

THE Bushwalker



Magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc
ISSN 0313 2684 Winter issue - May 1998 Volume 23 No 4
<http://www.bushwalking.org.au>

WARRAGAMBA SPILLWAY APPROVED

John Macris Conservation Officer

In late February Planning Minister Craig Knowles gave approval to the construction of the side spillway for Warragamba Dam, a proposal which Confederation and environment groups have supported for some time. Provided that the tendering and construction of this project takes place according to schedule, i.e. well before next year's State election, the dam raising option should be kept well and truly at bay for the foreseeable future.

If however no progress towards construction is made this year, the prospect of a new conservative Government reviving dam raising is a real possibility. I urge readers to write to Minister Knowles care of Parliament House, welcoming the decision but urging that the project is kept to schedule.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOSCIUSZKO

John Macris Conservation Officer

A Commission of Enquiry into the proposed expansion of Perisher Village and other resorts within Kosciuszko National Park is due to commence shortly. This expansion would see another 1000 beds added to the resorts, further entrenching the commercialisation of the park. Criticism of this proposal has most recently come from the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, who have highlighted the inadequacy of investigation of existing



alternative accommodation in centres such as Jindabyne. Confederation has contributed to the costs of the National Parks Association's initiative of sending environmental lawyer Peter Prineas to



Kosciuszko National Park - Courtesy Webster Publishing

the Commission to put as strong a case as possible on their and our behalf, against this further pressure being placed on the Park.

Kosciuszko National Park has been somewhat embattled from time to time by graziers resentful of the loss of summer grazing and by the Hydro-electric Scheme established in 1949, which was to dot the mountains with dams and power stations.

Before Strzelecki and the settlers, however, the various Aboriginal tribes in the area had long regarded the mountains with awe. In summer, the tribes went into the mountains to feast on the large white Bogong moth. They believed that the Bogong moth was transformed in the cold weather into flakes of snow, thus turning the high country white for several months of the year.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Great Gorse
Gorse Walk
Bushwalking National
treasures
Bushwalkin in
Australia on the WWW

CONFEDERATION REUNION & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - HOSTED BY NEWCASTLE BUSHWALKING CLUB SATURDAY AUGUST 22ND 1998

This year the AGM will be held at Martinsville Public School near Newcastle
Programme: Arrive approx midday
1.00: AGM Reports, special issues, and elections, afternoon tea provided by host club.

The detailed agenda and other details will be sent to all Confederation members and club secretaries by July. The details will also be on the members' only section of Confederation's web site, at <http://www.bushwalking.org.au>



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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 or E-Mail.

Advertising rates are available on request. Ring John Clarke on (02) 9744-1916

Distribution is through affiliated clubs, major retail outlets, council information centres and National Park offices. **Address all correspondence to** The Editor, The Bushwalker Bushwalkers NSW PO Box 2090 GPO Sydney 1043. E-mail turton@fastlink.com.au

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 67 clubs with a total membership around 10,000 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, Bushwalkers NSW at the above address for information on clubs in their area. Or web site <http://www.bushwalking.org.au>

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TheBushwalker 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 individual authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.

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Deadline for next issue 18th August



ADDRESSING MISCONCEPTIONS

I note that Brian Walker is taken to task for saying¹ that the Coast & Mountain Walkers were a “founding member of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs”

In July 1932 it was moved that the newly formed organisation should be known as The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs of New South Wales. It is true that two years later CMW was admitted to the Federation.

However in September 1936 the

campaigns increased with the newly formed Federation of Bushwalking Clubs³”

The Blue Gum Forest Committee came in being in July 1931 made up of delegates from two bushwalking clubs plus the President of the Wildlife Preservation Society. Col Gibson notes that: by February 1932 the leasee had been paid out; and fund-raising to cover the loans would continue for the next two years.

The first time Blue Gum is mentioned in the Federation’s minutes is April 1933, and later in the year the Federation held their camp there. Thus the ‘Federation’ had minimal, if any, role in the initial campaign.

Others say that the Garawarra project, which pre-dated Blue Gum, “was made the first plank of the Federation’s platform, whilst next in importance came the betterment of facilities at Lilyvale Station and the vicinity”.

In actual fact the first ‘conservation issue’ was a letter read out by Myles Dunphy “suggesting the

necessity and benefit to be derived from the resumption of an area of land adjoining the Lilyvale Railway Station”. At the same meeting it was moved that Federation should appoint honorary rangers (to (Royal) National Park) following vandalism and littering in the park. (August 1932)

Subsequent (1932-5) issues were: the removal of wildflowers from the bush for sale in the city; the proposed Garawarra land resumption; the removal of buildings erected on permissive occupancies in National Park; the retention of the Burrawang Palm on the list of protected species; Maitland Bay

(Bouddi) in February 1934; and a pamphlet on roadless or primitive areas.

In December 1933 the Wild Life Preservation Society wrote to the Federation offering assistance and financial aid to the Garawarra, and support for, the Blue Mountains National Park Schemes. The latter was part of Dunphy’s grand scheme to dedicate large tracts of bushland as a (grand) national park - first time this is mentioned in the Federation’s minutes although it had been raised earlier in other forums.

For many years the Federation did not have a conservation officer or bureau and relied heavily upon the work of Myles Dunphy and the National Parks & Primitive Areas Council (NPPAC) to be the vanguard. It was only when fund raising was required or signatures needed to be collected that there was large scale participation by bushwalkers.

For a number of reasons relationships between these two bodies deteriorated. The NPPAC believed that they were the guardians of the environment - Federation’s role essentially was to rubber stamp their policies. It was only when Frank Craft, and others, started to insist the Federation should develop its own policies (c.1937) did the relationship all but break down.

But not all conservation efforts of the time were the prerogative of these two bodies. A number of individuals and (local) groups took up various causes: Nightcap Ranges, Mt Tomah (The Jungle), Barrington Tops to name a few. Marie Byles took Maitland Bay under her capable wing and helped establish Bouddi Natural Park. Tom Herbert (Federation President, 1937) noted that Bouddi was the first monument to the work of the Federation. It was “a wholly bushwalking effort, and that had it not been for bushwalkers it would certainly have fallen prey to sub-dividers”.

Elia - 09/01/1998

¹ WILD No.66: Coast and Mountain Walkers Brian Walker

² WILD No.67: Wildfire - Andy Macqueen

³ WILD No.67: Blue Gum Forest - Col Gibson



Blue Gum Forest

constitution was revised and the name changed to The NSW Federation of Bush Walking Clubs. “The first members of the Federation shall be the following Associations: the Coast and Mountain Walker’s Club of New South Wales”. Hence it is rather semantic to dispute that the club was not a “founding” member.

There is also a misconception that the Blue Gum campaign was the impetus for a Federation of Bushwalking Clubs: ‘the energy generated by the [Blue Gum] forest campaign of 1931-32 was a major catalyst in getting the clubs together”

“The Blue Gum Forest campaign had galvanised the bushwalkers into action ... Efforts on other bushland



TRAINING WEEKEND 28/29TH MARCH

Keith Maxwell
Wilderness Rescue Director

For this weekend I planned a far more active weekend than is the usual. Bushwalkers from a wide range of clubs thoroughly enjoyed this style of training conducted at the Cataract Scout Park. There were two main themes to the weekend. Bush safety, i.e. staying out of trouble in the first place, was the obvious companion to training in rescue skills. Crime scene was covered by Senior Constable Gary Storey of Wollongong Police Rescue Squad. First Aid and patient handling was well revised via realistic scenarios conducted by our St John First Aid

Instructors. Other interesting sections included GPS Receivers and helicopter safety. Late Saturday interested bushwalkers were able to refine their jumaring technique. The night exercise showed just how close someone can be without being noticed for ages. The new Q Mac brand radios were effectively trialed in the Sunday morning mini rogaine that mixed navigation with practical exercises at control points. The strong vote of appreciation given at the debrief of the weekend, of this diverse program, means that the March '99 training will be a similar varied and challenging format. I hope to see you there. Just remember the second weekend before Easter '99 for Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Training.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Malcolm Hughes- Southern Highland Bushwalkers

Last weekend I attended a really first class training exercise for bushwalkers. Congratulations to the Wilderness Rescue committee.

One exercise involved lighting up a small cooking fire and on questioning those present, I realised that no one was aware of the fire danger provisions

I was surprised at the general lack of knowledge of this important restriction.

The bushfire danger season is from 1st October to 31st March every year and can be varied by local councils.

The rules for camp fires are:

Light only in a properly constructed fireplace at least 4.5 metres from any log or stump. This means National Park or forestry fireplaces, not a ring of rocks.

Clear the ground around the the fireplace for at least 1.5 metres.

Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the area.

An open camp fire can be lit on the ground in a space cleared to at least 4.5 metres around the fire and then only from 7 pm to 7 am. The fire must be out by 7 am.

WHAT TO DO WHEN LOST

According to the notices in Fiordland National Park, New Zealand:

'If your group becomes lost or a group member is injured, you should stay calm and send two capable group members for help with written details of the group's location ...' (if you are lost how do you know location).

SPRINGWOOD BUSHWALKING CLUB MAGAZINE

The Springwood Bushwalkers commemorated their 30th anniversary last year, and have just produced an anniversary edition of *Compass*—the magazine produced several times in earlier years of the club. The anniversary edition has 36 pages of articles written by members old and new, and should appeal especially to anyone who has been connected with the club over the years. To obtain a copy, forward \$5.00 to The Secretary, Springwood Bushwalking Club Inc, PO Box 126, Springwood 2777.

BUSHWALKING IN THE SHOALHAVEN —

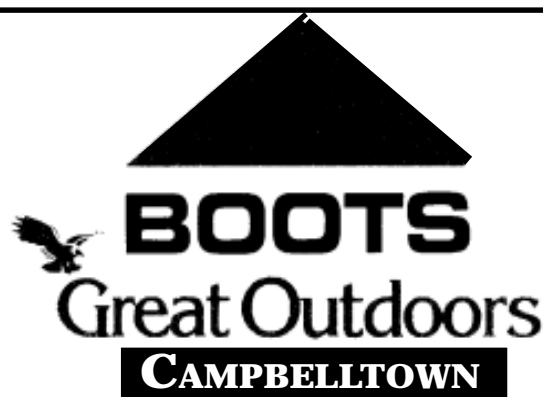
How's your memory?

The first official meeting of people interested in bushwalking in The Shoalhaven/South Coast area was held in Tomerong (near Nowra) on April 24th, 1975. From then on organised weekend and holiday walks were planned. Did you join in any of these walks? Also many "unofficial" groups must have visited the area long before a Club was formed. Were you among them? If so we would like to hear from you as we are compiling a History of the Club.

Any information you can recall of those early days would be helpful.... the names and addresses of friends who walked with you, historical data and contacts with other clubs. We would welcome stories of especially memorable trips, anecdotes and campfire yarns for the History.

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Barbara Robertson
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DON'T THROW OUT YOUR OLD MAPS

Keith Maxwell

Mt Druitt Bushwalking Club

My conviction that the old 2 inch to the mile (1:31,680) scale maps were made with more attention to detail was reinforced recently. Early March I lead a club trip down the full length of Bell Creek Canyon. As I was expecting it to be a long day I insisted on an early start for our small experienced group. There was also no need to waste time getting to the start of the canyon with needless creek bashing. Accordingly I chose option iii) from "Canyons Near Sydney" to enter Bell Creek at Grid Reference 502896 (Australian Map Grid Zone 56; i.e. the grid reference numbering you see on 1:25,000 maps). This required finding a particular ridge to head north on before dropping north west into a side creek that quickly lead into Bell Creek. The misty day limited visibility to only a couple of

hundred metres so I could not easily see the "big picture" of where all the ridges went. Thus I was pleased when following my 1:31,680 scale (Mt Wilson) map I came to an unusual feature at GF 502884 that confirmed my location. Here was a small side creek that crossed the ridge! Our entry into the side creek just further north was fast and straight forward but seemed seldom used. Despite good steady progress it truly was a long but thoroughly enjoyable day. We did not get to the exit out of Wollangambe Creek until 7.15pm and not back to Mt Wilson until 8.40pm.

Later when I checked the Mt Wilson 1:25,000 scale map this unusual feature had been smoothed out into the general shape of the ridge. It wasn't wrong but not as good as my faithful 1:31,680 map. The grid shown in black is 1,000 yards square and numbered differently to the grid on 1:25,000 scale maps. If you look carefully though there is a series of faint numbers in red corresponding to the map grid you need. Now one detail the 1:25,000 maps do have is the modern network of fire roads. So I don't blindly use my old 1:31,680 maps but often visit the map library to

see if there is detail I should know about. The maps for good detail are the 1:10,000 scale produced by The NSW Rogaine Association for their events. Every rock is shown! It takes the guesswork out of navigation. Good navigating whatever map you use.

NPWS COASTAL SURVEY

John Macris - Conservation Officer

A component of the State Government's Coastal Policy released last November, is a survey of the entire coastal/estuarine zone. If you have a favourite area along the coast that is not currently within the reserve system, this represents an opportunity to speak up for its more secure protection.

A piece of Crown Land may seem reasonably well protected as is, however in years to come they could be facing any number of threats such as proposed caravan park leases or mineral sand mining. Any areas you have in mind can be discussed with me by phone or, if you have all the information to hand, submitted to National Parks and Wildlife Service head office.

Holidays for Nature Lovers

Kokoda Trail

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Conservation Work in Mexico

Join us in February 1999 for a truly different holiday in Mexico. Combine conservation work with pleasure in the magnificent Yucatan Peninsula. Work & travel with locals & gain a deep insight into their lifestyle, history & environment. Excellent value.



COOKERY CORNER

Spicy Chicken Surprise

This recipe is provided by Pete Tomkin of Bankstown Bushwalking Club and was voted the best and easiest recipe of 1998.

Ingredients:

- 1 Packet of Continental Spice Chicken
- 1 handful of Cous Cous
- 1/2 handful of dried apples cut up small
- 1 handful of Sultanas
- 1 Large handful of pine nuts (get someone with a large hand).

- Some almond slivers
- Some buckwheat

These ingredient amounts must be adhered to precisely

Method:

Boil billy for a cuppa with 200ml extra water, make your cuppa, then pour in everything, wait 2 minutes and serve, enough for two.

FOR SALE

"Paddy Pallin" "ERA" 3 man Japara tent - No floor - No fly screens. As new condition. Matching Bulldog tent poles 2.2 Kgs \$350-00 no offers. Paul AH (02) 9618-3501

WILDLIFE THE SILENT BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

by Lucy Andrews, WIRES

WIRES gained valuable 'bushfire' experience during the devastating bush fires of 1994 so when the fires started in December last year we were able to act immediately. WIRES has been a part of the NSW Government's State Emergency Plan since 1994, our involvement is in conducting search and rescue efforts for wildlife in bushfire affected areas.

We were involved in a search and rescue operation in the Pilliga State Forest, which contained what is reputed to be the largest known fire in Australian recorded history - over 240,000 hectares of scrub land were burnt over a 3 week period, at a rate of 12 football fields per minute!!! This area was well known as pristine koala habitat, supporting some 1000 koalas.

WIRES rescuers retrieved numerous koalas along with several other animals including swamp wallabies and reptiles. Sadly, some 200 dead kangaroos and numerous koalas, reptiles and birds were sighted by the searchers.

- If a fire hits an area you walk in, here's how you can help;
 - Leave water in a protected area, away from predators such as dogs, cats and foxes.
 - Always pick up rubbish on the side of the roads around the area.
- Call WIRES if you find a sick, injured or burnt native animal. If there is a vet

nearby take it there immediately, they can then call WIRES after initial treatment has been administered.

Many animals come into WIRES care in the months after a fire, as they face stress from habitat loss, starvation, feral animals, lack of shelter and competition for territory.

It's a time we need your support most.

Please accept my donation of \$50 \$30 \$10 other \$_____

Please send me information on WIRES

Name: _____

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Phone: _____

A cheque / postal order is enclosed

Please charge \$_____ to my

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Card Name: _____

Expires: _____

Signature: _____

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WIRES, PO Box 260, Forestville 2087

The Bushwalker 6

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THE GREAT GROSE GORSE WALK V - AUGUST ACTIVITIES

This is a yearly project organised by the Friends of Blue Gum Forest, Popes Glen and Minnehaha Land Care Groups, Blue Mountains City Council, Bush Care Network members and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

We are hoping to cover the Grose again, as it is 5 years since we checked the whole length, as well as to do an exploratory trip down Wentworth Creek, besides the catchment activities, and follow up work on badly infested areas.

So please set the dates aside, i.e. Saturday August 15 to Sunday August 23. If your group is very keen, and has to fall outside this timeband, please contact Cath Ireland, as extra help is most welcome!

Dear Interested Gorsebuster

It's Gorse Time again, and we hope that you can join us. Please fill in the form below and send to **Ranger Cath Ireland, PO Box 43 Blackheath 2785** or drop it in to our office at Govetts Leap

Road, Blackheath AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Phone 02 47 878877, 02 47 87 8061 (AH) fax 02 47 87 8514.

Thank you very much. Looking forward to hearing from you!



Grose Valley

REGISTRATION FORM

Name/s.....

Address:.....

Phone no.....

Next of kin.....

Questions to answer
Please circle the appropriate response

I am an experienced abseiler.....	Yes No
I am trained in safe herbicide use.....	Yes No
I am a trained bush regenerator	Yes No
I am bringing my camera and am prepared to act as a group photographer	Yes No
I hold a current first aid certificate	Yes No
I am an experienced navigator/mapper	Yes No

I confirm that I am of good health and fitness and capable of undertaking the activities)

Signed.....

Date.

SOUTHERN CROSS/ WILDSPORT SAME



BUSHWALKING NATIONAL TREASURES

Recently a list of Australia's 100 living national treasures was published. I was very surprised to see that there were no bushwalkers on the list.

So to rectify that omission I would like to suggest that Confederation publish our own list of living NSW bushwalking treasures. I invite other readers to each nominate up to, say, 10 appropriate people, giving their reasons for the nomination.

To kick off the NSW section of the list I wish to nominate Dot Bule, Alex Colley and Wilf Hilder, all of The Sydney Bush Walkers, along with Alex Watson of The Coast & Mountain Walkers. As these two clubs are among the longest established NSW clubs it is only natural that they will be well represented on the list. I'm sure that I have done neither club justice in nominating so few members. However, other members of those clubs can rectify that situation.

In NSW there are currently 67 clubs affiliated with Confederation. Some of these clubs are reasonably newly established. However, don't let that deter members of those clubs. There is no reason to be bashful about singing the praises of your members.

As a member of Sutherland Bushwalking Club, we are now well into our third decade of existence. One of our founding and current members is affectionately known to us as The Godfather. Don Rice (alias The Godfather) is my nomination as a living national treasure from one of our younger clubs.

I trust that some readers of The Bushwalker will pick up this particular ball and run with it and get lots of nominations for our very own living national treasures.

Anyone who wishes to nominate their "National Treasures" please contact the editor by E or snail mail.

SEARCH FOR OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

Please fill out this form and send it to - "National Treasures" Bushwalkers NSW PO Box 2090 GPO Sydney 1043. The list does not have to be in order of popularity. You may enter less or more than 10.

1..... 6.....
 2..... 7.....
 3..... 8.....
 4..... 9.....
 5..... 10.....
 Name.(optional)..... Club.....

BUSHWALKING IN THE SHOALHAVEN

How's your memory?

The first official meeting of people interested in bushwalking in The Shoalhaven/South Coast area was held in Tomerong (near Nowra) on April 24th, 1975. From then on organised week-end and holiday walks were planned. Did you join in any of these walks? Also many "unofficial" groups must have visited the area long before a Club was formed. Were you among them? If so we would like to hear from you as we are compiling a History of the Club.

Any information you can recall

of those early days would be helpful... the names and addresses of friends who walked with you, historical data and contacts with other clubs. We would welcome stories of especially memorable trips, anecdotes and campfire yarns for the History.

Contact

Barbara Robertson
Shoalhaven Bushwalkers
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Nowra 2541, or phone
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Australian Bushwalking Organisations

NSW. Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs
 NSW Inc. PO Box 2090 Sydney 1043

NT. Darwin Bushwalking Club PO Box 41568
 Casuarina 0811
Central Australian Bushwalkers PO Box 0818 Alice Springs 0817

QLD. Queensland Federation of Bushwalking Clubs GPO Box 1573 Brisbane 4001

SA. Federation of South Australian Walking Clubs Inc 1 Sturt St Adelaide 5000

Tas. Federation of Tasmanian Bushwalking Clubs PO Box 1190 Launceston 7250

Vic. Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs Inc 241 Swan St Richmond 3121

WA. Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc Private Box 414 PO Leederville 6903



“BUSHWALKING IN AUSTRALIA” GET YOUR CLUB ON THE WWW

About 18 months ago we went on the “World Wide Web” with a primitive page, but since that time it has progressed to become the most accessed bushwalking page in Australia. Since 1st November 1997 over 6000 people have visited this site, at <http://www.bushwalking.org.au>

The information is geared to the new walker and experienced alike. All clubs registered with a federated body are listed (over 200 throughout Australia). Information on weather, help with walks, even some great camping recipes and 100's of other items.

M inimal **I** mpact **B** ushwalking

**MEANS
DO NOTHING - LEAVE NOTHING
THAT SHOWS WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN**

Some clubs have taken the opportunity to put on their own information, such as activities programme (minus names, phone numbers and meeting places) newsletters and even some photos of their walks. These clubs have benefited from this with quite a few new members. Your club can benefit from this free service too.

All you have to do is send to the webmaster an IBM formatted disk with any information you would like to put on your page. Most applications can be accessed, Word, Works, RTE, TXT, Word Perfect and a few more. Send it 'attached' to an email or by snail mail. The webmaster will design your page and put your club on the web.

MEMBERS ONLY

No this isn't an adults only page. As from 13th April we have a Members Only page which can only be accessed by members (delegates) of clubs. The username and password can be obtained by emailing to turton@fastlink.com.au.

WHAT CAN BE SEEN ON THIS PAGE

On the members only page there are minutes of Confederation meetings, reports from the different officers (Wilderness Rescue, Conservation, Communication, Training, Insurance and membership, Tracks & Access, Documentation System, Notices (from Confederation and clubs) Confederation Officers, Finance, Confederation's Rules and Objects (constitution)).

ST-JOHN SAME



CELEBRATION AT MITTAGONG

Berrima District Rescue Squad commemorated its 21st Birthday on 18th April, 1998 with a day of celebration including the dedication of a new rescue vehicle and dinner at its rescue head quarters.

This squad like Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue is a member squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc. (VRA). The VRA has over 70 member squads and is recognised by the NSW Government as a complimentary emergency service to the SES. These squads cover many diverse rescue areas from marine rescue to aerial reconnaissance and road rescue. The VRA has been called out for major emergencies right from its inception. Emergencies as varied as the Granville train smash to the Nyngan floods, the 1994 bushfires and the Newcastle earthquake.

Our speciality, as Bushwalkers

Wilderness Rescue, is bush search and rescue while the main speciality of Berrima District Rescue Squad is road rescue.

Outside the major metropolitan areas of NSW road accidents, while traumatic and requiring immediate rescue, are not common enough (thankfully) to justify a paid full time rescue service. Berrima is thus a "primary response" rescue unit unlike us who are designated as "secondary response". Throughout NSW "primary response" for rescue is designated for particular areas and types of rescue. In country areas this is sometimes the local SES but is often the

VRA. The majority of VRA squads are specialist road rescue squads staffed by accredited volunteers backed by community donations of funds and equipment. Often more time is spent in fund raising than rescue! The NSW Government does make a donation each year to the VRA, that while always gratefully received, is really only a small part of the total running costs of these capital equipment intensive road rescue squads.

So 21 years of service is something special to celebrate. Thanks Berrima for serving the people of not just Mittagong and Berrima so well.

SEARCH AND RESCUE: SOME HISTORY

By J. H. Watson (Rover Ramblers Club)

from *The Bushwalker* (1945)

Not once but on several occasions in the past eight years has the phone rung about teatime for members of the Search and Rescue Section of the Federation; lifting the receiver, a familiar voice is heard, "Hello! Paddy speaking. There's a party overdue: can you get out to-morrow!" In every such circumstance, the Section has been able to furnish valuable assistance.

The need for an efficient organisation for search and rescue work was first realised in 1936 following the big Grose River search. A party of four Sydney hikers had set out over Eight -Hour Week-

end to journey down the Grose from Blackheath to Richmond; by the following Friday grave fears were entertained for the safety of the missing youths, for whom planes and land parties (led by police) were conducting a search. Following a meeting of various members of the walking clubs of the Federation, convened by Paddy Pallin, an offer was made of a search party to enter the Grose Valley from Faulconbridge.

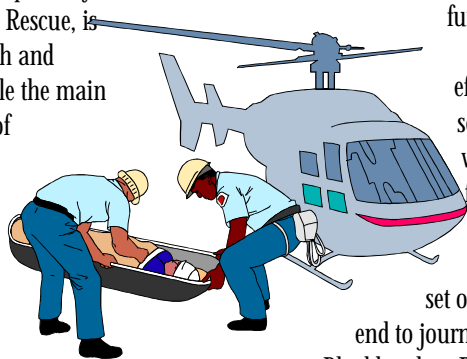
Some eleven walkers then caught

the Mudgee Mail as far as Faulconbridge, to move off at 12.30 a.m. and stop for the night at 2.40 a.m. just above the river. Up again at 5.30 a.m. on the Saturday to descend to the Grose for breakfast and then move upstream to find a cave marked with the names of two of the missing lads. Nearing Linden Creek we heard the planes roaring up the valley and attracted their attention; they thought that we were the missing party until we signalled to the contrary. We reached Wentworth Creek at midday to find that the police had been through the same morning. As the afternoon wore on, lack of sleep on the previous night began to exact its toll and we made camp at 5.30 p.m. as another plane passed over. We lit a smoky fire to attract attention and on the return journey the plane dropped four paper bags to signify that the missing party had been located. Thereafter chief interest was in the speediest means of leaving the valley.

We continued upstream on the Sunday and about 8.30 a.m., beyond Porcupine Creek, we met three bushmen from Bilpin who had just descended via Tomah Creek, they informed us that the police were taking the missing youths back to Blackheath, and gave us notice of an easy way out along the spur between Hungerford and Porcupine Creeks. We followed this route and after some bother with bushfires, reached the Bell Road at 1 p.m. and followed it to Bilpin for lunch and a wash. Thoroughly refreshed we returned by car to Kurrajong for the train home.

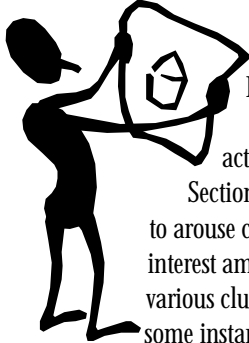
The Search and Rescue section then came into being and its first call to take the field came in January, 1938, when two hikers were reported missing after their failure to return home from a hike through the bush near Heathcote on a Sunday. The request for assistance was received at 5 p.m. on Monday and at 4 am Tuesday eight members of Federated Clubs met at Railway Square to travel by lorry to Heathcote. We ate and drank; meanwhile police and relatives of the missing pair had arrived.

After consultation police and relatives moved down the regular track and Goondera Ridge. The lorry continued along the highway to drop walkers in





pairs to descend Goongal and Kangaroo Ridge and to cross Uloola Heights. Two of the parties converging at the junction of Goondera Brook found a note to the effect that the missing walkers had proceeded downstream; hastening downstream, they found that the lost walkers had already been found by the



police and relatives at Karloo Pool.

The activities of the Section commenced to arouse considerable interest among the various clubs, which in some instances arranged

club exercises, using pigeons as message carriers, and gathered some valuable data. In August, 1938, an extensive exercise was carried out in the area between O'Hare's Creek and Princes Highway with about sixty searchers covering the allotted sections - and finding the "lost party". A subsequent valuable exercise operative from a base at North Springwood also attracted much

attention.

With the outbreak of war, walking activities were restricted and the Search and Rescue Section (many of whose members were serving at home or abroad) was not called upon to assist the police in finding lost hikers. With the recent improvement in the war situation and the resumption (despite travel restrictions) of walking in its various forms, it has been considered opportune to quicken interest in the activities of the Search and Rescue Section of the Federation.

Further valuable experience was gained in a recent exercise and it is hoped that the support so readily accorded the Section by members of the Federation will continue- and so enable it to operate efficiently should the call arise. Volunteers should register with their Club representative, or direct with Paddy Pallin.

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RESCUE CALL-OUTS

Phone call from David Moss reminding me of message on pager. I rang "Fred" of Central Coast VRA from work on 0243 59 2259 around 3.05 pm.

The Police were looking for a 54 year old male last seen around 8am the previous day (Tuesday) in the Somersby area. He was a local businessman whose business had had a down turn. At that stage it still had to confirmed if we were needed but if so 10 personnel would be required. Confirmation was to be by Mark Constable at 9 pm. However around 7 pm Fred called me at home to say we were not required even though this man still had not been found. (Further proof that you are best to look after yourself and not rely on the Police).

Keith Maxwell, Director,

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue.

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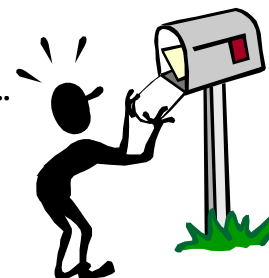
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1998

June	14th Paddy Pallin Rogaine	16th Confederation Meeting	20th-21st & 27th Remote Area First-aid	27th-28th Confederation's rescue Services Rogaine
July	18th 19th & 25th Remote Area First-aid	21st Confederation meeting		
August	8th-9th NSW Rogaine Championships North of Maitland	18th Confederation Meeting	22nd Confederation AGM at Newcastle	15th-22nd Great Gorse Walk
September	5th Lake Macquarie Rogaine	15th Confederation Meeting	18th Confederation's Ball/Bush Dance	19th-20th & 26th Remote Area First-aid
October	17th-18th & 24th Remote area First-aid	20th Confederation Meeting		
November	8th Upside-down Rogaine	17th Confederation Meeting	21st-22nd & 28th Remote Area First-aid	
December	15th Confederation Meeting	19th-20th & 26th Remote Area First-aid		

The Remote Area First-aid course is designed to equip those individuals whose interests, activities or employment takes them to isolated areas, with the knowledge and skills necessary to give ongoing care, over a prolonged period of time, to an ill/injured casualty. For enquires contact St John Ambulance N.S.W. (02) 9212-1088. Courses will also be conducted on request for groups of 12 or more.

To become a member of the Rogaine Association phone Graeme Cooper (02) 6772-3584 email gcooper@metz.une.edu.au or visit the website at <http://rogaine.asn.au>

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs represents over 67 clubs and 10,000 walkers in NSW. Visit our website at <http://www.bushwalking.org.au> - email turton@fastlink.com.au. Phone (02) 9548-1228

Any member of any club may attend meetings of the Confederation.



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ENSIGN BARRALLIER AND THE BURNT HOLE ALTERNATIVE

Andy Macqueen examines a new interpretation of the early explorer's route in the southern Blue Mountains.

Where did the explorer Ensign Barrallier go in 1802? That question has tantalised bushwalkers since 1920, when surveyor and botanist Richard Cambage decided that the route went from the Nattai, past the Tonalli-Wollondilly confluence and westward to Bent Hook Swamp (on Bindook Creek), thence northward to the Kowmung and ultimately up Christys Creek to Barralliers Falls.

In the 1930s Rae Else-Mitchell, bushwalker with the Warrigals, historian, and (later) distinguished judge, decided that Barrallier reached Christys Creek by travelling up the Tonalli Valley and through Byrnes Gap.

Most subsequent work has confirmed the Else-Mitchell version, except that the probable terminus has been moved to Johnston Falls in Wheengee Whungee Creek. Those interested can read all about it in my book *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown: the Life and Journeys of Barrallier*.

In 1996 a new theory appeared in the book *Blue Mountains Rediscovered*. Its author Chris Cunningham suggested that Barrallier reached Bent Hook Swamp, as per the Cambage version; then, the next day (26 November 1802), he

- climbed a nearby mountain to obtain a view;
- headed west till he was barred by the valley of Murruin Creek (11 am);
- swung north and found the Murruin Range, which he followed to the point where Ruby Creek is overlooked;
- not perceiving that the range

swung south-west, descended to Ruby Creek (about 4pm); and

- walked downstream to camp at the Burnt Hole Creek confluence.

The next day Barrallier walked up a creek - Burnt Hole Creek according to the Cunningham theory - till he met a deep pool of water with a waterfall behind, obliging him to undertake a high sidle. After regaining the creek at 8 pm he made camp, but his men took a

short walk upstream and reported the existence of an impassable waterfall 30 metres high. According to Cunningham the waterfall is at GR687304 (Gumang 1:25,000), placing Barrallier's supposed terminus 14 km west of previous interpretations.

Deciding to check the new theory out, I went on a bushwalk with several others from Springwood Bushwalking Club. I was armed with Cunningham's book, the relevant extracts of Barrallier's

Burnt Hole Creek is a pleasant spot for a wilderness bushwalk but Ensign Barrallier was not there before you.

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journal, a sense of discovery and an open mind.

The findings? In short, the Burnt Hole Creek theory is completely out of the question, for the several overwhelming



Johnston Falls - Wheengee Whungee Creek

reasons mentioned below. I will not go over the arguments against Barrallier's having gone to Bent Hook Swamp in the first place. Let's just assume he got that far, and examine the 'Burnt Hole' theory westward from there.

(1) The distance walked on 26 November

Even if Barrallier had found his way faultlessly along the Murrain Range, the theory requires that Barrallier walked at least 27 kilometres on 26 November, not including the early sojourn up the mountain. Of this, 18 km must have been covered in a 5-hour period which would have included his normal long lunch break. This is inconceivable. Barrallier and his men were not tiger walkers.

(2) The view above Ruby Creek

Barrallier supposedly dropped into Ruby Creek gorge because he missed the south-west turn in the Murrain Range. This is most unlikely. On arriving at the edge of the gorge the

Ruby Creek Falls are in clear view to the left, and it is obvious that the range swings to the plateau country behind them. Furthermore, it is virtually impossible to descend straight ahead, owing to the presence of cliffs.

(3) Ruby Creek

Let's suppose Barrallier has made

the descent, and is now heading down Ruby Creek - a tiresome undertaking, according to his journal. However, after the first 200 metres or so from the feasible descent route, Ruby Creek is easy travelling, with gentle banks and slopes on one side or the other.

(4) The Burnt Hole Creek confluence

If the theory were correct, then according to Barrallier's journal and map, Ruby Creek would be a 'river', and Burnt Hole Creek would be a lesser watercourse - a 'rather large stream'. At the confluence there would be a delta of rocks protruding into Ruby Creek, providing a place to cross it. One could also go for a short walk up the banks of Burnt Hole Creek and find some fossils in the 'sandstones'.

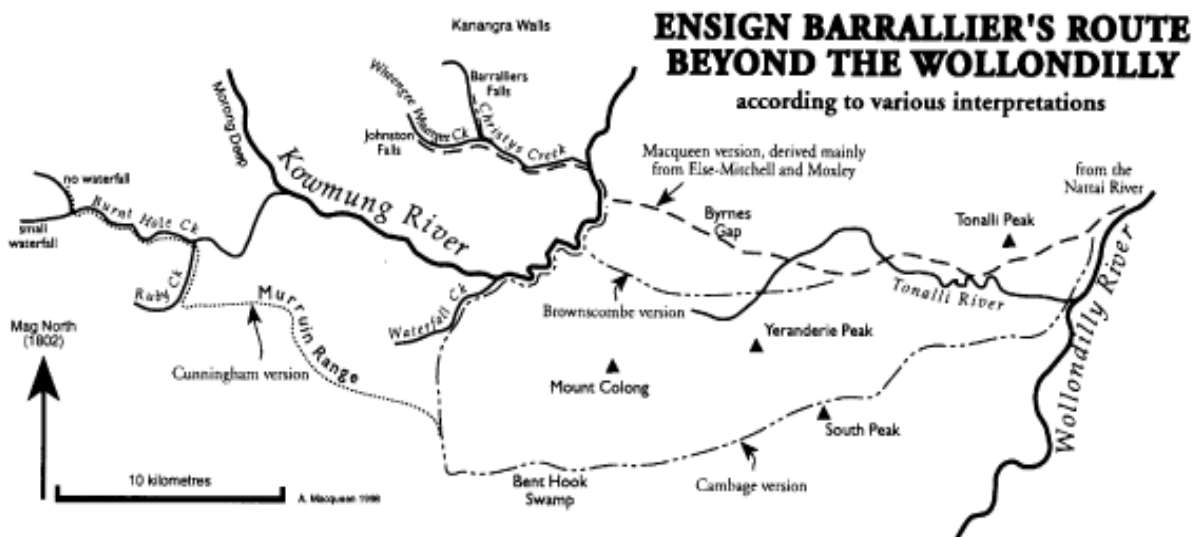
But the confluence is nothing like this. Burnt Hole Creek is larger than Ruby Creek, not smaller, and there is no delta. The rock outcropping in the bed, banks and slopes at the confluence and for 3 kilometres upstream along Burnt Hole Creek, is granite. No fossils there.

On walking up Burnt Hole Creek one immediately encounters a granite canyon, in which the pools and cascades can only be negotiated by scrambling. Not a place for an evening walk, nor to embark on the morning's journey.

(5) The sidle

Burnt Hole Creek runs through two granite canyon sections which present (minor) difficulties to the walker as he goes upstream, but neither could

Continued over page





From page 15

have prompted the high sidle described in the journal.

The first commences immediately one leaves the confluence so, given that it took Barrallier most of the day to reach it, the sidle could not start there. The second canyon starts about 2.5 kilometres upstream (GR718277), but:

- it takes unathletic bushwalkers only 2 or 3 hours to walk up to this point from Ruby Creek, so it is still too close to the confluence;

- It is over 4 kilometres from the end of the supposed sidle to the waterfall. The walking is not hard, but it still takes a good 2 hours: this hardly fits the journal, which implies that the walk should take only a few minutes.

- It is obvious from beneath that the waterfall can be very easily bypassed on either side. There is no imposing mountain backdrop, and no-one could claim the waterfall was impassable. The hillsides in the area are relatively gentle

Exploration in 1802, JRAHS 3:2.

Cunningham, C. 1996, *Blue Mountains Rediscovered*, Kangaroo Press.

Else Mitchell, R. 1938, *Barrallier's Blue Mountains Explorations*, JRAHS 24:4.

Macqueen, A.D. 1993, *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown: the Life and Journeys of Barrallier*, published by author.

Moxley, E. 1955, *Barrallier's Exploration of Christys Creek*, JRAHS 41:2.

KOWMUNG RIVER WILLOWING

The Kowmung Committee has now held five willow eradication walks along various lengths of the Kowmung River. Apart from a small section of Bulga Dennis Canyon, the river has now all been treated for willows between Church Creek and Ritson Elbow (around 30km of river). The success rate after poisoning trees appears to be better than 80%.

Not too much information has yet been gathered about the density of willow growth in the upper Kowmung. Depending on this the whole river should have been treated within the next couple of years, particularly with the help of walkers. Our activities held over long weekends do not generally attract high numbers so look out for some overnight walks advertised in future issues of the Bushwalker.

An extraordinary development in the control of wild cattle in Kanangra Boyd National Park has arisen recently. A rural community group has called for the halting of eradication of wild cattle due to their potentially being descendent from escaped first fleet cows. If proposed studies give any credence to this, we may have been having run ins with heritage cows on our bushwalks! This apparent long shot will need to be tested swiftly so that the feral control program is not compromised.



Granite Canyon in Burnt Hole Creek

- the only waterfall which must be sidled around is not associated with a deep pool of water; and

- because the rock is granite rather than quartzite, we do not find there the sharp points of rock described by Barrallier.

Even if Barrallier had ascended from there, the topography dictates he would have to descend and regain Burnt Hole Creek downstream from the Wattle Creek confluence.

(6) The waterfall

Chris Cunningham's suggested terminus waterfall at GR687304 simply does not exist. There is no significant waterfall at that location, or anywhere near there.

The only waterfall worthy of the name is at GR673290, on a totally different tributary. It is only about 13 metres high. Could it be Barrallier's waterfall? No. Apart from its small magnitude -

and not at all formidable.

Burnt Hole Creek is a pleasant spot for a wilderness bushwalk, if you ignore the feral pigs. You must also ignore the red herrings, for you can be sure that Ensign Barrallier was not there before you.

Selected references

Andrews, Alan E.J. 1996, *Barrallier and Caley: the Evidence of their Burratorang Maps 1802-1806*, JRAHS 82:1

Barrallier, F.B., *Journal of the Expedition into the Interior of NSW 1802*, HRNSW Vol. 5: App. A.

Brownscombe, R. 1992, *Barrallier's Blue Mountains Expedition in 1802. Clearing the matter up, finally?*, JRAHS 78:2.

Cabbage, R.H. 1920, *Barrallier's Blue Mountain*



GUARDING AGAINST GIARDIA

By David Humphries

Although there are many organisms in our water supplies which can infect humans, Giardia Lambia is one of the most cosmopolitan and frequent causes of tummy upsets likely to occur as a result of encounters with the Australian outdoors. Because this common and highly infectious organism thrives in cool water it is often found in high mountain streams, alpine lakes, and even in the local water supplies in cooler regions. That is to say, Giardia is present in the waterways of many popular wilderness destinations, and the risk of infection is therefore something of which walkers, cross country skiers and other outdoor adventurers need to be conscious.

WHAT IS IT?

Giardia Lambia is a protozoan, a single cell organism which forms a cyst around itself as the organism moves from the small intestine to the outside world. As these cysts are extremely infectious with as few as ten cysts required to infect an adult, and relatively hardy, Giardia has spread widely throughout the world. Because it is transmitted in human faeces, the waterways of many popular bushwalking and other outdoor recreational areas have been contaminated and we can safely predict that more will be affected in time. In some areas of the world particularly developing countries, it is thought that up to 100% of the population have been infected with Giardia by the age of two.

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

Giardia usually manifests itself with gut symptoms, and though not everyone who is infected with Giardia will become

symptomatic a high proportion do. Characteristically symptoms do not appear until 1-3 weeks after infection. The most common early symptoms include abdominal pain, bloating, belching, excessive wind, nausea and vomiting and diarrhea, though the latter may not always be present. The acute infection generally lasts in excess of a week. Although any diarrhoea usually settles quickly the other symptoms may persist for many years, either continuously, or in a relapsing episodic form. Specific treatment is simple and readily available, but unfortunately does not prevent reinfection. A short course of Flaygl is the most common treatment, and has a cure rate of more than 80%. Other treatments are available for more persistent infection.

PREVENTION

We can safely predict that more will be affected in time. As the absolute diagnosis of Giardia can be quite difficult and treatment does not prevent reinfection, it is far better to take steps to avoid infection in the first place. The prevention of infection revolves around a number of simple principles. Firstly, if you are undertaking a

relatively short walk, or day walk in a risk area, you can avoid infection simply by carrying all your drinking water from an uncontaminated area. Where the length of a walk makes carrying water impracticable, drinking water should always be boiled, chemically treated or filtered. Five minutes is adequate boiling time to kill Giardia, although it is worth noting that this may not be sufficient to remove other infectious organisms. Many commercial sterilizing tablets will adequately deal with Giardia too, although the taste of some iodine based products may not be to everyone's liking! A good quality water filter is the third way of eliminating Giardia. It is important to remember when using filtration devices that their effectiveness is contingent on the carrying out of regular filter maintenance, in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

Taking these simple precautions and applying some common sense will not only drastically reduce the personal risk of infection, but also slow the rate of dissemination of this nasty little beastie around the remaining pristine areas of our wilderness

Annual Bush Dance Friday Sept 18th

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Alex Tucker Tracks & Access
Officer

TASMANIAN WALKING TRACK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This long awaited document was issued in March and, in my opinion was

ALONG THE TRACK

DRAFT AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR WALKING TRACKS

After three meetings, Standards Committee CS/29 has produced document DR 98208 as a draft for Public comment. The full title is Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage, and the closing date for comment is 30th June next. Anyone wishing to read and comment on this 16 page document can read a copy at Standards Australia 1 The Crescent HOMEBUSH Phone (02) 9746 4748. Convenient pedestrian access is from Strathfield station via Albert Rd and Elva St. (UBD Map 233 E 11) A

NEW NPWS INFORMATION LINE

The NPWS is establishing a 1300 number for calling their Information Centre and as an alternative to their web site. Unfortunately there are no plans for the Information Centre to be advised of temporary closures of parks, canyons or tracks. I am advised that the best contact for such information is the District Offices since decisions on closures and reopenings are made by the District Manager. The NPWS publishes a Visitor Guide to National Parks, Historic Sites and some Nature Reserves, which includes phone numbers. Because of staff

restraints, some sub district offices may not be manned throughout the week ends and callers may be redirected to District Offices. Some large parks such as Wollemi or Yengo are in two or three districts for more convenient management access.

CARIOCA TRAIL SYSTEM

Confederation and the equivalent organisations in other states have received a letter from the Secretariat for the Environment of the City of Rio de Janeiro asking for information to assist in setting up this system which will have

a main trail of 140 km connecting with 500 km of side trails. Carioca is the generic term for the citizens of Rio, a city of over 5 million people. Rio has cultural and historical links with NSW (in particular) even before Peter Allen. The First Fleet and many other sailing vessels made it a port of call for fresh food and water. In my response I will be emphasising the contribution of our Wilderness Rescue Service

The Walking Track management Strategy can be viewed in the Tasmanian section of the Confederation's web site at www.bushwalking.org.au



Freycinet National Park Tasmania - Courtesy Webster Publishing

well worth the waiting. In 1995 Confederation appointed Dave Noble as its representative to the workshops conducted by TASPARKS Their next move is to organise a further workshop to finalise the details of a permit system which will allow for some regulation of the numbers of walkers and canoeists using the various tracks and camping sites. Dave does not want to continue as our Rep, so I have asked his alternate, Roger Lembit, to attend on our behalf. I expect the April Confederation meeting will endorse this appointment and I will advise TASPARKS.

Reference Copy should be available at Standards offices, 51 King St. NEWCASTLE Phone 02 4929 4977. and Shop 5 Gallery Level The Boulevard City Walk CANBERRA Copies may be bought for \$ 9.50. I regret that because of copyright I cannot photocopy any more than the official form for submission of comments. Please contact me by phone or fax on (02) 9451 4028 if you would like to be part of the sub committee preparing Confederation's comments. I expect to call a meeting in Sydney, about the end of May. Written comments would also help, from those unable to attend a meeting.



COMMENTS ON DRAFT AUSTRALIAN STANDARD DR 98208 WALKING TRACKS PART 1 CLASSIFICATION AND SIGNAGE

Alex Tucker Tracks & Access
Officer

Standards Australia have invited public comments on this draft Standard until June 30th after which the committee will consider all the responses. Part 2 of the Standard will be devoted to engineering aspects of tracks and associated infrastructure.

The draft implicitly adopts the term "track" rather than "trail" for access ways designed for walking. This does not affect established titles such as the Heysen Trail or the Birdsville Track, which might seem to be contradictory to the generic terms. The Classification system has six "GRADES" but does not use any descriptors such as Pathway, Formed Track, Footpad or Route, since the "Managing Authority" of our walking tracks, sometimes more than one in each state or Territory, each use differing definitions. Grade 1 is a walking track also suitable for use by "those with reduced mobility" in wheelchairs, and Grade 6 is an unmarked route for highly experienced walkers to explore potentially hazardous natural areas without the reliance on managed tracks. Track length and width are not prescribed, but obviously cost factors will, for example, limit the length of Grade 1 and require the justification of very large numbers of users.

The "Functional" criteria for each Grade are: Track Condition, Gradient, Signage and Facilities.

"Experiential Elements" are Visitor Expectation and User Experience

The four Management Elements are Level of Intervention, Risk Management, Track Information and Usage and Group Size.

Signage covers "Track Markers" and five types of "Information Signs"

Advisory, Descriptive and Warning signs which "may" include listed information and Interpretive and Regulatory signs which are the "perogative of the Managing Authority."

Two Track Markers are specified and may be of any colours provided the marker is clearly visible in its environment whether snow, bush or desert, "consistent throughout the track and distinguishable from colours used on intersecting tracks." One marker is a directional arrow on a 90 mm square background. Eight types allow for alignment at every 45 degrees. This is an internationally recognised symbol. The other is an isosceles triangle with a base of 80 mm and a height of 110mm. Four fixing holes allow for a range of alignments. This was the only option in the 1987 Standard.

OUR NEW LOGOS

I hope readers like the new logos for each section of the Confederation magazine. I asked my printer MLC Power house Design Centre to design them, a young lady, Leisa Wright, took on the task.

She was given the opportunity to redesign the existing logos for the magazine. This project along with other design projects she was working on at the time was very good experience for Leisa, she was able to apply the design skills gained over the past three years.

Leisa is a recent graduate from Griffith University where she completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts in Graphic Design. As part of her traineeship she is attending off-the-job training in Multimedia at Metro TV (an area in which Leisa is also interested in). Leisa says she enjoyed working on this project and hopes all readers like the new additions to their magazine.

ROGAINE 98

SKATES REQUIRED BUT NOT PERMITTED

This is a last minute attempt to again enthrall you into being part of our 10th (!) Emergency Services Navigation Shield - NavShield 98.

By the time you see this "Bushwalker" you will almost be out of time to register as the event takes place on June 27th/28th '98.

The NavShield is a great way to get some concentrated navigation practice over either one day or two. There is no set course to follow (like in an Orienteering event) so you can do as many or as few check points as takes your fancy but for safety you will still have to be part of a team.

You can either camp overnight by your vehicle or drive in on Saturday morning for the massed start at around 8.20am. Don't plan on arriving then as you have to register, with all the other keen last minute registrars, and map all the checkpoints before planning your route.

This is a bushwalkers event. Some Rogaines give you 'premarked' maps but not this one. Catering is available at the finish so you can get on with some great socialising with other bushwalkers and emergency services personnel.

They don't bite and often are interesting to see how non bushwalkers view the bush; often sympathetic but different.

The presentation ceremony is always held about one and a half hours after the finish so that by the time you are ready to go home you will know your results and be thinking of how to do better next year. Its that type of event! It sucks you in to try again and again. We have many repeat teams from a wide range of areas and emergency services.

There is only one way to be in it though and that is to send an entry form back to the **Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Secretary -**

PO Box 22

Canterbury 2193.

Entry forms were posted to your club in late April. The entry form has more details of how the event is organised but NO location details. Just say about three hours drive from Sydney without crossing the Harbour Bridge. Location details and complete rules etc. will be posted to all entrants just prior the weekend. So you will need to get your skates on to send an entry form in but don't bring them or your GPS to NavShield '98.

Regards, Keith Maxwell Director Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue