

The story of the stump

Nature's Memorial



QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE

If only

This bleached and weathered stump is all that remains of a magnificent 1,000-year-old New England Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus andrewsii*) that probably would be standing today but for lack of foresight.

In 1911, only a year after the schoolhouse was built, the 40 metre high giant was considered a threat to the school and pupils, so was quickly felled and burnt. Had the schoolhouse been sited 50 metres away, the tree could have remained.

How can we condemn this singular action when extensive felling and burning of forest continues today throughout the region?



Remains of a tree stump felled on Springbrook in 1911. Fred Quilty (centre) and Jack Boyd (right) felled the 40-metre New England Blackbutt using axes in a storm.

Stirring up ghosts

As you stand here, can you hear the resounding crash of this falling giant echoing from the past?

These reverberations may strike a chord within, reminding us that as today's landholders we are only temporary custodians of tomorrow's landscape.

This responsibility should direct us to plan the wisest use of our resources, balancing our present welfare with the needs of future generations and their environment.



The felling, on a schoolday, was seen by the pupils who watched in awe as the forest giant came crashing to the ground!