

THE COLONG BULLETIN

Bulletin 170

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD

September 1998

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A Natural Treasure Trove

Australia has between 8 and 10 per cent of all living organisms. About 80 per cent are found nowhere else. It has a relatively small population and is endowed with fantastic scientific institutions... The proper use of the environment is what makes any country or any place healthy, prosperous and productive.

Dr. Peter Raven
Home Secretary of the U.S.
National Academy of Science.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Nomination

The cliffs shone out in the gold reflecting the glory of the setting sun. They reached in the distance as far as the eye could see, gradually shading into the different tones of violet and heliotrope. Down in the valley, 2000 feet below, everything was in shadow - that deep ultramarine blue from which the Blue Mountains derive their name.

**Myles Dunphy, 1910 -
as quoted in the Nomination.**

one of the great wonders of the world."

Community involvement is fully recognised. "Most significant events in conservation of this upland landscape," it stated, "were driven by the community." This involvement included the bushwalker/conservation movement of the 1930s, the conservation revival of the 1960s which created mass public support for the implementation of the earlier large park proposals and the wilderness systems (The Colong Committee was appointed in 1968) and the 1990's move to consolidate and confirm environmental values. The interaction between recreationalists and the natural beauty of the forest-covered plateaus is described as "critical".

One of the five sections of the nomination is devoted to the management of the area. Much of this was provided by the Colong Foundation. It covers a wide range of protective measures, including the Wilderness Act. It is noted that 500,000 ha are to be protected under the Act. National parks plans of management, control of urban development pressures, water

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Blue Mountains World Heritage

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management, including the decision not to raise Warragamba Dam, and other protective measures are described.

Although the nomination is very well presented, it adds little to Geoff Mosley's original proposal. We believe that this proposal itself if adopted by the Federal Government would have been sufficient to receive IUCN approval. Geoff stressed the geomorphological significance of the area, a view supported by Dr Roderick Brown and the Earth Science section of Latrobe University and Professor Brian Marshall. The supervising consultant accommodated the contrary views of Ollier and Payne so that the Nomination makes no conclusion on the geomorphological significance of the Mountains, emphasising their value as "an outstanding example of temperate eucalypt dominated forest and woodland."

The nomination lists 92 eucalypt species and 127 rare or threatened plant species found in the area. Most of these were included in Geoff Mosley's book. In addition 132 endemic vascular plants are listed. Also listed are art works featuring or inspired by the Greater Blue Mountains. The 65 artists listed include such well known artists as William Romaine Govett (see frontispiece of Geoff Mosley's book), Conrad Martens, Arthur Stretton, Sydney Long, Elioth Gruner, W. Lister Lister, William Rubery Bennett, Lloyd Rees, Desiderous Orban and Graham Cox, whose "Valley of the Grose" embellishes the cover of Geoff Mosley's book.

The state, national and global significance of the area is summed up in the Nomination by the statement that "On a world scale, it is extremely rare to find a city over 3.7 million, inhabitants surrounded on all landward sites by large areas of protected bushlands and wilderness." The Colong Foundation believes it is unique. ■

*No goal is more crucial to
healing the global environment
than stabilising population.*

**Al Gore,
U.S. Vice President**

Some Opinions On Hinchinbrook

The Hinchinbrook development is an environmental disaster. That this has been allowed to go ahead is a shame for all Australians, and is a breakdown of our responsibilities to our own future citizens and our responsibilities to hold in trust World Heritage areas. Mr Williams should be stopped in his tracks and paid out, even at a cost of \$20 millions.

**Professor Frank Talbot, reef
researcher and former director
of Smithsonian Institute.**

Obligations under at least three major international treaties have not been met. Government decisions which allowed the resort to go ahead are inconsistent with conventions on world heritage, biological diversity and the law of the sea.

**Dr Ian Dight, until recently
global co-ordinator of aquatic
diversity with the United
Nations Environment Program.**

Scientists have been put under pressure and a key consultant was sacked after giving "unacceptable" advice to the developer. ... Many of those who have raised genuine concerns about the Port Hinchinbrook development have been subject to personally derogatory press releases by both the offices of the Federal and State Ministers and the developer.

**Dr Ian White, expert
on acid sulphate soils.**

Other critics include the Australian Academy of Sciences, Sir David Attenborough, Dr David Bellamy, Professor David Suzuki and Dr Paul Erlich.

Opponents are militant fanatical elements who masquerade as conservationists.

**Mr Lindsay Hallam agent for
the resort's housing estate.**

*(From S.M.H. report
by Murray Hogarth.)*

Liberals Would Flood The Kowmung

A meeting of Blue Mountains Conservation Society representatives with Liberal Macquarie MP Kerry Bartlett, brought the unfortunate news that Kerry supports the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall. The support by several prominent Liberals, including NSW leader Peter Collins, for the raising of the dam wall, is one of the saddest chapters in Liberal Party History.

Hut News, July 1998

Opposition To Badgerys Grows

The Badgerys Creek airport is now opposed by the NSW Government, the State Opposition, the ALP (at its National Conference), the Australian Democrats and Mr Fahey, the Federal member for the area. Meanwhile both the Federal Government and the Federal Opposition will continue to prevaricate until after the election, though if either opposes it and opts for an airport outside Sydney they are likely to gain several seats.

Australia's Greenhouse Contribution

According to the Publishers National Environment Bureau recycled paper uses one sixth of the energy needed to make pulp from virgin fibre. Although the price of waste paper has fallen to \$7 a tonne, carbon dioxide absorbing trees continue to be fed to the woodchip mills.

Meeting Dates
*Meetings will be
held on September
24th, October 8th
and 22nd, and
November 5th
and 19th.*

INDIGENOUS WILDERNESS

The Australian Conservation Foundation has drafted a policy on Indigenous Wilderness. The Colong Foundation, although a long term member of the ACF, was not consulted on the drafting of this policy, but we obtained a copy courtesy of the Australian Heritage Commission's Indigenous Working Group Report on wilderness. The Working Group received a copy for comment before long-term ACF member groups expert on wilderness issues.

The Colong Foundation is considering publishing its own policy statement. The following three articles provide data for the formulation of such a policy.

Major Threat to South East Australian Wilderness Landscape Looms

By Dr Geoff Mosley

At the recently held meeting of the Council of the ACF a draft policy statement entitled 'Wilderness and Indigenous Cultural Landscapes in Australia' was approved. I write to urge anyone interested in the future of wilderness to write for a copy (ACF, 340 Gore St, Fitzroy 3065) and to send in their comments so that they can be considered before the draft is finalised at the next ACF Council meeting in November.

The draft text is very disturbing. If the policy was to be approved in its current form and then applied by Governments it would, in my view, be the most serious reversal for the wilderness conservation movement in Australia in its nearly 70 year history.

The draft policy specifically targets wilderness areas and is driven by the idea of integrating indigenous land rights and uses, and a watered down version of wilderness conservation aims and uses for all wilderness areas, including all existing wilderness reserves regardless of whether there is any current interest in the land by indigenous people.

The draft policy does not provide a clearcut definition of wilderness and does not make it clear that the environment would be managed in a man-

ner which is consistent with the wilderness concept as practiced in Australia to date (i.e. to create conditions in which natural forces and processes can operate to the maximum extent and visitors can enjoy these conditions without damaging them.). In fact the draft allows for roads and mechanised access for management purposes, including cultural ceremonies and for traditional cultural management of the land.

The proponents of the policy are emphatic about its all embracing geographic scope. I moved an amendment aimed at clarifying its application but this was lost after the gag had been applied to undemocratically prevent discussion. What I proposed was that the following words should be incorporated in the policy:

"It is intended that this policy be applicable to areas which are either owned by indigenous people or subject to confirmed native title and where it is the wish of the indigenous community that it apply."

The policy threatens wilderness conditions in existing wilderness reserves by allowing permanent habitations, mechanised access for cultural purposes, use of guns for hunting and manipulation of the environment by activities such as regular firing of the

country. It could also introduce an element of uncertainty into the questions of access by walkers and the long term security of purpose of the reserves.

The practice of traditional Aboriginal land management would conflict with wilderness objectives as currently practiced in wilderness reserves. The landscapes over much of Australia were affected for tens of thousands of years by Aboriginal management including the use of fire. There introduction of such regimes would be in direct conflict with the aim of minimising human interference so that the environment can evolve in response to the forces and processes of nature. Regular burning for instance can fix the vegetation at a particular stage interfering with natural succession to old growth. With this policy the role of people would change from that of guardians to gardeners. It is not clear whether the policy would result in areas which are currently owned by the general public passing into the ownership of particular groups and whether the access regime (currently available to all without discrimination) would remain. The possibility of permanent habitations in wilderness areas is canvassed which conflicts with the current concept of access being limited to visitors ■

National Parks or Aboriginal Properties

by Alex Colley

THE ACF draft wilderness and indigenous cultural landscapes policy is essentially a policy about the ownership of national parks, since wilderness requires national park status for adequate protection. The policy's goal is described as "to protect, and where necessary, restore, nature conservation, biodiversity, integrity of ecological systems and the wilderness condition of land and waters in a manner that fully respects the rights and responsibilities of Aboriginal peoples and restores, maintains and enhances their connection to country." The policy also states that "protection of wilderness requires the exclusion of all significant features of industrialisation, including tracks, bridges, roads and mechanised access, except where absolutely essential for management practices, such as important cultural ceremonies."

The goal of restoring the Aborigines' connection to their country in South Eastern Australia is a fantasy. Most of the country, including nearly all the fertile land, was taken from them. The fertile land, which provided most of their means of subsistence, was where most of them lived and where most of their cultural activities were located. National parks and wilderness areas are located in the "left-over" lands.

In northern and central Australia much of these infertile lands are still inhabited by the Aborigines. To declare them as national parks or wilderness would be the equivalent of declaring a freehold property a national park without compensation, and it is appropriate that they be given to the Aborigines, as have been parks such as Uluru and Mootwingee. These are now Aboriginal Parks, not National Parks.

Most of the wilderness areas in

the northern regions of Australia are also inhabited by the Aborigines. The wilderness areas of south eastern Australia are no longer inhabited by them. They contain many artifacts and sites of cultural significance. These are adequately protected by public (as opposed to Aboriginal) national park management and accessible by the Aborigines, though motorised access is unnecessary.

The ACF policy of supporting the right of indigenous people to hunt, fish, and gather resources in wilderness directly contradicts the policy of nature conservation. It was done sustainably when these activities were practiced on foot with boomerangs and spears, but it is not compatible with wilderness protection if done with 4Ws and guns. The Aborigines no longer need to find their food in national parks. Some find employment and those who can't have access to social security. Hunting in national parks would be no more than sport.

If Australians were in earnest about compensating the Aborigines for the loss of their fertile land we would buy some of it back and give it to them. They would probably manage overgrazed western lands better than the present owners. Giving them national parks and wilderness is a cheap purely "tokenistic" policy, based on a means of subsistence most of them have abandoned. ■

Native Title Claims Over National Parks

by Jim Somerville

TRANSFER of publicly owned land in NSW to Aboriginal groups is currently proceeding under the 1983 Aboriginal Land Rights Act (with about 60,000 ha of vacant Crown land transferred to date) and the 1996 National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Aboriginal Ownership) Act. Mootwingee is the first national park to be transferred under the latter Act but more are likely to meet the cultural significance test imposed by the Act.

In addition to the two NSW Acts, we must also consider the effect on Native Title claims following the recent passage in the Commonwealth Parliament of the so called WIK Amendments. The most important of these is the transfer of the responsibility for assessment and registration of claims from the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) to the Federal Court, relegating NNTT's role to mediation.

Claims can still be made over

national parks and nature reserves but certain tenures within them which were once freehold or leasehold are extinguished by the amendments. In the case of preparation or revision of a management plan "intended to preserve the natural environment of an area" (section 24 JB), native title claimants and ATSIC must be notified and given the opportunity to comment.

Claims can still be made on national parks etc. but where the park was proclaimed prior to 23rd December 1996, the validity of that proclamation cannot be challenged.

The original requirement that claimants must be able to "demonstrate a continuing cultural association" with the land will still apply but this must now be proved to the satisfaction of

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Native Title Claims

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the Federal Court, not the NNTT.

In the five years operation of the Native Title Act 119 claims have been made over Crown Land in NSW and ten of these involve national parks etc. Half of these ten have not yet been "accepted" by the NNTT and therefore must now be referred to the Federal Court together with the five remaining. Of these, the three largest are:

Claim NC 96/29 by the Walbunja Clan covering Jervis Bay to Narooma, therefore including Morton, Budawang, Deua, Eurobodalla, Conjola and Cudmirrah National Parks and Montague Island Nature Reserve.

Claim NC 96/11 by the United Githabul Tribal Nation covering state forests and national parks on the NSW/Qld border, therefore including Border Ranges, Toonumbar and Tooloom National Parks.

Claim NC 96/16 by the Bundjalung People including Bundjalung and Broadwater National Parks.

The Darug Claim (NC 97/8, which includes Sydney Harbour, Blue Mountains and Wollemi National Parks has already been referred by the Presidential Member to the Federal Court.

Only one claim in NSW has been resolved (Crescent Head) and only one claim in Australia has been before the Federal Court - Yorta Yorta, involving 1120 sq. kms along the Murray River, which ran for 18 months with 400 parties involved. A decision by Justice French is awaited.

Of utmost significance to conservationists is the fact that the Commonwealth Native Title Act overrides the NSW National Park legislation. ■

DOWN WITH CONSERVATION!

I have a very clear message for the environment lobby, the picnic is over.

Ian Armstrong MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition addressing the recent National Party State Conference

City of Green

The musicians of the Blue Mountains have produced a new CD titled a "City of Green - Green Ban Songs and Beyond" that peers into green politics. Its songs also celebrate the natural diversity of such places as the Valley of the Waters, Wentworth Falls.

Our favourite, "Mr Concreto" by Denis Kevans, was first recited at the 1994 "Warra Da Gamba" rally, in Katoomba (alias - Don't Raise Warragamba Dam rally). It is a wonderful tune, rendered in a mock Italian accent, about those people who want to wreck the

Mountains (Concrete is very niece. Niece colour, grey. Very smooth, stops people getting eye strain looking round the crooked Mountains).

A more serious ballad is Dennis Kevans' classic "Ah, White Man, Have You Any Sacred Sites" which questions society's lack of respect for heritage. Later botanist, Wyn Jones, introduces "The Wollemi Pine", a song by Sonia Bennett that honours the discovery of the Wollemi Pine that is hidden in the depths of NSW's largest wilderness area.

The CD's lead song "City of Green" by Kate Fagan was produced for the farewell service of NSW Builders Labourers Federation's President, Bobby Pringle.

The City of Green promotes Sydney as it could become - with a hinterland of World Heritage listed parks, a newly expanded Sydney Harbour National Park, and a visionary plan to clean up its waterways through waste water reuse and cleaner air though upgraded public transport infrastructure.

City of Green is only \$20 plus \$3 postage from Denis Kevans, 63 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls, 2782, ph (02) 4757 3119. Please make cheques payable to the Vinegar Hill Bush Band.



Clockwise from the top: Jack Munday (fathered the Green Bans), Milton Taylor (Australian reciting champion), Sonia Bennett (singer/song writer/composer), Wyn Jones (botanist), Kate Fagan (singer/song writer/composer), Denis Kevans (director/editor/ coordinator), Bob Fagan (singer/composer) and Jamie Carlin (concer/pipes).

A Comfortable Wilderness

Q: What are those lights on the landscape?



Answer: The windows of 35 lodges in 'Eaglereach Wilderness Resort' heliographing its presence across the landscape. The four star resort has a 4 square kilometre of wilderness. The Colong Foundation has asked Tourism NSW to ban the wilderness resort terminology in its resort promotions by 2000.

WHAT'S BUGGING SYDNEY'S WATER?

THE outbreak of cryptosporidium and giardia should remind Sydney residents just how lucky we are to have such pure water supplies. Unfortunately, the reality of pure water has been tarnished by the episode, perhaps unnecessarily. No epidemic of belly aches has broken out.

Sydney Water is required to provide a profit to government. The money instead should go into providing for infrastructure and management which is being run down.

Sydney's water mains are in need of constant replacement, none more than the open upper canal built last century. This aqueduct travels from the Cataract River to the Prospect drinking water treatment plant and is some 70 kilometres in length. For at least part of its length the canal is lined in sandstone blocks that would allow polluted groundwater to seep into it. The open canal is also vulnerable to mischief from rubbish dumpers and polluters as it is not entirely fenced off.

The second key source of pollution is raw sewage from towns in the

Blue Mountains and the Southern Highlands. Sewage overflows and septic tanks are the main sources of raw sewage. Such pollution is released every time it rains and can quickly find its way into water supplies. Unless such heavy contamination is removed from the catchments it is a faint hope that a high-tech water treatment plant can remove all micro-organisms.

The current argument of whether the existing plant that removes 99.5 per cent of organisms should be upgraded to remove 99.9 per cent seems rather irrelevant. Failure of the existing system requires both a malfunction at the plant as well as poor catchment management upstream.

Upgrading the plant can only give a very marginal benefit of 0.4 per cent, whereas upgrading catchment management gives more consistent raw water quality and reduces the strain on the treatment plant performance.

Good catchment management reduces the cost of treating raw potable water and provides environmental benefits by protecting the

wilderness areas of the southern Blue Mountains. The technological fix is an expensive alternative that is certain to fail due to Murphy's law (what ever can go wrong, will go wrong).

To achieve good catchment management all sources of raw sewage must be removed from water supplies, unserviced residential development curtailed (such as at residential development on Kings Tableland) and Sydney Water must adequately fund the NPWS to provide for effective control of feral animals and wildfires. The application of fertiliser to the rural areas and the pine plantations in the Jenolan and Gurnang State Forests that adjoin the Kanangra-Boyd National Park should be limited (especially if it's sewage sludge!). This is done in other countries, such as Switzerland to prevent aquatic weed and algae outbreaks in the inner catchment areas.

Wilderness, the best form of catchment protection, will ensure clean water is provided at the lowest price.

Sydney Water has achieved great improvements in water quality by diverting sewage away from water supply catchments (six sewage treatment plants have been removed from the Blue Mountains). The current inquiry should offer the Corporation an opportunity to build on these achievements, rather than allow a witch hunt for the guilty parties. ■

Coal Mining Malady

CLARENCE colliery, situated in the headwaters of the Wollangambe River, has just re-opened with a slashed workforce and key operations contracted out. The deal also means another three million tonnes of coal annually pushed onto an oversupplied global market.

Coal prices crashed about eighteen months ago and the colliery closed down for a period this year with the loss of 150 jobs. The new operation employs far less people but the benefits of lower overheads are passed onto the overseas customers through

lower prices. If the prices fall again the mine may close once more repeating the cycle.

The environment is another casualty of economic "restructuring". For example, the beautiful Gooches Crater remains unprotected from coal mining at the Clarence Colliery. Its scenic sphagnum moss swamp, huge camp cave and majestic sandstone arch would be ruined if mining proceeds beneath these features. The mine has not landscaped its surface works that are visible from many points in the upper catchment. It makes quite a contrast with the

adjoining pristine wilderness.

To the north-west, the nearby Baal Bone colliery has been sold to Cyprus Coal. It is not an efficient mine due to its underground operation and the high cost of transport to Port Kembla. To maximise efficiency a more damaging mine operations plan is proposed by the owner. It will cause unnecessary damage to cliffs and pagodas in the Gardens of Stone area.

Globalisation is forcing the environmental disruption, as cost cutting results in poorer environmental outcomes. Cheaper pollution control and environment protection measures, deferred site rehabilitation, landscaping and weaker maintenance regimes are likely to be adopted at all collieries. ■

Green Fire

The first fire management plan for a wilderness area is on public exhibition until 2 October, 1998. The plan is for the eastern quarter of the identified Werrikimbe wilderness, called the Willi Willi area by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The plan provides for the conservation needs of species, communities and the maintenance of wilderness values (well almost – apart from the fire trails).

Wild fire

The objectives of wilderness fire management are to (as far as practicable) maintain appropriate fire regimes through minimal human interference and minimise the effects of fire suppression practices on natural processes.

Prescription burns will only occur if longer term monitoring identifies the potential loss of species. Fire suppression (i.e. fire fighting) will be focussed on rapid fire attack outside the park. All fires inside the park will be monitored and if it is unlikely to leave the park and is considered environmentally benign, then it will be allowed to burn.

The draft plan also proposes performance indicators that include no prescribed burns in the wilderness and a reduction in the number of wildfires entering the park.

These provisions are a welcome change to the broad-acre control burning by aerial ignition that was the vogue twenty years ago. At that time it was believed necessary that all forests be burnt off so that combustible material in the bush was reduced to 5 tonnes a hectare. Then came an ecological revolution in fire management that recognised the fire needs of ecosystems and the limitations of fire management based on volunteers.

The draft plan reports the findings of fuel accumulation rates in the Sydney region (Conroy, 1994). That study found that to keep fuel levels to 5 tonnes a hectare to ensure wildfires

are controllable would require broad-area burns every few years. Mr Conroy found that such a strategy that would be impossible to implement and environmentally very destructive.

Instead of a scorched earth policy the draft plan recognises that rainforests and wet hardwood forests of the Willi Willi wilderness are too moist for broad-area control burning. Instead fuel reduced zones are proposed to protect life and property. But the plan qualifies this statement by saying that "the most crucial element in effective property protection is provided by an appropriately sized fuel free zone."

Flaming problems

While the plan recognises that rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest does not require fire management (control burning), no provision is made to exclude fire from old growth forests.

The fire management should ensure that a range of age classes from the oldest to the youngest are retained of each vegetation type. To achieve this aim, older age plant communities should be protected from fire. These are refuge areas for endangered species and other wildlife that permit recruitment into adjoining bushland areas following wildfire.

Hardwood old growth are more vulnerable to frequent wildfire than rainforests and take centuries to regrow. Old growth forests are a non-renewable resource that is declining due to wildfire as much as logging.

The moist forests to the west are proposed for fuel reduction burns. However, burning these areas may make them more fire prone by drying the forests out. The Colong Foundation recommends the abolition

of deliberate fires in wet hardwood forests. The only time effective control burning of wet forest is in hot windy weather after long dry periods. Such burning risks wildfire defeating the purpose of fuel reduction.

For more fire prone wilderness areas, such as in the Blue Mountains, property protection, and risk management strategies and actions will require further development to ensure wilderness values are protected in practice. Recognition of the damage caused by large dozer-constructed fire control lines and alteration of fire regimes are the essential first steps in this process.

Fire management that protects wilderness values will remain a theory while residents in areas like the Blue Mountains retain combustible material adjoining their homes.

Hopefully draft fire plans for national parks will help stop the culture of fear that leads to fires being lit by neighbours on severe fire days. Such preventative fires may protect one neighbour from being burnt out at the sacrifice of the national park and other assets.

The Foundation hopes that the fire culture established by this plan will see perpetrators of such unauthorised fires prosecuted by their community instead of sheltered by them. We believe that since most artificial fires start in developed land, and where life and property are threatened, that is where control measures should be located. ■

The Camphor Laurel Menace

Joe Friend, in collaboration with Dr Keith Bishop, describes the ever increasing ecological menace of Camphor laurel trees on the north coast, which now infest whole districts. Their leaves are known to kill fish and frogs and the trees sterilise the soil. The population of bird species known to be eaters of berries is decreasing. Although the trees have been declared noxious weeds in at least seven shires, the means of control have yet to be determined

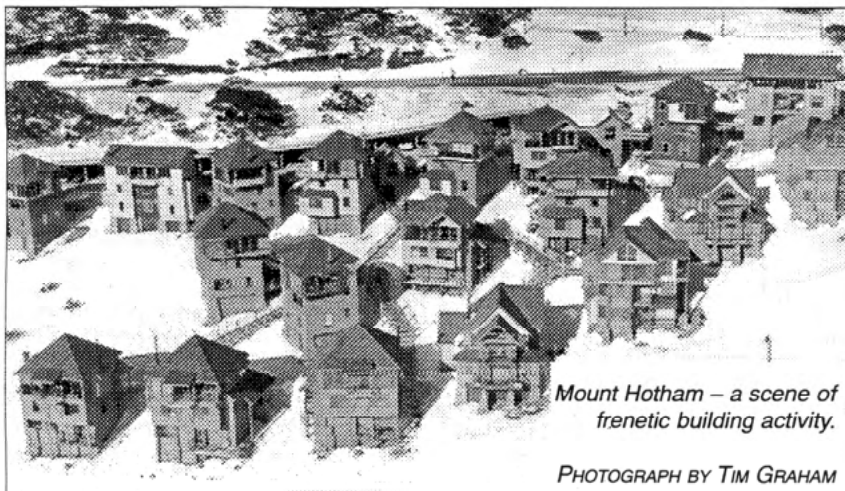
Hotham Today, Kosciuszko Tomorrow?

In October last year the Victorian Government stealthily inserted in the Alpine Resort (Management) Bill provision for the excision of 285 ha. at Mt. McKay for the expansion of the Falls Creek alpine resort. It will be linked to the Mt. Hotham ski village and hotel by a helicopter service which will fly over the parkland between these resorts. They will be served by a new airport on the tourist road near the entrance to the park.

The magazine *Personal Investment* reports, in an article entitled 'Go Sell it on the Mountain', that "we encountered frenetic activity unseen since the building boom of the 1980s as contractors toiled to complete a bevy of new accommodation and retail

units ready for the first snowfalls of the season... In the Hotham village a small subdivision started 18 months ago has seen 22 chalets built at total costs of up to \$450,000. Some are for sale: agents expect prices of over \$500,000... Another \$22 million is expected to be spent at Mount Hotham, including development in the village centre, on snow making facilities and on the new airport, while another \$21 million is earmarked for Falls Creek."

Kerry Packer's Perisher Blue Pty Ltd wants control of the Kosciuszko resorts area removed from the NPWS. The next step could well be the excision of the area from the park, as previously advocated. ■



Mount Hotham – a scene of frenetic building activity.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM GRAHAM



Real estate expansion at "The Basin" Mount Hotham, a real estate rather than skier driven development. PHOTO: RODNEY WATERMAN

Moving Again

The environs of Sydney Cove are Australia's most historic site and the country's prime tourist attraction. Thanks to the campaign by the Builders Labourers Union, most of the buildings in The Rocks have not been replaced by high rise buildings or the type of development at East Circular Quay.

Appropriately enough, four leading conservation organisations the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Nature Conservation Council, Total Environment Centre and the Colong Foundation located in the area. The ACE, TEC and Colong had offices in the Old Bond Store at 18 Argyle Street and the NCC in the historic Lilyvale House in Cumberland Street. If only for economic reasons the natural environment should have been featured in this popular tourist area. However it was not to be. In 1991 we were informed that we would have to move out of the old warehouse-style bond store. Milo Dunphy submitted a plan which would have accommodated ACE, NCC and Colong, and provided an artistic representation of the natural attractions which bring so many overseas tourists to Australia. The plan was not accepted. TEC and Colong moved to Gloucester Walk and NCC and ACE to George Street, north. The space vacated was devoted to increasing the city's already oversupplied retail facilities. Money rated before conservation, which was banished to fringe locations.

The lease of our Gloucester Walk premises soon expires. It was negotiated during the rental slump of the early 90s and renewal would be beyond our means.

Our new office which we will rent from TEC is on the second floor of 362 Kent Street, close to both Town Hall and Wynard railway stations. Although we will miss the view over Foundation Park, the premises are in good condition and we will continue to enjoy the use of TEC's facilities. Another advantage is that NCC has moved to the fifth floor of the building.

We have not yet been allocated numbers for our telephone and facsimile machine but for three months calls to our old telephone numbers will be redirected. ■

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 31/12/99)

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 Street, Sydney 2000



SUPPORT THE COLONG FOUNDATION!

The Treasurer, Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd
2/362 Kent St., Sydney 2000

The enclosed remittance or advice covers the item(s) indicated by a tick
(One cheque is 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 31/12/99 (\$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.....

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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.....

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PROGRESS OF THE FOUNDATION

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 the 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. The Foundation is working for the preservation of old growth forests, particularly those of wilderness value and for scenic river legislation. A more detailed history of the Foundation is available in its introductory brochure.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION

SENDER - THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

2/362 Kent St., Sydney 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	8.00
Wilderness - The Future	25.00
Red Index - Complete	100.00
Red Index - Summary Brochure	2.00
Red Index - Listing of Individual Areas	5.00
Myles Dunphy's Gangerang and Kowmung Maps	5.00 ea
Wild Places	34.95