

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for the year 82/83 was held in July.

The new office bearers are:

President	Gordon Lee	S.B.W.	
Secretary	Spiro Hakinakitas	S.B.W.	357-1381 681-4874
Treasurer	Jim Callaway	C.B.C.	520-7081
Senior Vice-President	Beth Streatfield	Span	
Junior Vice-President	Roger Lembit	S.U.B.W.	747-3962
Conservation Director	Michael Doherty	S.U.B.W.	50-4024
S. & R. Director	Fergus Bell		476-4187
Tracks & Access Officer	Bob Sault	S.U.B.W.	498-7897
Newsletter Editor	Ian Wilson	S.U.B.W.	869-2923
Education Director	Hugh Paterson	Ramblers	569-4855
Publicity Officer	Bruce Baxter	Sutherland	
N.C.C. Councillor	Helen Panter	Sutherland	
Bushsports Director	Nick Eichhorn	N.P.A.	858-5386

Several positions were filled unopposed. Generally because the previous position holders stood once again; however some were filled by people unknown to most.

Whether this is due to lack of interest or little prior knowledge that some office bearers would not stand again, I don't know, but maybe it would be a good idea if office bearers declared their intentions some time before the A.G.M., to give clubs and individuals time to consider standing for positions.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

- Newhaven Gap - Wednesday 16th June.

The alarm was raised by Colin Watson (CMW) shortly before noon on Tuesday 15th June. He reported that half of his walking party were overdue on a three day walk in the Northern Budawangs.

The trip started from Folly Point, descended down Watson Pass to Camping Rock Creek, Hollands Creek, Angel Creek, Crooked Falls, Falls Lookout and return via Mt. Tarn, Mt. Haughton and the Vines.

Apparently the party of eight split up to negotiate the climb around Crooked Falls, however, when Colin's party arrived at Falls Lookout the others were nowhere to be seen.

After scouting around for the remainder of Sunday and Monday Colin's party returned to the vehicles and then on to Nowra to inform the local ranger and then returned to Sydney.

The standard waiting period of 24 hours lapsed and at the request of Terry Barrett (National Parks and Wildlife Service) Bushwalkers' Search and Rescue was swung into action.

Walkers assembled at a prearranged location in Sydney, then proceeded in convoy to Newhaven Gap, stopping at Kiama and Nowra police stations to check in. This system has been adopted in case of a call back.

Next morning after all walkers had registered they were divided into search parties and briefed. We had a total of 30 searchers.

Party 1 was sent down the Folly Point track to the lookout to check all passes and caves.

Party 2 was sent to the Vines, Styles Creek and the north-west side of Mt. Haughton and Mt. Tarn, while party 3 checked all caves and overhangs on the south-eastern side of the same mountains.

Three parties remained at base, two of which were to be helicoptered into a clearing above Falls Lookout. These two parties were made up of rock climbers and a CMW member. Their job was to initiate a search of the falls area. However, the 'chopper' was running late.

At 11.45 a.m. a radio message from party 3 confirmed that they had made voice contact with the missing party.

Ten minutes later they were together. All were well. They had been found below the saddle between Mt. Haughton and Mt. Tarn. At the same time Polair arrived at base from Sydney so they flew out to the saddle to pick up the exhausted missing party. Once the CMW Party were returned Polair obliged and ferried the three search parties back to base.

The operation concluded at 3.15 p.m. after the debriefing. Many thanks to Camden Bushwalkers, Sutherland Bushwalkers, S.U.B.W., Span Unlimited, C.M.W. and Ramblers for their support.

Steve Prothero
Field Officer.

S & R

SEARCH AND RESCUE meetings are now held at the Police Rescue Squad Headquarters, 35-41 Addison Road, Marrickville. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every second (even) month at 7.00 p.m. The meetings are open to anyone wishing to assist S & R.

PETROL ON S & R EXERCISES

Participants in S & R exercises are only ensured petrol during strikes if they are called out as a specific request by the Police for assistance.

People must be completely self-sufficient with regards to petrol on all other S & R activities.

S & R EXERCISE

The next S & R Exercise is to be held on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of October, in the Budawang area.

THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF BLUE GUM FOREST

On September 2nd, 1932, the Government Gazette proclaimed an area of 40 acres on the northern bank of the Grose River, opposite the junction of Govett's Leap Creek, as a Reserve for Public Recreation. This reservation had been achieved mainly through the efforts of members of walking clubs in Sydney, and the story is told in the 1940 edition of "The Bushwalker", a journal then published annually by the New South Wales Federation of Bush Walking Clubs. The authorship of the article is not given, but the manner of telling strongly suggests it was written by one of the people directly involved.

In this year, when the 50th Anniversary of the reservation of Blue Gum Forest is being celebrated, it seems proper to reprint a large extract from the article, bearing in mind that these events in 1931-32 probably marked a watershed in the conservation concepts of bush walkers.

"In 1931 two farmers seeking more grass secured Conditional Purchases in the Grose Valley. They at once set to work to make a track by which they could take their cattle from the Bell Road down past the mighty cliffs into the valley. The Grose River flows through a deep gash in the plateau and grazing flats along the river are virtually non-existent; but one landholder knew of a flat area, at the junction of Govett's Leap Creek with the River - the Blue Gum Forest. That was where he intended to graze his cattle and grow walnuts, so he set off to ringbark the blue gums, but had not much more than started the work of destruction when he was halted by a party of bush walkers consisting of members of two of the small clubs which then existed in Sydney.

"At that time the Mountain Trails Club had 27 members, the Sydney Bush Walkers about 140, none of them wealthy, and the depression was at its worst. Things looked very gloomy as the only way Mr. Hungerford, the grazier, could be persuaded to spare the trees was by a cash payment of 130 pounds within three months to buy him out. He had, however, agreed to refrain from ringbarking any more trees until the walkers had had an opportunity of explaining the position to their clubs and reported back to him whether or not arrangements could be made to purchase the land.

"As soon as they returned to town, the walkers got busy and a committee was formed of members of both clubs. The Wild Life Preservation Society was approached and gave 25 pounds to pay a deposit; its President was added to the committee, and he later became the Chairman of the Trust. Club members and committeemen alike gave and obtained donations, and raised money by various means. Somehow or other the trees had to be saved.

"Another meeting with Mr. Hungerford took place in the Forest on November 15, 1951, while thunder rolled and rain poured down. Myles Dunphy and Alan Rigby of the M.T.C., Joe Turner and Neol Griffith of the S.B.W., Roy Bennett of the W.L.P.S., and Mr. Hungerford the grazier squatted on their haunches in a circle under the trees and talked business. Watching them, two visitors crouched in Rigby's small lean-to tent, and Mr. J. G. Lockley ('Redgum' of the Sydney Morning Herald) and Dorothy Lawry, who had driven some of the party to the start of the track from the Bell Road, sheltered in a hollow at the base of a huge fallen blue gum.

"When the storm had passed and the party broke up - some to go back to the Bell Road and the cars, others to walk through to Govett's Leap - the price was still 130 pounds, and the time for payment within three months. That afternoon Mr. Lockley commented on the "pylon" which now bears his name, and when he got back to Sydney the "Herald" gave the Blue Gum Forest and the walkers' efforts to save it a lot of splendid publicity.

"With this additional help the committee renewed its efforts, and sent out a fresh batch of appeals to various citizens who might be persuaded to contribute some of that rare commodity - cash. Time was getting short, and the funds in hand only totalled 50 pounds when one of these appeals reached Mr. W. J. Cleary, then Commissioner for Railways (and himself a free-lance walker). He took time to consider the appeal carefully, and then anonymously lent the committee the remaining 80 pounds free of interest for two years - not expecting to see it again, as he explained when it was repaid on December 1st, 1955.

"Mr. Hungerford was paid the sum of 130 pounds and he transferred his holding to the tree lovers, who handed it back to the Crown. The Government Gazette of 2nd September proclaimed the Reserve, and a subsequent issue of December 2nd, 1952, notified the appointment of four trustees - Roy Bennett (W.L.P.S.), Alan Rigby (M.T.C.) and Joe Turner and Dorothy Lawry (S.B.W.). In 1955 Alan Rigby resigned, and Maurie Berry was appointed in his place, with Mr. W. J. Cleary also being appointed as a fifth Trustee.

"The years 1952 and 1953 were busy ones for Bushwalkers and Trailers. Not only were they raising money by various entertainments so that the debt on the Forest could be paid, but they were working for Garrawarra Park (Burning Palms) and forming the N.S.W. Federation of Bush Walking Clubs. There had been several previous unsuccessful attempts to form a Federation, but the tremendous effort needed to secure a small area of 40 acres showed club members the necessity of uniting all clubs so that larger areas could be saved in their natural state for posterity.....Spurred by their ardent desire to protect

"Another result of the purchase and dedication of the Forest was the reservation of a strip 500 ft. wide on each side of Govett's Leap Creek from the junction with the Grose River up the river to Blackheath Creek, and for some distance up that creek. This was vested in the local municipal and shire councils."

Earlier I suggested the preservation of Blue Gum Forest was a watershed in bush walkers' attitudes to conservation. I often wonder whether there was any precedent in N.S.W. (in Australia? in the world?) for a group of conservationists to put their wallets where their hearts lay - to BUY a vital piece of land to save it from development or destruction. Was this the first actual implementation of an idea that later led to the purchase by S.B.W. of Portion 7 at Era - and when that was resumed, to the attempt in 1964 to buy land at Bendethera, and later still at Coolana? The purchase of land to preserve a lovely place is not a novel idea nowadays.....but I think it may have been in 1932.

Jim Brown

REPRINT FROM "THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER"

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KOSCIUSKO PLAN BACKDOWN

The recently released management plan for the Kosciusko National Park is a disaster for common sense and the environment. Due to extreme pressure from resort developers, the Minister for Environment and Planning made last minute changes to the Plan which removed the accommodation limits and virtually permits open slather in the resort areas.

Major conservation groups, including the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs had called for a reduction in bed limits or at the worst, that they remain at present levels. Federation understands that the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council had recommended to the Minister that bed limits remain at existing levels (9,000 beds).

Submissions made by Federation were ignored on a number of other matters. Huts which are mere ruins, with zero historical value will be retained, wilderness areas will not be managed as such and intentional burning will be carried out in wilderness areas. The Plan has made some concessions to Federation's views, in that, a planned 54% increase in public road access will not proceed and horses will not be allowed in wilderness areas.

These concessions are minute compared to the favours granted to greedy developers, however. Mr. Bedford has ignored the nature conservation value of the area; the Kosciusko National Park is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

Federation is calling upon the Premier to withdraw the Plan so that accommodation limits can be reinstated. All clubs and bushwalkers are urged to do likewise.

Roger Lembit

BIRDS ROCK DEFERRED

Development of the controversial Birds Rock Colliery, on the Newnes Plateau has been deferred due to a downturn in the coal industry and a coal glut in Japan. The Premier, Mr. Wran, has announced that the State Government would be reassessing the form which the development would take.

In view of the problems the State is having making the Colliery a successful financial venture, it is an opportune time for clubs to write to the Premier calling for the abandonment of the proposal, which could potentially affect water quality in the Wolgan and Colo Rivers, and will adversely affect the scenic quality of a part of the Newnes Plateau.



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BUSHWALKERS

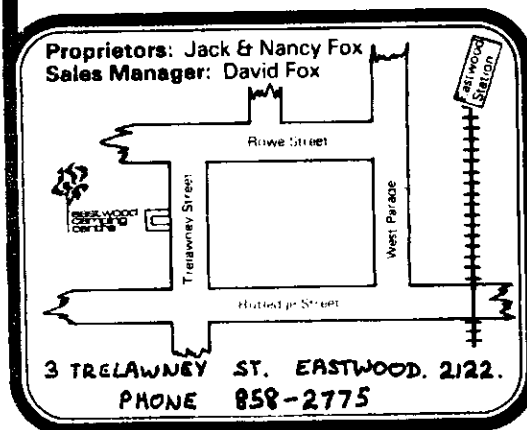
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HELP WANTED

BUSHFIRES

Are you worried about the various deficiencies in bushfire control and management in New South Wales?

If so, and are willing to work towards a better overall situation, you are welcome to join the National Parks Association's Bush Fire Committee, which has ten major projects.

For further information, phone the Convenor,
Alan Catford 27-1497 (office)

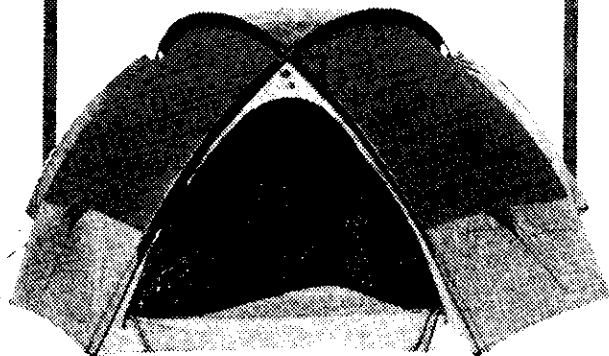
BUSHSPORTS

People interested in helping to teach others the ins and outs of rucksack sports are needed to assist in the running of Bushsports.

If you are interested in helping ring
Nick Eichhorn 858-5386 (h)

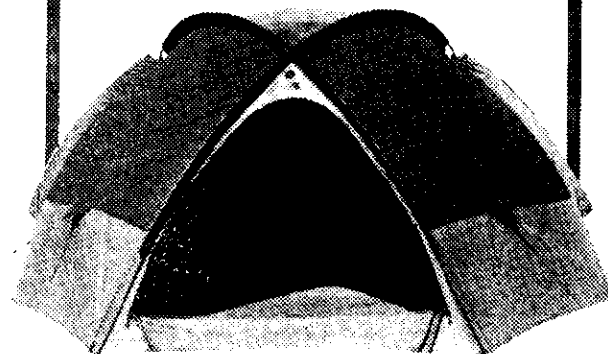
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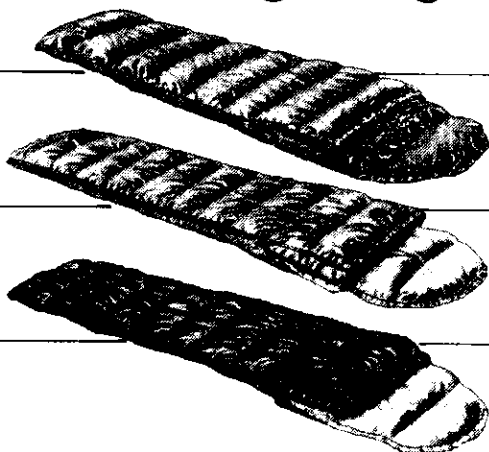


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PADDYMADE SLEEPING BAG COMPARISON CHART

MODEL	WEIGHT INC. STUFF SAC.	CONSTRUCTION	FILL WEIGHT	FILL	TEMP. RATING*	ZIP	SIZE IN STUFFSACK cm
KIANDRA	1.25 kg	Sewn Thru	500 g	550 Loft Down	5°C	Full Zip	30 x 17
SIAMBERI	1.00 kg	Box Wall	550 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Side Zip	30 x 17
HIGH PLAINS	1.80 kg	Box Wall	1100 g	Featherdown	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
HOTHAM	1.60 kg	Box Wall	700 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
MELALEUCA	1.55 kg	Box Wall	800 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Side Zip	34 x 23
BOGONG	1.60 kg	Box Wall	900 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
SNOWLORD	2.00 kg	Slant Wall	1100 g	550 Loft Down	-25°C	Side Zip	37 x 27

All bags fit people to 190 cm (6ft 3in) tall; bags to fit people 205 cm (6ft 9in) are available in most models. *Temperature Ratings are a soft measurement—they represent an average expected performance level for a standard person although individuals will differ by up to 1°C. Paddymade reserves the right to alter these specifications without notice.



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Paddy's Mail Order P.O. Box K511, Haymarket 2000

The Apsley Bushfire Prevention Association will shortly begin construction on a fire trail from the Apsley River to Front Tableland, across the heart of the Apsley wilderness, if the National Parks Association is unsuccessful in its attempts to stop the road. The proposed fire trail will start from the Electricity Commission's gauging station on the River and will seriously affect the wilderness quality of the area.

It is extremely doubtful that the road will serve any useful purpose in fire prevention and it seems to be being pushed by a few local graziers who will gain by better access to Walcha via the new trail. The Apsley wilderness is already suffering from weed infestations from agricultural land in its catchment and from extensive cattle grazing. Federation will be assisting the National Parks Association in its efforts to stop road construction.

Roger Lembit

OLD ROPE REQUIRED

Has your abseiling rope reached the stage where your next descent may be a quick one?

If so, it could be put to good use for tree lopping. Bushwalkers with old ropes can contact Mrs. Byast on 634-2622, who may be able to negotiate a price to subsidise the purchase of a new rope.

S-W TASMANIA

At a recent meeting arranged by South-West Tasmania Committee, Bob Brown, Tasmania's most famous conservationist, urged all clubs and individuals to put pressure on Federal politicians to halt all further development in S-W Tasmania.

Another rally, similar to one held earlier this year is being organised for the 9th October.

Assemble Sydney Square 10.30 a.m., march to Hyde Park South for a rally at 12 noon.

A gate is to be installed at Natural Bridge on the Mt. Cameron road in an attempt to stop degradation of the Mt. Cameron and Colo areas by 4-W. drives and trailbikes.

LAND FOR BUSHCAMPING?

The Paddy Pallin Foundation has so far made available \$11,360.00 for the purpose of purchasing land for bush camping. This land would be invested in a body such as Federation.

Federation has set up a committee to investigate the matter.

Comments from clubs and individuals are required if a well-informed decision by Federation is to be made.

If anyone has ideas of possible areas, reasons for buying or not buying the land they should contact any one of:

Brad Phillips 44-3266 (h)
Fergus Bell 476-4187 (h)
Ian Wilson 869-2923 (h)

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Please send articles, correspondence, book reviews, details of unusual or epic walks etc. to

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