

The Bushwalker

Newsletter of The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.

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Kowmung River - Time To Act

Conservation Officer, **Andrew Cox** reports

The campaign aiming to prevent the raising of Warragamba Dam is now in full swing. No longer does the Water Board have a free ride of publicity about the benefits of the higher dam. A larger and completely independent Kowmung Committee has been working hard to spread the word about the massive environmental damage that will result if the plan goes ahead.

The first stage of the Kowmung Committee's campaign has been to raise awareness about the issue. Public meetings have already been held in Katoomba and St Leonards with further meetings and talks planned. When the official launch of The Kowmung Committee's campaign took place on 23rd June at St Leonards, the media ran a series of articles in local papers and the Sydney Morning Herald together with many radio news interviews.

More recently, a 5 minute feature on SBS's News Extra gave a favourable coverage to the Committee's concerns.

As the Kowmung Committee grew, with membership now well over 100, a need for greater flexibility and a broadening of its interests beyond those held by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs was identified. Prior to the St Leonard's meeting, Confederation agreed to cut formal ties with the Committee. However Confederation still provides support by sharing office space and postal addresses. This new arrangement will mean the Committee will be able to respond to campaign developments quickly and effectively.

Fundraising events are being organised. A bushdance to be held on Friday, 26th August at Petersham Town Hall at 7:30pm which will be used to raise money for the campaign. The Committee now also has T-Shirts (\$15) and stickers (50c) for sale.

Release of the Environmental Impact Statement, which was initially due for September, continues to be delayed. While this provides the Committee with a chance to build solid support, it also means that it may

be a lengthy campaign. If we can show the Government and the Opposition the strength of opposition to the proposal before the election, even before the EIS is released, then we can be successful in halting it.

Thus it is important to let your politicians know, your local newspapers and your friends know. Talk and write to as many people as you can and use the sample letter below. If you need more information ask for the Committee's one page brochure to be sent.

Alternatively, join the Kowmung Committee and participate in its activities.

Membership is by donation, and meetings are held on Monday nights 6pm each fortnight at the National Parks Association office, Level 13, 500 George St, Sydney (next to the Hilton). The next meeting is on 29 August 1994. Branches have also been set up in the Blue Mountains and other locations which non-Sydney

based supporters may wish to join

Contact the Committee at GPO Box 2090, Sydney NSW 2001 or leave a message on (02) 267 8185

What You Can

Do

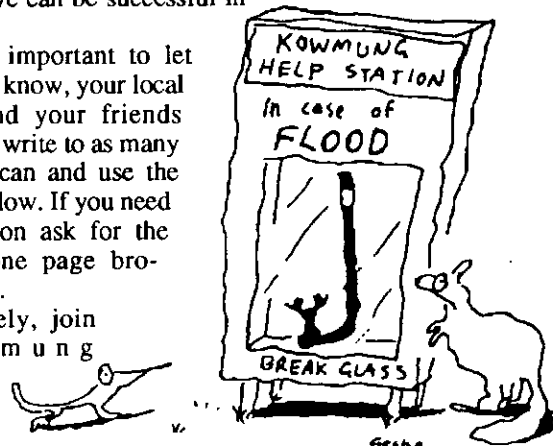
Write to Premier Fahey c/o Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, your local member and Mr Carr, Leader of the Opposition

Tell them that:

- you oppose the 23 metre raising of Warragamba Dam
- you want the Government to adopt a solution that has the

least environmental impacts and ensures dam safety

- temporary flooding of Blue Mountains rivers is an inappropriate way of managing floods
- you oppose any future raising of the full storage level..



Bushfire Fighters Blitz Bushwalkers

A report on the NSW Emergency Services Navigation Shield by **Tony Parr**

The title is a bit of a mouthful so most people call it the S&R rogaine. This year's event was run in the Kanangra Boyd National Park not far from Kanangra Walls and was the sixth consecutive event organised by Wilderness Rescue.

As usual the event consisted of the main competition, held over two days, and a one day event usually attracting the less experienced participants.

We were disappointed that the promised overseas entries did not eventuate

but we still managed to make the event a national one with entries from Townsville and Tea Tree Gully in South Australia. In all there were 270 participants in 66 teams.

For the second time a team from Kangaroo Valley Bushfire Brigade took out the shield closely followed by bushwalking teams from Springwood, Span and Sutherland. The one day event was won by Hillside Bushfire Brigade.

Next year we hope to see more bushwalking clubs entering. The event provides some really valuable training in remote area navigation and can be used by clubs to help train their less experienced members.

Insurance Questions

Some more questions have been asked about the Sports Injury insurance cover for bushwalkers. **Maurice Smith**, Confederation's Insurance Officer has compiled the following:

I hope that the questions and answers set out below are useful for club members and administrators.

Q. How long after an accident is a member able to lodge a claim against the insurance policy?

A. The claim must be notified to our insurer within 30 days of the accident. This is so even if all the medical or other costs are not known. Remember, don't wait to notify.

Q. Who is to be contacted to obtain a claim form if there is an accident?

A. The secretary (or other officer) of your club is to be promptly contacted. If they don't have a claim form, the club secretary should telephone the Confederation's Insurance Officer or Confederation's Secretary to obtain a claim form. Remember, the 30 day clock starts on the day of the accident.

Q. How do I know if I am covered by the optional Sports Injury insurance cover?

A. The Sports Injury insurance cover is optional for clubs to accept. You should ask your club secretary whether your club has opted for this insurance cover.

Q. If a club member who receives Social Security benefits is injured and makes a claim under the Sports Injury policy, what happens to their Social Security benefits?

A. We are clarifying this issue with the Social Security Department currently and will advise clubs of the result.

Q. A club member is involved in a serious car accident while travelling to the start of a walk. Fortunately, the member sustains minor injuries. Is the member covered by the insurance? Should our insurer be notified?

A. Yes to both questions. The insurance cover is from the time the member leaves home until when the member returns home. Even though the inju-

ries are apparently minor it is a good idea to let our insurer know of the accident in case there are longer term consequences that are not immediately evident. The reason for notifying our insurer is that the 30 day notification clock starts ticking on the day of the accident.

Q. If a member joins a club part way through the year, is that member automatically covered?

A. New members are not covered unless the club has paid for insurance cover for that member for the full year. Payment for new members' cover can be in one of two ways. The first is progressively through the year as members join the club. The second is that it can be done at the start of the insurance year based on an estimate of the number of new members expected to join in the next 12 months.

Q. Are members' children covered by the Sports Injury insurance scheme?

A. For children to be covered, two factors are required to be met. Firstly, the children must be members according to the club rules, for example, through family membership. Secondly, the club has paid for the insurance cover on the appropriate number of members. For example, if 2 adults and 3 children are members of a club under a family membership scheme, payment for insurance cover on 5 members is required.

Q. A member is unable to work for a month due to an injury sustained on a bushwalk. Most of the medical costs are met by Medicare. After her sick leave period expires her employer places her on half pay while she is off work. Can the member claim for loss of income?

A. Loss of income as a result of an accident is covered by the insurance policy. However, there is a limit to the benefits amount payable.

Q. Does our insurance policy define the safety precautions that clubs must follow, for example, when abseiling?

A. No. It is up to each club to define, if they wish, the safety precautions to be taken in particular situations.

Club Forms Links with NP&WS

Below is an extract from the 1994 report of **Kay Durham**, President of the Narrabri Bushwalking Club (from their Club newsletter)

"Probably the most significant development this year has been the stronger links forged between the NP&WS and our Club with the two organisations beginning to work together for the benefit of our local conservation areas. NP&WS can tap into a knowledgeable, environmentally sympathetic and active community group for public feedback on proposed projects and off-track work within Kaputar NP and local nature reserves. We, in turn, have been given the opportunity of putting something of real value back into the bush we know so well. Our members, not being distracted by necessary paper and general maintenance work, have a greater opportunity of getting out into the 'backblocks' to monitor developments and to catalogue concerns and discoveries"

"In future, I can see our Club being even more involved in, amongst other activities, the control of prickly pear in inaccessible areas, noting concentrations of feral goats and pigs, cataloguing historic sites (known and newly discovered), helping with seed collection and revegetation of disturbed areas, exploring for sightings and/or evidence of endangered fauna species particularly the brush-tailed rock wallaby, help with gathering data on fuel loads for fire management purposes and help with implementation of various bio diversity programs and surveys in the Park and in some local nature reserves."

Pioneer Bushwalker Dies

Frank Duncan, a foundation member of the Sydney Bushwalkers and second president of that club died in May this year at the age of 93. The pass on the end of Narrow Neck (Katoomba) is named in honour of his pioneering efforts. His party was the first to find a way down off the southern end.

President's Report

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs was formed in 1932, so that various clubs could speak in one voice, on matters affecting the preservation of the bush. Although nowadays, I believe it is, for a lot of clubs it is mainly for cheap insurance.

As the bush is our playing field, the preservation of that playing field must loom large in our minds and activities. We all owe the bush something, but it is up to us as users to do something about it.. delay is dangerous.

Conservation plays a large part in Confederation issues and should also do in clubs activities. Affiliated clubs must back Confederations projects and guidelines so we are heard in one large voice. We have completed another year with a host of matters being dealt with by the Conservation Officers, but not with a lot of support from the clubs, this does need to be rectified. If the clubs want more information or feedback they need to take more interest in what the Confederation is doing.

Having said this I see Confederation as being strong, as each club is independant and important as they unite people of similar interests and the growth of the clubs is the strength of Confederation. Above all lets not forget the reason for our being here, our love of the bush and bushwalking and because of this love we must be its main protector.

As this is my last report as President I thank all who have helped me over the years it has been a priviledge to have been able to put back something that has given me so much. Andy and I are off overseas for an extended period soon and I feel that if it was not for my club activites I would not have had the inclination or courage. I will be back.

Safe and Happy Bushwalking.
Robyn Cox
President

The Bushwalker

The Bushwalker is the newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It is published quarterly. The aim of this newsletter is to provide articles and information of interest to the members of clubs affiliated with the Confederation.

Any opinions expressed by individual authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.

Advertising rates are available on request. Ring Andy Cox on (02) 359 2213

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

Cox's River Clean-Up

by Tony Parr

Tyres, barbed wire, steel cables, horseshoes. These were just some of the things that eleven members of local bushwalking clubs found on a clean-up weekend recently

Organised by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW and supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service the aim of the weekend was to carry out a rubbish removal and restoration exercise along the Cox's River from Breakfast Creek to Jenolan River.

Starting on Saturday morning from Carlon's Farm in the Megalong Valley it was not long before we were hard at work filling rubbish bags and dismantling overused campfires. TV westerns and Boy Scout annuals have a lot to answer for. Why is it that some people feel compelled to construct a ring of stones around their fire? Perhaps they think that it will keep the fire in or maybe it's to stop the rubbish that they invariably leave behind from spreading. Whatever the reason all it does is leave an ugly scar in the bush and stop the ashes from being scattered.

We must have cleaned up at least 20

such fire rings along the banks of Breakfast creek which meant that it was almost dark before we got to the Cox/Jenolan junction.

Sunday morning yielded an enormous pile of rubbish. It is amazing some of the thing that we found. Tyres and kerosene drums may have been washed downstream but blankets, plastic sheeting, bottles, cans and corrugated iron must have all been carried in.

In a couple of hours we had collected a pile of rubbish that will have to be lifted out by helicopter as it was far too much for us to carry back up to Carlon's. If visitors to this area stopped to consider the cost of this airlift then they may think twice before leaving their rubbish behind.

The question of campfires will also have to be considered in the near future. The time is coming when the National Parks and Wildlife Service will have to enforce a fuel stoves only policy in sensitive areas such as this. The people responsible for leaving unsightly fire scars covered in rubbish will have only themselves to blame for the loss of their traditional campfires.



Editorial

The End of An Era?

Once again the AGM for the Confederation is due. Three of the stalwarts of the Confederation - President Robyn Cox, Secretary Roger Lembit and Minutes Secretary Michael (Ted) Maack have announced that they no longer wish to stand for these positions. As these jobs are some of the more time consuming roles there has been some anxiety about whether they could be capably filled by new people at the AGM. I can remember back to a period in the mid 1970's when the Federation (as it was called then) faced a real crisis when at an AGM there was nobody willing to stand for many of the key positions. A crisis meeting was called. Out of this a new revitalized Federation continued. This newsletter was one of the consequences of that meeting - it was seen as necessary to improve the communication channels between the Confederation and members of affiliated clubs. To quote from Peter Tuft's Editorial of Volume 1, No1 (October 1975):

"...a large number of people believe that this Newsletter is the key to the continuation and success of Federation. Federation cannot realize its full potential unless every club member is aware of the relevance of Federation to them, personally and gives support accordingly. Thus the Newsletter's primary task is to keep club members informed and interested in what Federation is doing."

Attaining Goals

Bushwalking is an activity that can satisfy many needs. One is the satisfaction in the achievement of reaching a difficult goal. One of the contributions this issue is a poem written by a bushwalker in his sixties after a recent successful ascent of Tasmania's Federation Peak - surely Australia's best mountain! The author had been prevented by bad weather on a number of other occasions in recent years from reaching the summit and it was good to see his determined party finally met with success. Some times we go on a trip and for some reason such as an accident or a bad weather the trip is unsuccessful. If a trip is really worthwhile then it is worth another attempt the next year or in ten years time. Develop a long term strategy towards your goals - hopefully the bush will still be there for your next attempt.

David Noble - Newsletter Committee

Conservation Clippings

Conservation Officer, Andrew Cox reports

Ban Eggbeaters from National Parks

In what could set a precedent for helicopter flights over all National Parks in Australia, the Civil Aviation Authority has proposed a "Fly Neighbourly Agreement" over popular bushwalking areas such as the Grose and Jamison Valleys in the Blue Mountains. This self regulating agreement, in force since early this year, allows helicopters to fly at least 1000ft above ground level (or valley floor) and at least 600ft from cliff edges. It was initiated following complaints by bushwalkers being harassed by regular low level tourist flights around lookouts and into the valleys.

While flight levels over Kakadu National Park are restricted to 4000ft and over Uluru to 5000ft, this "agreement" has been imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority without proper consideration of the environmental impact, or the concerns

of residents or bushwalkers visiting the normally quiet wilderness and national parks of the Blue Mountains.

If you object to being harassed by flying eggbeaters or have an opinion on the subject, write to Maggie Deahm MP, PO Box 540, Springwood 2777 or Mr Denis McKeon, Blue Mountains City Council, PO Box 189, Katoomba 2780.

Funding for NPWS - At Last

A funding package to increase yearly funding for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service by \$36 million over the next 3 years announced this July is long overdue. Coming only weeks after the appointment of the new Director-General, Robyn Kruk, it reverses the reduction of funds characteristic of past years.

A further \$20 million will be allocated to purchase land for national parks, particularly in coastal areas, and extra funds provided to improve pest and noxious weed

Continued page 8

S&R News

By TONY PARR

School holidays always seem to be a busy time for the Wilderness Rescue Group but the June/July break saw more activity than normal. In one seven day period they were on standby or on call no less than four times and this, only a few days after the Navigation Shield was held at Kanangra.

Only two of these calls resulted in action. The first was when a person was overdue while walking in the Mount Keira area, near Wollongong. She was located before the group was assembled so their services were not required in the end. The second was more serious. A light aircraft was lost near Hilltop, on the Southern Highlands, and Wilderness Rescue was asked to assist in the search. The crash site was located in the early hours of the morning before the main body of searchers arrived but our local representatives, The Highland Adventurers, were instrumental in guiding Police and other emergency services to the wreck.

"In one seven day period they were on standby or on call no less than four times"

Late in May, Wilderness Rescue was actively involved in the search for a missing person on the Wollondilly River, near Mittagong. Coincidentally one of the Rock

Squad teams was training at Mittagong when the call came through to Berrima Rescue so the Rock Squad quickly offered to help. This turned into a full callout of

Wilderness Rescue over the next two days. No sign of the missing person was found and the search was called off on the third day.

Rock Squad training is progressing well. The two new teams are working well together and the original team, which has to be reaccruited, will be fully qualified by the time this newsletter goes to print.

The first aid training courses are still proving popular. The next course is scheduled to be held on 29/30 October but additional courses can be run if there is the demand. If you are interested contact Keith Maxwell on (02)622 0049 for details. Don't forget, it is a requirement that all persons actively engaged in a callout hold a current first aid certificate.

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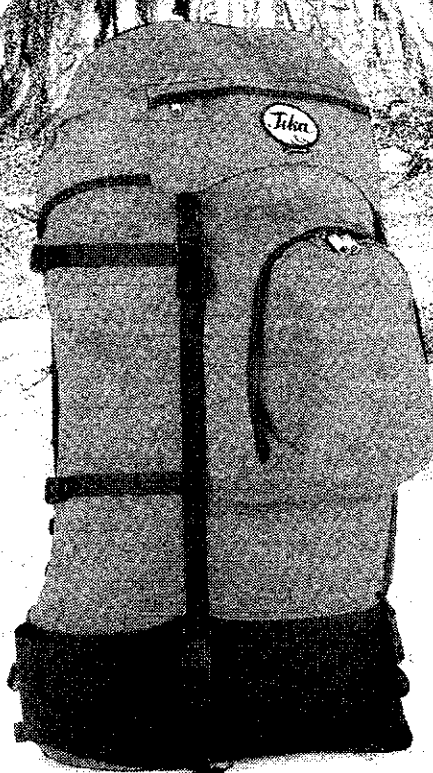
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Mother Woila - Special Feature

Bushwalker Visitation to the Mother Woila - Tabletop Region of Deua National Park, 1964-1988

by Colin Gibson

Mother Woila 1104 metres
Woila locally pronounced "Wow-ly"
Native Name - Jundullian¹

Introduction: The Deua National Park (80,300 ha) was dedicated by the Wran Government in February 1979.² This was nearly fifteen years after Dr Geoff Mosley made the first recorded ascent of Mother Woila in July 1964.

The ridge systems of the Woila-Tabletop are amongst the most dramatic in NSW. the highest mountain in the park is Big Badja 1362m. Tabletop Mountain is c 1190m. The relief in the area exceeds 1,000 metres. the park is remote and rugged and contains the Wyanbene and Bendethera cave systems.

Members of the Canberra Bushwalking Club (CBC) have led many exploratory walks in the area. This article is a collation of information pertaining to the visitation of southern Deua National park centring on Mother Woila. A survey of Recreational use and Visitor Opinions of the Deua and Wadbilliga National Parks was undertaken by the Narooma Office of the NP&WS in 1988.

Visitation 1964-1980

Peter Prineas noted during his visit to Mother Woila in 1976 that "only a handful of names had been added to Mosley's on the scrap of notepad that served as a log book on the summit."³

The whereabouts of the Mother Woila notepad pre 1981 is not known. The following statistics on that early period of visitation have been compiled from personal communications, certain articles and from a set of notes taken from a milo tin placed at Horseshoe Point (402104 Badja 1:25,000). The tin was placed by Geoff Mosley in March 1964 when there with Selby Alley and Malcolm Watson, and was submitted to the Mitchell Library by Warwick Blayden in March 1980.⁴

The notes from Horseshoe Point

include scant details, many parties not giving route information. Blayden removed the notes in August 1979 and replaced them with a notebook the whereabouts of which is not known.

Fifteen parties recorded entries in the Milo tin between March 1964 and August 1979, nine of which record some route information. Two of these state they had visited Mother Woila (Terry Jordan CBC, NBC, NUMC July 1973 and Bob Harrison's party of three CBC, May 1975) whilst on a National Parks Association party of four at April (Easter) 1976 stated their intention to visit the mountain. However there is doubt as to whether they fulfilled this intention.

At Easter 1973 Dave Whiteley of CBC camped at Horseshoe Point but did not make an entry in the tin. Whiteley also visited Mother Woila on this trip and commented that "A fallen tree had hit the cairn built by Mosley and slightly damaged the tin containing the visitors book. Only three previous parties had recorded their visits - Mosley, Marsten & Semple from Dampier (11-7-64), Mosley from Woila Creek (27-11-65) and Mosley & Eretton, the Woila traverse (8-4-66) and a SBW party."⁵

The Sydney Bushwalking Club party made their visit on the Anzac Weekend in 1966. The party was led by Ross Wyborn⁶. Blayden mentions that Whiteley's Easter '73 trip was based on John Holtzappfel's two day trip in 1969 from "Khan Unis" - Dampier - Mother Woila (dry camp on top) - return.

In April (Easter) 1971 Phil Butt led a party of four to Mother Woila and Tabletop. On this trip Ian Olsen collected an undescribed Eucalypt on the razorback that descends into the Mother Woila defile. This Eucalypt is the "Woila Gum", now named *Eucalyptus olsenii*.⁷

Back again at easter 1974 Ian Olsen collected a new species of acacia from the same location. That occasion was an SBW trip also led by Phil Butt. Warwick Daniels and Ian Olsen made their third visit to Mother Woila in November 1977.⁸

The following is a list of known visits to Mother Woila summit pre 1981, presented here as a basic record.

1. Mosley, Marsten & Semple, CBC, 11-7-64
2. Mosley, CBC, 27-11-65
3. Mosley & Eretton, CBC, 8-4-66
4. R Wyborn party, SBW, Anzac Weekend 1966
5. John Holtzappfel, CBC, 1969

6. Phil Butt private trip with Ian & Sue Olsen & Warwick Daniels, 10-4-71
7. D Whiteley, CBC, Easter 1973
8. T Jordan, CBC, July 1973
9. P Butt party (as for 6. but SBW), 13-4-74
10. Bob Coveny & Tony Rodd, January 1975 (National Herbarium, Sydney)
11. Bob Harrison party of three, CBC, May 1975
12. R Story, November 1975 (National Herbarium, Canberra)
13. Peter Prineas private party of four, April (Easter) 1976⁹
14. Dave Noble, June 1976¹⁰
15. Daniels and Olsen, 19-11-77
16. Ron Levy and companion, 28-2-80¹¹

From the source material available to this study thirty one visitations to the Mother Woila - Tabletop area between March 1964 and August 1979 are noted. Fifteen of these are known to have visited Mother Woila while twenty four are known to have visited Tabletop.

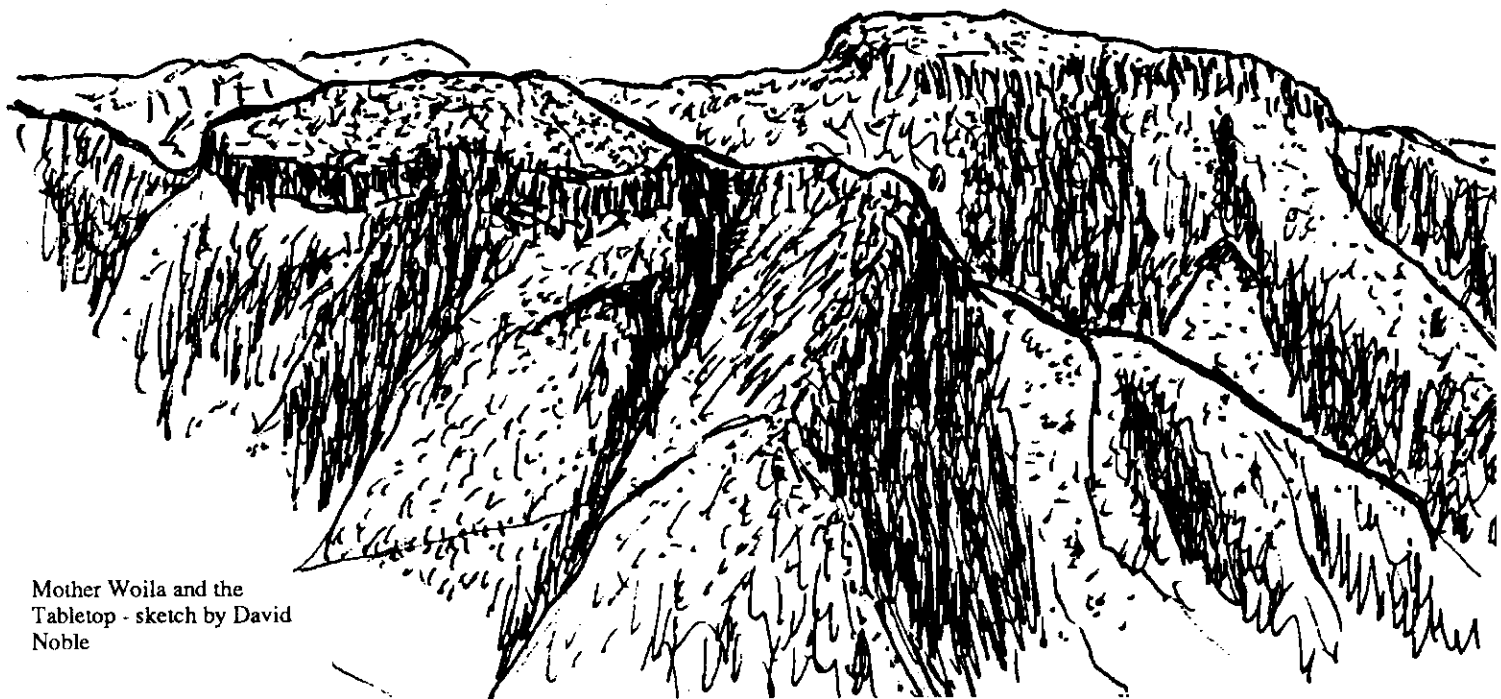
Visitation 1981 - 1988

In July 1981 Warwick Blayden with Ann Gibbs-Jordan placed a pocket notebook on Mother Woila replacing the scraps of paper already there. By June 1988 the notebook had deteriorated, several entries almost indecipherable. From the notebook the following statistics have been compiled:

Total number of Entries = 23
Stated Entries by Organised Clubs = 12
(6 CBC)

The yearly breakdown is as follows

Year	Number of Entries
part 1981	3
1982	4
1983	2
1984	6
1985	0
1986	4
1987	2
part 1988	2
total	23



Mother Woila and the
Tabletop - sketch by David
Noble

Number of Names per Entry

Names	Entries
1	2
2	11
3	0
4	2
5	3
6	3
7	1
8	1

(not all members of any particular party in the area necessarily make the visit to the Mother Woila summit)

Thirteen of the twenty-three entries were parties of one or two. The total visitation in this period equals eighty people in twenty-three parties. Eight visits were made at Easter and four were on the June long weekend. Sixteen of the trips were in the Autumn/Winter months. At least eleven parties mentioned that they had gone over or intended to go over Tabletop. It is likely there were others.

The notebook contains minimal comment but includes the tentative claim of the first grandmother to climb the mountain - Pat Pickering, Oct '83 and a comment by a crew of seven in Nov '81 who "... did marvellous things better than anyone before!"

Comments

From the material available seventy-three trips in the Mother Woila - Tabletop area are recorded between March 1964 and June 1988¹². Most parties were small in size and presumably experienced in rough country walking. The majority of the walks

involve elements of the Woila circuit theme (three or four days) including Big Badja - Woila Clearing - Mother Woila - Tabletop - Scout Hat, with access usually via Dampier or Mother Woila as a side trip or en-route from Woila Clearing, Pikes Saddle and Big Badja seem to have been the preferred starting points.

Only a minority of parties approach the area from Wyanbene or Bendethera or from Eastern Deua creeks and ridges. Most of these have been prior to 1981. They include Whiteley's CBC party April 1974 from "Khan Unis" - Bendethera and the Jilliga Range (between Running Creek and the Jilliga Creek) to Tabletop; Dave Noble's ten day solo trip from Bemboka - Indian Head - Brogo - Tuross - Woila - Tabletop - Mother Woila - Snowball; Ian and Sue Olsen's marathon six week trip from Clyde Mountain to Cowombat Flat (Dec/Jan '76/'77)¹³ visiting and camping on Tabletop after gaining way via Jilliga Creek and a Mt Druit Bushwalking Club party of six, May 1979 whose route took them from Wyanbene - Deua Trip - Dampier - Woila Creek - Tuross River to Cooma.

Noteworthy is the journey undertaken by "muleteer" John Blay through the Deua - Tuross - Wadbilliga - Brogo country in 1981/82. Blay climbed Tabletop in about April 1982.

Only one party is known to have gotten their 4WD to Mt Dampier and made a return visit to Mother Woila from there. There is much fallen timber on the high ridges. An Early commentator, Henry Fairlie-Cunninghame wrote in 1972 of the Dampier area "Clearing the top of the trig seems to have let the wind into the surrounding area and resulted in a lot of trees being blown over. These are lying

crisscrossed on the southern side of the trig and certainly (make for) slow walking progress."¹⁴

Joan Rigby recorded that the area south of Dampier once "supported a fine forest but now the large trees lie crisscrossed and between them is thick new growth of saplings and scrub."¹⁵ A gale force wind in June 1988 added to the decimation of the exposed forests of White Ash and Black Ash (Silvertop Ash) on the ridges connecting Mt Dampier, Mother Woila and Tabletop.

The Minima Range road is very badly eroded on sections east of Breakfast Creek. The road should be closed to all vehicles at least to the west of Breakfast Creek.

Citations

1. Bushwalking Near Canberra; Canberra Bushwalking Club 1974.
2. Gregory's National Parks of NSW, 1980.
3. Wild Places; Peter Prineas and Henry Gold, Kalianna Press 1983.
4. Mitchell Library, Sydney MLMSS 1682.
5. Cited in "It" CBC Newsletter, by Warwick Blayden (letter 25-7-88).
6. Dot Butler pers.comm. and The Sydney Bushwalker, May 1966.
7. Telopea 1(6) 1980, NSW Herbarium, (see also Telopea 2(1) 1980.
8. Ian Olsen pers.comm.
9. Peter Prineas pers.comm. (Also Wild Places)
10. David Noble pers.comm.
11. Mother Woila Logbook (1981-88) entry by Ron Levy and Lex Holcombe 30-8-81 mentioning pass used on previous trip.

Continued page 8

MAKE SURE YOU STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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Surveying: Control surveys for natural resource and construction projects, Global Positioning System surveys and services. Project management, geodetic and mapping control surveys as well as survey control information.

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- *Topographic maps covering NSW
- *Parish and county maps covering NSW
- *Orthophoto maps
- *Property maps
- *Touring maps
- *Tourist maps
- *Historic map reproductions
- *Geographic names gazetteer
- *NSW display map
- *Special publication including:
 Official Road Directory of NSW
 Map Reading Guide
 Atlas of NSW
- *Special use maps including:
 NSW base maps
 Aboriginal map of NSW
 Lord Howe Island Colour Photomap
 NSW Local Government Areas map
 Sydney CBD colour photomap
- *Survey information covering NSW

THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT
Putting people first by managing better



Continued from page 7

12. Includes references in Trek Through the Back Country by John Blay, Methuen 1987. (Blay also records meeting two parties that had walked in the area c. easter 1982 the second of which had visited Mother Woila and Tabletop. I have taken this party to be one of three which recorded entries in the log book at Easter 1982 (PG).
13. National Parks Association Journal April/May 1977.
14. National Parks Association Journal July 1972.
15. "It" CBC Newsletter March 1974.

I Thank Warwick Blayden for his assistance. Warwick first ventured out to Tabletop in October 1972. Also thanks to Rob Jung and Nick Bendeli for clarifications. Rob twice visited the Mother Woila summit on the same trip at Easter 1982. I have included this as a single entry.

Conservation Clippings

Continued from page 4

control. The Service will also begin to take a greater role in protecting native plants and animals in the 95% of the state outside the national park estate.

Well done Chris Hartcher, but where are those wilderness areas (or parts of them) you promised to declare last December?

New, Stronger NSW Forest Campaign

The campaign to protect old growth and wilderness forests in NSW has been launched afresh with the formation of a new Forest Rescue Coalition. They will persue an expanded campaign following work by groups such as SEFA. Their initial focus will be on the South East forest and the export woodchipping industry. They may be contacted on (02) 247 1737.

Barrington '94

By Tony Parr

Yes we are at it again!

Wilderness Rescue are still determined to locate the wreckage of a light aircraft that crashed in the Barrington Tops area in 1982. On 15/16 October we will head in force back to the lawyer vines for another fun weekend.

The search area will again be on the Wangat River, a location that we were unable to fully search when we went up there a couple of years ago. This is still felt to be the most likely crash site so we want to give it a really thorough search.

To transport searchers from Sydney a coach has been organised which will pick up from The Blue Mountains, Penrith, Parramatta and Strathfield on the Friday evening. The cost will be \$20.00 per person and seats are limited so get your name down quickly. For bookings call John Tonitto (02)789 2527 or Tony Parr (047)58 7421

Jenolan Caves

- Access Review

by Andrew Cox

Access to Jenolan Caves or Kanangra Walls via Hampton is up for review following conflict with increasing numbers of cars passing through the Grand Arch. This conflict has altered the ecology of the caves, and the appreciation

Would You Rescue A Lawyer?

S&R Director, Keith Maxwell has submitted the following example of a warranty found on the back page of a catalogue of rescue equipment from the United States of America.

LIMITED WARRANTY:

California Mountain Company, Ltd. warrants to the original purchaser that CMC manufactured products will be free from defects in materials and workmanship. This express warranty and all implied warranties imposed by law are limited to one year duration from the date of purchase. CMC reserves the option to repair or replace any product returned under warranty and if in CMC's judgement the product has not been misused or altered. No further warranties exist or are implied by CMC due to the high risks involved in rescue services and in outdoor activities such as, but not limited to, mountaineering, rock climbing, rappelling and caving, which can be reduced only through the skill, training, and judgement of the individual participant. Expressly excluded, and CMC shall not be liable for, are all consequential damages arising out of the breach of the express or implied warranties on sales by CMC. This limited warranty in no way limits or alters other manufacturer's warranties on products that are sold or distributed by CMC. Regulations issued under the Magnuson Moss Warranty Federal Trade Commission Improved Act require the inclusion of the following statement: some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts nor the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations may not apply to you.

of pedestrians of the area.

Six options have been proposed to address the problems, ranging from doing nothing; to a new aerial cable car from a car park; or a new road on the ridge above, bypassing the Grand Arch. Your club secretary has been sent details of the options, and comments can be sent to the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust.

Bush Month - Time to Think of Wilderness

During October, the Wilderness Society is holding Bush Month. This will offer people the chance to enjoy our wild places, learn new skills and have fun while raising much needed funds for wilderness protection. Participants can join activities such as mountain biking, pinting, walking or kayaking. For further details, contact the Wilderness Society in Sydney on (02) 267 7929.

FEDERATION PEAK - THE CLIMB

*In Tasmania's far south west
There stands a peak alone
It rises from the Eastern Arthur Range
Of grey and weathered stone*

*For two days or maybe three
Walkers toil both plain and ridge
With tired feet and aching backs
And thoughts of tinnies in the fridge*

*Farmhouse Creek, The Cracroft
One by one they pass them by
And all this time Federation Peak
Looms proud against the sky*

*Then they climb the ridge called Moss
It takes a long long day
But finally they get into camp
On the plateau called Berchervaise*

*Breakfast before the sun comes up
It will be a glorious day
Pack lunch, parka and climbing rope
And they are on their way*

*The southern traverse is the way to go
With Lake Geeves a thousand feet below
The track is only inches wide
Of loose scree, soft moss and cold mountain side*

*At the central cairn the way is up
This rough wall of stone
Don't look down, it's no place to clown
Each walker climbs alone*

*Sidle across a vertical face
Side of boot, tips of
fingers, lots of space
Hunch down in a
cleft in the
mountain side
A place to rest,
perhaps to hide*

Up and up over broken

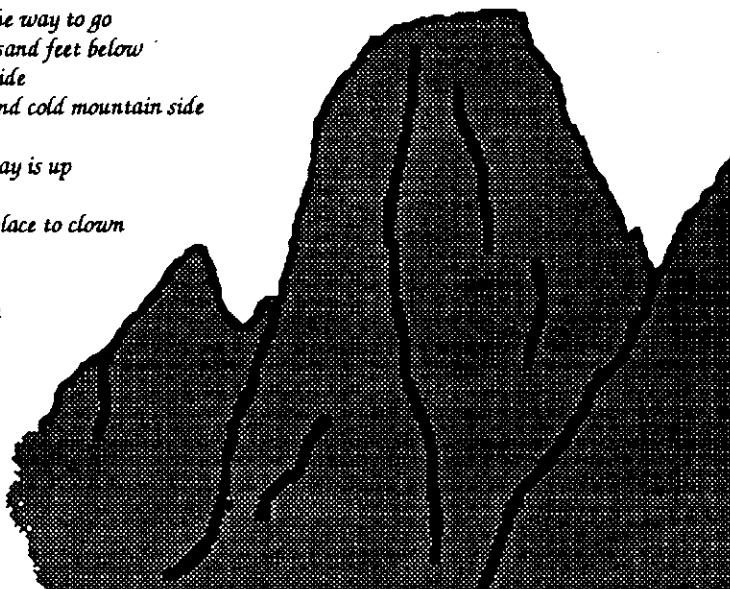
*rock and scree
The incline lessens, the top they can see
A final effort no place to stop
A cry, a shout they are on the top*

*What words could express
The view that unfolds
Full circle they turn
Naught but wilderness behold*

*No name of man
No sound to be heard
But the sigh of the wind
The cry of a bird
Their photos are taken
The log book is signed
With reluctance they descend
Leaving awesome beauty behind.*

Jack Cummings

Verses Of A Bushwalker. 1994



Letter To The Editor

Sir,

Roger Lembit's comments in the winter issue regarding my booklet, "Canyons near Sydney" were very interesting.

One thing they illustrate is the ancient and continuing rift between bushwalking clubs and non-club walkers, including scouts. This rift is evident for example in the song "The Little Scout" in the Sydney Walkers' Song Book, where:

"... Milo winced a trifle,
To see him clutching in his hands
A half axe and a rifle."

But many ex-scouts join walking clubs, and the category of "other" walkers is growing in number. The clubs would do well to try to improve their relations with these groups.

My booklet does seem to have popularised some canyons that were previously known only to a select few. On a trip to Hole-in-the-Wall Canyon last summer, I spoke with several groups who would all be classed in the scout or "other" categories. They were all enthusiastic about the canyon and about their experience. Should walkers in clubs really deny these people their experiences, so that

the select few can enjoy "exploratory walking"?

Roger criticised the booklet for not mentioning "Parks Service restrictions on fires" in Wollangambe Creek. That ban has never been condoned by me or by my fellow canyoneers.

The Wollangambe Creek at Mount Wilson is not a wilderness area, and never will be. Every weekend in the summer the canyoneers number in the hundreds. Access to the creek is easy and quick.

And if the NPWS was trying to protect the Wollangambe from the danger of bushfires they would have been more effective carrying out hazard-reduction burns along the Bell Road - as is done at Bilpin and other places where main roads pass through extensive areas of bushland.

Such action would have prevented the disastrous fires which devastated the Mount Wilson - Wollangambe area in January and which made a mockery of the NPWS ban on fires.

Sometimes environmentalists seem to be a bit narrow-minded, and perhaps insensitive towards more ordinary people who can enjoy the bush too.

Rick Jamieson

Maurice and The Green Bean - Mobile Phones In the Bush.

Recently there has been some debate within clubs about the value of carrying mobile phones on walks. A helicopter rescue organisation suggested in the press that all bushwalkers should carry them after an injured bushwalker was able to call directly for help. The "Green Bean" A contributor to "The Sydney Bushwalker" has this to say...

"Surely the presence of a mobile phone will detract from the socialising if users of the mobile telephones are tempted to ring whomever to have a chat while on a walk."

"If they are to become common in the bush then ...they might be misused, eg, an overnight walk that doesn't take enough food, do they ring a national pizza chain and ask for delivery within the advertised time. Or, what about a walker who develops a blister on his heel, do they ring NRMA careflight. Then there is the walker who is "too tired", do they ring to organise a ride home?"

"The benefits are likely to be so rare that it simple isn't worth the effort to carry them"

Maurice Wicks from Canberra Bushwalking Club writes in their

magazine "It"...

"Although a mobile phone conjures up images of immediate contact in the event of a problem, in actual fact this is often far from the truth. Consider the following points:

- Analogue mobile phones provide coverage for approximately 85% of the population, but only cover 5% of the land mass. As a bushwalker I like to walk away from major population centres.

- Mobile phones do not respond kindly to swims. I would not want my \$500 plus phone to get an involuntary swim, as unlike my sleeping bag it will not dry out.

- Analogue and digital phones rely on radio waves and receiver/base stations. If you are more than 40kms away from a base station, the chances are you will not get a signal, especially with a hand held unit. In addition radio waves are not that reliable in canyons, gullies and similar. In the future, satellite communications will provide a solution. A mobile phone has many advantages ...I firmly believe that they currently have a very limited role in the bush."

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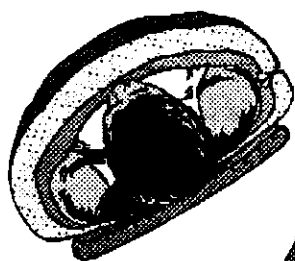


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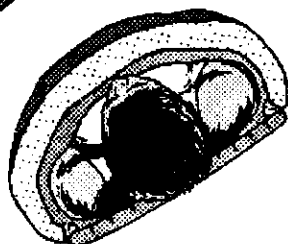
For more info about Australian YHA Hostels, tcontact YHA NSW, 422 Kent St, Sydney, Ph: (02) 2611111, Fax: (02) 2611969

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Cutaway view of standard bag



Cutaway view of Macpac N  v   or Pinnacle

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66 Archer Street, Chatswood. 2067. Phone: (02) 419 6955.



Wanted : Bluegum Memories

Do you - or does someone you know - have memories of Bluegum Forest and the upper Grose Valley, from the twenties, thirties or forties? Perhaps you have old accounts or photos of your visits.

Or do you have more recent material on Bluegum which might be of special interest.

If so, please get in touch with Andy Macqueen. (Telephone 047-512556, or write to 39 Bee Farm Road Springwood 2777.) A member of Springwood Bushwalking Club and author of the recent book on Barrallier, Andy has commenced research for history of Bluegum and the surrounding area.

The project is proceeding in association with the community group Friends of Bluegum. If you would like to join the Friends, write to Ranger Cath Ireland, NPWS, PO Box 43, Blackheath 2785. No fees, expertise, or obligation required! Just be involved when you can.

The Bushwalkers Ball

by Tony Parr

It's time to get into training for the most energetic night of the year - the annual Bushwalkers' Ball.

Despite its' title this is not a formal event - far from it - the night is a very casual bush dance.

The venue, as it has been for the past few years, will be the Petersham Town Hall and dance music will be provided by the "Currency Lads" bush band.

This year is the year of the family so we have decided to make this the theme for the night. You are encouraged to use some lateral thinking and turn up appropriately dressed. The totally unbiased judging panel will pick the winners of the coveted award,

The Boot, which will be presented to the club displaying the most imagination in decorating themselves and their table. Bankstown Bushwalkers seem to think they have a mortgage on the award so how about giving them some competition?

Booking is not encouraged, just turn up at the door with all you want to eat and drink, \$10 for entry and lots of spare money to buy raffle tickets and/or to bribe the judging panel.

The Bushwalker

Contributions, letters to the editor, original cartoons and suggestions are welcome. They should be sent to the address below. Except for short notes or letters, all contributions should be accompanied with a text file on a three and a half inch floppy disk in either Macintosh or MS DOS format.

Advertising rates are available on request. Ring Andy Cox on (02) 359 2213

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

Address all correspondence to

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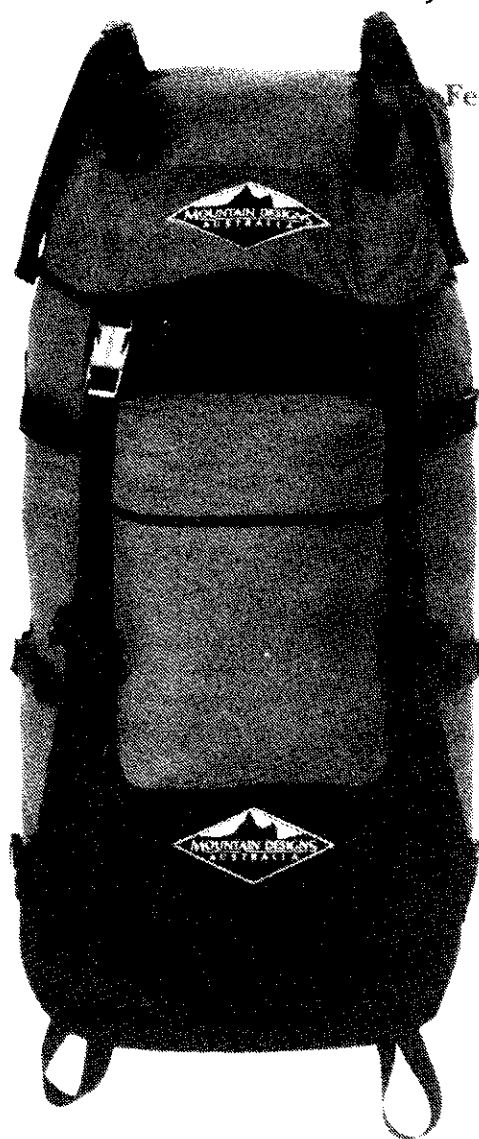


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