

## THE COLONG COMMITTEE

# SAVE COLONG

Correspondence to: Secretary, Third Floor, 18 Argyle St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000

### NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 17.

V. Attenbrow, I. G. S. Campbell, B.Sc.; A. G. Colley, B.Sc., H.D.A.; C. Culberg, A.A.S.A.; J. F. Dillon, H.D.A.; M. K. Dunphy, A.S.T.C., A.R.A.I.A.; D. Eden, B.E.; M. Eden, B.Sc.; E. Elenius; G. Hanley; A. Herborn; R. Jerrens, LL.B.; Professor R. N. Johnson, B.Arch.; A.R.I.B.A.; F.R.A.I.A.; M. F. A. Keen, O.B.E.; B.A.P.P.S. Kidner; R. Kijuring, B.A., Dip.Ed.; P. Longfield; G. J. Middleton; Dr. P. T. Millard, M.B., F.R.C.S.E.; M. Mills, Dip.Physio.; B.Sc.; Dr. B. Rigby, M.B., B.S.; J. Rigby; T. Y. Stead, B.Sc., M.Ed.; Rev. Fr. J. Tierney, B.Sc., Dip.Ed.; B. D. Walker, R. N. Walker, P.A.; F.R.I.P.A.; Dip.Pub.Ad.; M. Weatherley, B.A.; I. Wyatt, P.A.; P. Young, B.A., Dip.Ed.  
Chairman: Rev. Fr. J. Tierney, 582 Victoria Rd., Ryde, 2112. Phone 60-4022.  
Secretary: Milo Dunphy, 67 Weratah St., Oatley, 2223. Phone 57-4922. 8183  
Liaison Secretary: Mark Weatherley, 18 Begonia Rd., Normanhurst, 2076. Phone 84-0265.  
Treasurer: Charles Culberg, 13 Neville St., Oatley, 2223. Phone 57-1309.

### WHERE IS THE COLONG COMMITTEE GOING?

Has the Australia Party taken over The Colong Committee or vice versa? Is the Committee dominated by its Liberal Party members or is it as Mr. J. L. Carrick the Party's Secretary states, "A plot to bring down the Liberal Government. "Is it as Dr. McMichael recently urged on one of our more attractive committee members: "a group of impressionable people held captive by Milo Dunphy's urge for personal power."

All we can say is that the Committee exists and that is is not God. It was elected at a meeting of 50 societies. Its members have been re-elected twice with a few changes and is subject to re-election or otherwise on February 17th. The Committee's aims are now supported by over 120 community bodies.

The Committee has one clear object - to preserve the Kanangra-Boyd area from exploitation by mining and pine culture. The Committee has sought the support of the whole community irrespective of their politics. In this it has succeeded. The political parties are behind us including the Liberal Party, the governing body of which - the State Council has offered strong support. It has the unanimous support of Conservation bodies and from many professional groups. In other words it claims overwhelming support from the majority of the people. In a democracy this should decide the issue particularly as the areas concerned are public lands owned by the Crown in trust for the people of N.S.W. The public's wishes should therefore decide the use of these lands.

But the Government refuses to revoke the Colong lease or add the Boyd Plateau to the Park.

### STATE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The Colong Committee has set out to make Colong and the Boyd Plateau and conservation generally an issue at the N.S.W. State elections on 13th February.

The Committee has been campaigning against mining in the Colong Caves Reserve for more than 3 years and against clearing the Boyd Plateau for pine growing for well over 12 months yet the Government has still not resolved either of these issues of vital importance for the Kanangra Boyd National Park.

Everything that can reasonably be expected has been done to demonstrate to the Government both the merits of our case and the public support for it. The Government has had plenty of time to remedy the situation but has not done so. Under these circumstances the only remaining course of action is to exercise our democratic rights at the elections.

The Colong Committee has launched a campaign on a non-party basis with the following objectives:

- (1) To make constituents aware of Colong/Boyd issues and conservation generally (including mineral sands mining the bulldozing of native forests for pine planting and chip milling, pollution etc.)

This can be done by

- distributing leaflets (obtainable from the Colong Committee).
- articles and letters in the local press
- circulating petitions for signatures (obtainable from the Colong Committee)
- meetings, lectures.

- (2) To obtain clear statements from all candidates on what action they would take on these issues if elected.

This can be done by

- interviewing candidates.
- presenting petitions (for presentation to Parliament if elected)
- sending letters to candidates
- asking questions at election meetings

- (3) To publicise candidates statements among constituents (by newsletters, press articles, etc.) for guidance of people who are voting. To give the full picture it will be necessary also to quote the official policies of their parties and their parties' records on conservation.

#### WHO TO CONTACT

The election campaign is now well under way but additional help would be very welcome. If you can help in any way at all, please contact the following people. It does not matter if you do not live in an electorate where we are campaigning as you could help in one nearby.

#### ELECTORATE

#### CONTACT

Armidale

Mr Win Rohan-Jones  
Rural Sciences,  
University of New England  
Armidale.  
Phone: 2911 ext. 2685  
or 204 Rusden Street.  
Armidale.

Bathurst

Mr Daryl Taylor  
Phone: 311273

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ELECTORATE

CONTACT

Collaroy

Mr. J. Winters  
12 Crescent Road.  
Mona Vale.  
Phone: 993026.

Fuller  
(Gladesville,  
Hunter's Hill  
and parts of Ryde).

Mrs Sheila Swain  
30 Barons Crescent  
Hunters Hill  
Phone: 892510

Goulburn

Miss Molly O'Neill  
228 Bourke St.  
Goulburn.  
Phone: 211748

Lane Cove

Mrs Audrey Edmondson  
8 William St.  
Longueville  
Phone: 421853

Nepean

Mr Mick Dark  
58 Emu Road.  
Glenbrook  
Phone: Penrith 391764

South Coast

Mr. J. Hatton  
8 Watt Street.  
Huskisson  
Phone: 415105

Wollondilly

(Picton, Bowral,  
Moss Vale, Robertson  
Berry districts)

Mr. H. Sutton  
13 Osborne Rd.  
Burradoo  
Phone: Bowral 807

COLONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTEST ELECTIONS

Independently of the Colong Committee three of its members have nominated for the State elections; all have accepted Australia Party endorsement. They are:

Milo Dunphy A.S.T.C., A.R.A.I.A., MIRANDA: Milo is well known as Secretary of the Colong Committee and National Parks Association and is a Councillor of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

David Eden B.E. Grad. I.E. Aust. ASHFIELD: David, with his wife Malle were responsible for organising the purchase of A.P. C.M. (A) shares and their sale to conservationists. David is Assistant Secretary of the National Parks Association.

Brian Walker COLLAROY: Brian has resigned from the Liberal Party to contest Collaroy against Mr. Askin. Brian is a Councillor of the Warringah Shire and was formerly President of the Forestville Branch of the Liberal Party and a delegate to the Party's State Council. In a press statement issued January 21, he said:

"The reason I quit the Liberals was as a protest against some of their conservation policies, particularly their decision to allow mining at the Colong Caves Reserve and the threats to some of the national parks." "I have been fighting for conservation in the Liberal Party for three years and I was getting nowhere despite strong support within the party."

People wishing to help Milo, David or Brian in their election campaigns can contact them at -

Milo Dunphy:	59 Mulga Rd., Oatley, Phone: 578153
David Eden:	22 Fairmount Street. Dulwich Hill; Phone: 5607714
Brian Walker:	41 Central Rd. Avalon, Phone: 9183689

Part of the policy of these Australia Party candidates is to present Private Members Bills to

1. Immediately add all of Special Mining Lease 444 in the Colong Caves Reserve to the Kanangra-Boyd National Park.

2. Immediately revoke the Konangaroo State Forest and add all of the Boyd Plateau to the Kanangra-Boyd National Park.

REPORT OF LIBERAL PARTY SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The report of the special committee appointed by the State Council of the Liberal Party to make recommendations on land use at Mount Armour and Kanangra Boyd has now been published in "The Australian Liberal" for December 1970. Although the report had previously appeared in "Jobson's Digest" the Colong Committee took the view that it remained confidential to the Liberal Party until published by the Party.

"The Australian Liberal" gives the following description of the report.

The committee accepted the assurance of the Minister for Mines, Mr. Wal Fife, that if limestone deposits at Marulan offered a feasible and viable alternative to Mt. Armour he would negotiate the revocation of the Mt. Armour Lease.

The committee resolved that the company should be permitted to exercise its rights under the lease only if no viable alternative deposits of limestone were determined; that there should be a thorough reappraisal as to further possible conditions in the lease with a view to preventing any despoliation of the National park; and that all conditions, and those that might be added, should be rigidly observed.

It also recommended that under no circumstances should a dam be built across the Kowmung River.

On the Boyd Plateau the committee applauded the Government's demonstrated concern for conservation and recognised "its outstanding record in national park dedication."

The report continued:

"Nevertheless the committee recommends:

- (i) That action be accelerated to annex the available 62,000 acres to the north of the Park (thus bringing the National Park to 160,000 acres);
- (ii) That continued attention be given to the further extension of the Park;
- (iii) That consideration be given to adding to the Park flat areas more suitable for family enjoyment and recreation (as well as the expansive more rugged areas); and
- (iv) That, in the interest of those who find the pines attractive, more consideration be given to provision of additional public recreation facilities.

The committee rejected a motion that it should propose revocation of the recent extension to the Konangaroo State Forest, and then resolved as follows (with votes as indicated);

- (i) The Committee takes the view that the whole of Konangaroo State Forest should be developed in the proportion of 80 per cent, native forest to 20 per cent, softwood with correspondingly proportionate expenditure on each type of forest. (5-4).
- (ii) The Committee takes the view that the whole of Konangaroo State Forest should be developed in two sections, one for softwoods, if this is felt desirable and the remainder for native forest. It is recommended that only that portion lying to the west and north of the clearly defined range chain running along Dungalla Heights, then north through Mt. Walan, be devoted to softwood. This will reduce the possible intrusion of one forest type and ecology to another. (6-4).
- (iii) In the development of the State Forest on the Boyd Plateau area, care be taken wherever possible to develop good stands of timbers native to the area (7-1 with 1 abstention).

The committee offered a general comment: "Overall, the Committee recognises and appreciates the pressing interests of conservation, decentralisation, and industrial development. In view of the importance of each of these demands, it is felt that the focus of attention should be on balanced development.

Moreover, it is affirmed that the appropriate Ministers should bear the responsibility of continuing to preserve this balance."

During the State Council discussion of this report there was criticism of some committee members as not being impartial in their inquiries.

One committee member said the Government was obviously trying to find a balance between the conflicting interests in the area. Another said the report was a compromise between two extremes. He urged that in future all Council committees should be comprised solely of full Council members.

The recommendations fall far short of previous resolutions of State Council and the Annual Convention, which unanimously called for the cancellation of the Mount Armour leases. If no "viable" alternative deposits are determined the company is to be permitted to exercise its rights at Mount Armour. What does that trendy word "viable" mean in this context? It can mean only "satisfactory to A.P.C.M." And what will be satisfactory to A.P.C.M.? The answer to this is obvious - cheap limestone. Colong will be saved only if equally cheap limestone can be found elsewhere. A "balance" must, of course, be achieved. No conservation report would be complete without one.

On the Konangaroo State Forest, the special committee, though far from unanimous, goes a good deal of the way towards the Colong Committee's objective.

On page 16 of "The Australian Liberal" the annual report of the State Executive to the State Council is summarised. The theme of this report is that the Party is confronting special challenges and that there is "an urgent need for all sections of the Party to diagnose the factors accurately and to offer the appropriate leadership..... Even more importantly, the report continues, "we must interpret accurately the current attitudes of the electors if we are to continue to merit political leadership..... What are the new generations thinking?..... Certain it is that the goals of the 1970s must differ considerably from those which gave the Liberal Party its upsurge of strength in 1949."

The Colong Committee has been in existence for nearly three years now. Support for its objectives has been so widespread and enthusiastic that it knows it has tapped one of the mainstreams of thought of the new generations. The frequently stated objectives of the Liberal Party, which have kept it in power Federally for 22 years, have been security and productivity. The big change in attitude that is taking place right now is the realisation that greater productivity at the expense of environmental amenity is not worth while. The Colong Committee is only one of the crusaders for environmental preservation, and not yet successful. The movements for the preservation of the Little Desert in Victoria and the Coodoola Sandmass in Queensland have been successful. An inquiry has been forced on oil drilling on the Barrier Reef, while in W.A. conservationists are fighting to prevent the exploitation of wax coal in the Jerramungup nature reserve. If the State Parliamentary Liberal Party wants to "get with it" it will take the lead in conservation rather than, as in the Colong issue, being dragged into it.

MARULAN DISCOVERY TOUR

On Dec. 13th thirty five people including representatives of the Colong Committee, S.S.S., N.P.A., (Berrima Dist.) Goulburn Field Naturalists, S.U.S.S., U.N.S.W.S.S., and the Bungonia Progress Association visited the Marulan quarries. A trustee of the Bungonia Reserve Mr. Cochran, the District Surveyor and the Lands Inspector also attended in their private capacity, in order to point out important features of the area.

The party first visited the Bungonia Lookdown which overlooks A.P.C.M.'s quarry and overburden dump which runs into the public reserve along Bungonia Creek. Mr Warwick Counsell revealed that a Mineral Exploration Licence had been granted over the whole Bungonia Reserve. Ben Nurse of S.S.S. estimates that A.P.C.M.(A) would have limestone reserves of about 360 million tons. The Mount Armour deposit is only 50 million tons.

The next vantage point was Adam's Lookout. The original boundaries of the Bungonia Reserves were designed to preserve this view. However, it is threatened by existing leases on the other side of the gorge. A.P.C.M.'s recent lease application M.L. 32 threatens the safety of people using the eastern end of the Bungonia Gorge. Already the view has been marred by the illegal construction for drilling purposes of two roads into Reserve 2755

The party then moved into Southern Portland Cement's quarry at South Marulan (south of Bungonia). The overburden at this quarry is tipped over the edge into Barber's Creek and consequently into a public reserve (also outside the Company's lease boundaries). It is this reserve that S.P.C.'s mining purposes lease application (no. 532 Goulburn) partly covers. Objections to this Lease by Mr. Milo Dunphy, for the Colong Committee and by Mr. W. Counsell will be heard at the Mining Warden's Court on Feb. 16th-18th. The scree slope is very loose and a great danger to bushwalkers or anyone venturing into the creek. Furthermore, any rain turns this slope into a river of mud and boulders which could ultimately cause a siltation problem for the Shoalhaven Water Scheme.

A.P.C.M.'s quarry was visited for a better look at the illegal road and the quarry operations. Parts of the quarry appeared to be quite dangerous and the size of boulders that are blasted into Bungonia Creek frightening.

The impression was gained that all the recent activity and lease applications could mean an undisclosed plan for the future of Bungonia and could prejudice rationalisation of leases at Marulan as an alternative to Colong. The public must be vigilant.

OBJECTION TO USE OF BARBER'S CREEK AS A MINE DUMP

The Southern Portland Cement Co. Ltd., has applied for a lease of 400 acres of land on both sides of Barber's Creek, below its Marulan quarry, for use as a mine dump. It is believed that the Company intends to tip another 100 million tons of rubble into the gully. Acting on behalf of the Colong Committee, M. L. Dunphy has served notice of the following objections on the Secretary of the Company. Objections will be heard at the Mining Warden's Court in Moss Vale on 16th-18th February.

- (1) That it is not in the public interest that the application should be granted.
- (2) That if the application were granted the dumping of mine residue and tailings on the subject land would be an inconvenience, nuisance or obstruction to a creek, namely Barber's Creek.
- (3) That if the application were granted, the dumping of mine residue and tailings on the subject land would occasion public damage or inconvenience.
- (4) That the subject land is comprised within public Reserve R. 1532, which adjoins other public Reserves R. 31525, R. 31526, which are used by bushwalkers and picnickers and other persons who enjoy natural scenery, and the dumping of mine residue and tailings would involve risk of injury to such persons.
- (5) That the dumping of mine residue and tailings on the subject land would be unsightly for bushwalkers, picnickers and other persons who walk on and near the subject land and surrounding lands.
- (6) That the dumping of mine residue and tailings on the subject land would spoil or destroy the natural ecology of Barber's Creek.
- (7) That in breach of conditions of the applicant's lease, the applicant has already used the subject land for the purpose of the dumping of mine residue and tailings and this is conduct disentitling the applicant from succeeding in this application.
- (8) That the dumping of mine residue and tailings on the subject land will cause Barber's Creek to carry silt to its junction with the Shoalhaven River on which river it is proposed to construct water storage works and such siltation will shorten the useful life of such water storage works and may involve the expenditure of public moneys to arrest siltation in such works.



- (9) That the applicant does not reasonably require the use of the subject land for the purpose of the dumping of mine residue and tailings.
- (10) That the area of the subject land is excessive in relation to such needs as the applicant has for the dumping of mine residue and tailings.
- (11) That the subject land is comprised within a public reserve and it is contrary to the public interest for such land to be used for the purpose sought.
- (12) That a Mining Purposes Lease such as the applicant seeks cannot be granted in respect of Crown Land.

SHAREHOLDERS NEWS

Progress Report.

The target of 1000 Save Colong Shareholders for the Annual General Meeting in April is now in sight. The growth in shareholder power has been very impressive. In April 1969 the number of shareholders was 200, in April 1970 it was 430, and now there are about 850 shareholders, holding a total 1200 shares in A.P.C.M.(A) Ltd. This is more than a doubling each year. Make sure we reach our target.

The Annual Event.

A.P.C.M.'s shareholders meeting is usually held on a weekday afternoon in April in Sydney. All Save Colong Shareholders should take advantage of this once a year privilege to meet, assess, question and note against or for the Company Directors. Everyone must come, or send a proxy to exercise their vote. The people who live in the Sydney Metropolitan area must surely have one friend or relative who could attend in person. Interstate shareholders (there are shareholders in every state of Australia, T.P.N.G. and Bougainville) who find it a little difficult to attend, can send their signed proxy forms which will be forwarded to you by the Company with the glossy Annual Report, The Colong Committee, c/- Mrs M. Eden, 22 Fairmount Street, Dulwich Hill 2203, and the Colong Committee will find a proxy to attend for you. Your vote must be counted.

A SAVE COLONG - DIRECTOR

This year, shareholders will have the opportunity to vote for a Colong Committee member as Director. Our candidate for Director will have positive and outspoken approach to the Company's plans, with the interests of the shareholders and the people of Australia at heart. Last year the Directors appointed by the company would not justify their appointment. Their qualification, their business experience and personalities seem to be a closely guarded secret. However, they do claim to be "conservationists at heart." How can a shareholder be

expected to vote for someone he knows nothing about? This year, vote for our candidate as Director

Please Note:

These people please contact the Colong Committee.

- (1) People who have applied for a share before 31.12.70 and have not yet received a transfer form.
- (2) Those people who have signed and sent their transfer forms to us before 30th November 1970 and have not received their share.

Also could all share applicants who have not returned their signed transfer form please do so before March 12th, otherwise they could miss out on the April dividend and be unable to attend the A.G.M. in April.

Mr. Fred Keen

The loss of Mr. Fred Keen was sad news for the Colong Committee particularly the older members who knew him personally. His experience and enthusiasm were an inspiration in those early days when many believed that Colong was a lost cause. Not only did he do a great deal of work as Secretary in the formative period.

As a form of recognition of Mr. Keen's work, the Committee is considering the offer of a prize in his name at the local high school. The prize would be for an essay on a conservation topic related to Colong thus giving public expression to his determination to Save Colong.

ANNUAL SUPPORTERS MEETING

Our third annual supporters meeting will be held in the large room of the G. U. O. O. F. building, 149 Castlereagh Street at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 17th February. The meeting is primarily for representatives of supporting societies, but others are welcome, and seats will be reserved for them if they phone, Miss Gwen Hanley - 436558 (evening). The meeting will be chaired by Prof. Johnson. Father Tierney will present the Annual Report and MibDunphy the Action Committee's report. Slides of the Boyd, Sunny Corner and Marulan will be shown.

The meeting is an opportunity for supporters to learn what has been done to express their views and demonstrate their enthusiasm.