

SAVE COLONG BULLETIN

THE COLONG COMMITTEE

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NUMBER 24

MAY, 1972

Registered for posting as a periodical category (B)

Price 10c

PEDDER AFTER THE ELECTION

"It's just the enlargement of a little lake, that's all it is." — Bethune, ex-Premier and ex-leader of the Liberal Party in Tasmania.

In its April 22nd editorial the S.M.H. surmised whether "Tasmania could be the first State controlled by conservationists." As it happened the island State was denied this distinction; in respect to the Pedder issue the election result was largely a matter of tweedledum replacing tweedledee leaving the lake in no better position. But the United Tasmania Group, though it failed to put a man into Parliament, did much to promote in a most dramatic fashion the wider cause of conservation. The Review made the point:

"Both the major parties derogated the electoral impact of the UTG, but neither was prepared to take any chances. First the Liberals and then Labor offered a ministry for the environment"

UTG's campaign was noted through Australia, all major newspapers reporting on its progress, its performance, and its effects — many in editorial comments. The Adelaide Advertiser stated:

"That this group was not conspicuously successful in winning seats at its initial bid was perhaps less remarkable than the appearance for the first time in Australia of a conservation group in the forefront of politics.

Other parties were forced — some reluctantly — to declare themselves. Significantly, the Tas. Labor Party's policy was judged to be closest to that of the conservationists. There is surely a lesson in that for Federal parties."

And the Launceston Examiner:

"The Government would be crazy to assume that Tasmanians rejected the concept of conservation because they did not elect the UTG candidates. It will embark at its peril on schemes which harm the environment."

The press, in basing its comments on UTG's state-wide election result, has, however, been misleading. In fact two UTG candidates came very close to election in two separate electorates, one failing by only 105 votes. The difficulties facing UTG were immense — a short (3 weeks) campaign, a small budget, a flood of propaganda directed against it by both major parties, an expensive programme of self-justification and vilification of conservationists by the HEC. The UTG achieved in three weeks a degree of environmental awareness in the State political parties that Tasmanians might otherwise have waited years for. Meanwhile Lake Pedder is still there and even though the immersion of the lake region is to begin within weeks, its obliteration will be a slow process capable of quick reversal for months afterwards.

The Tasmanians have not given up — UTG's election performance was at first sight disappointing, but subsequent analysis has shown that the lake was not necessarily condemned by the voters; certainly no-one believes that the new Government has a mandate to drown Pedder. Even Bethune said it was just a question of no funds (though his acts seemed not to accord with his words) and presumably the Labor Government would implement an alternative to the Pedder flood if the money became available. This committee views the kind of alternative most frequently mooted with much distaste (the canal alternative), the only worthwhile scheme being a whole abandonment of the Serpentine storage which would require no new money at all.

Still, the availability of funds would be a beginning on Tasmania's long road to ecological sanity. To this end the Victorian branch of LPAC is working, concentrating its attention on the Federal Government and the ALP. Labor shadow-Minister for the environment, Tom Uren, has expressed positive support for a natural Pedder and with an election looming the McMahon Government might yet forget its constitutional quibbles and take action.

Pedder has been pronounced dead a dozen times in the last six months and still she lives. Who would dare pronounce her dead now?

Photographs of Lake Pedder

The Committee has received from Mr. Geoff Parr, Senior Lecturer in Education at the Tasmanian School of Art in the Hobart College of Advanced Education, a magnificent set of photographs of Lake Pedder. It is the belief of publishers who have been approached that it would not be an economic proposition to publish these in book form. The publishers may well have under-estimated the effect of the publicity the Lake is receiving, while the photographs will appeal to many purely on aesthetic grounds. As things stand, they will have to be published privately or not at all. The Committee decided to make these facts known to readers in the hope that one of them might like to finance such a publication. Some, and perhaps all the outlay, would be recouped from sales.

AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL SUPPORTERS' MEETING (Held on 8th March, 1972)

As in previous years, Professor Johnson occupied the Chair. He said that the story of the Colong Committee was a remarkable saga of dedicated, persistent and determined work by a small group of people, some of whom, like Milo Dunphy and Father Tierney, had been with the Committee since the beginning. At the first meeting there had been extraordinary enthusiasm denoting a dramatic change in the community's attitude to conservation. There had been in some ways too much publicity, which tended to debase our cause and attracted Government support at a fairly superficial level.

The Annual Report of the Chairman of the Colong Committee, Father James Tierney, was then read and adopted. It is reproduced in full below.

Next the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Charles Culberg, A.A.S.A., which recorded receipts of \$4,957.15 and payments of \$4,449.51, was read and adopted. It too is reproduced in full below.

Our guest speaker, the noted economist and statistician, Dr. Colin Clark, then engaged our attention with some far reaching observations on the economics of conservation, with particular reference to our own sphere of activities. Dr. Clark made it clear that he was not opposed to the concept of the Gross National Product, in fact the term and its definition were his invention. But we must be sure that we produced what people really wanted. Of the goods and services which people really wanted, rapidly increased importance must be accorded to recreation. He himself enjoyed walking and, even if the majority of people were indifferent, it was good economics and social justice that the needs of walkers should be covered. As the community grew wealthier and better able to indulge its tastes, the demand for land for recreation might well be much higher. Those who looked but little to the future would have little when they arrived there.

In opposition to this view were the type of statesmen who lacked a sense of futurity. Their attitude might be described as "plutolatriy" — the worship of wealth — and the creed that if anyone is making money out of anything, then it is sacred, and must not be interfered with. We could place no trust in the integrity of politicians who were all under the necessity of collecting money from the rich and votes from the poor with promises to protect each against the other. They worked in extraordinary secrecy, as evidenced by the Clutha deal.

The politician's love of hydro-electric schemes, Dr. Clark described as "hydromegolomania". It was not rational, but was a mild form of psychological disease. An example of this was the defence by Mr. Beale of the Keepit Dam, which could not be justified on economic, agricultural or other grounds. The Snowy River Scheme, feebly defended by Mr. Swartz, had cost \$1,022 million at 1970/71 prices (more if realistic interest rates were charged), and the value so far recovered was \$300 million. If the Snowy project had not been constructed and we had generated the same amount of power from coal burning generators, we could have afforded to have built dozens of additional power houses and paid every Australian family a bonus of \$150. The Gordon Scheme was estimated to cost \$95 million, but irrigation engineers were subject to an overwhelming temptation to understate costs. Even if the Gordon scheme was completed for \$95 million, it would be nothing like an economic investment. The Lake Manpouri project was another example. Power could be provided much more cheaply by thermal stations. Sulphur dioxide could be extracted from the smoke of coal burning stations at a cost. Nuclear stations, which had no chimneys, were better. Much of the mining of beach sands was uneconomic. The exhaustion of such resources could not be justified. Dr. Clark said too that he heartily agreed with the Colong Committee's view on the exploitation of the Boyd for pine culture. The wool subsidy would go to the Stock and Station Agents and then to the Banks. It would serve to keep up the price of land. The Pitt Street farmer was another menace, because he was encouraged to remove the bush purely for the sake of tax concessions. It was unlikely these concessions would be removed in case they reduced the price of land.

Most pollution could be prevented if we paid the price. The price of checking atmospheric pollution by cars would be from \$100 to \$500 per vehicle. Sewerage could be purified at a cost of 8 cents per person per day.

After the conclusion of Dr. Clark's address the meeting considered the following three motions, all of which were passed:

"That this meeting of Colong Committee supporters endorses the Committee's proposal to form itself into a national wilderness society."
Mover: Father Tierney.

"This meeting is totally opposed to the granting of any mining lease or mining purposes lease which violates past or existing reserves in the vicinity of Bungonia Gorge. The meeting believes that a suitable alternative to Special lease 444 is available on the plateau at South Marulan, and it is further resolved that the Minister for Mines be asked to carry out a public investigation of such a proposal."

Mover: Mr. Mark Weatheley.

"That the Colong Committee write to the Premier of Tasmania, pointing out that, since the Tasmanian highlands contain the only extensive Alpine wilderness areas in Australia, and nearly all the mountain lakeland in the Commonwealth, his Government should act in the national interest, by preserving these scenic and recreational assets for posterity, rather than sacrificing them for power generation, or the wood-ship demands of foreign countries."

Mover: Mr. Milo Dunphy.

THE COLONG COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

by the Chairman, Rev. James Tierney

to the Annual General Meeting Supporting Societies held on 8th March, 1972.

Adoption moved by Robert Kyurina, seconded by Patrick Thompson, carried unanimously.

Professor Johnson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is the fifth such meeting of supporters of the Save Colong Campaign (1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972) and I am privileged to present to you the report of activities since 17th February, 1971, our previous supporters' meeting.

A. AIMS NOT YET ACHIEVED

On the debit side of our conservation ledger we have to report that none of our aims is yet completely achieved.

1. First we set out to save Mt. Armour, in the Colong Caves Reserve, from limestone mining. It is still not quite saved: recently the Premier announced that, if A.P.C.M.(A) relinquishes its Special Lease 444 at Mt. Armour then the Government will grant it additional leases at Marulan. All this was negotiated by proxy, and the Premier steadfastly refuses to meet a group from the Colong Committee. We have come a long way since 1968 and our darkest hour in October 1968, when there was "no alternative to Mt. Armour". But until Mt. Armour is added to the K.P.N.P., only created in 1969 since the Colong campaign was mounted, it cannot be considered "saved".
2. Our second objective, the revocation of both the additions to the Konangaroo State Forest and of the original Konangaroo State Forest, and the addition of these lands to the K.B.N.P., has not been realised either. This second mandate (to save the Boyd Plateau) was notified by the supporting societies at a meeting such as this in 1970. Apart from the rapacious destruction of any tree that grew more or less straight, in the latter half of 1969 and through 1970, the only activity on the Boyd has been some more roads and trails. However, the new Minister for Conservation (the same Mr. Fife who is also Minister for Mines) has assured us that no final decision on the future of the Boyd Plateau has yet been taken, that there will be no work on the Boyd without telling us, and that we would be consulted before any such decision was taken. This means there is a breathing space during a stay in proceedings. However, the Forestry Department is preparing various plans, some inimical to us. (See "Boyd - Crisis" infra.)
3. Our third objective, not to compromise Bungonia Gorge even while saving Colong, received a severe setback when Public Reserves at Bungonia were revoked in the Government Gazette of November, 1971, and 75 minutes (!) later APCM lodged application for a mining lease over the whole of the revoked reserves.

B. ACHIEVEMENTS

On the credit side there are major achievements: Mt. Armour is still not mined, and the Boyd Plateau has still not been bulldozed, nor have any pines been planted there yet. What is more, 42,500 acres were promised to the KBNP by Mr. Lewis as a kind of election sop a year ago. We're not sure exactly where, and they're still not gazetted, but it's a gesture. The new lease application in the Bungonia Gorge area has not yet been granted, and at present a Mining Warden's Court is hearing its defence. The Battle of Bungonia is not yet lost.

Our greatest credit, however, is represented by the prestige and goodwill the Committee has built up: The Colong Committee is now the vanguard of the wilderness conservation movement.

We believe that the popularity we have won for our cause has forced the Government to take heed, and stay its hand. And we believe that the longer we carry on the fight, the stronger we become, and the more difficult it will be for the authorities to permit the mining and bulldozing and pine planting of our best wilderness and scenic areas.

C. WHAT HAVE WE DONE, IN DETAIL ?

The status achieved by The Colong Committee can best be appreciated by reviewing the main events of the year:

1. **The State Election Campaign**

At this time last year the Committee had just wound up its election activities. We attempted to put as much pressure as we could on all candidates. Declare yourselves, we said. Are you a friend or foe? Several of our supporters stood for election, not as members of the Committee, but as individuals, to make Colong and the Boyd into issues. They received a gratifying number of votes, and considerably influenced the results. (See "Save Colong Bulletin" for 13th March, 1971, No. 18).

2. **Annual General Meeting of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Aust.)**

The highlight of our publicity was the AGM of APCM. With The Colong Committee ever uppermost in their minds, the cement people thoughtfully shifted the locale to Melbourne. If they had studied history more astutely they might have known that such a plot would backfire. It did: the meeting was "the most theatrical of its kind in Australia" (Sydney "Sun"), was well attended by an enthusiastic band of Melbourne conservationists, on proxies, mainly from those who held only one share, and in their van were the most vocal of our own New South Wales' supporters.

The attempt to stop the sale of single shares was blocked by the vigilance of our legal members, who found that the requisite 21 days' notice of motion had not been given.

There was extensive T.V. and radio coverage, and widespread newspaper reporting, aggregating 585 column inches, in all mainland capitals. "The Sunday Australian" for 2.1.72 gave APCM a "misguided Public Relations Award" for siting the meeting in Melbourne.

This year's meeting will be a must — to force a solution, and enjoy doing it !

3. **The Barber's Creek Court Case**

Contemporaneous with our own last AGM was the beginning of the Mining Warden's Court hearing on a lease application for a Mining Purposes Lease for the other big cement combine, Southern Portland Cement (B.H.P., A.I.S. etc.). There were three day hearings in February, May and June, and we were represented in court by Mr. R. P. Meagher. We also commissioned Mr. F. S. Hespe, a Chartered Consulting Engineer, to prepare a report on alternative sites for the dumping of quarry wastes so as to save Barber's Creek for proposed extensions to Morton National Park.

The Mining Warden's judgement, which only has the force of a recommendation to the Minister, Mr. Fife, considerably reduced the size of the lease (to 1/5th!), and proposed stringent measures to prevent blockages in Barber's Creek and to stabilise and beautify their existing dumps by revegetation. This represented a concession to the Committee's views.

This case was the first ever in a Mining Warden's Court "in the public interest", and hence attracted much favourable publicity.

4. **The Bungonia Gorge Court Case**

On 9th November 1971, one week after the Premier's announcement on the proposed additional lease at Bungonia Gorge, Mr. Milo Dunphy, Honorary Secretary of The Colong Committee, acting as its agent, lodged objections, and thus ensured another Mining Warden's Court hearing.

The main grounds of the objections are that the controverted land was intended for inclusion in the proposed extensions to the Morton National Park, and that it was already reserved for conservation purposes, including a wild life refuge and bird and animal sanctuary, and that part of the land is of such spectacular scenic quality as to justify its preservation for posterity, free from all encroachments by mining.

We would like to put the onus of proof of the need for more limestone on the Cement Company itself, and to put the onus on the Government to redistribute the leases. There is a chance these may come out of this hearing in a later session.

D. HOW WAS IT DONE ?

1. The work of the Committee has been expressed in a number of publications and broadsheets.

The **Save Colong Bulletin** is now a registered periodical, Category B, and posts for 2c, recently risen to 2.5c, instead of 6c. risen to 7c. This saves over \$200 per year. Without Messrs. Colley, Dunphy and Weatherley the Bulletin would not get written. Without Mr. Bob Hawkins of the Speleos it would not be beautifully offset printed free, and without the St. Charles Boys' Camping Group of the Catholic Parish of Ryde, it would not be collated, stapled, enveloped and posted.

The brochure "Park or Pines" has been updated and the "Colong Scandal" likewise. A Bungonia pamphlet is in its first draft. A white paper "Why Bulldoze the Boyd" has been sent to all State Parliamentarians, and several pamphlets printed for general distribution. Parliament has in fact been circularised several times.

2. The Committee also organised a photographic display at the Wild Life Exhibition in the Town Hall basement, and has made available photographs and descriptive materials for the Australian National Library for an exhibition in Canberra and other centres.

3. As in previous years, radio, T.V. and press coverage has been phenomenal, and almost always sympathetic. The Senate's Select Committee on Wildlife was a grand opportunity for the promotion of the facts uncovered by us.
4. During the year several tours of the Boyd, Colong and Bungonia were organised, and within the last few weeks, the Committee was one participating society in an enormous field day at Bungonia, attended by 1400 people. Several Parliamentarians attended a recent tour of the Boyd, with pressmen, anxious to see for themselves some of the objects of the campaign.
5. There have been representations to Mr. Fife in both his capacities (Mines and Conservation) and to the Forestry Commission. These keep the lines of communication open.
6. The sale of shares in APCM guarantees an ever bigger attendance at their 1972 AGM next month, and the enormous task begun by Mr. and Mrs. David and Malle Eden has been continued by Mr. Neil Joblin.
7. The finances are carefully recorded by our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Charles Culberg, for whom we are most grateful.
8. A special thanks must go to our patrons, Mr. John Holt and Guy Moore, for their generous financial support, and also to Dr. Mason likewise for his. Their timely interventions have given new heart to the Treasurer, and certainly new sinews to the Committee.
9. While thanking people, I know none of you will feel overlooked if I single out one member of the Committee who has carried much of the organisation on his shoulders. I refer to Mr. Milo Dunphy, our secretary, who not only gives lavishly of his time and wide knowledge, but has made available in his own offices our meeting room and storage space for our records and publicity material.

E. WHAT NEXT ?

For some time now this question has been raised in the Committee, and something has been done about it too.

With every prospect of complete victory at Colong, and probably complete on the Boyd, (see "Boyd-Crisis" infra) and at least even odds at Bungonia, the Committee has anticipated the day of victory, by entering a crucial conservation campaign at the eleventh hour. This is the Colong Committee's Lake Pedder campaign.

In this, the Committee has anticipated favourable support at this meeting, actually a more general support, to form itself into an Australia-wide Wilderness Society. Funds have been received for this campaign, and are accounted for and spent quite separately from those given for the original campaign and its extensions.

Some success has already been achieved, including picketting of the Tasmanian Tourist Bureau, an all-night vigil, the distribution of the pamphlets "Dammania" and "Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters", and two large posters. T.V. cameramen, radio newsmen and newspaper reporters outnumbered the pickets, giving them excellent coverage on the media. A special thanks must go to Noel L'Orange for his time, energy and professional competence.

F. CONCLUSION

With all its energetic organisation, and its extension to the National Level, The Colong Committee is still in a defensive position: it aims to preserve the remnants of wilderness as they are attacked by exploiters and developers.

As an outcome of tonight's meeting, may your consent confirm this annual report by extending the mandate of the Colong Committee to enable it to assume its proposed role as a National Wilderness Society.

AN ALLY IN OUR BOYD CAMPAIGN ?

"You get a tax deduction if you go out into the country and knock down scrub, probably for no other reason than to benefit from the capital gains system," said Mr. Lewis. "But if you make a gift to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service or the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation, it is not tax deductible."

Mr. Lewis said that Pitt Street farmers performed a valuable service when they revived a run-down property or rescued land from soil erosion. But he was opposed to the destruction of natural bushland which had only limited farming potential and which one day might be sought after as a national park or wildlife reserve.

He has asked the Commonwealth Government to permit the State to use rural reconstruction funds to purchase uneconomic farms and convert them into national parks.

(From S.M.H. 13/4/72)

BOYD - CRISIS

The Colong Committee is now preparing for the major battle for the Boyd. The Committee has good reason to believe that the question "Boyd - Park or Pines?" will be finally answered in spring this year.

Even now the decision may simply be that of one man — W. C. Fife, Minister for Mines and Conservation — the Forestry Commission having probably arrived at its final conclusions.

A vigorous and extensive campaign is to be launched in the near future. Pamphlets and posters have been drafted. Register your name with The Colong Committee now for distribution teams.

Pine culture is now the subject of debate in Federal Parliament — specifically the renewal of the Commonwealth-State Forestry Agreement Act. It seems probable that the Act may be substantially amended by the concerted action of the Labor and D.L.P. parties, ensuring that environmental considerations are never again ignored.

This widespread environmental advance began with the Boyd Plateau debate. Your support can consolidate that advance.

THE COLONG COMMITTEE

Statement of Receipts and Payments January 1 to December 31, 1971

Adoption moved by Guy Moore, seconded by Milo Dunphy, carried unanimously.

RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward at January 1	278.15
Subscriptions to Bulletin	741.20
Donations	3,912.80
Sale of publications	<u>25.00</u>
	<u>\$4,957.15</u>

PAYMENTS

Expenses re Bungonia Leases	2,193.13
Publications and Publicity	1,083.99
Bulletin Production and Despatch	407.82
Secretarial Expenses	223.41
Melbourne Meeting of A.P.C.M.	175.26
Press clipping service	156.00
Postage, excluding Bulletin	101.25
General Expenses	<u>108.65</u>
	<u>\$4,449.51</u>
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	507.64

BANK RECONCILIATION

Balance at Bank, December 31	537.64
Less Unpresented Cheques	<u>30.00</u>
Balance as per Cash Book	<u>\$507.64</u>

C. A. Culberg A.A.S.A.
Hon. Treasurer.

THE APCM (A) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"The most theatrical gathering of its kind in Australia" was the Sydney Sun's description of last year's Melbourne meeting, and as if in anticipation of yet another crowd-pleasing production APCM (A) hired the capacious Mosman Town Hall for its 1972 show.

For three hours the Company's Directors sat silent on the Town Hall stage while a crowd of more than 200 proxies and one-share company members harangued them for their environmental sins of the past year.

Chairman Sir Henry Bland attempted to exclude discussion on the Bungonia issue by pointing out that the matter was subject to a Mining Warden's Hearing and therefore sub judice; no-one believed him — the consideration had not deterred the National Trust from making Bungonia a leading feature in its latest bulletin, and the meeting was happy to make a gift of a copy to each member of the Board.

To the first motion of the meeting Milo Dunphy moved an amendment embodying the Colong Committee's aims: broadly,

1. Relinquishment of the Colong lease by the company and its(recommended)incorporation in Kanangra-Boyd National Park, and
2. Abandonment of plans for extension of mining on the rim of Bungonia Gorge.

Voting on the amendment revealed a rather neat ploy by the company. Proxies could not vote in a show of hands, Sir Henry Bland declared (true — proxies can only vote in a poll). A blue-circled card had been issued for the purpose to actual shareholders, Sir Henry said, and only those upheld hands clutching same would be counted. This announcement was greeted by uproar; it was suggested that to flourish the blue-circle emblem of APCM(A) amounted to an obscene gesture in this country and could not be tolerated! A number of shareholders descended on the man at the door to demand their cards; one returned with rather more than his share, company police notwithstanding, and in moments the ludicrous blue-circled things littered the hall.

The vote was taken, 200 blue circles carried the amendment; Sir Henry demanded a poll, and the silent faces of the Board sank exceedingly low at the prospect of setting yet another AGM endurance record.

There followed an intermission for the counting of the poll (approx. 500 for the amendment, 18 million against — Rule Britannia!) after which the meeting sought the Directors' views on conservation. Sir Grant Ferrier, retired Chairman and well-loved victim of former meetings, was eventually moved to rise to his distinguished feet and make the required placatory noises, though with a final admonition about the "needs of civilization". Sir Grant's words went without comment — presumably everyone was struck dumb with terror by his implied spectre of a cementless existence.

A Director who had turned 72 required the consent of the meeting for his continuation in office. Pat Thompson led the meeting in a chorus of "Happy Birthday" and although this was followed by "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" the meeting's goodwill did not go as far as extending the necessary approval, the septagenarian's fate being deferred to a poll at the completion of other business.

The question of rationalisation of limestone leases at Marulan was raised yet again — had the Directors in their wisdom seen fit to approach Southern Portland Cement Ltd. in this matter? Sir Henry managed to speak for minutes without answering the question, though some might have been able to distil the faint impression that some incredibly minimal action was being procrastinated upon. It is an utterly absurd situation that one company sits on unlimited and uncontroversial reserves at Marulan while APCM(A) devours Bungonia Gorge for its supplies.

Towards the meeting's end a resolution of those present was moved by Milo Dunphy, declaring APCM(A) a "vandal company". It was carried overwhelmingly and should be enshrined forever in the company's minutes — an indication to the parent company in the U.K. of the dismal reputation of its delinquent Australian subsidiary.

BUNGONIA OBJECTIONS

The Colong Committee has objected to an application by Metropolitan Portland Cement Pty. Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of APCM(A)) for a limestone quarrying lease of 87 acres covering a public Reserve and a recreation area.

The Mining Warden's hearing which commenced in March and has taken evidence on ten days, is now hearing the evidence of Colong Committee Secretary, Milo Dunphy.

Previously Dr. Branagan gave evidence on rationalisation of limestone leases at Marulan. Dr. Branagan has suggested in the past a joint quarrying proposal involving the APCM subsidiary and Southern Portland Cement Ltd; such an agreement would make use of reserves of limestone in SPC's Marulan leases which are far in excess of that company's foreseeable needs, and obviate the necessity for quarrying public Reserves.

Macquarie University botanist, Dr. Adamson, has given evidence to the effect that it is doubtful whether the APCM subsidiary could revegetate the rubble slope above Bungonia Creek, even within generations. His evidence has been countered by APCM(A)'s expert, who maintains virtually the opposite opinion.

Professor Jennings has said that the Bungonia Gorge area — particularly the "slot" — is extremely important from the point of view of a geomorphologist. Prof. Jennings told the Hearing that the feature was the best example of its kind in Australia, and perhaps in the world.

HELP !

Heavy expenditure on the Lake Pedder campaign on two Mining Wardens court cases and on organisation of the APCM(A) General Meeting has left the Committee's finances in a woeful state.

Contributing to the problem is the fact that only about 40% of subscribers to the bulletin are paid up for 1972.

Leke Pedder and the Boyd are our most urgent considerations — an environmental impact assessment on Boyd Plateau is needed now and the demands of the planned campaign will be considerable.

We urge those of you who have not already done so, to forward your subscription now (a mere dollar). And of course donations are ever welcome.

The Secretary,
The Colong Committee,
18 Argyle Street,
SYDNEY.

_____ 1972

Dear Sir,

I enclose _____ being my subscription to The Save Colong
Bulletin.

I enclose _____ being a donation to the Committee's
Fighting Fund.

NAME: _____
(please print)

ADDRESS: _____
(please print)

_____ Post Code _____

Signed: _____

ON LAKE PEDDER

*I walked to the lake and the lake was drowning
I heard the cries of people 100 years drowning
I thought of the stories of the long ago dying
Of Truganini's people of shooting and of lying.
How the natives huddled round their fires at night
Easy target for the hunters with their guns and dynamite.
How they put up signs to protect their greed
Saying keep out or be shot but the natives couldn't read.
They left them lying there like burnt out logs
Or they took their bodies and fed them to the dogs.*

*Two whites took Truganini and two black men in a boat
Threw the men over to see if blacks would float
Chopped off their hands when they tried to climb aboard
Then they raped Traganini while her man's blood poured
While her man bled fast and her man drowned slow
It goes down in history as a f *****g good show*

*I wonder were their bodies thrown in this lake
I wonder if they're drowning it for old time's sake
I wonder why destruction is the name of the game
To kill off this island and this island's shame.*

B. A Breen

* * * * *