

THE Bushwalker MAY '93

Newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.

ISSN 0313 2684

OUTDOOR RECREATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING

ACCREDITATION OF PARTY LEADERS

A POSSIBLE OUTCOME

We understand there is a move by various Australian government authorities to require leaders of outdoor parties to undergo formal testing and obtain accreditation. We also understand that the supposed targets are commercial operators, youth leaders and the like, and that the Confederation has become involved so as to ensure that such an imposition would not be made on bushwalking clubs and their leaders.

ACCREDITATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY ENSURE SAFETY

The Springwood Club has passed a motion which expresses opposition to the accreditation proposals. It is believed that the introduction of compulsory accreditation is inappropriate, not only in the case of bushwalking clubs, but in most situations involving wilderness pursuits. Our reasons are as follows :-

1. Despite publicity given to the high incidence and cost of searches in our own region, there is no evidence that compulsory accreditation would significantly alleviate the situation. We believe that an analysis of the facts would reveal the vast majority of cases involve miscellaneous unprepared members of the public, or arise from genuine accidents or unforeseen circumstances (e.g. flooded rivers)

2. We are not aware that accreditation regimes in Victoria and Britain have made those places any better off. Indeed, we understand that in Britain the reverse has applied in many cases. Wilderness leaders obtain a "ticket" and are immediately assumed to be competent without regard to longterm experience and peer assessment.

3. Compulsory accreditation amounts to a reduction of freedom in an area in which freedom is the very essence of the pursuit. When, one day, no-one can enter a wilderness without a doctor's certificate, an insurance policy, a telephone and an accredited leader, the meaning of wilderness will have vanished.

3. Where is the push for accreditation coming from? Is it from bureaucrats concerned with creation of red tape, and parties who have an interest in setting up courses? Where is the push from the public and wilderness users?

5. It is our understanding that the move does not have the support of a number of highly experienced wilderness

come to see clubs as inferior if their leaders are not accredited.

In the event that clubs are affected, who will be leaders? Who is going to go to the expense of accreditation, apart from those motivated by commercial interests? There will be fewer voluntary, competent leaders offering their services to the community. This will benefit commercial operators and increase the number of haphazard unorganised walking parties with all the increased risks they entail.

Members of the Springwood Club who are Scout Leaders are frustrated at the increasing regulation of outdoor pursuits in the Scout Movement - their valuable community work is likely to be short-lived.

Roger Lembit - Springwood Bushwalking Club

CONFEDERATION CALENDAR

1993

March 27/28

Search and Rescue Training

April 17/18

YHA 50 Peaks

24/25

ANZAC Memorial Weekend at Splendour Rock

* May 29/30

First Aid Course

* June 25/26

S & R Rogaine

* Aug. 21/22

AGM and Conference

* Sept. 3

Annual Bush Dance

* Oct. 16/17

S & R Training Weekend

* 23/24

First Aid Course

* Nov. 6/7

Kanangra Walls

Track Maintenance

We accept that some high risk activities such as canyoning, rock-climbing and ski-touring may need some regulation in the future. However, these can be dealt with on a needs basis, by the relevant Parks authority.

Despite assurances that bushwalking clubs would not be affected, introduction of compulsory accreditation would inevitably lead to further restrictions in an increasingly regulated and litigious society. For instance, we believe it is likely that insurance companies will require bushwalking clubs to ensure leaders are accredited for policies to be valid. The public may

CONFEDERATION COMMUNICATION

A. G. M.

21 AUGUST 1993

10am

BURWOOD R.S.L.

96 SHAFESBURY ROAD
BURWOOD

prevent destructive dam construction. It is not enough for Confederation to lobby on Bushwalking Issues, some of the burden must be carried by the Clubs.

Some of this "burden sharing" can be seen in the efforts of one of our smaller clubs, Camden, which did a sterling job in holding 2 great "Conversation not Competition" weekends last year - we look forward to other clubs doing something along these lines in the future. Don't wait to be asked, host your own and invite others.

We are still short of our full compliment of officers and some of them wear more than one "hat." Most are involved in more than one Confed. job of work. The secretary is the NCC delegate and is on the Kosciusko Advisory Committee. The Newsletter Editor is the delegate to the Leadership Certification Committee and is the voice on our answering service. (The President herself has a hand in almost everything and contributes enormously - Ed.)

Some of the work done by our Officers and Committees is :-

Conservation: They have been working to keep our name linked with such diverse issues as "The Gardens of Stone mining," the "Welcome Reef Dam," "Logging in Southern NSW and Tasmania," etc. to name a few.

Search & Rescue: The "Quiet Achievers."

This is the Committee who organise and run the Annual Rogaine (Nav 93), the other 3 annual practices and of course any rescues that happen to turn up. They now have their own captive First Aid Instructor so as to give you cheaper courses.

Publicity Officer: Reading the next Article will give you some idea of the work before and during the 10 long hard days of the Sydney Sports Show. Organising a bunch of people into some sort of routine - a feat in itself. Then there is constant task in trying to improve the image of Confederation - all in the year's work.

The Ball Committee: We continue to profit from this event, which reflects the dedication to their task. Keep up the good work!

The Newsletter: Continues to improve. This is the most important disseminator of information next to the minutes and the Editor spends a lot of his time trying to keep the Bushwalking fraternity entertained and informed. (We need YOUR articles - Ed)

Minutes Secretary: Without whose efforts the minutes would not be sent out

each month. One more of those demanding jobs that is part and parcel of the routine of running the Confed..

All of our Officers and Committees work tirelessly at just keeping up with the incoming and outgoing mail, requests and annual events that are organised - remember that this is all voluntary.

Robyn Arthur - President

THE SYDNEY SPORTS SHOW

The show was a great success with the stand jammed with people and three or four deep at the desk during busy times on the opening weekend and on Australia Day.

Two groups of people predominated in those seeking information from us; the young, those in their late teens and early twenties, many of whom had a flavour of bush sports through Scouts, Outward Bound, School etc. and were now seeking a way to get back 'out there.' And the second group; people whose children had grown up and who now find themselves with time to spare. Many of them were already walking and were interested to hear the benefits of walking with a Club.

Clubs catering for the younger age group in central Sydney like Span, Ramblers, the University Clubs and Three Peaks, the suburban clubs such as Bankstown, Camden, Sutherland and those up on the Central Coast can expect a rush of applicants if the show was anything to go by.

It was an excellent venue to pass on the good word about the activities of your Confederation and the benefits to gained from joining a club.

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR TIME AND MONEY TO MAKE THE SHOW A SUCCESS

My special thanks to all those people who gave up their personal time to assist on the stand. Many came considerable distances by public transport, others paid large sums of money to park their vehicles at Darling Harbour. We had our stand covered by at least two people for three shifts a day for nine days. A great effort!

Clubs who provided volunteers were Camden, CMW, Fairfield, Mt Druitt, Span, Springfield and Sydney Uni. all of whom provided between one and three people each. Bankstown, The Bush Club, N.P.A. and Sutherland, who really pulled out the stops and provided between nine and eleven people each. If I have left anyone out, I apologise.

Like the makeup of Confederation office holders and S&R organisers we once again have a demonstration of where the support and energy comes from that keeps our organisation viable.

It is through events like the Sports Show that we can spread the word about our insurance schemes, first aid courses and search and rescue activities. These will provide us with a defence against the threat of bureaucracy and all the control it would like to impose that would turn bush sports from joy to an over regulated nightmare.

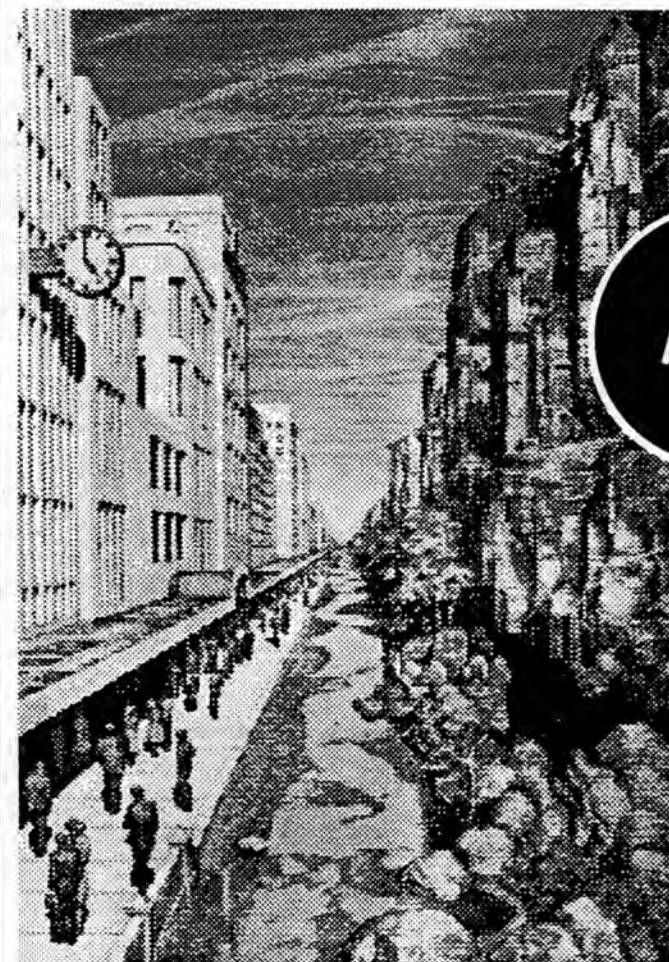
Simon Knight - Publicity Officer - Sutherland

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT THE YEAR TO DATE

Our Officers have worked hard on many issues each month and have given the meeting full reports on their activities. This information is fed back to the Clubs in the form of the MINUTES.

Please try to encourage Club members to read these as our Officers try to advise on how to handle some of these matters. e.g. Writing to Ministers and Local Members on Conservation matters; lobbying on Water Conservation so as to try to

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HOW IT BEGAN

TALBINGO & DISTRICT BUSHWALKERS CLUB

The southern NSW township of Talbingo, surrounded by mountains on the northern edge of the Kosciusko National Park, witnessed the birth of the Talbingo & District Bushwalkers Club at a meeting on Tuesday 26th February, 1980.

The genesis of our club was a very innocent and humble event, and the progenitor - or perhaps progenitrix - was **Elizabeth Pearce**. Liz at the time was in her late 70's and with her husband, Terry, managed the Talbingo Caravan Park.

During the September school holidays, Liz prevailed on Jack Bridle, an original Talbingo identity to lead a short visitor's walk following the early pioneer's route down Talbingo Mountain.

Having sown the seed, Liz and Clive Morse, a retired Talbingo resident and author of "The Guest Years Of My Life" decided to call a meeting for the purpose of forming a bushwalking club.

Unbeknown to the Talbingo folk, similar thoughts were being formulated by a few walkers living in Tumut 40Km distant. With some cooperation like interests were joined and we were on our way.

Our emphasis is on friendship and a mutual love of the bush

Our first secretary, **Clive Morse**, wrote of the first walk "Oh what a walk it was! Jack Bridle, the Club's walks co-ordinator, selected a no-hills tramp out to the old Goandra Homestead.

A procession of vehicles from Talbingo to the start point, a few Kilometres north of Kiandra was like an over-attended car rally, and the mixed assortment of would-be walkers was almost beyond belief. They numbered over fifty.

In descending order they ranged from grandparents to five-year olds.....the minority wore suitable footwear. The remainder sported sandals, thongs, dress shoes and an unbelievable pair of high heels!

Their walking gear was no less heterogeneous. Spare clothing and lunches (including cans of beer) were carried in everything

imaginable - string bags, attache cases, baskets, one plastic bucket and one hessian sack slung over the shoulder.

...The straggle back to the cars was even stragglier and slower than the walk out. But the walk served its purpose. At the next meeting it was unanimously decided that the club needed a Constitution and a firm set of rules covering all walks. A selected committee did this work, with special and knowledgeable assistance from Tom and Col Wilkinson, both experienced walkers.

Since those early days the club has consolidated to a body of some 110 members and consistently attracts day walkers from as far as Tooma, Holbrook, Temora and Wagga. Some regularly drive distances of 200Km or more to be on a walk in the crisp mountain air.

Our club now conducts short/easy and long/harder walks on alternate Sundays. This format makes it possible of all abilities to participate.

Members range from older and less fit to a small (and not necessarily young) core who undertake treks of a week or more in duration.

Our emphasis is, and always will be, on friendship and a mutual love of the bush.

Col Wilkinson - President

S.B.W. THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS

There comes a time in the affairs of men when the voice of women must be heeded. By 1927 things came to a head and Sydney Bush Walkers, the first bushwalking club open to both sexes, came into being.

It happened like this :-

In 1913 Myles Dunphy and Herbert Gallop formed The Mountain Trails Club. It had a fairly rigid constitution, and being a "bush brotherhood" could not include women among its members. (It was thought by the "Trailers" that women would not be able to carry the very heavy swags that men thought necessary in those days.)

But before long women were coming on the scene. In 1922 an English migrant, Marie Byles, took a party of University girl friends on a walk to Bouddi and wrote an account of the trip in a Sydney newspaper. This was the spark that kindled the bushwalking flame in many a girlish breast.

On 2nd August 1927 there appeared in "The Sun" a letter written by an English migrant, Jack Debert, and addressed to walking enthusiasts of either sex suggesting the formation of a Club. It brought forth a number of replies, many from women, and one from Myles Dunphy inviting interested

walkers to their meeting.

Amongst other men, Jack Debert applied for membership. He put forth his ideas of a mixed club, and at a Mountains Trails Club meeting of 27th August 1927 Alan Rigby moved "that a new walking club be formed here and now."

The oldest Club in Australia owes its existence to women

There followed a notice inserted in The Sun on 5th Nov. 1927 telling all interested recreational walkers that, primarily through Jack Debert's letter of 2nd Oct, a new walking club had been formed whose membership was open to all walking enthusiasts of either sex over the age of 16 years. It was tentatively called "The Waratah Club." At a subsequent meeting, held on 8th Dec 1927, attended by 38 or more persons, the name of Sydney Bush Walkers was chosen and Jack Debert became its first president.

It was an autonomous club with the physical pleasure of walking controlled by an ideology whereby appreciation of the outdoors, sociability and the preservation of wild life, flora, and the natural beauties of the country were all combined.

The lovely flannel flower badge was designed by Alan Rigby, and also the beautiful cover of The Sydney Bush Walkers magazine, which first appeared on the magazine of Dec. 1937.

The women walkers who enthusiastically joined could by no means be called the "weaker sex." There was one girl (we'll call her Helga) who was immortalised in song:

"When Helga goes out walking she thunders on ahead -
The saplings bow before her - the trees fall over dead"

In 1934 the Sydney Bush Walkers set up Federation (now the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW) and SBW with a membership at present of some 500, roughly 50% men and 50% women is the largest club in Confederation.

Dot Butler - SBW

ERRATA

Is my face red Dept.- Editor.
Feb. Issue:

Page 1: David Recomence should read David Shepard - Sorry David, no explanation.

Page 8: This page was the wrong one - Printer's error.

Page 10: The Bushwalker - three errors.
G.O.P. for G.P.O: Box 20090 For Box 2090: my address 2 Bauer Bird for 2 Bower Bird.

These again were Printer's errors.

THE
N.S.W. EMERGENCY SERVICES
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INFORMATION should be available FROM your CLUB
SECRETARY or your S&R OFFICER

For FURTHER INFORMATION write to
NAV '93
P.O. Box 22
CANTERBURY, 2193.
S A E please.

NAVIGATION SHIELD '93

The course for the Bushwalkers' event of the year will be set by a group of crack wilderness navigators from Confederation.

This year the venue is 24Km North of Lithgow in the rugged, picturesque terrain of the Newnes State Forrest.

In this, the 5th year of the event, special awards will be given to those bushwalkers who have competed in each event over that time.

The badge system works like this: you must attain 60% of the winning team's score then you will be awarded badges as follows :-

1st Year - Blue

2nd Year - Red

3rd Year - Black

To progress from one colour to another you must obtain 60% of the winning score or start again. You do not have to attend on consecutive years.

Many bushwalkers will receive the coveted Black Wilderness Navigator's Badge.

Please note that this weekend is not exclusively for the purpose of competition. It can be used by participants as a fun weekend just as they would go on a normal weekend walk, but with the added purpose of improving bush navigation.

If you do not want to compete then there is an Unaccredited Section for those who wish to participate to brush up navigation and/or bushwalking skills or just for the hell of it.

Bushwalkers in general, because of the nature of their sport gain a wide range of bush skills and for this reason they are arguably the best equipped personnel to conduct land searches in Australia.

If your club is not competing then the members of confederation who are running the event could use your help in setting up and running the show. If this is the case then contact S&R and offer your services.

As this event will be used as a catalyst for a major Media campaign we need your support more than ever.

David Shephard - First Aid Instructor.



I THOUGHT WE'D GOT IT RICHT THIS TIME.

BUSHWALKING IN THE 1940'S

PLACES AND PEOPLE

Because of our means of transport in those days, we were limited in the choice of areas to walk. Remember, World War II lasted till the middle of 1945 and there were no new cars on the market even if you had the money to buy. Petrol was rationed and though a car may have been available, places like Kanangra were too far out.

Since we were mainly "weekend walkers" we regarded The Royal and Heathcote National Parks as daywalking territory, as well as areas around Springwood and Glenbrook. Walking areas such as Morton National Park (The Budawangs) had not been opened up to general bushwalking, so that left us with the Blue Mountains.

In a previous article I wrote of how we travelled by train to Katoomba, our "gateway" to the Mountains. What we did then depended on the area chosen, and this dictated the point of entry.

Many's the time we trudged along the Narrowneck, that long narrow part of the plateau, a peninsula that jutted out into the valley for more than 12Kms. There was no fire road along the Neck then, just a bush track that seemed interminable, but with no road to go in by car there was no alternative but to walk.

Access to the Megalong Valley was either off the end of Narrowneck down "Taro's Ladders" (a set of spikes set in the rock, about 1929, by Walter "Taro" Tarr an active member of Sydney Bush Walkers); or down through "The Devil's Hole;" or that horrible descent (for me) of the chains of "Manson's Ladders" at Carlon's Head. This was the quickest way to get to Carlon's Farm.

From Carlon's we could go down Carlon's Creek and Breakfast Creek to reach the Cox. Coming off the end of Narrowneck we could get to the Cox at Konongaroo at the junction of Kanangra Creek via Yellow Pup Ridge. All of this meant a lot of walking when starting from Katoomba.

There were many other places we visited like Kangaroo Valley by way of the "Barren Grounds" and even places farther afield - some of us even getting to Tasmania. A couple I knew spent the first year of their married life canoeing the whole length of the Murray river.

OH! THOSE ROAST TURKEY DINNERS AT CARLON'S FARM

For instance a satisfying 3 day walk was done from Central Burragorang Valley to Kedumba Creek, then up the steep Kedumba Pass to King's Tableland and finally to Wentworth Falls.

Even in those days the Creeks were polluted. On one hot walk a companion and I drank from Kedumba Creek. Because I had eaten too much chocolate and cheese I vomited and suffered no after effects. My companion was not so lucky for he spent the next week off work sick.

Of the many memorable people I encountered, other than my walking companions, the ones that spring quickly to mind were Mick Carlon and his wife of Carlon's Farm.

It was possible in those days to "book" a dinner at Carlon's by writing a week ahead of the intended visit, and for a modest sum sit down to roast turkey and vegetables rounded off with plum pudding.

Mick would be seated at the head of the table in the farmhouse while he and up to a dozen hungry walkers were served by his small seemingly frail wife. What a way to "do" a walk. The old farmhouse, though deserted, is still there.

I don't think that Mick and his wife offered their hospitality for simply monetary gain. I am sure they enjoyed the congenial company and repartee as much as we did. It was something to savour as a never forgotten memory.

Mick, and later his son, Bert, were sometimes in the news when they joined in a search for an overdue walker.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

Then there was Aaroney's - another memory, similarly gastronomic. Aaroney's Cafe at the top of Katoomba Street was the place we headed for after that interminable tramp "up the tar" from the Neck to the sheer culinary delight of steak, chips and eggs at Aaroney's.

After the seeming starvation of the walk it was time to enjoy a meal of generous proportions. And the Coffee!! made with real milk. What more could you ask for to fortify you for the journey back to Sydney.

Sadly those days are gone never to return. The Burragorang Valley is flooded and Aaroney has retired, though the Cafe's still there. Carlon's Farm is still there but Bert and Mick are not.

However the hills and Rivers remain for us to enjoy - perhaps a little more easily now - you can drive to many of the places where we had to walk. But this means the walkers of today can get to areas which were denied to those who walked the '40's, so there are compensations.

L.G. (Jack) Clark - Brisbane Water B\W



Some sale prices:

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BUSHWALKING LESS HASTE MORE CONTEMPLATION

I had always assumed that as a bushwalker for many years I had a pretty good understanding and appreciation of the bush. It wasn't until I spent 38 days in the wilderness that I realised how little I knew.

Having just walked for five weeks through three wilderness areas I can only realise now how much I've missed. Even this trip, The Great Heritage Walk, was too rushed to really appreciate the wilderness fully. But I did spend long enough in contemplation to know that there is greater value in feeling part of the earth than there is in racing over it.

Most bushwalkers probably lead very busy lives - working during the week, and rushing around to get homes and families organised so that they can spend a day or a weekend in the bush. It's easy to take that rushed lifestyle out into the bush with you.

Many of us drive long distances to get to the places we where we walk. We march through the bush at our city pace, glancing sideways occasionally at a

pretty flower or listening briefly to the song of a bird, taking hasty photos to remind us of what we haven't really had time to absorb while we were there.

How many of us take the time to just sit and contemplate the delights of nature around us; to wonder about the complexity of its beauty; to paint one of the magnificent views we've seen or to write a poem, putting our experiences and thoughts into words? How much do we miss by not allowing ourselves to be totally absorbed into nature?

It is exhilarating to know that you are fit enough to climb any mountain put in front of you with barely a moment's rest on the way up. But perhaps it could be just as exhilarating to pause and feel the presence of ancient Aboriginal spirits as you walk through the wilderness and maybe attain some understanding of their deep connection with the land.

So next you go bush, climb the mountain by all means, but leave the camera at home and take the time to really feel part of Mother Earth. That feeling will sustain you for much longer than any photograph ever could.

The item which appears below is in no way a reflection on our cousins over the sea, merely a comment evoked from experience.

TASMANIAN WALKING WEATHER

It rained and rained and rained,
The average fall was well maintained,
And when tracks were simply bogs
It started raining cats and dogs.

After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower;
And then, most curious of all
A gentle rain began to fall.

Next day but one was fairly dry
Then a deluge from the sky
Wet the party to the skin
And at last the rain set in.

Jack Cummings - Camden B/W

Sue Morrison - Central West B. C.

HANDY HINTS

SNAKE BITE UPDATE

Recent articles appearing in "The Bushwalker" and a newspaper have shown what happens with inappropriate treatment of snake bite. One person dead, the other suffered considerable problems.

WITH SNAKE BITE

1. Move a short distance from danger if required.

2. Stop.

3. Apply crepe bandage from toes to groin for leg bite - fingers to shoulder for arm.

Bitten on head or trunk - crepe bandage as best you can. This is less effective but is all you can do.

4. Splint leg with further crepe bandage. St John sling for an arm. DO NOT massage, rub, wash, cut or suck the bite. All of these will increase the rate at which venom is absorbed.

Then lie still for 48hrs with minimum movement possible. A sedative e.g. valium 20mg in one dose or 10mg then 5mg every 6hrs could help. NO alcohol.

During the two days you may experience the effects of the venom - difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, bleeding. Don't panic, it will only make it worse. Reassurance by companions is useful as is doing everything to reduce movement of the bitten person.

Dr Ken Wilson - Sydney Uni B/W

GAS MANTLES

Gas Mantles are composed of rayon impregnated with organic compounds in addition to the nitrates of Thorium and other elements (for example Cerium, Aluminium, Calcium and/or Beryllium).

A Potential Health Risk could arise from the ingestion of the gasses, containing Thorium, emitted when the mantle is installed/replaced and "burnt off" or the handling, when removing a damaged mantle and disposing of the ash.

Thorium exists in nature as a mixture of six isotopes and all of these are radioactive. It is, of course, the radioactivity that is the hazard.

When ingested it is incorporated into the body as a Calcium analogue and has a long biological life.

THE BUSHWALKER 8

During replacement of a mantle, removal of the old mantle will often result in the powdering of a quantity of this material. Also when "burning off" a new or replaced mantle, a quantity of the oxides of the elements listed above may be released as vapour or in suspended particle form.

So when installing or replacing Gas Mantles :-

1. Do so out of doors if possible.
2. Place an opened plastic bag under the mantle when removing it.

Dispose of the sealed bag in the garbage.

3. When burning off move away upwind.
4. If indoors wear a dust mask and try to create as little dust as possible.

Garry Philpott - CMW

SNAKE VENOM - HOW THE BODY REACTS

Snake venom is absorbed via the lymphatic system. The lymphatic fluid is fluid that has leaked from blood vessels in between cells and is then picked up by lymphatic vessels and returned to the blood stream near the heart.

Applying a crepe bandage from the extremity of a limb proximally empties the lymphatic vessels and reduces the rate the tissue fluid containing the venom is absorbed into the lymph system.

Splinting reduces muscle movements. This reduces tissue fluid production and the rate of lymphatic fluid return.

Rest - Sedation - Cooling all reduce the blood-flow from the limbs.

Meditation reduces metabolic rate and muscle tension and movement, which reduces blood flow and hence venom absorption.

After 48hrs the body will have slowly broken down the venom, as it is a foreign protein, if it is slowly absorbed. The effects, then, should not be lethal.

If you are close to a vehicle or can bring the vehicle to the victim then carefully lift the victim into it and drive to hospital. DO NOT WALK the victim to the vehicle. DO NOT CARRY the victim any distance. Even carrying a person over a stretch increases muscle movement as the brace against the movement of the stretcher.

Antivenom can't be carried because it has to be refrigerated. Also as Joan Rigby points out antivenom can cause

severe allergic reactions and should not be given without facilities for dealing with these.

If you go solo then you may consider carrying 4 crepe bandages and look on the bright side - a snake bite on Sunday gives a 4-day weekend.

Dr Ken Wilson - Sydney Uni B/W.

FIRST AID COURSE

A Confederation First Aid Course will

be held on 29 / 30 May at

St John House

6 Hunt St, Surry Hills

5 Mins from Central Station.

Cost: \$65 Limit: 24

For details or application ring

Keith Maxwell on (02) 6220049

* 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 libelous.

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 Winter edition but there are no articles on Cross-Country Skiing. The reason - NO MATERIAL.

So POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS, PLEASE let's have your ms, preferably on disk - IBM compatable - I'm a slow typist.

FROM THE MINUTES

CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS

* The Confederation has had two members selected by the Minister for the Environment to sit on the National Parks Advisory Committees. They were Jim Callaway for South Metropolitan and Roger Lembit for Kosciusko National Park. However, nomination for the Blue Mts National Park was rejected. Most represented were Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Developers, Farmers and other anti-conservation groups with only one bushwalking friendly member from the National Parks Association being accepted.

* We have written to the Minister for the Environment expressing concern of the biased makeup of the Blue Mountains Advisory Committee. The Minister acknowledged the protest but no action was taken.

* A second workshop of the Blue Gum Forest Management Committee was held on 20 Feb.. This follows their cleanup of Blue Gum on Australia Day. We had representatives attending.

* A letter has been written to the Director of NP&WS, Mr Gillon, regarding the Heritage Study on huts in the Royal National Park. This will be taken into account during the drafting of the Plan of Management.

* The Victorian National Parks Association has proposed World Heritage Listing for the Australian Alpine Alps comprising Kosciusko National Park, the Namadji and Scabby Range Nature Reserves, as well as Victorian National Parks. We are supporting the listing.

* NP&WS have not issued a stop work order on logging in Deua Wilderness even though no adequate fauna impact statement has been carried out. A letter to the Minister pointing out that the Government agreed not to allow logging or mining in areas nominated for wilderness until a decision on wilderness nominations was made. The Minister replied saying he would take no action.

* Werrimbe and New England Wilderness assessments have been released. Submissions closed April 19th. Areas have been reduced from those nominated, mainly as a result of land holders requests.

* The right to mine coal under the area nominated for the Gardens of Stone National Park has only one step to go before approval. This is despite the fact that the inquiry agreed mining would cause major damage to the rock formations in the Gardens of Stone.

* Areas in the Budawang and Ettrema have been nominated by the University of NSW Bushwalking and Mountaineering Club, The Wilderness Society and NCC, for

inclusion in the wilderness area.

* Concern was expressed over the affects on the Nattai River of a concrete sleeper factory approved by Wingecarribee Council without the correct EIS approvals.

SEARCH & RESCUE

* Recent helicopter crashes have not generated much public outcry. Search and Rescue issued press releases about unnecessary danger in bush rescue when there is a specialist bush rescue group available at no cost the public.

* Seven of the pre 1980 Traeger radios have been reconditioned for around \$800 and all are working like new.

WATER CONSERVATION ??

* Confederation has expressed concern about a letter from the Minister for Lands and the Water Board to the Premier strongly requesting that no Wilderness nominations be made for either Blue Mtns or Wollemi until the future of the Sydney water supply is settled.

* The Editor of "The Bushwalker" has received a letter from the Water Board requesting that all articles dealing with Water Conservation or matters relevant to the Water Board be submitted for approval before printing. This is thought, by the Editor, to be an intolerable imposition.

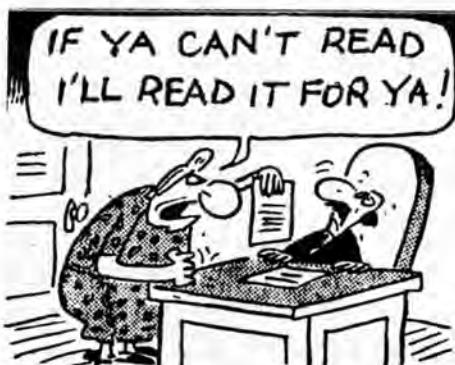
POLITICS

* A policy on Bushwalking was released by the National Party during the election campaign. A request has been made that Confederation would like to be involved or consulted on Bushwalking Policies and congratulated the National Party on developing such a Policy.

GENERAL

* A new Bushwalking Club has been formed in Penrith and the NPA has a new branch in Windsor.

* Maurice Smith (Sutherland B/W) has been appointed the new Tracks and Access Officer.



WATER

IT'S VITAL

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

If you have read the precis of the Minutes you would have noticed the part stating that the Minister for Lands had strongly requested delaying the Wilderness Nomination for the Blue Mtns and Wollemi National Parks until the water supply for Sydney had been settled.

You will also have read of the biased loading of the Blue Mtns Advisory Committee where the majority of the members are anticonservationist.

All of this points to the problem all bushwalkers face - the preservation of our Playing Fields as well as what we have left the Natural Heritage.

Your playing fields are being threatened. Can you imagine the reaction if the Commonwealth Government were to commandeer Golf Courses for the agistment of starving stock? Not an unreasonable concept. But when it comes to flooding a "bit of bush" it is an entirely different matter.

Remember that this the driest continent on our Earth. Research has shown that dams are not the answer to the problem.

There are other ways of achieving the same result. A compulsory water tank on new buildings now that Sydney Council, at least, has seen the light and has sanctioned storm water collection for households. Education in Water Conservation could also play a major part. There are many others.

May I humbly point out that restricting our population is the most sensible answer.

There is a predilection to raise Sydney's population by another million by the turn of the century.

Who are the persons, corporate bodies, organisations that are promoting, building and directing this Juggernaut of rising population? Surely it has to be those who stand to gain financially from this flood of people - Developers, Estate Agents, Retailers, Service Providers etc.

Gain and Power are the forces driving the schemes for coping with the predicted supply of the necessities needed to service this increasing number of bodies. Paramount in these services is the supply of WATER.

The means of slowing the momentum of this Monster, where gain and power are the driving forces, may be difficult but not impossible.

**LOBBY YOUR LOCAL MINISTER,
WRITE TO THE MINISTER FOR
CONSERVATION, WRITE TO
ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN !!**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

It was pleasing to read your article about water conservation in the Nov. '92 issue of the Bushwalker. Hopefully by reducing our water consumption we can avoid dam expansion into our bushland areas.

I thought you would be interested to know of my household's (2 people) efforts at water conservation. In our last Waterboard bill we reduced our water consumption by 30% compared to the same period last year. (30/7/92 to 5/11/92) Consumption for the '92 period was 378 litres compared to '91 at 557 litres.

We have managed reductions in water consumption by 3 methods :-

1. We store waste water from the washing machine in buckets for flushing the toilets and watering outdoor pot plants. (not natives)

2. I collect my urine in a "potty" which is then used as a manure in my compost bin.

3. I only take a shower when I think it necessary, e.g. for washing my hair, or when I'm dirty or sweaty from gardening or bushwalking.

Quite often I don't shower on alternate working days because I have a clean job i.e. a desk job. No one has said that I have B.O. so far! However because I am thin and do not have an oily skin, it is probably better for my skin that I do not overwash.

I do not for one second want to suggest that everyone should follow my example, but I hope most people will do what they reasonably can to conserve water. Also I hope that some people will come up with other simple practical ways to reduce water consumption which can be voiced in The Bushwalker and in similarly minded journals.

Martin Bouman - Ermington.

(Modesty did not prevent me from including this - Editor.)

Sir,

I have just read "The Bushwalker" for February, '93, being the first I have seen for several years.

Thank you for the quality production and contents.

How did what-I-remember-as-an-anaemic-ancestor beget such a sturdy offspring?

The February edition achieves what a bushwalking publication ought to achieve - it is filled with readable and interesting information relating to bushwalking.

I can see in it the seeds of what could result in the re-emergence of an annual and true successor to those fine editions of the old Bushwalker of the 1930's and later years.

With best wishes.

R.P.Harrison - Gladesville, 11/3/1993.

(Nor this - Editor.)

Sir,

Thanks for regularly sending me a copy of the Bushwalker. A fine production which will greatly enhance awareness and the standing of the Confederation and the Clubs.

You would be surprised to see how eagerly it is sought by members of the Central West Bushwalkers and even more surprised as to what places it turns up in.

Please send me 20 copies if you can spare them. There are a couple of camping outlets here in Orange and I will see that they are fairly distributed. etc.....



Keep those letters
coming in!

DEADLINE
FOR ARTICLES FOR THE
NEXT
BUSHWALKER

27-7-93 27th JULY, '93 27-7-93

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.

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WE HAVE MOVED

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BITS AND PIECES

PETER TRESEDER AGAIN

In January Peter completed a "trip" from Robertson NSW to the Warrumbungle National Park NSW which he calls "The Mirage."

From Robertson he rafted and canoed the entire length of the Nepean and Hawkesbury Rivers, a distance of 250Km, then canoed 100Km to Newcastle where he buried the 22' Mirage sea kayak.

He then cycled 320Km to the Warrumbungles where he completed a solo climb of Crater Bluff by the Cornerstone rib route (160m), grade 14.

Elapsed Time: 105Hrs.

While on holidays on Norfolk Island he completed the first circumnavigation run of the cliff-tops of the island. This trip included ascents of Mts Pitt and Bates.

The cliff-tops have been walked. The last recorded walk was 25 years ago.

Peter covered the 35Km (approx.) in 3Hrs 18Mins.

(I assume this will be included in the "50 Peaks" challenge - Ed.)

PAST PIECES

S.M.H. - 24 / 4 / 61

BUSHWALKING FOR HEALTH

Sir,- As a bushwalker of 25 years' experience, the visit to Sydney of the American heart specialist, Dr Paul Dudley White, in connection with the National Heart Foundation appeal, encourages me to draw the attention of the general public to the advantages to be gained from the doctor's advice - "Get out and walk."

There is no finer recreation for gaining and maintaining health than bushwalking, and despite the weight of their rucksacks, sleeping in the rain, the burning sun, the frosts, and climbing countless mountains, I challenge any sporting body to produce a better record of absence from heart disease than the bushwalking fraternity.

It is about time the young people of Sydney climbed out of their comfortable cars and subjected their soft, flabby bodies to the conditioning, strength, stamina and uplift of spirit which bushwalking alone can bring. Get out and walk!

Brian Harvey - Sydney Bush Walkers

PARK WORKERS ON THE JOB

Early this year my wife and I were holidaying in the "Snowies" and during that time did the short walk to "Paralyser" on the marked track starting off the main road not far from the Perisher Church.

This walk is so popular that severe erosion has occurred and the NP&WS has undertaken the task of constructing raised walkways in the worst places.

Park Workers from Sawpit Creek were on the job, which is almost completed. The guys on the site were Sam Stephens, Rob Hunt and Dave Dwyer.

We stopped for a few minutes to yarn to the fellows who answered our queries in good humour, though they may have been asked the same questions many times.

Even with the equipment they have at their disposal material and tools still have to physically transported to some of the sites. Keep up the good work boys! And thanks NP & WS! - The Editor

IN THE NEXT ISSUE ANDREW MENK "A MATTER OF RELIGION" REPLIES TO GORDON LEE'S "VOLLEYS -IN DEFENCE" FOR HIS SCURVULOUS REMARKS REGARDING THE VICTORIAN COUNTRYSIDE AND THE ATTEMPT TO COMPARE THE HEIGHT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HILLS OF VICTORIA AND N.S.W.

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Friday:	9:00 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday:	9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Sunday:	CLOSED



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