

THE COLONG BULLETIN

*'Give us more', is the endless cry of
business corporations, professional
associations and trade unions.
Million-dollar gambling prizes pa der
to cupidity and greed. Stories of personal
wastefulness and extravagance gain praise
rather than condemnation. The philosophy
of getting dominates the nation.*

from the Christmas Eve editorial of the "Sydney Morning Herald"

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PROGRESS CONTINUES

1985 has seen considerable progress in our conservation objectives and some reverses. The year has been one of close co-operation with the NSW Government and the NPWS. This is largely due to the appointment of a conservationist - the Hon. Bob Carr - as Minister for Planning and Environment and the appointment of another conservationist and Committee supporter - Mr John Whitehouse - as Director of the NPWS.

On our first visit to Mr Carr, on March 8th, we were presented with a copy of the Service's wilderness policy and we were pleased to find that it incorporated most of the features that

we had urged the Service to adopt during a number of previous meetings. Our proposal for a State Wilderness Act resulted in the appointment of a Study Committee to report on its implementation. The Committee's report should soon be completed, and will be supplemented by the Wilderness Study initiated by the Colong Committee.

In April, members of the Committee were the guests of the NPWS in an aerial and ground inspection of the Kosciusko Wilderness areas.

Announced extensions to the national parks system included Mount Werong and the Oxley or Wild Rivers National Park, which covers the Apsley Wilderness, both proposals supported by the Committee.

At the end of the year we presented, in conjunction with The Colo Committee and the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, the "Gardens of Stone" proposal, designed to protect the "pagoda" country of the upper Wolgan and Capertee, under threat from mining activity. The proposal has been well received and a ground inspection of the area carried out by Messrs Carr and Whitehouse in the company of Committee members.

THE COLONG COMMITTEE LTD A NATIONAL WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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TELEPHONE: (02) 27 4714

CHAIRMAN: Peter Maslen
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John Dillon
HON. SECRETARY: Alex Colley, O.A.M.
HON. TREASURER: Charles Culberg
HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold
HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

NEW SOUTH WALES WILDERNESS CALENDARS

We still have a few left.

Price \$7.40, including postage.

Another plus was the adoption by the NSW Coalition Parties of a national parks policy which incorporates most of the safeguards desired by the Committee. We believe the adoption of this policy derives in large measure from the criticism of the Committee.

This year we anticipate more of the same, plus an all-out fight against woodchipping.

The death of our Patron, Myles J. Dunphy, in April, was a sad loss. It was fortunate however, that he was spared long enough not only to frame and document a comprehensive system of national parks, but to see most of his proposals adopted. We believe that our Myles Dunphy Fund for Wilderness will provide the means of continuing his work - a very fitting memorial.

The worst reversals of the year were the granting of export woodchip licenses in Tasmania and the approval of the Leura Resort, decisions which we believe both Governments concerned will regret.

The re-organization of the Committee is proceeding. Our name change to "The Colong Foundation for Wilderness" has not yet been approved by the Corporate Affairs Commission which is considering whether we are worthy of the description "Foundation". In view of our record we cannot understand this attitude, but whether or not the name change is approved we will carry on as before.

The Myles Dunphy Fund has steadily increased, and is now yielding sufficient income, together with donations, to ensure the future of the Committee, or Foundation.

Membership of the Committee is now open to applicants, subject to the approval of the directors. A membership form is attached to this Bulletin. Membership is being instituted in response to requests from supporters and we anticipate that it will widen the basis of support. We make no special appeal to our present supporters to become members. Some, we know, will not be able to afford it, and many may prefer to carry on as before by subscribing to the Bulletin and making donations. All that non-member supporters will miss out on is a copy of the Annual Report, the main features of which are reported in the Bulletin.

Organizations such as the A.C.F., National Trust and N.P.A. have large numbers of members who do nothing beyond paying their fees. We have no objection to this kind of membership. The number of members augments the influence of the organization and provides the means of employing those with the time and skills necessary for the implementation of policy.

The financial means of helping the Committee are now:-

1. Membership (\$20 per calendar year).
2. Bulletin subscription (\$5 per calendar year, covered in membership fee) (1986 subs now due).
3. Donations.
4. Interest free loans.

We hope that our much appreciated long-term supporters will continue with us and that we will enrol new supporters and members.

BOB CARR VISITS THE GARDENS OF STONE

On 7 December last year, David Blackwell, together with Rodney Falconer from the Colong Committee, held a one day walk into the pagoda country covered in a proposed addition to Wollemi National Park. (see November 1985 issue).

The most important guest on this walk was Bob Carr, N.S.W. Minister for Environment and Planning. He with John Whitehouse, Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, as a result of an invitation from the Colong Committee to go bushwalking some time. Other members of the party included representatives from the Colo Committee, the Colong Committee, some of the Blue Mountains conservation groups and the photographer, Henry Gold.

John Whitehouse had predicted that his presence would precipitate rain, but the overcast sky held off until we had finished our lunch and were returning. The large black helicopter containing Messrs Carr and Whitehouse travelled over Newnes Plateau to arrive at our meeting place amongst dwarf heath behind Cape Horn. There were were informed of an article in the previous day's Lithgow Mercury. It reported Mr Carr's visit, and claimed there would be a huge demonstration of outraged timber workers to meet us. The main front-page article ran the headline



The Hon. Bob Carr surveys the "Pagoda" country

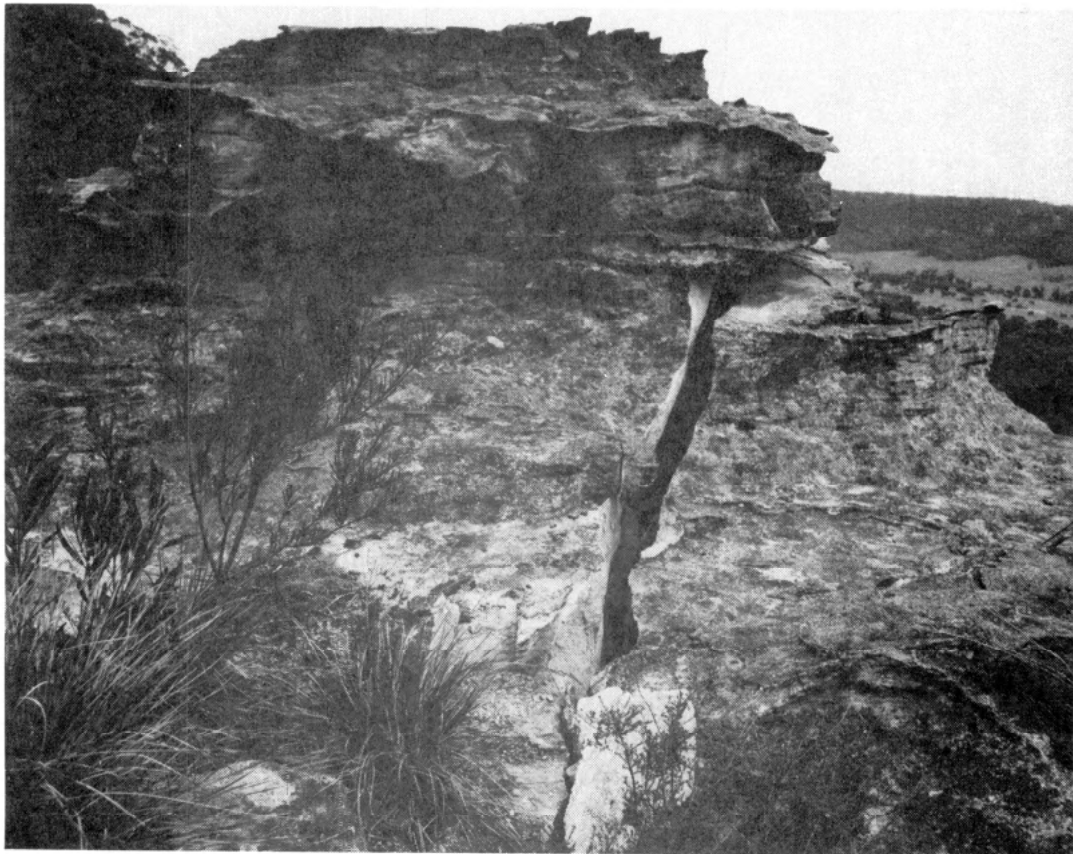


Seated: back Laura Tingle, journalist; front Peter Maslen, Chairman, the Colong Committee. Standing: Sue Threlfo, Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society; Rodney Falconer, Vice Chairman Colong Committee, co-author of "Gardens of Stone"; The Hon. Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment; David Blackwell, co-author of "Gardens of Stone".

Photographs by Henry Gold (Hon. Photographer, Colong Committee)



Another rock fall in the making.
 (below)
 Photographs by Henry Gold.



Cliff collapse on Lamb's Creek. The depth of the
 collapse is about 30 metres.
 (Top)

"Many jobs at risk: OUR LOGGING INDUSTRY IS UNDER FIRE" and told of the almost total destruction to come for the timber industry, claiming the plan would "cost at least 50 jobs among pit prop cutters". Other sensational claims of doom and gloom were made, including "the death knell of long wall mining in the coal industry".

Not to be outdone, the Katoomba Echo, several weeks later ran a similar, though somewhat embellished story, predicting the loss of hundreds of jobs and the spectre of Lithgow becoming a ghost town. It should be noted here that the Colong Committee proposal does not include plans for the inclusion of active coal mines in a park - while it is recommended that no extensions of existing leases be granted within the boundaries, it is also recommended that present mines be allowed to continue until the normal closure of operations. Most of the country covered by the Gardens of Stone proposal, where it is underlain by coal, is within or near to the Angle of Draw (prohibitive distance) of cliffs, gorges, pagodas, swamps and other significant landscape features. As such, existing provisions of the DEP prevent underground mining in these areas. The major timber species, the Blue Mountains or White Ash (*Eucalyptus oreades*), is also excluded from within the boundaries in terms of the most important commercially available stands. Much of the rest of the area is covered by rocks, heath and inaccessible or uneconomic low woodland.

In the event, no irate workers showed up and the walk proceeded smoothly, despite a couple of drenchings from passing thunderstorms. Our route took us to the Stargate Tunnel at Macleans Pass, through mallee and sculptured rock formations to the Plain of Shards just south of Point Cameron. The narrow ridge-top provided excellent views of both the Wolgan and Capertee valleys, together with the mesas of Donkey Mountain, Pantoneys Crown and Mount Airly. Despite the overcast weather, calls of lyrebirds came, like *Dei Ex Machina*, from nearby gullies and peppermint thickets, and much of our lunch was spent - between maps, food and views - watching the antics of a band of huge Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos tumbling through the canopy at nearby Mount Davidson.

We had planned to spend some brief time looking at the aboriginal paintings under a huge overhang near Blackfellows Hand Rock, but we were instead greeted with a far more unwelcome sight. From near Wolgan Trig, it suddenly appeared to us that the cliff collapse near Lambs' Creek had more than doubled in size. It certainly had: another series of collapses has destroyed the sculptured escarpment closer to Blackfellows' Hand. Again we were presented with the sight of woodland smothered under acres of sandstone rubble, with great fissures running both parallel and perpendicular to the collapse across the ground for hundreds of metres. Great depressions, like huge rhombic footprints, marked the path of truck-sized boulders which had bounced down the hill until they landed just beyond a dry creek bed. Scribbly gums, well beyond the carpet of rubble, lay scattered over the ground. Some had impact marks from boulders that were over four metres above their bases.

To add to the feeling of desolation, a fire had been lit from near the road, scorching the woodland up to the escarpment, creating a scene of black, cracked earth and orange, blistered boles of the surviving eucalypts. Nearby, people were chainsawing the little trees into 20 centimetre lengths, apparently unaware that scribbly gums don't make for the best fuel; a strange and apparently unnecessary phenomenon in an area where the strongest impact of local culture on the traveller is the stench of thousands of coal-stoked chimneys.

The impact of this marred an otherwise splendid day, and served to emphasise the urgency of action needed to preserve the pagoda country. A member of the industry later maintained that no-one really cares about fallen pagodas - after all, not many people visit them in that area. He also added that more collapses were likely, further south and implied that these would be useful to predict future subsidence.

If you share our view, please write to:

- . The Premier, Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C., M.P.
- . The Minister for Planning and Environment, Hon. R.J. Carr
- . The Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Hon. P.F. Cox,

care of Parliament House, Sydney, urging that the pagoda country be placed in a national park and that no further collapses of pagodas and cliffs or drainage of swamps due to coal mining or subsidence be sanctioned.

ASSAULT ON THE FORESTS

... we must expand the concept of conservation to meet the imperious problems of the new age. We must develop new instruments of foresight and protection and nurture in order to recover the relationship between man and nature and make sure that the national estate we pass on to our multiplying descendants is green and flourishing.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 1963, quoted in the Report of the National Estate

If Algernon Talmadge's well known painting depicting Captain Phillip and his officers raising their flagons as the Union Jack was hoisted alongside Sydney Cove is correct, tree felling started even before Australia was founded. In the foreground are six stumps and a log.

The destruction of trees by logging, ringbarking and burning has continued ever since, facilitated in recent years by the use of the chain saw and the bulldozer. Some 70% of our forests have been lost and most of the remainder depauperated by the removal of millable logs.

Australia is the driest and least forested continent (with the exception of Antarctica), and because of this the effects of deforestation, coupled with over-grazing and irresponsible agricultural practice, have been catastrophic. In the words of the first progress report of the National Soil Conservation Programme:

The magnitude of the present land degradation problems in Australia is great, and the consequences will become increasingly severe in terms of mitigation costs and lost productivity unless the rate of implementation of remedial measures is accelerated.

The results of the clearing of native vegetation are to be seen not only in the loss of soil, but in stream siltation with consequent undercutting of banks and flooding and desertification of inland areas. A

detailed survey in 1975 by the NSW Soil Conservation Service showed that, in this state alone, 638,000 square kilometres required some kind of erosion control.

Our remaining forested areas exist only because they were too poor or too steep for rural use. For this reason they are very prone to erosion, and nowhere is this more evident than in the forests of the far south coast. A high proportion of our forests cover steep, high rainfall erosion prone country at the headwaters of streams. Although fresh water is the most essential, and one of the least plentiful of our resources, this fact has not been recognized by the Soil Conservation Service, which has never supported our wilderness campaigns.

Removal of vegetation by any means, whether it be the removal of sawlogs (entailing unpaved roads, dumps and snig tracks), clearing, burning or cultivation increases erosion hazards and exposes the land to dessication. These effects are further aggravated on the far south coast by erratic rainfall and shallow soils. Probably the worst practice is the complete removal, by clear felling and burning, of tree cover, often on steep slopes. This is what woodchipping entails, unless it is confined to sawmill wastes.

The removal of trees means a corresponding reduction of the food supply, breeding places and habitat of most native fauna.

Clear felling spells the abandonment of the Forestry Commission's charter to "conserve" the forests, and of the once publicised policy of "sustained yield" under which the removal of trees did not exceed the rate of re-growth. Had this policy been followed on the south coast there would have been a continuous supply of sawlogs. Its abandonment means that the supply of sawlogs will cut out in the not too distant future. The clear felling of the forests in their present depauperised state is described by the Commission as "improvement". Usually a thick growth of saplings follows. These are supposed to grow into trees suitable for chipping (not logging) in some 40 years. Given 40 years without fire, a most unusual condition during the frequent hot dry periods, a dense stand of small logs may "regenerate". But the thick growth of eucalyptus oil

impregnated saplings, grass, wattles and weeds in the early years provides a vertical continuum of fine fuels for disastrous fires which may wipe out the entire stand. Suckering may ensue, resulting in thicker and unmanageable growth of small stems. Another fire might well mean the elimination of sapling growth. Because by this time seeds from the original forest cover would have germinated, the forest would be destroyed. Over much of the forest therefore, clearfelling would be a once off operation. Dr Gentle professes a touching faith in the survival of the sapling thickets and the forbearance of woodchip interests. The forests, he states, would be thinned out to produce pulp at year 40, leaving the best trees to produce sawlogs at year 80 (S.M.H. 31/12/85).

The end uses of the felled forests contribute nothing to our present welfare and will reduce future welfare. The bulk of the woodchips are used for advertising, either as printed matter or packaging. This must be obvious to any householder continually disposing of hundreds of pages of unread newspaper advertising and junk mail. In a more rational society, where conservation came before consumption, advertising would not be tax deductible. Advertising material would be classified (as it is now) and those who wanted to make a purchase would buy the classification they required. The requirements of paper for communication and education could be met from genuine sawmill waste. Looking into the future, and perhaps not very far ahead, goods for sale would be computerised and purchasers would specify their requirements and buy a print-out of the goods for sale which met these requirements. But because the aim of society is not conservation but maximum consumption, these things will not be done.

Conservation will be denigrated in the name of employment, as it has been in every campaign the Colong Committee has fought. Unemployment is acceptable if it serves economic ends. The Industries Assistance Commission, for instance, has recommended the removal of protection from the clothing textile and footwear manufacturing industries at an employment cost which it estimates to be 20,000 jobs. But the removal of protection is estimated to result in the freeing of enough resources to create 60,000 jobs "late

next decade". Short-term unemployment is considered acceptable if industry cannot carry on profitably. It is not acceptable if it results from the conservation of the natural environment.

Under the sanction of employment, Mr Kerin has renewed the Tasmanian export woodchip licences. He made no reference to the effect on the tourist industry or water catchments or vast expanses of clearfelled forests. Most of the land included in 24 areas listed in the register of the National Estate will be logged. Defending this decision with truly Orwellian double-think logic, Mr Kerin said there was no reason why National Estate areas should not be logged, so long as their important natural values were protected. Their important natural values are primarily the forests they support. These cannot be logged and protected by Mr Cohen who assures us that **ALL** the National Estate areas in Tasmania will not be clearfelled (S.M.H. 31.12.85). The flora, and the fauna it supports **IS** the National Estate. There is no point in listing bare earth and rock.

Mr Kerin has stressed that the States have to take the initial move to allow woodchipping. As acknowledged by Mr Kerin, the Forestry Commission and Harris Daishowa are "working together" on the company's environmental statement. There can be no doubt that the statement will present woodchipping as an environmental blessing, nor that it will stress the employment it affords. Because employment is preferred to environmental preservation, woodchipping on the south coast will not be halted unless alternative employment is provided. Terminating this environmentally disastrous industry, which was approved by the Askin Government in 1969 without an E.I.S., or any opportunity for public comment, will not be easy, even though 82% of the people want it stopped (Spectrum survey). Nevertheless, given Government realisation that the continuation of woodchipping will mean that the forest industries will go the way of the tuna fishing industry, employment could be provided. There is a high accident rate in the industry and heavy labour turnover. By simply not replacing those who voluntarily leave the industry to find more congenial work, considerable reduction could be

effected over a period. The Government has a department specially constituted to provide employment in country areas - the Department of Industrial Development and Decentralisation, and if efforts comparable to those made in the building up of Albury-Wodonga and Campbelltown were made, employment could be created. Eden is a very attractive district and great numbers of holiday makers come to the South Coast from Melbourne. It might even be a site for a casino, if the residents wanted one.

We are fortunate in N.S.W. in having the most conservation minded Government in Australia. Its philosophy was expressed by the Hon. Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment in the following vision of the future, published in the S.M.H. of 28 December:

The rainforests of south Asia will be gone; the Amazon valley may be denuded; already 70 percent of the Black Forest is damaged by acid rain and things are worse in the Eastern bloc countries. By contrast we will have saved many of our great natural attractions; our forests and wild and scenic rivers will be protected; Europeans and Americans will come here for what they are already calling "experiential" vacations ... they'll come to experience nature in her full flower.

If this vision is to become reality, woodchipping must be phased out of the forests. Mr Wran believes that his Government's conservation record will be remembered long after its other achievements have been forgotten. And so it will be if woodchipping is ended. If not, it may well be remembered as the Government which consigned our forests to the mincer, rather than the Government which doubled the area of national parks and saved the rainforests.

LIBERAL PARTY SUPPORTS OUR OBJECTIVES

In three speeches delivered in the Legislative Assembly on October 16, 24 and 30, Mr Tim Moore, Coalition Parties Shadow Minister for the Environment, has expressed strong support for most of the objectives of the Colong Committee.

On October 16 and 24, he called for the representation of local environmentalists on park advisory boards.

On October 16, he stressed the necessity for the preservation of the Colo Wilderness. He said:

There is a fundamental necessity, for the preservation of the integrity of the Wollemi National Park northwest of Sydney, for all future planning of the two proposed dams on the Colo wilderness mentioned in the recent report of the Water Resources Commission of New South Wales to be abandoned. It is monstrous that the Water Resources Commission of New South Wales is continuing to plan two major dams for the Colo River in the middle of the Wollemi wilderness, acknowledged and published in the commission's report on that river system as being a major intrusion on a genuine wilderness area, the largest wilderness area in close proximity to Sydney. The first of those dams would be a structure sixty metres or seventy metres high at the end of the human habitation extending northwest up the Colo River. The second of the structures would be about 200 metres high at one of the narrow points in the Colo Gorge near the confluence of the Wollemi River and the Colo River.

In late June this year I had the pleasure of flying by helicopter into the area with one of my federal senatorial colleagues. The upper part of that wilderness area is a magnificent and wild region, which is likely to be enjoyed by few. There is no litter; there is not the typical archaeological sign of 'Homo Australis' having been there - the empty and rusting beer can. There is none of that. The wilderness values of that area remain complete and intact. Any plans to dam that area should be abandoned immediately.

On October 16, he supported the addition of the Jenolan Caves area to the national parks system.

On October 30, he expressed the national parks and environmental protection policy as follows:

First the Liberal and National parties will not permit, neither will they condone, the logging of the rainforests of New South Wales. Second, the Liberal and National parties will respect the integrity of the boundaries of national parks in this State and will not reduce the present boundaries. Third, the Liberal and National parties in New South Wales will not permit logging or mining within the boundaries of national parks in New South Wales. Fourth, the Liberal and National parties do not oppose the expansion of existing national parks or the creation of new national parks, provided a full and proper consultative process is undertaken, involving adjacent landholders, surrounding communities, local and statewide environmental groups and other interested bodies, seeking to remove or overcome any problems that might be perceived to be associated with such an extension or creation.

He expressed strong support for a State Wilderness Act (6 and 16 October).

One responsibility incumbent upon a government as part of its administration of a national park system is the creation and enactment by this Parliament of a wilderness control and preservation Act. The provisions of the national parks legislation dealing with the protection of wilderness, areas do not, in my view, provide adequate responsibilities of management, control and preservation of those wilderness areas administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Such a specific Act would do much for the preservation of the wildernesses of this State and the retention and integrity of their fauna and flora, and provide for the Government to have a greater statutory responsibility to manage properly those areas and permit the major parks containing those wildernesses to act as better neighbours for the communities in which they exist.

This policy is a complete about-turn from that given by Mr Greiner, who wrote in the first 1985 issue of the Journal of the Forestry Products Association that:

"The Liberal Party believes the next stage is to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act to allow non-National Park uses to be conducted in National Park areas."

It is a reversal of Mr Punch's statement in the Manning River Times in March that:-

The National/Liberal coalition Government will move to release for the timber industry as much as possible of the one million cubic metres of hardwood locked up in National Parks since 1967.

This was confirmed by the Grafton Examiner's report in May that:-

Mr Punch gave the timber industry ... a firm undertaking that if elected to power at the next State election, the Washpool and many National Parks would be reopened to logging. He claimed the Liberal Party also supported this policy.

The progressive policy for the preservation of the natural environment enunciated by Mr Moore is a tribute to his persistence and concern, and we have written congratulating him on its adoption.

Unfortunately some doubt has been cast on the durability of the policy by a report, in the Daily Telegraph of 12 December, of a split between the Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr Greiner, and Mr Murray, the Leader of the National Party on the issue. The report stated that:-

The two men have also argued over several policy issues, particularly the recent move by the Liberals to announce a new "joint policy on rainforests" on behalf of the Coalition.

It was claimed at the time by Mr Greiner that the new policy - to protect and preserve all existing national parks and designated NSW rainforests - had the full support of the National Party but it has emerged there was no real consultation.

In fact, National MPs are outraged that they were given certain assurances in private by Mr Greiner which they feel were subsequently reversed in public.

This report called for a denial from Mr Murray, but none has been issued.

The credibility of the policy outlined by Mr Moore would be confirmed by support of the "Gardens of Stone" (western Wollemi) and Coolangubra (far south coast) National park proposals. Mr Greiner has already opposed 'any significant expansion of national parks' on the far south coast, without initiating any 'consultative process'.

ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTALIST ON KATOOMBA COUNCIL

"Dr Davis, and campaign manager Ald. Dr David Lawton, conducted themselves professionally in a low-key campaign which hit at the very heart of the issues of Open Council and the fact that environment means nature and people. This was a sharp contrast to what was going on in other parts of the political arena. Needless to say, the local press had a field day. And, for once, people listened and took note, and Rodney David was elected with an outstanding majority. Another environmentalist on Council certainly appears to be most welcome. It is certainly most necessary.

It is interesting that people really did choose another environmentalist for the job, the other one being Dr David Lawton. Perhaps people are coming to the realisation that we do live in a very precious place, and that we have to plan accordingly. It is doubtful that this would have happened a few years ago. We must, however, accept that the face of the Mountains is changing. Dare we say it? We seem to be attracting people to the Mountains who at last have the ability to think and reason."

Blue Mountains Environment Council Newsletter,
November 1985.

THE LEURA RESORT

The first sod of the Fairmont Pty Ltd resort above the Valley of the Water has been turned. It was the occasion of considerable jubilation by the developers, the Council and the anti-conservation section of the public. Fifty people were on duty for the occasion.

It is understood that, after efforts to raise finance elsewhere have failed, the Australian Industries Development Corporation is likely to provide the money. The Corporation was unaware of the environmental implications of making the loan, without a prior E.I.S., until the environmental impact of the development was brought to its notice by the Escarpment Protection Group. If the Commission adopts a responsible policy it will surely not sacrifice the tourist appeal of the Blue Mountains to a development which is financially dubious and environmentally disastrous.

DEMOCRAT'S NATURE CONSERVATION POLICY

Speaking in support of the National Parks and Wildlife (Amendment) Bill on 11 November, the Hon. Elisabeth Kirkby, M.L.C., outlined some of the salient points of her party's nature conservation policy.

The Australian Democrats would support laws forcing a referendum on park boundary changes. They would phase out all sand mining in national parks and other coastal natural areas. No mineral exploration or exploitation would take place in or under national parks or nature reserves unless in exceptional circumstances. A reafforestation scheme on cleared lands would be initiated in northern N.S.W. and funding would cease for further pine plantations on forested or partly forested lands. All publicly owned rainforests would be withdrawn from logging and permanently reserved, and privately owned rainforest stands would be acquired. Woodchip operations would be scaled down.

Mrs Kirkby also supported the Western Lands (Amendment) bill, bringing before the House resolutions of the Nature Conservation Council.

Taken in conjunction with the revised policy of the Liberals, it seems that Mr Moore's call for a bi-partisan approach to nature conservation is being heeded.

*****AXE THE TREES**

POISON THE TIGERS***

The area in which a firm Thylacine sighting was made in 1982, in north-west Tasmania, continues to be logged. The Minister for National Parks and Wildlife, Mr John Beswick, told Parliament that no assurances had been sought from the timber industry about protecting habitat areas; that no other areas were being considered for protection as possible Thylacine habitats; and that the NPWS has not advised that the forestry industry presented any danger to the tigers' existence. Additionally, 1080 bait has been deployed on farm land 12 kilometres from the 1982 sighting location.

from T.E.C./Fund for Animals Conservation Alert, November/December, 1985.

BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The Colong Committee's representations for the amalgamation of the parks in the Blue Mountains is bearing fruit. The Blue Mountains National Park Advisory Council is now The Greater Blue Mountains National Park Advisory Committee, though still separate from the Wollemi A.C. With the recent creation of 16 new positions, the park staff now numbers 40. The staff will be allocated to three sub-districts, one of which will have headquarters at Oberon.

DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of donations from the following supporters during the year ended December 31, 1985:

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Blue Mountains Escarpment Protection Society . Manly & Warringah Flora & Fauna Protection Society.

In addition, the following have made donations to The Australian Conservation Foundation, enabling the Foundation to make grants to the Colong Committee:

J.S. BENTLEY	P. LAIRD (2)
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MEMBERSHIP FORM

TO: The Hon. Secretary
Colong Committee Ltd
18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Date

I hereby apply for membership of the Colong Committee Ltd. I am
nominated by and seconded by
.....

(Note: If you are not personally known to the Committee, the Hon.
Secretary will nominate you and ask one of the directors to second your
nomination. The signing of this application will be accepted as evidence of
your support of the aims of the Committee.)

I subscribe to the Committee's aim of preserving Australia's Wilderness
remnants.

I accept the liability provided in the Committee's Articles of Association to
guarantee \$20 should it be needed in the event of the winding up of the
Committee.

Enclosed please find for \$20, being my
membership subscription for the calendar year 1986. (Please note: membership
fee covers Bulletin subscription).

Signed

FULL NAME: (MR, MRS, Miss)

ADDRESS:

.....POSTCODE:

Margaret Bolsh

FORM FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

To: The Treasurer
Colong Committee
18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

Dear Sir

I enclose \$5.00 being my subscription for all issues of the Save Colong Bulletin to the end of 1986.

I enclose \$ being a donation to the Colong Committee.

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.
(please send gift direct to the A.C.F. using form letter below)

DONORS PLEASE NOTE Gifts may be allocated either to the Fighting Fund, for current use, or to the Myles Dunphy Fund for Wilderness, a capital fund only the income from which will be spent. Please indicate whether you would like your gift allocated to one fund or the other, or would prefer to leave the decision to the Committee.

.....
.....

NAME: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

ADDRESS: POSTCODE:

SIGNED: DATE:

=====

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

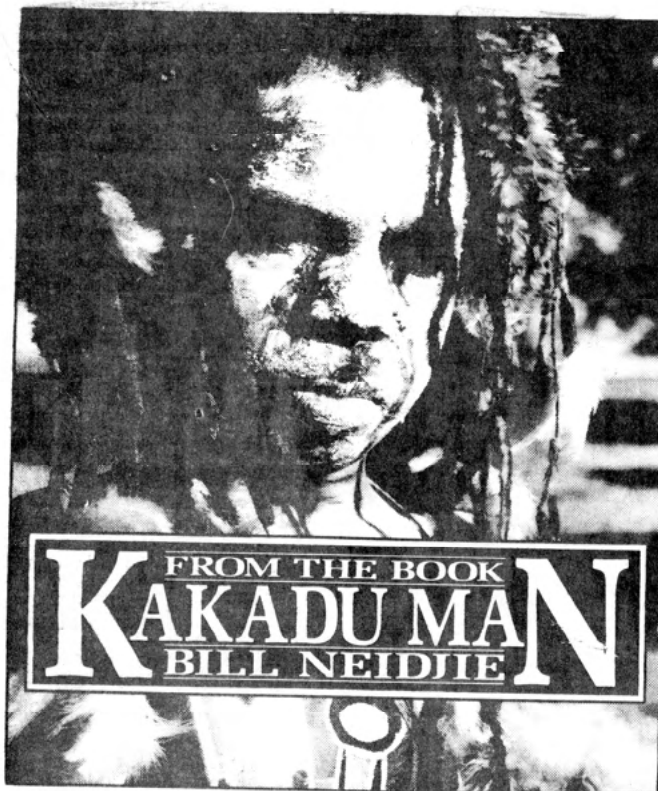
I attach a donation to the Australian Conservation Foundation. I prefer that this donation should be spent for the purposes of the Colong Committee. I understand that this donation is tax deductible and therefore look forward to your receipt.

NAME: (Block Letters)

ADDRESS: POSTCODE:

\$ SIGNED: DATE:

=====



'A RICH CHUNK OF THE LAST 50,000 YEARS'

That is how the book 'Kakadu Man-Bill Neidjie' has been described.

The message is about life and death, about nature and natural law, about land and the spirit of man...it is the result of 50,000 years of living in Australia.

84 very beautiful and telling pictures have been selected from thousands, to complement Neidjie's words. Minister Clyde Holding introduces the book...Stephen Davis, who encouraged Neidjie to put the words down, introduces the man...Allan Fox provides the environmental setting...and of course Neidjie speaks for all traditional Aborigines. It is all printed on fine paper within hard covers... 'National Geographic' format.

This book must be read by all who wish to understand the Aboriginal point of view...and by those who wish to simply immerse themselves in Kakadu.

Totally produced in Australia, it makes a perfect, quality gift.

Back in 1853 the Indian, Chief Seattle, of the Puget Sound tribe wrote his reply to "the Great Chief in Washington" who had sought to acquire two million acres of land for \$150,000. This reply has been described as "the most beautiful and profound statement on the environment ever made".

In the 1970s Big Bill Neidjie, an Australian Aboriginal, heard the clamour created by the competing demands of Europeans for his lands to be made a national park and to be mined for uranium. In his own way Big Bill began to reply in words remarkably similar to Chief Seattle. From the opposite sides of the Earth these men were making an appeal for the earth, an appeal which awakens in all of us an uneasiness that they also speak for us.

"If we sell you land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must teach your children that it is sacred and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

- Chief Seattle 1853

"Our story is in the land...it is written in those sacred places. My children will look after those places, that's the law. Dreaming place...you can't change it, no matter who you are. No matter you rich man, no matter you King. You can't change it."

- Big Bill Neidjie, 1983.

It has been a great honour to have been able to give you these simple, challenging, sometimes mysterious, but profoundly wise words of Big Bill. If sometimes the pathos gets at you, just remember that Bill may be the last of his line and with him goes some of the wisdom of 50,000 years.

The Treasurer
Colong Committee
18 Argyle St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find for \$20 to cover cost, including postage, of a copy of "Kakadu Man".

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)

Address

Postcode: Signed: Date: