



THE COLONG BULLETIN

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Contents ...

Alex Muir Art Exhibition	3
Writing for Royal National Park	5
Levêr Wilderness Nominated	5
Not Even Interim Protection	6
Strong Support for World Heritage Listing	6
Meeting Dates	6
The Balance of Power in the Senate	7
National Trail Hoopla	7
Wilderness No Place for Off-Road Vehicles	7
Anti Conservationists Rampant	8

It is in relation to the environment that the need and the opportunity exist to extend the range of employment opportunity. Today, the impact of people's ostensibly productive activity is, almost without exception, destructive. For example, forests are laid waste for wood chips for the newspapers of the world, they are eaten into and endangered by miners; and disease is spread among them wherever man intrudes. The threat is not in the forests alone – for they are in Australia both the source and protector of the water on which human life and activity depend.

We could recover and restore the catchments of those rivers which are already salt. We could protect those remaining not saline from a like fate. We could stop the pollution of the coastline with the garbage of the miners and the wastes of the cities. We could in our cities and towns and in their suburbs create, where it does not already exist, a context within which all, however poor in money terms, could find scope to live in health and dignity. The ways to do this are known; we have idle hands desperate for work to do. Only the political will is lacking.

Dr. H.C. ('Nugget') Coombs in *The Return of Scarcity*

There is no history in a wilderness. It just is. And because it has always been this way, a wilderness serves as an elemental point of continuity from which it is possible to measure the pace of the civilisation on its outer rim.

Jonathan Raban: *Coasting*

Words A-Plenty

There are at present two Commonwealth inquiries into biodiversity in train. One is by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts, (E.R.A.) the other by the Biological Diversity Advisory Committee of the Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories. Both have produced discussion papers which describe the need for preservation, past losses of biodiversity and the cause

thereof – destruction of habitat. However, in the whole of the 896 pages of papers we have received there are no specific proposals for the reservation of habitat. For this reason we were pleased to join with peak environmental organisations in a letter to Mr. Keating which emphasised the need for the

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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 Prineas, B.A., LL.B.; John Sinclair; Jim Somerville, A.M., A.A.S.A.

HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

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preservation of old growth forests rather than the subsidy of their destruction, the abandonment of woodchipping, and strong wilderness legislation. We are in complete agreement with the ACF, WWF and Greenpeace boycott of a government forum on ecologically sustainable development on the grounds that the draft strategies lacked direction, were weak and in danger of being reduced to 'meaningless platitudes.'

The ERA Committee has reported on the potential of several Commonwealth funded community-based programs to protect biodiversity. The only program which specifically directs its funding to biodiversity objectives by focussing on the maintenance of remnant vegetation outside the reserve system is the Save the Bush program, which receives only 3% of the total funding. Although the Colong Foundation has probably saved more bush outside the reserve system than any other organisation, it was not included in the 72 organisations which received grants. The One Billion Trees Program will provide habitat for many native species, but will make little contribution to the preservation of endangered species. It is improbable that the number of trees planted will offset the number destroyed in woodchipping, clear felling and land clearance. The National Soil Conservation and Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Strategy programs will likewise contribute to the preservation of species within developed areas, but not to the preservation of endangered species.

There are four methods of preserving rare and endangered species. One is to place specimens in zoos, where they may or may not survive and breed. Another is to close off a substantial area by erecting a fence which will effectively exclude domestic and feral animals, eliminate these animals and introduced plants within it, and re-introduce the native biota - an enormously expensive operation, but the only means of preservation in the western plains, where domestic and feral animals are ubiquitous. A third method is to create national parks. Many national parks are too small to preserve a complete species range, though some threatened species remain in small remnants of their natural environment and every effort should be made to protect

these remnants. Unfortunately, because of the agreed need for motorised access, considerable areas of national parks are vulnerable to shooters, arsonists, timber and rock thieves, off-road vehicle intrusion etc. The most effective refuge of endangered species is afforded by wilderness areas. There are two classes of wilderness, those that are too poor to develop and those hitherto undeveloped because of difficult terrain. The former comprise deserts and infertile land the latter are mainly old growth forests in mountainous areas. These remnants, such as Chaelundi, Ben Halls Gap and the South East Forests are the last refuge of many endangered species.

Both the ERA and DAC discussion papers describe in some detail the facts of species extinction. They also recognise that rural development is the main cause of extinctions. They fail, however to recognise that preservation requires a complete reversal of land use priorities. The 'balancing of environmental factors against economic imperatives' and a 'trade-off between species protection and any conflicting economic factors' is no longer an option if species are to be preserved. Their habitat is already reduced to scattered remnants of the natural environment. Any 'balancing' or 'trading off', which means a further reduction in habitat and further extinctions, is to be determined by an appraisal of costs and benefits. This would make the preservation of endangered species dependent on their dollar value. Since there is no market for endangered species they have no dollar value and would not therefore be worth saving.

Although the stated objective is sustainable development, rather than a sustained environment, the importance of protected area systems, which are described as 'the core of any program that aims to maintain diversity', is stressed. Five categories of protected areas are listed and their significant qualities described. The categories are: strict nature reserves, national parks, national monuments, habitat and wildlife management areas and protected landscapes. There is no mention of wilderness, the most effective wildlife sanctuary.

The DAC assumes that its recommendations can be effected through 'co-operation between the Commonwealth State and Territory Governments and the

relevant industries and Non Government Organisations.' In the light of events this is a most unrealistic assumption. Protected area systems in Tasmania (the Franklin River), Queensland (the Daintree) and other locations, have had to be forced upon state governments. The NSW Government proposes a Natural Resources Management Package which would reduce the existing list of endangered species from 207 to 57, open old growth forests to logging and permit the revision of national park boundaries. The most relevant industry is the timber industry, which bitterly opposes the reservation of old growth forests, closely followed by the grazing industry, which is orchestrating strong opposition to wilderness declarations, and the mining industry, seeking to extend sand mining on the coast. The Commonwealth Government has legislated to permit the Australian Telecommunication Authority and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Association to override state environmental planning, but there is no suggestion that the Commonwealth legislate to ensure wilderness protection for the sake of ensuring biological diversity. Confrontation, rather than co-operation, has prevailed between NGOs and governments (with the notable exception of the Wran Government).

The DAC states that public participation is a meaningful component in strategic planning and recommends that it should be ensured. The participation of organisations such as the Colong Foundation, with long involvement in the preservation of biodiversity, is certainly meaningful, but there is no recommendation as to how it can be ensured. The way to ensure it is effective is to provide funds for the preparation of submissions to ERA, DAC and the many other inquiries seeking unfunded submissions.

The loss of biological diversity and the need to preserve habitat has long been fully appreciated by the nature conservation movement. That is why it exists. Further discussion and research would be useful, but what is required to preserve what is left is an immediate specific plan to preserve specific wilderness areas. Such a plan has already been formulated by the Colong Foundation, based on its Red Index of Wilderness. The most effective contribution to species preservation that ERA and could make is an endorsement of the Foundation's wilderness programme.

The Alex Muir Art Exhibition

Dr. William Muir is making a very generous contribution to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness by donating the proceeds of the sale of the paintings and pastels of his late brother, Alex Muir, to the Foundation.

An exhibition of the artist's paintings and pastels was opened at the Artarmon Galleries on Aug. 11th. It was attended by some 110 people, including many Colong supporters, and was a most enjoyable social evening. The exhibition was opened by the Foundation's Patron, The Hon. Neville Wran, A.C., Q.C., and Mr. Philip Brackenreg, owner of the Galleries, said it was one of the most successful of its exhibition launches.

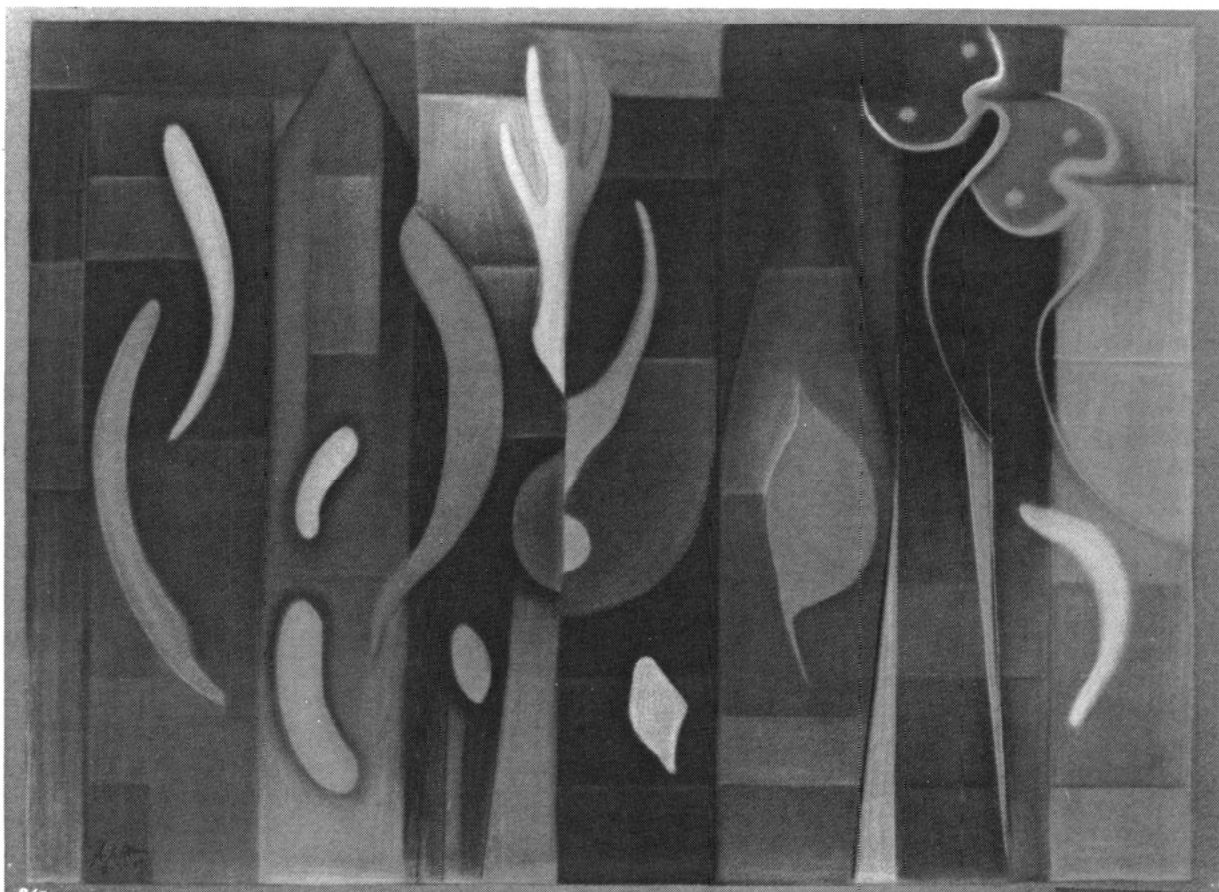
In his address Mr. Wran said: I can't tell you how delighted I am to be here to open this exhibition of the late Alex Muir's work. I must confess when I was

asked by the Colong Foundation, of which I am the Patron, to officiate at this opening, I really didn't know who Alex Muir was. His brother Dr William Muir has kind enough to give me some background and I did a little research myself and found that he was a most extraordinary man. He had a formal art education and as so many people did in the 1930's and 40s, went off to Europe to polish further their education in the arts and its various manifestations, came back to Australia and decided that he would not paint again for twenty years.

And so strong willed was the late Alex Muir that twenty years to the day he didn't paint anything at all, with the possible exception of the kitchen wall. He went into business as a nurseryman and cultivated the rare conifers and maples and after about twenty years of that he

sold the whole of his stock at some ridiculously low figure and embarked upon his career again as a painter and much of what you see here tonight is not the result of those early years in the 1970's when he was painting in oils and had a couple of exhibitions. One was successful at the Villers gallery in Paddington. The other curiously enough unsuccessful at the Hollsworth Gallery which is still in Paddington and his lack of success at the Hollsworth exhibition drove him to become quite introspective about his paintings. Thereafter he switched from acrylic to pastel and painted prodigiously for the next twenty years. I think there were, at the time of his death, some fifteen hundred pieces of his work stacked around his studio and

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house and he never really reached the heights of profile or recognition that a painter of that distinction and talent was entitled to.

The harshest of critics, as you'll see from the brochure, was highly complementary of his talent; this not unreal but non-real near abstract quality that he had with his work, at times stretching the non-real qualities into surreal qualities. The critics were very laudatory of the late Alex Muir's talents and of his works, several of which are now to be found in the National Gallery of our country, such is the recognition that's been accorded to him. And we're fortunate not only to have this work released by his brother William, but released for what I would regard as the very best of causes, and that is the proceeds of the sale of pictures here tonight will go to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness and then the Myles Dunphy Fund, where it will be put to the great use which Myles Dunphy, the founder of conservation in the real modern sense of the term in Australia, will really appreciate. Work such as the finalisation of research into the Blue Mountains World Heritage submission, the Red Index of Wilderness and the Nattai National Park submission. All part of the great work that's gone on in the last twenty or thirty years to preserve the environment and in a sense Alex Muir and his creations and the natural wilderness and national parks had something in common. Art of course is the creation of man. The environment of course is the creation of nature and both are bewildering in their beauty and their power and their influence upon our lives. And I read somewhere in relation to Alex Muir that he said that his work was emphasised ambiguity and especial-



Pat Thompson, Vice-Chairman of The Colong Foundation

ly the ambiguity of truth. And there are so many ambiguous features of the environment. The wilderness or the cultured garden, but most of all the need to preserve the quintessential essence that nature has provided us with.



The Hon. Neville Wran, AC, QC, Patron of The Colong Foundation

And if I could be very serious just for one minute, when we reflect upon the fact, depending on whose statistics you take, that between the year 2020 and 2030 the population of the world will have doubled. In other words, how ever many people there are in the world now, there will be double that number in less than thirty years time. And yet the same resources, the same amount of water, the same amount of energy, the same amount of food, we'll have to feed them, clothe them and give them a dignified existence or we condemn them to starvation and horror that we've seen recently in places like Ethiopia. And what that means is that world must be more conscious than ever to preserve the ecosystems with which it was provided initially, and not be so intent on creation of wealth from the natural environment; Not be so intent upon destruction for the purposes of today and to hell with tomorrow. That doesn't mean that there will have to be a balance, of course there will have to be a balance. It means that some concessions will have to be made. On all essential matters, on the purity of the water and the air we breathe and the food we eat, we should salute people like Myles Dunphy who showed the way in relation to our natural heritage and its import to this and succeeding generations. So ladies and gentlemen it's a delight to be here and once again I'd like to recognise the generosity of Dr William Muir who after all has given these paintings literally to the Colong Foundation for Wilder-

ness for the purpose that I mentioned and for all of us in the result to enjoy a relatively little known Australian painter and one who in the fullness of time will be recognised as being the very forefront of his professional and artistic company. Thank you very much.

Pat Thompson, Vice Chairman of the Colong Foundation, expressed the Foundation's thanks to Dr. Muir, Mr. Wran, the Artarmon Galleries, Mr. Cameron Sparkes, who assisted in indexing and recording the works and Mr. Tom Thompson, an accomplished artist who assisted in the selection of the exhibited works. Pat said that there was a kind of symbiotic relationship between art and wilderness. By purchasing one of these wonderful works, two objectives would be achieved - 'a return to that source of inspiration that we all need and at the same time a tangible way of helping the struggle to retain some of the small remnants of wilderness that are still with us.'

Dr. Muir kindly made a gift of one of the pastels to Mr. Wran for his efforts in promoting the exhibition.

Ten of the works have been acquired by the National Gallery and the sale of another ten before the opening will cover the exhibition's costs. The net proceeds of subsequent sales will go to the Colong Foundation.

The paintings and pastels are a harmonious blend of colour and design which would grace any home or workplace. Arrangements will be made for sales after the close of the exhibition and the Colong Foundation will be pleased to inform anyone interested of their location.

In an SMH review of the exhibition, Bronwyn Watson describes how Alex Muir made a transition from realistic rendition to a non-realistic approach, immersing himself in geometric colour synthesis. 'It was as a so-called lyrical geometrician that Alex Muir was to find most satisfaction as an artist. He was, as fellow artist Tom Thompson describes, interested in the contemplation through mathematics with the quest for a purity of harmony. Just like Kandinsky, Muir's mature work teems with shapes: tumbling lines, rectangles, circles overlap and dissect, as in *Earth No 6* and *Untitled*. In other canvases, the shapes are more organic, as in *The Tiger No. 2*, where two eyes seem to glare out from a swirling mass of shapes which resemble seaweed and floating amoeba.'

Writing For Royal National Park

The Wollongong City Council has placed on display a draft environmental protection plan for an area in the headwaters of the Hacking River catchment. As readers know, this is main stream which flows through Royal National Park.

The plan, if approved, will ensure environmental protection becomes the land use priority for this important catchment. It follows the Council's 1991 decision to reject major urban expansion for the

rural lands around Helensburgh.

The Friends of the Hacking River and the Helensburgh District Protection Society request your assistance during the public exhibition of this important plan.

The Friends of the Hacking River aim to collect as many submissions supporting the draft plan as possible over the next two months.

You can help, not only by making a submission, but also in collecting sub-

missions from your friends using the guide letter.

If you are really keen to secure Royal from future urban sprawl, can contact me on 241 2523 and I will slot you onto a weekend submission writing stall in a shopping centre or a door knocking team in Southern Sydney.

Keith Muir
Secretary, F.O.T.H.R.

Guide Letter

Please use your own words to express the following

(your name
address)

(today's date)

Mr. Rod Oxley
General Manager/Town Clerk
Wollongong City Council
Locked Bag 8821
South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2521

Dear Mr. Oxley,

Submission in Support of Draft Environmental Plan No. 91/16 – Helensburgh Area

I support the rezoning of rural lands around Helensburgh to 7(d) Environmental Protection Hacking River on the following grounds:

- To protect Royal National Park from water pollution caused by urban expansion;
- In establishing the environmental planning priorities for the Hacking River catchment which will ensure the protection for future generations the environmental qualities of Australia's oldest park;
- Rejection of the questionably effective of an experimental pollution control technology upon which the alternative urban expansion plans rely;
- To prevent protect clearing of rainforest for pollution ponds which may not work;
- Ensure that Helensburgh does not become the southern extension from the greater Sydney sprawl
- To limit to existing levels the effects on the area's wildlife of predation of feral and domestic pets
- To prevent an increase in road kills of wildlife within Royal National Park by limiting increases in local traffic movements.

Yours faithfully,
(your signature)

Levers Wilderness Nominated

Levers Plateau was first brought to the attention of the Colong Committee by Gordon Philp, who lived on its western edge, in 1973. It comprises the 15,422 ha Rosebery section of the Border Ranges National Park, the dedication of which became the principal objective of the Colong Committee in June 1975.

It is a magnificent area of rainforest, distinguished by the size of its trees, the height of its canopy, lack of understorey and magnificent hoop pines.

The rainforest remains pristine because John Lever, joint owner of Munro and Lever's saw and ply mill at Grevillia, steadfastly refused to log it. This did not affect the Forestry Commission's decision to log it.

A road was, in fact, commenced from the northern side, but was stopped by the intervention of then Premier, Neville Wran.

The Colong Foundation nominated the area under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, entitling it 'Levers Wilderness' on July 17th.

Mr. Larry Carter, Wilderness Coordinator of the NPWS, wrote on July 23rd to acknowledge acceptance of the nomination.

Not Even Interim Protection

The Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act enabled logging to continue in most State Forests without the requirement of an environmental impact statement. The ineffectiveness of the protection afforded to old growth forests is emphasised by the North East Forest Alliance blockades of the Mummel Gulf forest in the Walcha area and of another forest in the Styx River management area.

Mr. Aidan Ricketts, spokesman for NEFA, said 'NEFA is attempting to blow the whistle on unsustainable logging volumes being taken from these areas. Information contained in the Forestry Commission's own plan of management point to the fact that, at current rates of exploitation, all available hardwood supplies in those areas will be exhausted within ten years.

Unless quotas are reduced urgently both the old growth forests of New England and local industry will become a mere memory.

The blame must rest squarely with the current NSW Government's irresponsible and confrontational approach to forestry issues. This Government has actively encouraged irresponsible management of the State's forest industries despite repeated court rulings revealing breaches of environmental laws by the Forestry Commission.'

This Government, through the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, has enshrined a policy of 'log now, assess later' and in so doing has promoted a late resource grab throughout the State's remaining old growth areas.

Mr. Rickett's statement confirms the Colong Foundation's view, expressed in the article 'The Native Forests Sell-Off', that the timber industry is determined to log the old growth forests to extinction.

Strong Support for World Heritage Listing

In reply to a letter from the Colong Foundation, Pam Allan, MP, Shadow Minister for the Environment and Planning, writes:

The State Opposition is in total agreement with the Colong Foundation in its endeavours to have the Blue Mountains obtain World Heritage status.

I have consistently advocated my support for nomination and have called on the State Government to promote the nomination by such means as:

- Making a priority of dedicating wilderness areas and declaration of National Parks in the Blue Mountains.
- Increasing efforts and funding to achieve water quality protection.
- Upgrading fire protection policies.
- Instituting a Protective Management System to guard against uncontrolled development in the area.

To achieve World Heritage Status, much criteria needs to be satisfied, and all three tiers of Government have a responsibility to contribute in both financial and material ways.

I am pleased to be able to support the Foundation in its endeavours to achieve World Heritage Status for the Blue Mountains.

Conservation Up North

Cr. Phelan: *What is the good of having thousands of acres of park when you can't see it?*

Cr. Ballantyne: *A road would give good access for people wanting to shoot wildlife.*

Cr. Phelan: *What is the good of wildlife if you can't shoot it?*

Proceedings of the Cockburn
Shire Council reported in the
Northern Daily Leader
(not in 1992 but in 1969)

International Forestry Conference

Tim Cadman advises that an international conference aimed at saving the world's disappearing temperate forests will be held in Deloraine in Tasmania on November 16-17.

It is being organised by the Native Forest Network and will be the first international conference to deal specifically with strategies to halt the continued destruction of the temperate forests of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Speakers include Professor David Bellamy and many international and local speakers.

Further information is available from the Native Forest Network, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine, Tas 7304, phone (003) 622 713

The Young Will Pay

A campaign to halve the Federal deficit has been launched in the US. It aims to mobilise those aged between 18 and 30.

It has been joined by Senator Rudman and former Democratic presidential candidate Mr. Paul Tsongas who said:

'It is my view that the country is headed towards generational warfare. It will eventually be young versus old in a kind of bitter division this country's never seen before.'

With even greater rationality the young could attack the environmental debt incurred by the use of natural resources at a rate far exceeding the rate of their replacement; a debt that cannot be repaid.

Meeting Dates
Meetings will be held
on October 8th and
22nd, and November
5th and 19th.

National Trail Hoopla

The promoters of the Bicentennial National Trail believe the declaration of the Oxley, Mann and Washpool wilderness areas will have a devastating effect on their Trail. They consider these areas have questionable value as wilderness, even though they are recommended for dedication by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Colong Foundation is not opposed to this horse trail. For about ninety-five per cent of its length, the Trail avoids environmentally sensitive areas. We do strongly object, however, to its intrusion into national parks and wilderness.

Our objections are consistent with the NPWS wilderness management code, where horseriding is an excluded use because of the environmental damage caused.

Insisting that the Trail be retained in wilderness areas is completely contrary to assurances given by Mr. Mike Allen, the Executive Officer of the Trail.

On May 5th, 1988 the Foundation received a letter from Mr Allen which said that:

'In all cases where the Trail passes through or near national parks, the route has been determined through consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service staff to ensure that the Trail does not encroach on any existing or future Wilderness Areas.'

The trail people were well aware that they may have to relocate their trail. Many sections of the Bicentennial National Trail have no recognised legal status. In Kosciuszko National Park the Trail traverses an 'A1' management area, a clear breach of the 1989 Kosciuszko Plan of Management.

In many other areas, the Trail also may be an unauthorised activity which can have a significant impact on the environment. It requires development consent from the land managers, but in many cases has none.

The promoters of the Trail, including horseriding outfitters, continue to insist on the primacy of the trail over wilderness.

They have done what they accused

The Balance of Power in the Senate

Senator Karin Sowada writes:

The next Federal election is absolutely critical for the environment. The Liberal/National Coalition has made its hostility to conservation organisations and their aims quite clear, yet in the current economic climate the Coalition may gain government.

If this happens, the Senate will be the only barrier against a wholesale emasculating of Australia's environment laws. This depends on a balance of power which the Australian Democrats hold by a very narrow margin. This delicate balance has now been targeted by the National Party in New South Wales.

Based on current polling, of the five Senate seats which are up for election in our state, two will go to the Liberal Party and two to the Labor Party. The fifth seat, which could determine the balance of power, will be the subject of a contest between the Australian Democrats and the National Party.

If the Nationals can capture the balance in the Senate, they will be able to impose their own agenda on the Australian Government's environmental policies, as they have done with the New South Wales Government.

The Australian Democrats are the only realistic bastion against an environmental policy dictated by resource industries and developers.

I urge you to support our efforts in the next election campaign, as our environment cannot afford to suffer any further.

The Wilderness Society of doing – imposing an incompatible land use upon existing users.

The National Trail should be relocated to avoid conflicts with wilderness. It is patently undemocratic to demand that the National Trail dictate land use in our last substantial natural areas. Especially since, unlike wilderness proposals, the Trail was not subject to public assessment and review.

No More Logging in New Zealand's Native Forests

As its Asian neighbours chop down their last natural forests, New Zealand hopes to sell them its own trees, purpose-grown. But wood is more valuable once it is made into something.

To find the money to process timber, New Zealand has been selling off its state-owned plantations in a move that has pleased environmentalists as well as the timber industry... New Zealand's native forests have at last received the protection environmentalists demand. They remain in state hands, and have been taken into a new conservation department, which bans logging but manages them for recreation and protection of wildlife.

Arguments between conservationists and loggers, once bitter as anywhere in the world, have virtually ended.

The Economist, July 11th 1992.

Wilderness No Place for Off Road Vehicles

The use of vehicles in areas with high wilderness value jeopardise wilderness qualities. The desire to explore and trail-blaze areas of virgin country can cause immeasurable damage to flora and fauna, cutting deep impressions as vehicles tyre-spin their way to gain traction over rough terrain. Narrow trails are widened, hillsides are rut-scarred, erosion is caused or initiated by off-road vehicles, reserves become and remain scarred, front-end winches ropescar and ruin vegetation, archeological relics are damaged and the possibility of fires is increased from vehicles and the activities of the users of vehicles.

From the Report of the 1980
SPCC Inquiry into the
Recreational Use of ORVs

Anti-Conservationists Rampant

The 10 wilderness assessments released by the NPWS cover nominated areas of 793,367 ha, less than 1% of the area of the State. They comprise some of the most economically useless of the State's 80,142,800 ha, otherwise they would not be wilderness. They are some of the last substantial remnants of the natural environment and are some of the last refuges of endangered species.

Nevertheless they have engendered a torrent of misrepresentation and abuse from anti-environmentalists, enthusiastically orchestrated by National Party M.P.s., in direct refutation of their leader's assurance, in the Wilderness Bill debate, that the Party did not oppose the legislation.

Public meetings and a walk against wilderness have been organised. The Ulmarra and Copmanhurst Shire Councils even prohibited children from selling Wilderness Society badges.

Despite Tim Moore's assurance that land could not be acquired for wilderness declaration without the owner's consent and that management for fire, feral animals and noxious weeds would continue in all wilderness areas, land owners within and around the nominated areas are in the vanguard of the protesters.

These land owners are within or near wilderness now and will continue to be so when the wildernesses are declared.

Typical of the protests is Mr. Roger Gleeson's letter of June 13th in the *Northern Star* in which he describes the 'stop work at all costs' program of the 'extreme green proponents' as 'a deliberate means of bringing a once great nation to its knees, for the benefit of international manipulators.'

Close behind the land owners are the loggers. Mr. Causley, Minister for Natural Resources and member for Grafton, told a meeting of the Kyogle Shire Council that the creation of the wilderness areas would 'close down the City of Grafton.'

The 97,942 ha of State Forest within the nominated areas represents less than 3% of the total area of State Forests and not much over 1% of the total forested area in the State. Most of the nominated area within State Forests is wilderness because it is too steep and inaccessible to be logged, but it is an important wildlife refuge.

If there are no alternative resources to replace the timber in this small fraction of the State's forests it is because of the overcutting of forests by the timber industry, which has gone on ever since the

Forestry Commission was established in 1916 to institute sustained yield management.

In the south the charge is led by Mr. Alby Schultz M.P. (Liberal Party) and Mr. Peter Cochran M.P. (N.P.).

In a radio interview Mr. Schultz said that the Colong Foundation received \$90,000 bequest to make wilderness nominations. Would that it had. Such a sum would be far short of the market value of the services voluntarily contributed to the Foundation in its work for the community.

Rather than assist the Foundation in this valuable work, Mr. Schultz would like to penalise it for its efforts. He will support Mr. Jeffery's private member's bill which would impose a \$10,000 fee to accompany wilderness nominations.

He writes that the Foundation 'may see itself as "an anointed privileged group" entitled to bask in your own selective pristine environment, which you have exclusive access to under a wilderness proposal.' How the Foundation members could keep everybody else out of wilderness is not explained. Mr. Cochran is determined to 'preserve the rights of private landholders in addition ensuring that the average Australian, regardless of their age or physical ability will have access to the natural wonders of our national parks.'

There is, of course, nothing to stop the average Australian, who does not own a country estate, having access to broad areas of open space in the form of national parks, whether or

not they are declared wilderness.

In addition to land owners and loggers, wilderness is opposed by off-road vehicle interests, horseriders (including the promoters of the national trail) and anybody else who puts mechanised or equestrian access before nature conservation.

We are pleased to report, however, that, despite the opposition of some of his colleagues in government, Mr. Chris Hartcher, Minister for Conservation, intends to honour his Party's undertaking not to oppose wilderness.

In an interview with Ann Suskind, the SMH Environmental Writer, he said:

Only about 4 per cent of NSW is still in a wilderness state... 96 per cent has been developed and disturbed... I would say the State Government does remain committed to the concept of wilderness preservation in NSW. We all want proper air and proper water. We need a whole series of systems... we need farms, we need wilderness... It is widely recognised that these areas do provide valuable ecosystem services by maintaining the quality of air and water, slowing soil erosion, reducing salinity through lowering the water table, releasing water during drought and slowing run-off during floods - all of which are quite costly to undertake or provide once natural systems have been disrupted.

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 31/12/93)

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 accompanying form. Make the cheque out to the National Parks Association of NSW (Inc.) and send the cheque and form to the NPA.

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

SUPPORT THE COLONG FOUNDATION

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 31/12/93 (\$7.50) (Non-members only)
- ☐ Donation of \$ _____
- ☐ 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 Treasurer,
National Parks Association of NSW
PO Box A96
Sydney South NSW 2000

Please find enclosed my donation to the National Parks Association of NSW (Inc.) for the purposes of promoting and researching wilderness. As my donation is over \$2, I understand that my donation is tax deductible and look forward to your receipt.

NAME (MR, MS, MRS, MISS) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

DATE _____

SIGNED _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

MASTERCARD/BANKCARD/VISA _____

NUMBER _____

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

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



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