

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs

G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001

ISSN 0319-2884

Vol. II

No. 1 1985

ISSN 0319-2884

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Halley's Comet should become visible to the unaided eye in December, 1985, low down in the evening sky in the west. By the end of January it will have disappeared as its orbit takes it around behind the sun.

It is due to reappear late in February when it will be visible just before the sun rises. As it comes closer to Earth, the tail becomes brighter as it climbs higher in the sky each morning.

April 11 will be the prime viewing time for the comet as then it shall be closest to this planet. Rising just after sunset, and setting just after the sun rises, it will be directly overhead at midnight.

April should also offer a spectacular display - the tail will appear to swivel from the NW to the SE. This will be due to the geometry of the Earth's orbit, and that of the comet's.

The comet will best be seen against a dark sky, and away from urban lights. A full moon in late April is due to be eclipsed, so as the moon darkens, the comet will appear to brighten.

After April the comet moves north and gradually fades, and by the end of June will have disappeared from view - until 2062. (Information supplied by Vince Ford, ABC Science Show - cassette on his talks are available from the ABC shop).

PRIVATE HUTS IN CRADLE MOUNTAIN-LAKE ST CLAIR NATIONAL PARK

A terrible threat is looming for one of Australia's best known national parks. The Gray Government in Tasmania has asked its National Parks and Wildlife Service to call for tenders to build private huts in Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. They will be operated and built by commercial tour operators for their exclusive use. If they go ahead they will be a dangerous precedent for all of Australia's national parks.

Objections to the huts are:

1. They will damage the park's delicate alpine environment, and are incompatible with the National Park Concept.
2. If visitor limits are eventually put on the park the huts and their clients may displace independent walkers and visitors.
3. The huts may be dangerous if they encourage people on commercial trips to walk in bad weather.
4. The huts are being built before any management plan for the area has been compiled.
5. People can already see the park on a commercial walking tour, there is no need to add private huts to the tours.

The huts will have to be approved by the federal-state ministerial council that administers Tasmania's world heritage area which includes Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. This means with enough pressure the Federal Government could stop the huts. All bushwalkers should write to the Federal Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Barry Cohen (Parliament House, Canberra 2600) and the Tasmanian Minister for National Parks, John Beswick (Parliament House, Hobart 7000) expressing their opposition to the huts.

FBW MEETS CARR

For the first time in over five years, the Federation has managed to meet with a Minister of the Crown. The meeting with the dynamic new Minister for Planning and Environment, Bob Carr, took place on 17 July, 1985, at the Minister's offices in Macquarie Street.

Representing the Federation were Gordon Lee (President), Jim Callaway (Treasurer), Hugh Paterson (Ramblers), John Berry (CMW) and Roger Lembit (SUBW). Ted Weir, Acting Assistant Director of NPWS was present to advise the Minister.

Mr Carr gave the delegates almost 1 hour of his time and was receptive on all issues raised. He seemed genuinely concerned at the points made by the Federation representatives, who felt that the meeting achieved a great deal. Follow-up will be needed to ensure that the progress made at the meeting can be built upon over the coming months.

The main topics for discussion and the outcomes are summarised below.

- Off-road vehicles. Concern was expressed at damage being caused in many natural areas by four-wheel drives and trail bikes. The Minister agreed that use of such vehicles should be restricted and outlined the action the Service was taking to achieve this.

- Policing in National Parks. A wide range of incidents in Parks were discussed. The Minister pointed to the severe financial problems of the Service and the need to widen support for National Parks to justify increased funding. It was pointed out that bushwalkers who observe illegal activities (eg dogs in parks, use of off-road vehicles on closed roads, removal of bush rock or timber) should contact the local office of the Service as soon as possible.

- Insurance for Federation Activities. The anomaly that groups who contacted the Service about intended walks were required to take out substantial liability insurance whilst those who failed to notify the Service avoided this requirement was raised. Ted Weir pointed out that the Service could be legally responsible for all incidents in parks due to the common law principle of "duty of care" and needed to cover itself against possible claims.

The Federation will seek to investigate this matter further and if necessary make representation to the Attorney-General.

- Rationalisation of National Park Boundaries. Federation pointed to a large number of cases where park boundaries prevented proper management of parks and urged the Minister to look closely into these matters. The Minister indicated that improvements to boundaries of some parks would be announced over the next 12 months.

- Promotion of Bushsports. The Minister undertook to make representations on our behalf to the Minister for Leisure, Sport and Tourism, Mike Cleary, regarding the promotion of the Federation's Bushsports programme.

- Activities of Commercial Operators. The matter of the practices of commercial adventure travel operators in National Parks was raised, Federation expressed interest in assisting the Service to draw up a set of conditions for commercial operators and raised the matter of operators acting in an improper fashion. The Minister pointed out that the growth of commercial operations should be encouraged as it served to increase the "National Parks constituency".

Conservation groups in NSW have launched a full scale campaign to halt the continuing devastation of the State's forests at the hands of the woodchip industry. The groups claim that the timber in thousands of hectares of forests and wild river catchments is being set aside for the chippers before export to Japan.

They point to a secret expansion in the woodchip operations on the North Coast and proposed extensions into the Bateman's Bay forest regions as being examples of the woodchip industries' insatiable appetite.

A number of National Park proposals are threatened by woodchipping including the northern end of the Genoa wilderness between Nungatta and Malbaugh National Parks, south of Bombala.

The groups are forming an alliance to "Give the Chip the Chop". Any offer of assistance is welcome. Donations should be made to the "South East Forest Appeal, P.O. Box 1875, Canberra City, ACT, 2601.

The Total Environment Centre plans to set up a Woodchip Action Centre in its offices at 18 Argyle Street, Sydney. Potential volunteers should ring 27-4714 for further information on how you can assist the campaign.

SEARCH AND RESCUE CONTACT LIST

Bushwalkers' Search and Rescue is **YOUR** self-help 24 hour a day service for all the unusual places that you and all your bushwalking mates go to.

"IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU, NO ONE CAN!"

Keep the following numbers in your rucksack (you don't get lost at home!)

All phone numbers are 02 (Sydney) S.T.D. code.

Director Keith 622-0049(h) 88-2011(w)
Maxwell

Assistant Peter 48-4182(h) 808-9258(w)
Director Treseder

Field Keith 86-4282(h) 635-8644(w)
Officer Williams

Field Tony 666-5984(h)666-8943 X2511
Officer Parr

Field Gordon 74-1824(h)688-3771(w)
Officer Lee (leave message)

Radio Nick 858-5386(h) 807-0697(w)
Officer Eichhorn

Any one on this above list is empowered to call out S&R if it is required.

DATES FOR S&R FOR 1986.

April 12-13th

July 5-6th

CELEBRATE SPRING**Sydney Spring Cycle****35Km Mass Bicycle Ride****Sydney to Parramatta****Sunday 20 October**

Entry \$3 per person

" \$2 per person for groups of
three or more.

Includes morning tea and live music.

For further info.,

ring BINSW 212-5467

or call at 802 George St, Sydney 2000.

ENVIRONMENT CENTRE MOVES

The Environment Centre has moved to 57 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney, due to the imminent demolition of the Anthony Hordern's Building. From October, Federation meetings will be held at the new address. The new phone number is 211-5366.

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE. They stock a wide range of gifts at the right prices. What's more, the money helps them help the environment. All the popular Wilderness Calendars, T-Shirts, Books etc. are available at their new shop at the above address.

BUSHWALKERS SEARCH & RESCUE

Bushwalkers' Search and Rescue is an independent section of The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (N.S.W.). It was established in 1934 as a self-help organization for assisting lost or injured fellow bushwalkers but has evolved to become a community service ready to assist any persons in difficulty in bush areas.

The Committee, of Bushwalkers' S&R, is the guilding organization for co-ordinating the vast skills of the 'bushies' to help the N.S.W. Police. Bushwalkers S&R is therefore a member of the Police recognized rescue organization, The Volunteer Rescue Association of N.S.W. (V.R.A.).

The V.R.A. provides additional resources from other rescue squads and insurance cover for all official activities (practices and callouts).

Bushwalkers' S&R is not another club; active membership is a pre-requisite for participation in S&R. S&R's role is to provide training in the techniques of search and rescue, as well as education in bush safety, at the three S&R practices held each year.

This role places some demands on the committee members' time but this is freely given to keep the best possible people. i.e. bushies. doing bush search and rescue.

All keen bushwalkers should be aware of the potential dangers of their sport and consider the difficulties of finding or rescuing their friends or themselves from the remote areas they visit. Your regular attendance at S&R practices is essential to keep Search and Rescue operational: 'just in case you might need us'.

Once you have attended a practice make sure your Club phones contact persons for S&R). know of your availability; anytime, next day or weekends only. Always keep the following phone numbers in your rucksack (you just can't trust someone else to remember them).

Director	Keith Maxwell	622-0049(h); 88-9231(w)
Assistant Director	Peter Tresseder	48-4182(h) 808-2011(w)
Radio Officer	Nick Eichhorn	858-5386(h) 807-0697(w)

All phone numbers are STD area code Sydney (02). If it's an emergency, ring at anytime. We will accept reverse charges trunks calls.

Remember Bushwalkers S&R is for your safety and benefit.

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.

Correspondence (articles, letters, subscriptions, advertisements) should be addressed to The Editor, Newsletter, Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, 399 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000.



SUUNTO
MADE IN FINLAND



Outgear
MADE IN AUSTRALIA



DOWN TO EARTH PRODUCTS

THREE PEAKS
GEAR NEWS
(02) 797 0233 24-Hour
Hotline



lonely planet



OPTIMUS
INTERNATIONAL



JANSPORT

CASSIN®



Trangia



Write, Phone or Call in for your
FREE copy of **GEAR NEWS**.
It contains some of the best
gear at some of the best
everyday prices in Australasia.

If you're in the market for
new gear or just after some
sound advice contact **THREE
PEAKS** first!

You'll see why our prices
make the opposition shudder.

We're open late Monday to
Friday and all day Saturday for
your convenience.

Shop: 49 Ramsay Street
Haberfield NSW 2045

Phone your order and
charge it! (02) 797 0233

Lightweight Gear at Lightweight Prices!

LOST, FOUND.

The Slack Editor has lost the bits of paper with the lost
and found notes. Here's a summary of them. Ring me on
747-3962 if you think you've lost/found these items. Thanks.

LOST

IN BUDAWANGS
OLYMPUS CAMERA
NEAR HOLLANDERS CK,
CLYDE R. JUNCTION
DAVID SPRINGTHORPE IS
OFFERING A REWARD
FOR ITS RETURN,
PREFERABLY ALIVE

FOUND

LADIES ? WATCH
KANANGRA WALLS AREA.
FINDER WOULD PREFER
IT IF OWNER DIDN'T
SHOW UP (JUST JOKING).

LOST

NUMEROUS ITEMS OF RUBBISH
AT MOBBS SWAMP - LEFT BY
SOME FORGETFUL BOY
SCOUTS.