

THE Bushwalker



MAGAZINE OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW INC.

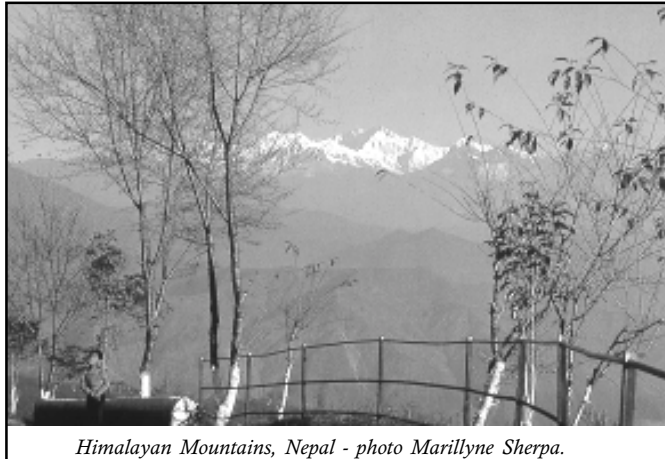
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TREKKING IN NEPAL

DHUD KHUNDA TREK

A short mountain flight with views of Gauri Shankar and Everest will take you to Phaplu where the trek commences. Just a short walk from Jumbesi is Thubten Chhuling monastery where prayer flags flutter on the hillside and the chanting of monks fills the air. From here, one heads to the foot of Mt Numbur, mountain god of the Sherpa community. Around the base are



Himalayan Mountains, Nepal - photo Marillyne Sherpa.

several small lakes varying in colour depending on the time of year. Local people believe a quick end will come to those who tell a lie whilst looking at one particular lake. The return walk to Sallery goes via Chiwong Gompa and then the village of Chalsa.

ANNAPURNA SANCTUARY

This moderate trek passes through some of the most beautiful countryside in the world. Starting out from Pokhara, one can pass through forests of rhododendron cloaked in orchids, over swing bridges and view sunrises that will take your breath away. Spectacular views of Annapurna South, Hiunchuli and Machhapuchhare dominates the skyline as the trek arrives at Annapurna.. The walk from Machhapuchhare to ABC is amazing with snow-capped peaks appearing and disappearing in the clouds.

KHUMBU TREK

The destination on this trek is the mountain-top monastery of Thyangboche. The trek starts at Phaplu, just a short flight from Kathmandu.

Marillyne Sherpa

Here you can have the opportunity of visiting a Sherpa village market and attending a dharmi (shaman) blessing ceremony. A full day can be spent just taking in the local culture, this also allows time to acclimatise to the altitude. The first day on the trek is an easy walk to Nunthala passing over Trakshindo Pass. The trek then continues through rice fields and over swing bridges. The days will be sunny, the views spectacular and the night's rest well earned. The peace and tranquillity, the fresh air and open spaces will soothe your soul and refresh your body. From here, on a clear morning, one can see Mt Everest. Fit and acclimatised, on day seven we reach our destination of Thyangboche. The view will be more beautiful than you could ever have dreamt.

KALI GANDAKI TREK

The Kali Gandaki gorge lies between Annapurna I and Dhaulagiri, two peaks of over 8000 metres and is renowned for its river crossings, torrents of water, millwheels and waterfalls. The trek starts just a short bus ride from Pokhara and then goes to Pun Hill where one can watch the sun rise over the Annapurnas. An early start will earn you a day's rest before you hit the trail the next day through the gorge up to Jomsom. An administrative centre with an airstrip, it is well provided for with hotels, shops, a bakery and a bank. You can meet many Hindu pilgrims on their way to Muktinath to worship at the shrine to Vishnu. Here, an eternal flame burns next to a natural spring rising out of the ground. You will pass through forests and fertile farming land into a dry and dusty area very similar to Tibet. The blue skies and White Mountains contrast sharply against the brown hillsides splashed here and there with vivid greens.

EARTH

SANCTUARIES FAILS

By Eli Greenblat Sydney Morning Herald

Earth Sanctuaries, the company established to rescue endangered native Australian animals, has wound up on the endangered list itself as a \$10 million funding gap looks likely to snuff out the conservationist group.

The company is triggerering a complete restructure of its business and will seek a buyer for all its assets, as the failure to raise much needed funds has caused the resignation of its chairman and chief executive.

The company said it would try to sell its 10 sanctuaries spread across South Australia, NSW and Victoria, which are valued at \$15 million, and as part of the scaling-down process chairman Don Stammer and chief executive Wendy Craik would resign.

Challenger Corporate Finance will assist in the asset sale and restructure, with the board open to selling its land as parcels or for an interested party to acquire all the shares in the company.

The company said more than 3000 endangered native Australian animals could perish unless a buyer interested in maintaining the conservationist work was found for the freehold land.

Earth Sanctuaries rose to prominence in 2000 when it became the world's first conservation company to go public.

Dr Wamsley said he would be forced to close the company and sack 50 staff if he couldn't raise \$10 million in six weeks.

He stepped down as managing director in November in favour of Dr Craik, who is a former National Farmers Federation chief executive.

Dr Stammer, a former director of investment strategy at Deutsche Bank, told the board that he would retain his shareholding.

A melancholy Dr Wamsley, who is often pictured wearing a dead cat on his



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THE BUSHWALKER

Contributions, letters to the editor, original cartoons and suggestions are welcome. They should be sent to the address below. Except for short notes or letters, they should be accompanied with text file on three and a half inch floppy disk in IBM format or E-Mail.

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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents over 70 clubs with a total membership around 12,000 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 for The Bushwalkers Wilderness Squad, a highly trained volunteer search and rescue squad. 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

Prices for advertising

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Spring 2nd week in July

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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.

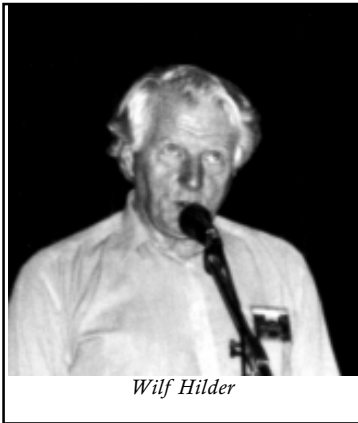
Any opinions expressed by individual authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.



MEET THE PRESIDENT

By Judy Hellyer as told to her by Wilf Hilder
President of Confederation

There are some walkers for whom no path is unknown-give them any junction, trail or track in any National Park and they'll walk it blindfolded, backwards. A thousand names and fifty National Parks and they've done it all and would do it again anytime. Wilf is one of those legends who would be hard pressed



Wilf Hilder

not to know The Place or The Track. As one internet site declares, 'that well known Bushwalker and yarn-spinner, Wilf Hilder', (on his rediscover of Wall's Pass in 1968).

His father was a seafaring man, and his mother was not fond of 'hiking', so how did his love of the Australian bush eventuate? Wilf suggests it is not just his Viking heritage. His kindy teacher, the great Marion Mahoney Griffin, wife of Walter Burley, happened to be his kindy teacher. Marion was well known for 'wearing pants' - and perhaps better known for being the first licensed female architect in the world. She was helping supervise the holistic design and development of Castlecrag in the 1920's and also ran a kindergarten. Her love of nature was part of her work, having spent 14 years working with Frank Lloyd Wright, and no doubt she instilled a deep respect for the wilds into Wilf.

Wilf Hilder, is, by his own admission, of a rare species, that of the bushwalking historian.

The story of Oliver Cromwell, an unattractive man, whose face was covered in warts, illustrates Wilf's idea of history. A court painter, wishing to please Cromwell, painted him without warts. On seeing the idealized picture, he asked that it be thrown away, and that he be painted 'warts and all.' History, in a true spirit of history, should be painted 'warts and all'.

The historian's job is not just to collect facts, says Wilf, but to analyse, chronologise, sift and sort through what he says are often 'conflicting facts', and 'delightfully vague recollections'.

His own icon, Roy Haddard, was a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society in the early sixties, and well known for his pedantic view of history. A meeting of some senior members had conspired to 'get rid of this bloke' who had interjected once too often to correct them on certain points. They were outvoted, for, as it was pointed out, with the amount of history he had, he would start up his own society and they would all be out of a job.

Wilf has penned a couple of books, 'Fitzroy Falls and Beyond' which includes aboriginal history in the area, and 'Pigeon House and Beyond' both of which are reviewed positively on the Internet.

Henry Kissinger said 'All great leaders walk alone.' The President of Confederation would beg to differ, being the member of a 12 000 strong group in NSW alone, but perhaps the rest of Kissinger quote makes more sense.. 'their singularity springs from their ability to discern challenges that are not yet apparent to their contemporaries'.

One of the challenges facing Confederation and it's members is the introduction of more stringent laws governing the National Park's.

The 'Duty of Care' issue has been brought about largely by politicians leaning on the Park's Service, as nearly every day of the week, accidents are reported in the papers. The bulk of walkers are not in clubs, while all Confederation members are carrying public liability insurance cover.

'It's a frightening situation for the Service,' says Wilf, 'they need to protect themselves.'

Wilf recalled a time when the Water Board had disallowed access to the catchments area in Mt Cookum. 'It would seem that the walkers washing their dusty feet were polluting the water supply.' However, in defending the booking of a mate who had unwittingly strayed into the area, new knowledge came to light regarding treatment plants that fed into the catchments. A deal was

brokered for the unwashed walkers, and providing the club badge was worn, access was given.

Given that members ascribe to the 'code of ethics' and are taught minimal impact bushwalking, club membership is something it would behoove the Service to encourage. 'The average bushwalker finds the new regulations restrictive. It's a big change, obviously there's going to be a lot of fallout.' 'A special status given to responsible walkers would encourage people to join clubs.'

While it has not been necessary to see the chief bushwalker Bob Carr as yet, a concession of understanding has been long in waiting, and perhaps Wilf is the one with the determination to make it happen.

(This interview took place in July 2001)

The Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad web page has moved. You will now find the BWRS web page at: <http://www.bwrs.org.au/>

The Navshield web site is now: <http://www.bwrs.org.au/navshield>

and the BWRS mapsale web page is now: <http://www.bwrs.org.au/mapsale>

The new site has allowed BWRS to place all of its web pages at one location. Please update your book-marks.

Glenn Horrocks
BWRS webmaster





NAVSHIELD 2002

WHAT IS IT?

The Navigation Shield is an overnight navigation event where teams of competitors attempt to gain as many points as possible by finding their way, on foot only, through wilderness terrain to premarked checkpoints over an extensive area, generally around 100 square kilometres.

The shield is an opportunity for the best navigation and rescue teams in the country to compete in unfamiliar terrain and with no support groups. All teams must be completely self sufficient.

WHERE & WHEN IS IT?

The weekend of 6-7 July, 2002.

In remote bushland within a few hours drive of Sydney, NSW, Australia.

To avoid teams gaining unfair advantage, the exact location will only be revealed in the week leading up to the event.

WHO CAN ENTER

Entries are invited from Australian and international search and rescue teams. Entries are also invited from members of rogaining associations.

Entry categories include the Armed Services, Police, Bushfire Brigades, State Emergency Services, Volunteer Rescue Association, Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs members (as members of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue) and Rogainers.

All groups must have current and relevant insurance to undertake this activity.

Groups not fitting into the above categories may enter at the discretion of the organisers.

Entry Classes

- Class 1:
- 1 Day - 2 to 4 members and carrying minimum gear requirements
- 2 Day - 4 to 6 members and carrying minimum gear requirements

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**HAVE YOU
REGISTERED FOR THE
2002 NAVSHIELD TO
BE HELD AT ??????
ON THE 6-7TH JULY
2002 GO TO
WWW.BWRS.ORG.AU**



BUSHWALKERS AND VRA ETC HELP FIRE FIGHTERS!

Keith Maxwell - President Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad

The Bushfire Emergency of Dec 2001/Jan. 2002 is over. Volunteer fire fighters came from all over Australia to help control these fierce fires.

The priorities were and always be (in order) protecting/helping people, preventing property loss and lastly saving affected bush areas.

Helping people includes keeping them informed of road closures, the progress of fires, details of evacuations and registration of evacuees. Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) provided personnel to staff the 24 hour emergency hot line. As usual, the hot line was established quickly in the Police Headquarters in Goulburn Street, Sydney. Non-essential members of the volunteer emergency services staffed the hot line through a pattern of rotating 12 hour shifts from 7am each morning. New Year's Eve was no exception although it was particularly quiet. Some of the other groups BWRS personnel rubbed shoulders with included SES, VRA Cave Rescue, (VRA) Australian Civil Aerial Patrol, Royal Volunteer Coast Guard, Coastal Patrol, and the VRA radio amateurs that assist BWRS each year on our NavShield - WICEN.

The hot line was nation-wide and very busy. During the day the phone lines never stopped. It was rare for the phone not to immediately ring as soon as a call finished. To keep up with the progress of fires and road closures there are white boards lining the room with each Phone Operator having a four ring binder of printed reports of each fire district which were constantly updated. Each Operator also had a computer with access to database of evacuees. While the fire hot spots generated the majority of calls no two calls were exactly the same. Operators didn't always have a good answer but we reminded callers that they are welcome to call back later. While Operators were fed and given regular breaks I still feel sure that like me they were glad to see the end of their shift.

BWRS Rock Squad personnel were also involved using their roping skills to move equipment into a gorge for a proposed fire break near Broughton Pass outside Picton. Pumps and hoses were lowered into the gorge so that RFS volunteers could control the fire break as it linked across the gorge. The fire break was called off when the wind became too strong.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc. is a member of the VRA and is the self help, self contained bush search and rescue section of the NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs Inc. We are what the old hands used to remember as (the Federation) Search and Rescue Section that was established in 1936 by Paddy Pallin and other prominent bushwalkers of the time. While we aim ... "to be recognised as the most suitable, capable and experienced group for remote area land search and rescue" BWRS is also a community service willing to assist in any appropriate way.

Our website at www.bwrs.org.au gives a broad range of information about Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad and our premier navigation training event, the annual NavShield.

VRA NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc. (over 70 squads throughout NSW)

website www.rescue.org.au/rescue

SES State Emergency Service

website www.ses.nsw.gov.au

WICEN Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network – radio (ham) amateurs

website www.nsw.wicen.org.au



CONCERN OVER THE NPWS AMENDMENT ACT 2001.

Michael Maack
Conservation Officer

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs is concerned with a number of aspects of the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act - 2001 that is currently before the Legislative Assembly at the Second Reading Stage.

Specifically:

* The Confederation Executive is wary that the proposed system of Advisory Council and Regional Committee appointments excludes the admission of large recreational user groups that have conservation principles as core tenets of their Constitutional aims and objectives. The new structure effectively weakens the input from major public users like the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs N.S.W. who in the past have contributed significantly to the well-being of our State's environmental heritage.

* (Schedule 1 [56]) The tendency for the NSW government to corporatise natural and historic assets through leasing agreements has been proven to be a retrograde step when considered in the light of the media/physical disasters of Thredbo and Perisher.

"Adaptive-reuse" leasing arrangements will not relinquish the NPWS from any duty-of-care responsibilities. Lessees will have to be actively monitored to ensure that they act in the public safety and do not impinge on the natural and cultural features of our Parks system.

Topically, the proposed leasing of the North Head Quarantine Station to developers (Mawland Hotels) fits into this category. The current campaign in opposition to this development rightly fears the emasculation of this cultural asset in the Lessee developer's quest to achieve a 3-star accommodation rating at a minimal cost. Alternately, the Parks Service could sympathetically develop this cultural heritage as a strategic profit centre similar to the Port Arthur Historic Site. It is a similar historical site in terms of both Australian heritage and context, and is better located in relation to tourism. It is clear from the Conditional Agreement to lease the site that the NPWS will only receive a return on this asset after a profit threshold is reached. Companies in the past have been quite creative in minimising their outgoings to Government instrumentalities (e.g. Taxation Departments) by reducing their audited profits to minimal or negative

figures. I would urge that you exercise caution in your estimations of proposed leasehold returns.

The term of lease is also a concern since public lands and assets can be alienated for periods up to 5 years without public scrutiny.

* (Schedule 1 [57]) This change concerns the Confederation because "under certain circumstances", which is an ill-defined term, the Minister (of any political persuasion) can grant an easement/right-of-way/licence over National Park land to in-holders. Exclusivity of rights over public lands is as anathema to the Confederation as the granting of lessee rights to public assets.

* (Schedule 1 [53]) The term "minor" in this schedule is again ill defined. In the context of a management plan, such "minor" alterations without public scrutiny, other than through an advisory committee (which is a ministerially appointed body under the terms of these amendments) may have widespread ramifications beyond the intentions of those implementing the changes. A bureaucratic process designed to ensure accountability should not be cavalierly subterfuged merely for the sake of simplicity and misplaced efficacy.

* If the NPW Act changes proposed are a comprehensive amalgam of the community's wishes then why are the major recommendations arising from the Visions for the New Millennium Conference held in 1998 not included. Three years have passed after the Conference and two years after your notification to amend the NPW Act, but as yet there are no indications from the Government to include the Aboriginal Ownership provisions agreed between the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Environmental Groups. Nor are the government's promised ameliorated Wild Rivers/Wilderness provisions included.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act does need to be strengthened in relation to its objects. The NPW Act is the legal force to ensure that we, our community, act as responsible custodians of our State lands for the benefit of our descendants.

Short term economic pressures should not govern our decisions to weaken the NPW Act. The natural and cultural environment is too important an issue to be viewed myopically.

The Confederation feels that many

of the changes proposed in this Amendment are indeed pandering to the forces which will weaken, not strengthen, our community's environmental values and as such cannot be endorsed.

DO'S & DONT'S FOR BUSHWALKER

DO'S SAFETY

Do ... plan your walk, take adequate water + allow sufficient time.

Do ... give route details to a responsible person. (Walk Notification Form)

Do ... notify that person of your safe return.

Do ... take adequate clothing, food, waterproof matches, map and compass.

Do ... take an Accident Action List and a Medical Evacuation Form.

Do ... start with easy walks and build up your fitness level.

Do ... weigh your pack and continually strive to reduce its weight.

Do ... join a club, its much more fun and safer.

DONT'S

Don't ... keep moving if lost. Stay where you are or if possible, move to a cleared area where you will have a better chance of being spotted from the air by helicopter or plane.

Don't ... go faster than the slowest member of your group.

Don't ... leave an injured person alone in the bush.

Don't ... go walking unless there is a minimum of 4 people.

Don't ... forget, if you are overdue, to phone home from the first phone box or nearest Police Station.

Overdue and Lost ?

If a group fails to return by the nominated time, the responsible person (usually a friend or relative) should contact the Police. The majority of experienced bushwalkers who are late due to bad weather or going slow due an injury usually walk out within 24 hours. The nominated time is usually 12noon the next day. This then gives Police time to launch a quick helicopter search for the missing group and if not found to organise a search and rescue callout for first light (6am) next morning. Rescue teams rarely travel at night unless its a life and death situation. For Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue Pager phone 13 22 22 pager no 6277321



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MOUNTAINS

ROME, 19 July (UN Information Service) —

The degradation of **mountain** environments poses a serious threat not only to the world's water resources but also to biodiversity, food security and cultural diversity, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned today as intense preparations continued for the International Year of **Mountains**, to be celebrated in 2002.

The International Year of **Mountains** promotes the conservation and sustainable development of **mountain** regions, thereby ensuring the well-being of both **mountain** inhabitants — whose livelihoods, opportunities and overall well-being are at stake — and lowland communities.

Mountains are fragile ecosystems which are globally important as water towers of the earth, repositories of rich biological diversity, popular destinations for recreation and tourism and areas of important cultural heritage.

Mountains provide a direct life-support base for about one-tenth of humankind. They also provide 30 to 60 per cent of downstream fresh water in humid areas and up to 70-95 per cent in semi-arid to arid environments, according to FAO.

Rapid and growing awareness of the importance of **mountain** areas in recent years

prompted the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2002 the International Year of **Mountains** in November 1998. FAO was invited to act as the lead agency, in collaboration with governments, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Inter-agency Group on **Mountains**, established in 1994 to provide guidance and support to FAO in its role as task manager of Chapter 13 (Sustainable **Mountain** Development) of Agenda 21, also acts as an advisory group.

A significant number of initiatives

and events are planned by FAO, other United Nations agencies, NGOs and governments to increase awareness, promote action and provide key information on **mountain**-related topics. An internet site has also been established, and a logo for awareness-raising and promotion of the International Year of **Mountains** is available on that site (see below).

But the real challenge lies in launching activities that aim at long term and sustained efforts to improve the environment and to promote peace in **mountain** areas where border conflicts still occur. "Activities should enhance all aspects of **mountain**

development and apply participatory approaches involving various stakeholders. They should also defend and promote the social and cultural identity of **mountain** communities", according to FAO.

"The conservation and sustainable development of **mountain** areas re-



able development of **mountain** regions. Efforts should focus not only on conservation of **mountain** ecosystems but also on infrastructures, hospitals, schools and other social issues", said Michaelsen.

When **mountain** communities have a sense of at least partial ownership or control over local natural resources they are more inclined to help protect them. For example, in Nepal about 50 years ago, local communities had no or little incentive to protect State-owned **mountain** forests. A policy shift in the last two decades devolved management and user rights to local communities, which are currently making profitable investments in forests and benefiting from wood and non-wood forest products, according to FAO.

Specially adapted to a wide range of altitudes and climates, **mountain** ecosystems have produced a wealth of plant and animal species. For example, potatoes, maize, tomatoes, peanuts and cotton originated in the **mountains** of Latin America. The International Year of **Mountains** will also focus on the importance of **mountains** as key-reservoirs for plant genetic resources, thus offering tremendous potential for agriculture and medicine, according to FAO.

Protecting the **mountains** also means protecting and promoting **mountain** quality products that are sometimes in great demand: for example, the typical cheese varieties produced in the Alps.

A series of events are being planned for the International Year of **Mountains** at global, regional and national levels. However, the observance carried out at national level is expected to have the most significant and long-lasting impact, according to FAO.

For further information on the International Year of **Mountains**, please consult the Web site: www.mountains2002.org which includes the logo for awareness-raising or promotional use, or call FAO media relations branch, tel. 0039.06.57052232.

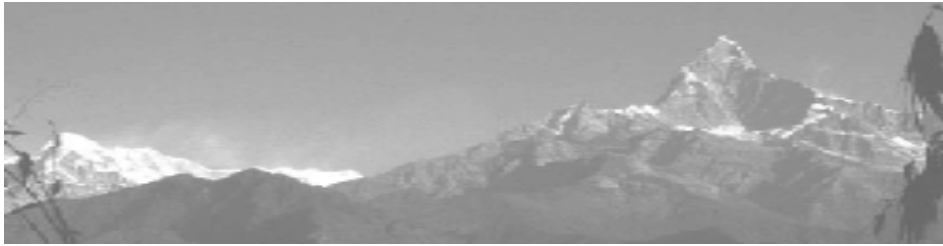


Mt Poincenot - Argentina

quires political commitment at international and local levels. The International Year of **Mountains** will raise more awareness of the social and economic benefits of investing in **mountain** areas," said Tage Michaelsen, Chief of FAO's Forest Conservation, Research and Education Service.

In the past, governments have tended to concentrate services in lowland areas which have been the principal centres of economic production. Poverty-stricken **mountain** regions were often neglected and the rights of **mountain** communities barely recognized.

"More investment in mountains and recognition of the rights of **mountain** communities are essential for a sustain-



**What's it to be –
walking the Kali Gandaki gorge
views of Everest from Gokyo Ri or
*beautiful Thyangboche in the heart of the Khumbu?***

**Contact Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa of Om Trek
on 03 9781 1280 or msherpa@labyrinth.net.au for more information.**

**<http://travel.to/kathmandu>
5% discount to members of Bushwalking Clubs who book direct with us**

NEPALESE MOUNTAIN MEDICINE

Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa

Objective

Commercial cultivation of medicinal plants

Species to be grown

Swertia chirata, Saussurea lappa, Rheum australe, Anacyclus pyrethrum, Taxus baccata

Requirements

Fencing, irrigation, plants – initial phase completed

Next step

Obtain advice on processing of medicinal plants Further plantings

On the 23rd of March 2001 we planted our first Taxus baccata tree on our land in Sallery, east Nepal, a village in the southern region of Everest. In the next 5 days, helped by our Sherpa neighbours we fenced the landslide, piped water 300 metres from up the river and planted a total of 1700 medicinal plants. It is hard to say where and when the idea came to us to plant medicinal plants on my husband's land (facing west at 2400m above sea level) in Nepal.

Over time, my interest in the culture and healing properties of the plants has grown along with Mingmar's wish to put something back into the village of his birth. Life in the village shares many of the problems of rural Australia where the younger generation go elsewhere for opportunities as he himself had done. Land, which for generations has supported the family, becomes a burden and many tenant farmers seem to take a very short-term view of land care. The felling of trees and clearing of land in a monsoonal climate has resulted in landslides along the Solu valley.

We took Dr Tewari, a botanist and Ayurvedic doctor with us to Sallery for

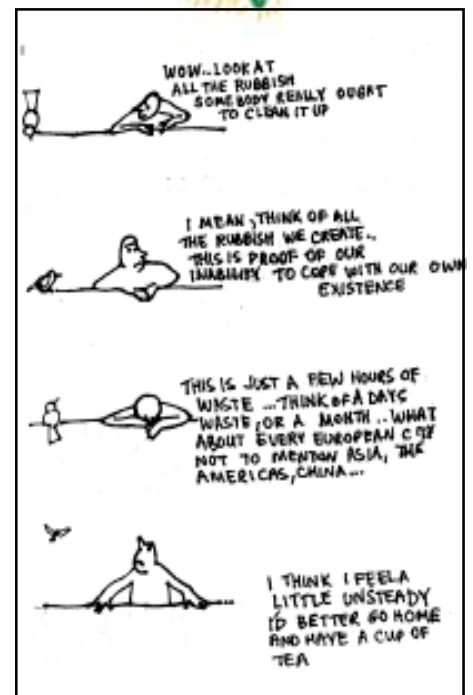
his advice on what to plant; he had already written a book on medicinal plants in Nepal including their cultivation and usage. Swertia chirata or Tickta as it is known locally was growing wild on the vertical slopes of the terraces, we needed only to conserve it. Other species such as Picrorrhiza kuroa and Ephedra gerardiana grow wild in this area. We saw only a few specimens of Taxus baccata growing near watercourses but this may be because much of the land has been cleared, it is a wood favoured for furniture.

We purchased 500 Taxus baccata trees from Dabur, they also gave us specimens of Saussurea lappa, Rheum australe, Anacyclus pyrethrum as well as Tickta (Swertia chirata). The trees were taken from their plastics sleeves, the roots washed and then wrapped in damp sponge for transport to Sallery. We were very lucky in that our plane left Kathmandu the day after the plants were collected from the greenhouse. Delays of several days are not uncommon in mountain flights.

The water is being piped from up the river using Sherpa ingenuity – a plastic drum immersed in the water and weighed down with rocks and a plastic pipe coming out the side. Black irrigation pipe was buried along and down the terraces and then connected to plastic sprinklers. At this stage we are only irrigating the upper area of the landslide. Unfortunately, we found it impossible to obtain drippers in Nepal and had to settle for plastic sprinklers. Our intention is to only water through the initial hot period until the monsoon rain arrives.

A few days before we returned to Australia in April, Mingmar flew back to the village for a last look at the plants. The trees, six inches at the time of planting have put on at least four inches. We have lost only a few plants and the cutting we made of the Taxus tree from local specimens are doing well with a loss of only about 10%. The plants will be looked after by our family as well as the tenant.

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| March | 10th ACT Rogaine | 16-17th General S&R Training BWRs* | 19th general meeting Confederation | 23rd 15-24 Hr Rogaine Wisemans ferry |
| April | 16th General Meeting Confederation | 27-28th Austr Champs 24hr Rogaine | | |
| May | 21st General Meeting Confederation | 25-26th St John Fst Aid Training BWRs* | | |
| June | 16th Paddy Pallin Rogaine | 18th Confederation Meeting | | |
| July | 6-7th July NavShield BWRs* | 16th general meeting Confederation | 27th - 70th Aniversary Confederation | |
| August | 20th General & AGM Confederation | 24th 6/12 hr Rogaine Lake Mcquarie | | |
| September | 17th general meeting Confederation | 20th Bush Dance Petersham | | |
| October | 19-20th Advanced S&R Training BWRs* | 22nd general meeting Confederation | 26-27th St John First Aid Training BWRs* | |
| November | 19th general meeting Confederation | 24th Social Rogaine Nth Shore | | |
| December | 17th general meeting Confederation | | | |

Continued from page 1

head, said Australia was facing an environmental and ecological disaster if the funds couldn't be secured.

"While we will do everything possible to ensure that a buyer takes on care of the animals as well, we can't promise anything. So we could see 3000 endangered animals perish - and this would be the greatest loss this generation has ever seen," he said.

Dr Wamsley said there was now a fantastic opportunity for a wealthy individual to step forward to save the entire business and become a hero in the conservation industry - and possibly make the tourism side work.

"There has to be somebody out there who can invest some money into this and in the process become the top conservationist in Australia," he said.

Dr Wamsley said the model had been extremely successful since he started the business nearly 20 years ago, with not a single endangered species becoming extinct after being placed in the sanctuary. "But the public and [financial] markets just couldn't understand it ... it's a perception problem."

Continued from page 4

Teams must be approved rescue organisations involved in land search operations.

- Class 2:
- 1 day & 2 Day: At least two members and of rescue groups as approved by Wilderness Rescue.
- Rogaine:
- Members of a state Rogaining Association, adhering to Nav 2002 event rules*, however using Rogaining Association rules* for equipment. At least two members in a team.

Note: the following paragraph was used for last year's event, and has not been updated for Nav2002. Due date for entries and late fees may change for Nav2002. Entries must be received by the 29th June. Late entries will be accepted, however a late fee of \$25 (plus GST) is payable.

For further details about the classes, see www.bwrs.org.au

WHAT DO YOU BRING

Each team needs to be self sufficient for the duration of the event. For further details about minimum equipment, see www.bwrs.org.au

To minimise the impact of this event on the environment and on landholders near the event site, all competitors are to abide by The NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs' Bushwalking Code and Natural Areas Policy.

Regardless of weather conditions, all teams start Saturday morning at 8.45am. One day teams conclude 7.30pm Saturday, two day teams conclude 2.00pm Sunday afternoon. *see www.bwrs.org.au



For First Aid courses contact St John Ambulance N.S.W. (02) 9212-1088. Courses will also be conducted on request for groups of 12 or more.

To become a member of the Rogaine Association phone Graeme Cooper (02) 6772-3584 email

gcooper@metz.une.edu.au or visit the website at <http://rogaine.asn.au>

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs represents over 70 clubs and 12,000 walkers in NSW. Visit our website at www.bushwalking.org.au - email turton@smartchat.net.au. Phone (02) 9294-6797

Any member of any club may attend meetings of the Confederation held at Ashfield RSL 3rd Tuesday of the month

* Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue. www.bwrs.org.au

A special note for all clubs The 70th Anniversary of Confederation will be a special event please get it on your clubs calendar

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in a team.

VALE JOHN (JACK) EDWARD CUMMINGS

John was born on 10th May 1932, (Mother's Day) at his parent's home in the inner Sydney suburb of Lilyfield.

He left school to become an apprentice Electrical Fitter with the Glass Works located in Zetland.

Past involvement with the Scouting movement led him to join the Rucksack Club in 1948 so as to continue his love for the bush. He met Alma in the Rucksack Club and married her on 7th November, 1953 in Lakemba Methodist Church.

He was involved in many early searches of the Search and Rescue Section (S & R) of the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. Paddy Pallin as well as running the bushwalking equipment shop that still bears his name also co-ordinated S & R. Typically, calls for help would go to his shop. Paddy's shop would also be the meeting point for the bushwalking volunteers. Motor cars of course were not so common then so to assist in transport the NSW Police would often supply a bus. Search radio communications were also non-existent so a large number of volunteers would receive their instructions and be sent out to return later at a particular time and place. Occasionally it happened that the lost/injured persons were found just after the bushwalkers had left for their search tasks. Naturally no call back message could be sent although there were experiments from time to time with trumpets blown from prominent cliff-tops. Jack was involved in a news-worthy rescue off Narrow Neck, outside Katoomba in 1949.

To find work as an Electrical Contractor, Jack moved to Albury where their first son, Robert, was born on 26th November 1954. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Victoria where Jack worked on various coal-fired Power Stations located at Yallourn in Gippsland.

On 25th April 1957 a further son, Graham was born and then on 13th March 1959 their daughter, Ann arrived.

Jack moved to Eildon to start a long association with Hydroelectric Power Stations. After a few more years the family moved yet again, to Benalla. Although this was meant to be the last move, again after a few years, the family moved to Khancoban where Jack assisted in the commissioning of Murray 1 & 2 Power Stations.

Another move after a couple of years

took the family to Hume Weir, outside Albury. Finally in 1972 Jack became the Supervisor of Warragamba (Dam) Power Station. As this really was the last move, Jack purchased his family's first and only home.

Once back in the Sydney area Jack became involved again in bushwalking and other related activities. He renewed his association with the Search & Rescue Section of the NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs Inc. (now Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc. - BWRs) and played an active role up to 1998. In particular for several years as the BWRs Equipment Officer he maintained and regularly towed the BWRs rescue trailer. At the annual Emergency Services BWRs navigation training exercise, NavShield, Jack and Alma consistently ran the warmest and friendliest safety radio checkpoint. He was also involved in the early days of Nepean VRA Rescue Squad (now Penrith VRA Rescue Squad) and VRA Cave Rescue. In 1996 Jack received the NSW Premier's Award for 25 years service to volunteer rescue.

He was involved with a number of different bushwalking clubs such as the Mt Druitt BWC, the Camden BWC and the Blue Mountains Speleo Club. Most recently he joined the Nepean Bushwalking Club where he formed many lasting friendships.

Over the years he managed to conquer many of the remote mountains in

South West Tasmania. He celebrated his 65th birthday (with Graham) on Precipitous Bluff. This was the last major walk in the region because he had achieved his goal. The homeward leg was however still a challenge with severe storms causing flooding of local creeks and associated wild waves along the isolated beaches.

He led many club trips to Splendour Rock for the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day.

For the past 10 years he and Alma annually spent many months touring around Australia, coming home for only short periods.

His accidental death on 19th October 2001 was a great shock to many. Jack will be missed by many people because of his willingness to share his experiences and assist others to enjoy the bush.

He was a kind and considerate man who was always willing to help in anyway possible. His coffin was proudly carried by his son, Graham, Gerard Buchtman, Deputy Captain of Penrith VRA Rescue Squad, Barry Richards, Captain of Jenolan Rural Fire Service and Keith Maxwell, President of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc. The diverse range of mourners present was a fitting tribute to this friend of so many.

In a tragic post script the family home in Warragamba was one of the houses destroyed by the Christmas Day fires of 2001.



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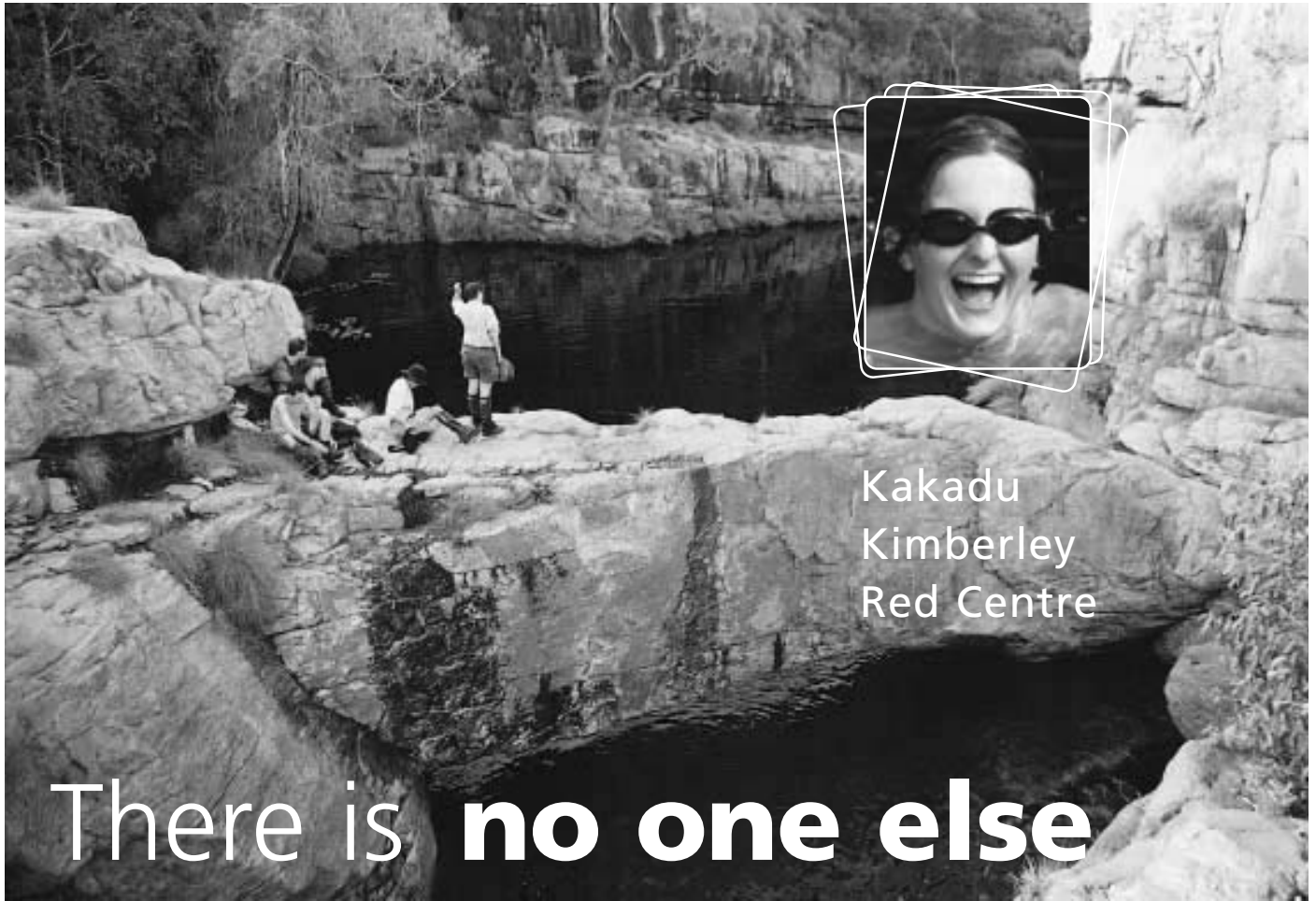
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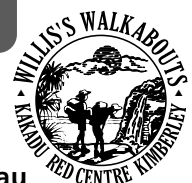
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11 The Bushwalker

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



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The Australian Bush Poets Awards 2001 has been produced by Sony Music to celebrate something uniquely Australian - bush poetry, with all profits from the sale of the CD going to Asthma NSW.



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Australian Bush Poets Awards 2001 features 14 of Australia's leading bush poets from around the country. They range from a born and bred city girl living in Epping, NSW to a farmer and cattleman who also runs a banana farm in the mountains beyond Kilcoy, Queensland.

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"You only need to take a look at the names of some of the poems to know that it's going to be typically Australian - 'The Spirit of Waltzing Matilda'; 'The Cattle Dog's Revenge'; 'Ballad of Bill the Bastard';

'The Flying Doctor's Coming' and 'Getting Andy's Wool Off'," she added.

They have created a health educational activity that is also a bit of fun, very Australian and important, and focuses on our rural community,"

The Bush Poet of the Year Competition attracted more than 600 entries nationally and culminated in a fundraising night in March. As a result of the performance based finals, Sony Music has been working with Asthma NSW ever since to produce the CD.

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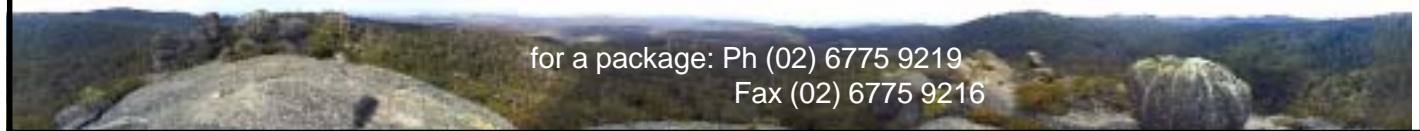
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