

## The Gardens of Stone finally getting attention

THE amazing Gardens of Stone is perhaps the best-kept secret in Sydney's backyard, but not for much longer.

**T**HE In Focus Photographic Competition has breathed life into the campaign to protect this special area, with twenty-one adventure walks for photographers successfully completed.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Senior Vice-President Tara Cameron is overjoyed: "The Gardens of Stone is a region with many hundreds of 'pagodas', which, unlike their better known cousins, the Three Sisters of

Katoomba, reside in the forests of the western Blue Mountains. By encouraging the best photographers to capture their range and beauty, these sculptured rock formations will be shared."

A key element of the competition is its team of experienced volunteers to guide participating photographers. In this way, *Gardens of Stone-In Focus* enables photographers to capture the best of this region through their camera lens.

Thirty prominent photographers are lending their

skills and expertise to promote this threatened region. These include Henry Gold, Ian Brown, Gary Hayes, Keith Maxwell, Richard Green, Jaime Plaza van Roon, Paul Chantler and Luke Tscharke.

In partnership with the Colong Foundation, CLIQUE hosted a Gardens of Stone photography odyssey. This photographic weekend workshop was guided by award winning Fairfax photographers Nick Moir and Wolter Peeters. Environment Editor, Peter Hannam wrote on his Facebook page that he had a stupendous weekend of walks and that 'Sydneysiders don't know what a treasure lies on their doorstep.'

The next big challenge is to bring a dramatic exhibition, of the photos to Sydney - it now looks like this will happen next year. The images of the scenic grandeur and biodiversity of this irreplaceable and threatened region will speak volumes.

**Please continue to use #gosinfocus on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote the photographic gallery and the coming exhibition. Sharing your stories, photo fun and experiences with the Gardens of Stone: In Focus event is what it's all about.**

*Caption: Tony Bond will be the Hon. Curator of the Gardens of Stone In Focus Exhibition, Photo: William Yang*



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**General Meetings will be held at our office on Level 2, Fortuna House, 332 Pitt Street, at 5.00pm on Mondays 14 Sept, 12 Oct and 9 Nov, 2015. Members and visitors welcome.**

# Horse riding in wilderness trial a debacle

BY KEITH MUIR

IN July 2015 the NPWS published on its website in-house monitoring results for recreational horseriding in 'protected' wilderness. These reports examine levels of horseriding in four wilderness areas and whether environmental impact thresholds were exceeded at that level of use.

This monitoring followed the horseriders' preferred approach of adaptive management, inverting the precautionary principle where wilderness would be protected from a high impact use, like horseriding, where impacts are known to cause environmental damage.

Under this approach, restorative management is only considered after the damage is done. This assumes that the damage is reversible. It further assumes that wilderness is suited for such intensive use, disregarding the fact that these precious places are permanently set aside by legislation, for the preservation of nature.

The NPWS study did reveal some soil compaction impact thresholds were exceeded at very low levels of horse riding. The NPWS adaptive management is now going to be reviewed and these thresholds may be lowered so that more damage can be tolerated.

The more interesting results were not related to the intended trial purpose of impact monitoring, but rather to the behaviour of horseriders and other park users.



*Horse yards coming to a wilderness near you, unless illegal horseriding is stopped.*

## The unexpected monitoring results

No horseriding activity was recorded on the trial route for the Mummel Gulf Wilderness, and the monitoring cameras on that route were left untouched. For the three other wilderness trials, horseriding was recorded, and on these routes cameras suffered outages or were stolen.

The monitoring revealed that there were relatively few recreational riders during the trials, and that the majority of these horseriders were associated with illegal activities. Dogs accompanied at least 26 horseriders who used the Tarlinton and Ingeegoodbe trails through the Pilot and Woila Deua Wilderness Areas. One group of riders was implicated in brumby running, having captured a young feral horse using their dog.

As previously reported, Fiona Meller of the NSW

Endurance Riders Association was concerned that 'initial monitoring of the wilderness pilot trail locations in Kosciuszko, Deua and Mummel Gulf National Parks has shown extremely low levels of horse riding usage'. Ms Meller observed that 'these routes are not necessarily ideal for endurance training' but 'if the trails are not being used at all, it is just as harmful to our case as it would be if they were being overused. Local NPWS offices can provide more information about routes and float parking' (Jan-Feb, 2015). So in the same breath, Ms Meller has acknowledged horseriding is at low levels, the routes are 'not ideal' and are environmentally damaging. Add these negative factors to the high incidence of illegal behaviour and you get a picture of park misuse.

Remember also that before the trial there were two cases of

clearing and track construction by horseriders (Bulletin 250, pg1). One track was cut through the Burra-Oulla Wilderness with machetes and chainsaws, where the route was also blazed on granite tors with orange spray paint. In Buckenbowra Wilderness to the north, several large trees were removed for another horseriding track.

Another telling fact, is that the NPWS monitoring report does not mention the names of each declared wilderness in which the horse riding trial is being undertaken. The NPWS does not seem to sufficiently relate to the individual identity of each wilderness to use their proper names. It is the names of the bridle trails that feature in the monitoring reports. In this manner, the NPWS has inappropriately elevated the local heritage significance of these old tracks, side stepping their legal duty to protect and manage declared wilderness.

Party size was reported to be up to fifteen recreational horses, with two parties of fifteen recorded. This is almost double the maximum number of bushwalkers allowed in wilderness, which is eight. This must have caused a significant impact on wilderness values, at least in order of magnitude the impact of a party of bushwalkers an equivalent size, notwithstanding the brumby running and dogs. Imagine fifteen horses milling around, seeking feed on a quiet creekside campsite on Woila or Coondella Creek!

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# Centennial Coal's waste heap collapse

BY KEITH MUIR

A significant collapse of a large mine waste dump owned by Centennial Coal at Clarence Colliery in the headwaters of the Wollangambe River near Lithgow has spilt many tonnes of "coal fines" into this listed wild river. The spill was reported to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on July 2 and by 28 July the coal fines had settled on the river bed and in pools to 8.5 kilometres downstream.

Gary Whytcross, EPA South Director said, "this is a serious environmental incident with tonnes of coal fines material estimated to have left the site and entered the surrounding environment".

The Wollangambe River is not only a wild river, it passes through the Wollemi Wilderness, our largest and most pristine wilderness, and is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The Platypus and the nationally threatened Macquarie Perch live in the river, along with its famous large red yabbies and water dragons. The current status of these animals is now dire, at least in the upper reaches of the river.

The ecological and aesthetic impacts do not currently extend to the longer canyons of the Wollangambe River that start twenty kilometres downstream, but coal fines from the mine's waste heap collapse appear to be moving downstream.

The lax environmental performance by Centennial Coal is to blame for this mine disaster that came at a time when the EPA is negotiating a pollution control improvement program to restore the river to a more pristine state.

The Nature Conservation Council also expressed its concern over the incident. Campaigns director, Daisy Barham said "A coal waste dump usually only collapses after heavy rain, but this



*A handful of coal fines scooped from the Wollangambe River by Felix Ossig-Bonanno. Photo: K. Muir*

incident has occurred in fair weather, which demonstrates that the design of this dump was clearly flawed. This raises the prospect of more collapses if something is not done to shore it up, so the public has a right to know what Centennial Coal is doing to ensure this never happens again."

EPA CEO Barry Buffier and Chief Environmental Regulator

Mark Gifford also inspected the mine site and examined impacts to the Wollangambe River. Barry Buffier said "This is clearly a major incident and the EPA is mobilising significant resources in response." The incident is subject to a legal investigation by the EPA.

In June 2014 Centennial Coal obtained approval to relocate a sewage irrigation system. Centennial Coal claimed the proposed 'integrated ... effluent irrigation system would minimise the potential for the release of any leachate or dirty water from the site'. The disposal site was relocated from a hilltop toward the river below where the waste heap collapsed.

According to the environmental assessment 'The application of treated effluent to the existing reject emplacement areas (REAs) will provide additional nutrients and improvements to soil characteristics to assist with the revegetation and rehabilitation process. Water balance investigations have demonstrated that there is sufficient area available

upon the REAs to minimise the risk of additional runoff or infiltration through the soil profile,' (GHD, 2013 development application 504-00, 21/22394, pg 54).

These remarks suggest Centennial Coal might have actually dropped a big whoopsie in the river along with many tonnes of coal fines.

Clarence Colliery's kilometre long waste heap is a black eyesore. The 2013 environmental assessment contains the reassuring statement that the waste heap is not readily visible from any receiver location. Yet the prominent black heap is hideously visible from Blue Mountains National Park, including from the pagodas above spectacular Gooches Crater.

There has been no rehabilitation of the face of waste heap fronting Blue Mountains National Park for several decades. Weeds, such as Pampas Grass, have become established in and around the mine site due to Centennial Coal's poor environmental management.

## *Bushwalkers investigate the coal fines spill – 18-19 July*

BY ALEX ALLCHIN

Despite the icy conditions and multiple vehicular accidents leading to road closures, a group of passionate individuals were successful in getting out to the Wollangambe on this weekend. A day was spent inspecting the river from the spill site to where an unpolluted tributary enters 2 km downstream.

What was found was just shocking. Nearly all of the river bed was covered in a thin (roughly 5mm) layer of black sludge, formed from the coal fines released in the spill. In places where the water slowed and pooled, the sludge reached thicknesses in excess of 15 centimetres. Other visible impacts included eerie grey water of the river and lack of signs of life.

As ordered by the EPA, clean up of the gully where the waste had spilt down had commenced, and silt fences were in place to reduce further waste flows into the river. What was deeply concerning was the absence of any clean up efforts for the river itself.

The mass of goop [coal fines] which entered the river due to the spill was not in any way being removed! This goop has slowly made its way downstream, spreading out as it does so. On the 14th of July the EPA reported it as having spread 4.5km downstream. However it is my understanding that surveys within the canyon sections of the river have been very limited. Unfortunately, the longer Centennial Coal's inaction in removing its waste from the waters of the Wollangambe, the harder and less effective the subsequent clean up becomes.

[Groups of bushwalkers have since inspected the river on July 25-26 and August 1-2 compiling detailed records of continuing spread of coal fines down the river.]

# Crown land must remain in public hands

A community summit held in Parliament House last June called for Crown land to remain in public hands. The summit responded to increasing concern about NSW Government proposals to dispose of these essential public assets. The Crown land estate represents approximately 33 million hectares, or 42 per cent of NSW.

A White Paper to reform Crown land management was released last year. It was excessively focused on raising revenue and reducing administrative burden, and as a result there is inadequate consideration of the natural environment contained in the reform proposals.

The NSW state government is reviewing the administration of Crown land in NSW and proposes to:

- Establish a Crown Lands Division as part of a public trading enterprise;
- Promote economic growth over social, cultural, local and environment concerns;
- Overhaul the ownership of Crown lands which could result in their widespread sale or commercialisation by the government and/or transfer to local councils.
- Replace eight existing Acts applying to Crown lands with a single Act.



*Janet Harwood explaining why public land should be retained for wildlife at the launch of Total Environment Centre's Urban Sanctuary Defender campaign. Photo: J. Kitson*

Speakers at the June summit included representatives from the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Better Planning Network and other community groups fighting to protect public parklands and open space from development and privatisation.

Since the 2014 White Paper, the NSW Government has been reviewing the management of Crown lands in a secretive manner, behind closed doors. There are concerns that the proposed changes to Crown land legislation and management include recommendations to hand over large parcels of public land to local government for management, as well as plans

for sale. This could seriously reduce protections for high conservation value Crown land, including wilderness, as well as for urban bushland and parkland.

Bushwalking NSW has protested the sale of many Crown land easements which will prevent access to rivers and public forests. These considerations have been ignored, meaning that the remaining areas of public land are becoming less accessible. In less than three years, more than 5000 publicly owned roads have been sold to private landholders for the short-term gain of \$43 million to the NSW Government.

Bushwalking NSW Tracks

and Access Officer Alex Allchin said bushwalkers often rely on 'paper' roads to access national parks. "Any paper road that connects two areas of public land or river should automatically be considered an important public asset and any landholder who seeks to close one of these roads should bear the burden of proof to demonstrate that it has no public value," he said (SMH, May 30, 2014).

## **Resolutions calling for action:**

The community summit passed a resolution seeking a Parliamentary Inquiry into the governance of Crown land and the most appropriate measures to ensure Crown land remains a public asset for the benefit of all the people, the environment and the culture and heritage of this state.

A second resolution called for a moratorium on selling, leasing and private development of Crown land until after the Parliamentary Inquiry reports and its recommendations are implemented.

A Crown Land Action Group was formed to co-ordinate a community campaign to stop Crown land mismanagement and sell-offs – for more information go to <http://www.crownlandourland.org.au/>

## **Horse riding trial a debacle** cont from p.2

The monitoring also reveals that the Pilot Wilderness is under severe stress. In addition to a number of cyclists there were two parties of trail bike riders recorded, the largest being a party of six. Alarming a total of 328 feral horse movements were recorded, decreasing in late winter to early summer. And a bulldozer clunked through the Pilot, presumably undertaking 'essential management' and under the supervision of NPWS staff. Reassuringly bushwalker numbers were far more numerous than horseriders, sixty seven in

all, and travelling in small, low-impact groups. The Pilot is still loved by bushwalkers but their enjoyment is being spoiled as NPWS staff become overwhelmed by inappropriate demands by higher impact park users.

During the trial period you would expect horseriders to be on their best behaviour, but imagine what will happen if the trial is touted as a success and horseriding becomes permanent in wilderness areas. Horse yards, new trails, clearings, brumbie running, cattle, dogs, trail bikes, you name it, will be the likely woeful outcome.

The NPWS needs to hear your complaints. The concerns

and objections constantly raised by the NCC, NPA and Colong have unfortunately NOT resounded loudly enough during the horseriding trial.

The illegal behaviour of horseriders justifies immediate cancellation of the trial, as do all the points that Ms Meller raises. Such activity cannot 'increase appreciation and value of nature by creating visitor experience in wilderness areas'. It is time to stop this illegal wilderness abuse.

**Write to the Hon. Mark Speakman, Minister for the Environment, GPO BOX 5341, Sydney, NSW, 2001** and request he cancel the horseriding trial in declared wilderness areas. Explain

to Mr Speakman that the illegal activities of horse riders recorded before and during the trial are more than sufficient justification for the trial to be cancelled.

Remind him that horseriding is incompatible with the management principles of the Wilderness Act, such as the requirement for self-reliant recreation. State that the adaptive management proposed by NPWS has not stopped the chainsaws, axes, spray paint, dogs and brumbie running that can only increase if horseriding is allowed to continue in declared wilderness areas. The mismanagement for horseriders must cease.

# Threatened heritage subversion... Centennial Coal's swamp scam

BY KEITH MUIR

NEWNES Plateau supports two types of threatened swamp communities – Shrub Swamps and Hanging Swamps. Both types are listed as 'Matters of National Environmental Significance' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. Any mining proposal that could potentially cause significant impacts to these swamps must be approved by the Federal Environment Minister after an environmental review.

The 2014 NSW Biodiversity Offset Policy is also intended to advance protection of areas with natural heritage values, like these swamps. Unfortunately a recently drafted swamp-specific offset policy now makes environmental offsets the prime focus of development control, not protection.

Centennial Coal's 1,860 hectare Springvale Colliery mine-extension proposal under the heart of Newnes Plateau illustrates how the draft policy's proposed offset process can go wrong.

## Step 1 – Centennial Coal claims mining impacts on swamps negligible

In 2014, Centennial Coal in its Environmental Assessment claimed that its longwall mining would have negligible impact on twenty-nine nationally endangered, upland swamps on Newnes Plateau.

## Step 2 – Centennial Coal obtains a draft approval, based on negligible impact

In response to Centennial's Springvale mine-extension proposal, a negligible impact test was inserted in the draft consent conditions prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). The test requires 'adaptive management' if swamp impacts are more than



*Sunnyside East Swamp has been deeply channelized and experienced no surface flows since being undermined by Centennial Coal in 2014.*

negligible. But there's a catch, the adaptive management can't, under planning law, require any changes to mining operations. Adaptive management can only require mine monitoring and habitat compensation by providing environmental offsets.

## Step 3 – swamp offsets formalised in planning policy

DPE formalises swamp offsets in a May 2015 draft Policy Framework for Biodiversity Offsets for Upland Swamps and Associated Threatened Species.

## Step 4 – Centennial Coal seeks consent allowing swamp damage

Initially, the DPE accepted Centennial Coal's claim of negligible swamp impacts when undermined, but after the release of the Planning Assessment Commission review report, the DPE changed its mind. The DPE now believes there will be more than negligible impacts.

If the development consent for the Springvale mine-extension is granted with these provisions, the worst that could happen to Centennial is a vigorous debate over compensation for swamp damage (i.e. offsets). The assessment process has given no consideration to swamp protection zones.

There are no substitutes for these unique and rare swamps that cover just a tiny fraction of Newnes Plateau.

## Strong evidence of swamp damage

Evidence against 'negligible damage' is strong enough for longwall mining to be listed as a key threatening process for swamps in 2005\*, strong enough for a \$1.45 million penalty to be imposed on Springvale for damaging swamps, strong enough for Centennial's consultants to state that there will be rock fracturing under swamps, and strong enough for Blue Mountains City Council to associate the most degraded Newnes Plateau swamps with the western areas where coal has been extracted.

In describing swamp impacts caused by the Springvale mine, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) scientists stated that: 'Despite having significantly damaged Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp EECs [NPSS] in the past, Centennial have not provided any definitive evidence or guarantee that further NPSS will not be impacted by the current mine plan or future longwalls'.

Centennial Coal's conclusion that its mining extension will cause negligible impacts, is contradicted by its own consultants. The proposed mining is predicted to fracture the Buralow Formation, the aquifer supporting the swamps. Further, Centennial's groundwater experts state that a drawdown of 0.5 to 10 metres can be expected after longwall mining in the proposal area (Appendix E, page 75). The modelled groundwater

drawdown indicates that the mine extension will cause a catastrophic loss of swamp vegetation and its dependent fauna as water levels will drop below the vegetation root zone when the swamps are undermined.

## Protection not offsets

*The coal industry has dragged the public debate over nationally significant swamps from protection into a side-issue of whether undermined swamps are to be damaged enough to be subject to a compensatory environmental offset.*

The first principle of the policy for biodiversity offsets requires that impacts must first be avoided and unavoidable impacts minimised through mitigation measures. Only then should offsets be considered for the remaining impacts (OEH, 2014).

Centennial recently avoided undermining Sunnyside Swamp, proving swamp avoidance is possible under development consent. The nation's swamp heritage can and should be protected.

A large proportion of the remaining undamaged Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone are in areas that will be subjected to longwall coal mining. The NSW Government's draft offset policy could see the best remaining swamps ruined.

## Take Action

Please write to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Rob Stokes, asking him to require protection zones that prevent the undermining of upland swamps. Otherwise mining-related damage to these important ecosystems will continue – please refer to the swamp guide letter on the Colong Foundation website.

*Reference: \* Longwall coal mining is listed under NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 2005 as a key threatening process that can have a 'significant' impact on upland swamps.*

# Burning Forests for 'Dead Koala' Power

In mid-June 2015, the Federal Government, with the support of the Labor Opposition, passed legislation in the Senate to include the burning of native forests for electricity generation as part of the Renewable Energy Target (RET). The inclusion of biomass in the RET, will effectively cut jobs, growth and investment in genuine renewables, as solar and wind energy now must compete with native forest burning for subsidies. The reduction of the target from 41,000 to 33,000 gigawatt hours will also adversely affect the renewable energy industry.

The purpose of the RET is to reduce, through taxpayer subsidies, greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the construction of more renewable energy infrastructure. However the bi-partisan decision to include Australia's native forests in the RET means that intact forests will not be left to sequester carbon but be burnt, liberating carbon to the atmosphere.

Fewer native forests will be conserved to protect soils and water supplies, and left as habitat for threatened and vulnerable species whose wildlife homes will be converted



Protecting native forests and stopping climate change go hand in hand. Photo: K. Muir

into greenhouse gases.

The new RET will allow more forest 'waste' to be collected (read more forests wasted) and facilitate more power plants to use forest biomass as fuel. Whether these are existing power plants or new biomass-only plants, this will create insatiable demands for logging native forests, including pristine forests that were previously useless as woodchips or saw logs.

Native forests need time to regenerate from unsustainable logging for the export wood chip market. The decision to include burning forests as biomass in the RET does

nothing to address climate change and will accelerate the loss of Australian native forest diversity.

Australia is also facing an extinction crisis. Less than one hundred koalas survive on the NSW South Coast. The protection of native forests is a critical factor – wildlife needs habitat and logging is a major cause of habitat loss.

Australians want a sustainable future based on genuine renewable energy – not a dodgy forest biomass industry which will accelerate unsustainable levels of logging and do nothing to curb climate change.

## Myles Dunphy – 'Bushwalker Extraordinaire'

Myles Dunphy, Colong Foundation's first patron, will be the subject of an upcoming course on environmental history in Sydney at the WEA college, held in conjunction with the National Parks Association of NSW.

The course will focus on Myles Dunphy's many achievements as a bushwalker, architect, teacher, conservationist and his foresight and persistence in ensuring today's system of national parks.

The course will be held on **Saturday 29 August, 2015, from 10-12noon** at WEA, SYDNEY House, 72 Bathurst Street, Sydney – a short walk from Town Hall Station. Cost \$35. Bookings essential: Phone: (02) 9264 2781 e: info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au w: www.weasydney.com.au



# Sports fields in Berowra Valley NP

THE recently exhibited Draft Plan of Management for Berowra Valley National Park and Berowra Valley Regional Park proposes sports fields at Stringybark Ridge, with accompanying infrastructure for team facilities, amenities and spectator areas.

Along with many other conservation groups, the Colong Foundation has strongly objected to this Draft Plan of Management because it blatantly contravenes the conservation objectives of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

The NPWS must manage a national park to protect, enhance and present the area's natural and cultural heritage values.

There will always be pressures on the NSW Government for our national parks to provide facilities, whether they are for formal sporting grounds, hunting, telecommunications, transport easements or accommodation facilities.

The Berowra Valley National Park and Berowra Valley Regional Park protects Shale Sandstone Transition Forest

Ecological Communities and threatened fauna and flora species listed in the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. These communities will be adversely affected by the proposed development of sporting fields.

The NPSW should reject sports field proposals as being incompatible with the natural and cultural values of national parks. Twenty years ago a marriage reception centre was built in Lane Cove National Park and following proceedings in the Land and Environment Court it was

demolished and removed. There are appropriate places for community facilities and these are not found in national parks.

**Write to the Environment Minister, the Hon Mark Speakman, GPO BOX 5341, Sydney, NSW, 2001 asking that he uphold the management objectives for national parks. He must reject the proposed sport fields as incompatible with the primary nature conservation purpose of a national park.**

# SUPPORT THE COLONG FOUNDATION!

To: The Treasurer, Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd., Level 2, 332 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
The enclosed remittance or advice covers the item(s) indicated by a tick. (One cheque payable to the Colong Foundation is sufficient to cover subscription and donation.)

- Membership application (\$30) to 31 December 2015  
(NB Membership application covers Bulletin subscription)
- Colong Bulletin Subscription (\$15) to 31 December 2015 (non members only)
- Membership renewal to 31 December 2015 (\$30)       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.

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PHONE .....EMAIL: .....

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

**Payment by credit card.** Mastercard  Visa  Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Payment by EFT procedure.** Account name: The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.  
Bank: Westpac Mortdale, BSB: 032 268 Account number: 11 7302

Please add your full name in the Reference Field so that we may trace your contribution and also inform the Colong Foundation by email immediately after you have made a payment. Email foundation@colongwilderness.org.au with your name and address details, so we can mail to you an official tax deductible receipt. We also need notification so as to track all contributions to those who have provided them for our accounting purposes.

## 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 1987. To supplement this legislation, our Red Index, audits NSW wilderness areas, identifies threats and formulates site specific protection remedies. There are now 2,100,000 ha of protected wilderness in NSW. However, many beautiful and environmentally highly significant wilderness areas are not protected, such as the Pilliga and Goonoo on the north west slopes, 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, 332 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE COLONG FOUNDATION

**CELEBRATING WILDERNESS** 60.00 ☐

*Edited by Ian Brown, this spectacularly illustrated book with 46 full-page colour wilderness photographs by Rob Jung, David Neilson, Rob Blakers and Ian Brown is essential reading for wilderness supporters (120pp)*

**WILD PLACES** 27.50 ☐

*The meticulously researched, beautifully written book on wilderness by Peter Prineas with photographs by Henry Gold (285pp)*

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*Alex Colley and Henry Gold's description of the 67 year campaign culminating in World Heritage listing. (136pp)*

**THE BAREFOOT BUSHWALKER** 27.50 ☐

*by Dorothy Butler, Australian Geographic award winner. A story of a lifetime of adventure in wilderness and high mountains (292pp)*

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*A full colour double sided touring map and guide to the attractions of the Gardens of Stone reserve proposal*

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*Geoff Mosley's account of the genesis of the nature conservation movement and saving of the Blue Mountains environment (174pp)*

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*by Adam O'Neill (107pp)*

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