THE COLONG BULLETIN

Bulletin 156 THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD. May 1996
GLOUCESTER WALK, 88 CUMBERLAND STREET SYDNEY 2000 (ACN 001 112 143). TELEPHONE 02 241 2702 FAX: 02 241 1289 ISSN 1325-3336

Tandberg, *SMH* 15/4/95

> We have shown that a small group of determined people with a just cause can achieve a veto power over a harmful project, no matter how powerful a combination of politicians and private interests support that project.
>
> Milo Dunphy, addressing the annual meeting of supporting societies, 17th. Feb., 1971

CONTENTS

Annual General Meeting 1
Milo Kanangra Dunphy 3
The Forest Peace Process 5
The Battle to Preserve Wilderness 6
Environmental Geologists 7
Environmental Liaison Officer 8
The Way Forward 8
Kanangra Lodge 10
The 4WD Assault on Wilderness 11
Milo Dunphy – A Memoir 12
Bongil Bongil 13
Income & Exp. Acct. 14

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at Grosvenor Walk, 88 Cumberland St, at 6pm on Thursday May 23.
Members are urged to attend and express their views on the

1996 DIRECTIONS FOR THE COLONG FOUNDATION

drafted by Foundation Director, Keith Muir

Wilderness

To ensure the nomination and protection of NSW wilderness areas under the NSW Wilderness Act.

Short Term Priorities: for the sixteen wilderness areas under the wilderness policy (and including wilderness in productive forests (see Forests below)):

- Determine time line of the Government's decision making processes;
- Define controversial areas within ambit of wilderness policy;
- Strengthen support and participation from conservationists in decision making;
- Lobby relevant MP's on areas of controversy and undertake media campaign.

Forests

To identify threatened high conservation value native forests or areas needed for whole catchment management, wildlife corridors, park management etc in NSW for priority protection.

Short Term Priority: focus on key high conservation value areas likely to be left out of park reservation under NSW Government forest and conservation policies. Target the largest areas and those most vulnerable to logging, with preference given to those commercial forests in wilderness areas.

- Identify three target areas, after liaison with forest groups;
- Site visit and meet with local conservationists;
- Document issues and prepare or review the case for reservation of chosen sites;
- Prepare lobby documents and establish media campaign.

Blue Mountains World Heritage

Maintain watch on progress of the nomination. Re-emphasise the need to have areas that are of world heritage

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESSS
The Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland St., Sydney. Phone (02) 241 2702 Fax (02) 241 1289
PATRON: The Hon. Dr. Neville K. Wran, A.C., Q.C.
DIRECTORS: Pat Thompson, L.C.P. (Chairman); Peter Maslen, B.Sc.(Eng), B.Sc.(Botany) (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.); Phil Millard, M.B., F.R.C.S.; Keith Muir, B. Nat. Res. (Hons);
Peter Prineas, B.A., LL.B.; Jim Somerville, A.M., A.S.A.
DIRECTOR: Keith Muir
HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold
HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

STATE FORESTS' Anti-conservation Strategy

NSW State Forests recently released environmental impact statements for logging proposals in the Tenterfield, Casino, Urbenville, Coffs Harbour, Urunga, Dorrigo, Gloucester-Chichester, Walcha-Nundle/Styx, Morriset, Queanbeyan/Badja and Murrwillumbah forest management areas.

The key issues arising from these reports are the:

- collapse of regrowth timber yields under current forestry practice;
- claimed need to rejuvenate timber productivity by gap and cluster clearfelling that creates virtual plantations of productive forest areas; and
- incompatibility between proposed forest management and the Government's proposed parks and wilderness protection plans.

The 100 kilogram barrage of environmental impact statements is a turgid testimony to State Forests' century and a half of mismanagement. The reports reveal that in many forest areas State Forests has allowed the removal of commercial timber species. In the case of the forests around Tenterfield the rate of commercial timber growth has collapsed to as low as 0.1 m^3/ha/year. Logging operations in such forests are incapable of sustaining any significant timber production. Accordingly State Forests demand substantial silvicultural regeneration (ie gap and cluster clearfelling) is necessary.

In other words, State Forests EIS reports seek to sanction intense logging operations that will severely damage some of the most biodiverse hardwood forests in NSW. The gap and cluster clearfelling operations proposed in these EIS reports are designed to remove the non-commercial vegetation from many productive forest areas. Native forests will come to resemble depauperate plantations of a few favoured tree species.

State Forests also seek access to old growth forest. State Forests claim these forests must be logged because productive regrowth areas now have an inadequate supply of commercial timbers. State Forests wish to be rewarded for failing to sustain timber yield under current silvicultural practices by accessing further areas of biodiverse ancient forest.

A Plan to Protect Native Forests

Twenty years ago the Wran Government acted to resolve the rainforests debate by obtaining independent silvicultural advice from outside NSW. The advice, provided by FORTECH, a Canberra based consultant firm, identified alternative sources of timber supplies for the threatened rainforest areas on the North Coast. Timber resources were identified that the Forestry Commission claimed did not exist.

The same situation arises today. State Forests' environmental reports claim that there are inadequate resources available from which to establish sustained yield forestry without turning large tracts of native forest over to intense silvicultural treatment.

In its EIS offensive, State Forests recommend logging large parts of the Government's proposed reserves, including the Washpool and other wilderness extensions, and in national park proposals. The reports claim that current logging operations cannot be maintained without carving into these old growth forests.

State Forests argue against the Government's conservation policies, predicting dire economic consequences for regional towns from further park reservation. They claim that most productive areas of native forests must be managed as virtual plantations which are subject to virtual clearfelling in order to retain an economically viable timber industry.

The Resource and Conservation Assessment Council, set up to identify areas of public forest for conservation and other logging, is reliant upon advice and forestry data provided by State Forests.

An independent assessment of timber resources is essential to overcome the problems arising from State Forests using its expertise to oppose the Government's conservation proposals. The Government should commission independent consultants from outside NSW to define sustainable forest practices and identify wood resources, including plantations, that will enable high conservation value forests and wilderness areas to be protected. Without such independent assessment the Government's forest conservation program is doomed.

Continued from page 1

quality added to the national parks estate (except were there are active coal mines). Attend reference group meetings regarding the nomination.

Assist in the preparation of a draft REP for the Blue Mountains and seek improvements in catchment management in the southern Blue Mountains to ensure integrity of proposal, especially in regard to external influences, such as stormwater quality.

Red Index

To develop an up to date and accurate information service on Australian wilderness areas to assist activists campaign, users and managers. To use the Red Index to advise and assist the media to describe the relevant issues, and researchers to communicate findings.

Priorities: Answer inquiries arising out of our site on the Internet.

Purchase computer, establish Red Index home page on internet and develop e-mail facility. Circulate newsletter to inform potential users of e-mail address and home page. Monitor news and information – establish procedure to up date data base.

Fix holes in national Red Index data base using e-mail advice and other in coming information. Collect maps and photographs for each wilderness area.

Update NSW Red Index document files more regularly with the assistance of the Red Index Committee.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

To establish wild and scenic rivers legislation in NSW (not a SEPP) by the end of 1996.

Priority: Input into Parliamentary water policy discussions. Try to get a parliamentarian to sponsor a private members bill on wild and scenic rivers. Check movement by the Department of Land and Water Conservation, as this Department may want a State Enviromental Planning Policy to head off Government's statute promise.

Milo Kanangra Dunphy, A.M., D.Sc., A.S.T.C.

At the risk of offending a few people I will use an expression that may not be acceptable, but few of us in the course of our lives, have the opportunity to see the ***big picture****. Fewer of us have the opportunity to grasp it, and, there is no doubt, that Milo sees the big picture. Milo has always been prepared to grasp what he saw and what he sees in that big picture. In the result, on behalf of the preservation of the natural environment, he has fought, and lost, many battles: - but he did not lose many wars. He was unquestionably the most persistent, and vigorous fighter and advocate for the environment we have had in this country.*

The Hon. Neville Wran, A.C., Q.C.
Patron of the Colong Foundation.

It was Myles Dunphy who, some 70 years ago, introduced in Australia the concept of wilderness, which he described as a primitive area. Before World War II the conservation movement consisted of his National Parks and Primitive Council supported by the Wild Life Preservation Society and a few bushwalking clubs. Campaigning was mostly confined to representations to the Lands Department and virtually ceased in the war and early post war years. Although the Tallowa Primitive Area was proclaimed in 1934 and several national parks were created, it was not until 1968 that wilderness preservation started to become a mainstream public issue and won broad support. It was in this year that Myles' son Milo masterminded the appointment of the Colong Committee. His visionary inspiration will be sadly missed by the Foundation, but we believe that the impetus he imparted to the wilderness movement will ensure that his vision will endure far into the future and that it will be realised.

Although wilderness was Milo's first concern and even when his life was drawing to a close he came into our office to work with the Foundation, his campaigning covered almost the whole field of conservation. His wide ranging interest was described in the following citation read by Professor John Niland on February 20th at the ceremony held at the University of New South Wales when the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* was conferred on Milo.

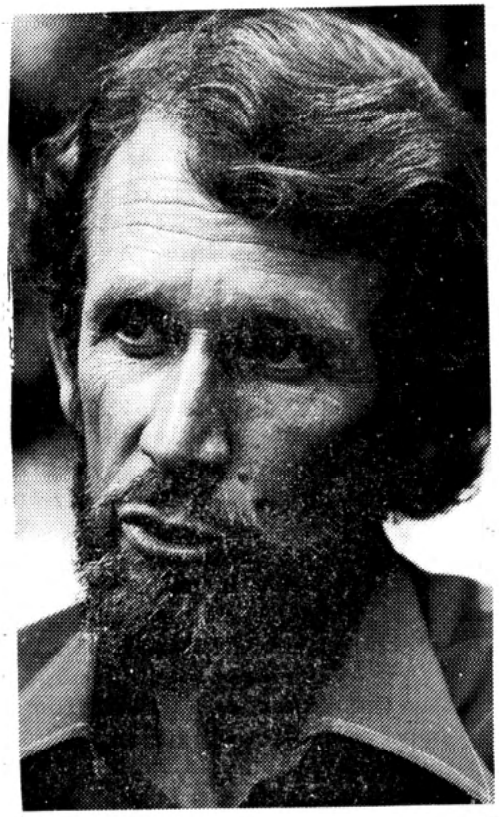
Milo Dunphy has devoted his life to the protection of Australia's natural environment, particularly through the dedication of national parks and wilderness areas.

In 1953 Milo Dunphy graduated with honours in architecture from the Sydney Technical College, now the University of New South Wales. He was awarded the Myra Hadley travelling scholarship, working in Sydney and London before establishing a practice with Bruce Loder and others in architecture, town planning, social survey, landscape architecture and surveying.

In the 1960s and 1970s Milo was a councillor on the New South Wales Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and chairman of its Environment Board for eight years.

Milo's other education was as an environmentalist, through the National park proposals and the personal example of his famous father, Myles. From the earliest age Milo was taken on long trips into natural areas which now form the backbone of the New South Wales park system. Like his father Milo found his time increasingly taken up by the need to protect outstanding natural environments from destructive exploitation.

Milo Dunphy the environmentalist was propelled into the limelight by his work on the Colong Committee, formed in 1968 to prevent the mining of the Colong Caves Reserve in the Kanangra wilderness. During this seven year campaign Milo persuaded the Colong Committee to adopt a second campaign: to protect the Boyd Plateau from the NSW Forestry Commission's plan to clearfell for a pine plantation. These lands are part of the total catchment of Warragamba Dam and their future is of prime importance to residents of Sydney.



The success of the Colong campaign established the ability of community groups to prevent the mining of public reserves. The success of the Boyd plateau campaign led the Federal Government to refuse Federal funds for clearing native forests for pine plantations.

Colong and Boyd plateau gave Milo a national reputation. There was something seminal in the defeat of the world's largest cement combine and one of the most insular government departments in NSW by a loose coalition of a couple of hundred community organisations.

As a result Milo was appointed Co-Director of the United Tasmania Group - the world's first green party. The UTG was formed as a last minute attempt to prevent the flooding of Lake Pedder by the Hydro Electric Commission, Tasmania. UTG narrowly failed to seat several candidates in the Tasmanian parliament but it set the scene for the rise of Tasmanian 'Green' MPs such as Christine Milne and Bob Brown.

Milo Dunphy stood as a candidate in the 1971, 1987 and 1995 NSW state

elections and in the 1972 and 1983 federal elections in order to direct preferences to candidates who supported environmental reform. He was directly successful in Cook in 1972 where his preferences seated Thorburn. But the greatest success was in the 1987 NSW election where his 'Envirovote' group of three independents transferred 40,000 preferences, seating Richard Jones in the NSW Upper House, with very large impacts on resource decisions in NSW.

In 1972 Milo Dunphy was appointed director of a new organisation, Total Environment Centre, housed in his architectural office at 18 Argyle St in the Rocks area of Sydney. The aims of the new organisation were "to provide a cutting edge for the environment movement", and "to counteract the spoiling forces of modern society." Milo's appointment ended in 1995.

The Total Environment Centre enabled Milo and other staff and volunteers to play a role in many of the environmental issues of Australia over two decades. Hundreds of environmental issues were tackled. At Christmas Island nesting trees of the endangered Abbott's Booby were being destroyed for phosphate mining. Uncoordinated development at Lord Howe Island threatened its unique character. There was a vast debate about uranium mining. Lands proposed for the great Kakadu National Park needed protection from mining companies. Other mining proposals were resisted at places like Precipitous Bluff, Fitzgerald River Reserve and Mt Etna. Construction of a deep water port and an airport runway began the destruction of the natural regime of Botany Bay.

Commercialisation of kangaroos escalated to become the world's largest terrestial kill of natural wildlife. Expressway construction threatened numerous urban parks. Demands by landholders for increased water allocations threatened the continued existence of major wetlands such as the Macquarie Marshes. The effect of such issues on Milo was to finally eliminate the time he could spend on architecture. He became a professional environmentalist, sacrificing material success for an almost ascetic existence in pursuit of goals he believed were for the common good of humanity and the planet.

Milo has held many voluntary, elected positions in the environment movement, including:

- Secretary, National Parks Association of NSW
- Vice Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW
- Vice Chairperson, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, and
- Vice President, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Such appointments reflect his understanding of the movement and its views. They also enabled him to formulate and present policy on many issues:

At a special meeting of peak environment groups at Melbourne airport before the 1983 federal election, Milo was able to assure ACF president, Murray Wilcox, QC that the environment movement would support formation of a coalition to save the Franklin River. The coalition was formed and achieved dramatic success.

Early in 1973 the National Estate Inquiry was asked its view on the top priority expenditure of a small federal grant to assist the work of the environment movement. Milo's answer, adopted by the Inquiry, was to provide funds to one or two peak environment groups in each state for a full time professional office, copying and meeting facilities and several full-time or part-time paid staff. The resulting small grants triggered the change from a volunteer environment movement to one in which volunteers were strengthened by professional backing and full time operations.

In a post-script to the Colong Caves debate, two limestone mining companies lodged mining applications over public parklands in the Bungonia Gorge area. Milo represented the Colong Committee in the ensuing mining warden's court achieving, for the first time in NSW, 'standing' for the public interest in the environment. In addition the mining warden rejected the bulk of the applications by the two companies. Nevertheless in a subsequent secret application on an amended basis to the newly formed State Pollution Control Commission, the companies were granted greatly enlarged leases over the public parklands.

More recently, it became clear that the environment movement needed to monitor NSW parliamentary legislation more closely and to react to some proposals more quickly. Milo suggested that the peak groups fund a parliamentary liaison officer. This mechanism has enabled the groups to rapidly consider many new bills. When necessary, all parliamentarians have been circulated with a considered response in as little as 48 hours. One of the successes of this organisation was withdrawal by the then NSW government of its resource security package of 6 bills, legislation which otherwise would have enabled a dramatic transfer of ownership of NSW resources from the public to corporations and companies.

Major advances to which Milo greatly contributed include cancellation of the Colong mining leases and the proposed clearfelling of Boyd Plateau, protection of much of the remaining rainforest in north east NSW, cancellation of beachmining leases in national parks and the increase in the area of national parks from 1% to 5% of the state.

Milo Dunphy's environmental contribution includes a wide spectrum of urban, rural and natural issues. But the projects which gave him most pleasure are those which he shared with his father; the dedication of national parks and wilderness areas, the protection of native forests, rivers and wildlife.

For three decades he was the constant advocate for a responsible stewardship of Australia.

Honey possum

Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held on May 23rd (AGM), June 6th and 20th and July 4th and 18th.

The Forest Peace Process

The NSW Government is attempting to resolve the native forest debate through a major review which will set aside areas for conservation and others for wood production or put into logging moratoria for further examination. The extent to which forests are chopped down or preserved as a result of this process will be greatly influenced by public opinion.

At this stage the Government plans a brief public consultation process (20 May to 14 June) to ventilate the whole forest issue — timber resource exploitation versus wilderness, old growth forests and endangered species protection. Various conservation/logging options have been researched and developed with key stakeholders. One option will recommend scientifically-based park extensions. Others will compromise conservation options by recommending continued timber production in high conservation value forests.

The negotiation process, public exhibition and review and final report will be completed by the end of June. The forest peace process will see most of forest protection decisions made by the end of the year.

The Government's forest process is the best opportunity to protect forests along eastern seaboard for a generation. The process heralds the most dramatic, exciting and challenging forest conservation campaign ever.

The Negotiation

A consultation process has been established between conservation, government and industry representatives that intends to identify suitable forests for reservation. The process will identify not just logging moratorium areas but 'parks in waiting,' based on scientifically designed reserve selection criteria. Core areas of wilderness, vacant Crown land and high conservation value forest should be protected immediately in parks.

To enable stakeholders to grapple with the solutions to the forest debate they have been placed into an objective decision making framework. All the data on forest wood and conservation resources have been computerised. These data sets are now being examined by conservation groups, industry and government agencies.

For 15 days from 22 April representatives of the stakeholder groups will be locked in negotiations over reserve options for eleven forest regions. These regions cover the coast and mountain forests, except for the Sydney Region. (The western slopes and plains, and western river districts are also excluded from this process).

The aim is to continue the negotiations until all the reserve targets are met. The outcome, however, may fall a long way short of this aim. In addition to the preferred conservation outcome, the process will produce 'conservation' options that provide 70%, 50% and 30% of the current timber supply arrangements. For the 70% supply level, little, if any, forest will be available for conservation purposes. Existing operations are unsustainable due to overcutting that requires an initial reduction of at least 30%.

The Reserve Targets

There are four main categories of reserve selection criteria: wildlife; forest types; old growth forest; and wilderness. The criteria include reservation targets for individual species based on expert knowledge of the conditions required to maintain viable populations on plants and animals. Forest types have been mapped and 15% of the pre-European extent of each forest community is the target for reservation. Some naturally rare forests, however, will be given a reservation target of 100% and targets will also be raised for forests vulnerable to clearing or logging. Rainforests have been mapped on a more ecological basis and all identified areas will be given a 100% reservation target. All NPWS "identified" wilderness will be given a 100% reservation target, while other high quality wilderness areas will be given a 90% reservation target.

Old growth forest reservation targets vary from 100% where the forest type have been extensively cleared or comprises less than a tenth old growth to 60% reserved when more than a quarter of the existing distribution is old growth.

The Risk

A reduction of 30-40% in the cutting rate is required just to establish long term sustained yield timber production. Any forest reservation as parks will reduce the timber supply further still. To sweeten reality for the industry, the Government will give long term timber supply agreements. These agreements set an upper limit to timber industry's access to high conservation forests, but could also adversely impact upon future forest management and reserve options.

Of course the industry will claim existing off park conservation management is adequate, and that the social and economic consequences of any further reductions to existing timber supply would be catastrophic. You can rest assured that State Forest data will fully support these outcomes.

The Cure

The results for all options from the stakeholder consultation process, including the preferred conservation outcome, will be made publicly available. Once released conservationists can then campaign for the best conservation option knowing that it is scientifically credible and will adequately protect biodiversity.

While the more contentious or problematic forest areas will be set aside from logging or park reservation in a moratoria limbo, many areas we believe should be reserved in parks before the end of the year.

The Government will only reserve all high conservation value forests if that is the best political option. That's where you come into the picture. All the negotiations in the world will not save the forests unless supported by voluntary conservationists, lobbying, letter writing, ringing radio talk back shows, and organising supporting meetings and deputations.

A lot needs to be done right now.

Join the joint forest protection campaign contact:
Cathy Fook, C/- Nature Conservation Council, 39 George Street, Sydney, 2000.
Phone (02) 2474206

The Battle to Preserve Wilderness

Until the middle of this century wilderness areas were visited only by walkers and a few equestrians. With the advent of the bulldozer many tracks became roads and new unpaved roads were made for firefighting, recreational or development purposes.

With the advent of off-road vehicles areas previously beyond the reach of two wheel vehicles were opened up. Vehicle ownership, no longer beyond the means of the majority, proliferated, and ownership of even the more expensive off-road vehicles became widespread. Aeroplanes and helicopters brought even remote wilderness areas within a few hours of capital cities. Wilderness could no longer be described as "remote" (Though it still is by the National Wilderness Inventory). With this explosion of mechanised mobility and the network of vehicle tracks there is easy access to wilderness. Few areas are more than three miles from a road and nearly all are accessible by helicopter. As a result the usage not only of wilderness but of parklands beyond formed park roads and visitor centres has increased so much that considerable damage is being inflicted on the natural environment. The pressure on parklands and wilderness and difficulty of supervision will be greatly augmented by the NPWS aim of expanding the roads maintained for visitor access from 2,500 km to 4000 km by the end of the year.

The NPWS defines a park as "An area set aside for the conservation of nature and Aboriginal and historic heritage, and for recreation activities compatible with those recreation activities." In this definition the key word is "compatible." The National Parks and Wildlife Act affords priority to conservation and preservation. The achievement of this objective is the subject of a paper by Ian Brown of the NPWS Blue Mountains district (and a member of the Colong Foundation) in a paper entitled *Feet and the Forever Game.* He points out that the Service's objective cannot be achieved unless conservation is given primacy, otherwise conservation would cease to exist: "The NPWS is in the forever game and yet here, right now, is the pressure of millions of feet. There can be no doubt that those feet, if unrestrained, can damage the future of conservation... Unfortunately, many recreationists do not see things this way. They want access now, because it is seen as a fundamental right. Of course most people will also agree with the concept of conservation of both nature and recreation in perpetuity, but they have difficulty in applying it to their own activities, which is only human. In this anomaly lies the seed of most of the conflicts we are now witnessing over recreational access to national parks, from four wheel drive tracks in wilderness to commercial guiding companies and school groups."

The Service has little difficulty in monitoring and managing facility-based recreations, such as car touring and walking on formal tracks, but the massive increase in dispersed activities, away from these facilities, and the commensurate increase in commercial activities, has created problems. We cited the damage to Mount Banks caused by commercial abseiling in our last Bulletin. Ian Brown describes the following examples:

The severe impacts of vegetation decline and erosion on the Mount York climbing area resulting from heavy and unmanaged use for group instructional activities. Mount York is not within the national park.

Abseiling use, especially instructional activities, at Mount Portal Lookout on the eastern edge of the Blue Mountains National Park, has increased to the point where a large area has been badly damaged through the elimination of undergrowth, removal of soil and damage to trees.

The Three Sisters are degraded to the point where erosion caused by climbers and abseilers is clearly visible from the tourist lookout at Echo Point. Some of the impact has been created by commercial development of the site for abseiling and climbing.

Many popular canyons have eroded and gullied out tracks leading into them. Some of this canyoning activity can be attributed to the publication of a route guide.

Campsites on the Kanangra to Katoomba bushwalk are worn out and expanding.

If the Service is to implement its conservation priority such activities must be controlled. The first step being taken is the licencing of commercial operators. There are some 70 of these, including four wheel drive and conventional vehicle touring, bushwalking, rockclimbing, caving, abseiling, canyoning, motivational and team building exercises, navigational training, bicycle touring, camping, photographic instruction and even a Tyrolean traverse. There are problems in licencing in that "any commercial activity that is licenced instantly develops a respectibility and inertia that may make it difficult to modify later...errors may become uncorrectable."

With the promotion of outdoor activities by the media, guided activities, organised programmes, climbing gyms and the like, there is the risk that more and more people entering the bush will lack basic appreciation of nature. As a result "The creation of illegal recreational developments is an unfortunately escalating trend... Recreational enthusiasts on a number of fronts are carrying out damaging construction works without any approval or even consultation with the NPWS. Old tracks have been recut and rebuilt, signposted and painted. Canyons have been 'improved' with bolts, permanent ropes, steps and holds chopped in the rock and painted signs. Climbing areas are being developed with chains, cut tracks and paint. Bolts have been placed in Aboriginal art sites. A number of 'expedition' abseils have been created, some involving hundreds of metres of cut tracks and the installation of dozens of rock bolts and chains. Many of these illicit developments have been carried out in previously pristine or unused areas. This trend is partly a consequence of the high level of recreational demand in the Blue Mountains, including a growing market for organised recreation. Some of these illegal developments have been carried out by commerciasl operators for commercial purposes." The marking and cutting of tracks and vandalising of

NPWS signs has led to at least four searches for lost parties.

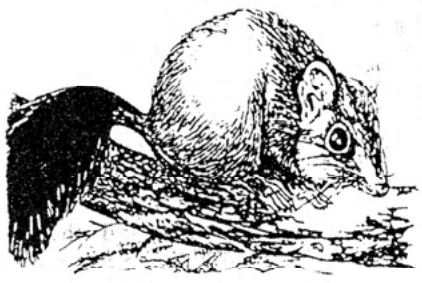
Regulation of commercially organised party sizes has been agreed upon. Party sizes range from 50 for short walks to eight for roped canyon parties.

After commercial operators the Service is turning its attention to quasi-commercial and other organised groups, including educational and youth groups because "it has been argued that they are the most deserving of attention because of a level of unsafe practices, high impact behaviours and large party sizes with few leaders.

A recurring theme in Ian Brown's paper is "the complete silence of the recreational community" on the above issues, which are "not only destructive to the environment but also damaging to the credibility of responsible recreation in the parks. Is the NPWS the only body concerned about them?" His paper concludes:

There is no way the NPWS alone can be effective, and one purpose of this paper is to rally interest from that vast recreational community out there in contributing to their own management. Otherwise it might be suspected that they just do not want to know about these issues. Recreational enthusiasts can be assured that some management is bound to occur, with or without their involvement. They can also consider that if they do not get involved then the results could be far less agreeable.

(We regret that space did not permit reproduction of the whole of Ian Brown's paper. The NPWS wilderness policy, which was formulated in consultation with the Foundation, encompasses nearly all the above problems except tne inertia of recreational enthusiasts. We welcome the legal bar to the issue of commercial licences for activities within wilderness areas and the inclusion of a clause providing for the cancellation of licences in the event of the declaration of wilderness areas now under consideration).



Brush tailed Phascogale, vulnerable in NSW

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGISTS

Miners and their mentors, the geologists, are taking an ever increasing interest in the environment. In the British Geological Society magazine "Geoscientist" Nigel Woodcock of Cambridge University writes that there is an urgent need for public and political understanding of existing remedies for environmental problems.

Problems he quotes are the nitrate pollution of aquifers, engineered defence of one coast causing erosion of another and that the threat of global warming is in proportion to the burning of fossil fuels. There has been a rapid increase in the teaching of environmental geology. Over half of UK geology departments are offering environmental courses. Fifteen UK institutions offer a complete degree in environmental geology. In a recent U.S. survey nearly 60% of geology departments cited environmental geology as the main field towards which their courses had shifted in the last three years. Woodcock advocates a broadening of the teaching of geology, since most students enter careers outside geology and courses could be lengthened for potential professionals.

The Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Bulletin now includes an Environmental News section. Subjects covered are: acid mine drainage, environmental management, the cyanide issue, phosphate mining and remediation research in Western Tasmania covering the King and Queen Rivers near Mount Lyell. A near record 227 delegates attended the Environmental workshop held at Darwin last year.

Some problems the Colong Foundation has faced are: acid drainage, coal mines in wilderness areas, uranium mine tailings dams and river pollution from gold mining. Dr. Geoff Mosley's submission on World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains is largely based on the fact that the Blue Mountains are an outstanding example of a major stage in the earth's evolutionary history, an evaluation reinforced by the work of C.D. Ollier and C.F. Pain (see Bulletin 151). A recent study by Professors Bryant and Young of the School of Geosciences, University of Wollongong, quotes convincing evidence, in the shape of boulders thrown 33 metres or more above sea level, of 6 giant tsunami (tidal waves) which have struck the coast of NSW during the past 8000 years. The latest, which occurred 250-300 years ago, is estimated to have been 110 metres high. Such a tidal wave would have flooded the Hawkesbury/Nepean flood plain to a depth of two metres. The reason given for the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam was that it would enable the control of a 1 in 100,000 year flood. Given that the average of the last 8000 years was maintained, tsunamis could have caused 75 disastrous floods during the last 100,000 years and could cause the same number during the next 100,000 years, though, as the frequency of tsunamis is believed to be increasing, the figure could be higher. This is very relevant in relation to the efforts of the "Dammit" organisation to reverse the decision not to raise the Warragamba Dam. The ostensible purpose of raising the Warragamba Dam was to control the damage which would be caused by a 1 in 100,000 year peak flood. If a flood control dam costing several hundred million dollars is to be built, the place to put it is not above the flood plain, but below it.

Report of the Environmental Liaison Officer

The Colong Foundation receives no subsidy and is therefore unable to contribute the necessary $1,500 to join the peak groups in supporting the parliamentary Environmental Liaison Officer, Brent Hoare.

However our interests are represented by the Total Environment Centre, which has given us a copy of his 1995 spring session report.

He reports that "With the balance of power resting in the hands of four environmentally progressive MLCs in the Upper house, and a Government that is at least aware of the critical nature of environmental issues and at times well intentioned in its attempts to grapple with them, the environment movement in NSW is probably in the best position ever to achieve positive environmental outcomes.....The defeat suffered by the Fahey Government, particularly in urban seats, has taught many Liberals some valuable lessons and produced remarkable shifts in attitude....extremists within the National Party have found themselves significantly marginalised."

Richard Jones and Elizabeth Kirkby (Australian Democrats) were energetic and reliable supporters and many amendments were "eloquently put by Richard Jones." Alan Corbett (Better Future for Our Children) has been a "decent and dependable ally," and John Tingle (Shooters Party) was happy to support the green position on many issues. A good relationship with the Liberal Party has been fostered.

The National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Game Birds Protection), known as the 'Duck Bill' was passed with amendments. It restricts duck shooting to shooting on private property for the purpose of rice crop damage mitigation.

Opposition to the three year extension of the Timber Industry Protection Bill was unsuccessful. The Threatened Species Conservation Bill was passed, subject to a number of amendments supported by the Opposition.

WILDERNESS PROTECTION

Navigating The Way Forward

The announcement of eight solid blocks of wilderness scattered across the mountain ranges of NSW is a step toward fulfilling the Government's promise of declaring sixteen wilderness areas in the first year of Government. The declaration of 350,000 hectares of wilderness increases protection of wilderness to over 1 million hectares, about third of the State,s wilderness area.

The second stage of wilderness protection will occur during the Forest Peace Process that is now underway (see Forest Peace Process article) and will deal with all threatened wilderness areas in state forests and other Crown land and some wilderness inside the national parks estate.

Round 1

In the first round significant wilderness issues have been tackled. Major advances were:

- the addition of Yalwal Creek to the existing Ettrema wilderness near Nowra preventing 4WD penetration of Ettrema Creek;
- the cessation of commercial horseriding down the Coxs River; and
- the addition of the lower Coxs and Kowmung Rivers to the Blue Mountains National Park.

A few non-controversial state forest areas were added to the National Park estate, most notably parts of the Buccleuch State Forest to the Kosciusko National Park and parts of Yalwal State Forest to Morton National Park. Buccleuch State Forest was filched from the park in 1967 and now a small part of it will be returned.

Very little of the state forests in identified wilderness, however, was added to the park estate. Even the promised Fahey wilderness announced but not declared in December 1992, such as parts of the Mebbin State Forest adjoining the Border Ranges National Park, and the Enmore and Winterbourne State Forests adjoining the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, were not protected.

Major Concessions

The Carr Government's declaration of additional wilderness has been compromised by major concessions to the anti-wilderness lobby. The declarations were tailored to exclude vehicle and horseriding trails, and there is even provision for concessions to these interests within previously declared wilderness areas.

To quote a NPWS information sheet accompanying the Minister's statement, "Major concessions requested by 4WD and vehicle touring interests and fulfilled in this round of wilderness include exclusion of some popular trails in the Warrazambil, Macleay Gorges, Werrikimbe, Barrington, Kanangra-Boyd, Ettrema, Budawang and Goobarragandra localities. Of legally accessible trails mapped in these identified wilderness areas less than 190 km (or about 35%) have been closed as a result of these wilderness declarations."

The Parks Service has even offered access to wilderness for special groups by arrangement by the NPWS District Manager. This weasel mechanism is against the spirit and probably the terms of both the Wilderness and the National Parks and Wildlife Acts.

The Bicentennial Trail was given priority over wilderness declarations, despite previously assurances by Trail organisers that the Trail would'nt adversely affect wilderness protection proposals. Alternatives for the relocation of the Trail should be a priority for improving wilderness protection, particularly for the Macleay Gorges.

For the first time, vehicle access to the Apsley River on the so-called ElCom Trail (alias the Riverside Trail) will expose the declared Macleay Gorges wilderness to 4WD incursion. Environment Ministers of previous Coalition Governments and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, knowing the strategic significance of this trail had resisted fierce lobbying for

years. Now 4WD users can trail blaze up and down the heart of the wilderness pushing trails up ridges and through sensitive river environments.

More disturbing still the entire Barrington Plateau, including its swamps, highest peaks and the Devils Hole wilderness has been left out of the announcement. The Barrington Tops announcement is worse than the wilderness previously proposed in the park's draft plan of management. The Foundation's proposal of wilderness declaration and quarantine for Scotch Broom affected areas was rejected. It is appalling that public access to Broom infested areas will continue, allowing the spread of this noxious weed.

The swamp and plateau areas of Werrikimbe National Park were also excluded from the wilderness announcement. These areas are very similar to the Barrington Tops plateau and just as likely to become infested with Scotch Broom. Even the travelling stock route through the southern end of the Werrikimbe National Park remains open, curtailing the extent of the wilderness inside the park.

Without strong Government support our precious archipelago of wilderness areas will continue to shrink under the aggressive demands of the off road vehicle lobby to open every track inside national parks.

In the April decision wilderness protection was the last land use priority after all other land users were satisfied despite adequate scope for off road vehicles, horseriding and commercial use in the 95% of the State outside wilderness areas. The implementation of the State Pollution Control Commission's recommendation for provision of areas for the use of off road vehicles would make further provision for this form of recreation.

Round 2

The main chance to secure remaining threatened wilderness is under the Forest Peace Process. In a move to speed up wilderness protection, the NSW Government has linked further consideration of wilderness with its forest policy process. The wilderness areas inside state forests, some parks and other forms of Crown land will be examined within the eleven forest regions being considered through the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council's (RACAC) forest stakeholder negotiation process.

Extensions to the Nadgee, Goodradigbee, Deua, Budawang, Barrington, Werrikimbe, Macleay Gorges, New England, Guy Fawkes, Mann, Washpool and Warrazambil wilderness areas will be dealt with by the end of the year. Additional State Forest and other areas found to have wilderness quality by RACAC will also be considered. These areas have been defined by the selection process approved by the Commonwealth Government using the National Wilderness Inventory.

The Politics

The contribution the RACAC system will have in securing wilderness will largely depend on public support. The worst outcome would be granting long term security of timber resource allocations to industry and deferring forest protection by moratoria. Such delay would pave the way for further wilderness destruction.

There will be an opportunity for public submissions from 20 May till 14 June. Unfortunately the Wollemi and the controversial Deua wilderness will not be considered until a later date, under a national park plan of management revision process. It is a great pity that the largest wilderness in NSW will not be urgently addressed. In 1988, the Wollemi wilderness was proposed for protection by the NPWS. Since then it has been damaged. The Pilliga and Levers Plateau wilderness nominations have yet to be placed on public exhibition (which may occur towards the end of the year).

It is also hoped that wilderness inside national parks is given the necessary attention by the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council and ultimately by Government Ministers in their decision. We should avoid that wilderness being lost in the forest policy hubbub that promises to be bigger than anything since Mr Wran's benchmark rainforest decision.

> Our economic standard of living rises, but our environmental standard of living - our access to nature and our respect for it - deteriorates....and the long run effect will be not only to degrade the quality of national life, but to weaken the foundations of national power.
>
> President Kennedy, quoted by Judith Wright, Feb. 1966

Long-footed Potoroo, Potorous longipes

Valuing the Environment

The ANZAAS mgazine *Search* devotes two articles to valuing the environment. Gus Izmar, Director of Economics in the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, quotes several surveys. One study shows that people are willing to pay up to 20 cents more for a loaf of bread to prevent soil erosion, another that people place a recreation value of up to $53 to visit Fraser Island and a median value of $187 per annum per household to preserve forests on the Island and yet another that residents were willing to pay up to $62 per annum to improve nearby water quality. It would, however, be a brave taxing or rating authority which put up charges to cover these improvements. It would be impossible to value wilderness in dollar terms, but it costs little and surveys show the majority of people want it.

The second article, by Tor Hundloe, quotes solid evidence of the value of World Heritage listing. It is centred on the Great Barrier Reef, where the number of tourists doubled between 1984 and 1992. It is estimated that they spent $776 million in 1991-92. According to S. Driml, the number of visitors to Kakadu increased approximately fivefold between 1982 and 1992 and, during the same period, the increase for Uluru was approximately threefold and for Cradle Mountain National Park fourfold.

PROOF OF CLIMATE CHANGE

We're entering unchartered waters. Expanding human enterprise is colliding with the earth's limits. Since 1990, the worldwide insurance industry has paid out US$48 billion for weather-related losses compared with US$14 billion for the entire decade of the 1980s.

World Watch annual
State of the World Report.

KANANGRA LODGE

At the opening on 2 March of Kanangra Lodge, which provides for the accommodation for bushwalkers visiting Jenolan Caves, the following paper was presented on behalf of Milo Dunphy:

To get to Kanangra Walls in 1930 you either walked or rode a horse along a rough bridle track. Early cattlemen like Thomas Seymour, William Maxwell and the Whalan family probably took a dray or cart along the route.

But in 1931 Myles and Margaret Dunphy wanted to spend a fortnight at Kanangra with their 20 months old son christened Milo Kanangra Dunphy. Their gear included 68 lbs weight of food plus blankets, waterproof groundsheets and capes, warm clothing, a capacious tent, rifle, tomahawk and billycans - too much to carry on their backs.

Myles found a lightweight folding perambulator in a junk shop. It was the sort of thing used by the wives of colonial administrators from Indian Hill Stations. Myles made stout canvas panniers and hung them on the sides of the pram. There was a mosquito net to keep the summer flies off the toddler.

At steep hills beyond Oberon, Myles pushed the 'pram' and Margaret pulled it, using a rope over her shoulder.

It was a prodigious physical effort to get to Kanangra. But the expedition helped produce the ground surveys and maps which became the Greater Blue Mountains National Park proposal. The proposal was published as a 4 page supplement to the Katoomba Daily in August, 1934 and is now largely complete.

The Katoomba Daily supplement included the first major public statement regarding wilderness in Australia. It put the Blue Mountains, Kanangra Boyd, Wollemi and Nattai national parks in the forefront of the national parks and wilderness movement. It also set the scene for major land use conflicts between public ownership and use on the one hand and exploitation by private interests on the other. Players in these debates have included the world's largest cement combine (Blue Circle), the timber industry and NSW Forestry Commission, the Sydney Water Board and the NSW Electricity Commission. Right now, dozens of local government councils have banded together to achieve added protection for the outstanding natural, historic and cultural values of the area, through World Heritage listing.

Recently the NSW Labor Cabinet made a major contribution to protecting the Kanangra Wilderness by rejecting Sydney Water's proposal to raise the height of the Warragamba Dam. This decision saved thousands of hectares of valley floor from destruction by inundation and protected a dozen wild and scenic rivers.

Protection of the Kanangra wilderness could be destroyed by the tourist industry - by flooding the area with hordes of tourists and their buses, fleets of 4WD vehicles, hired trail bikes and hotel accommodation along cliff lines.

But the tourist industry can also make a great contribution to protecting the Kanangra wilderness - by providing the organisation and facilities which will assist the public to enjoy wilderness without destroying it. First of all that means establishing facilities outside the boundaries of national parks and wilderness areas. Secondly it means a careful presentation of regional character. It seems to me that is what Archer Field and his team have started with the opening of 'Kanangra Lodge' at Jenolan Caves.

It will be necessary for the public to protect the Kanangra wilderness, again and again, against mining and logging. But its protection will also depend on high principled and skilful planning for appropriate public use. A pioneering perambulator expedition, World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains parks and the opening of facilities like Kanangra Lodge - each is a step in achieving the great public vision of national parks and wilderness in the Blue Mountains.

THE 4WD ASSAULT ON WILDERNESS

A few people, for nothing more than personal interest, are prepared to ruin bushland, interfere with fire management and put personal property at risk by creating new trails wherever they please.

Alastair Howard, Executive Director (Operations) NPWS, describing an illegal and dangerous trail created by 4WD operators in the Colo Wilderness.

In its 1980 report on the Recreational Use of Off-road Vehicles, the State Pollution Control Commission, having described in scathing terms how the use of vehicles in areas of high wilderness value jeopardised wilderness qualities, recommended:

The adoption of a broad strategy whereby on the one hand suitable areas of land are set aside and managed for the use of off-road vehicles, while on the other, sensitive areas are designated in which all, or certain classes of recreational vehicle activity is prohibited". No access areas, the report stated, in which vehicles were not to be used, would serve to protect areas of high conservation or wilderness value.

In order to give effect to this recommendation the Recreational Vehicles Act, designed to regulate the off-road use of motor vehicles, was passed in 1983. It provided that any occupier of land could apply to the Environment Protection Authority for the designation of the land as a recreation vehicle area. There have been very few, if any, applications. The reason for this is clear from a reading of the evidence submitted to the Inquiry by the land use authorities represented. These were the NPWS, the Forestry Commission, Local Councils and the Lands Department. Only the latter was prepared to make land available for 4WD use, though the departmental representative was unable to specify where suitable land could be found.

It is understandable that private landowners would not welcome 4WDrivers who, in the absence of land approved for their use by the E.P.A., have infested the wilderness areas, because these are mainly unsupervised. Some private landowners might be prepared to sacrifice their land to 4WD use at a price.

Suppose, however, that no land owners, public or private, were prepeared to make land available, would it really matter? Recreational off-road vehicle use serves no useful purpose, but it is a form of recreation and it is public policy to provide for recreation in the form of playing fields, tourist facilities, race tracks etc. Rifle ranges are provided for shooters, race tracks for those who want to drive at speeds prohibited on public roads. Although the driving of vehicles anywhere but on maintained roads causes environmental damage, off-road areas could be set aside for 4WDrivers. It would be reasonable to charge them for the repair of the damage they would cause.

4WD's are owned for many purposes, such as rural or business use or for mobility and perhaps safety.

The anti-wilderness groups such as the Public Land Users Alliance and the South Coast Off-road Preservation Enthusiasts are determined to gain access to the 1.25% of the State now in declared wilderness areas. They oppose nearly every aspect of nature conservation, for example the editorial statement on world heritage in the latest 4x4 Australia magazine states that "Once the strongest protection that could be offered was 'National Park' status. Then in the 70's it became Wilderness areas. Now the catch cry seems to be 'World Heritage Listing.' Opposing the declaration of nine wilderness areas, Mr. Andrew Hestelow, speaking for the Public Land Users Alliance, said "This is full-on, this is war now."

The Colong Foundation's policy on 4WD use in parks is as follows:

Motor vehicles within parks should be confined to public roads of a two-wheel drive standard and other two-wheel drive roads that have been indentified in approved park plans of management as suitable for public use.

The Colong Foundation opposes the use of motorised transport in declared wilderness areas. The use of 4WD's in wilderness areas is highly detrimental to the natural environment. Vehicles can introduce weeds, degrade walking tracks, damage fragile ecosystems and leave trails that take years to recover. Some off-road vehicle users carry in generators, firearms and dogs which are incompatible with wilderness qualities due to the level of noise created or the threat to wildlife. Apart from the increased soil erosion, use of off-road vehicles on unformed or poorly formed fire trails also increases maintenance costs of these management tracks.

WOODCHIPPING AREAS INCREASED

The Tasmanian Government has added eight new forest areas to the logging list and negotiated other concessions from the Federal Government before signing the Interim Forest Agreement.

Speaking before the federal election, Tasmanian Greens forest spokeswoman, Pegg Putt M.P., said the agreement entrenched woodchipping at historically high levels and showed the federal Government had abandoned its promise to stop old growth forests for export by 2000. "We really do have the federal Labor and state Liberal Government in solid support of woodchip exports and against conservation."

It is to be hoped that the Howard Government does honour its promise to phase out woodchip exports by 2000.

MILO KANANGRA DUNPHY 1929-1996

A Memoir

by Bob Walshe, Patron, Total Environment Centre
Chairman, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre
16 April 1996

Today's memorial service in the chapel of the hospital (Sydney's St Vincents at Darlinghurst) where Milo died on the 13th was a moving event, attended by about sixty of his family and friends. Deeply emotional tributes were paid by Milo's brother Dexter, son Guy, and friend Peter Prineas. One after another old friends rose to pay further tribute, some speaking of happy bushwalking days with Milo, others of his immense contribution to the environment movement. I was about to add some thoughts, but the service ended; so I write these lines in the evening - I would have said something like this...

Several speakers have referred to qualities of Milo that stand out in their recollections. Bernie Clarke, for instance, mentioned two: his modesty and his accessibility, and I would like to add some more.

First, his **strength**. In those early years of the 1970s, his strength was a great gift to the rest of us. He was already the fully fledged environmentalist who knew how to go about things while we - most of us, anyway - were very unsure of ourselves, often fearful to tilt at the windmills of wealth and power. I look on 1972, when TEC was born, as the year which saw the emergence in Sydney of the *mass* environment movement - indeed, in Australia generally. Of course I know there were some great individuals prior to that (Myles, for instance) and some crusading groups (Colong, for instance); but if I had to designate a year, it would be 1972, when there was a forward leap in public consciousness. Green was from that point on the agenda: more people than before were asking what they could do and how to go about it. And there at the historic moment was Milo, his strong voice ringing out on all the green issues of the time - exhibiting *strength* of conviction about the world we were losing, *strength* of opposition to the forces of destruction, *strength* of hope that ordinary people could be roused to counter the greedy in the corporate sector and the inert in the bureaucracy and government. No wonder so many of us rallied to the standard that Milo then so confidently raised in Sydney

Which leads me to a second quality, his **activism.** I remember him saying to a couple of young enthusiasts: "Hold on! Before you rush in on that issue, you'd better recruit an army or at least a sizeable skirmishing party or you'll just be brushed aside by the powers-that-be". He knew that power is always involved, that a campaign is always needed to confront such power, and that the campaign must be thoughtfully planned, skilfully executed. He valued the Total Environment Centre as a sort of HQ for planning and campaigning - and also for encouraging local groups to form and to act self-reliantly, perhaps with some advice from HQ.

My mind goes back to about April-May 1972 when a group of us, who had already met two or three times, felt we were ready to make some decisions. We asked Professor John Rutherford to make his big office available in the old Geography Department building of Sydney University. There we made four decisions which have stood the test of time: to set up a new environment organisation in Sydney, to call it the Total Environment Centre, to invite Milo Dunphy to be its founding director, and to ask his artist wife Dorothy to devise an appropriate symbol/logo. You know how these things came to pass. It was to be an *activist* body, and no one doubted that in Milo's hands that's what it would be "Total"? It was a vogue word in those years - total this and total that. We happily picked it up as a snappy alternative to "Ecology Environment Centre" and many other awful suggestions. We announced that "Total" would certainly embrace the green, marine and urban environments.

Third, I'd like to refer to Milo's **intellect.** In 1972 he already knew a lot. I don't just mean his professional knowledge, his architecture. He was widely read. And having a quite remarkable father, he had of course absorbed a vast amount through the pores of his skin. He had an impressive library, he had a great capacity for research, and he'd attracted a circle of bright and knowledgeable friends. In subsequent years he seemed always to be preparing some lecture or report or submission - on a very wide range of subject. I raised this side of his nature with him on several occasions. He would modestly say his curiosity was "a chip off the old block" (Myles), but I'm sure it went deeper than that; it was native to his own character. Life itself was a learning experience. Not only book learning, though there was plenty of that. He also read the bush and mountains and rivers, and continually complained that he would never have time to exhaust all the lessons they could teach. He was an avid *critical* reader of newspapers and journals and was astonishingly well-informed on politics and government. And he kept voluminous records and frequently returned to files, years later, to pick up again and carry a story forward. The passion for learning was controlled only by the pressure of the world for specific actions to save the environment.

Finally, **style**. I'm sure everyone at today's service has an image of Milo rather similar to mine. The handsome man, lean, clean-cut, well-groomed, well-dressed; quick and decisive in his movements; firm and ready with his principles and opinions; eager to tell his own yarns and respond with that deep infectious laugh to the stories of others. An appealing image. You know how well it came across on TV. He was always a strong and incisive speaker, and the note of conviction lifted him above most others. It was a plain, direct delivery, without rhetorical flourish. And his writing was the same, well-reasoned, fact-packed, hard-hitting, always clear.

So, yes, Milo's *strength* and *activism* and *intellect* and *style*! Bernie has rightly also recognised his **accessibility** to "grassroots" people and small, struggling green groups. And his **modesty**. I'm sure some of that came from being the son of a distinguished father - it was as if Milo felt, Well, I may have achieved this or that,

but think of all that my father achieved. Of course, to the rest of us, a comparison is impossible, meaningless. Father and son were both great men.

I do, however, deeply regret today that Milo was deprived of more years. They would have been brilliant years. Even in the late weeks and even days of his illness, he was speaking and writing for the environmental cause. He died at 67. I recall that father Myles only retired from teaching architecture at age 71, whence he embarked on extremely fertile, many-sided pro-conservation activities until his death 22 years later. His son would similarly have used a further 20-odd years.

We are all poorer for his having been so deprived. But today let us celebrate all that he did achieve – of which Myles would have been vastly proud.

CALL FOR AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS

We cannot improve on wilderness as it was at the time of creation... When God created the heavens and earth he created the perfect wilderness... Much damage has been caused to areas of Australia that once were wilderness. One area that has surely shocked most of us more than any other is the depiction in film reports of former mining areas in the north of Tasmania where the concomitant pollution rendered the hills bare of any sort of vegetation. I received another shock when I visited Israel... Many of the foreign occupants of Israel showed no concern for the environment. They were ruthless exploiters. The hills are now rocky mountains in some ways resembling the man-made pyramids of Egypt.

Rev. the Hon. F.J. Nile MLC,
Legislative Council
24th Nov., 1987

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The twelve year campaign for Bongil Bongil

In your *Bulletin* Feb–Mar 96 the article on New Forest Parks mentions the declaration of Bongil Bongil National Park south of Coffs Harbour as having been the work of David Norrie.

I feel sure that David will be the first person to disclaim responsibility for obtaining this Park, though his work was a valuable contribution to saving this wonderful stretch of coast.

In 1984 the Three Valleys branch of the National Parks was set up at a meeting held near Warrell Creek Macksville. One of the first items for discussion beside the furthering of the campaign for the dedication of Warrell Creek Nature Reserve (still being sought) was the possibility of achieving a Park at Bonville. Trevor Pike from Bellingen who became the Vice President of the Three Valleys branch at this meeting had a proposal for such a Park which would also include all the Crown land south along the coast to Valla Beach and all the Pine Creek State Forest.

I need not go into the long and seemingly fruitless period of letter writing, surveys, education trips and the like. In 1984 the APM sold its lands to the Forest Commission. Our branch had urged the State Government to purchase all the land, assess its conservation value and then with those areas deleted, hand the bulk to the Forest Commission. Much of the land contained eucalyptus plantations (which are now being harvested). However APM did not hand over its Crown lease land at Bonville part only of which had been planted to trees over old sandmined areas and the bulk of which had native vegetation in reasonable order.

In 1987 Bonville Beach Hardwoods Pty Ltd was registered and it acquired the Bonville lands. Or it did so in a most curious fashion. It was granted a loan of $5 million from the State Development Bank to buy the land and at the same time the Premier endorsed a development proposal for a resort plus urban development which "would create ten thousand jobs".

That was the year too that other organisations decided enough was enough and the Bonville Coastal Park Steering Committee was formed with Martin Hogan of the Bellinger and Plateau Conservation Society as the Chair, David Norrie as the Secretary, and John Corkill, Michael Cheers, Petter Giller, Ross Macleay, Alan Lloyd, John Wickens, Chris Pile, Bill Huxley and Trevor Pike as members representing the Three Valleys branch of the NPA, the Ulitarra Society, the North Coast Environment Council, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Bundagen Community, and the Bonville Coastal Protection Group.

Trevor Pike produced the booklet published by the North Coast Environment Council, entitled "Bongil Bongil A Coastal Park Proposal for NSW 1988 Bi-Centennial Year" which set out the reason why the area had to be conserved.

As time went on and the Coffs City Council and the Governments of the day tried to wriggle out from conserving this stretch of coast some of the early campaigners dropped out and others held on. Perhaps it is invidious to name any one person but I will do so by saying that Dr Alan Lloyd who became the President of the Coffs Harbour National Park Support Group which was formed in 1988 did the bulk of the work and worried the Coffs Council and the State authorities like a terrier until the land was finally bought by the previous Government with Coastal Protection funds. Peter Geller, Sue Elk, Dee Wallace and others of the Ulitarra Society contributed in time, stress and money.

One day someone who has nothing else to do will write the whole story and it should prove quite an education in the way society works or does not work. It will certainly show how if you have a good case for conserving an area, plenty of hard workers and abundant energy, you may win in the end.

Yours sincerely

James L.O. Tedder
3 March 1996

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LIMITED,

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1995.

INCOME:	**1995**	**1994**
Donations - general	23,170	22,975
fighting fund	1,483	575
Sale of Blue Mountains Books & Posters	673	1,247
Sale of publications, net	776	2,868
Sale of Wilderness Calendars, net	290	181
Interest on Investments	8,324	11,566
Annual Membership Fees	2,700	2,720
Subscriptions to Bulletin	230	243
Red Index	117	855
Blue Mountains for World Heritage	735	721
Wilderness Conference	-	10
	38,498	43,961
EXPENDITURE:		
Bulletin Costs	1,889	1,305
Subscriptions to other conservation groups	189	130
Rent	2325	2353
Depreciation	970	1,267
Campaigns -		
Secretarial Expenses	2,966	2,622
Government and Bank charges	127	195
Research Officer & other wages	19,298	20,953
Publications - Wilderness The Future	-	6,797
Red Index	263	812
Blue Mountains for World Heritage	303	96
Wilderness Conference	-	205
Other Expenses	628	2,796
Computer Repairs	340	-
	29,298	39,531
Net Surplus:	**9,200**	**4,430**

Once again, thanks to the generosity of you, our supporters, the Foundation has recorded a comfortable surplus. Expenditure for the year was over ten thousand dollars less than it was for 1994 - this was accounted for mainly by the publication of the proceedings of the Wilderness Conference we hosted in 1994. Against this income was down by five thousand dollars mainly as a result of falling interest rates impacting on our investments, and a lower volume of merchandise sales.

Albert Renshaw,
Honorary Treasurer.

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 $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.

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
	16.00
Blue Mountains for World Heritage	8.00
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	4.00
and Lost World Wilderness Nominations, each	27.00
Barefoot Bushwalker	3.00
The Growth Syndrome	25.00
Wilderness - The Future	100.00
Red Index - complete	2.00
summary brochure	5.00
listing of individual areas	