

THE

# BUSHWALKER

Newsletter of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Box 2090 GPO Sydney 2001 ISSN 0313-2684 December 1989  
Ph 548-1228 (Volunteer service)

## EDITORIAL

Xmas greetings and best wishes to all of Federation's member Clubs. We would also like to extend those greetings and best wishes to all who read this publication.

Another year has just about passed from us and none of us knows how many more were are likely to experience, so time is precious. All of us have to make as full use of what time we have to do as much as we can to preserve this planet for future generations to enjoy.

For too long we have exploited our natural resources without heed to the future and the main driving force behind this has been greed. The only thing that can change this is a change in attitude, a change in the direction of our thinking. We are not here to subdue the earth - the planet - we are here to co-exist with it.

Not one of us can change the course of history nor right the wrongs of the past, nor can each of us be expected to immediately stop doing those things which are causing our planet to degenerate. We can however start to look at what we can do, even in some small way, to lessen our impact on the environment in which we live.

Have you tried using recycled paper? Have you asked your local Council about recycling the paper you accumulate? Have you thought about how you can use less water, less electricity? and so on. Even thinking about these matters is a start. Happy New Year! and let's hope it's a Happy New Year for our Planet

Gordon Lee.

## Minimal Impact Alpine Walking and Camping

*The following article has been prepared by the Kosciusko District of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (with a little editing to fit in).*

*As this is a very unique type of area for Australia, the points that are raised are important.*

*We are keen to point out the damage caused by other groups, so we should make efforts to avoid the same.*

*Most of us, I am sure would like our children to be able to walk in a park that is as natural as possible and not a reflection of short sighted greed and convenience.*

The largest native animal in the alpine and high sub-alpine areas, ie. above about 1700m, is *Mastocomys fuscus*, a rodent about 10cm. from nose to base of tail.

Thus, unlike alpine areas of the northern hemisphere, there has been no adaptation of Australian alpine plant species to heavy, large, hard footed animals such as cattle, horses or bushwalkers in big boots.

Alpine and sub-alpine plants are vulnerable to foot impact. Damage occurs rapidly. When damaged plants die the soil is left bare and is subject to wind, rain and snow-melt erosion as well as frost heave. The latter occurs when water in soil freezes and expands. ice crystals thrust upward through disturbed soil carrying large soil particles with them. This leads to rapid soil erosion.

At the time when livestock grazing ceased in the alpine area some 10,000 tonnes of soil were being lost annually from the Main Range.

Damage done by grazing took over two decades of Soil Conservation Ser-

vice work to repair. Now the main erosion threat to the alpine area is walking and camping. Up to 1300 walkers and 300 campers may be in the Main Range at a time. By behaving responsibly we can reduce this threat.

### Ethics for Walking and Camping

Large groups create more impact. Four to six is a good number.

Avoid camping anywhere in the catchment basin of any glacial lake ie. Hedley Tarn, Blue Lake, Club Lake, Lake Albina and Lake Cootapatamba. (A catchment basin includes all feeder creeks entering the lake and extends from the highest peaks and ridges around the lake to below the moraine humps at the exits of the lake.)

Camp 50m from water where possible. Take a different route from tent to water each time, thus avoiding impact tracking and breaking down of one area of creek bank.

Camp on thick, strong snowgrass meadow. Avoid camping on vegetation that is bright green or deep green, on sparse or ground hugging vegetation or on moss.

Wash well away from creeks and scatter used water so that it is filtered by soil and gravel before it reaches a creek.

Toilet and urinate as far as possible from water. Avoid digging holes, disturbed soil is subject to frost heave and erodes rapidly.

Cont. on p.2 >

# Easy Care Travelwear

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 THE LEADERS IN ADVENTURE

AC 26034.1

> *From p.1* Place tampons, disposable nappies, etc in a strong plastic bag (for your own sake) and carry them out with you.

Use campstoves for cooking. The lighting of fires is prohibited in the alpine zone. this zone is not fire adapted and regrowth of vegetation is very slow. A campfire scar may be bare for many years and is then colonised by weed species.

Carry out all garbage including food scraps, used matches, cigarette butts (*if you are disgusting enough to smoke*) and tissues.

Walk on designated tracks as much as possible. When walking off track your impact will be minimised if you

Spread the group (single file walking creates new tracks).

Contour (zig-zag) up and down slopes to lessen impact.

Walk only on thick snowgrass which is better able to withstand the impact.

Avoid walking on anything wet, bright or deep green, mossy, spongy, gravelly or stony. detour around such places.

## "DO THE RIGHT THING !"

### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA CAMPAIGN

Sunday 21st January 1990 has been declared a "Clean Up" day throughout Australia, similar to the Harbour clean-up which was carried out in January of this year.

Federation would like each club to arrange to do a "rubbish walk" in whatever National Park is nearest it's area.

The Metropolitan Clubs are asked to join Federation in a concerted clean-up of the Royal National. This clean-up will be co-ordinated by Federation using our S & R organisation.

If any Club has members who consistently use Royal National as the venue for some of their bushwalking activities such as SBW, NPA and Sutherland then I suggest that these Clubs strongly support this campaign.

IF YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR SUNDAY 21st JANUARY, 1990 to make ROYAL NATIONAL a better place to walk, then

RING GORDON LEE 7441824 or Bushwalker's Federation 548 1228

Please do this on a Club basis. Get someone to act as coordinator for your club.

IT'S UP TO YOU TO SHOW THAT GREENIES ARE PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE TO KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.

### KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL

"stay indoors"

Maybe that should apply to the persons unknown that have been chopping trees down in Kanangra Ck. just below the Murdering Gully junction. They seem to have been cut down with a small axe or a large machete (the trees were about 10-20cm in diameter). One is recent enough that the withered remains of its leaves are still beside it (Dec 2). Is there a reason for this or is this another area that has become over popular.

If you know of other areas that have similar problems write in and let us know.



NF

## BITS & PIECES

### BUNGLE BUGGER-UP

Until a few years ago the Bungle Bungles (WA) were known only to a few. Now heavy demands have forced a draft plan of management for the Purnululu National Park - as it is now known. Some proposals include more roads, a motel and safari-style camping facility, an airport and heliport, and a telecommunications tower and accommodation buildings.

Such is the price of the tourist dollar ! Who said it won't happen here !!

### KAKADU

There has been an increase of 30% in bushwalking in the last twelve months of Kakadu. There has also been an increase of incidents and rescue operations. The stage has been reached now whereby an application for a permit must be lodged ten days before the walk.

By the time this goes to press Russell Willis, of Willis's Walkabouts (12 Carrington St., Millner NT 0810), will have visited Sydney on a promotional tour. Members of the SBW can attest to the benefits of using this operator.

### COLIN WATSON O.A.M.

Congratulations to Col Watson of the Coast & Mountain Walkers who received the Order of Australia Medal for his services to Conservation and Bushwalking in this year's Queen Birthday Honours List.

Col, a self employed cabinet maker & antique furniture restorer has spent much of his life living out his passion for bushwalking and conservation. He joined CMW in 1957 after many years of freelance walking and over the years he has held many positions in this club including Walks Recorder, Federation Delegate, Treasurer and President. He is an Honorary Life member of the CMW.

His involvement in the Budawang area began in October 1958, and along with George Elliot and others, produced the first edition of the sketch in 1960. Colin was one of the founding members of the Budawang Committee in 1965 which has done so much and fought so hard for this special area so popular with walkers. Apart from the many editions of the sketch map this committee has published three books - Pigeon House

and Beyond, Man from the Misty Mountains, and Fitzroy Falls and Beyond. Col has been intimately involved in all these publications. In 1979 he was elected to the Morton National Park Advisory Committee and has served continuously on it up to this year (the past eight years as President) when the present Government dissolved all Advisory Committees. Unfortunately for bushwalkers Col and other walkers were not re-appointed to the newly constituted advisory committee.

During the late 1950s and 1960s Col became very active in Federation activities as CMW Delegate, Treasurer, Conservation Committee member and on the Bushwalker's Ball Committee. In conjunction with Paddy Pallin and Geoff Wragg, Col helped to get The Bushwalker (magazine) back into production in 1961 after a thirteen year lapse. Col was also involved in the S & R section of Federation. Also during the 1960 Col became active in the NPA and served as Treasurer on the State Council.

Colin Watson is still an active member of CMW and his infectious enthusiasm and laughter - not to mention his snoring has ensured his inclusion in the list of CMW characters where he is affectionately known now as 'Sir' Count Budawang. Congratulations on this public recognition of your years of dedication to bushwalking and conservation.

### BUSHWALKER'S INSURANCE EXPLAINED

*The Newcastle Bushwalking club have been explaining the federation insurance policy to their members, it would be useful if we all took notice.*

The proposed policies negotiated by the Federation with the Norwich Winterthur Insurance (Aust) Ltd are of two types:

#### 1. Public Liability

This covers "legal liability to third parties in respect of bodily injury or property damage..". "Protection applies to the Committee, officials and all registered members, voluntary helpers and clubs of .. [the Federation]".

Most importantly "All members, officials, assistant and voluntary helpers are included but all must be

registered members and recognised as such..".

This policy covers all standard third-party type situations, except in the case of an accident where both parties are members (who would be covered by the other policy - see below), and provides cover up to two million dollars per "event".

Assuming a minimum of 2,500 Federation members the premium per head is just 50c.

#### 2. Sports Injury.

Once again, you must be a recognised financial member. An insured person is covered whilst "participating, practising, for their club in organised events; travelling to and from the above activities; attending official functions such as club meetings, presentation nights, special fund raising nights and all organised social functions".

"All participants can be protected for all related activities ranging from bushwalking, canyoning, cascading, hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, rafting, cross-country skiing and camping".

### TAX FILE NUMBERS

Normally you would think that this had nothing to do with a bushwalking club, but guess what. If your club has income (fees etc) of more than \$400 per year then 50% of the interest from your account will be withheld. This is of course unless you can get an exemption. That means your club will require a special tax file number.

Still hanging in there, good, my head started to hurt when this was brought up by a member of the CMW. They are in the process of getting this exemption and when this has been achieved they will publish the information for clubs that would like to use it.

Hopefully most of the smaller clubs need not worry about this, but some clubs could lose a substantial amount of money.

Keep your eyes open for further details.

## S&R Training

*"This seems like a waste of time, I can already bushwalk!"*

That's an impression we often get when we ask clubs about participation at training weekends. However S&R practices are not to teach skills you already have.

There are three training weekends a year. We attempt to do a different activity each time, so choosing just one a year shouldn't be a big problem.

Some of the reasons we have training are:

So field officers can get to know club members and their individual abilities.

So club members can become familiar with our procedures. This speeds up our response and organisation during a real search, which means we can have teams fully briefed and ready to go at first light (not always easy).

So field officers (and potential field officers) can have practice in organising and running a large number of people in areas that can cover hundreds of square kilometers.

To achieve better communications with other services that we work with, by having them along as observers or participants.

To become aware of any potential problems that could occur and do something about them. This is particularly the case with radio use. Communications in the bush environment is difficult but vital to our success.

There are other things we could encourage if clubs had an interest. If you think there is something you would like in a practice then ring Keith Maxwell (or one of his little helpers)

. Don't sit back, take part, insurance only works if you keep up the installments.

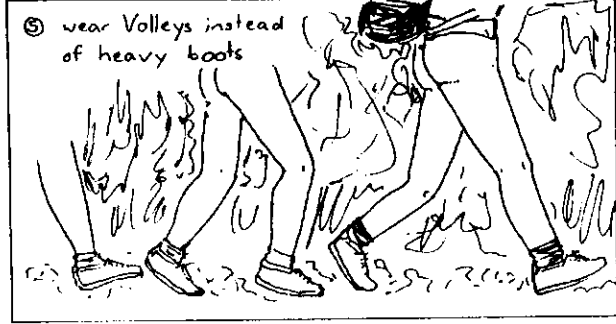
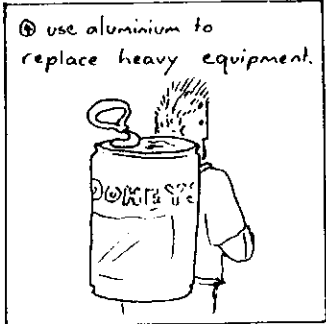
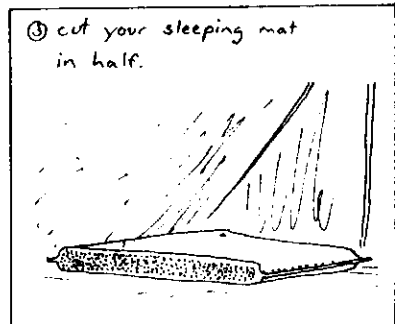
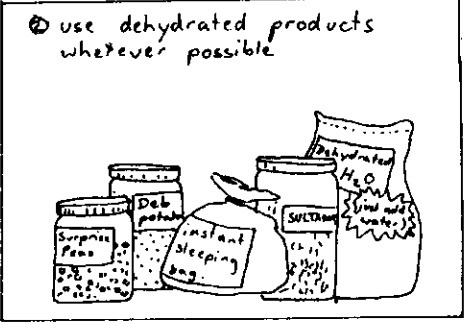
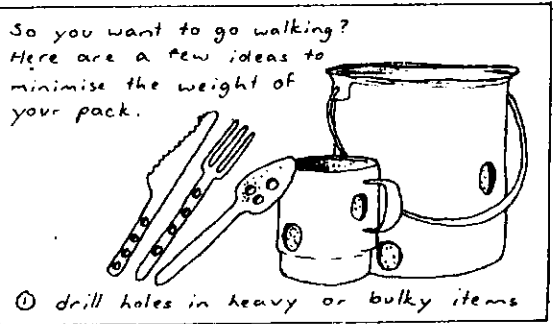
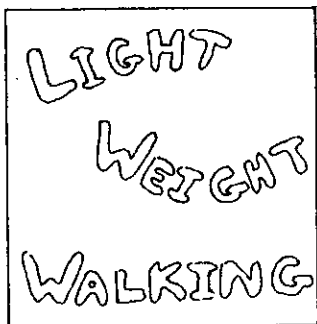
### NEXT YEAR

For the March training (31st-1st) we are going to the Putty road near Howes Swamp. If you haven't been in a full scale search this will show you what happens (even field officers won't know all the details). Get a team together and ring Peter Treseder for details (489-4182 home)

During June (23-24) we are running our combined rescue services rogaine at Yalwal. The last one was won by Sutherland Bushwalkers. There will be a lot of competition from Police, Ambulance, Bushfire Brigades, SES, and other clubs. Shorter courses are also being run if you wish to train some of your club in detailed navigation. Teams of 4 to 6 for this, so get some friends together and ring John Tonitto for details. 528-6174 (home)

October will be used for two one day events near Sydney (20-21). Demonstrations and discussions will be aimed at any in your club who can come, even if they are not interested in searches. More details will appear later.

All people are welcome at training weekends, there are jobs that have to be done that need fewer walking skills than others.



## Federation Fuss

### MOVING

For the first time in the Federations history (to my knowledge) the venue for the Federation meetings is going to be out of the city centre. We are moving to a room in the Burwood public school, in Conder St Burwood. The time of the meeting has been changed to 7.30pm.

This venue although not perfectly suitable (no storage space) has many appealing features, close to public transport, off street parking and maybe somewhere to have a cup of tea.

Lets hope there will be a better attendance at the next meeting.

### WARNING!

it appears that many clubs are not fully aware that though federation through incorporation is providing member clubs with easy access to both public liability and group accident insurance they will be held responsible for the correct declaration of the number of individuals who are members of the club.

Insurance does not recognise family membership. So if the declared membership includes families as a single member then such a declaration could invalidate that club in any action or claim that may be made.

Please check carefully your membership declaration before submitting this to federation.

### FINANCE

This aspect of federation has been raised and discussed many times. We run the federation on a shoestring. Criticism has been leveled at the high cost of running S&R. If this criticism is still rampant, let me point out that the S&R committee and cohorts have raised more money in the last three years than federation has in the last ten.

Many of the officers, including myself often do not receive recompense (to which they are entitled) because they don't ask for it. They donate this as a service to federation. This does not include the time they devote to doing their various jobs, so next time you wish to criticise, bear in mind what is written above.

### LEADERSHIP COURSE

We are still struggling with this. However a dedicated few are doing something about it, even though we are 20 years behind the times.

It is hoped we will have something positive to report in the new year.

*Gordon Lee*

Paul Barnes passed away on May 9, 1989 aged 79 years. He was an active member of SBW since 1941, and in 1950 he became SBW's delegate to Federation. He was Federation President 1956-9, and was a member of the Federation's Conservation Bureau between 1955-71.

He was a member of the NPA, the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council, and chairman of the Australian National Parks Council (1975-9). He was also a trustee (and secretary) to the Heathcote Primitive Area, and later to Heathcote National Park Advisory Committee (and was chairman 1978-82). Paul also was a trustee to the Blue Mountains National Park and the later Blue Mountains National Park Advisory Committee of which he also chaired.

He was a long time friend of Paddy Pallin and was a member of the 'Old Buffers' group. His name is recorded in mid-Ettrema Creek through the two passes he found during an exploratory walk in the early 1950s. His last walk was the 40th Anzac Weekend Camp and Dawn Service at Splendour Rock in 1988. Two days after his return, Paul suffered a heart attack.

In January 1984 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division "For service to conservation".

NPA • Newsletter No.2

## FEDERATION ACTIVITIES 1990

### MARCH-

### APRIL

31-1st

Search and Rescue Training

### MAY

11

Search and Rescue Bush Dance

12 - 13

Federation Reunion

26 - 27

St John First Aid Course

### JUNE

23 - 24

Search and Rescue Rogain

### SEPT

21

Federation Annual Ball

### OCT

20 - 21

Search and Rescue Training

27 - 28

St John First Aid Course

# The very Cross Country Skier™

HE'S NOT A HAPPY BOY. SEE THE LOOK OF RAGE ON HIS FACE! HOW CAN THIS BE? HASN'T HE JUST SPENT QUITE A LOT OF MONEY ON XC SKIING GEAR? ISN'T XC SKIING MEANT TO BE FUN? (ONCE YOU CAN TURN.) SURELY HE DIDN'T BUY THE BEST GEAR. HE DIDN'T BUY GEAR THAT'S BEEN TESTED BY THE PEOPLE THAT SELL IT.

HIS TENT HAS CARBON CARBONER PRINTED ON THE OZ PERMIER "COTTONOUSQUE" FABRIC. NOT SO MUCH A "SNOW" TENT AS A "NO TENT".

THIS DOES WELL WITH THE OSTEAK FEATHERS LIKE SLEEPING BAGS WITH A TEMPERATURE RATING OF 17° CELSIUS. AND THE 31 SEAGULL FEATHER "MEELEYWAWM" SKI JACKET MADE TO MEASURE BY KAHAMARI DESERT CRAFTSMEN. NOT QUITE THE SAME AS OUR SPEEDDOWN GEAR. DUE TO LACK OF INSULATION THIS KNEE HAS BEEN LOCKED IN THIS POSITION.

HE TRIED THE "SELF-DEFLATING" SLEEPING SLAB. IT'S A VERY GOOD CARBO-VASCULAR DEVICE SO YOU CAN GET YOUR EXERCISE INSTEAD OF SLEEPING IN LUXURY ON ONE OF OUR THERMA-BEDS. THE ULTIMATE SLEEPING MAT!

THE OREGAN "ECONOMOMAP" IS CHEAPER THAN OUR RANGE OF RELIABLE SILVA COMPASSES - THIS DUBIOUS ITEM USES THE OLD SUN SHAL METHOD.

SURELY IT DOESN'T QUITE PERFORM DURING WHITE-OUTS OR WHEN OVERCAST. BUT IT'S GREAT FOR SCRAPING THE WAX OFF YOUR MICA SKIS. COMES WITH ONLY TO USE INSTRUCTIONS.

MAYBE IT'S THE SOPHISTICATED "KANDELL" BRAND STOVE THAT'S MADE HIM LESS THAN HAPPY. SURE, IT'S NOT THE WORLDS FINEST LIKE THE KOK BY MSR. BUT IT DOES COME IN A DRIPLESS MODEL (AS SHOWN) THE ONLY PROBLEM IS DEPLETION IS ALSO "UNLIGHTABLE". SIX COLD MEALS (RAW) AND ALL HIS MATCHES LATER HE MAY THINK ABOUT THE MIGHTY MUR.

HANDSPUN BEANIE TOO GOOD FOR HIM. BUT IT'S A SHOWER CAP FILLED WITH TISSUES! IT'S NOT EVEN A FAIRISLE PATTERN! HAS HEAT RETENTION PROPERTIES OF DRIED PILCHARD.

OH DEAR! LOOK AT THE PACK. YES, IT'S AN ORIGINAL \$4 LATHIAN "SNOW" PACK MADE OUT OF 2 MICRON "ZIP-START" NYLON. WHY DIDN'T HE CHOOSE ONE OF OUR SUPERB PACKS? WE HAVE A PACK FOR EVERY BACK. WITH SPECIAL ONE-WAY ZIP.

THE WORD "SNOW" IS REEMED TO MEAN: "SAVES NOTHING, ONLY WEIGHT."

WHY SPEND MONEY ON THERMAL UNDERWEAR? WHY? 6 STAPLED FLOTTING PADS WORK! WHAT DOES IT MATTER THAT 2 1/2 KILOS OF PERSPIRATION HAS FROZEN TO HIS LOWER TORSO?

BREADBAG GAITERS GOOD FOR KEEPING FROZEN BRAND IN.

WHY DIDN'T HE TRY OUT OUR RANGE OF REAL HITS AND GROUVE.

SNAP FROZEN SHIN (WE DON'T STOCK THIS ITEM)

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