



THE COLONG BULLETIN

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THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD. 18 ARGYLE ST, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA 2000 TELEPHONE: (02) 27 4714

"For a Government that prides itself on its environmental record, the current logging is an exercise in monumental hypocrisy. The logging is threatening rare plants, wilderness and some of the most beautiful scenery in NSW."

"Conservationists have presented the Government with a detailed plan pointing to alternative timber and improved manufacturing processes which will sustain long term employment in the timber industry. Adoption of these proposals, gazettal of national parks in the woodchip area and an end to clearfelling will significantly boost the Labor Government's electoral chances."

Jeff Angel, Assistant Director, Total Environment Centre, speaking on behalf of the South East Forest Alliance, "Imlay Magnet", 12/10/87.

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WOODCHIP DECISION IN BALANCE

Despite Jeff Angel's statement quoted above, evidence is not lacking that the Government is very concerned about the continuance of woodchipping, which is

described by Dr. Steffen as "mining the soil for its nutrients."

On October 29th the Premier told a deputation of woodchip supporters that he had been disappointed during a visit to the chipmill to see what he considered logs suitable for the sawmill being chipped. The Premier is reserving his decision until some time after his visit to the Coolgambra and Tantawangalo areas early in December.

By contrast the State Opposition has unequivocally renewed its support of chipping.

THE LEGALITY OF FOREST WRECKING

Despairing of a political solution, the Towamba Valley Catchment Protection Association recently resorted to legal action in the Land and Environment Court to secure an injunction against the logging near Nungatta, (immediately

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HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold
HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

north of the Victorian border) in the contentious Eden Woodchip area. The plaintiff, Wendy Jurasius, a member of the Association, was granted legal aid, through the Environmental Defenders Office and Barrister, David Lloyd, agreed to take the case which related to logging in a small area of 321 ha by NPWS for a National park.

As usual, money was no object to the development interests who fielded two Q.C.s - David Officer for the Forestry Commission and Peter McClellan for Harris Daishowa. Faced with this massive show of strength, Nicola Pain, Director of the Environmental Defender's Office, sought and obtained permission to brief Brian Tamberin, Q.C. and David Lloyd then handed over to him.

When the case opened at 2pm on Monday, 7th September, the court room was so congested that 12 chairs had to be brought in. Seven barristers (including three silks), numerous instructing solicitors, witnesses and interested parties numbered about 45.

Tamberlin Q.C. opened competently, pointing out to Mr Justice Bignold the areas involved on a large F.C. map, but Officer and McClellan soon began interrupting, claiming the case was a "complete abuse of the processes of this Court" and stating that they would be seeking security for damages, which they estimated in their affidavits at about \$2 million. (The applicant had already informed the court that she was without means!).

There followed a lengthy tender of documents, particularly the Forestry Commission's E.I.S. (described in the article "An FCNSW Miracle" in Bulletin 101) which Tamberlin Q.C. contended was not valid under NSW Law listing nine matters which were inadequately addressed.

Using Forestry Commission data, Jim Somerville submitted an affidavit which stated that in the injunction only 20,000 tonnes of pulpwood and 5,000m of sawlogs was involved in the injunctive proceedings and nominated alternative areas from which supplies could be obtained. He was immediately challenged as not being an expert witness, Officer Q.C. remarking "he may be a good accountant but he has no qualifications whatever in forestry." It would seem that the question was one of simple arithmetic rather than forestry expertise, but ours not to question why!

On Wednesday the Colong Foundation's assessment of the quality of the Forestry Commission's E.I.S. was confirmed by Dick Smyth, Director of D.E.P. who during a three hour stand in the witness box said that the documents did not constitute a valid E.I.S. and that he had so informed the Forestry Commission. Judge Bignold rather felt that the Forestry Commission had indeed failed to fulfil all the requirements of the E.P.A. Act.

At this stage the litigants agreed the injunction hearing were fast becoming the main hearing and agreed that they would like to abandon the injunction and proceed to the main case, which was then set for three weeks commencing on November 24th.

True to form (as described in the NCC Motion on Forestry Commission Obstructionism in a later article in this Bulletin), the Commission informed the court that logging would continue in Nungatta and those Yambulla areas concerned with the injunction. Indicative of the Forestry Commission's hard line, immediately legal action was commenced the number of crews logging the 321 ha areas was doubled.

LIBERAL PARTY POLICY ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

How much effect Colong Foundation criticism has on Liberal Party policy it is impossible to assess. The Party has, however, come round to our viewpoint on a range of issues shortly after we have pointed out the error of its ways.

In our last Bulletin, published on September 10th, we quoted Mr Wal Murray's statement on behalf of the Opposition that it would not recognise national parks not already listed by 1st January this year. This would have meant the loss of 50,000 ha of park land. He also said that the Liberals were reserving judgement on park dedications and would consider shrinking them. Four days afterwards, on September 14th, Mr Tim Moore, Shadow Minister for the Environment, announced a "hands off" policy on all NSW national parks, at least to those declared before December 13th - a statement issued with the "full concurrence" of Mr Murray.

In an address to the Canberra Young Liberals' Convention, Mr Moore affirmed his appeal for a bipartisan approach to nature conservation. He said:

New South Wales has a magnificent National Park System. No person of any political complexion could possibly deny the truth of that statement. This system has existed and expanded to the credit of successive governments since the foundation of our first National Park, the Royal, over a century ago. The park creation program of the present Government, which continued and dramatically expanded the land dedication work of the previous Coalition Government is a credit not only to the State of New South Wales, but also to the environmental priorities of Neville Wran.

On the subject of Blue Mountains Sewerage he said:

We have a responsibility to aspire to return the streams in the Blue Mountains National Park to pristine, drinkable water quality instead of the half-hearted and anti-environmental proposal of this Labor Government's Water Board to establish tolerable levels of effluent pollution at a distance of a kilometre or more from the sewerage discharge going into those streams.

He also criticised the zoning of coastal heathland at Kurnell as a dumping ground for toxic, noxious and hazardous industries, diminution in real terms of funds available for park management, neglect of park management plans and overt politicalisation of advisory committees of many National Parks.

THAT ROAD

We are pleased to report that the Greater Daintree Action Centre and the Daintree Blockade Information Centre have published a comprehensive and professional submission to the Federal Government World Heritage Inquiry on that environmental abomination, the Cape Tribulation - Bloomfield River road. The road has, in the words of the submission, "symbolised the ongoing conflict between the vested interests of developers and the conservation movement." Community interests groups including Chambers of Commerce are now united in opposing it and "the advent of the bulldozers between Cape Tribulation and Bloomfield has led to a marked deterioration in the quality of life to the residents of both these areas."

The submission describes this deterioration and the dangerous nature of the road, now acknowledged by its stalwart supporter, Councillor Rutherford. The

road was never surveyed nor was any E.I.S. done.

Damage to the forest includes tree removal, invasive vines and weeds, soil slumpage and dieback, together with theft of ferns and orchids, rubbish dumping, fire danger and slaughter of wild life.

The Barrier Reef has already been affected by silt, fertiliser and pesticide residues, there being little fringing mainland reef south of Cape Tribulation (though there is much dead coral along the coast).

The road has been an enormous fiscal drain on the Douglas Shire Council. The Council has been compelled to neglect other parts of the Shire to keep it open.

The road is possibly the worst example in the country of wilful destruction of a prime and irreplaceable scenic asset. Although we have tried to keep readers informed about it they might like to read the detailed factual description contained in the submission. It is available from the Colong Foundation for \$6, including postage. Proceeds will go to Greater Daintree Action. In a letter to Colin Gibson, Dr Len Webb describes the report as "a timely and excellent compilation of relevant ideas and facts" and offers his help in rehabilitating the road if and when a decision is made to write off the road and rehabilitate the track.

Some Other Opinions:

"If Senator Richardson hasn't got the message from North Queenslanders to take back to Canberra now, then he'll never get the message."

Sir Joh, commenting on the assault on Senator Richardson. "The Australian" 5-6/9/87.

The front-page banner headline in the "Millstream Times" newspaper of Friday, July 18, 1986, heralded worrying news. "Ravenshoe under threat".

Ravenshoe was a town fighting for its life. The threat came not from southern socialists or even greenies, but the Queensland Forestry Department. Since the late 1960s, three sawmills in this small North Queensland community, primarily dependent on the timber trade, had closed. At the one remaining mill which had bought out the smaller operators, more than 60 jobs were at stake. The problem was not World Heritage listing but dwindling timber supplies.

The people were worried and angry enough to send a delegation to Brisbane with a petition for the Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. They returned to Ravenshoe disappointed. The quota could not be increased. The timber was simply not there.

The Ravenshoe story illustrates a sad but undeniable fact - after more than a century of overcutting, the rainforest timber industry is collapsing as the last of the accessible virgin forests is felled.

Senator Richardson, Federal Minister for the Environment, S.M.H. 3/10/87.

I don't know of any piece of paper being exchanged with our people for any land that is owned by white people today. So wake up you convict offspring, pay the rent - your're on Aboriginal land."

Sandra McGinness, Cairns Post 14/9/87

"It is important for us to see the chainsaw and the bulldozer as a 1987 devil. They are not always God's destroying angels. But they do represent now a great threat to the continent of Australia. Just as untamed greed represents a great threat."

Professor Manning Clark, S.M.H. 12/9/87

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

At the Annual Conference of the NCC held on October 24th and 25th a number of resolutions supported by the Colong Foundation were submitted. Some of these were amended, but we are unable to quote the amendments until we receive the minutes of the Conference. The presence of four Directors of the Foundation on the NCC Executive - Peter Maslen, Milo Dunphy, Jim Somerville and Rodney Falconer - will ensure that the motions are followed up. Two of the resolutions submitted by the Foundation were:

48. KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

THAT the NCC condemns:

- a) Recreational horse riding in Kosciusko National Park;
- b) Failure to include Goobarra-gandra as wilderness;
- c) Unsatisfactory boundaries of Bimberi wilderness.

Background

1. Horseriding causes erosion, pollution and weed infestation. Commercially promoted riding, which will probably account for most equestrian use, intensifies the damage. The Plan of Management Draft Amendment assumes that there will be horseriding in the Bimberi, Bogong, Pilot and Byado wildernesses. The amendments are based on a legitimate encouragement of horse riding though it is stated that they are 'not based on a consideration of the natural and cultural resources of these areas.'

This policy conflicts with the agreement for joint management of NSW, and Victorian Alpine areas. The Victorian authorities propose an opposite policy and have publicly stated their concern at the possible inconsistency of the NSW draft amendments. The NSW policy also conflicts with the management plan of the adjoining Namadji National Park, which excludes horse riding from the wilderness area.

2. The Goobarra-gandra wilderness was given statutory protection in the 1974 Plan of Management. The Helman study recognised the Goobarra-gandra wilderness as the core of one of the State's most significant wilderness areas. The 1982 KNP Plan of Management declassified the Helman, Bimberi and Fiery Range (Goobarra-gandra) wilderness areas.

It is adjacent to Bogong Peaks and Bimberi Wilderness Areas and together these three areas total some 150,000 ha. Contiguous management of the northern section of KNP as wilderness together with adjoining areas in other classifications, and the return of Dubbo Hill to the Park should be a stated management objective.

3. In drawing the boundary of the Bimberi Wilderness, priority has been given to vehicle based recreation, although the Draft Amendment itself draws attention to "some of the most serious damage to natural scenery landforms, vegetation and scenery that has occurred anywhere in south-eastern Australia."

Although the Namadji National Park and the KNP share a common boundary between Scabby Range Nature Reserve and Bimberi Nature Reserve, under the present proposal wilderness is declared on the Namadji portion, but not on the adjacent Kosciusko management unit.

The motion was based on a comprehensive submission on the Draft Amendment prepared by Pat Thompson and approved by the Foundation.

53. NATTAI NATIONAL PARK

THAT the NCC urge the Premier to instruct the Minister for Crown Lands, Minister for Natural Resources, and Minister for Planning and Environment to create a Nattai National Park encompassing lands currently in Water Board care, together with available Crown lands, but excluding areas subject to active coal mining.

Background

Nattai is the last major component of Myles Dunphy's Greater Blue Mountains National park proposal of 1932 which remains unprotected from exploitation. The region contains tall wet forest (eg. Couridjah Forest), and other wildlife communities developed on syenite and residual deep sand deposits which are poorly conserved in the

State's national parks.

The Nattai region is a complex of outstanding river canyon landscapes which should be protected from the damaging effects of coal mining (eg. cliff collapse). Preservation can be achieved without job loss. No coal mines operate in the Nattai.

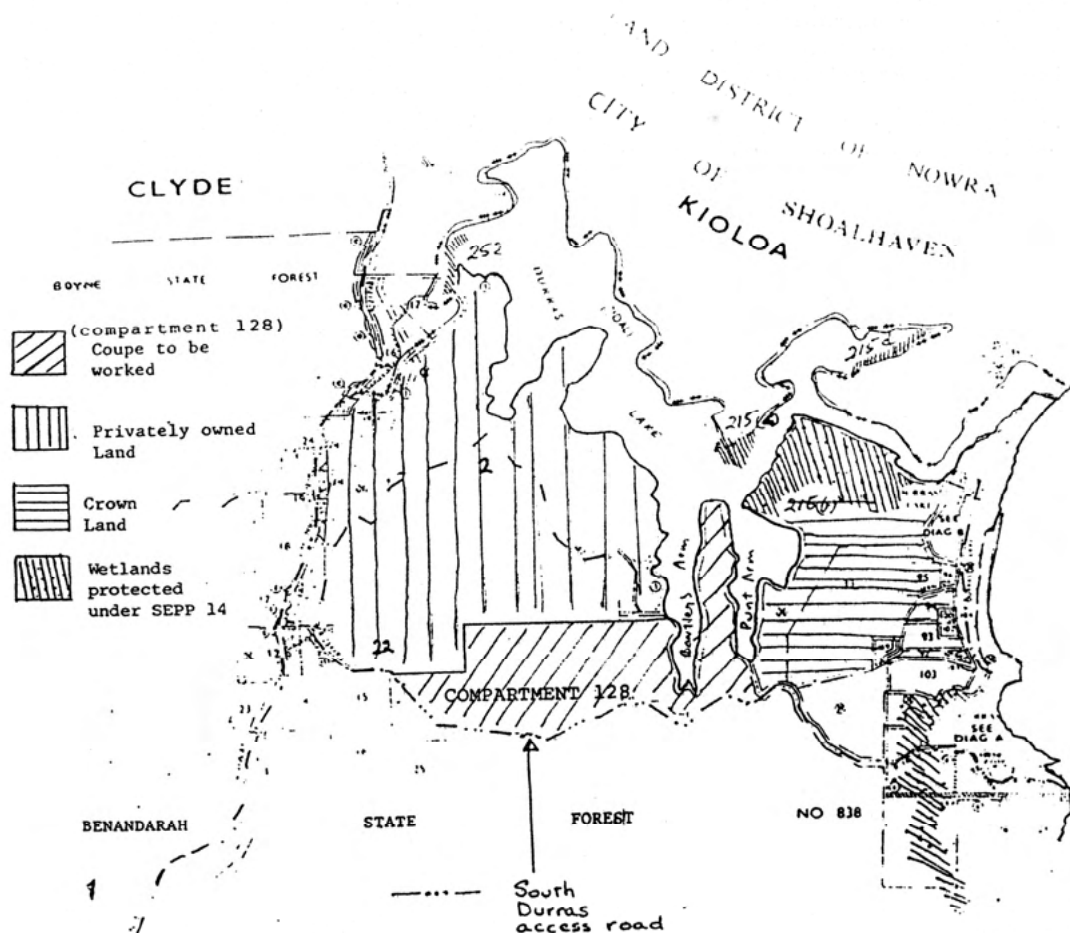
The region should be managed jointly by Park Service and Water Board, in order to protect water quality, and ensure proper wildlife and recreation management.

It is desirable Nattai National Park is created prior to consideration of the Greater Blue Mountains complex of national parks for nomination as World Heritage.

Two of the motions submitted by the Total Environment Centre were strongly supported by the Colong Foundation. These were:

6. FORESTRY COMMISSION OBSTRUCTIONISM

THAT Conference resolves to write to the NSW Premier drawing his atten-



to the continuing opposition of the NSW Forestry Commission to:

- a) dedication of an adequate national parks system for NSW; and
- b) proper public procedures and involvement in the management and planning of State Forests.

This Conference affirms that State Forests and Crown Forest Reserves are held in trust by the Forestry Commission for the people of NSW and not for the timber industry alone.

Forestry problems provide at least fifty community disputes at any one time in NSW, each dispute causing electoral loss to the Government.

Conference calls on the Premier to set up a working party to review the report by Peter Prineas, solicitor, titled "The NSW Forestry Act - a review with suggestions for reform" and to set up a programme for reform of the Forestry legislation and Commission.

Forestry Commission obstructionism dates back to the times when Myles Dunphy sought the Commission's help in preserving the blue gum forest in the Couridjah Corridor. It was the finest forest within reasonable reach of Sydney and was destroyed within ten years when the Commission heard of its existence.

In 1967 the Commission succeeded in having 85,000 acres of virgin forest transferred from the Kosciusko State Park to State Forest.

No organisation has more reason than the Colong Foundation to resent the Commission's policy of appropriating reserves and pre-empting park proposals. Reserve no. 67062 on the Boyd Plateau, for the preservation of Native Flora and Fauna, was heavily logged under Commission supervision and 5000 acres of it acquired for pine growing. Logging continued in Wiangarie State Forest during the Border Ranges campaign and would have extended to the virgin rainforest of Lever's Plateau but for Premier Wran's veto of the planned road to the plateau. Logging is now under way in the proposed Coolangubra National Park. The latest pre-emption is the proposed logging for sawlogs and woodchips of Punt Point on Lake Durras within the proposed extension of Murramarang National Park (see map on previous page). The lake is the last extensive undeve-

loped lake on the coast. The logged areas will be visible from most of the lake and its shores. The Colong Foundation has joined in the protests against the Commission's proposal.

24. WILDERNESS ACT

THAT this Conference:

- a) welcomes the announcement by Hon. Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment, that the NSW Government will enact a separate Wilderness Act;
- b) calls on the Government to ensure that for all eastern wilderness areas the Act provides:
 - i) dedication as national parks within five years;
 - ii) interim protection against development including clearing, logging, roading, mining exploration, mining, dam, powerline and other constructions etc.,
 - iii) management in both interim and national park phases through public management plans;
 - iv) requirement that interim land managers obtain NPWS agreement for interim management plans;
 - v) third party rights of objection to interim management plans and other interim management decisions and procedures through the Land and Environment Court;

Motions on mining exploration in national parks, Wollemi Wilderness and Blue Mountains Development were also strongly supported by the Colong Foundation. The Colong Committee was created to combat mining in a reserve within a park. It adopted the reservation of Wollemi as its second main objective in 1975 and sponsored the proposal for the "Gardens of Stone" (pagodas) extension. Since 1975 it has been a trenchant critic of the failure of planning to prevent the development which is destroying the natural attractions of the mountains.

50. MINING EXPLORATION IN NATIONAL PARKS - Submitted by the Executive

THAT this Conference endorses the decision of the Executive at its May meeting that the Council adopts, in regard to exploration for mining in national parks, the IUCN definition of national parks and

nature reserves, and specifically opposes exploration for minerals in national parks and nature reserves.

51. GOVERNMENT INACTION AND WOLLEMI WILDERNESS - Submitted by the Executive

THAT in recognition of the government's well publicised sentiments regarding the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers the NCC

- 1) deplores the inaction of the NSW State Government in relation to the protection of the western escarpment in and adjacent to Wollemi National Park and associated wild areas; and
- 2) calls upon the Premier and the Ministers for Forestry, Planning and Environment, Lands and Mines to:
 - a) cease insensitive forestry activities and associated road building in the area;
 - b) provide adequate protection and recognition of the values of:
 - * pagoda formations
 - * cliffs over 20 metres in height
 - * shrub swamps and other vulnerable natural communities;
 - c) adequately prevent damage to these features from underground mining in the area;
 - d) incorporate additional government lands within Wollemi National Park,
 - e) more diligently prevent unsympathetic developments adjacent to Wollemi National Park.

Background

Despite the great deal of publicity associated with the government's wilderness plans, little has been done to effectively safeguard NSW's largest wilderness area and the special features associated with it.

Preventable environmental calamities in the western side of Wollemi National Park which have occurred within the past 12 months or more include:

- * apparently indiscriminate logging of timber for pit props on Mount Cori-cudgy State Forest (the highest mountain in the Wollemi Wilderness), associated with extensive roadwork and construction seemingly aimed at Mount Kerry;
- * extensive logging of poor quality timber - such as Scribbly Gum and Brittle Gum - for firewood;

- * the continued and imminent collapses of cliffs and pagoda complexes as a direct result of long wall coal mining from the State owned Angus Place Colliery;
- * the failure to provide any additional safeguards despite correspondence and discussions with the government ministers extending back several years;
- * the failure to safeguard, by way of reservation, any additional Vacant Crown land or State Forest (significant proportions of which include rugged precipices, talus slopes, heath, useless timber and bare rock);
- * apparent inaction to prevent environmentally unsympathetic developments - such as a proposed leisure centre on the boundary of the National Park, extending from the Colo River bank into presently uncleared foothills.

76. BLUE MOUNTAINS DEVELOPMENTS - Submitted by Blue Mountains Environment Council

THAT this Conference requests the Minister for Planning and Environment to place a moratorium on the rezoning of land for development purposes on the Blue Mountains, to commission a Regional Environmental Plan including the impacts of present development on the Mountains' natural systems and its social and economic conditions and to consider the plan's findings in defining a population limit for the City of Blue Mountains.

Background

The above motion seeks to address the twin problems of large commercial/tourist developments in unsuitable parts of the Mountains and their overall effects plus the issue of continued widespread urban developments. Since 1983 a controversial large-scale tourist development has been erected on the escarpment at Leura, major developments have been proposed for Echo Point and currently a five storey tourist development is proposed for Nellie's Glen. There is a proliferation of such developments on or adjacent to areas of national and possible world heritage value without an analysis of their individual and collective suitability to the landscape of the mountains or of their collective viability. Currently, a number of tourist businesses within the mountains

are experiencing severe financial difficulties even without the influx of massive increases in bed numbers.

In addition, the series of Environmental Management Plans which the Blue Mountains City Council is currently developing are proceeding so slowly that a number of large developments may proceed before plans are in place. Such plans also do not necessarily present an overall plan for the rational development of such projects.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS

The Sydney Bush Walkers Club was founded on September 21st, 1927, when Alan Rigby, one of our earliest supporters, moved in a meeting of the Mountain Trails Club "that a new walking Club be formed here and now". Since then it has never looked back and now has some 500 members.

One of its principal sponsors was our first Patron, Myles J. Dunphy, O.B.E. He wanted to fill the need for a social Club with mixed membership and at the same time expand support for nature conservation. For many years he attended S.B.W. meetings and inspired members to support conservation efforts. The Club's first notable conservation effort was to buy Blue Gum Forest and thereby save it from logging. It took a leading part in the Garrawarra, Maitland Bay and Era campaigns. (Incidentally these are now the only undeveloped surf beaches within 50 miles of Sydney).

As conservation interest spread beyond the bushwalking movement, many of its members joined more widely based organisations such as the Colong Committee, the National Parks Association, the National Trust and the Nature Conservation Council.

On October 21 the Club held a "nostalgia night" in its clubroom. Old photographs, maps, walking gear etc were on display and the room was packed to capacity. Paddy Pallin entertained with reminiscences and a display of early gear.

On October 23rd a dinner at the Menzies Hotel was attended by 220 members. Guests included the Hon. Bob Carr, Tim Moore and Colong Foundation Directors, Peter Maslen, Milo Dunphy, A.M. and Jim Somerville, A.M. Bob Carr and Tim Moore made short speeches. Tim Moore's speech was devoted to his unstinted admiration of John Sinclair.

The Club's book "The Sydney Bush Walker - the first 60 years" was launched by foundation member and second President Frank Duncan.

Celebrations concluded with a camp at the Club's very own conservation area - Coolana on the Kangaroo River.

The book contains 166 pages, plus 24 pages of photographs and many attractive illustrations. It is edited by Ainslie Morris and written, in ten year sections, by six members. Its interest extends far beyond the Club itself. Its early chapters are very much a history of the bushwalking movement. Many legendary early bushwalkers are described. Every chapter contains a section on the Club's participation in conservation efforts.

Although the Club is making no special effort to sell its limited edition to non-members, the book is available from the Colong Foundation for \$11.50, including postage.

LEURA RESORT DEVELOPMENT

On September 22nd The Hon. Elizabeth Kirkby (Australian Democrats) asked the following question in the Legislative Council:

My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Assistant Minister for Health, representing the Minister for Planning and Environment. Is it a fact that the cost of the Fairmont Resort at Leura has escalated from \$25 million to \$45 million? Is it also a fact that Fairmont Pty Limited is now financially embarrassed? Will this \$20 million have to be borne by public funds by reason of the fact that the Australian Industry Development Corporation funded the project? Will the Minister confirm that in January 1986 the Australian Industry Development Corporation stated in a letter, "We will not finance any project that does not stand up to rigorous financial assessment"? Will the Minister inform the House of the financial position of Fairmont Pty Limited and whether taxpayers' money will have to be used to complete this unnecessary and extravagant development?

Senator McLean has asked a question on similar lines in the Senate.

FOUNDATION TREASURER

It was with great regret that the Foun-

dation accepted the resignation of its Hon. Treasurer of 15 years standing, Charles Culberg.

Our accounts were in chaos when he started, but he soon restored them to perfect order and has kept them that way. There can be no doubt that Charles' accounting and the auditing of the prestigious firm, Arthur Anderson & Co., which he persuaded to become our Honorary Auditors, has contributed a lot to confidence in the Foundation and the healthy state of our funds.

Charles will remain Hon. Treasurer until the end of the year, and we hope to recruit an equally conscientious replacement. The work entails:

- * Recording subscriptions, donations etc.
- * Banking proceeds
- * Writing cheques
- * Preparing annual accounts
- * Sending reminders to the unfinancial
- * Periodical reports on finances available

Ideally an accountant, book-keeper or bank employee could do the job, but one less versed in finance could do it with help from the directors.

It is very essential and satisfying work, mainly because of the generous support we receive from a loyal band of supporters. We hold no special fund-raising functions but let our activities, as described in the Bulletin, speak for our cause. Unlike many other conservation organisations we receive no Government assistance.

The Hon. Treasurer is welcome to attend all meetings and contribute to policy, but needs to attend only those which entail important financial decisions.

The work can be done either in the congenial surroundings of our office in the Total Environment Centre, or at home.

Anyone doing the job can be assured of making an essential and valuable contribution to wilderness conservation. The Colong Foundation believes that it achieves greater results with less outlay than any other conservation organisation.

THE WHALES ARE BACK

One of the tourist attractions of Queensland is whale watching in Hervey Bay, a sheltered stretch of water where humpback whales, having calved on the Barrier Reef, disport themselves on

on their way back to the Antarctic. Spotter planes guide tourist boats to the whales and the tourists are able to see them from close quarters blowing, breaking the water with a rolling motion (like porpoises but slower) and flipping their great tails out of the water. Down south too they are an attraction. People watch from cliff-tops and small boats. The anti-conservationists of Queensland and the far south coast might well reflect that if it weren't for the conservationists, there would be no whales.

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In 30 years, there will be no wilderness areas left on the entire planet. In 150 years, 50 per cent of all species of plants and animals will be extinct and, in 200 years, 80 per cent. We are now in a rate of extinction that is exactly the same rate as occurred when the dinosaurs disappeared.

David Suzuchi, Professor of Zoology at the University of British Columbia.

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MEETING DATES

Foundation meetings will be held on December 3rd and 17th and January 21st.

STOP PRESS

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

On November 11th we received the following statement, the main features of which were:

The Premier, Mr Barrie Unsworth, today announced that the New South Wales Government would introduce a Wilderness Act to State Parliament this week and foreshadowed the declaration of three new wilderness national parks.

The legislation:

- * Allows for areas outside the national parks system to be declared as wilderness where agreement has been reached.
- * Provides for binding voluntary management agreements between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other public authorities.
- * Provides for voluntary conservation agreements over privately-held wilderness.
- * Provides for consideration under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act of the effect of developments on wilderness.
- * Gives third parties the right to go to the Land and Environment Court where wilderness areas are threatened.
- * Provides for management guidelines for continued protection of wilderness.
- * Defines as its principal objects the protection and proper management of wilderness.
- * Requires an Act of Parliament for the revocation of wilderness designation over public lands.
- * Requires Ministerial consultation for any change in the use or tenure of Crown leasehold lands with wilderness values.
- * Provides for any person or organisation to submit a wilderness area declaration proposal and have it assessed within 24 months.
- * Provides for a Wilderness Fund to assist acquisition of wilderness.
- * Requires an annual report on the status and management of wilderness by the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act will be amended to:

- * Provides for the declaration and management of wild and scenic rivers within national parks.
- * Allow for interim protection orders to protect areas with significant natural, scientific or cultural value. These new orders are modelled on interim conservation orders under the New South Wales Heritage Act.

As this Bulletin went to press we received a copy of the Hon. Bob Carr's second reading speech. This will be featured in our next issue. We await with interest the National Party's reaction to the Bill.

FORM FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

To: The Treasurer
Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd
18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

The enclosed remittance or advice covers the item(s) indicated by a tick in the box beside it.

- ☐ Membership application (see form below), (Note: The membership fee covers Bulletin subscription fee)
- ☐ Membership renewal (\$20)
- ☐ Subscription for all issues of Colong Bulletin to 31/12/88 (\$5) (Non-members only)
- ☐ Donation of \$.....
- ☐ I have donated \$..... to the Australian Conservation Foundation expressing a wish that my donation be spent for the purposes of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness (see form letter below).

I would like this donation applied to:

- ☐ The fighting fund
- ☐ The Myles Dunphy Fund (investment only)
- ☐ Either fund, at the Foundation's discretion.

NAME: (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

ADDRESS:POST CODE

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:

\$SIGNED:DATE:

MEMBERSHIP FORM

To: The Hon. Secretary
Colong Foundation for Wilderness
18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Date

I hereby apply for membership of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd. I am nominated byand seconded by

(Note: If you are not personally known to the Foundation, 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 Foundation).

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

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

Enclosed please findfor \$20, being my membership subscription to 31/12/88. (Please note: membership fee covers Bulletin subscription).

Signed

FULL NAME: (MR, MRS, MISS)

ADDRESS

.....POSTCODE



BOOK FAIR

The Total Environment Centre CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR is on again
from
Saturday 21 November
to
Thursday 24 December 1987.

We will be open:

WEEKDAYS	10.30am to 4.00pm
WEEKENDS	1.00pm to 5.00pm
	except
24 Dec.	10.30am to 1.00pm

As Total Environment Centre is a voluntary organisation relying on the generous support of friends and conservationists generally, we do look to this important fund-raising event for some of our annual income.

We would therefore like to point out that this year we have an interesting array of children's books on conservation and wildlife, fascinating posters, the Gould League children's diary, that would make lovely Christmas gifts.

As well, we have our usual wide range of environmental books on Australian flora and fauna, rainforests, wetlands, pollution, hazardous chemicals and urban issues, as well as the delightful 1987 calendars and wilderness diary.

Total Environment Centre is on the third floor,
The Argyle Centre,
18 Argyle Street,
The Rocks,
Sydney

For further information phone 27 4714 between 10am and 4pm.

MAIL ORDERS

For those who cannot go to the Book Fair, The Colong Foundation will be pleased to post the following publications at the prices shown (Price includes postage).

NSW Wilderness Calendar (by Henry Gold)	\$9.50
Myles Dunphy (by Pat Thompson)	29.50
The Sydney Bush Walkers	11.50
Never Truly Lost (By Paddy Pallin)	19.50
Submission on Cape Tribulation-Bloomfield Road (by Greater Daintree Action Centre)	6.00

The Colong Foundation is at the same address as T.E.C.