

THE Bushwal

MAGAZINE OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW INC.

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NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE TEAM WINS NAVSHIELD 2000

The 2000 Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Navigation Shield was held on the weekend of 1/2 July, 2000. This year it attracted 420 people in 119 teams from bushwalking clubs, emergency services and rogaining associations from NSW, ACT and Victoria.

The event was held in the area surrounding Dunns Swamp and Kandos Weir, around 30km East of Rylstone. The terrain was varied, with rough, rocky pagodas rising from flat,

opened by mid-morning and the weekend proved to be quite mild.

The winners of the 2000 Navigation Shield was a team of four from Blue Mountains National Parks. They said they covered 56km during the 30 hours of the event, of which only 13km was on roads or tracks - an impressive effort which gained them 1460 points. Behind them was two bushwalking club teams in second and third place, Berowra Bushwackers with 1210 points

Glenn Horrocks

2000 Navshield Course Setter

MINING AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST



*John Macris
Conservation
Officer*

The concept of balance, as applied to conflicts over resource exploitation and heritage conservation, is often called upon to give legitimacy to particular high stakes decisions. This 'balance' rhetoric of elected decision-makers and opinion peddlers could do with a closer look. An interesting example to discuss is the mining sector. Economic output from this sector dwarfs that of forestry, fisheries and most other natural resource exploitative uses. Does this afford the mining industry more clout to gain access to resources at considerable environmental cost? It would seem that way.

The relationships between Government and the mining industry constitutes a form of power based on a steady momentum of mineral exploration licenses, development applications and mining ventures (see for example Minfo Journal). Conservation considerations are mostly framed in terms of managing the impacts of the activity. When groups or individuals lobby against a mining venture on conservation grounds, or when a National Park creation or Native Title claim occurs over areas of mineral potential, the real division in outlook becomes clear. The idea of not mining a resource because of issues of heritage is portrayed as something radical and against the public interest.

Within the context of conservation struggles, some historic perspectives provide insight into the question of how 'new' or 'radical' is the concept of quarantining some valued places from mining entirely.



Winning Team from Blue Mountains national Parks & Wildlife Service

wide valleys. The course involve a lot of challenging navigation in the vague valleys and interesting route-finding as you made your way along the ridges liberally covered in pagodas. The scrub levels was generally quite light so cross-country walking was easy.

The course was very pleasant walking with many participants vowing to return to the area with a camera and a bit more time on their hands. The views from some of the pagodas and mountains on the course were wonderful.

Early fears of bad weather proved unfounded. Both the Great Western Highway and Bells Line of Road were closed early on Friday morning due to snow, but thankfully both were

and Springwood Bushwalking Club with 1200 points. The one day event was won by Baulkham Hills Bushfire Brigade with 560 points. The highest score in the one day event was achieved by the Rogaine Class team of Mein and Pope with 650 points.

It was pleasing to see a number of new bushwalking clubs entering the event this year. The event attracts bushwalkers from all over the state, so it is a great opportunity to meet with some bushwalkers from other areas. This year also saw 40 people achieve 5 year participation prizes, and 5 people achieve 10 year prizes. Well done to all the Navshield stalwarts.

*Continued on page 10 also complete results
See more photos on page 11*

Continued on page 3

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Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



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

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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
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THE BUSHWALKER

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



In his Boyer Lecture of 1970, Dr H.C. Coombs, senior public servant under 5 Prime Ministers, advocated the formation of an Australian equivalent to the Council for Environmental Quality established by the United States' President. He hoped such a body would *'help halt the mad scramble to exhaust our mineral resources, conserving them to be used as and when genuinely needed and then in accordance with comprehensive recovery and recycling'* (as cited in Tarrant and Lyne 1974).

The writings of conservationists of the 1960s portray the mining agency of State Government in NSW as actively pursuing an agenda of maximum exploitation: *"...by far the most critical problem is that posed by the mining of rutile. Over the past eight months or so, considerable discussion has been aired in the public press. The great majority of it has shown feelings against the policies of the Mines Department....At present we face the Departmentally planned prospect of all beaches and lagoon areas north of the Hawkesbury being either covered by exotic plants or, where the companies have gone bankrupt as at Bouddi Park, a mess of broken dunes"* (Fox 1964 p1-2).

With rare exception, mineral sand mining of north coast beaches took place without prior community scrutiny or comment. Owing to the public concern, a closed inquiry was conducted between 1965 and 1968, to look at the requirements of parks and means of resolving the conflict between sand mining and existing reserve proposals along 640 km of coastline. The granting of mining leases continued during the course of the inquiry. The report presented to Government recommended 96 out of 640 kilometres of coastline be reserved as National Park, and of the reserved coastline, all but 19km would be subject to mining for up to 20 years (Piper 1980).

In its day the responsible Government would have portrayed this decision as a balanced outcome. If we had our time over again it would be nice to think that something a little higher than 3% of north coast dune systems would be protected.

In the same period that Colong Caves were spared, the Mining Warden's court heard an appeal against the expansion of limestone quarrying to the edge of Bungonia Gorge. The Warden accepted that the quarry would be in the public interest but found that *'the public interest in preservation of the recreational*

and scenic qualities of the area outweighs the public interest in having the area mined' (Tarrant and Lyne 1974 p54). The final decision however was by the Government of the day, which permitted most of the area under contention to be quarried. The Warden's recommendation is still significant, because it recognised the idea that leaving an economically significant resource in the ground can be in the greater interest based on heritage values.

In instances where a real or potential mineral resource has been denied access for exploitation on the grounds of conservation, the reverberations displayed in the sector are quite interesting. In 1991 the minority Greiner Government was essentially forced to create a new National Park and Wilderness area at Nattai, so as to pre-empt a successful Private Member's Bill covering the same area. This reservation involved revoking a petroleum exploration license in the area. Industry condemnation of this move included predictions of the State's credit rating being downgraded and withdrawal of resource company investment from NSW (Sydney Morning Herald 2/12/91 p1).

Mineral-based objections to new National Parks remain a major obstacle to completion of a comprehensive reserve system in NSW. For example it would be likely that a large part of Royal National Park if proposed as a reserve today, would be blocked from reservation by the Department of Mineral Resources. Right now as you read this, several property purchases of outstanding conservation value lands by NPWS using Natural Heritage Trust funding, are unable to proceed because of similar objections to the gazettal of such lands as new parks.

In 1998 Wingecarribee Swamp, the largest upland peat swamp in NSW, was comprehensively and irreversibly degraded to a shadow of its former state during a large storm. The peat body was literally torn apart along incisions caused by peat mining and associated drainage works. The mining activity had been opposed by several State agencies, yet was allowed to proceed. This immense loss of a very rare wetland gave new impetus among people concerned for the environment for a real review of mining policy in New South Wales.

We need to enter into such a review process knowing that the concept of conserving highly valued areas of heritage from exploitation entirely is

neither new nor radical and has been seen in the past to represent a public interest comparable to that of resource extraction.

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Piper, G. (1980) *My One Fourteen Millionth Share*. Temnor Publications. West Ryde.
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New Park runs into a AAA problem. (p1).
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FRIENDS OF THE COLO

by Andy McQueen

People watching the ABC's 7.30 Report a few months ago may have seen an item about a five-day canoe-based, helicopter supported assault on willows along the Colo River. Participants included NPWS staff and a wide range of volunteers, including bushwalkers from Springwood Bushwalking Club. The activity was managed by NPWS Ranger Vanessa Richardson, and grew from advice and mapping by bushwalking bush-regenerator Graham Ravenswood concerning willows in the area.

Since then, a Friends of the Colo group (FoC) has been formed to provide on-going volunteer support to NPWS in the ongoing endeavour to eradicate the willows and other nasties from the river system. Depending on future funding and grant applications, plans are being developed for further canoeing and walking ventures in the Colo, Capertee, Wolgan and Wollemi. Meanwhile a plant nursery has been established to grow native plants for regeneration and rehabilitation purposes from already existing local stock.

FoC currently has 35 members, with the foundation president being Andy MacQueen (former Confederation president). More people are needed. Sign up soon (no obligations!) by contacting the secretary, Alan Lane, at PO Box 652, Parramatta NSW 2124.

FoC would especially like to hear from bushwalkers in the habit of making remote walking, canoeing or lilo trips in the area, with a view to obtaining assistance with the on-going monitoring program.



NATURAL HIMALAYAN MEDICINE

Marilynne Sherpa
Om Trek

As we walk the tracks through fields and forest, our nostrils are teased with aromas that are refreshingly different from the city smells we are probably more familiar with. When we brush past the vegetation, crush it beneath our boots even - both sweet and pungent smells tantalise us. What plant is that, what is it called? On the trails with my Sherpa husband in the Himalayas, this question gets answered differently. I hear how the plant is used - to stop bleeding, cure headaches and fever or treat snakebite.

For many people in Nepal, natural remedies such as the use of plants are an accepted way of life. Villagers will send for the local healer - dharmi in Sherpa, whose knowledge has been handed down father to son for generations. Yes, he makes house calls. He will light incense, pray in a very musical chanting voice and then take a pulse. After this, he will often go out into the hillsides to collect the required plants. An infusion perhaps made from the root or leaf will be prepared and given to the patient. Herbal medicine at its best - tried and tested over many, many years and the patient's testimony to recommend it.

This wildcrafting of plants, collecting only what is needed when it is needed has stood the test of time. But things are changing even in the remote parts of the Himalayas. Wildcrafting is being replaced by commercial harvesting. Big pharmaceutical companies are buying up these age old remedies in quantities and raw products are being exported to countries such as India and Germany leaving little behind but a few

rupees. The problem has been recognised by the Nepalese Government who are challenging the patents being claimed by overseas botanists who have collected specimens from Nepal. Recently Amazonian Shamans challenged a US patent and won. Dabur, a large Indian corporate has established a greenhouse in the Kathmandu valley to propagate seedlings for cultivation by the villagers. The Natural History Museum in London is currently working with ethnobotanists to transfer the information gathered during the days of the Indian Raj. Nepal has over 700 recorded plants that are used in herbal remedies.

Ayurvedic medicine which looks at the whole person thrives today not only in the East. Ayurveda, written around 2500BC documents the therapeutic use of medicinal plants. Interest in natural remedies and complementary medicine has grown enormously over the past decade in western society. Taxol, an extract from the *Taxus Baccata* tree which grows in the Himalayas is currently being used in the West for the treatment of various cancers. Many other plants are waiting for that all important "tick in the box" from western scientists meanwhile the village people still call in the dharmi.

A series of seminars and field visits to Kathmandu has been organised for people interested in complementary medicine followed by a four day visit into the villages of the Solokhumbu region. Here they will experience first hand village life, see the plants growing

in situ as well as attend a dharmi blessing ceremony. It is hoped to make this an annual event and develop ties with the young professionals in Nepal who are trying to preserve and record their local culture before it is all dug up and shipped out. For more information contact Marilynne Sherpa at msherpa@labyrinth.com.au or at Om Trek, see below.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I wish it to be known that my report on car damage and burglaries in the Blue Mountains, printed ostensibly as a Letter to the Editor in the last newsletter (Winter - May 2000) as "A Warning for Walkers...", was originally posted in the same form by myself as a private individual in the UseNet newsgroup "aus.bushwalking", and although I would have had no objection to the information being repeated elsewhere in the newsletter in an edited form with my permission, it was not submitted by myself as an official Letter to the Editor either personally or as a spokesman for the CMW of NSW Inc.

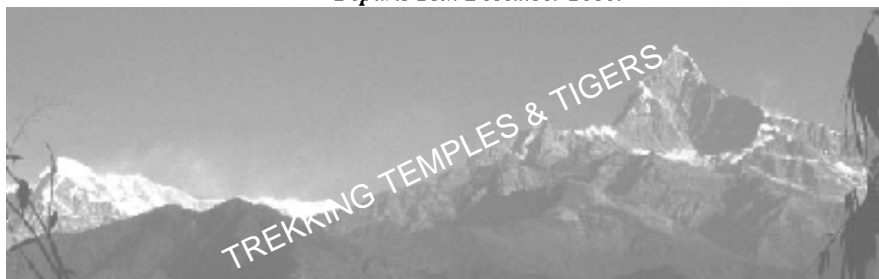
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David Springthorpe



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ALONG THE TRACK

VOLUNTEER WORK IN NATIONAL PARKS

The most exciting news this quarter had been the progress in marking the new access route to Bonnum Pic in Nattai NP (See the letter from Malcolm Hughes and my update).

To my limited knowledge this is the first occasion in recent years where Confederation and NPWS staff have co operated in an attempt to resolve a park management problem as highlighted by the letter from Malcolm Hughes in the May Bushwalker

Alex Tucker Tracks & access officer



Confederation was also informed last February of the 19 members of the Catholic Bushwalking Club who attended a Bushcare weekend at "Green Gully" (the Carlon property) The members consider that the weed infestation is now much worse than when

nance work The Service has not generally sought volunteers from bushwalking clubs, for a number of reasons. Clubs such as NPA have accepted the validity of the reasons and have not "embarrassed" the Service by offering help. Also some of us know the difficulties of organising a reasonable number of volunteers for an extended work period so maybe we were seeking an excuse for our inaction.

I suggest that now is the time for a change of approach by some Confederation Clubs

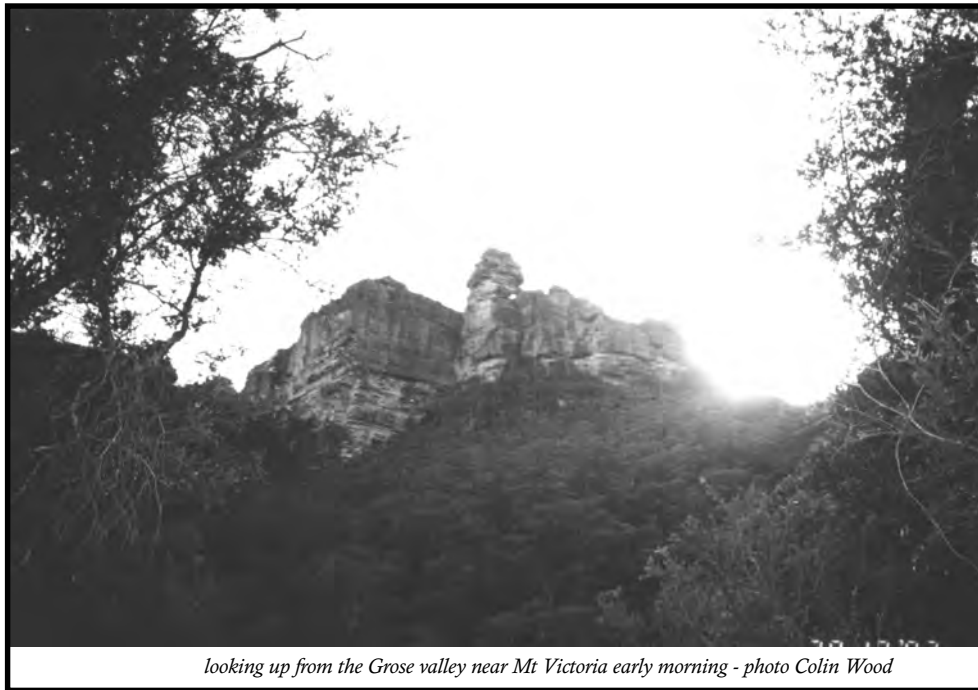
Recently the State organisation representing Recreational 4 WD Clubs have had discussions with the Service on "adopting" some National Parks and putting their muscles (human & mechanical) where their mouth is. During the exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management for Ku Ring Gai Chase NP the local horse riding clubs claimed that they were prepared to work on maintenance of riding trails. If Confederation and our member clubs remain silent about the work we have done or merely report track problems without offering to assist in their solution we risk being ignored on issues of park management.

At the AGM I will be asking clubs to make a commitment to including regular or occasional working bees in their programs, if they do not already do so. With that support I will write to the five Regional Managers in the NPWS Central Directorate quoting as many success stories as I can and seeking the Manager's encouragement of more joint operations.

If we fail to speak up we will find more tracks are closed for lack of maintenance resources.

Cautionary tales such as the article on the Coomera Circuit in Lamington NP will become more common. Remember also the proposed list of tracks to be closed in the draft Plan for Ku Ring Gai Chase due to the lack of resources. I understand that Minister Bob Debus is about to adopt the final plan. Will he have accepted our submissions on keeping at least some of them open? We might start by offering to help with minor upgrading of some tracks on that list.

PS If clubs based outside the Central Directorate request it I will send them a copy of my letter to the Regional Managers. This may help in writing a letter to their local Area Manager.



looking up from the Grose valley near Mt Victoria early morning - photo Colin Wood

It is significant that the five Service officers were either Rangers or Field Officers

Confederation has received a letter of appreciation of our assistance from the Area Manager Nattai / Illawarra Area

The problem of the very limited road side car parking has not yet been solved so it is recommended that Clubs do not organise trips to Bonnum at present.

I am aware that The Coast & Mountain Walkers have for many years assisted NPWS in track maintenance work in Morton & Budawang NPs. At the June meeting I was very pleased to learn of their latest activity, in which ten members cleared overgrowing hakea and other scrub and installed "water bars" to improve cross track drainage

Carlons owned the land and realise that their efforts have achieved only a limited Improvement. Their most positive contribution was the mapping of the infestations along Carlons Creek.

They have urged the NPWS to allocate funding to an intensive eradication program (by staff or contractors) for the mapped areas so that it will then be possible for volunteer groups to control regrowth. [I must apologise I failed to make a feature of the clubs initiative at the time the letter was received]

I would welcome information from other clubs on joint projects, particularly in Sydney suburban National Parks.

For some years, NPWS has on occasion used volunteers organised by the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) on track maintenance



BWR - ROCK SQUAD

RESEARCH PROJECT FOR TESTING OF SINGS & ALTERNATIVE KNOTS USED IN CANYONS

The Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue (BWR) Rock Squad is conducting a series of tests to determine the suitability of slings and alternative knots that could be used in recreational canyoning. This will be done in three stages. Little is known about the relative strength and especially slippage of different knots and slings, and with several recent abseiling accidents in the media, safety issues like this must be addressed.

Stage One of the project is well under way measuring the strength of slings and knots using a tensile testing machine. The ease of double rope pull down at cliff faces using various rope joining knots will also be investigated. These results will be published in the Bushwalker when complete.

Stage Two will investigate sling and knot slippage from cyclic and impact loading using a test rig with a load cell. Sharp edge damage will also be investigated.

Stage three will determine the effect of ageing by sun and water on the strength of tape and rope using a tensile testing machine.

The Rock Squad is seeking funding for Stage Two. The cost is estimated at \$1500, which includes materials, test rig and a load cell to measure static forces.



If an additional \$5000 can be raised then a load cell to measure impact forces can be purchased. Stage Three materials are estimated at \$900. Please consider a tax deductible donation to BWR for this project.

The Rock Squad is also seeking donations of static ropes of known brand and age. Please contact David Drohan if you know of any static rope of 10 m or longer, which you or your club would consider donating to this project.

Contact David Drohan for additional information.

Phone (W) 02 62664465, (H) 02 62498702

RESTRUCTURE OF BUSHWALKERS WILDERNESS RESCUE

Steve Irwin
BWRs committee

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue is the oldest rescue squad of any type still in existence in NSW. It was founded in 1936 by the leading bushwalkers of the time, such as Paddy Pallin. Since then it has undergone a number of changes, such as joining the Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) in 1970, but it is still effectively the same as it was when it was founded over 60 years ago.

Up until now, when Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue was activated for a search and rescue, the call has been received by a Field Officer who then contacted a number of relevant club search and rescue contacts, who contacted the individual people inside their club. This model has served us well for 60 years, but is becoming outdated and is not suitable for the modern rescue environment.

To demonstrate the problems this structure is causing Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue, let me give some examples from a recent, high profile search where we had a major role in the search - the recent case of four teenagers lost in the Budawangs in May, 2000. This was our most successful job in almost a decade, where our bush skills and knowledge of the country was a primary factor in the successful conclusion to this search. But the search did show some glaring deficiencies in the way Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue operates, and the question of allowing untrained/unqualified persons to participate in searches. These problems have not gone unnoticed by other authorities. The two important problems are:

1. Only a small proportion of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue personnel are uniformed. This makes us look unprofessional, even if we are as good or better than the uniformed personnel from other services. A second aspect of this point - it was mentioned by the helicopter crews that our personnel were difficult to see in the bush as they were not wearing bright colours.

Continued on page 7

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Continued from page 6

2. Even though all of our personnel are skilled in bushcraft, some bushwalkers turned up to the search who had never attended a training exercise, and our Field Search coordinators were unfamiliar with their level of



experience or qualifications. As a result they did not know how to use our radio systems, and did not know how the search hierarchy was structured. This means they did not know how to behave and who to report to in a multi-service environment.

For some time now the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Committee, the group which runs Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue, has been working on ways to modernise our approach, and change the organisation to make it a modern rescue organisation which is professional in both skills and appearance. If we are to continue to provide a valid community service that utilises our many bushwalking and outdoor skills it is vital that we modernise our approach. Currently a working party is finalising the details of the new organisation structure, but the fundamentals of the new structure will be:

- A fixed membership squad. Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue will only use signed-up and current members for future call-outs. The clubs in general will only be called to the rare, large rescues requiring large numbers of people. However BWR will continue to draw members from the clubs as is current practice.

- Squad training will be structured and based around competency based training principles. Many skills, for example first aid, vertical rescue or helicopter operations have existing external qualifications and they will be used as the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue standard.

- A high level of bushcraft and physical fitness is required.

- Every member will have a documented level of skill that they have achieved in training. During call-outs, people will only perform actions within their level of skill. This means if a person has not achieved all required aspects of being a team member, they will not enter the bush.

- Every member will have a uniform. This uniform must be worn during training and call-outs.

To start the process of the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue restructure, our normal October training exercise will be different to previous years. This year we will be discussing the new structure, and signing

up people interested to the new organisation. We will also be commencing the new training systems. All people interested in being part of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue are requested to contact us, and to attend the training weekend if possible.

BUSHWALKERS WILDERNESS RESCUE SQUAD INFORMATION AND TRAINING WEEKEND

Interested persons are invited to attend a training weekend to be held on **22nd and 23rd October** in the Western Blue Mountains (Newnes State Forest).

Saturday will be a sign up day consisting of workshops, discussions, and training. Sunday will be a search exercise. Interested persons may attend Saturday only however to participate in Sunday's activities you must attend on Saturday as well.

NOTE:

1. The weekend will not be open to other rescue groups and is for BWRS only.

2. To attend you **MUST** pre-register your intentions **BEFORE 9/10/00** preferably by Email to wrs@mbox.com.au or BWRS phone 0427 455897, leaving name/s, club, contact email or phone.

3. You will be notified of further details after registering your intentions.

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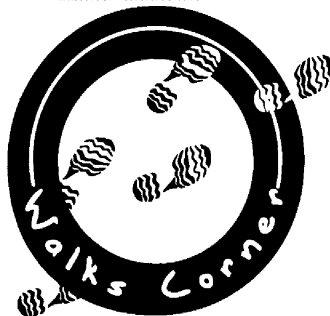
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A WESTERN WALKABOUT

Author unknown



'Alone in a desolate landscape where human occupation is the sparsest in New South Wales and your only company is the wildlife....'

Very few of the Western Lands Lease owners live in this remoteness. The isolation and lack of modern conveniences force them to live a more civilised life within rural townships. The Wongaibon tribe occupied this land until 1934 when water supplies ran out. Without warning, the Aborigines Protection Board moved the whole community to Menindee, home of their traditional Barkindji enemies. Conflict between the two tribes resulted in their relocation to Murrin-Bridge, where most Wongaibon people live today.

Four days adventuring – an experience many dream about but never achieve, was now becoming a reality.

The lonely path lay ahead, 115 kilometres of desolate landscape where the only inhabitants appear to be the ever-present wildlife.

Unsettled weather conditions and recent heavy rainfall had closed many of the country roads causing me some concern. As Murphy's Law would have it, the heavens opened within the first hour resulting in an uncomfortable walk. Never wanting this small discomfort to dampen enthusiasm, I ignored the wet and slippery conditions and continued walking into a clearing night. The full moon, with the brilliance of daylight, provided serene walking conditions in the company of rabbits, kangaroos and emus out foraging for their daily food. Shadows reflected by the Bimble Box, Grey Box, Cypress Pine and Mulga trees cast an eerie shadow across the barren landscape that now resembled a picture-perfect black and white postcard.

With the dawn of a new day and weather conditions improving, it was pleasing to hear the early morning melody of the Pied Butcherbird. Their resounding chorus broke the early morning peacefulness by echoing throughout the fog-covered surroundings. A coloured landscape has now evolved from the black and white postcard and the bush has been cleansed of the dust that envelops them during dry and dusty conditions. Wildlife abounds in this area; feral goats multiply in the favourable envi-

ronment and the variety of parrots add a kaleidoscope of colour to the red soils and surrounding hues of green. This is an area where several species of kangaroo exist - the Western Grey, Eastern Grey, Common Wallaroo and the mighty Red.

Passing the remote homestead of Blue Hills Station, the notable absence of any occupation reminded me of the isolation I would endure over the coming days. With the exception of a pair of Major Mitchell cockatoos the only other visible life-form was three feral goats in the nearby house paddock. After crossing a muddy creek, the countryside changed to sand-flats that ran parallel to the box-covered creek system. Telltale signs of wild pigs were evident with large tracts of land uprooted in their search for food. This was hair-raising experience, walking through deep and dense stands of vegetation that is home to sleeping pigs during the warmer parts of the day. Luckily, none was encountered.

The warming rays of sunshine today allowed busy ants to do some 'mopping up' after the rains. Their efforts could be seen with many thousands of small holes rimmed by sand. Crested Pigeons, now protected from food hunters and numbering in the hundreds, quickly winged their way to more distant places.

The convergence of major waterways within the boundaries of a well vegetated galvanized and nogura burr flat show the extent of erosion in the area, the creek banks being washed away when heavy storms cause localised flooding. Landowners unfortunately are not able to control the problems of erosion and nature takes its own course.

Passing through Pulpulla station, it was pleasing to hear the sounds of several Kelpies barking at my approach to the homestead. Their friendliness is only surpassed by their owners who, in true country hospitality, welcome you to join them for a cup of tea and a chat.

Leaving the homestead, I gathered a billy-can of fresh field mushrooms growing in a fertile flat - these were to provide a delectable sauce for tonight's pasta dish. The landscape became noticeably different from the mornings walk with rocky outcrops and stunted mulga scrub now providing feeding grounds and a safe sanctuary for feral goats. Cockatiels, Mallee Ringnecks and Blue Bonnet parrots provided a splash of colour against the drab colours of the grey mulga scrub.

Camp on night two was set up next to a heavily eroded creek on the Shire road leading to the remote property of Burnamwood. As dusk settled, the deep drumming noise from an inquisitive flock of emus boomed as they approached the tired stranger invading their territory.

Day three and there were many kilometres yet to be walked. A daunting hill appeared ahead so the task was to climb slowly and persistently. There were many stops along the way presenting opportunities to admire the vast panorama of the surrounding plains. Mount Booroondarra, at 425 metres above sea level, appeared as an imposing landmark within the surrounding plains. The quietness and solitude of the moment was an opportune time to try and understand how the Wongaibon people lived from this land. Lizard, snake, kangaroo and desert quandong without question would have featured in their diet. The fruit of the desert quandong is without doubt, Australia's favourite wild fruit and I was fortunate enough to find a tree that provided me with a small supply of this vitamin C laden delicacy.

Feeling a little leg weary from the climb and calculating that I was ahead of my planned schedule, I made a decision to complete the walk in four days instead of the planned five. This, of course, meant extra walking during the afternoon and throughout tomorrow. Vast plains of mulga, leopard-

**PLEASE NOTE NEW DETAILS
FOR BUSHWALKERS
WILDERNESS RESCUE
KEITH MAXWELL (02)
9622-0049
PAGER PHONE 13 22 22
PAGER NO 6277321
keith.maxwell@mq.edu.au**



wood and cypress pine trees featured for most of the afternoon. In direct contrast, the creek flats consisted mainly of Bimble box and cypress pine. With temperatures in the 30's, the afternoon heat had forced most of the wildlife into the cover of shade. Very little wildlife was active with the exception of small, scattered mobs of feral goats sheltering under the canopy of the stunted mulga. The heat of the afternoon caused me to reflect on the coolness of the previous two days and I soon realised the higher than normal humidity levels were causing me to perspire very heavily.

The hour before dusk is a special time of the day; you hear the bird-life talking to each other as they settle from their busy day, the air becomes still as darkness descends and the night transforms into peacefulness. The task of setting up camp completes the day and I relax by the dancing flames of a camp-fire waiting for my carbohydrate-loaded meal to finish cooking.

Sleep generally comes easy when you have put in a solid days walking, most evenings found me in the tent within an hour of sunset. Awakening about two hours before sun-up allowed me to lay with my head outside the tent, gazing at the myriad of stars and listening to the night sounds.

Day four and a mental calculation figured that there were approximately 45 kilometres remaining to complete my walk. Packing camp just after daylight, I started walking towards my final destination – could I do it? My mental attitude gave me the determination and strength to walk at an endurance level – I knew I could do it.

After walking throughout the morning and sighting high numbers of feral pigs, goats, emus, kangaroos, foxes and countless species of birdlife I entered the boundaries of Burnamwood Station. The property homestead appeared deserted and feral goats and crows loitered around the windmill that was pumping underground water directly onto the barren ground. I later found out that the homestead was long deserted, the owners choosing a more civilised lifestyle in Cobar and only venturing to their property for scheduled work commitments.

Turning left, I started the long, slow walk towards the final part of my adventure. After crossing several energy-sapping sand hills, I felt the need to rest up for a while. Drinking copious amounts of water and consuming

leftover pasta from the previous night restored some of my depleted energy.

Early in the afternoon I passed the shearing quarters and sheds at Gundagoona. It was interesting to note and look over some of the old machinery now lying broken and out of service – utes, trucks, tractors, motorbikes all passed their use-by dates. Hauling my cart over one of the few remaining hills, I saw in the distant, the distinct gap that divided the range of rocky hills where Mt Gap homestead was located. This happened to be the starting point for my adventure and the realisation that I had just spent four days wandering about the bush hauling all my camping supplies.

The arid landscapes throughout western NSW are areas that conjure up images of desolation, dust, flies and unwanted wasteland. This vast tract of land that few people would call nature's playground, is very interesting when witnessed at walking pace –

the many shapes and colours in our native trees and grasses, the varying colours and texture of the soil and the many species of our native and feral wildlife.

**Topographic maps 1:100 000
BOOROONDARRA 7935
INNESOWEN 7835**

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP RE-SURVEY: 3RD EDITION 1:25000 MAPS

by Glen Horrocks - Course setter for NavShield 2000

The Land Information Centre (LIC), the new name for the Central Mapping Authority, is in the process of resurveying the 1:25000 map series commonly being used by bushwalkers. The current second edition maps are well-known for marking the topography (ie contours) reasonably accurately, but many fire trails and walking tracks are either not marked or completely wrong. These errors are mainly due to the maps being based on ground surveys and aerial photography dating back to the 1970's which has not been updated.

Recently LIC has commenced surveying for a 3rd edition map series. These maps should start appearing in your local map shops soon, as a few areas of the state have already been re-

surveyed. The resurvey is based on new aerial photography and a small amount of ground surveys. A spokesman for the LIC has said the re-survey has already been performed for some areas in far West NSW and Port Macquarie regions. They have also re-surveyed the Katoomba 1:25000 map (but no surrounding Blue Mountains maps). He said they will be surveying the Sydney metropolitan area between 3 and 6 months from now, and expect to do the remaining Blue Mountain maps between 8 and 12 months in the future. The new Katoomba map was first printed 1 month ago, and comparing it to the old 2nd edition map, the following changes can be seen:

1) It is on the new GDA94 datum, not the old AGD66 datum. This means the 1 kilometre grid marked on the map has been changed. The difference seems about 200m, so you'll need to reset your GPS to the new datum. This also means grid references read from the old maps will not transfer correctly to the new maps. The new maps have the old AGD66 datum marked faintly in the margins, so you can read the old grid references. **This means from now on you must specify which map datum a grid reference is taken from to avoid confusion.**

2) It is printed on glossy paper, not matt. Time will tell if this paper lasts longer or not.

3) The cadastral information is printed in more detail.

4) It has a 1:25000 aerial photo on the back, of the full map area!

5) The roads and tracks appear to be much more accurate (eg the roads and tracks into Fortress Creek canyon seem correctly marked).

6) The vegetation boundaries appear far more accurate (eg Fortress Creek area heath and forest areas seem correctly marked).

The map still covers exactly the same area as the old maps.

The map does not show Fortress Creek as having cliffs on each side though, so they probably still won't be able to show canyons any more clearly than the existing maps.

Overall the new maps look very promising. The maps appear to be much more accurate, and the aerial photo on the back looks great!

Continued from page 1

For the first time this year a participation prize was run to encourage people from bushwalking clubs to compete. It was open only to individuals from bushwalking clubs, and was decided by a guessing competition where people had to guess the location on the event map where a photo was taken. The prize was \$150 for the one-day event and \$300 for the two-day event.

There was no major incidents during this year's event. A small number of people retired with minor injuries. The only incident which required a significant response was a team support vehicle who decided to four-wheel-drive to Mt Coricudgy and got bogged only two kilometres from the top. This incident was quickly fixed by some Wilderness Rescue personnel with off-road driving equipment and experience.

**THE ORGANISERS OF THE
EVENT WISH TO THANK:
NSW NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NSW STATE FORESTS
OWNERS OF THE PROPERTIES
"GANGUDDY",
"SNAKEHAVEN" AND
"GRASSY"
WICEN - EVENT
COMMUNICATIONS
LAND INFORMATION
CENTRE - EVENT MAPS
STATE RESCUE BOARD -
CLASS SHIELDS
LUNAR LIGHTING BALLOONS
- BASE SITE LIGHTING
THE EVENT HELPERS -
ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO
HELPED WITH COURSE
SETTING AND
ADMINISTRATION AND LAST
BUT NOT LEAST THE
BUSHRANGERS.**

For further information, visit the Navshield web site:

<http://www.bushwalking.org.au/>
and click on the "NavShield 2000" link

Make sure you and your club are ready for next year's event. The best thing about this event is that it is a different location every year, and we have some interesting ideas for next year...



NAVSHIELD 2000 RESULTS

1 DAY EVENT

CLASS 1

Baulkham hills bushfire Brigade 560
National parks blue Mountains npws 560
Victoria ses gisborne ses 550
blue mountains ses 530
Mudgee bushwalkers bushwalkers 520
Upper blue mountains bushwalkers 450
Hillside volunteer bushfire bushfire 410
Wollongong ses 390
Berrima rescue squad vra 370
Baulkham hills ses 350
South coast vra 340
NSW Police rescue 330
Wild dogs bushwalking club 330
Hornsby ses 320
Watagan wanderers bushwalkers 320
Kangaroo valley bushfire Brigade 300
Baulkham hills ses 290
Valley heights bushfire brigade 280
Winmalee bushfire brigade 270
ANC bushwalkers 270
NPA bushwalkers 260
Victoria-ses - nunawading ses 260
Wicen vra 260
Span bushwalkers bushwalkers 260
Nordic ski club 260
Berowra bushwalkers 250
Nordic ski club 240
Springwood bushwalkers 230
ACT emergency services ses 220
Jerrabomberra act ses 220
Upper blue mountains bushwalkers 220
Mt Druitt bushwalkers 210
ACT emergency services ses 210
Hornsby ses 210
Blue mountains ses 200
Hall ses 200
Hornsby ses 200
Bendigo ses 190
Berrima rescue squad vra 180
Sutherland bushwalkers 180
Nordic ski club 170
Baulkham hills ses 170
The bush club bushwalkers 160
Springwood bushwalkers 160
Victoria-ses - Nunawading ses 150
Hornsby ses 150
Winmalee bushfire brigade 140
Binalong vra 140
The bush club bushwalkers 140
NSW cave rescue vra 140
Watagan wanderers bushwalkers 130
Willoughby/lane cove ses 130
Up & downers bushwalkers 67
Mulwaree shire r.a.f.f.t. bushfire -10

CLASS 2

Scots college "glengarry" 270
Gosford city rural fire bushfire 120

CLASS 3

Mein & pope rogaine 650
O'meara,smith,smith,Arnison rogaine 530
batten & lawton - macquarie rogaine 280
Maximum for 1 Day Event: 650
MaximumPoints : 650

2 DAY EVENT

CLASS 1

National parks blue Mountains npws 1460
Berowra bushwalkers bushwalkers 1210
Springwood bushwalkers 1200
Sutherland bushwalkers 1130
Outdoor adventure club uts 1120
Shoalhaven ambulance team 1070
Kangaroo valley bushfire Brigade 1060
RAAF richmond -37sqn armed services 960
Kangaroo valley bushfire Brigade 880
Span bushwalkers 850
Wollongong ses 770
Gosford ses 740
NPWS south coast npws 740
Span bushwalkers 700
Kangaroo valley bushfire Brigade 700
NSW cave rescue vra 620
Shoalhaven ambulance team 550
Gurnang bushfire brigade 500
Willoughby/lane cove ses 480
Watagan wanderers bushwalkers 480
Randwick ses 340
Mosman ses 340
Span bushwalkers 340
Span bushwalkers 330
Nepean bushwalking club 310
Gungahlin volunteer ses 310
ACT emergency services ses 310
Wagga wagga Rescue/hunters hill vra 290
Shoalhaven hospital ambulance Medical disaster team 280
Wingecarribee ses 270
Mudgee ses 270
Waverley woollahra ses 240
Wollongong ses 230
Central coast vra 220
Campbelltown ses 180
Shellharbour ses 170
Wollongong ses 160
Bankstown bushwalkers 100

CLASS 2

NSW cave rescue vra 1000
Mullins loftus tafe others 600
Newcastle ramblers bushwalkers 530
Rug munchers loftus tafe 500
Scots college "glengarry" 470
Juggermoox loftus tafe 460
Ranca adventure club 420
Diggers loftus tafe 420
Scots college "glengarry" 410
Scots college "glengarry" others 370
Jubsters loftus tafe 370
Woodford bushfire brigade 310
Outdoor adventure club uts 310
Happy wanderers bmtafe 210

CLASS 3

Clarke & kelemen rogaine 1040
Ireland & haslam rogaine 720
Stein & kimbrey rogaine 660
Gollan, patton & mansfield rogaine 660
Maximum for 2 day event: 1460
Maximum points : 1460



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT AND TOP
TO BOTTOM
THE "BUSHRANGERS" THEY
KEEP EVERYBODY HONEST.
TEN YEAR STALWARTS
THE ORGANISING TEAM,
HEADED BY KEITH MAXWELL
A TRUE FAMILY TEAM
ASHOCK KEEPS US FED
MORE TEN YEAR
PARTICIPANTS
THE SITE AT NIGHT COURTESY
OF LUNALIGHTING

BUSHWALKERS FRIDAY 13TH

BUSHDANCE AT

PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

Come along my
Sweeties to the
Petersham Town Hall
Friday 13th October
and dress-up in your
best Witch or Warlock

Costumes



10 single or \$25 for the
Whole coven
Tickets from your
bushwalking club or
at the door



Dance to the
Music of
The Currency Lads
From 7.30
till
Midnight if
you dare

WIRES UNDERTAKES A MAKEOVER TO ATTRACT DESPERATELY NEEDED CORPORATE FUNDING

By Anne Lloyd-Jones, Publicity Officer, WIRES Inc.

When Mikla Lewis found an injured Ibis in Hyde Park in 1985 she was surprised when she couldn't find an organisation that would take responsibility for its rescue and care. So what did she do? She started the NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES). In the last 15 years the organisation has grown to include 24 branches, more than 1,400 trained volunteers and a rescue total of over 250,000 sick, injured or orphaned native animals.

Our continued growth has meant that the running costs of the organisation have risen and although the work we do is highly regarded, WIRES has found it difficult to obtain sponsorship. After all, what can we offer companies? You can't print "Sponsored by..." on a wombat!

So the decision was made to find an environmentally aware advertising agency with great ideas and a big heart to help us update our image and target potential supporters. AdNews donated space in a March issue and WIRES advertised for a "pro bono" agency. After months of meetings and proposals, *time-thieves* was chosen. Discussions followed over changing the logo and it was decided that the current logo, while very representative of the work WIRES does, was not easily recognisable. We also wanted a logo that could be adapted to become a mascot and would develop its own "personality" - particularly handy when speaking to children and schools.

The new logo has just been completed and the print, radio and TV ads are soon to follow. Each of the ads will focus on a different wildlife related issue including roadkill, feeding wildlife and the impact man has on our disappearing wildlife.

It has reached make or break time for WIRES. If we don't grow, we can't survive, but we don't plan on giving up easily. There are too many native animals that depend on us.

To help WIRES continue caring for the wildlife of NSW, please return the coupon below to PO Box 260, Forestville 2089 or call: (02) 8977 3333. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Name:

Address: Post code:

☐ Please accept my donation of \$ _____ ☐ Please accept my cheque/money order (made out to WIRES Inc) OR

Charge my Bankcard/Mastercard/Visa (please circle)

Card Number ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ Expiry Date __ / __

Signature _____

☐ Please send me information about joining WIRES

☐ Please send me information about including WIRES in my will

