

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs

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BUSHWALKERS SHOT AT

During May, a small party of bushwalkers were approaching the eastern side of Wollemi National Park from the town of Putty.

As common with access to many national parks, they had to pass through farmlands. They stopped at one farm to check with the occupier about travelling up one creek. Permission was refused, so to avoid a confrontation, the walkers detoured around the farm, through bushland, and continued walking up the valley. A farmer, working up the valley, challenged the walkers, and when they detoured back into the scrub, he fired several shot gun blasts after them. He then used dogs to try and hunt out the walkers who meanwhile had decided to shelter in a cave until dark.

At the time, the walkers may have been technically trespassing, although maps indicate a road reserve passes up the valley. It should be noted that trespassing is not a criminal offence, discharging a firearm at people is.

Many farmers seem to believe that their home and land is their castle. The ownership of all land, even freehold title, is vested with the Crown. Farmers should not withhold access through legal rights of way.

Dave Noble

CONSERVATION NEWS

1. RAINFORESTS

By deferring debate on the logging of Washpool at the State Labor Party Conference in June the Government has effectively put aside the issue until after the State Election timed for October.

The campaign to save Washpool is continuing with the Colong Committee producing 20,000 postcards for sending to your favourite politician and the Rainforest Action Centre preparing a photographic document on the area.

Meanwhile, further south, the rainforests of the Forbes River-Mt Banda Banda area, west of Nauchope, are being logged mercilessly despite requests by the sawmillers in the area for alternative timbers. The rate of logging will mean the destruction of the rainforests in this area by 1986.

An EIS currently being produced for the logging of the rainforests in the Hastings Valley, including the Forbes River, will be useless when it comes up for public review because a large area will have already been logged.

Federation is co-signing a letter with NPA, NCC, TEC, the Colong Committee etc to the Premier requesting a stop to logging in the area and declaration of a national park. Members of clubs should write to the Premier and also help distribute postcards and leaflets for the Rainforest Action Centre.

2. COALMINING

Federation has pledged \$500 in support of the TEC-NPA case against the Electricity Commission over the Bird's Rock EIS. At the time of writing Murray Wilcox, who is taking the case, had been briefed and issue of a writ was pending.

In another area, declaration of the proposed Goulburn River National Park, west of Newcastle, is being delayed awaiting examination of public submissions on a document proposing mining under National Parks. It is believed that a mining exploration lease in the process of being granted includes a significant proportion of the proposed park. Mining is expected to be a combination of underground and open cut.

This park is also threatened by the proposed Kerrabee Dam, which is to supply water for developments in the Hunter Valley.

The area reportedly contains many rare plant communities and a number of aboriginal sites.

Roger Lambit

Conservation Director

- * Found at Easter in Dungeon Canyon, Ettrema an AGFAMATIC 55C Camera.

Contact: I. Hickson, C/- Box 426 Bourke 2840.

- * Bushwalkers in clubs are asked to let parents etc notify S & R not police in the event of a party being overdue.
- * Recently the Association of 4 W.D. Clubs of NSW & ACT demonstrated its environmental concern at an organised event on the Wolgan River. About 100 vehicles and drivers turned up for a working bee in upgrading the road in the Wollemi National Park, down the Wolgan River from Newnes. The NPWS had earlier placed a sign "Wollemi National Park, Service Trail Only" at the start of this road at the Park boundary. Some four wheel drivers who use this road have threatened to push the road as far as the Colo River. Perhaps it is time for some bushwalkers to organise a working bee to try and restore the road back to its original bush condition.
- * Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd no longer hire tents.
- * Owner of Bullingang property near Mittagong (Barralier) advises that he has put locks on gates to protect his property. However, he does not object to bushwalkers passing through or using farm water. (He advises that he has plenty of water on his property.) The property is used for access to Tomat Falls from Barralier on the Mollondilly River.

WHAT'S NEW

- * The Railway Historical Society has finally reprinted that excellent book "Shale Railways of NSW". At \$16.00 it is a recorded history of the Katoomba, Joadja, Newnes and Glen Davis shale workings. It can be obtained from that Society, P.O. Box E129, St James 2000 or at 27 Belmore Street, Surry Hills.
- * "A Documentary about the West Coast of Tasmania", the ABC has made a double cassette available called the West Coasters. It sells for \$10.95 and interviews old miners and timber cutters.
- * Some new magazines available at bushwalking stores and some newsagents are "Mountaineering 81" published by Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, 111A Arden St.

magazine about bushwalking, climbing, ski touring, caving, etc. This magazine is excellent quality and worthy of your support.

- * Paddy Pallins have a new range of lightweight snow tents from North Face (USA).
- * Eastwood Camping and Canvas soon plan to have their own type of sleeping bag. It will be a boxed wall bag and should represent good value.
- * The June issue of the Newcastle Bushwalking Club records the death of Ken Angel on 4th May 1981 at the age of 47. Born in Wagga Wagga and educated in Sydney, Ken was actively involved in bushwalking becoming at one stage President of that Club. Trained as a surveyor, he put his knowledge to use and produced some of the early maps of the Budawangs (1951 & 58). Unfortunately much of his nomenclature has been replaced though his presence is still recorded on Angel Creek which flows over Crooked (Angel) Falls.



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BUSHWALKERS

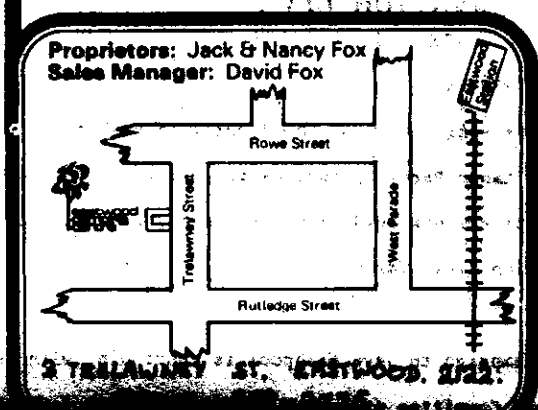
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The Committee consisting of Wilf Hilder, Tim Lamble, Peter Harris, Colin Watson, Robert & Paddy Pallin, approved only three of this year's applications to receive grants.

The successful applicants were:-

- 1) Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs \$1000.00 towards the costs of holding an initial national conference to hopefully form a national bushwalking body from the state federations.
- 2) Rainforest Action Centre \$500.00 towards administration expenses to fight the important battle for retention of the remains of rainforests in New South Wales.
- 3) South West Tasmania Committee (NSW) \$1000.00 towards a "Major advertising campaign to increase public awareness".

The making of only three grants does not mean the committee considered the other applicants unworthy but in most cases funds were available from other sources. The committee felt strongly that members of clubs and organisations should be willing to contribute to their own smaller projects, since many of the proposals submitted were for sums that should have been easily raised within the respective groups. On the other hand, the aims of the Foundation limit the funds to be spent on conservation because the modest scope of the Foundation is unable to meet the enormous sums required in this very worthy but never-ending work.

The committee considered an important area for funds to be allocated at this stage is for land to be bought suitable for bush camping. Because of this interest the committee has held back \$5000.00 as a starting point. The Foundation would be pleased to hear from organisations or persons with suggestions on this matter by June 30th 1981. There are some unallocated funds available which may also be put to this use.

The committee feels any such land should be vested in the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs or similar body.

Any grants from previous years that have not been claimed will be available for reallocation by the committee.

Grants from 1981 should be claimed by December

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THE THREE PEAKS

The idea of torture is abhorrent, and when it is self inflicted it is unbearable and stupid. Why then did I recently find myself again on that marathon effort - The Three Peaks? Having completed the route twice before (1972 and 1977) I should have woken up by now. Perhaps it is a figment of my imagination but the older I get, the easier it becomes. (Is this a sign of senility?)

Three Peaking goes back to 1957 when J. Manning, D. Dunnet, Snow Brown, M. Elphick, F. Worrall, B. Higgins, plus others (who dropped out along the way) set out to climb Mounts Cloudmaker, Paralyser and Guouogang in a weekend. Leaving Katoomba they camped at Kelpie Point on the Cox. This took five hours which is not bad considering the White Dog Road was then non-existent. They reached Cloudmaker by 9.30 am on Saturday and eventually camped in a saddle between Guouogang and Queahgong late in the afternoon. Katoomba was reached late on Sunday afternoon.

The Three Peaks trip commences at Katoomba shopping centre (though most people start at the beginning of Narrow Neck), and follows Narrow Neck down to the Cox then upstream to the foot of Marcots Spur (6 hours). Next morning Marcots (Korriecone Range) is followed to Gentles Pass, Mount Cloudmaker (3.40 hours), Thunder Bend, Paralyser (3.25 hours) and Maclean's Creek to camp (total walking time is 8.30

hours) climb up Nooroo to ...

Bellbird Ridge to Carlon's Head (1.10 hours) and back to Katoomba (2.30 hours). The times included here are a guide and do not allow for rest and lunch stops. It is also important to have some idea of the country you are traversing. Getting to Cloudmaker across the scrubby tops can be time consuming, and coming off Paralyser is tricky, even before you start to descend (opposite Nooroo Buttress) to Whalania Creek. Even the Guouogang tops have become a problem.

The second recorded Three Peaks trip occurred 13-14th May 1961 with a party consisting of Ray Jerrems, Heather Joyce and Wilf Hilder. Ray was the only one to complete the journey and arrived in Katoomba at 2.30 pm on Sunday after having left Guouogang seven hours before.

1961 seemed to be the year of the Three Peaks. Several attempts were made before Neil Clark and Fred Kitchener (CMW) became the third party to complete the course. They were followed later by Ralph Walker and Barry Dunnet (KBC) who reached Cloudmaker at 9.15 am, Paralyser 12.30 pm and Guouogang 3.40 pm. They then deviated in error and descended to the Kanangra River and the Cox, thus returning to the Cox less than 12 hours after leaving it. Sunday they made their way back leisurely to Katoomba.

1962 again saw CMW active in the area. Meg McKone (Hailstone) became the first female to complete the course in two days. Next weekend Ray Jerrems and Rick Higgins (UNSWBW) commenced at 2.30 am Saturday morning and had completed the trip in 35 hours. Their times were 6.20 am started on Marcots, 9.00 am Cloudmaker, 12.25 pm Paralyser, 3.40 pm Guouogang

where they descended Bullagowar Buttress where tiredness overcame the party. They camped on the Cox and reached Katoomba 1.45 pm on Sunday.

I think the present record for the trip stands at 18½ hours for the whole trip. Dave Noble (solo) tried for a 24 hour trip and appeared to keep similar times (in September 1979) to the Jerrems-Higgins party (1962). The log book entry by Dave reads "Hope to make Cox's before darkness - the torch to the Neck. Feeling buggered and sleepy".

Both Dave and Chris Cosgrove have done quite a number of Three Peak trips. One trip Chris decided that he would like a bit of variety so in August 1977 he went from Katoomba - Yellow Pup - Strongleg - Cloudmaker - Stormbreaker - Cyclops Buttress (steep) - Paralyser - Whalania Deep (camp) - Bullagowar Buttress - Guouogang - Jenolan - Heartbreaker - Knights Deck - Narrow Neck.

Someone once worked out that the Three Peaks covered in total some 54 miles of walking and nearly 15,000 feet of climbing (i.e. equivalent to climbing half way up Everest).

The last trip I went on (SBW - May 1981) varied the route by going down to Kangaroo (via Bullagowar) and up Yellow Pup. This appears to take a similar time to the route I have previously used.

• Warwick Blayden

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