

THE Bushwalker

Magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc
ISSN 0313 2684 Spring Issue - August 1999 Volume 25 No 1
<http://www.bushwalking.org.au>



NAVIGATION SHIELD 1999

Keith Maxwell Director
Wilderness Rescue

NavShield '99 was held on July 3rd / 4th and was based around Wingello State Forest.

There were over 450 participants in either the one day or two day event. The weather was dry and mild. Once again we had a representative of the NSW Premier (Carmel Tebbutt Minister for Juvenile Justice) to present the two day Shield. The course as laid out by Ken Smith and Glen Horrocks received many unsolicited favourable comments. The course also included National Park



Peter Wood Andrew Wood Keith Macqueen Richard Butler
Springwood Bushwalkers. Winners 2 Day event with 1630 Points

and farm land around two gorges. BWR was kept busy with three groups overdue from the one day event and one from the two day event. Two of the three groups turned up quickly on Sunday morning but the third couple were slow to turn up and search procedures were being steadily widened when they belatedly were found on a fire road. The record for lateness was not broken by the overdue two day team who didn't return until 5pm. penalty points for lateness are 30 points for every five minutes or part thereof!

Unfortunately the one day Shield was won by the Victorian SES but Keith McQueen copied his father as part of the winning two day Springwood BWC team. There were also Defence Forces teams, SES, Rural Fire Services, NP&WS, Police, VRA and bushwalking club teams. The VRA radio amateurs WICEN helped again with communications and Radio Checkpoints. Our caterer provided good nourishing food as usual. A TAFE group has improved their navigation skills in helping us retrieve all checkpoint markers. You can find full results on the web at <http://www.bushwalking.org.au>. Mark your diary now for next years NavShield on July 1st and 2nd 2000. More results and photos can be found on pages 6-7

THERE'S A NIMBY NEAR YOU!

by John Macris
Conservation Officer

In most of the Conservation reports in the Bushwalker, we take the opportunity to publicise the plight of our more remote back country, under threats of unsustainable exploitation, over-the-top developments or other mistreatment. This issue however, is going to focus on some local patches - the much loved urban bushland and of greater open space described be Sydney. As a fight is low, many underway patches of urban bushland.



Look back at early planning schemes like Bradfield's County of Cumberland concept of the 1940s. The green belt idea was being championed even then for Sydney. We can be pleased that an outer green belt has largely been conserved in

National Parks, closed water catchment areas and Defence Force lands and forms a natural boundary that even crazed developers are compelled to respect.

People may be less aware that an inner greenbelt was also proposed for Sydney, sweeping from the bushland of the northern beaches through the Lane Cove valley, thence via the once rural lands of Marsfield/North Ryde towards the headwaters of the Parramatta River, south via Prospect Reservoir towards Liverpool and culminating in the upper valley of Georges River.

The inner belt has been severely fragmented by decades of urban expansion and since been forgotten about as a concept, worthy though it would be for the health of our city.

What has emerged in the same period however, is a strong sense of community ownership of local natural remnants around the suburbs of Sydney.

The NIMBY (not in my back yard) sentiment could be viewed as the fuel which allows small local campaign groups to take on major proposed developments by the Government or private sector. Inevitably, people concerned about the impacts a

Continued on page 3

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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
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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
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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs
NSW Inc represents approximately 67 clubs
with a total membership around 10,000.

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://](http://www.bushwalking.org.au)

www.bushwalking.org.au

PRICES FOR ADVERTISING

Back cover \$450 - full page inside
back cover \$400 - full page inside \$350 -
half page \$175 - quarter page \$90
business card size \$50 insert \$250
+insertion cost approx \$125

DEADLINES FOR MAGAZINE

Summer edition, 2nd week in
November - Autumn 2nd week in February
- Winter, 2nd week in May - Spring,
2nd week in August.

Printed on recycled
paper by MLC Power-
house Design Centre,
Casula



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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.

From page 1

Several rare and endangered species are at risk. The climbing fish Galaxias have been observed in the catchment of Manly Dam. This is the only known population in suburban Sydney and it is thought that water quality impacts will directly affect the species. Other species affected are the Red Crowned Toadlet and 'Duffys Forest' vegetation - a rare plant community of State significance.

2) Cromer Heights - adjacent to Garigal National Park near Oxford Falls, this area is also proposed for a housing development. Most of this dissected



Maroota State Forest

plateau has been sought for addition to Garigal for some time. Other problems face the area in the absence of management of its natural values. Vehicular tracks have been severely eroded through recreational four wheel drive use, with university soil scientists who have carried out long term research in the area, noting that some tracks have been incised by over a metre since the onset of regular vehicular recreation.

3) Maroota - In 1976 the Maroota State Forest in Sydney's north-west was revoked in order to establish a National Park over the rare tall forests occurring on deep alluvial soils of several creek valleys (see picture). Obstruction from the Department of Lands prevented the gazettal of the new park for over a decade. In 1989 a land claim was made over the 4,500 ha area by a local Aboriginal land council. This claim has recently been upheld in the NSW Supreme Court. Depending on further appeals by the Government, the lands

may receive some type of formal protection. Options for the traditional owners range from continued preservation of the area to rural, residential or exploitative developments (eg forestry and sandmining).

4) ADI St Marys - Contrast this site with somewhere in the east of Sydney for a moment. The Federal Government announced with much fanfare that defence force lands around Sydney Harbour would be spared from residential developments and made into public parklands. Travel 50 km west to the former Australian Defence Industries (ADI) munitions facility on South Creek and its a very different story. This 1,500 ha site contains some of the best remaining patches of the rare and endangered Cumberland Plain and Castlereagh woodlands, yet ADI is planning a major subdivision of 8,000 houses.

The site has recently been placed on the register of the National Estate, which obliges the Federal Government to protect the area. The weasel clause being taken by Government is that because ADI is now a government owned corporation rather than a division of the Defence Department, the lands should be considered as freehold rather than public estate.

If I may say so utter rot. As the recent law which divided the Sydney Water Corporation into two bodies shows, it is quite feasible to legislate to place the so called land assets of a government corporation back clearly within the public domain as occurred with our catchment lands after the Giardia scare. The local resident action group remain adamant that the entire site should be made a Regional Park.

5) Dharawal - The title of least disturbed creek system in greater Sydney would almost certainly go to O'Hares Creek and its tributaries in the rugged bushland between Wedderburn and Darkes Forest in south-western Sydney. O'Hares was reserved for water catchment purposes along with the surrounding catchment areas for Cataract and Woronora Dams. No water supply dam was ever built on this creek however, while the land remained in pristine condition through the years of restricted

access. In 1996 the Dharawal State Recreation Area was gazetted over most of these lands with management being handed across to the NPWS. However a 500 hectare hole was left out of the reserve for the development of a rifle range.

Despite the identification of an alternative site on already degraded land at the edge of the reserve, plans proceeded to use undisturbed bushland in the heart of the area for this damaging development. A stalemate situation between proponent and opposing community groups was reached before the last State election. It is hoped that under new Ministers for Environment and Planning the merits of including this area in the surrounding reserve are realised.

6) West Helensburgh - a critical part of the green belt between greater Sydney and Wollongong remains in a curious limbo after three public inquiries and years of effort for protection of the headwaters of the Hacking River. The lands sought for addition to Royal National Park are currently privately owned, except for the small Kellys Falls Reserve. Numerous attempts at gaining rezoning from rural to residential land use have been challenged and defeated by local groups. Such a rezoning would have seen a new suburb constructed in the upper reaches of the Hacking. With the rezoning knocked back a number of times, the problem now is that no funding has been forthcoming to acquire the lands for addition to Royal.

You may recall that the Prime Minister had put forward the case for Federation Funding being used to buy harbourside land from the defence department (effectively the government buying something from itself). A much more positive use of such money (and probably costing substantially less) would be Federation funding of the purchase of the upper Hacking lands so as to secure the Sydney/Wollongong green buffer, the rainforest filled gullies and key wildlife corridors once and for all.

7) Kurnell Peninsula - Sitting between Boral's Calcsil plant and Botany Bay National Park is one remnant, a tall sand dune with most of its original woodland vegetation still intact. This

National Estate listed relic has been sought for protection in NPWS estate for over 20 years by local groups. Apart from containing rare plant associations and being the last of its kind on the peninsula, the dune also creates a more natural skyline for residential areas to the south than the heavy industry which would be viewed in the absence of any high dunes.

The Department of Mineral Resources continues to oppose the inclusion of this dune in Botany Bay National Park, taking the stance that up to 80% should be subject to sandmining.

8) Salt Pan Creek - Recent moves by Hurstville Council to sell off bushland fronting Salt Pan Creek near Lugarno were met with vocal opposition from nearby residents. The land in question forms a missing link between other public parklands along the waterway, meaning public rights of way would be ultimately lost as has occurred in many established waterside suburbs, seemingly without lessons being learned.

9) Maroubra - The Anzac rifle range and other coastal open space between

Maroubra and La Perouse represent the last refuges for the eastern suburbs Banksia Scrub. This was among the first vegetation associations to be listed under the State's Threatened Species Conservation Act (1996) as an endangered ecological community. Projected future land uses for the rifle range included residential, commercial accommodation or yet another golf course. Some murmurings more recently about a public park were apparently heard, with provisional support being offered by the local State MP, a Mr B. Carr.

CONCLUSION

One of the more ridiculous things I've ever read was from a local book published in the 1980s. The assertion was made that groups (perhaps including us) who fought for protection of large tracts of remote land in National Parks were frequently doing deals with governments, whereby urban bushland could be slaughtered for the ongoing sprawl and everyone would keep quiet so long as the really wild places were protected.

This ignores the nature of interaction between the large organisations and the grass roots groups. Sometimes it works top down, such as all encompassing campaigns for rainforests or wilderness, but often it is the local group taking the lead and this is especially so with urban bushland issues. Not opposing forces by any means, just two sides of the same coin.

If you have a local patch you believe to be under imminent threat and wish to take action, a good place to start would be the Urban Bushland project team at the Nature Conservation Council, Level 5, 362 Kent St Sydney.

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 **Air Niugini**

GREAT GROSE GORSE WALK SEPT 1999

CATCHMENT ACTIVITIES

Wed 1st - Friday 3rd Wentworth Creek, North Leura: Survey Wentworth Creek catchment and associated tributaries for key weed species.

Sat 4th - Sun 5th One day activities: survey of tributaries possibly Mt Victoria and North Katoomba areas: to be announced

VALLEY ACTIVITIES

Wed 1st to Fri 3rd Brows Ridge to Faulconbridge Point. Good fitness required and creek walking ability.

4th - 5th Lower Grose Faulconbridge Point downstream: Strenuous descent. Good fitness required and creek walking ability

15th - 17th Wentworth Creek: Exploratory. High degree of fitness, abseiling skills, navigation required.

DATES TO REMEMBER, GET THEM ON YOUR CLUB'S CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

4th - Remote Area First Aid St John Ambulance
17th - Annual Confederation Bush Dance
21st - Confederation General Meeting Ashfield RSL 7-30pm
25th - 12hour Lake Macquarie Rogaine

OCTOBER

5th - Remote Area First Aid St John Ambulance
16-17th - Advanced Search & Rescue Training
19th - Confederation General Meeting Ashfield RSL 7-30pm

NOVEMBER

6th - Remote Area First Aid St John Ambulance
16th - Confederation General Meeting Ashfield RSL 7-30pm

DECEMBER

21st - Confederation General Meeting Ashfield RSL 7-30pm



Sketch by Dot Butler - climbing Arethusa Falls see also page 12

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NAVSHIELD 1999

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SES AT
CHECKPOINT**

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TEN YEAR MEDAL WINNERS



KANGAROO BFB 3RD PLACE



BASE CAMP ON EMERGENCY AIR STRIP



REGISTRATION



WINNING SERVICES TEAM FROM RAAF



SES TEAM NEAR CHECKPOINT

RADIO OPERATORS, AN IMPORTANT TASK



SOME SCORES FROM NAVSHIELD 99

1 DAY CLASS 1

VicSES Central	680
Wild Dogs Bushwalkers	650
Berowra Bushwalkers	630

2 DAY CLASS 1

Springwood Bushwalkers	1600
Shoalhaven Ambulance	1400
Kangaroo Valley Bushfire	1380

CLASS 2

Hornsby SES	480
Loftus TAFE	300
Hornsby SES	180

CLASS 2

Scotts College "Glengarry"	610
Willoughby Lane Cove SES	250
NSW Cave Rescue	240

CLASS 3

Dunn & Ferris	500
Bishop & Biddiscombe	350
Pope & Wood	340

CLASS 3

Baldwin Stone & Boyd	1510
Clarke & Kelemen	1280
O'Hagen Veldkamp & Whiting	450



'THE BOSS' AT BRIEFING

ALONG THE TRACK



Alex Tucker
Tracks & Access Officer

PURCHASE OF CORANG PEAK.

Last November The Hon Secretary and I represented our President at a ceremony at the Wog Wog campsite at which a cheque for \$8,000 was presented to Pam Allen, Minister for the Environment by Wilf Hilder, the Chairman of the Budawang Committee. This cheque

bushwalkers and other motorists who normally use this road.

The Club maintains that if the Council rejects the objections. And it should assess the value of the loss this community amenity, levy this amount as a rental for the road reserve and allocate the funds to improvements to the conditions of the road. Particularly in the rough length between Bulee Gap and Sassafras

I will be seeking Confederation's approval to write to Council in support of the club's Objection, As the closure would apparently include the October long weekend, other clubs may also wish to object.

Letter Received from Duke-Energy

Closure of Braidwood Rd for Construction of Gas pipeline

Construction will begin in Nowra in August and head north and south from that starting point. South of that point the pipeline will be set into a section of the Braidwood Road which passes through the Morton National



Corang Peak looking towards Pidgeon House

enabled the NPWS to purchase the 152ha private in holding of Corang Peak.

The minister also unveiled a plaque commemorating the splendid work of Colin Watson AM as foundation chairman of the Budawang Committee and up to the present.

CLOSURE OF NOWRA - BRAIDWOOD ROAD

Shoalhaven Bushwalkers have lodged a formal objection to the Shoalhaven City Council concerning a proposal to close the above road for a month from 29th September to 27th October to allow a private contractor, Duke Energy International to install the Eastern Gas Pipeline. Shoalhaven Club justifiably claims that the Contractor should employ construction methods appropriate to a narrow road reserve and provide traffic controls that involve a minimum disruption to road users.

It seems to be giving the company the advantage of the cheapest construction method at the expense of



occur with minimal impact on the National Park, we are proposing that this section of the road be closed for a period of four weeks. The area affected would begin south of the intersection where Turpentine Road intersects with Braidwood Road, and continue south through Sassafras to the Endrick River area, north of Nerriga. This will have some impact on Bushwalkers, as access to some walking.

LATE NEWS ABOUT NOWRA - BRAIDWOOD ROAD CLOSURE

Construction can be carried out with one-way traffic access for approximately 32 of the 37 kilometres between Endrick River and Turpentine Road.

- There will be some delays of up to one hour, depending on traffic density and pattern.

- In remaining areas of difficult construction (approximately 5 kilometres of creek crossings, road cross-overs and narrowing roadbed) there will be some delays of up to five hours.

- A shutdown of construction activity in the event of prolonged inclement weather.

The construction work will be managed according to strict safety standards and in accordance with RTA requirements.

- Periods of long traffic delays will be extensively advertised with

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The construction work will be managed according to strict safety standards and in accordance with RTA requirements.

- Periods of long traffic delays will be extensively advertised with particular attention paid to local and regular road users.

- RTA-approved signs and lighting will be used to mark traffic lanes and the construction area.

- Precautions will be taken each night to ensure security and maintenance of signs and lighting for safe night-time travel.

Duke Energy International and Transfield/Wilbros/McMahon appreciate your interest in this matter and trust that this letter adequately addresses your concerns.

If you have any further questions please contact me at Duke Energy International on (02) 42610542. Rossane Moore

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The 1998 summer edition (Volume 5 Number 4) contains Ecology of Sydney Plant Species Part 6, Family Myrtaceae — including eucalypts, bottlebrushes and paperbarks — together with a review paper on the general ecology of Myrtaceae in the region.

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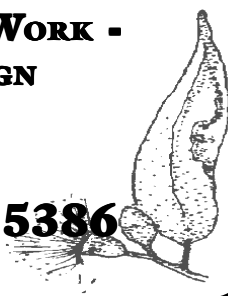
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WUMBUNGLE BUSHWALKING ~ WITH THE STARS

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Science in the Pub Imperial Hotel,
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Bookings essential:

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Festival Freecall 1800 11 99 55

www.festival-of-the-stars.au.com

WARRUMBUNGLE SOUNDS

For many bushwalkers and climbers the lofty spires and windy maze of walking tracks in the Warrumbungle National Park are like a magnet. Once visited there is always a desire to return; it could be to face the unmet challenges of the walks or it could even be the solitude and the feeling of being so in tune with the environment. Either way, the community of Coonabarabran, which is the commercial centre for the Warrumbungles, welcomes you.

In November the Warrumbungles will hum with the sounds of Sirocco in concert. Sirocco will be performing in the Warrumbungles on Saturday 6 November. The concert is a special StarRise performance .. ***Sirocco under the southern sky*** and part of the Warrumbungle Festival of the Stars being held in Coonabarabran from 22 October to 7 November.

Sirocco followers and bushwalkers, and remember the performance in the Macquarie Marshes and *The Wetland Suite*, are advised to organise themselves early as there is already a groundswell of interest and bookings.

The concert will be performed in the grounds of the Warrumbungles Field Studies Centre from 7pm. The Bree Dancers and Kamilaroi Didge will perform with local indigenous dancers and the KODA Choir and there will be Kamilaroi Storytelling and visual arts performance. Bushtucker is also being prepared and will be available. The afternoon and evening provide a great

opportunity to relax and be entertained.

The Festival

Committee is

offering two levels of

tickets – the concert ticket is \$20 per person and a special catered, table service dinner under the stars is also available for \$60 per person – includes a 3 course meal, table wine and concert. Food stalls will also operate throughout the evening. Sparkling stars against a clear black night sky, fine food and friends – what more could you ask for.

For those who are able to make the journey to Coonabarabran a little earlier – try and be there on Friday evening for ***Science in the Pub***. Dr Fred Watson from Siding Spring Observatory and David Mallin the astro photographer are going to debate the links between *culture and astronomy* and Paul Willis from Quantum will host the evening. There will be other entertainment and the Imperial Hotel in Coonabarabran (also YHA) is the venue – already there have been responses from a couple of university groups, and this will make the evening even more entertaining.

So .. if you're looking for a weekend jam packed with entertainment in the nicest part of the world why not log onto the website for more details and to make your bookings; www.festival-of-the-stars.au.com or you can email for information on festival@coonabarabran.au.com or phone Aileen Bell on the festival freecall 1800 11 99 55.

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**FOR A BROCHURE WRITE TO
GLENN AND ROBYN
"TIBUC" COONABARABRAN NSW 2357**

WARRUMBUNGLE BUSHWALKING ~ WITH THE STARS

5 – 7 November 1999

Sirocco Under the Southern Sky

In the Warrumbungle National Park

Saturday 6 November 99

\$20 per person

Science in the Pub

Imperial Hotel, Coonabarabran

Friday 5 November 1999

A weekend of fine music, Aboriginal culture, wonderful walking and brilliant night skies.

Bookings essential:

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Festival Freecall 1800 11 99 55

www.festival-of-the-stars.au.com

THREE PEAKS RECORD BROKEN

In April 1999, Peter Treseder managed, on his second attempt, to reduce his 1987 Three Peaks record of 14 hours 30 minutes to 14 hours 19 minutes. This is the fifth time he has reset this record.

The route is as follows:

Katoomba (Cliff Drive)-
Narrowneck-Medlow Gap-Yellow Pup
Ridge-Coxs River- Strongleg Buttress-
Dex Creek-Mt Cloudmaker-Thunder
Buttress-Kanangra Creek-South
Paralyser Buttress-Mt Paralyser-North
Paralyser Buttress-Whalanian Creek-
Nooroo Buttress-Mt Guouogang-Mt
Jenolan-The Gaspers-Coxs River-
Breakfast Creek-Carlton Head-
Narrowneck-Katoomba(Cliff Drive).

RESCUE

Two weeks earlier in April 1999, Peter rescued two women who were trapped in Gordon Smith Chimney. This is one of the access routes through the cliffs on Mount Banks in the Blue Mountains National Park, NSW.

One of the women had slipped while abseiling and fallen to the end of the rope where a knot stopped her from falling to the valley floor. She did, however, knock herself out and ended up hanging hundreds of metres from the ground.



Peter preparing for a trip

The other woman who went to her aid got herself stuck and ended up also being trapped. The third woman raised the alarm.

The rescue was achieved in raining, blustery conditions and took most of the night. The worst part was going straight to work having missed a nights' sleep. The day before Peter spent riding pushbikes for about 120 kilometres in the company of several Federal Ministers to raise money for Youth Insearch, an organisation which helps troubled youth.

CONFEDERATION'S BUSH DANCE PETERSHAM TOWN HALL 17TH SEPTEMBER 7-30PM \$10 SINGLE \$25 FAMILY DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF THE CURRENCY LADS



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THREDBO YHA - A BUSHWALKER'S BASE

Nell Kell Sydney YHA

Breathing the fresh mountain air up at Thredbo is the perfect way to get active after this long cold Winter. Mt Kosciuszko is 6kms from the top of Thredbo resort, and every self-respecting bushwalker should have a go at climbing the highest

with amazing mountain views and a spacious open plan kitchen and common area.

The hostel has twin rooms, shared dorms and a self contained apartment that sleeps 4 comfortably. Prices start at \$38 per night for 2 night's accommodation mid week in a dorm room, with

drastically discounted Summer rates.

There is plenty of information around the hostel about bushwalking tracks around Thredbo. Pete is the resident National Parks

and Wildlife Discover Ranger at the lodge and he's an expert ecologist, specialising in Alpine terrain. He is happy to take groups on guided walking tours, explaining the Alpine ecology and pointing out highlights along the way.



mountain in mainland Australia at some stage in their lives.

Staying at Thredbo YHA's clean, cosy budget lodge in the heart of the village provides an ideal base for a bushwalking enthusiast. The lodge has a big verandah

THE BAREFOOT BUSHWALKER

Dot Butler's book

"The Barefoot Bushwalker" has been reprinted for the second time. It is available from the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd., level 2 362 Kent St., Sydney 2000. Price \$25, postage included.

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Sketches by Dot Butler



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"THE VIEW'S GREAT BUT DON'T LOOK DOWN"

Two recent incidents proved again that Australia cannot operate without volunteers. In April, 1999 two major incidents occurred virtually right on top of each other. On the Central Coast there was a poultry epidemic that required quarantine of chicken farms and mass destruction of birds to stop the spread of Newcastle Disease. This disease threatened the export oriented, frozen chicken industry in Australia! Although farms are definitely not bush. Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue (BWR) was involved.

To maintain the quarantine, there were restrictions on the movement of stock birds from properties and a maritime patrol provided by the Royal Volunteer Coast Guard and (volunteer) Coastal Patrol. People were actually trying to smuggle birds out of the quarantine area! BWR is a member squad of the Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW Inc. (VRA). BWR worked with many country VRA Squads (and others) to help exterminate (thousands per day) chickens.

This incident had not been fully contained when on 14th April a massive hail storm damaged roofs in Sydney coastal suburbs especially the Eastern Suburbs. This has been one of the greatest natural disasters ever in Australia. Volunteers from SES and Rural Fire Services districts across Sydney were drafted into the cleanup. For safety only persons skilled to State Rescue Board V3 standard or equiva-

lent were allowed on the roofs of multistorey dwellings. V3 Fire Brigades personnel were brought in from the far North Coast among other areas. All full members of the Rock Squad of BWR are V3 qualified. Now, the Eastern Suburbs have not been bush for 150 years. Rock Squad members spent several days up to five storeys high working along side V3 personnel from VRA Squads from all over NSW. Non V3 bushies also helped by moving supplies. I worked on the roof of a five storey dwelling in Edgecliff and travelled up by large cherry picker with great views of Sydney Harbour but didn't look down! The cleanup is still incomplete.

Keith Maxwell -
Director Wilderness Rescue

BARRINGTON TOPS AUGUST 1981

"SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF VH-MDX"

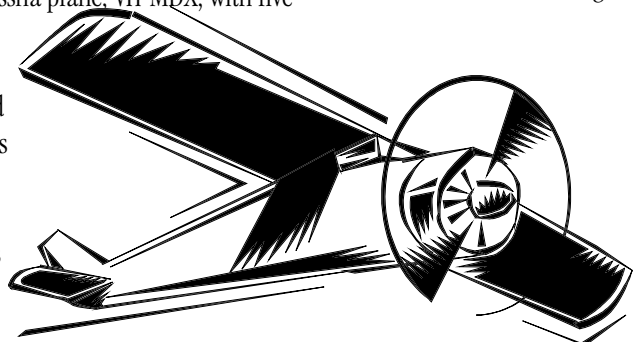
On the night of 9th August, 1981 a small Cessna plane, VH-MDX, with five men aboard struggled eastwards against the elements as it crossed

the southern front of Barrington Tops. It was attempting to return to the coast to complete a trip to Sydney from Queensland. A lightning strike and fire damaged its instruments so it could not tell up from down. High turbulent winds and biting cold put ice in its carburettor. When it disappeared around 7-30pm it was partially in a radar shadow. Barrington Tops is densely forested as its 1,500 metre (5,000 ft) peaks capture bad weather. An immediate frantic air and ground search which included Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue (BWR) found

nothing. BWR took part in several more large combined searches venturing further into more remote country than any other group. The poor location details gave rise to multiple theories of its disappearance.

Despite difficult weather BWR has lead several minor searches that have comprehensively covered several potential sites. In October, 1988 what was known as the "smell site" was definitely ruled out. Finding VH-MDX has become a challenge for BWR. Many people have helped in the research including friends of the missing men and aviation experts. The more you learn of its disappearance and the efforts made to locate it, the more you will be sucked into solving the riddle. Our current knowledge suggests that it had traversed over all but the last and highest ridge (with Wangat Trig. on it). Only bushwalkers will find VH-MDX now. In October, 1994 we only partly covered this high probability area. Our plan is to complete the task.

In 1993 a light plane disappeared around the back of Kanangra Walls. It



took bushwalkers to find it when an aerial search failed. BWR needs your help on October 15th and 16th (and 17th for the keen) in a combined effort with other specialist groups to solve this mystery and prove what we all know - BWR are the specialists in bush search and rescue. You too could become a bushwalking legend on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald!

Details of the search program will be sent to your club closer to the weekend. For further information contact John Tonitto on 9789 2527.

M I B

inimal impact bushwalking

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

Top: Group of walkers on
summit of Federation Peak
about 1952

Bottom: Camp just below
Federation Peak 1952



“BUSHWALKING IN AUSTRALIA”

**GET YOUR CLUB ON THE
WORLD WIDE WEB**

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, RTF, TXT, Word Perfect and a few more. Or send it ‘attached’ to an email or by snail mail. The webmaster will design your page and put your club on the web at

<http://www.bushwalking.org.au>

MEMBERS ONLY

No this isn't an adults only page. 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, Notices (from Confederation and clubs) Confederation Officers, Finance, Confederation's Rules and Objects (constitution).



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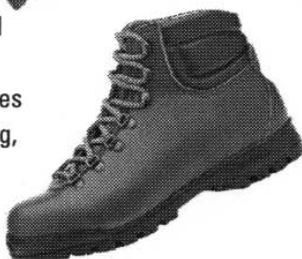
Macpac, Mont, Salewa, Mountain Equipment.



FOOTWEAR

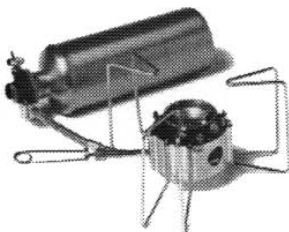
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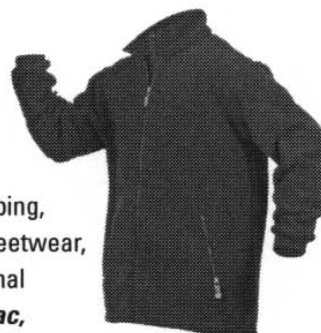
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25 Reasons why the PALLIN Vista is the Best Wet Weather Jacket for Australian Bushwalkers

Choosing a bushwalking jacket is a big decision, and one you're going to have to live with for a while. To help you make an informed choice which is right for your needs, we'd like to share some of our favourite jacket's best features.

The Bushwalker 16

- 
- 1 Generous hood is big enough to accommodate a warm hat or a pony tail.
 - 2 Exceptional finish - we can't show you here, but we invite you to inspect and compare the quality of finish in all PALLIN Gore-Tex.
 - 3 Zippers "lock" so they won't come undone during vigorous activity.
 - 4 Patented Watertech dual zip closure prevents driving rain from penetrating through the zip.
 - 5 Stormtech Gore-Tex is 100% waterproof, 100% windproof, and comfortably breathable.
 - 6 Stormtech Gore-Tex is highly durable and abrasion resistant.
 - 7 Twin needle stitching strengthens seams.
 - 8 Articulated, high-lift sleeves allow excellent range of movement without the bottom of the jacket riding up.
 - 9 Hand pockets are set low, so they can still be accessed whilst wearing a rucksack.
 - 10 Generous cut facilitates easy layering with warmwear.
 - 11 Shockcord waist adjustment helps trap warmth around the torso or ventilate as required.
 - 12 Generous length maximises protection, and limits need for overpants.
 - 13 Designed and made in Australia.
 - 14 Double-ended zips can be opened from the bottom for greater leg movement when you are scrambling or striding.
 - 15 Available in both Men's and Women's fittings.
 - 16 Sleeves are long, so that hands can be drawn up into them and protected in foul weather.
 - 17 Touchtape allows sleeves to be easily sealed around the wrist.
 - 18 Two chest map pockets provide convenient, waterproof storage.
 - 19 Zipper pulls can be easily grasped with gloves or cold hands.
 - 20 WhipStop cord tabs prevent hood drawcords from lashing your face in windy weather.
 - 21 Shoulders are free of seams, for comfort while wearing a pack.
 - 22 Hood drawcords seal hood around the face and hood crown adjustment improves peripheral vision.
 - 23 A soft chin guard protects cold, sensitive facial skin from the zipper.
 - 24 Cordura-reinforced visor on hood keeps water off your face.
 - 25 Folds into a compact bundle for easy carrying (fits its own hood).

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