

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

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WALKERS MEET RIDERS

Two meetings have been held between the "Walkers" (representing the Colo Committee and FBW), and the "Riders" (members of the Joint Land Use Committee which serves the Association of 4WD Clubs and the Offroad Vehicle Federation). The meetings have been informal and conciliatory and both parties see the advantage of a joint statement on agreed points, though each may wish to attach statements on unresolved issues.

The Walkers want an agreement against the proliferation of bush roads, and would also like the Riders to retract their endorsement of the 'moratorium on National Parks', and specifically to support the establishment of the Colo-Hunter National Park.

The Riders seek agreement that roads currently used by 4WD's remain open as 4WD roads, even within National Parks. Further on behalf of their "Neighbours of National Parks" colleagues in the moratorium alliance, they seek more open procedures for NP&WS land acquisition and official denial of resumptions for Colo-Hunter.

Discussions began on definitions of 'wilderness', the Riders objecting to the Helman claim on areas containing established 4WD roads. Pertinent examples are the Colo-Hunter and Deua-Brogo areas. Here they recognise smaller wilderness zones on either side of the roads.

The second meeting addressed itself specifically to Colo-Hunter, and the main point of dispute which emerged was the Wirraba Ridge road. Ironically, a current Army move to upgrade this road will probably lead to a prompt initial agreement to oppose this upgrading.

Draft points of possible agreement include:

- opposition to new roads and upgrading of 4WD roads, except possibly for NP&WS management.
- endorsement of vehicle permit scheme where necessary to regulate usage of 4WD roads.
- opposition to irresponsible advertising, (eg "conquer the wilderness").
- value of wilderness areas, though Riders' definition includes smaller areas but rejects revegetated roads.
- closure of Barrakee Track (Colo-Hunter)
- no use of vehicles off existing roads.
- no resumption of freehold land for Colo-Hunter, except possible life-tenure scheme for certain inholdings.
- no loss of personal livelihood in creating the Colo-Hunter N.P.
- any landholder should be able to obtain from NP&WS a binding statement of intent regarding his property.
- need for NP&WS policy statement on procedures for declaring its interest in private land
- need for more NP&WS management staff.

One other point which was conceded orally by the Riders should also be written down: 4WD trips on roads as rough as Wirraba Ridge are for fit people only. Closure of these roads would force such people to walk, but would not deny them access.

Neither activity unfortunately has much to offer the impoverished, senile, ill or

THE CASTLE

August 1978 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the first successful recorded ascent of the Castle (Budawang National Park). Previous years had seen several attempts on this prominent peak but it was a party from the CSIRO that finally found a negotiable route onto the tops.

The Castle has been given several names in the early years - Pompeys Pillar, False Pigeon House and finally the Castle (Robert Hoddle 1828). The natives called it Cooyoyo (the meaning is unknown), and this has been retained on the sketch map to a nearby creek.

The notes of Sir Joseph Banks recall "but between Mt. Dromedary and the Pigeon House, we saw high mountains which, except two, are covered with wood. These two lie inland behind the Pigeon House, and are remarkably flat at the top, with steep rocky cliffs all around them, as far as we could see". 22 April 1770.

Mt. Owen and the Castle.

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SEMINAR

ON MORTON NATIONAL PARK AND ITS SURROUNDS

February 16-18th, 1979

VENUE: Coolendel Wildlife Refuge on Shoalhaven River, via Burrier.

Make a note in your diary NOW.

This even, organised by FBW, will be a tented camp on the property of Ron and Wen Hendersons' Coolendel Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge, on the Shoalhaven River, is a popular Canoeing site, and abuts the Yalwal State Forest and the Ettrema Wilderness.

The Seminar will study the Management of Morton National Park, the History, and Future Proposals.

Speakers will include: Mark Morton, Geoff Spencer (Superintendent), Peter Hitchcock (Chief Resources Officer, NPWS), Peter Helman (author 'Wilderness in Australia'), Peter Harris (Chairman, The Ettrema Committee), Colin Watson (Chairman, The Budawang Committee), Other speakers representing Forestry, Mines, 4 Wheel Drive Assns, Government, could also present papers.

How to Reach Coolendel: Is 32Km from Nowra, NSW. It is approached by turning off the road to H.M.S. Albatross. The road is sign-posted to The Retreat. (See accompanying map).

Starting Time: 9.00 a.m. Saturday, 17th, 1979
VI BRS arriving on the previous Friday night should follow the signs and camp in the area indicated.

Intention to Attend
MORTON SEMINAR - Feb. 16-18, 1979

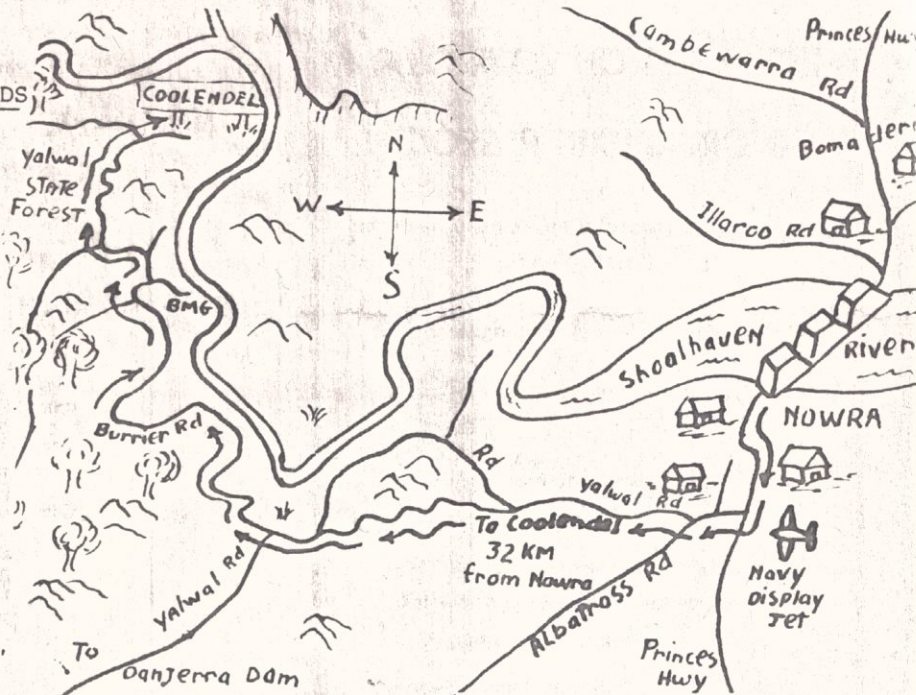
Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms.....

No. of Persons in Group:.....

Phone Numbers:..... (day)
..... (night)

Name of your Club or Organisation:.....

Post to: Morton Seminar
Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, NSW
G.P.O. Box 2090
Sydney NSW 2001



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FBW REUNION 1979

Gunderman Creek - March 31, April 1.



How to get there:

From Northern side of Hawkesbury at Wiseman's Ferry, 14Km (road) East to turnoff North. Car parking within 1Km of campsite. Bush to be arranged from Strathfield Station. (notify FBW or Club for bookings).

Saturday afternoon:

FBW Policy Discussion Groups.

Informal workshops to explain current policies and seek ideas and comments.

Topics:

- Management principles for walking areas: wilderness and other (Huts, tracks, markets etc.)
- New members: promotion of Clubs; introduction of new members to activities, skills, ethics; provision of equipment; joint education ventures, eg FBW Outdoor Workshops.
- Roles of FBW: Future of SCR; finances; paid executive secretary; newsletter; Future of Ball and Reunion or alternatives; involvement of country Clubs.

Campfires:

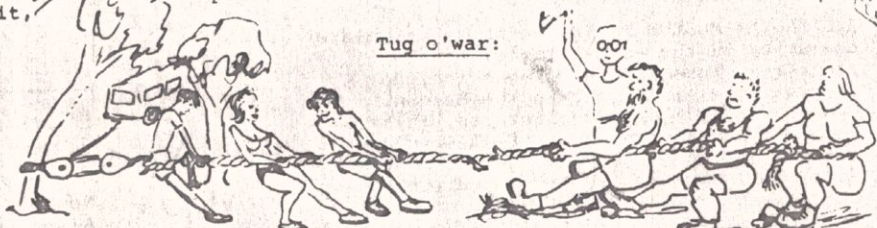
- Two campfires will be provided, one for yarning, the other for Club performances and group singing.
- Clubs requested to rehearse acts in advance; music, dance, recitation, tale, skit, striptease or whatever.
- Individual acts welcome, as per Club acts.
- Group singing will be led for key and time. Please bring musical instruments for prior tuning. Melody or chord accompaniment in common keys (C,D,G,E and/or capo) would be very welcome, no written music available. Walkers Songbook (Kamerukas) is standard.

Photographic Print Competition.

- Section 1: Best print, any date, bush or bushwalking theme.
- Section 2: Best 'then and now' pair of prints; bush landscape, pre and post 1970.
- Section 3: Best nostalgic print, 1969 or before; people, places, objects and/or events.

Entries will be carefully treated, hung in individual plastic bags out of rain and direct sunlight. Please assist by providing prints in a suitable bag with a caption card showing place, date, names of subjects, story plus name of exhibitor.

Tug o'war:



CANYONS OF THE WOLLANGAMBE WILDERNESS

(Map references refer to the metric grid on Wollangambe, Rock Hill and Mt. Wilson)

1. **SHORT CK:** A two day canyon. Starting from Mt. Irvin, follow the ridge passed Tesselate Hill and drop to the Wollangambe (via the north-south running spur) at 649971. (Break the final cliffs on the eastern side 100m back from the nose). Climb out of the Wollangambe, going south-west, from 647968. Cross the plateau and drop into Short Ck at 608973. Short Ck is an exceptionally good gorge, with good abseils (60m rope needed) though probably not a high quality canyon. Exit to the south from the creek junction (614992) just before Bungleboori Ck. Return by the same passes as before.

2. **YARRAMUN CK:** A long two day trip. Enter at either 513943 (south branch) or 515958 (north branch). Twenty metres of rope is needed in the south branch. The best canyon does not start until after the junction of the two branches. For those doing the south branch, a short distance up from the branch junction (529953). Passes from both the east and west side exist at the tunnel. Though Yarramun passes through several non-canyon sections, the last of the canyon has stopped by 576970, where there is a pass to the north. The last kilometre or so to this pass is an excellent gorge.

3. **UPPER DUMBANO CK:** Enter at 492979 (from south). Lilo handy. No rope needed. Exit at 521983 (to the south) or via Cespit Canyon (see below). A good day trip.

4. **LOWER DUMBANO CK:** Enter at 521983 (from south). The exit (at 540000 to the south west requires some route finding. Lilos handy. 35m rope needed. An excellent canyon.

5. **CESPIT CK (South Dumbano Ck):** Enter at 499973 from the south west. Exit to the south at 521983. Short rope handy. There are also a few passes to the west 517979 (about 100m up from the junction with Dumbano). It is possible (though mildly tricky) to reverse the canyon from the Dumbano junction to this pass. (A combination of Upper Dumbano Ck or Cespit Ck with Lower Dumbano would make a good weekend trip.

6. **WOLLANGAMBE RIVER:** An easy lilo canyon. Though some parts are very frequently done, other parts, which some people consider the better parts, are not as frequently done. Good canyon exists in Wollangambe upstream of the normal entry point (545912) and downstream of the 'EXIT' sign (559914). Other entry and exit points include 518910, 570923 and 582912. Rope may be handy in the lower sections.

7. **BELL CK:** Enter by the small spectacular creek at 525898 (10m rope handy) or by 519901. An excellent day canyon. Lilos needed. Exit by the track on the Wollangambe at 542913. To get to the entry point, either follow the ridge from Watertrough Hill (493877) (for train trips) or by crossing Du Fours Ck (from Mt. Wilson) at 890536 (interesting passes).

8. **DU FAURS CK (Clatterteeth Canyon):** Enter at 532881, and exit by the track on the Wollangambe. An easy lilo canyon.

(Note that a combination of Bell or Du Fours Ck with the Wollangambe would make an ideal weekend trip.)

There are several other creeks having an interesting canyon nature. However their shortness and inaccessibility prevents them from being done as canyons in their own right. Luckily they are mainly dry and can be done as part of winter extended trips. Some of these are:

ARTHURS CK: Enter at 497998. 20m rope handy. A good canyon and a good way of starting a trip in Bungleboori Ck.

TUNNEL CK: Enter at 566003. 40m rope needed. This has a 30m long dead-end tunnel.

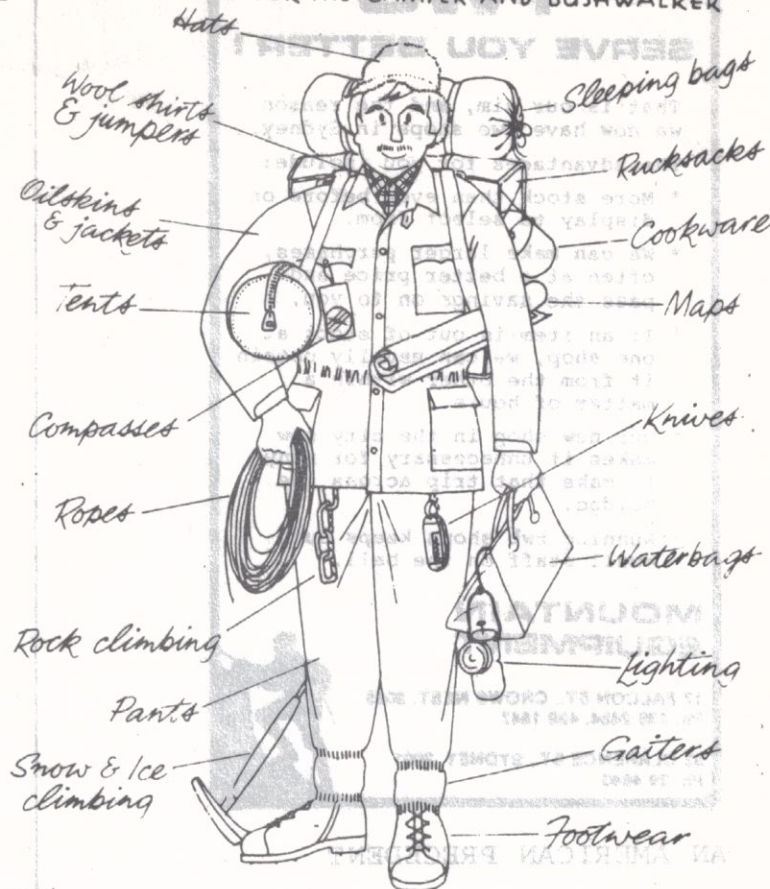
INTERESTING CK: Enter at 574950. Rope handy. A few waist deep wades. Rather tedious to avoid the swims (by high-level ledges). Probably better to do in summer.

FOUR MAN CK: (Outlet creek of the valley of the Swamps). Enter at 563041. Many small waterfalls and unexpected happenings. 20m rope handy. Scrambling skill needed to avoid some swims. It is possible, though difficult and slow, to reverse.

WHATS NEW

Canoeing Guide of N.S.W. Rivers. \$8.00
Bushwalkers Guide to S.E. Qld. \$3.00
(includes Wiangarie State Forest)
Lower Hawkesbury Rock Climbing Guide. \$3.00
Climbing in the Snowy Mountains. \$2.00
100 Walks in Tasmania - T. Thomas. \$5.00
Wilderness Calednar (Tasmania). \$4.50.

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ROGAINING???

24 hour orienteering is apparently a fairly popular sport among bushwalkers and others in Victoria (where it is known as "rogaining"), but has yet made almost zero impact in N.S.W. The only pockets of interest appear to be those university clubs (Particularly UNSW, New England, Newcastle and Macquarie) who participate in the annual Intersarsity Orienteering, which is a 24-hour event.

Now the Victorians may be considered by some to be a weird mob, but there is no particular reason why rogaining can't be a success in N.S.W. if it is a success south of the Murray. Its absence from N.S.W. can be attributed only to the fact that no-one knows what it is like because no events have ever been organised apart from the Intersarsity which is restricted to very few teams. So, the University of N.S.W. Bushwalking & Mountaineering Club, which thoroughly enjoyed itself organising the 1978 Intersarsity in August, is now going to stick its neck out and organise a similar event for all walkers in May 1979.

Rogaining is basically the same as conventional orienteering - there is a map, a number of checkpoints to be visited, and a time element. The difference is in the scale of things. The map is an entire 1:25,000 sheet, there are 30 or more checkpoints, and you have 24 hours from noon Saturday to noon Sunday in which to reach as many of them as possible. The combination of checkpoints and the route to be taken is up to each team and selecting the optimum strategy is part of the game.

This is a sport which is a real test of bushwalking ability - route selection, navigation, fitness and stamina. It is quite different from a suburban Saturday afternoon 5 Km orienteering event which is over in less than an hour, and forgotten in a couple of days. The strain of 24 hours continuous walking, paying constant attention to detailed navigation, is not forgotten for weeks. Nor is the satisfaction.

Rogaining is a sport for only a hardy few - not many are able, let alone willing to participate. But for those who like to take on the bush on its own terms it is a superb challenge. More details of the May event next Newsletter.

PETER TUFT