

THE

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BUSHWALKER

Newsletter of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW)
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WHY 'THE BUSHWALKER' ?

This newsletter takes its name from a magazine that the Federation last produced c. 1964. It is perhaps appropriate that 'The Bushwalker' should make its re-appearance this year as it marks the 50th anniversary of the issue of the annual.

October also marks the 60th anniversary of the SBW who coined the word 'bushwalker'. In the early thirties it became common to describe anyone who hiked, carried a pack or was a bush picnicker as a 'bushwalker'. Myles Dunphy suggested that steps should be taken to preserve the name (since the name was synonymous with the club).

The Macquarie Dictionary lists bushwalk, bushwalker and bushwalking.

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

Alfoil Rubbish and a Ring of Stones

Everywhere I walk now, regardless of whether it be in the more popular places such as Kanangra or the less frequented places like Wollongambe I find evidence of a peculiar hominid or band of hominids who when they settle at a particular spot have the habit of building a ring of stones on the ground encircling an arc of charred wood.

This area may be filled or covered with more stones. Without disturbing the charcoal or the stone covering, pieces of bright silver coloured metal may be seen. Other metal objects of a circular nature and rusty brown appearance have also been

observed along with remains of food and other odd assorted objects.

In years gone by this peculiar sect (it has to have something to do with religion) was obviously influenced by exortations in many publications, or by other fellow creatures of similar religious persuasions, that this ritual is perpetuated.

Oh that we could convert those uncouth savages who still insist on building these rings of stone and decorating them with odd bits of metal !

Aluminium foil or containers
DOES NOT BURN !

Rings of stone only serve to perpetuate a campfire spot. Make your fire on the ground or a carefully chosen spot. Please respect the unspoilt bush and CARRY OUT what you carry in. Since I don't think we (as bushwalkers) will ever see the time when there won't be any rubbish left by anybody, I have a personal philosophy. Those that care making up for those that don't. SO CARRY OUT A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU CARRY IN !

Gordon Lee
President

Secretary's Report

Since taking over the office of Secretary I have emptied the GPO Box once a week. Personal inquiries (52 in total) were answered within a week or held over to the next council meeting. I intend to continue this practice if re-elected; or alternatively offer my services as assistant secretary. Regarding relocation of meeting rooms, I made several inquiries leading to the following information :- McDonalds Function Centre - North Parramatta is available

free of charge Wednesdays and Thursdays (Amway made a permanent booking for Tuesdays starting 1-6-87). It has plenty of off street parking and every access to Public Transport. Answers from the Department of Sport Recreation, Youth and Community and the NPWS, Parramatta Office are still outstanding and will be followed up. The BUSH-LEADERSHIP COURSE has not been abandoned, but will be persued further by a committee of interested people.

Several inquiries by Clubs for Federation Membership have been answered including a mention of a possibility of change of fees at the A.G.M. I attended a few public functions representing the FBW unofficially and made and maintained valuable personal contacts. I am standing for re-election and if re-elected will put my full efforts into furthering the goals of Federation in particular and bushwalking in general.

Yours in bushwalking,
Herb Lippman, Secretary

Federation Report

From the Minutes...

- * Some consideration is being given to moving the Federation's meeting rooms out of the city to the suburbs (say the Parramatta area) to make attendance more accessible to club delegates.
- * S & R is needing to replace its aging field radios and Peter Treseder is working at raising the necessary funds. At the AGM in July, the Federation opened a special fund raising account with \$ 2,000. Already \$ 2,500 has been raised with the goal being \$ 20,000.
- * Moves are afoot to heighten the wall of Warragamba Dam which may lead to the flooding of the lower Kowmung River. A special Kowmung Committee is to be set up to investigate and report upon this construction.
- * The following councillors have been elected to the committee;

PRESIDENT	Gordon Lee
SEN. VICE PRESIDENT	Jan Wouters
JNR. VICE PRESIDENT	Andrew Krensel
SECRETARY	Herb Lippman
TREASURER	Jim Calloway
MINUTES SECRETARY	Spiro Hajinakitas
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Gordon Lee
SEARCH & RESCUE DIRECTOR	Keith Maxwell
CONSERVATION OFFICER	vacant
BALL CONVENER	Jan Wouters
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Gary Philpot
TRACKS & ACCESS	Ian Wilson

<i>Bush Calendar</i>	
OCTOBER	* 3 - 5 Three Sisters Climbathon - fund raising (see S & R report)
	* 6 Search and Rescue meeting, Police Rescue HQ, Marrickville, open to all
	* 17-18 Federation Reunion (see below)
	* 20 FBW General Meeting, Sydney
NOVEMBER	* 3 S & R meeting, Marrickville
	* 17 FBW General Meeting, Sydney
	* 28-29 S & R Practice, Wild Dog Mountains (see S & R report)
DECEMBER	* 1 S & R meeting, Marrickville
	* 15 FBW General Meeting, Sydney
JANUARY	* 5 S & R meeting, venue to be decided
	* 19 FBW General Meeting, Sydney

Danger Walking

The State Government is proposing the introduction of legislation to make it an offence to embark on 'reckless ventures' without taking sufficient precautions. This follows a number of incidents which, had simple precautions been taken, would not have occurred. Amongst the proposals are hefty fines, and the charging for rescue services used.

The Federation is proposing to take the matter up with the Police Minister, Mr. Paciullo, to clarify the matter for bushwalkers.

First Aid Certificate
weekend course, at a discount rate
31st October - 1st November
Examination - evening 9th November 1987

To book your place, phone:
 Keith Maxwell: 622-0049(h), 805-8329(w)
 or
 Peter Treseder: 489-4182(h), 925-9517(w)
 before 19th September 1987

Federation Reunion

Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club is organising this years' reunion at the Upper Colo on 17 - 18th of October. Directions: take the Putty Road to Mandalay and turn left about 100m. before the Colo River Bridge. Approxiamately 11 - 12 km. along, a bridge crosses the Colo, then take the first road on the left. This is a drive-in campsite about one kilometre up the road. Follow the yellow and black FBW arrows. Map Reference: 893 996, Mountain Lagoon 1 : 25,000

Bring your friends and family. Bush band, dancing, events for all !

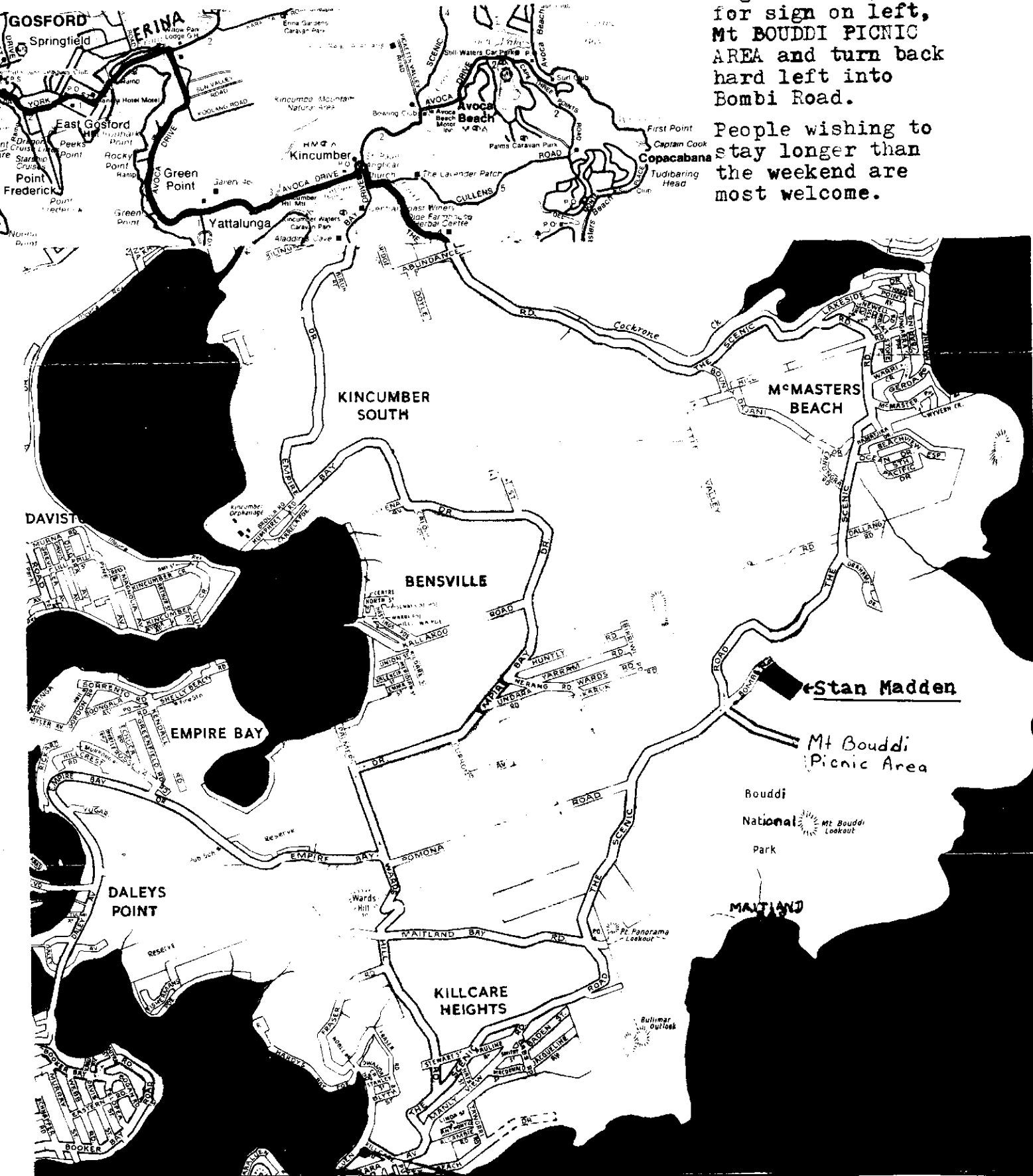
60th ANNIVERSARY "NOSTALGIA and GET OVER THE NIGHT BEFORE" weekend.
 (Sat 25th and Sun 26th October.)

At Stan Madden's property adjoining BOUDDI NATIONAL PARK.
 Dungala's especially welcome! Easy access, plenty of wood and water.

DIRECTIONS:

Follow "The Entrance" signs, turning right at the Avoca turn-off at the Erina traffic lights. At the Kincumber round-about turn right and follow the McMasters Beach or Bouddi signs. Pass through McMasters Beach, pass Bouddi National Park Little Beach sign on left, look for sign on left, **Mt BOUDDI PICNIC AREA** and turn back hard left into Bombi Road.

People wishing to stay longer than the weekend are most welcome.





eastwood camping centre

BUSHWALKERS

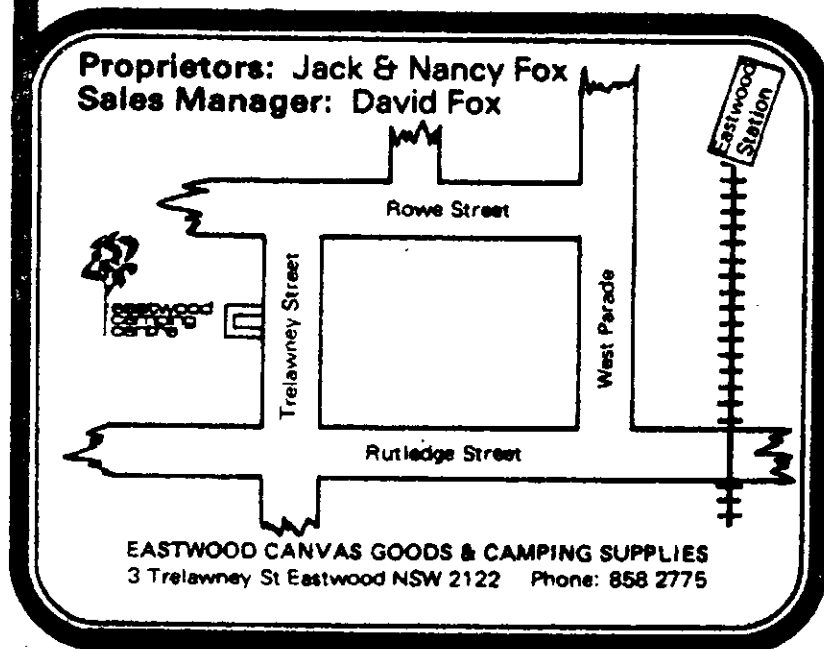
Lightweight Tents • Sleeping Bags • Rucksacks •
Climbing & Caving Gear • Maps • Clothing • Boots
• Food.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Large Tents • Stoves • Lamps • Folding Furniture.

DISTRIBUTORS OF:

Paddymade • Karrimor • Berghaus • Hallmark •
Bergans • Caribee • Fairydown • Silva • Primus •
Companion • and all leading brands.





- * Klaus Hueneke (author of "Huts of the High Country") has written a new book, "KIANDRA TO KOSCIUSKO" in which he sets out to record journeys on foot, ski, horseback and pushbike to the high country. The 300 page book covers the visits by aboriginals looking for fat Bogong Moths, the early European explorers, the stockmen seeking summer grazing and the recreational users.
Copies of this book may be obtained from the Tabletop Press, 40 Miller St., O'Conner A.C.T. 2601 for \$32.95 (hardcover) or \$16.95 (paperback) or from bushwalking stores.
- * Another publication which has come out is Charles Warner's "Exploring Queensland's Central Highlands", RRP \$13.95. The main focus of the book is on Carnarvon Gorge National Park, but also covers five other parks and reserves in the central highlands.
- * Steve Tremont and Barry Higgins intend to traverse the length of the Great Dividing Range from western Victoria to Cape York in the near future. They have established some 118 food dumps along the 6700 km route which they hope to complete in about 430 days.
Steve has catered for 16 different breakfasts and 24 different main meals which has lead to some interesting bulk buying - like 63 kg of Milo, and \$85 worth of garlic flakes. Barry is Distribution Manager at Paddys, and Steve is a past employee.
- * Not content with running around the bush, Three Peaks member Peter Treseder has taken to bush cycling. Peter recently decided to try an original route - over Thurat Spires at Kanangra. One now wonders what training Peter has in mind for the third leg (swimming) of his triathlon!
- * The autobiography of Frank (Paddy) Pallin, "Never Truly Lost", is now available in bookshops for \$20.00.
- * Keith Maxwell notes that some national park travel signs can be generous. Recently he took his three and a half year old daughter up Perry's Lookdown in two hours, which the Service had listed as being a three hour journey.

Club News

- * In celebration of their 40th anniversary in 1986, the S.U.B.W. have published a magazine called "Press On". Anyone who wishes to obtain a copy should send \$5.00 to the Sydney University Bushwalkers, P.O. Box 29, Holme Building, Sydney University 2006.
- * The Kameruka Bushwalking Club have also produced a 60 page, 40th anniversary issue of "The Kameruka". Copies can be obtained by forwarding \$6.80 to the K.B.C., P.O. Box 152, North Strathfield 2137.
- * Not to be outdone in the publishing business, the Sydney Bushwalkers (S.B.W.) are working upon their 60th Anniversary Historical Book. Further details will be advised.

Vale - Eric Dark

As a sickly youth taken to the countryside to improve his health, Eric Dark was allowed to wander freely round the town of Bungonia. These adventures round the top of the Shoalhaven Gorge wetted his appetite, so he in 1907 set off with Ralph Blackett to canoe down the Shoalhaven River.

Drought conditions and unfamiliarity with the country made an epic of the trip. Thus their twenty three day journey would appear to be the first recorded long river trip in NSW.

When he graduated from medical school, Dr. Dark saw military service in France during the First World War, then in 1922 settled in the Blue Mountains. He resumed his rock scrambling and formed the Blue Mountaineers rock climbing club in 1929. His wife, Eleanor (the historical novelist), participated in these climbing sorties.

His first climbing trip to the Warrumbungles occurred in 1932/3 and for several years thereafter returned to the area. In 1936 the party included Marie Byles and introduced her friend Dot English (later Butler) to rockclimbing.

By this stage Dr. Dark was nearly fifty years of age and so he decided to give rock climbing away. Dot induced her walking companions to take up this new activity, from which the Sydney Rockclimbing Club was to eventually spring.

Eric Dark was accused of 'alleged militant tendencies' and this lead to much disruption to his political and private life.

A few years ago I met Dr. Dark as he was nursing his wife through her long illness. Instead of a radical, I found a quiet and compassionate man. It was a little hard to believe that this frail and elderly gentleman had been canoeing and climbing so long ago, and had listed these activities his pastimes in his entry in Who's Who.

Warwick Blayden



REPORT

1986 - 87

Search and Rescue had a successful year - few incidents ! There were a number of overdue club trips, as usual, but none required S & R's services.

There were two callouts during the year. In September 1986 S & R found an overdue party in Claustral Canyon. This was a particularly dangerous search as the flooded canyon did not stop rising all day. The heavy rain that continued on from the day before posed a potential exposure threat. I was proud of the excellent work done by the clubs chosen to assist.

The second callout in November, 1986 was much easier. A senior citizen was safely located off the Benowie Track. As a result of this callout the Sydney Morning Herald did an excellent article on bush safety featuring S & R.

There was the usual three training excersises all of which were different. A feature of these excersises has been the First Aid talks given by Doctor Doug Wheen - watch out for his promised notes in "The Bushwalker".

The Rock Rescue Squad is upgrading its standard and has commenced training up to the level of RESCUE OPERATOR under the Australian Lightweight Vertical Rescue Scheme.

In January 1987, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services suggested that "foolish persons be made to pay for their own rescue". This naturally worries S & R and the Federation as we are unsure as to what constitutes foolish actions - some say that's bushwalking ! Bush rescue also tends to get wide media coverage because of its difficulty and rarity. Car accidents kill over 2500 Australians every year but are too common to be newsworthy anymore.

S & R on behalf of the Federation has written to the Minister on the safe way bushwalking is done in clubs. It is also seeking an interview with the Minister to clarify his attitude to bushwalking.

All clubs need to review their safety training so as not to create an incident that will bring discredit to the clubs of The Federation. In particular trip details must be left with someone responsible at home. One club (no names) recently had an overdue trip and could not give the names of all persons on the trip and exact route details ! Luckily the missing party walked out before a search was required.

I consider bushwalking in NSW can be a particularly safe and pleasurable activity. So for those "Bushwalker" readers who are not in a club, remember:

Walk safely - walk with a club

Keith Maxwell

S & R Rescue Practice

28th - 29th November 1987

Assemble at Medlow Gap

Any member of an affiliated club and invited guests welcome. 8-30 am Saturday start.

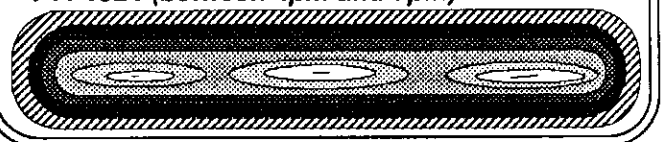
Approx. 19 km from Blackheath, follow yellow & black FBW signs in Megalong Valley. Medlow Gap track 2 to 3 km past Old Ford Crossing, but need to be at Water Board gate between 9-30pm and 10-30pm Friday 27th or 7-15am and 8-00am Saturday 28th, to gain access. Conventional vehicles are suitable. Excersise intended to cover bush safety, search techniques, recovery of injured persons, self rescue and safe river crossing techniques. Activities graded to participant's ability, but must expect to camp out. Bring equipment and 2 airbeds per group. Expect to get wet for Sundays activities. Ph. 809-4732 (h).

CLIMBATHON

Peter Treseder has organised a one

day climbathon on the West Wall of the Three Sisters over the October long weekend to raise funds to replace S & R's radio pack sets. The trailer and a publicity display will be held in the car park over the three days, and S & R will need volunteers (twenty per day) from clubs to move about the visitors collecting donations.

If you can help (by attending or donating) contact Gordon Lee on 744-1824 (between 4pm and 7pm)



This Newsletter is an occasional publication and is distributed free, through its member clubs, to the members of those clubs.

Contributions to the Newsletter are always considered (and should be accompanied with the name and adress 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, NSW.

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