

of the

# BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs  
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## EDITORIAL

### SAFETY IN THE BUSH

The last summer has been the worst in recent memory for accidents and deaths of bushwalkers on trips. Most of these involved experienced bushwalkers:

Judy Burke of the Catholic Bushwalking Club, fell to her death whilst descending from Federation Peak in Tasmania.

Judy was an experienced bushwalker and canyoneer and very well known in her club.

Ian Crawford, Cheryl (Foxy) Russell and Noreen Ryan from SPAN Bushwalking Club perished in Claustral Canyon during a flash flood.

These deaths are a stark reminder that bushwalking can be a dangerous sport, even with experienced parties. Ian Crawford, in particular was a very experienced walker, having visited Claustral Canyon on one of his first trips in about 1974 and since then, he had completed many difficult walks, such as the 3 peaks and long walks in south-west Tassie.

Most bushwalkers accept the danger as part of the challenge and attraction of the sport. The danger, can certainly be minimised with experience and good equipment. However, there are many parties of incompetent bushwalkers which could contribute to even greater tragedies. On a Claustral Canyon trip in November, 1981, the party I was in and 3 other parties were held up for about an hour by a party with insufficient abseiling gear and very inefficient abseiling techniques. These canyons are no places to pass abseiling gear up a rope for other party members.

During my stay in Tasmania this summer, we heard that one night, 11 out of 13 tents pitched at Promontory Lake in the Aurthur Range, were blown down. The same night, we were camped at Hanging Lake, in the same range, a much more exposed place, and experienced a relatively calm night in a typical Tassie storm. The parties with the tents blown down had lacked judgement in picking sheltered campsites and had very poor tents - they were lucky that they were in an easy place to retreat from the range.

Other bushwalkers have surely heard many other such stories. It is ironic that these parties have escaped unscathed this summer in the light of the tragedies above.

Dave Noble.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

### 1. FERAL PINES

The new Commissioner for Forests, Dr. Mal Gentle, has claimed that exotic pines do not spread from plantations into native forests.

Bushwalkers can prove he is wrong by reporting any instances

of pines in native forests to the Conservation Director, Roger Lembit on 267-7722. Details such as grid references and extent of invasion are necessary.

Following investigation, the pines will be removed if they are not too widespread. Best places to look are where Black Cockatoos and other parrots congregate, particularly near Newnes State Forest, Mt. Merong and in the Budawang.

### 2. NEWNES PLATEAU

The Department of Environment and Planning have released a report on the proposed Banks Rock Colliery. They recommend that the project be allowed to proceed with a few alterations prior to the consideration of a Regional Environmental Plan for the area. Federation is not satisfied that the colliery is required and will argue for its abandonment at the Public Inquiry to be held in Lithgow during March.

Meanwhile it appears that minor extensions may be made to the Blue Mountains National Park, along the Dumbano Fire Trail where the State Forest juts into the Park.

Proposals for a sand mine close to Bell Station are well advanced and clubs should be ready to protest about this threat to the already polluted Mollangambe catchment.

### 3. MORETON ISLAND

The Queensland Government has decided to mine 6% of this valuable island near Brisbane. The Queensland Federation of Bushwalking Clubs urges that letters be sent to Mr. Fraser demanding that export permits be refused. The Island is on the register of the National Estate and is an important site for research into Aboriginal history, as well as being a popular bushwalking venue.

Roger Lembit.

**NO DAMS**

**RALLY AND MARCH**

**FOR S.W. TASMANIA**

**27 MARCH 11 a.m. - SYDNEY**

**SQUARE - NEAR TOWN HALL.**

**MARCH TO WIDE PARK.**

**SHOW YOUR CONCERN**

## BITS AND PIECES

- The Department of Lands is investigating a proposal for a 'Hume and Hovell' walking track. This will be a long distance walking track.
- Thozmo's Chains at Spendour Rock are thought to be dangerous. One piton has come loose. These chains were installed by the KBC in about 1956/7 and named after club member Bob Thompson, who died while walking in Tasmania.
- Questions have been raised regarding access at Little River - Flaggi Clear Area on the Coxs River. So far two parties have been shot at (over their heads).
- Ranger, Kevin Browne, of Blue Mountains National Parks Service and very well known to many bushwalkers has retired after 21 years service in Blue Mountains National Park.
- The Moreton Papers will be published soon by Peter Harris and Warwick Blayden.

## CONFERENCE OF INTERSTATE

## BUSHWALKING FEDERATIONS

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, N.S.W. had two delegates and several observers at a meeting held in Ringwood, Victoria, and organised by the Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs on 28th and 29th November, 1981. This was made possible by a grant from the Paddy Pallin Foundation, and was to investigate the formation of an Australian Bushwalking Federation.

Those who attended were:

- N.S.W. Gordon Lee, Beth Mees, Roger Lembit, Murray Scott, Ed Hanvin, Warwick Blayden.
- Vic. Ken McInnes (Conference Chairman), Athol Dorman, Athol Schaffer, Mike Scowen, Lyn Stephens, Russel Tregear.
- Qld. Ken Shea, Ron Farmer.
- S.A. David Turner.
- Tas. Malcom Geeves, Viv Hannaford.

We hold correspondence going back to 1970 relating to the proposed formation of a national body. In 1974 Athol Dorman took up the project and it was he who pointed out the advantages to the meeting;

- interstate news and happenings,
- national liason,
- the Federal Government will listen to a national body - speaking for all bushwalkers,
- conformity in track markers and in setting leadership standards,
- "we should be the experts on the landscape of Australia", and therefore should be able to express an opinion on the environment,
- the authority to whom people (and Government) can turn to for advice,
- seek the support of similar bodies in other countries,
- expansion of the visitation to the inland (e.g. to follow old explorer's routes),
- we have the skills within our members to be able to tackle any problem,
- exploring common problems,
- the problem of custom duty imposed on the import of bushwalking/camping gear was raised. A national body could prove to be a useful lobby,
- funding - most Federal/State Sporting Departments are more likely to support a national body,
- a national body would be eligible to join the Confederation of Australian Sport. The C.A.S. have an insurance scheme whereby individuals who are members of a national body pay \$3.50 p.a.,
- the C.A.S. can also arrange reduced air fares for end-of-year activities (club trips only),
- at the moment, national conferences on Search and Rescue methods are attended by S & R representatives from Victoria and Queensland and New South Wales, represented by Blue Mountains Rescue Squad (Police).

National Body

- one proposal allowed for the right of a member to disagree with a national decision, and this dissent to be communicated when a statement is made,
- all parties to the meeting agreed that there should be a national body. Following a discussion, it was decided that the national body will be known as the AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF BUSHWALKING FEDERATIONS,
- a steering committee (the Victorians) were elected to finalise the constitution [Box B15F, G.P.O. Melbourne, Vic].

### Summary

The primary success of the meeting was the interchange of information, how each State body handles its own problems. A national body appears viable and has many advantages, both to clubs and individuals. It is hoped that the initiating spirit of the Victorians, supported by other State bodies will lead to a better deal for bushwalkers.

Warwick Blayden.

## FUTURE EVENTS

3rd and 4th April - S & R Exercise - Barrington Area - with other groups.

19th and 20th June - S & R Exercise - Safety in the bush and extra hard training search and rescue.

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RUDY WONG

## SPRING CREEK ACCIDENT

Sue Botwell was one of a party of five abseiling Spring Creek canyon near Bungonia.

Spring Creek drops about 500 metres in a mile and empties into the Shoalhaven River on the downstream end of the Blockup Gorge.

It was about 2.30 p.m. and the third abseil from the bottom (9 or 10 abseils in all) when the freak accident occurred. One of the abseiling party on his decent down the rope called out that a rock was loose and that the rope may dislodge it. Everyone cleared well away from the probable drop area and hid behind trees and the like. The rock did dislodge and dropped some 50 feet before ricocheting horizontally and striking the tree which Sue was behind. She had her hand around the front of the tree to maintain her balance. The rock cut through her abseil glove and severed three of her fingers completely and partially severed the little finger. Also she sustained a fractured wrist and lacerations.

The other members of the party rendered first aid and placed the recovered fingers in a plastic bag. Sue was still in good spirits and completed the remaining abseils to the Shoalhaven.

They sent two fast walkers to raise the alarm at the Ranger's station and approximately 3½ hours later the Wales Rescue Helicopter arrived to transport her to Sydney for microsurgery.

Steve Prothero.

## FOOD FOR WALKING

It's getting on for fifty years since bushwalking really took off in New South Wales and it might be an idea to compare the diets between then and now. Let's firstly see what was a recommended diet for a man (Food and Nutrition, c.1935):

Daily Intake	Male	Vegetarian
meat	190 gms.	
cheese	30	130 gms.
milk	0.16 litre	0.56 litre
butter	45 gms.	30 gms.
bread	450	450
sugar	60	60
jam	45	
potatoes	310	310
tea	15	
peas (dried)	30	30
oatmeal	30	30
rice	15	30
barley	30	
fruits and greens	no specific amount	
dripping		15
golden syrup		30
Calorie intake	3247	3401

This diet would cost the ordinary man a farthing short of eight shillings a week (or eleven cents a day) at the time when the effects of the depression were starting to wear off.

Walking books from 1932 and the present time are compared;

A three day trip	1932(a)	1981(b)
meat	900 gms.	300 gms.
bread	1300	700
vegetables	1300	
fruit	1300	
butter	300	150
sugar	250	200
tea	90	40
Approx. total	5.6 Kg.	3 Kg.

Diet (a) comes from the Hiking Guide. Additional notes suggest;

- vegetables: potatoes and onions and to save weight, dehydrated veges "which are really nourishing and sustaining".
- fruit: oranges, apples and a lemon.

This particular menu is interesting inasmuch as it makes no mention of oats, or...

It would seem that dehyds weren't all that palatable. In 1934 an instant potato mix came onto the market and "needed minced bacon or onion to moderate its flavour".

Diet (b) is based on Paddy's "Bushwalking and Camping" (1973). In addition to the amounts already shown, the present day walker also carried oats, rice, bacon, fresh eggs, powdered milk, cheese, jam or honey, chocolate or sweets, salt and soup powder.

Clio.

## WEST HEAD SEARCH

I was contacted by Rose Brown conveying her appreciation for the assistance of Bushwalkers Search and Rescue in the incident at West Head involving missing person Jayne Wright.

Jayne had driven to West Head on Saturday 10th October, 1981 in a depressed and confused state and disappeared into the bush at the West Head parking area.

Bushwalkers Search and Rescue turned out on the Sunday with 40 walkers who combed the "rugged" bushland and cliffs in the area but to no avail:

Police and Bush Fire Brigade were also present on the Sunday as well as a few hours spent by police rescue on Monday and Tuesday.

The rescue team were requested to spend an additional day (Wednesday) to help eliminate any possibility of Jayne still being in the area, but this again was fruitless.

The body of Jayne Wright was found two weeks later some fifty yards offshore among rocks. The possibility of her being sighted from shore was nil. She was found by someone in a boat fishing off the shoreline.

Many thanks for your participation on one or both of these days.  
Steve Prothero,  
Rescue Officer.

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## N.S.W. OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP

At the recently held third national Outdoor Education conference at Maroon Centre, South-East Queensland papers and ideas were presented on current trends in certification, registration and licensing of persons leading/organising outdoor tours, including instructional courses, both within Australia and overseas.

It is not widely known that Tasmania and Victoria both have a scheme for authorities to judge the competency of any leader or operator and especially those persons being employed by state education or sports departments. The Victorian scheme of certification has been in operation for some seven years.

In contrast to the Victorian scheme called Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership Certificates, Tasmanian legislation provides for a code of safe learning leading to registration of individuals wishing to lead groups in the bush or more rugged mountain areas.

Recent events in licensing within N.S.W. national parks suggest that some form of assessment or checking of credentials will be desirable for the future safe development of the sports concerned. Briefly, pursuits involved include snow-shoeing, skiing (alpine touring and cross country), bushwalking, rock and ice climbing, snow and ice craft and caving/canyoning both of which have no current licensed operator(s) and like the former (snow shoeing) have no international code for safe conduct.

Except for cross-country skiing which comes under the orbit of the Australian Ski Federation, there are no national bodies concerned for the professional development of either personnel or the sport/pursuit itself. It is worth noting that in national legal terms, only cross-country skiing comes close to being likely to be termed a 'sport' per se. Sports are nominated through the National Coaches Accreditation Scheme in Canberra and must be proposed for consideration as a sport.

After a recent 'Operators Meeting' in Queanbeyan, primarily involving Kosciusko tour organisers of backcountry pursuits (also previously known as 'wilderness tours') the N.S.W. Parks Service decided to take the initiative and set the standards in this state, by way of ascertaining the relevant international standards and a code for mountaincraft overseas. An especial problem involved the clear definition of the terms 'leader', 'teacher', plus 'instructor' and 'guide' which have all been used to date in licensing.

In terms of bypassing or preventing future emergencies or incidents/fatalities in the New South Wales mountains and parks I believe it is essential for any group of concerned authorities to meet at a state level with the operators already involved and who have suggestions to offer. A scheme should not involve certification or registration necessarily, or be statutory, yet should set the highest available standards AND MUST be prepared to be reviewed quickly and in the face of change every two years.

## WILDERNESS RESTORED

A small group of conservationists have started a new group aimed at reversing the trend towards destruction of our natural areas. Evidence of their work may be seen along a track in the Southern Blue Mountains.

The groups have removed over 200 small squares of aluminium from trees alongside the track. A number of rock piles along the track have also been dispersed. Campsites have been cleaned up and signs of campfires obliterated.

In other areas the group have been lucky enough to find small notebooks in glass jars underneath piles of rocks, usually at the top of hills. They have also been observed with packs full of aluminium foil leaving popular campsites.

The ultimate aim of the group is to restore Australia to its original wilderness condition. It is believed that a more immediate aim is to remove certain man-made structures from the Kanangra Wilderness. Help make this area a "Cairn Free Zone".

The group would warn walkers in this area to ignore maps which indicate marked tracks or cairns in the Southern Blue Mountains because they probably aren't there any more.

Certain clubs should also take tents or hootchies as it is likely their usual shelter will have somehow disappeared.

The Flame.

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## FROM THE MINUTES

- \*\*\* 2 clubs have applied for affiliation: Scripture Union B.W.C. and a new club - 3 peaks B.W.C. (Westleigh).
- \*\*\* C.M.W. Members reported seeing trail bikes on Kalliana Ridge in Morton National Park.
- \*\*\* A new hut has been built at Little River.
- \*\*\* F.W.B. is writing to N.P. and W.S. questioning justification of spring burning in view of effects on wildflowers and visiting birds.
- \*\*\* Murray Scott has been empowered to seek legal opinion on the liability of clubs regarding injury to club members and the public and avenues of insurance against such liability.

Looking through some old log books it was interesting to note one trip from Katoomba to Yerranderie Peak and return by Phil Butt in July, 1965. Phil had had bad weather for the trip and it had been snowing for some time by the time he had reached Narrow Neck. He then found that he had a thirteen kilometre slog through 20-30 cms. of snow. Said Phil "it was a weekend trip to remember."

Clio.



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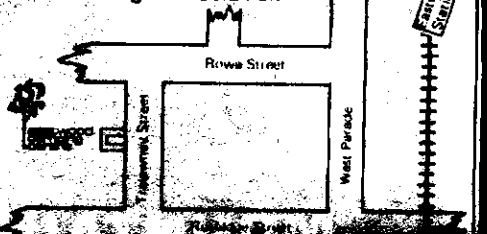
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Over the past twelve months the Federation has received a few enquiries on bushwalking in New Guinea and Papua. To date I have been unsuccessful in obtaining addresses of walking clubs (the enquiries have tended to want to keep away from commercial ventures). If anyone has any information on that country, could they please contact Warwick Blayden C/- The Editor.

In October this year, it was announced that the writer 'Dymphna' Cusack had died. Nell Cusack was a contemporary of Marie Byles who had an interest in the outdoor life. Marie used to go out with a few of her university pals (including Nell) and do short bushwalks, an activity which was looked upon with suspicion and never completed by females. Marie and her friends persisted and probably challenged society's thinking by occasionally having their trips published in papers and magazines. According to Marie's notes, it was after one of Nell's reports were printed in the Sydney Morning Herald that a young Englishman, Frank Duncan, contacted Nell and met Marie's walking group. Frank organised an advertisement in the newspaper asking if there were other people in Sydney who were interested in recreational walking. The response was encouraging and it was from this that a meeting was called and the Sydney Bushwalkers was founded (1927). Unfortunately Marie, who was planning to go overseas, came down with an illness and was unable to participate in the founding of the club. (According to Sydney Bushwalkers Club, it was Jack Debert who wrote to The Sun suggesting the formation of a "Hikers club"). - Clio

Warwick Blayden

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The Editor

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