

In July 1977, I was elected by your Council to the position of President of this Federation. My predecessor, Mr. Bruce Vote, was elected to his position following the crisis of July 1975.

Since that time, the Federation has undertaken many changes, and has become a great force within the community, protecting the public interest and advancing, in many ways, our mutual pastime of bushwalking.

We have, in many areas, gained the confidence and the respect of many Government Departments and other non-government organisations.

We have participated in major conservation projects with considerable success: namely Culoul Range, Ettrema/Bundundah, and Deua Turross. It has been indicated to me that the Minister will announce, this week, the creation of a large Deua National Park.

We have launched public fund-raising appeals for specific urgent matters such as Colo/Hunter and Ettrema/Bundundah, and have had considerable success. We have actively opposed developments in South West Tasmania, Border Ranges, Yuragin, Budawangs and lent support to other bodies on many important issues which affect us.

We have undertaken many changes to improve the 'staid image' by which the Federation had previously been accused; by the introduction of the overwhelmingly successful series of N.S.W. Workshops, and by introducing a joint 'Walk in a Wilderness' walking programme; and even now are planning major facelifts to the forthcoming Federation Reunion to cater for growing demands for change.

In planning alterations to the existing Constitution it is our great hope that the internal management of the Federation would be uplifted, and that participation in Federation matters would be available to all of our affiliated members, and not just to Sydney clubs alone.

However, many of these recently introduced schemes, and campaigns, could not have been achieved without the foundation stones laid down by Mr. Bruce Vote, nor could they have been achieved without the ever-diligent attention of the many office-bearers who have undertaken so many valuable work on behalf of the Federation.

It is with some considerable regret that I must announce at this February meeting, my retirement from the office of President.

This course of action, which may to some seem irrational, stems from two different facts:

Firstly, with a substantial promotion at my employment I now find that my own paid workload has, in the past 4 months, doubled.

Secondly, I find that the workload in my office as President has also, in the past few months, doubled; and there has been extremely little support, or assistance, given by Federation Council and by the affiliated member clubs. Naturally, there are many exceptions to this, and I extend my thanks,

on behalf of the Federation to those persons, Council Members, office-bearers and Clubs who have given the Federation their support. Your support has achieved much.

Under the terms of the existing Constitution, a new President must be elected at the next Council Meeting. This will occur in March. The new President will hold his office until the Annual General Meeting in July.

In the interim period, between now and the March Council Meeting, the current Senior Vice-President, Mr. Dave Noble, will assume the position of President.

It is my intention to complete the many projects which have been begun, and in the future to assist the Federation in any manner possible for me.

Thank you for your loyalty and for your support.

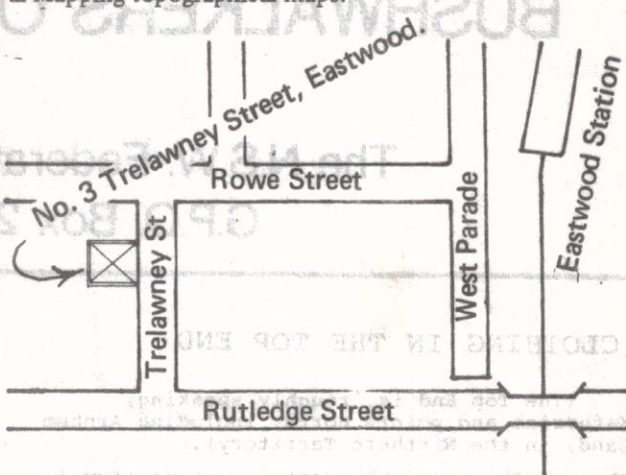
PETER HARRIS
President

EASTWOOD CAMPING CENTRE

ALL THE USUAL GEAR:

Fairydown sleeping bags, abseiling gear, parkas, packs, tents, boots, groundsheets, lightweight food, AND MUCH MORE.

Agents for Lands Department and Division of National Mapping topographical maps.



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S. & R. CALLOUT - 12th MARCH 1979

Jim Griffin was a beginner on a Span liloing trip, March 10th and 11th, from Canoe Creek to Bob Turners track on the Colo River.

On Saturday night the party camped approximately 2 1/2 kilometres downstream of Tambo Creek. This was not an adequate distance from Canoe Creek for the full party to reach Bob Turner's track on Sunday.

Therefore it was decided that the fast members of the party (7) would complete the trip while the slower members, including some experienced members (8 total) would walk back upstream to Canoe Creek.

Jim had shown signs of exhaustion on Saturday night and by the time they returned to Tambo Creek he was very exhausted and could not keep his balance.

Because of Jim's medical history it was decided that Mark Stubbings would walk out quickly and ring Sydney.

Jim with the help of three of the walkers would move slowly upstream as best they could. They eventually camped 2 kilometres downstream from Canoe Creek.

I had just returned from a long day walk when I was contacted to help. A similar situation was repeated with many of the other rescuers. I arrived 12.30 a.m., Monday morning, at the Canoe Creek fire road; awoke 5.30 a.m. for breakfast for an early start.

The first party of three was sent at 6.15 a.m. to locate Jim and radio back his condition and location.

After allowing an adequate head start the other parties were sent down the Canoe Creek track carrying the rescue gear.

With the extra man power, a rubber raft of a Span member, and a low Colo River Jim was quickly towed up the middle of the Colo River to Canoe Creek by 9.30 a.m.

All parties reached the Colo River by 9.00 a.m.

After discussion with Jim it was decided not to carry him out up the winding and steeply climbing Canoe Creek track.

A helicopter was called and appeared in sight to us at about 11 a.m. However the pilots instructions of our location were poor, we could not contact him directly and he turned around and headed downstream.

Corrected instructions were radioed to Sydney, who were in contact with the helicopter, and the helicopter safely landed at 12.15 p.m. A doctor checked Jim and he was on his way to Royal North Shore Hospital by 1 p.m.

We then headed back to Windsor where some ales were indulged and on to Sydney for a very early night.

My thanks to the 36 walkers who attended mainly representing Sydney University Bushies, University of New South Wales Bushies, Ramblers and, of course, Span.

KEITH MAXWELL

CONSERVATION REPORT

DEUA-TUROSS PARK: Two major national parks, totalling 150,000 hectares, has been declared in the Deua-Tuross area. These parks include large parts of the Deua and Tuross Wildernesses.

SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA: The South-West Tasmania Committee's film of the South-West has been shot. The film includes the Western Arthurs, Federation Peak, Gordon River and interviews with Ashton (HEC Commissioner) and Denny King. Money is still needed to complete the film into a marketable state.

ETTREMA: The situation in Ettrema has become extremely complex. Federation is at present involved in a legal suit over Ettrema. Proposals for roads into Jones Ck, Tolwong Mines and Yarramunman Ck have been made. An objection was lodged by Federation against this proposal. There are many serious implications in the Ettrema case, and possibly the next Newsletter will be devoted largely to Ettrema.

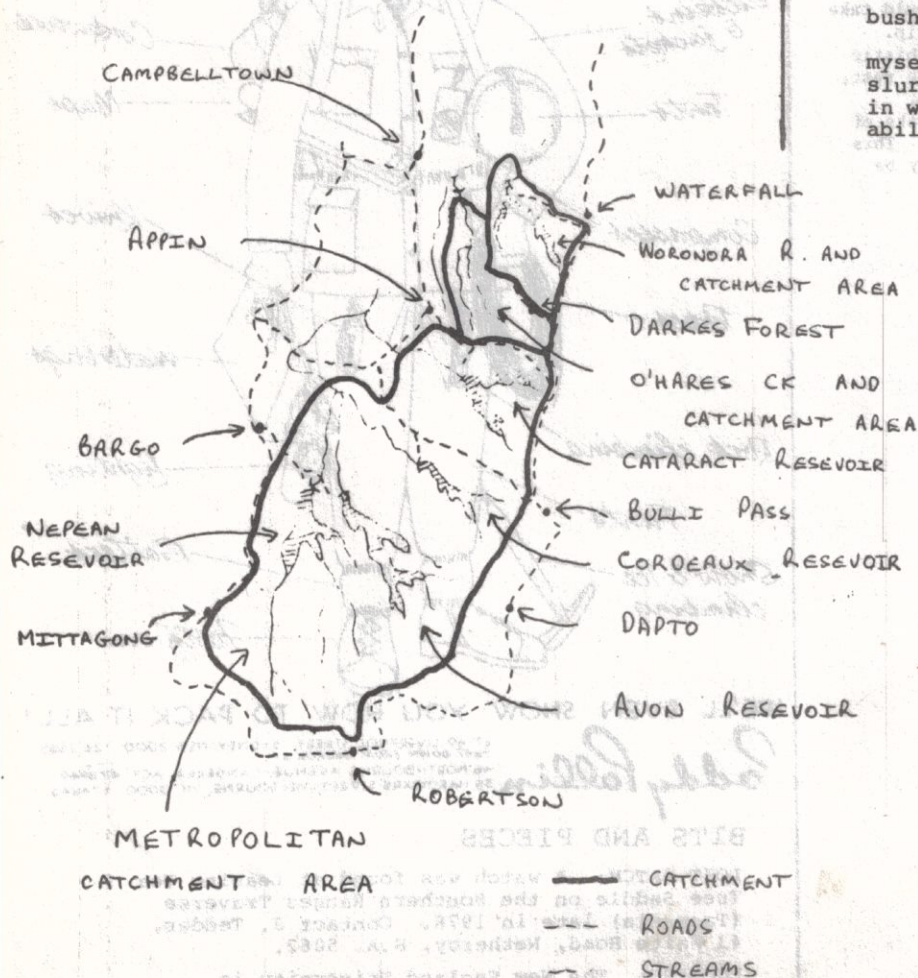
BITOU BUSH: Bitou Bush infestations on the North Coast have reached alarming proportions. This aggressive weed is hard to eradicate due to the survival capacity of its hard seed. The State Government has continually refused to declare the plant a weed, so the NPA has decided to convene a meeting of interested people to discuss the problem. Anyone interested should contact the NPA.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES: Federation made a joint submission to the recent SPCC inquirer into off-road vehicles.

SNOWY MTNS: Rumours of a planned skiing development on the slopes of Gungartin, above Schlunks Pass.

ACCESS TO WATER BOARD CATCHMENT AREAS

The Water Board have granted permission for members of clubs affiliated with Federation to enter the O'Hares Ck Catchment Area. This includes O'Hares Ck, all tributaries and the ridge dividing the O'Hares Ck and Woronora R. catchments (see accompanying map). Walkers are advised to carry some proof of club membership (e.g. a programme of walks) as it is common to meet a hanger. The Woronora and Metropolitan Catchment Areas are to remain off limits to walkers.



FAIRFIELD BUSHWALKING CLUB

A bushwalking club is being formed centred at Fairfield. Help is needed to establish this club as it is much needed in this part of Sydney. One meeting has already been held (13.3.79) with 16 attending (all very enthusiastic). Some trips have already been arranged but more leaders are required. It will meet every second Tuesday of the month, 7.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. at the Fairfield School of Arts, Harris Street, Fairfield.

If you can assist please contact James Nethery (727 5871) or see you at the next meeting.

The aim of the Newsletter is to keep bushwalkers up to date with current matters of interest. It will do this best if its articles come from a reasonably large range of walkers, not just the regular contributors. Articles for the Newsletter are always wanted. Any articles for the Newsletter can be sent to

Bob Sault,
4 Clarence Avenue,
Killara 2071
(Phone 498 7897)

Closing dates for articles will generally be very early in the month. All other correspondence should be sent to Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, Box 2090, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001.

APOLOGY TO YVONNE KINGSTON

Please note that my description of the S & R alert concerning you was gleaned from many persons.

In the drama of organising a search it is not possible to keep track of who supplies each piece of information.

Therefore I cannot say who assessed your bushwalking ability.

However on behalf of such persons and myself, I would like to apologise for any slur implied or otherwise on your ability in walking through scrub and your bushwalking ability in general.

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