

The Bushwalker



Magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc
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<http://www.fastlink.com.au/subscrib/bushwalking/nmag.html>

ORCA Friend or Foe ?

Brian Walker

The Confederation's management committee has viewed with some misgivings recent moves to introduce a national accreditation scheme for outdoors leaders.

This scheme, if it comes about, will be administered by the recently formed Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia (ORCA). This organisation evolved out of the National Outdoor Recreation Leadership Development (NORLD) project at which the Confederation had observers.

The project was started in 1991 to address concerns and issues that some people had about outdoor recreation. In November that year the Federal Government's Standing

Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS) funded a national meeting to bring together representatives of interested groups and organisations. The focus was on training and development. A subsequent symposium in 1993 provided the strategic direction and management for the project, and a national board was established in 1994.

NORLD's mission was 'to develop and promote safe, quality outdoor recreation leadership that is sensitive to environmental, cultural and social considerations.' The main focus was to be on the development of professional standards for the outdoor recreation

'industry.' Over time NORLD came to be regarded as the mouth-piece for the outdoor recreation industry by some government departments and people in the business. As this expanded the organisation's responsibilities beyond its original brief, it was reorganised as the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia.

Confederation has kept abreast of these developments without becoming involved. Whilst not opposed to ORCA or its aims,

The Confederation is strongly opposed to any attempt to impose formal leadership standards on bushwalking clubs.

Confederation is strongly opposed to any attempt to impose formal leadership standards on bushwalking clubs. The management committee is concerned that standards intended for 'professional' walks leaders will eventually become the requirement for all walks leaders, including bushwalking club members, by various land management authorities.

In order to get a better understanding of ORCA's aims and how they might affect the Confederation and its clubs, a representative of ORCA, Warren Huxley, was invited to talk at the Confederation's June 1996 general meeting. His presentation and answers to members' questions did little to allay the concerns that have been raised. His statement that we all belong to the outdoor recreation

Will the NPWS hold our hand ?

The Confederation's management committee is deeply concerned about certain provisions of the NSW Government's Land Management Regulation 1995.

The worrying provisions state that the prior consent of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) must be obtained before any activities involving risk may be undertaken in national parks.

As bushwalking related activities such as canyoning, abseiling, liloing and cascading are regarded by national park authorities as risky activities under these regulations, it's not hard to understand why the wires have been running hot between the Confederation, the NPWS and the Minister for the Environment. The management committee, after considerable discussion, decided to oppose the whole concept of the section 19 regulations. The Confederation's objections were explained in detail by President Andy MacQueen in letters to Minister for the Environment Pam Allen, and Field Services Division Manager of the NPWS. Jeff Francis.

As Andy pointed out, people have been undertaking these sorts of activities without consent since national parks were first thought of - and will continue to do so unless there is a whole army of track rangers in the parks to control them

Continued on page 16

Continued on page 19



Office Bearers

**Office bearers for 1996-97
will be displayed next issue,
after AGM.**

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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 text file on three and a half inch floppy disk in IBM format.

Advertising rates are available on request. Ring John Clarke on (02) 744-1916

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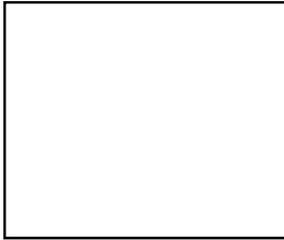
In This Issue

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 60 clubs with a total membership around 7000 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932 the 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.

The Bushwalker is the magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It's published quarterly. The aim of the magazine is to provide articles and information of interest to the members of clubs affiliated with the Confederation and bushwalkers generally. Any opinions expressed by individuals authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.



Outgoing President's Report



By the time you read this, the Confederation will have held its 65th AGM and a new management committee will be installed. I will not be president, as I am not standing this year.

The Confederation - like all of society - is facing change. We have lately been witnessing the growth of several major influences affecting recreational bushwalking: a boom in commercial outdoor operators; the push towards compulsory accreditation for outdoor leaders; the prospect of needing a permit to hold an activity in a national park; and the rising voice of the four-wheel-drive lobby.

The Confederation is very active in its endeavours to meet these challenges. A strategic plan was developed last year and good progress has been made towards meeting many of the goals set. For instance, special attention is being given to the training of bushwalkers to ensure that we operate safely and in an environmentally sound manner. We have been fostering closer communication with land management authorities in our efforts to promote bushwalkers (correctly) not only as responsible land-users, but people who can assist with land management issues.

There are also internal changes going on. The Confederation must become more businesslike and pro-

active in its operation. That does not mean lessening the importance of its members (the nominees of the clubs) - it means operating so that everyone is not only informed, but gets involved in a constructive way. Otherwise, the load on the office bearers is simply too great. Changes have been initiated: it is up to the new committee to keep steering along the new but rocky road.

Further progress must be made. The alternative is ultimately that **the Confederation will amount to nothing more than an insurance agency, bypassed by the world of bureaucrats, legislators, competing recreationists and commercial operators.**

Bushwalkers and their clubs will be driven into a corner.

Andy MacQueen

the Confederation will amount to nothing more than an insurance agency

Confederation, remember that this is more important than you might think. Many people take on the role thinking that their responsibility (if any) is merely to keep an ear to the ground about the Confederation. But it's much more than that: the delegates or nominees (call them what you will) are the members of Confederation.

Without, them the Confederation

National Parks: How do you get in?

We have a number of national parks, such as Namgar, Tarlo River and others which are surrounded by private property and access is by permission only.

Needless to say, permission of entry is difficult. Sometimes property owners have had bad experiences or they just don't want people walking across their land.

If you are considering a trip to a national park with difficult access, then permission must be obtained and your party must observe commonsense rules such as leaving gates as you found them, staying on made roads and not disturbing any of the farmer's stock. A short thankyou note to the property owner will ensure the next club will be able to gain access.

The Confederation at its next conference with NPWS will be discussing this issue. We would like some feedback on any experience you may have had (good or bad).

A few lines to the tracks and access sub-committee would be appreciated. Address on page two.

QUICK QUIZ:

WHAT IS CONFEDERATION?

Which of the following is a member of the Confederation?

- (a) A bushwalking club which has paid fees to the Confederation.
- (b) Any member of such a bushwalking club.
- (c) A person nominated by such a club to be a member of the Confederation.

If you answered (c) (only), then you are right.

The Confederation simply consists of its members, who are people who have been nominated by approved organisations, (bushwalking clubs).

So, at your club's next AGM, when nominations are being called for people to be "delegates" to the



Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue News

THE NINE-TO-FIVE CALLOUT
- 6th May, 1996.

At 9am Monday, May 6th I was contacted by Windsor Police to assist in the search for two men overdue on a lilo trip. They had set out on Thursday afternoon May 2nd, to lilo the Colo River from Canoe Creek to Bob Turner's Track. They had just one map, Colo Heights and missed the Grassy Hill fireroad turnoff. They drove a few kilometres further up the Putty Road to the Culoul Range fireroad.

Their trip thus became longer in two ways. The Culoul Range fireroad is longer and drops you into the Colo further upstream. Entering the Colo must have been interesting since they were now on the Six Brothers map!

There was a confident sighting of two men with lilos at Pinchgut Creek on Sunday morning.

Monday morning a Police helicopter flew up the Colo to Pitchgut Creek. Wilderness Rescue was then called out and was able to get 15 bushwalkers at such short notice by 3pm to Colo Heights. Such times are unbelievably hectic.

Three teams were hastily organised to head towards the Colo River, They were to go in upstream of Pitchgut Creek. They were still driving to their starting points when the missing men arrived at our S & R base.

They had found the Colo not too exciting to lilo and had slowly walked downstream to Bob Turner's Track. They had started to climb out of the valley when the Police helicopter went by! They then correctly reasoned that the

helicopter would return and climbed back down to the river. The Police helicopter went on to search side creeks to the Colo but Channel 7 happened to have a look and got the news story.

Fortunately our search teams were able to easily be recalled. There was the usual debrief before everyone headed home. The 9-to-5 callout - all in a days work.

Wilderness Rescue would like to thank all those who responded at such short notice and those who went on standby for a Tuesday morning callout. Wilderness Rescue was part of the resources used by Windsor Police which also included local S.E.S. and National Parks staff. A great team effort!

Keith Maxwell
DIRECTOR.



COLO ALERT-May 20th, 1996.

On Monday May 20th, a club trip was overdue from an attempt to go in from the Grassy Hill fireroad to Canoe Creek, Tambo Creek and Mt. Savage with return via Pass 19 (Colo Routes and Passes map). This group of nine were possibly delayed by two weaker members. At this stage the plan was to wait for the overdue group to telephone in. During this time plans were discussed within the Wilderness Rescue committee for a Tuesday callout.

Around 3pm the group phoned in from Wilberforce (what! no mobile phone?). One person was sick and Tambo Creek was very slippery and hence slow. The alternative name for this creek on the Colo Routes and Passes

map is 'Suicide Creek'. Late Sunday the group had decided not to attempt Pass 19 and had returned to the Colo River to camp the night. On Monday they slowly walked up the Colo to Canoe Creek and thence up to their cars. The Colo was still muddy from the rain of the May 4-5th. The banks were more overgrown than usual so that it was faster to wade upstream than to walk on the banks.

All in all, a happy outcome. Wilderness Rescue was already doing pre-planning for a callout. The overdue group phoned through as soon as they could (the Colo Heights public phone was not working) so that no one was inconvenienced. Wilderness Rescue was promptly notified by the club.

What procedures does your club have in place to deal with overdue groups? Does everyone know who your club S & R phone Contacts are? Do you have the current phone numbers for Wilderness Rescue.

The best way to contact Wilderness Rescue is via the pager system. For most areas you bushwalk in we are only a local phone call away. Dial 016020 and ask the operator to connect you to Pager No. 277321. When the operator asks you for your message don't forget to include your phone number (& STD Code) so that Wilderness Rescue can call you back. Your message should be no longer than a short sentence.

In an Emergency telephone 016020 pager no. 277321. Include your return (STD) phone no. in message to this pager.

Keith Maxwell Director



Confederation Navigational Shield Rogain - Murphy's Glen

Once again the Rogain was bigger and better than last year. There were 112 teams and 438 competitors. Next year the Rogain will have to be limited to 120 teams. These numbers sorely tested our site at Murphy's Glen (outside Woodford). Many two-wheel drive vehicles were parked at the top of the hill. Any heavy rain would have caused havoc. The NP&WS would have been forced to close the road and evict around 90 vehicles. Yet despite these great numbers the Rogain has managed to maintain its friendly atmosphere.

Most competitors got a shock at the fierceness of the terrain. The relief is not great but there is a maze (labyrinth) of minor ridges combined with prickly scrub and many unmarked cliff-lines. This restricted the point scores so that they were not as high as 1995. Any competitor who did well should give themselves a pat on the back. The differences between the best teams are still stamina and route planning. In 1994 Katoomba Police Rescue misplanned their return time and scored massive penalties. This year they came second to the highly capable Kangaroo Valley Bushfire Brigade! Once again the most consistently good results were from the bushwalking clubs. As well as the usual first, second, third etc all teams that get more than 60% of the two day winning team' get a navigator badge. This year only seven teams qualified for this highly valued award. In the oneday event first and third places went to local NP&WS teams! (They got no special help - honest).

Late Saturday afternoon we received word of a competitor pinned by a large rock. His team was well out onto a ridge when the rock fell. Their mobile phone was used to good effect. Woodford Bushfire Brigade relayed their message to Wilderness Rescue at Murphy's Glen. The local Police

were quickly contacted, as was the Careflight helicopter. It was very windy so that we began (hectic) planning as though a stretcher carry would be required; not an easy proposition from where he was. It was a great relief that Careflight could do the rescue. The co-ordination of services was terrific. It was just 1 hour 40 minutes from notification of the accident to being in the helicopter. Fortunately he only had soft tissue damage and was soon released from Nepean Hospital.

Careflight did a second rescue almost from the same spot on Sunday morning when a woman tore muscle ligaments. Wilderness Rescue personnel guided paramedics to her on Saturday night. A woman from South Australia was able to return to Murphy's Glen with a broken ankle! This has been our worst year for incidents. For once, we actually had to use our emergency plan of St John Ambulance and local paramedics, among others. Most competitors merely return sore but not sorry as they generally have had a great time. Many are looking forward to their five-year participation Cup.

The Rogain is partly sponsored by the State Rescue Board which oversees (among other things) training of the emergency services in NSW. They have supplied a number of shields. The oneday winners shield was presented by Mr Ray Gill, President of the VRA. The two-day winner's shield this year was presented by the Minister for Emergency Services, Mr Devus. There are also shields for the best teams from each emergency service, e.g. The Police team that scores most points of any Police team. The presentation of these shields was shared by Mr Ray Gill, Mr Phil Koperburg, Commissioner of the NSW Volunteer Bushfire

Brigades, and Inspector Garry Smith, commanding officer of the Police Rescue Squad.

To me, Sunday afternoon is a most satisfying time. All the Rogain teams have safely returned, I managed somehow as MC for the presentations and I can go home for a rest (for a little while until we have to plan the retrieval of the Rogain checkpoint markers and start looking for a site for Rogain '97!).

Keith Maxwell - Director

Abseiling by Don Fewins (from the Watagan Wanderer)

It's different to travel down or up by rope you know
"Abseiling's how you do it, come & give it a go

Harness legs, & midriff, a carabiner keep things tight
Belay on ready, you're really safe all right!

Do the check, step right back, put a protector in its place
Spread your legs then your safe walking down the face

Some fashions are eccentric to say the very least
Shorts in particular, are the nature of the beast

I guess Michael Jackson must have done it just the same
That's why he reefs it, helps alleviate the pain

Belaying is not easy, gets your right out of sorts
Caused by constantly looking up people's shorts

Names like Big Big Banana or Monkey face are great
That's where you go next time, I can hardly wait



EDITOR'S DESK

Climb Mt Oxley ?

Bourke Tourist Information Centre
Anson Street
BOURKE NSW 2840

This is a note in response to your newsletter received here recently. We believe Bourke has much to offer bushwalking enthusiasts. There are several areas within the Bourke Shire which maybe of interest to them, particularly for those who are also interested in flora and fauna and aboriginal rock art. The Bourke Shire has all this and more. We believe the bushwalking enthusiast will truly be impressed, whether he/she climbs to the top of Mt Oxley, walks along the creek bed of Mt Gundabooka, explores the Ledknapper Spinifex or strolls along the banks of the Darling River. All offer a unique experience.

Should you like further information regarding these areas, let us know as we have information and maps on these areas and more.

Yours sincerely
Laura Reghenzani
(Tourist Officer)
3 June 1996

BUSHWALKING in the SHOALHAVEN —

How's your memory?

The first official meeting of walkers in the Shoalhaven/South Coast area was held at Tomerong (near Nowra) on April 24th 1975 and from then organised week-end and holiday walks were planned by the club. But many "unofficial" groups must have been visiting the area long before then. As we are compiling a history of the Club we would like to hear from any of these walkers, also any members who can recall those early days - stories of especially interesting trips, yarns and anecdotes about yourselves and other walkers, contacts with other clubs and any historical data of the Shoalhaven group would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Robertson.

Why not fossick ?

Dear editor

I recently came across a copy of your excellent newsletter in the Glen Innes Visitors' Centre. It included some comments on a range of new reserves recently announced for New South Wales. I was struck by the comment on the Torrington State Recreation Area. The writer stated that "... activities incompatible with wilderness such as fossicking, mining and grazing are unfortunately likely to continue".

I hope your readers appreciate that to many of us, Torrington is fossicking, just as Bungonia is caving. That's why we go there. Certainly we appreciate the beauty of the place, but our primary objective is to engage in our chosen outdoor pursuit, fossicking for gems and minerals.

Please understand that the Torrington State Recreation Area is a multiple-use area and it will thrive in that role so long as none of us try to have its use restricted to our particular interests.

Yours faithfully,
John Paix
60 Hunter Street
GLEN INNES NSW 2370

Contact Barbara at PO Box
403 Nowra 2541



The cunning fox

In 1855 the European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) was released near Melbourne for recreational hunting. Within 50 years it had spread into Western Australia. Today, foxes are one of the biggest threats to our wildlife. With no natural predator, they have reproduced at an alarming rate. As Australian animals did not evolve with the fox present, they have developed without strategies to avoid predation.

All native animals are at risk from this cunning hunter, even tree dwelling animals such as koalas and possums are vulnerable. Many of our ground dwelling mammals face an uncertain future without effective fox control. Current control relies heavily on conventional techniques such as poisoning and shooting. It is hoped that in the future public support for fox control will hasten further research into alternative methods to minimise the damage caused by foxes.

How You can help;

- When bushwalking note any dens either active or inactive.
- Report all fox sightings
- Write to your local M.P. and Environment Minister about the need for further funding into fox control programmes
- Make a donation to help WIRES continue to rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned and injured fauna (all donations are tax deductible).

WIRES
PO Box 260
FORESTVILLE NSW 2087
PH: (02) 9975 5567



**From the
'Men of
Yarrowood'.**

Full pack cooking on the track.

1. Rob Walker

Rice Sauce Anglaise

1 Packet custard powder

(Foster Clarke) Extra cup water

Method:

1. Boil rice for 10 mins.
2. Divide rice into 2 separate containers.
3. Open custard powder and mix with water.
4. Add 1/2 the cooked rice to mixture.
5. Re heat.

*Half rice can be used for a savoury course.

2. Les Higgins

Turkey Pasta Surprise

Packet Continental Pasta Carbonara,

Surprise peas, Corn, Mushrooms

Dried Tomatoes, Ginger (optional)

Garlic (optional), Fingers of smoked turkey cubed

(Freeze until departure)

Water (see packet)

Method:

1. Bring water to the boil.
2. Add pasta mix (follow packet

instructions).

3. Add vegetables.

4. Add turkey 3 mins before finish.

3. Bill Probert

Beef a la Billie

Packet Uncle Ben's Chicken Rice & Veg

2 Thin beef sausages (part cooked)

chopped garlic, chopped ginger

chopped capsicum Chopped snow peas

chopped carrots, Water (see instructions)

Method:

1. Boil water & add Uncle Ben's.
2. Add vegetables and sausage.
3. Cover billycan and simmer 10 mins.
4. Stir occasionally.

Why not take some ground coffee beans and a small container of liqueur to finish the meal?

Thankyou Yarrowood and happy eating!

Why not send your favourite 'On the Track' recipes to Vivien Dunne at the

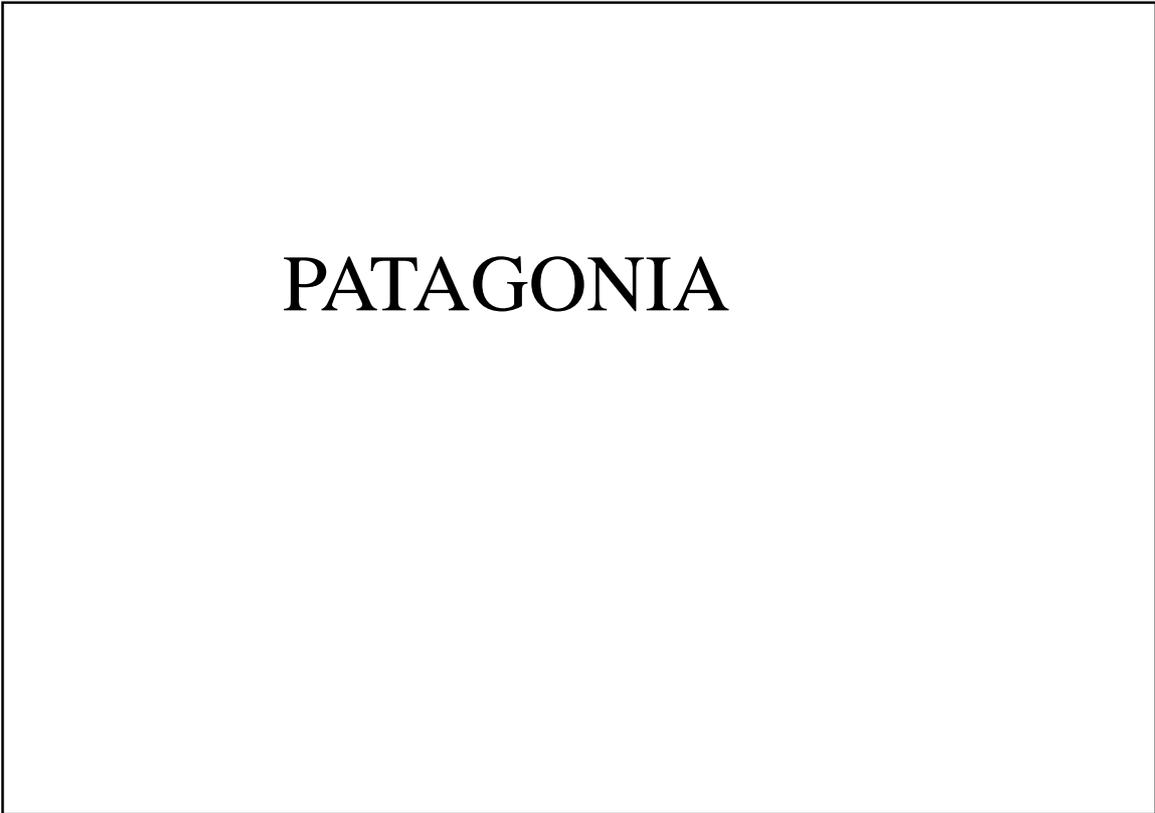
Bushwalker address or email to dunne@enternet.com.au

Bye for now,

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Walking in Nepal profiteering or not?

Dear Editor,

I would like to clarify some of the points raised in the letter from Elwyn Morris in the May issue of The Bushwalker.

There is nothing wrong with people charging for their services when acting as organisers of overseas trekking tours. If the trip is promoted in a club program, the club may want to add the words 'commercially assisted' so members are aware of this.

Club members can choose whether they want a tough 'do-it-yourself' trip or one that is expertly organised. Expert services help make a trip more comfortable, safe and enjoyable and can include

important safety measures such as guaranteed helicopter rescue in an emergency.

Trekkers need to be very careful when hiring porters off the streets or through some small local company. Porters can go on strike for more money, leaving you stranded in the mountains if you don't pay up.

Mrs Morris exaggerates the extra cost per day for a commercial operator.

Commercial operators are often responsible for researching and developing routes and destinations which then become available to all comers.

Commercial operators do advertise in club journals but these trips are always fully controlled by the company and are not just 'commercially assisted'. If individuals offering commercially assisted trips were obliged to advertise, people would probably have to pay more for their trips.

There is no need for anyone to

waste an expensive air fair, as Mrs Morris suggests. People can join or leave a tour at will. For example you could join a tour at Kathmandu, doing the land content only. A reputable tour operator will be able to offer individual travellers any extensions or alterations that may be required.

Mrs Morris may think Nepal is more popular than Ladakh, but Ladakh is very different, beautiful, fascinating and full of cultural interest. It is just not advertised much in Australia so people don't



Ladakhi Women performing a traditional dance

know about the place or how to get there.

I agree individuals could organise their own trek from Pokhara to Jomson, eating and staying in lodges. But this sort of travel earns very little for a third-world country like Nepal that depends so heavily on organised tourism.

A major problem is that people normally dependent on subsistence farming are tempted to set up wayside inns for little or no more profit than farming. Families then suffer through lack of working herds. When food becomes scarce it is sold to travellers for higher prices while village people go short.

Finally, it is worth remembering that, by Commonwealth law, overseas travel arrangements must be paid for through a licensed agent. A compensation fund then covers travellers against default.

Heather Roy

OCTOBER PRACTICE Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue

This exercise will be held in the Newnes State Forest on the 19th and 20th October, 1996.

The aim of the weekend will be to practise navigation and other search skills in a realistic mode. Walkers need to come prepared to camp out overnight. However, it is possible two one-day exercises will be arranged.

Our Rock Squad will also be in attendance. The S & R Field Officers are seeking attendance numbers to enable planning for proposed exercises over the two day period. Please contact either of the following -

Steve Irwin 828 - 8412 (work)

Mike Merrett 523 - 6632 (home)

Regards Keith Maxwell

Dates for 1996

- Put them in your diary now!
 - Make sure they get in your club's programme.
- 24-25 Aug Annual general Meeting and reunion in Canberra**
24 Aug - 1st Sept Great Grose Gorse walk
19th -20th Oct Wilderness Rescue training weekend Newnes
26-27th Oct First-Aid course

Found

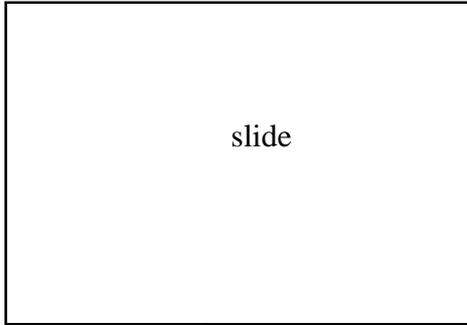
Ladies watch, near Mt Yellow Dog April 22nd, Dick Watson 9752-1917 W (047) 53-1003 H



Tenterfield YHA

Tenterfield sits astride the Great Dividing Range at the northern end of the New England highlands. Amid the contrast of rugged mountain beauty and the serenity of rural landscapes, Tenterfield, is a perfect location for bushwalkers. It provides different, but equally interesting recreational opportunities for anyone who loves the bush.

follow the white dotted trail to the summit. For a more gradual walk, take the Bungoona track (2km) where the spectacular flora and fauna can be more closely observed.



Why not walk a little further down to South Bald Rock. A 5km walk

walking tracks descend from the main parking area to the lower and upper viewing platforms which affords impressive views of the falls, sheer granite cliffs and the gorge. The park is located only 22km north east of Tenterfield.

Why take a heavy pack and risk pitching a tent in the cold rainy winter weather. There's only one place to stay that offers your group comfortable accommodation at the right price - Tenterfield YHA. This heritage listed building provides you with the opportunity to experience the history and ambiance of a unique Australian country town. Tenterfield YHA offers members a special rate of only \$13 per person per night, with breakfast, lunch and dinner available on request.

Bald Rock National Park is just 30km north east of Tenterfield via Woodenbong Road. Bald Rock is one of Australia's largest exposed granite monoliths. The panoramic views are unique to the Bald Rock National Park. The park has two marked walking tracks which reward bushwalkers with expansive views across beautiful granite landscape.

Tenterfield YHA
along the Border Trail leads to it's base.

In contrast, Boonoo Boonoo National Park has a magnificent waterfall, which plummets 210 metres into the gorge below. Above the falls are delightful pools surrounded by green forest. You may even decide that after your long walk a quick dip in the crystal pools would be rewarding. Graded

For further information, or to make a booking, please contact Greg or Dianne at Tenterfield YHA on (067) 361 477 or Justine in Sydney on (02) 9261 1111.

To climb the face of the rock,

WALK YOUR WAY WITH YHA

Walk the National Park of your choice and stay in comfort at Australian YHA's where price, comfort and customer service come first. Put your feet up and enjoy comfortable, yet affordable. YHA accommodation with more than 150 hostels throughout Australia. YHA gives you the opportunity to leave your tent behind and relax after a big walk under a dry, warm roof with a friendly, social atmosphere. Put on your walking shoes and find out about:

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Pittwater - Kuring-gai Chase National Park

Girvan - Myall Lakes

GARIE BEACH - ROYAL NP

Scone - Barrington Tops NP



BUNDANOON - MORETON NP

KATOOMBA - BLUE MOUNTAINS NP

Thredbo Kosciuszko NP

Batemans Bay - Murrumbidgee NP

FOR ALL BOOKINGS AND INQUIRIES:

YHA NSW
GPO Box 5276

Ph: (02) 9261 1111 or Fax: (02) 9261 1969





Bushwalking on the Internet

<http://www.fastlink.com.au/subscrib/bushwalking/index.htm>

On Wednesday June 27 1996, the official Australian Bushwalking page was placed on the internet for the benefit of all bushwalking clubs in Australia.

The internet service provider Fastlink (based in Newcastle) are providing the site and storing the pages and files as a free community service. We wish to thank them for this support. Naturally Fastlink hope to gain some benefits from the association by offering internet services and commercial page development for people attracted to the Australian Bushwalking Web. We also wish to thank Danny Yee for his support in providing his page for bushwalkers until this web could be developed.

Where you connect to the internet using Netscape, enter the address <http://www.fastlink.com.au/subscrib/bushwalking/index.html>

The web was designed and created by Nuri Chorvat on behalf of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc. Although initially only a NSW web was to be created, it soon became obvious that a national web was required with the potential for all bushwalking clubs to join the web and feed the latest information of each club for the benefit of all members. Refer to Figure I showing the structure of the Australian Bushwalking Web.

National Information

All general information is contained on the national home page. For example, information for beginners or overseas visitors, what to expect on your first walk, list of

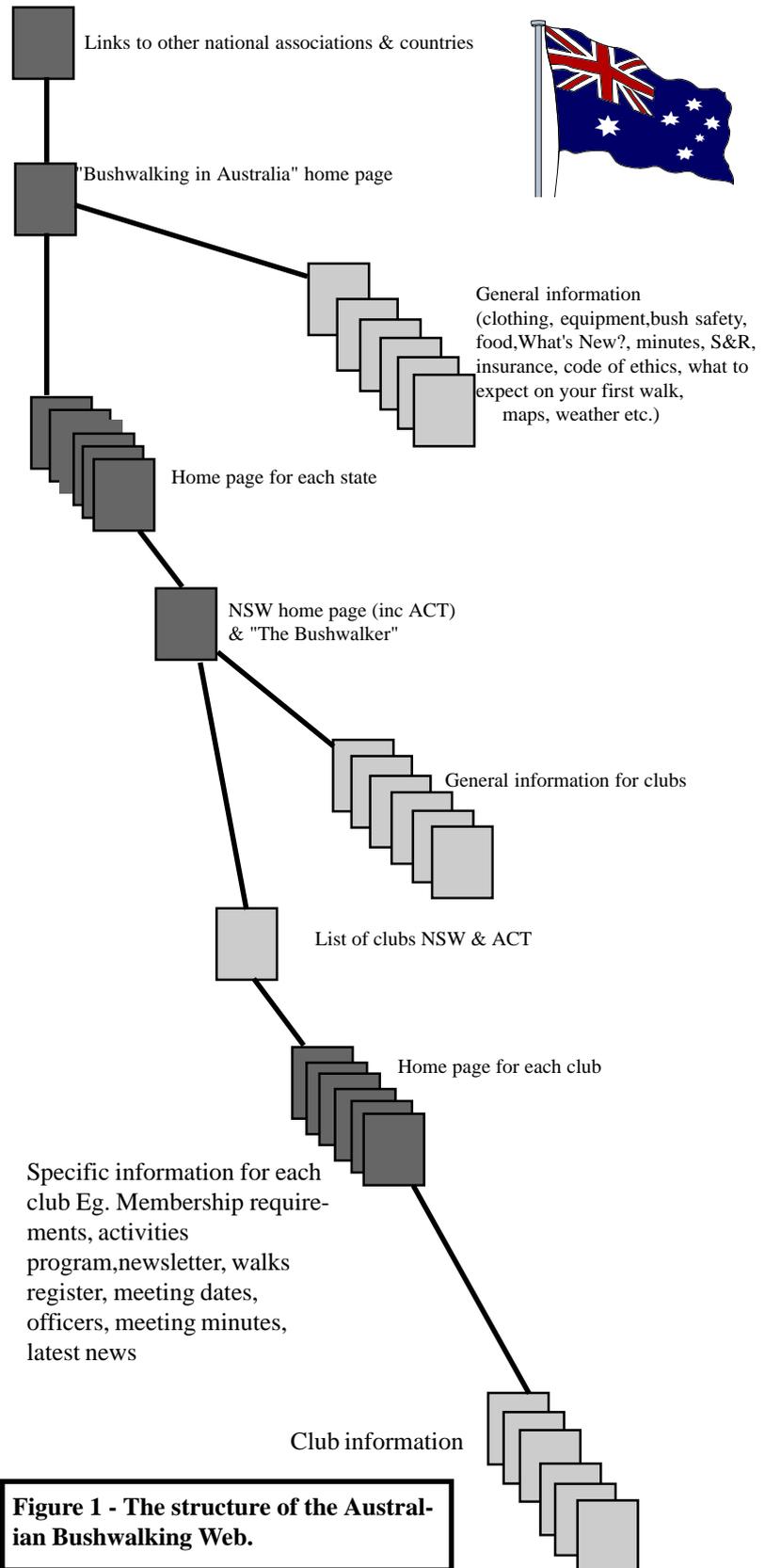


Figure 1 - The structure of the Australian Bushwalking Web.



commended books, clothing, equipment, food, forms, national insurance scheme details, search and rescue, safety, uplinks to other national associations (eg. caving, cycling, orienteering, scouts, guides, canoeing, etc) and international associations, meeting dates and members of national committee minutes of those meetings, constitution, code of ethics, awareness and acceptance of risks, What's New ?, training courses and how to send in contributions. A discussion forum is planned .

A number of "problem areas" were highlighted. For example, there was no common definition of grades for walks - different clubs had different grading systems, each club had a slightly different constitution, no standard charging for bushwalkers sharing a ride, different advice to prospective members/beginners, different first aid advice, different search and rescue advice, different training standards and several others. (Does this remind you of similar problems with our state and federal governments ?)

It was decided to offer a national walks grading scheme so that each club's walks register could fit logically into the state walks register and thus enable all clubs to take advantage of the common grading system and potentially assist in the growth and development of each club (See below).

With the Outdoor Recreational Council of Australia (ORCA) bearing down upon all bushwalking clubs, it is considered that minimum national training standards for all leaders will be forced upon us. To this end a "national body" to speak on behalf of all volunteer bushwalking associations is essential. It is proposed to form such a body as soon as can be arranged following discussions with the state associations. ORCA is currently controlled by commercial interests in the outdoor recreational industry.

Irrespective of whether we wish to join ORCA and provide a single(*)

input from the volunteer associations, we will still need to develop minimum national standards for training of our leaders in particular and other members generally. The new Bushwalking Web will assist in the widespread discussion and publication of these training requirements among all bushwalking clubs and provide a common forum to gather resources and information for the benefit of all bushwalkers.

* I understand only one seat has been allocated on the national ORCA committee for a representative from the volunteer bushwalking associations. There are national



Surf the net with the Confederation representatives from the Scouts, Outward Bound and also state representatives from the commercial companies. Ask your club secretary for further details or look up the Bushwalking Web home page under What's New?. More news will follow.

State Information

Each state has a home page, listing, for example, activities (NAV'96, dances, social outings, etc), insurance claims, clubs, reports from communications, tracks and access, and conservation sub-committees, code of ethics (if different from national association's), influential people (people to be influenced - government ministers, NP&WS and Sydney Water management, public officials, etc containing correct titles, postal and email addresses), insurance information,

articles from the state magazine, state meetings, delegates, minutes of meetings, list of recommended eating establishments (preferably good ones which offer 10% discounts to bushwalkers), constitution and rules, list of recommended shops which give discounts to members, strategic action plan, search and rescue information, callouts and activities, training courses, list of organisations to contact to confirm timetables and a walks register.

The "walks register" is something new that grew out of an inspection of the NSW constitution where one of the objectives was to help affiliated clubs. The strategic action plan included conducting training courses, public relations - printing of information for potential members and channelling them to their local club, search and rescue training, providing standard forms, providing a representative voice to communicate with government bodies and corporations and encouraging the development of new leaders for the long term growth of the clubs.

A review of the NSW strategic plan on how this could be achieved indicated that sharing information between clubs could provide a continuation of the knowledge base currently stored in our existing leaders memories. For example, a club providing detailed information on a particular walk which is then entered into a "state walks register" for the benefit of new leaders in their own club and for other clubs. Our old walks are "new" walks for new members.

It is considered that more members could be enticed to lead a walk if full details of the walk were provided. Clubs are encouraged to provide at least ten of their common walks each year. The existing leaders will continue developing new walks and slowly the register will grow and prove useful to other



clubs. Once a new leader has lead a couple of standard walks, their confidence will grow to enable them to lead and try out new walks to extend themselves and their fellow members .

Club Information

Each club has a homepage which nominates a club contact person for membership enquiries, pages (files) containing specific information about the club (such as membership requirements, fees, rules, etc), meeting dates and venues, club officers and contact numbers, an activities program (listing social outings, walks, S&R and first aid training courses, clubmeetings, minutes of meetings, articles from the club newsletter and a walks register.

A number of clubs around Australia already have their own home pages and these will be linked to

the National Bushwalking Web as soon as their addresses are sent in. Each club is asked to forward the name and email address of a member in their club to Colin Wood at turton@fastlink.com.au so that information can be emailed through to the Webmaster at Fastlink.

The Future of the Web

It is expected that the information on the web will grow substantially over the next few years although information will generally be updated bi-monthly from the clubs and as soon as possible after any state or national meetings. This is just the beginning so your support and patience will be necessary as the new web evolves and grows into a mature web.

May you always have good weather, good water, a light pack and comfortable boots. See you walking on the internet !

Nuri Chorvat

Profile

Nuri has been a keen bushwalker for over 20 years and is currently a member of The Sydney Bush Walkers, Sutherland Bushwalkers, WEA Illawarra Bushwalkers , National Parks Association and a prospective member of Coast and Mountain Walkers .

Nuri is an elected representative for country clubs on the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc committee and is a member of the Communications Subcommittee. As a walks leader Nuri is committed to

improving the public profile and safety of bushwalkers as well as improving the environment. His personal actions include carrying a plastic bag with him to carry other people's rubbish out of our national parks and wilderness areas. He encourages others to also carry a rubbish bag. Each little bit helps !



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Hyperthermia and Hypothermia its Cause Treatment and Prevention

Hyperthermia

Notes from a talk given by a doctor

11/1/95

Prevention

1. Don't exercise in heat unless you are fit.
2. Don't take part in fun runs in hot summer months.
3. Keep out of the sun if possible.
4. Wear Loose porous clothing NOT nylon or polyester.
5. Wear a wide brimmed hat.
6. Drink water frequently. In hot weather this amount may need to be increased when exercising.
7. Avoid alcohol, as this can cause dehydration.

There are three stages of heat illness:

1. Heat cramps.
2. Heat exhaustion.
3. Heat stroke.

1. Heat Cramps

These are recognised by the following symptoms:

- Muscle cramps of limbs and abdomen.
- Feeling tired, weak and dizzy.
- Feeling nauseated or vomiting.
- The skin feels cool and moist.

2. Heat Exhaustion

The symptoms of heat exhaustion are the same as for heat cramps, with the following additions:

- A headache which persists.
 - Feeling giddy and faint.
 - Shortness of breath.
 - Sweating profusely and being very thirsty.
 - Lack of co-ordination.
 - Possibly confused or irritable.
- The skin is pale, cool but clammy.

3. Heat Stroke

This is a potentially lethal condition, most common in athletes running long distances, or unfit people exercising in hot weather. The indications are:-

- Headache as before, with nausea or vomiting.
- Dizziness.
- Visual disturbance.
- Confusion, irritability and aggression.
- Possible seizures and coma.

An observer will notice the following signs in the sufferer:

- Feels very hot - a rise in temperature to 40deg. Celsius (normal body temperature is 37deg.).
- The skin is flushed and dry.
- Rapid pulse.

Treatment

1. Remove the person to a cool place.
2. Lie him/her down.
3. Loosen clothing. It may be necessary to remove some.
4. Give plenty of water. If the person is nauseated they should drink slowly.
5. Wet the body and clothes, and fan them if their skin feels hot.
6. If a towel is available, wet it and place to the neck, groins and arm pits, as this is where the large blood vessels are.
7. If ice packs are available, apply these to cramped muscles. DO NOT MASSAGE, but you can stretch the muscles.
8. Seek medical aid if the person is vomiting, unable to keep water down, or not recovering within a reasonable time (say, 20 to 30 minutes), and if you think they have heat stroke.

Hypothermia

Notes from a talk given by a doctor

7/6/95

Hypothermia can occur as a result of mild to moderate exposure to cold and is a dangerous condition, particularly in the case of prolonged immersion in cold water.

1.Prevention

- Wear warm inner clothing made from pure wool or thermals.
- Wear wind and water proof outer clothing.
- Eat adequate food before departure.
- Have a minimum of 4 persons in the party.
- Take adequate food and drink (not alcohol).
- If caught in bad weather take shelter early and watch for signs of cold exposure.
- Avoid more physical activity than necessary when conditions are extremely cold.
- Take adequate sleeping bags and covers if an overnight stay is planned.
- Check weather reports and ask locals about unusual weather conditions if walking in unfamiliar territory.

2.Symptoms

- A cold feeling and shivering.
- Excessive fatigue.
- Problems with vision.
- Faintness.
- Cramps.
- Increased slowness of mental and physical responses.
- Unco-ordinated movement, (e.g. stumbling).
- Slurred speech.
- Confusion.



When the condition is severe, the sufferer may:

- Feel cold to touch.
- Have a slow pulse.
- Have slow, shallow breathing.
- Be very quiet.
- Become unconscious.

3.Management

- Protect the person from wind, rain and cold/wet ground.
- If possible remove wet clothing and wrap the person in warm, dry clothing or a space blanket.
- If a sleeping bag is available, put the person in a warmed bag. Ideally, another person, stripped to underclothes, should share the bag.
- If conscious, give warm drinks but NOT alcohol.
- Adequately protect the nose and ears.

Under no conditions should you:

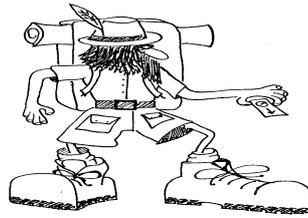
- Give alcohol.
- Warm the person in front of a fire.
- Use hot baths. (A warm bath 37deg, raised slowly to 40deg is OK).
- use hot water bottles.
- Use electric blankets.

Medical assistance should be sought if:

- recovery is not prompt.
- You suspect severe hypothermia.
- the person is unconscious.

Let us all walk softly on this earth
With all livings beings great and small

remembering as we go that our
God kind and wise , created us all
Chief White Cloud



When I was asked to write an article on the history of SPAN for The Bushwalker, I thought it should be fairly simple.

There was a catch, though, and it was simply that the club started in 1970,after the collapse of the Combined Adventure Club twenty seven years later, memories are a bit vague and a lot of the club’s written records were destroyed in a fire in the YMCA building.

Regular meetings ensued, and regular activities followed. Rockclimbing, caving, bushwalking, canyoning, canoeing, liloing, kayaking, and skiing have been the mainstays of the clubs activities. All are accomplished with equal enthusiasm, as good results over recent years in the Winter Classic and various rogains have shown.

A quick look through some old club magazines and programmes from the 1970’s and 1980’s shows an early interest in these activities.Weekend trips included Church Creek Caves, Blue Lake climbing, canyoning in Arabanoo Creek, canoeing on the Macquarie River, and skiing around North Ram’s Head Range.

Today the club is an informal affair, with monthly general business meetings held at the Quakers Hall, 19 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. The meetings start at 8pm, and prior to this prospective members are given a talk about the club.

Between meetings two “out” nights for the club are held on Wednesdays. This could involve anything from attending a restaurant, visiting the Bureau of Meteorology, or abseiling down North Head and

Span Unlimited

camping for a quiet night by the sea.

Normally, the second Wednesday after a general business meeting is devoted to an “in night”. This could involve a display of slides by a club member or a talk by a guest. Past guests have included Dot Butler and Peter Treseder. Upcoming slides include the hills of Vietnam, and caving in southern Australia.

Our trips programme for the year is spaced between three public holidays, approximately four months each. The current programme runs from June 1st until October 9th. The next will run until Australia Day, and the third until June next year.

Club address - Span Outdoors Inc, PO Box A545 Sydney South NSW 2000. Contact ☎(02) 559-2136

Walking in the Pyrenees Grand Route 10

Have any readers walked or know of a walk or know anybody else who may know of a walk in the Pyrenees in Europe. This track commences at the coast of France and follows the mountain range, along the French/Spanish border to the Mediterranean coast. I am planning to do the walk in May/June 1997. I have access to a Topoguide which provides some useful knowledge, I am seeking further details such as:

- A better understanding of the track
- Whether I can walk without a tent and sleeping bag.
- The accuracy of the information I have
- Weather conditions

If anybody can help me I can be contacted at Home 02-498-3183 or work at 02-332-9409 Fax 02-332-9482

Andrew Craig



Continued from page 1

‘industry’ clearly rankled some people. However, his suggestion that the Confederation should join ORCA and have a say in its development was agreed to.

The meeting consensus was that it would be in Confederation’s best interest to be involved in the early stages, rather than to merely take a watching brief and see what develops. At present ORCA has only an interim board until all nominations are confirmed. The board will eventually consist of representatives from state and national organisations, special interest groups and various individual nominees. Groups nominating members must truly represent their categories. To give you some idea of what ORCA is all about, here is an outline of its functions as presented to the general meeting.

Functions of ORCA

- Encourage growth of the outdoor recreation sector through

better communication and cooperation.

- Initiate and review policies that are directly relevant to outdoor recreation.
- Provide advice on directions and priorities for the outdoor recreation sector.
- Communicate with outdoor recreation service providers

Use your Confederation members to provide feedback for consideration by the management committee if you want your club’s views to be taken into account.

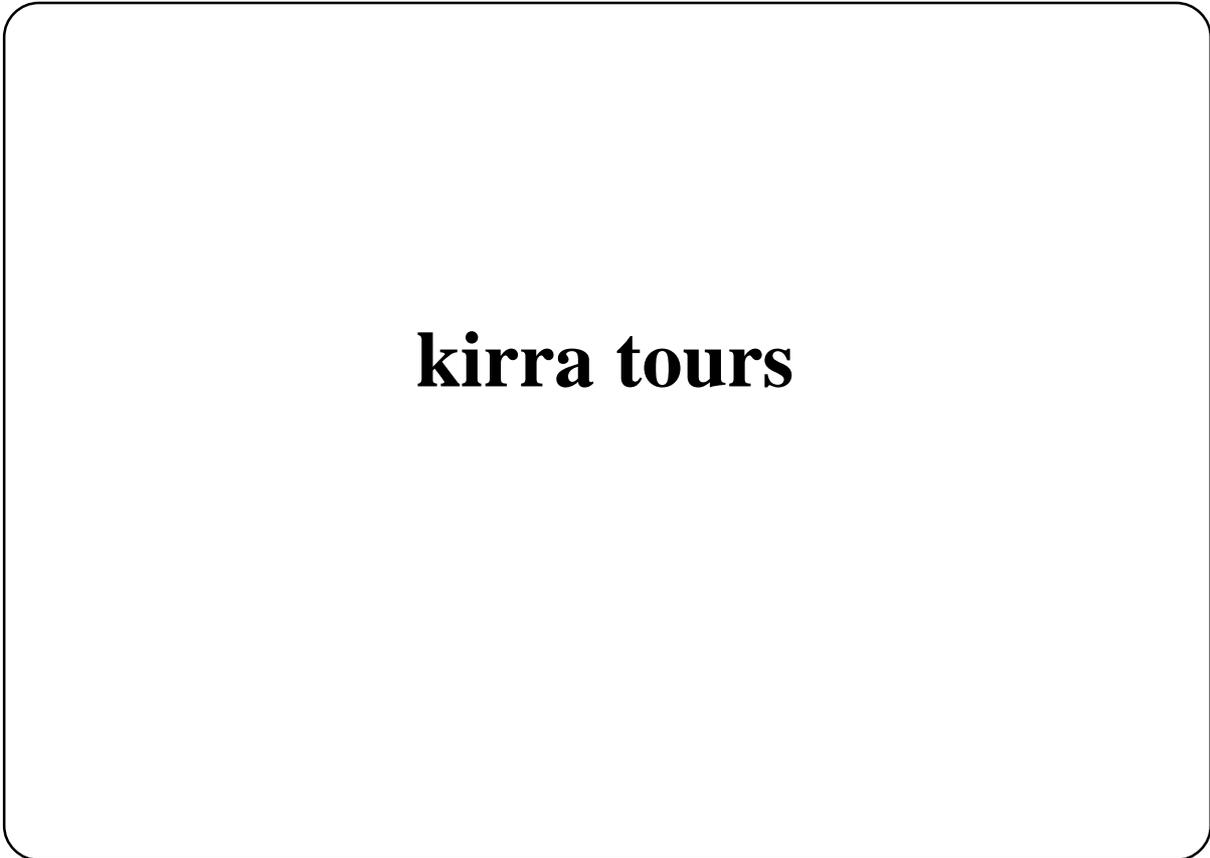
and represent their views nationally to other industries and government.

- Where necessary, act as a political lobby group on all matters of relevance to outdoor recreation.
- Encourage the development of best practice and quality services in outdoor recreation.

- Assist national bodies by providing data on outdoor recreation with the aim of producing statistics that could be used for developing specific training standards.
- As a national organisation, monitor activities across Australia and, through collaboration and co-operation, strengthen the sector as a whole.

Clearly, the focus is on outdoor professionals. But Confederation believes if anyone is going to set standards for bushwalking it should be bushwalkers themselves. That is why it was decided that the Confederation should be directly involved.

You will be kept informed of developments through The Bushwalker. Use your Confederation members to provide feedback for consideration by the management committee if you want your club’s views to be taken into account.



kirra tours



NPA Multi-Cultural Bushwalking Program

The Object of the Project

Over the last six months, the NPA Field Activities Committee has been involved in a pilot program of bushwalks for specific groups in the community.

The idea for the program was developed by Jason Shauness - the NPA Executive Officer - with plenty of help from Henry Roda, a well-known NPA walks leader.

The aim of the project is to establish and promote a program of bushwalks specifically targeted at one or more ethnic groups in the community. The project would promote a number of very worthwhile objectives:

- * to promote an excellent recreational activity amongst groups which are presently under represented in the activity.
- * to foster understanding and good relationships between the targeted ethnic community and the wider society as represented by bushwalkers.
- * to generate an understanding of, and interest in, the bush and conservation within these groups.
- * to encourage participants in the program to join and become active in the NPA or in other such groups.

Bushwalking is a healthy activity which promotes many of the values which are part of the Australian way of life. Walkers come from a range of backgrounds and meet on a walk in an atmosphere of companionship and interchange of ideas and values. It is an ideal link between people and sections of the community. A love of the outdoors and the bush are cherished parts of the Australian psyche and to share in this heightens participation in the Australian community.

Our First Bushwalk

For the first walks in the program the Chinese community was chosen. The main reasons for this choice are: the community is large; we have a number of NPA members from the community; and we have had excellent support from the Australian Chinese Community Association, especially from its Program Co-ordinator, Peter Wong. The pilot walk was held on May 12th in Lane Cove National Park. An advertisement invited Chinese people for a walk under the guidance of experienced NPA Walks Leaders who would provide commentaries on the environment and its unique characteristics. This advertisement was published in Chinese community newspapers. Peter Wong was the contact person for the walk - Henry Roda and daughter Diana, were the chief organisers.

A total of 37 people responded to the advertisement before the register was closed off. In addition to Henry and Diana Roda, a number of other NPA people helped out on the day. These included Ann and Allan O'Donovan, Jason Shauness, Ronny Cheng, Greg Bridge, Tom Sinclair, and Ann Woods.

On the day of the walk, the 31 eventual participants were met at Chatswood station and taken to Lane Cove National Park. Following a welcome and a short talk, there were some pre-walk stretches, and then a walk to Fiddens Wharf. Participants were guided by NPA leaders with Ronny Chang acting as an interpreter where required. An SBS news crew, invited by Jason, filmed the morning walk and conducted interviews which were shown in the evening news. During the walk, NPA leaders provided an appropriate commentary about the natural and man-made features.

The Future

The key to the long-term survival of the project is sponsorship. The pilot program is about proving the concept: but the NPA has not the resources to implement such a program on its own. Ideally, we need sponsorship from a company so that we can employ a project officer to organise activities and to promote them. We think that the project has very large potential and is therefore a perfect project for a company to sponsor - it involves the environment and the Australian multi-cultural society. So, if you have any contacts we would appreciate help!

Walking in the Budawang

Lois Miles

The fire flared as Sonya threw on another log and the stars glittered above in the clear cold night air. Falling stars (" Meteors," corrected a pedant) and the splash of the Milky Way added to the magic. This was the third night of a



Monolith Valley

Queen's birthday holiday hike to the Morton National Park. Gradually, as port, brandy and wine were passed and more and more pieces of chocolate materialised, we joked, made friends and savoured the joys of being out in the bush, although the fine weather came with that bane of campers, cold nights.

The long weekend had got off to a less than auspicious start, with Sonya, my tent buddy, and I



thinking the start was on Saturday morning instead of Friday night. After an anxious call from Kirsty, the leader of the YHA walk, it was a matter of throwing everything into the car, picking up Sonya at Kangaroo Point and beetling down to a new meeting point at Marulan. The next stop was Braidwood, but it was 1.30am before the last car arrived - they had headed for Taralga instead of Tarago - and with the mist getting thicker, it was decided to camp at the Braidwood show ground instead of pushing on to the planned campsite at Wog Wog, another 45km over mostly unmade roads. After a bitterly cold night with the temperature down to about minus 5C, we made an early start and began the 18km walk-in to Bibbenluke campsite about 10am. The mist had cleared by the time we got to Admiration Point, Pigeon House clear in the distance. We lunched on Curang and made our

way down the slope and along the duckboards through the swamp formed by Canowie and Burrumbeet brooks. It was getting late and in pushing the pace, we lost four tailenders. After an anxious 45 minutes we were reunited but it was 4.30pm with one more climb and more than 4km to go. We had a wonderful view of



Pigeon House from Corang
the setting sun and the pink-tinged

sea but the price was stumbling along by torch light along an eroded, swampy track. We missed the campsite turn-off and were going round in circles when we heard voices and the leader of a school group came a showed us the

way in. It was nearly 7pm when we pitched our tents and had a hurried meal before crawling into our sleeping bags.

Three energetic members of the group decided to go into the Monolith Valley but the rest of us opted for a leisurely start and a gentle circuit to Mount Cole. The weather was fine and clear and we soon warmed up, walking through an old forest and then past the camping caves on the west of Mount Cole. We visited the Green Room and then had lunch opposite Donjon Mountain, with lovely views up the Clyde Gorge.

On the way back we collected a great pile of wood and after dinner warmed ourselves in front of the fire. The next day we broke camp early and, blessed by another lovely day, were back at our cars by 3.30pm. We were all a little weary but very few thought "Never again" although most vowed to pack extra thermals if camping out in winter again.

Maps: The Northern Budawang Range sketch map and Corang topographic.

ALP SPORTS



Continued from page 1

Turning a blind eye is not good enough. It appears the NPWS has no intention of enforcing these regulations. Their purpose is simply to provide a defence against legal action if there is an accident involving people participating in 'risky' activities. The NPWS may believe that turning a blind eye gets round the problem, but the management committee believes that the Confederation's insurance cover may be put at risk. There's a possibility the insurer could take the view that an injured person was engaged in a risky activity without consent and therefore acting illegally.

To put our activities on a legal footing, the management committee applied for blanket consent for the Confederation to undertake all bushwalking and related activities covered by the regulations. Although this application has been viewed quite constructively by the NPWS, it is clear that once the resulting consent process is in place, it could create a huge administrative burden for both the service and the Confederation's approved organisations.

The NPWS appears to have seized on the consent arrangement as an opportunity to exercise controls that have more to do with environmental protection than risk management.

While the Confederation is in favour of environmental protection, it believes this should be achieved through appropriate management and regulations, not the clumsy application of clause 19. In his letter to Pam Allen, Andy states: 'The whole thing is a mess. We strongly believe that the first step is to abolish clauses 19(1)(d) and 19(2).'

Andy highlighted the excellent relations the Confederation enjoys with the NPWS, pointing out that the very existence of many national

parks and wilderness areas can be attributed directly to the efforts of bushwalkers.

'The current problem appears to be not one of ideals but of regulatory mechanism' he said. As he pointed out, if the problem is not fixed, there is a strong risk that bushwalkers - previously among the best supporters of the NPWS - will be alienated.

Following a meeting between Andy MacQueen and Chris McIntosh of the NPWS in May the Confederation detailed its main objections in a follow-up letter. A response has now been received from the NPWS which the management committee considers far from satisfactory. The Service states that it is willing to give blanket consent to the Confederation and the Scout Association if certain stated conditions can be met

As the Service has agreed to further talks, negotiations will continue. Details of these negotiations and their outcome will be reported in *The Bushwalker* to keep bushwalking clubs informed. The management committee's attitude to these developments are summed up in Andy MacQueen's letter to the NPWS: 'If the Service's major agenda in devising the consent arrangements is not risk control but environmental protection, we put it to you that bushwalking club members are only a small sector of national park users and are mostly responsible people. To impose large amounts of red tape on us while ignoring other users would be a gross misdirection of energy'. There must be a balanced approach. If blanket consent can be given to responsible organisations without too much red tape, then people will be attracted to those organisations and - through internal education and self-regulation - the standard of behaviour of park users will rise. If, on the other hand, consent can be obtained only with considerable effort, people will leave the clubs and organisa-

tions and act independently (and uninsured) fully aware that there are no track rangers to police the regulations. I am sure this would defeat your purpose.'

Consent conditions specified by the NPWS

Subject to further negotiations the Service says it proposes to establish a consent system that is as uniform as possible across the State and yet allows for individual NPWS Districts to include conditions that are appropriate to their local areas. NPWS has proposed that blanket consents to the Confederation and the Scout Association will be given on the basis that:

- * Identified codes of practice (or ethics) are in place and are implemented to protect the environment and minimise the impact of access.
- * The organisation has suitable insurance cover for the activities.
- * The organisation has an established administrative and management structure to ensure that activities are organised and supervised in a professional manner, particularly with respect to the provision of an appropriate number of skilled/experienced activity leaders for each activity.

To minimise the number of forms of consent that might be required by NPWS Districts, the Service will examine two formats.

1. Blanket, periodic consent (draft only)
This consent will be issued by each District to the Confederation (and its approved organisations) for a fixed period, provided a schedule of intended activities is attached to the application. The schedule will have to be updated every six months. The consenting District will not provide acknowledgement unless it sees an area of concern.
2. Notification consent



Proposed Permit System in the WHA in Tasmania

Photos by Colin Wood

I recently received a draft report in the mail from the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (tracks@delm.tas.gov.au). It addresses the concerns about the rapid deterioration in the major Tasmanian Wilderness areas the South West and Central Area caused by bushwalkers. These deteriorations include substantial erosion of tracks and campsites as well as the formation of tracks in places that formerly

had none. Strategies that have been put in place to address these concerns include education (eg minimal impact bushwalking), non promotion of sensitive areas, promotion of alternative areas (eg Penguin to Cradle Track, Tasman Peninsula, Douglas Apsley), and restriction on lighting campfires. The present report looks at a permit system in the WHA in Tasmania.

David Noble SUBW

Some system to limit and control numbers of visitors is needed is argued in the report. A large and growing body of evidence on the damage caused by the passage of walkers in a variety of fragile environments has been collected. This has been obtained from hundreds of field sites, experiments measuring damage to vegetation caused by walkers and aerial observation of new track formation.



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The report summarises figures for visitation:

- 7% increase in visitors to the WHA per year
- about 9% of the visitors to the WHA go on overnight walks (about 22,000 people)
- 50-55% of overnight walkers from interstate and overseas



- 45-50% of overnight walkers from Tasmania

Here are some of the recommendations of the report:

- Compliance to be largely voluntary
- Party sizes to be limited to between 4 and 13 persons
- 1 permit per party (does this mean that solo walkers and parties of two or three will not need a permit??)
- Permits not required in the period May to October
- Quota systems to apply for most areas of the WHA
- Permits available on a first come-first-serve basis, some will be

available on the day of the walk. A 1800 (local call in Australia) phone number will be set up to book for a permit throughout a six month Advance booking period.

- Permits not required for day walks
- Permits required for all areas of the WHA - both high and low use areas

- Permits will be able to be purchased by credit card over the phone, by fax, email etc
- The fee level discussed ranged from \$5 to \$10 per night per person. (The report claimed that

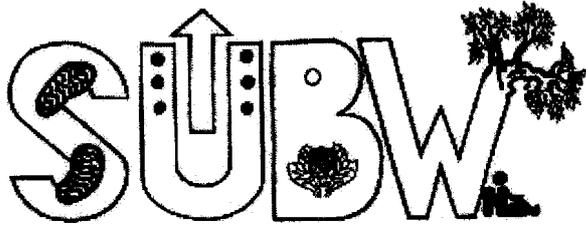


the real cost of restoring damage caused by walkers is actually closer to \$35 per person per day!!! (or is this the cost of the bureaucracy??)

- In times of bushfire or other extreme weather, permits may be cancelled with a full refund
- Personal collection of permits will be required from various centres.
- Enforcement to become stricter with time
- Implementation - the summer of 1997/8

Note that these are recommendations in a draft report. The Tasmanian Wilderness is a very special but fragile place. It needs good management if it is to remain that way. Whilst some like myself believe that a lot of the concerns would be addressed if the Scotts Peak road was closed and the Lake St Clair Ferry stopped. It cannot be denied that if something is not done then the area will be bugged. The Tasmanian Tracks web site will probably have more information. The closing date for comments is 9th August (the report was released in mid July). This date will be too late for readers of this Newsletter! Comments can be emailed to tracks@delm.tas.gov.au or mailed to **Track Team**

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service GPO Box 44A Hobart Tasmania 7001
David Noble Email to noble@ozemail.com.au <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dnoble/>



Press on Regardless

Sydney University Bushwalkers 50 Years anniversary

Sydney University Bushwalkers was formed in 1946. That makes this year the 50th anniversary of the club's foundation. We would be delighted for all past members and friends to participate in the celebrations we are organising.

The current plans for celebrations include:

- A dinner at the University on Saturday, 21st September 1996
- A day walk on the following day (Sun 22 September)
- A big cake at the Confederation of Bushwalkers Ball (evening Fri. 20th Sept.)

- A 50th Anniversary magazine

Contributions for the magazine are requested. Dave Noble will be coordinating articles.

You may contact SUBW in any of the following ways:

Mail:

Sydney University Bushwalkers
50th Anniversary Committee
Box 29, Holme Building A09
University of Sydney NSW 2006

**Telephone: Dave Noble (02)
9560-5973**

**Ian Wilson & Airdrie Long (02)
716-6174**

Check out these web sites

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dnoble/subw.50th.html>
<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dnoble/subw.history.html>
for SUBW 50th anniversary stuff

and

SUBW Web site

<http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/~dbock/subw/index.html>

OUTDOOR



History of Sydney University Bushwalking Club

A Brief History of SUBW by Ian "Nipper" Wilson

Much of the information for this article comes from articles published by Ian Ross and Ben Sandilands in the 40th Anniversary Magazine. Sydney University Bushwalkers was formed in 1946, the inaugural meeting was held on 22nd October of that year. (This meeting was held in the Botany Building - nice to see that history is being maintained.) It was formed by a group of (mainly) science students who had been walking as an informal group. They became conscious that they lacked three things: good maps, good information and some form of transport - for you

young'uns there was still petrol rationing after the war in 1946. As Ian Ross stated:

Paddy Pallin's shop was the main source of information and gear - that you didn't make yourself or source from war surplus. Walks in the early days were mainly on the (so-called) Blue Mountains Tourist Map - which covered every thing from the Colo to Wingecarribee and Camden to Abercrombie. Some use was made of hand sketches from aerial photos. Walks north of Bell's Line of Road were very rare, though Newnes was visited. Access to Yerranderie was through Camden and Wollondilly. A mail car or hitchhiking being the most likely means of transport. Pubs enroute were visited, so not much has changed. Usually army boots were worn, since volleys had not yet been invented. Food was, as could be expected often surplus army ration packs

The first Tasmanian trip was in 1947/48 and this association has continued since with SUBW being very some of the most common visitors to many of the wilder

peaks and scrub areas of the South West. Canyons were being done in the late 40's. Lighter weight gear and increasing number and length of firetrails throughout bush areas saw trips that used to be week epic become common weekend trips. Canyons became big time - possibly related to nylon ropes becoming available. Club trips to Tasmania were common enough and mountaineering trips to New Zealand were on. the culture of bushwalking was changing. It had been tied down by heavy gear and poor access. Now light weight gear, vastly improved maps, fire

trails and dam roads opened up previously wilderness areas to the prospect of being "loved to death". The

club moved with the times - adopting sandshoes as de riguer and continuing to do exploratory trips down canyons such as Thunder and Claustral. As now there existed a 'hard core' of walkers with a larger number of occasionals. Many major club trips were done in the 60's. As can be expected in a university club there are peaks and troughs in the numbers of members and changes in attitudes as people move through the uni and on to other things. One things that makes the mid to late 70's a little different is the beginning of an accumulation of members that didn't go away. These people formed the originals of the "oldies". Some of them are still to be seen today along with their younger oldy clones.

The late 70's and 80's saw a time of exploration by the club. The northern Blue Mountain canyons were a prime target. This area became more navigable with the

release of 1:31680 and 1:25000 scale maps. The maps and aerial photos showed many interesting features and allowed intelligent guesses to be made about canyon location. The club did much of the exploration of the canyon area north of the Bell's Line of Road.

Tasmania and increasingly New Zealand were visited, with many "hard" and many more not so hard trips being attempted and sometimes completed. More recently the club has developed something of a split personality. There is still something of the hard core of walkers doing the hard k's but there are also a range of other activities undertaken. In the early 80's, skiers were to be condemned. Now all the oldies wear lycra vomit tights as they try to carve S's in the fluffy white stuff. Three peak attempts were common in the 60's, late 70's and 80's now they seem fewer but they still occur. Are picnics more common? Does it matter? No, as long the exploratory trips are done. Such trips do not need to be to areas unvisited by others but are based on things like "I wonder what is there?" while studying the map. As Ben Sandilands wrote for the 40th anniversary of the club "The club seems to be completely informal but amazingly dedicated. There was no obvious hierarchy, just a wide body of experience of how to do things effectively, whether it was a laid back day at Burning Palms or a major journey into the south-west." My experience with the club, twenty years later, has been similar.

This quote summarises, what I think the current and future members of the club should strive for. The periods when this has occurred have been the great periods of the club.

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