

A MILESTONE

Early this century bushwalking as we know it today did not exist. Apart from groups of friends or individuals who wandered away from the set tourist paths, our bushland was rarely visited - clubs did not exist. Indeed the closest thing to a bushwalking club was cycling clubs. Then the Mountain Trails Club formed and gradually came to the attention of the public so that enquiries began to flow in. Unfortunately the constitution of that club did not cater for this kind of attention so that something had to be done.

Several members of the Mountain Trails Club called a public meeting of interested persons to discuss the situation and out of those early meetings a new club was formed - the Sydney Bush Walkers. On 21 October 1977 Sydney Bush Walkers celebrated their fiftieth anniversary.

The Federation of the moment represents some thirty three clubs, some date prior to the foundation of Federation (1932) and some only one or two years young. Considering all the clubs that are or have been affiliated with the Federation, each directly or indirectly has resulted from those meetings back in 1927. To S.B.W. and its members - happy walking and to the next fifty years.

VENTURE CHIEF

TO ATTEND FEDERATION MEETING

As mentioned elsewhere one of those co-opted to the Field Inspection of Blue Gum Forest was Neil Mattes. Neil is the N.S.W. Commissioner for the Venturers and at the time we discussed the benefits of closer liaison between the Bushwalkers and Scouters in N.S.W. Neil has since confirmed that he can attend the General Meeting on January 17 and will be available to answer questions.

Generally bushwalkers have a low regard for Scouting and these days this could be a prejudicial attitude. Here's a good chance to bring your complaints and questions to this meeting. Beware, you may be shot down in flames; Scouting's changed a lot.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT NEWS

We proudly announce the opening of our new city shop at

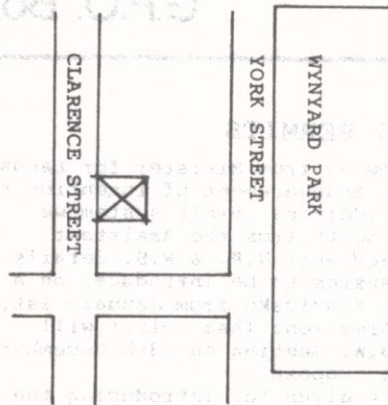
62 CLARENCE STREET,
SYDNEY

(just around the corner from Wynyard Station)

Phone 29 4840

on

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1977

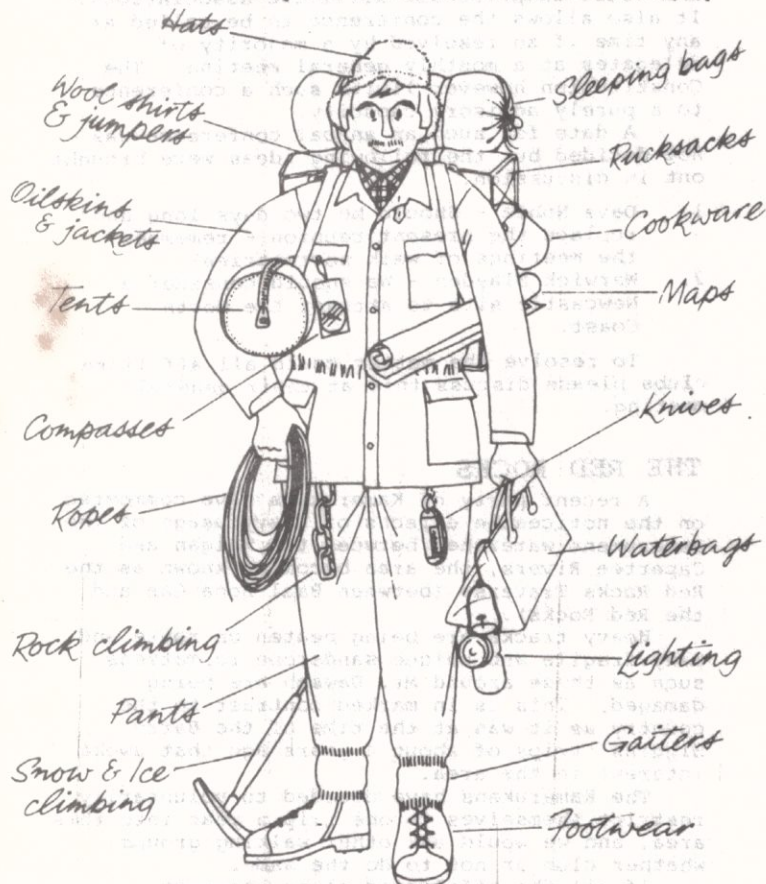


On display is Mountain Equipment's usual quality gear plus genuine opening specials plus a wide range of new equipment.

In CROWS NEST you will find us as before at 17 FALCON STREET
Phone 439 2459, 438 1647



EVERYTHING FOR THE CAMPER AND BUSHWALKER



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LITERARY ASPIRATIONS?

If you have a point to raise, information to spread, a grievance to air, malicious rumours to disseminate, an experience to boast about or a story to relate, then what better medium than the newsletter? After all its free, doesn't discriminate much and has a wide circulation. It is also an excellent medium in which to advertise at most moderate rates.

The newsletter is an organ for keeping bushwalkers in touch with bushwalkers, so if your itching about something then spread it through the newsletter.

Items can be mailed to Tom Williams, 60 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773, preferably before the start of the month desired for publication.

PADDY PALLIN FOUNDATION

The Paddy Pallin Foundation is inviting applications for grants for 1978.

The sum available for distribution for this year is \$5,000.00.

Applications should be sent to

Paddy Pallin Foundation
69 Liverpool Street
SYDNEY. 2000

and should be lodged by 31st December 1977.

Enquiries should be directed to

Mr. Robert Pallin
C/o the above address or
Phone (02) 26 2685

A.C.F. AUSTRALIAN WILDERNESS CONFERENCE
22/23 OCTOBER 1977

This conference, the first of its type in Australia, was organised by the Australian Conservation Foundation, and located at the Australian Academy of Science, A.N.U., Canberra.

Hereunder is a list of subjects, speakers and the authors interpretation of some of the main points arising in each presented paper.

*Philosophy of Wilderness Conservation - Paul Smith, Officer of Tasmanian Forestry Commission.

Helman study fairly ineffective as it did not mention the challenge of wilderness, and the wilderness experience as a criteria - all access roads should end on periphery of wilderness country - huts should be removed in core wilderness areas - quality of wilderness should be indicative of its primitiveness, remoteness and natural features.

*History of the Wilderness Idea in Australia Geoff Moseley, Director, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Australian Royal N.P. was the first area dedicated as national park (Yellowstone was established initially as Public Park and Pleasuring Ground), wilderness concept first began with Sydney Bushwalking Clubs in particular Mountain Trails Club and Sydney Bushwalkers, 1946 rift occurred in N.S.W.F.B.W. over site of primitive reserve in Kosciusko N.P., first wilderness zone in national park was in the Kosciusko N.P., wilderness idea firmly entrenched in eastern Australia, but not so elsewhere in the country.

*The Contribution of Wilderness to Health and Well-Being - Dr. John Harris, Canberra College of Advanced Education, School of Applied Science.

Individual health is dependent on personal environment and behaviour which is dependent upon the total environment, satisfactory techniques have yet to be developed to measure health value of wilderness, wilderness provides the possibility for individuals to realise and understand our species dependence on the evolutionary production of harmonious diversity.

*Recreational Use of Wilderness in Sth Eastern Australia - 2 case Studies - Dr. Sandra Bardwell and Keith McHenry

Proposed registration stations along tracks in S.W. Tasmania, blazed routes favoured, opposition to huts and roads, statistics of wilderness usage cannot provide any argument for reservation of wilderness.

*The Value of Wilderness to Science - Sir Otto Frankel, Division of Plant Industry CSIRO.

Requirements of wilderness for science are: (1) Long term security of tenure, (2) Ecological and genetic importance - therefore size, (3) Representativeness of ecosystems, values include the genetic resource, opportunity for ecological research and biological monitoring, and environmental monitoring through base-line stations, willingness to trade insecurity of tenure for intragency, management problems and arguments will occur for as long as wilderness exists.

*Methods of defining Wilderness and the Extent of Wilderness in Australia - Geoff Moseley, Dr. Trevor Tierney Antarctica Dvsn. Dept. of Science & Consumer Affairs.

(A bit of a non-event), continent of Antarctica defined as being to the convergence line, Antarctica accepted as a wilderness.

*Two Case Studies of Wilderness Management Jack Erskine, Regional Superintendent, Sth East Region, N.S.W., and Peter Waterman, Tasmanian N.P.W.S.

Dedication of 4 wilderness zones in Kosciusko N.P. first dedication of wilderness land, difficulty in achieving A.C.F. boundary of Sth West N.P., due to Hydro, Forestry, and Mining interests.

*Factors Affecting Wilderness Dr. Graeme Saunders, Director Old. NPWS and Dr. Andrew Burbidge, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, W.A.

Hard put to find miners to employ in Maryborough following Fraser Island decision, why can relief country be termed wilderness but not flat country, there is no reservation of wilderness as such in W.A.

*Wilderness vs Competing Land-Uses Peter Lawson, Land Conservation Council, Victoria

Roads impair wilderness, stock effects on ecosystems vary according to fragility of ecosystem, fences dams huts impair wilderness hydro electric station and corridors, power lines shred wilderness.

*Plenary Session of Workshops.

1. Overall Strategy for Wilderness

Conservation - Chairman John Sinclair
In the short term urgent plans needed to maintain holding operations with a moratorium on development in wilderness areas through political, administrative and legal channels, in the long term a campaign to ensure that we win greater public support.

Geographical Strategies - identify wilderness and study each area by 1980, form Australian Wilderness Society, publicise through films etc. zone wilderness areas outside national parks, expand Helman study to other parts of Australia.

2. Legislation - Chairman Geoffrey Goode

Local, State & Federal Govt. should accept A.C.F. definition of wilderness, legislation should be applied to protect wilderness areas pending investigation of tenure, then full evaluation and reservation of wilderness areas as national park, wilderness value should be improved with additional funds and staff made available.

3. Definition - Chairman Paul Smith

Need for precise definition to classify natural land types which should be drawn up by A.C.F., any definition will conflict with thoughts but this is unavoidable, educate through actual experience, audio visuals, communication with administrators, young people care for over-use.

4. Reversion - Chairman Jack Erskine

Disturbed lands can be rehabilitated to acceptable standard, should receive protection to prevent further deterioration, then added to N.P. system, for proposed reservation firstly define limit of wilderness, the assign top priority to acquisition of undisturbed land, acquire disturbed lands, improve to intended wilderness status then add to national park system.

5. Management of Recreational Uses - Chairman Paul Barnes

Instigate quote system to prevent over-usage where essential, but only if certainty that it applies to all entries, should this involve money fee, Committee to draw up "Wilderness Code of Ethics", no direction signs, no stone cairns, no track marking or blazing, no huts, no water tanks, have heliopads, cleared campsites.

6. Science in Wilderness Areas - Chairman Dr. Andrew Burbidge

Prescribed burning is not a management method in core wilderness areas but should be restricted to threshold land, fires in wilderness areas should be allowed to burn, feral animals should be destroyed, research needed for fire impact and recreational impact.

7. Areas of Wilderness Potential - Daryl Hawke

ACF should press for amendment of NSW Forestry Act, a major national park should be established on the Victorian/S.A. border and be contiguous to both States, study needed for wild and scenic rivers, wilderness should include mountainous country, desert country and marine country.

Representatives from the N.S.W.F.B.W. to the Conference were Peter Harris, President and Bruce Vote, Conservator Officer.

ETER HARRIS

This newsletter is usually published monthly and is distributed free, through the clubs, to all members of affiliated clubs. Mailing list subscriptions \$3.00.

All material not otherwise acknowledged can be attributed to the Publications Officer. Any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Federation.

The deadline for the next issue will be Monday 13th February and will be available at the Council meeting on Tuesday 21st February 1978. There will be no January newsletter.

TOM WILLIAMS
Publication Officer
Phone (047) 39 2145

Correspondence & Membership Enquiries
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney. 2001.

CENTRAL PLATEAU

The Tasmanian Government has published its final Management Plan for the Central Plateau, although it says that further public comment is always welcome. The plan proposes that the western section of the plateau become a conservation area, which means a temporary though too small national park until a use can be found for its water or timber resources. It also proposes that roads be built from Lake Augusta (the present frontier) to Pillans Lake and Theresa Lagoon, which would be the beginning of the end as far as the wilderness area is concerned. Walkers can hardly complain, since they don't use the area except for the Walls of Jerusalem, and have left the fishermen to take over the plateau.

DAVE KELLY

WHAT'S NEW

Paddy is getting a supply of Dia-Dora boots especially designed for cold weather conditions. One feature of these new boots is their calf length sides suitable for snow walking. New additions to the sleeping bag range are the North Face Alpine and Paddy's High Plains sleeping bag - the latter a box walled featherdown bag and is ideal as a snow bag.

Mountain Design have produced a modified Chouinard "Ultra Light Weight" sleeping bag weighing 1100 gms. It is suited for conditions down to 0°C. Mountain Equipment also are selling a N.Z. aluminium canteen kit for \$9.95 - not cheap but good quality and has proved to be a popular seller.

The 1978 Dombrowski Tasmanian Wilderness Calendar is now available from both these stores.

PADDY PALLIN ORIENTEERING CONTEST

This annual event sponsored by Paddy will be held on Saturday 27th May 1978. Naturally details of venue will be withheld until just before the event but it is usually no more than two hours drive from Sydney.

Although the competitiveness and athletic demands of orienteering as practiced by the orienteering clubs, do not appeal to many bushwalkers, this contest is aimed more at walkers and is more a test of navigational skill and bushmanship thus giving it a wider appeal.

BRUCE VOTE

S & R DEMONSTRATION 15-16 OCT.

This demonstration was attended by about 40 people of many clubs. Following the trend of the July practice it was much more active than in the past.

With the help of a nurse educator, Trevor Barnes and two associates, two simulated accidents were arranged with make up used to very effectively fake injuries. Handling these accidents taught us a great deal about our equipment and first aid.

Cardiac massage and mouth to mouth resuscitation were practiced on a dummy that did everything but talk. Little lights would go on if you correctly did the cardiac massage and resuscitation.

The campfire saw Trevor Barnes, an Irishman telling the best of the Irish jokes aside from the normal fun and games.

On Sunday afternoon absailing instruction was given, whilst the combined radia and orienteering course kept quite a few parties searching for check-points when they were in the wrong area.

The walkers present again said that they enjoyed and learnt a lot from this active type of demonstration.

KEITH MAXWELL
Field Officer

Himalayan Walking

TREKKING IN KASHMIR - KRISHNULLAH EXPEDITION

The Kashmir Himalaya still provides exploratory opportunities in areas where no Europeans have been before. We have prepared a trekking expedition from the Krishnullah Valley in Kashmir, that will attempt to find a high pass across the Great Himalaya, to the Zaskar mountains in Ladakh.

The approach walk takes you through pine forests, open fields, and past gushing streams. Here the Bakharval herdsmen tend their flocks, as they have done for centuries.

This walk will take you into one of the most spectacular and remote areas of the World, and the small group will depart Sydney on 2nd September 1978.

Australian Himalayan Expeditions plans to run four other treks to Kashmir, including a Natural History trek in June. Tour prices range from \$1,430.00 to \$1,755.00 (includes return air fare).

For further information please contact:

Garry Weare
AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS
3rd Floor, 28-34 O'Connell Street,
Sydney. N.S.W. 2000
or Phone (02) 231 6050