



# THE COLONG BULLETIN

Bulletin 154

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD.

January 1996

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*There was a significant level of caution about "speaking out" on environmental issues. More than half the respondents felt that scientists jeopardise their careers by speaking out against government policy; only 17% felt that scientists would not be jeopardising their careers and 29% were unsure.*

Susan Wilson and Ian Barnes in 'Scientists' Participation in Environmental Policy', a report in *Search*, October 1995, on their survey of the opinions of 65 leading scientists.

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## Please Support The Foundation

The Colong Foundation makes but one appeal a year for funds, but it has proved very effective. We were well supported last year and are now able to employ two part time officers. These are helped by a growing number of voluntary assistants for whom additional office space and facilities have been procured.

During last year the Gardens of Stone National Park was gazetted and the extensive urban development at the source of the Hacking River was prevented. The Blue Mountains World Heritage proposal is still under favourable consideration and it has been enhanced by the decision not to raise the Warragamba Dam, the Blue Mountains sewerage works and the discovery of the Wollemi pine. Good progress is being made in wilderness assessments. Clearing of timber in assessed wilderness areas has ceased.

Future progress will depend on the strength of our resistance to the anti-wilderness organisations comprising loggers, woodchippers, 4WD drivers, horse-riders and other interests claiming to be "locked out" of wilderness areas because they are closed to vehicular access. Helicopters and planes from the planned Badgery's Creek airport and the spread of urban development threaten the natural quality of the Blue Mountains National parks. One of our part time workers and several helpers are working to update and extend the Red Index of Wilderness.

Over the past few years and during last year particularly, the wilderness movement has gained widespread public and political momentum and we believe that this can be accelerated if we make the effort. We therefore hope you will renew your subscriptions and add a tax deductible donation if affordable.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

The Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland St., Sydney. Phone (02) 241 2702 Fax (02) 241 1289

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# Reports On Parks And Aircraft Noise

We were not favoured with a complimentary copy of the 1994/5 Annual Report of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, but fortunately our representative was in the Minister's office when the reports were delivered and one was given to us.

It contains nice photographs of Pam Allan and Robyn Kruk and much good news. The substantial increase in the Service's resources has provided the opportunity to improve management, pest control, neighbour relations, infrastructure assets and environmental policy assessment and planning.

Twenty four new national parks and nature reserves are planned for 1995/6.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, in its assessment of world heritage values of the Blue Mountains, finds that there are internationally significant natural and cultural values in the assessment area.

Fourteen wilderness areas, or extensions to existing areas, have been identified and proposed for declaration. Altogether 20 wilderness areas have been accepted for assessment. Reports on the Pilliga (Kamilaroi), Mount Isobell, Macdonald and Wollemi wilderness areas are in preparation.

173 fires started and were controlled on park lands. Fifteen fires moved off parks and 62 moved into parks. The area burnt was 89,112 ha.

Three conservation agreements were signed by landholders and 101 proposed agreements are under negotiation.

Ninety one percent of media stories dealing with national parks and related issues were positive.

There were 81 cautions issued for infringement of park regulations, 4,410 in-

fringement notices issued, 68 prosecutions and \$295,950 of fines imposed. There were 46 prosecutions for fauna offences.

We did not have to pay for the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Works on State Infrastructure Requirements for Sydney West Airport, we were given one. Our submission to the Committee on the aerial degradation of parkland was described in Bulletin 152. To the best of our knowledge the Colong Foundation is the only environmental organisation to protest against aircraft noise.

The Committee believes that the position of Wollemi and Yengo National Parks make it unlikely that they would be affected by aircraft noise and that overwhelmingly the body of Blue Mountains National Park will be free from over-flights because of its position at a tangent to the runway alignment. However the Committee is unable to determine whether aircraft will overfly the south-east portion of the Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai and Thirlmere Lakes National Parks because flight corridors south-west of the airport have not yet been developed. It is recommended that use of airspace above Sydney's water supplies be minimised. It is concerned that flight corridors may direct air traffic over Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai and Thirlmere Lakes National Parks.

It is of interest that flight paths have not yet been determined. It is inevitable that, if they do not traverse the parks, they will cross western suburbs. This invokes a nasty suspicion that their determination will not be revealed until after the Federal election.

## DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following supporters during the half year ended December 31st. Without such financial help we could not afford our office space and equipment, our part time workers, the cost of phone, fax, computers, postage, printing and the other expenses necessary for successful campaigning.

The Budawang Committee, Michael Colless, Claudia Douglas, Joanne Fox, Ken and Josie Lawson, Professor Brian Marshall, Dr. Phil Millard, Marianne Plumridge, Jim Somerville and Dr. Susan Stevens.

## The Environmental Role of Science

The Colong Foundation has always considered scientific support an essential campaigning requirement. Without it we would have to rely entirely on the opinions of conservationists which, whether right or wrong, do not convince the public or their representatives - the politicians.

For this reason the limitations on the research of the CSIRO, and its use, are of concern to the Foundation. In an article in Search May 1995 the latest CSIRO "Discussion Paper" described as "the last in a continuing round of revision," Dr. Peter Pockley says the review is couched in "corporate-speak." Many good scientists are no longer sufficiently engaged in direct research "because of their time commitment to corporate management and other activities."

He says that CSIRO "needs to pay more attention to customer needs." Colong, as an organisation with an interest in CSIRO, comes under its definition of a customer. Sir John Maddox, Editor of Nature, has appealed for the organisation to be given "a rest from inquiries and organisational changes to allow its researchers to get on with the job."

Even when, despite organisational impediments, scientists study environmental issues, their findings are seldom adequately publicised. There have been exceptions, such as their contribution to government policy on the greenhouse effect, Wesley Vale and the rainforest and Blue Mountains World Heritage campaigns, but their con-

continued on page 3...

*...from page 2*

tributions are muffled by lack of media skills and apprehension that their participation in debate will prejudice their careers. In an article entitled "Scientists Participation in Environmental Policy (Search Oct. 1995) Susan Wilson and Ian Barnes report on a survey covering 65 senior scientists. Sixty seven per cent believed it was important for scientists to receive training to communicate and interact with politicians, bureaucrats, the media and community groups, but an even greater percentage did not feel they were given such skills. Forty one per cent ranked provision of impartial expert advice to public groups as their most appropriate approach to environmental policy formation. The most significant finding of the survey was that 54% believed that their career prospects or research funding success would be jeopardised by speaking out on environmental issues and 36% knew scientists who had been disadvantaged because of their views on environmental issues.

**Wilson and Barnes conclude that, although the responses indicate a clear recognition of the need for political ethical and media involvement they "are a source of concern because of the obvious constraints on involvement in political activity and public communication.**

**Clearly there is a concern about the consequences of 'speaking out' in terms of career development, and this is coupled with a sense of not being equipped to be more actively involved in public communication...**

**Indeed sociologist Brian Martin has argued that in some cases, involvement of environmental scientists in politically unpopular causes has resulted in intellectual suppression."**

# State Government Conservation Policy

*The Hansard report on the proceedings of the Legislative Council Estimates Committees provides good coverage of the implementation of the the following aspects of the State Government's conservation policy:*

## **The Resource and Conservation Assessment Council**

The Council's terms of reference include facilitating an interim assessment of high conservation value old-growth forests, developing a comprehensive adequate and representative reserve system, and facilitating wilderness assessments and the implementation of the biodiversity survey program.

## **The Warragamba Dam**

The Hon. C.J. Knowles, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning said; "I am concerned that some people are trying to take a cheap shot, unfairly and unnecessarily raising the level of concern in the community. I understand the politics of it. However, it is reasonable to make the point that, while some Opposition members are running around saying that the sky is falling, we are talking about an event that has a one in 10,000 chance of occurring, that is a probable maximum flood. Having said that I recognise the importance of the issue. That is why in seven months we have allocated funds to get on with the dam safety component, which does two things: it provides for strengthening aspects of the dam to prevent the failure of the dam in the event of a possible maximum flood, which would lead to gross inundation of the downstream catchment; and it protects Sydney's water supply." He pointed out that the previous Government had allocated nothing to dam safety.

## **NPWS Land Acquisitions**

The Hon. Pam Allan, Minister for the Environment, said that the Government would provide \$40 million over the next four years. It is hoped that in-holdings, which are a menace to park management, will be targeted.

## **Pest Species**

Pam Allan said that one of the common attacks on the Service made over the last six or seven years has been that somehow it is responsible for all the pest species. "That is not the case. Nevertheless we must acknowledge that often our NPWS carries these species, and it is possible that they could encroach into neighbouring areas. The money provided for the recurrent management of the acquired lands will ensure that the animal and plant pest species are more than adequately controlled."

## **Land Clearing**

In order to curtail land clearing, estimated to be about 150,000 ha. a year, State Environmental Planning Policy no 46 was introduced. It requires that proposals to clear native vegetation must be assessed to ensure that environmental, social and economic interests are protected.

## **Overtopping of Native Forests**

The Minister for Land and Water Conservation, The Hon. K.M. Yeadon, said that on coming to government it was found that native forests, particularly high conservation value native forests, were being overcut to the extent of around 30%. "At the rate the old-growth forests were being cut down in this State they would have run out in the next seven to ten years. Once that occurred the forestry industry would have had to reinvest in plant and equipment in order to cut regrowth forests. We are simply taking them into this area sooner because we are running out of forests."

# NCC Supports Coloong Foundation

**Motions submitted to the 1995 Annual Conference of the Nature Conservation Council by the Foundation were passed with some minor amendments. The motions passed were:**

## Resurrecting Lake Pedder

THAT the NCC

(a) rejects the House of Representatives inquiry into Lake Pedder's recommendation against proceeding with the restoration of the lake in the 'foreseeable future' and

(b) calls on the Federal and/or the Tasmanian Government to prepare a detailed proposal and estimated cost for the restoration of Lake Pedder, in stages, if feasible, so that future governments will be able to restore the most beautiful lake in Australia.

## Proposed BHP Natural Gas Pipe Line from Longford to Sydney

(i) THAT this Conference opposes the Eastern Route proposed by BHP for its pipe line from Longford to Sydney on all the information currently available.

(ii) That this Conference calls on the NSW Government to require BHP to supply detailed information regarding other alternatives, particularly the Western route which appears likely to be environmentally responsible.

(iii) That this Conference calls on the NSW Government to require gas and petroleum companies to share the use of pipelines wherever technically possible, so as to minimise the total damage to the environment due to pipelines.

## Mountain Bikes

THAT this Conference calls on the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to regulate the use of mountain bikes in NSW National Parks and Nature Reserves by:

(a) requiring mountain bike riders to use tracks designated by NPWS for their use;

(b) segregating, as far as possible, cyclists from motorised vehicles;

(c) excluding cyclists from walking tracks;

(d) prohibiting cycling in wilderness areas and proposed or possible wilderness areas;

(e) closing roads designated for mountain bikes during periods when their use would result in excessive damage; and

(f) providing a brochure/map for cyclists showing designated roads and listing conditions of, and recommendations for, use.

(g) developing a code of conduct for the use of mountain bikes in bushland generally which minimises the environmental damage caused to habitats

## BHP's Environmental Record

(a) THAT in accordance with BHP's stated policy "to communicate openly with government and the community on environment issues", this Annual Conference instructs the Executive to write to the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BHP, Mr. John Prescott, calling in the Company to review its Environmental Policy, citing:

(i) current re-mining of the coast front of Knappinghat Nature Reserve near Taree by BHP's wholly owned subsidiary, Mineral Deposits Ltd., despite the company's numerous heavy mineral leases elsewhere in NSW;

(ii) the recent campaign by the company to mine Coronation Hill, an area now included in Kakadu National Park;

(iii) the company's thrust to increase its production of metallurgical and thermal coal, despite the effects of burning coal on global warming;

(iv) The present insistence by the company on adopting the so-called 'eastern route' for a natural gas pipe line from Longford in East Gippsland to Sydney, which will traverse several parks including 35 kms. of the Budawang and Morton National Parks; and

(v) The regional environmental disaster which is taking place as a result of the operations of BHP's subsidiary, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd. In addition this conference denounces BHP's attempt to outlaw normal democratic protest and legal action by those affected.

and

(b) THAT in addition, this conference instruct the Executive to advertise in its

newsletter for environmentally conscious BHP shareholders to lodge their names with NCC, in order that NCC can arrange a meeting for such shareholders to discuss the company's environmental record.

(It is of interest to note that, despite BHP's environmental record, as described in the above motion, Mr. J.K. Ellis, Executive General Manager, stated in his Sir George Fisher Lecture to the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy on August 11th that "We must build further on the enormous advances made on environmental management and we must demonstrate through our actions our commitment to the courses and cares of local communities wherever we operate.")

## Management of the Warragamba Catchment

THAT the NCC of NSW:

(a) urges to NSW Premier to:

(i) transfer Sydney Waterlands in the Warragamba catchment to the control of NPWS, gaining the increased protection of national parks against mining and other exploitative uses;

(ii) accelerate the process of gazettal of management plans for the catchment of the Warragamba Dam.

(b) develops a detailed response to anticipated management plans taking into account ecological and bushwalking parameters.

(c) advises the NSW Premier of its concerns about the processes adopted by Sydney Water in gazetting section No 19, 20 and 21 of the Sydney Water Corporation Limited (Catchment Management) regulations 1995, without prior consultation with the bushwalking and environment movements which have repeatedly campaigned to protect this catchment through the dedication of national parks.

Motions submitted by other organisations on matters of concern to the Foundation included denunciation of commercial exploitation of Kosciusko National Park (by NCC Executive), stabilisation of population (by ACF) and removal of shacks from National Parks (by Wildlife Preservation Society).

# Walking In Warragamba Catchment Now Almost Legal

In accordance with Parliament's wishes, and after redrafting the proposed amendments twice, Sydney Water has created catchment regulations that allow walkers to light small camp fires and go swimming in national parks within catchment areas. The recently revised regulations were amended at the insistence of the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, the Hon Craig Knowles.

These new regulations came as a result of the Regulation Review Committee inquiry held last October into the catchment management at which the Colong Foundation gave evidence. The Committee accepted the representations of Colong Foundation and the National Parks Association, recommending that the regulations be amended to facilitate bushwalking in national parks.

The Colong Foundation, National Parks Association and the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs moved to clear up this catchment management controversy that has raged for 30 years. As outlined in Bulletins 153 and 154, the recently remade regulations had prevented normal bushwalking activities.

The Committee's initiatives received all party support and its recommendations put pressure, not so much on the Government, but on Sydney Water to come up with acceptable regulations. In supporting these recommendations, Liberal MLC, Mr John Ryan, moved a disallowance motion in the Upper House. The motion would, if passed, have removed

the offending parts of the new catchment Regulations made in August this year.

## But Bushwalking still illegal in some places

At the request of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, the Colong Foundation has again appealed to Mr Knowles to assist those walkers wishing to traverse the Kanangra-Boyd and Nattai wilderness areas. For example, walkers still can't travel upstream along the lower Kowmung and Coxs Rivers.

The Foundation submitted that the declaration of the Kanangra-Boyd wilderness will prevent adverse impact that may arise from overuse of sensitive inner catchment areas, such as the foreshores of Lake Burratorang.

With the increased protection following wilderness declaration, the Foundation has proposed to the Minister the excision of seven small parts of the Schedule 1 area from the restricted Warragamba catchment. The excisions would be over 40 kilometres from the water offtake point. These excised areas would become Schedule 2 catchments and be managed as wilderness that allow for bush walking. Adding the Sydney Water catchment lands in Kedumba Valley and at the Cox-Kowmung junction to the Blue Mountains National Park would also assist unifying nature conservation and catchment management by bringing these areas under NPWS control.

The Foundation also proposed rights of way for bushwalkers consistent with the current walkers' corridor arrange-

ments through the restricted Warragamba catchment (eg the Mt Cookem and Beloon Pass easement). The new regulations accommodate this use, as walkers are now allowed to use fuel stoves when traversing restricted areas. Furthermore, walkers can now be given permission to use particular routes in the restricted catchments without taking the matter back to Parliament. These new easements are being negotiated with Sydney Water who have indicated a willingness to consider these proposals.

Persons wishing to inspect the proposed excisions from the restricted Warragamba catchment and the rights of way for walkers can examine the detailed maps held at the Colong Foundation's office in Gloucester Walk.

## Catchment Plans of Management

The final hurdle for catchment management is the preparation of catchment plans of management. So far, a draft plan has been prepared for Wingecarribee Swamp. To assist the Corporation in this process, the Colong Foundation has proposed a steering committee of community representatives.

The Foundation believes that the regulatory powers of Sydney Water and National Parks and Wildlife Service should be clarified by a memorandum of understanding, providing a sound administrative basis for the joint plans.

The Foundation considers that the best means of getting the most from both organisations would be to direct Sydney Water's main catchment management efforts to off park areas, apart from the control of some critical gates and roads. The Corporation should then fund the Parks Service to undertake catchment management within its parks. The NPWS currently subsidises the Corporation by providing free management services that protect the catchment.

**MEETING DATES**  
**Meetings will be held**  
**on February 1st,**  
**15th and 31st and**  
**March 14th and 28th.**

# The Abuse of National Parks

by Keith Muir

***The park management philosophy established by early conservationists such as Myles Dunphy, required the central core of national parks be managed as wilderness, whilst the perimeter areas provide for motorised recreation and areas of high visitor use. This philosophy has been adopted in the management of many fine national parks but is currently being challenged by the Public Land Users Alliance and its supporters.***

**I**ncreased off road vehicle use always results in degradation of large national parks. The tracks into otherwise remote areas provide opportunities for bush rock collection (eg in the Blue Mountains National Parks), smuggling of endangered native animals, arson (eg the January 1994 bushfires) and even drug plantations (eg the marijuana plantation discovered in 1994 near an access road within the Goodradigbee wilderness). Development of tracks also increases the spread and hunting effectiveness of foxes, dogs and cats, and allows aggressive weeds to be brought in on motor vehicles to invade weed-free areas (eg scotch broom).

Public use of unformed management trails causes erosion of these tracks, frustrating access at key times and increasing maintenance costs (eg numerous key fire trails in the lower Blue Mountains). If public vehicle access is retained, the NPWS is often obliged to upgrade these tracks to a two wheel drive standard to prevent erosion.

Pressure for the creation and maintenance of car camping areas associated with expanded vehicle access tracks requires expensive garbage collection, toilet blocks and other park management

facilities. The bush must also be pushed back to accommodate the cars, larger tents, camp facilities and more people. So that everywhere the car goes, wilderness is in retreat.

Today an increasing number of off road vehicle users believe that park management should permit vehicles to be driven to nearly every part of all national parks. Under this park management regime wilderness will only remain in those very few park areas where it is physically impossible to either drive a vehicle or ride a horse.

As the boundaries of declared wilderness often are not defined by adequate signs or even gated, the 4WD vehicle owner is often not to blame for driving into sensitive national park areas and even declared wilderness.

Ettrema wilderness, one of the least disturbed wilderness areas in NSW, is being used as a rallying point for 4WD users on the South Coast. Off road vehicles are regularly driven along Yalwal Creek from its junction with the Shoalhaven River to explore Ettrema and Bundundah Creeks deep inside the declared wilderness. Huge slots in the creek banks have developed as drivers use these creek beds and banks as roadways (see photographs). Recent clearing on Bundundah Creek, near the junction of Eureka and Bundundah Creeks also has damaged wilderness qualities. Off road vehicles are even being driven 35 kilometres from Yalwal Creek to Nerriga via Tolwong, making a mockery of the wilderness declaration. This track passes over many sensitive swamps on Drovers Ridge. In several places where swampy conditions result in the original route becoming an impassable quagmire, the track has become braided, spreading the environmental impacts. The NPWS has erected few signs and no gates to indicate the presence of this wilderness area.

To portray themselves as responsible, the local 4WD users have set up the Yalwal Care Group, but regular unlawful damage in declared wilderness provides

strong evidence that this may be just a facade.

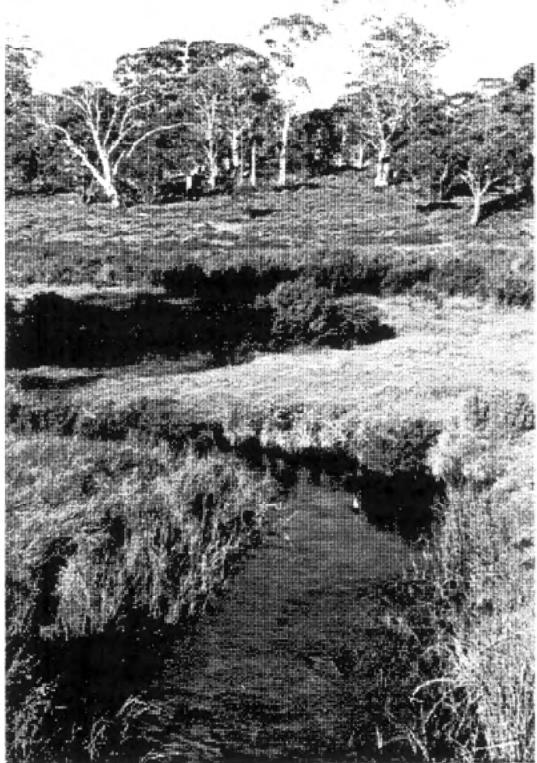
In the north of the state, pressure is mounting to provide access along the old Elcom track to the Apsley River in the Macleay Gorges National Park. The track has never been open to the public. If public vehicle access is provided to the river, 4WD users will trail-blaze up ridges and carve vehicle tracks across wilderness river banks. The NPWS then would be required to maintain at great expense a steep 4WD vehicle tracks into the deepest gorge country in NSW and any chance of protecting the Macleay Gorges wilderness would soon be lost.

The 4WD mecca, Frazer Island, perhaps provides the worst example of off road vehicle use. 4WD enthusiasts are determined there will be no road closures or restrictions. Road closed signs have been deliberately pushed down. During one 1994 bushfire, about 60 no access signs were pushed down in one section of Frazer Island. The continued use of closed tracks will lead to sand blows and eroding tracks engulfing rainforests and damaging sensitive perched lake environments of this World Heritage area.

NSW State Forests' policy on motor vehicles requires vehicle use to be consistent with other uses and values of the forest. The policy restricts the use of vehicles to roads and tracks that are adequately drained, and provides for further restrictions where appropriate in the interests of safety or the protection of the environment. If State Forests' policy effectively prohibits vehicle use on unformed roads and in environmentally sensitive areas, why then should the NPWS be required to spend vast sums of money maintaining similar roads for solely off road vehicles?

## Meanwhile back at the ranch

The Colong Foundation recently received a surprising lobby letter from Mr John McNeill of the Coomera Ranch on the Gold Coast. His solution to Kosciusko National Park's brumby problem is



A pristine section of the Ingeegoodbee River in the Pilot Wilderness, Kosciusko National Park (left), but many kilometres of the banks of Tin Camp Creek have been churned up by brumby hooves (above).

After traversing the Ettrema Wilderness, this well used 4WD track carves a deep track through a Yalwal Creek bank (right).

4WD's charge across Yalwal Creek in the Ettrema Wilderness (below).



an annual horse drive, "leaving a number of wild horses in the park which is suitable to your needs and keeping the history of the horses of the area alive".

Brumby running, as described by Mr McNeill, uses Kosciusko National Park as an adjustment paddock.

The Colong Foundation is at a loss as to what measures the Government will take to control brumby numbers that have reached several hundreds in the Pilot wilderness. The Minister for the Environment, Ms Pam Allan, has ruled out the most obvious control measure.

Ms Pam Allan assured readers of the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the NPWS "has never slaughtered these Australian icons (brumbies) and never will". Her comments were prompted by the revolt by the horse riding lobby to proposals by the NPWS to undertake a census of horse numbers in the park. Perhaps Kosciusko National Park will be an adjustment paddock after all!

The large numbers of brumbies in the park are causing substantial damage through heavy grazing, erosion of creek banks and swamps, by creating numerous dust wallows and an endless eroding myriad of tracks so that in many places horses are a prevailing influence on the environment.

On a recent inspection of the Pilot wilderness, the banks of Tin Camp Creek were found to be badly scarred for many kilometres by horses churning up the creek beds. These impacts are so obvious and extensive to most visitors to the Pilot wilderness that it is a mystery why the Minister for the Environment should put the needs of a feral animal before those of protection of the Park's natural resources.

#### **The Government's choice**

If wilderness is not declared and properly managed now, it never will be. Premier Carr introduced the *Wilderness Act* into Parliament in 1987 when he was Minister for Environment and Planning. He has strongly criticised the Fahey Government for its poor performance on wilderness protection. Mr Carr will be severely embarrassed if his Government reacts to the wilderness debate as the Fahey Government did in 1994 when the Government announced that only 350,000 ha of the 800,000 ha of wilderness identified by the NPWS would be "declared" and later reduced this to 113,000 ha.

## **THE WILD WEST SHOW**

Recently the Premier, the Hon Bob Carr, decided that park areas "can be opened up" to off road vehicle access, fishing, bee keeping and horse riding, especially in Labor's 24 new parks.

Then on December 7 last year, the Minister for the Environment, Ms Pam Allan, made an access speech to the Parliament, announcing that she wanted to see up to 2,500 kilometres of vehicle access tracks available to recreational drivers, about 500 kilometres more roads available than mentioned by Alistair Howard of the Parks Service only three months ago. The 1994-95 NPWS Annual Report states that the Service aims to expand the roads maintained for visitor access by another 1,500 kilometres to 4,000 kilometres by the end of 1996.

These moves are the Government's response to the anti-wilderness lobby that is seeking to defeat the Carr Government's 1995 election policy of declaring 16 wilderness areas by March next year. We understand that the lobbyists have threatened to campaign against Labor in the next Federal election campaign if the Carr Government declares wilderness areas. The gun lobby is also reported to be preparing to campaign in the Federal election against Labor because of its decision to protect ducks.

A political arm of the Public Land Users Alliance is being created called the Outdoor Recreation Party. The Party has vowed to campaign at any by-election and for a seat in the Upper House in 1999. If they do so they will share the Upper House anti-wilderness vote collected by the Shooters Party at the March 1995 State election.

Mr Glenn Druery, a spokesperson with the Outdoor Reception Party who organised meetings in Albury, Penrith and Bathurst vowed that "they'll be blood on the streets if they (the Carr Government) carry on with their Starlinist activities" (transcript ABC 2CR -Orange 24 Nov).

Mr Druery claims "the Government was operating via a method of extreme control" which enabled only fit people who can carry a back pack and walk kilometre after kilometre to utilise wilderness and exclude many others, including those with kids.

According to Mr Druery "track after track is being closed down" (Western Advocate (Bathurst), 27 November).

Meanwhile the Public Land Users Alliance (PLUA) has brought a log of complaints to the Premier. Most of the claims are false, but they produced the desired effect. The Government is indicating a sympathy with the advocates for the development of vehicle access in national parks.

#### **Shooting in the Dark**

The PLUA claimed that declaring parks under the National Parks and Wildlife Act "confiscates" areas from the public (eg Torrington Regional Reserve, Jenolan and Abercrombie Caves). That Wollemi, Pilliga, Barrington Tops, Jenolan and Kowmung Rivers will be closed (by wilderness declarations). That there's a ban of restocking of trout streams in Blue Mountains National Park. None of these claims are true. Creating a national park provides conservation management of public lands for the people of NSW. Anyone can enter a wilderness and as any bushwalker in the Blue Mountains knows, these streams do not need to be restocked with trout.

In response to these claims, it is rumoured that the Government is now considering increased 4WD vehicle access into rugged remote areas. If such access is provided, it will commit the NPWS to endless expense on the almost hopeless task of maintaining eroding steep tracks to some of the most rugged country in NSW. The Service budget would be swallowed up in costly road repairs.

The Victorian Government's controversial solution to the expense of maintaining remote tracks in national park has been to provide funding by adding a levy on 4WD vehicle registration. Such funding (mainly from people who may never use parks) puts enormous pressure on the Victorian Parks Authority to accommodate the wishes of 4WD users. The well funded anti-wilderness lobby meanwhile has a ready made case to justify expenditure to provide for more off road vehicles in parks. So far only the Victorian Government has adopted this policy for developing off road vehicle facilities. Such arrangements must be vigorously opposed in all other states.

# SUPPORT THE COLOGN 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 \$10.00 (covers all issues of the Bulletin to 31/12/96)

### 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.."

## 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.,  
The Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

The enclosed remittance or advice covers the item(s) indicated by a tick.  
(One cheque sufficient to cover subscription and donation)

- Membership application (use form below) (N.B. Membership fee covers Bulletin subscription)
- Life Membership (\$500)
- Membership renewal (\$20)
- Colong Bulletin Subscription to 31/12/96 (\$10.00) (Non-members only)
- Tax deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Colong Wilderness Fund (cheques to be made payable to the Fund).

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 Foundation originated as the Colong Committee, which was appointed in 1968 by a meeting of conservation societies to prevent 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. Recent campaigns for "Gardens of Stone" and Nattai National Park have been successful. 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.



## 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	10.00
Blue Mountains for World Heritage	16.00
The Colong Story	8.00
How the Rainforest Was Saved	8.00
Park or Pines	20.00
Nattai National Park Proposal	
Nattai, Kanangra Boyd, Nadgee, Goodradigbee and Lost World Wilderness Nominations, each	4.00
Barefoot Bushwalker	27.00
'The Growth Syndrome'	3.00
Wilderness - The Future	25.00
Red Index - complete	100.00
summary brochure	2.00
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