



THE COLONG BULLETIN

Bulletin 139 THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD. Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland Street Sydney 2000 (ACN 001 112 143). TELEPHONE (02) 247 4714. FAX (02) 247 7118. July 1993

Contents ...

Chairman's Annual Report	1
Environmental Economics Society	2
Donations Tax Deductible	3
National Red Index	3
Bull in the Bush	4
Blue Mountains World Heritage	4
Making Money in Parks	5
Bureaucratic Conservation	6
Treasurer's Report	7
Sale of Crown Lands	8

There is absolutely no end to the proposals which developers, engineers and scientists have for the national parks of Australia.

Milo Dunphy AM, commenting on the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority's cloud seeding proposal to put 32 flame throwers in the Kosciusko National Park for the purpose of blasting heavy metal particles into the sky. (SMH 15/5/93)

Chairman's Annual Report For 1992

The best that can be said for 1992 is that some things do change. Politicians can become worse with more procrastination, more fence sitting and the creation of anti-wilderness legislation.

While the majority of wilderness areas in New South Wales have been nominated under the Wilderness Act and the period for decisions on these areas has long since expired, no decision has been made on their official status as wilderness. The only good thing in this procrastination is that our Government, with its desire to ensure that every hectare of our state is used for maximum economic gain, has not given consent for the degradation of our remnant wilderness by full scale logging, mining, grazing and resort development or given it away, like much of the Crown land with nature conservation values already transferred to private ownership.

The Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act shows how super conservative

politicians, a conniving government department and a poorly managed industry can conspire to work against the general direction of the community. There was no need for this act, as the logging of native forests, even in environmentally sensitive areas, could have continued. Even in areas (such as coupe 104 in the Coolangubra wilderness) where the National Parks and Wildlife Service had not issued fauna licences, logging of animal habitat proceeded, making a joke of the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act.

The prolific production of Forestry EISs which were prepared in 1992-93, showed that true environmental assessment could not be satisfactorily undertaken by the proponent. In some of these economic justifications for logging previously undisturbed forests the conclusions did not even mention

continued on next page...

Tax Resource Depletion, Not Employment

The Government should quickly abandon the payroll tax because it made no sense to tax businesses that wanted to create jobs at a time when jobs were in such short supply.

Instead, there should be new taxes on the use of scarce resources used by business.

**Dr H.C. ('Nugget') Coombs,
SMH 8/6/92**

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

The Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland 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); Milo Dunphy, A.M., A.S.T.C. (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.); Dennis Gittos; Phil Millard, M.B., F.R.C.S.; Keith Muir, B. Nat. Res. (Hons); Peter Princeas, B.A., LL.B.; John Sinclair; Jeff Rigby; Jim Somerville, A.M., A.A.S.A.

DIRECTOR: Keith Muir

HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

...continued from previous page

environmental factors. In many cases significant environmental issues like water quality were investigated in extremely superficial ways with no real information on pristine water quality before logging and virtually no site specific information on the effects of actual logging operations available. Water quality experts were expected to make interpolations of what may occur without any real facts to base their comments on, or suitable budgets to gain the facts. Similar comments can be made about other environmental factors. Many wilderness areas throughout the State will be further degraded if these EISs are considered acceptable by the Government as little regard was really made for the full environmental impacts of the logging and especially for the supporting infrastructure such as roading.

The campaign for World Heritage status for the Blue Mountains has become yet another political football between the State and Federal Governments. While the Colong Foundation has done most of the detailed work, as presented in our 1989 book, these governments are arguing about the share and size of funds needed to make a presentation to the IUCN. Our immediate past Environment Minister claimed the job could be done for a figure towards which the Federal Government has offered its 50% contribution to the State Government to prepare the submission. The State Government says this is inadequate,

thus opening up the negotiations again and creating yet another round of procrastination and political posturing.

On a more pleasant note it is with some pleasure when reading back through past Colong Bulletins that I realised that it is just 20 years since my first dissertation appeared in Bulletin No. 28, when we began our campaign for the Border Ranges. Times have indeed changed. In many ways for the better, as considerable gains have been made in nature conservation and wilderness conservation. In other ways our battles have become harder with increasing population putting even greater demands on our remnant wilderness and natural areas, be they within or without national parks. The community still has a considerable number of battles to fight before suitable areas are protected from 'development' and the war to protect our total environment is won.

The continued support of members, both financially and morally, has been appreciated over the last year and is looked forward to in the future. As can be seen from the accompanying financial report we continue to keep solvent, enabling our fight to be maintained. With the current economic status of Australia, all sorts of additional excuses will no doubt be made to destroy what little wilderness is left. You can be assured the Colong Foundation, with 25 years of environmental campaigning behind it, will continue the war to preserve wilderness and other significant natural areas as long as your support continues.

Environmental Economics Society Formed In Sydney

The impact of uncontrolled growth on the natural environment is now well publicised by the environment movement, as is the technology for countering it. Economic measures for countering environmental deterioration are, however, seldom addressed.

There is ample evidence that 'free' natural resources are in fact being used at a greater rate than they can be replaced. In terms of business management this is equivalent to paying dividends out of capital. Economic rationalists measure progress in terms of growth, ignoring resource depletion.

As long as economists remain fixated on conventional economic indicators, and express absolute faith in market forces, little or no value is placed on maintaining natural environments.

Damage to the ozone layer, into which CFCs were freely discharged, has never been included in the balance sheets of the pressure pack and air conditioning manufacturers. The water purification and storm protection functions of coastal wetlands are not costed in canal housing developments. The great value of sea grass fish nurseries are forgotten in land reclamation projects, just as the health care costs of brain damage to young children do not appear on the ledgers of petrol companies.

Australia's supposedly unlimited natural resources, and its vast open spaces have been forced to absorb a rampant exploitation ethic based on traditional economic and accounting practices. The frontier notion that 'there's plenty more where that came from' has never been more untrue, nor more economically irrational. Environmental economics makes its goal the maintenance of resource capital, a goal which could be better described as 'en-

continued on back page...

Environment Nearly An Etcetera

It is not only women, the ethnic community and young people that should be targeted but also the arts community, young families, blue collar workers, the unemployed, the homosexual community, non-Christian religious denominations, voluntary and other welfare groups, small business, environmentalists, etc - in other words the people/groups all but forgotten by our party.

NSW Liberal Party report, June 1993

National Party Parks Grab

The head of the NPWS is being sidelined because he very properly resisted plans by the National Party to absorb national parks into one of their own portfolios: Conservation and Land Management.

All they have done is impose a new bureaucratic structure on top of two existing bureaucratic structures to sideline a good public servant because he resisted a national parks power grab.

Bob Carr commenting on transfer of Bill Gillooly to become head of the newly created Urban Parks Agency

DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

We are pleased to have received advice from the Department of Environment Arts and Territories that our application for admission to the Register of Environmental Organisations eligible to receive tax deductible donations has been approved by the Acting Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, Senator the Hon Bob McMullan and the Treasurer, the Hon John Dawkins M.P.

In order to qualify for registration we established a fund, The Colong Wilderness Fund, into which all donations must be paid. Some changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association were necessary, together with a set of rules for the conduct of the fund. The rules provide, inter alia, that 'Any allocation of funds or property to other organisations or persons will be made in accordance with the established objectives of the or-

ganisation and not be influenced by the expressed preference or interest of a particular donor to the organisation.' In the event of winding up any surplus must be transferred to another fund on the register.

No significant change in the administration of the Foundation is required, though registration will greatly simplify the work of the Foundation's officers. It is hoped that it will encourage donations, which should be made to the Colong Wilderness Fund. Receipts will be issued in the name of the Fund. Copies of the rules of the Fund are available to any prospective donor.

Our thanks to Mr Jim Norman of the Climate and Environmental Branch of the Department of Arts, Sport and the Environment for his ready advice and attention to our application.

The Colong Foundation

The Colong Foundation originated as the Colong Committee, which was appointed in 1968 by a meeting of conservation societies to prevent the quarrying of Colong Caves. Shortly afterwards the Committee extended its objective to cover the saving of the Boyd Plateau from becoming the site of a 15,000 acre pine plantation. Both objectives had been achieved by 1975, when three new objectives were adopted. The first of these was the creation of a Border Ranges National Park, an objective which escalated to become the rainforest campaign. The other objectives were the creation of a Greater Blue Mountains National Park and a Kakadu National Park. The rainforest parks and Kakadu are now World Heritage areas, the Greater Blue Mountains Park is in being in fact, though not in name, and the Foundation is campaigning for World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains and the extension of the park system to include the "Gardens of Stone." The Foundation's proposal for a Wilderness Act was accepted in 1987. It has been supplemented by the Red Index of Wilderness, now being updated and extended to other states. A more detailed history of the Foundation is available in its introductory brochure.

A National Wilderness Red Index

The publication, in late 1991, of our NSW Red Index, focussed government attention on the State's wilderness areas. The Foundation is now updating the NSW Index and extending the Index to other states. We have engaged Derek Mackrell B.Sc, who has already done many weeks of voluntary work on the NSW Index, to complete the extended Index.

Much of the data required to produce an updated NSW Index is already available, but a wilderness register for the whole of Australia is a major undertaking. Initially therefore, the National Index will cover only those areas we can identify with the assistance of other conservation groups.

To this end we have requested nature conservation organisations in other states to provide us with a description of suitable areas. It is our hope that by creating a National Wilderness Red Index, organisations campaigning for these areas will join together and help each other. Grass roots participation in the Index will result in a comprehensive, relevant and accurate information resource.

Once listed in the Index, threatened wilderness areas will be firmly on the

agenda for consideration when the Federal and State Governments move to enact protective legislation. The information collected will be regularly revised to ensure that the Index is a campaign tool embracing current knowledge of Australia's wilderness areas and be accessible to all environmentalists.

The significance of Australia's wilderness areas was described by Bob Carr, when, as Minister for the Environment, he announced, in March 1987, his support for the Foundation's proposal for a Wilderness Bill. He said:

I dont think it is unreasonable, as we approach the 200.h 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 preserve more than perhaps any other nation.

Bull In The Bush

In April, the Colong Foundation received from the Blue Mountains City Council its Development Control Plan for Effluent Disposal in Unsewered Areas. This plan ensures that unsewered effluent will be treated to a certain standard, and in the case of new development, sewage pump out will often be required. Such a service would not be permitted, however, where new subdivision creates additional lots or for dual occupancy dwellings.

This control plan is consistent with the Colong Foundation's Blue Mountain planning policy of containing urban development and population to within existing built up areas. Unfortunately controversial subdivision continues to be permitted, provided it is sewerage.

The control plan intends to limit the density of unsewered development. According to the plan, the Department of Health requires all subdivisions involving lot sizes less than one hectare and provided with reticulated water to be sewerage.

Any subdivision which is within 400 metres of a water course or likely to contaminate an aquifer, or is within 2 km of a reticulated sewer is also required to be connected to the reticulated sewer.

Surprisingly the Council's effluent disposal criteria ignore these health requirements. The distance from effluent disposal from the nearest watercourse is only 25 metres in Council's criteria, sixteen times less stringent than the Department of Health requirement. The minimum lot area is only 2,000 square metres of useable land. Five times less than the health criteria.

If the more stringent criteria is applied, only remote dwellings on large blocks would be permitted under the plan's provisions. Contrary to the objects of the plan, such development is not ecologically sustainable. These bushland areas should not be developed because they are often in fire hazard areas and will fragment important plateau bushland. There already is enough ridgetop development remote from urban areas (e.g. Kings

Blue Mountains World Heritage

3.5 years to get started

On the 6th December 1989, the Hon. Bob Carr, Leader of the NSW Opposition, launched Dr Mosley's Blue Mountains for World Heritage book and expressed the Opposition's support for the proposal. The next day Mr Tim Moore, former Minister for the Environment, announced the State Government's support for the concept of World Heritage listing.

Three and a half years later and the State and Federal Governments are near to signing an agreement for a preliminary study of the World Heritage proposal.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has submitted a formal proposal to the Federal Government's World Heritage Unit for a report costed at \$30,000. This sum is \$10,000 less than the original figure agreed to between Mr Tim Moore and the Federal Environment Minister, Ms Ros Kelly.

The study will repeat the exercise undertaken by Dr Geoff Mosley, examining the extent to which the Blue Mountains satisfied World Heritage criteria.

In our view money and time put into this report would be better spent on the

preparation of the World Heritage nomination.

It is extraordinary that such a preliminary report is required. If the Government took this approach to the Olympics 2000 bid, we would forever hear the complaints from the construction industry that the Government doesn't support the bid. Our chances would be weakened by the uncertainty and delay in promotion of the bid.

The Colong Foundation can't understand why the Blue Mountains World Heritage proposal, which has the active support of six local councils, has been so slowly and timidly embraced by State and Federal Governments.

To head off further problems, the community based Blue Mountains World Heritage Committee has sought input into the selection of the consultants for the preliminary study.

The Committee's participation would ensure that the appointed consultants are interested and committed to the World Heritage proposal. Participation on the appointment panel may be the community's only insurance against a half-hearted and negative preliminary report.

Tableland). Such development caters for a very limited number of people and is not in the public interest. The cost of even basic services like garbage collection cannot be easily recovered through levying rates on very low density development, nor the loss of important bushland be compensated by the enjoyment of a very few residents.

Like many important development control plans, this one is ambiguous. The confusion in the plan will have its expression on the ground and in the Council Chambers, which is a great pity for the environment and Blue Mountains City Council.



*Cabbage-tree
Palm
M. Ritchie*

Blue Mountains National Park Extensions

by George Threlfo

During 1988, Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) supported the concept of transferring various Crown Reserves under its care, control and management to the Blue Mountains National Park. A joint study was done by BMCC, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Lands Department. Local environmentalists did not have a prominent role in discussions, nevertheless they agreed with the areas listed (limited as they were). The lands in question stretch from Mt Wilson, Blackheath and Katoomba down to Glenbrook.

The subsequent report was buried for the next four years by the State Government. Upon leaving the Blue Mountains National Park Advisory Committee, I finally was able to obtain a copy of the report. The report has now been provided to the State Opposition Leader, the Hon. Bob Carr, who publicly endorsed it recently at a meeting in Katoomba.

The current local member, Mr Barry Morris, criticised Mr Carr's action. He has been aware of the report for some time and his Party has obviously ignored it.

We should publicly encourage individuals and groups to nominate other areas for inclusion in the National Park, as the report omits large areas (e.g. Sas-safra's Creek and Florabella Pass). Those areas already identified are either Reserves or fragments of Crown Land adjacent to the Park.

I am preparing a case for the inclusion of various Crown Reserves, Crown lands and limited private lands along the Eastern Escarpment between The Bluff (at Glenbrook) and Hawkesbury Lookout (at Winmalee). This is being done in co-operation with the local member for Penrith Ms Faye Lo Po.

Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held on July 29th, August 12th and 26th and September 9th and 23rd.

Making Money In Parks

The 1991-2 report of the National Parks and Wildlife Service describes the mission of the Service as being to 'conserve, protect and manage the State's natural and cultural heritage'. Management should therefore be for the purpose of conservation. Not so. Management is to be for profit. The NPWS is seeking a business team to advise it on the development of business opportunity to secure the best commercial rates of return for its service.

Several attempts have already been made to market the Service's real estate. One was the proposed \$1.5 million 100 seat restaurant and viewing platform to be built at the top of Fitzroy Falls, a proposal fortunately vetoed by Tim Moore. One of the most blatant commercial developments was the leasing of a prime site on the waterline of Middle Harbour in Garigal National Park. Tim Moore approved a 100 seat function centre, boat and bike hire facilities, a caretaker's residence and an information outlet. All but two of these activities (public toilets and information centre) are unrelated to the purpose of national parks. The building is now nearly complete and is the only substantial intrusion on an otherwise unspoiled section of Middle Harbour. When the Willoughby City and Kuringai Municipals took the matter to the Land and Environment Court with the aim of stopping the project, all work was halted until a proper environment assessment had been done. In his judgment Justice Stein found that:

'Both the Davidson SRA Trust (responsible for the area when the lease was approved) and the then Minister Tim Moore did not fully consider the environmental effects of the development. Both were in breach of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. The use of the land for private catered functions (such as weddings) would exclude the public. This is contrary to the National Parks and Wildlife Act which requires that the land be used for public recreation and enjoyment.'

Justice Stein also commented that 'Erosions (of the dominant purpose of national parks), however small they may seem individually, have the capacity on a cumulative basis to drift imperceptibly towards commercialisation of activities within parks, and this may have the inevitable effect of limiting the enjoyment and recreation of the public at large... national parks are held by the State for the enjoyment of citizen, including future generations'.

Another development has now surfaced after secret negotiations (as was the case with Garigal) extending over the last two years. It is for the lease of Bantry Bay to the Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School for a sea school with overnight accommodation. The lessees have indicated their willingness to invest some \$2 million for a lease. The term of the lease has not yet been determined, but if the Akuna Bay precedent is followed it would be for 20 years. The area would be closed to the public for only 361 days of the year, leaving four days for their enjoyment of the park.

The commercial development of NPWS policy was expressed by Acting Director Alastair Howard who said: 'NPWS is committed to investigate its commercial potential to increase funding for its natural and cultural heritage activities.' (*Financial Review* 20/5/98). Mr Howard's statement accords with recommendation 5 of the Public Accounts Committee Report which is 'that the NPWS adopt a strategy of basing the growth of its commercial function on established programs such as concessions and leasing corporate sponsorship, NPWS shops and collection of park use fees, whilst allowing for new commercial programs which may prove to be environmentally and financially sound'.

There is no way in which buildings in parks can be environmentally sound, as the development of Kosciusko NP proves. Nor did the PAC address a cru-

continued on next page...

Bureaucratic Conservation

Grants to peak environmental organisations, initiated by the Whitlam Government, were seen as a measure which would partly redress the imbalance of the resources available to them, as compared with those of development interests. The grants may, however, have initiated bureaucratic growth rather than enhanced the campaigning effectiveness of the favoured organisations. In the Feb. May issue of the Total Environment Centre's Newsletter, Milo Dunphy writes:

'Perhaps the Government departments' substitution of a soft environment agenda for hard issues has finally captured the public mind. Tree planting, landcare, ESD are much safer political topics than stopping the beachminers at Shoalwater, the woodchippers at Eden or cancelling the proposed munitions depot at Jervis Bay.

'Are the economic rationalists right? Are jobs and the economy far more important than the environment? Or is it the fault in the environment movement itself?

'When Whitlam was elected in 1972 there was an obvious case for small Federal grants to one or two major environment groups in each state. The grants enabled the societies to translate from part-time voluntary groups to full-time professional/voluntary organisations. The Government's idea was that

the grants would service the grass roots movement.

'But in 1993 the offices are becoming self-serving. Sums once beyond the movement's dreams are swallowed up in office costs, overheads and academic exercises like ESD.

'The professional fundraisers advising the peak groups harp on the need for 'profile' to keep the money flowing.

'Maximising individual group profiles inhibits collaboration between groups and hence the mobilisation of the whole movement and the voting power it represents.

'There is a tendency by paid staff in the peak groups to regard grass roots organisations and membership as milch cows. A member's task is to cough up - perhaps six times a year.

'Understandingly the grass roots societies and members think the full time offices of the peak groups can handle the politicians and the big issues.

'The few hundred full-time paid staff of the major environmental groups around Australia are frantically increasing their output of documents, submissions to inquiries and meetings with ministers and departmental officers.

'But the politicians are watching the growing gap in the movement's organisation. They know a few hundred staff members can't win the resources struggle of Australia, by themselves.'

Donations

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following supporters during the half year ended June 30th. J.T. Aiken, J. Ambler, V. Attenbrow, L. Berkeley, G. Bolton, D.J. Bowman M.P., C.O. Boyd, P.E. Boyd, J.W. Brown, I.D. Bryant, The Budawang Committee, C. Cadzow, R.O. Chalmers, E.A. Chapman Wade, Coast and Mountain Walkers, M. Colless, A.G. Colley, A. Coote, D.M.R. Coward, E. Cunningham, J. Dillon, A.E. Dixon, R.A. Duncan, M. Ellwood, H. Gold, L.A.J. Hamill, E. Hanvin, P.B. Haydon, G.E. Heinsohn, M. Hillsmith, J. Holly, M.J. Holmes, D.C. Johnson, L. Jones, G.F. Kallir, A.J. Keen, H.A. Kilby, P.G. Kodela, G.W. Lawrence, C.J. Lubbers, J.G. Marsden, J. O'Reilly, M. Phillips, J.H. Pratt, J.L. Rentoul, R. Rickert, M. Rodd, J. Scarsbrook, G. Sefton, F.E. Smith, P. Tafe, Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society, M.J. White, J. 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's Colong Foundation Project: Mr. & Mrs. C. Austin, J. Barnard, J. Beck, C.G. Benjamin, J.W. Blanche, D. Butler, M. Cawte, R.J. Conaghan, G. Cox, J. Howell, P.G. Laird, J. Lawler, J. Mayer, B. Meek, P. Millard, G. Orr, M. Plumridge, J. Simons, S. Stevens, L. Sullivan, J.J. Veevers.

...continued from last page

cial question of principle - why should the public be made to pay for the use of its own land? The answer might be that the public should be required to pay for the management of its land, an answer which invokes a double standard. There is no charge for the use of urban parks, though they represent \$billions in real estate value and a vast management outlay. National Parks fulfil the same function of making open space available to the public, a very desirable amenity for those who cannot afford to own any open space. The Government's program for making money in parks accords with its policy of cashing in on public assets.

Paying Loggers To Wreck Forests

The Forestry Commission has generated a nearly \$2 million debt between 1985 and 1991 by its subsidisation of private logging in the Narooma Management Area (which incorporates the eastern part of the Deua), according to 1992 research by Macquarie University economist Dr John Formby.

The Forestry Commission is selling off our forests to the loggers at such low prices that they're not even covering costs.

This cheap wood is a direct subsidy to the industry, on top of the subsidy in the form of logging roads and inadequate supervision by the Commission.

The bottom line is that we pay the loggers to wreck our forests. This situation has been documented independently by the Resource Assessment Commission.

The Wilderness Society, quoted in the NPA (ACT) Bulletin June 1993.

South-East Forests Protection Bill

Debate on this Bill, introduced by Clover Moore, MP, will resume in September. It would establish a moratorium on the logging of 90,000 ha of high conservation value forest, a regional assessment of the forests and an 'adequate, comprehensive and representative' system of conservation reserves over old growth and wilderness forests.

Defeat of the Bill would mean rejection of the recommendations of the Resource Assessment Commission. The Commission reported that 'logging of old growth forest potentially violates

the precautionary principle of sustainable development in that an irreplaceable resource is being destroyed'.

It also considered that 'the appropriate state and territory agencies should undertake comprehensive reviews of public land to determine all areas of wilderness quality, and that protection be afforded these areas'.

Defeat of the Bill would also mean repudiation of Australia's signature of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, which commits Australia to identify and monitor components of biological diversity and manage protected areas.

It would render meaningless the Na-

tional Forest Policy, signed by Mr. Fahey, which requires state agencies, as a matter of high priority, to undertake assessments of forests for conservation values, including old growth values and forested land, for wilderness values, and to avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest that are likely to have high conservation value. If the Bill is not passed, the South East Forests will be available for 'integrated logging', which means complete destruction.

The fate of the Bill may well rest with the Rev. Fred Nile, MLC and Mrs Elaine Nile MLC. Please write to them if you have not already done so.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1992

	1992	1991
INCOME		
Donations		
- for investment	\$ 15,445	\$ 8,550
- general	494	7,868
Sale of Blue Mountains books and posters	781	1,748
Subscriptions to bulletin	234	289
Sale of publications, net	516	912
Sale of Wilderness calendars, net	110	101
Interest on investments	7,412	7,267
Nattai River Proposal	6	20
Annual membership fees	2,520	2,380
Red Index	364	-
Fighting Fund Donation	9,074	-
	\$ 36,956	\$ 29,135
EXPENDITURE		
Stock writedown	\$ -	\$ 795
Bulletin costs	2,445	1,951
Subscriptions to other conservation groups	195	110
Rent	3,025	3,074
Depreciation	253	350
Stationery	516	674
Campaigns		
- Blue Mountains posters	-	-
- Red List	-	1,017
- Secretarial expenses	1,010	513
- Bank charges	52	77
- Research officer	9,930	9,170
- History of Wilderness Project	1,000	16
Other expenses	108	-
	\$ 18,534	\$ 17,747
Net Surplus	\$ 18,422	\$ 11,388

Treasurer's Report

Members and subscribers should be pleased to note that the Foundation has ended another successful year with a healthy surplus of income over expenditure.

Most of this surplus has been allocated to the Myles J. Dunphy Wilderness Fund Reserve.

The Foundation is very grateful for the generosity of its members and subscribers, for without their donations much of our activity would have to be scaled - indeed much of our current income (\$7412 in 1992) was generated by the investment of donations from previous years.

Albert Renshaw,
Honorary Treasurer.

Parliament Blocks Fire Sale of Crown Lands

On the 7th May, the Hon. Garry West, then Minister for Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) announced the lifting of the moratorium on converting Crown leasehold land to freehold.

Ever since the Coalition came to power in March 1988, the National Party has been itching to convert to freehold controversial Crown leasehold lands in proposed national parks and wilderness areas. After years of pressure, and with the departure of Messrs. Nick Greiner and Tim Moore who held the conservation line against National Party pressure, the National Parks and Wildlife Service was forced into a compromise by the Minister for CaLM. A million hectares of Crown lands in central and eastern NSW, much of it having high conservation significance, was to be available for sale at give away prices.

National Party Member for Monaro, Mr Peter Cochran, was reported in the Cooma-Monaro Express on May 18th as wanting to go further and change the Crown Lands Act. He strongly criticised the legislation for requiring land assessment before disposal and said that considerable time would be taken before the assessments were made.

Apparently, Mr Cochran wants disposal before assessment. Lands along the Jenolan, Tuross and Goodradigbee Rivers, as well as Jones Creek in the Ettrema wilderness would be disposed without assessment under Mr Cochran's ludicrous proposal.

On May 19th, in response to this grave threat to the natural environment, Labor and the Independents forced through Parliament an urgency motion that reinstated the moratorium on Crown leasehold conversions announced by the former Premier in July 1990. This ensured that the 170,000 ha of leasehold land in wilderness areas recommended by the National Parks and Wildlife Service was retained in public control.

The moratorium will remain until legislation providing permanent protection from sale is considered by Parliament.

The National Party claim that parks and wilderness proposals sterilise the economic value of these leasehold lands is nonsense.

Firstly, the land is usually economically unproductive. If good country were involved, it would have become freehold long ago. Its principle value is through subdivision and land speculation amongst unsuspecting buyers or hobby farmers.

Secondly, it is Crown land, and surely for public lands a greater emphasis must be placed on conservation, especially since these steep or infertile lands are easily damaged when exploited.

Minister West's proposal was criticised by the National Parks Association for establishing unworkable protection measures. Allowing the National Parks and Wildlife Service time to acquire land if it has objected to a particular sale was virtually useless.

The Service will never have the money to buy even a small fraction of these environmentally sensitive lands if disposed by the Government as a job lot. Its likely they will hear of important sales too late, as has occurred in the past.

The proposed new protected land provisions were untried and may not work any better than current measures which are often ignored. CaLM simply will never have the staff required to ensure that owners of 'protected lands' don't clear environmentally sensitive lands.

In the north of the State, at Dorrigo, rainforest on private lands have been identified by CaLM as requiring protection. Yet their protection is not forthcoming because of the lack of political will on the part of Minister Garry West.

The Shadow Minister for the Environment, Ms. Pam Allan, speaking for the motion to reinstate the moratorium, said that the Premier Nick Greiner decided before the 1991 State election, quite astutely, that it was important the Government put in place this moratorium.

She said that the former Premier knew even then that a system had to be found to ensure that environmentally sensitive land was not going to be sacrificed by the

...continued from page 2

environmental rationalism'.

A new form of economic analysis is urgently required - one that is inclusive of the downstream and long-term effects of the traditional fixation with 'growth'. To this end an **Environmental Economics Society** has been formed. The Society has strong links to the environmental movement, particularly through the participation of the Colong Foundation's Alex Colley OAM and Pat Thompson.

The aim of the Society is to promote debate in the broader community on issues related to environmental economics, and a greater understanding of the ways in which economies and their environments interact.

The way we manage the economy affects the environment - and environmental quality affects the performance of the economy.

To provide a forum for this debate the Society will publish, three times a year, a Bulletin which will focus on economic theory. Subjects to be addressed in 1993/94 are *forests, population, transport*.

Members of the Colong Foundation, and their friends, can contribute to the promotion of environmental economics by joining the Society, or by submitting original articles or news items with an environmental economics theme for possible inclusion in forthcoming bulletins.

For further information contact:

ENVIRONMENTAL
ECONOMICS SOCIETY
Shop 2 Gloucester Walk
88 Cumberland ST
Sydney 2000
Ph: 252 4975 Fax: 241 1239

extremely ambitious and cowboy-like Minister for Conservation and Land Management.

Reinstatement of the moratorium is a good win for the public interest. It indicates the advantage of Independents exercising 'a balance of reason'.

The Colong Foundation has expressed its thanks to the Leader of the Opposition Mr Bob Carr. His vigorous action on this matter ensures that the existing Crown estate is not further fragmented and dispersed.

THE COLONG BULLETIN

SENDER THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS
The Gloucester Walk
88 Cumberland St.,
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

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 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, the Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland St., SYDNEY 2000

The Treasurer,
 Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.,
 Gloucester Walk,
 88 Cumberland St.,
 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 have donated \$ _____
 - 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 _____