

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs

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NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NEW WILDERNESS FORM FOR KOSCIUSKO

The National Parks and Wildlife Service have initiated a new wilderness Visitor Use Form for visitors who intend bushwalking, ski-touring or enjoying similar activities in the Wilderness areas of the Park.

The new form is self-explanatory. Visitors are requested to fill in the details on the front of the form and to show their intended route and camp sites on the map on the reverse side. Due to the problem of printing a reasonably sized map on the form, the initial form covers the area of the Park between the Alpine Way and Kiandra - in other words, the Main Range and the Jagungal Wilderness and associated areas.

During the next few months, forms will be printed for the areas north of Kiandra and south of the Alpine Way, so that, eventually, the whole Park will be covered by three forms. In the meantime, visitors using those other areas will be asked to fill in the old style of form.

It must be emphasised that the forms are not search and rescue forms. They are a data collection form aimed at helping the Service to assess how the Park is used and to plan for changing management needs and improved visitor facilities. -(why they want to provide these in wilderness areas defies logic.-Ed) Naturally, if you do get into trouble and you have filled in the form properly, it will assist the Service in locating you.

It remains your responsibility to leave trip details with someone who will alert Search and Rescue authorities if you are overdue.

The long-term success of the data collection programme and the resultant benefits to the Park visitor depends heavily upon your co-operation in filling in the forms.

All forms are available at Park Offices located at Sawpit Creek, Smiggin Holes, Thredbo, Khancoban, Adaminaby, Yarrangobilly Caves, Tumut, Jindabyne and all Entrance Stations.

Additionally, dispenser boxes are located at various track-heads. To date, they are at Mungyang Power Station, Snowy Adit/Burrungubudgee, Table Top fire trail, Four Mile Fire trail, Round Mountain and Pinnacles Fire trail.

Other boxes will be installed at additional points, as they come to hand.

They are printed on waterproof paper and, when completed, should be slipped into the bottom compartment of the box.

BOOK REVIEW

"Battle for the Franklin"

by Roger Green
Fontana/ACF

Roger Green's book on the battle for the Franklin River does not simply rehash the dates and events of the fight. Rather, it concentrates on the motives and ideas of the main protagonists.

The book consists of conversations with some of the people who were at the forefront of the campaign, on both sides.

The conversations are grouped under five broad headings:

The Pedder Tragedy: which sets the stage for the battle to come.

In Discovering the Franklin, the worth of the river is realized.

A Government Changes deals with the politician in Tasmania's "rinky-dink little State parliament", as they fight an election.

The National Stage concentrates on the people who fought from the mainland and the blockade organizers.

Wild Rivers Saved is a collection of conversations with people after the High Court decision of 1 July, 1983.

The conversations and interviews are arranged roughly in the order in which the combatants enter the arena.

It starts with Eric Reece, Tasmania's Premier during the lead-up to and the aftermath of the flooding of Lake Pedder.

It then moves on to meet with 23 others who fought on both sides. Bob Brown, the eco-messiah, then sums up the victory.

This book is well worth reading if you have any interest in the Franklin campaign. However, if you sided with the HEC and its cronies, you will probably find the obvious conservationist slant of Roger Green a problem.

Its recommended retail price is a reasonable \$8.95; it is published jointly by Fontana and the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Ian Wilson
Sydney University Bushwalkers

SEARCH FOR MATHEW BECKER

6 NOVEMBER, 1984


On Saturday night, 3 November, 1984, Mathew Becker and a friend were making their way in a dinghy from Wiseman's Ferry to a house boat situated upstream of the Webb's Creek Ferry on the Hawkesbury River. Just after midnight, their dinghy was capsized by the ferry and/or cable. Mathew's friend managed to scramble on board the ferry to safety. Mathew, however, was last heard yelling out for help at 12.20 a.m. Sunday morning.

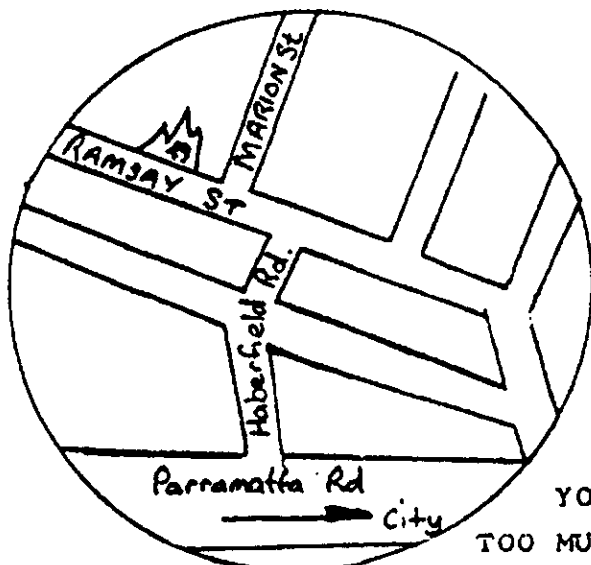
At 12.25 a.m. some locals searched the river in a boat with no success. The police searched on Sunday and Monday with no success.

The call-out for Search and Rescue came on Monday night. The S & R base was located at the Rose Valley Ski Ranch just downstream of Wiseman's Ferry. Seven search parties were sent out between 7.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 6 November to search the river banks and adjacent point bars of the Hawkesbury River.

At the time of the accident the river was running out at 5 knots. This and the fact that the river is tidal at Wiseman's Ferry meant that searching had to be done many kilometres downstream and several kilometres upstream of the accident. By 5.30 p.m. the seven search parties had searched 7km upstream and 26kms downstream of the accident with no success. One search party also searched the river in a small boat. Several helicopters searched for a short

THREE PEAKS

 (02) 7970233



RETAIL SHOWROOM HAS OPENED!

HOURS- MON - 5 to 8pm
TUES - 12:30 to 2:30 5 to 8pm
WED - " " " " "
THUR - " " " 5 to 9pm
FRI - " " " " "
SAT - 9am to 5pm

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LIST!

49 RAMSAY ST

JOHN AND LOIS BERRY.

time but bad weather and power lines made their job very difficult.

At 5.15 p.m. the brother of the missing person, Tim Becker thanked the Search & Rescue Unit for its extensive search and by 5.30 p.m. everyone had signed off and was on their way home.

My sincere thanks go to the thoughtful bushwalkers who responded from the following clubs:

Fairfield Bushwalkers, Span Unlimited, Sydney Bushwalkers, Catholic Bushwalkers, Ramblers, N.P.A. and The Three Peaks Outdoor Society and SUBW.

Keith Williams
Field Officer for Bushwalkers' S & R.

PICK THE MISTAKES

A party of cavers (two experienced and two beginners) set off from Kanangra car park one November morning for Kanangra Main. They met a group of four who were on their way to Danae, and after exchanging pleasantries, moved on.

During lunch, the cavers noticed a party of four were descending the walls about 2 pitches behind. As they were looking for belay points, it was concluded that the second party had not done this trip before. (This was the Danae party who had missed their turnoff.) Having ensured that the second party had crossed a particularly wet and slippery traverse, the cavers moved on.

One pitch further on and just as the last of the cavers was to commence his abseil, one of the second group came up. Their rope was jammed 10 metres from the end of the belay and a second rope had been severely abraded on the previous pitch. They had no spare rope nor jumars, and in fact none had ever jumared before.

Rather than risk ascending their jammed rope, the cavers invited the second party to join them. Thus the party comprised two experienced, two beginners and four unknown members. To speed things up, they sometimes abseiled two people simultaneously on a single rope, and used whistle calls for communication on noisy pitches. The bottom of Murdering Gully was reached by 8.00 p.m.

By now it was overcast and dark with only the crescent of the moon present. Expecting it to rain, all bar one wanted to continue out of the Valley.

The lower part of Murdering Gully was wet and slippery, and the rope had to be used several times for safety. Progress was extremely slow as the only torch in the combined party had to be passed up and down the group constantly.

After about two hours, the person who had wanted to spend the night at the base of the gully refused to move after a short rest. (He claimed the climb was too dangerous, that he was going to sleep on the ground and would walk out in the morning.) After ten minutes of talking to him, the member agreed to continue.

On two further occasions, the member refused to continue. He stated that he did not wish to hold the rest of the party up, and even wanted the party to leave on Monday morning as he could hitch a ride back home. If there were no cars on Monday at Kanangra, he would wait until next Saturday. He would be okay as he claimed he had slept on park benches before.

The rest of the party discussed leaving him behind in a gortex bivvy bag with two others whilst the rest exited and returned later with warm food and dry gear. However, as most of the party were now exhausted and the two who remained with the patient would have been drenched wet and cold by morning, they persisted in encouraging the weak member to carry on.

The vehicles were eventually reached by 4.00 a.m. after ascending Murdering Gully for eight hours. What had been planned for a 12 hour trip with four people, ended with 8 people and a 20 hour epic.

WEATHER PROSPECTS FOR 1985

Long range weather forecaster Lennox Walker has predicted that 1985 will be a wet year. The remainder of summer will be mild and wet with heavy rainfalls expected in June and July. Winter will be milder with higher temperatures - snowfalls will be lighter and occurring later in the year. The only prospect of fine weather will be next December which will be quite hot.

DONT FORGET



S & R BUSH DANCE

Fri., 3 May, 7pm-1am Lane Cove Town.
Hall Cambage Spire, Moonshine Bluegrass
Band \$7 (proceeds go to S & R Trailer
Fund).



S & R PRACTICES

22-23 June, Blue Mountains (details later).

19-20 October. Venue to be announced.

BUSHSPORTS


Bush Navigation	18-19 May
Introductory	
Rockclimbing	1-2 June
X-Country Skiing	20-21 July
Advanced	
Bushwalking	17-18 August
Advanced	
Rockclimbing	7-8 September
Abseiling	22 September
Ski Touring/ Sno Camping	5-7 October
Canyoning	7-8 December
Bush-Bike	
Riding	To be advised.

The Newsletter is an occasional publication distributed free to members of clubs affiliated with the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. Mail list subscription to others is \$3.00 per annum.

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcomed. They should be accompanied by the name and address of the author. All material not otherwise acknowledged can be attributed to the Editor. Any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, N.S.W., or its member clubs.

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