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THE COLONG BULLETIN

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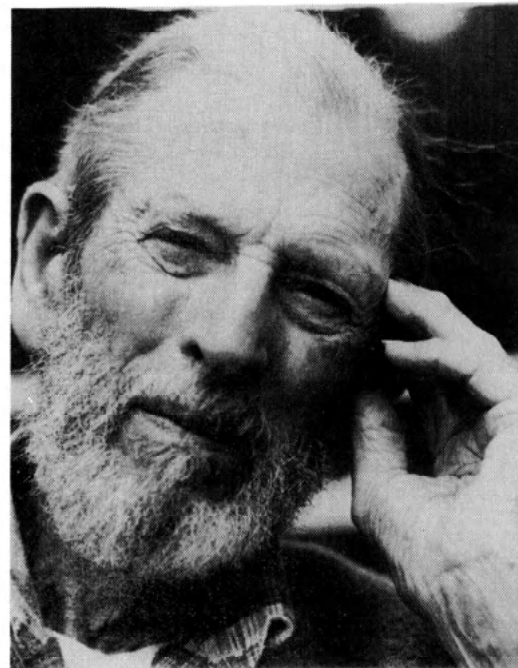
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DEATH OF OUR PATRON

Our Patron, Myles J. Dunphy O.B.E. and recipient of the I.U.C.N.'s Fred M. Packer Award for "Long Service with Merit in Advocacy of National Parks," died on Jan 30th. Myles has left us, but his wilderness conservation ideals are now so widely supported that their continuance, and perhaps fulfilment, is assured. Henry David Thoreau's dictum that "In wildness is the preservation of the world" is philosophically correct. Wilderness is the only completely natural ecosystem. Man is part of the natural ecosystem. He is dependent on it for the necessities of life, and the more degrades it the less secure his tenure of this planet becomes.

Myles was a visionary - a century or more before his time, but his concepts were founded on solid reality. They were built up on the foundation of painstaking observation and data collection and presented with specific, logical and detailed precision. His records containing trip diaries and notes, sketches, sepia prints, pencil drawings and ink maps, together with a number of water colour sketches filling 75 journals and a room full of neatly labelled files in manilla folders containing a history of the

conservation movement, have been accepted by the Mitchell Library, but an approach has been made for a set of photographic copies of the journals for the library of the Total Environment Centre, where they will be more readily available to the average bushwalker or conservationist.



Accompanying these records were his maps. Like all his work they were carefully researched and beautifully draughted. Though of course employing hachures instead of contours, the topographical features were clearly and artistically portrayed. Generally only the larger streams and prominent features bore official names. In naming other features, he searched historical records and consulted the local people. Many features were of little interest to the local people though of great interest to

THE COLONG COMMITTEE LTD A NATIONAL WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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PATRON: Myles J. Dunphy, O.B.E.
CHAIRMAN: Peter Maslen
VICE-CHAIRMEN: Rodney Falconer
John Dillon
HON. SECRETARY: Alex Colley, O.A.M.
HON. TREASURER: Charles Culberg
HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold
HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

bushwalkers, particularly for descriptive purposes. For these features when he could find no local or historical name he often used the names of early bushwalkers who were closely associated with them. His maps contained information on negotiable routes, permanent water sources and even camp sites, rarely shown on modern topographical maps. His great gift to bushwalkers was the Blue Mountains and Burrigorang Valley Tourist map, for many years the only detailed map of the Mountains. Although drawn up by the Lands Department, it was closely supervised by Myles and contained a wealth of information on tracks and negotiable routes. In 1969 the Geographical Names Board undertook a review of Blue Mountains nomenclature which would have meant the re-naming of many features. At one stage the well-named Rip, Rack, Roar and Rumble were to become Rip Hill, Rack Hill, Roar Hill and Rumble Hill. The Wild Dog Mountains would have been, in Myles' words, "flattened out of recognition by becoming ridges and spurs. Though in retirement, Myles went on the offensive with hundreds of pages of written data and protest. Fortunately for posterity, many of his names were retained.

Such "infinite capacity for taking pains" is the mark of genius but Myles eschewed the ivory tower. He was a very friendly and tolerant person, always accessible and ready to help with data and advice. He was also a fluent and convincing speaker.

He was one of the first bushwalkers, the other early walkers such as Herbert Gallop, Charles Kilpatrick and Maurice Berry being his friends. There was an earlier walking club, the Warragamba Walking Club, but it used mainly established trails and did not camp overnight. The organization of these early walks was in itself a remarkable innovation. In those days there were no 1 in 25,000 (or any other kind) of contour maps, no lightweight camping equipment, and car transport was virtually unavailable. Myles and his

friends had to evolve their own equipment and use parish maps. It seemed prudent to carry much equipment long since found unnecessary by bushwalkers, such as spare groundsheets, tomahawks and rifles. In addition, Myles carried a camera very heavy by today's standards, together with sketching materials and a large folder of maps. Trips often took two to three weeks and entailed provisions for the whole trip, because progress was slow and there were no shops on the way. Swags of 70 or 80 lbs had to be carried over rough, little known country.

His work was enhanced by the close ties he formed with those who lived in the remote places he traversed. He gained a wealth of information from them and often corresponded for years after meeting them. Bushwalkers who met these people many years after he visited them found they remembered him with admiration and affection. He was largely responsible for the good relations bushwalkers enjoyed with land holders before the motorised shooters and vandals spread over the land.

In 1914, he and Herbert Gallop formed the Mountain Trails Club. In 1927 members of this Club recognized the need for a mixed walking club and joined with Jack Debert and Frank Duncan to found The Sydney Bush Walkers. These, and other clubs formed later, were the cradle of the conservation movement, converted mainly by Myles' eloquence.

In 1932, members of the Mountain Trails Club founded the first wilderness society - The National Parks and Primitive Areas Council. It comprised four members of the M.T.C. who were also members of the S.B.W., two other M.T.C. members, 2 other S.B.W. members, two members of the Bush Tracks Club and one member of the Coast and Mountain Walkers. Myles was the secretary, and, of course the inspiration of the Council.

By the mid-sixties, when the work of the N.P.P.A.C. drew to a close, 14 of its proposed parks had been achieved. They included Kosciusko N.P., Garrawarra, Heathcote, Morton, Myall Lakes, Murrumbidgee, Brisbane Water and the Warrumbungles. The most ambitious

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proposal was for a Greater Blue Mountains National Park on which a start had been made with the reservation of Blue Gum Forest and the Grose Canyon. Since 1962 another 10 of the proposed areas have been dedicated, though a few small portions of original proposals are not yet included

The Colong Committee came into being in 1968 to fight for the preservation of Kanangra-Boyd, the southern of the four divisions of Myles' most cherished proposal - the Greater Blue Mountains National Park. The Committee took over where the N.P.P.A.C. had left off. When Colong and the Boyd were saved it adopted the Greater Blue Mountains National Park as one of its three main objectives. The Park is now virtually in being, Mt Werong, the last major section, being expected to be added soon. It is not yet called the Greater Blue Mountains National Park but we are working towards the amalgamation of the three parks that comprise most of Myles' original proposal and the adoption of his title. The Committee also intends to promote Myles' plan for a separate Nattai N.P., which was the subject of a National Parks Association submission in 1974, when we were immersed in the Colong and Boyd campaigns. The Committee has continued to work for his proposals and added a new dimension- the preservation of the rainforests. Experience has shown that dedication as a national park is not in itself enough to preserve wilderness. It must be designated and managed as such.

In July, 1983, the Colong Committee wrote to Myles saying:-

The Committee has now been in existence for 14 years. From its inception its main task has been to continue the work of the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council, in particular to secure and protect the national parks which you planned. It is, as you know, a task which requires long and sustained effort.

We would be greatly honoured if you would consent to be our Patron. Your patronage would enhance the already high status of the Committee and emphasise its continuity with the visionary work of earlier conservationists.

Myles replied:

I appreciate the honour of receiving such an invitation and I accept with pleasure. I am glad to know that the work I and others began so many years ago is still being carried on so effectively.

Myles' pleasure in becoming our patron, and his ready recognition that we were carrying on the work that he and others had begun, encouraged the Committee and enhanced its status. It helped to ensure that his work will continue and, we hope, lead to the full realization of the vision splendid to which his life was dedicated.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Three top level appointments in the field of conservation have been welcomed by the Colong Committee. The Hon. Robert J. Carr, M.P. is the new Minister for Planning and Environment. Mr Carr graduated with an Honours degree in History from the University of New South Wales. He began work as a journalist with the ABC radio current affairs programmes AM and PM, and in 1978 joined the Bulletin as industrial writer. He was extremely active within the Labor Party, having been education officer, President of NSW Young Labour and Young Labor's National President. He was elected to the seat of Maroubra in a 1983 by-election, became Chairman of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee in March 1984, and 13 months after entering Parliament, at the age of 37, was elected to the Ministry unopposed and given the portfolio of Planning and Environment (This must be some kind of record).

Mr Carr's wife, Helena, is an economist and company executive. His main recreations are reading, travel and bush walking.

Mr John Whitehouse, a long time supporter of the Committee and its projects, and ever ready to help, has been appointed Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Mr Carr said that the selection of Mr Whitehouse emphasised the Government's concern about conservation. He said:

"Mr Whitehouse may be the best public servant of his age in Australia. He was behind the scenes in the creation of the Myall Lakes National Park, the North Coast parks, the rainforest parks and Wollemi, the second largest park ever established in NSW, and was instrumental in the formation of the new Environmental and Planning Assessment Act under which the State now operates.

National Parks are his domain. The area of national parks has increased by over 70 per cent since the present Government came to power.

The appointment of Mr Whitehouse means that while we have a period of consolidation of our new parks, we are not resting on our laurels.

There are other national parks in the pipeline."

Mr Whitehouse was special adviser to the late Mr Paul Landa during his term as Minister for Planning and Environment, during which most of the increase in area of national parks took place.

Mr Ian Crook, who has been appointed Assistant Director Field Management of the NPWS, spent a number of years with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department of W.A., and was a member of the National Parks Authority. In Bulletin No. 87, we quoted the park management principles of the National Parks Authority of W.A. They are entirely in line with those of the Colong Committee.

At the end of last year the Committee arranged a meeting with Mr Don Johnstone, Director, NPWS. The Meeting was held on 8 February and the Committee was represented by Peter Maslen, Rodney Falconer & Pat Thompson. In view of the announcement of his retirement (subsequent to the arrangement meeting) Mr Johnstone thought it best that we talk to Jim Starling and Ian Crook. Nevertheless he was present for most of the two hour Meeting, and his presence was much appreciated. Mr Johnstone has always been pleased to hear the opinions of the Committee, even though we have at times been highly critical of Service policy. He has realized the importance

of citizen involvement in planning and we understand that it is at his suggestion that the Minister has re-instituted regular meetings with representatives of the environment movement. It was a cordial Meeting. Mr Crook (Asst. Director - Management) affirmed the Services agreement with virtually all our management principles. Fire policy is now being assessed by Regional Superintendents. It is hoped to avoid the construction of new fire trails. During the recent dry weather Services personnel have put out a number of small fires by sending small teams quickly, by helicopter. The fact that some 80% of these fires were caused by lightning bears out the Committee's view that few fires originating in wilderness areas are started by human agency and there will be fewer still if road access is stopped.

Mr Bob Carr met the major conservation groups on 4 February. The Colong Committee was represented by Milo Dunphy. Subjects discussed which are of direct interest to the Committee were:

Mount Werong: It was agreed that representatives of the Canopy Committee would discuss the proposal with a member of Mr Carr's staff, Dr Keith Mulette, within a fortnight. An invitation was extended to the Minister and Mr Wran to be present at a site inspection at the time of dedication.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: It was suggested that these be administered by the NPWS in order to avoid such ecological mistakes as the massacre of ibis at Booligal swamp.

Myall Lakes Management Plan: The Colong Committee's call for withdrawal and re-drafting with provision for closing and revegetation of the longitudinal mining road, removal of off-road vehicles from beaches and control of motor boats was repeated. (The Minister is already acting on the latter two requests.)

Controls of Vegetation Clearance: The Total Environment Centre has proposed monitoring of vegetation clearance, using satellite imagery, in order to improve protection and quick response.

On 8 March, Peter Maslen, Rodney Falconer, Pat Thompson and Alex Colley, representing the Colong Committee, had an hour and a half of discussion with Mr Carr and Ian Crook in Mr Carr's offices. The aim of the Committee in requesting this Meeting was simply to acquaint Mr Carr with the Committee's background and aims. Mr Carr, who proved a very attentive listener, reciprocated with a good deal of specific information on NPWS programmes and policy. The questions raised by the Committee were the passage of a State Wilderness Act, wilderness management plans, the location of rangers within parks, and the method of advertising for, the personnel of, and the functions of, Park Advisory Committees. Mr Carr showed great interest in the Wilderness Act proposal and we are to meet with his Policy Adviser, Mr David Papps, to frame a draft Act on wilderness management. We were given a copy of NPWS policy, the completion of which we have been urging for some time. The policy gives effect to most of the points raised by the Committee. It will be analysed in our next issue. A review of areas having wilderness management potential is scheduled to be completed by June this year. Seven parks with wilderness potential will be investigated to establish boundaries for the purpose of declaration if it should prove warranted.

Mr Carr confirmed his intention to obtain control of the intertidal strip for the NPWS (thereby giving it control of vehicular access). The Committee was also very pleased to hear that the Minister is looking for a large representative park in the west and the preservation of river red gums; also that work on an Apsley Gorge Park is well advanced and that Washpool wilderness gazettal is about to be published.

Mr Carr wants further meetings with the Committee and expressed a desire for a bushwalk with us. As experience has proved there is no better way of familiarising sympathisers with our ideals and this will be organized in the near future.

POLITICIANS TO DETERMINE FRANKLIN MANAGEMENT

For over a year, the Wilderness Society has lobbied for the Franklin World Heritage area to be managed by an authority set up by act of Parliament comprised of experts in the field of wilderness management, similar to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Environment Minister, Barry Cohen, assured the Society that the proposal had his Government's support. The Tasmanian and Federal Governments now propose that the management principles of the World Heritage Area will be entrusted to Premier Robin Gray, Tasmanian Tourism Minister, Geoff Pearsall, Federal Tourism Minister John Brown and Environment Minister Barry Cohen, none of whom have any background in wilderness protection. In fact, the chief record of two of them is in wilderness destruction. Premier Robin Gray still wants the Franklin Dam to be built and Tourism Minister, Geoff Pearsall, wanted to impose a \$50 levy for Franklin River rafters. There is no suggestion that any of the conservationists who devoted years to saving the Franklin will have any say in its management.

WAR CRIMINALS AND ECO CRIMINALS

At the Nuremburg trials, Nazis who had obeyed the instructions of their Government were convicted as war criminals. The court held that you have to interpose your estimate of the conduct of the state and not simply obey. As Professor Richard Falk, Professor of International Law at Princeton University expressed it, "Anyone who is aware that crimes of State are being committed, has an obligation to take what action they can to prevent that from occurring."

Miss Rosanne Peter invoked this principle when charged with disobeying lawful instructions during the September protest against the construction of the Daintree road. She said that the Nuremberg Principle overrode the laws of the land when "you're dealing with something of irreversible menace, deeply undermining the tranquility of the world, the ecological foundations of life."

The Magistrate placed a different interpretation on the actions of the Queensland authorities. Miss Peter was fined \$100.

THE MARCH OF DEVELOPMENT

In our September issue, we quoted the Queensland Minister for Conservation, the Hon. Martin Tenni, who wrote that the Daintree road "would do much to improve the tourist potential of the area". The "tourist potential of the area", we wrote, "depends on its natural attractions, as developers' advertisements stress. When these have been destroyed, as they have been further south, tourists will move north, first to Bloomfield, then on, ever northwards."

A recent report by Gregg Borschmann in the Sydney Morning Herald of 20th February confirms this prediction. He reports that "the largest slice of north Queensland yet proposed for freeholding has been secretly offered by the Queensland Government to a young American and an obscure US-controlled property company". The land, comprising a package of licenses and leases covering 2,000 square km on the Princess Charlotte Bay coast at Silver Plains, some 200 km north of the Daintree, has been offered to the Americans. The package deal includes a "priority" special lease (a most unusual provision for a Cape York pastoral lease) which practically guarantees freehold title, covering 24,300 ha. of prime areas of coast.

The deal has been offered to Mr Richard Rand. The Rand family acquired the property in 1971, and in 1972 Richard Rand's father, a wealthy builder, told "Women's Weekly" magazine that he wanted to build a first class tourist resort on Silver Plains "for those people who want to get away from it all and live a simple life."

Negotiations between the Queensland Land Administration Commission and the Rands went on for over 10 years, and in March 1983 further leases and eventual freeholding were refused. A letter from the L.A.C. said that "In the main, the improvements on the area have not been satisfactorily maintained and are generally in a poor state of repair. Also it is considered that the property

is not being properly managed due mainly to the condition of the improvements and the lack of permanent personnel employed thereon." During the period of negotiations the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service's proposal for the creation of a McIlwraith Range National Park has been delayed. The occupying license covering this area has been renewed yearly.

The lease on the property did not expire until June 1983, and between March and June there was a remarkable change of heart by the L.A.C. which, in a letter dated 25 May, made a special offer to Mr Rand which included a "priority" (freeholding) lease covering 24,300 ha., a renewed occupation license over a public purposes reserve near the Mouth of the Stewart River, a "priority" special lease over Crown land on the Binyo Timber Reserve and a guarantee of grazing rights over the proposed McIlwraith Range National Park. One of the choicest portions of the park proposal, around the lower reaches of the Nesbit River has been excised from the park proposal and included in the freehold package. Mr Rand will be able to acquire what the Sydney Morning Herald describes as "a grand slice of pristine tropical real estate," and which he himself describes, in a newspaper advertisement, as a "great location with development potential".

In the Queensland parliament an opposition front benchman accused Mr Glasson, Minister for Lands, of "selling prime north Queensland coastal land, adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef and surrounded by a national park, to American property developers for a miserable \$5 a hectare".

The suppression of drug running, given as one of the main justifications for the building of the Daintree road, does not appear to have figured in the negotiations. Mr Richard Rand was convicted in an Australian court 14 years ago on a cannabis charge.

And so, in the far north, as in the far south, anti-conservation governments push on with PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT at the expense of some of the last remnants of our natural heritage.

MONEY IN KOALAS

Though the Queensland Government isn't making much out of the sale of its proposed national parks, it has high hopes of cashing in on its koalas. The October, November, December issue of the Newsletter of the Maryborough and Bundaberg branches of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland contains the following item:

"We have asked the Premier what is his Government doing for koalas in view of his statement (Sunday Mail 18.11.84) that the export of Queensland koalas could be worth millions of dollars to Queensland because the Japanese will associate koalas with Queensland not with Canberra or other States. While the Koalas are doing so much for Queensland, just what is Queensland doing for them? How much money has the Government put into research (disease)?; what habitat is being preserved (especially Redland Shire) or is being acquired by Government for habitat? What is Government doing to stop destruction of habitat?"

Since koalas are protected, there will be no competition from private enterprise in the koala export market. The Japanese love them, and with a complete monopoly, the Government's profit could be astronomical.

THE HYDROLOGICAL RESULTS OF CATCHMENT CLEARING AND DAM CONSTRUCTION

An article by IUCN Regional Councillor N.D. Jayal, reproduced in the February National Parks Association Journal, has much relevance for Australia. Peninsula and Eastern India water sources depend on the capacity for retention of soils in catchment areas, which are mostly on steep hill slopes dependent upon natural forests for protection. But it is in these vulnerable catchment areas that extensive deforestation is causing serious erosion, which prevents controlled stream flow and causes recurring droughts and floods. As a consequence of mismanagement of catchments the flood-prone areas had doubled by 1980 to 40 million ha., from 20 million ha. in 1971. The disruption

of the hydrological cycle in the tropical monsoon climate implies too much water in the rains, and too little the rest of the year. Thus, along with flood prone areas, the drought prone areas are also expanding, and now cover 59 million ha., causing serious loss in productivity.

Although seasonal rainfall is not nearly so regular in Australia as in India, there is the same alternation of very wet and very dry periods. Our relatively few high rainfall catchments are also on steep hill slopes dependent upon natural forests for protection. It is here that most of our wilderness and near wildernesses are to be found. In the long term this is the most important aspect of wilderness preservation.

Councillor Jayal also describes the effect of impounding water in large dams. This, he says, often leads to deforestation in the catchment which changes the micro-climate and leads to soil erosion, thus decreasing the availability of water in the command areas. The transport of large volumes of water over large distances wastes water in seepage. The introduction of large volumes of water beyond the natural drainage capacity of the ecosystem disrupts the hydrological cycle and results in water logging and salinity. Such instabilities in the ecosystem are already associated with our irrigation projects.

Mr Sam Clayton's warning, published in our November issue, "that Australia faces irreparable damage unless the continued plundering of its natural resources is arrested" is borne out by Councillor Jayal's articles.

The effects of logging catchments were described by Dr John Paterson, Director-General of Victoria's Department of Water Resources in a submission to the Victorian Timber Industry Inquiry. Dr Paterson referred to studies conducted over the last 20 years by the Melbourne Water Board. These studies show that logging of mountain ash trees in a 15,000 hectare catchment forest in Victoria would result in an average yearly loss in stream-flow of 75,000 mega-lites over a harvesting rotation period of 70 years. At the current domestic water

rate for Melbourne of \$380 per mega-litre, the predicted loss of water value from such forest harvesting is calculated at \$28.5 million per year or \$1,835 million at 1985 values over the 70 year rotation.

Dr Paterson also submitted that even if timber harvesting industries could pay the real cost of the lost water, the problem would still exist that water resources lost could not be replaced except at a considerably higher cost.

The Forestry Commission could well study Dr Paterson's submission. Its plans to log sections of the 10,000 hectare catchment of Tantawanglo Weir led to Bega Valley Shire Council opposition. Water from the weir supplies Merimbula, Pambula, Candelo, Wolumla and rural consumers.

SUPPORT FOR FIREARMS BILL

The Committee has written to the Hon. P.T. Anderson, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, expressing strong support for the restriction of the use of firearms proposed in the Firearms and Dangerous Weapons (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

The letter pointed out that, as a method of pest control, random shooting for sport is virtually useless. Since shooting is illegal on most public land, and property owners generally fear for their stock when shooters appear on their land, there is very little legitimate use for firearms. Most shooting is done in natural areas, where the targets are almost exclusively protected native animals. Because of the damage done by shooters, many property owners refuse access to harmless seekers of passive recreation.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE STRATEGY MEETING

On the weekend of 23 and 24 February, a meeting of thirty representatives of conservation organizations with an interest in wilderness preservation met in Sydney to investigate the strategy which could be taken to ensure the protection of our scarce wilderness heritage throughout Australia. Five of these representatives were Colong Committee directors, with another two

being retired directors, ensuring that the strong stand always taken by the Colong Committee was continued. This weekend plus the following one of 2 and 3 March, when a mapping and identification session of Australian wilderness was held, has set the plan for a national system of wilderness reserves by the bicentennial year.

This meeting was attended by major organizations including the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Wilderness Society, Conservation Councils from some states, Fund for Animals, and The Colong Committee. Generally agreement was reached on most topics on the agenda which included the following:

- A. Process of wilderness identification.
- B. Methods of raising the public awareness to wilderness and its preservation.
- C. Legislation required to obtain and protect wilderness.
- D. Management policy and implementation.
- E. Action required and timing of that action.

The main problem areas experienced were the usual ones of how to implement the strategy with the resources available. A full and successful campaign needs both human and financial resources. The finances can usually be obtained from various sources but the people to undertake the work, which too often is left to a few, was the area of greatest concern.

The major problems which need to be overcome are how to correctly undertake a campaign for wilderness in Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and areas which conflict with aboriginal land rights claims. No consensus was gained on this problem and considerable research and discussion with government and aboriginal representatives will be needed for a satisfactory conservation solution to be obtained.

Now that the significant environment groups involved in wilderness conservation are in agreement on what needs to be done, it is hoped that their members and the conservation movement will stand behind them to implement a satisfactory wilderness reservation system throughout Australia

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by 1988. As the campaign develops the Colong Committee will call for support and action to suit the overall needs.

LEURA RESORT CRISIS

On 27 February, The Blue Mountains Echo, which has been conducting a campaign for the proposed \$25m resort overlooking the Valley of the Waters at Leura, reported that plans to build the resort were "on the brink of collapse unless the Government can pull an ace out of its sleeve." The "Echo" stated that "With the launch of yet a third court challenge to stop the development and an appeal outstanding in the High Court, highly placed sources have told the 'Echo' that the developer, Fairmont Resort Pty Ltd, is on the verge of pulling out."

On 6 March, it was reported that "State Cabinet Ministers - including Blue Mountains MP, Mr Bob Debus - have had a special meeting to see if they can rescue the controversial Leura Resort proposal."

On 20 February, the "Echo" reported that Mr Harry Hammon had commissioned an architect to draw up plans for a motel, which is earmarked for a site near Cahill's Lookout overlooking Narrow Neck Peninsula." Mr Hammon

proposes to spend \$3-4m. on the project.

On 8 March, the following motion, proposed by the Total Environment Centre, and seconded by the Colong Committee, was passed at the Executive Meeting of the Nature Conservation Council:

That the Nature Conservation Council request all member societies to telegram or telex the Premier, Mr Wran, expressing the strongest opposition to the siting of the Fairmont Hotel - Retirement Village on the Leura Golf Course and that it be sited in another area, not above the Valley of the Waters, nor jutting out into the Jamison Valley, nor visible from the Blue Mountains National Park.

The principles of the Blue Mountains Environmental Management Plan adopted by the Council would preclude the siting of the Fairmont Pty resort and retirement village in the upper section of the Valley of the Waters under the provisions of Objective 1 (protection of unique landscape and heritage assets) Objective 3. (appropriate location of development) and Objective 7 (sensitive tourist development in environmentally appropriate locations).



MUNGO & THE RIVER RED GUM COUNTRY

The forest of the flood plains in the Murray-Darling Basin will be the special focus of this trek. These beautiful forests of Eucalyptus camaldulensis are dependent on a complex system of wetlands including billabongs, anabranches and swamps. We will spend a week exploring the area from Echuca on the Murray to Kinchega on the Darling.

Adjacent to the River Red Gums is Mungo National Park, site of the earliest known Aboriginal occupation of Australia and part of Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area. When you walk to the top of the Walls of China at Mungo you look out across eroded sand dunes where the prevailing winds are uncovering the remains of ancient campfires, Aboriginal artefacts and fossil remains.

Join us exploring these two fascinating regions: Mungo and the River Red Gums. \$690 ex Sydney; Sunday, May 5 to Saturday, May 18, 1985.

For further information: Trekaway Pty Ltd, 7 Sharon Close Hornsby, NSW 2077. Telephone: (02) 477-5950.

Both the Council and the local member apparently want every prospect on the Blue Mountains escarpment to be dominated by proud hotels, retirement villages, motels etc. If such developments are allowed on such prominent sites, they will have succeeded not only in degrading one of the most historic features of our national estate, but in mutilating their main scenic attraction - the grand cliff scenery.

OUR PROJECT OFFICER

On 17 February, the Committee appointed Daryl Bellingham as its part time (1½ days per week) Project Officer. Daryl had worked for a year as library assistant and publicity officer for the Queensland Conservation Council and for 2 years as the Council's State Co-ordinator. He was also a member of the Executive of the Council and of the Australian Littoral Society.

He is engaged on listing and describing the wilderness areas of the State and their present status. He will also outline known threats to these areas. The list will be presented to the Hon. Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment in order to acquaint him with the aims of the Committee.

Daryl has also been appointed part-time State Co-ordinating Officer of Greening Australia. He will, however, be able to complete the cataloguing of wilderness, and expects to be available for consultancy work. We believe that he will have opportunities of furthering the aims of the Committee in his new appointment.

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FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

To: The Treasurer
Colong Committee
18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

I enclose \$5.00 being my subscription for all issues of the Save Colong Bulletin to the end of 1985.

I enclose \$ being a donation to the Colong Committee's Fighting Fund.
I enclose \$ being an interest free loan repayable at 4 week's notice.

I have donated \$ to the Australian Conservation Foundation, expressing a wish that my donation be spent for the purposes of the Colong Committee.
I would like the grant which this has enabled, to be allocated to the Committee's Fighting Fund/Investment Fund. (Please use form letter below).

NAME: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

ADDRESS:POSTCODE:

SIGNED:DATE:

=====

To: The Director
Australian Conservation Foundation
672B Glenferrie Road
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

I attach a donation to the Australian Conservation Foundation. I prefer that this donation should be spent for the purposes of
.....(insert name of your organization). I understand that this donation is tax deductible and therefore look forward to your receipt.

NAME: (Block Letters)

ADDRESS:POSTCODE:

\$SIGNED:DATE:

=====

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Proceeds help to maintain the work of the Centre.

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black and white photographs.

Wild Places.
by Peter Prineas 14.00
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Reduced from \$24.95 to \$14.00. 287 pages. Hard cover.

Wild Places of Australia. A Guide to Australia's
National Parks.
by Lee Pearce \$29.95
Text by Lawrence Durrant and Valerie Parv.
224 pages. Hard cover.