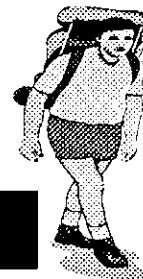


The Bushwalker

Newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc
ISSN 0313 2684 Autumn Issue - February 1996 Vol 21 No 3



WALKING IN THE CATCHMENT AREAS

- Further update -

GREAT NEWS*

Yes folks, you can now legally walk, camp, swim, use a camp-fire*, paddle your lilo and draw water in most of the southern Blue Mountains. Similarly, you can legally paddle your canoe or craft on Tallowa Dam and the nearby Shoalhaven.

Developments in October/November - most notably our representations to the Parliamentary Regulation Review Committee - resulted in the drawing up of extensive amendments to the September regulations. The amendments, which came into force on 8 December, provide for everything we wanted in respect of Schedule 2 Lands.

This result, totally vindicates the strong stance taken by Confederation and others on this issue, and means that forty years of argument and uncertainty over our position in the catchment have been resolved.

A great deal of campaigning and lobbying took place to achieve this result, and very special thanks are due to the Colong Foundation and its director Keith Muir. Keith was the main driving force behind the campaign.

Forty years of argument and uncertainty

The story is not quite over, continuing with respect to improved access to Schedule 1 Land - such as the 3-kilometre exclusion zone at Warragamba, and the catchments at Woodford and Blackheath. At the time of writing, a comprehensive joint submission has been lodged with the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning by Confederation, Colong Foundation, NPA, Kowmung Committee and Total Environment Centre identifying, among other things, a long list of bushwalking routes through Schedule 1 Land which we seek, preferably by excision of certain regions from Schedule 1.

While we are optimistic of success, it is recommended that in the meantime all walkers stick strictly to the approved access routes - that is, the White Dog to Mount Cookem track, and the Beloon Pass route. It should be noted that the lower reaches of the Kowmung and Coxs are still out of bounds. (A recent request from some students wishing to pass through these sections for a Duke of Edinburgh expedition was rejected.)

The Search for Wade Butler

On Wednesday afternoon 29th November, 1995 ten (10) bushwalkers from Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue (BWR) flew to Tasmania to assist in the private search for Wade Butler, the missing son of Sydney Bush Walker (SBW) Dot Butler. Wade had not been seen since leaving on a solo six day round trip to Precipitous Bluff (PB) via the (exposed) Southern Ranges and return on the South Coast Track.

The NSW team involvement began when Dot contacted Peter Treseder, Patron of BWR, and informed him of the situation.

When it was clear that the official search (which lasted one week) was to be called off, he contacted Dick Smith to ask for help to extend the search. Both Dick and Peter

Continued on page twelve

**In respect of control of campfires, the amendments basically defer to provisions made under the Wilderness Act or National Parks and Wildlife Act. In the areas concerned, this currently means that an attended camp-fire at least 4.5 metres from any log or stump and 1.5 metres from other inflammable matter is permissible - providing of course no general ban has been declared due to the weather conditions.*

**Confederation
recomendends creation
of Grose Wilderness and
closure of fire-trails.
See President's Report
Page three**



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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.

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

Address all correspondence to The Editor, The Bushwalker The confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc GPO Box 2090 Sydney 2001.

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 57 clubs with a total membership exceeding 7000 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

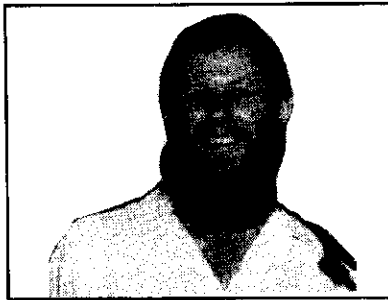
The Bushwalker is the newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It is published quarterly. The aim of the newsletter is to provide articles and information of interest to the members of clubs affiliated with the Confederation and bushwalkers generally. Any opinions expressed by individuals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

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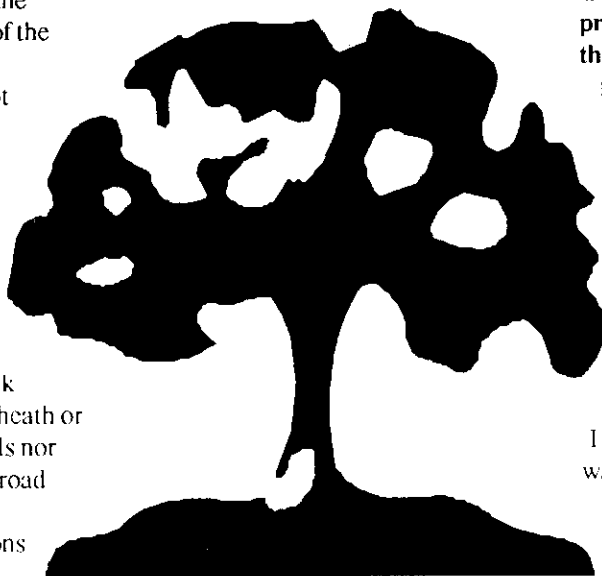
PRESIDENT'S REPORT



One night in 1941 Jack Watson, a member of the Rover Ramblers Club, spent a contemplative time in Blue Gum Forest sitting by the camp-fire: he was thinking of the walking mates who had accompanied him to the spot on past visits, who were now scattered around the battlefields of the world, fighting the Germans or the Japanese. In the pre-war days which he looked back to, Blue Gum Forest was out of reach of most day-walkers: you had to walk most of the way from Blackheath or Leura, as neither the firetrails nor even the Perrys Lookdown road existed.

The next morning his illusions were shattered, when he

bumped into two young boys in the forest. The road to Perrys had been put in, and casual visitors were walking down to the forest. He wrote in *The Bushwalker* how he was horrified to find youngsters doing a trip in one day which experienced walkers formerly regarded as one to be attempted over a holiday weekend. In very thoughtful frame of mind we climbed up the bridle track to Evans Lookout on our way back to Blackheath. Truly, time marches on.



Time marches on indeed. Since then a plethora of firetrails have been built along ridge-tops in the Blue Mountains. On each occasion, we bushwalkers have expressed our horror and indignation, but a few years later, after we have become accustomed to the closer vehicle access so-afforded, we have grown to accept the trails.

It's time not only to stop the rot, but to reverse it. **Confederation has submitted a proposal to NPWS (See page 18) for the creation of a Grose Wilderness Area. In our proposal, we have put the view that the firetrails should be closed and revegetated.**

This means that I for one would have to walk further to get to some of my favourite spots. But to see that as an inconvenience is self-centred and short sighted, compared with the attraction of gaining a large, intact wilderness. If our recommendations are accepted, I am sure future generations of walkers will thank us for it.

Andy Macqueen

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What is the Colong Foundation?

Perhaps on reading the article on page one, you asked me the above question. The Colong Foundation for Wilderness originated as the Colong Committee, which was appointed in 1968 by conservation societies to prevent quarrying of Colong Caves, in the southern Blue Mountains. Shortly afterwards the Committee extended its objective to cover the saving of the Boyd Plateau from becoming the site of a 15,000 acre pine plantation. Both objectives had been achieved by 1975 when three new objectives were adopted. The first of these was the creation of a Border Ranges National Park, an objective which escalated to become the rainforest campaign. The other objectives were the creation of a Greater Blue Mountains National Park and a Kakadu National Park. The rainforest parks and Kakadu are now World Heritage areas, the Greater Blue Mountains Park is a fact in being if not in name, and the Foundation is campaigning for World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains. Recent campaigns for Gardens of Stone and Nattai National Parks have been successful. The Foundation's proposal for a Wilderness Act was accepted in 1987. It has been supplemented by the Red Index of Wilderness now being updated and extended to other states. Directors of the Foundation include renowned bushwalkers and long-time campaigners such as **Milo Dunphy, Alex Colley and Jim Somerville**. Membership costs only \$20 per year (or \$500 for life) and members receive a monthly bulletin.

Want more information? Wish to join the Foundation? Then write to -
The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd
The Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland St
Sydney NSW 2000.

The Legacy of Myles Dunphy

The Premier's proposal to change the name of the Kanangra Wilderness to the Dunphy Wilderness is a great honour for the bushwalkers in this state. No two men have worked harder for the cause of wilderness protection than the father and son team of Myles and Milo.

However, I feel it relevant to mention a conversation I had with Myles some years ago, at a time before some of the major extensions to the Blue Mountains National Park, and before the declaration of the Wollemi Park.

As a young admirer I put it to him that I thought it would be appropriate that when his dream of a Greater Blue Mountains National Park was realised it be called Dunphy National Park. Although I think he enjoyed the compliment, he rejected the suggestion. "There was no need for it," he said. He was more than happy with the geographical features that already commemorated his name, they being Dunphy's Look-out and Myles Chasm in the Christy's Creek area, and another Dunphy's Look-out at Garawarra. In addition there is Dungalla Heights on the Boyd Plateau, a composite of Dunphy and Gallop.

Annual General Meeting in Canberra

The Canberra Bushwalking Club has generously volunteered to host our AGM this year, there will be activities on Saturday and a bush dance on Saturday night, so put it in your clubs calendar.

REMEMBER!

DATES FOR 1996

Put them in your diary now!
Make sure they get into your club's walks program.

24-25 Mar: Bush survival
training weekend

25-26 May: First Aid Course
(phone Keith
Maxwell, 622 0049)

29-30 June: The Navigation
Shield Rogaine

24-25 Aug: Annual General
Meeting and
Reunion Canberra

20 Sep: Annual Bush Dance

19-20 Oct: Search and rescue
training weekend

26-27 Oct: First Aid Course

This was a man who took matter nomenclature very seriously, particularly in relation to the Blue Mountains. A few decades ago he was devastated by the liberties taken by the makers of the Gundungura Map.

Dunphy is gone now and I do not claim to speak on his behalf. He was intensely proud of his work and of the Dunphy name. Though self-effacing whenever he thought people were exaggerating the role he played. Yet, there was no one keener to see credit paid to when ever it was due.

Colin Gibson

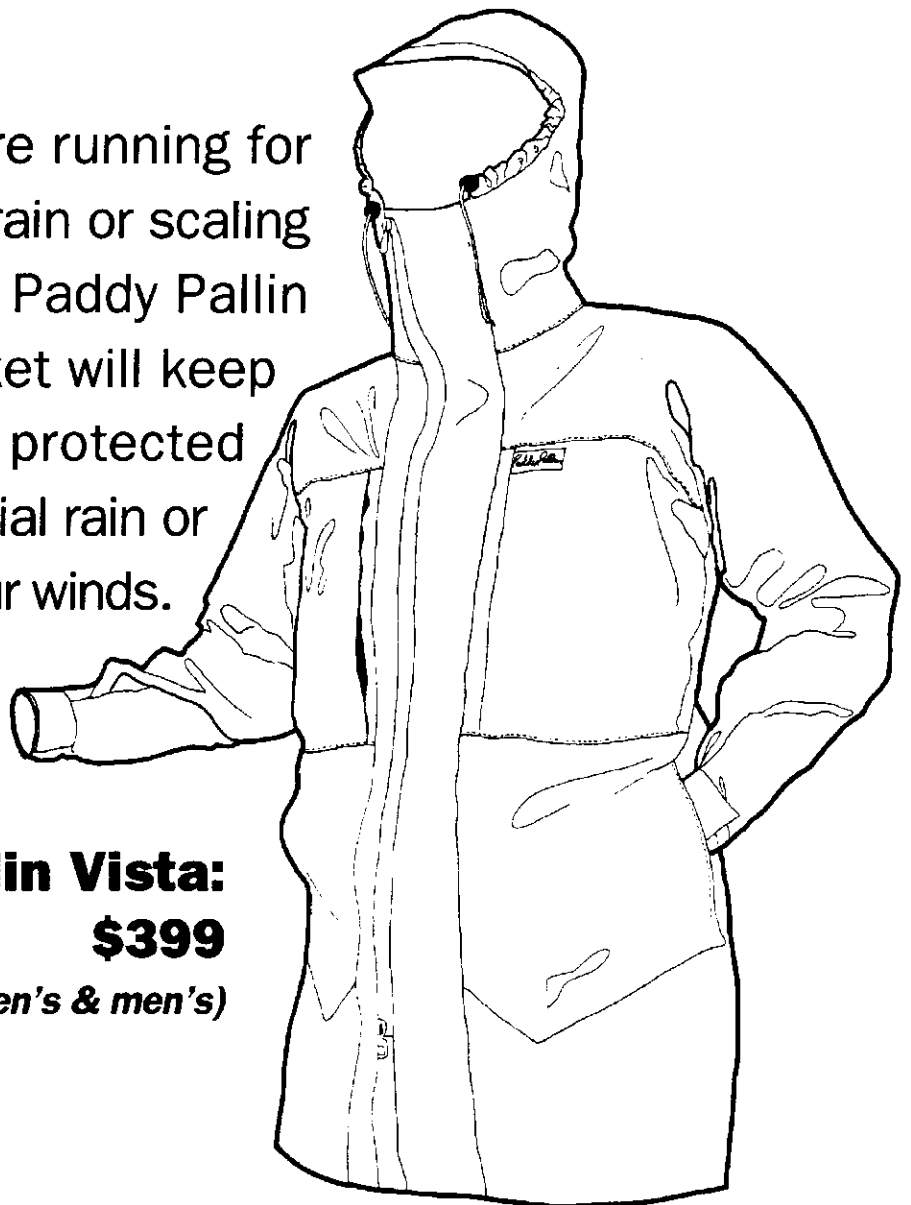
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Special Feature

In the Beginning The Birth of (Con)Federation

Shown here (page seven opposite) is a historic 1932 invitation to a bushwalking club, from Harold Chardon of the Sydney Bush Walkers, to attend the inaugural meeting of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. The document has been kindly provided to us by Greg Powell, and it will be added to all the other archival material on Confederation held in the Mitchell Library.

Of course, the inaugural meeting went ahead. On 8 September 1932, the newly appointed secretary wrote to the Sunday Sun news paper as follows:

The New South Wales Federation of Bush Walking Clubs has been founded by the bush walking Clubs of Sydney and the State generally, with a view to the protection and promotion of mutual aims and interests, to protect flora and fauna, to provide a clearing house for information as to the various routes and centres of interest and scenic beauty, to protect and develop recognised walking areas, and, most important of all, to keep our bush scenery in their naturally lovely condition. Some such action as this was forecast some time ago by the movement that, aided by some valued personal generosity, eventually resulted in the purchase of the Blue Gum Forest, this region now being saved to perpetuity as a walkers, and campers paradise.

With the Metropolis increasing as each year goes by, and the surrounding areas becoming more

thickly populated, it is not hard to visualise the time when bush walking, as we know it today, will be attended by far more difficulty and considerably less enjoyment.

With this possibility in view the Federation has under consideration, a proposal made by the Mountain Trails Club that representation be made to the Minister for Lands suggesting that an area of land be resumed adjacent to the Lilyvale Railway Station, admittedly the Clara Junction of Hikedom.

The Federation is also alive to the fact that the beauty spots of National Park are being littered with all sorts of unsightly and insanitary rubbish left lying about, by careless people. A certain amount of vandalism is also going on.

Clubs already affiliated are:-

- *The Mountain Trails Club of N.S.W.*
- *The Sydney Bush Walkers*
- *The Hikers Club of Sydney*
- *The N.S.W. Amateur Walking Club*
- *The Bushlanders Club of N.S.W.*
- *The Workers Educational Association*
- *The Ramblers Club*
- *Y.W.C.A. Ramblers Club*
- *The Bush Tracks Club (Wagga)*

The honorary Secretary at Box 1251HH, G.P.O., would be very pleased to hear from any clubs wishing to affiliate and would much appreciate this fact being made known.

With best wished [etc]

Of the above foundation clubs, the Sydney Bush Walkers, the Workers Educational Association (in the form of the W.E.A. Ramblers and Naturalists) and the Ramblers are still with us.

The 'valued personal generosity' which allowed the purchase of Blue Gum Forest came from Mr W.J. (Jim) Cleary, who at the time was the Commissioner for NSW Railways and an avid freelance bushwalker. At the height of the Depression, while supporting his wife, five daughters and an unemployed brother, Cleary made an anonymous interest-free loan of \$10,000 (in today's values) to the Blue Gum Forest committee.

Cleary was soon afterwards sacked as Railways Commissioner, due to his clashes with Premier Lang. He then became long-standing chairman of the ABC, and has been referred to as the Father of the ABC, though he fell into relative obscurity and poverty after his sacking in 1945.

Given that the reservation of Blue Gum Forest was not only the catalyst for creation of Confederation, but also represents the genesis of the Blue Mountains National Park, we are all much indebted to Cleary - and to all the prominent bushwalking activists of the time, such as Myles Dunphy, Dorothy Lawry, Joe Turner, Roy Bennett, Alan Rigby, Marie Byles and many others

Andy McQueen.

Proposed Federation of Walkers.

You are invited to send along two delegates to represent your club at a meeting to discuss the proposal to form a Federation of Walking Clubs.

The meeting will be held at the Royal Life Saving Society's Club Room, 3rd floor No 5 Hamilton St, Sydney, on Thursday 21st July 1932 at 8 p.m.

H Chardon

Secretary pro tem

12th July 1932

Transcript of Document

Proposed Federation of Walkers

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The meeting will be held at the Royal Life Saving Society's Club Room, 3rd floor No 5 Hamilton St, Sydney, on Thursday 21st July 1932 at 8pm

it is signed H Chardon

Secretary pro tem

12th July 1932



Cookery Corner



Quick and Easy Damper

Ingredients:

3 cups Self Raising Flour
1 teaspoon Salt
1-2 teaspoons Oil
300-350 ml Milk (or Buttermilk, or
Milk Powder made up)
Little extra Flour for dusting

Damper Scones

Ingredients:

2 cups Self Raising Flour
1 teaspoon Salt
1/3 cup Margarine
About 2/3 cup Water

Method for both Damper and
Scones:

1. Combine ingredients with liquid to
make a soft dough - mixture is
slightly sticky.
2. Place into a greased camp oven
and shape into a 18cm round (or

- several small rounds for scones).
- Cut a 1cm deep cross in the top and
sprinkle with the extra flour.
3. Bake indirectly over the camp fire
for about 30 minutes. ie hang well
above the heat source to prevent
burning on the bottom.
4. Tap the bottom of the damper with
knuckles when cooked. It should
sound hollow.
5. Serve hot with butter.

Variations:

- Add 1/4 cup grated cheddar cheese
to the flour.
- Press grated cheddar cheese and
bacon pieces into top of damper.

Bran Damper with (Optional) Fruit & Nuts

Ingredients:

1 cup of Bran
1 tablespoon Margarine
1 tablespoon Honey
1/2 cup Boiling Water
1 cup Milk
3 & 1/2 cups Self Raising Flour
1 teaspoon salt

Handful Dried Fruit (optional)
Handful Chopped Nuts (optional)

Method:

1. Mix bran, margarine, honey and
boiling water.
2. Add cup of milk and mix again.
3. In separate bowl mix flour, salt,
and optional fruit and nuts.
2. Add bran mixture to the flour, stir
and kneed.
5. Cook in hot camp oven on indirect
heat for about 3/4 hour.
6. Eat hot with butter.

Don't miss next issue of
The Bushwalker for
Backpack Cooking

**

*Colin's special
Breakfast Pancakes*

Why not send in your favour-
ite recipe for our new
Cookery Corner
(Recipes supplied by Vivien
Dunne NPA with thanks to
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Why not get your club together and check out the National Parks accessible from the following YHA's:

- ★ Pittwater - Ku-ring-gai Chase NP
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- ★ Garie Beach - Royal NP
- ★ Scone - Barrington Tops NP
- ★ Bundanoon - Moreton NP



- ★ Merimbula - Ben Boyd NP
- ★ Batemans Bay - Murrumbidgee NP
- ★ Thredbo - Kosciuszko NP
- ★ Shoal Bay - Nomad NP
- ★ Katoomba - Blue Mountains NP

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





The Atlas of NSW Wildlife

Have you ever seen a rare or unusual plant or animal and wondered who would be interested to know about it?

Have you ever bushwalked in an area that is "off the beaten track"?

If the answer to either question is yes, then the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is very interested to know what you have seen.

The NPWS is responsible for the protection and conservation of flora and fauna in NSW. One of the most important requirements for effective species conservation is knowledge of where species occur. As a result, the NPWS maintains a computer database of flora and fauna sighting locations. This database, called the Atlas of NSW Wildlife, was created in the early 1980's and now contains over 400 000 records of birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs and flora. The records are for both common and rare species and they are from sites ranging from National Parks and council reserves to private agricultural properties and urban backyards.

The database of locations can be used to produce distribution maps, eg. of the short-beaked echidna (figure 1.) As you can see there are a number of gaps in the recorded distribution. The question must then be asked, are these true gaps in species distribution or are there simply no reported sightings in these areas? Whatever the answer, the addition of new records will confirm and increase our knowledge of the distribution of each species.

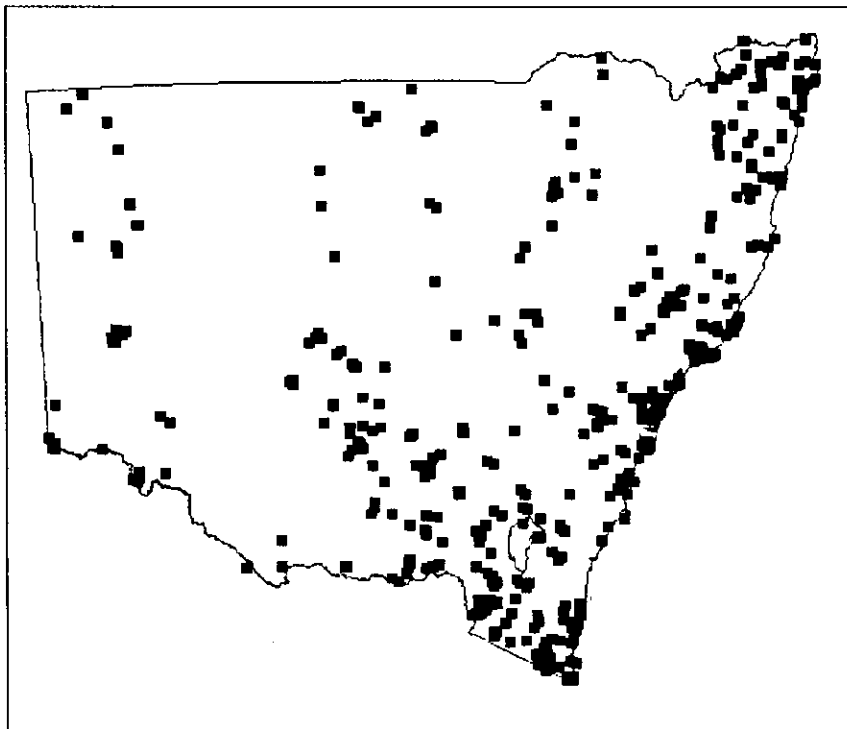


Figure 1. short-beaked echidna records (December 1995)

Records in the Atlas are obtained from a variety of sources including NPWS surveys, historic journals, amateur naturalists, bush regenerators, bushwalkers and other interested members of the public. In fact, any person can contribute valuable information provided they can give a reliable identification of the species and a good location description.

The database has a variety of uses including allowing the NPWS to review environmental factors in the management of reserves, provide species lists for each park, comment on proposed developments outside the reserve system and provide background information for research. Information from the database can be made available to any person or organisation making a request, although there are restrictions on the detail provided and the use of the data to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna.

If you would like more information, or you would like to register as a contributor, please contact

*Georgina Eldershaw on
(02) 585 6423
(fax 02 585 6466)*

*or write to the
Atlas of NSW Wildlife,
NPWS, PO Box 1967,
Hurstville, 2220.*

Georgina Eldershaw



Lord Howe Island - Part of Australia's Unique Heritage

Assessed by UNESCO as having "outstanding universal value", Lord Howe Island's unique land forms, its extraordinary island ecosystem and its rare diversity of biota, made it a worthy candidate for World Heritage status in 1982.

Lord Howe Island lies about 702 kilometers north-east of Sydney and is a little over 1400 hectares in

snakes or poisonous spiders, and all but one walk can easily be undertaken without the need of a local guide.

Transit Hill

Walk: About 2 hours.
Height 121 metres

Transit Hill, named in 1882 as the site from which scientists watched

start of this track, scattered amongst the numerous Thatch palms, Banyan trees and Sallywoods. Along the northern ridge, between Malabar and Kim's lookout, the Islands beautiful Red-tailed Tropic birds can be seen in abundance.

For the keen botanist there is a very good variety of flora on this walk including examples of one of the Islands endemic orchids, *Plectorrhiza erecta*. On the decent to Old Settlement Beach at the end of the walk the lovely Curly Palm which grows on the basalt soils of the higher ground is replaced by the lower lying Thatch Palm.

The Goat House

Walk: Half a day.
Height: 400 metres

For a more strenuous walk, and one that is a good introduction to the big climb up Mount Gower, the Goat House at 400 meters is a must. The walk can be very slippery on a wet or misty day although there are several stretches along rock faces and steep ledges where ropes have been installed. The view over the northern end of the Island makes the climb well worth while, as does the excellent view of Ball's Pyramid from a ledge 50 metres further on from the lookout. In winter the Providence Petrels are a popular sight on the Goat House.

Mount Gower

Walk: 8 hours.
Height: 875 metres

Having limbered up on the Goat House no visit to Lord Howe would be complete without climbing Mount Gower. The 14 kilometer, 875 meter walk requires a certain degree of fitness and an ability to cope with one or two very steep climbs. All the difficult sections are marked by ropes, but



The author climbing Mt Gower

area. This beautiful island, lying on the south-western edge of the Pacific Ocean, evolved from submarine volcanic activity several million years ago. It now supports the most southerly coral reef in the world.

In February 1788, a week after the inauguration of government at Port Jackson, Governor Phillip despatched HMS Supply to form a settlement on Norfolk Island. It was on this voyage that Lord Howe Island was discovered and named in honour of the then Secretary of the Colonies.

Today walking is one of the major attractions of any holiday on Lord Howe Island with plenty of well marked trails, beautiful scenery and an abundance of native flora and fauna to tempt the enthusiast. Walking is safe as there are no

the transit of Venus across the sun, lies in the middle of the Island and is a very good starting point for any walking holiday on Lord Howe. A very easy walk with a gentle climb to a lookout platform at 121 metres, gives a very good view over the whole island: the beaches along the Pacific coast, the coral reef with its lagoon and some of the smaller offshore islets. For the first time walker on Lord Howe Island Transit Hill gives a very good perspective of the many different walks that can be undertaken.

Malabar and Kim's Lookout

Walk: About half a day.
Height: 209 metres

A longer round trip walk to the northern end of the Island takes in both Malabar and Kim's lookout at 209m. The burrows of the Islands Mutton birds can be seen at the



the walk should not be attempted without a guide. Jack Shick, a local guide and fifth generation Lord Howe Islander, came with us (his 225th climb) on the day that we made our ascent. On the approach to the summit of Mount Gower the walk levels off and meanders for about 200 meters through a permanent mist forest before opening out onto a small ledge. From this ledge the whole island, complete with its 5 kilometer continental shelf, can be seen. It is also on the summit that the Islands rare Woodhen, *Tricholimnas sylvestris*, can be spotted.

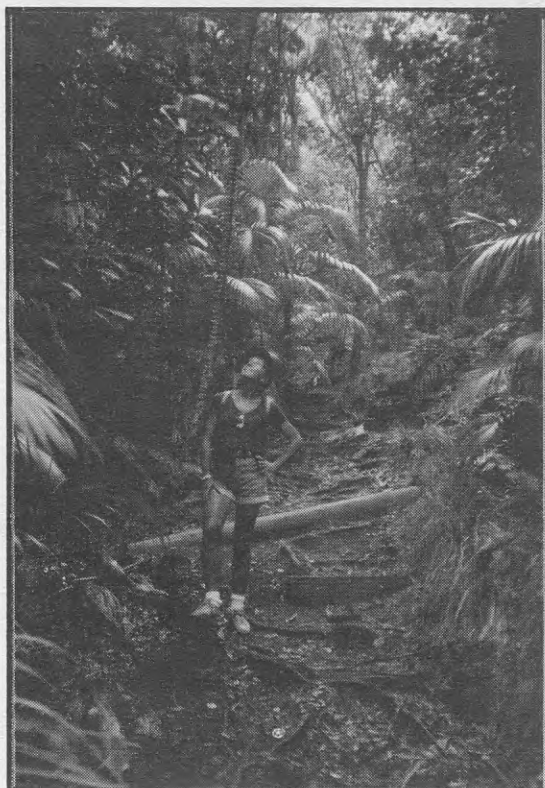
There are a number of walks on Lord Howe Island in addition to those that I have mentioned and all are a delight to undertake, not only for the keen walker, but for the botanist, the ornithologist and the geologist as well. It is the wonderful diversity of this small island that makes it such a unique and important part of Australia's heritage.

Recommendation: Ramblers Guide to Lord Howe Island by Ian Hutton.

Airfares: Return from Sydney/Qantas
Low Season: 20 January to 12 April inc.....\$650
High Season: Rest of year.....\$726

Accommodation: From self catering to fully catered.
Limit, approximately 350 visitors at one time.
Many package prices available.

Vivien Dunne
Member of the National Parks Association of NSW



Vivien admiring view on way to Goat House

LOOK

Have Your Say

Have your say about a special issue that concerns you. Write to the Editor and "Have Your Say" Address your letters "Your Say" The Editor Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. GPO Box 2090 Sydney 2001





The Search for Wade Butler

Continued from Page 1

considered that Wade could still be alive and an extension of the search was warranted.

Thus began an extraordinary round of midnight phone calls, arranging budgets, the BWR search personnel, transport to Tasmania, helicopters and other infrastructure support.

In this and the following two weeks Peter was helped by the extraordinary dedication of Greg Hodge, the Tasmanian volunteer search co-ordinator.

PB is an imposing long mountain, beside a coastal lagoon, that seems to just rise out of the ocean to 1220m (4,000'). The side parallel to the lagoon has outstanding cliffs of dolerite columns that give the mountain its name.

The extensive official search had retraced Wade's footsteps and found a very definite footprint at PB low camp. This is the last camp before going up, over and down PB to New River Lagoon. The South Coast Track crosses the mouth of New River Lagoon.

Just as the official search was ending it was though that "a voice" was heard near a helipad beside Limestone Creek. Thus the private search concentrated on the immediate area of "the voice" and other possible ways off PB. There is one 'usual' ridge but many ridges are all possible although there are varying levels of scrub up to horrendous.

Early morning Thursday, 30/11/95, eight (8) BWR personnel were helicoptered into the search base beside Limestone Creek to join around twenty volunteers. BWSR was able to add extra skills to increase the effectiveness of the

search. Radio communication was established to the nearest town. Mixed teams with a number of Tasmanian bushwalkers were able to comprehensively search a number of areas.

The bluffs were extensively helicopter searched and a great many potential ways through them were land searched.

Limestone Creek, a natural funnel into which several down ridges feed, was line searched down to New River Lagoon on both sides.

**"a voice"
was heard
near a
helipad**

All of the false leads at the bottom of the usual ridge were checked. Some of the karst country at the base of the mountain was searched. The search around the area of "the voice" was thorough but found no trace of Wade.

Saturday afternoon, 2nd December, 1995 all volunteers were lifted out. After the lift out Peter contacted Dick again who agreed to fund the search for another week. On Monday fresh teams of Tasmanians were helicoptered in to continue the search until Friday, 8th December, 1995. This search was co-ordinated again by Peter in Sydney and Greg in Tasmania.

The private search was well led and organised by the Tasmanians and added extensively to the area searched officially. All the ways off PB have been fleetingly to extensively searched. The karst country with its sinkholes has had some searching but would need many

more bushwalkers to completely search it. The Southern Ranges and

South Coast Track have been checked. No extra evidence of Wade's movements was found. The little bit of luck all searches need for a successful result has eluded us. Was Wade injured and sleeping, to help him recover, when the search teams passed near by?

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue is extremely grateful for the opportunity to assist fellow bushwalkers in Tasmania. Such unusual circumstances will probably not be repeated. This search has brought many bushwalkers closer together in NSW and Tasmania.

The Wilderness Rescue personnel were:

- Peter TRESEDER Patron
- John TONITTO Secretary
- Greg HODGE Tasmanian Co-ordinator
- Dick SMITH Chairman, Australian Geographic Society
- Bill CAPON SBW
- Allan DONNELLY SBW
- Don FINCH SBW
- Tony HOLGATE SBW
- Tony MANES SBW
- Jim PERCY SBW
- Glen HORROCKS Three Peaks
- Bob CAVILL Field Officer
- Mike MERRETT Deputy Director

The BWR committee would also like to thank all those who made them selves available to participate in this search.

- Keith MAXWELL Director



WARNING!!

FOX NUISANCE ON THE COXS RIVER

If you are walking the Six Foot Track, and camping at the Coxs River campsite, be warned. The local fox population has become a real problem, wandering with no fear amongst campers. There have been several reports of interference with food and equipment. In one instance a fox dragged away a canvas pack, which had been left sealed up outside a tent, and gnawed two large holes through the side in order to reach the food inside. Another party, camped under a fly, had their equipment scattered broadly around the site.

Possibly, we have a danger that the foxes will actually bite someone. It is rumoured that some campers have been feeding the foxes. This is obviously not on! Make sure your food is well sealed, and contained inside your tent, which should not be left unattended.

Cannabis Plantations

The Plantation unit of the NSW Police Service Drug Enforcement Agency has asked our members to be on the lookout for Cannabis Plantations on walks. It has been suggested that if any member does come across such areas they don't touch them or stay in the vicinity, but to record the grid reference and contact the Plantation Unit on (02) 265-4800 and speak to Detective Sergeant S P Moylan or contact a member of the executive of the Confederation and report it.

Found

In Davies Canyon on the weekend of the 13-14th Jan, a Swiss Army knife. The owner phone Paul Elliot on (02) 527-1083.

Beware of car vandals

There have been several car break-ins at the car park at the Bob Turners Track, one was stripped. Also at Norton's Basin cars have been broken into and vandalised

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WILDERNESS SAFETY

To maximise your safety and simplify search and rescue (if necessary) all wilderness walkers should observe the following:

DO

- ☺ **DO** give complete route details of **WHERE** you are going and the **NAMES** of **ALL** the group members to either close relatives/friends or Police.
- ☺ **DO** tell them **WHEN** you are **LEAVING** and **RETURNING** and anyone's **SPECIAL** medical conditions e.g. diabetes asthma.
- ☺ **DO** notify them of your **SAFE RETURN**.
- ☺ **DO** take the correct **MAP** and **COMPASS**. Know how to use them.
- ☺ **DO** take appropriate **CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR**. Always take a windproof/waterproof **PARKA** that can keep you **WARM WHEN WET** e.g. wool and definitely **NOT** jeans.
- ☺ **DO** take waterproof **MATCHES** and some **SPARE** cold food e.g. salami, sweets, nuts etc.

DON'T

- ☹ **DON'T** overestimate your abilities. Always **ALLOW TIME** for the unexpected such as thick scrub or swollen rivers.
- ☹ **DON'T** go faster than the slowest member of your group. At regular intervals do a **HEAD COUNT** of your group.
- ☹ **DON'T** Split up your group (except for below) during the trip. There is safety in numbers.
- ☹ **DON'T** leave an **INJURED** person alone in the bush. A walking group of **THREE** or more will allow one to look after the injured person while the other goes for help.
- ☹ **DON'T** keep moving when **LOST**. Find a campsite nearby with water that will be visible from a helicopter. Wave vigorously at any helicopters - they are probably looking for you!
- ☹ **DON'T** forget if you are **OVERDUE** to **PHONE** home from the **FIRST** phone box/Police Station you come to.

Remember the motto - WALK SAFELY WALK WITH A CLUB



Clubs Affiliated with the Confederation

A.N.C. Bushwalkers Inc	Nepean Bushwalking and Outdoor Club Inc	NSW (Inc.)
Bankstown Bushwalking & Social Club Inc	Newcastle Bushwalking Club Inc	The Inverell Bushwalking Club Inc
Barrier Rangers	Newcastle Family Walkabout Club	The Southern Adventure Society
Berowra Bushwalkers Club	Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalking Club Inc	Sydney Bushwalkers Inc
Brisbane Water Outdoors Club Inc.	Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club Inc	The Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoors Club Inc
Canberra Bushwalking Club Inc	Outdoor Club of NSW Inc	The Wilderness Society (Sydney) Inc
Central West Bushwalking Club Inc	Ramblers Bushwalking Club	Three Peaks Outdoor Society Inc
Coonabarabran Bushwalking Club Inc	Scripture Union Bushwalkers' Club	Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club Inc
Fairfield Bushwalking Club Inc	Seventh Day Adventist Bushwalking Assoc.	Upper Lachlan Bushwalkers
Geehi Bushwalking Club Inc	Shoalhaven Bushwalkers Inc	Warragamba Walkers Inc
Glen Innes Bushwalking Club Inc	Southern Highland Bushwalkers Inc	Warringah Bushwalking Club Inc.
Gunnedah Bushwalking Club Inc	Span Outdoors Inc	Watagan Wanderers Inc
Hawkesbury Canoe Club Inc	Springwood Bushwalking Club Inc	WEA Illawarra Bushwalkers Club
Ku-ring-gai Recreation Association Inc.	St. George Walkers	WEA Ramblers & Naturalists Club
Lake Side Lurchers	Sutherland Bushwalking Club Inc	Weekday Walkers Inc.
Morisset Bushwalkers	Sydney University Bushwalkers	Y.E.C. Bushwalking Club
Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club Inc	Sydney Y.M.C.A. Bushwalking Club	Yarrawood Bushwalking Club Inc
Mudgee Bushwalking Club Inc.	Tamworth Bushwalking & Canoe Club	Youth Hostels Assoc'n of NSW - Sydney Region Inc.
Narrabri Bushwalking Club Inc	The Bush Club Inc	
National Parks Association Inc.	The Coast and Mountain Walkers of	



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Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 3rd March Half a Million People can't be wrong

Its that time of the year again!
Clean Up Australia will be held for
the seventh year on Sunday 3rd
March 1996.

Clean Up Australia is the largest
community participation event in
the country. Last year, five hun-
dred thousand volunteered on over
seven thousand sites organised by
over six hundred and fifty local
Clean Up Australia Day commit-
tees. This activity continues to be
greatly supported by the commu-
nity with new participants each
year joining the many committed
volunteers already involved.
This year, it would be great to have
involvement from the Confedera-
tion of Bushwalking Clubs in NSW.
There are probably many clubs
and individuals who are already
very active in this worthy endeav-



our. Any clubs who are interested
in being involved could contact
Kalena Jefferson on (02) 552-6177
or 1800-024-890. Even if you see a
site that needs cleaning up and are
not sure how to approach cleaning
it up contact Kalena and she will
help you

Continued from page 19

YOUR SUPPORT

There were probably a few collective
wincing as some of you read those extra
walking distances. Possibly not as loud
as was heard in the 1930's when
walkers learned of the imminent
clearing of Blue Gum Forest and
sprung into action to save it from the
axe. Nor in the following decades as the
wild ridges were tamed with fire roads
and proposals flagged for roads into the
valley. Confederation was formed as a
result of the efforts to secure the future
of Blue Gum and the surrounding
valley. This area could rightfully be
called the birthplace of conservation in
Australia. In supporting the wilderness
proposal, road closures and all, walkers
can show that our conservation ethic is
as strong as ever and not necessarily
provisional on our recreational interests
being served. Wilderness statistics
compiled from the Wilderness Red
Index published by The Colong
Foundation For Wilderness.

WANTED

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Do you love bushwalking? Can you express yourself well by pen or mouth?
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Confederation's policies and guides; promote bushwalking and clubs
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you're simply an enthusiastic person who would like to take on a vital job.

Remuneration: No money, but maybe a little kudos.

Commitments: One or two meetings (in or near Sydney) each month; other
hours according to your energy and availability.

Telephone Andy Macqueen (047-512556) or Maurice Smith (02-5876325)
or write to Confederation (GPO Box 2090 Sydney 2001)



ST. GEORGE WALKERS



Please address all correspondence to : The Secretary

26 / 1 Koorooma Place
Sylvania NSW 2224
Phone (02) 522-4115

who participate in Sydney's City to Surf, as we did in the Pigeon House Mountain part of Confederation's 7 Peak activity.

General Meetings are held in July and

As a result of a Health Department promotion in March 1987 to encourage seniors to exercise more and enjoy the great outdoors about 30 people accepted the challenge to form an ongoing group - The St. George Walkers. Their first modest walk was from Oatley Rail to Como Park and return as many had not previously walked further than their front gate.

By December, enrolment had reached 96 and most were strolling every second Tuesday. With increased popularity came a demand for more walks and other activities. In 1988 walks were programmed for every Tuesday (including public holidays), coach trips (with a walk), fund raising luncheons and 5 day "Healthy Lifestyle Programs" at Department of Sport and Recreation Centres.

The companionship and enjoyment were excellent and by May 1991 our "family" had grown to 300 attracting 80 to 120 on weekly walks, numbers which became totally unmanageable. A division into 2 groups was made, most of the long standing members remained with St. George Walkers and we affiliated with Confederation (18 August 1992) while the daughter club remained as Leisure Walkers under the sponsorship of the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Membership is limited to 165 and restricted to "mature marvels" over 55 (currently 82% female). Appli-

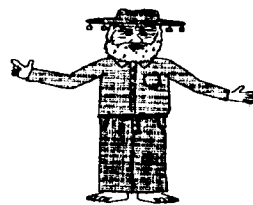
cants must be nominated by 2 members and currently waiting lists exist.

Participants on a walk occasionally reach 80 with the average attendance 58 for 1995, but before conservationist readers have a heart

A vacuum cleaner going through the bush

attack, all walks adhere strictly to established trails and tracks. In fact with our ladie's fetish for rescuing abandoned cans and plastic it has been said that our walks are akin to a vacuum cleaner going through the bush.

Walks are planned utilizing public transport or charter buses and designed to appreciate our Aussie scenery. We concentrate on national parks and urban parklands, bushland of the Blue Mountains, the coast line north to Tuggerah and south to Kiama, our eastern beaches and Sydney Harbour. Walks vary from 6 kilometers to 15 kilometers



depending upon grade, condition and proximity (remembering that most of us are in our 60's and 70's and are pre-walked not more than 1 month prior to the programmed date).

We have a representative group

December for members to submit their walk requests and nominate the 3 guides they wish to lead. Resulting programmes are printed for the ensuing 6 months.

The noble art of friendly conversation is alive and well with us. During a train trip a young man gazed open mouthed at our walking, talking, chattering, nattering mob of smiling seniors and asked, "what are you"? A sweet lady replied, "we're recycled teenagers" - and that is what we are! People call us the "St. George Walkie Talkies".

We are discovering what you bushwalkers have enjoyed for years and it is great to be in Confederation with you.

Roy Lyle

Good Luck in 1996 to the wonderful "Walkie Talkies"

Backpacking UK style

The following extract was taken from an English book on backpacking

A typical backpacking morning may start around 9am with a short rest at 10am and a longer brew-up break around 11am. Another five minutes may be taken at midday and then a picnic or pub lunch around 1pm. This should be leisurely and protracted; it may last a couple of hours and there is no reason why one may not indulge in a snooze in the sun if conditions are right.

From Inverell Bushwalking club Inc newsletter



The Grose Wilderness Nomination

By John Macris Conservation Officer

Confederation has recently made a nomination under the Wilderness Act of approximately 55,000 hectares of the Blue Mountains National Park as The Grose Wilderness. As an area of great historical significance to bush walkers and conservationists it is fitting that Confederation of NSW Bushwalkers makes the nomination of this magnificent system of gorges and plateaus for optimum protection as a wilderness area.

In introducing bushwalkers to this nomination we need to emphasise that the heavily visited and well tracked area centred on the Blue Gum Forest that people immediately associate with the Grose is only a small part of the total area of the gorge. Downstream of the Govett's Creek junction is another forty kilometres of rugged gorge along the Grose and over one hundred kilometres of wild tributary streams often with extensive gorges of their own.

The environment movement is already actively seeking State and Federal Government support for the national parks of the Greater Blue Mountains (including Wollemi, Blue Mtns, Kanangra and Nattai) to be listed as a World Heritage Area. By having areas of declared wilderness within the World Heritage Area we can be certain that management of those areas as wild places could not be compromised by the pressure of greater visitation. This is evident in some WHA parks where visitation increases have led to the spread of facilities and roads into pristine areas.

This article sets out to put our nomination in perspective through references to the NSW Wilderness Act and comparisons of this area with other NSW wilderness areas already identified, declared or being assessed under the act. A few myths will hopefully be exploded along the way.

WHAT AREA ARE WE NOMINATING?

The nomination is for most of the national park lands in the Grose catchment. The nomination excludes substantial human built features incompatible with wilderness,

gateway to the Grose Wilderness for people entering via the major walking tracks.

HOW IS WILDERNESS DEFINED AND MANAGED?

New South Wales has had a Wilderness Act since 1987, which lists the following criteria for wilderness identification:

- a) that the area together with its plant and animal communities has not been substantially modified by humans and their works OR is capable of being restored to such a state;
- b) the area is of sufficient size to maintain its natural systems; and
- c) the area is capable of providing opportunities for solitude and self reliant recreation.

The act allows members of the public or community groups to nominate areas for the National Parks and Wildlife Service to assess. Once the nomination is made, the

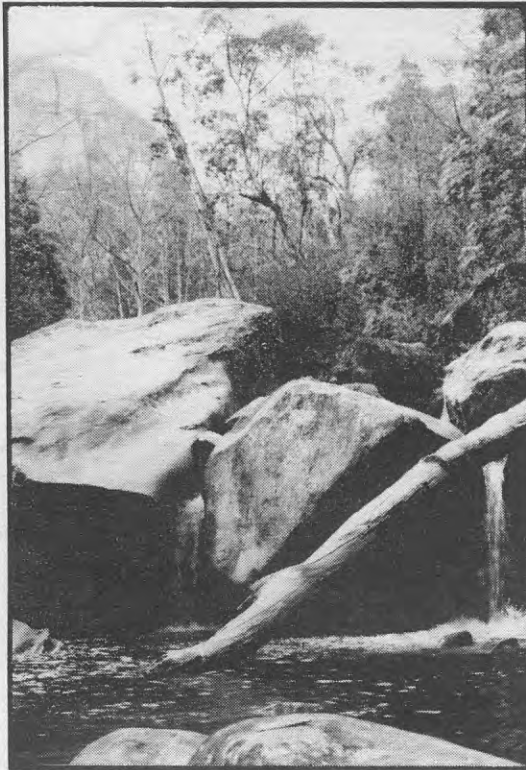


The Devil's Wilderness-in the heart of Confederation's Wilderness nomination

namely: the public roads - Hat Hill Rd, Victoria Falls Lookout Rd and the Bell to Mt Tomah stretch of the Bell Rd; sections of the main grid powerlines between Lawson and Katoomba; the walking tracks into the valley from Perry's Lookdown, Govett's Leap and Evan's Lookout and the Acacia Flat camping ground. The other main walking tracks to Blue Gum Forest and the forest itself would be within the wilderness area but there would be **no** constraints on the continued existence and use of these walking routes if declared wilderness. Blue Gum Forest would become the

NPWS has two years to complete its assessment. Land identified as wilderness by the NPWS can then be declared under the Act by the Minister for the Environment.

Management of declared wilderness areas is required to restore, protect and maintain the area in a natural state, minimise disturbance to wildlife, allow areas to evolve with minimum interference and permit opportunities for compatible activities like bushwalking, nature study, photography and self reliant camping.



Boulders in Grose River

IS THIS AREA LARGE ENOUGH TO BE A WILDERNESS?

There are twenty four declared and several unprotected wilderness areas in NSW. At 55 000 hectares the Grose Wilderness would be larger than 50 percent of those areas which range in size from areas like Levers Plateau 15442 ha), Bogong Peaks (27494 ha) and Nattai (30424 ha) to our largest areas like Kanangra-Boyd (130000 ha), Macleay Gorges (165392 ha) and Wollemi (433530 ha). In terms of meeting b) in the above criteria there is certainly a large enough area to maintain its natural systems. Furthermore there is a natural link through national parkland to the north with the massive Wollemi Wilderness Area, the areas being separated in places only by a two lane road and adjacent powerlines.

IS IT TOO DEGRADED TO BE WILDERNESS?

As a result of urban development in part of the upper catchment the area contains some weed infestations,

however these are confined to areas along the major rivers and streams downstream of intense urban development. Groups such as Friends of Blue Gum Forest and members of Confederation in conjunction with NPWS have been actively controlling weeds such as Gorse and Broom. Wilderness management places high priority on eradication programs for weeds and feral animals. The water quality problems mainly arise from Blue Mountains sewerage and urban runoff entering the catchment. An upgrading of the Blue Mountains sewerage system is presently underway. If

stormwater basins are also installed at the edge of bushland to clean up urban runoff both the water quality and weed situations should vastly improve in the valley. Similar problems (poor water quality and/or introduced species) affect other wilderness areas - Nattai, Kanangra, Guy Fawkes, Ettrema, Macleay Gorges and Barrington being a few examples. In summary wilderness can still be declared over areas with these problems since degradation in existence is reversible.

PAST AND PRESENT HUMAN ACTIVITIES

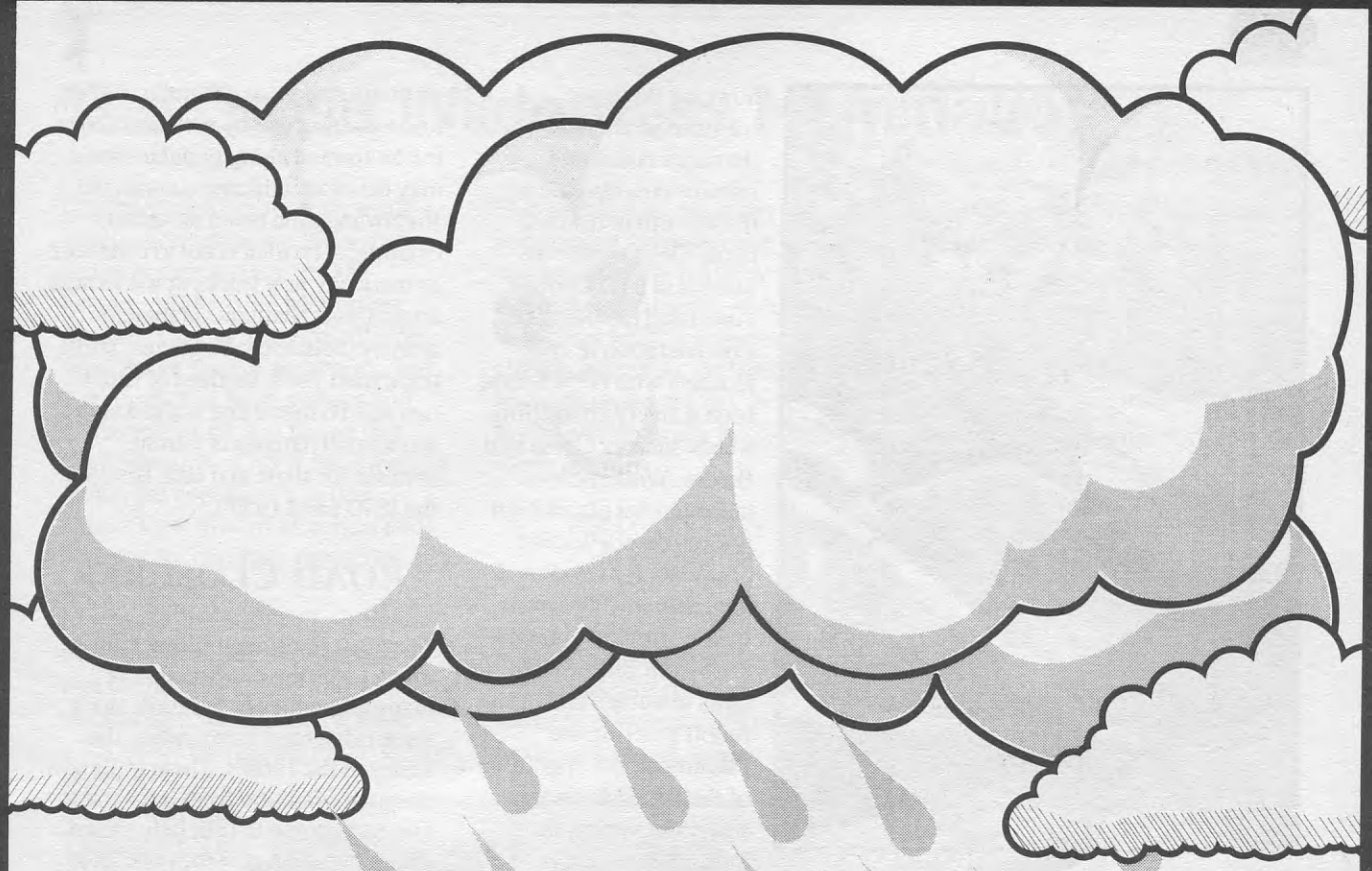
As mentioned the nomination does not include the area of highest visitation incorporating the formal camping area at Acacia Flat and part of Govett's Gorge bounded by the Perry's Lookdown and Rodriguez Pass tracks plus the public roads to Perry's Lookdown and Victoria Falls. Their management can then continue to cater for the large number of visitors received and the tracks and other facilities maintained or upgraded. Walking tracks in the wilderness eg Pierces Pass would

certainly remain as natural trails due to continuing use by walkers. Foot tracks formed along popular routes may occur in wilderness areas, the Budawang area being an obvious example. The idea is not to construct or mark any new tracks in wilderness areas. Other remnants of human activity include the Engineers bridle track from 1858, sections of which can still be found and walked and some small remains of mining venture for shale and coal between the 1870's and 1950's.

ROAD CLOSURES

The most significant recent human impact was the construction of many kilometres of fire trails along most ridge tops surrounding the valley in the 1960's. These trails now range in condition from impassable and overgrown to officially closed excepting management vehicles to freely open for public use. They have on the whole become redundant for fire fighting purposes with the use of aircraft now preferred as both more effective and of less risk to firefighters. After some consulting with member clubs Confederation has chosen to take a consistent approach for all of these vehicular trails within the wilderness boundary in supporting their closure and rehabilitation with parking facilities relocated where required. Our view is that the roads should be revegetated with future access along these ridges on foot only. The road closures affecting popular walking areas with lengths of closure (ie extra walking required) are as follows: Faulconbridge Point Rd - 6km to the Grose River Walking Track or 7 km to the lookout; the Mount Hay Rd - 5 km out to the Lockleys Pylon track head or 9.5 km to the Mt Hay track; Burrumoko Ridge Rd - 4.5 km to Baltzer Lookout; Pierces Pass Rd - 800 metres only with parking and picnic facilities relocated; Mt banks Rd - 1 km, also with relocated facilities. Some trails in the Patterson Range area would also require closure.

Continued on page 16



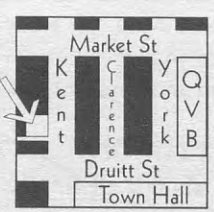
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