday 19th Oct 2008 North, South, East & West of Scottsdale
the smoke was in the eyes and lungs.

The papers spoke of bushfires, spoke of arson and praised firefighters.



"Planned burn" had been added to the plaque. Someone had tried to scratch it off.
Image4.jpg (7.76 KiB)

The term 'forestry burn' did not appear in the newspaper articles. Someone has tried to scratch it from the plaque at the lookout...



Tourists can not see for the smoke
Image5.jpg (3.42 KiB)

The tourists observe in disbelief. A family from Mauritius has already left – they thought it must have been some sort of fog. They could not get their heads around the idea that the 'Clean Green Tasmania' is a slash and burn island.

It was everywhere. It had begun with announcements the previous week. I saw the first of these fires starting on Wednesday 15th Oct, afternoon, and like the lady who wrote to the Examiner: 'you could see the smoke coming up from new points in the bush as the afternoon progressed'. Obviously, it reached its crescendo over the weekend ... for the time being...



Image6.jpg (4.41 KiB)

The trip out of the North East is full of more outrage:



Mount Barrow planned burns

Image7.jpg (3.44 KiB)

Mt Barrow – all forest burns are arson.

This was the view of the mountain from Launceston - our mountain backdrop.