



A MISSION INTERRUPTED BUT WITH GRATEFUL THANKS

by Keith Maxwell
President BWRS



The Confederation search and rescue section, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad

a search of the area near Grand Canyon Lookout until conditions became too dangerous around 7:30pm Wednesday evening. This would have been a simple search if Matthew's friends had been able to show where he had fallen. Just ask a rescuer to abseil straight down from 'the spot'. Once at the bottom of the cliff walk straight down hill until you locate

Matthew. Police also called in their (PolAir) helicopter with its thermal imaging (heat sensing) equipment to try to locate Matthew. There was no sign of Matthew despite the search area being very small and very close to a public lookout. Thick dense vegetation at the bottom of the cliff that could easily close in over a person made searching very difficult.

BWRS as a specialist VRA (NSW Volunteer Rescue Association) Squad

received the initial call-out just before 7pm. However, it was not until around 8:15pm that our Search Manager, Glenn Horrocks, was able to talk to David Herring of Berrima District VRA about the callout and what would be required. As soon as we had adequate details BWRS activated its call-out system. The aim was to contact as many as possible BWRS members from our six Call-out groups for Thursday 6:30am briefing at Bundanoon Police Station.

The Police Search Manager, Sergeant Gary Webster, decided to hold back searchers until after a Police Officer could take Matthew's three friends back to Grand Canyon Lookout to re-assess exactly where Matthew was likely to have fallen. Two teams of BWRS personnel descended the cliff line via a walking track that was approximately 500m away from the Lookout. They then traversed back towards the base of the Lookout where they commenced a line search. Both teams included a NPWS member who was familiar with the area. In a 'line search' search team members move

KOSCIUSZKO FORUM

REPORT -

by WILF HILDER



Following the January meeting of the Kosciuszko NP Draft Plan of Management (DPOM) Forum the next meeting was held

late in May, a week or so after the release of the DPOM (280pp). At that meeting of the Forum the long awaited Alpine Resorts Plan (ARP) was released by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR). The ARP is split into three Sections - Part One Environmental Study (85pp), Part Two Exposure Alpine Resorts Regional Environmental Plan (REP) (90pp) and Part Three Development Control Plan Discussion Paper (26pp) making 201 pages in all. The deadline for submissions on the ARP is Friday 16th July and the deadline for submissions on the Kosciuszko DPOM is Friday 20th August, 2004.

RESORTS: - The daily newspapers have been publishing various articles on KNP and the resorts in recent weeks. I am not impressed with all the hype about Perisher needing to become a year round resort with cinemas, shopping malls, indoor swimming pools, golf courses and 6 & 7 story glass and concrete monstrosities to survive financially. It was a great opportunity at the last KNP Forum meeting for me to tell Ashley Blundell CEO of Perisher Blue what most bushwalkers thought of all this development within a very special National Park. It was the third time I had criticised this outrageous development proposal at a Forum meeting and as usual the environment lobby remained silent and would not support me. As I have said for many years all future accommodation should be built in Jindabyne, Adaminaby, Khancoban or Tumbarumba - towns which have plenty of room for expansion and need more ratepayers. In case you feel that I am over reacting I quote from the KNP DPOM Schedule 5 (from page



(BWRS), played an important role in the recent dramatic rescue of Matthew Weirich. Matthew survived overnight following a fall of up to 70 metres near the Grand Canyon Lookout just outside Bundanoon.

Matthew, who is from Texas, USA was close to finishing a two-year term as a Mormon missionary to Australia. On Wednesday 23rd June Matthew with three other young Mormon missionaries (members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) visited Morton National Park at Bundanoon. They went sightseeing on their day off for kangaroos (which they saw) before following a sign to Grand Canyon Lookout. Early afternoon while exploring the immediate area of the lookout one member lost a shoe. Matthew followed ledges to attempt to retrieve the shoe. While returning, but out of sight of his friends, he fell to the bottom of the cliff.

Luckily, a passing Park visitor was able to telephone the local Police. Berrima District VRA Squad (the local rescue squad) responded quickly and conducted

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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IS 17TH AUGUST.
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Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



THE BUSHWALKER

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

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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 65 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.

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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.



FIVE WALKS AROUND THE GEORGES RIVER NATURE RESERVE

Continued from issue vol 29 No 4 by Peter Cheatham "Five walks around Georges River Nature Reserve"



WALK SIX

Venue:

Simmo's Beach, Macquarie Fields to Ingleburn, Mercedes Road via Long Point,

Georges River and Myrtle Creek

This walk starts in the bottom car park at Simmo's Beach. Walk along the river and you will soon pass a flying fox. Continue walking until you come to Long Point; from Long Point continue your walk to Myrtle Creek. Walk up Myrtle Creek it comes in on the left hand side of the river. Find a track on the right just after you leave the river this track will take you to a service road. Follow the service road to Mercedes Road, Ingleburn where you finish. Make



Bushwalkers Basin Holsworthy - photo Colin Wood

sure you have a car for the return journey.

- v Map: Campbelltown 1:25,000
- v Time: 4 hours
- v Grade: Easy

Equipment needed for this walk:

Water, map & compass, wet weather gear, head torch. Again it is an area that needs good navigational skills. There are a number of abseil sites at both of these locations. (Bring your binoculars). Don't forget your swimming costume or lilo for this trip. The river system has lots of interesting birds and animals to see when floating or walking. In summer watch the snakes. There are toilets, fresh water and BBQ facilities at Simmo's Beach. Make sure you lock your cars and don't forget to leave a car at Mercedes Road for the return trip.

WALK SEVEN

Venue: **Faraday Road, Leumeah Smith Creek to Bushwalkers Basin and return**

Start this exciting walk at Faraday Road Smiths Creek Nature Reserve, Leumeah and walk to Freres Crossing via

Bushwalkers Basin Georges River, Peter Meadows Creek, Old Coach Road, return to Faraday Road via Waratah Road Peter Meadows Creek Hanson's Road and Leumeah Road. Alternatively, have a car at the end of Georges River Road if you don't want to walk back to Leumeah. (Make sure you lock your car at this location.)

- v Map: Campbelltown 1:25,000 and a UBD Street directory
- v Time: One full day for this round trip
- v Grade: Medium

Equipment needed for this walk:

Lunch, water, first aid kit, wet weather gear, compass and a head torch. People have been lost in this region. This trip will test your navigation skills. If you are planning this walk in summer take a lilo and watch out for the snakes,

WALK EIGHT

Venue: **Wedderburn Gorge to the Wool Wash, Airds.**

This walk starts at the cliff faces at Wedderburn Gorge, on the left hand side of the road. Walk down the creek to the Wool Wash. When you reach the Georges River turn left and walk up the fire road to Green Gate Road. Make sure you lock your car. This walk wanders through some Interesting bushland.

- v Map: Campbelltown 1:25,000 and a UBD Street directory
- v Time: One full day for this round trip
- v Grade: Medium

Equipment needed for this walk:

Lunch, water, first aid kit, wet weather gear, compass and a head torch. People have been lost in this region. This trip will test your navigation skills. If you are planning this walk in summer take a lilo and watch out for snakes,

WALK NINE

Venue: **Wool Wash, Airds to the**

Bushwalkers Basin via Freres Crossing

This walk starts at the Wool Wash on Green Gate Road, Airds. Follow the left hand track heading north. After an hour go down and walk along the river. There is a faint track, this walk has a number of deep holes where you can go swimming, or take a lilo. It can be liloed in sections. This trip can take two days so be prepared to camp out. The pull out is at Bushwalkers Basin or Freres Crossing. If you pull out at Freres Crossing walk up to the road and

call for a lift home. It is better to be dropped off and get picked up for this trip.

v Map: Campbelltown 1:25,000 and a UBD Street directory

v Time: Early start is needed to finish this walk full day

v Grade: Medium / hard

Equipment needed for this walk:

Lunch, water, first aid kit, wet weather gear, compass, map, head torch. People have been lost in this region. This trip will test your navigation skills. If you are planning this walk in summer take a lilo and watch out for snakes. If you are camping out don't go onto the army firing range!

WALK TEN

Venue: **Leumeah Railway Station to Bushwalkers Basin, Georges River return trip**

You start this long walk from Leumeah railway station and cross the road up from West Football Club. Follow Smiths Creek to Leumeah Road then walk up to Peter Meadows Road. Walk down the road to a creek on the left, this is Peter Meadows Creek. Navigate your way to Old Coach Road finishing at Bushwalkers Basin. You cross a number of roads to achieve this long walk. Return via Waratah Road, Peter Meadows Creek, Peter Meadows Road, Leumeah Road and walk down to Smith Creek Nature Reserve and finish at Leumeah Station where you started.

- v Map: Campbelltown 1:25,000 and a UBD Street directory
- v Time: One full day for this round trip
- v Grade: Medium Hard

Equipment needed for this walk:

Lunch, water, first aid kit, wet weather gear, compass and a head torch. People have been lost in this region. This trip will test your navigation skills. If you are planning these walks in summer watch out for snakes. A good walk with a lot of navigation thrown in for fun. You can camp out and finish the walk at Ingleburn or Simmo's Beach, Macquarie Fields. If you are camping out don't go onto the army land. Have a car to pick you up at the finish.

Don't sit around; come walking, have fun and enjoy the wilderness areas around Campbelltown. Walk in harmony with the environment, tread lightly, take only photos and carry out your rubbish.

For more information regarding walks in the Campbelltown and George's River Nature Reserve contact Peter

(02) 4626-2309



FIRST AID - How Not To Do It.

by Belinda Keir ©

There is lots of material available about how to do first aid, and we imagine the main hazards of outdoor activities are the spectacular ones - fractures and falls. However, far more walks are seriously disrupted by bad blisters, a dose of the trots or someone getting burnt on a hot billy. These "minor" injuries can be a major pain, so the best first aid of all is to think "prevention".

Here are seven ideas for preventing some popular ailments.

1. Make sure as many people as possible have a current first aid certificate.

This has several advantages. The first is that if you have an accident the rest of the group will know what to do, instead of standing around arguing about things they saw on television. They will treat the most important things first and will be able to improvise splints and bandages.

Additionally, having spent two days at a first aid course they are hopefully aware of potential hazards and will be on the lookout to prevent accidents.

Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue runs two St John Ambulance Senior First Aid courses every year, or look for courses in your community.

2. Keep everyone's pack light

Some people (particularly beginners) feel free to carry as heavy a pack as they like, assuming they'll be the only person to suffer. In fact this is a really irresponsible attitude when you are part of a group:

- it slows down the person (and therefore the whole group)
- it makes them more susceptible to twisted ankles, bung knees and sore backs
- if they get injured the rest of the party has to divvy up their overweight pack
- if someone else gets injured they won't be able to take part of the casualty's gear

One rule of thumb is to treat one sixth of your bodyweight as a maximum load, and Paddy Pallin's maxim "watch the ounces and the pounds look after themselves" still applies even with metrification.

If you do have to carry a heavy pack - perhaps for an extended walk - be extremely careful. Help each other put packs on and off, lift with bent knees and straight backs and perhaps plan shorter days for the start of the trip when packs are heaviest.

3. Look after your feet

Blisters are miserable, and bad ones can

cripple a walker. The best treatment by far is to stop them happening, generally by finding the right combination of socks and shoes and applying tape to parts of feet which always rub. Everyone's feet are different so no-one can be dogmatic about "this is THE way of preventing blisters". Some things to try include:

- wearing two layers of socks, so they rub against each other instead of your skin.
- wear different types of sock - cotton, wool, polypropylene (good against the skin if you have sweaty feet), thick, thin.
- tape up any areas that tend to blister.

Elastoplast is often a bit strong, especially on a longer walk where feet are re-dressed daily (after pulling tape off every day for a week you end up pulling the skin off too). Instead try two or three layers of Micropore tape and re-apply the top layer as it wears away.

- find the best footwear for your feet and for the type of walking you do. Never go walking in brand-new boots

Make it clear that if anyone feels the beginning of a blister they should stop immediately and apply tape. Don't slog to the top of the hill or the next meal break because by then the damage could be crippling.

It's also important to look after feet at the end of the day. Have dry socks for night time and guard them with your life. Don't forget the old "bread bag" trick for wandering around camp in the evening - put on dry socks, then bread bags, then your wet shoes. On long walks some people take thongs to wear around camp. It lets feet "breathe" and dry out, but if you do this be EXTREMELY careful not to step on anything.

4. Funny tummies aren't funny

At home a dose of the trots is inconvenient, but in the bush it can be life-threatening. Be super-careful about drinking water and hygiene and encourage others to do the same, especially newer walkers:

- regularly put items in your club newsletter about going to the loo in the bush
- be ostentatious about handwashing. Use soap and get someone to pour water over your hands to rinse them well

5. Tell silly buggers to bugger off

It may be boring and conservative, but

the bush isn't the place to muck around. Don't roll boulders, chase snakes, jump into unknown waters or play practical jokes, and if you think someone else is being idiotic tell them so rather than fume in silence.

6. Be aware of pre-existing conditions.

While some walkers are nature's perfect specimens, most of us aren't. If you have an underlying health problem make sure it is well-managed when you go walking. You should also let the rest of the party know about any signs and symptoms which can occur:

- diabetics need to adjust their food and insulin intake according to the difficulty



First-aiders at NavShield 2002 - photo Colin Wood

to the walk

- if you have a bad knee or a problem back see a physio for exercises to strengthen it. Learn the right sort of strapping and lift your pack safely every time.

- carry the right medication for asthma or any other condition.

- if you've been ill immediately prior to a walk think seriously about whether you should go.

7. Travel home safely and sensibly

Make sure your car is up to the trip there and back. Share the driving, and don't drive when you are too tired - "better late than dead on time".

"BUSHWALKING GROUPS - WILDERNESS BUNKHOUSE"

Located 34 km east of Rylstone, surrounded by Wollemi Wilderness. (10 minutes east of Dunns Swamp)

Bunkhouse is 30 minute drive to the Ovens, Coorangooba & Numietta river systems and associated canyons. Access is always available through our private and leasehold property to vehicles operated by bona fide bushwalkers and mountain bike riders. Ring Terry or Gay: 02 63796244 or for a mud map."

see advertisement page 10



THE PREHISTORIC HISTORY OF THE SYDNEY DISTRICT

By GRACE EDGCOMBE, B.Sc. from *The Sydney Bush Walker* 1936

"The Earth's crust is the Geology Professor's Daily Bread," or, to be more precise, his daily sandwich, a four-decker effect, with the oldest rocks at the bottom. Needless to say, the lower layers can't be seen unless the "sandwich" is tilted. As regards the Sydney area, only the two central layers, the Palaeozoic or older, and Mesozoic or younger, are to be found.

In case you should have a passion for antiques, the oldest Palaeozoic rocks we can provide are to be found in the Shoalhaven Gorge, below Badgery's Crossing, where you can see really grandfatherly slates, folded and up-ended in a most exciting manner—because, like an apple, the older a rock the more wrinkled it is. Those wrinkles are on a pretty large scale, a single fold may be hundreds of feet in depth; so that you can see it must have been quite a time since they were laid down, as mud, in a nice, quiet sea full of—well, things like jelly-fish and blue-bottles. Pretty tough on surfers, if there had been any surfers. How do we know there were any such animals? The expert will answer, with lofty scorn, that there are fossil remains. At this point the unregenerate friend usually remarks that he can produce a better-looking fossil with a piece of slate and a pencil—and what is worse, he does. But, if you yearn for a gen-u-ine 100% graptolite, there are some to be found in the blue grey slaty rocks around the Jenolan River—Cox's River Junction.

These folded slates, then, were once all the rocks we had. The climate grew warmer, coral reefs flourished, and volcanoes were strewn around the landscape; in fact, it was all too picturesque and tropical for words. It was during this period (which rejoices in the name "Silurian") that the limestone for the Jenolan, Wombeyan, Colong—and any other caves in the area—was formed by the coral reefs, while from the volcanoes came the molten rock which now forms the rugged country along the upper Jenolan River.

In the course of time the coral reefs became somewhat less important and the volcanoes more so, especially during what is called the Devonian period. These volcanic rocks are usually very fine-grained and tough—some of them are called "tuffs"; but probably not for that reason. Since they are comparatively

older, and hard, you will usually find them in the lower, more rugged parts of our mountain valleys—in the Tonalli River at Yerranderio, in Jooriland Creek to the south and in Cox's River above Hartley.

Before finally disposing of these particular rocks, I must mention something else that happened to them. From deep down in the earth came masses of molten rock, which never reached the surface, but eventually solidified, forming an enormous area of crystalline rocks—granite and its friends and relations—easily recognisable by their "spotted dog" appearance. Bathurst, Hartley, Rydal, part of Megalong and the Upper Cox are all situated on or near this granite mass.

At this stage, the whole area had been worn down to a level plain. Then Sydney—pardon, I mean the future site of Sydney—became the centre of a depression. Just a little one at first, but it "grewed," just like Topsy, and formed a

huge basin-shaped sea, in which hundreds of feet of sand were deposited, coal was formed, and submarine volcanoes were probably active. The coal measures appear on the surface as a huge semicircle swinging from Newcastle, through Lithgow, to Bulli. The volcanoes are responsible for the open, fertile country round Kiama and Gerringong, and for the ridges of Saddleback and Cambewarra; incidentally these dark "basalts" and "andesites" provide something extra special in the way of slippery mud in wet weather.

Finally comes the Mesozoic, the third decker of the sandwich, and the upper three layers of this "basin" which were formed from muds and sands deposited in fresh water. The lowest, the Narrabeen shales, appear on the north, and, strange to say, at Narrabeen; and on the south, between Era and Stanwell Park. Their most noticeable feature is the chocolate-coloured shale, on

which the cabbage-palm flourishes. Above the Narrabeen beds, filling most of the centre of the "basin," and producing our most characteristic mountain scenery, is our Hawkesbury sandstone—by no means confined to the Hawkesbury River—but everywhere forming those vertical walls of extraordinarily uniform golden-coloured rock which constitute our "mountains," with their level tops. These are only interrupted where a volcano (they seem to have been laid on) left sheets of basalt, the remnants of which form Mounts Hay, King George, Tomah, Wilson, Colong, and the Far Peak.

Eventually, river systems, the Cox, Wollondilly, Nepean, and the Grose, carved valleys for themselves out of the four thousand foot tableland, and produced our present day scenery, which fortunately is beautiful enough to survive even the geological (and other) remark* I have been making about it.

TOO LATE

by Judy Houghton

Crablike, they scuttle across the rock face
Fingertips searching for the next crack, groove or
knob of schist
Anything to get a grip
A purchase,
Hold the shift of weight
Support the forward upward impetus
Heavy hang the packs on corded backs
Suspended 'twixt snowline and valley floor
where Matukituki River
Rushes her way to Wanaka
The climbers pause
Sweat drips off noses
Chests heave
He breathes deep
Moving fingers find a cleft,
A widening cleft,
The climbers' dream—a vertical stepped chimney
He signals for her to wait
And gratefully edging his way in
Begins the easy ascent
Like a thunderbolt
The kea swoops
Razor talons shred her red sleeves
Curved beak slashes the soft nape flesh
As her falling screams
Mingle with the kea's triumphant screech
Soft feathers drift down...caress his eyebrows....
Settle on his sob wracked back
Over and over, the rangers voice rings in his ears:
"After the second pitch, go past the vertical crack.
A territorial kea's nesting in there."



EXPERIENCE THE DAWN OF TIME IN THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS

by Lorraine Smith

The high cool country around the Waterfall Way, with its sub-alpine plants, offers diversity in scenery, climate and



Snow falls in the New England NP - photo Colin Wood

environment, but best of all it offers diversity in activities. It is a bushwalkers dream, offering from casual strolls through wooded areas and heaths, to strenuous gorge exploring. At 1562 metres above sea level, Point Lookout offers spectacular views over the great escarpment, across the rugged wilderness of the New England National Park and the Bellinger Valley to the Pacific Ocean. Vegetation communities include wet and dry eucalypt forests, sub-alpine heath and swamp, cool temperate forest and subtropical rainforest. There are over five hundred different plant species including many summer flowering wildflowers and orchids. The weather can change quickly; summer is cool and winter temperatures can drop dramatically. In winter, some of the creeks and tiny falls freeze into shimmering icicles gleaming from the rocky creek beds. Snow is not uncommon. A number of clearly marked bush walks through mossy beech forests and fern gullies, past cliffs and enchanting waterfalls provide some of the most stunningly beautiful scenery in our park system. This is god's own country. This is one of the last remaining places where you can actually experience the dawn of time. The park provides the experienced bushwalker with some outstanding wilderness walks. For those preferring extended walks on more defined routes, the Fire Trails from the Park Entrance can be followed to either Robinson's Knob, Diamond Flat, Platypus Creek or the Bellinger River.

Cathedral Rock is an exploration of time, place and spirit. Characterised by magnificent huge granite tors, sub-alpine heaths, a myriad of wildflowers and eucalypt forest.

The varied and diverse flora and fauna make Cathedral Rock a great place for a day trip. There is a number of walking tracks ranging from easy to difficult. A climb to the top of Cathedral Rock rewards the visitor with stunningly spectacular views of the tablelands in all directions; a view for which the park is famous.

Ebor Falls, part of the Guy Fawkes River National Park is located just 500m off the Waterfall Way at Ebor, 88 kms East of Armidale. There are three viewing platforms, which provide dramatic views of the falls and the rugged country to the north. Most of the escarpment walking tracks at Guy Fawkes River National Park start at the nearby Chaelundi Creek.

Guy Fawkes River National Park is vast. Viewed from its cliff dotted perimeter, the valley seems to stretch endlessly to the north and south. Green spurs and ridges interlock like giant's hands until



View from Point Lookout - photo Colin Wood

the scene is lost in distant haze. The modern day explorer can travel for days along the Guy Fawkes River valley without seeing another person. The park is in a rain shadow and does not receive high rainfall. It is dominated by large areas of open woodland. Yellow box, cabbage gum, red gum and stringy bark cover the stony slopes and ridges. Wildlife is prolific. As well as marsupials, a variety of fauna exist in the pristine river habitat of the valley below: platypus, turtles, eels, catfish and endangered freshwater cod. Insect life abounds and provides the repast for the rich aquatic life. You may hear and see brush turkeys, lyrebirds and wedge-

tailed eagles. Oxley Wild Rivers National Park incorporates the mighty Apsley-Macleay gorge system and includes the nearby Wollomombi Gorge and Long Point, where the gentle undulating New England Plateau suddenly drops hundreds of metres, and waterfalls tumble to their stony catchments. You will be impressed and inspired by the untamed beauty of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, which. It embraces over 90,000 hectares, making it the seventh largest national park in New South Wales and the sixth largest declared wilderness area. It boasts 13 major waterfalls and the largest area of dry rainforest in New South Wales, with 755 known plant species and 173 bird, 31 reptile, 17 amphibian and 47 mammal species. Other locations of interest within the park include Gara Gorge, Dangars Falls, Budds Mare, Apsley Falls and Tia Falls, all spectacular destinations in their own right.

Wollomombi Gorge offers sensational falls and gorges. The Wollomombi River dives 260 metres down the cliff face and just to the right the Chandler River tumbles down to join the gorge below. There are gorge rim walks and a track that takes you down the gorge to the Chandler River. The walk is very strenuous and the National Parks and Wildlife Service recommends you take plenty of water and allow five hours for the return walk.

Long Point, eighteen kilometres from the historic town of Hillgrove, takes you to the edge of the wilderness. Here you get a feeling of isolation and remoteness. There are two posted walking tracks around the gorge rim with inspiring views over the Chandler and Macleay River systems. The paths, often crisscrossed with delicate spider webs, teem with bird life.

Dorrigo National Park is one of Australia's most accessible rainforest areas and is a tribute to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The impressive Skywalk, Walk with Birds, and other areas have been designed for easy access and impressive viewing vantage points. In 1986, Dorrigo National Park was included on the World Heritage List to ensure the preservation of its biological diversity.



237 on) Accommodation figures in alpine resorts – Charlottes Pass total 607 beds, Thredbo 4,810, Mt. Blue Cow 25, Bullocks Flat 40, Guthega 330, Smiggins Holes 1,016, Perisher Valley 3,352, Mt. Selwyn 50, Diggers Creek, Sawpit Creek and Wilsons Valley 511. The grand total is 10,915 + 174 bed allocations for the Perisher Resorts bringing the current total resort bed allocations to 11,089! In this grand total 1,155 beds remain to be constructed in the Perisher Resort, 150 in Smiggins and 94 in Guthega (total 1,399 beds allocated), 539 in Thredbo + 201 in the remaining resorts. The total of the unbuilt allocated accommodation is therefore 2,139. The infrastructure challenge of the unbuilt accommodation – traffic, parking, sewerage, garbage etc.



Storm brewing near Kosciuszko - photo David Rowe

in this fragile alpine environment has not been taken seriously by the planners. Despite the number of downhill skiers remaining fairly constant in recent years – subject to the various snow seasons - the Perisher Range resort operator proposes to upgrade the lifts and increase the skier capacity from 10,000 per day to 15,000 per day. At \$83 each for an adult one day lift pass at Perisher (or Thredbo) this is as good as a license to print money each winter.

RECREATION is Chapter 8 (p93) in the DPOM for KNP and is not illustrated by a map. The camping section (p104) seems reasonable but the walking section (p107) is I believe, user unfriendly. On the Policies part of the walking section, in item 3 regarding track markers it states "Wilderness Zone – generally remove existing trail markers, do not provide additional markers". In an area subject to blizzards and whiteouts it is almost unbelievable anyone would even suggest such a potentially dangerous action.

Item 6 states "Encourage visitors to

these areas (Main Range Management Unit and Wilderness Zone) to fan out rather than walk in single file (to reduce the likelihood of creating additional footpads); and limit their group to a maximum of eight people. Given the DPOM's assertion that visitor numbers will increase, new footpads will develop and become tracks over time. We know only too well the limit of group sizes in Wilderness Areas but surely not in the popular Main Range Management Unit.

Item 9 proposes to retain the official route for the Australian Alp's Walking Track. That is from Mt. Kosciuszko down the Kosciuszko Road – sharing it with motor vehicles to Perisher and down the link road to Munyang (Guthega Power Station) and up the steep Schlink Pass Road to Schlink Pass. Alex Tucker (a previous Tracks & Access Officer) tried to persuade the NPWS – as did the Federal and Victorian Governments – to place the AAWT over Charlottes Pass and along Spencers Creek and the Snowy River to Illawong (Pounds Creek) Hut and across the suspension bridge to join the Main Range main bridle track to Schlink Pass. This suggestion was brushed aside by the NPWS. No one in their right mind would

follow a long distance walking track down to Munyang and climb back up to Schlink Pass when there is a well worn track partly along the Lakes Walk track and along the Soil Conservation Service roads etc. and along the Main Range to Schlink Pass – as featured in the unofficial guidebook. The bushwalking Federations of Victoria and South Australia strongly support the obvious route for the AAWT along the Main Range, but the NPWS have yet to seriously reconsider the route.

CYCLING: - Section 8.8.(p113) Bicycle riders are also being treated as second class citizens with cycling banned on most fire roads (Management trails) including Wilderness Area Management trails and naturally on foot or bridle tracks. They are allowed to ride on the public roads within KNP and share these with high speed traffic. (Some public roads are closed in winter)

CROSS COUNTRY (NORDIC) SKIING (Section 8.9.) Nordic skiers are treated quite well in the DPOM and not many people know that the NPWS pays

for the regular grooming of Nordic trails in the Perisher Range Resort areas. In most of the Recreation Chapter each section stresses the problem of human waste and seems pre-occupied with it. The NPWS answer to the challenge of human waste outside the built up areas is to carry it out. The impractical nature of "poo tubes" including their availability (where & when) and their transport and disposal has been raised with the NPWS but to no avail.

MAIN RANGE MANAGEMENT

UNIT Section 9 (p137). This section is a Pandora's Box. The NPWS is seriously suggesting the rehabilitation/revegetation of the heritage 1908 narrow Kosciuszko Road between Charlottes Pass and Rawson Pass to a foot track. This busy road carries thousands of pedestrians and Port-a-Loo servicing vehicles plus emergency vehicles as required to the base of Mt. Kosciuszko (Rawson Pass) on clear summer and autumn days. The Service wants to restrict the concentration of walkers on this road at busy times, by setting maximum group sizes, number limits etc. Walkers will face overnight camping registration in the Main Range area and may require permits. There are numerous other restrictions on camping in this area proposed by the DPOM. As the toilet facilities on the Kosciuszko Road, the metal walkway and the Lakes Walk are totally inadequate perhaps the NPWS could supply many of the thousands of people who walk to the summit of Mt. Kosciuszko on peak Summer & Autumn days with "poo tubes" and the instructions on how to use them, carry them and dispose of them.

THE BUSHWALKER MAGAZINE: - In the autumn issue (February, 2004) on page 10 I raised a number of serious questions regarding the actions of the environmental lobby in and outside the KNP Forum. I am still waiting for a reply to those questions.

BUSHWALKING IN KNP: - The earliest record of organised bushwalkers in the high country in NSW I can find is the Warragamba Walking Club's trip in 1911 to Betts Camp and Mt. Kosciuszko in winter. Earlier this year a senior KNP official stated that back country users were trashing the park. Some back country users such as mountain bike riders, illegal four wheel drive vehicles and brumbies are damaging the park but the majority of recreational users are responsible visitors. This includes bushwalking clubs who first visited the area 93 years ago.



Continued from page 1

forward side by side in a closely spaced line so that a strip of bush is intensively searched. The role of the BWRS search teams was to search a strip of the thick bush parallel to the base of the cliff.

At the same time a team of five vertical rescue personnel (from South Coast VRA, Wollongong) abseiled the cliff. They were spaced along the cliff and moved together so as to check all ledges. A second team of vertical personnel (comprised of three BWRS vertical personnel plus Police Rescue / Berrima VRA personnel) was ready to abseil the next section of cliff when around 9:30am one of the BWRS walking teams located Matthew. Unbelievably, he was alive and approximately 100m down the slope from the base of the cliff.

This remarkable news spread quickly and had a dramatic effect. It was easy to see adjacent tall cliffs and searchers were fully expecting to find just a broken body. How would they deal with their emotions and what about the parents in Texas? The mood changed to optimism that maybe Matthew was not too seriously injured and could be quickly rescued.

Initial reports from the search team indicated that Matthew was semi-conscious, had facial injuries and an obviously badly broken arm. Paramedics later also diagnosed a base of skull fracture and probable spinal injuries.

A large number of difficult helicopter winches then took place. The PolAir helicopter landed near Grand Canyon Lookout where it collected two Ambulance paramedics (who had been on standby) and winched them in. The role of the paramedics was to stabilise Matthew until the WestPac rescue helicopter could arrive and winch in a doctor & medical crew to prepare Matthew for helicopter evacuation. To minimise delay in the evacuation the WestPac helicopter returned early and did circuits of the gorge until Matthew was fully prepared for evacuation.

The vegetation made evacuation difficult. At one point as Matthew was being lifted towards the WestPac rescue helicopter the stretcher was caught in some vines and swung very close to some trees. Matthew finally entered the helicopter at 11:45am.

Further winch lifts for the doctor and paramedics then followed. However, a final lift for a large amount of medical gear was abandoned as the wind was picking

up and it was decided that it was too risky in the trees. This meant that the VRA vertical teams would have to bring back the excess medical gear (including the two paramedic's medical packs) to Grand Canyon Lookout. The second VRA vertical team (at the top of the cliffs which included BWRS members) assembled a hauling system. Two members of South Coast VRA were hauled up the cliff while carrying the excess medical gear. The remaining members of South Coast VRA were either assisted up the cliff with the haul system or 'jumared' up the cliff.

The two walking BWRS teams returned via their access track. All VRA teams at the base of the cliff near the injury site stayed in place until Matthew was safely evacuated. This was in case strong winds prevented a helicopter evacuation thus necessitating a stretcher haul. Consequently, the stand down de-brief did not occur until around 2:30pm.

On Thursday evening 8 July five of the eleven BWRS members present at the rescue attended a thank you function held by the Wollongong Church of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). The function was also attended by Berrima and South Coast VRA, WestPac rescue helicopter, Berrima district ambulance and Police Air Wing - and of course also by Matthew's parents (who had flown out from Texas), senior members of the church and Matthew's fellow missionaries.

Matthew, naturally, could not attend the function as he was still in hospital. He was remarkably well for such a fall. His arm was not broken but just very muscular from inter-College pole vault training. Perhaps this training helped him survive the fall (and roll??) into dense bracken at the base of Grand Canyon Lookout. His family and church believe

their prayers for Matthew and the rescuers also helped him survive this ordeal. Matthew was happy to see his parents and is able to walk around the hospital ward. He personally signed a thank you card for every rescuer. He is keen to meet his rescuers before he returns to Texas.

The thank you function was a very memorable event. In the past BWRS has

received donations from grateful families but it has never before been asked to a thank you function. The gratitude of Matthew's church, friends and family to all the emergency services personnel was clear. It just goes to show that although BWRS is a voluntary organisation, some days you get compensation far more valuable than money.

A THANK YOU FROM MATTHEW'S PARENTS

Again, thank you so much for all of your assistance with Elder Weirich. We are all eternally grateful for the dedication, skills and talents of each of the rescuers involved.

We hope you enjoyed your visit with Brenda, Rick, and Matthew, and that you felt appreciated.

NAVSHIELD 2004 - IT JUST GETS BETTER

Keith Maxwell President Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc.

This years Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue NavShield over 3rd / 4th July was another great event. As always the site and hence terrain is different from last year with the location only being announced in the final week before the event. In a first for NavShield the large paddock required for the headquarters was located on a main road! Broad open river valleys dominated the site this year in the Hunter Valley within Goulburn River National Park. Side valleys when flat were sandy and easy



Team G234 NPWS Blue Mountains - winners NavShield 2004 with 1680 points

going. Once these valleys began climbing, they became scrubby so that overall the course had moderate scrub with traces of prickly pear. At the southern end of the course experienced walkers were challenged by the limited access provided by the many large cliffs and bluffs, marked and unmarked, around the broad Mt Kerrabee massif. While, further north the ridges were well defined with modest relief but still with occasional challenging



cliffhills. Once again, BWRS carefully set the checkpoints and the good bush navigators revelled in this challenge.

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 (BWRS). A successful NavShield requires a well run base site, an accurate but diverse course, good event administration and a Risk Management Plan that casts a safety net over the course. Within a limited time teams from Emergency Services must plot the location (via Grid References) of the checkpoints



Registering for the NavShield 2004

and decide on a viable route that maximises the points they can achieve without incurring penalties for returning late.

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 the team "Control Card" as proof of visiting that checkpoint. All checkpoints are allocated a points value that takes into account the difficulty of locating them.

Over 450 eager participants congregated on a clear and bright morning for the event briefing and pandemonium of the massed start as over 100 teams fought to collect their Control Cards.

All levels of navigators benefit from 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 finding a checkpoint then choosing the route to the next one. Experienced navigators are rewarded with checkpoints at out-standing locations.

By providing a quality bush navigation event BWRS now regularly has teams from Ambulance (including paramedics),

NP&WS, SES, VRA, Rural Fire Service, Armed Services and Police Rescue Squads.

Socialising and interaction between the Emergency Services was always an unstated aim. This year was our most social event ever. Among the many highlights was the first NavShield baby from a couple who met at a previous Nav. Another highlight is the Friday night friendliness as teams wait to register. Berrima VRA Squad who came complete with beanie as Berrima District Choir Squad (motto 'be afraid') and sang their way round the course. South Coast VRA who brought their antlers (winter reindeer). A couple who had their honeymoon on Nav 2003 were back again.

As usual, the major Award Ceremony around 3pm on Sunday afternoon represented a great relief. Another Nav nearly in the bag with most teams home. (Phew - no searches required for any overdue teams) The NSW State Rescue Board considers NavShield a valuable training exercise in bush navigation and sponsors group

shields for the best of each Emergency Service. Thus, Brian Goodes, on behalf of the Chair of the Board and Harvey Black, Vice-President of the VRA gave 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 BWRS, make a special presentation. An extra class this year was 15-year attendance awards despite Nav being only 16 years old! Congratulations to Bob King (16 NavShields), Joe Sydney and Peter Werri. The Award Ceremony concluded with the presentation by Brian Goodes of an \$8,000 sponsorship cheque!



One of three radio checkpoints for the NavShield 2004

The results of Nav 2004 can be found at the NavShield website:

<http://www.bwrs.org.au/navshield/index.html>

Despite the obviously high workload, the members of BWRS still enjoy planning and running their annual NavShield. They look forward to showing off their squad and practising valuable organisation skills/liasing with other Emergency Services as well as seeing some of the regular participants. This year our organisation ran particularly smoothly with very few (minor) injuries. More than the usual number of NavShield participants personally thanked me and other members of BWRS for a truly memorable NavShield. They enjoyed the mixture of good weather, good food from our caterer, a well-planned accurate course that was set in enjoyable bushwalking country with good event organisation. There can be no better way to polish up your navigation, map reading and socialising skills than participation in NavShield 2005!

NAVSHIELD 2004 FINAL RESULTS

Navigation Shield Winner (Class 1- 2 Day)

Team G234 NPWS Blue Mountains
(1680 Points)

Class 1- 1 Day Trophies

1st - Team G171 NPWS Blue Mountains (890 Points)

2nd - Team G163 Shoalhaven Bushwalkers (850 Points)

3rd - Team G830 NPWS Blue Mountains (830 Points)

Class 1- 2 Day Trophies

1st - Team G234 NPWS Blue Mountains (1680 Points)

2nd - Team G204 Kangaroo Valley RFS (1650 Points)

3rd - Team G227 Newcastle Bushwalking Club (1510 Points)

Class 2- 1 Day Trophies

1st - Team G174 Nordic Ski Club Class 2- 2 Day Trophies

1st - Team G210 RAAF RES & LRT (1320 Points)

Rogaine 1 Day Trophies

1st - Team G308 Woodward & Hanselmann & Baker

Rogaine 2 Day Trophies

1st - Team G310 Steven Halpin & Andrew Black

State Rescue Board Winners

Ambulance - Team G219 Ambulances SCAT Team 1

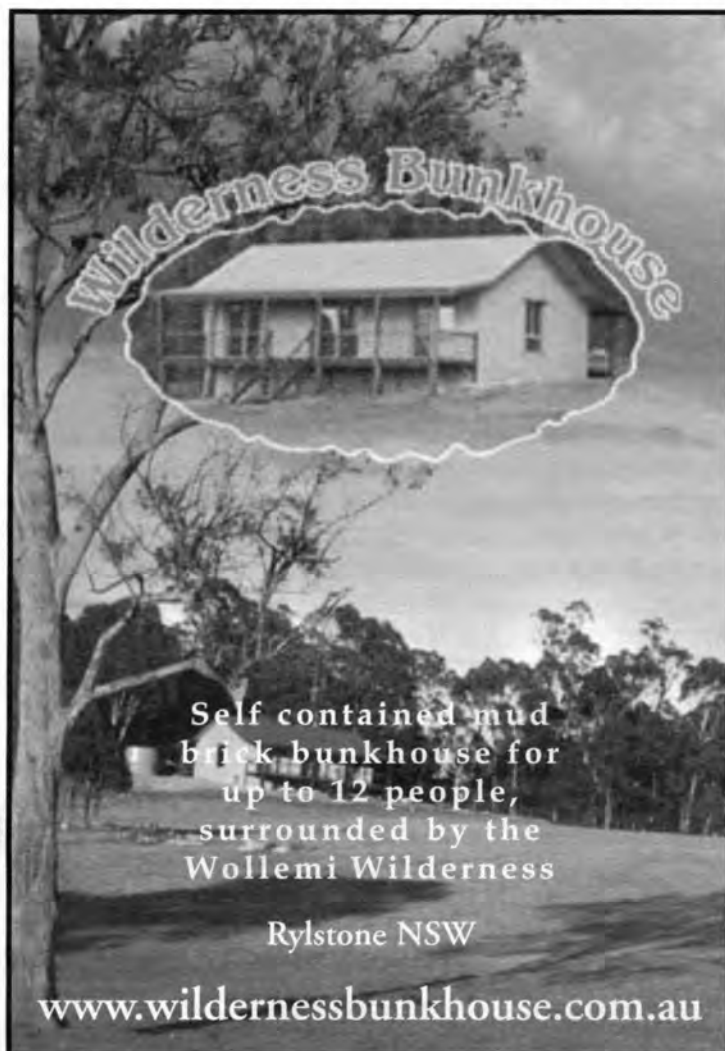
Armed Services - Not Awarded
Bushwalkers - Team G227 Newcastle Bushwalking Club

Police - Not Awarded
Rural Fire Services - Not Awarded SES

- Team G206 Shoalhaven SES

VRA - Team G243 Bushwalkers

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TAMWORTH BUSHWALKING CLUB EASTER WALK WARRABAH NATIONAL PARK

Present: Sharon, Neta, Tara, Paul,
Hans, Noel, Ian, Marion & Kerry

Kerry & Noel drove up early Friday
morning to secure an excellent campsite.

Sharon & Neta had a very interesting
'girly' drive Friday afternoon & were
happy when they saw the signpost
Warrabah National Park, then taking at
least 10-15 minutes to find our well



Tamworth Bushwalker - One of their get-togethers

signposted camp site (too much talking) -
we pitched our tent in a sort of fashion and
was then joined by Noel & Kerry on their
return from their bush walk.

After a river walk & inspection of the
park to check things out we settled down
early to the serious part of the trip - wine,
dine & socialising. Being Good Friday &
all we nearly managed to convert all into
eating fish on the barby for dinner - one
thing I have noticed on these trips that there
is *never* a lack of delicious food starting
with nibbles, main meal & sweets etc.,
(Weight Watchers here I come).

A restful night & an early start with a
huge breakfast of bacon/eggs/tomato/
onions/ mushrooms etc., on the barby
before doing some sightseeing. (Paul &
Tara had arrived) We were driven over
terrain that was suitable only for 4 x 4s to
a point where we did some serious strolling
through the lovely bushland to the
picturesque river then along the river bank
until our final destination of the waterfalls
& swimming holes - the brave or dirty ones
(all) went for a swim. After the initial shock
of the water temperature we all settled
down to a lovely swim & a reward of
Easter egg sampling, sunbaking was in
order for those who wanted to dry off. This
gave us time to admire the landscape &
surrounding higher mountains & open ones
mouth & say to Kerry 'Have you been up
there?' (now what a silly 'blonde' question)

Paul in all his glory posed for some very
scary photos - his girlfriend Tara was a
delight & excellent company.

The boys drove us 1/2 way back along
the track where Paul, Noel & Kerry went
on another walk arriving back @ camp by

4.30 p.m.. The girls on the other hand
walked back to camp along the vehicle
track to start preparing the fire. Sharon &
apprentice chef Tara prepared the camp
ovens for the roast lamb, vegies. & the
works Yum! nibbles, some lovely wines
& sweets followed rather nicely.

Hans had joined us by this and was
included in our 'feast'. Noel & Hans are
the best @ washing up & Kerry sure knows
how to take care of the 'camp ovens' -
thanks boys.

The sky was a mass of stars, planets
etc., & a short discussion on astronomy
was in order.

On entering Sharon's tent, I noticed her
air mattress had gone flat, so in the still of
the evening was the unusual sound of a
foot pump doing what foot pumps do rather
well - thank you Hans from Sharon.

2nd night & some rustling noises in the
bush - it must have been from the Easter
Bunny as the children in the next camp
site were so excited and eager to tell me
about what the Easter Bunny had left them
- we gathered up some of our own small

Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny 'Kerry'
headed off quietly planting the eggs in the
nearby branches of the shrubs to be found
by the children with screams of delight.

Before Sharon & I left that day I was
lucky to go on another beautiful bush &
river walk. It is so peaceful walking
through the bush, seeing the wild life,
coming close to nature & listening to the
birds, then ending up @ the river's edge
with the water flowing over the pebbles &
on its way down stream.

Sharon & I sadly departed @ approx
noon on another 'girly' drive back home
to run into another plague of grasshoppers
@ Attunga - a car wash was in order.

I must thank Kerry for organising that
'great' trip & Noel for assisting, for Sharon,
Paul, Tara & Han's excellent company -
without them I would not have enjoyed
myself as much as I did - one I won't forget
in a hurry. - Well done to all who came.

Ian & Marion arrived the next day,
sorry we missed them.

Neta

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Chris Leaver, Vice-President, Peninsula Tramping Club, Christchurch, NZ

* Sports Science findings



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THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES CONTAIN A LETTER BY MR BOB DEBUS
THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN REPLY TO THE ARTICLE
WRITTEN BY MR MICHAEL MAACK CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW IN THE BUSHWALKER
VOL 29 NO 4 CONCERNING A FILM THAT WAS TO BE MADE IN A
SENSITIVE AREA IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS. MR MICHAEL MAACK HAS
(IN THIS ISSUE) REPLIED TO MR DEBUS'S LETTER



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Margaret Covi
President
Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.
GPO Box 2090
Sydney NSW 2001
Dear Ms Covi,

I noted in your most recent edition of *The Bushwalker* (Volume 29, No. 4, Winter 2004) an insert on which was printed an article by the Confederation's Conservation Officer Mr Michael Maack.

The article unfortunately contained a series of errors which should, for the benefit of your membership, be corrected.

I have attached a copy of a letter to the editor which I hope can be published in your next edition.

The letter was signed by Bob Debus

The Editor
The Bushwalker Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc editor@bushwalking.org.au
Dear Editor,

Michael Maack's article in the last edition of *The Bushwalker* entitled "Defending the Wilderness Act" is wrong on many counts. I would like to set the record straight on a few of his more obvious errors.

He alleges that the legislation recently introduced into the NSW Parliament—the *Filming Approval Bill 2004*—will "counteract" the Land and Environment Court judgement in the *Stealth* case.

This is entirely wrong. The legislation actually *enshrines in law* that judgement, one which Mr Maack elsewhere describes as being "entirely favourable". The legislation will ensure that, in future, a film like *Stealth* can never be made in a wilderness area. However, what the legislation also does is to make it clear that the making of a film in a national park (at least those parts of it that are not declared wilderness) is, following rigorous environmental assessment, a legitimate activity.

The legislation is necessary because the Court didn't limit its comments to *Stealth*. The judge made other more general comments about film making. He observed that the making of *any* commercial film has nothing to do with the objects of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* — in other words, that it is potentially illegal. It should surprise no one that such observations have created uncertainty in the film industry, a point now conceded by environment groups.

Many fine Australian films have, until now, been made in our national parks. Films like *The Last Days of Chez Nous*, *Sirens*, *The Nostradamus Kid*, *Lantana*, *Rabbit Proof Fence* and *Somersault* were all in part filmed in a NSW national park. However, they were all approved under the law as it existed *before* 29 April 2004, the day on which the *Stealth* judgement was handed down. On that day, the law changed. The law that had allowed these films to be made in a national park was placed in doubt. My legislation will remove that doubt. I don't resile from the fact that my aim is to support the Australian film industry and to ensure that the conservation values of our parks are fully protected.

Mr Maack then has a kick at the new Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), something he has done previously. The new department, created in September last year, brought together the former Environment Protection Authority, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Resource NSW and Botanic Gardens



Trust. It also has strong links to the Sydney Catchment Authority. It builds upon the individual successes of each of the agencies by combining their scientific knowledge, innovation, regulatory and field experience to tackle priority environment, conservation, sustainability and cultural heritage issues.

These arrangements will improve services for the community, industry and conservation groups and provide one point of contact for councils and other government agencies. Quoting 60 year old papal encyclicals to support his argument that smaller bodies are always superior to larger bodies is, to me, a peculiar line of argument to say the least! The fact is, the new DEC will greatly improve the protection of the environment in NSW.

Ludicrously, Mr Maack also seems to believe that the creation of DEC somehow resulted in the approval of *Stealth*. He is again entirely wrong. The filming was approved by senior staff (not by the Minister), following exactly the procedures that were in place under the former National Parks and Wildlife Service. These officers acted in good faith. The final application had significantly scaled back the original application and an extensive environmental assessment, with public input, was undertaken.

The film-makers were to abide by strict conditions and senior rangers were to directly oversee all activity and ensure no detrimental effect on the environment. If they thought the values of the wilderness area would be threatened, they would *not* have approved the application. Indeed, it is worth noting that the Land and Environment Court made no adverse findings at all about the environmental impact of the making of the film.

The Carr Government remains absolutely committed to creating and managing one of the world's best national parks systems. This is why we've declared more new park than any other Government in the State's history. By a long way.

The letter was signed by Bob Debus

A REPLY TO THE MINISTER'S LETTER BY MICHAEL MAACK



I wish to thank the Minister for his reply to my article added as an insert to the last Bushwalker. I have insisted that his reply be published in its entirety in this edition. I am quite willing to engage in an open dialogue with the Minister in this publication relating to the matters contained in his letter or on other matters.

The only errors that I will acknowledge in that article is one of omission and the error that the Papal Encyclical quoted was delivered by Pope Pius XI in 1931, not Pope Leo XIII in 1941. The error of omission is that I did not give sufficient attribution to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and other concerned residents for their principled stand to protect the Wilderness from a potential threat. My excuse for the incorrect quote is that I referenced a temporally erroneous and misread the quote from a noted management consultant, Charles Handy, in his book "The Age of Unreason" (p.100)

I do applaud the Labor Ministry during its terms of office for gazetting increases to the National Parks estate. In terms of the eminent personal management consultant, Steven Covey and his 'Emotional Bank Account' analogy, the government has generated a substantial deposit of kudos in the conservation trust account. However it is also true that it has recently made substantial withdrawals on this account. I refer to the allowing of Cloud-seeding operations in Kosciuszko National Park, the excising of roads from National Parks Estate, the granting of Transmission Tower construction within the National Parks Estate, the government's inaction over the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and latterly, the approval for Blockbuster filming in the NSW Wilderness Estate. The government has to be careful that it doesn't take this trust account with the community into the red.

Contrary to the Minister's beliefs, I have always been a stalwart of the objects of the NPWS, even when it has been unfashionable to do so, and had hoped to defend the objects of the Department of Environment and Conservation to the same extent. Confederation members attending our General Meetings can attest to this fact and my previous work to establish the 'Friends of Blue Gum Forest' in collaboration with the NPWS is testimony to my commitment. This allegiance, however, does not extend to support bureaucratic excess or badly conceived structural reform. It is noteworthy to acknowledge that the Minister's reason for the amalgamation of the 'Environment Protection Authority, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Resource NSW and Botanic Gardens Trust .. , also strong links to the Sydney Catchment Authority .. , (are to) build upon the individual successes of each of the agencies by combining their scientific knowledge, innovation, regulatory and field experience to tackle priority environment, conservation, sustainability and cultural heritage issues.' In management-consulting parlance, this concept is termed 'Synergy'.

Idealistically synergy sounds admirable but in reality it is very difficult to achieve. The way to achieve

synergy lies not in the creation of super-ministries and in the fervent hope that the merging of disparate hierarchies will be seamlessly performed. Those who are advising you to take this approach are acting sycophantically. Synergy can only happen at the customer/service-supplier interface and flow upwards. In this way everyone is working together in trying to satisfy their customer, not their boss. Merging has to be first entrenched at the lowest level in the hierarchy for it to become successful.

To take a hypothetical scenario, imagine at a Parks Headquarter level or similar district level the situation where a Parks Officer, an EPA Officer, and a Sydney Catchment Officer all of whom had worked synergistically together in the past, are one day confronted with the realisation that they all are working for the same department and that department has to institute cost-cutting according to a Treasury dictum (I recall the DEC has just experienced a \$30 million cut in its budget). The implied threat that confronts the group is the merging of job duties. I ask you, how are they going to react to one another and how will this affect the customer interface? Obviously the interrelationship dynamics are going to change considerably. The essence of synergy is the fostering of co-operative partnership, not competitive individualism that is manifested as the passive drying up of communication flows between the parties. This is an expensive option in many ways.

Hierarchies have traditionally tried to overcome such communications problems by appointing staff charged with the task to reinstate communication flows. This option is chosen so that the organisation can at least function however minimally. Multiply such a scenario across every level of the hierarchy and it becomes obvious that the magnitude of the merging problem under the constraints outlined becomes astronomical and expensive. From my experience I can assure the minister that his hoped for synergy will elusively evade his grasp. As a contemporary example within his own executive, take the case of Railcorp. The Sun-Herald (June 6, 2004) reports that the Railcorp chiefs are asking the government to supply them with \$355 million over their allocated budget. This is because 'more than 1100 staff have been added to Railcorp without managers accounting for salary costs' ever since the government 'had hoped to save (about \$80 million) by integrating the state's existing rail bodies'. Does this strike a chord?

On the issue of the quoted Papal Encyclical 'Quadragesimo Anno', I would ask the Minister whether he believes that one can learn from history. In 70 years people have not changed their ways of interacting with one another nor have their social organising structures changed. Bureaucratic hierarchies existed then and they still exist today. In fact, during the first half of the 20th Century Bureaucracy was lauded in some circles as being a saviour social-philosophy (See: Max Weber). The only change that has eventuated during this period is in the technology that we apply to the environment to make the environment subservient to our human desires (e.g. films).

In 1931, the issue year of 'Quadragesimo Anno - Reconstruction of the Social Order', the Vatican was bunkered down amidst the turmoil of the Mussolini fascist years. Mussolini was proud of his corporativist approach to the handling of social problems. Corporativism is the bringing together of like-goaled organisations into syndicates that are intended to act with a 'unified' voice within the State apparatus. The Pope saw the injustice of this corporatism and courageously issued the quoted encyclical. I would think the encyclical still has relevance today because the basic predicates remain the same. Organisations are still being forced to merge according to synergistic expectation.

Nowhere in my article did I infer that the decision to film in the Wilderness area came from anywhere but the higher echelons of the DEC 'following exactly the procedures that were in place under the former National Parks and Wildlife Service'. In fact this is the basis of my criticism. By following these very procedures within a 'merged DEC', errors did occur. To my knowledge errors of this sort did not occur when control rested entirely with the NPWS Division, a time when they had their own legal advice, not advice from another DEC Division - the Regulatory Division. The NP&W Act (Section 153A) specifically bans the Minister or Director-General from granting a lease, licence or franchise in respect of land that is within a wilderness area. One could speculate that these blatant errors in judgment are the outpourings of an out-of-control bureaucracy.

We have an admission from the Minister that he was not involved in the film-approval. This admission would seemingly leave us with only one candidate to whom responsibility can fall. However, the apportioning of responsibility is not this simple. Justice Lloyd in his judgment stated under Clause 51 "It is submitted on behalf of the third respondent (Talons - the film company) that all it has been authorised to do is a mere permission to enter land: there was no express grant of a licence." Justice Lloyd goes further in Clause 52 to state: 'In the present case, however, the third respondent has not only been granted permission to enter the land, but has been granted permission to enter it and perform certain activities upon it and has been granted exclusive use of a defined part of the land to the exclusion of the public. That is a licence.'

We now know that there was no granting of a licence, lease or franchise but merely a consent (as stipulated in Clause 20 of the NP&W Regulations), which was subsequently found to be unlawful. Therefore anyone in the DEC upper hierarchy might be culpable of granting this consent, in good faith or not. I am not going to pursue a witch-hunt here, merely ask the Minister why no special 'licence' was given to Talons, the commercial



film-crew, if the DEC did not doubt the legal grounds that underscored the approval to film. Were the DEC staff so zealous in their rush to please the government executive that in their haste they forgot to read 'Memorandum 2003-18 FACILITATION OF FILM-MAKING IN NSW'? I quote: 'It is expected that chief executives will act to ensure that, where possible: access to locations is not unreasonably withheld'? I would think that legal doubt would constitute reasonable grounds to withhold consent. So much for the efficacy of DEC synergy, that is the combining of 'regulatory experience'. Amalgamation certainly did not 'improve services for the community' as the Minister is quick to claim in his defence of the creation of the DEC.

Whether a valid Environmental Assessment was conducted or not is immaterial. I find it suspicious that organisations with environmental concerns within the region, like the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, had no knowledge of proposed filming until the film-crew had virtually descended upon them to perform the film-shoot. Remember that we are talking about the Minister's own electorate here.

Lastly, I will tackle the Minister's assertion that the Filming Approval Bill 2004 will not counteract the Land and Environment Court Decision. As a resident of the Blue Mountains I have pointed out to him in our local Blue Mountains newspaper, the 'Gazette', that Section 6(1) of the unamended Act does override existing legislation with the intent to counteract the Land and Environment Court decision. I'll quote a section of that letter-to-the-editor here:

Clause 6: Effect of filming approval on certain other Acts

(1) A filming approval authorises the approval holder to carry out in the designated area to which the approval relates any filming activity, in accordance with the conditions of the approval, that is specified in the approval even if the carrying out of that activity is prohibited or not permitted by or under:

(a) the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, or

(b) the *Wilderness Act 1987*, or

(c) the *Marine Parks Act 1997*, or

(d) a statutory rule or any other instrument made under an Act referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

Could Mr Debus please explain how he, as Minister or any of his successor ministers, by countermanding the existing Parks Acts (particularly the Wilderness Act) to perform activities 'even if the carrying out of that activity is prohibited or not permitted', is not over-riding existing legislation?

At the time of writing this piece I am still awaiting a reply. By the way, where in the unamended Film Approval Bill does it say, or is implied, that the Land and Environment Court decision is strengthened rather than weakened by the introduction of the Filming Approval Bill. Limiting filming to educational, scientific, research or tourism purposes in Wilderness areas actually covers a fairly wide ambit. As loophole legislation it suffices quite admirably.

I won't ask the Minister when the new 'NPWS Boat Hirer's Bill' or the new 'NPWS Food Vendors Bill' etc. will be introduced into parliament. All of these activities are also inconsistent with the objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act under the Minister's assessment guidelines. The Minister is obviously setting himself up for a bureaucratic nightmare with this precedent legislation that I, the State opposition, and a large proportion of the conservation movement believe is totally unnecessary.

As a Postscript the Minister is probably wondering what gives me the authority to comment on organisational change. There is probably none but, in amongst distractions such as the Stealth Film protest, I am trying to write a book about 'values in management' concentrating on 'lean management/rich leadership' based upon being a 'lean production' practitioner before Jones, Womack and Roos coined the term in 1990. Perhaps the Minister would be interested in launching the book when it is finished and published? It may provide him or his government with some edification about how to run efficient, community-focused departments.

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