

# SAVE COLONG BULLETIN

THE COLONG COMMITTEE

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Price 10c

NUMBER 14, FIRST EDITION

4 SEPTEMBER 1970

## A.P.C.M. - UNREPENTENT, PHILISTINE....

Mr. Peter Scott, C.B.E., D.S.C., Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund has taken up the Colong issue with the London office of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Limited.

On 9th July, the Company's Mr. Keeble advised Mr. Scott that:

"A.P.C.M.(A) is very conscious indeed of its responsibilities in helping to preserve the Australian wilderness areas and is interested in the Colong project only if no alternative suitable source of raw materials can be found which would be at all economically viable."

"As a result of requests by Government and Conservation Groups, a costly, extensive and detailed survey is being made in order to explore all other suitable alternative sources of limestone which may be available. This exploration has been in hand for some while and no decision can be taken until it has been completed."

"The Company has the whole-hearted support of the N.S.W. Government in its efforts to maintain a vital industry in that State, at the same time taking all practical measures to minimise the impact which operations might have on Australian wildlife. Indeed should the alternatives prove unsuitable and the Company, therefore, necessarily proceed at some future date with its quarrying operations under the terms of the existing lease, the Company is convinced that, taking into account the size of the area under discussion and the method which it would employ, the results of its workings on the district would be minimal."

Readers will note that the arguments contained in the last paragraph are those which were categorically denied by the Presidents of the N.S.W. Chapter, Royal Australian Institute of Architects and of the N.S.W. Division, Australian Planning Institute and by the Director of the National Trust of Australia, N.S.W., in the Sydney press in 1967.

Mr. Peter Scott replied to Mr. Keeble on 14th July. On the same day he wrote the following letter, which we quote in full, to the Chairman of APCM, Sir John Reiss:

"Dear Sir John,

I have been corresponding with Mr. R. Keeble of your Company about the Colong Caves Reserve (copies attached) and thought that perhaps I ought to express my concern to you personally.

As the Reserve is part of the Warragamba Wildlife Refuge and included in the Kanangra/Boyd National Park, it is of course very surprising that a responsible Government should ever have granted mining concessions in the Colong Caves Reserve. But it did so and the resultant

furor has gone around the world. In the process it has left very bitter feelings. In view of the fact that the Company is largely British owned, much of the Australian anger has rubbed off on to our country which is really very sad.

I understand that a survey is now being conducted to ascertain the extent of alternative sources of limestone. If the results are even reasonably economically viable, I hope your Company will consider, as a gesture of goodwill, a declaration that they do not intend to quarry limestone in the Colong Caves Reserve.

I do not want to labour the point, but I believe world opinion, including no doubt that of your shareholders, is moving towards the view that large (and even small) companies have a high degree of responsibility for our environment, and that in this day and age the absolutely cheapest way of getting the raw materials we need for civilisation is not necessarily the best way, in the long term, for mankind. I am sure you would subscribe to that view. I doubt whether your shareholders, if it were put to them, would like to be getting their money out of spoiling an Australian National Park.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Scott"

For other conservationists who may wish to add their remarks to those of Peter Scott, Sir John Reiss' address is c/- The Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Limited, Portland House, Stag Place, London S.W.1

#### ANOTHER COUNCIL ACTS AGAINST COMMONWEALTH PORTLAND CEMENT

For the first time in many years Lane Cove Council has not accepted the tender of Commonwealth Portland Cement Ltd. (a subsidiary of A.P.C.M.(A)) for the supply of cement.

As all tenders received for the 1970 71 contract were identical, other matters were taken into account in deciding which was to be accepted. The involvement of C.P.C. in the Colong limestone lease was a major factor in the Council's decision to accept another company's tender.

The Colong Committee commends Lane Cove Council for its decision to dissociate itself from companies involved in the Colong scandal.

#### ADVICE FROM THE NEW PROFESSOR OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY R. M. MAY

"Do something in your own little way - join the Colong Caves preservation Committee or join the Liberal Party."

This was Professor May's final advice to 600 students at a series of lectures at Sydney University on Tuesday, 28th July.

The arms race, the population explosion and pollution threatened human survival, he said. The solution to all the problems was simple in essence. The age-old philosophy and economy of growth had to be replaced by a new philosophy and economy of conservation and stability.

#### COLONG COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING CONSERVATION WEEK

##### (1) The Rally:

The second demonstration by conservationists against the Conservation Department took place on Tuesday, 28th July between 12 and 2 p.m. The rally was held outside Conservation House. About a hundred people took part.

Thirty placards were displayed. They bore such slogans as 'Australian families need Australian forests', 'You're not alright, Jack', 'Senator Cotton - wombat killer' and 'Pine plantations are ecological deserts'.

Once again the foyer of Conservation House was congested by the Department's counter demonstration. Only one of the photographs showed the Boyd Plateau. The rest were of an unidentified location. The Department had prepared a news sheet for Conservation Week. None of the pressing issues was mentioned. Quotation of twenty-five statistics per page does not necessarily add up to an acceptable conservation programme.

The Government seems to be confused and embarrassed regarding its so-called Conservation policy. One correspondent in the Daily Telegraph stated 'I have read some sickening stuff in my time but the address by the N.S.W. Minister for Conservation, Jack G. Beale, at the official opening of Conservation Week 1970, takes the cake. No wonder his Department repeatedly refused to supply to the public the whereabouts of the official opening.' The official speech opening Conservation Week seems to have been delivered in secret!

#### (2) Leaflets:

A total of 25,000 leaflets were distributed during Conservation Week. Two sets were titled 'Mr. Beale is Killing Australia on Boyd Plateau' and 'Revoke the Colong Mining Lease Now'. A further leaflet titled 'This is 1970 not 1850 - end goldrush mining laws now' was issued jointly by the Colong Committee and the Myall Lakes Committee.

Donations from two individual conservationists made the whole operation possible.

The leaflets were handed out at the Quay and Wynyard during peak hours and outside the State Government Offices, Lands Department and Conservation House during lunch hours. Some were distributed at suburban shopping centres.

Most people who received leaflets read them and some expressed support. Significantly not more than two dozen of the 25,000 leaflets were thrown on the pavement and these were quickly picked up.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to its supporting societies that they separately organise leaflet printing regarding the Colong and Boyd issues. The leaflets should be distributed at key points in the city and suburban centres. The public must be made aware of the urgent need for saving Colong and Boyd Plateau before the next State election.

As a guide, 5,000 or 6,000 leaflets, 7½" x 10", on coloured paper, cost about \$50.00 including typesetting.

THE COMMITTEE OF STATE COUNCILLORS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY TO REPORT ON  
COLONG AND BOYD PLATEAU

As previously reported State Council of the N.S.W. Liberal Party has appointed 16 of its members to report on the Colong and Boyd Plateau controversies.

The Colong Committee welcomes this initiative by the Liberal Party further to the unanimous resolutions in its State Council and State Convention calling for the Colong mining lease to be rescinded. Our policy is to make available all relevant information to the Party Committee.

WHERE DOES THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STAND?

The Liberal Committee provides the National Parks and Wildlife Service with an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of its conservation philosophy.

The N.P.W.S. should take as strong a stand against the mining of Colong Caves Reserve (the most highly dedicated Reserve in N.S.W.) and the proposal to raze 5,400 acres of Reserve No. 67062 (For Preservation of Native Fauna and Flora) as it has recently taken against a highway proposal through the western edge of Royal National Park. At Kanangra-Boyd-Colong it is the best national park and "the most important wilderness area" in the State which is at stake.

Such a stand would earn the immediate gratitude of every Conservation society in the country. Colong, the Boyd, Myall Lakes... these are the grounds on which the future standing of the young Service is being decided.

COOLOOLA

Rejection of applications for sand mining leases at Cooloola by the Queensland Government coalition parties reflects the growing public support for conservation. Today Cooloola, tomorrow Colong?

MARULAN

But Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Ltd. may be more wily than the Queensland rutile miners.

Here is an extract from a letter by Mr. F. E. Taylor, Managing Director of A.P.C.M.(A) dated 25th August, 1970:

"The limestone deposit at Marulan is being examined in detail and with urgency but once again a final assessment will not be made without discussions with the Department of Mines. It would be improper to suggest when these discussions will be completed but as far as geological investigations are concerned you have my assurance that this complex and costly examination is proceeding as quickly as possible and on present indications is likely to be completed in less than a year."

Another year? The year that the Mines Department estimated the Marulan survey would take is already up. The Murruin Creek survey took months longer than promised. Are these surveys merely a delaying tactic to quieten conservationists until after the approaching election?

Mr. Taylor's letter is typical of the non-information supplied by A.P.C.M.(A). He says the Marulan survey is "costly". Well how much is it costing? He says it is "complex". What is the nature of the complexity? The firm must have a time schedule for the survey - why not disclose it? Letters of this nature reinforce our view of A.P.C.M.(A) as unrepentant, philistine.....

THE BOYD

And bulldozing of Boyd Plateau will begin in November.

Only the unremitting attention and persistence of every N.S.W. conservationist during the next two months can save Boyd Plateau.

#### THE BOYD PAMPHLET

A pamphlet titled "The Boyd Plateau - Park or Pines?" has been published by the Committee. It has been distributed to all State Parliamentarians.

Copies are available on request. As each pamphlet costs the Committee five cents contributions would be appreciated from those who order numbers of copies.

A further detailed refutation of Mr. Beale's various statements on the Boyd plateau is nearly complete.

#### LETTER FROM SUNNY CORNER

Last week the Committee also distributed to all Parliamentarians copies of a letter received from Mr. C. C. Wilkinson of Sunny Corner, 25 miles west of Lithgow. We quote extracts:

"We, who are unfortunate enough to live in the midst of an area being over-run for re-afforestation, know only too well the devastating effects of this program as it is being implemented at present by those whose only object is the production of pine trees.

"This short sighted policy is annihilating everything in its path. Natural bushland and creeks containing our rapidly diminishing wildlife are treated with complete disregard.....

"We are normal intelligent citizens and although we may differ with the Forestry Commission as to the wisdom of creating such a large potential fire hazard with no natural fire breaks, we realise the necessity of producing softwoods for Australian industry. However, what we disagree violently on is that no consideration is made to preserve wildlife or the natural areas in which they exist.

"Whole areas swept clean of standing timber and then burnt. Robbed of their natural habitat all fauna is doomed. No effort is made to transfer any of these doomed creatures to other suitable areas. The policy of transferring animals is followed by other countries so that their species may be preserved for posterity but is ignored in Australia.

"Our birdlife is disappearing rapidly. Those which nest in hollow trees have nowhere to nest, the insect eaters have no natural insects on which to feed. Everything is changed into a silent dead world.

"The deadly poison 1080 is used seasonally over these areas. This ensures the destruction of the last of the fauna.

"Where a creek passes through an area to be planted it is filled with fallen trees and debris by deliberately bulldozing this material into it. Two major creeks in this area have now been ruined for miles by this method. Both of these creeks supplied reservoirs.....

"As evidence of the Forestry Commission's disregard for wildlife, it is only approximately five years ago that the Forestry ceased shooting out the remaining kangaroos. Previous to this they issued instructions and ammunition to their employees to destroy all kangaroos in the Forestry area....."

#### THE COLONG BULLETIN

The Colong Bulletin will shortly become a registered periodical.

Registration requires that 3/4 of our circulation must be paid for. People who have sent donations to the Committee, or who have applied to become shareholders or who have sent money specifically for a Bulletin subscription, will be enrolled as subscribers to the Bulletin. Those who do not fall into these categories are asked to send \$1.00 to cover the costs of the Bulletin. (Post to The Treasurer, The Colong Committee, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney 2000.)

#### FIELD TRIP TO THE BOYD AND A LOCAL PINE PLANTATION

David Eden will lead a weekend trip to the Boyd Plateau on Saturday, 19th and Sunday 20th September. The trip will consist of two one-day excursions with a Saturday night camp at Boyd Crossing.

On Saturday the party will inspect Boyd Plateau and logging destruction. On Sunday it will head toward Oberon and Shooters Hill to compare pine plantations there with the native forest of Boyd Plateau, with particular reference to recreation potential.

Zoologists, botanists, entomologists and amateur naturalists will be welcome to study the "interesting and varied flora and fauna" in *Pinus radiata* plantations. The party will be unable to enter most pine plantations in the area because they are fenced off with barbed wire and padlocked gates. Nevertheless the Forestry Commission claimed in its statement of 11th June, 1970 that pine plantations on the Boyd "will be available for recreational use, with their own special charm and attraction for the visitor...." (Forestry's emphasis)

For details of the trip contact David Eden, phone 560.7714 (home) or write to 22 Fairmount Street, Dulwich Hill, 2203.

#### AMENDMENT TO BULLETIN NO. 13

In our last Bulletin we referred to the disappointing response to invitations to Government members of State Parliament to inspect the Boyd Plateau and Kanangra Walls. Invitations had been sent by the Australian Conservation Foundation to all State Government M.L.A.s.

This was not to say that no Government M.L.A.s have ever visited the area. Mr. Peter Coleman, M.L.A. for Fuller and Mr. Jim Cameron, M.L.A. for Northcott had been there late in 1969 and Mr. Cameron made a second visit last June with the Colong Committee's Chairman, Father J. Tierney.

Other Government M.L.A.s have inspected the area at different times and we appreciate their interest and concern.

SHAREHOLDER'S PAGEANOTHER DIRECTOR FOR A.P.C.M.(A).

Sir Henry Bland has been appointed an additional director of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Ltd. Sir Henry was Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service from 1952 to 1967, and Secretary of the Department of Defence from 1967 to March 1 this year.

A COLONG DIRECTOR IS REQUIRED

A Save Colong supporter with 1000 shares is sought for nomination as Director of A.P.C.M.(A). Such a nominee would be able to circularise the 4000 Australian shareholders with his policy and encourage them to take an interest in the Company and its plans for the Colong lease. Major shareholders (such as M.L.C.) have an interest in improving the Company's bad public image. A.P.C.M.(A)'s lack of social conscience reflects on its major shareholders. They must be concerned already for the Company's future as more councils and more public-spirited individuals refuse to use Blue Circle products.

CEMENT BRANDS PRODUCED BY A.P.C.M.(A).

Standard Portland Cement  
Union Portland Cement  
Metropolitan Portland Cement  
Commonwealth Portland Cement  
Pozzoment  
Snowcrete

All these products carry a Blue Circle insignia.

Some readymixed concrete products, notably Pioneer, contain A.P.C.M.(A). cement.

JOIN THE SIX HUNDRED

The number of Save Colong supporters who have applied to become shareholders since April has risen to 215.

By April next year, the number of A.P.C.M.(A) shares held by Save Colong supporters will be at least 1000 and the number of shareholders at least 900. Our shareholders include 6 professors.

Further application forms from Mrs. M. Eden, The Colong Committee, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney 2000.