

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs

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MYLES DUNPHY - BUSHWALKER

For many bushwalkers, their first contact with the name of Myles J. Dunphy is on his excellent sketch maps "Gangerang" and "Kowmung" (amongst many others).

Myles, who has also been regarded as the progenitor of both bushwalking and the conservation movement in New South Wales, died in Sydney in January, aged 93.

Born in Melbourne in 1891, Myles spent most of his early years in Kiama prior to moving to Sydney in 1907. As a member of the Orizaba Tourist Club, he visited Katoomba in December, 1910, and was reportedly enthralled with the scenery, as are many modern-day bushwalkers.

One of his first walks into the more rugged parts of the Blue Mountains took place in October, 1912, starting from Katoomba. The party firstly headed for Jenolan Caves along the Six Foot Track, then decided to head for Lower Burratorang. Trying to sidle the southern side of the Hellgate Gorge, Myles damaged his ankle and after a detour to Wentworth Falls to buy a pair of gym boots, the trip was completed via King's Tableland, Burratorang and the Nattai.

This was but one of a number of epic trips completed by Myles whose knowledge of the wild areas of the State increased rapidly. His concern for the future of these areas led to his involvement in the push to have them protected as National Parks.

One of his major proposals was the Greater Blue Mountains National Park which has now largely been realized in the Kanangra-Boyd, Blue Mountains and Wollemi National Parks. Myles was also involved in proposals which led to the formation of the Kosciusko, Deua, Wedbilliga, Ben Boyd, Morton and Brisbane Water National Parks amongst others.

Clearly, present day bushwalkers have much to owe this pioneer of the sport. Perhaps the National Parks in the Blue Mountains are the best memorial to his efforts.

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs and the Government should seek to add further areas to these parks, particularly in the Mt Werong area, to complete Myles Dunphy's dream of a Greater Blue Mountains National Park.

Roger Lembit

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N.C.C. Councillor: Tim Coffey
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Phone: 48-5035

BOOK REVIEW

"Bushwalking" by R. Lembit & D. Noble

This newly released 64 page booklet is written by two well-known walkers who will be familiar to many readers.

Both have spent years doing both popular and exploratory trips along the length of the Australian "Great Divide", in Tasmania and in New Zealand. Both are also keen photographers and recognized outdoor authors. This wide experience reflects on every page of this great book; each sentence is jam packed with relevant, useful and workable tips.

From equipment lists, to walking techniques, campfires, cooking and treatment of emergencies; the chapters outline succinctly the basic "Bible" for the lightweight walker and outdoors enthusiast.

Particularly timely and notable is the chapter on Bushwalking ethics and wilderness.

I cannot recommend this book too highly for all people interested in Australian outdoor pursuits.

- Douglas When (President, Sydney Uni Bushwalkers)

"Bushwalking" by Roger Lembit and David Noble
Publisher: Methuen Australia (Leisure Time Series)

Price: \$2.95. Available from the Environment Centre, 399 Pitt St, Sydney.


Editor's Note: The author of this review appears on the front cover of the book!

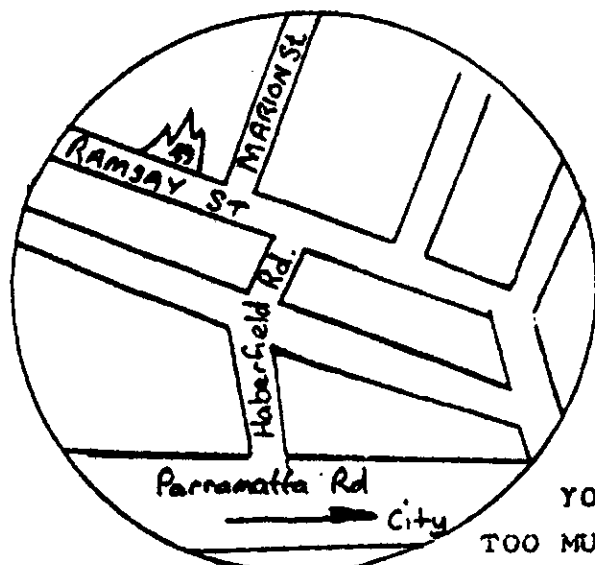
BUSHWALKERS INSURANCE - A FLOP!!

After disbursement of material to our member clubs of a proposed Injury Insurance Scheme (organized by the Confederation of Australian Sports), the response, to say the least, is disheartening. Only 7 of the forty three clubs replied with one being a negative reply.

The Scheme needed a majority participation of all Federation's clubs who are, for insurance purposes, the members of the Federation. And each member needed a majority of their club members to subscribe (\$10 per head/year) to make the Scheme viable. A mean average of those seven clubs was 48% (or 185 people). Hardly a good representation when we feel we are supposed to represent 7-8,000 people (NPA - 5,000).

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JOHN AND LOIS BERRY.

the alternative proposition offered by the Sports Injury Committee (and funded by the taxpayers of NSW) required all sorts of conditions. Like bushwalking is not recognized as a "sport". That the rule books or guidelines for bushwalking be produced, did trip leaders have any qualifications to be same? Did the Federation interfere with trips run by the clubs? Did Federation specify what gear should be worn or carried, etc?

Having just survived being kneecapped by a rock dislodged during an abseiling trip (and therefore hopefully avoiding possible permanent damage - to myself), I fully appreciate the need for some sort of insurance cover. (I guess Bob who lost his leg returning from a bushwalk, Sue, a physiotherapist, who lost her fingers in an abseiling accident would also concur).

Warwick Blayden

do not contact the Police. Depending on whom you contact, they will not necessarily contact Bushwalkers' Search & Rescue. S & R will (and is obliged to) contact the relevant Police when it answers a call-out on your behalf.

BUSHWALKERS SEARCH & RESCUE COMMITTEE

AS AT JANUARY, 1985

DIRECTOR (Pager)
Keith Maxwell
17 Fourth Avenue, Seven Hills 2147
Club: Ramblers
Phone: 622-0049 (h)
88-9231 (w) 88-9258 (w)

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808-2011 (w)

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10 Norma Crescent Cheltenham 2118
Club: Three Peaks Outdoor Society
Phone: 86-4282 (h)
635-8644

Field Officer
Gordon Lee
2/22 Sunbeam Street, Enfield 2136
Club: Sydney Bushwalkers
Phone: 74-1824 (h)
688-3777 (leave message)

Field Officer
Bob Cavill
Lot 15 Glenbrook Pl, The Oaks
Club: Camden Bushwalking Club
Phone: (046) 57-1599 (h)
(046) 25-7755

Field Officer
Steve Irwin
66 Richmond Cresc. Campbelltown 2560
Club: Camden Bushwalking Club
Phone: (046) 25-8862 (h)
(046) 25-8862 (w)

Field Officer
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Timberlea, Nerriga via Braidwood 2622
Club: Camden Bushwalking Club
Phone: National Trunk Calls
(011) Nerriga 12d

Field Officer
Dave Drohan
126 Felton Rd, Carlingford 2118
(parent)
Club: Three Peaks Outdoor Society
Phone: 630-6851 (h)
(062) 66-3273 (Canberra)

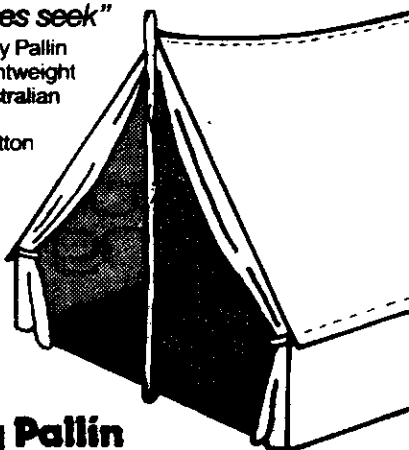
Radio Officer
Nick Eichhorn
1/10 Russell St, Eastwood 2122
Club: National Parks Ass'n of NSW
Phone: 858-5386 (h)
807-0697 (w)

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CURRENT PHONE CONTACT LIST FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE - How to call out Search & Rescue

Firstly, phone the Director. If he is unavailable, phone the Assistant Director and so on down the list. Thus, despite any temporary unavailability of some Committee Members you should always be able to contact Bushwalkers' Search and Rescue. If necessary, we will accept reverse charge trunk calls.

Transport Officer
Mark De Havilland
6 Immarna Place, Dundas 2117
Club: National Parks Ass'n of NSW
Phone: 683-2833 (h)
728-6411 (w)

Public Relations
Robert Pallin
45 Highfield St, Lindfield 2070
Club: Sydney Bushwalkers
Phone: 467-1334 (h)
699-7968 (w)

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37 Brushwood Place
Hornsby 2077
Club: Uni of NSW Mountaineering Club
Phone 476-6530 (h)
44-1421 (Dr Kurri)

Secretary
Warwick Blayden
P.O. Box 228, West Ryde 2114
Club: Canberra Bushwalking Club
Phone: 238-3424 (w)

Medical Officer
Doug Wheen
43a Hampden Road
Pennant Hills 2120
Club: Sydney Uni. Bushwalkers
Phone: 84-3210 (h)
736-7911 (w)


THE CHANGING ROLE OF BUSHWALKERS

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search and Rescue (S & R) began as a self-help organization for the bushwalking community in 1934. It was a natural extension from the bushwalking clubs getting together to fight a conservation issue: Preservation of Blue Gum Forest in 1932.

This new group identity as bushwalkers within an association of clubs (now called 'The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (N.S.W.)) provided a reason and a means of helping fellow bushwalkers lost or injured.

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However, there was some initial reluctance by bushwalkers to assist the community in general i.e. looking for or rescuing non-bushwalkers.

S & R seems to have lapsed during World War II when most of the leaders of the bushwalking community enlisted in the armed forces. It was reactivated in 1946, (when the S & R levy was set at 6 pence (5 cents) per member; now it is only 14 cents per member) and has been continuously active since.

In this time, many changes have taken place. The first change was the introduction of radios in the early 1960s. Radio communication seems such an essential part of bush searching today that it seems strange that there was initial resistance to their introduction. Radios allow for the control of search parties at all times. Search parties can be quickly withdrawn from the field, when the missing persons are found, or can be redeployed without returning to base and hence almost eliminate the need to have separate rescue parties waiting at base. This contrasts with pre-radio S & R where because you immediately lost control of your search parties once they left base, large numbers of walkers were required. The replacement single side band (S.S.B.) radios have further increased S & R's efficiency by having a greater range that is more commensurate with bushwalkers' abilities.

The next two major changes are interrelated. In 1969, the Volunteer Rescue Association (V.R.A.) was formed with S & R as a foundation member. This is like a federation of rescue squads. Also in 1978, the Police Regulations were changed to make bush search and rescue, among many other things, a Police responsibility. S & R cannot freely operate in its role without the approval of the Police. By being part of the V.R.A. it gains acceptance and recognition to operate but as a condition of being part of the V.R.A. must answer all calls from the community for assistance (usually directed to S & R by the Police because of their changed regulations - see above!)

There are several practical consequences of these major changes. The most noticeable one is that S & R is not as active as it was. Obviously, the Police are choosing to answer calls for assistance without always calling on the bushwalkers. Therefore, to get the best possible service for persons lost or possibly injured in the bush ALWAYS ring Bushwalkers' Search and Rescue. If we are not the best group for the job we will, as we have often done in the past, contact the relevant Police. If we don't pass the call-out onto them, S & R still must tell the Police that it is answering a call-out.

As a further consequence, inexperienced bushwalkers who were welcome in the past on pre-radio S & R call-outs (because of the numbers of bushwalkers required) are no longer needed. Around 50 keen bushwalkers in the field on any call-out gives us impressive results.

By continuing to answer call-outs for non-bushwalkers, S & R keeps its organization in peak condition for those rare occasions when bushwalkers need help. Search and Rescue practices are not enough to keep S & R at its best.

As part of the V.R.A., S & R can call for additional resources beyond its means, including other V.R.A. Squads e.g. WICEN for radio communication back to Sydney from the S & R headquarters, helicopters for transport of injured persons, or Police back-up resources.

Membership of the V.R.A. also gives S & R access to community support via N.S.W. Department of Sport and Recreation dollar for dollar grants distributed through the V.R.A. S & R's present radios could not have been bought without such assistance. The Paddy Pallin Foundation has also been a consistent supporter of Search and Rescue. With such monetary assistance there can be no argument against S & R serving the community.

The last major change, whose effects are still being felt, is the introduction of helicopters into bush search and rescue. Helicopters are able to scan large tracts of land quickly, and winch up and rapidly transport injured persons out of the bush. Now this is not necessarily a bad thing. It is almost impossible to stretcher carry a seriously injured person a great distance through the bush without putting their life at risk.

Helicopters thus have taken some more of the workload of S & R but will never replace S & R for three good reasons. Helicopters can't operate in bad weather whereas bushwalkers can. Secondly, depending on the amount of movement, colour contrast and vegetation, people cannot always be spotted from helicopters. Thirdly, there are some bush areas that helicopters cannot winch an injured person out of. So, even if the weather is good an injured person may need to be bush rescued to a suitable pick-up point.

The full potential of helicopters is yet to be reached. Helicopters have provided transport for search parties to the core of their areas. However, helicopter searching combined with transportation of small, fast ground parties to areas helicopters cannot search well is yet to be fully integrated and must be an area of future change.

So S & R now is the same but different to 1934. It is the same in that it draws its members from the clubs of the Federation and depends on the resourcefulness and skills of bushwalkers along with a pooling of their various abilities for its continuing success. It is the same in that it still is a self-help body for bushwalkers. It is different in that it must willingly help non-bushwalkers when asked to do so. It is different in that it now uses modest numbers of good bushwalkers very efficiently.

learn to co-operate with other organizations and technologies. Accordingly so as to integrate in a viable way to the network of rescue services in N.S.W. the Search and Rescue Committee is always looking at ways of improving the efficiency and management of call-outs. Reliable club phone contacts and regular attendance at S & R practices is essential if we are to achieve this aim.

Keith Maxwell
Director
Bushwalkers' Search & Rescue.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEDERATION RE-UNION

20-21 April, Bundudah Creek Walk in from Yalwal (3 hrs).
Organized by Sydney Bushwalkers (further details will be sent to clubs).

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

23 - 24 March Bungonia
Meet at Bungonia Campsite.
22-23 June, Blue Mountains (details later).
19-20 October. Venue to be announced.

BUSHSPORTS

Canoeing	23-24 March
Bush Safety	13-14 April
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.

NEW EDITOR

Unfortunately, the previous Newsletter Editor, Steve Menzell, has been transferred to Sale, Victoria, and is no longer able to edit the Newsletter. Thanks Steve for your efforts over the past 18 months.

The new Editor is Roger Lambit of the Sydney...

<u>Month</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
April	29.3.85	17.4.85
June	31.5.85	19.6.85
August	2.8.85	21.8.85
October	27.9.85	16.10.85
December	29.11.85	18.10.85

Publication dates correspond with Federation Meetings.

As production of the Newsletter is an onerous task involving writing, layout, organization of typing and printing, arranging advertising, collation and distribution, Roger would welcome assistance from club members willing to spend a few hours every couple of months assisting in production. If you can help, ring Roger on 747-3962(H) or leave a message at the Environment Centre 267-7722(W).

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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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