



BACK FROM THE BRINK - THE GROSE WILDERNESS

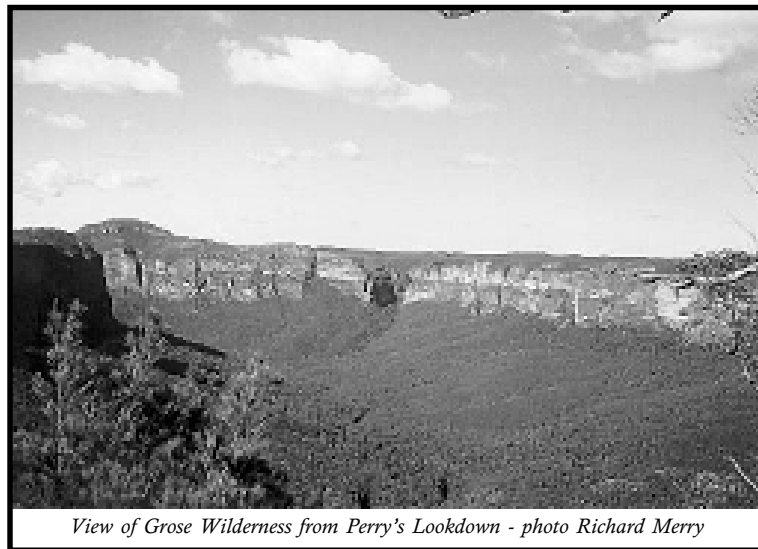
by Andy Macqueen*

"The dreary appearance, abruptness, intricate and dangerous route we experienced at this place, induced me to call it the Devil's Wilderness."

So wrote George Caley after clambering down to the confluence of the Grose River and Wilderness Brook in 1804. He was on an epic journey to

valley or out amongst the mazes of ridges too unpleasant, too difficult, or too scary to contemplate.

Development has been kept out of most of the Grose area for two centuries, thanks to its ruggedness and to various moves to preserve it. As early



View of Grose Wilderness from Perry's Lookdown - photo Richard Merry

Mount Banks, and his troubles were only just beginning. At every turn he was confronted by canyons, strange rock formations, thick vegetation or amazing insects.

Caley and his convict assistants did not appreciate the natural values and opportunities for solitude afforded by the Grose Wilderness. When they camped in the sassafras in Dismal Dingle, near Claustal Canyon, his men found it so oppressive that on the return journey they refused to stop there even for a rest. "We'd prefer the worst cell we've ever seen in a prison," they said.

Such places were no prison to the Aborigines. They had travelled through and lived in the Grose area for thousands of years. There is evidence of significant occupation quite close to Blue Gum. But the early whites were repelled, and many are still repelled. Even in the tracked areas, many people find the prospect of a walk deep into the

as 1875 a large part was reserved partly in recognition that it was a "national spectacle", thereby defining what could be described as Australia's first national park. This did not however prevent leases being taken

up at Blue Gum Forest, and it was one of these that became the focus of the campaign in 1931-32 - a campaign which probably did more than anything else to give momentum to the national park campaigns of Myles Dunphy and his bushwalking followers.

In 1959, when Dunphy's Blue Mountains National Park dream started to be realised, parts of the Grose formed the lions share of the new reserve.

Not that there haven't been real threats to the area's integrity. Schemes for dams, mines, power stations, roads and logging have all surfaced at various times. In the 1920s a mining company proposed to transform the valley "from a riot of scrubland to a hive of industry". In the 1850s the Grose River offered the favoured route for the western railway. And as recently as 1999, Earth Sanctuaries proposed to fence off part of the valley for a wildlife

THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS' ROLE

John Macris
Conservation Officer

The year was 1996. While various outdoor recreation groups were aligning with one another and launching their colourful campaigns based on a presumed inherited right of access to every bridle or fire trail on public land, Confederation was taking a somewhat different direction.

The central and oldest section of Blue Mountains National Park centred on the Grose Valley, had remarkably retained a high level of remoteness and natural integrity, in spite of its proximity to the tourist mecca of the upper mountains' towns.

It was conceivable to us that the commercial or mass tourism 'footprint' would gradually enlarge beyond the present nodes like Katoomba, Wentworth Falls or Blackheath. Maybe only incrementally, but the signs were already there, with adhoc establishment of vehicle based tours to the formerly little visited Mount Hay area and a noticeable growth in commercial canyoning operations. Blue Mountains National Park had been without an adopted plan of management for over 20 years and past draft attempts gave mixed messages about limiting the spread of high impact activities.

For these reasons, and also simply in recognition of the wild values that were still abundant in the Grose, we utilised the public nomination provisions of the NSW Wilderness Act (1987) to set in motion a wilderness assessment of the area.

Under this Act, once a public nomination of an area for wilderness has been accepted and verified as credible (eg you couldn't just nominate Centennial Park or the Lane Cove Valley) it must be assessed within two

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President - Wilf Hilder
Sydney Bushwalkers Ph 9587-8912

Vice President - Jim Callaway (02)
9520-7081 (H) (02) 9219-4379 (W)
The Sydney Bush Walkers

Treasurer & acting Secretary - Prudence
Tucker (02)9451-4028 email
pandat@ar.com.au National Parks
Association

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue
officer - Keith Maxwell (02) 9622-0049
Pager phone 13 22 22 pager no 6277321
Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club
keith.maxwell@mq.edu.au

Minutes Secretary Judy Hellyer
(02)604-1101hellyer@ihug.com.au

Conservation Officer John Macris
(02) 9877-0915(H) National Parks Associa-
tion jmacris@amaze.com.au

Tracks and Access officer - Alex
Tucker (02) 9451-4028 National Parks
Association pandat@ar.com.au

Magazine Editor & Communications
Officer Colin Wood, Tel (02)4625-0916 H
0438013500 National Parks Association
turton@smartchat.net.au

Training officer - Peter Mullins
petermullins@ozemail.com.au

Insurance Office and membership
secretary - Anne Plowman (02)9747-1346
cburwood@chilli.net.au

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.

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@smartchat.net.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 www.bushwalking.org.au

Advertising .Ring Judy Hellyer 9604-1101 or hellyer@ihug.net.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 \$90 all prices plus GST

Deadlines for magazine

Summer edition, 2nd week in
October- Autumn 2nd week in January
- Winter, 2nd week in April - Spring,
2nd week in July

IN THIS ISSUE

Back From The Brink - The Grose Wilderness	1
The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs' role	1
NavShield 2001 - Biggest and Best Ever	3
Important News For Abseilers	4
Letter to Editor NavShield2001	4
Bushwalkers History Museum & Collection	5
An Anniversary to Inspire - Blue Gum 1931 to 2001	6
The Jagungal Wilderness	9
Photographic Competition	9
How Big is Your Walking Party?	10
Along The Track - Volunteer Work In National Parks.....	11
Stop Press: New Canyon Discoveries	12
Bushwalkers Bushdance	13
Great Grose Gorse Walk	14

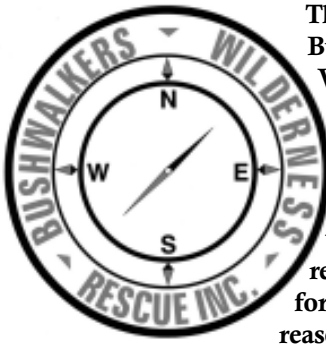
THE BUSHWALKER

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.



NAVSHIELD 2001 - BIGGEST AND BEST EVER

Keith Maxwell - President Bushwalkers
Wilderness Squad



This years
Bushwalkers
Wilderness
Rescue
NavShield
over 7th /
8th of July
will be
remembered
for many
reasons. There

was nearly a cast of thousands who nearly had to battle snow just to get to Abercrombie National Park. The weather at the exposed event headquarters was overcast to sleeting all weekend with sun only finally appearing as we were packing up on Sunday afternoon. The team results of this largest group of

does not always crack 'the site'. The real site planning starts when the course co-ordinator gets out his map or tries to unobtrusively purchase an uncommonly requested map such as "Arkstone". Abercrombie National Park had the least scrub of any NavShield but with (steep) relief of up to 500 metres. Open, clear ridges made fast travel possible and for experienced navigators there was minimal compass work as the network of ridges was so obvious. Steep sided meandering rivers with she oaks added a pleasant touch reminiscent of the Cox's or Kowmung Rivers. However checkpoints were still set so as to require careful navigation to the correct ridgetop or creek junction.

finding a checkpoint then choosing the route to the next one. The late Saturday afternoon trickle of lesser experienced teams arriving before dark soon turns into a flood as the 7-30pm (one day event) deadline and the prospect of heavy penalties looms. All available BWR members pitch in to keep up with 'logging in' and checking team Control Cards prior to entering results into the NavShield laptop database. A similar controlled panic is repeated as the 2-00pm Sunday deadline for the two day event approaches.

The first NavShield in 1989 at Nerriga was barely bigger than a bushwalking club reunion. Its current size is the result of steady growth mostly from word of mouth and the enthusiasm of the BWR Secretary, John Tonitto and others of the BWR organising team. It seems hard to believe how proud BWR was when Nav 93 on Newnes Plateau had over 250 participants! By providing a quality bush navigation event BWR now regularly has teams from Ambulance, NP&WS, SES, VRA, Rural Fire Service, Armed Services and Police Rescue Squads. The (NSW) State Rescue Board recognises the value of the training the BWR NavShield offers and sponsors group shields for these services.

In the early days of the NavShield on Saturday afternoon all the BWR personnel around the event headquarters would pitch in butter bread, cut onions and toss salads in preparation for feeding the hungry hordes. Socialising and interaction between the Emergency Services was always an unstated aim. However the NavShield some time ago became too large for self catering so now one part of the event headquarters is set aside for the caterer and their facilities.

Similarly in the early days the radio network of 'radio checkpoints' was staffed solely by the BWR Committee and bushwalkers. Another VRA (Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW Inc.) squad of radio amateurs, WICEN, now make the NavShield a major training exercise to set up a radio network in a new area each year and co-ordinate with BWR and other Emergency Services.

Thus even after the frantic massed start of Saturday morning the NavShield headquarters is busy all day. A large paddock / cleared area is essential. Many previous NavShield sites would no longer be suitable! It hard to believe that I used to easily find time to person-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Winners of the 2001 NavShield - Newcastle Bushwalking Club

competitors ever were still processed quickly and accurately for the official presentations at the usual times.

The aim of the NavShield is to run an Emergency Services bush navigation training event that showcases the skills and abilities of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWR) as well as bushwalkers from Confederation Clubs. Within a limited time teams from Emergency Services must plot the location (via Grid References) of the checkpoints and decide on a viable route that maximises the points they can achieve without incurring penalties for returning late. A network of 'radio checkpoints' monitors team movements for overall safety.

The site and hence terrain is always different each year with the location only being announced in the final week before the event. Secrecy is still difficult to control though as the potential land managers BWR must contact either are past participants or their friends are! While the grape vine works overtime it

of visiting that checkpoint. Checkpoints are allocated a points value that takes into account the difficulty of locating it.

Participants began filling the large paddock, which was the event headquarters, adjacent to the National Park late Friday afternoon for the 8-45am Saturday morning start. Nav 2001 was easily the biggest ever with more than 100 extra participants over Nav 2000. Fortunately by Saturday the 50mm of Friday morning snow had melted but was still present in Oberon and Black Springs to give them a white Christmas feel. 535 eager competitors were still well rugged up as they congregated for the event briefing and pandemonium of the massed start as 149 teams fought to collect their Control Cards.

All levels of navigators benefit from the NavShield. There is always a deliberate mix of easy to difficult checkpoints temptingly placed so that teams can still gain plenty of practice even in the one day event. Beginner navigators gain confidence from actually

Checkpoints are set in a random pattern over around 100 square kilometres - about a third to half a map. All checkpoints have a two colour rogaine style flag with a unique pattern paper punch for punching your team "Control Card" as proof

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ally pre-sign the Attendance / Result Certificates for participants.

The major Presentation Ceremony around 3pm on Sunday afternoon is generally a great relief to me. In a good year the very last of the two day teams have returned to headquarters before the Awards presentation. The worst year was when BWR had to wait until after 5pm for the last team. The awards still went ahead but the site was almost empty when this (now) well remembered team returned. No names but the guilty know who they are and have not been late again. There are always a wide range of Awards so I try to keep this ceremony moving along. Each year we now have representative of the NSW Premier plus representatives from the State Rescue Board and various Emergency Services to give out the principal awards. The last and still pleasing award is the Attendance Cups. If you can attend five or ten NavShields (either one day or two day event; minimum time is not required) then I will, on behalf of BWR, make a special presentation. A quick check of this years group photo, on the NavShield website, will show just how many participants keep coming back.

The results of Nav 2001 and all other NavShields can be found at the NavShield website:

<http://www.eng.uts.edu.au/~glennh/navshield/>

Despite the obviously high workload the members of BWR still enjoy planning and running their annual NavShield. They look forward to showing off their organisation as well as practising valuable organisation skills / liaising with other Emergency Services and seeing some of the regular participants. The Saturday night camp fire is a great way to unwind – for us one event down and only one to go! There can be no better way to polish up your navigation and map reading skills than participation in Nav 2002!

Nav 89	Nerriga
Nav 90	Yalwal
Nav 91	Kangaroo Valley
Nav 92	Hilltop
Nav 93	Newnes Plateau
Nav 94	Kanangra Boyd
Nav 95	Colo Heights
Nav 96	Blue Labyrinth
Nav 97	Mojo Creek
Nav 98	Sassafras
Nav 99	Wingello
Nav 2000	Dunn's Swamp
Nav 2001	Abercrombie NP
Nav 2002	????? – will you be there?

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ABSEILERS

Margaret Covi, Watagan Wanderers

This year has been a worrying time for abseilers. We had news that stringent requirements were to be put in place making it difficult for us to abseil in National Parks, & which would often in fact prevent us. We received copies of the 47 page document of requirements outlining skills needed, fees (for commercial groups) & consent documents for South Sydney National Park, which we believed to be the forerunner for other parks. The future seemed grim. Our club felt the need to write to National Parks to ask on our club's behalf what we could do to do to fulfil these requirements.



Abseiling Training - photo Colin Wood

The reply I received surprised me. I was told that a simple document requesting permission & accompanied by a certificate of currency of our insurance would be sufficient. NPWS expects that clubs do measure up to the standards of training in the 47 page document, & it is not currently requiring any formal accreditation of this, the fees outlined do not apply to any but commercial groups, & the long & complicated consent form in that book also is only for commercial groups. I was told that NPWS's main aim was to keep out unregulated & uninsured groups, but organised groups such as clubs & scouts would be given permission by a simple process.

As many of our club are keen abseilers, & in the off-season for canyons we like to keep up our skills by practising at different venues, I applied to South Sydney National Park for permission to hold an abseiling day at Alford's Point, on a date after the new regulations had come into force at the beginning of July. I received the simple form, filled it out & returned it with the insurance certificate, & received the required

permission, & our club carried out a successful day.

At the June Confederation meeting a resolution was passed saying "This Confederation prefers the above simple approval system for the management of abseiling at sites of high usage in Sydney South Metropolitan Region. This requires a single page Application Form only, proof of Public Liability Insurance, the Activity Leader's Name & anticipated number of persons involved". We hope that our abseiling future in this & other National Parks is assured. Of course we must always keep safety & training our abseilers in safe & correct techniques to the forefront. & continue to develop skills & follow best practice to prevent accidents & follow our sport safely. Training, as many clubs already carry out, will remain essential.

LETTER TO EDITOR
NAVSHIELD2001

Hi John, Just thought I'd drop a short note. Thanks for putting the event on, we had a great time. Sorry we had to leave early but it took us till 4.00pm Monday to get home. Armidale had snow and the road was closed till 10.00am Monday. We worked out we travelled over 2400kms in 5 days. Boy were we tired when we got back. Again thanks for a top time and see you next year. Please e-mail me with any info on next years event in the future as I'm sure we'll be back. Also pass on our thanks to everyone who assisted in organising the event. Cya.

Chris Tranent and Wayne Whitrod.
Redland State Emergency Service,
Queensland.

The Tranents
thetranents@iprimus.com.au

**GREAT
GROSE
GORSE
WALK.
SEE PAGE 14**





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Back From the Brink

sanctuary with associated tourist developments.

None of these things got off the ground. Except the fire trails. After the 1957 bushfires it was judged that the best means of preventing future such disasters was to bulldoze a road along every ridge. Today most of these roads are redundant and – consistent with Confederation's vision – some of them have been closed and are revegetating. Others, although they are in the wilderness, are to continue as management roads, though public traffic will not be allowed – except for bicycles.

A glaring anomaly is the Mount Hay Road, which is to remain as a non-wilderness finger penetrating deep into the wilderness, in spite of a strong case put by Confederation and the conservation lobby in general that the road should be terminated at Fortress Ridge or The Pinnacles. Many fear that the tranquil spot out near Mount Hay will one day be an Echo Point.

Of course, bushwalkers and campers have their own impact on natural areas. For this reason Acacia Flat, with its high visitation, toilets and signposts, has not been included in the Grose Wilderness – along with the Govett Gorge and the popular tracks there. Fittingly, the patch of ground all the fuss was about in 1931-32, the original Blue Gum Forest Reserve, is included in the wilderness. (The wilderness boundary runs alongside the Perrys and Lockleys tracks: people walking from Pierces pass or Victoria Falls are now in wilderness, and need to limit their party to eight people, unless they obtain approval for a greater number.)

In *Back from the Brink* I wrote "If the Grose Wilderness comes into being, the wild values of the area will be enshrined in legislation. Generations to come will be able to explore its hidden recesses, or sit and contemplate it in solitude, without further threat from new roads or tourist developments. They will be able to contemplate the activities of people like George Caley, ... and countless Aborigines before them – and wonder that the place has survived intact."

It has a few warts, but the Grose Wilderness has now come into being, and the area will indeed survive intact.

***Andy was president when Confederation nominated the Grose Wilderness. He is also author of *Back from the Brink: Blue Gum Forest and the Grose Wilderness*. Copies of the book are still available in some shops, or direct from the author at 8 Angel Street Wentworth Falls 2782 or andymacq@pnc.com.au**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Confederation's Role

years by the NPWS and an identified wilderness area determined. It is then a decision of the NSW Government through the Environment Minister to proceed to declaration of part or all of the NPWS identified area. Those areas declared are then legally required to be managed to retain or restore their remote and natural attributes, just as we desire for the Grose.

A run down of the nomination is covered in some detail in the February 1996 edition of this magazine. To summarise, we made a detailed appraisal of the extent of areas with high natural integrity, and the outlying human disturbances which would define a wilderness boundary. Clear boundaries included the Bells line of road, powerlines, water storages and the urban margins of north Springwood. Additional boundaries followed visitor infrastructure in the park that was well established and catered for high visitation at selected sites in the upper Grose and Govetts gorges, for example the major lookouts, their access roads and the Acacia Flat formal camping grounds.

The nomination of certain areas adjoining the park, made the exercise more than just a management campaign. Areas like the Canyon Colliery site, the Lake Woodford catchment and the headwaters of many tributary streams susceptible to further urban expansion, were all important as potential additions to the NPWS estate. Identification as wilderness has certainly proved to strengthen the case for the progressive inclusion of such areas in the adjacent reserve, both in the Blue Mountains and elsewhere. Although only a nomination boundary is required under the wilderness process, our submission included comments on some management issues, notes on vegetation by local conservationist Frank Winternitz and a land use history by Andy Macqueen.

Confederation's activity continued through to the period of public exhibition of the Grose Wilderness in 1998, with letters to the Government, participation in the debate that secured the return of the former Canyon Colliery site to the national park in the face of a proposed commercial development, and supporting public submissions in favour of a large declared area of wilderness.

Those named already in this article deserve special mention as major contributors to the nomination and publicising of the Grose's wilderness values,

along with Andrew Cox, the previous Conservation Officer who did much of the ground work prior to my compilation of the nomination in 1995 and 96.

BUSHWALKERS HISTORY MUSEUM & COLLECTION

A suggestion has been put forward to open a bushwalkers History Museum, Hall of Fame, Drop in Centre and Information Centre in Blackheath.

A submission has been put in for space in the old school House at Blackheath. This building was going to be demolished for space for a car park. It already has the support of the locals.

The Centre would be open several days per week including weekends and would ideally be run by a curator and volunteers. Various groups have been approached for support. Access to all the log book records either original or copied and CDROM from Mitchell and various sources. Copies could then be publicly available at the museum or on line. Other things people have we could put in there are examples of gear, sleeping bags, photos, magazines etc.

This suggestion has been put forward by Wyn Jones.

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs is being approached for support for this most admirable project.

Any interested party could contact Wyn Jones.

Wyn Jones is a former member of the Sydney University Bushwalkers and the Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club and a very experienced bushwalker and canyoneer. Now a freelance poet and musician, he worked for 25 years with the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW. During that time he conducted research into the effects of logging on forest wildlife, and many surveys for wildlife in the Blue Mountains. He is the senior name giver and taxonomist of the Wollemi Pine. During 1992 Wyn organised and lead the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Walk. He lives in Blackheath.

Contact

Wyn Jones, PO BOX 60, Blackheath. NSW 2785

Phone: 0247 877 511 e mail: winjones@lisp.com.au



AN ANNIVERSARY TO INSPIRE - BLUE GUM 1931 TO 2001

TIME TO HAVE A CAMPFIRE

By Wyn Jones

It is Easter 1931, and we are in Blue Gum Forest. We are here to enjoy our solitude, the grandeur of this place and the companionship of like-minded souls. As bushwalkers we have an expectation that this place will never undergo changes due to civilization, that our children will see it as we do now. We meet a man on horseback with an axe who tell us he owns the forest. After further talk we are fearful for the future of the trees and our security in the wilderness is shattered.

It is Easter 2001, 70 years after this fateful yet fortunate meeting. I visit Blue Gum and show to my friends how Blue Gum may have been before white man came. I imagine I am meeting Clarrie Hungerford who the Bushwalkers bought the land from to save it from the threatening axe. I still know some Hungerfords from Bilpin, the same family. I share with Andy Macqueen the same concerns that we are not doing enough for this Special Place and we are there to plan Celebration for Bushwalkers in the Original Blue Gum Forest. It is to be a Campfire where we share our stories, our ideals and ideas for the future care of this the Cradle of Conservation.

The Blue Gum is a tree of many places. To some people it is Sydney Blue Gum, others may speak of the Mountain Blue Gum, while yet other folk refer to different species such as Eurabbie, Flooded Gum, Mountain Gum, Grey or Red Gum as Blue Gums. Clearly all have at some stage of their annual cycle, a bluish coloured smooth barked trunk. But to the Bushwalkers there is only one true Blue Gum and that is the straight, majestic trees of the species *Eucalyptus deanei*, the only one of its kind at Blue Gum Forest in the Blue Mountains.

Tourists and suburbanites alike may think of the Blue Mountains as the Three Sisters which are really seven giant pagodas tumbling off the cliff edge; but to bushwalkers and residents of Blackheath the real icon of the Mountains is The Blue Gum, the Tree, The

Forest and The Story. Although there are Blue Gum forests of the same species in many other places, no other location has the same cultural significance as that growing in the Grose Valley below Govetts Leap at Blackheath. Those in the Wyong forests, the Wollondilly and the Blue Labyrinth have been logged in recent decades, as were those in the Couridjah Corridor earlier in the century. Even a few trees close to The

Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. A dream, Myles Dunphy's dream, realized, and a vision that inspires poetry, music and art.

You and I, as Bushwalkers owe a great deal to that now almost past generation, and we owe a lot to the land that they saved. It is no sorry business it is the fountain of joy, and hope for us and future generations. And to make sure the trust they gave us is handed on, is

passed to the newer generations, must be and act as the guardians of the land. After all Traditional Owners were guardians for thousands of years, yet this same land contains a variety of ecosystems so valuable that it qualified for World Heritage status.

As Guardians we need

to know our land, its trees, forests, wildlife and climates.

As bushwalkers we probably know more about the geography of the Greater Blue Mountains than any human cooperative ever did. We have the advantage of modern science that has classified over 2000 species of plants in the area, and 13% of the gumtree species of Australia.

We must look after the Blue Gum those old and stately green mansions in

the valley. Our forebears looked after them by stopping any logging or other agricultural pursuits. More recently we ceased to camp and light campfires in the area, a hard break with tradition. Now you see the regrowth that probably makes the Forest look like it was at the time of settlement (for a comparison, visit areas up or downstream of Blue Gum Forest).

But do more than a few of us know the full Blue Gum story? I doubt it. And how many times have we recalled it to the young people? You have to tell it again and again so that the value of those events long ago sinks into the psyche. We have been bombarded with the events of war and the importance of ANZAC Day – how important is the land to us? How

Our Bushwalking Heritage - Walkers in Blue Gum Forest 1931 a few months after the fateful meeting of Walkers with Clarrie Hungerford. It was this meeting in Easter 1931 at a similar location to that shown below, that the Birth of Conservation occurred. Blue Gum became the Cradle of Conservation and bushwalkers the guardians



Party of Sydney Bush Walkers in Blue Gum Forest, probably October 1931: Walter 'Taro' Tarr, Reg Shortridge, Enid Rigby, Vera Phillips, Olive Greenacre, Harold Chardon, Fred Rice, unknown. This was probably the occasion when Rigby took his series of promotional photos of the forest. (Rigby Family collection)

Bushwalkers need to continue to be the guardians of the Great natural Heritage. They are the historic custodians of the Blue Gums of NSW and elsewhere and have business to pass on their history to later generations. That is why we should celebrate the events of 1931 and 1932

Blue Gum Forest were felled though it's hard to tell now. But no where is there a stand such as this, displayed so elegantly over a river flat alluvium, tall and serene within the deepest steepest gorge of the Blue Mountains.

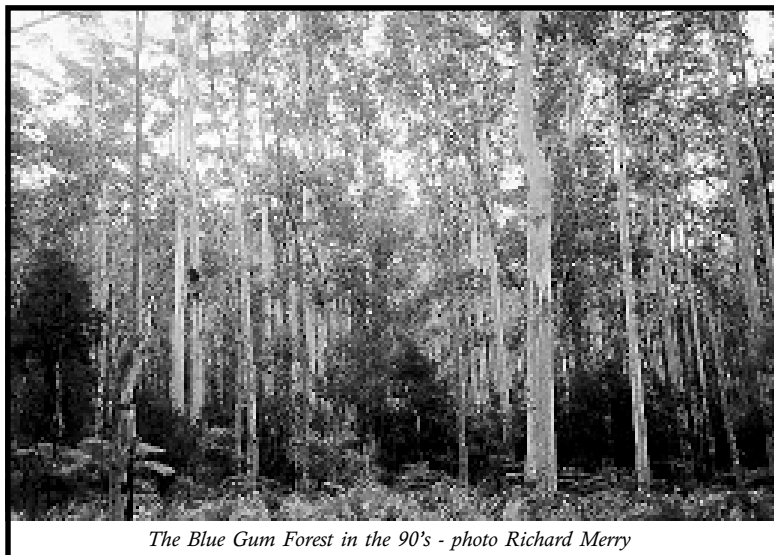
For this is where conservation really started in Australia. At a chance meeting in that Forest in 1931, the consciousness of the Bushwalking fraternity was changed forever. The awakening of those few walkers to the threats that development could pose for wilderness, inspired generations of conservationists, many bushwalkers themselves. The conservation activism of the remainder of the 20th Century stemmed largely from that small band of people who were involved with the saving of Blue Gum Forest and the creation of what has become the Greater



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
unbearable would freedom be without the vast green spaces we have conserved. How important are those conservation battles?

Secondly we need to celebrate this land and honor those associated with it wilderness traditions.

This is a process of reconciliation to the land for all of us. Bushwalkers are well placed to be at the forefront of this process with their knowledge and traditions. They would do well to work



The Blue Gum Forest in the 90's - photo Richard Merry

with traditional owners in this process of guardianship and celebration. Already people think of certain places as special sites. I remember when I was in the Sydney University Bushwalkers, one of the older members referred to Kanangra Walls as the "Mecca" of the Blue Mountains. I think a lot of us regard Blue Gum Forest in the same way, a special perhaps sacred place. Since those early days of my bushwalking, I have come into much greater knowledge about Kanangra and Blue Gum and other places. I know the trees and animals intimately, the moods and the fears. Indeed for me these places are more than any mecca could be.

Thirdly as a guardian with knowledge bushwalkers share and pass on this knowledge.

This is true celebration. Yes we like to walk in our company quite exclusive and safe within our clubs and social circles. But all the Bushwalking groups share a single unity – the love of the natural places. The Celebration Campfire at Blue Gum Forest on 22nd September is just the start of renewing this sharing process and cooperation for guardianship. That The Blue Gum needs more walkers to actively care for it has become increasingly evident in recent

years. Most people who go there don't really know the story, yet they have the same feelings for the beauty of the place that attracted the party of bushwalkers there in Easter 1931.

If only we could tell these new visitors that story, in person.

I invite you to make a start and join other walkers at a Campfire at Old Blue Gum Forest on 22nd September. A special ceramic tile will be given to all walkers who come as a memento of the

1931 occasion and the World Heritage Listing. This tile will be placed in the campfire to finish it glazing. We will have the usual cuppa, yarns and singing and special entertainers. I would like all clubs to bring their

stories and histories to share. Few of us know much about "the other mobs" and it would enrich our life to find out. Your stories are part of our shared history and it needs to be passed on, and used as part of our Waking the Land. Blue Gum, The Cradle needs careful, permanent nurturing.

PS: Walkers coming to Blue Gum Forest on the weekend of the 22nd September are asked to register on the www.songlinewalk.com website, and

with their club. They may come by any route and camp in Acacia flat or other sites as designated by the NPWS. The weekend is the finish of the Gumtree Songline Walk and symbolic coals of the Campfire will be carried back to Blackheath for possible inclusion in Bushwalkers Museum and History Centre. There may be a community welcome to the walkers at 2 PM in Blackheath on the Sunday, you will be advised at the Forest.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service want to gain the support of the Bushwalking Clubs for the regular care of Blue Gum Forest. This would be greatly assisted if Clubs would take an active role in on site care especially telling the story to visitors and campers at Acacia Flat on a regular basis. Please support this effort.

NSW WILDERNESS TRANSIT BUS

JENOLANCAVES.

KANANGRA WALLS.

YERRANDERIE GHOST TOWN.

Tel 0246 832 344 Mob 0428 832 344

www.wildernesstransit.com.au



BUSHWALKING HOLIDAYS AT WIRIMBIRRA SANCTUARY

Remembrance Drive Bargo

Budget accommodation in a bushland setting
Self cater kitchen. Sheltered BBQ & dining tables
with fire pit and entertainment area. Conference Hall.

Package Holidays For Groups

Of 12 or more includes Accommodation, Meals in our Restaurant, Transport to & from walking tracks. 18 tracks in the Nattai and Bargo to choose from.

Phone 4684 1112



Jemby-Rinjah Lodge
an experience to remember

Advanced Eco-tourism Accreditation

Jemby-Rinjah Lodge 336 Evans Lookout Road
Blackheath NSW 2785

Ph: 02 4787 7622 Fax: 02 4787 6230

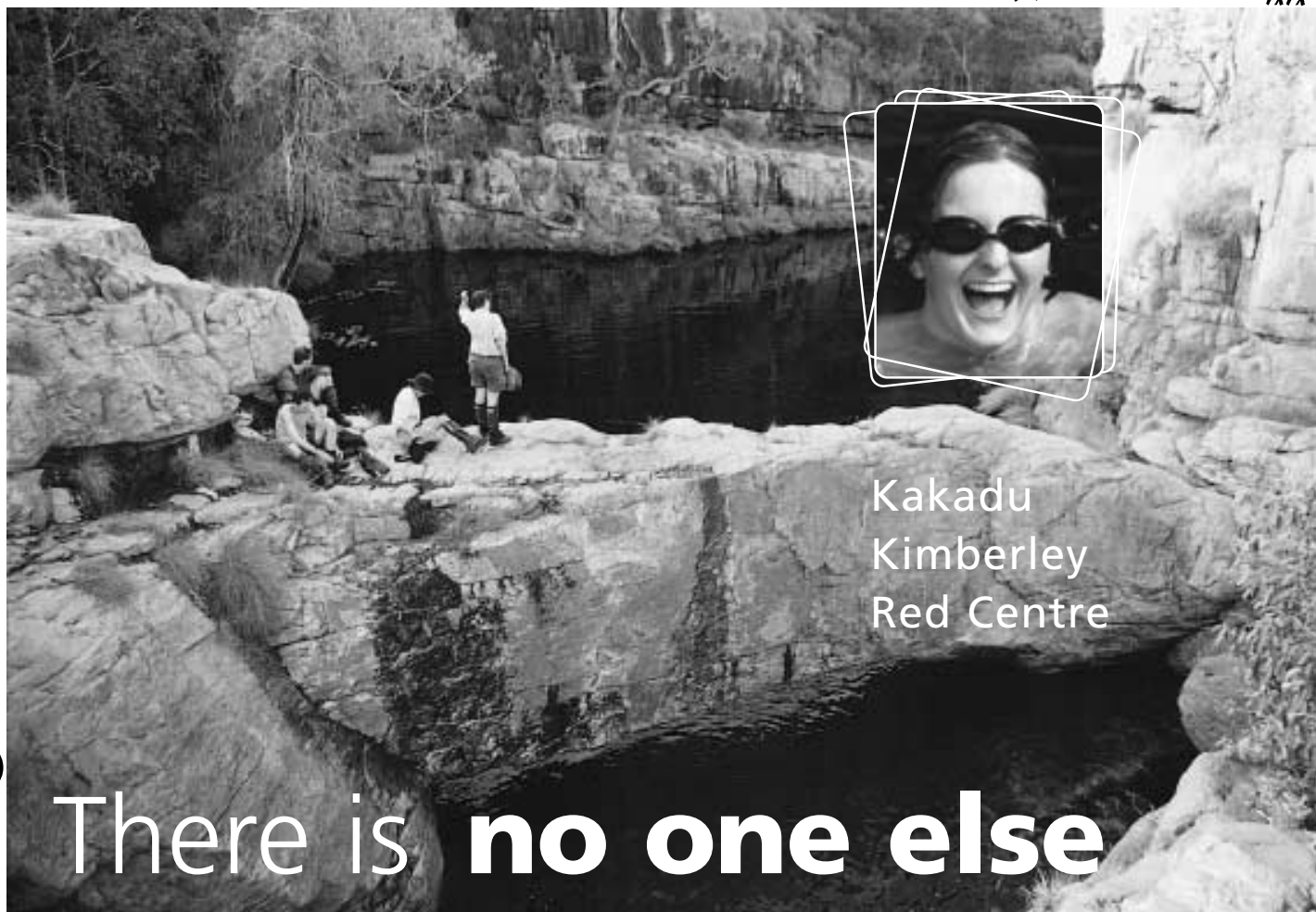
Email: jembyrin@pnc.com.au

Web: www.jembyrinjahlodge.com.au

GET BACK TO NATURE AND
COMFORT AT JEMBY-RINJAH
ECO-LODGE

RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THE BLUE
MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
AT BLACKHEATH

- Family accommodation in our one or two bedroom cabins
- Group accommodation in our eco-lodges
- Restaurant on site
- Quiet bush setting



Kakadu
Kimberley
Red Centre

There is **no one else**

Willis's Walkabouts is the **only** Northern Territory tour operator who offers trips that take you far beyond the vehicle tracks into a wilderness where no vehicle will ever go. **No one else offers such a selection:** 35 different bushwalking holidays in the NT, 20 in the Kimberley and Pilbara.

Why go overseas?

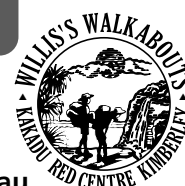
In northern Australia you have

- No worries about the collapsing Aussie dollar.
- Spectacular scenery & predictable weather.
- Clear tropical pools, perfect for swimming, pure enough to drink.
- Aboriginal rock art.
- True wilderness where you can walk for days or weeks without seeing a soul.



If you'd like a **different** kind of nature-based holiday, check out our website or ask for our brochure and find out why our clients come back again and again, year after year.

Willis's Walkabouts is proud to be the **major sponsor** for the **NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs Photographic Competition**. Check out our website or ask for our brochure and **see what you could win!**



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St, Millner NT 0810
Email walkabout@ais.net.au www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Phone (08) 8985 2134 Fax (08) 8985 2355



THE JAGUNGAL WILDERNESS

Ray Armstrong

The Jagungal Wilderness is one of the most picturesque areas in The Kosciusko National Park. It is the area stretching from Mt Jagungal south to Guthega Power Station and offers great views towards the Main Range. The best way to appreciate the true beauty of the Snowy Mountains is to get off the beaten track and explore The Jagungal Wilderness.

We chose to begin our walk at Round Mountain which is near Mt Selwyn ski fields. From here we headed towards Derschkos Hut where we spent the first night. Derschkos Hut was once used by Park Rangers and is one of the most pristine huts in the region. The potbelly stove would be a welcome sight to many cross-country skiers but not to us, after walking in 30+ degree heat. We decided to spend the night outside, preferring the mice free environment of our tents.

The next day we climbed Mt Jagungal where we got a great view towards the main range and further south in to the Jagungal Wilderness. The

northern side of the main range is much more spectacular than the other sides with a steep wall down to the Geehi River. It was here that we saw the last person until Guthega Power Station as we left the track and headed into the beckoning wilderness. The soaring temperature and the lack of shade made this day difficult. Once we reached our destination for the day, Mawson's Hut, we set up camp and luxuriated.

Mawson's hut is an old tin hut but is one of the most interesting of all huts. Inside is a small library where one can read some of the many books written on the area. From the hut a distant Mt Jagungal can be seen through the few trees.

That night a pleasant change came, and this led to much nicer walking conditions for the next day which required us crossing the Kerries range. The sometimes 360degree views from the range is a must for all bushwalkers visiting the area. At the end of the range

lies Gungartan, a mountain that is slightly higher than Mt Jagungal. We decided to climb it as we had plenty of time and the climb looked very easy. At the top of Gungartan a strong wind blew from the north, this wind was so strong that you could lean right in to it. After descending Gungartan we donned the packs and headed down a gully that would take us to Schlink Hilton Hut. After almost stepping on several small tiger snakes that were basking in the summer sun we decided to put our gaiters on. From there we zig-zagged down the gully hoping not to come across a big tiger snake. After negotiating this snake-infested gully we arrived at Schlink Hilton Hut where we had a quick stop and headed on to White's River Hut for the last night of our walk. Once in our tents we heard a distant rumbling, so it was out of the tents for a guy rope test. The storm battered us with wind, hail, lightning and lots of rain.

The next day was an easy stroll down a fire trail to Guthega Power Station.

CONDITIONS OF HOW TO ENTER

1. Information on 'how to enter' and prizes, form part of the conditions of entry.
2. Entry will be accepted as a photo, print, floppy disk, or on CD in PC format, no slides.
3. Entry is open to all residents of Australia except the prize givers and their employees and immediate families and the executive committee of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Incorporated herein referred to as 'Confederation', and their immediate families.
4. The competition commences on the 15th of May 2001, and closes on the 15th of May 2002.

5. Winners will be notified by mail and all prize winners will be published in the spring 2002 issue of the *The Bushwalker*.

6. Enter as many times as you wish by mailing in the completed entry form together with name and address clearly written on the entry. Separate entry form for each photo (photo copies are OK)

7. The judge's decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on each person and no correspondence will be entered into.

8. All entries become property of the Confederation and may be used in future publications unless otherwise stated by the entrant.

9. The Confederation shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever suffered including but not limited to direct or consequential loss, or personal injury suffered or sustained during the course of prize winning trips or in connection with any of the prizes.

10. Confederation reserves the right to publish photos of the winners.

11. Any change in value of the prizes occurring between the publishing date and date of the prize is claimed is not the responsibility of the confederation.

12. Signing the back of the photo or disk confirms the photo belongs to & has been taken by the entrant.

13. Photo must be of the Australian bush, preferably with people.

14. WHILE ENTRY IS FREE, DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED AND WILL BE GIVEN TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION COUNCIL.

**HAVE YOU ENTERED
THE PHOTO
COMPETITION? GET
YOUR ENTRY IN SOON
1ST PRIZE TRIP
WORTH \$3000**

ENTRY FORM

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....Post CODE.....

PHONE No.....

Post to - Photographic Competition - Bushwalkers NSW GPO Box 2090 Sydney 1043



HOW BIG IS YOUR WALKING PARTY?

Andy Macqueen*

After many years of drafts, more drafts and public exhibitions, last April saw the official adoption of plans of management for several national parks, including Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd and Wollemi. Current NPWS management and Environment Minister Debus are to be congratulated that an approved framework for management of the parks has finally been put in place.

The plans set down objectives, policies and actions for conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and for management of park use. They incorporate management measures for the Kanangra-Boyd, Wollemi and Grose Wilderness Areas.

Matters of particular relevance to bushwalkers include the following:

1. Unless otherwise approved, bushwalking party sizes are limited to 8 in wilderness and twenty in other national park areas.
2. Canyon party sizes are limited to 8 if abseiling is involved or if the canyon is in wilderness, otherwise a limit of 12 applies.
3. As has been the case for years, camping in the Blue Gum Forest area is only allowed at Acacia Flat. For a trial period, Acacia Flat will be declared a fuel-stove-only area, and the assistance of Confederation and other groups will be sought in implementing the trial. (This has arisen from the advice of the Friends of Blue Gum Forest, which includes Confederation members.)
4. The use of volunteers to undertake walking track maintenance will be encouraged. (Come on clubs, let's lend a hand!)
5. A public forum is proposed on the management of remote bushwalking, to develop guidelines for management of unconstructed walking tracks. Strategies for the regulation of remote area bushwalking will be considered.
6. Apart from the following exceptions, cycling is not permitted in wilderness:
 - public vehicle access roads extending into wilderness
 - management trails within the Grose Wilderness
 - management trails on the Boyd Plateau north and east of the Kanangra Walls road
7. A strategy for the management of

adventure activities such as climbing and canyoning will be developed in consultation with user groups.

I am sure the matter of party sizes will cause some anxiety amongst some walkers and clubs. The issue is not new, however. Confederation agreed to similar limits when attempting to negotiate 'blanket consent' some years ago, and supported the party limits when the above plans were in draft stage. Some clubs have already embraced such limits. Most walkers agree that in order to have a peaceful, low-impact and safe experience, size limitations are needed, though there are many views as to what exactly is appropriate for different places and situations.

Whether or not you agree with the limits, the important point is that they now have legal force. If you think you have a case for exceeding the limit in a given situation, don't despair: try getting approval. It is understood that the Regional Manager has delegated his powers in this regard to the individual rangers. They may be more understanding than you think.

* Andy represents the bushwalking movement on the Blue Mountains Region NPWS Advisory Committee.



Happy Wandering with YHA

Check out YHA online at: www.yha.com.au
Explore these National Parks with your group

Royal National Park - Start at

Cronulla and catch the ferry across the bay to Bundeena. Wander along the 27km coastal track.

Discover waterholes & waterfalls and great lookouts. Be adventurous and spend a night at Garie Beach

YHA or head back to
Cronulla Beach YHA,
call (02) 9527 7772.

New England National Park -

Explore this World Heritage National Park and get some great views of the coast from Point Lookout, the highest

point (1562m). **Stay at**
Armidale YHA, call
(02) 6772 6470

Call the Group Sales Officer at YHA NSW to find out about all the other great YHA's. Phone: (02) 9261 1111 or email: karlied@yhansw.org.au



ALONG THE TRACK - VOLUNTEER WORK IN NATIONAL PARKS

Alex Tucker - Tracks & Access officer



The following information is the result of letters sent to the five Regional Managers in the NPWS Central Directorate. It complements the details of

volunteer work already being

done by some of our member. Clubs which appeared in the May issue

The first project is being planned as a joint venture of the three clubs who expressed interest some months ago. **If it proves successful it may be repeated so I ask clubs to advise me if it evokes a favourable response.** Confederation and I will not be directly involved in the other four projects or for future projects unless as facilitators if so requested. Interested leaders should contact the named person for each project. If you also advise Confederation, we will publish your activities in the Bushwalker

Confederation encourages all clubs to become involved in volunteer work as well as recognising the great work done by their members as individuals

If our clubs do not at least match the work done in National Parks by clubs involved with horse riding or recreational 4 WD vehicles we risk being sidelined when we comment on Plans of Management and similar documents.

PROJECT 1 August 25 /26

Marramarra NP. Sydney

Working Weekend at Gentleman's Halt Initial Limit 6 members per club. but up to 20 in total A joint activity of NPA, Scripture Union Bushwalkers and The Outdoor Club NPWS will provide water transport from Brooklyn

Bring your tent Pit toilets on site.

This is the place where Governor Philip and his gentlemen camped on their exploration of the Hawkesbury in 1788. NPWS is planning a range of work from assisting the driver of a calf dozer to clear lantana and expose a historic road way to track maintenance and delicate bush regeneration. Participants will need to wear long sleeve shirts, long trousers, hat and walking or gym boots during working hours It is advisable to bring gardening gloves sunscreen and inspect repellant Bring

your main meals and a fuel stove for cooking NPWS provides morning and afternoon teas and all hand tools

At least one party member should have a Senior First Aid Certificate and preferably the Remote Area First Aid Certificate

Weather etc permitting there will be a campfire on Saturday

Ranger Ken Blade wants this to be an enjoyable social activity as well as a productive one

Contact Alex Tucker 9451 4028 email pandat@ar.com.au

PROJECT 2 ILLAWARRA - NATTAI -

The NPWS is keen to have your involvement in a project of interest to your organisation in the Illawarra Nattai Area. Two track projects currently underway include walking track construction and maintenance within the Illawarra Escarpment State Recreation Area and Thirlmere Lakes National Park. Other projects such as weed management and bush regeneration are also ongoing throughout the year.

I suggest you make contact with
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Great Outdoors Centre
Campbelltown

THAT'S MY STYLE OF LIFESTYLE

• CAMPING • BBQ's • OUTDOOR FURNITURE

ONE PLANET - SALOMON - SCARPA - GREAT
OUTDOORS - COLEMAN - FAIRYDOWN - BERGHAUS - AND

Now Open

2/1 TINDALL ST

CAMPBELLTOWN BETWEEN BUSH HARVEST ARE

HOUSE, RTA AND FITNESS FIRST
PHONE 4627-8288
FAX 4627-8277

Stores also at:

- LIDCOMBE
- PROSPECT
- ERINA
- CARINGBAH

82 PARRAMATTA ROAD
SHOP 7, HOMEBASE SHOPPING CENTRE
201 THE ENTRANCE ROAD
23 KOONJA CIRCUIT

Ph: (02) 9647 1488 Fax: (02) 9648 5902
Ph: (02) 9636 9266 Fax: (02) 9636 9566
Ph: (02) 4365 3688 Fax: (02) 4365 4755
Ph: (02) 9542 8988 Fax: (02) 9542 8588

**COME IN
& SEE OUR
NEW LARGER
STORE**



STOP PRESS: NEW CANYON DISCOVERIES

Andy Macqueen

Adrian Johnstone, A/Manager for Illawarra Nattai Area, to discuss potential volunteer projects and work suitable for your organization. Adrian can be contacted on 02 42684089.

I thank you for your interest in our NPWS programs in Sydney South Region, and look forward to your continued support and assistance within Sydney South Region

Mike Patrick Regional Manager Sydney South

PROJECT 3 ROYAL NATONAL PARK

A "one off" tree planting event in Garie Valley funded by COASTCARE aims to reinstate the indigenous bushland and especially the native rainforest in areas adjacent to the Garie Car Park currently grassed with exotic turf and fenced off. This is Stage 4 in the second year of the Project, the "Final Planting" of the balance of 3000 tube stock. This is considered to be a "media opportunity". Contact Andrew Horton Senior Technical Officer - Ecological Restoration phone 9542 0658 or Katrina Grey phone 9542 0618

PROJECT 4 KANANGRA BOYD NATIONAL PARK

Stage one of a strategy for control of weeds in the Jenolan River Valley is the removal of woody weeds from the catchment. Bushwalkers might be expected to tackle the more remote areas. Other participants in the strategy include land care groups, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, State Forests, Sydney Catchment Authority, Upper Macquarie County Council and bush regeneration

A whole lot of new canyons have opened up in the Blue Mountains. And they are catching people unawares.

Switched-on bushwalkers will be aware that all the maps are being replaced by a new series, using a grid based on GDA instead of the old AGD. This means that on the new maps, the grids (and the latitude and longitude lines) have been shifted 105 metres to the west and 190 metres to the south.

Now, because the edges of each map are actually defined by particular latitude and longitude lines, in making the new maps the cartographers haven't shifted the grids on the maps - they've

contractors

NPWS Coordinator is Ranger Michaela Jones of the Oberon office, . Phone (02) 63 36 1972

PROJECT 5 BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Activities are being planned for a weekend in August/ September and possibly another in September /October

NPWS Project officer is Saskia Hayes at the Blackheath office phone 4787 8877 Fax 4787 8514 e mail saskia.hayes@npws.nsw.gov.au

To repeat, if your club wishes to be involved in any of projects, contact the named person.

Alex Tucker Tracks & Access Officer

Phone 9451 4028 7.00 to 9.00 pm Fax 9453 1628

email pandat@ar.com.au

shifted the terrain.

Hence, the coverage of each new map has shifted 105 metres west and 190 metres south. This means that if you were to walk southward from the area covered by a new map, to the area covered by the adjoining old map, you would find an overlap of 190 metres in the coverage of the two maps. No problem there. But what if you were to walk from a new map to the adjoining map on its north side? Oh dear, a 190-metre gap!

Similarly, you would find a gap of 105 metres if you went eastwards from a new map to an old one.

So, if your walk involves more than one map, make sure they are of the same vintage - or at least check whether you have an overlap or a gap. If you have a gap, beware! Just like the navigators of old were fearful of sailing off the edge of their maps, walkers should approach the new phenomena with utmost caution. Who knows what could be hidden there? A canyon perhaps, or a cliff, or even a cake shop...

Adapted from an article by Andy Macqueen in the newsletter of Springwood Bushwalking Club

**HAVE YOU ENTERED
OUR PHOTO
COMPETITION YET?
SEE PAGE 9**

September	1st Start of Heritage walk Baerami & Denman & 8th at Mittagong	18th- Confederation general metting Ashfield RSL	21st -Annual Bushwalkers Bushdance Petersham Town hall	22nd finish of heritage Walk Blue Gum Forest
October		16th- Confederation general metting Ashfield RSL	20/21st- Advanced S & R Training	27/28th- St. John First Aid Training
november		20th- Confederation general metting Ashfield RSL	31st Oct & 1-2nd St John Ambulance Remote Area first aid course	
December	1-2nd & 8th- St John Ambulance Remote Area first aid course	18th -Confederation general metting Ashfield RSL		



**COME TO THE BUSHWALKERS BUSH DANCE
& CELEBRATE
THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA.
PETERSHAM TOWN HALL 7.30
21ST SEPTEMBER**

\$13 single \$25 family come and make up a table with your club, lots of prizes.



COME INSIDE NEPAL TO EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE AND MEET THE PEOPLE,
SMELL THE DAPHNE FLOWERS AND TASTE THE MO-MOS,
SEE THE HIMALAYAN GRIFFONS SOARING AND WALK THE TRAILS WITH THE MELBOURNE SHERPAS.

CONTACT MINGMAR & MARILYNNE SHERPA OF OM TREK
ON 03 9781 1280 OR MSHERPA@LABYRINTH.NET.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION.
OM TREK
[HTTP://TRAVEL.TO/KATHMANDU](http://travel.to/kathmandu)

SUBSCRIBE TO THE BUSHWALKER

Keep up with all the news and developments happening within the NSW bushwalking scene for only \$6 per year. (This covers posting and handling charges only, the magazine is free)

Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....

Do you belong to a bushwalking club?
yes/no If yes name of Club.....

If NO would you like a copy of our clubs list free. ☐ Please tick. Payment can be made by cheque, money order made out to

Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs
PO Box 2090 GPO Sydney 1043

**RECEIVE THE BUSHWALKER'S LAST 20
ISSUES (UPGRADEABLE EACH YEAR) PLUS THIS
ISSUE ON CD WITH A BONUS OF THE FIRST
ANNUAL PUBLISHED IN 1937 ALSO THE
LATEST CLUBS LIST
THE BUSHWALKERS CODE AND
NATURAL AREAS POLICY
ALL FOR \$25 INC P&H**

Adobe Acrobat 5 Reader included.

Send request to Bushwalkers NSW PO Box 2090 Sydney 1043. Payment can be made by cheque or money order to The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Join one of our treks across the Kokoda Trail.
Savour the atmosphere, history and challenge of this unique destination.
Small group departures operate most months of the year. Alternatively, canoe the Sepik River, hike with Huli Wigman or bike through New Ireland.

PNG has a special adventure for you - without the crowds

For further details contact:

NIUGINI TOURS PTY. LTD.
(lic. 2TA 000 1455)
GPO Box 7002
Sydney, NSW 2001
Ph (02) 9290-2055
Fax (02) 9267-6118

info@newguineatours.com.au





Great Grose Gorse Walk : August 15 – September 2 2001

Wed 15 Aug: Govetts Leap Lookout, Blackheath
 Sat 18 Aug: Water Nymph's Dell, Blue Mountain Creek, Wentworth Falls:
 Sun 19 Aug: Katoomba Creek area:
 Sat 18 Aug: Water Nymph's Dell, Blue Mountain Creek, Wentworth Falls:
 Sun 19 Aug: Centenary Reserve, Blackheath
 Tues 21 Aug: Braeside Gorse Blitz, Blackheath
 Sat 25 Aug: Popes Glen, Blackheath
 Sun 25 Feb: Minnehaha Falls area (Katoomba Creek)
 Mon 27 Aug: Upper Braeside catchment, Blackheath
 Tues 28 Aug: North Katoomba Community Gardens
 Thurs 30 Aug: Hat Hill Creek and Blackheath area
 Tues 28 Aug: Braeside Gorse Blitz, Blackheath:
 Sat 1 Sept: Braeside Gorse Blitz, Blackheath

**CONTACT: RANGER CATH IRELAND AND LEAVE YOUR DETAILS FOR OUR
 TWICE YEARLY MAILING LIST**

**4787 3112 (VOICEMAIL); 4787 8877; FAX 4787 8514
 OR POST TO PO Box 43, BLACKHEATH NSW 2785**

**ALL WELCOME!
 HELP PROTECT THE
 WORLD HERITAGE
 AND GROSE
 WILDERNESS AREAS
 BY WORKING IN
 CATCHMENT AND
 REMOTE AREAS!**

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS, WITHOUT THEM WE COULDN'T
 PRODUCE THIS MAGAZINE.**

TREK THE HIMALAYAS OF NEPAL

Soft Treks
 Adventure Treks
 Cultural Treks
 Tailored Treks

PHONE: (02)9997 7442)

email: tayloradventure@hotmail.com
www.tayloradventure.com

COMPARE OUR PRICES

**We Trade
 & Sell
 all Tents**



**HUGE CAMPING RANGE
 NEW, USED & FACTORY SECONDS
 ALL MAJOR BRANDS**

BUDGET CAMPING

9677-2828 FAX 887-2850 7 DAYS
 CNR GREAT WESTERN HWY &
 COLYTON RD MINCHINBURY
 2770 (OPP McDONALDS)

PH 1800 810 490

WWW.BUDGETCAMPING.COM.AU

BUSHWALKERS!

**HAVE YOUR FAVOURITE HIKING BOOTS
 PROFESSIONALLY RESELED AND VULCANISED BY
 QUALIFIED BOOTMAKERS**

**NU-TRED 3/12 SALISBURY ROAD
 ASQUITH NSW**

PH: 02-9477-3944 FAX 02-9482-1766

3/12 SALISBURY ROAD ASQUITH NSW

PH: 02-9477-3944 FAX 02-9482-1766

<http://members.tripod.com/~nutred/>

Six Foot Track

Katoomba to Jenolan Caves Group Lodge Hire

No camping! Hot showers! 28 beds
 available! Explore the Cops River
 1day walk, Packsaddlers
 Call, 2.95557580

Fax, 2.98106429

Web: www.walkaustralia.com

Email: walkaus@nsw.bigpond.net.au

Great Australian Walks and Walking the World



CUNNINGHAMIA

A journal of plant ecology for eastern Australia

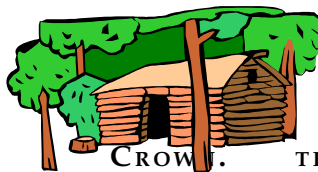
The 2001 winter edition (Vol. 7 No. 1) includes
 descriptions of vegetation in Kinchega and Narran Lakes
 National Parks, and a topical paper on the clearing of
 native vegetation in the NSW northern wheatbelt.

**Journal available from the Gardens Shop, phone
 (02) 9231 8125 or by subscription.**



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS SYDNEY
 Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

SOMEWHERE TO GO



**SECLUDED SLAB HUT IN
 BUSH. PIONEER STYLE.
 CAMP FIRE. STACKS OF
 WOOD. WALK EVENS'**

CROW.

THE OLD OBERON-

**TARANA RAIL LINE, JENOLAN CAVES,
 KANANGRA WALLS. \$100 PER NIGHT. SLEEPS
 FOUR PHONE JOHN FOR BROCHURE (02) 4757-
 3778 OR GO TO WWW.BLUEMTS.COM.AU/**



Mountain Equipment

The Best Range

Backpacks, Daypacks, Mats, Boots, Travel Packs, Books, Compasses, GP's, Sleeping Bags, Stuff Bags, Inner Sheets, Sleeping Mats, Torches, Headlamps, Batteries, Billies, Bivvy Bags, Fuel Bottles, Drink Bottles, Fleece Jackets, Candle Lanterns, Canyoning Equipment, Thermal Underwear, Cookware, Down Jackets, Food, Stoves, Gaiters, Gore-tex Rainwear, Gloves, Mitts, Maps, Mugs, Overpants, Pack towels, Tents, Water Filters, Whistles, Ropes, Climbing Gear, Ascenders, Descenders, Cords, Friends, Chocks, Karabiners, Harnesses, Slings, Tapes, First Aid Kits, Cords, Backpacks, Daypacks, Mats, Boots, Travel Packs, Books, Compasses, GP's, Sleeping Bags, Stuff Bags, Inner Sheets, Sleeping Mats, Torches, Headlamps, Batteries, Billies, Bivvy Bags, Fuel Bottles, Drink Bottles, Fleece Jackets, Candle Lanterns, Canyoning Equipment, Thermal Underwear, Cookware, Down Jackets, Food, Stoves, Gaiters, Gore-tex Rainwear, Gloves, Mitts, Maps, Mugs, Overpants, Pack towels, Tents, Water Filters, Whistles, Ropes, Climbing Gear, Ascenders, Descenders, Cords, Friends, Chocks, Karabiners, Harnesses, Slings, Tapes, First Aid Kits, Cords, Backpacks, Daypacks, Mats, Boots, Travel Packs, Books, Compasses, GP's, Sleeping Bags, Stuff Bags, Inner Sheets, Sleeping Mats, Torches, Headlamps, Batteries, Billies, Bivvy Bags, Fuel Bottles, Drink Bottles, Fleece Jackets, Candle Lanterns, Canyoning Equipment, Thermal Underwear, Cookware, Down Jackets, Food, Stoves, Gaiters, Gore-tex Rainwear, Gloves, Mitts, Maps, Mugs, Overpants, Pack towels, Tents, Water Filters, Whistles, Ropes, Climbing Gear, Ascenders,

The Best Brands

Macpac, Wilderness Equipment, Mont, Summit, Salewa, Outdoor Research, La Sportiva, Sterling, Garmont, MSR, Canyon, Thermo-rest, Silva, Petzl, Nalgene, Northern Lights, Intertrek, Peter Storm, Trangia, Tatonka, Manzeila, Aladdin, Pur, Sweetwater, Rivory, Vertical, Wild Country, Edelrid, Sunnto, Morroto, Tula, Arc'teryx, SRT, Sea to Summit, Thorlo, Fox River, Wilderness Wear, Ultimex, SR Mats, Macpac, Wilderness Equipment, Mont, Summit, Salewa, Outdoor Research, La Sportiva, Sterling, Garmont, MSR, Canyon, Thermo-rest, Silva, Petzl, Nalgene, Northern Lights, Intertrek, Peter Storm, Trangia, Tatonka, Manzeila, Aladdin, Pur, Sweetwater, Rivory, Vertical, Wild Country, Edelrid, Sunnto, Morroto, Tula, Arc'teryx, SRT, Sea to Summit, Thorlo, Fox River, Wilderness Wear, Ultimex, SR Mats, Macpac, Wilderness Equipment, Mont, Summit, Salewa, Outdoor Research, La Sportiva, Sterling, Garmont, MSR, Canyon, Thermo-rest, Silva, Petzl, Nalgene, Northern Lights, Intertrek, Peter Storm, Trangia, Tatonka, Manzeila, Aladdin, Pur, Sweetwater, Rivory, Vertical, Wild Country, Edelrid, Sunnto, Morroto, Tula, Arc'teryx, SRT, Sea to Summit, Thorlo, Fox River, Wilderness Wear, Ultimex, SR Mats, Macpac, Wilderness Equipment, Mont, Summit, Salewa,

The Best Advice

GET OUT THERE



TODAY!

CITY

401 Great Street

Phone: 9264 5888

city.mountainequipment.com.au

CHATSWOOD

17 Market Street

Phone: 9419 6955

chatswood.mountainequipment.com.au

HORNSBY

106 George Street

Phone: 9477 5467

hornsby.mountainequipment.com.au

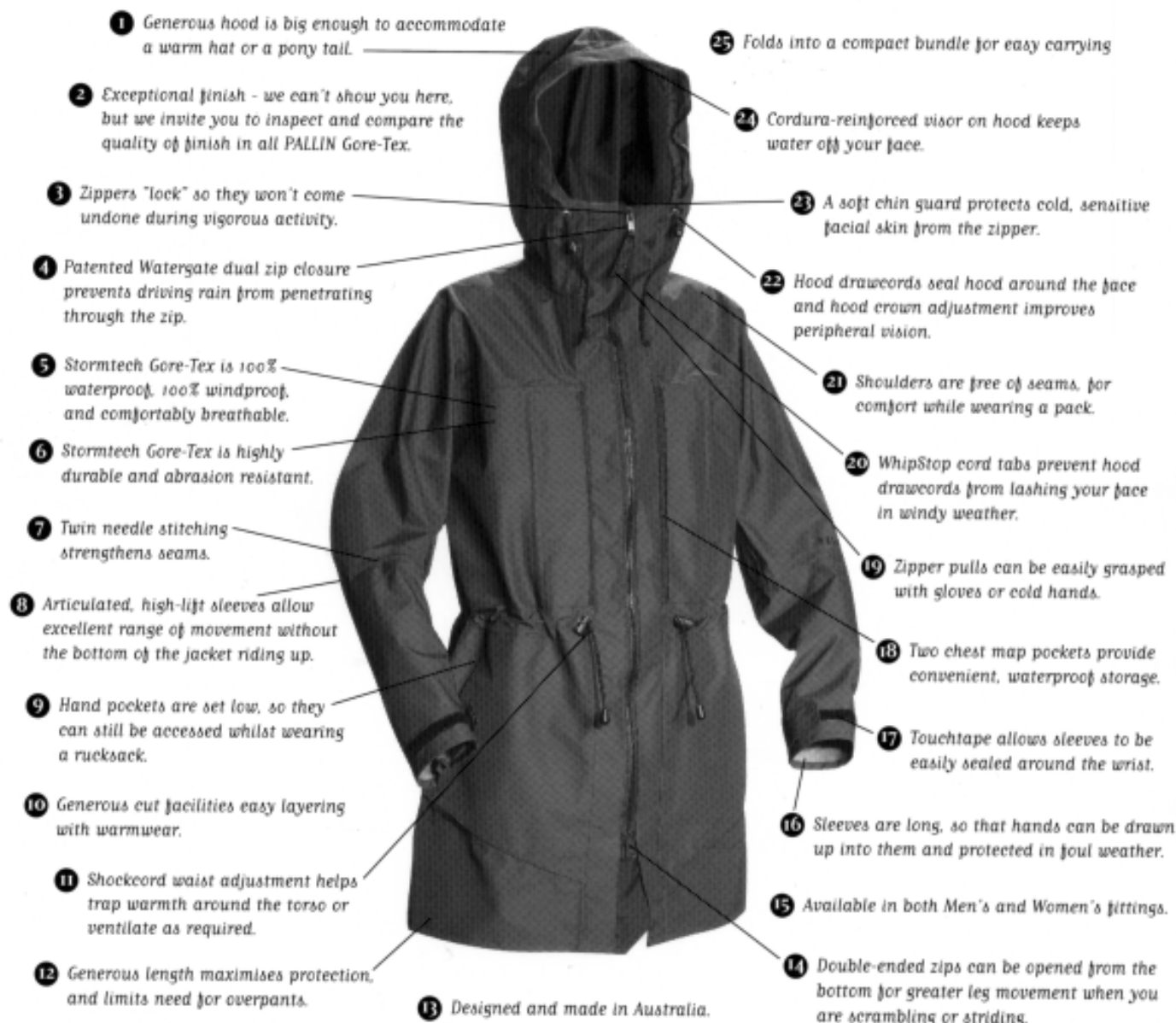
web: www.wildsports.com.au

[SUPPLYING QUALITY GEAR TO BUSHWALKERS FOR OVER 25 YEARS]



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.



We invite you to come in and see the Vista at any one of our stores.
Try it on, talk to one of our expert sales staff, and compare the difference.

Paddy Pallin

507 Kent St, SYDNEY • 527 Kingsway, MIRANDA • 74 Macquarie St, PARRAMATTA • 166b Katoomba St, KATOOMBA
11 Lonsdale St, BRADDON • Thredbo turnoff, Kosciuszko Rd, JINDABYNE