



THE COLONG BULLETIN

Registered by Australia Post, publication no. NBH0318 Category B. Annual subscription \$7.50.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD. 18 ARGYLE ST., SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA, 2000. (ACN 001 112 143). TELEPHONE (02) 247 4714. FAX 247 7118.

Bulletin 133

July 1992

The Alex Muir Art Exhibition

In Support of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness

A posthumous exhibition of Mr Alex Muir's art will held in the Artarmon Galleries, 479 Pacific Highway. The exhibition will be officially opened by the Patron of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, the Hon. Neville Wran, A.C., Q.C., at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11th. The exhibition will continue until the 25th ~~September~~ ^{August} and is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm, and on Saturdays 11am to 3pm.

The net proceedings of the exhibition will benefit the Colong Foundation and be directed to the Myles Dunphy Fund. As we receive no Government grants, the Fund provides a steady income which enables us to remain a truly inde-

pendent advocate for the protection of natural areas.

Mr Alex Muir was a committed lyrical abstractionist. His art represents a rare endeavour by an Australian artist to probe human intuition in a language of colour and geometry.

This unique exhibition will cover works from every period of the artist's life, from his student days working with oils, through the acrylic works of the 1970s, to the pastels of his latter years.

Supporters of the Foundation are urged to bring the exhibition to the attention of any of their friends who appreciate modern art.

This represents the most odious collection of measures ever initiated or even contemplated by an Australian government. The National Party has finally hijacked control of all environment and planning decisions. This National Party-sponsored package will guarantee the destruction of the last remnants of wilderness and rainforest in NSW.

Pam Allan, Shadow Minister for the Environment, on the bills for the establishment of a Natural Resources Council with power to revise national park boundaries, scrap the existing list of 200 endangered species and replace it with a list of 57 endangered species.

Chairman's Annual Report for 1991

Presented at the Annual General Meeting held on May 21st 1992.

While in many ways 1991 was not better than 1990, one positive event did occur in that the majority of the Nattai area was transferred to the NPWS estate. The dedication of the Nattai National Park and of the Bargo, Nattai, Yerranderic and Burragarang SRAs included most of our proposal, with significant additional

areas to the north, some small omissions to the west, and south east and a number of inholdings. The wilderness area is smaller than could have been declared and the Park area smaller, a concession to mining interests. The final pieces and much of the SRAs need to be added and the wilderness area expanded.

continued on next page...

Contents ...

Support Wilderness Nominations	3
Native Forests Sell-Off	9
Blue Mountains for World Heritage	11
Natural Resources Management Package	11
Meeting Dates	11
Review - Promises and Realities	12
Victorian Victory	12

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

18 Argyle St., Sydney. Phone 247 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.P. (Vice-Chairman); Jeff Rigby (Vice-Chairman); Alex Colley, O.A.M., B.Ec., H.D.A. (Hon. Secretary); Albert Renshaw (Hon. Treasurer); Tim Cadman B.A. (Hons), M.A. (Cantab.); Milo Dunphy, A.M., A.S.T.C.; Dennis Gittoes; Narelle Lovell, B.Sc.; Phil Millard, M.B., F.R.C.S.; Keith Muir, B. Nat. Res. (Hons); Peter Princeas, B.A., I.L.B.; John Sinclair; Jim Somerville, A.M., A.A.S.A.

HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

...continued from previous page

With the Nattai declaration in early November, the month had a memorable finality with the launching of the 1991 Red Index by our Patron the Hon Neville Wran. This data base is the most exhaustive set of information and maps of the identified wilderness of New South Wales. It is the culmination of years of data collection. It is intended to continuously upgrade the Index so that current detail of NSW wilderness is always available. The continued campaign to preserve wilderness requires individual support as well as that undertaken by the more formalised conservation groups. Support for all the wilderness nominations made under the Wilderness Act is required to ensure that the strong lobbying by mining, grazing and four wheel drive interests in particular are counteracted. These interests are not satisfied until they have access to 100% of Australia, seeing no reason for preserving a mere 2.5% of our state as wilderness.

The campaign for World Heritage listing of the Blue Mountains has received recognition, which we hope will result in action, by both State and Federal Governments. With the majority of the work having been done by the Colong Foundation without any government expenditure, one would think that, in these times of frugal government and lack of good news, this virtually free nomination would be actively promoted. World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains continues to be our prime single issue campaign.

Lobbying of NSW, Victorian and Federal Governments to coordinate management of our alpine parks and wilderness continued with no real success. As is typical of politicians, they all seem to find excuses for doing nothing, blame other politicians for non cooperation, or appear to have mislaid correspondence, probably hoping the issue will go away. With the example of the 24 year history of dogged determination by the Colong Foundation it is considered that even a politician should realise that the issue of satisfactory management of our alpine area and adjacent parks will remain firmly on the agenda until the three governments coordinate their actions and suitably protect these areas from the ravages of irresponsible four

wheel drivers and illegal mustering of brumbies. Combined with the campaign for World Heritage listing of the Alps, a persistent campaign based on our alpine areas will continue.

The formation of the Environmental Protection Authority in December and my appointment to the Board gave a government authority the responsibility of protecting, restoring and enhancing the quality of NSW's environment through the implementation, among other principles and programs, of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity. It has yet to be established just how the EPA can become involved in wilderness protection to achieve part of its objectives. The stage two legislation which will control the EPA's activities into the 21st century will be developed during 1992 with the public being promised the opportunity to comment over a three month period. Every member of the environment movement should take this opportunity to ensure that the only government authority which has powers across the whole state to

protect the environment has suitable legislation to actually carry out its objectives.

The battle for the protection of our forests continued with support from the Colong Foundation. The Forestry Commission continued in its old ways, so as to placate the timber industry, by not seriously addressing soil erosion and good silvicultural practices. Preservation of forest habitats continues to be inadequate. The campaigns by NEFA and SEFA continue to be controversial as the environment movement strives for representative samples of all forest ecosystems to be protected. Much of the area requested is in wilderness, which would, if declared as such under the Wilderness Act and, ideally, included in the NPWS estate, ensure the protection of the forests and their inhabitants.

In summary, the support of the Colong Foundation, both with finance and with time, will continue to maintain the pres-

continued on next page...

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1991

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donations		
- for investment	\$ 8,550	\$ 11,305
- general	7,868	8,612
Sale of Blue Mountains books and posters	1,748	3,128
Subscriptions to bulletin	289	215
Sale of publications, net	912	698
Sale of Wilderness calendars, net	101	367
Interest on investments	7,267	5,257
Nattai River Proposal	20	662
Annual membership fees	2,380	2,550
	<u>\$ 29,135</u>	<u>\$ 32,804</u>
	=====	=====
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Stock writedown	\$ 795	\$ 8,428
Bulletin costs	1,951	2,028
Subscriptions to other conservation groups	110	151
Rent	3,074	3,074
Depreciation	350	172
Stationery	674	503
Campaigns		
- Blue Mountains posters	-	401
- Red List	1,017	-
- Secretarial expenses	513	427
- Bank charges	77	50
- Research officer	9,170	9,450
- History of Wilderness Project	16	3,000
	<u>\$ 17,747</u>	<u>\$ 27,684</u>
	=====	=====
Net Surplus	11,388	5,120
	=====	=====

Rubbishing of a Superpower

When historians finally conduct an autopsy on the Soviet Union and Soviet Communism, they may reach the verdict of death by ecoside.

From *Ecoside in the USSR* by Murray Feshbach and Alfred Friendly

The verdict is arrived at by two interwoven tales. One in the plunder of what might have been the world's richest stash of natural resources, outdone in destructive consequences only by its by-product the systematic neglect and poisoning of the Soviet people... From Estonia to Armenia, from Georgia to Siberia, the pattern of protest was the same almost everywhere. The nationalist movements that eventually swept away the world's most powerful Communist Party had their origins in the ecological protests of the early 1930s and before.

The Economist, April 25 1992

...continued from previous page

sure on our politicians to protect our wilderness and ensure that representatives of all ecosystems are preserved. Your correspondence to our politicians in support of Foundation campaigns is crucial in maintaining that pressure. The Colong Foundation is respected by friend and foe as an organisation that bases its successful campaigns on sound argument and as an organisation that will continue to pursue its aims regardless of the opposition. The backing given by all the members and supporter of the Foundation is both appreciated and is essential for the continuation of our success. Another hard year is anticipated in 1992 and into 1993 as short sighted people take advantage of difficult economic times to undermine the continuing improvement in environmental awareness. The Colong Foundation, with its sound support from the community, will meet the challenge to protect our natural areas from destruction. ■

Support the Wilderness Nominations

**Send your comments to:
The Director, NPWS, PO Box 1967, Hurstville 2220**

The purpose of this article is to provide necessary information on wilderness nominations made under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, so that individuals and organisations can counter the strong opposition from the development lobby. Additional information is available from the nominating society or from the Colong Foundation.

In March 1986, shortly after Bob Carr's appointment as Minister for Environment and Planning, the Colong Foundation met with him to discuss the framing of a Wilderness Bill on the lines of the US Act. He was enthusiastic about the proposal and shortly afterwards convened the Wilderness Working Group, comprising representatives of the NPWS, the Colong Foundation, the ACF and the Wilderness Society, to review the extent of wilderness in NSW and report on appropriate strategies for its protection.

Mr Carr announced his support for a State Wilderness Act at a Sydney Bush Walkers meeting held on January 22, 1986. He said:

I don't think it is unreasonable, as we approach the 200th year of European settlement, to seek to preserve a small part of the State essentially as it was when Europeans first stepped onto our shores.

This is a responsibility that falls on this generation. In the next century the European forests will have been destroyed by acid rains the rainforests of South-East Asia will have been logged and great areas of Africa turned into desert. Even Antarctica will be touched by pollution.

Wilderness areas will be precious to a degree we cannot now conceive. Australia has a chance to conserve more than perhaps any other nation.

The case for wilderness preservation could hardly be more clearly expressed.

The report of the Wilderness Working

group was presented to Mr Carr in June 1986. Most of its recommendations were included in the Wilderness Act passed on November 24 1987. The Act provided that any person or organisation could submit to the Director of the NPWS a proposal that an area of land be identified as wilderness and declared as such. It provided that the Director should report to the Minister on the proposal within two years. The only contribution made to the debate on the Bill by the Liberal-National Opposition was that Mr Greiner, followed by Mr Murray, rose to say that their parties did not oppose it. The Unsworth Government was defeated shortly afterwards, before any of the provisions of the Act were put into effect.

The significance of the Liberal and National Parties decision 'not to oppose' the Wilderness Bill was plain when, four years later, no wilderness had been declared under the Act. Nothing short of support of the Act obliged the Coalition Government to act on wilderness proposals.

In February this year Dr. Metherell announced his intention of introducing a Wilderness (Declaration of New Areas) Bill designed to protect 22 of the 26 areas identified in the Colong Foundation's *Red Index* (three more would be included in the proposed South East Forests Protection Bill). The Bill, which sought to implement the Wilderness Act, may have been supported by the Opposition and we believe it was the catalyst which

continued on next page...

...continued from previous page

enabled The Hon. Tim Moore, Minister for the Environment, to overcome National Party resistance to wilderness declaration. In March Mr Moore announced the gazettal of thirteen wilderness areas within national parks. Ten of these were already protected under management plans, but wilderness protection in parks is a matter for park managements, which are vulnerable to local off road vehicle, horse riding and other interests. They were now required, under statute, to manage their wilderness in accord with the NPWS Wilderness Management Guidelines.

On March 24 at a meeting in the Minister's office, arranged by Dr. Metherell and attended by Milo Dunphy (TEC), Grahame Douglas (NPA), and Alex Colley and Keith Muir (Colong Foundation), Mr Moore announced a time table for the assessment of the nominated wildernesses and a period of several months for receipt of public comments. These decisions represented a great advance towards wilderness preservation. They were also very timely in view of Australia's signature of the IUCN biodiversity treaty which obliges signatories to preserve habitat.

Mr Moore urges 'everyone who cares about this issue to study the nominations and send in their comments.'

Comments should be addressed to Mr Bill Gillooly, Director of the NPWS. PO Box 1967, Hurstville 2220. Mr Gillooly also urged public participation. On May 5 he said:

Most countries, including the majority of those in Europe, have lost their wilderness areas forever. We along with Canada, the United States, and a handful of other countries, are still in a position to save the remaining wilderness areas. The decision to preserve or destroy wilderness has enormous implications, and will be watched by people around the world. It is essential that every person in the State has the opportunity to participate in this historic process.

It is intended to make this Bulletin available to anyone making a submission. Bulletin subscribers will be familiar with the contents of the following background notes, which are written for the benefit of other respondents.

The Significance of Wilderness

Wilderness areas are the only surviving substantial remnants of the natural environment. None of these areas are unaffected by some form of development, but they are the best we have left. As such they are the last refuge of many endangered species. Their protection is of enormous significance in this arid continent because they are the source of many permanent streams. Whereas nearly all the State's land is private property, a high proportion of wilderness is available for public recreation. It provides for a wide range of health giving recreation, such as bushwalking, canoeing, scouting and skiing. It is only in wilderness that people can get away from roads, fences, vehicles and other intrusions on the natural environment. As a tourist attraction it has great economic value - e.g. the view of the Kanangra Boyd wilderness from the southern Blue Mountains escarpment.

How Much Wilderness is Left?

The Helman study of 1976 classified less than 2% of the State as wilderness. The Colong Foundation's Red Index covered 1,962,008 ha or 2.9% of NSW. Mr Gillooly says that only 4% of NSW remains in its undisturbed wilderness state and only half is in national parks and reserves. Not only does wilderness cover only a small fraction of the State's land surface, but it has remained wilderness because most of it contains no known significant economic resources. Much of this land - 1,530,876 ha - is in national parks and nature reserves. Of the rest some 200,000 ha is Crown Lands and some 200,000 in State Forests. It is the latter, representing 0.25% of the area of the State and 4% of State Forests, that is arousing the strongest opposition to wilderness declaration, although much of it is either inaccessible or too steep to log.

For the ten wilderness areas currently on public display, the NPWS recommends 740,210 ha for protection. Currently only 94,278 ha of wilderness is declared within the Deua, Mann, Lost World, Goodradigbee, Kanangra-Boyd, Binghi, Nadgee, Guy Fawkes, Oxley and Washpool wilderness areas.

Only about 100,000 ha of State Forest is affected by the ten nominated wilderness areas on exhibition. The importance of these State Forest lands is that, being some of the most inaccessible and there-

fore best protected remnants of old growth forest they are also the last refuge of many endangered species. There are also 172,724 ha of Crown lands within the recommended area. These lands have very low economic potential or they would have been developed and their pastures improved many years ago. Most of the remaining lands, 452,058 ha, are reserved within national parks and nature reserves.

The scarcity and value of these remaining wilderness lands are put in context by the extent and diversity of wilderness protected in the United States. In the US, over 37 million hectares of wilderness is protected in over 500 areas. Wilderness is such a scarce resource in NSW that it should all be protected as a matter of priority.

Opposition

• Landowners

Most opposition stems from the fear that land with wilderness qualities would be resumed against the owner's wishes. Mr Moore says this is simply incorrect - a glance at the Wilderness Act (1987) shows that the National Parks and Wildlife Service cannot acquire or otherwise resume land for wilderness declaration without the owner's express written consent.

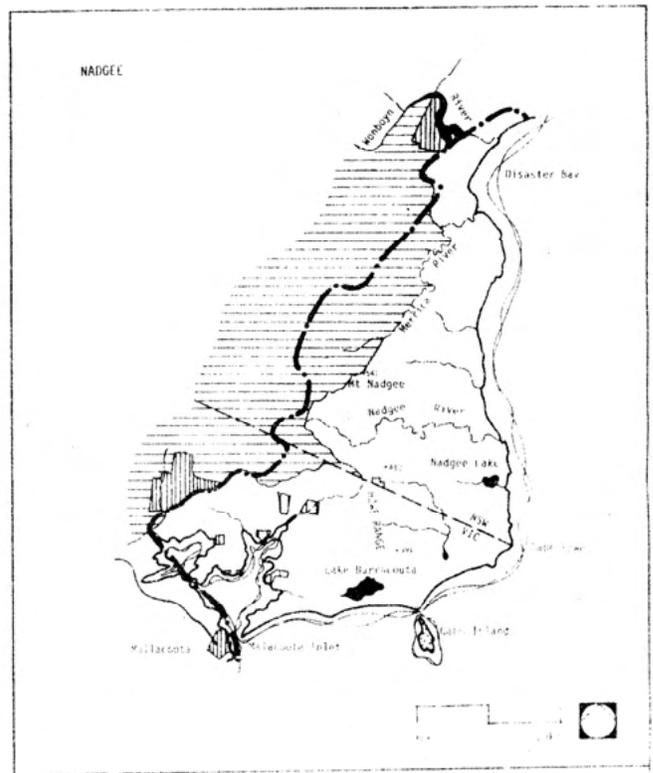
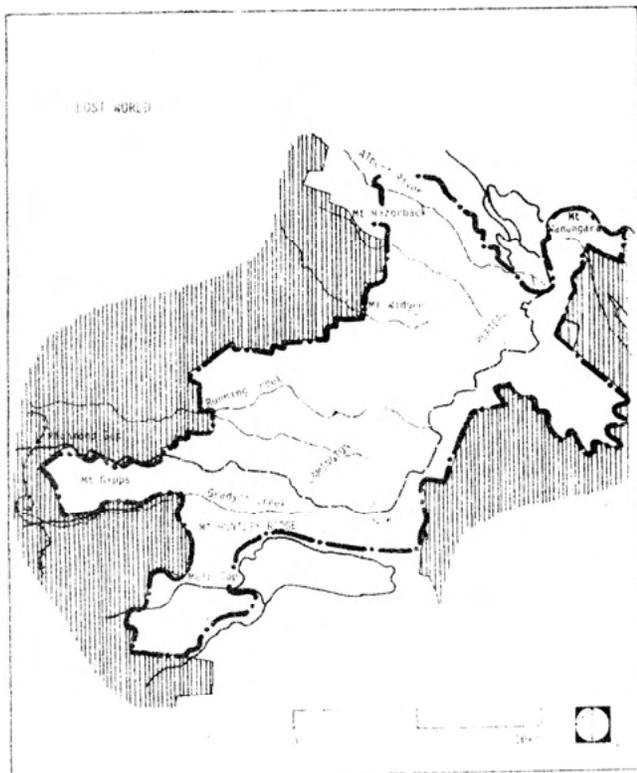
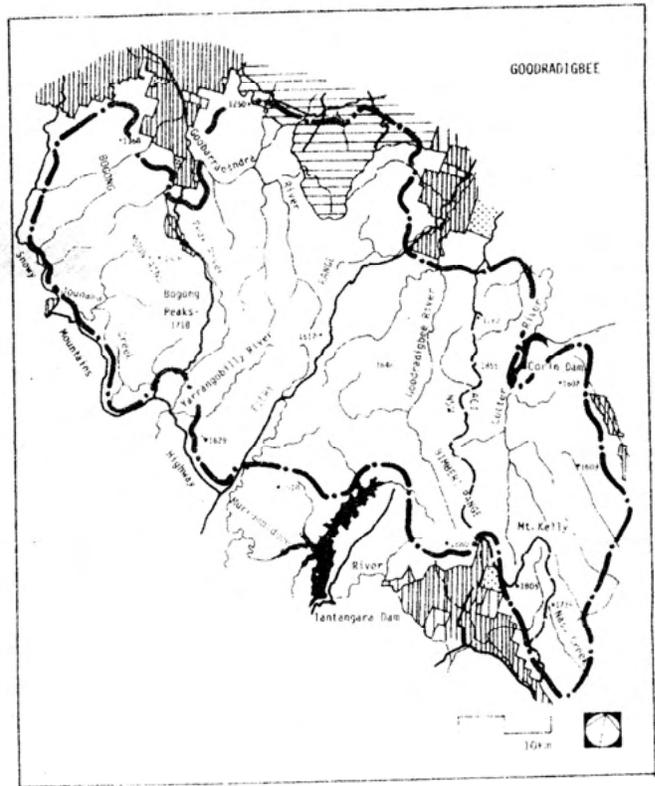
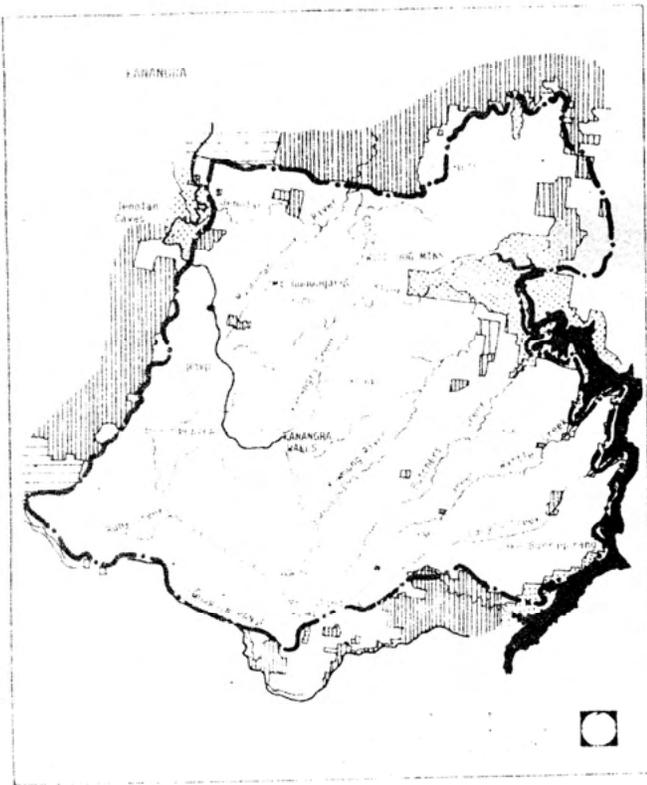
It is also usual when land is designated as wilderness that it is immediately described as a reservoir of pests and the principal source of bush fires. Of this claim Mr Moore says: 'Some people have gained the impression that the active management of fire, feral animals and noxious weeds ceases in wilderness areas. This, of course, is completely untrue. These management activities, vital for the maintenance of ecologically sustainable native plant and animal communities, are continuing in all the wilderness areas under the control of the NPWS.'

The Colong Foundation suspects that the principal opposition from graziers adjoining wilderness areas stems from the loss of free grazing and fence posts.

• Miners

Miners have for long been enabled to prospect most of the land in the State. Had they found substantial economic deposits in wilderness areas they would no longer be wilderness. There are no minerals found only in wilderness. Many

continued on next page...

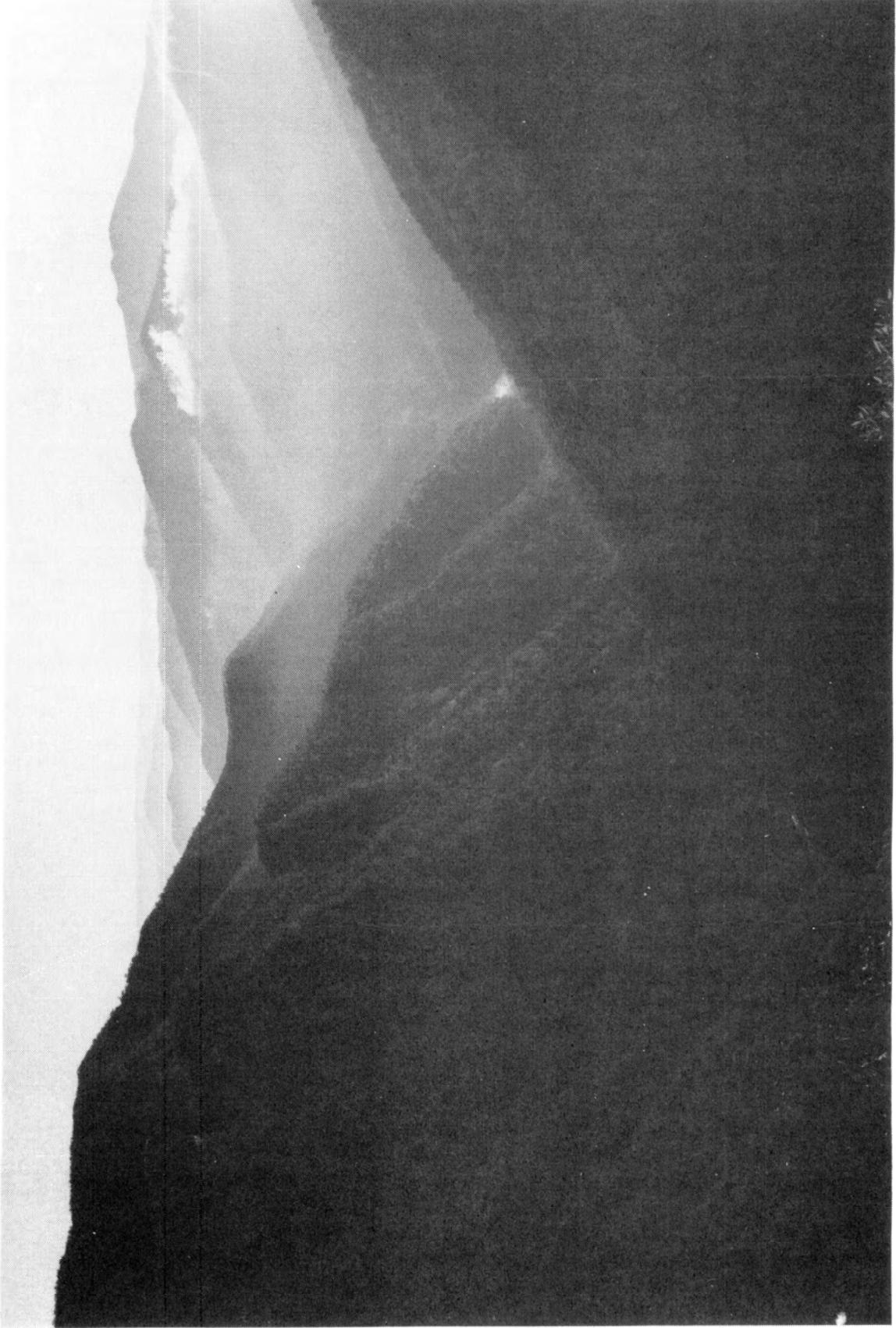


	Boundary of Proposed Wilderness		National Park, Nature Reserve
	State Boundary		State Forest, Timber Reserve
	Coastline		Crown Land and water Board Reserve
	Creek/River		Freehold Land
	Road		Leasehold Land

WILDERNESS AREAS NOMINATED BY THE COLONG FOUNDATION

Not including Nadgee - already declared

Freehold land within the nominated area is not affected



Kanangra Gorge, in the Kanangra Boyd Wilderness
Photograph by Henry Gold

...continued from previous page

minerals, such as coal, occur in abundance elsewhere.

- *Resort Developments*

Sites overlooking wilderness, as on the Blue Mountains escarpment, appropriate fine views for patrons and profits for the developers. For those looking in the opposite direction it is a view spoilt.

- *Mechanised Transport*

Since mechanised transport is not allowed in wilderness areas, they are often described as being inaccessible. All wilderness areas can be reached by road. Access on foot is available to all. Not everybody is fit enough to traverse the areas, but all can enjoy them. Off road vehicle drivers can use the entire State road network, plus State Forests.

- *Horse Riders*

Horse riding in wilderness – where there are no public roads – is very damaging to the natural environment. There is an adequate system of trails and roads elsewhere.

- *General*

The most common objection of the anti-conservation lobby is that resources are 'locked up.' This stems from earlier days when much of Australia was undeveloped. Now that only scattered remnants of the natural environment are left, wilderness has become a valuable resource, for the reasons outlined above.

Data for individual areas

Below is given a short critique, of the adequacy of each NPWS wilderness assessment. The main point at issue is the deletions, or additions, made in the assessment, to the nominated area. These are described and the closing date for comments given. Also given are the names and addresses of the organisations which submitted the nomination. Further information is available from these organisations.

The principal overall weakness of the assessments is the subjection of wilderness values to existing use. The extent of this subjection varies according to the regional management's tolerance of non-wilderness uses such as off road vehicle penetration, horse riding and resort development. It is important to note that, although the Wilderness Act defines

wilderness as an area that has not been substantially modified by humans, it also includes areas that 'are capable of being restored to such a state.' Because there are no areas that have not been modified by humans the Act would be meaningless without allowance for restoration. Roads and trails can be closed and revegetated, cleared areas allowed to revert to bushland, power lines relocated when replacement becomes necessary and leases for resort development terminated. A far-sighted land use allocation policy would have avoided the necessity for such development reversal, but it is only in recent years that the scarcity and value of wilderness has been recognised and it still rates at the bottom of the scale of land use priorities.

If protected under the Wilderness Act, these areas would be managed under the provisions of the NPWS wilderness policy which prohibits private vehicle use, horseriding and track signage. These essential elements of wilderness policy should be strongly supported.

Deua

The Deua wilderness protects over 20 rare and endangered plant species, some found only in this wilderness. Significant faunal species include the long-nosed potoroo and the Australian grayling.

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs nominated 80,000 hectares as the Deua wilderness. Some 30,000 hectares in the north of the nomination was excluded from the NPWS recommended area. This area could be restored to a wilderness condition and was identified as wilderness. The NPWS recommended option isolates this area from the other parts of the wilderness by fire trails. Half of this area is in the Deua National Park. The rest is leasehold and freehold land, mostly located along the Deua River.

The NPWS preferred option for Deua wilderness also divides the recommended wilderness area into three fragments. The Merricumbene, Dampier Mountain, Mongamula, Oulla and Bendethera fire trails are to be retained. This allows unrestricted off road vehicle and horse riding use.

The total wilderness area, if you can call any of these fragments wilderness, is 50,865 hectares. There are 40,445 ha of the recommended area inside the Deua National Park, comprising the Burra/Oulla catchment (13,450 ha), the Woila Deua catchment (14,560 ha) and

the central Deua valley (12,435 ha). In addition to these areas of national park, four areas of state forest are recommended for wilderness protection totalling 10,420 ha. In Dampier State Forest, 656 ha of Diamond Creek are proposed for addition to the park and 6,765 ha of the upper Deua catchment, including Georges Creek. In Tallagandra State Forest, 734 ha are proposed for addition in upper Woila Creek catchment. Further down the catchment, 2,265 ha of Badja State Forest are proposed for addition to the park.

Recommendation: The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs nomination be supported. Fragmentation of the wilderness by fire trails should be vigorously opposed.

The Deua wilderness assessment report is on display till 4/9/92.

Contact: Roger Lembit, Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, P O Box 294, Springwood, 2777. Ph 047 51 6550; Will Douglas, The Wilderness Society, Illawarra Branch, P O Box 544, Wollongong East, 2520. Ph 042 280 923, and Bob Cooper 042 280 956;

Martyn Phillips, Deua Wilderness and Catchment Protection Group, P O Box 512, Moruya, 2437. Ph 044 743 867; and Milo Dunphy, Canopy Committee of Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, Ph 02 247 4714, FAX 02 247 7118.

Bindery (Mann)

The Mann wilderness is contained within the second most important biogeographic region in Australia for rare fauna and small mammal diversity. The Mann and Nymboida Rivers are proposed for dedication as wild and scenic rivers. The recommended wilderness area is also proposed for assessment as a potential addition for World Heritage listing. There are 28 rare and endangered fauna in the wilderness, including the brush-tailed rock wallaby, long-nosed potoroo and the eastern freshwater cod.

The NPWS has identified 53,630 ha of wilderness, which is larger than the area nominated. The preferred option is to dedicate the state forests, freehold and crown leases as national park.

Protection of the identified wilderness has been given priority over existing

...continued on next page...

...continued from previous page

uses. The preferred option consists of 29,576 ha of national park, 20,027 ha of state forest, 2,983 ha of leasehold land and 1,0345 ha of freehold land.

Recommendation: Support the NPWS preferred option for dedication of the Mann wilderness.

Mann was nominated by The Wilderness Society and the assessment report is on display till 4/9/92.

Contact: Campaign Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society, Armidale Branch, P O Box 1155, Armidale, 2350. Ph 067 71 11155;

Dialan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance-Big Scrub Environment Centre, 88a Keen st, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278 (w) 066 439 074 (h), FAX 066 222 676; and

John Corkill, North East Forest Alliance, C/- NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, Sydney. Ph 02 247 4206, FAX 02 247 5945.

Lost World

This wilderness would protect the largest tract of subtropical wilderness in Australia. The area identified as wilderness by the NPWS includes most of the Border Rangers National Park (including Wiangarie Plateau), Limpinwood Nature Reserve and parts of the adjoining Mebbin State Forest. However, the recommended wilderness within the World Heritage Border Rangers National Park excludes 2,100 ha of the nomination in Brindle, Little Brindle and Sheepstation Creeks. These park areas were excluded because they are currently in a degraded state and require 400 years to be restored to a wilderness condition.

The NPWS also recommended that Gradys Creek and the upper part of Lynchies Creek be assessed for declaration as wild and scenic rivers under section 61 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

The area recommended by the NPWS should be supported as it is not controversial. The Tweed Range Scenic Drive is retained. In NSW, the wilderness is approximately 5,900 ha in extent and is augmented by 9,072 ha of the Lamington National Park in Queensland which is also in a wilderness condition. These two wilderness areas should be subject to a interstate joint management agreement developed under the

provisions of Section 72(1)(a) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

Recommendation: Support the NPWS recommended option for the Lost World wilderness.

Lost World was nominated by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness and the assessment report is on display till 4/9/92.

Contact : Keith Muir, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, 2000. Ph 02 247 4714, FAX 02 247 7118.

Goodradigbee

The Goodradigbee wilderness is one of only two substantial Alpine wilderness areas in Australia. It protects the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee, Goodradigbee and Goobarragandra Rivers. There are at least 47 species of mammals, 181 of birds, 26 of reptiles 12 amphibians and 9 native fish in the wilderness. About 5,750 ha of the Buccleuch State Forest, within the Goobarragandra River catchment, has been identified as wilderness. These Alpine Ash forests which were flinched from the park in 1967 would be reinstated under the wilderness proposal.

Unfortunately the wilderness boundaries are unacceptably compromised by power lines, the Broken Cart Track Stock Route, off road vehicle use, huts, the Bicentennial National Trail, other horse tracks, and previous grazing. The Wilderness Act definition embraces areas capable of restoration, such as the nomination areas excluded.

The area proposed for dedication as wilderness excludes the Cooleman area of 6,012 ha. This area of identified wilderness is recognised as having the most significant vehicle access problems of any park in the south-east region of NSW. Extensive areas of frost hollow grasslands degraded by past grazing have been excluded because of past damage and possibly because these areas are desired by off road vehicles and horse riders. These users are continuing to degrade the wilderness with further tracks and weed infestations.

The three areas recommended for dedication are:

Bimberi (28,960 ha including Scabby Range Nature Reserve but excluding the Cooleman Plain area);
Goobarragandra (33,970 ha which includes part of Buccleuch State Forest);
and Bogong (27,444 ha).

These areas total 90,374 ha, which is 33,626 ha less than the 124,000 ha area nominated. More important than the difference in size are the reasons for it. Existing use has been given priority. For example, retention of the Broken Cart Track, a stock route, excludes over ten thousand hectares of Kosciusko National Park in the north east.

The NPWS has accepted fragmentation of the wilderness by supporting the position of the Electricity Commission against the Foundation's submission that power lines in wilderness areas be phased out. Setting suitably high rentals for easements within the park could reverse this policy.

The inter-government agreement on Alpine National Parks provides for the maintenance of Mount Franklin Road. No Commonwealth funds are provided for wilderness management through this agreement, even though all alpine parks between NSW, Victoria and the ACT are connected though wilderness areas.

Recommendation: Support the Colong Foundation nomination which gives priority to wilderness use.

Goodradigbee was nominated by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness and the assessment report is on display till 30/10/92.

Contact: Keith Muir, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, 2000. Ph 02 247 4714, FAX 02 247 7118.

Kanangra-Boyd

This wilderness, especially the Wild Dog Mountains, are the cradle of the Australian bushwalking movement. It is one of the most scenic and geologically complex wilderness areas in the state. This diversity is reflected in the 1,000 flowering plants species found in some 40 plant communities of the area. There are 45 rare or endangered plants and 46 mammal species, including 27 marsupials and both the monotremes. The wilderness is also part of the Colong Foundation's proposed Blue Mountains World Heritage property.

A more stringent interpretation of wilderness quality than that adopted by the Foundation has been applied by the NPWS. Of the 146,000 ha nominated by the Colong Foundation, 130,000 ha have been identified and recommended for

continued on next page...

...continued from previous page

dedication as a wilderness by the NPWS. The area includes some additions along the Tonalli River in the south east. Two major deletions to the nomination are proposed. In the north east, the Jamison and Kedumba Valleys are excluded, and in the west, the Boyd Plateau. The power-line easement below Narrow Neck and across the northern quarter of the wilderness is given as the main reason for the former area's exclusion. The Boyd Plateau is excluded because of the Kanangra Walls Road. Both areas, however, are proposed to be managed as if they were wilderness. These areas should be included in the wilderness as a reminder to land managers that these areas be returned to a wilderness condition.

The area proposed for dedication by the NPWS includes about 1,000 ha of Jenolan State Forest and about 10,000 ha of Crown land managed by the Water Board. The Crown lands are proposed to be managed under a wilderness protection agreement between the Water Board and the NPWS.

The management priorities in the wilderness assessment do not primarily go to existing uses. Kowmung River track and many old unused fire trails are proposed to be closed. Horse riding is proposed to be excluded from the Wild Dog Mountains. The Scotts Main Range track is to remain closed to the public but open to land managers and property

owners.

Note that freehold inholdings within the nominated wilderness have been excluded from the wilderness identification. This may make it more difficult for the NPWS to seek wilderness conservation agreements with the affected property owners (eg Konangaroo).

Recommendation: Support the Colong Foundation's nomination.

The Kanangra wilderness assessment report is on display till 30/10/92.

Contact: Keith Muir, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, 2000. Ph 02 247 4714, FAX 02 247 7118; and

Milo Dunphy, Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, 2000. Ph 02 247 4714, FAX 02 247 7118.

Binghi

This poorly unprotected wilderness area was recently covered by a 25,000 ha Crown reserve. The reserve provides little protection for wilderness values as rural services are provided (eg cattle grazing, mining, timber collection).

Binghi is renowned for its rich flora. Over 430 plants, 36 of which are rare or endangered, have been recorded. Binghi also contains plants not usually found outside the Sydney sandstone district. The rugged topography, strong temperature and rainfall gradients produce a diversity of habitats for at least 21 native mammals, including the koala and the sugar glider, and 133 birds. Fourteen of these fauna are on schedule 12 of the Na-

tional Parks and Wildlife Act.

The NPWS has identified a wilderness of 34,300 ha. Their preferred option is to dedicate as wilderness and national park all vacant Crown land (about 18,500 ha), and establish wilderness protection agreements over leasehold lands outside the proposed park (about 11,500 ha). Conservation agreements would be negotiated over Aboriginal freehold land (about 2,000 ha). The NPWS is silent about inclusion of the 487 ha of Torrington State Forest identified as wilderness and other freehold lands (about 2,000 ha). Landholders within the identified area are pressing for freehold conversion of leasehold lands.

About 32,100 ha of the identified area is considered unmodified natural and a further 2,200 ha between Torrington State Forest and Duck Creek catchment is capable of restoration. This latter area contains off road vehicle tracks, bush tracks, mine sites, tailings dams and other small dams, regrowth after logging, a trigonometrical station and areas of light grazing.

Recommendation: Support the NPWS proposal for Binghi wilderness.

Binghi was nominated by The Wilderness Society and the National Parks Association and the assessment report is on public display till 2/10/92.

Contact: Beth Williams, National Parks Association, Armidale Branch, P O Box

continued on next page...

WILDERNESS TENURE

Name	Nomination area (ha)	W/ness declared ¹	W/ness undeclared	NPWS rec. area	Nat Pk & Nat. Res.	State forest	Crown land	Freehold
Deua	80 000	None	80 000	50 865	40 445	10 420	-	-
Mann	52 427	22 998	30 632	53 620	29 576	20 027	2 983	1 034
Lost World	8 548	None	8 548	5 900	5 900	-	-	-
Goodradigbee	124 000	43 880	80 120	90 374	84 624	5 750	-	-
Kanangra-Boyd	146 000	None	146 000	130 000	119 000	1 000	10 000 ¹	-
Binghi	34 300	None	34 300	34 300	None	-	30 000 ²	4 300
Nadgee	20 116	None	20 116	19 340	17 116	2 224	-	-
Guy Fawkes	111 371	None	121 316	121 316	33 364	24 076	59 680 ³	4 196
Oxley	146 232	None	146 232	165 392	90 833	4 489	63 081	6 989
Washpool	70 374	27 400	42 974	69 103	31 200	29 956	6 980 ⁴	967
TOTAL	793 367	94 278	710 238	740 210	452 058	97 942	172 724	17 486

¹ Crown land managed by the Water Board

² Approx. 18 500 ha is vacant Crown land

³ Approx. 13 700 ha is vacant and reserved Crown land

⁴ Approx. 300 ha is vacant Crown land

...continued from previous page

372, Armidale, 2350. Ph 067 72 4454; and

Campaign Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society, Armidale Branch, P O Box 1155, Armidale, 2350. Ph 067 71 11155.

Nadgee

The Nadgee is the State's only coastal wilderness. It centres on the extensive sand dunes around Cape Howe on the Victorian-NSW border. Its vegetation ranges from wetlands and wind swept heath on the coast to patches of rainforest on the Howe Range. About 800 native plants are found in the wilderness in a complex variety of plant communities. Also 47 mammals and 215 birds have been recorded in the wilderness.

The identified area in NSW includes about 3,000 ha in the Nadgee State Forest within the western half of the Merriica River catchment and 17,116 ha of Nadgee Nature Reserve.

The Nadgee wilderness identified by NPWS covers about 20,100 ha, with an additional 6,900 ha in Victoria which has been identified by the Land Conservation Council. This area, a total of 27,000 ha, is 10,650 ha less than the area Colong Foundation nominated. About 7,500 ha of the difference is attributable to the greatly reduced wilderness area identified by the Victorian LCC.

Some 1,500 ha of the Nadgee State Forest along the border was deleted from Colong Foundation's proposal by the NPWS. This area includes Maxwells Flora Reserve and lightly logged rainforest. These areas should be secured as wilderness in order to protect downstream sections of these border rainforest creek catchments within Croajingalong National Park. Other areas where boundaries followed access roads were excluded when the wilderness boundary was moved to the watershed. In these circumstances, use of catchment boundaries instead of nearby access tracks will make the wilderness boundaries more difficult to supervise.

The NPWS preferred management option excludes Wonboyn Beach, the only large beach in NSW which can be managed as wilderness. The Colong Foundation's suggested approach is to retain vehicle access to Baycliff and the head of Wonboyn estuary but continue wilderness management for the beach. This option addresses some of the con-

cerns of Wonboyn residents but was not considered in the wilderness assessment.

Recommendation: Support the amended Colong Foundation nomination which allows vehicle access to Wonboyn Inlet but not Wonboyn Beach.

Nadgee wilderness assessment report is on display till 2/10/92.

Contact: Milo Dunphy, Canopy Committee of Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, 2000. Ph 02 247 4714, FAX 02 247 7118;

Keith Muir, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, 18 Argyle St, Sydney, 2000. Ph 02 247 4714, FAX 02 247 7118; and John McDonald, South-East Forest Council, P O Box 797, Bega, 2550. Ph & FAX 064 92 3385, 067 956 826 (h).

Guy Fawkes

The Guy Fawkes River, the longest wild river in northern NSW, is the central feature of this wilderness and home to the endangered freshwater cod. Due to the efforts of the North East Forest Alliance and the Chaelundi court decision, the area is known to contain the habitat of many rare, vulnerable and restricted plant and animal species, including some of Australia's most threatened ground dwelling mammals, such as the long-nosed potaroo and parma wallaby. There are outstanding stands of old growth forest in the Chaelundi and London Bridge sections. These ancient eucalypt forests are the stronghold of the powerful owl, tiger quoll and many tree dwelling mammals. Whilst all these forest are recommended as wilderness they are also proposed to be logged. The Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail bisects the wilderness and facilitates stock grazing and overburning along the Guy Fawkes River.

The NPWS has recommended dedication of a 121,316 ha wilderness over 24,076 ha of state forest, 59,680 ha of Crown lands, 33,364 ha of national park and nature reserve, and 4,196 ha of freehold lands.

Guy Fawkes was nominated by The Wilderness Society and the assessment report is on display till 18/9/92.

Contact: Campaign Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society, Armidale Branch, P O Box 1155, Armidale, 2350. Ph 067 71 11155;

Dialan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance/ Big Scrub Environment Centre, 88a Keen St, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278

(w) 066 439 074 (h) FAX 066 222 676; and

John Corkill, North East Forest Alliance, C/- NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, Sydney. Ph 02 247 4206, FAX 02 247 5945.

Washpool

The Demon fault bisects the wilderness. It separates the Devonian geology of the western portion that supports dry forest types from the eastern Permian geology which nourishes the Willowie Scrub. Only part of this, the largest remaining stand of cool temperate Coachwood rainforest in the World, is in the World Heritage listed Washpool National Park. The wilderness contains populations of tiger quoll and long footed potaroo. While two thirds of the eastern half is protected in national park, the western half is unprotected state forest. The Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail passes through the Washpool National Park along the Moogem Fire Trail which forms part of the existing wilderness boundary.

The NPWS recommended wilderness area totals 69,103 ha, comprising 31,200 ha of national park, 29,956 of state forest, 6,980 ha of Crown land and 967 ha of freehold land.

Washpool was nominated by the North East Forest Alliance and the assessment report is on display from till 18/9/92.

Contact: Dialan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance/ Big Scrub Environment Centre, 88a Keen St, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278 (w) 066 439 074 (h) FAX 066 222 676;

John Corkill, North East Forest Alliance, C/- NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, Sydney. Ph 02 247 4206, FAX 02 247 5945; and

Campaign Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society, Armidale Branch, P O Box 1155, Armidale, 2350. Ph 067 71 11155.

Macleay Gorges (Oxley)

This wilderness contains three extensive wild river systems, the Apsley-Yarrowitch, the Macleay-Chandler and the Styx. It contains over 700 native plant species, 17 of these are rare or endangered and 30 botanically significant. There are 32 plant associations, including four dry rainforest types found in the wilderness area. The wilderness contains

continued on next page...

...continued from previous page

well developed alluvial and riverine communities which, being mostly cleared elsewhere, are a rarity. A total of 268 species of vertebrates have been identified, of which 47 are mammals, 31 reptiles, 173 birds and 17 amphibians. The National Bicentennial (horseriding) Trail follows the Macleay River and Kunderang Brook. Horseriding also occurs on several other trails within the recommended wilderness area.

The NWPS recommended Oxley wilderness of 165,392 ha, is comprised of 90,883 ha of national park, 4,489 ha of state forest, 63,081 ha of Crown lands and 6,989 ha of freehold lands.

Oxley was nominated by The Wilderness Society and the assessment report is on display till 18/9/92.

Contact: Campaign Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society, Armidale Branch, P O Box 1155, Armidale, 2350. Ph 067 71 11155;

Dialan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance/ Big Scrub Environment Centre, 88a Keen St, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278 (w) 066 439 074 (h) FAX 066 222 676; and John Corkill, North East Forest Alliance, C/- NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, Sydney. Ph 02 247 4206, FAX 02 247 5945. ■

Forests may recover – sometime

During the Colong Committee's Border Ranges campaign the Forestry Commission denied the Committee's research that proved that rainforests would take many centuries to recover from logging. The Forestry Commission maintained that they would regenerate.

The NPWS, in its assessment of our Lost World wilderness nomination, states that, on the basis of information available, 300-500 years may be required to return this forest type to an 'old growth' condition and eucalypt forests require a period of 150 years for restoration of forest structure.

The Native Forests Sell-Off

The article below, by Dr Judy Clark of the ANU, is a condensation of her working paper on native forest logging, written with assistance from Margaret Blakers, Dr Tony Norton and Dr Mick Common. Because the overall quality of timber from native forests is inferior to that from plantations, its quality declining and the supply of both softwoods and hardwood from plantations rapidly increasing, both in Australia and from overseas plantations, native timber is likely to be priced out of markets within a few years. A short term window of opportunity is therefore open for the marketing of the timber from the already overcut native forests. Commonwealth, state and local government policy encourages this exploitation per exemptions from local rates and charges, income tax, payment of lease fees, provision of infrastructure, low interest charges etc. As the NSW Parliamentary Accounts Committee reported; 'In view of the strong evidence from the market place that native timber prices are generally below what the market will bear, the Committee believes that the case for raising prices on native timber is overwhelming.' Despite this finding there is no mention of pricing in the Forestry Commission's restructuring plan released in April last. The draft Natural Resource Development Council Bill provides for a Council of 13 members' seven of whom would be heads of Government Departments and three industry representatives, a composition which would ensure the primacy of logging interests. In place of the protection afforded by the E.P.A Act, they would have guaranteed access to forests. The Forestry Commission's goal of attaining sustained yield by 1999 would be achieved, because by then there would be little yield from native forests left to sustain.

The Future for Native Forest Logging in Australia by Dr. Judy Clark

For economic reasons, Australia's sawmilling and pulp and paper industry will shift almost completely to processing a quality and tailor made softwood and eucalypt plantation resource (tree crops). Most agricultural activity replaced hunting and gathering in natural areas centuries ago. The timber industry's move to cropping is following the same inevitable path. It commenced in the late nineteenth century with trial plantings of softwoods followed by commercial plantings from the 1920's. Eucalypt plantations were established commercially in Victoria in the early 1960's. Today, all the companies currently processing native forest logs into pulp and paper have well developed eucalypt plantation programs. In addition, there are companies without existing pulp facilities that are investing in major eucalypt plantation programs.

The tree crop establishment phase is almost complete for softwoods. As a result, sawmillers, wood panel, and pulp and paper producers face a major increase in wood supply over the 1990's.

Similarly, eucalypt pulp producers will be able to process a relatively large volume of plantation grown logs this

decade. Eucalypts (many now genetically selected) grown in plantation conditions can provide a suitable pulp feedstock after relatively short growing times. By mid 1990's Australia's eucalypt plantations are projected to supply about the same volume of wood that the pulp and paper industry currently uses from native forests. Additional large volumes of plantation eucalypt wood are projected to become available during the late 1990's and next century.

These trends are irreversible because they reflect the economics, for both growers and processors, of trees grown as crops rather than 'hunted and gathered' from the natural environment.

Sawmilling

The implications for native forest processors, particularly sawmillers, are unavoidable. The market is clearly demonstrating a preference for plantation grown softwoods over native forest hardwoods for building applications, the bulk of Australia's sawntimber usage. The use of native forest timbers for appearance applications is minor. Even

continued on next page...

...continued from last page

with growth in these products, more environmentally and aesthetically sensitive logging could be accommodated.

The sawmilling industry's shift from native forests to softwood plantations is highly desirable economically. It presents industry with the opportunity to be internationally competitive because the plantation resource is sufficiently large and of uniform size and quality to feed large scale sawmills. The mill expansions and new mills planned for the 1990's will enable a large increase in Australia's sawntimber production with opportunities for growth based on import replacement or export.

But already there are signs that the softwood sawmilling industry may not expand to the full potential that the plantations could support. The industry faces enormous competitive pressure from imports, particularly from New Zealand. Imports of radiata pine sawntimber from New Zealand plantations have grown by an average 12.5% per annum since 1975.

Such major industry issues are not receiving the attention they require because Governments are still largely focussed to the declining native forest processors. Separating crown plantation management from native forest timber management through the establishment of plantation statutory authorities is a recommended mechanism for correcting this skewed distribution of resources including strategic thinking about industry policy.

It should be noted that if Australia's

softwood sawmilling industry does not expand to its full potential or there is a shortage in plantation sawlogs to meet domestic needs, the gap is highly unlikely to be filled by native forest sawntimber but by more competitively priced imports.

Pulp and paper

Australia's pulp and paper industry is dependent on plantations for the majority of its fibre input. Native forests provide about 24% of the fibre input into Australia's paper industry, softwood plantation based pulp 27%, imported pulp 8% and recycled paper 42%. Wood supply from softwood and eucalypt plantations will increase significantly during the 1990's presenting opportunities for major expansion in Australia's pulp and paper production.

These opportunities go largely unnoticed as Government has been sidetracked into focussing on the need for a large native forest bleached eucalypt kraft pulp mill. Such pulp mill developments must be export oriented and are risky. Joint venture arrangements to guarantee sales and price are virtually essential. But Australia with its relatively low quality old growth native forest resource and therefore high conflict industry is at a significant disadvantage in attracting joint venture partners. Prospective partners have alternative investment opportunities processing the large volumes of higher quality wood grown in eucalypt plantations that are continuing to be established in countries with more favourable growing conditions than Australia.

Plantation growth eucalypts (ie young eucalypts) enable an alternative to kraft pulping from which flows a number of important economic and environmental advantages. For example, a chemi thermo mechanical (CTM) pulp mill which combines chemical, heat and mechanical energy to break down wood fibres, can be built at one fifth the cost of a kraft pulp mill of the same capacity. This means that smaller mills can be viable because they have a smaller fixed cost

to spread over each tonne of pulp produced. Smaller but world competitive mills are ideally suited to the Australian market and will enable expansion in Australia's pulp industry without the need for pulp mills to be dependent on major sales on the highly risky world market. Australia's eucalypt plantations could supply the feedstock for four CTM pulp mills by the mid 1990's. The major environmental attractions of CTM pulping is the opportunity to use eucalypt plantations and the potential for non chlorine bleaching.

Irrespective of the outcome for native forest based pulp mills, processing softwood and eucalypt plantations and recycled waste paper will be the major growth area for the Australian pulp and paper industry during the 1990's and beyond.

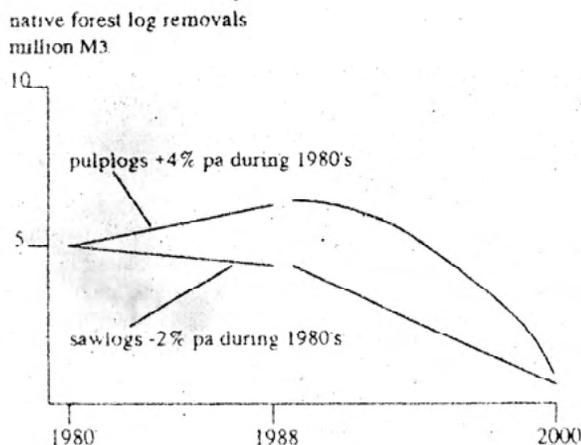
These industry developments are good news for Australia both economically and environmentally. Australia will have a timber industry processing the most economically attractive resource, a plantation resource, which is essential for its long term competitiveness.

Export woodchipping

But the environmental benefits may be lost if Australia continues to allow the exporting of large volumes of native wood chips. About 40% of the total harvested log volume from native forests is exported as chips to Japan. The past two decades has seen a rapid growth in the volume of chip exports from Australia's native forests. More recently this growth has plateaued. Alternative sources of log supply from native forests in Chile and North America have attracted Japanese hardwood chip buyers seeking a quality pulping resource and diversification in supply sources. Of potentially greater significance during the 1990's and beyond is the large areas of very short rotation eucalypt plantations established particularly in Brazil and South East Asia which will provide a high quality resource for export chips or pulp production. Stagnant Australian sales volumes and continuing price reductions successfully negotiated by the Japanese for Australia's native forest chips are strong indicators of the Japanese shift to higher quality alternative sources of supply.

The question Australia must address is whether it wants to maintain a native forest chip industry. To compete effectively with plantation grow timber, this

Outlook for native forest logging



Source: ABARE: 1988 & 1990

Blue Mountains for World Heritage

In the last issue we reported Mr Greiner's reluctance to proceed with a World Heritage nomination for the Blue Mountains because of two unsolved problems – the pollution of the mountain streams and the refusal of the Commonwealth to share the cost.

We sent a copy of Mr Greiner's parliamentary statement to the Hon. Ros Kelly and received a very encouraging reply. Her Department is compiling a list of Australian properties which could be nominated for World Heritage listing (known as the Indicative List). The NSW Government has suggested that both the Blue Mountains and the Australian Alps could be included on the list. Though the preparation of a World Heritage nomination is primarily the responsibility of the

State, the Commonwealth would provide every possible assistance with its preparation. Mrs Kelly suggested that we express our concerns to Mr Moore, which we did.

A deputation organised by the Blue Mountains City Council, comprising Mr Ross Free MP, Mr Alisdair Webster, MP, Ald. Carol Gaul, Mr Bob Clarke, Mayor, and Mr Max Fragar, Town Planner, was also assured by Mrs Kelly that Commonwealth assistance would be provided.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Committee has been very active with the organisation of a stall which netted over \$200, a membership drive and letter writing.

The late Nancy Douglass, who was a member of the Colong Foundation since

the early days and a generous donor, has bequeathed \$160,000 to the ACF. A meeting of the Blue Mountains Branch of the ACF with other groups has decided that the most appropriate memorial to Nancy Douglass would be the establishment of an ACF/Nancy Douglass Trust Fund for Blue Mountains for World Heritage. Following Mrs Kelly's assurance of Commonwealth Assistance, the ACF has added the Blue Mountains to its World Heritage list – two years after it was requested to do so by the Colong Foundation's members on its Council.

The Foundation was very pleased to receive a donation of \$200 from the Blue Mountains Branch of the NPA towards the Heritage campaign.

Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held on July 30th, August 13th and 27th and September 10th and 24th.

Forestry's licences to kill fauna extended

The NSW Forestry Commission has been granted a six-month extension to 40 separate licences to take or kill endangered fauna during its logging operations in State forests.

Tony Hewett, SMH 9/6/92

...continued from last page

would require that native forests are harvested over short rotations (10 to 20 years) and probably replanted with selected stock grown under plantation conditions.

The above article is based on a 25 page paper available from Lois Kruk, Publications Officer, CRES, ANU GPO Box 4 Canberra, 2601. Price \$8.00 incl. postage. This paper provides excellent justification for stopping old growth forest logging now.

The Natural Resources Management Package

By Jeff Angel, Assistant Director, Total Environment Centre.

The NSW Government proposes five new laws which will override existing legislation that currently protects the environment and allows public participation.

Natural Resources Management Bill

This Bill will, in effect, replace the regional planning process of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EPA).

A new Resources Management Council will produce regional reviews that will recommend how public land (including national parks) can be used. It replaces the proven system of regional environmental studies and plans found in the EPA Act.

The EPA Act has a balanced set of objectives, but the new Council will be dominated by developer interests.

Endangered and Other Threatened Species Bill

This should be renamed the extinction law. It repeals the Endangered Fauna Act and the licensing powers given to the National Parks Service, just as government agencies and the private sector are beginning to put in place decision making processes to take ac-

count of endangered species. The Bill sacks the current independent scientific committee and replaces it with one stacked with government appointees (no doubt conservatives).

Forest (Resource Security) Bill

This is even worse than the defeated Federal law. Forests can be handed over to the timber industry in long term contracts with hefty compensation claims liable if a forest area is withdrawn. Such forests, called Timber Production Forests, are not subject to Part 4 of the EPA Act, nor part 5 that requires environmental impact statements. And, not surprisingly, there is no protection for endangered species.

Amendments to the EPA and Heritage Acts

The EPA Act is amended so that the body that produces the environmental impact statement does not also adjudicate it.

This is an improvement but there is a catch – the other laws in the Government's package also have to be passed.

The gain is not worth the pain.

*Great things are done
when men and mountains
meet;*

*This is not done by jostling
in the street.*

William Blake 1757-1827

Donations

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following supporters during the half year ended June 30th.

V. Attenbrow, J. Beck, L. Berkeley, Blue Mountains Heritage Committee, A. Bowe, P.E. Boyd, J.W. Brown, The Sydney Bush Walkers, E. Cadzow, K.M. Clacher, M. Colless, Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, E. Cunningham, A.E. Dixon, Friends of Nattai, C. Gibson, H. Gold, J. Greening, Dr. W. Grey, S. Hajanakitas, P. Haydon, M. Hillsmith, J. Holly, W.J. Johnson, A.J. Keen, P. G. Kodela, J.G. Marden, Professor B. Marshall, R. McDonnell, K. Muir, National Parks Association Blue Mountains Branch, J.H.F. Pratt, M. Rodd, I. Sefton, J. Stephens, R. Toop, M. Weatherley, M.J. White, I. Williamson, J.D. Wrigley.

In addition the following have made donations to the Australian Conservation Foundation, enabling the ACF to make grants to our organisation, or have donated to the National Parks Association of NSW Colong Foundation Project.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Austin, R.L. Badgery, W.T. Bell, C.G. Benjamin, J.S. Bentley, J.W. Blanche, D.J. Bowman, M.P., C.O. Boyd, D. Butler, M. Cawte, E.A. Chapman Wade, A.G. Colley, Dr. P.J. Conaghan, R. Cooper, G. Cox, Dr. R.A. Duncan, M.F. Flatteley, H. Goldstraw, M.J. Holmes, J. Lawler, Dr. A.K. Lethlean, C.J. Lubbers, J. Mayer, Dr. P.T. Millard, M. Mills, M. Nordon, J.L. Rentoul, J. Simons, Dr. S. Stevens, F. Vanry, M.E. Watson.

We also received a legacy from the estate of one of our earliest supporters, the late Mrs. A.H. Edmondson.

REVIEW

Promises and Realities

A case study by Diana Gibbs, Economic Consultant

This case study of the timber industry on the far North Coast in the ten years following the rainforest decision of October 1982 is typical of the dry approach to economic matters so loved by those who desire to exploit our natural resources whatever the consequences.

The Forest Products Association, which commissioned the study and supplied much of the data, is quite justified in complaining that some of the promises made at the time were not kept. The \$1 million 'Rainforest Fund' which was to compensate the mills and encourage the development of new technology was never paid. Similarly some of the promised alternative supplies did not eventuate because conservationists rejected the Washpool compromise. However, to completely ignore the effect of two major changes in Forestry Commission policy i.e. the phasing out of rainforest logging and the adoption of sustained yield in hardwoods (both of which were clearly enunciated in the 1982 decision) is a fatal flaw which invalidates the con-

clusion of the study. Certainly the author acknowledges both policy changes as important factors, but then proceeds to ignore them in calculating the annual reduction in mill sales. This is altogether too simplistic as it also ignores the recent downturn in industry.

The most startling aspect of the 26 page case study, however, is the failure to even mention that the unlogged rainforest was considered so environmentally important that it is now inscribed on the Registers of World Heritage and Australia's National Estate. Even the NSW Coalition Government is not prepared to offend 80% of the population for the sake of the timber industry.

In the light of the study's breathtaking bias and environmental insensitivity, it may be significant that the author thanks the officers of the Forestry Commission for their 'kind' assistance. The recently announced Government restructuring of the Forestry Commission has not come a moment too soon!

J. G. Somerville

A Victorian Victory

The VNPA reports that the conservation movement achieved one of its greatest victories in recent years when the Coalition agreed to support the Government's legislation for the protection of 21 new wilderness areas and the establishment of remote and natural areas in Victoria. The victory came at a price, however, with three Opposition amendments which removed the wild Wongungarra Valley south of Mount Hotham from the Bill and allowed cattle grazing in the alpine wilderness areas and deer hunting in the Avon. Another potentially regressive qualification to the Coalition's support was to review road closures if elected to government.

Forest Management - US Model

The Forest Service's chief concern is not, apparently, to preserve forests, but to preserve itself. Congress will reward it with larger budgets only if it cuts more trees; so, if they want to do something good for forests, foresters must hack some of them down. This led to a ridiculous scene in an Idaho national forest, when a Forest Service employee was given the task of standing on a desert of tree stumps to explain to angry visitors the benefits of clear cutting. His salary was paid by cutting down more trees.

From an article entitled 'Bleeding Trees' - The Economist May 23, 1992.

SUPPORT THE COLONG FOUNDATION

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION

Membership of The Colong Foundation for Wilderness covers Bulletin subscription fee.

Non-members of the Foundation may subscribe to the Bulletin for a fee of \$7.50 (covers all issues of the Bulletin to 30/12/93)

A BEQUEST

Please remember us in your will. The Law Society of NSW recommends the following wording:

'I bequeath the sum of \$... to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd. for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd. shall be complete discharge to my executors in respect of any sum paid to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd..'

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible if you fill in the form. Make the cheque out to the Australian Conservation Foundation, fill in the form expressing a preference that the donation be used for the purposes of COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD. and send the cheque and form to ACF.

Please note that ACF mail out receipts only once a month

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fee of \$20 covers Bulletin subscription. If you are not personally known to the Foundation, the 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. Return to The Hon. Secretary, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, 18 Argyle St, Sydney 2000

The Treasurer
Colong Foundation For Wilderness Ltd.,
18 Argyle Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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

Membership application (use form below) (N.B. Membership fee covers Bulletin subscription)

Life Membership (\$500)

Membership renewal (\$20)

Colong Bulletin Subscription to 30/12/93 (\$7.50) (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 below). I would like this donation applied to:

The Fighting Fund

The Myles Dunphy Fund (investment only)

Either of the above funds at the Foundations's discretion

NAME (MR, MS, MRS, MISS) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

DATE _____

SIGNED _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

The Director
Australian Conservation Foundation
340 Gore Street
Fitzroy Vic 3065

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

NAME (MR, MS, MRS, MISS) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

DATE _____

SIGNED _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

I hereby apply for membership of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

I am nominated by _____ and seconded by _____

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

SIGNED _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

DATE _____

THE COLONG BULLETIN

RUSHCUTTERS
BY E.C. 1 PAID
P. 1000
A. 30.00
D. 1992
N.S.W. - AUST.
2004

INCLUDE THE
POSTCODE
IN EVERY ADDRESS

THE EDITOR
BLUE MOUNTAINS WHISPER
BOX 397, P.O.
KATOOMBA NSW 2780

BOX CLOSED

R.T.S.

SENDER THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS
3rd Floor, 18 Argyle Street,
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Publications Available From The Colong Foundation

	Price posted
	\$
The Colong Bulletin, bi-monthly, per annum	7.50
Blue Mountains for World Heritage	16.00
The Colong Story	8.00
How the Rainforest Was Saved	8.00
Park or Pines	8.00
Nattai National Park Proposal	20.00
Nattai, Kanangra Boyd, Nadgee, Goodradigbee and Lost World Wilderness Nominations, each	4.00
Barefoot Bushwalker	27.00