

The Bushwalker

Newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc
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The End of Bushwalking in the Southern Blue Mountains??

Confederation President Andy Macqueen reports on the latest alarming developments that may mean the end of any real bushwalking in the Southern Blue Mountains - Kanangra area.

It is outrageous and unbelievable that bushwalking will have to cease in half the Blue Mountains. Yet that will be the effect if regulations proposed by Sydney Water Corporation come into force on 1st September!

Anyone found camping, swimming, lilo-ing or lighting a fire in the national parks generally between Katoomba, Jenolan Caves, Kanangra and the Nattai will incur an on-the-spot fine of at least \$100.

That will no doubt be astonishing and disturbing news to you unless of course you can walk from Mittagong to Katoomba in a day, and never wish (say) to swimming the Cocks or go canyoning at Kanangra.

Sydney Water have, with no consultation or even proper opportunity to comment, put forward the new regulations under their corporatisation act.

WATCH OUT! Before you pitch that tent or jump in the creek, there may be a catchment protection officer behind that tree, with fine-book in hand!

And when you set out from Kanangra or Packsaddlers, make sure you're not being tailed by an officer, watching your every move.

The essence of the regulation, as they affect bushwalkers, is as follows:.

'PART 3 LAND': This includes the catchment of several smaller dams, and the three-kilometre zone around the

Warragamba storage. Walkers will be precluded from such areas, except for certain defined corridors such as the Mount Cookem! Track. This is not a new restriction, but while Water Board rangers were normally happy for walkers to pass through the lower Kowmung and Cocks gorges, Sydney Water is adamant that these avenues will no longer be available.

'PART 4 LAND' (This is the most serious bit): Camping, swimming, rafting, lilo-ing and fire-lighting will be prohibited over those parts of Blue Mountains, Kanangra Boyd and Nattai National Parks falling in the catchment - in other words, half the Blue Mountains. There may be exemptions: camping will be permitted in special places, identified by signposts, and fires will be permitted in approved fireplaces - hardly appropriate types of exemptions for remote-area bushwalking. There will be no exemptions to the ban on swimming and so on.

Sydney Water claims the regulations are necessary to prevent a decline in water quality in Warragamba dam.

Now, if the entire Warragamba catchment were pristine, with no urban development, sewerage systems, rural subdivisions or farming, there might be a valid argument for keeping walkers out too. But all those things are present in the catchment, and they will always pollute the

waterways flowing to the dam. By comparison, the impact of bushwalkers is insignificant. Bushwalkers have been frequenting the region for nearly a century: their continued presence can hardly give rise to a water quality decline!

Sydney Water is required under its own legislation to develop a joint plan of management for the region, with NPWS. These regulations pre-empt that process. Yes, it may be time for regulatory measures in the catchment to be reviewed but the task must be undertaken properly with full involvement of NPWS and all those who might be affected.

What is the agenda of Sydney Water Corporation? Is it playing 'let's get the bushwalkers for opposing the dam-raising'? Does it have visions of privatising the catchment, allowing only tightly controlled and sanitised resorts in our national parks? Or perhaps (and we hope this is the case) the regulations are simply borne of bureaucratic ignorance.

At the time of going to press, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Craig Knowles, who is responsible for Sydney Water, has agreed to hold a meeting with key stakeholders - Confederation, NPA, Colong Foundation and others. The date has not been set. If sense does not come out of that meeting all hell will break loose in the bushwalking movement.

**What You Can
Do - see page 2**

The Sydney Water Regulations - Background - Items from the Internet Bushwalking Newsgroup

Former Confederation Officebearer Peter Tuft posted the following item on the aus.bushwalking newsgroup on internet in July:

Sydney Water today advertised that under its new corporate status it is required to re-establish its regulations, and that the regulations currently out for public comment include Catchment Management. Copies of the proposed regulations can be obtained by phoning 02 350 5561, or can be inspected at Sydney Water customer centres. Comments should be returned by 31st July (which is not far off).

From Confederation's tracks and Access Officer:

I have received a letter from Paul Broad, Managing Director of Sydney Water in response to my queries in relation to this matter. Their response is as follows:

"Sydney Water does not plan to amend the current approved access arrangements to the Warragamba water quality protection zone.

While entry to the protection zone is generally prohibited, the long-approved walking track corridor between Mount Mouin and Mount Cookem remains available to bushwalkers who wish to transit the zone. The route is highlighted on the Corporation's maps and on the Blue Mountains Tourist Map that is enclosed for information.

The Mount Mouin-Mount Cookem route was originally selected to ensure that bushwalkers had only minimal contact with bodies of water within the water quality protection zone, as well as to discourage activities such as camping and swimming that are specifically prohibited within the zone."

As you can see the response from Sydney Water is unencouraging and does not acknowledge the previous arrangements outlined on their own sign at Medlow Gap.

I have requested that a copy of the regulations be sent to me and I will respond accordingly on behalf of the Confederation.

If anyone has any information that will help the case of Bushwalkers, please send it me. I can be contacted at the email address maack@ozemail.com.au
Keep walking

Michael Maack
Tracks and Access Officer
Confederation of Bushwalkers NSW Inc

The following is a letter sent to the Legal Advisor, Bulk Water and Wastewater, Sydney Water, today in response to the proposed Water Board (Corporatisation) Act 1994 - Regulation and the Regulatory Impact Statement, by myself, as Tracks and Access Officer of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. The submission date was today, July 31, 1994.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your prompt response in sending myself a copy of the Water Board (Corporatisation) Act 1994 - Regulation. In the short period of time left to comment, I wish to add these statements as a submission.

It is the aim of my position to liaise with organisations such as Sydney Water in an effort to encourage good access to pristine bushland throughout the state. Bushwalkers are a special class of bushusers. They are the only bushusers allowed into Wilderness Areas as defined by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

It seems rather quizzical that Bushwalkers, whose reputation is to protect our natural environment, are disenfranchised from areas controlled by Sydney Water. Other water supply agencies do not see a contradiction in allowing access for bushwalkers in their catchment areas. In fact, Bushwalkers do act as voluntary rangers in trying to identify problems within these areas ie. identifying and reporting feral animal problems, pollutant escapes etc.

Numerous questions arise from a reading of the report.

- How was the magical figure of a 3 kilometer exclusion zone around Lake Burragorang arrived at? What are the research studies that indicate that a 3 km

limit is better than a 2 km limit, or a 10 km limit, or a 100 metre limit? Apparently Peter Tuft, a previous incumbent asked this very same question to the Water Board and received no satisfactory reply. If you must use a measure, please validate it.

- If a 3 kilometer exclusion zone is enforced, in view of the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam and the subsequent flood level increase, then many more square kilometers of natural wilderness will be lost to the general public and only accessible to the Sydney Water employees, some of whose environmental credentials are extremely suspect. (Note well the loss of natural bushland through the raising of the dam level even considering that this construction is reportedly going to be used for flood mitigation(?)). How well this fits in with your Part 3-Section 15 regulation of no

Continued page 12

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning (Craig Knowles), and Premier Bob Carr, c/- Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, and your local member.

Tell them that the Sydney Water's plans to effectively shut bushwalkers out of the southern Blue Mountains are outrageous and totally unjustified for the reasons given above. Tell them that Sydney Water has acted with no consultation: any regulatory review must involve NPWS and the user groups. Tell them that if the regulations are proceeded with, there will be enormous backlash from bushwalkers.

And spread the word to your bushwalking friends, Scouts, church groups, Duke of Edinburgh Award participants and so on.

The Bushwalker is the newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It is published quarterly. The aim of the 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.

President's Report

I'm writing this on return from an extended walk in the Western MacDonnells. When I sat on top of a mountain there, in the centre of Australia, and gazed over the 360° vista of endless silent ranges and plains, things like work and Confederation seemed far away and even irrelevant. So here I am, trying to get back to the grindstone.

The trouble with Confederation, it has been said, is that bushwalkers are only interested in bushwalking - and who can blame them. Hence, we have enough trouble rounding up the volunteers to run our own clubs, let alone finding the delegates to become involved in Confederation. But, miraculously, various stalwarts have kept the show going for 63 years now.

Consider this quotation:

By lunch time the rain had come up more heavily than hitherto. Once in the long dead past I had collected the scattered fragments of notes recording the abandonment of many trips to Mount Hay owing to rain and mist; and I wondered if ours would share this fate. By the time we decided to move on we looked about as happy as walking club delegates at a Confederation Council.

When was this written? Last year? 1985? 1965? No! It is a 1937 walk account by Harry Whaite of the Warrigal Club.

There was laughter when I read it out at a recent meeting - so the long faces aren't quite permanent! But it is indeed true that Confederation has changed little over the years. It is amazing to browse through ancient minutes and reports and discover that many of the issues and problems are just the same as today's.

Nevertheless, Confederation must change with the times - unless it is to be reduced to an insurance agency.

By the time you read this another Confederation AGM will probably have



passed, a new committee will be in place, and hopefully they'll have before them a Strategic Plan listing actions that should occur if Confederation is to progress. I sincerely hope they take up the challenge.

See you at the Volley Ball!

- Andy Macqueen.

NSW Navigation Shield Results

91 teams competed (some from interstate) - 46 in the 1 day and 45 in the 2 day event. In the 2 day event the first 5 teams in the class 1 category were:

1. Sutherland Bushwalkers
2. RAAF LRT
3. Kangaroo Valley Bushfire brigade
4. Springwood Bushwalkers
5. SPAN Bushwalkers

In the 1 day event the first 5 teams in the class 1 category were:

1. ANC Bushwalkers
2. Sydney Bushwalkers
3. 3 Peaks Bushwalkers
4. Berrima Rescue Squad
5. Hillside Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

The "Volley" Ball

- the annual Confederation Ball (bush dance). Come along and be part of our great tradition which goes back to 1932. Get your club together and make up a party.

Friday 22 September 8 pm
Petersham Town Hall
Band - The Currency Lads

Bring your own sustenance
Dress: Casual. But wear your best Volleys, of course!

pay at the door - \$10 or \$25 for families

Wilderness Rescue October Training Weekend

This will be held on 14th and 15th on Newnes Plateau. All active members of bushwalking clubs are encouraged to become involved with the Confederation's rescue section - Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue. Learn First Aid, emergency and radio procedures for use in the field, use your navigation and observation skills and get to know your fellow members in other clubs.

This weekend is most suitable for club members of moderate fitness level, prepared to make themselves available for callouts at short notice. Come prepared for a possible overnight search. Bushwalkers who are available for searches, but have never attended a practice or a search, are particularly encouraged to attend. Why not get a car load of friends together.

*Bring with you -
tent
camping gear
wet weather gear
food and drinks
enthusiasm*

The map you will need is Cullen Bullen 1:25,000 for a drive to base Headquarters at Grid Reference 377052.

*For more information contact -
Tony Parr (047) 587 421 (home)
Steve Irwin (046) 268 404 (home)
Keith Maxwell (02) 622 0049 (home)*

Complete details are also available from your club's Search and Rescue Contact.

Does Your Club Reinvent The wheel?

Maurice Smith - Confederation Secretary writes -

Since becoming Secretary of Confederation last year it has become apparent that every club has its strengths that it uses to build its membership base. The nature of these strengths varies between clubs.

Therefore, it occurred to me that by exchanging information about each club's strong points, every club has the opportunity to learn and become stronger. It also means that the hardworking committee of clubs can avoid re-inventing the wheel.

It could be that you think your club is strong in all aspects. When you find out about the details of other clubs' areas of expertise, you might find that you can strengthen that area in your club.

Some of the areas that clubs may consider themselves to be strong in, include:

- a club training program to induct members new to bushwalking
 - a training program for members who want to lead trips
 - information provided to prospective members and a follow up system
 - a system to ensure that all trips report their safe return home
 - a system that records walks done by each club member
 - membership renewals system
 - walks program compilation system.
- The above list is not all inclusive.

The term 'system' it does not necessarily mean a computer based system, it can just as easily mean the method used, involving people and paper processes.

If you are interested, send me an outline of the relevant details (to GPO Box 2090 Sydney, 2001). I will compile the information into one or more articles that can be published in forthcoming editions of this newsletter. If, when you receive the newsletter, you see an outline of something done by one club that is of interest, there will be a contact name and telephone number for you to find out more information.

I believe that every club can learn something from and thus can improve what they do or how they do it.

Endangered Plant Search in Sydney

The NPWS is conducting a search for the endangered shrub - *Haloragodendron lucasii*, in Garigal and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks. The plant was presumed extinct in 1986. Now there are at least 3 known populations, all within the St Ives area. They consist of between 40 and 1000 stems but belong to only 4 cloning individuals.

The prolific white flowers are sterile and the species only reproduces by underground stems.

There is an urgent need to locate new, fertile populations to undertake cross-pollination and keep the species evolving genetically.



The NPWS need volunteers to carry out searches. For further information, please contact Mark Williams, Garigal National Park, on (02) 451 3479.

Everingham Expedition Bi-Centenary

Many years before Caley reached Mount Banks, Barrallier ventured up Wheengee Whungee Creek, or Wilson explored the Southern Highlands, three little-known adventurers made it to Mount Irvine or Mount Tomah.

Their names were Matthew Everingham, John Ramsey and William Reid.

Curiously, details of their 1795 expedition only came to light a few years ago when an observant archivist discovered some old letters by Everingham.

The Everingham Family Association is to hold a bi-centenary celebration on 5 to 8 October. This will involve several day-walks along sections of the expedition. Participants will be able to join in any or all of the sections, and the official celebrations at the conclusion. Easy, scenic walking is expected on some sections, but one section - involving a descent into Wheeney Gap - is only for the experienced bushwalker.

Interested walkers are invited to participate. Most clubs have received brochures with further details and a registration form. If you haven't seen one, phone John Williams (416 4467) or Rhonda Pilkington (716 8991), or write to-

The Convenor
Everingham Bi-Centennial Walk
P.O. Box 513
Lindfield 2070

First Aid Course

A Weekend First Aid course will be held on 28th and 29th October, 1995. This is a St John Certificate at a heavily discounted rate (around 50%). To confirm your place and the other course details contact Keith Maxwell ph (02)622 0049 (home) at home during October only. I strongly encourage all trip leaders to have a current First Aid Certificate and this is one of the least inconvenient ways to do it.

- Keith Maxwell.

The Inaugural Gardens of Stone Biodiversity Walk

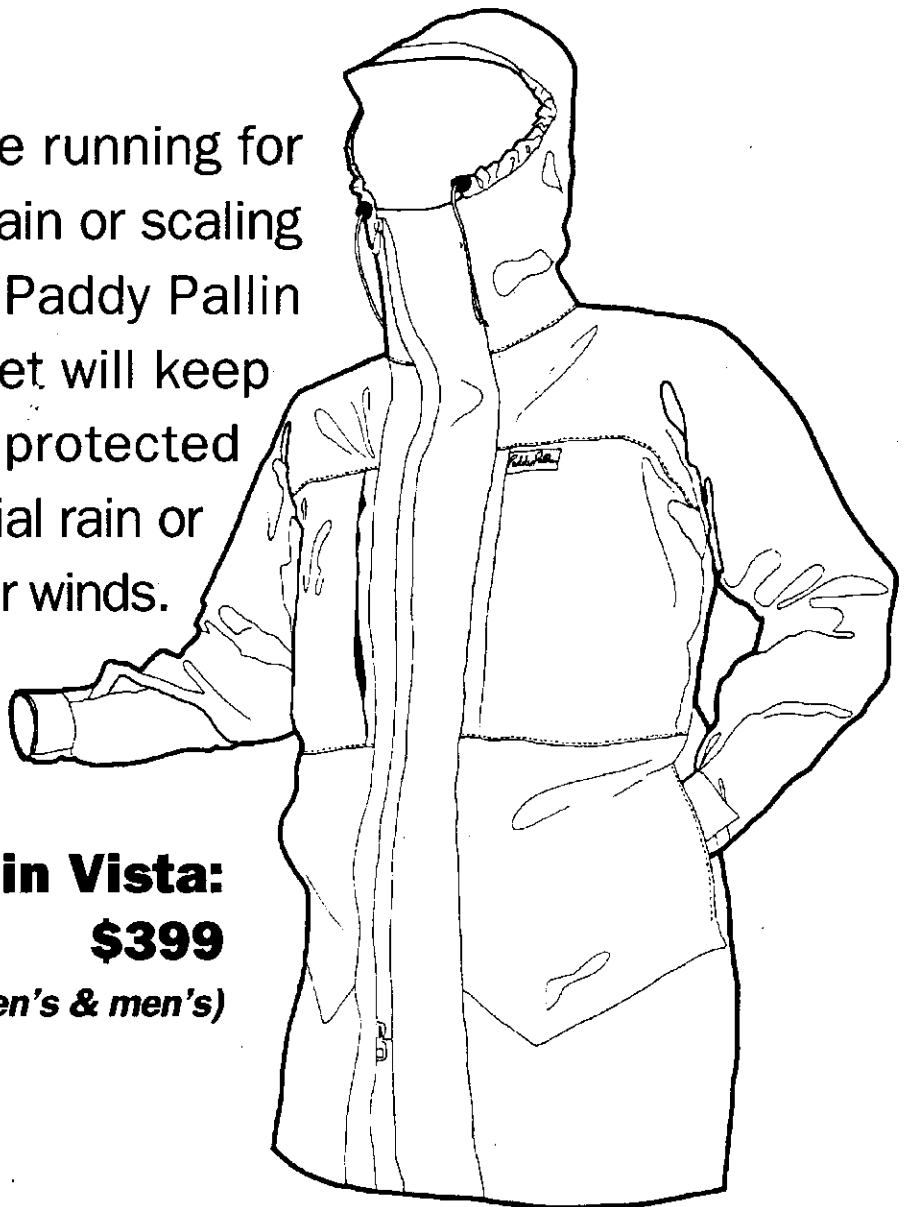
Do you have biodiverse affinity? If so, you might be interested in this event.

This walk being held by NPWS from 15-19 September, in the Pantoneys Crown - Hughes Defile area. The aim is to apply rapid assessment techniques to gain data on the distribution of plants and animals in this new National Park. There will be a base camp, and two overnight walks (15-16 & 18-19 September).

Volunteers will be welcome. For more information contact Neil Stone or Dave Noble at NPWS Blackheath - phone 047 878877 by 1 September.

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Mt Cloudmaker

Mt Cloudmaker is one of the most important and worthwhile destinations of bushwalkers in Kanangra-Boyd National Park. Col Gibson presents an analysis of the summit logbook for the period 11 January 1988 to 16 June 1990

The earliest entry in the log book which is the subject of the following analysis was made on 11-1-1988 (though a number of pages which preceded it are missing). By the middle of April 1990 the log book had been filled and thereafter entries are infrequent in fill-spaces until 16-6-1990 when the book was removed from the mountain. The record of visitation beyond Easter 1990 is probably therefore incomplete.

The traverse over Gangerang is a great drawcard for bushwalkers, and Mt Cloudmaker is its pivotal point. A total of 306 parties recorded their visits to Mt Cloudmaker in the period involved. In some months 30 parties visited the peak; compare this to the entire pre-war decade when it is estimated that fewer than 30 parties made

the traverse of the Gangerang Range.

103 entries record club or group affiliation, although it should be taken into account that this information is not always mentioned. Scout groups record 27 entries, and of the bushwalking clubs, SUBW record most at 14, followed by SBW with 8.

Logged route information refers to a variety of routes and traverses, the most popular being Kanangra-Katoomba, with the reverse also popular. Stongleg Buttress features prominently as does Kanangra-Katoomba via Ti Willa or Marooba Karoo, with a smaller number of through trips to Mittagong from a Katoomba starting point.

Low gangerang is also used though is not mentioned much in projected route information where this is given, whilst

traverses of the Moko Range and of Marcott Pass are recorded but twice and once respectively.

Of the 306 recorded visits 81 (26%) were undertaken by parties of 2, with 64 (21%) solo visits.

It is interesting to note then that nearly every second party that goes over Cloudmaker consists of only one or two walkers (though individuals in some parties may have recorded their personal entry as separate to the party entry, it is not always made clear, therefore there may be a small margin of error in this regard). Nevertheless these figures indicate that small parties are prevalent over cloudmaker, many of which are probably familiar with the terrain as repeat visits are commonly noted. The largest group was one of 22.

The most popular months for walks to Cloudmaker were the Autumn and Spring months (March, April, May and September, October, November), although November itself, with 11 visits, rated only above

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- ★ Girvan - Myall Lakes NP
- ★ Garie Beach - Royal NP
- ★ Scone - Barrington Tops NP
- ★ Bundanoon - Moreton NP



- ★ Merimbula - Ben Boyd NP
- ★ Tenterfield - Bald Rock NP
- ★ Thredbo - Kosciusko NP
- ★ Armidale - New England NP
- ★ Katoomba - Blue Mountains NP



For all bookings and enquiries:
YHA NSW
422 Kent Street Sydney
Tel: (02) 261 1111 Fax: (02) 261 1969



January with 9. In the Autumn and Spring months of 1988 and 1989 - 173 trips were made out of a total of 207 for those two years. The busiest month was April with 43 (Easter fell in April 1988 and in March in 1989). A second peak occurs in September and October (36 and 37 visits respectively or 1988 and 1989) coinciding again with holidays and the long weekend.

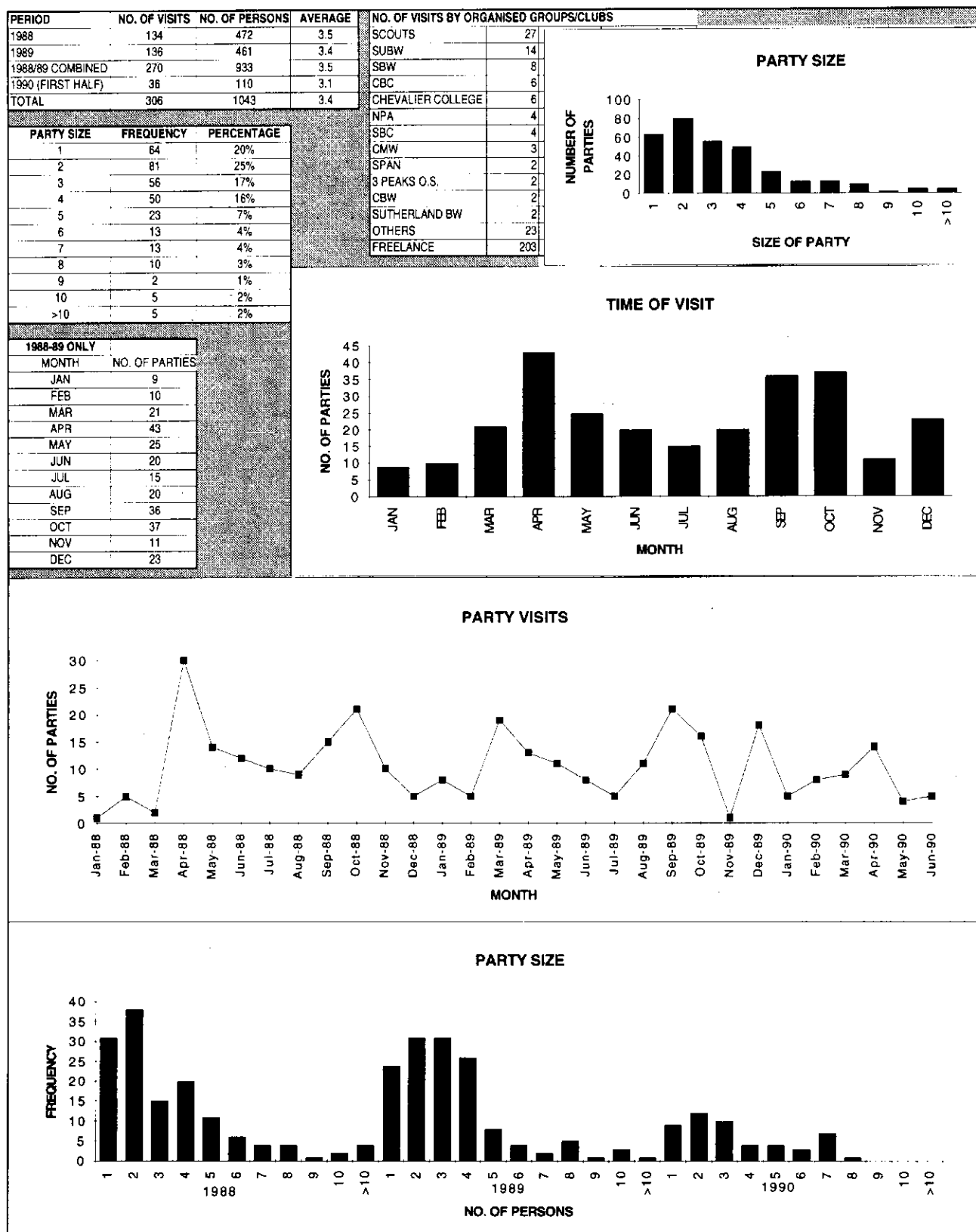
The leanest periods are the summer and

winter months with for 1988/89 of only 9 for January, 10 for february and 23 for December (total 42) and of 20 for June, 15 for July and 20 for August (total 154).

Only a single visit was recorded each for the January of 1988 and the November of 1989. The latter is probably due to the fact that November is a busy month for students and the lead up to the Christmas break. Despite being a summer month

December recorded 23 visits for 1988/89

The winter months seem to be preferred for the longer style walks such as Katoomba-Mittagong and attempts on the Three Peaks classic. A total of 13 attempts are mentioned on the Three Peaks route (though not all are necessarily completed), all but one in 1988/89. Of the attempts, 9 were made by SUBW and the remainder by freelance walkers.



Mountain

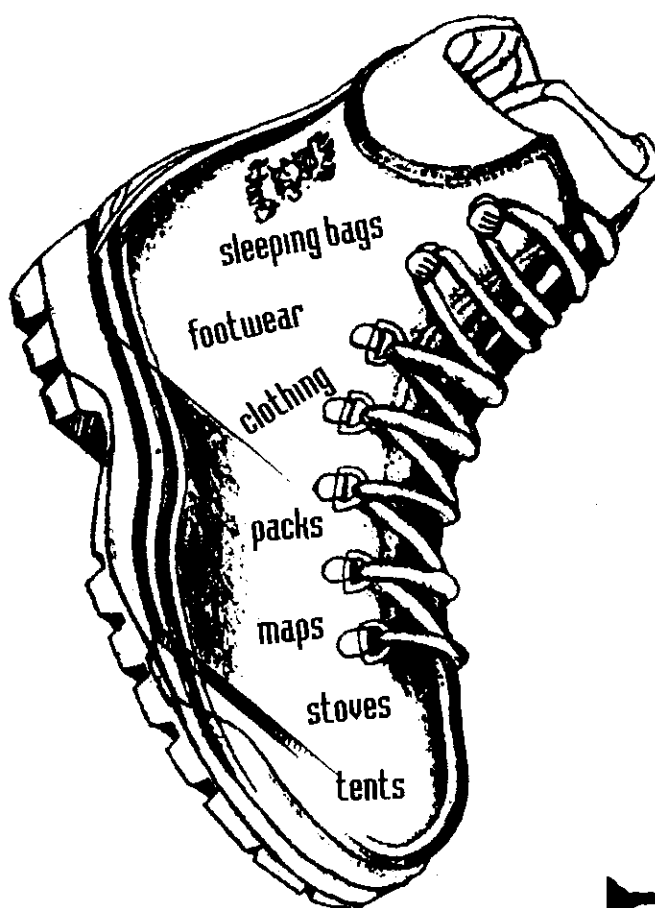
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performance
gear**

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**bushwalking
mtn biking
climbing
canyoning**



Chatswood (opp. Police Station)

66 Archer St.....419 6955

Hornsby (adj. Water Clock)

18 Hunter St.....477 5467

City (behind Town Hall)

491 Kent St.....264 5888

.....264 3146

Mountain



Equipment

S & R

Part 2 of A Short History of Bushwalkers Search And Rescue by Warwick Blayden

Nin asked Colin Putt to be the Rock Rescue Officer and organise a specialist squad. A New Zealander with mountaineering experience Colin had joined the Sydney Bush Walkers in about 1950 and had been instructing some of their interested members on the use of ropes when climbing. An engineer by profession Colin was also a licensed rigger - a job that entailed organising and calculating in advance before implementing.

In March 1961 Ninian took over as Field Organiser and three months later his skills were put to the test. When a trip in the Blue Mountains was cancelled due to bad weather Bernie Peach set off by himself. He reached Mt. Guouogang from Katoomba but in the ensuring mist misnavigated his way off the steep summit. Reaching a creek he unwittingly pushed his way through stinging trees unaware of their toxicity. Finally making camp in pouring rain he was unable to keep his food down due to the poison in his system.

Next morning was wet and progress was slow due to his weakened condition so that a second camp was made in the creek. He eventually reached the Coss River where another early camp was made. Bernie was found the next day, on all fours, crawling out of the valley.

Bob Mead learnt of an irate bushwalker who had attended the search and was in the last party back to the cars. There, alone stood his car, with a note under the windscreen saying that Bernie had been found and that the rest of the searchers had gone home. Bob saw red and took the matter up at the next Federation meeting. He moved that radios should be a part of the S & R equipment - but the motion was lost. Two or three months later Bob introduced a rescission motion and re-submitted his original motion - and expected a fight. Unknown to him, a number of people had realised the foolishness in rejecting the original motion and had worked behind the scenes. Bob's new motion was passed without dissent.

Attendances at practices had been a problem in the last decade with sometimes only nine people attending these yearly

events, but in October 300 people gathered for the practice on the Colo River - no doubt encouraged by the bus which was hired to transport people from Windsor railway station.

Being a voluntary organisation the only income it received was from donations, social activities and from a levy on bushwalking clubs. The April 1948 meeting of Federation had set a levy of 5c per capita. The only equipment S & R had was six sets of ground-to-air signalling strips to their name. A year long fund raising campaign in the early 1960's contributed \$874 to the coffers, with \$500 coming from the Kameruka Bushwalking Club.

A comprehensive medical kit was compiled and included a Neil Robertson stretcher (like an oversize cricket pad). C Hooper donated a lightweight aluminum-alloy ladder, which could be dismantled into two 1m lengths, for use as a stretcher frame. The rock rescue officer, Colin Putt, gathered gear for rescue work and had plans for a cliff-edge bipod. The minutes also indicate that four 'walkie-talkie' type radios (worth \$185 each) were purchased. These had a range of 8km in average bush/25km line-of-sight. (Bob Mead does not recall this purchase).

Colin's squad had been studying the type of rock accidents that had been recently occurring, and quietly examining ways to move the victim. They had been testing an idea whereby a patient could be strapped to a rescuer who in turn was attached to the end of a rope. The intention was that the rescuer would act like a set of wheels, and the rest of the team would haul on the rope. Then Colin received a telephone call from Russell Kippax, there was a problem at Kanangra.

A party of Sydney University Bush Walkers had set off to descend Kanangra Falls in March 1962 when one of their members Richard Donaghy slipped and fell ten metres near the base of Kanangra Falls. Rescuers were unable to haul the stretcher up an initial cliff so Russell Kippax strapped the injured bushwalker onto his back and was 'walked' up the rocky face at

the end of a hauling rope. A series of flying foxes then raised the patient, now in the stretcher, to a secure position where, aided by ropes, stretcher bearers climbed to the lookout. With the mist rolling in, the patient arrived at the carpark in the evening light.

In June 1961 Sydney schoolgirl, Monica Schofield (12), disappeared on the way to school and a massive search was organised by the Police. Ninety-one bushwalkers from eleven clubs participated in the search area round East Hills and Hammonville Migrant Centre.

Later that year there was an alert for a young man who had disappeared whilst cycling from Killara to his university. According to his mother the lad had a fixation on climbing Byangee Walls alone without a rope. Family friends in Milton eventually found him at Yadboro Flat after he had twice tried to climb the walls and failed.

Round 1964 a young man employed at Weston Electronics helped with the purchase six Weston AM packsets and a Pye HF 10 Transceiver. (This was Dick Smith who was later to make his fortune in electronics). Being the instigator of this project, and knowing nothing of radios, Bob Mead volunteered to be radio maintenance officer and set about learning all he could from Civil Defence, Dept. of Civil Aviation and the PMG.

At the time of obtaining the radios the Federation had the option of three frequencies. Dick Smith suggested the shortest frequency as it meant a shorter aerial. Not then realised was that this low frequency enabled reliable long distance communications in mountainous country (as well as underground) for low powered portable sets. The base radio, with call-sign VJ2PL, was housed in Bob's station wagon.

A party of Rover Scouts set out in December (1965) to abseil Kalang Falls At the sixth waterfall, Peter Dean (18), slipped ten metres into a pool. Sustaining head and hip injuries, Peter was dragged to safety and comforted whilst his companions went for help. About 75 bushwalkers and climbers assembled at the Kanangra Walls car park to join the four police in the rescue

Recovery took place in six stages including the erection of two flying foxes - one being the initial 30m ascent. Strapped in the canvas and cane stretcher the patient was elevated to a rather steep incline. Here John Davis (Sydney Rock Climbers) tied the stretcher on his back and made a 40m free climb using only a safety rope for assistance (according to the newspapers of the day). After six hours Peter reached the road and was transported to hospital.

In 1966 a party from Sydney University Bush Walkers were cascading down the Kowmung River when Wendy Butler had her foot jammed by submerged rocks. Despite the low level of the river, the current was strong enough to force Wendy's face into the water. All efforts, including attempts to dam the river, failed and in the end she succumbed. Seventy-five people acted as stretcher bearers aided the recovery. As a result it became Federation policy that all bushwalkers should carry a length of rope with them at all times. The Bank holiday weekend in August 1967 proved to be an busy time for S & R. Exceptionally heavy rain (up to 20cms in Sydney) fell over the weekend and nearly every party had to re-route their trips. Flooded streams delayed a number of parties, an asthmatic Scout died of hypothermia in snow storm on Mt. Cloudmaker, and a female horse-rider drowned crossing the Cocks River.

In January 1969 Warwick Daniels became the first person to be rescued twice by S & R. Two years previously he had fallen near a waterfall and it was feared that he might have broken his back, this time he dislocated a shoulder in Mt. Hay canyon. He later joined S & R and took over as Field Director in 1974. Four days after Warwick's second accident an eight year old girl from Lawson, Vicki Barton, went missing and an intensive search of an eight square kilometre area was made. The Federation was able to supply 188 bushwalkers to search both days of the weekend. The Commissioner of Police, Norman Allen, wrote "It was obvious to me that you were not only properly equipped from the point of view of radio and other appropriate facilities, but you had young people thoroughly experienced and above all ready, willing and able to assist".

Following two years of discussion, the State Government announced in June 1969 that it was going to establish a fully equipped Police S & R unit for the Blue Mountains. The unit will comprise of nine

men drawn from various police stations from Lawson to Rockley, under the control of Sgt. Sanderson at Katoomba.

Kalang Creek was again the subject of a rescue in November 1970 when in trying to fend off a dislodged boulder Dennis Ritson (22) suffered compound fractures to both arms as well as multiple lacerations. Again two flying foxes were erected one for 80m, the other for 50m. Seventy personnel were involved in this ten hour operation in overcast, wet and cold conditions. John Davis, now a photographic journalist and who had participated in the previous rescue, was on hand to record the details.

About 1976 the P.M.G. announced that they planned to close down the AM band and to switch to the SSB mode of operation. This meant that new radios had to be purchased to meet these requirements. Early the next year the base radio was replaced with a Codan 6924 McVC (25W) SSB/AM set costing \$890. Three Traegar SSB (5W) packsets were also purchased at the same time (at \$420 ea.) to supplement the eight (0.5W) AM sets. A further five Traegar sets were purchased with grants from the Dept. of Sport and Recreation Service and the Paddy Pallin Foundation. \$1,200 of the \$2,200 replacement costs coming from funds raised by the Federation.

Another expenditure around this time was the purchase of a trailer for \$200 to house the rescue equipment. This trailer was itself replaced ten years later when its condition became too expensive to repair. In 1978 the Government introduced its Police Regulations Act which amongst other things meant that the Police mandate was extended to cover the life and limb of everyone in the State. No longer could S & R head out on a search and rescue mission without first informing the Police and obtaining their permission to proceed. The Police policy was to first send out a helicopter to scan the search area to see if the overdue party could be located and only then send out the search parties. This led to a delay in getting parties out into the field.

This caused some bad feelings as S & R felt that they were, in certain cases, the



Bushwalkers from SUBW using a radio to call base on Colo River search in the 1980's (photo - D Noble collection)

best people to go into action. Any delay could be detrimental to any one who was injured, and the possible inclusion of a police officer (usually not prepared for bushwalking) in each party would be a hindrance. The reliance upon helicopters had increased over the years with the Police obtaining theirs initially for traffic control. Unlike fixed winged aircraft helicopters could hover and thereby winch people out of difficult situations. Air crew could even abseil out of these machines into difficult locations. As the helicopter's capabilities increased there came the feeling that they were the ultimate in rescue work. When in 1986 an abseiler slipped to her death in Kanangra Falls, a helicopter was able to fly up the gorge and lower a stretcher to extract the victim. (Compare this to a similar incident in 1962).

Australia's first civilian helicopter service was launched in October 1973 using a Bell 47G - a three-seater bubble helicopter which was used only at weekends in summer. Twelve years later the Surf Life Saving Association Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service had two six-seater French built Squirrels on duty 24 hours a day, and a qualified medical crew on standby. For

1973/4 there were 75 missions of assistance, 1984/5 there were 499 missions of which 15 involved 'bushwalker-type' incidents. The role that Bushwalkers Search and Rescue has played over half a century has changed dramatically as needs and technology have dictated. Initially a self-help organisation, its role was later expanded to help others in difficulties but only when called upon. The only time S & R will refuse to go out is when there is a possibility of danger from tracking those with violent intent. **This makes the Bushwalker's Search and Rescue the second oldest land based rescue unit in Australia.**

When a call for help is received it is treated as an 'alert' till such time as searchers enter the bush when it becomes a 'search/rescue'. Unfortunately over the fifty years, some of our records have been allowed to lapse so there cannot be an accurate reckoning of accounts. What can be established is that between;

1943-50 34 alerts, 7 field operations

1957-69 47 alerts, 32 field operations

1975-85 36 alerts, 27 field operations

It is somewhat gratifying to know that few of the field operations actually relate to affiliates of the Federation of Bush Walking Clubs. This means that the clubs are doing their duty to educate their members in bushcraft and safety.

Probably the strangest of rescues occurred before the S & R body was formed. Myles Dunphy and Norm Colton set out in January 1934 from Yerranderie and Byrnes Gap to explore and map the area round east and central Christys Creek. They climbed out of Christys Creek to Mt Lannigan in hot weather then blazed the turnoff down to the Kowmung and started to descend. Suddenly Myles became quite ill and sat down - the combined effect of the heat, the long climb out of the valley, the effort of marking the turnoff combined with touches of appendicitis affected him. Since all the water had been used Norm, who had blood-pressure problems, had to make a steep descent into Bull Creek gorge to bring up two billies of water.

Next morning they slowly moved down to the Kowmung to camp at the bottom of Hayters Spur. After settling Myles in, Norm started to walk into Yerranderie. He found a miner's hut near Broken Point and explained the situation. The miner, Bill Ames, travelled into Yerranderie to raise the alarm and to call in the doctor from Camden. The doctor rode over and diagnosed that Myles was suffering from dilatation of the heart. He gave Myles an injection of strychnine and digitalin, and recommended rest. Since Myles and Norm had plenty of food the doctor showed Norm how to administer further injections. Myles

and Norm decided to wait for a week then arrange for his MTC friends in Sydney to carry a stretcher in to transport Myles out. Myles wrote a number of telegram messages to be sent to his wife and club members. The police officer stationed in Yerranderie heard about the incident and countermanded the telegrams. He organised a rescue party from a gang of sustenance workers doing local road work. Myles was unimpressed with the unfit group carrying chaff bags for a stretcher. One man even had a broken arm. Myles eventually was able to convince the policeman to return to town and authorise despatch of the telegrams. A week after the incident! Myles moved slowly down to just past Ame's hut. Since maps of the area were non existent, and he best knew the area, Myles had directed the MTC in his telegrams where to pick him up. When the MTC eventually turned up they were accompanied by Jack Debert who was already living in the Burragorang Valley and had met the others by chance. The MTC members had a stretcher with them which they had borrowed from the Central Railway Ambulance Station (and to whom they later gave a donation of \$1). From his stretcher Myles guided the 16 member rescue party to Yerranderie via Donnelly Ridge.

Book Review

The Abels. Tasmania's Mountains Over 1100m High, Volume 1. Edited by Bill Wilkinson. Published 1994 by the Tasmanian Outdoor Collection.

This is an attractive book that covers the major mountains of the central and northern parts of the island. A further volume is planned to cover the south west of the state. It is quite different scope and presentation to an earlier volume compiled by Bob Brown which listed Tasmania's 1000 highest peaks in order of height. Another shorter earlier attempt was an article that appeared in the "Tasmanian Tramp" magazine of the Hobart Walking Club titled "A Peak Baggers Guide To Tasmania". It listed many of the peaks by region and "class" and allocated points to each. Bushwalkers could tick off the ones they had climbed and add up their points.

The resulting total fitted them into various categories of peak bagger. The present volume attempts to be a guide to Tasmania's mountains in the manner of the Scottish "Monroes" guides. For each peak, there is a description of interesting features associated with the peak and route information. Most are accompanied by a small sketch map and and nearly all by an attractive colour photograph.

In this book the "Abels" are delineated as peaks over 1100m high and separated from other peaks by a saddle at least 150m below the peak. This somewhat arbitrary definition means that the peaks of Mt Geryon are not included at all - the Geryon is arguably Tasmania's finest summit after Federation Peak. Instead - the un-named and almost trivial to reach high point on the Du-Cane Range immediately to the north is included!

The 1100m restriction will mean that in the future second volume many of the major south west peaks such as those in the Prince

of Wales and Spires Ranges will not be included. This may be just as well. The present book has further fuelled the debate over guidebooks and route information being freely available for an area that has already suffered from overuse by bushwalkers. At as time when managers of the World Heritage Area are seeking out responsible solutions that may mean infringements to walkers such as the imposition of permits, further route information and over promotion can exacerbate the problems.

The compilers have at least not indicated routes to peaks that cannot be reached by existing tracks. Instead only general directions are given. As well, many of the peaks in the present volume are outside the World Heritage Area and can cater for increased visitation. If the book helps reduce the strain on the fragile wilderness peaks then it will be worthwhile.

David Noble.

The Sydney Water Regulations

Michael Maack's Response
- Continued from page 2

interference with flora and fauna.

- An increased level of policing by Sydney Water Rangers during the past few months has created suspicions in Bushwalking circles that Sydney Water has a hidden agenda. The apparent barring of access to the lower Kowmung and Cox's Rivers, areas that historically have been open, is a major concern. In light of the regulations concerning the imposition of fees and charges is it the intention of Sydney Water to charge a toll on all persons entering and passing through historic corridors in their catchment areas.

- The analysis of the three different options in the Regulatory Impact Statement document - "Introduce the proposed Catchment Management Regulation" versus "Maintain status quo - retain existing Special Areas Regulation" versus "No regulation at all" is rather biased in favour of the first two alternatives and dismissive of the third.

Take a realistic look at the third alternative.

"No regulation at all" would at first glance seem unreasonable, considering the statutory requirements of Sydney Water. But these statutory requirements are only applicable to Sydney Water owned lands. Lands surrounding Lake

Burratorang are lands jointly administered by Sydney Water and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. How can two large bureaucratic organisations efficiently administer one piece of property? One is bad enough! This farcical situation is an indication of bad management practice at its best.

I do not agree that "existing strict levels of protection, particularly of inner catchment areas, has secured an availability of a supply of a quality which few major urban systems in the world could better."

In the case of Warragamba Dam, the water did not come from "levels of protection", it came from the sky, onto pristine bushland managed by the Parks Service, absorbed and filtered by the sandstone geological formations and then into Lake Burratorang. If you want the quality of your water to remain high, nominate your land as Wilderness, preserve your land as National Park and transfer your rangers to the Parks Service to ensure that the lands remain as close to Wilderness as possible. The Wilderness Act can act as the lands' and waters' statutory saviour. What a radical idea!

- Now, in expectation of the argument that allowing increased use of these lands to the general public under the Wilderness Act will greatly increase the risk of water borne diseases such as giardia etc being introduced into our dam/water system, I must remind you of the fact that, to the best of my knowledge, no mention has ever been made of a case where this has

happened previously. A 3 kilometre exclusion zone will not prevent the ingress of giardia etc. Water borne diseases do not obey boundary rules.

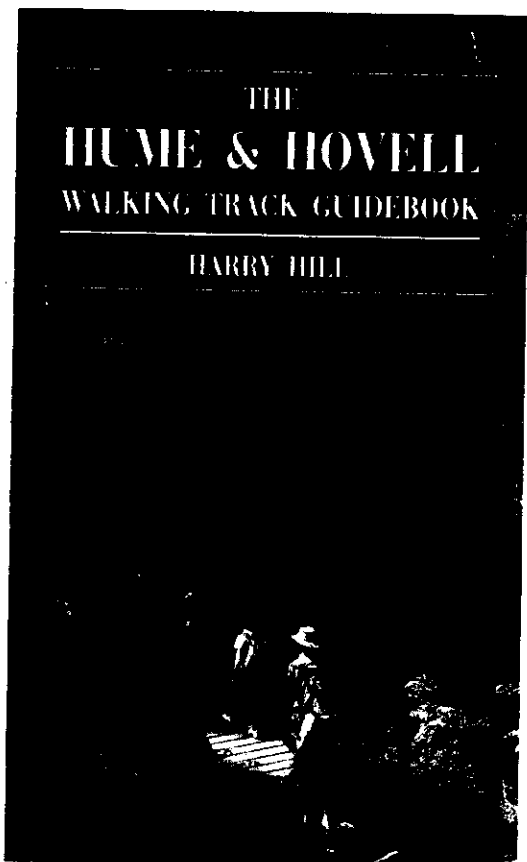
- Your regulations tacitly admit that one rule applies to one area and not to another. People are allowed access to Sydney Water lands designated in Schedule 2 but not to Sydney Water lands designated in Schedule 1. Why would you have two different schedules for water that eventually ends up in the same tap.

- It is also rather curious that you state you are very concerned about allowing the general public into Sydney Water lands because of the increased risk of lowering water quality, but in the next statement, you will allow the general public to enter these lands on payment of a fee. I never knew a fee to be a panacea guaranteeing improvement in the quality of anything. It is more likely to lower the quality of life of the payer rather than a guarantee of better water. I must ask the questions. Is Sydney Water entering the eco-tourism market? Is this your attempt at vertical integration?

Overall, the proposed Regulations are a dog's breakfast. There is no consistency in your argument. Forget regulation, try cooperation. It will enable your Customer Liason officer to sleep better at night.

Yours faithfully,
Michael Maack (Tracks and Access Officer)

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Important Lessons When Calling for Emergency Assistance

Nuri Chorvat (WEA Illawarra Ramblers) offers this advice:

One item of special interest at the Wilderness Rescue weekend on April 1+2 was a story told on Sunday morning of an actual medical evacuation that took place in the Snowy Mountains earlier this year. If I remember correctly, the story went something like this. Whilst walking along a track on top of the range, a bushwalker tripped and fell, producing a compound fracture of the elbow and upper arm. In this case the group did not carry a mobile phone, but one was available back in one of their vehicles approximately 12 kilometres away. The "000" call was sent and location of the casualty given. Fortunately, a helicopter was sent to take the lady to hospital at Woden Valley in Canberra. Even with a top rate medical insurance cover, the casualty was still \$500 to \$700 out of pocket. She was later advised that if she had not been in a medical fund, then the medical treatment would have been free under Medicare. This evacuation provided another example of the benefits of having a mobile communications device when out bush, however there were a number of other important lessons to be learnt by the experiences of this casualty that all of our fellow bushwalkers could take note.

1. Make sure that you have ambulance cover. The casualty was sent a bill for approximately \$1,400 to cover the costs of the ill-fated double rescue attempt by two ambulances which arrived 26 hours after the injury occurred. Fortunately the helicopter arrived first.

2. When calling "000" requesting an emergency rescue, specifically ask for either the Westpac or NRMA Careflight helicopters, since these are registered as charities and do not charge for their services. Their operating costs are provided by donations from major organisations and the public. The National Parks and Wildlife Service helicopter (based at Bankstown) is also believed to offer a free emergency rescue service and are the experts at flying people into or out of the bush. The other helicopters, mainly the television networks (Channels 2, 7, 9 + 10) or privately owned, who answer an emergency call may charge for the use of their helicopters.

3. The rescue helicopter pilot will require longitude and latitude co-ordinates of the casualty. The helicopters carry a Global Positioning System (GPS) onboard and the pilots will need the co-ordinates in the format of DD MM.M (degrees and decimal minutes). For example, 140 degrees 35.1 minutes East (of Greenwich) and 34 degrees 55.8 minutes South (of the Equator). This will require interpolating the black and white bars (each bar is 5 minutes) along the edges of your map. They cannot use the UTM co-ordinates that bushwalkers normally use because the helicopters don't carry bushwalking maps!

4. If you have a communications device available - use it! You may be able to talk the pilot or crew down to where they can see you.

In Conclusion ...

I would like to conclude by observing that the world around us has become a global

communications village (being 2 seconds away from someone on the other side of the world) and suggest that we would be foolhardy to bury our heads in the sand and pretend it doesn't exist. As Dunphy wrote sixty years ago, "No matter what he programs, the experienced adventurer in the wilderness knows before he starts out, that the unexpected will happen, and that he will have to cope with it." To me, self reliance is all about using our bush skills and group resources to overcome these unexpected problems. One of our club's resources is now a hand held UHF radio!

Knowing how difficult it is to get voluntary articles to insert into The Bushwalker, perhaps the establishment of a regular reader column may generate interest in relating real examples of using a radio or phone to help in rescue situations. The column heading could be "How a radio/phone helped me/our group in the bush..."

Book Reviews

Place Names of The Blue Mountains and Burragorang Valley, 1994, Yerranderie - Story of a Ghost Town, 1995 by Jim Barrett (published by the author, \$10.95 each). Available at outdoor bookshops and from the author at 65 Brook Rd, Glenbrook 2773.

Barrett has once again assembled an excellent collection of material for these two new books in his Blue Mountains history. Place Names of the Blue Mountains and Burragorang Valley contains extensive descriptions of historic names in the region. They are offered with many interesting anecdotes and include translations of those that are of aboriginal origin. If you have ever wondered how Bungalooloo Ridge, Dadder Cave or the Wallaby Parade got their names, look here. A few things particularly captured my imagination: the translation of Kowmung "sore eyes" and a photograph of the original "Taros Ladders". The book is complimentary to Barrett's previous books (Shack Country and the Old Burragorang, Coxs River, Kowmung River and Kanangra Walls), with further historic photographs, sketches and maps. This book

will be particularly interesting to those who walk or have walked in the Southern Blue Mountains, but even an armchair exploration of Dunphy's maps is made more lively by the descriptions. A complete index ensures versatility in its use.

Yerranderie is a ghost town in the Southern Blue Mountains that for the first half of this century was the centre of a thriving mining community. Yerranderie - Story of a Ghost Town is a comprehensive history of the town, also lavishly illustrated with historic photographs and maps. The story takes in early exploration of the area, discusses the economics and practicalities of the mining and specifically details those places worth looking at today. A visit to Yerranderie would not be complete without a prior reading of this book.

Barrett's earlier books have much inspired my walking in the Southern Blue Mountains. Both these new books would be a valuable addition to the library of any bushwalker with an interest in the area.

Douglas Bock (SUBW)

Walks Report - Tarlo River National Park

Roger Edwards, Canberra Bushwalking Club, reports on a new walking area.

I was talking to a sales representative from a box manufacturer when the topic of bushwalking arose. He is President of the Macarthur Branch of the National Parks Association and mentioned a walk he had recently completed in the Tarlo National Park. I remember reading some years ago an article in "Wild" on the national park being declared, however all I could remember was that it was somewhere near Sydney.

After a bit of research I discovered that the park was located just out of Goulburn in an area I always assumed was restricted to farming. As the area was relatively close to Canberra, and as a consequence of his glowing description of the area, I decided to explore the park myself.

Access is via the Taralga/Goulburn Road. Thirty five kilometres from Goulburn, near Merryvale, take the Hillcrest Road and, at a T intersection, turn left. A small leaflet on access and about the area can be faxed or posted if you contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service at Nowra (048 - 21 9969).

On the weekend of 7 & 8 January, a party of five of us parked near Glenkinchie Homestead. We walked down to Kerrawary Creek and followed the creek south to its junction with the Tarlo River. The party then continued walking downstream to a prominent rock formation called the Old Gaol (yes it is spelt correctly).

The terrain is lightly wooded with grass being virtually non existent beneath the tree canopy. Slopes are steep, suffering from erosion, and are covered in loose scree and rock. The area is totally unsuitable for farming and I suspect this is the reason for it being declared a national park.

Walking along the watercourses is quite pleasant and suited for beginners banks are virtually free of scrub and walking is easy. Dedicated rock hoppers can walk in the river if they want. The creek and river are flanked by very steep scree slopes and rock faces. Wide flat grassy camping spots are abundant and it is possible to stop and set up camp anywhere along the banks. Wildlife encountered included kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, snakes and wombats. From the number of wombat holes there is obviously a large number of these mammals. Lots of birdlife and at the gorge

we sighted a monster of a fish swimming in a deep pool.

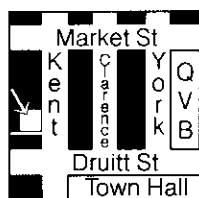
There are also numerous feral goats in the park. We suspected that the goats were eating the stinging nettles as the nettles were rarely more than a few inches high. The goats may also be responsible for mowing the grass on the camping spots.

An exceptionally superb camp site is located at grid reference 730810 (Taralga) on the left bank: bring a cricket bat! There is a deep swimming hole near this site and a hundred metres from the camp is a rocky gorge with more deep pools. This gorge was the only rough section we encountered on the entire trip. The camping spot is also an ideal site for climbing up to the Old Gaol form.

Standing on top of the Old Gaol gives fine views back into the Tarlo National Park. From the cliffs on the eastern side of the Old Gaol are unobstructed views, for kilometres, of the farm lands to the east. In the other directions are views back over the Tarlo National Park.

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Technology! Friend Or Foe?

An alternative view by John Tonitto

Consumer pressure is on all of us today. The large corporations harvest tremendous cash flows using intellectual controls convincing us that we must have the "latest and greatest" electronic tool. How insignificant we feel if we don't have this tool to solve our current problems. What will happen to those who treat the technological revolution with indifference?... Absolutely nothing

We are constantly reminded via the media, work, our mates and socially that to remain on the cutting edge we need every conceivable electronic product that money or a good bank manager can buy. It is time to say enough is enough. Do we really need it?

The road to mass indoctrination began with the introduction of electronics into the kitchen. Remember how the cook couldn't produce the basic meals without the food processor, the electric can opener, the blender, the waffle maker, the dishwasher, to name but a few. People have been convinced that they really need it. Cooking will be easier and faster they said. After all, in this pressured world, the last thing you need is to be chained to the kitchen. Well, how has it changed your life. The electric can opener stays in the cupboard unless you live on can foods. Most prefer to use the mechanical version. Along then came the affordable computers and everyone just had to have one. The question is never asked, "do we really need one?". If it was, few would buy one. Except for the workplace and students, most would get by with a 286 word processor. We have been fooled into needing the latest pentium with one gigabyte hard drive, cd rom and internet facilities just to play the latest games. We were also led to believe that computers would save paper. Unfortunately, we all now contribute to the demise of the forests as we all need a hard copy of the work we produce. After the novelty wears off, the lonely PC needs a tea cosy to keep the winter chill off it.

The next important tool to come along was the MOBILE. Status was everything we were told. Envy was the catch cry. If you haven't got it, you'll want it. Again, unless there is a business need, why do you need it? Could it be for that important reminder call ordering the family bread or milk? Is it a convenience to be interrupted in the cinema,

church, restaurant and even the back of the wagon by the incessant ring of a mobile phone? Do these instruments really take away the person's responsibility by always having an instant response for when things go wrong? Or is the ulterior motive the general acceptance of the mobile thus making the introduction of timed local calls easy to implement. Is this progress?

Reliance on technology is the first step towards human redundancy. Thousands of years of human endeavour created an inner satisfaction that went hand in hand with advancement. This allowed them to fear little and strive to new heights. When they fell they learnt from their mistakes and continued on. This might well be true for some. Others have embraced the technological revolution with wild abandon. Well, what has this to do with bushwalking? Well it is pertinent even for the bushwalking movement because the seeds of doubt in one's own ability have never been more tested than the present day. The new breed of bushwalker is no longer the resilient quiet achiever, raised on bush fitness and toughness, able to survive the rigours of the environment, enjoy it and do it all again next weekend.

It all started with the conviction that "lighter is better" and "artificial is best". Not content with using the old tried and true methods, new inventions such as stoves, tents, bags, toothbrushes, matchsticks, compasses and recycled materials for clothes that breathe and sneeze are the vogue for most outdoor enthusiasts.

Whether it is the challenge of the bush, escapism, solitude etc, these reasons are now being intruded upon. That's right the movement is being encouraged to take the "phone" with them. The beginning of the end. No longer does the individual require to learn safety in the bush, a helicopter will fix any problems that might arise there. The phone will take away the bushwalkers resourcefulness. First aid knowledge will be lost as well as knowledge of wilderness evacuation procedures. The eventual loss of these skills is a disturbing thought. What will happen when the batteries run down or the electronic device is damaged by the knocks it receives on a walk. Worse still a group member might become lost. What will he do if the leader has the only phone? Therefore everyone will need one. The user

pays principle in reverse.

The optimum tool that everyone needs today is a Global Positioning Unit (GPS). You haven't arrived until you have one of these. Bushwalkers need to learn basic navigation skills before investing in these units. Unless you have a map and compass, one of these units are virtually useless. When travelling in thick terrain it may not even be able to engage the satellites. Units consume power quickly, so spares in Duracell are required. All members will need one as, again, should one member of the party become detached from the main group without the unit and a map there is no way of knowing which way to escape. The powers have encouraged our reliance on them so that they will eventually be able to charge for their use. The long term plan will be for all units to have a scrambler fitted rendering them inoperable unless and annual or monthly fee is paid.

Reliance on technology can be costly and boring. Society should be encouraging creativity, problem solving and personal achievement. For memories are the sum total of our experiences. And good memories are the outcome of personal endeavours, not an expected electronic result. And it is cheaper as well.

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. or Email to: dnoble@nexus.edu.au

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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs
NSW Inc represents approximately 55 clubs with a total membership of around 5000 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, Confederation provides a united voice on conservation and other issues, runs training courses for members, and provides for the public a free wilderness search and rescue service. People interested in joining a bushwalking club are invited to write to the Secretary of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs at the above address, for information on clubs in their area.



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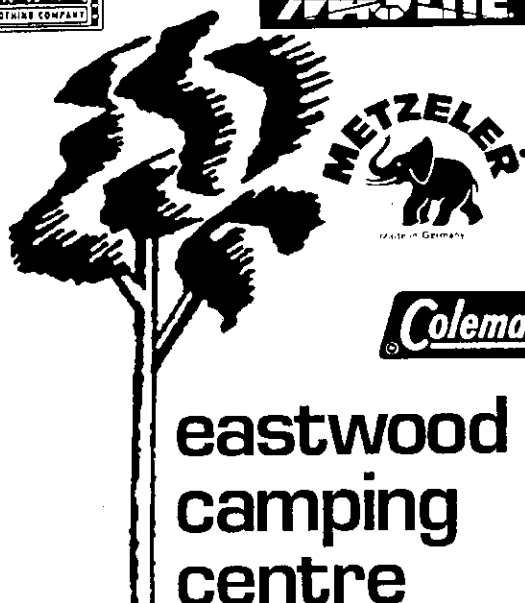
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