



# THE COLONG BULLETIN

Bulletin 202

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD  
**PROTECTING WILDERNESS AND NATIONAL PARKS**

January 2004

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The critical work to enhance protection must go on. We can now only mourn for the abundance of original nature which has been lost from the Greater Blue Mountains, while celebrating and rejoicing in the riches that remain. The priceless debt we owe to those committed citizens who worked to protect as much as possible can only be honoured by ensuring that we lose no more and that their legacy survives for all time.

**Ian Brown,**  
in his book *Wild Blue*

## How to Save Wilderness

by Alex Colley

**L**ast year a major wilderness reservation campaign led by the Colong Foundation reached its conclusion with 273,000 hectares being declared under the Wilderness Act. The protected wilderness estate has grown to over 1.8 million hectares or one third of the total national parks estate covering 7% of NSW, which is really something to celebrate.

Much effort was also devoted to the south eastern wilderness areas and to the acquisition of Green Gully for addition to Oxley National Park near Walcha. The Southern Directorate of the NPWS has favoured environmentally damaging activities, such as horseriding, 4WDing and resort development and ignored the protests of the environment movement. Nominated and designated wilderness has been sacrificed to these groups. Deua has become a 4WD estate and hundreds of kilometres of roads remain in the

Coolangubra. Self appointed animal lovers have opposed the elimination of the 3000 horses damaging flora and soil and replacing native fauna in Kosciuszko National Park. We have opposed the broad scale burning of parks, the undermining of the Metropolitan Catchment and a proposed sand mine overlooking the Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

These activities will be continued this year. Our opponents are mostly wealthy companies, well funded recreational groups, rural interests and, sadly, government departments. Experience proves that it takes many years to achieve our objectives, but achieve them we do.

Conservation theory considers large, less fragmented reserves are better than small ones; having larger, more connected wildlife populations that reduce the risk of

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# Wild Blue

by Ian Brown

Published by Windy Cliffs Press. 128 pages,

270 mm x 248 mm, 30,000 words text, 81 colour images. rrp hard cover \$75, soft cover \$50.

reviewed by Alex Colley

**I**AN Brown, having worked in national park management, and as a bushwalker, gaining an intimate knowledge of the Blue Mountains, was well equipped to write a comprehensive description of this World Heritage area, describe its natural environment, the various development activities which affected it and the campaigns to preserve it.

The historical chapter of the book starts with the first settlers, the Aborigines. Just how long they occupied the Mountains is uncertain, but it was probably more than 12,000 years. They left behind plentiful artefacts and over 200 rock art sites. The second wave of settlers was the British. It took 25 years to find a route over the Mountains and in another 30 years most of the main transport routes had been established. As accessibility increased "Even the defences of the most resilient parts of the wilderness would be tested over and again as the modern urge to turn everything to material gain was applied to a resistant landscape."

As civilisation grew and nature retreated there was no longer an abundance of wildlife. The occu-

pation of the naturally productive areas impacted on the strongholds of many species, as did hunting, fires and rabbits.

In the section entitled "The rise of conservation," Ian describes the 19<sup>th</sup> century reservations, the Blue Gum Forest campaign, Myles Dunphy's Greater Blue Mountains vision and, four decades later, the Colong campaign, "the first conservation issue in NSW to mobilise the wider community in defence of wilderness and to impact politics on a large scale." Subsequent additions to the Blue Mountains parks provided the protection which culminated in World Heritage listing.

The historical chapter is followed by a description of the natural features of the Mountains, with chapters on rock, land, sky, water, life and season. Each chapter is well written and illustrated with beautiful colour photographs.

The book provides a complete picture of the Mountains. The residents and the tourists, particularly the bushwalkers, who see the impact of development but enjoy the State's largest and most pristine wilderness areas, should read it. ■

*Below: Mount Solitary and the Kedumba Valley. Photo: Ian Brown*



## How to Save Wilderness

*continued from page 1*

extinction and possess greater resilience to disturbances like fire. Wilderness comprises the last substantial and most ecologically complete remnants of the natural environment and so these areas give us our best chance to put this theory into effect.

This year our colour coffee table book presenting the story of seventy years of campaigning for the preservation of the Blue Mountains, that

culminated in World Heritage listing, will be finished. The book is an investment in future generations, who, no doubt, will be inspired by the tale and Henry Gold's stunning images.

The Colong Foundation is a voluntary organisation. It has a professionally qualified directorate composed of seasoned wilderness campaigners who provide expert advice on natural ecosystems and their management, mapping, law, photography, accountancy, taxation, economics, education and

publicity. Only two of our officers are paid. They too are volunteers, because they could earn several times their salary if they worked the same hours elsewhere. Equally important are our financial supporters. A staffed and equipped office is essential to maintain contact with the media, the politicians and other organisations. So once more we call upon our worthy members and supporters to renew their subscriptions to cover this year and add a tax deductible donation if affordable. ■

# **Real concern ... or just another form of self gratification?**

by Fiona McCrossin

**D**uring the past two years I have been reading extensively about two uses of horses on national park lands. The first is related to the use of the horse as a vehicle. This can take the form of an individual rider to a suite of commercial experiences. The other is in relation to the use of the feral horse or brumby. This horse has found itself misplaced in an environment in which it has not evolved and is often stressed for resources, but, due to the thrill that it evokes for a few humans, usually on horseback, receives much attention. Use, use and more use.

In this research I have encountered some of the most contentious issues facing national park management. The horse, due to sheer human bias, has been allowed to remain in parks where animals less valued have been removed by every method imaginable. The level of stress to the horse is rarely discussed. Misinformation abounds.

Numerous Australian horse-user websites, often linked to those in the United States and, perhaps more concerning, to other sites extolling the virtues of high impact recreation on public lands, tell impassioned tales of the thrill of the chase, both for their own mount and themselves, as they "run" brumbies through wilderness lands.

In an interesting twist, while scouring a second hand bookshop for one title or another, I had an accidental discovery of antiquity

– *Pals: young Australians in sport and adventure* was an interesting find in that untainted by the saccharined touch of those who would have us believe that brumby runs should hold a revered place in our history, I was faced with an unadulterated account of what such runs actually involve.

*Pals* presents a brumby hunt which exhilarates the riders, pushes the mounts to their physical limits and distresses the brumbies in ways that left me feeling even more concerned over the ethics that drive some horseriding groups.

Many words were used to elucidate the feel of the hunt to the reader, relating to both horses and riders. My concern was particularly pronounced when reading the words used to describe one brumby's reaction to being herded into a trap – "Inside the trap, death or slavery!".

The run's result was one rider and horse unconscious on the ground, one horse with a broken back and another with a broken neck.

A quick internet search reveals today's brumby runners work their horses to exhaustion in order to experience the thrill of the chase.

I'm afraid that the use of horses in this way does not hold any appeal for me at all. Like many of the uses we humans put other species to, it generally distils to the provision of some liquor for self-gratification.

Fortunately, due to some

## ***Hunters and Protectors***

In his article in the *SMH's Spectrum* of Dec. 6-7, James Woodford addresses two controversies. The first is, does wilderness exist? And the second is, if so does it continue to exist if open to 4Wdriving, shooting and residential use?

The existence of wilderness is recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which defines it as "A large area of modified or slightly modified land, and/or sea, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition." The existence of wilderness is also recognised by the *NSW Wilderness Act*, which includes in its definition areas which are capable of restoration. In fact no place on earth is unaffected by human activity, if only by global warming, and if human modification excludes natural areas from wilderness classification, none of the largest remnants of the natural environment will be preserved.

Wilderness areas consist of land too poor in resources of economic value to have been occupied by the European invaders. The fertile farming and grazing lands also provided the main sustenance of the Aborigines and allowing them to hunt and shoot in wilderness will not compensate them. If reconciliation is to be real it means restoring fertile land to them.

While recognising prior Aboriginal occupation of wilderness areas, the Colong Foundation will continue to adhere to the IUCN and NSW definitions of wilderness.

groundbreaking work by the RSPCA, the humaneness of how horses are being treated in national parks is being discussed more and more, and I hope that truth and reason will finally come to the forefront. ■



# A plan for environment protection and restoration of Kosciuszko National Park

The Colong Foundation has recently prepared a key plan for the environmental protection of Kosciuszko National Park, making this fragile alpine reserve its major focus.

In 2002, an independent committee of Australia's leading scientists reported that the Park's outstanding values are at risk due to expanding development, increased visitor use, climate change and introduced plants and animals. Kosciuszko, NSW's largest national park, has many problems: it is fragmented by roads, power lines, dams and resorts; and many interest groups seek to enjoy the area, regardless of the damage they do. Feral horses are poorly managed and their population is rapidly growing.

In response to these threats, the Colong Foundation has prepared a large annotated map titled Kosciuszko National Park – A Plan for Environment Protection and

Restoration, which provides a comprehensive answer to the park's problems. The map is costly to print but can be supplied upon request at \$5.00 per copy.

## Wilderness, pipelines, ferals and fire

The Plan proposes an expanded suite of wilderness areas along the central spine of the park to protect biodiversity, enhance naturalness and sustain ecological integrity. The map also indicates the location of the park's wild rivers, including the Ingeegoodbee, Pinch, Goodradigbee and Goobarragandra Rivers. Aqueducts are flagged for removal so as to restore natural flows to the upper Snowy and Goodradigbee.

The Plan indicates our opposition to proposals for yet more infrastructure in the park. Regrettably the ACT Government is considering expansion of Canberra's water supplies, instead of implementing effective water reuse and demand management strategies. They have a proposal for augmenting water supplies using either a pipeline or tunnel from Tantagora Dam to the Cotter catchment.

The Plan opposes 'brumby running' as a method of capturing feral horses, which is cruel and ineffective. Another inappropriate scheme is located in the north of the park, where the ACT Government has proposed a fence along the NSW-ACT border to contain feral horses to NSW. The proposed fence would do nothing about the problem within the NSW park and reserves. As a key management priority the Plan calls for pest species management to be applied to all pest species across the entire park. Pest control methods need to be effective and humane, and should include shooting feral horses.

The ACT Government is considering inappropriate proposals to reduce fire risk, such as establishing more roads and broad area burning in wilderness areas, as outlined in the McLeod Inquiry into the ACT bushfires. Such proposals are contrary to existing fire management practices in NSW, where naturalness is restored following wildfire. Hazard reduction burning, if not done sensibly and scientifically, can increase fuel loads and put the lives of fire fighters at risk. The best scientific advice states that alpine areas should never be deliberately burnt. The current practice of strategically protecting assets at the park boundary and managing fire risk to protect all park values elsewhere should continue.

## Recreation and transport

National parks are primarily set aside for nature conservation and any recreation within them must be appropriate and have minimal, environmentally sustainable impact.

At least nine horse camping areas have damaged the park's natural values, and horseriding continues in the Pilot and Byadbo wilderness areas. It is particularly critical to remove the horseriding camp beside Pinch River on the Barry Way as this camp is used to access the Tin Mines area in the Pilot Wilderness. The Plan recommends relocation of the National (horseriding) Trail off park. Protection of the sensitive alpine environments, such as Mount Morgan and Mount Tabletop from horseriding, are also proposed.

Visitors should not rely on hut accommodation, as Kosciuszko National Park is subject to sudden and extreme weather changes in any



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## Inevitable Climate Change

There is now enough momentum in the climate system, born from past energy and land use practices, to inflict further warming (*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, 2001, p.17). Although the implementation of global mitigation strategies could significantly reduce the amount of warming, some changes in our future climate are inevitable. This scenario, according to the IPCC, will lead to more intense and/or more frequent extreme climate and weather events

From *The Impact of Climate Change on Insurance against Catastrophes* by Insurance Group Australia.

Below: Hail 30 cm deep at Berowra.



Plan for protection of Kosciuszko  
*continued from page 4*

season. The huts destroyed in the 2003 bushfires within remote wilderness areas should not be rebuilt, as such replicas poorly present the lost cultural values, and reconstruction would be inconsistent with the *Wilderness Act*, 1987.

To contain vehicle impacts, the Plan calls for a public transport vision that would include upgrading and expanding the ski tube to Jindabyne. Investment in bus transport to all major park destinations and camping areas should be encouraged through increasing park entry fees.

Vehicle access should be confined to public roads suitable for all vehicles. To protect wildlife, roads should not be widened, upgraded or revoked from the park. The maximum speed on parks roads should be 80 km/h.

A key action to securing the future for this vulnerable park is the management response to climate change.

## Forests Drink Clouds

Researchers working on forests at Longland Gap, on the Great Dividing Range in north Queensland, reported that "Cloud and mist blow through the forest and the water gets captured on the huge surface area of the leaves and trunks," said Paul Reddell one of the group's leaders. "They strip water out of the clouds." From *The Australian Geographic* Jan Mar 2004.

## Coastal Developers Rampant

In 2003, Issue 3 of the *Total Environment Centre Newsletter*, Natural Areas Campaigner Fran Kelly writes: The battle for the coast continues. Developers rort planning policies; conservation plans are dropped; illegal and preemptive clearing rages; proposals for inappropriate wetland, sprawling and foreshore and rezoning continue to emerge. It's depressing, but community outrage is growing and the Government has got the message – now we need to see action to protect the coast. Fran lists 17 rorts of planning policy.

Colong rejects the current policy of increasing resort use in the summer months, which risks a further spread of tourism impacts across the park. Major plans for increased snowmaking at the ski resorts and the introduction of cloud seeding will adversely impact on the park and must be rejected. Kosciuszko National Park already suffers from a vast number of structures which are incompatible with the protection of natural values. Cloud seeding, which will manipulate the Park's climate, requires the installation of many giant propane cylinders and burners across the western side of the park. Enough money and time has already been wasted on cloud seeding over the years and the scheme is predicted to increase the rain shadow over the Monaro Tableland, a fear which local graziers have already expressed.

All leases for the ski resorts must be terminated in 2030 when natural snow cover becomes insufficient for

## Paradise Lost

The development at Oyster Point is about to blot out yet more of the extraordinary World Heritage values of the beautiful Hinchinbrook Channel area. This breathtakingly beautiful, double World Heritage Listed area boasts some of the richest and most complex ecosystems on the planet.

Mr. Williams (the developer) wants a "lake." It was a canal development in the early brochures, but the developer has done his homework. He knows that the State Government prides itself on not having approved any canal developments on the Queensland coast since coming to office... This is a 16 hectare "lake" that just happens to look like canals. It will have locks so that it can be flushed out into the adjacent creek by tidal action. Why do you need to flush a "lake", you ask? Because Mr. Williams doesn't only want a lake right beside Hinchinbrook Channel, he also wants 291 more houses and a golf course and a 100 room hotel. ... What a load of silt and nutrients, Mr. Williams!

– Ken Jones, in the Summer 2003 edition of the *Wildlife Preservation Society Newsletter*.

skiing. In the meantime, the ski resorts should be contained to existing lease boundaries and equivalent bed numbers; their ecological footprint reduced. The isolated Charlotte Pass ski resort should be dismantled and removed upon expiry of its lease in 2015 and Cabramurra, a redundant Snowy Hydro Corporation village, should also be removed within three years.

The Colong Foundation's Plan for Environment Protection and Restoration was unanimously endorsed at the 2003 Annual Conference of the Nature Conservation Council.

Kosciuszko is part of an international network of United Nations biosphere reserves and is one of only 167 world centres of biodiversity. The NPWS draft plan of management is to be released later this year and the Plan will ensure that the public interest in nature conservation remains at the centre of debate over the future of this park. ■

# Far South Coast National Parks – Update

by Fiona McCrossin and Keith Muir

The Southern Directorate of the NPWS has recently distinguished itself by overlooking the overwhelming number of public submissions and arguments presented for wilderness protection. The Directorate is now about to make new plans of management for over 360,000 hectares of national parks and reserves stretching south along the escarpment from Batemans Bay to Eden. If not drastically amended these plans would increase the approved public vehicle access roads in NSW national parks estate by over 25 per cent (based on 1997 figures). These plans indicate a return to 19th century park planning principles that caused the drastic overdevelopment of Royal National Park.

Dr Tim Flannery has described Royal National Park as a 'marsupial ghost town'. He failed to explain that it is this park's network of roads, pattern of over burning and high feral animal populations that caused the loss. With the major vehicle-based tourist development planned for South Coast escarpment parks such losses will be replicated.

Such park management plans contradict the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), which required an expanded forest reserve system across Australia to protect the nation's biodiversity. The Colong Foundation for Wilderness considers that naturalness and biodiversity can only be protected by park management that restricts public vehicle access to a limited number of public roads that are suitable for use by all vehicles, and these public access roads should be kept short and to the edges of the park. A very limited number of basic visitor facilities should be located on the edge of the park. In the case of the South East Forests National Park and those national parks on the Southern Escarpment to the north, these principles are being reversed.

## Key escarpment parks are getting a raw deal

Since June 2003 the NPWS has been preparing a plan of management for the Deua-Wadbilliga, Monga and Gourrock National Parks,



Road north of Mt Coolangubra.  
Photo: Rob Jung

and the Badja Swamps Nature Reserve. The management plan will cover an area of about a quarter of a million hectares.

The NPWS has held community consultation meetings at Braidwood, Moruya, Bega and Cooma, and, following protest, with environment groups in Sydney. Local consultations mainly attracted individuals who hold anti-conservation views and it is these views that could significantly influence the future management plan.

The Southern Directorate has the

ill-founded belief that it can co-opt farming communities and the access lobby into park management process and secure conservation benefits. This view has set in train a process that will trade protection of wilderness values for high impact recreation opportunities.

The rural communities were asked to locate park values on maps; resulting in maps that featured desired access routes and trails for 4WD'ing, horseriding and trail bike riding, including within declared wilderness areas. The rural community consultation considered access as the primary issue in park management. The consultation concluded that access trails as alternative routes between the coast and tablelands should be featured in park management. This will maximise through vehicle traffic to the detriment of the parks' wildlife.

The NPWS has published on its website all the access routes provided from user group data. These maps exaggerate the amount of high impact recreation access and make this the centre of attention in future management planning. The NPWS Southern Directorate staff have also decided to prepare a discussion paper on increased access and park development, and another report on "bridle trail heritage". The so-called public consultation has become a propaganda tool to justify development of

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## Far South Coast National Parks

*continued from page 6*

these wilderness parks as playgrounds for local high impact use.

The NPWS policy on vehicle access (June 2002) states that "No special provision for trail bike and four wheel drive vehicles will be made." The NPWS needs to implement this policy and protect its wilderness areas, not set bad management precedents for exclusive 4WD and horseriding use.

### Carving up the Coolangubra

We have heard that management planning for the 117,322 hectare South East Forests National Park could open up many hundreds of kilometres of public roads. Could it be true that the increase in public roads would represent about a 20 per cent expansion of such roads within all parks across the entire state (there were 2,500 km of public roads in national parks, June 1997 figures)?

What a terrible thing to do to the Coolangubra Wilderness where all roads should be closed. The community has been involved in the protection of the South East Forests for over 30 years. When the logging started in the Coolangubra Wilderness, the catchcry was 'restore the South East.' When the Carr Government stopped the logging damage in 1995, the wilderness was protected for its plant and animal diversity after one of the greatest forest protection battles ever seen in Australia. Unfortunately the NPWS Southern Directorate has not prepared a plan that would protect the forest's diversity.

Disregarding the vision of those who struggled for decades to save the area, the Directorate's tourism and park development strategies plan to fully exploit the many former logging snig tracks and roads. This development will mostly benefit 4WD vehicle users, encouraging an activity almost non-existent in the area. Such planning is likely to lead to forest blockades on national park lands to restore biodiversity and wilderness values.

A fundamental driver for the South East Forests campaign was that the region lacked a conservation reserve system to protect its wilder-

ness and old growth forests. During the final years of the campaign the priority was to secure a system of contiguous reserves which maximised catchment protection and west-east/north-south links. Such a reserves system would maximise the ability of the natural environment to withstand immediate and long term impacts including those at the reserve edge. To minimise boundary to area ratios, the reservation of the Coolangubra and the Tantawangalo areas were essential. Retaining a maze of roads in this park will erode these fundamentals. Stretched out, the network of roads in the South East Forests National Park could stretch from Batemans Bay to Newcastle.

### Recreation alternatives ignored

There are alternatives to encouraging degradation through development opportunities for 4WD vehicles and horseriding in the Park's ecosystems. There are about 800 kilometres of 4WD trails in the state forests adjoining the South East Forests National Park. There is no reason to maximise public vehicle access in the national park. Instead, all the roads in the identified Coolangubra and Brogo wilderness areas and other areas of high naturalness should be closed. The high impact users should be redirected to state forests and private lands.

We have also been informed that instead of restoring the South East, there is a proposal to have Wog Way, an ugly logging road, listed on the National Estate as a scenic drive. Since when did the site of the longest logging blockades in Australian conservation history become a nationally significant scenic drive?

In 1996, after thousands of arrests and years of lobbying, around 16,000 submissions supported protection of the Coolangubra and Brogo Wilderness. These submissions endorsed the conservation movement's proposal for a reserve system under the Regional Forest Agreement which included these areas. The NPWS Southern Directorate is again only listening to local rural development interests and the 4WD vehicle and horseriding groups who rarely used these tracks in the south east. It is an ugly trend that must be stopped. ■

## Burnt Out Parks Useless

If Australians believe that the way to protect houses and infrastructure from bushfires is to carry out massive annual hazard reduction burns in our national parks, then the whole rationale for the parks is undermined: if we're to destroy their biodiversity, then what's the point of having them?

From "Why did Canberra burn?" by Jim Kohen, Senior lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University, in the *Australian Geographic* Jan-Mar 2004.

## Saving the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby

In the 1870s a group of Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies was taken to Kawau Island, off the coast of New Zealand, where they have thrived to become a pest. Lloyd Oldfield and four private sponsors plan to bring back twenty of them at a cost of \$200,000, some of which will come from the state and federal government. As the experience of releasing wallabies at Mount Wilson has proved, they would not survive if released into the wild. They will be sent to fenced sanctuaries at Victoria's Little River and Waratah Park in NSW, to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and perhaps to the Southern Highlands. Although an endangered species, the wallaby would survive in the wild if its known habitats were preserved. Colong knows two of its habitats; one at Green Gully, in the Macleay Gorges, another at Coolana, the Sydney Bush Walkers' holding on the Kangaroo River. The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife are trying to raise the funds to purchase Green Gully for \$1.3 million. The funds raised would augment the \$16 million allocated by the NPWS for work on threatened species.

[We acknowledge data on Lloyd Oldfield's project from Stephanie Peatling's article in the *SMH* of 18.11.2003]

# Saving the Southern Forest Icons

ALL the Southern and Eden forest icons, such as Badja, the Deua headwaters, Wandella, and the unprotected parts of Tallaganda and Monga can be protected if alternative wood supplies are located. Prior to the last election, the Greens negotiated a review process to examine timber supply. A similar review process was undertaken in the North East forests and resulted in 48,000 hectares of additional reserves. These additional reserves link the Dorrigo Escarpment to the sea and doubled the size of Mt Warning National Park linking it with the Border Ranges National Park.

A review of wood supply in the Southern and Eden Forest Regions, through a Resource Assessment and Conservation Division committee, has been undertaken. Environment groups have examined State Forests timber supply data and found that the desired protection can be achieved and wood supply requirements met.

Large areas of old growth forest are still unprotected in the Southern and Eden forest regions of NSW, including majestic old growth stands in the Coolangubra State Forest.

The new timber strategies proposed by Environment groups to protect the icon forests of NSW include:

- incorporation of hardwood plantation timber harvesting to supplement native forest yields after the 50th year of a 200 year logging cycle (a conservative assumption); and
- alteration of logging prescriptions in line with those now applied on the North Coast.

These strategies could provide the timber necessary to ensure the protection of all the forest icons, and environment groups are calling for the Resource Assessment and Conservation Division to examine these alternative wood supply schemes.

State Forests strongly disagree but have again damaged their credibility



*The Deua River headwaters may be protected from logging under the Government's logging review.*

*Photo: Henry Gold*

by claiming that logging on the South Coast only produces pulpwood from the heads and butts of trees, with tree boles being used only for sawlogs. Please excuse the Colong Foundation for Wilderness for being highly suspicious of claims that woodchipping in Southern NSW is only by-product of single tree selective logging, collecting the wood that otherwise would be left to waste.

Currently, State Forests are offering just one icon area and one compartment and no further reserve protection in the Eden forest Region. Such an offer is disproportionate to the results from the North East forests buffer on buffer review and seeks an intensification of logging for almost no additional reserves. Whether new reserves are secured on the South Coast is now dependent on whether an independent examination of wood supply alternatives is commissioned to determine the reserve possibilities. ■

## *Upper Blue Mountains Geographic Encyclopaedia*

Brian Fox, who works as a cartographer in the Department of Lands, has published a second edition of this book. It covers 1439 places. Widespread research was necessary, supplemented by walks to each of the places named. The location, personal information, date of first reference and other information on each place is given. The book can be purchased from Brian at 12 Weeks Place, Bathurst 2795 for \$20, including postage. It should be of great interest to lovers of the Mountains. He is working on an update which will extend from Lapstone to Mount Victoria. He would welcome any feedback to refine, correct and add new place names not already recorded.

## *Hand outs for 4WD buyers*

According to the *Canberra Times* (28/11/03) the number of 4WD wagons sold increased from 45,015 in 1993 to 138,064 in 2002. Despite being 'economic rationalists' the Howard Government has decided to forgo vast amounts of tax, amounting to \$360 million last financial year by allowing the concessional tax rate on these vehicles to continue to 2010. The concessional tax rate was to cease in 2005 but the Productivity Commission recommended the extension. These vehicles are not productive, they are environmentally damaging and polluting recreational vehicles that rarely leave the bitumen. They should be taxed for the greenhouse pollution and environmental damage they cause at 30 per cent, double the rate of normal passenger vehicles. The Australia Institute described the decision as "a rort".



## SUPPORT THE COLONG FOUNDATION!

To: The Treasurer, Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

Level 2, 362 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 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 (\$25) to 31 December 2004  
(NB Membership application covers Bulletin subscription)
- ☐ Colong Bulletin Subscription (\$11) to 31 December 2004 (non members only)
- ☐ Membership renewal to 31 December 2004 (\$25)      ☐ Life Membership (\$550)

☐ Tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_ to the Colong Wilderness Fund

☐ PLUS \$ \_\_\_\_ being for publications as indicated on the reverse side of this form.

NAME (Mr, Ms, Mrs, Miss) .....

ADDRESS .....

.....P/CODE .....DATE .....

SIGNED .....AMOUNT .....

Payment by credit card. Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard ☐ Expiry date \_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

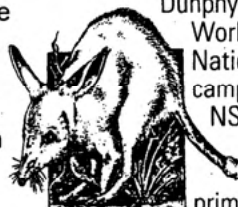
### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Why not join or invite a friend to join?

- ☐ Yes, I wish to become a member of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd. 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 .....

### 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."



### ABOUT THE COLONG FOUNDATION

The Colong Foundation, the successor to Myles Dunphy's National Parks and Primitive Areas Council, is Australia's longest-serving community advocate for wilderness. Its proposal for a *Wilderness Act* was accepted in 1989. To supplement this legislation, our Red Index, audits NSW wilderness areas, identifies threats and formulates site specific protection remedies. There are now 1,836,000 ha of protected wilderness in NSW. However, many beautiful and environmentally highly significant wilderness areas are not protected, such as the 13,000 ha Green Gully in the Macleay Gorges, Pilliga and Goonoo on the north west slopes, Yengo in the Blue Mountains, the Deua Valley on the South Coast and the Tabletop and Main Range in the Snowy Mountains.

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness has had a long and successful history. From its foundation in 1968 until 1975 it was the fighting force that prevented limestone mining and the destruction of native forest for pine plantations in the southern Blue Mountains. The Foundation not only played a leading role in realising Myles Dunphy's plan for a Greater Blue Mountains National Park, it pushed for its World Heritage listing, as well as the reservation of a Border Ranges National Park and Kakadu National Park. It has initiated successful campaigns for the protection of over a million hectares of wilderness in NSW.

The realisation of Myles Dunphy's vision of a comprehensive system of national parks with protected wilderness areas remains the primary objective of the Colong Foundation.

Now, more than ever, the Foundation needs your support. Well financed and powerful rural interests, miners, loggers, resort developers, as well as four wheel drive enthusiasts, horse riders and others, have greatly increased the threats facing Australia's wild places.

Only with your help, through continued membership and donations, can the Foundation continue its campaigns for the preservation of the natural environment and effective nature-based national park management, and by concentrating on wilderness, these rare areas can be kept safe from development and misuse.

# THE COLONG FOUNDATION

SENDER: THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS  
Level 2, 362 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE COLONG FOUNDATION

- |   | Price Posted                   |   |
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| <b>WILD PLACES</b>  | 27.50 <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>THE BAREFOOT BUSHWALKER</b> 27.50 <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <i>The meticulously researched, beautifully written book on wilderness by Peter Prineas with photographs by Henry Gold (285pp)</i>    |                                | <i>by Dorothy Butler, Australian Geographic award winner. A story of a lifetime of adventure in wilderness and high mountains (292pp)</i> |
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