

THE Bushwalker

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SPRING ISSUE - AUG '93

VOL 19 No1

PUBLIC REVULSION NULLIFIES IDIOTIC VANDALISM

PUBLIC OUTRAGE, backed by positive action prevented the wanton destruction of street shade trees by the Prospect County Council.

This, all in the name of economic rationalism. Some seat warming brainchild, (brain damaged?) devised a scheme which purported to save the Council millions of dollars. **The cost of this saving was going to be \$20 million over 10 years.**

Trees of 10 years maturity were, or were to be, cut down and replaced by shrubs which only grew to 3m. These shrubs could in no way become shade trees, so pleasant in this hot country.

The Council maintained that damage to powerlines could be reduced by this action. If you examine the photo on the left (opposite) you will see that the trees already felled are no where near the powerlines. (x). By simply lopping the centre growing tip the trees would still be useful shade trees and present no danger to the powerlines.

However the public outcry was so vociferous and sustained (backed by the media, and at least one influential alderman) that the carnage was halted.

This shows once again the power of the people who are prepared, in a cause they feel to be right, to do battle with any individual or organisation of any kind. We have history to record the efforts of people like Plimsol, Florence Nightingale and William Wilberforce, who fought against enormous odds to win a battle whose results effects our lives even today.

What has this to do with us ? We are conservationists, or should be! Any anticonservation action IS our business!



In the same paper which published the photos reproduced on this page there was an editorial from which I quote the following words :-

"In an era when we are all aware of the myriad threats to our environment and the urgent need to protect nature's gifts to mankind, it is outrageous that 80,000 trees are to be sacrificed in the name of ignorant pragmatism."

In the same editorial there were these paragraphs :-

"In the early days of the colony settlers went to great lengths to rid their properties of trees so they could plant crops. (Or graze animals - Ed.)

They succeeded in developing prosperous farms but their ignorant, destructive practices led to massive erosion and soil degradation - huge areas have never recovered."

In the 50's and 60's the Lands Board still required clearing to validate a lease. This led to much unnecessary, useless, destruction.

When an anticonservationist action impinges directly on us the response is immediate. But when similar events are taking place outside of our immediate environment, such as the continuing destruction of what's left of our old growth forests, then we comfortably turn a blind eye in that direction and do nothing.

This devastation which is still being allowed to take place in these forest areas, sanctioned by both State and Federal Governments, is as much our business as the vandalism of the Prospect Council.

What a pity every paper in the country doesn't use words in editorials, such as I have just quoted above, to bring to the notice of us all (and this includes Politicians) on a regular basis, the rape of our natural heritage in the quest for the almighty dollar.

Just as was done in this case the battle is only going to be won by People Power - Action wrought by our voices - the voices of You and Me !!

WATER IT'S VITAL IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK A GUIDE TO WATER CONSERVATION

In the last few editions of "The Bushwalker" there have been articles and correspondence regarding water, but have yet to see any comprehensive guide to water conservation, so I decided to have a go myself.

If we make an effort to save water and encourage others to do likewise, then at the very least we will delay the need for more dams and perhaps in the meantime alternatives will be found to remove entirely the need for them at all.

Recently, the Water Board has provided everyone with an incentive to save water by introducing a "user pays" system of charging. This will take effect shortly and we should consider it as not only encouragement to save water, but a great opportunity to save some money at the same time.

GENERAL

Check your whole house for dripping taps and fix them. Sounds really trivial but a leaking tap is literally water and money down the drain. No excuses for this one and don't forget the hose taps outside.

Avoid running the tap without the plug in. The classic cases include, cleaning teeth, washing veges, and rinsing clothes or dishes. Put the plug in, run some water into the sink and turn the tap off. Do your washing or rinsing in the sink.

DISHWASHERS

Completely fill your dishwasher. Dishwashers use a lot of water and just as much whether empty or full. Instead of doing many small washes, save your dishes until you have a full load. Some dishwashers have economy cycles with fewer washes or rinses. Unless you have heavily soiled dishes use the economy cycle. If you are buying a new dishwasher, find out how much water it uses and buy the one that uses the least. These tips will not only save water but also the energy used for heating the water, which will result in a lower gas or electricity bill.

WASHING MACHINES

Buy a front loading washing machine. I know they cost more than top loading machines but think of the money you save by following this guide. Front loading machines use less water and electricity to do a wash than top loaders.

Read the manual. This may sound didactic, but washing machines have all sorts of options and some are useful. Even if you never read it again, have a look when

choosing a new machine to see how much water it uses and if it has the options you want.

Water Level Control: This adjusts how much water is used for a wash. If you have less than a full load then reduce the water level.

Suds Saving: Some machines let you save the wash water and return it for subsequent washes. This can be a bit awkward to set up, but if you often do several washes in a row you will save some water, washing powder and energy.

BATHROOM

Have shorter showers. Fairly obvious. The less time the shower is running the less water and energy is used.

Fit a controlled flow shower rose. These can reduce the water flow to just one third that of a normal shower rose. They will save you a lot of hot water as well as cold and this is a real bonus if you have a small hot water cylinder that always runs out. There are many different types on the market with many different spray patterns. Try to organise a demo to see which suits you best.

THE TOPS TO MYALL LAKES HERITAGE TRAIL

This new walking trail, first walked in 1992, will be walked again in 1993. A spectacular nature walk covers the Snowgums, the World Heritage Antarctic Beeches, Mosses, Rainforests.

Then follows the transition to the subtropical environment of the Lakes, the Palmforests of the lower Myall and the Heath, Dunescapes and Mangrove Wetlands of Hawkes Nest.

An illustrated "Guidebook for Walkers of the Tops to Myalls Heritage Trail." Over 40 pages, Maps, Altitude Profiles, Ecology etc will be available soon.

Also available is a "Walker's Guide to the Mungo Track" (\$3.50 plus postage) from

YHA Offices
422 Kent St
Sydney. 2000.

TOILET

Upgrade your cistern. Modern cisterns use less water than old cisterns. Dual flush cisterns use even less on the reduced flush. If your's isn't too old and has a push button on top, then there are kits available to convert to a dual flush.

Reduce the volume of your present cistern. People talk about putting bricks in the cistern. This is fine if you can fit a brick in (not a chance in mine) and don't drop it and crack the cistern. An alternative is water filled plastic bottles. These come in all shapes and sizes and can be found around the house containing dish-washing liquid and floor

cleaners etc. Use the ones that fit but make sure they don't interfere with the movement of the ball cock. Don't get so enthusiastic that you need two flushes every time you use the toilet.

GARDEN

Water the garden by hand. Sprinklers are indiscriminate about what they water and are too easy to forget. It doesn't help to water your paths or driveway and have the water evaporate or run down the drain. If you forget the sprinkler when going out or to bed then much more is wasted.

Only water when it is cool. Watering in the middle of a stinking hot day is very inefficient. Much of the water will evaporate before it gets anywhere near the plants roots and you need to apply much more to compensate. Wait till the evening or early morning when the day is cooler.

Use a mulch on the garden. Mulches reduce the water loss by evaporation so less watering is required. Materials like bark or woodchips are OK but you can build a compost heap instead and use the compost produced. This is also an excellent way of getting rid of your food scraps and garden clippings while improving your soil.

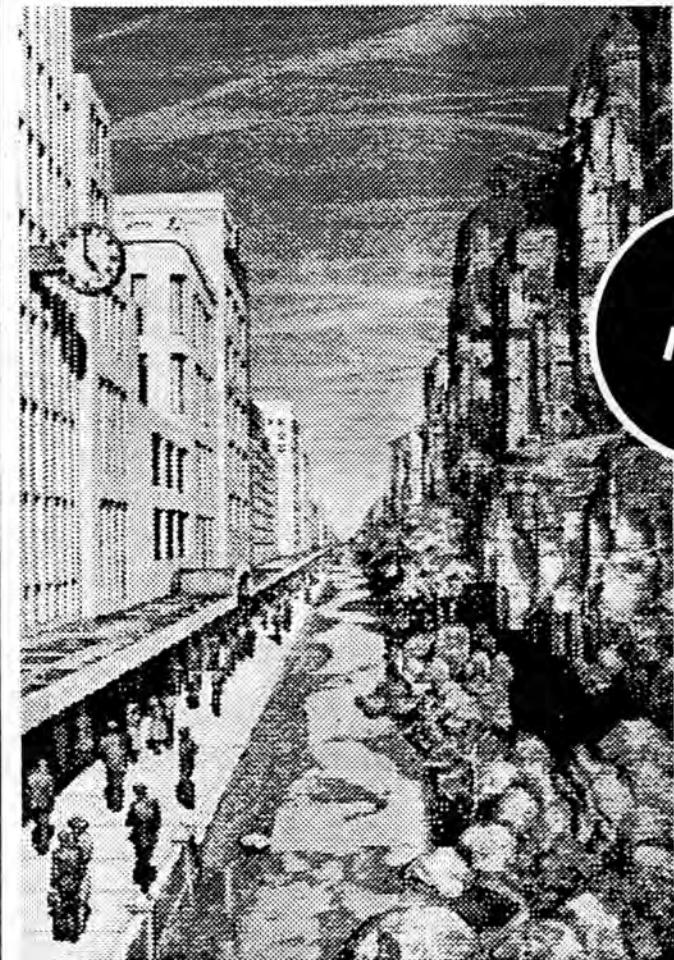
Grow native plants. Do you really want to spend your time keeping plants alive that were never meant to grow in this climate? Toss them on the compost heap and replace with natives or anything that can cope without much water. Go bushwalking in the time you used to spend watering.

Install a rainwater tank. This will require approval from your council and that may be a problem. Some councils will agree but if your's won't then make a fuss. If there is sufficient demand from the community they will have to agree eventually. Their concern is likely to be that they have no control over the quality of the water in the tank. This is fair enough given that we have little idea what is falling on our roofs every day, but you're not going to use the tank for drinking water. Use it instead for watering the garden, washing the car or perhaps to supply the toilet cistern.

Wash the car/boat/bike on the lawn. Washing these on the street or driveway results in the water running down the drain and ending up in the nearest creek, harbour or ocean. Washing them on the lawn will save you having to water it later and you can spend your time doing something else. Use a bucket and sponge rather than leaving the hose running and just use the hose for the final rinse off.

Much of this information, and some of it in more depth, is available in Water Board pamphlets which can be picked up from their offices. If you have any more ideas, or wish to expand on these, then please write them down and let me and other bushwalkers know.

It's Time to go



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HOW IT BEGAN

C. M. W.

THE COAST AND MOUNTAIN WALKERS

On the 14th February, 1934, Ninian Melville called a meeting at his home in Strathfield where the 11 people present formed the Club. By October, a constitution had been adopted, and there were 30 members and prospectives.

Nin was elected Manager, a position he filled very well - so well did he manage that soon the first of a strong contingent women walkers that has always been one of its features. Of these, Evelyn Millard from SBW, was to become Nin's wife.

The love of the bush, the pleasure of walking and discovering the wild and beautiful places, and the recognition of the need to work for the conservation of this heritage so that others may enjoy it - these have always been the reasons why people have joined our club and found their lives enriched by the fellowship of likeminded walkers.

From our first secretary Charlie Roberts, a fine bushman and passionate conservationist (he was an early trustee for Bouddi N.P.) to our two life-members, Colin Watson and Stan Cottier we've worked within Federation for the aims stated above. Both Stan and Colin were awarded the O.A.M. for their services to Bushwalking and Conservation.

"Coast and Mountain Walkers" has proved an appropriate name for us, and there can't be many mountain or Coastal walking areas where our emblem "The Boot" has not been seen.

Things may have changed a bit from the first issue of our journal, "Into the Blue" in September, 1935, when the trips reported included a 12 day walk from Kanangra to Hill Top on which the men shot rabbits to feed the party, and bought extra supplies at Bimlow, now at the bottom of Lake Burratorong.

Then there was a canoe trip down the Warragamba River in a canoe homemade of cedar, covered with duck.

It was nearly 5m long and weighed 41Kg.

Still, even today, people find challenges and unusual to go. Just look at our Walks Program - there you find a choice each weekend of three 2-day walks and possibly a day walk too.

Last January there were more than 50 CMWs (in a number of parties) walking in the Snowies, others in Tassie and NZ, and at present we have walkers in Alaska, Canada and France.

Women have always had an important and equal role in the Club. In W.W.2 our long-time secretary Daphne Ball held the Club together and along with SBW women have always numbered among our strongest and most active walkers.

I'm sure the equality and comradeship found in walking has had spin-offs in the attitudes Club members take to their spheres of life.

Now, under the leadership of our second woman President, Gwen Bednal, and with nearly 300 members, we look forward to our 60th Anniversary as another milestone in the history of our Club.

Barbara Nivison-Smith - CMW

1993 ANZAC SERVICE SPLENDOUR ROCK

I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with its solemn significance and the memories which flooded back of the numerous times I had walked in the area. And of the first drive out when there was no locked gate.

Despite the limited publicity 16 cars turned up at Megalong Crossing and Robyn Cox (Confederation President) acting as traffic warden managed to get some order into the car-swap necessary to get the some 130 bodies to the start of the walk in.

In the middle of all this my daughter was trying to practice her violin, out of sight, music behind a tree.

The air of excitement was almost tangible as we all started the walk out to Splendour Rock. Some chose to go via Black Horse Gap while others, like my Club, went up through Mobbs Swamp.

Camping in top of Mt Dingo was just like an old Federation Reunion. Myles Dunphie's "people of the little tents" were scattered everywhere among the trees.

There was plenty of time before dinner for a stroll down to the Rock with my older daughter, Alison. In the mild afternoon warmth there were bushwalkers all over the Rock, soaking

up its special atmosphere while some helped each other up and down the chains below the rock.

As we dashed back to beat the sunset and fading light others were heading out to watch it.



Naturally there was a campfire on the Saturday night. The many Clubs (16 of them) present produced a range of entertainments. The incongruity of a Jamaican born CMW walker singing "Men of Harlech" in original Welsh was as unforgettable as David Shepherd's hesitant rendering of "The Man from Snowy River" with the audience filling in whenever he faltered.

Sam reveille by our trumpeter, Louise de Beuzeville, really woke the camp. A light drizzling rain that had moved in overnight easily set the mind thinking of the solemnity of the occasion.

There was muffled talking while, with the aid of torchlight we prepared for the predawn trek to the Rock for the Service.

We joined onto the back of the "congo" line of walkers picking their way along the track with little flashes of light here and there.

Somehow about 130 walkers (including children) squeezed onto the outcrops surrounding Splendour Rock. We were ready for the Service when someone realised that the wreath was still back at camp. Dawn had to wait while a runner was sent back to fetch it.

Robyn then led the simple Service and the remembrances of the three people who were present original 1948 Dedication of the Plaque helped link us to that first Service. Those three people were, Stan Cottier, Joan and Bruce Morison.

Rumbling stomachs finally forced us to return to camp for breakfast then to break camp for the walk out all of which was a little anticlimactic now that the Service was over. However, we had a deadline to meet at Medlow Gap so we could join the convoy out.

On the drive home the special uniqueness of our Service in the bush was forcibly impressed on me when I observed the tailend of the mid-afternoon Service and commencement of the March at the Blackheath War Memorial.

At Splendour Rock there were no medalled uniforms, no flags, no police escort, yet I am sure that our Service will be remembered for much longer.

Keith Maxwell - Mt Druitt B\W Club.



NAV
93
RESULTS

AMAZING, ONLY 17 TEAMS OF BUSHWALKERS out of 67 competed in this excellent exercise. Of these 17 Teams, 13 came from 8 CLUBS. Span 5, Sutherland 4, Nepean 2 and Central West 2. The others were Camden, Southern Highlands, Mt Druitt and ANC.

Congratulations to those Clubs who participated and to the overwhelming number of Emergency Services who took part.

Winners and Place Getters were :-

TWO DAY EVENT

1. SPAN B/W TEAM 3
2. KANG. VALLEY B/FIRE BRIGADE
3. SUTHERLAND B/W TEAM 1

Class 2

1. SUTHERLAND B/W TEAM 4
2. SPAN B/W TEAM 4
3. SPAN B/W TEAM 2

Class 3

- G.MERCER & A.TYSON

ONE DAY EVENT

1. KATOOMBA POLICE RESCUE
2. CENTRAL WEST B/W TEAM 1
3. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS B/W

Class 2

1. NSW NORDIC SKI CLUB TEAM 2
2. 1st SPRINGWOOD SCOUTS
3. NSW NORDIC SKI CLUB TEAM 1

Class 3

1. I. MCKENZIE, I. CAMERON
2. A. DUNK, M. DUNK
3. B. MacAULEY, C. NIMMO, G. DAVEY

NAV 93

FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

There were four of us in the Span 3 Team this year. Bob King - veteran of all five navigation shields, and leader/organiser of the team: Wayne Tyrrol - senior team member, a keen outdoors person and experienced rogainer, who works in an outdoors shop in Wollongong; Victor Torres - the youngest and fittest team member, competing in his second navigation shield; and Chris Paul - veteran of the last 3 navigation shields.

Arriving at the campsite at about 10.30pm on Friday night we were pleased to be able to copy the check points onto our map there and then. We planned a route which we considered would maximise our points.

Our basic philosophy was to go for high scoring (off track - scrubby) check points during the daylight hours then at night we would a: go to "easy navigable" checks and b: walk long distances along roads to position ourselves near more high scoring check points Sunday's daylight hours.

At 8.30am on Saturday morning we were away heading for the Eastern check points. We kept meeting the Katoomba Police Team (who won the day event). I was very impressed at the level of their navigation skill and their speed through the bush.

We arrived at radio check point 2 just after dark and sat down for an hour, eating, getting warm round the fire, joining in the general conversation but not letting on how well we were going. We then left for our long night march to the 8 point check on the far northern extremity of the course.

On the map it appeared to be on a very prominent, well defined ridge and so the navigation should be easy. We found it - exactly where it should be but the pagodas and level of rock climbing required to get there was not shown on the map.

By this time the moon had gone down and made navigation harder. Having decided not to camp on the road near the Army Team we moved back to radio check point 2, arriving there at 3.30am for a well earned sleep. At this stage we had 62 points and were feeling very tired.

Nevertheless, we were on the go again by 7am on Sunday, aiming for the high scoring Western checks, and by the time we got back to base we were almost dead. But the pain from walking along hard roads, twisting ankles and knees further than they were meant to go, from the constant scrub-bashing which scratched cut into our bodies, was over.

Various people tried to get information from me as to our score. "How'd you go Chris?" "OK Colin." - "Did you get more than 60 points?" "Oh yea." However it wasn't long before the winners were announced. We had won! Everyone now knew that we had scored 86 points, beating the nearest rival by 11 points, the next two teams scoring 75 and 69 points.

Winning has given us great pleasure, since winning had eluded us on every previous occasion. However, we had an experienced team and we believed we could do it.

We were all fit, could navigate accurately and move quickly over difficult terrain and had walked as fast as our bodies allowed. It took those bodies 2 or 3 days to recover, but it was all worth it and hopefully we'll be back in 1994! I am proper that we thank the many people who were necessary to organise such an event:-

First, the S&R Committee of Federation, who have tirelessly organised this event, for the last five years, with the added burden of its growth.

Second, the Springwood Bushwalking Club, who set the course and did the catering. The points were accurately placed - no mean feat, and the food was "yummy".

Third, thanks to the presenters of the prizes but wish to point out to the retired policeman, that to score 86 points in an event of this nature we did not have one second to be "undisciplined or unruly" as he suggested most bushwalkers were.

Fourth, to our Club, Span, who fielded another 4 teams - the greatest number ever entered by one club.

And Last, to the leader Bob King and the other two lads of our team, thanks for getting along so well, for giving moral support when needed, and for being tactful when pointing out a navigator's error.

Chris Paul - Span Bushwalking Club.

No, I don't think it has anything to do with the hole in the ozone layer!



LETTERS NEEDED FOR SOUTH EAST FOREST PROTECTION

After 20 years of conflict surrounding the woodchipping of the old growth and wilderness forests of the south east of New South Wales their protection is imminent.

The South East Forests Protection Bill will place 90,000ha of forest under moratorium while a national park system is determined by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and alternative economic strategies are investigated by a regional committee.

The Bill, passed by the Lower House of Parliament on May 21, will be debated in the Upper House when Parliament resumes in September.

The votes of the Reverend Fred and Mrs Elaine Nile will determine the successful passage of the Bill.

Although the Reverend Nile has already acknowledged the enormous community support for the Bill the South East Forest Alliance urges you to write to the Niles today at :-

Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney 2000.

Every letter is valued.
For further information please contact

Fiona McCrossin,
SEFA, Shop 1,
Gloucester Walk,
88 Cumberland Street,
Sydney, 2000
Ph.(02) 2471737

VOLUME NUMBERS

At the insistence of a certain person, who shall remain nameless, you may have noticed this issue has a Vol No.

To the best of "our" knowledge this No is in correct sequence.

PRESIDENT'S PLATITUDES.

It has been a very eventful year for the Confederation with all officers working hard at their various jobs.

If you have any ideas on how we can improve our operation, or any matters on which we need to concentrate then please let us know.

The only way Confederation can be of use to its members in matters concerning them, or with which they need help or backing, is by them raising these questions, either in a letter to Confed. addressed to the appropriate officer (if possible) or through your Club's Councillor.

Your Confederation meets every month on the Third Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Ashfield R.S.L., Liverpool Rd, Ashfield. Or if you are writing then address is Box 2090 G.P.O. Sydney, 2001.

Our Newsletter, "The Bushwalker" is also a vehicle of communication, so please use it - the editor would be glad to hear from you.

Safe and Happy bushwalking to all !

Robyn Cox - President.

2nd ANNUAL S&R CONFERENCE

This was held on July 24, '93 at Cliff Dr Wahroonga, with 11 Clubs attending.

Peter Treseder, S&R's Assistant Director gave a brief history of S&R in NSW and the organisation of the present Confederation S&R. This covered the regular meetings, the practice days, the navigation shield and the publicity.

As you will have read elsewhere in this newsletter the Navigation Shield weekend was a great success, one Club team winning the major Two Day event and the other 2nd in the One Day event.

Representatives were then asked to give a brief rundown on their club's S&R activities throughout the year.

Dot Butler, ever ready to tell a great story, was kind enough to tell us about some funny S&R incidents of the early days.

Peter then answered a number of questions from the reps before the group broke for lunch. The rest of the afternoon was spent in some abseiling and rock climbing practice.

In all a worthwhile day was had by all present and it was noted that no-one got lost finding the venue.

Robyn Cox - Bankstown B/W

* WANTED * CONTRIBUTORS

If you read this magazine you could possibly become one of our contributors.

Again, if you have read more than one of these publications you would have some idea of the type of material which makes copy.

As is stated on page 10 the material used has to be relevant to bushwalkers. This covers a variety of allied topics and if applicable the politics thereof.

Topics of a controversial nature will be accepted unless they are defamatory or libellous.

PLEASE REMEMBER the publication is QUARTERLY in FEB., MAY, AUG. and NOV., so you have to THINK AHEAD.

Thinking ahead is important. As you will see, this is the Spring edition and there are still no articles on Cross-Country Skiing. The reason - NO MATERIAL.

So POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS, PLEASE let's have your ms, preferably on disk - IBM compatible - DOS or WP 5.1 files - I'm a slow typist.

The EDITOR

WARNING FROM THE WATER BOARD

ILLEGAL HELICOPTER SET-DOWNS WARRAGAMBA SPECIAL AREA

There have been an increasing number of illegal helicopter set-downs within the water protection zone around Lake Burratorang.

The main area of concern has been the Cox's River, downstream of Kooricone Ridge. The purpose being to drop off and pick up anglers, who camp and fish there.

Since camping and fishing is prohibited in this area, except for the legal passage of bushwalkers, the Board is requesting your assistance in reducing the number of illegal entries into this area.

If this activity is witnessed would you note the location of set-down, the type of helicopter, call-sign (registration number) and colour scheme.

REPORT the information to the Catchment Protection Officers on (047 5918880)

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VICTORIAN HILLS ARE STEEPER

My article "A Matter of Religion" drew a response from Gordon Lee entitled "In Defence of Volleys" which had a few points in it that are not correct.

After living in Victoria for many years, I have been a permanent resident in Sydney, NSW for two years, during which time I have done over 30 trips to all the main, and some remote, walking areas in the State. Over the last 10 years I have bushwalked throughout most of Australia, and in that time have used both boots and Volleys extensively and heard from many others on the topic.

My dissent with Gordon's views are not really on the boots versus volleys issue, where we each have recounted our own impressions and experiences. My response is to three other points.

To say "I have never walked in Victoria" and in the same breath "it is a load of old rubbish that lifts of 800 to 1000m are more common south of the border" probably answers itself in terms of an informed assessment. It is a fact that mountain country commonly used by Melbourne Clubs for weekend walks is generally higher and involves longer and steeper climbs than that accessed by Sydney Clubs.

Sydney may have the 3 Peaks area, but most of the others are no more than 300 to 400m climbs. There are longer ascents further south - Deua, Brogo, Kosciusko - but these are usually subject to less frequent visits.

examples. But rest assured we have plenty of mountains; places such as Tasmania, Namadgi, the Howitt region or the Kimberley. What our mountains lack in size they compensate for in ruggedness and grandeur - the equal of anything overseas.

I agree with Gordon about there being a lack of canyons in Victoria; it also has less waterfalls and gorge country, both in quality and spectacle. The remarks on the lack of reasoning in wearing boots in the Snowies is also pertinent.

If by "horrendous" Gordon is insinuating that the Victorian countryside is devoid of natural beauty as well as being brutally rugged, let me assure him it is not so. the mountainous high country is resplendent with flowers in summer, and a delight for the skier in winter; there magnificent mountain forests and a beautiful less-populated coastline, and also semi-arid parks. There is as much to offer walkers as in NSW.

So there you have it - and lastly a challenge! If anyone out there still disagrees with me, see me directly or on my walks and I'll prove it to you, but no written slanging matches please! Now back to the bomb shelter and I ain't coming back out!

WHAT'S LEFT OF THE CONFEDERATION CALENDAR

- * Sept. 3 Annual Bush Dance
- * Oct. 16/17 S & R Training Weekend
- * 23/24 First Aid Course
- * Nov. 6/7 Kanangra Walls

By contrast, commonly walked areas for Melbourne Clubs - Bluff, Howitt, Speculation, Donna Buong, Juliet, Bogong - all have long, consistently steep climbs of over 800m. The topographical maps and club programs are proof of this.

It rather prates to read "Australia has no real mountains - the terrain is all eroded plateau." Some parts certainly are - Central Blue Mountains and Wollemi are good

Andrew Menk - CMW

YHA 50 PEAKS 17/18 APRIL, 1993

On the weekend of 17/18 April 1993, 75 teams set out to climb 50 different NSW and ACT mountain peaks. Teams came from all over the State, from many different organisations, to celebrate YHA NSW's 50th Anniversary.

After much agonising by the organisers, who included Peter Treseder and Greg Mortimer, the peaks were chosen to represent the wide diversity of scenery and terrain around the State.

There was a peak for everyone ranging from modest day walks like Mt Kosciusko and Pigeon House to challenging weekend trips like Mt Mistake and Gospers Mountain.

A modest team entry fee raised \$1000 for NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Club's Search and Rescue service. A number of sponsors gave assistance including Paddy Pallin and Eastern Australian Airlines.

It was a relief to everyone that the weekend was clear and bright almost everywhere around the State and nearly all teams achieved their goal of being on the summit of their chosen peak by 11.00am on Sunday morning.

A large crowd gathered at Echo Point in the Blue Mountains to see Dot Butler accompanied by Peter Treseder climb the

Three Sisters and raise the YHA flag on the summit. For Peter, this was his fiftieth peak in 8 days, as he set out and conquered all the designated peaks in an amazing 197 hours.

Everyone who climbed a peak was a winner and great stories abound of champagne parties on the summit, balloons and streamers, flags and singing. One group even managed to have a complete formal meal, including dinner suits and ball gowns, table and candles, violin music and champagne on the summit of The Castle!

PETER TRESEDER'S 50 PEAKS

During 1992 Peter Treseder was approached by YHA to be involved in organising an outdoor event called 50 Peaks.

This request sowed a seed in Peter's mind - was it possible to do all 50 Peaks in one continuous trip? He did - starting Saturday 10 April on Lord Howe Island climbing Mt Gower and finishing 8 days (197 hours) later on the Three Sisters.

Peter walked, jogged and ran up 50 Peaks. He estimates he covered 550kms on foot over all sorts of terrain, as well as thousands of kilometres driving from peak to peak.

Peter's plan involved a route that covered the peaks in a logical driving sequence but this, as he discovered is not necessarily the most logical way to walk them. Having returned from Lord Howe, he headed west through the Colo-Wollemi National Park, then north through the Warrumbungles to Mt Lindesay near the Queensland border. A long drive south brought him through the Budawangs followed by a 16 hour run in one day through Kosciusko National Park which knocked off 9 peaks in one go.

Then there were scattered peaks like The Rock at Wagga and Mt Imlay near Bega to pick up, before the final drive north through Kanangra leading to a successful fiftieth peak climb at the Three Sisters with Dot Butler.

Peter says the scariest peak was soloing Crater Bluff whilst one of the most difficult and longest climbs was Mt Mistake in the Colo, due to the long access, big elevations and cliff lines. Some climbs could be done at a rapid jog like Mt Yerranderie whilst some mountains like Mt Dromedaryat were located and climbed at night.

Car problems later in the trip meant Peter and his support team of drivers were pushing hard over the last couple of days.

Climbing Mt Solitary at dawn on Sunday 18 April, Peter then sprinted round to the Three Sisters to start the final climb cheered on by a large group of supporters. With Dot Butler he ascended the summit of the Middle Sister at 11.00am.

Asked if there were times he felt like pulling out, Peter says 'You are always saying to yourself you should pull out and stop. It's a pretty lonely feeling when you're tired and in the middle of the night you have to get out of the car and disappear into the scrub. But you either do it or you don't. They are a fantastic set of peaks, with excellent variety and great scenery'.

Fiona McCrossin - SEFA



**WE
NEED
YOU**

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE ROCK SQUAD

About five years ago I joined the Rock Squad, a sub-group of the Search and Rescue of the Confederation.

With the increased popularity of rock related activities, particularly canyoning, I could see a need for a group capable of rescuing people from difficult situations.

Such a group would have to be comfortable with outdoor activities in general. They would have to know the mechanics of rescuing someone from heights, how to operate as a team and of course be fit enough to do so.

Their gear would have to be light enough to be carried the distances to rescues in remote areas.

What we have done in the past five years is to take a group with bush related skills and teach them the techniques of rescue.

I am now looking to increase the numbers in the group and I invite those people interested, male or female, to phone me on (02)4894182 between 7.30 and 9.30pm from the 5th to the 15th October, 1993.

Ideally, the people interested should have a background in bushwalking, rockclimbing or canyoning or a combination of these skills.

If you don't have any of these, but are still keen, please call me anyway; I'm interested in keen, enthusiastic people.

Peter Treseder.

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YOU SHOULD READ THIS

YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE

Authors: Chris Dolan and Don Harris
Publishers: Longman Cheshire Pty Ltd

No, this is not a book about Australian Bushrangers - the annotation below the title "Towards a better Australian Environment" enlightens the reader as to its contents.

Although the publication is obviously a text book for students, to be used in "Social Studies" or "Environmental Studies" this is of little consequence. It is a comprehensive review of the threats to the environment which need be brought to our notice.

The book is very well laid out, deals with environmental issues in simple language and the text is backed by innumerable maps, diagrams, and colour photos. Sections into which this volume is divided makes it easy to go immediately to most environmental questions of interest.

Because the book is written for students it contains many activities, stimulation exercises and topics for discussion and debate which in my opinion add to its value as an addition to the library of every bushwalker whose conservation zeal needs a little education or motivation from time to time.

Editor.

THE HUME AND HOVELL WALKING TRACK GUIDEBOOK By Harry Hill.

The Guidebook is divided into two parts. Part 1: The Expedition of 1824 - 25 is a very lively and readable account of the original journey, with brief, enlightening biographies of Hamilton Hume and Captain William Hovell that clearly show their very different backgrounds and characters.

Though their equipment was poor and their support negligible, the success of their journey was a real triumph of guts and determination.

Author, Hill, draws on notes from Hovell's journals and his own research to provide a most satisfying short history of the remarkable trek.

THE BUSHWALKER 10

Part 2: The Walking Track. This covers everything a bushwalker needs to know.

Track conditions, transport to starting points and nearest accommodation, and facilities at track heads are clearly noted.

There are recommendations for walks from half a day to 6 days, with all relevant information. Meticulously annotated and cross-referenced, this part has 26 sections, each accompanied by maps which have historical references.

This is obviously a well produced book for which the researched information is thorough. A personal criticism, though minor, is that I feel there should have been more photo illustrations interleaved in the "Sections and Maps" half of the book.

The Guidebook is priced at \$19.95 rrp but a Special Discount of 40% is offered to Bushwalking Clubs who purchase more than 6 copies. Orders should be addressed to: Millennium Books,
32 Alice St,
Newtown. 2042.

BUSHWALKING IN KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

This, the second, revised edition of Charles Warner's book deals with the subject in a general but reasonably comprehensive manner. The author has had nearly 60 years' experience of walking in Australia and for about 30 of those years walked in Kosciusko National Park.

It does not, as he states give detailed track notes for specific walks, but does give sufficient information for the experienced walker (at whom the book is aimed) to plan a walk in a selected area.

Much of the information is directed to the subject of the uniqueness of walking in this alpine region of Australia and emphasis is placed on the warning that this country cannot be taken lightly.

General information covers such subjects as Geology, Fauna and Flora, Access to the Park (as well as to each area covered) to how to deal with snakebite.

All the maps used are, of necessity, small scale, but the way in which they have been reproduced, without extraneous material such as contour lines, leaves them easy to follow. When planning a trip in a certain area the transfer to the larger scale maps available of the chosen area is a simple matter.

Although the photos are in black and white they should be sufficient to whet the appetite of most walkers to induce them, if not to plan an imminent visit, at least to put it on the "must" list for the future.

Editor.



**KEEP THOSE ARTICLES AND LETTERS
COMING BUT REMEMBER I HAVE A
DEADLINE !!**

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT BUSHWALKER

26-10-93 26th OCT., '93 26-10-93

B THE BUSHWALKER

GPO BOX 2090 SYDNEY 2001

**The Newsletter of the Confederation of
Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.**

The Bushwalker is published quarterly as a voluntary effort and any assistance offered is most welcome.

The Aim of The Bushwalker is to provide articles and information that relate to, and are relevant to, the **Member Clubs** of the Confederation.

Contributions and Suggestions should be sent to **THE EDITOR** at the address noted below and must be accompanied by the name and address of the author.

Any Opinions Expressed by individual authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.

Information from or about Confederation can be obtained from our answering service by ringing (02) 548 1228. This operates in and out of office hours - but no late night calls please.

Advertising Rates are available on request. Ring (043) 885589 to discuss your needs.

Distribution is through the affiliated Clubs and through major retail outlets.

THE EDITOR: Gordon Lee (SBW)
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BARRINGTON TOPS NATIONAL PARK

ALLYN RIVER DAY WALKS 2

You may perhaps remember a previous article "Allyn River Day Walks 1" where a party of Morisset Bushwalkers had gone to the Barrington Tops to do some interesting walks in the area.

After doing the walks described they had returned to camp on the Allyn and bedded down for the night....

The camp bugler wasn't very popular when she woke us for breakfast 2 hrs early because her alarm clock was fast. Oh well! it did give us a nice early start for our first walk for the day.

Although only a short walk is full of delightful surprises. On leaving camp we crossed the bridge over the river and about 100m further you bear right and follow the track.

Here there were many large trees (the different species are named) where there are orchids and tree ferns in abundance. One of the trees, a strangler fig, is reputed to be the largest in the area. It was immense.

Part of this walk takes you along the east bank of the river the "music" of the river as it ripples over the smooth river stones is a pleasant accompaniment. What a great place this is!

Then back to camp for a quick "cuppa" pack our tents before driving about 15Km to Mt Allyn, just over 1000m high, in an area which is the second highest in Australia and is well worth the walk to the top. The last kilometre of the drive is closed due to a landslide. A thirty minute walk rewards us with a 360 degree panorama of the surrounding country.

The magnificent view over the valleys and up to Careys Peak and the thickly treed Barrington Tops is breathtaking. On a clear day on the western side it is possible to see the Bayswater Power Station in the distance through a gap in the mountain range.

A southerly view is entirely different as it overlooks the many cleared areas which are the dairy farms towards Paterson.

After leaving Mt Allyn and down the other side, a kilometre deeper into the forest brings us, perhaps, to the highlight of our two days in this wonderful forest country -

The Burraga Swamp walk. Again this is a short walk of 800m commencing at the picnic area which is surrounded by Negrohead Beech trees some of which are reputed to be over 1000 years old. These trees are the most occurrence in NSW.

When there is fog or low cloud, this can be quite an eerie walk - an enchanted forest - everything is so still, so quiet and hazy, ever so peaceful. As we pass through a fantastic stand of evergreen tree ferns and huge trees we finally come to an unusual, circular swamp covering about a hectare.

This is a natural basin filled with peat moss to a depth of about two metres and is surrounded on all sides by hills covered in dense towering rainforest.

A walk out on to this swamp is quite an experience as the surface moves underfoot like walking on a huge firm jelly or a gigantic trampoline. This walk is a must when in the Allyn Forest and, in addition, the drive up to it is very pleasant indeed.

So it was back to the cars for lunch before reluctantly returning home after a marvellous two days in this wonderful part of our country.

Eric Power - Morissett Bushwalkers

FIRST AID COURSE

A Confederation First Aid Course will be held on 23 / 24 Oct. at

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