

The Bushwalker

ISSN 0313 2684

WINTER ISSUE - MAY 94

VOL 19 No 4

Kowmung - A Wild River Goes Under

By Andrew Cox

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An environmental impact statement (EIS) is presently being prepared and will be due for release and public comment later this year. While groups concerned about the proposal are encouraged to voice their views, it is the fact that the preferred option has been decided in secret by Cabinet that raises suspicion about the real motives for the dam proposal. This new proposal will inundate, during a flood, twice as much land as already covered by the present lake and allow a twelve metre rise of the lake (and extensive scarring) for extended periods.

Site Inspection and Community Workshop

On 20th April, Confederation Conservation Officer Andrew Cox and NPA delegate John Clarke participated in a boat inspection of Lake Burragarang to look at the potential upstream impacts of the proposed dam upgrade. Organised by the Water Board, the trip offered a rare opportunity to see the spectacular scenery within the restricted area and to view the soon to be inundated, extremely rare Camden White Gum. It was also a chance to realise the severity of the proposal. An ugly, weedy and often barren 7.5m (vertical) tide mark fringed the entire lake due to its current low level. Tragically, a further 12 to 36 vertical metres looks likely to suffer the same fate under the guise of flood mitigation.

Inspection participants were

accompanied by Water Board representatives and EIS consultants, on hand to answer questions from Confederation and environment group representatives. Slides and possibly a video of the visit will be shown at a public meeting to be held in June (see below).

Confederation also took part in a community workshop on 27 April. Representatives from most groups affected by the proposal were present, including local councils, oyster growers, National Parks Association, The Wilderness Society, ACF, Nature Conservation Council of NSW and the Colong Foundation. It was a good chance to air our concerns, ask probing questions and request further information. Unfortunately, details surrounding the various alternatives to the proposed dam raising that would guarantee dam safety, without the disastrous flooding effects, were not provided. Since the determination of the preferred option to dam upgrade the dam was made by Cabinet, the supporting information remains confidential.

Inadequacies of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in progress were also revealed at the workshop. A map of potential inundated areas showed only 2km of the Cox's River being affected, rather than the correct distance of 11km! The EIS consultant's information on the impacts to traditional campsites and walking areas was almost non-existent. For those with information on usage of the areas to be affected, please send to the Kowmung Committee for inclusion in the



Lower kowmung River. Photo by Andrew Cox

EIS.

Details of the Flooding Proposal

In all the widely distributed supporting literature and media coverage, the Water Board's proposed works are described simply as raising the existing dam wall 23m. Few details of the new dam have been publicised, and even fewer address the upstream environmental impacts.

The upgraded dam will consist of a new spillway enclosing the present dam structure to a level 12m higher than the dam's full storage level (FSL). Above this will be a larger wall 24m higher again, with six open channels above the spillway.

The new 12m spillway will regulate all floods occurring once every 50 years or more frequently, releasing water over a

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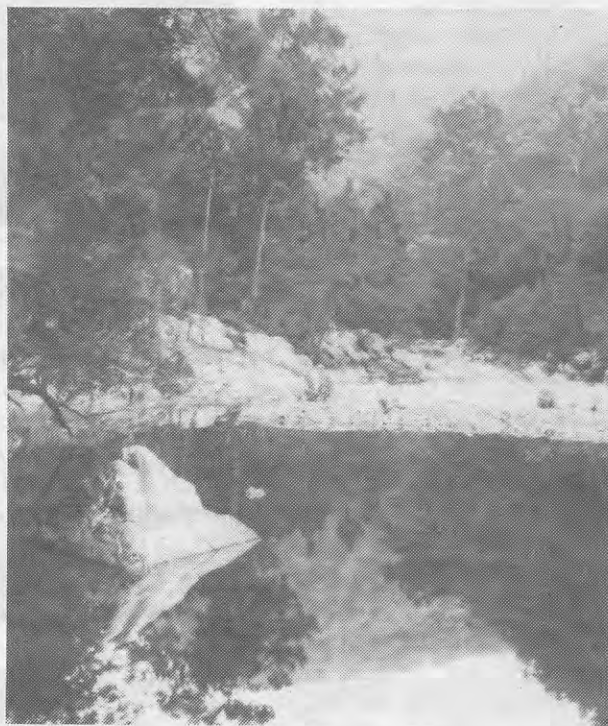
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The new 12m spillway will regulate all floods occurring once every 50 years or more frequently, releasing water over a

minimum period of about 24 days. Present policy will be to restore the existing FSL following this flood. However, there is no physical impediment to using a higher water level for water storage, or to delay its release due to some perceived downstream convenience eg. if water levels in the Nepean/Hawkesbury remain high following a flood, or if oysters cannot tolerate long periods of slowly released fresh water.

Floods larger than 1 in 50 year floods will overtop the spillway and be released relatively quickly and unregulated. The largest likely flood occurs once every 100,000 years, and at worst case, would occur when the 12m spillway is full (ie. following a large flood). The extra 24m above the spillway will contain this rare event, but reach high up into the Coxs, Kowmung, Kedumba, Wollondilly and Nattai Rivers.



Upstream Impacts

The effects of flooding varies with the level above the existing FSL. The heaviest toll will occur within the first twelve metres above FSL, with vegetation undergoing inundation by stored flood waters for several weeks or more. Research about the ability of plants to tolerate temporary flooding is scarce. On the whole, most native plants will die, to be replaced by bare soil or weed infestations which are typical of the banks of Lake Burragorang when it remains at low levels.

Besides the obvious visual impact of a barren, weedy and wasteland-like channel, there will be separate impacts on plant and animals depending on their level of dependence on the areas to be flooded. The entire population of Camden White Gum (*Eucalyptus benthamii*) is found within the level of the highest possible flood, 36m above FSL. Only 5,000 individual trees are known to remain in the wild. Another rare or endangered plant is *Hakea sp. nov.*, found along the Kowmung River. A three metre rise of waters above FSL will drown 40 of 200 known individual plants. Animals such as platypus, wombats, lyrebirds and brush-tailed rock wallabies are found in the area

to be flooded. They will suffer due to the loss of food sources and removal of shelter.

Much of the lands to be inundated as a result of the dam upgrade is within national park. Water Board land forms most of the remaining land tenure, which should be added to the existing national parks. Two wilderness areas, Nattai and Kanangra-Boyd will also be damaged. While the Nattai is legally declared as wilderness, declaration of the identified Kanangra-Boyd wilderness (and adoption of the first plan of management for Blue Mountains National Park) await a decision about the dam upgrade. Flooding may also destroy aboriginal relics in the area, of which there is little knowledge of.

To bushwalkers, the attraction of walking in an eroded moonscape is limited. Access may be curtailed while flood waters bank up, which may become permanent, especially if the increased dam capacity is used to store water. Views from wilderness peaks, including Splendour Rock, Clear Hill, Mt Solitary and Echo Point (not wilderness) will include an ugly 'tide mark' caused by the storage of the latest floods.

Where to Now?

The Kowmung Committee calls for a rejection of the Warragamba Dam EIS that favours the 36m dam upgrade. It demands that the public is given the opportunity to consider a range of options that ensure dam safety while minimising environmental damage.

Get Involved - Attend the Public Meeting, Join the Kowmung Committee

Already there has been considerable interest in helping the committee achieve its main objectives - to halt the government's proposal and to ensure the Kowmung River remains in its pristine state. Many people, particularly bushwalkers, have shown a strong desire to ensure the Kowmung River and other favourite creeks, rivers and mountain views are not ruined forever.

We need urgent action to counter the Government's proposal. Find out more about the proposal by attending the public meeting on 23 June (see details in box), join the Kowmung Committee, send a donation or write a letter.

We urgently need more people to help the Kowmung Committee. If you have any time at all, regardless of skills, help with the campaign by phoning Andrew on (02) 690 1059 or Ashley on (02) 799 5290. Write to GPO Box 2090, Sydney 2001.

If you can't help the Kowmung Committee, send a donation and write a letter. Our first donation of \$200 reveals the level of concern for the area. Write a letter to: The Premier, Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000, outlining your concerns about the upstream impacts of the proposal. Ask for the Warragamba Dam EIS to be withdrawn and request the options to protect the safety of Warragamba Dam be placed before the public for comment. Also send a copy to your local NSW politician.

Public Meeting

The Kowmung Committee is calling a Public Meeting to be held on Thursday 23 June, 7:30pm at Centenary Theatre, St Leonards, to discuss the impacts of the proposed Warragamba Dam upgrade. Walk two mins from the railway station, to the entrance of Royal North Shore Hospital, on Reserve Road, off Pacific Highway. See slides, a video and displays and hear distinguished speakers on the subject.

President's Report

Summer is all but gone so its time to waterproof our boots and put some heart and soul into our walking. Winter is the time for commitment but care must be taken too. Hopefully the bush-fire season has passed but we must always be aware of the dangers, summer or winter.

We have had a busy time since Christmas - Search & Rescue, as well as having quite a few call outs, were busy organising the March Practice which was an outstanding success. This was due to hard work by a small dedicated team. Of course many hands make light work and they are still looking for helpers for the Rogaine in June. They can't do it alone.

Believe it or not we are already making plans for the AGM in August 20 and we've decided to take the city to the country. Everyone must have the date by now - we've been sending out flyers with the minutes. Our guest speaker will be the always energetic Dot Butler - author of the Barefoot Bushwalker and seasoned outdoors person. She will narrate through a small slide presentation of bushwalking in the 1930s. In the evening we hope to hold a bushdance close to our campsite. On Sunday, Mudgee Bushwalkers will host a half day walk to a local beauty spot.

It's a large task but we'd like to make it one big weekend for all of us to be together to talk and enjoy.

Andy and I have just acquired a tandem so we are enjoying the bush on 2 wheels trying to accustom ourselves for our big trip next year - nevertheless we'll be out walking on the Track Maintenance Weekend - maybe we'll see some of you there.

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.

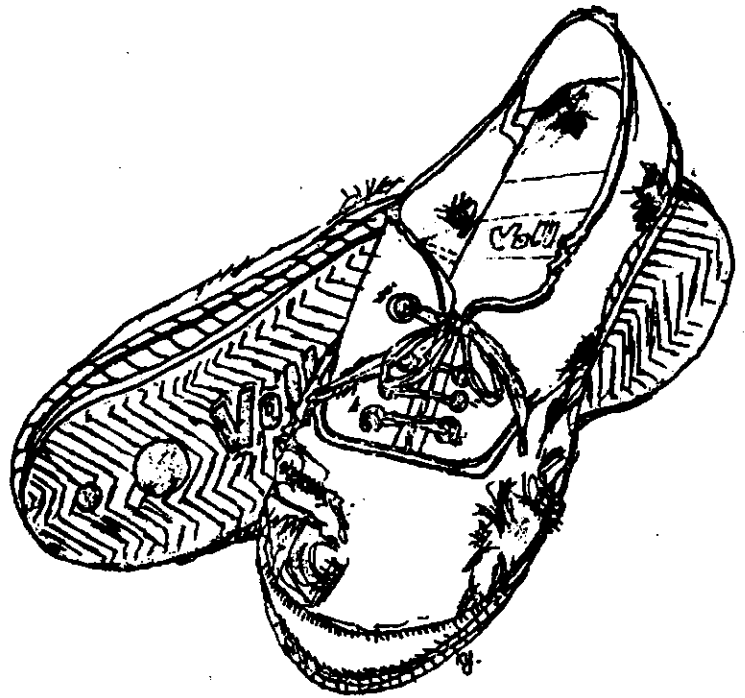
Death of the Volley OC

by David Noble

It seems that the faithful and popular bushwalking shoe the Dunlop Volley OC is now no longer made. A contact in the shoe industry tells me that it is no longer available.

In other states, the debate about bushwalking footwear has been boots vs sandals. In N S W, sandals have been the popular choice for most bushwalkers since the 1950's. For many years the debate has been between Volley OC's and Volley Internationals.

Although the "Volley International" is still available, many bushwalkers prefer the Volley OC because of its lighter weight, cheaper cost and better durability (I admit to being an OC wearer - and am perhaps biased). I personally have found these shoes still possess the best grip on wet rock and can stand up to the demands of a three peaks walk or several weeks off the track in Tassie. Even bushwalking friends,



that have moved overseas have been posted pairs from Australia when they found that locally produced shoes didn't measure up. In this newsletter in the 1970's there was a spate of correspondence when a new sole pattern was introduced. It seems that unfortunately, the bushwalking market is only small compared to the traditional major users of that shoe - tennis players.

Bushwalking Comes Up Second!

By David Noble

According to a national sporting poll published in the Sunday Telegraph on March 27 1994, Bushwalking is the second most popular sporting activity. The survey reports that it comes second after swimming. This was the first time that bushwalking had been included in such a poll.

The figures for the top 10 in terms of participation were:

Swimming 42%

Bushwalking 32%
Tennis 31%
Snooker/Pool 29%
Fishing 26%
Golf 23%
Jogging 22%
Cycling 21%
Ten Pin 19%
Aerobics 19%

The percentage of people living in Sydney that went bushwalking was 40%.

Editorial

Wilderness Rescue Group In Search For Missing Bushwalker

by Tony Parr

In recent weeks there has been a call for the restoration of Lake Pedder in South West Tasmania. This can only be applauded. The destruction of this Lake was a great tragedy. Although I have been lucky enough to make a few visits to the South West Wilderness, I, like many others was unfortunately too late to see the lake. I always regarded it as an insult to decency to name the massive impoundment that covers it with the same name. Indeed, many bushwalkers and conservationists in disgust refer to the impoundment as "Fake Pedder"! During the campaign to stop the flooding of the Franklin River I can remember being in a packed hall in Sydney seeing the Olegas Truchanas audiovisual of the area. The audience was stunned with the beauty captured in the slides and shocked that this place had been knowingly destroyed by humanity. If there is any way to right this wrong then it should be undertaken. The recent scientific studies show that Pedder's unique "sharks teeth" beach remains intact beneath the water. The demand for electrical power in Tasmania has fallen and with a current surplus in capacity there is now no justification to draining the Huon/Serpentine impoundment and revegetating the Scott's Peak Road.

Lets hope that another tragedy can be avoided. The scenic Kowmung River flows through the heart of the Kanangra Wilderness. It has been the scene for conservation battles in the past with the campaign to prevent limestone mining at Mt Armour (near Colong Caves) and a later campaign to stop plans to turn the Boyd Plateau into a pine plantation. These issues were won, and the near pristine beauty of the Kowmung remains intact. Now with plans to increase the height of Warragamba Dam, the lower part of the Kowmung and the Gangerang Gorge part of the Coss River will be periodically inundated during floodtime. If future demand for water grows then the permanent raising of Lake Burragorang could become the cheapest option. This is a worry. If you care, give your support to the Kowmung Committee. This area has long been regarded as "sacred" by bushwalkers - it is too valuable to lose.

David Noble - for the Newsletter Committee

On Tuesday 29th March Confederation's Wilderness Rescue Group was called in to help in the search for Wayne Clarke, a 29 year old walker who had gone missing near Govetts Leap in the Blue Mountains.

Wayne had been walking on Sunday 27th, with a friend, from Govetts Leap to Junction Rock. They decided to climb the spur which leads from Junction Rock up towards the cliff lines below Fortress Hill. After lunching at the base of the cliffs they returned downhill but on the way Wayne disappeared. His mate didn't realise that he had become separated until he reached Govetts Creek and then, not knowing what to do, he headed back up to the carpark and raised the alarm.

Police and National Parks personnel searched unsuccessfully for him the next day and then Wilderness Rescue was called in to start searching on Tuesday morning. The weather had been wet and cold for the two previous days and it didn't improve much on Tuesday morning meaning that helicopters would not be of any help until the cloud lifted.

From the base at Govetts Leap a total of six search teams were sent out to cover all of the routes into the valley from Pierce's Pass to Lockleys Pylon. By 1pm most of the groups were converging on Junction Rock where a line search of the

spur on which Wayne Clarke had last been seen. As this search started the cloud lifted and the Police helicopter, which had been on standby, was able to fly into the valley. Within a few minutes the missing person was sighted on a steep slope on the side of the spur only a few hundred metres from our search teams.

Badly injured by his fall, the missing person was lifted out by the Care Flight helicopter while our search teams were left to make their way back to base. The latest news on Wayne Clarke is that he has made a full recovery but he has recollection of the events leading up to his accident.

Our thanks to the clubs who participated in the search: Central West, Sydney Bushwalkers, Sutherland, Springwood, and Upper Blue Mountains.

S&R Exercise

by Tony Parr

The weekend of 19th/20th March saw 130 people turn up at Cataract Scout Camp for the regular March S&R training weekend. The format for the training was a series of workshops on the Saturday and a navigation style event on the Sunday where each checkpoint posed the groups with different problems to solve. The topics covered included crime scene handling, first aid and survival skills. The most popular checkpoint was provided by Geoff Peach, from Sutherland Bushwalkers, who organised a particularly gory, mock helicopter crash simulation.

S&R personnel were reinforced by members of the NSW Police who spoke on crime scene preservation and the crew of the Care Flight Helicopter who flew in on Saturday afternoon and gave an interesting talk on their activities before rushing off to respond to an emergency call.

Next issue -

We have an article by Colin Gibson with an analysis of early visits to Mother Woila - one of southern NSW's best peaks. We would like to accompany this article with stories about visits to this peak, similar to the feature on Mt Guouogang in this issue. Any contributions would be welcome.

The next newsletter will start Volume 20. So we will include some historical material on the early Bushwalker Magazine and the Bushwalker's Newsletter.

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Capacity: 65-70 litre • \$349

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Mt Guouogang - Special Feature

A look at routes to this well known Blue Mountains peak as well as a break down of visitor statistics during the 1980's

Routes to Mt Guouogang

By R. Hynes, SUBW

Mt. Guouogang would have to rank as one of the most prominent and remarkable of peaks in the Southern Blue mountains. It is amongst the highest in the Blue Mountains at 1291 metres and is easily visible from places such as Clear Hill. From a distance it appears as a high tumulus-shaped lump with a flat top. The peak is surrounded by several abysses or 'pits' such as Guouogang Pit and Jenolan Pit along with several very steep buttresses and ridges. The challenge of Mt Guouogang is to 'bag it' by way of one of these routes in a weekend. Of course you can climb it by walking out from Whalanias Heights and Mt. Krungle Bungle, but that's hardly sporting – it doesn't count.

A particularly strenuous way to knock off Guouogang is to start from the Family Hotel at Katoomba and walk out along the Narrow Neck Plateau on a Friday night. This was my first attempt on Guouogang and on that trip we pressed on down to Yellow Pup Ridge and camped on the Cocks River at 1 a.m. We walked up Kanangra Creek and then Whalanias Creek and saw a few trout but they were a bit hard to catch. We continued on to a lousy, stinging nettled-filled place called Paralyser Pit. From there the fun began – a steep 900 m climb up to Guouogang via Bullagowar Ridge, which was made harder by having to carry 4 L of water and

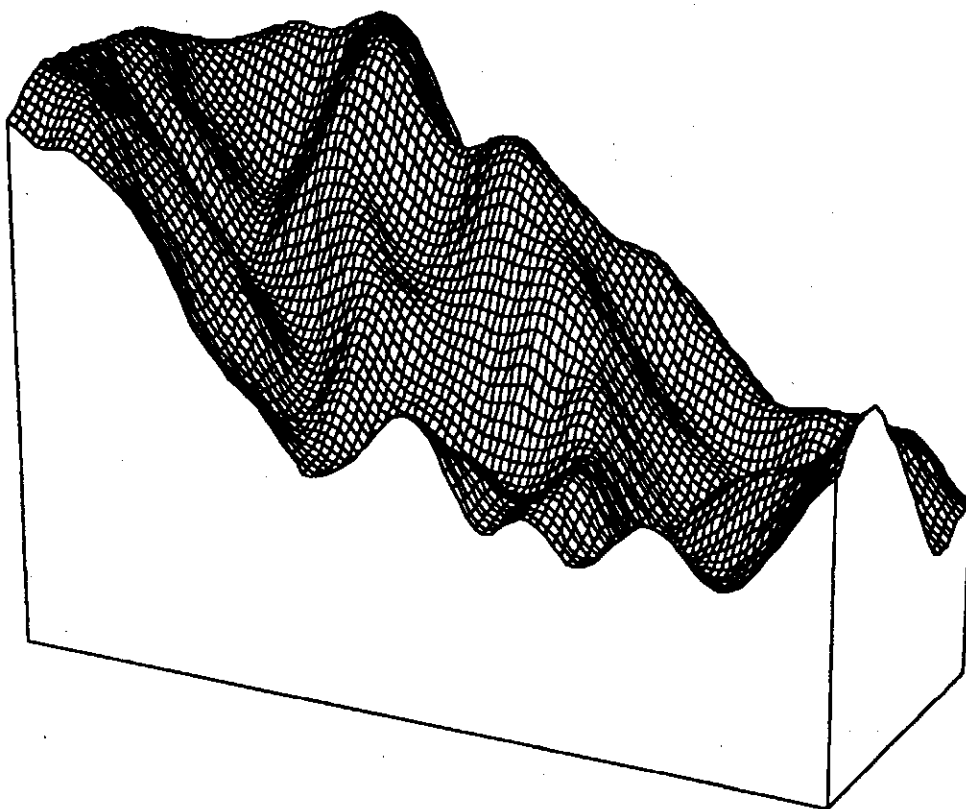
4 tinnies. The views from the Razorback (between Mts Bullogowar and Guouogang) were fantastic, especially of the big buttresses of the nearby Mt Paralyser. The next morning we headed up to the summit cairn to adorn the logbook. From there we had a 360° panorama which included the Wild Dog Mountains – a brilliant view. A south-westerly change was on its way and it was time to head back to Katoomba. We did this via the Krungle Bungle range, following it over Mts Queahgong, Jenolan and O'Reilly, getting breathtaking views of Mumbadah Deep along the way. Instead of the usual Gaspers Buttress route down to the Cocks, we followed the knee-breaking O'Reilly's Buttress. The weather was closing in and we still had a long way to go. A quick lunch was taken on Breakfast Creek and then we bolted up to Carlon's chains. About half-way up the second chain I was hit by a huge gust of wind and I turned around to see Guouogang and Mt Mouin shrouded in

above - Mts Guouogang and Bullagowar - diagram made using a WingZ spreadsheet by David Noble.

mist and rain. A quick scramble to the top and another Neck-bash saw us in time for 6 o'clock train back to Sydney.

Well, that was my first weekend trip to Guouogang. I've subsequently done several more since it was such a spectacular place to reach. Amongst many other routes include Mount Heartbreaker (which does live up to its name), Gasper Buttress, Mt. Thomas Jones, Mumbadah Creek (a great trip in its own right) and then up Mt Queahgong (where there's a plane wreck near the summit).

Of course, the most exhausting way to climb Guouogang is up the mighty Nooroo Buttress during a Three Peaks trip. This involves walking 6 hours on Friday night along the Narrow Neck to the Cocks River, waking up at 5 a.m. the next morning, bagging Cloudmaker and



GUOUOGANG LOGBOOK STATISTICS - 1980 TO 1992

ALL TRIPS RECORDED

NUMBER OF PARTIES RECORDED FOR EACH CLUB															
YEAR	TOTAL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE	NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION	SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS	COAST AND MOUNTAIN WALKERS	SYDNEY UNIVERSITY BUSH WALKERS	SPAN	RAMBLERS	SPRINGWOOD BUSHWALKING CLUB	CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB	KAMERUKA BUSHWALKING CLUB	MAQUARIE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING SOCIETY	SCHOOL GROUPS	DUKE OF EDINBURGH GROUP	3 PEAKS OUTDOOR SOCIETY	BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKERS
80	64	2	1	1	2	0	2	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
81	64	0	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	0	2	1	0
82	60	2	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
83	71	0	3	0	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
84	71	1	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
85	57	1	2	0	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
86	45	0	1	0	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
87	43	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
88	86	2	1	2	10	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
89	59	0	1	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
90	30	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
91	59	0	0	2	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
92	60	0	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	769	8	22	13	58	7	13	8	5	1	7	4	8	2	1

THE THREE PEAKS

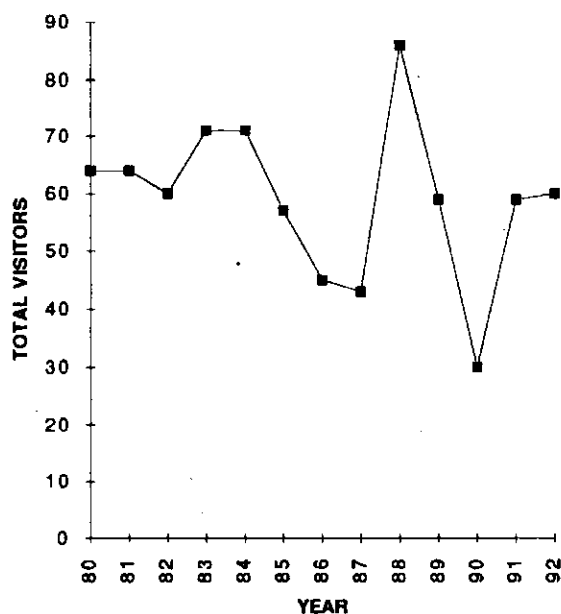
YEAR	PARTIES	NO PEOPLE	AVERAGE PARTY SIZE
80	5	10	2
81	7	26	3.71
82	2	4	2
83	4	6	1.5
84	2	4	2
85	5	10	2
86	4	11	2.75
87	5	5	1
88	5	6	1.2
89	4	7	1.75
90	3	5	1.67
91	4	6	1.5
92	2	5	2.5
TOTAL	52	105	2.02

THE THREE PEAKS

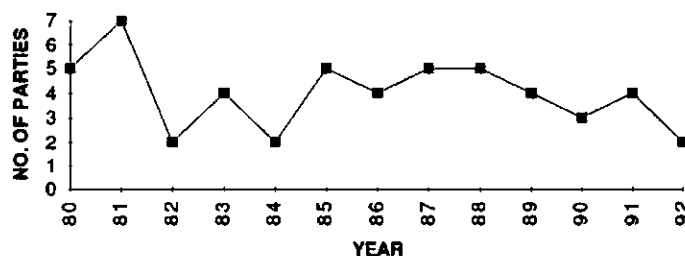
CLUB	PARTIES	NO. OF PEOPLE	AVERAGE PARTY SIZE
3 PEAKS O.S.	1	2	2
CATHOLIC B.C.	2	5	2.5
CMW	2	3	1.5
OTHER	10	17	1.7
RAMBLERS	4	11	2.75
SBW	7	20	2.86
SCOUTS	1	2	2
SPAN	3	13	4.33
SPRINGWOOD	2	3	1.5
SUBW	20	29	1.45

NOTE - ONLY PARTIAL DATA FOR 1980 AND 1992

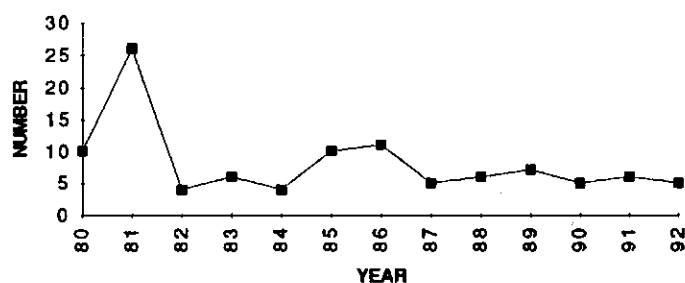
GUOUOGANG LOG BOOK



THREE PEAKS - NO. OF PARTIES



THREE PEAKS - NO. OF PEOPLE



Paralyser and Guouogang and then heading back to Katoomba within 48 hours. It's usual to climb Guouogang last and best to take the most direct route - Nooroo Buttress, a steep, relentless 1000 metre slog directly to the summit. What

makes this route worthwhile is the awesome views, the safe but airy scrambling, and the satisfaction of saying that you'd climbed one of the steepest continuous ridges in the Blue Mountains.

Data taken from the Mt Guouogang Logbook. Analysis by David Noble - using an Excel spreadsheet.

Conservation Clippings

by Andrew Cox

Wilderness - A Dog's Breakfast

The wilderness declaration saga continues. The Minister for the Environment has gone silent, the Premier has called in the Surveyor General to find out all existing interests in the Deua, Macleay Gorges and Goodradigbee Wilderness and still the National Party gets its way.

The Government is finding it difficult to make the hard decisions to ensure the proper protection is granted to wilderness in NSW. Already the ten wilderness proposals submitted before 1992 are a mere shadow of their former selves. Three of the ten were rejected or deferred indefinitely, while the remainder promised for declaration were less than half of what the National Parks and Wildlife Service identified as being wilderness. Confederation supports a possible Colong Foundation's legal challenge against the declaration of these areas, on the grounds that the areas are no longer the same areas identified by NPWS as wilderness.

Confederation rejected the Surveyor General's role in the process when he called for submissions during March for those claiming traditional usage (and hence exclusion from declaration) for three wilderness areas. Recognising the NPWS are the only agency responsible for the implementation of the Wilderness Act, Confederation sent its submission directly to the Premier, and rejected traditional usage of wilderness areas, eg. by horseriding and 4WDing as a valid claim. With the Surveyor General's report due to be (secretly) given to Cabinet on 27 May, we may see some announcements after this date.

Other Highlights

Sea Sand Mine Shelved - The Minister for the Environment, Chris Hartcher, called off a Commission of Inquiry into the sandmining off Royal and Botany Bay National Park, without an opportunity for the inquiry to verify the negative impacts of the proposal. The proposal to mine sand over 50 years from the seabed has been shelved, increasing pressure on alternative land based sites near national parks for the

supply of sand for Sydney's building industry.

Wollangambe Pollution - Reports of Wollangambe River being polluted by coal dust from the upstream Clarence Colliery have raised doubts about the ability of the mine to operate responsibly next to the Wollangambe wilderness. The operations are licenced to release waste water from its operation into the Wollangambe. Lithgow Council has just approved extensions of the colliery's operations to the north of Bungleboori Ck (south) despite concerns raised by Confederation that operations resulting in subsidence do not avoid sensitive cliffs and pagoda formations. EPA is investigating the pollution reports following letters from Confederation.

Cattle Mustering - Kosciusko National Park is now the venue for a company selling holidays to clients participating in a cattle muster across the park. Raynella Riders have surprisingly been granted permission to operate six musters each year across the park, most at weekly intervals. It was many decades ago that cattle were removed from the park due to their high impact. It's strange that when you have paying customers and a supportive local National Party MP what park managers will allow.

Further Bushfire Developments - Heated reactionary criticism against national parks management and opportunistic greenie bashing, while grounded in myth, has resulted in pre-emptive legislation drawn up by the Government.

The legislation proposes changes to the Bushfire Act that will allow the Department of Bush Fire Services to override local councils and government authorities eg. NPWS in the implementation of fire management plans. It is the intention of the government to ensure the bush is burnt more frequently, despite this resulting in changed forest types and increasing the fire hazard in many cases. If the legislation is not supported by the opposition or independents, then the parliamentary inquiry just started will be the better

forum to address improvements to bushfire management.

Blue Mountains for World Heritage Photo Competition

An amateur photographic competition that aims to promote the Blue Mountain's suitability for World Heritage nomination is being organised by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Committee.

Entries close on 22 July 1994, with entries exhibited from 27 August to 4th September at Wentworth Falls School of the Arts. There are black and white print and colour print categories within each of the primary school, secondary school and open groupings.

For competition conditions and entry forms, write to Blue Mountains World Heritage Committee, Photographic Competition, PO Box 7, Leura NSW 2782.

Bushwalkers Ball

by Tony Parr

Start practicing your dancing! The annual Bushwalkers Ball will be held in September. For those who have never been to the Ball it is a very informal bush dance and has been held for the last few years at Petersham Town Hall.

This year the Ball is being held on September 16th to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Coast and Mountain Walkers. As usual there will be a theme for the Ball, this year it will be a "family" theme as this is the year of the family. Clubs can compete with costumes or table decorations which should vaguely reflect the theme.

Tickets will be sold at the door so there is no need to book but if you want any further information phone Tony Parr on (047) 587421 (any time up to 9.30pm)

Bits and Pieces

The S & R practice weekend of 15/16 October, 1994 will be a full overnight practice. The aim is to eliminate the wangat valley as a possible crash site for a single engined Cessna which crashed without trace in 1980. The last search covered only a small area due to poor attendance and inclement weather. S & R will again subsidise the bus trip to the base site.

- from the Wilderness Rescue newsletter.

The NP&WS are after reported sighting of the endangered brush-tailed rock-wallaby. They are usually confined to cliffs or steep rocky gorges. Identification - thick dark brown untapered tail, chocolate brown back, grizzled grey shoulders, white cheek stripe with a dark stripe running between the eyes to behind the ears, brownish yellow belly and distinctive cylindrical droppings with a small point at one end. If you see any on a bushwalk contact your local NP&WS office.

- from Newcastle Bushwalking Club Magazine Apr 94.

Ever wondered how to divide up the petrol costs at the end of a walk? Here's now Canberra Bushwalking Club do it:

Each trip participant will

contribute an equal share to the transport cost of the trip as determined in accordance with the formula:

$$(D \times R \times V)/N$$

Where D is the round trip distance covered by each vehicle in kilometres, R is the transport rate for trips, V is the number of vehicles provided and N is the number of trip participants. (from "It" - The Canberra Bushwalking Club Newsletter, Apr 94)

Well, remember to take your calculators on walks folks!

- Dave Noble.

We recently got in a request from Dot Butler, who incidentally will be the guest speaker at Confederations AGM (see notice), to publicise a silver anniversary celebration for the Australian Andean Expedition of 1969. At the time many members of bushwalking clubs supported the expedition by way of work and donations. Dot mentions that she'd like to see them represented at the "do". See below for details.

Australian Andean Expedition - 1969
Silver Anniversary Celebration
Friday 10th June 1994
7.00 pm

An evening to celebrate Australian mountaineering will be held at Australian Geographic headquarters, Terry Hills.

In 1969 under the patronage of Sir Edmund Hillary the first ever all Australian mountaineering expedition ventured to the Cordillera Vilcamba in Peru, climbed 19 mountains including 13 first ascents.

The program will include features of the Expedition, details of high altitude medicine and highlights of Australian mountaineering since 1969 by Tim Macartney-Snape.

Cost \$30 per person. Proceeds to the Nepal Eye Program and Peru Relief Fund.

News From The Parks

by Tony Parr

Despite what you may have heard, not all restrictions on access to National Parks have been lifted following the January bushfires. While Royal NP is open to visitors all walking tracks and camp sites remain closed. For those wanting to walk in the area, Heathcote NP is a good alternative. Further west in the Blue Mountains all tracks into the Grose Valley, including those into Govetts Creek, along with the cliff top tracks between Evans Lookout and Govetts Leap are all closed and will remain that way until repair work is carried out. This work has just started and is due for completion by the end of June.

On September 3rd a photographic exhibition will be held at The Heritage Centre at Blackheath to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the saving of Blue Gum Forest. Anyone wanting to exhibit items or who is able to help with organising the event should contact Cath Ireland on (047) 878877 during office hours.

A reseedling programme is being started around Perry's Lookdown and Govetts Leap. The seeds have all been collected locally and will help replace trees and shrubs damaged during the fires and some that are being damaged by motor vehicles. As part of this there are plans to redevelop the camping and parking areas at Perry's Lookdown which are currently suffering from overuse.

For general information you can phone NP&WS on (02) 585 6333 or for specific information regarding the Blue Mountains phone the Blackheath office on (047) 878877.

NSW ROGAINE ASSOCIATION LAKE MACQUARIE ROGAIN

20 AUGUST 94

CONTACT
BERT VAN NETTEN
049 753 693

CONFEDERATION AGM

Is At Mudgee

20 - 21 August 1994

Guest Speaker - Dot Butler -
narrating slides of bushwalking
in the 1930's

Bushdance in the evening. Visit
the wineries. Bushwalk with
Mudgee Bushwalkers on the
Sunday.

Book Reviews

Kanangra Walls and *Kowmung River* are the eagerly awaited companions to *Coxs River*, by Jim Barrett which cover the discovery, history and development of these unique areas in the Kanangra-Boyd wilderness. There are many historic photos in the books which few may otherwise have seen. Of particular interest are details of early bushwalkers, such as the account of the spring balance which Dunphy and Gallop used to even their swags. The Kanangra Walls book contains track notes of the area which are thorough for the easier walks, without giving too many details of the more difficult routes. Through their historic content, both books inspired me to visit many places I have not yet seen. The books are available for \$8 and \$9 respectively (add \$1 each for postage) from the author at 65 Brook Rd, Glenbrook.

By Douglass Bock, SUBW.

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

It was unfortunate to find the back page of "the Bushwalker" Nov 1993 and Feb 1994, displaying an ad for a major ski resort sited at Charlotte Pass.

I disapprove of "the Bushwalker" being used as a vehicle to promote developments that are contrary to the conservation objectives of the Confederation.

In a submission to the Ski 2000 Discussion Paper in 1990, Confederation supported the phasing out of accommodation at Charlotte Pass. The area is environmental sensitive, and Spencers Creek downstream from the resorts is badly polluted.

Recent proposals submitted over the last two years have proposed increases to accommodation within Kosciuszko National Park, including a recent plan at Thredbo for the construction

of a church and golf course. The newly approved Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management supports further extension of accommodation with the park. New development should occur outside the park in existing towns such as Jindabyne.

If we must resort (sorry!) to raising advertising revenue from products that Confederation does not support, then we should either bear the extra cost, or reduce the magazine's production costs.

Andrew Cox
Conservation Officer
Confederation of
Bushwalking Clubs NSW

WHO NEEDS TRACK NOTES?

Sir,

Venture into any bushwalking store and books of track notes proliferate. Recipe-books on where to go in the Blue Mountains, South-West Tasmania and a multitude of other areas are displayed on the shelves.

What are the consequences of these publications? Are they promoting bushwalking or the interests of the authors? Do the authors make any money out of them or are they merely an exercise in ego building?

My view is that recipe book style track notes have their place in introducing people to bushwalking and into new areas and experiences. However there should be areas where bushwalkers can undergo exploratory walking and enjoy finding areas in the

continued page 11

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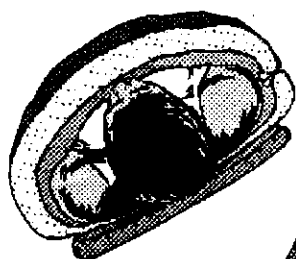


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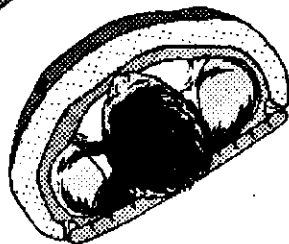
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Cutaway view of standard bag



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

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If lightweight bushwalking and ski touring are your idea of a good time, get into a Macpac N  v   or a Macpac Pinnacle.

Mountain Equipment Australia

491 Kent Street, Sydney. 2000. Phone: (02) 264 5888. Fax: (02) 264 2645.

272 Victoria Ave, Chatswood. 2067. Phone: (02) 419 6955.



A Member of INTERTREK

Emergency Services Navigation Shield

by Tony Parr

Don't forget to get your entries in for this year's Navigation Shield. The event is being held this year in the Oberon region over the weekend of 25/26 June.

For those who have never competed in this event it is a rogaine style navigation competition run by the Wilderness Rescue Group (S&R). Entries are received from all emergency service groups in the state and, this year, from interstate and overseas. To enter the main competition clubs need to organise teams of between four and six people who are prepared to navigate their way around a course covering several hundred square kilometres. As the event is held over two days all team members must carry enough equipment to ensure personal safety. In previous years bushwalking teams have managed to dominate the event but the competition is now becoming quite skilled; so we need your support to demonstrate that we are the best squad to use on wilderness searches.

For further information talk to your club S&R contact or phone John at work on (02) 789 2527.

continued from page 11

absence of knowledge of previous visits. Exploration of new areas is part of improving bushwalking skills. It would be appalling if all bushwalking areas were covered by formal tracks.

The publication last year of 'Canyons near Sydney' demonstrates an example of track notes gone feral. The author, Rick Jamieson makes a glib statement that 'some bushwalking clubs will criticise the publication of this guide because they want to keep the canyons for themselves.' My view is that rather than bushwalkers being selfish it is people like Jamieson who deny people the experience of finding canyons for themselves.

Jamieson's selfish attitude is shown in his almost complete disregard for ethical issues and the need to protect the canyon environment. All he has to say on this is to warn people not to leave rubbish and not to kill yabbies. No mention is made of Parks Service restrictions on fires in some canyon ar-

eas. He then proceeds to provide track notes on many previously unpublished canyons and provides a list of others well into the heart of the Wollangambe Wilderness. I don't think it is a coincidence that tracks are now forming along access routes to these canyons.

Bushwalking shops should take a stand against unethical publications such as 'Canyons Near Sydney', the track notes prepared by Robert Sloss and those prepared for the National Horse Trail by refusing to stock them. The latter notes promote horse riding through several areas identified as wilderness since 1976.

The best model for books informing people about bushwalking areas is 'Bushwalking in Kosciusko National Park', written by Charles Warner. Warner's approach is to provide general information about each part of the Park and list interesting features. No detailed route information is given. It is up to each bushwalking party to select their route, leaving them the chance to explore the area, with a similar experience to that experienced by earlier explorers - unless of course they try to get to Jagungal at Easter!

Roger Lembit.

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

The Editor, The Bushwalker

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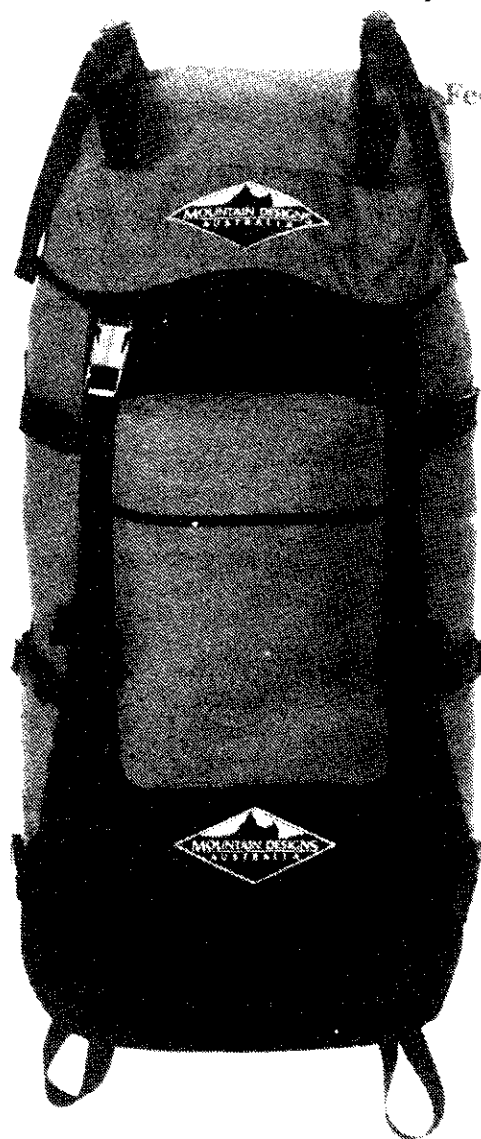
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