

GONDWANA MEGAFUNA RETURNED TO FIGHT FIRES & MASS EXTINCTION

The conservation dogma which has resulted in our native lands being destroyed recently by unprecedented bushfire is based on the erroneous precept that Australian vegetation is not used to large hooved grazing animals. This can only be described as more gang green mythology. Unsubstantiated claims of environmental damage by stockmen "over burning" and "grazing with exotic large, hooved animals" has led to lethal imposts of "fire suppression" and "no graze" policies in our public lands to the demise of water catchment values, mass extinction and loss of biodiversity.

To as recently as 12 000 years ago Australian vegetation was groomed pruned, revitalized and kept fire safe by up to 340 mammal species. Their body weight ranged from a few grams to 3 tonnes! Australian vegetation has changed little in the last 120 000 years when these 340 species existed and now 67 have become extinct. Plants coevolved and have been interdependent with grazing animals of up to 100 tonne dinosaurs for over the last 220 million years.

Flowering plants the basis of our modern and very successful vegetation considered as evolving in a "disturbed grazing regime" over the last 130 million years. Cool fire for the duration of land plants of 430 million years has recycled nutrients and created niches to colonise. Paleontologists agree grazing animals all through time competes with natural and cool fire for plant biomass.

More grazing species that were in the fossil record there was less fossil charcoal at that time. Grazing effectively competes with blazing according to a 400 million year fossil record. Standing as unbiased evidence surpassing any experimental scientific protocols made available elsewhere in modern commissioned science. More grazing animals available the richer the biodiversity has been all through time.

Yes Australia had roaming herds of 3 tonne marsupial "cows" of hundreds if not thousands of animals. Migratory herds following the rains like our cattle did before conservation theory created "do nothing jobs" in our public lands monitoring the progress of chaos. These marsupial "cows" were browsers to up to 3 meters into shrubs and trees and grazers of grass and wildflowers. The *Diprotodon optatum* were widely distributed across the continent following the fortunes of the rainfall and growing seasons. Likely they prepared the seed bed, sowed and distributed the seeds and essential soil biota of our trees, shrubs and grasslands. Trampled and mulched the unpalatable plant material in preparation for an eventual biologically beneficial cool burn.

There were also 1 tonne tree rippers or marsupial "tapirs" *Palorchestes azeal* that browsed leaves high into the vegetation canopy, ring barked trees and opened up the forest to maintain diversity and fire tolerance. Then there was a 1 tonne bog eater, wallower *Zygomaturus trilobus* that lived in the forests and wetlands of the SE of Australia. Opening up the water ways letting in the sunshine to support tadpole and fish, facilitate flows of clean sweet water from our rush beds and sphagnum bogs. Keep the

water ways fire safe in a drought from harsh burns and prevent bank erosion. There was also the 300 kilogram hooved kangaroo described as the marsupial "horse" *Procoptodon goliah*. This species lived on the grassy plains and woodlands as a browser to 3 meters trimming the shrubs and keeping the inland vegetation open structured and able to rapidly and comprehensively recover from fire. These species migrated to the higher rainfall margins in times of drought.

These are just three of 30 species of browsers some with a grass eating option, that have only recently become extinct in Australia in the last of 20 ice age droughts, over the this last 2 million years. There was another 10 species of grass eaters, estimated range in body sizes of 30-150 kilograms each animal. Mega fauna collectively have been estimated to have accounted for processing in the order of 70% of the plant biomass.

Charcoal records for the last 40 million years indicates that since Australia separated from Antarctica and moved north, to where south Australia today was once where north Australia lay, the charcoal record reflects the increase in abundance of eucalypt and t-tree species with the recession of temperate beech rainforests and increasing aridity. The pre Aboriginal settlement charcoal deposits and charcoal post mega fauna loss is extraordinarily constant supporting the view Aboriginal traditional fire preemptively slotted into the natural cycle of burning and grazing when Aboriginal people arrived over 40 000 years ago. It also indicates that since the loss of mega fauna grazers the Aboriginals cool, mosaic superficial burns, mimicked the effects of mixed species grazing on plant community management.

This preemptive Aboriginal cool firing of plant matter slipping into the natural cycle of plant growth and idealic plant community structure maintained to prevent catastrophic fire such as the "biota readjustment" that appeared to occur when key stone grazing dinosaur were lost 65 million years ago and before mammals had risen to fill the vacated large grazer niche. Repeated fire in ungrazed vegetation is thought to have exacerbated mass extinction when key species were lost 65 million years ago. Man and fire have always been criticised but the evidence to hand suggests "over burning impact" has only occurred since fire has been suppressed in the last 40 years by conservation theory and combined with no grazing.

Stockmen suggest the recent fires occurring over the high country of SE Australia is a "bureaucratic induced biota readjustment period" localized mass extinction brought about by imposed policies of "fire suppression" and "no grazing" in combination forced on the Australian vegetation for the first time ever thanks to the lobby jockeys of such as National Parks Association Victoria, NSW, ACT. People that have a theory about power and control over the high country water, vocations, city water treatment savings short term or other politically motivated agendas remote from a fundamental commitment to sustainable environmental good or security and continuity of what has come before us.

No grazing, aspiring to no fire has induced a cataclysmic man made event never before allowed in nature for as long as land plants have existed. Having viewed the outcomes for our native lands, how can advocates of more of the same be considered credible

convincing conservationists? Livestock from Africa are the return of Gondwana mega fauna endorsed by the glorious response of Gondwana plant species to create and perpetuate the "conservation icon pristine water catchment" that were our grazed green and flowering high country runs abundant wildlife, wildflowers, water now starved, butchered, burnt. How can these unreasonable people be still entertained in the public press?

If we as Australians are to reclaim what has been left us of our wildlife, wildflowers and water supplies ancient forests struggling back from barren burnt hillsides then the gang green mythology must be terminated, managed mixed species grazing reinstated, traditional cool fire reinstated. Repeated fire in deformed vegetation continually deprived grazing and cool fire will eventually exterminate our cherished uniquely Australian landscape.

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160 years of family association with the Australian high country land management adopting Aboriginal methods and best practice developed in Africa and Europe.