

colong bulletin

No. 259 | May 2015

The Gardens of Stone: *In Focus*

FOR 70 years conservationists have fought a campaign of epic proportions to save the Gardens of Stone on the western side of the Blue Mountains. Two coal mines and a giant coal power plant have been stopped. Unfortunately, many more mines have gone ahead.

The Gardens of Stone Alliance of conservation groups has now opted to use the power of photography to reveal the scenic grandeur and varied biodiversity of this natural wonderland. It is an irreplaceable part of our national heritage.

If the Gardens of Stone was better known, it would all surely be protected! Superlative images and creative writing can help break the silence and stop the damage from coal mining. This winter, groups of adventurous photographers will capture its stories.

The Gardens of Stone region is only two hours' drive west from Sydney, yet it is unknown to most Australians. This 'pagoda' landscape with its delicate rock sculptures is unique – Its deep canyons, huge caves, luxuriant rainforests, glades of giant gum trees soaring into the sky and gently sloping dells of delicate wildflowers are home to many rare species of plants and animals.

By bringing the best photographers to the region to capture its beauty, its wonder will be shared.

The Gardens of Stone is a wild region, hard to penetrate without bushwalking skills, so experienced volunteer walk leaders will accompany participating photographers on journeys through this unique terrain.

Gardens of Stone: In Focus will give photographers a rare experience to capture the best of this region through

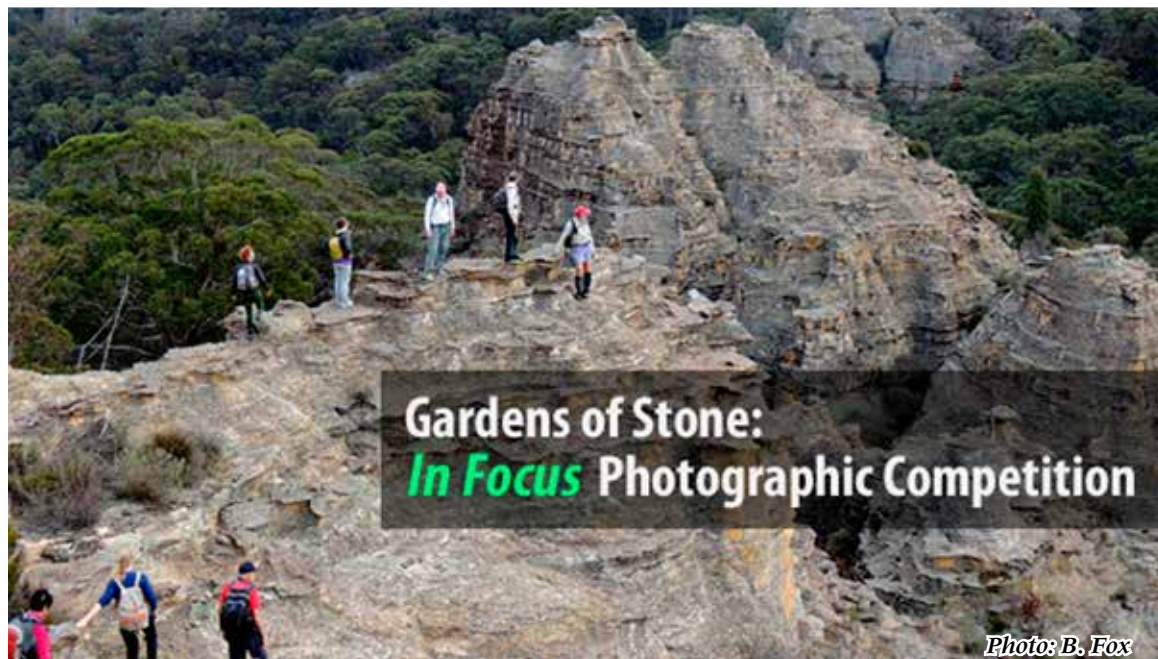
their camera lens. Whether professional, non-professional, or junior photographer, all participants will have a chance to exhibit their photographs in the exhibition.

The Gardens of Stone: In Focus photographic competition will offer bushwalks to spectacular places, creating a unique event that will help save the Gardens of Stone.

The competition starts on 3 June with weekend day walks for registered competitors between 20 June and 12 July. To give everyone a chance of being exhibited, the competition is open to professional, non-professional and junior photographers.

The In Focus exhibition will be staged at a prestigious venue in Sydney on a date to be announced.

For more information go to www.colongwilderness.org.au; email info@colongwilderness.org.au or phone (02) 9261 2400



The Gardens of Stone: *In Focus* • 1

Wollangambe River, fighting for its life • 2

Changes to online membership • 2

Wolgan Walk • 3

Great Forest National Park • 3

Coal industry moves goal posts and succeeds in scoring own goals • 4

Tasmanian wilderness forever • 4

Horseriding abuse of national parks and wilderness • 5

Thirlmere Lakes – World Heritage in danger • 6

General Meetings will be held at our office on Level 2, Fortuna House, 332 Pitt Street, at the new time of 5.00pm on Tuesday 9 June, and Mondays 13 July, 10 Aug and 14 Sept, 2015. Members and visitors welcome.

Wollangambe River, fighting for its life

Since our September Bulletin revealed that 18 megalitres of mine effluent is discharged by Clarence Colliery into the Wollangambe River each day, environment groups have met with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to see what can be done to clean up the river. The NPWS has commissioned studies that apparently confirm earlier research that the mine effluent had killed aquatic life in the river for over 15 kilometres, at least to the beginning of Wollangambe Canyon.

Meanwhile a 700mm diameter transfer pipe to Lithgow's water supply on Farmers Creek has been rebuilt, this time

underground, following its destruction in the October 2013 Marangaroo wildfire. So now almost all the mine effluent can be transferred for human consumption! What kills aquatic life can now be enjoyed by Lithgow residents at the rate of up to 15 megalitres a day. It is further treated but 112 water quality complaints were received last March from local residents and tabled at a Lithgow Council meeting on April 20, 2015.

If the solution to polluting a World Heritage Area is to instead pollute a drinking water supply, then the EPA has a long way to go to meet Premier Baird's claim of being a successful protector of the local

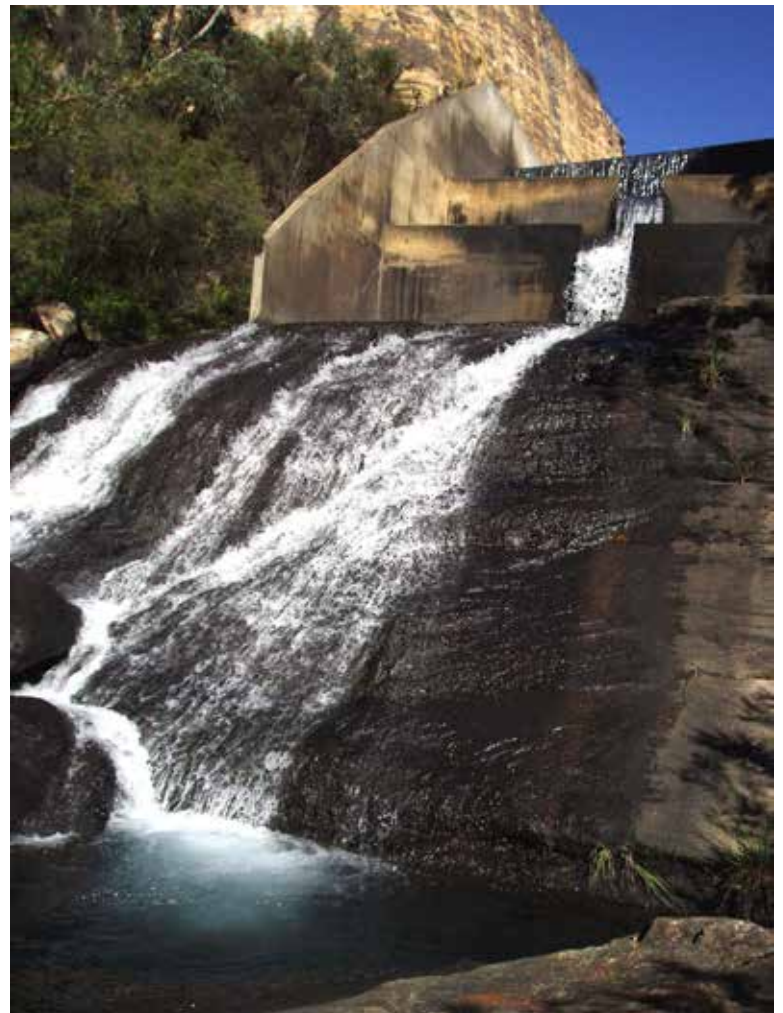
environment. The EPA has allowed serious and cumulative mine pollution to kill aquatic life in the otherwise pristine Wollangambe River for over 30 years.

Conservationists fear that the current variation of the mine's Environment Protection Licence will simply allow discharges of contaminants such as nickel, salinity and temperature that are currently

illegal. In other words, the purpose of the new licence could be to remove litigation risk for the polluter, not clean up the World Heritage Area.

The Colong Foundation hopes that the EPA looks beyond its narrow pollution control perspective and becomes more focused on the environmental health of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Discharges from the Clarence Colliery have killed aquatic life in the Wollangambe River for at least 15 kilometres downstream from the mine, well into the World Heritage Area. Photo: K. Muir



Changes to online membership arrangements

You may have noticed the changes to the Colong website over the years. These have been generously sponsored by our Chairperson, John Robens through his company *Interlated*. Past changes have seen the introduction of online credit card payments for membership subscriptions and donations as well as the Colong shop. You can also access considerable campaign resources on our website.

Members, you can now manage your personal account details through a user name and password system. You can update changes to your email and mailing address, as well as make subscription and donation payments.

If you have any problems with this new system, or need help, please do not hesitate to contact info@colongwilderness.org.au or phone 9261 2400. We are keen to hear from you. You can of course pay by all previous means, through the clip out section on the back page of the newsletter, by cheque or electronic fund transfer to Colong's bank account.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD
2/332 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000 (ABN 84 001 112 143)

TELEPHONE: (02) 9261 2400 **FAX:** (02) 9261 2144 **EMAIL:** foundation@colongwilderness.org.au **WEBSITE:** www.colongwilderness.org.au

PATRON: The Hon. Bob Carr, BA (Hons), Hon. LittD. • **DIRECTORS:** John Robens (Chair); Ian Tanner (Hon. Secretary); Janine Kitson (Vice-Chair); Henry Gold, O.A.M. (Hon. Photographer); Albert Renshaw (Hon. Treasurer); Alex Allchin; Sierra Classen, BA (Hons); Alan Dixon; Fiona McCrossin, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., PGDip.Env.Stud; Pat Thompson, L.C.P.; Haydn Washington, B.A., M.Sc., PhD;

DIRECTOR: Keith Muir, O.A.M., B. Nat. Res. Hons. • **HON. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Alan Dixon
WILDERNESS OFFICER: John Macris, B.Sc., M.Wild.Mgt • **HON. FIRE OFFICER:** Ian Brown, O.A.M., BSc.
HON. BULLETIN DESIGN & TYPESETTING: Jenni Gormley

The Colong Bulletin • Editor: Pat Thompson; Asst. Editor: Bruce Diekman

ISSN 1325-3336 • Printed by Westonprint, Kiama

Wolgan Walk

Sunday 14 – Tuesday 16 December, 2014

BY SIERRA CLASSEN
AND ALEX ALLCHIN

CENTENNIAL Coal claim their proposed Springvale mine extension, currently before the Planning Assessment Commission, will cause insignificant damage to swamps and streams. Colong Foundation Board members Sierra Classen and Alex Allchin, went to investigate for themselves. Here is their report about what they discovered on their Newnes Plateau walk in December last year to the Wolgan Falls in the Gardens of Stone reserve proposal.

As we approached what is known as the Wolgan 'headwaters' [a western arm of the Wolgan River] we came upon infrastructure that included dams and environmental testing equipment. We could see the creek was in varying stages of decline. We knew we were now walking above a longwall mine.

Most of the creek bed was dry and dead. The vegetation looked poisoned. Perhaps because of a nearby mine discharge point? We walked through some swamps downstream but these upland swamps were dead too. The soil felt cooked dry. The dead grasses and bushes felt skeletal, the landscape cringing and crumbling.

Further along we sighted numerous boreholes and survey markers. Opening one of the borehole caps we were able to see what appeared to be a measuring instrument to track water table depths.

We were aware that we were now walking through what was effectively a dead zone. We saw forlorn and hopeless attempts to reconstruct the intricate and complex dynamics of an upland swamp. Instead of natural wonders we saw abandoned 'swamp construction sites' - layers of loose sand, gravel, hessian fabric, sandbags,



Sierra Classen inspects a dead swamp in the 'headwaters' of the Wolgan River. Nine years after being ruined by longwall mining there is still no sign of recovery. Photo: A. Allchin

broken sticks and branches. Half hidden tools and supplies carelessly discarded.

We then followed a deformed creek, buckled and cracked by the upside of an underground mine.

We were relieved when we finally came to the healthy headwaters of an eastern branch of the Wolgan River

where the water was again flowing, apparently fresh and healthy. We then came upon an expansive upland swamp, beautiful and working perfectly naturally – as we walked through it our shoes squished with the refreshing sound and feel of cool water. The contrast between the mined and unmined streams was stark.

We camped in an ideal spot sheltered by tall gum trees and pagoda stone formations. The next morning we climbed up the beautiful pagoda laced cliffs. We felt exhilaration when we finally sighted the view of the Wolgan Falls and the vivid colours of the Wolgan Valley. We were so glad to finish the walk in a natural landscape.

Great Forest National Park

With the election of a Labor Government in Victoria conservationists are hopeful that it will act soon on their proposal for the Great Forest Park. This was previously known as The Central Highlands National Park proposal but it has been expanded to take in additional land to the east as well as connecting up in the west with the existing Yarra Ranges and Kinglake National Parks. In addition to its many nature conservation and recreational benefits, the eastern section of the Great Forest National Park proposal has the potential to connect the Alpine and Mt Baw Baw National Parks and provide increased protection for the catchment of Melbourne's major water source – the Thomson Dam which supplies 80% of Melbourne's water. When this extension of the Alpine National Park (now known as 'The Western Alps Link') was first proposed in the 1970s it was strongly supported by the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Victorian National Parks Association. Action on the project is long overdue.

(Dr) Geoff Mosley

Coal industry moves goal posts and succeeds in scoring own goals

THE mining industry almost always gets what it wants. Recall the Federal Government's cancellation of the carbon and mining taxes. It's the same with development control of mining proposals.

In November 2013 the NSW Planning Minister introduced a State Environmental Planning Policy (the Mining SEPP) that made the economic benefits of a mining project the 'principal consideration' when the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) assesses these proposals. The policy was written to overturn a successful Land and Environment Court appeal by Bulga village residents in the Hunter Valley, that blocked Rio Tinto's expansion plans for its Warkworth coal mine. The Land and Environment Court had refused the Warkworth proposal due to significant adverse environmental and social impacts on residents of the village. The Minister for Planning acted quickly to move the legal goal posts so that any subsequent PAC or Court would approve future proposals, or so the industry thought.

The thermal coal price has declined from a peak of US\$137/tonne in 2011 to US\$56/tonne in March 2015 (ABC News 24 March, 2015). Not surprisingly this has created problems for marginally economic coal mine proposals.

Last month, Rod Campbell of the Australia Institute outed the coal industry for failing to comply with the NSW Government's economic guidelines when preparing environmental assessments for mine proposals. Mr Campbell reported that the NSW coal industry and their economic consultants were writing reports that were "simply not credible" according to the PAC.

Mr Campbell observed that mining industry assessments just don't stack up anymore. Justifying mining's impact on other industries, communities



The priceless pagoda rock formations of Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area are again at risk, this time from proposed mining intensification at the Airly Colliery.

and the environment with promises of jobs and money has become difficult. The Cobbora coal project near Dunedoo won't be developed and the PAC rejected the Coalpac mine near Lithgow, finding extraction of that coal would have "limited economic and social benefit".

With coal mines being rejected on the basis of economics, miners have lobbied

the NSW Government to water down the economic assessment guidelines for mine proposals.

Not waiting for new guidelines, Centennial Coal's Airly mine developed a novel economic assessment outside the existing guidelines. This mine located in Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area, part of the scenic Capertee Valley, is a long way from its Port Kembla coal export

terminal and produces only low grade thermal coal. It is not really economic.

If economics is to remain the 'principal consideration', then surely the new Planning Minister, Rob Stokes, must ensure any economic benefits of mine proposals are diligently and independently considered? So the acid test is whether Minister Stokes allows the Airly mine to get away with its dodgy assessment of a currently uneconomic proposal and a mine plan that seeks to increase mining intensity and damage spectacular part of the Gardens of Stone region.

According to a new report by the Climate Council, ninety per cent of Australia's current coal reserves will need to be left in the ground for Australia to play its role in limiting warming to no more than 2°C. With coal prices dropping, those who determine coal mining proposals should adopt a policy

continued on p. 6

Tasmanian wilderness forever

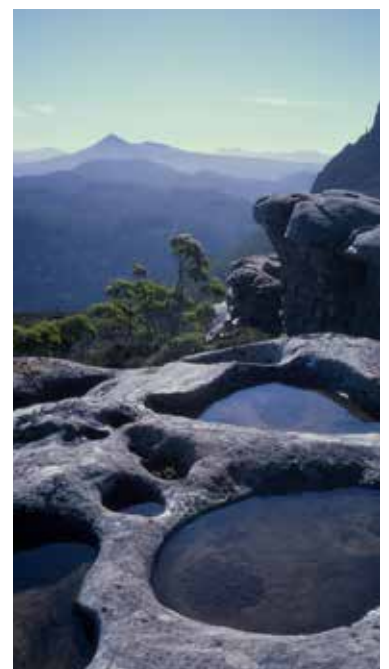
IF Tasmania's new park plan is adopted, all 1,341,336 hectares of its wilderness could be replaced with zones that allow activities such as aircraft landing sites, tourist accommodation facilities, mountain bike tracks, beekeeping sites, and even logging, all of which will inevitably damage ecological integrity and ruin scenic beauty.

The Tasmanian Government should think again about its plans to develop wilderness in our world heritage listed national parks. The best protected, least disturbed temperate landscape in the world does not deserve to be abused and mistreated in this way. As Dr Geoff Mosley says, this proposed plan is another 'Lake Pedder moment' and this

time Australia must put nature first.

Governments of all persuasions set aside land for a whole spectrum of uses and wilderness lies at one end of that spectrum. Unfortunately wilderness lies at the very end of that land use spectrum. Removing Tasmanian wilderness, even gradually, will mean fewer opportunities to experience the majesty of Australian nature in the raw as it was prior to white settlement.

Public submissions on the Draft Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan ended in March with over 3,000 people objecting to the abolition of this million hectare wilderness, including over sixty Colong Foundation supporters. Thank you for your support!



View from Mt Rufus, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Photo: I. Brown

Horseriding abuse of national parks and wilderness

BY KEITH MUIR

IN 2006 the NSW National and Liberal Party leaders signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a group of NSW horseriders to open up national parks and wilderness. This MOU inverts the precautionary principle transferring the onus of proof of environmental impacts from the horseriders to conservationists, requiring proof of environmental damage before riders can be regulated. It then spawned adaptive management for park visitor use where management actions will somehow be triggered to restore the natural environment after an environmental impact occurs. Yet adaptive management can't put a noxious weed genie back in the bottle (or the horse's bottom!) once it becomes established in remote wilderness. This is merely a feel good management concept to justify horseriding's environmental impacts.

The horseriding MOU has also stood the idea of self-reliant wilderness recreation on its head by defining horseriding as an appropriate self-reliant activity. In 1999 the NPWS opposed horseriding in wilderness stating it was not self-reliant (the means of travel is not powered by the person) and inappropriate (it is not undertaken within any formal wilderness areas in Australia and the impacts generally degrade wilderness). But not anymore: the NPWS now defends horse riding in wilderness with adaptive management.

Horseriding groups claim they care about nature conservation but their attitude to management of feral horses reveals the opposite. "The top goal of the Brumby Protection Group is to implement an adoption scheme whereby the brumbies are managed in sustainable numbers, and



Tracks are being cut in the Blue Mountains National Park for horse riding access. Photo: A. Allchin

the excess horses caught, trained and adopted out by the public." #

The brumby group's goal became NPWS policy in 2008 for Kosciuszko National Park*. NPWS management has fostered several feral horse rehoming lobby groups, overseen ballooning horse numbers in the park and even seeded feral horses on Newnes Plateau, twice, although the NPWS may not be aware of the second instance. Retaining managed herds is contrary to park management principles and NPWS obligations to control feral animals as specified in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. This policy is now so entrenched by rehoming groups who successfully lobbied during the 2015 state election against

effective and humane control of feral horses, that Kosciuszko National Park is now in effect a horse ranch. Scientists and conservationists may be hopping mad about that, but it is NPWS management structures that hand power to groups who do not support conservation that are at fault.

Flaunting park laws and corrupting the nature conservation purpose of national parks does not bother the horse lobby one bit. The NPWS believes it is forced to support the horse lobby through the MOU.

Inevitably the NPWS adopted 'Strategic Directions for Horse Riding' in 2012 implementing the absurd MOU. Under this strategy the NPWS established eight horse riding working groups

that have so far specified 165 management actions. It also initiated horseriding trials in five declared wilderness areas.

Yet horseriders already had permission to ride on at least 3,000 kilometres of public roads in national parks, as well as the Bicentennial National Trail which bisects the Washpool, Guy Fawkes, Macleay Gorges, Werrikimbe, Curracabundi, Murruin and Tabletop wilderness areas. The Trail organisers back in 1988 had promised that the BNT would not 'encroach on any existing or future Wilderness Areas' but horseriders then established the Trail without public consultation across the entire state and through the above named wilderness areas.

Open slather for the Blue Mountains

The first management action of the 2013 Blue Mountains working group was to permit horseriding on all management trails in the Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks, subject to the adoption of the Draft Plan of Management, with the exception of roads and trails in the Glenbrook precinct and the Woodford Oaks trail.

Horseriders could not wait! Bridle trails have been constructed on the east side of the Nepean Gorge near Rileys Mountain leading from adjoining property gates. These trails duplicate existing fire roads and mountain bike trails for the benefit of a few horseriders.

In 1992, 1,600 submissions were received on the Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness Assessment Report. Only 7 of the 1,600 submissions supported the continuation of horseriding within the identified wilderness. Twenty three years later horseriders want to ride on Boyd Plateau where there has been no horseriding for at least forty years. Horseriding

continued on p. 6

Horsing abuse of wilderness cont from p.5

on the Boyd will bring weeds, *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in with horse manure into the Kowmung River catchment, including the former private property acquired by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. It is likely that the Society's gift will be used for recreational horse agistment, preventing further revegetation, as horses visiting this fairly remote park will require overnight accommodation. More feral horses can be expected to emerge on the plateau under this arrangement.

This proposed open slather horse riding has had very limited public consultation. Every reserve could become as fly infested as Kosciuszko National Park. It's an appalling prospect.

The eight horse riding work plans that are spread across the state will dictate visitor use in many national park plans of management.

The Colong Foundation opposes the delegation and deregulation of visitor management to processes outside the direct governance of the plan of management and its review processes, including these work plans and the various memoranda of understanding with park stakeholder groups.

Visitor use that adversely impacts on park heritage values, increases maintenance costs, establishes capital works programs for sectional interests or spoils the enjoyment of other users should not be tolerated.

The solution is simple. Visitor use proposals that fail to uphold existing park laws should be rejected. User groups who do not support legislated park management objectives should be tossed off park advisory groups. Stakeholder MOUs that turn visitor management into self-serving programs for sectional interests should be torn up.

References: # http://www.thebrumby.org/diary_main.htm, 30/6/2002 (*Kosciuszko National Park Horse Management Plan*, NPWS, Dec 2008.)

Thirlmere Lakes – World Heritage in danger

BY KEITH MUIR

THIRLMERE Lakes National Park near Picton is a special part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Its five lakes lie along entrenched meanders produced by a once powerful stream that lost its headwaters to the Nepean River around 15 million years ago. They were formed via very gradual earth movements along the Lapstone Monocline at the western edge of the Cumberland Basin.

From 2009 to 2011 the water in Thirlmere Lakes all but disappeared in a relatively short period of time. Was this a natural, climate phenomenon, or something else? Many thought coal mining under the lakes was to blame.

In response to community concerns, the NSW Government appointed a committee of four independent scientists and a community representative to evaluate possible causes for the low water levels in the lakes. Their overall finding, delivered in 2012, hid behind the usual apology for inaction - more research must be done. The inquiry's only significant outcome was a new monitoring system on water levels in the lakes. This approach ignores the precautionary principle of taking effective management action to protect the environment and not waiting for scientific certainty (as scientific certainty never arrives).

Coal industry moves goal posts cont from p.4

of permanently sequestering the carbon embodied in less economic coal resources.

A transition towards ending fossil fuel use by 'resource sterilisation' is a pragmatic means to overcome mining and energy industry inertia in addressing climate change. It will shorten the time taken to transition to



Thirlmere Lakes are not far from Bargo Colliery, close enough for the mine to drain the lakes.

However, independent research conducted by Pells Consulting in 2011 and in further research in subsequent years revealed that the Tahmoor longwall coal mine had depressurised the aquifer in the coal seam under Thirlmere Lakes. Regardless of the presence of a claystone aquiclude Pells' evidence points to longwall mining causing a medium-term lowering of near-surface groundwater aquifer levels over an area well beyond what was previously predicted.

Despite the lakes partly filling in wetter periods since 2011, lake levels remain well below those prior to 2009.

Ecological integrity is one of the key requirements for World Heritage listing of a natural property. Past efforts towards improving

the Greater Blue Mountains' environment, such as Sydney Water's \$80 million waste transfer scheme for the towns and villages of the central Blue Mountains, created a positive impression on the World Heritage Committee. It was these efforts, as much as the outstanding universal value of the area's sclerophyll vegetation that convinced the Committee that the Blue Mountains should be inscribed on the World Heritage list.

The World Heritage Committee recommends that 'State Parties to the Convention should inform the Committee as soon as possible about threats to their sites.' The Colong Foundation for Wilderness believes that the observed loss of water from Thirlmere Lakes would justify the state (i.e. the Australian Government) notifying the World Heritage Committee of the lake's current condition.

With no plan to restore the lakes other than wait and see, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service as the relevant land management authority, should also take the necessary steps to initiate the process for the Thirlmere Lakes to be deemed World Heritage property in Danger.

References:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger>
<http://www.pellsconsulting.com.au/selectedPapers/surfaceAndGroundwater.htm>
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/thirlmerelakesinquiry.htm>

more sustainable resources and in the meantime reduce the environmental damage caused while the transition is achieved.

Society should be far more particular about where and how its coal resources are developed, omitting those inferior resources and environmentally damaging development proposals, like Airly and Coalpac.

The mining industry needs to think how many rule changes

it can force on government umpires and own goals it can afford to score before coal is booted off the energy playing field.

References:

Rod Campbell, April 20, *Climate Spectator*, *Coal industry writing the NSW Govt's rules on economics*.
 Climate Council, April 2015, *Unburnable Carbon: why we need to leave fossil fuels in the ground*.

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.

NAME (Mr, Ms, Mrs, Miss)

ADDRESS

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

PHONEEMAIL:

SIGNED..... AMOUNT

Payment by credit card. Mastercard Visa Expiry date ____ ____

Card # _____

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



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)

BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE 50.00 ☐

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)

SUSTAINABILITY 20.00 ☐

Alex Colley provides his vision on a sustainable future. (90pp)

THE GARDENS OF STONE VISITORS MAP 7.50 ☐

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

THE BATTLE FOR THE BUSH 27.50 ☐

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

MYLES DUNPHY (SELECTED WRITINGS) 43.95 ☐

CLASSIC BUSHWALKING MAPS *by Myles Dunphy*
(Gangerang and Kowmung Maps) 6.00ea ☐

LIVING WITH THE DINGO 19.00 ☐

by Adam O'Neill (107pp)

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE