



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

Many people thought that what threatened the Franklin River was wanton vandalism. But, what is happening in north Queensland is much more frightening, because it is just pig ignorance. I don't think its vandalism, because I cannot believe anyone, fully aware of the value of these forests would vandalise them...

The north Queensland rainforests contain 13 of the world's 19 known families of primitive flowering plants, thought to have emerged at least 120 million years ago. This is the richest collection of these plants found anywhere in the world and indicated Australia could have been the cradle of their evolution...

The megacrops of the world's food supply are all inbred, and are kept only one step ahead of disease and disaster by a continuous massive breeding program. The new genetic material to top up these crops, to keep them one step ahead of failure, is sought from the wilderness. So, what you are guardians of here in Australia, is one of the world's most valuable genetic banks worth many billions of dollars.

...we can't pull back the genetic stock of the wet tropical rainforests of Queensland once they are gone.

Dr David Bellamy quoted in the NPA Journal of December 1987.

COLONG BULLETIN No 107, March 1988

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OUR PATRON HONOURED

Our Patron, the Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C. has been made a Companion of the Order of Australia for his service to Government and politics and the NSW Parliament. In our opinion his most important service to Government was his service to nature conservation, which he himself rates as the most memorable achievement of his Government. It is a lasting achievement, and it was most appropriate that it should be recognised on the bi-centennial Australia day.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

18 Argyle St., SYDNEY. Phone 27 4714

PATRON: The Hon. Neville K. Wran, A.C., Q.C.

DIRECTORS: Peter Maslen, B.Sc. (Eng.) B.Sc. (Botany), (Chairman); Pat Thompson, L.C.F. (Vice-Chairman); Rodney Falconer, B.Sc., Ed., (Vice-Chairman); Alex Colley, O.A.M., B.Ec., H.D.A. (Hon. Secretary); Albert Renshaw, (Hon. Treasurer); Milo Dunphy, A.M., A.S.T.C.; Ian Laed, Chemical Certificate, S.T.C.; Narelle Lovell, B.Sc.; Phil Millard, M.B., F.R.C.S.; Peter Prineas, B.A., LL.B.; Jim Somerville, A.M., A.A.S.A.; Haydn Washington, B.A. (Biology).

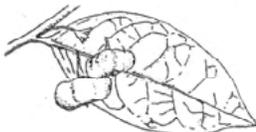
HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.



A new nature conservation era dawned with the election of the Wran Government. Several members of his cabinet, most notably Mr Lyada, were conservationists, but there was also opposition, and it was Mr Wran's political mastery which tipped the scales in our favour. During the seven year battle for Colong and the Boyd we had to fight against virtually the whole establishment. All efforts to meet the Premier failed. In October 1976, four months after the election, Mr Wran invited us to meet him to discuss wilderness preservation and a visit to the Blue Mountains, which took place shortly afterwards - the first bushwalk by a NSW Premier. At this time our objectives were the preservation of the Border Ranges rainforests and the Greater Blue Mountains. Both objectives, and a good deal more, were achieved before Mr Wran resigned in 1976. In ten years the area of national parks had been doubled. It included the major rainforests.

The impetus which he imparted to nature conservation has carried through to the Unsworth Government, notably with the passage of the Wilderness Act and the declaration of new national parks. New South Wales is now an example to the rest of Australia, if not to the rest of the world.



SUBMISSIONS GALORE

The month of January was notable for the number of requests for submissions received by the Colong Foundation. How much consideration our replies receive we seldom know, but we do know that our views on wilderness and rainforest preservation and management have had a profound influence on policy, and believe our submissions are effective. Trade and business organisations hand the job to their paid staff or employ consultants. Many conservation organisations receive grants which enable them to employ paid staff. The Colong Foundation is expected to do it all with voluntary staff and finance, and the task is made more difficult by reason of the short period, often less than a month, allowed for submissions. In the past month we have responded to four requests on matters of considerable import. They required careful consideration, but the task was made easier because of the clearly defined policy we have evolved on most nature conservation issues. Nevertheless we could not have responded in the time allowed if our supporters had not enabled us to employ Olwyn Nelson as Assistant Secretary.

The main submissions prepared were:

POLICY OPTIONS OF THE FEDERAL OPPOSITION PARTIES

Senator Puplick, the Shadow Minister for the Environment, sent us a 107 page Discussion Paper on Environment Policy Options. There was an obvious need for such a paper. There was no policy at the last election on most of the topics included, and presumably, judging by the range of policy options given, none now. But there are rays of hope. One is Mr Howard's statement that there is a national responsibility involved and that we are a nation before we are a collection of states.

Another is the fact that Senator Puplick is trying to formulate a policy on the main environmental issues. We gave him our policy on those issues affecting wilderness preservation and supplemented it with copies of the Colong Bulletin containing articles covering them. Had he read the Colong Bulletin he would not have needed our submission, but we hope he reads it now, and wish him well in his efforts to formulate policy.

Our main points of criticism concerned the policy of putting State rights before environmental preservation and the Liberal and National Parties' enthusiasm for the continuance of woodchipping.

BLUE MOUNTAINS AND WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARKS DRAFT PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

These were received in mid-January and had to be completed before February 12th. We were unable to appreciate the need for the hurry, seeing that the Blue Mountains plan had been in preparation for some 20 years, but made the deadline with less detailed submissions than the plans deserved.

We were pleased to acknowledge that both plans adhere, on the whole, to the wilderness preservation policy agreed upon in our discussions with the NPWS in 1982 and confirmed by the Hon. Bob Carr in March 1985. The preservation of natural features is the first priority. In the Blue Mountains National Park, 75,000ha will be managed as wilderness and in Wollemi 200,000ha. We have recommended some extensions of the Wollemi wilderness area and of the Blue Mountains area towards Yerranderie. The most pleasing feature of the plans is the elimination of all vehicle tracks, except those required for management. We have questioned the necessity for management tracks, of which there is considerable mileage in the Blue Mountains plan, on the grounds that they are more likely to create management problems than to solve them. It is virtually impossible to exclude vehicles from them, with the result that they are used, and eroded, by fire lighters, rubbish dumpers, off road vehicle machos, shooters, rock and timber thieves etc.

We are also critical of the fire prevention policy. The protection of life and property is necessary, but not, as the plans imply, by using the parks as firebreaks. Most fires start, not in parks, but in developed areas. The main responsibility should rest with those who choose to build inflammable dwellings in fire prone areas. By proper precautions, including clearing of fuel, they can minimise fire risks. It is the responsibility of Councils to see that this is done and to refuse permission to subdivide fire prone areas.

We oppose horse riding, which is to be allowed in both parks. It is damaging to parklands, particularly when indulged in by riding parties. Regular use, particularly by large commercially organised parties, causes a great deal of damage. Horses, like other forms of transport, should be used only on public and park roads.

The Wollemi plan acknowledges the need for controlling developments outside the park which may effect the park itself. The Blue Mountains plan encompasses water purity, though this is a Water Board responsibility but makes no mention of the Fairmont resort, the development of Echo Point or other developments impinging on the natural scenic features of the park.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO KOSCIUSKO N.P. PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

This detailed 18 page submission was prepared for the Foundation by Pat Thompson. It called for road closures to overcome obvious management difficulties and prepare for the ultimate declaration of a solid wilderness block contiguous with the Namadji Park in the ACT northern region. This meant the return of the Big Dubbo Hill area, excised by the Forestry Commission in 1967, to the Park, the declaration of Goobarragandra Wilderness, cessation of logging in those parts of Buccleugh State Forest that form part of this wilderness, and relocation of power lines when their lifespan is over. Termination of the Broken Cart Track, once a stock route, now used only for agistment, was recommended. The closure of the network of management tracks - "a major contributory cause of ecological degradation", was described as a matter of urgency, and in the light of the Blue Mountains and Wollemi Plans is in line with NPWS policy. The closure of the Goobarragandra and Rules Point roads was recommended.

The plan's assumption that horse riding is a legitimate use which would encourage the understanding and enjoyment of the park is challenged. There has been no EIS or other form of research into the environmental and social impact of horse riding. Both the Victorian Alpine Area Planning proposals and the Namadji National Park Management Plan propose to exclude horse riding. The parks adjoin Kosciusko National Park on the north-east and south.

A letter dated July 20th to the NPWS on horse riding in Kosciusko National Park remains unanswered. So does our letter of 7th January to The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service on the proposed route of the Bicentennial National Trail.

YENGO NATIONAL PARK

In response to an invitation from the Yengo National Park Project Team, we have made a pre-planning submission. It urges the declaration of a wilderness area and is based on the principles covered in our Blue Mountains and Wollemi submissions.

SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee will inquire into and report on land degradation in Australia. Submissions were invited from environment groups. The short term physical aspect of land degradation, in the form of soil erosion, is obvious to anyone with eyes to see, and well documented by soil conservation services, though they generally ignore the importance of maintaining wilderness on catchment areas. The long term

results of erosion, and loss of soil fertility because of removal of plant nutrients, changes in soil biota and chemical imbalance, though known, are seldom obvious. Quantification and description on a nation wide basis will be useful, but more important is the Committee's charter to concentrate on how the problem is being addressed and what additional measures are required to ensure that land use practices do not lead to further degradation. The effects of soil degradation are only too obvious in wilderness areas and the Colong Foundation submission will describe these and outline an effective control policy.

The Inquiry is welcome in view of the lack of recognition during the bi-centennial celebrations of the environmental costs of European and Aboriginal occupation. Human costs were recognised. Environmental costs were ignored.

NATTAI NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

This submission was financed by the Total Environment Centre, the Colong Foundation, the Berrima Branch of the National Parks Association and the Sydney Bush Walkers. It was presented to the Hon. Bob Carr on February 2nd. (for description see last Bulletin).

SUBMISSION ON WORLD HERITAGE LISTING FOR THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

After prolonged consultation with senior officers of the Department of Environment and Planning last June we submitted an application to the NSW Heritage Council for a grant to enable the preparation of this submission. The official reluctance to give any form of assistance to the Colong Foundation seems to have prevailed, and we have heard nothing from the Council since. We were at least entitled to know their decision and Mr Carr is following the matter up. The Hon. Bob Debus, Member for the Blue Mountains enthusiastically supports the Proposal.

MINI SUBMISSIONS

These take the form of letters to ministers and authorities. They usually evoke an adequate response, except on the subject of Kosciusko National Park management, whether or not it favours our cause. Recent letters covered the reservation of the shores of Lake Durras, the addition to the Blue Mountains National Park of an area on Upper Linden Creek and opposition to development at Echo Point.

The generous support we have received from our members and others has helped us to meet the demand for submissions and we hope for increased action in the future.

MOUNT ETNA CAVES REPORT DECEMBER 1987

by Colin Gibson

In December I visited the Mount Etna Caves north of Rockhampton. Members of the Central Queensland Speleological Society are keen to introduce visitors to the Mt Etna caves and to show them the emergence of the Little Bent Winged bats from the Bat Cleft on Mt Etna.

Our guide, Joe, has been caving in the area for about 22 years, which is about the same amount of time that the Central Queensland Cement Company have been mining Mt Etna. The company has torn one face of the mountain apart and are drilling and dynamiting along benches. Joe was leading us to see two caves, Elephant Hole and Speaking Tube, which are the next to be dynamited.

As we approached the quarry we knew we were walking through a graveyard as pieces of stactite and crushed cave lay strewn all around us. Just then a company 4WD pulled up and out jumped two brown-shirted company officials, no less, as it turned out, than the Mine Manager and the Production Manager. We were trespassing, they said, ordering us to leave and requesting that we supply them with our names. We obeyed their directive to leave but declined to provide them with our identities. As we retreated it did seem that poor Elephant Hole and Speaking Tube, though they were on death row, were denied the dignity of a last visit.

Later that evening Joe took us up to the Bat Cleft. It had been raining and no one from the company was in sight. On the way Joe showed us the blasting holes that the Speleological Society had filled in with rocks and cement to thwart the extension of the main working bench. A couple of weeks before, this sabotage had made headlines across the State. The company was furious and began a smear campaign in the local press against the vandalism of the greenies. All the company wanted to do is blow up the mountain and put it through the crusher - but that is not vandalism according to them.

That evening we witnessed the phenomenon of the Bat Cleft. As dusk approaches as many as 100,000 female Little Bent Winged bats leave their maternity chamber to feed. Snakes and frogs gather at the entrance to gorge themselves. The spectacle lasts for about an hour while the bats stream through the opening.

Nature spectacles of this type should be of the highest conservation priority, and yet Mt Etna, its Bat Cleft and its 46 surviving caves is ravaged by dynamite and bulldozers. The Queensland Government accepts the company's word that Bat Cleft will not be disturbed, but they do not flinch when the company announces the destruction of other caves, for all of Mt Etna is a mining lease.

Much of the mountain is clothed in a rare type of vine-forest and is an intricate maze of limestone clefts and crevasses. Queensland, despite its large area, possesses few such areas of cavernous limestone. The Texas Caves in South-Western Queensland were recently submerged in the waters created by the Pike Creek Dam. The Chillagoe Caves are an attraction in the far north of the State and there is a cave system in the remote areas around Camooweal near the Northern Territory border.

Since the days of the Colong battle, members of the Central Queensland Speleological Society have been lobbying for the preservation of the Mt Etna Caves. Colong was won many years ago and so are most of Australia's cavernous limestone regions protected: but of course we are now talking about Queensland where the Government on environmental matters is so slow to move, often being dragged along kicking and screaming as it currently is over being made to preserve its own rainforest.

The company refuses to accept the existence of alternative limestone supplies though the local conservationists are emphatic that they are numerous. Meanwhile the company promises not to touch Bat Cleft within the next 25 years. If only the bats knew how lucky they really are.

The bat cleft phenomenon is restricted to the maternity period Dec-Feb.

For further information and to donate to the fighting fund contact:

Mr C Hardy
Conservation Secretary
Central Queensland Speleological Society
PO Box 538
ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4700

NO PINES IN PARKS

We congratulate the NPWS on its policy of removal of pines from Kosciusko National Park. Pine plantations not only replace the natural flora, but spread into surrounding bushlands. We recall our Boyd Plateau pamphlet "Park or Pines" and our description of pine plantations as "biological deserts."

LOGGING OF RIVER REDGUMS

The Foundation has written as follows to the Hon J Hallam Minister for Agriculture:

The directors of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness are concerned at the failure of the Catchment Areas Protection Board to use its new powers under the Amendments to the Soil Conservation Act to protect the Lowbidgee area.

The most disturbing factor is the logging of river redgums within 20 metres of the rivers in the South-East of the State - six approvals having been given during last year alone.

In particular, we are aware that the Board is considering giving permission to the Twynam Pastoral Co. to destroy 350 river redgums on a 14km stretch of the Murrumbidgee near Balranald.

It is our firm belief that the Board should impose a moratorium on all logging in the 20 metre protection strip alongside these Western streams.

Would you please remind the CAPB of their responsibilities under the recent amendments to act in the national interest rather than the purely sectional interest of loggers and pastoralists.



CORRECTIONS

We regret that, in the article in last month's Bulletin on the Wilderness Act, the appreciation of Mr Tim Moore's efforts, attributed to Mr Harrison, was, in fact, spoken by Mr Don Bowman, MP, Member for Swansea. This was most unfortunate because Mr Bowman is a generous Colong Foundation supporter of long standing. In an effort to find out how the mistake occurred, we decided to look up the Hansard Report of Parliamentary Debates. Where to see it? Parliament House of course. But no, they didn't keep the debates there, they were in the State Library. State Library closed till March 17th, but we might see them at Sydney or NSW Universities. Ah well, the State Information Service in Hunter St. would have them. Surely the words of our representatives were of prime importance to the public. Again, no, have to buy the volumes from the Government Printer at Ultimo. Easier to order a volume containing a week's debates than go up there. Cost \$3.75, or \$156.50 a year. This is no way to run a democracy. Parliamentary Debates should be readily accessible and cheap, otherwise we have to rely on what the journalists think fit to print, and this is seldom the words of the back benchers who make some very well informed and relevant speeches. The remedy for this is, of course, in the Parliamentarians' own hands.

We also regret that the subscriptions and donations form was printed on the last page of the Bulletin, instead of on a separate sheet, making it necessary to tear up part of the Bulletin to pay your subscription or donate. This occurred because our regular printer, the Environment Centre of NSW, was unable to print the Bulletin in January and the commercial printer given the job did not follow instructions. If anyone wants the subscriptions form page replaced we will be glad to oblige.

ELECTION POLICIES ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

ALP.

A full statement of ALP Policy must await the delivery of the policy speech. However, we do not anticipate any change in the policy, already familiar to Colong Bulletin readers. The main planks of this policy are:

- * Eventual preservation of all wilderness remnants
- * Establishment of Coolangubra/Tantawangalo National Park
- * Extension of the National Parks system

- * Wilderness management on lines which accord with most aspects of Colong Foundation policy, except in Kosciusko National Park (see reports in this Bulletin).
- * No grazing, mining or logging in National Parks.

We would like to see this policy include support of a Nattai National Park and Wilderness, World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains, more finance for the NPWS, to allow the location of more rangers in parks, and tertiary treatment for Blue Mountains sewage.

LIBERAL AND NATIONAL PARTIES

In the December Environmental Newsletter of the Liberal and National Parties received from Mr Tim Moore, the main policy points outlined are:

- * No opposition to legislative preservation of appropriate remnant wilderness areas.
- * No support for any legislation which compulsorily interferes with the property rights of individual land holders.
- * No support for any steps to reduce the economic viability of any aspect of the timber industry, including the chip mill operation, on the South Coast.
- * Support for the preservation of habitat, catchment areas and significant nature reserves as part of the management of the Coolangubra and Tantawangalo State Forests.
- * Research into alternative methods of control of feral animals which affect livelihoods of farmers who border National Parks.
- * Return of the streams in the Blue Mountains National Park to pristine, drinkable water quality.
- * Replanting of native species as a long term source of timber supply.
- * Recognition of the need for plans of management of National Parks and cessation of politicisation of National Parks advisory committees.
- * Restoration and revival of degraded urban lakes and rivers.
- * A school environmental syllabus traversing 'the critical issues of planning, pollution and community accountability for our interference in a world of which we are but temporary custodians.'

- * Assistance to our neighbours in the South West Pacific to develop and establish natural environmental protection programmes

Mr Moore would be pleased to send a copy of the Environmental Newsletter to any interested readers.

THE ENVIRONMENT GROUP
(see back page of this bulletin)

- * A review of all vacant Crown Lands, state forests and other lands for their national park and nature reserve potential. Such a survey is urgently needed in view of the escalating clearing and intensive logging threats.
- * Opposition to the renewal of the export woodchip licence based on the South East forests; and introduction of legislation in the first session of Parliament to gazette the new national parks and reserves proposed for the South East.
- * A three year program to identify and protect all wilderness areas in NSW.
- * A moratorium on the logging of undisturbed redgum forests and clearing of mallee and grassland habitats in the Western Division until adequate nature reserve protection is implemented.
- * The introduction of legislation to protect and manage wild and scenic rivers.
- * Reform of the NSW Forestry Commission to ensure community representation on the Commission, environmental impact statements, strict forestry practises rules and third party rights to prosecute infringements of regulatory and statutory duties.
- * Enactment of Endangered Species legislation.
- * Opposition to further coastal sprawl and siting of tourist resorts in areas of natural value (already degraded lands being preferred)
- * Application of State Environmental Planning Policy No 14 - Coastal wetlands - to all wetlands in NSW.
- * An end to rainforest logging in NSW and a ban on imports of rainforest timbers. Support for new hardwood plantations to relieve the pressure on native forests.

- * Protection of the integrity of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act ensuring environmental impact statements for all developments likely to significantly affect the environment and maximum public participation.
- * The establishment of a \$20m per annum fund to assist in the aquisition of new lands for nature reserves and national parks.
- * Improvements in the staffing levels and professionalism of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and its management plans.

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

In their policy brochure "Blueprint for NSW" the Australian Democrats support the following:

- * Safeguarding of Tantawangalo and Coolangubra Forests from woodchipping.
- * Protection of the Hexham Swamp and the foreshores of Lake Macquarie and Jervis Bay.
- * Gazetting of wilderness areas.
- * Protection of arid-zone lands, especially in the Western Division of NSW, from salinity and soil erosion.
- * Protection of coastal, alpine and wetland areas from the depredations of developers.
- * Introduction of re-afforestation programs to create jobs, enhance the environment and increase timber resources.



TEC TOURS

This is an invitation to all who are interested in Sydney's natural and cultural beauty to join the Total Environment Centre's seven guided excursions. They are to be held on the last Sunday of each month, beginning in April and ending in October.

The series begins with a ferry trip down the George's River to Botany Bay where we will view the extensive nature reserves, including Towra Point, as well as Kurnell and Bare Island.

In May a visit is planned to the new Botanical Gardens at Mt Tomah travelling on to Mt Wilson in all its autumn beauty.

In June a walk is planned for the historic inner-city suburb of Glebe to see the 19c streetscapes and to visit the Georgian mansion, "Lyndhurst".

July sees us afloat again, this time on the Harbour to take a closer look at the foreshores and in August we take to the bush for a walk at Nattai.

Spring at Wentworth Falls means wildflowers and our plan for September is to see them.

Finally we visit the lovely suburb of Hunter's Hill and picnic in the Field of Mars Reserve at Lane Cove.

24th April 1988	Georges River and Botany Bay by ferry. \$20/\$12
29th May 1988	Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens and Mt Wilson. \$10/\$8
26th June 1988	Glebe Heritage Walk and Lyndhurst, hot lunch. \$15/\$10
31st July 1988	Sydney Harbour Foreshores by ferry and Royal Botanic Gardens. \$20/\$12
28th August 1988	Nattai Bushwalk to Mt Jellore. \$10/\$8
25th September 1988	Blue Mountains Wildflower Walk. \$10/\$8
30th October 1988	Heritage Houses of Hunters Hill and bushland exploration of Field of Mars.

Concession for 7 tours \$85

Enquiries:
TEC 27 4714 or 241 2523 or to
TEC Tours,
Total Environment Centre

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)

Subscription for all issues of Colong Bulletin to 31/12/88 (\$5) (Non-members only).

Donation of \$.....

I would like this donation applied to:

The fighting fund

The Myles Dunphy Fund (investment only).

Either fund, at the Foundation's discretion.

Interest free loan of \$..... repayable at 4 weeks notice.

I have donated \$..... to the Australian Conservation Foundation expressing a wish that my donation be spent for the purpose of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness (see form letter below).

NAME: (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

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:

\$ 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



26th January, 1988

Dear fellow environmentalist,

We seek your support in winning one or two seats in the NSW Legislative Council for the environment movement.

MAJOR PARTIES INADEQUATE

The major reason for standing environment candidates is that neither major party has an adequate environmental platform. Each relies on a few ad hoc decisions leaving most environmental problems unresolved and expanding.

Labor has a good record in the natural environment, but is responsible for a number of dreadful urban projects bulldozed through the city, without proper public discussion. These are matched in rural areas by fast-tracked projects like the Leura (Fairmont) Resort, the Islands (Kurrajong) and Bonville tourist projects.

When last in Government, the environmental record of the Liberal-National Coalition, was bad. Recently it has appeared to make several worthwhile promises for the city, but maintains 'total support' for the destructive woodchip industry.

The Liberal Party is yoked to the National Party which has distinguished itself around Australia by opposition to advances in nature conservation and unqualified support for the cause of the mining, timber and agriculture industries.

The NSW Environmental and Planning legislation is the best in Australia, but the Government has bypassed it with special Acts of Parliament. The Coalition plans to wreck the EPA Act by breaking the present Department into two, with planning once more under a National Party Minister.

PUT ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN PARLIAMENT

The environment movement needs people in Parliament.

A base in the Legislative Council gives the movement direct access for lobbying other parliamentarians. Council members can move or amend legislation, delay Bills, question Ministers, take part in select committees of inquiry and answer attacks on the environment movement.

Other reasons for voting for The Environment Group, include:

- The two major parties will almost certainly lose the chance to dominate the Council thus providing constructive opportunities for Independents.
- At present the Democrats cannot move or amend legislation with only one Council member.
- Under current electoral law the candidature of The Environment Group combined with the Democrats and the Munday group will allow you to avoid expressing a preference for any major party in the Legislative Council. **Our preferences will not be going to any major party.**

Each Environment Group candidate has helped build the movement in various elected roles for many years. The attached brochure gives you more information about us.

You can help us by:

- Forming or joining a local Environment Group Team.
- Handing out How To Vote Cards on polling day.
- Circulating this letter and brochure to your members.
- Making a donation or loan to The Environment Group.

With your active support the community-based environment movement will take a major step forward.

Yours faithfully,

MILO DUNPHY

CHRIS TOWNEND

ALICE OPPEN

Independent
Candidates for the
New South Wales
Legislative Council

Milo Dunphy AM, ASTC
Christine Townend BA
Alice Oppen BA, MAT, MA

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