

THE

BUSHWALKER

Newsletter of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Box 2090 GPO Sydney 2001 ISSN 0313-2684 Vol. 13 No 4

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

The Political Scene : With the advent of the Liberal National Party Coalition as the head of government in NSW we could have a battle on our hands in the field of conservation.

Wal Murray, the leader of the national party in this state left conservationists in no doubt as to his (and we presume) his party's attitude to what should be done with National Parks. In his policy speech he said that he would advocate the opening of all NP's to the "general public". As if they were not open to the public already. However the "general public" he was talking about was the four wheel drivers.

I would be the first to admit that the bushwalkers halos are not untarnished. I have seen pollution caused by bushwalkers, so we can't throw the first stone. But against this we have also seen the devastation and pollution in areas that are frequented by the "general public" in their 4WD's.

At the risk of being labeled elitist, we (Federation) are opposed to an open slather policy applied to the use of 4WD's in NP's.

It is this point and a number of others that we will be taking up with Tim Moore (Minister of the environment) when a delegation from Federation meets him in the near future.

If there are any matters of vital interest to bushwalkers that you would like to see brought to Mr Moores attention, would you please discuss them with your club and either let the Federation known through your councilors or by letter from your club.

Gordon Lee.

BUSH RESCUE IN NSW

Some time ago the NSW Government changed the Police Regulations to make them responsible for 'life and limb' i.e. "...Police have the primary responsibility for controlling and co-ordinating rescue services".

The Police may be assisted in this role by the Ambulance Service, the Fire Brigade and a range of volunteer/non government groups such as private helicopters (National Safety Council, Surfline Saving Association), State Emergency Services, Volunteer Bushfire Brigades and member squads of the Volunteer Rescue Association including the Federation's Search and Rescue Section.

The 'Draft Policy Circular on Rescue from the NSW Rescue and Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee'* sets out the duties and responsibilities of these respective organisations to "...facilitate effective control and co-ordination".

This means that for every person lost or injured in the bush, whether or not they are a member of a Federation club, who requires outside assistance, the Police must be involved. It is the Police responsibility to decide "in other than the Metropolitan Area....the nearest appropriate available resource, including appropriate volunteer organisations". In a similar way you can directly notify the Federation Search and rescue Committee of a bushwalking problem if you feel happier in talking to fellow bushwalkers rather than Police. After all, Bushwalkers S & R was originally established to look after bushwalkers from Federation clubs. However, before responding in any practical way the S & R Committee MUST notify the NSW Police and would do so as early as possible.

The skills bushwalkers bring to Bushwalkers S & R has made it particularly successful over many years (right up to the present) in assisting the NSW Police. In many instances bushwalker ground parties are an effective and most appropriate resource. So support your search res-

cue organisation for training in bush search and rescue methods and safety to stay out of trouble and to be a useful member of S & R for those (unfortunate) persons who do need help in the bush.

It is important to appreciate that this simplified outline of bush rescue is just that for the simple situation. Complications such as bushfires will see changes in procedures (as per the Draft Policy). Always follow the instructions of your S & R Committee (who are in contact with the relevant Officers in Charge of any situation).

Finally, a grey area for which in this litigious society I will not issue guidelines for (since no written policy exists). The challenge of bushwalking is to look after yourself in the bush. You expect to get cuts, bruises and sprains in achieving your goals. Overdue parties and serious accidents obviously require outside help, but for minor accidents/incidents YOU must decide (bearing in mind the injuries and how long it will take to get help) whether to get the casualty out totally by yourselves or go for help. A First Aid Certificate will certainly help in reaching a balanced decision.

Copy available for perusal at the S & R Trailer

Keith Maxwell

FIRST AID CERTIFICATE COURSE

Club walks secretaries and others please note the following date for a weekend course.

OCTOBER 29-30th

For bookings phone

Keith Maxwell 622-0049 (h)
Peter Treseder 489-4182 (h)

Every trip leader should have a first aid certificate.

FROM THE MINUTES

- The Kowmung Committee are still after photos of the Kowmung River to support their claim that the river should not be dammed. This campaign is to be given monetary priority over other requests. The Minister of Water Resources has stated that a control flooding dam on the river, in conjunction with the Warragamba Dam upgrade, is not suitable for ecological and environmental reasons.
- The draft plan of management for the Blue Mountains/Wollemi has been received and the Kanangra-Boyd and Morton National Park's are yet to come.
- Yet another attempt to prepare an insurance policy suitable for bushwalkers is to be distributed shortly to clubs.
- A disappointing 35 people attended the Federation's reunion at Danjera Creek during March. 23 were from the host club.

BITS AND PIECES

It has been learnt that Neville Lang, of Bindook, died last September at Oberon Hospital. His was the farm located near Batsh Camp on the way to Yerranderie. When the Warragamba Dam blocked access to Camden and the markets, he bulldozed a road along the Murruin Range back to Mt Werong.

During his lifetime he obtained a reputation amongst bushwalkers of being 'unfriendly' and was attributed with a number of 'misdeeds'. A number of years ago a party from CMW shared a couple of flood bound days with Mr Lang on the Wollondilly and could not speak better of him.

The Sydney Morning Herald (5/2/87) noted that "the observations of a Sydney dermatologist suggest that it is possible to pass on some viral infections from human to human via a sharp twig or a prickly bush...orienteers ...tend to use the same track and brush vigorously against the same plants". (This contributor, who was not the only one, picked up a staphylococcus bug from another walker by this method).

A committee has been set up to develop and promote a Mittagong - Katoomba Bicentennial Walk. Its intended route is from Mittagong down the Nattai River - Belloon Pass - Yerranderie - Katoomba. The committee needs help in establishing the best route over Belloon Pass and can be contacted at P.O. Box 296, Moss Vale 2577

Those who register with the committee and complete the walk during 1988 will receive a medallion inscribed with their name and date of walk.

The Paddy Pallin 6 hour Orienteering Classic will be held on June 19. See the nearest store for details.

CMW has decided not to incorporate but has adopted a disclaimer and release clause.

Sgt Bob Kelso, Katoomba Police, will be retiring shortly. Sgt Kelso was the Officer in Charge at most of the search and rescues in the Blue Mountains in recent years.

Ian Wolfe (NBC) has noted the following errors in the 1:50,000 Khancoban and Eucumbene Maps

i) The creekline (MR 381136) does not flow south-east through the trees - rather it heads east along the cleared area to Happy's hut.

ii) The footbridge at MR 367100 is in fact at MR 368099, and crosses the Happy Jacks Creek

iii) Happy Jacks Plain hut (MR 344095) which will sleep 4 is not shown at all

iv) Boobee hut should be positioned at MR 319081

v) Powerlines, which appear on the 1:100,000 maps, are not shown at all.

The Paddy Pallin Rogaine is to be held off the Putty Road on June 19. Application forms are available from Paddy's stores and should be in by June 3.

Our counterpart in Victoria (VicWalk) notes that John Siseman has just completed his "Alpine Walking Track - Wallalla to Canberra".

CLUB NEWS

Good to see a strong representation from NPA at the 40th anniversary of the first ANZAC service at Splendor Rock. One very interesting character, Phil Foster of the Blue Mountains Branch regaled the campfire with tall tales of uncle Arch. and a Paterson poem.

A FAIRLY EASY STROLL

Our walk on Saturday started off innocently enough with the six of us departing Natural Bridge around 1.30pm and thinking Rock Hill was only a hop, skip and a jump away.

Early on, we realised no-one had a compass, but we had a map and one member of our party had been to Rock Hill once before. With this reassurance we merrily walked on and reached the ridge leading to Rock Hill. We decided not to climb to the top of Rock Hill, and headed back.

We were making very good time and got back to Nayouk Creek well before 6.00pm. But when we looked out over the gorge, the terrain looked unfamiliar and we decided to head further south. The navigational aspects of the walk are a blur but we seemed to wander around in circles.

By 8pm approximately, the light had faded and the wind had picked up as we sat huddled together and discussed our plans. We decided to carry on and find a sheltered spot for the night. With only two torches between us, we had to trudge closely behind each other (there is a lot to be said for always carrying a torch!).

We found a spot high on a ridge, not very sheltered, but we decided this would do. By this time it was about 9.00pm and we started collecting tree branches to place on the ground. Out of the six people, not one person had matches, so we knew the night ahead would be a cold one. I seemed to have everything in my pack but the kitchen sink (and matches). My two crepe bandages were wrapped around my legs to keep warm, my spare pair of socks were used as gloves but my whistle was not very loud. The foam backing from my pack was used to keep warm the back of the person on the end. My torch was great until the globe suddenly blew leaving us with one fading torch. The map was even used as a blanket for the lucky ones.

We spent over half an hour denuding the nearby trees of their branches. This had the dual purpose of providing a soft underlay for our 'bed' and keeping us active (and warm).

By 10.00pm we were all lying down in the foetal position, so close that when one person laughed (or shivered), you could almost feel the vibration through the adjoining bodies. Often there was a mutiny when someone got a cramp and we all had to swap sides. After a few objections we would turn ourselves over. There was also much laughter, especially

PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE A responsible and committed approach.



Since 1972, Total Environment Centre (TEC) has been working to protect the natural and urban environment. It has led campaigns to save our rainforests, protect parks, limit woodchipping, save endangered species and wetlands, oppose urban blight and supported hundreds of community groups and citizens in their efforts to have a say in decisions that affect their environment.

In the next year Total Environment Centre will undertake five more campaigns.

We need your help to be successful.

CAMPAIGNS:

1 South-East Forests

The woodchipping of the magnificent native forests of the south-east is imminent. TEC is the nerve centre for the campaign to protect them and all our political, legal and research skills need be mobilised. This is the last chance for the south-east forests.

2 Independent Environmental Impact Statements

For too long various departments and developers have had undue influence on the outcome of environmental impact statements. Consultants are paid directly to produce them and departments are allowed to adjudicate on their own proposals.

NSW needs an Independent Environmental Impact Assessments Office.

3 Coastal Claim

Much of the coast is under renewed threat by giant tourist resort developments and shire councils wanting to be freed from environmental planning controls such as the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme.

Total Environment Centre will campaign against this and develop a Coastal Claim showing what land needs improved protection.

4 Toxic Chemicals Control

What are your rights to stop the spraying of toxic chemicals? TEC will be organising a 'right to know' campaign, to inform citizens about the dangers of the many chemicals sprayed by government authorities and property owners; the legal rights to demand a halt, environmental assessment; and alternatives.

5 Urban Parks and Bushland

TEC has completed research into how to better protect urban open space from clearing, alienation for single-use activities and ways to involve the community in development applications and management plans.

A special conference bringing urban groups together and a campaign is needed.

YOU CAN HELP US: Send a donation and/or volunteer your time. Fill in the forms below, today.

DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE

A tax deductible donation can be made to the Australian Conservation Foundation advising of your preference that the donation be used for

the Total Environment Centre. Fill in forms A and B; make the cheque out to the Australian Conservation Foundation and post the forms to the addresses as shown below.

The environment is all we've got. The Total Environment Centre is working to protect it.

A The Director
Australian Conservation Foundation
672B Glenferrie Road
HAWTHORN VIC. 3122

Dear Sir, I attach a donation to the Australian Conservation Foundation, I prefer that this donation should be spent for the purposes of the Total Environment Centre. I understand that this donation is tax deductible and therefore look forward to your receipt.

NAME (Mr Ms Mrs Miss) _____ [PLEASE PRINT]

ADDRESS _____

Signed: _____ DATE _____ AMOUNT _____

B The Accountant
Total Environment Centre
18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir, I have forwarded today to the Australian Conservation Foundation a donation, expressing a preference that it be spent for the purposes of the Total Environment Centre.

NAME (Mr Ms Mrs Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Signed: _____ DATE _____ AMOUNT _____

VOLUNTEERING:

I would like to volunteer to help the Total Environment Centre in its work.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

MY SKILLS ARE _____ [PLEASE PRINT]



18 June 1988

Dear fellow environmentalist,

Total Environment Centre has a commitment. Established in 1972, one of its chief tasks has been to help local groups and individuals to influence decisions involving their environment.

Hundreds of groups have been helped by TEC on regional and local issues. Industrial development around Botany Bay, freeways, threats to neighbourhoods and bushland, water pollution, creation and protection of parks, high-rise development, pollution from tips, the dangers of pesticides - name the issue and you'll find years of dedicated work by TEC volunteers and staff.

Our directors and project officers have prepared campaign plans for local groups, made detailed submissions to government ministers and councils, spoken to public meetings and appeared before Commissions of Inquiry.

The link between the many grass roots groups and the few statewide and national groups is essential to the continued success of the environment movement.

Local groups are usually best placed to sound the alarm on the latest assault on the environment. And a local issue may expose a wider problem that requires a broad community response or precedent setting court case. Examples are the protection of harbour foreshores, access to sunlight, improved controls on sand and gravel mining, wild and scenic rivers and urban bushland. The widespread and diverse membership of local groups also provides the support base for state and national action as native forest and wilderness campaigns have shown.

This year TEC will continue to help local environment groups. In addition we will conduct campaigns on urban bushland, a coastal claim, independent environmental impact statements, the south east forests and the 'right to know' about toxic chemicals (see overleaf).

It is not well known that TEC has a very limited budget. Our staff work long hours for low wages. Each year it is difficult to find sufficient funds to support our existing activities and allow expansion to meet the growing demands.

We hope you will consider making a donation to TEC to support our joint efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Rolfe
Chairperson
Management Committee

up and started jogging on the spot to keep warm. By 2.00am we were all up there jogging and laughing to think how funny we must look.

There were many great quotes that night, but after such a long night it is hard to remember all the details. How important it is to keep a sense of humour in such circumstances. I don't think I've laughed so much in quite a while.

With the first light next morning, we were up and walking towards Natural Bridge. We were only 1-2km away when we reached the creek and shouted a combined 'COO-EE' and were answered with a 'YAAAH' from those back at camp.

We were welcomed back with tea, toast and leftover chicken casserole. We were told how two from camp had gone out searching for us that night (without a map - which at the time, you will recall, was being used as a blanket). What a pity their efforts weren't rewarded with finding six people lying on a bed of ti tree or (more humorous thought) jogging on the spot and laughing!

(This story has been edited to protect the name of the club involved - note, these were 'experienced' walkers).

FROM THE PAST

In the dawn light of Anzac Day, 1948, 140 people gathered at Splendour Rock to hear Paddy Pallin dedicate a memorial plaque with the simple inscription;

IN MEMORY OF

BUSHWALKERS

WHO FELL

IN WORLD WAR II

THEIR SPLENDOUR SHALL
NEVER FADE

Those who made the ultimate sacrifice were Bruce Elder, Arnold Ray, Charlie Roberts and Gordon Townsend (from C.M.W.), Reginald Hewitt, Gordon Mannell, Norman Saill and Gordon Smith (from SBW), George Loder (Trampers Club), Jack Wall (Camp Fire Club), Ken Grenfell (Rucksack Club), James McCormack and Mac Nichols from the YMCA Ramblers.

(With apologies to Pauline Downing/Tony Parr whose article was received after the deadline for the last newsletter).

SEARCH & RESCUE JULY TRAINING WEEKEND

"THE 1988 BICENTENNIAL RADIO CONTROLLED ROGAIN"

WHEN	Saturday and Sunday 23-24th July
WHERE	Northern Budawangs. Base GR 377 073
WHAT	A 24 hour rogain with checkpoints to suit both beginners and hotshot navigators.
WHO	Any member of a federation bushwalking club who is 18 years or over
BRING	Your compass, overnight gear and a copy of Endrick 1:25000
For further details phone Bob Cavill 520-5634 (h)	

WILL YOUR CLUB FIND THE MOST CHECKPOINTS ?

We hear that there may be some Police Rescue Squad People coming to try the course. Make sure you come to show them how well bushwalkers can do..

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

July	
5	S & R meeting, Marrickville
19	FBW Annual General Meeting, 176 Cumberland Street, Sydney
23-24	S & R Practice
August	
2	S & R meeting, Marrickville
16	FBW General Meeting*
September	
6	S & R meeting, Marrickville
16	Bushwalkers Ball
20	FBW General Meeting**
October	
4	S & R meeting, Marrickville
8-9	S & R Practice
18	FBW General Meeting
29-30	First Aid Course

* Deadline for contributions for next 'Bushwalker'
** Next 'Bushwalker' due

FREE GESTETNER MACHINE

Sydney Bushwalkers have a well used Gestetner duplicating machine we would like to give to any bushwalking club interested. Enquiries concerning inspection/collection to **Barnie Murdoch** Tel 498-7834 (h) 220-0310 (w)

IMPORTANT

Search and Rescue has now obtained two alpha-numeric pagers to assist call-outs. Bushwalkers (or their relatives/friends) should;

- i) call (02) 016-020, and ask the Operator to
- ii) page 016-277.321 OR 016-277.322
- iii) and leave a short message along the lines

"URGENT CALL OSCAR HAMMERSMITH PHONE BOX 049
729.6426"

The caller should ensure that the correct number (and STD code) is recorded by the Operator. (Note - you must indicate in your message if you are calling from a public phone box as the return call will have to be lodged through a Telecom operator).

- iv) If no return call is received within 15 minutes (to allow the holder of the pager to find a phone), repeat step (i) and (ii) and quote the alternate pager number.

PASSING PARADE

Recently a superfluous note book was withdrawn from Mt Cloudmaker and lodged with the Mitchell Library. Comparing the number of visitors last October with the same period in earlier log books, (table 1) it is obvious that Cloudmaker is becoming increasingly popular. This is probably due its relatively ease of access from Kanangra Walls, the pleasant weather, the inclusion of a holiday weekend and a final chance for students to have a break before their all important exams.

Recreational walking is on the increase and Cloudmaker is just one example. We can also see it in the number of cars parked at 'trail heads', tracks left upon the vegetation, the proliferation of camping stores, the variety of equipment on sale and the number of companies offering adventure activities.

The last period that we have a full year's figures for Mt Cloudmaker is 1976 when 23 Clubs* (119 people), 16 Scout parties (80 people) and 86 other groups (316 people) - a total of 125 parties or 515 people.

If the rate of growth was consistent (and based upon the October/annual figures for 1976) then in 1987 a total of 1426 persons in 325 parties passed over Mt Cloudmaker, an average of 6.3 parties per weekend. To extrapolate further, by the turn of the century, some 4000 people will be traveling over Cloudmaker annually in 850 parties or 16 per weekend.

Put this on a State basis then the bush is going to become a very crowded place from which to 'escape the rat race'.

OCT	GROUP TOTALS	PERSONAL TOTALS
1968	1	3
1972	5	23
1976	10	39
1987	26	108

2. Totals for years concerned

OCT	B/W CLUB *	No.	SCOUT GROUP	No.	OTHER	No.
1968	1	3	0	0	0	0
1972	1	9	0	0	4	14
1976	2	25	1	3	7	11
1987	3	23	1	6	22**	79

1. Details of group & number

* An FBW affiliated club.
** Of these, 6 parties declared some membership to a club, group or organisation.

Nearly 80% of the people on Cloudmaker in October '87 were not regular bushwalkers. Imagine the benefits to be gained if many of these people could be encouraged into joining or participating with a recognised club*. Whilst membership of a club will not resolve the heavy use problem, it may be the way for future recognition of certain 'traditional rights to access' for restrictions are bound to follow. The only people who are benefiting from the growth at the moment are the gear shops.

As it stands, the Federation cannot hope to claim to represent the recreational walkers in NSW.

PAIN & SUFFERING

If you like the idea of one or the other of the above, then this is sure to appeal to you.

Would you like to paddle a kayak 111km overnight, to raise money for MS

Last year almost 500 masochists paddled and to-date after 11 years the marathon has raised about \$420,000.

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is the event. It is held on October 22-23 from Windsor to Brooklyn.

For more details and entry forms ring (02) 580-8908 all reasonable hours.

ELECTRONIC BUSHWALKER

Time and technology marches on. Newsletters managed for a long time with typewriters and gestetners, today we use computers and laser printing.

But now from the middle of June, the "Bushwalker" will be available on a computer run electronic bulletin board. This means that those of you with the time to use a computer and a modem (and still go bushwalking) will be able to ring up the service, leave articles for the editor, leave mail for other users or download the latest "Bushwalker".

All this is being set up by Mel Lee from the Three Peaks Outdoor Society

To use the bulletin board ring Mel once with your modem, hang up and then ring again before 40s has elapsed this should connect you to the computer on the first ring. If you are having difficulties then ring Mel normally and discuss the problem.

The technical details are as follows.

Phone: 046-668253
Baud: V21 V22 V23
BBsoftware: GTpower
Times: 4.00pm - 12.00pm

(the times may vary at first.)

CLASSIFIEDS

If there is enough interest we will run a column of FOR SALE and WANTED ads. The cost will be \$2 per ad (kept to 4 or 5 lines) and the ad, with a check made out to the Federation can be sent to

The Editor
2/22 Sunbeam St.
Enfield 2136

ABOUT YOUR CLUB

This section is going to be (I hope) a continuing series of articles giving non club members some information about the clubs that make up the "Federation".

If you would like something about your club to appear here then write to the editor (or leave a file with our computer, it saves us typing).

Sutherland Bushwalking Club, as the name implies this club covers the Sutherland Shire region of Sydney. The club meets on the last monday of each month, at 8pm in the scout hall on Jacaranda Rd. Caringbah.

It is a large club, with over 150 financial members. Each weekend a number of varied walks and activities are offered that cater to most levels.

If you would like some further information then ring

Beryl Young 524 9352

Three Peaks Outdoor Society has thrown off a southern clone. Now there is a Three Peaks O. S. southern branch, based at Campbelltown.

The clone is only new but has a small active group that would like to grow in size. All manner of activities are covered.

The club meets at Leumeah High at 7.00pm on the second tuesday of each month. If you would like further information then contact either

Steve 046 258862 (h) or
Bob 02 520 5634 (h)

POLITICAL CORNER

On Wednesday June 1 a delegation from Federation met Tim Moore (minister for planning and environment). The delegation was made up of Dave Noble (access to NP's for bushwalkers, 4wd's and horses) Herb Liptmann (education, leadership course) Keith Maxwell (public liability insurance) Ian Wilson (Cowmung Committee - Warragamba dam) and Gordon Lee (woodchipping and Logging)

As usual time was short - the ministers time is so valuable - so none of us got very much of the minister's ear, it appeared to me that the whole exercise was just so much Ho-hum!

It is obvious that we will have to lobby heavily in cooperation with all the other conservation bodies to counter the heavyweights (4wd's and horseriders) who want to open up the national parks to unrestricted use.

We wonder in these days of an economy drive, if the cost of maintaining roads for the 4wd's has been considered.

We would like some correspondence on this topic (it affects us all) so write (or use the computer service) to the editor.

NEW WALKING TRACK

On the Easter long weekend a party from the Sutherland Bushwalking Club became the first official group to walk the Hume and Hovell walking track.

The section they used was from Wee Jasper to the Goobarranganda River, just outside Tumut.

The final section, from there to the Blowering Dam is not yet open but will include a high-level suspension foot bridge (sounds like N.Z.)

The distance walked was about 70km.

BUSH SAFETY COURSE WEEKEND

Federation has been trying recently to begin an extended course covering many of the aspects needed by a trip leader.

The introductory navigation courses have been one part of this approach.

Now another introductory module is ready to be tried. This will be the bush safety weekend (or how to survive the bush).

Topics covered will include

Equipment
Clothing & footwear
Food
Accident Prevention

It is intended that completing the modules offered by the Federation will lead to certification by the Federation of your competency as a walks leader. This is of potential benefit to any leader that has responsibility for young or inexperienced walkers.

The weekend being offered is as follows.

Date: 20-21 August

Venue: Flagstaff Hill G.R. 497872

Maps : Mt. Wilson & Wollangambe 1:25000

Gear : All gear for an overnight camp and water

Course fee : \$30 (discount for Fed. members.)

Contact : Gordon Lee 744 1824 (4 to 7pm preferred)

