

THE COLONG BULLETIN

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Present day realities mean that universal values, such as avoiding war and ecological catastrophe, must outweigh the idea of a struggle between classes.

Vadim Medvedev, Soviet Politburo's chief ideologist

Green is the world's new political colour

The London Economist

Why should I care about posterity? What has posterity done for me?

Groucho Marx

TIM MOORE VISITS NATTAI

by Keith Muir, Project Officer

COLONG BULLETIN NO. 111, Nov. 1988

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The Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Tim Moore, accompanied by his twin daughters Ruth and Lucy aged eight visited the Nattai River Valley with TEC and the Colong Foundation during the October long weekend.

Tour leader George Threlfo, Secretary of the Blue Mountains Environment Council led the party down Starlights Trail, and through stands of Sydney Blue Gum rivalling those of the Blue Gum Forest near Blackheath, to the camp site on the river.

Other members of the party included John Wrigley, Catchments Manager of the Water Board, Alex Colley OAM, Hon. Secretary of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Margaret Robertson, NSW Campaign Officer for the Wilderness Society, Mrs Anne Reeves of Australian Conservation Foundation, and from TEC Prof. Peter Reeves, Jeff Angel, Sue Kennedy and Keith Muir.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

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HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

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MIXED RECEPTION TO PARK PROPOSAL

At the campsite, Tim Moore said he was concerned that objections of the Department of Mineral Resources to the park proposal due to underlying coal resources may interfere with dedication of Nattai National Park.

Margaret Robertson pointed out that the Nattai National Park was one of the easiest proposals for the Greiner Government to announce as it is nearly all Crown land or owned by the Water Board.

Mr Moore's comments are disappointing as his cabinet colleague the Hon. John Fahey, Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment and Member for the Southern Highlands, National Party Member for Goulburn, Mr Robert Webster, MP have both endorsed the park proposal.

COAL MINING NOT ECONOMIC

In the past, six coal mines have been established along the edges of the park proposal and failed. The mining industry has had its go.

The area is an important part of the catchment to Lake Burragorang, Sydney's major water supply. The Water Board does not permit coal washing to occur inside the dam catchment, due to pollution threats. Any new mine in the Nattai area would require costly double handling of unwashed coal and transport arrangements.

Further, setbacks from all canyon and valley walls to prevent cliff collapse, would be crucial. Such events in the recent past have caused major plumes of sediment into Lake Burragorang. Soil conservation works on these damaged areas has proved costly. It is unlikely that mining would ever be economic.

BROCHURE PUTS THE CASE FOR A NATTAI PARK

The Foundation has launched a campaign to save Nattai with the enclosed brochure which describes dedication of the park as a step toward nomination of the Greater Blue Mountains as a World Heritage Area.

The Nattai region is the fourth division of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park Plan, first proposed by Myles Dunphy and the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council in 1933. As the map in the brochure shows, dedication will link the Southern Highlands to the Blue Mountains National Park system, completing a greenbelt around Sydney.

Nattai is rich in bird life, contains large forested river flats and wilderness. Extensive ironbark tree communities poorly represented in other national parks clothe the valleys of the Nattai area.

Write to the Premier, the Hon Nick Greiner calling for dedication of this park. Contact Keith Muir at TEC for further details.



The Hon Tim Moore
Minister for the Environment

(The objections of the Department of Mineral Resources are simply a reversion to the old policy of creating national parks only after the area concerned has been proved useless for other purposes. It is this policy which has left 76% of our rainforest plant associations unprotected, together with 75% of ironbark forests and woodlands and 100% of our river redgums, and deprived our koalas of their natural habitat. Although only 70km from the first Australian settlement, little profitable use has been found for the land within the proposed park.

It will, of course, be left to the Colong Foundation to prove that the resources it does contain can be found in abundance elsewhere. This should not be difficult in view of the fact that 6 local coal mines have already failed and the Joint Coal Board estimated the coal reserves in NSW at 500 billion tonnes. - Ed.)

MILO DUNPHY HONOURED

At a function held on October 26th the Royal Australian Planning Institute awarded Milo Dunphy A. M. its most prestigious medal - The Sidney Luker Memorial Medal. Below is reproduced the citation delivered by Jim Colman, F.R.A.P.T.. The values he stresses are those which the Colong Committee, inspired by Milo, adopted in its early years and confirmed in its subsequent campaigns.

On the occasion of the presentation of the Sidney Luker Memorial Medal to Milo Dunphy, we gather to honour a great Australian citizen - or perhaps, as the recipient himself might prefer - a great world citizen - as part of the Institute's on-going memorial to Sidney Luker and his commitment to planning.

We also gather to thank that same person for what he has achieved in the field of environmental conservation in this country. A measure of that achievement is the fact that throughout Australia over the past decade or so, the name Dunphy has become synonymous with the conservation cause.

There are many places which today we treasure and which we tend to take for granted for their beauty, their availability, their importance as components of the public domain. Places such as Colong, Myall Lakes, Bindook, Kanangra-Boyd, Greater Blue Mountains National Park, the Border Ranges, Kakadu, Terania Creek and so on - all these places are living memorials to the conservation movement in general and to Milo Dunphy in particular. If there are people to thank for saving these priceless environments for our own and future generations, Milo's name would be very close to the top of the list.

Unfortunately, Milo's reputation does not always lead to a vote of thanks. Far from it: in certain circles it is quite the reverse. Why is this so?

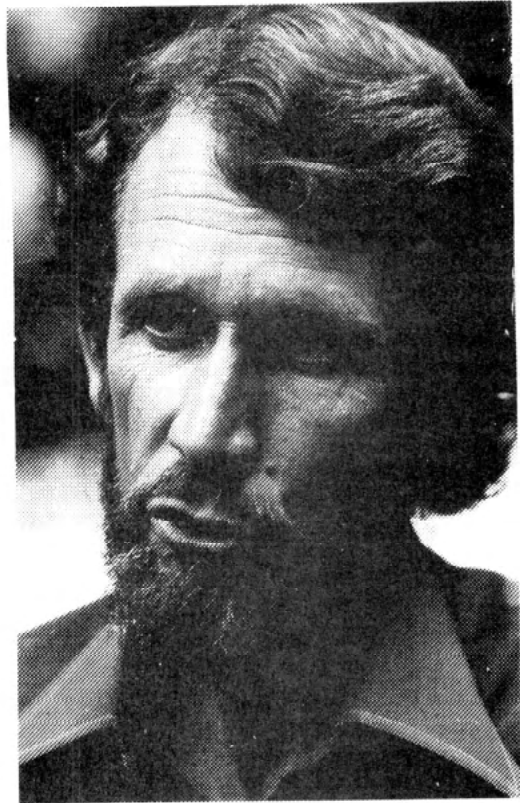
It is a sorry reflection of the dominant values of our age that a person who has committed himself to saving and protecting our habitat should be regarded as a dangerous radical, a prejudiced 'greeney', a 'ratbag', a person whose sole purpose is to stand in the way of progress.

What has gone wrong? What values have we thrown aside as we run with our bankers, our industrialists, our mining barons, our developers - all participating in the systematic exploitation of precious environmental resources and preoccupied with the stock market results, the jobs, and the dollars.

The fact is that we have all grown up with blinkers. These blinkers are based on the prevailing post-war mode of thought which put material progress and prosperity, and the concept of economic growth as a public good, at the top of our list of national priorities. These blinkers have prevented us from looking at the other side of the coin. And this is the side that Milo has focused on.

Milo Dunphy has been prodigious in his efforts at forcing us, as a community, to look at the consequences of pursuing an ethic based on development and exploitation of natural resources, as if it were the only responsible ethic.

He has helped, like few others, to present the alternative ethic - the conservation ethic - not only as a responsible alternative but as an imperative if we wish to survive on this planet.



Milo Kanangra Dunphy A.M.
Sidney Luker Memorial Medallist

He has helped us to face the beguiling and persuasive notion of 'balanced development' with fresh eyes; to recognise that the concept of 'balance' is full of risks and deceptions when it comes to deciding exactly what goes into a 'balanced development'.

For Milo, it is not a matter of 'having two bob each way' or a design which saves half the trees whilst turning the others over to the bulldozer. The application of simplistic arithmetical notions of balance is a recipe for trouble. Milo has shown us time and time again that with ecological issues and environmental problems the inter-relationships between the tangible and intangible aspects are so complex that our traditional decision-making apparatus just will not work. If the public interest is to receive proper weight, we need a better, more sensitive array of bureaucratic devices than we have inherited from a development oriented past.

If we as planners have a fundamental concern for the public interest, then there can be no doubt that Milo Dunphy is one of us. Milo may not call himself a planner. And there may be many mainstream planners who would see this award tonight as being somewhat outside the terms of the Luker Bequest. However, I think the evidence is overwhelmingly in favour of the opposite view. Milo Dunphy pursues objectives which are hopefully understood by all of us and supported by

all of us. Planning in the latter half of the twentieth century is about many things - and conservation (both urban and natural) is one of those things.

Partly because of his efforts, conservation is very much a component of our own professional agenda. It is there because of people like Milo - people who put long-term community values before all other priorities, and who will place their principles above other considerations.

If human happiness, contentment, satisfaction, compassion, love of one's fellow-beings, and sheer enjoyment of life - if these things have anything to do with our understanding and love of nature, then we and our children - and our children's children - all owe an enormous debt to Milo Dunphy, his colleagues and their message.

Perhaps we as planners need to step back more frequently from the coal face and ask ourselves a few simple questions about our own professional achievements. Have we helped a few more people to find real happiness? Have we created anything which future generations will view with respect? Are we sufficiently concerned with the public interest - or are we simply being used as tools in the private development game?

Perhaps professional bodies such as ours need a conscience, just as individuals need a conscience. It would be no exaggeration to suggest that Milo Dunphy is in a very real sense a 'conscience' for those working in the planning field. His work is a standing reminder to all of us that there is a higher sense of values to reckon with when it comes to making recommendations and judgements about environmental quality and about the future of our habitat.

As an institute we are proud to welcome Milo Dunphy to the ranks of Sidney Luker Medallists.

AFTER THE HORSE HAS BOLTED!

by Pat Thompson

With much fanfare and national media coverage the so called Bicentennial National (Horseriding) Trail was declared open on 16th October. It was hailed as a dream come true by its proponents but one which may become a nightmare for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

For over a year the Colong Foundation had been requesting the NPWS for more information. In July 1987 we asked would an environmental impact statement be undertaken. In February and March of this year we asked for more information. Finally on the 28th June Sharon Sullivan, Regional Director, wrote to us stating: 'No agreement has been reached on the route of the trail through National Parks. There is no determined route'. Then six weeks later when the Director, Mr John Whitehouse, wrote to us on August 15th he was able to inform us that discussions had been under

determined. In answer to our question of over twelve months earlier, he informed us there was 'little need for formal environmental assessment!'

Environmentalists have every reason to be outraged by NPWS handling of this matter. Apparently secret negotiations can take place with a commercially based lobby group whilst conservationists are kept in the dark. Worse than this is the fact that wilderness boundaries can be manipulated, routes through environmentally sensitive areas can be determined, plans of management can be ignored and the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act treated with contempt.

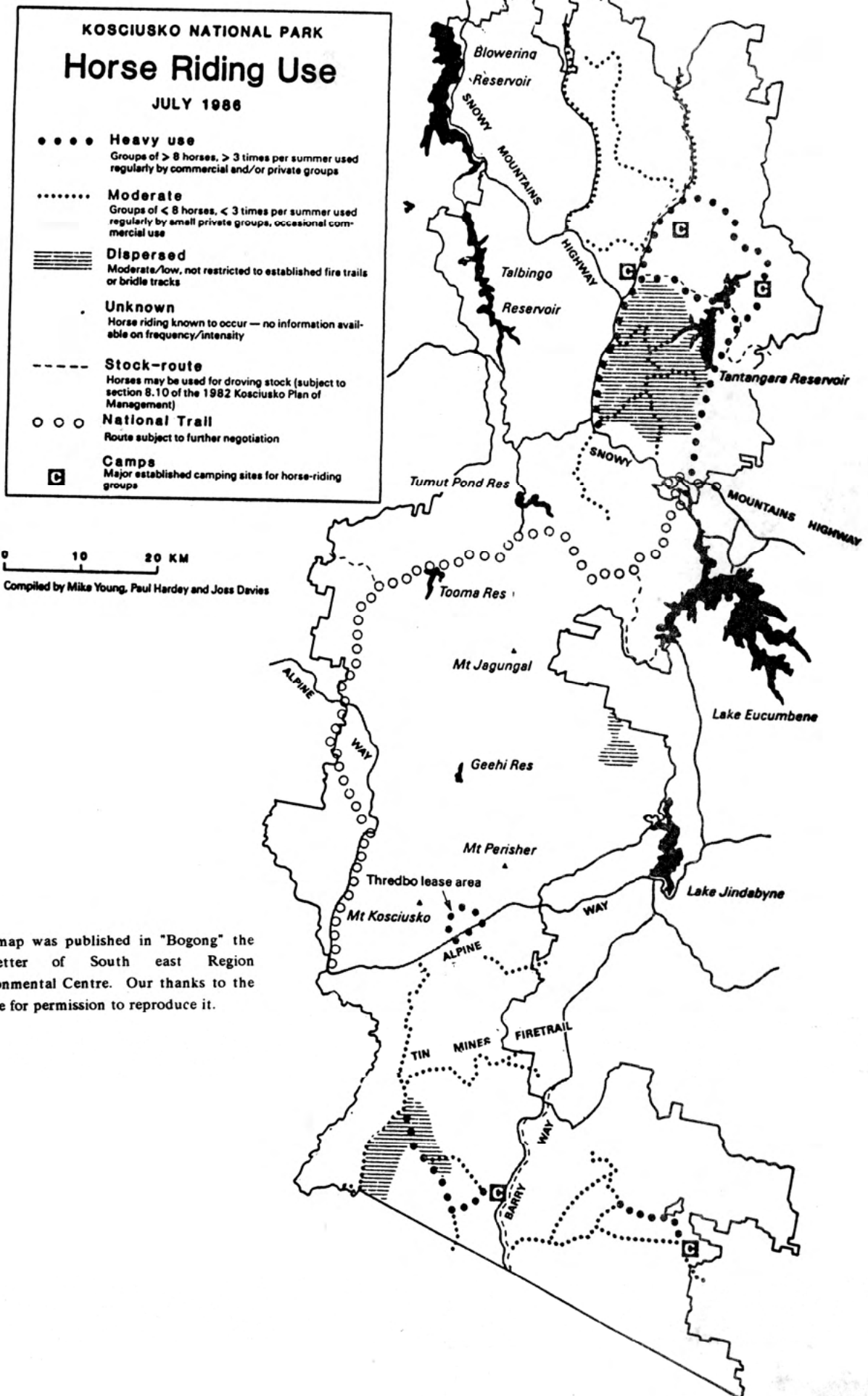
Detailing these matters will be made easier when the National Parks & Wildlife Service has the courtesy of supplying us with a map which we requested back in May. In the meantime we do know that an amendment to the Kosciusko Plan of Management was drafted and approved while negotiations with horse riders were taking place. The amendment first proposed to open up all of the wilderness areas in Kosciusko National Park for horse riding and when that resulted in a tremendous uproar with 135 submissions opposed to it, the NPWS decided against horse riding in wilderness areas but manipulated the boundaries of Bimberi wilderness to accommodate the National (horse riding) Trail.

The chosen route through Kosciusko National Park, as determined with NPWS approval, now passes through environmentally sensitive regions including those zoned as 'alpine and sub-alpine - Areas of Outstanding Natural Value' under the current Plan of Management. No proper environmental assessment seems to have taken place. Numerous NPWS reports demonstrate that horse riding causes significant environmental damage. But when facing criticism NPWS attempts to hide behind such props as 'the impact is not known' or 'there is a need for studies to be undertaken'.

Two recent Service statements are: 'The Service is currently carrying out an investigation into the impact of horse riding in national parks' and 'The Service's internal environmental assessment procedures are being used to measure the environmental impact of the National Trail.'

Only a full environmental inquiry under Part V, of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act will determine the impact of horse riding. In addition there are Plans of Management. In the case of Kosciusko National Park a Plan of Management was determined in 1982. Such documents are supposed to determine questions of future management. No consideration is given to a 'National Trail' running the length of the Park. On the contrary, the Plan of Management sets as a 'high priority' the need to rationalise the 1639 kilometres of vehicular tracks within the Park. Six years later the Service can give no completion date for this task. It does however have sufficient time to enter into arrangements with the National Trail Committee and commit so-called management tracks, fire trails and access tracks as part of the National Trail.

It is to be hoped that court action is not needed to settle some of these matters.



This map was published in "Bogong" the newsletter of South east Region environmental Centre. Our thanks to the Centre for permission to reproduce it.

ROAD USE IN PARKS

Letter from the NSW Minister for The Environment.

I have read the "open" letter addressed to me on pages three and four of the Colong Bulletin No. 110 (September, 1988) concerning access questions in national parks. I confess surprise at the view put in the first paragraph of this letter that you are opposed to any use of roads other than formed public roads within the national parks' system. This represents a dramatic alteration in the stance of voluntary conservation groups as put to me over a long period of time. To advocate a total and absolute exclusionist position is to me unacceptable.

As I have indicated, questions of restriction on existing permitted access will be dealt with on a case by case basis. That decision, in the end, will be made by me. In some cases, such decisions will be made on the basis of draft Plans of Management and, in other cases, will be made in anticipation of the preparation of Plans of Management.

As I have indicated, I am anxious to ensure that, contrary to what occurred under my predecessor, all groups potentially affected by or interested in decisions of this nature have the opportunity to be heard and consulted, at Ministerial level, before decisions are made.

Obviously, in some areas, decisions will necessarily involve some restrictions on traditional access and, in other areas, will preserve that access. As I indicated, those involved are entitled to feel that they have had "due process" in that decision making.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Moore
Minister for the Environment

15th September 1988

This voluntary conservation group has consistently opposed the use of vehicles in parks anywhere but on maintained public or park roads - Ed.

QUEENSLAND BLUES

Our man in Queensland reports that the NPWS has been savaged and is rapidly becoming ineffectual. His facts are based on comments by NPWS officers who must remain anonymous if they are to escape the sort of harassment which drove one of the Colong Foundation directors out of the State.

Last December Premier Ahern lumped the NPWS into a new department called Environment, Conservation and Tourism. The Minister in control is Mr Muntz, who also holds the portfolio of Forestry. The fence which keeps the Forestry lion from the NP&WS lamb has therefore been pushed down. Most of Mr Muntz's energies are devoted to fighting the IUCN so as to defeat World Heritage listing and ensure that the northern rainforests can be cut down. The former Director and the head of Research and Management were both devoted conservationists. The present Research and Management head is a former Forestry Department

officer who had a public relations role as an apologist for logging. Decisions are now made, not by the Director, but by the bureaucrats running the Department, who put commerce before conservation; and a Marketing and Commercial Operations Section has been established to further this aim.

Consequently morale within the NPWS is very low. Funds have been cut, resignations are frequent and some senior zoologists and botanists receive no research funds at all. The Research and Management staff is half what it was a few years ago.

The neglect of research is consistent with the Government's decision to suspend all park proposals. A development obsessed Government knows full well that the greatest incentive to developers is to let them choose their own sites. They will choose the most scenic areas. National parks, existing or proposed, are a hinder this freedom of choice, since public outcry will be invoked if resorts are situated within them. Knowledge of the flora and fauna to be sacrificed to development provides valuable ammunition for conservationists.

Another factor encouraging to the 100 or more developers seeking attractive scenic sites is the prevailing lack of land use studies and local government plans. Many existing reserves, acquired at great expense, have no national park status and will probably be revoked if developers want them. The location of resorts will not therefore be determined by public authorities after appropriate environmental studies, but left to the developers.

WASTED PAPER

On October 18th Column 8 of the Sydney Morning Herald boasted that the SMH Saturday paper of 222 pages weighed 1.507kg. To its credit the SMH published a letter from the Wilderness Society pointing out that nearly 8,000 average sized trees had been cut down to supply the necessary newsprint. Perhaps a quarter of the news and a much smaller fraction of the advertising is read by the average reader. All this unwanted material ends up in the garbage tin, or if readers are more conscientious and can be bothered carting the stuff to the footpath, in the waste paper collection. There is a simple cure for this wastage, which we can be sure, will not attract newspaper publicity. This is to cease making available native forests which cost nothing to grow for newsprint manufacture. Newsprint manufacturers would then have to bear the full cost of plantations, the price of newsprint would rise considerably, advertising would be substantially reduced and waste paper collectors would pay for the paper they picked up. The time might even come when readers bought just those sections of the paper they wanted to read.

Until a few years ago sports fans could buy one of half a dozen sporting papers - Referee, Tatler and so on. People who wish to buy or sell can buy The Trading Post. As long as our enormous advertising industries flourish, so long will they foster waste -

waste in consumables, waste in paper, waste in the forests of the world. The greenhouse has been built and is warming up. Cannot our governments tax our profligate advertisers into a modest and refined usefulness.

"You can travel in most of Canada and all you can see is second, third and fourth growth. It is scrubby, nasty, sharp. You don't see the glorious first growth.

Now to have bequeathed to us a first growth, and treat it as just something you can weigh and assess for its saleable value is a monstrous comment on a way of thinking that just shouldn't exist."

Yehudi Menuhin, addressing a Melbourne press conference during his recent concert tour.

SINKING OR SWIMMING TOGETHER

When Ronald Reagan met Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva for their first summit, the US President expressed a view that was publicly ridiculed, although it contained an element of truth: despite the long-standing enmity between the two, both nations would quickly become allies if they faced a common enemy from Mars.

Suddenly, it became possible to ask whether the two superpowers did not, in fact, have a common enemy. The environmental challenge poses special problems. Huge military power seems somewhat beside the point if the problem is acid rain, polluted oceans or a secure site for toxic waste. The solution of such problems requires a degree of international co-operation seldom achieved.

- Charles Moynes, editor of US magazine 'Foreign Policy'.
SMH 5th September 1988.

MURRAMARANG - National Park or Private Domain?

There are 'a million stories every day in the naked city', the old television series used to say. Working in the conservation movement gives one a similar perspective. It is not always possible to follow up every case, every fresh new assault on our environment but with those that are chosen almost inevitably they will require hundreds of voluntary hours of quiet determination and persistence. What has become known as the 'Merry Beach Affair' is one such battle. It commenced back in 1973 following the dedication of Murramarang National Park. Questions still remain unanswered and they are now addressed to the Hon. Tim Moore, Minister for the Environment, who like his predecessor seems unwilling to confront them. They are important questions which will help determine what future our national parks hold.

When in November 1986 Bob Carr, then Minister for Environment, gave life tenancy to over one hundred illegally squatting caravan residents in Murramarang National Park and at the same time

confirmed that a licence would be granted to the adjacent Merry Beach Caravan Park operator, he raised some obvious questions of propriety. How could the Minister for Planning and Environment decide in favour of 'squatters' when acting to remove others in Sydney Harbour National Park and while aware of the problems associated with fifty years of 'squatters' in Royal National Park?

State Parliamentary Hansard reported eight months earlier Mr Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment: "Murramarang National Park was reserved as national park in May 1973. At that time, the operators of the caravan park near Merry Beach held a special lease which is situated outside the park. They also held a permissive occupancy, issued by the local lands office and terminable at will, over an area of land within the park for use as a camping area. On a number of occasions before the park was reserved, applications by the operators to extend their special lease had been refused and they had been told that the occupancy was of limited duration and that unrestricted access to Merry Beach was the paramount concern. Investigations have revealed that, at that time, unauthorised extensions on the area consisted of several septic toilets, barbecues, a small tank and a pipeline.

The permissive occupancy in the park was terminated on the 28th February, 1975, and both the former and present operators of the caravan park were well aware of this fact. Indeed, time was allowed to enable the operator to relocate facilities on the special lease outside the park. However, instead of removing the originally unauthorized facilities and withdrawing from the park, the present operators, Mr and Mrs Brian Wallace, without any authority or legal entitlement, have been responsible for a continued and indeed profitable encroachment upon the park to the cost of the community. Unauthorized structures covering 3.3 hectares now include 105 permanent vans and mobile homes, many with substantial annexes, numerous powered caravan sites, and a fully developed vehicular access system.

The proprietors of the caravan park, without payment of rent, rates or legal title, have been enriched to the tune of many thousands of dollars per annum for many years and, as I have said, to the present distress of occupants of caravan sites within the park who must now leave the illegally occupied area. Further, the current illegal occupation of this area is denying the public access to and use of one of the most attractive strips of coastline in New South Wales. It is in these circumstances that the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service has found it necessary in the public interest to call upon the operators of the caravan park, Mr and Mrs Wallace to remove all encroachments from Murramarang National Park by 31st March, 1985. Those persons have been called upon also to rehabilitate the affected area of the park at their own expense. Finally, I understand that action is also being taken by the Lands Office, Nowra, to ensure that the Wallaces comply with the requirements that they fence off the area of their special lease from the national park."

After his astonishing about face in November 1986, shortly before the Heathcote by-election, Mr Carr refused to be drawn on the issue. He managed to avoid doing so right up to leaving office in March of this year.

The Colong Foundation through the Environmental Defenders Office put to Mr Carr a series of questions in October 1987. Following his refusal to answer the questions during his time in office, the Foundation asked the new Minister for Environment, the Hon. Tim Moore the same questions on the 21st April, 1988. To date the Minister has not supplied an answer and we invite him to do so again. The questions were:

1. Is it your intention to give a life tenancy to all people who happen to be using a caravan site in the affected area at 25 November, 1986, regardless of their level of usage of the site?
2. On what basis can rights be granted to those people who have been squatting in the National park, in some cases for a considerable period of time?
3. What are the terms and conditions of the lease or licence which will be granted to caravan park owners?
4. How is it intended to limit the lease or licence granted to the owners of the caravan site to a short-term lease or licence when the previous Minister stated it was his intention to allow persons using a site in the affected area as at 25th November 1986 to do so for life?
5. Will the granting of the lease or licence to the caravan park owners accord with the provisions of any present or proposed management plan for the site?
6. Has any consideration been given to the environmental consequences of allowing up to 100 permanent caravan sites to remain in a National Park area?

The 'Merry Beach Affair' has involved a considerable amount of work to date and has been pursued by the National Parks Association both through its executive office and local Milton Branch as well as other environmental groups. It is one of a dozen or more issues affecting the future of Murrumbidgee National Park. The issue is not closed. To date no licence has been granted to the proposed licensee nor leases signed. This time the political buck stops with Mr Moore.

LIBERAL/NATIONAL POLICY NO GREENER

by Alex Colley

Throughout the world the realisation is dawning that the welfare of humanity depends, not upon "advances" in technology which consume ever more of our dwindling resources, but on the preservation

or the natural environment upon which we depend for our existence. Pollution was an issue for the first time in the U.S. presidential election. Mikhail Gorbachev stresses *ekologia* almost as much as he does *perestroika*, Deng Xiaoping worries about smog, and Margaret Thatcher worries about the ozone layer. The American Forestry Association has launched a campaign to plant 100 million trees while the US Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges that the "greenhouse effect" is already upon us. In Brazil, President Jose Sarney, fearing the loss of international funds, has suspended tax benefits for forest clearing.

Scientific predictions of what would happen are now proved by what is happening. Overpopulation is proved by famine and endemic hunger in many third world countries. Atmospheric pollution has acidified the dead lakes of Scandinavia and Canada, and killed large areas of forest in Germany. Global temperatures are increasing. Bangladesh is flooded by reason of deforestation in India and Nepal. A large proportion of the environmental damage is caused by the quest for profit - e.g. the destruction of forests to provide advertising and packaging material - and perhaps as much for pleasure - e.g. the unnecessary use of motor cars. Sheer necessity, due to overpopulation, has caused the overgrazing of the Sahel with consequent desertification, and much forest destruction. The gap between what should be done, and what is being done continues to increase.

In Australia much damage, some irreversible, has already been inflicted upon the natural environment, e.g. forest destruction, land degradation and loss of wilderness.

In view of the importance of preserving the natural environment, we were pleased when the newly appointed Shadow Minister for the Environment, Senator Chris Puplick, sought our help "in meeting the challenges facing us all in Australia and on planet Earth generally." We asked for a copy of his discussion paper on environment policy options (107 pages). We submitted our comments on the paper, which, we were pleased to find, quoted John Howard's statement that there is a national responsibility involved in conservation and that we are a nation before we are a collection of states. Senator Puplick thanked us for "our thoughtful response" and thanked us again in a letter dated 17th October accompanying a copy of the Liberal and National Environment Policy.

Most of Section 1 of this policy could well have been written by the Colong Foundation, or any concerned conservationist. We said much the same in our submission to the House of Representatives Land Degradation Inquiry, a copy of which was sent to Senator Puplick. The main Australian and world problems are recognised, and "commitment to the protection and conservation of natural environment and its unique flora and fauna" is described as "unqualified." Unfortunately the policy offers no practical means of realising this commitment. This is because time and again the paper reverts to the entrenched policy of refusal to recognise that decisions on the preservation of the natural environment are not of purely state

concern, but are a national and often international responsibility. "Land use policies" the policy paper states, "are primarily the responsibility of the States and Territories. Disputes, when they arise between the Commonwealth and States can "almost always be resolved amicably and properly." This can be achieved by "reasonable compromises." It has been amply demonstrated that "reasonable compromise" would mean destruction of most of the tall timber areas in Tasmania and the logging of the Queensland rainforests. World Heritage listing will not be undertaken "without the co-operation of the States or Territory Government or Governments concerned." We know where this would leave the Tasmanian and Queensland forests. The "primary responsibility of the States in forest policy matters" is recognised. This means the continuance of woodchipping. The development of wilderness policies is left to the States. Wilderness is, in any case, ruled out by the stated belief that "with only the most extraordinary exceptions land should be managed on a multiple use policy", and the objective of retaining "a maximum range of options for future use." No doubt these provisions were inspired by the Timber and Mining lobbies.

The paper states that "particular attention will be paid to the steps which Australia can take to ameliorate the world-wide impact of the 'greenhouse effect'. No country on earth will take the necessary steps to stop the carbon dioxide build up in the atmosphere, such as abandoning motor transport, and closing down power houses and smelters. But there is one important step we can take because, as the policy states, we do not face the greatest threat to the environment - "chronic poverty". The steps we can take, by reason of the abundance of our resources in relation to population, are to maintain and restore vegetative cover on our land.

This would entail the abandonment of grazing and agriculture in marginal arid lands. The policy does not imply this, but it does promise a doubling of soil conservation funding. Even more importantly, forest cover could be preserved and augmented. This action is ruled out by the refusal to use World Heritage legislation to preserve wilderness areas or terminate woodchipping.

It is disappointing that, after 6 months of discussions and the receipt of 120 submissions, the Liberal/National coalition, despite re-iteration of Mr Howard's statement that we are a nation before we are a collection of States, has come up with the same old policy of refusal to over-rule the States when national and international conservation issues are at stake. The parties have forgotten Malcolm Fraser's intervention to save Fraser Island and his offer of \$500 million to save the Franklin. The policy will not prevent North Broken Hill (Chairman, John Elliott) from pulping Tasmania's forests in its recently approved \$1 billion mill, or prevent ANM from destroying most of Tasmania's tall trees or stop Harris Daishowa from mining the south eastern forests for export to Japan, or the Queensland Government, supported by the NSW Government, sending deputations to IUCN to fight

for its right to allow timber interests to gut the northern rainforests.

The Liberal and National conservation policy will win no conservation votes.

STATE NATURE CONSERVATION POLICY STALLED

On August 18th a delegation of conservationists met Premier Nick Greiner and four Ministers, Messrs Wal Murray, Tim Moore, Neil Pickard and Ian Causley at Parliament House. The Colong Foundation was represented by Milo Dunphy. The Government is opposed to expansion of the National Parks system, as it was in opposition. It is Tim Moore's view that land for major expansion of the park system is no longer available. The Colong Foundation has shown how 75,000 ha could be added in the Nattai area and Milo Dunphy referred to a 60km stretch of forested range near Orange and a 60km stretch of north coastline both owned by the Crown. Jeff Angel drew attention to the 40 large tourist resorts proposed for the coast and Judy Messer pointed out that developers try to acquire a pristine stretch of coastline for each new 'total destination resort'. Mr Moore revealed that draft legislation on mining in national parks had been sent to 50 interested mining groups. The conservation bodies were not consulted. The September issue of the Total Environment Centre summarised the attitude of the Government as follows:

1. No new large national parks.
2. A determination to sell off the remaining leasehold lands in the Central and Eastern Divisions (and TEC does not believe we have heard the last of freeholding the Western Division).
3. A lack of understanding of the extent of the coastal development proposals and consequently an inadequate response to the biggest surge towards continuous coastal development in 20 years.
4. A grim determination to log the south east forests.
5. Refusal to acknowledge that major resource commitments should not be made in advance of environmental impact studies.
6. An uncertain future for State and regional environmental plans.
7. Re-emergence of the procedure of consulting opponents of conservation measures but not proponents.

NATURE CONSERVATION CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions, proposed by the Colong Foundation, were adopted at the annual NCC conference held on October 22nd and 23rd.

THAT the Nature Conservation Council urge the NSW Government to:

- i) declare a Nattai National Park, incorporating the Nattai wilderness area; and,
- ii) declare the Nattai Wilderness and Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness simultaneously in accordance with Section 7 of the Wilderness Act 1987.

THAT this Conference:

- i) opposes the proposed Bicentennial National Trail wherever it traverses national parks, nature reserves and wilderness areas or areas proposed as such; and,
- ii) request the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to provide a detailed topographical map of the proposed trail route wherever it is proposed through existing NPWS estate or through lands in which the Service has an interest.

also the following resolution was moved by the Blue Mountains Environment Council:

THAT the Nature Conservation Council support, in principle, the actions being taken by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness to secure World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains region.

CARR SUPPORTS COLONG FOUNDATION POLICY

In a statement made on November 4th Mr Bob Carr, now Leader of the Opposition, said that environmental issues were now being placed at the top of the political agenda. Describing the greenhouse effect as the single greatest threat to mankind apart from nuclear war, he called for the establishment of a Greenhouse Impact Commission which would oversee coastal developments and logging ventures. He attacked the Greiner Government's policy of opposition to new national parks or wilderness protection and the vast new developments destroying our coast. The most blatant contribution to the greenhouse effect is woodchipping, the termination of which is a logical extension of the Opposition's greenhouse policy.

MEETING DATES

Colong Foundation meetings will be held on December 8th, 1988, January 12th and January 26th 1989.



The Pinch River horse camp

Photo by Jim Corbett

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)
- ☐ Life Membership (\$500)
- ☐ Membership renewal (\$20)
- ☐ Subscription for all issues of Colong Bulletin to 31/12/89 (\$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 Ltd (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 by and 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.

THE NSW WILDERNESS CALENDAR, 1989

complete with superb 25 x 28cm Henry Gold colour prints of **Broken Head, Kanangra Deep, Dorrigo, Kaputar, Washpool, Genoa River, Sturt, Bogong Peaks, Colo River, Tinderry Mountain, Wallaga Lake and Snowy Mountains.**

\$8 from The Colong Foundation for Wilderness office,
18 Argyle St,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

or \$10 posted.

ALSO

HENRY GOLD WILDERNESS POSTCARDS

Sets of 10 posted from the above
address for \$10 (postage incl).

There is sufficient space below each number in the date tables of the Calendars to record your engagements. They are much appreciated as Christmas presents.

The postcards are very suitable as Christmas cards on which you can write your own message instead of sending one from the printer.

The calendars and cards are available from most booksellers, but if you obtain them from the Colong Foundation the retail margin will be used for wilderness preservation.

HOLIDAY HOMES FOR RENT

TEC now has three weekenders set in bushland and close to Sydney, for rent. Enjoy your holiday and help TEC at the same time.

Moora, Blackheath - Quiet bushland environment, close to Blue Mountains walks. Beds for five and all basic comforts. 1-2 km from shops and station.

Katoomba - modern accommodation for four people on Cliff Drive with breathtaking views across Narrow Neck and the Megalong Valley. 2-3 km from shops and station.

FEES (for all HOMES) - \$75 for 2 weekend nights; \$65 for 2 week nights; \$20 for each additional night; \$175 for 7 nights. Plus refundable key deposit \$10.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS-
Moora and Katoomba, Sue Kennedy at
TEC 02-241 2523.