

## 2 Definitions

**2.1 WILDERNESS:** An ideal wilderness is a region of an extent such that an unaided person may not cross it in one day, in which evidence of man's activities is minimal, and in which survival of an individual or group depends on the natural resources of the region and no more equipment than the individual or group can personally carry. Specifically areas nominated as such in the Holman study "Wilderness in Australia" are to be considered wilderness but not to the exclusion of other suitable areas.

**2.2 WILDERNESS QUALITY:** Wilderness quality may be defined as the atmosphere of isolation and self-dependence which is experienced in an idealized wilderness, and which can also be experienced in smaller regions which are still relatively untouched by man's works.

**2.3 WASTE:** Any item or substance which is of not further use to a walker and which is to be disposed of is waste. Included in the definition are human excreta, food scraps, food containers, and damaged or unwanted equipment.

**2.4 NAVIGATIONAL MARKERS:** A navigational marker is any permanent or semi-permanent man-made structure, item or alteration of a natural feature which is intended to provide navigational guidance to walkers. Included in the definition are cairns, tapes, blazes, metal route markers, stakes, signs, snow poles and tracks.

**2.5 ARTIFICIAL SHELTERS:** An artificial shelter is any durable man-made structure or modification of a natural feature which is intended to provide shelter. Included in the definition are huts, lean-tos and modified natural rock overhangs.

## 3 Values on which this Policy is Based

This Federation recognises and accepts the concept of wilderness value. It is further recognised that the experience of some degree of wilderness quality is an intrinsic part of bushwalking. Thus all walkers seek, to a large or small degree, some kind of wilderness experience.

However, the Federation also accepts that not all walkers seek the same degree of wilderness quality. It is thus necessary for this policy to recognise that many walkers find their enjoyment of the bush enhanced by the same artificial aids which others find objectionable due to their impact on the area's wilderness quality.

Hence both wilderness quality, and the maintenance of some man-made aids to the enjoyment of wilderness, are valid values on which to base this policy.

A third value is that of self-reliance of the wilderness visitor, as implied in the definition of wilderness. Wilderness visitors should be dependant on natural resources and no more equipment than they can personally carry, and should not demand degradation of the wilderness to the level of their own ability. A limited analogy can be drawn with rockclimbing ethics, in which a climber should not use artificial aid on a route which has been climbed without it, because to do so would deface the climb for those with greater ability who do not need aid. In other words, those who find that something is too difficult for them in its present condition should raise their own standards to comply with the challenge, rather than use artificial means which destroy the challenge for others.

## 4 Use and Abuse of Natural Resources and the Environment

The guiding principle in this and subsequent sections of this policy is that the environment in general must be disturbed as little as possible, so that it remains in its original state for the enjoyment of future visitors. Specifically:

**4.1 Living vegetation** should be undamaged, and only dead timber used for firewood, tent poles, etc. As a rule, in alpine, sub-alpine, heathland and open woodland communities, standing trees, both living and dead, are part of the scenery and should not be used. Aluminium tent poles should be carried in areas where suitable natural poles are scarce.

**4.2 Rocks and soil** should be untouched; great care should be taken of fragile rock formations, and throwing and rolling rocks is unnecessarily destructive.

**4.3 Campsites** should show no trace of their use as such after departure, new campsites and fireplaces should not be created if existing sites are available.

**4.4 Campfires** should be located with care, completely extinguished after use, and disguised upon departure. The number and size of campfire should be minimized.

## 5 Waste Disposal

The guiding principle in waste disposal is again to produce zero effect on the environment. To this end the policy on garbage disposal is "Carry in, carry out". Burying garbage is no longer acceptable. In high use areas the waste is likely to be dug up by others looking for a burial spot. In low use areas the disturbance to the ground can and should be easily avoided by carrying the waste right out of the bush.

The one exception to this rule is that dry combustible rubbish may be burnt if a fire is available; fires should not be lit solely for incineration of rubbish. Plastic, or garbage with a high moisture content, often burns incompletely; it should be carried out unless total incineration in a hot campfire is certain. Otherwise all partially burnt, unburnt and unburnable rubbish should be physically removed from campfires and from the bush. Unburnable rubbish includes not only tins, but foil, squeeze tubes, eggshells and anything metallic or glass. It is not too much to ask that in addition to one's own rubbish, litter left by others should also be carried out of the bush.

Human excreta should be disposed of well away from both present and potential campsites, and also well away from both watercourses and tracks. Faeces and toilet paper should be buried under a blowfly-proof layer of soil or mulch, or be disposed of under a rock lifted and replaced for the purpose.

## 6 Navigational Markers

Ideally there should be no navigational markers of any sort in a wilderness. However, it must be accepted that the most popular bushwalking areas contain a number of navigational markers, which furthermore, are expected to be found there by the majority of walkers. To remove all of these markers in the name of wilderness purity would be to deprive many people dependant on them of any wilderness experience at all.

On the other hand there are strong arguments against construction of new navigational markers in all areas. In this way existing wilderness will be preserved, and existing popular walking areas will not become a maze of well-marked and well-worn routes.

Thus the general policy statement is that no navigational markers should be either removed or built. Application of this policy will maintain the present good balance between wilderness and popular, well-tracked walking areas.

There are two minor exceptions to the general policy statement:

**6.1 Navigational markers** should be removed if they exist in an area of nearly pure wilderness, if very few people would be dependant on them, or if they are of relatively recent construction and little known.

**6.2 Navigational markers** may be built if such construction can be considered repair or maintenance of a well-known and well-used marker system in a well-used area containing a significant number of other markers or marker systems. In such cases marker system maintenance should not only be accepted but encouraged, within the strict limitations of this policy.

Individual walkers should keep to existing paths and avoid creating parallel tracks. Similarly ski-tourers should as far as possible make and use only one track, partly for reasons of wilderness aesthetics and partly as a courtesy for others following for whom a single well-formed track provides much easier travelling.

## 7 Artificial Shelters

(This section does not apply to the huts in the Kosciuszko National Park, for which there is a separate policy.)

Huts are clearly incompatible with wilderness. Further, they are incompatible with the wilderness experience except in environments of harshness rarely found in Australia. In this context, management, survival and training value (as defined in the Policy on Huts in the Kosciuszko National Park) are not significant in non-alpine areas. Thus the only justification for the existence of artificial shelter in wilderness or near-wilderness is historical value. Otherwise climatic and other conditions (alpine areas excluded) do not justify huts for use by walkers in areas of significant wilderness quality.

Clearly on this basis, no new huts or shelters of any sort should be built for use by walkers. Similarly, it should be Federation's policy to advocate the removal of huts from wilderness areas, unless they have some historical value.

In alpine areas of relatively low wilderness quality a few, well-separated, very basic survival huts may be tolerated. Some high quality alpine wilderness areas must remain without huts to demand special competence and self-reliance on the part of the wilderness user.

## 8 Mapping

Much of Australia is already, or shortly will be adequately mapped topographically. It is an established fact that ready availability of specialist bushwalking maps or guide books can cause enormous growth in tracks and campsites simply through greatly increased usage of the area; this impact is greatest if a map shows specific routes and camps. Clearly publication of detailed specialist maps and guide books to wilderness areas is inimical to the preservation of the ideal wilderness, and cannot be endorsed by this policy.

Considerable scope must be left, as far as possible with the existence of topographical maps, for truly exploratory trips.

## 9 Motor Vehicles and Roads

(The scope of this section is limited to the use of motor vehicles by bushwalkers while travelling to and from bushwalking areas. It is not a comprehensive policy on off-road vehicles.)

Ideally, no vehicle should be able to enter a wilderness, and to this end the Federation strongly advocates the permanent closure and regeneration of all roads in wilderness areas.

The fact that roads in wilderness areas do exist raises the issue of walkers' use of such roads. Firstly no vehicle should ever leave a formed road or well-worn vehicular track. Secondly, if a road in a wilderness area is open to, and used by the public, it can be negotiated without damaging it, and if it is not regenerating to natural bush, then there is no reason why bushwalkers too should not take advantage of it. However, vehicles should not be driven along a road or track if to do so would damage regenerating vegetation, steep grades or creek crossings, or if fallen trees or rocks would require a detour off the formed track into the bush. Nor should vehicles ever be driven through wilderness areas simply for the sake of doing so.



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## BITS AND PIECES

**FEDERATION BALL.** Though the Ball and Raffle were financially a success this year, attendance was generally considered poor. The winners of the Raffle were:

First Prize	Sue Ashmore
Second Prize	Janette Tomsett
Third Prize	R. Allen
Fourth Prize	T. Collibag

**PILOT WALK IN A WILDERNESS:** Canberra Bushwalking Club is hosting the first Walk in a Wilderness, to be in the Pilot Wilderness. It will be held on the Australia Day Long Weekend. Enquiries should be directed to Warwick Blayden, 16/20B Graza Rd., West Ryde.

**SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE FOR FEBRUARY HAS BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD ONE WEEKEND TO 24-25th FEBRUARY**

**PETER TUFT** was elected Junior Vice President to replace Ed Havnin (who was forced to retire due to a transfer at his work).

**PADDY PALLIN FOUNDATION:** Submissions for funds to the Foundation close at about the end of the year.

**NON-FERROUS METALS:** Search and Rescue are at present collecting non-ferrous metals for fund raising. Any contributions of scrap non-ferrous metals, particularly copper, would be greatly appreciated.

**ACCESS:** There have been reports of a particularly unfriendly farmer on the Wollondilly between Milnigang and Newyard Cks. Federation has written to the NPWS asking for the closure of the Narrow Neck Road, and to the Water Board asking for bushwalker access to the Lower Wollondilly and Lower Nattia regions. Also reports indicate that Burning Palms is at present closed to camping.

**MT. KAPUTAR NP:** There has been a change in address for enquiries for Mt. Kaputar NP. The new address is Officer-in-Charge, NPWS, P.O. Box 72, Narrabri 2390.

**HERALD WILDERNESS DEBATE:** An article by Dave Noble (on behalf of Federation) appeared in the Getaway Extra section of the Herald about two months ago. The article defended wilderness as a land use, explained bushwalkers attitudes to wilderness, and opposed the use of vehicles in wilderness areas.

**FEDERATION POLICIES:** Last meeting Federation's Wilderness Use Policy was finally passed. There was no major controversy. A full copy of the policy will appear in the Newsletter next year. Also the initial moves are being made for a Policy on Major Walking Tracks. Any enquiries to submissions about this draft policy should be directed to Peter Tuft.

**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SOCIETY** aims to stimulate community in the activities of the Australian Museum. Privileges include specials visiting right to the Museum, opportunities to attend lectures, films and parties, participation in field trips, and special offers on various publications (including 'Australian Natural History'). The Society is conservation oriented. Membership is \$7. Enquire to 'The Australian Museum Society', 6-8 College

## SEARCH AND RESCUE ALERT

On Sunday afternoon the 15th October, Evyonne Kingston of the CMW became separated from the rest of the party. They had been climbing out of a creek into a deep saddle shown near Pass 31 on the Colo Routes & Passes Map.

The climb was scrubby and Evyonne who normally moves very slowly through scrub was allowed to drop back.

However the party became alarmed when she had not joined them by 7.30 p.m.

The party returned to Sydney but the leader, Jim Nethery, and a companion came back to retrace the (easy) trip in reverse on Monday morning.

Evyonne was also retracing the trip and eventually walked up Bob Turner's track and camped at the fire-road.

The alarm was raised late Monday afternoon when no word of Evyonne's safety or otherwise was received.

I commenced ringing around to some clubs for small groups of fast experienced walkers to go out Monday night and cover the CMW trip by the full moon.

The meeting point was the Colo Heights NRMA depot and the first of two parties was sent out at 9.30 p.m. to go down Bob Turner's track.

I had just started organising the establishment of base at the old youth camp (on the road to Bob Turner's track) when the first search party returned with Evyonne.

Jim Nethery had reached Evyonne at 9.5 pm and our search party had handily arrived at 9.45 pm. to provide transport back to the Putty Road.

We then all returned to the NRMA depot and chuffered up copious cups of tea and coffee whilst having an extended post-mortem of the alert.

My thanks to those parties who responded quickly and also those who were preparing to come up to search on Tuesday. My sincere apologies to the Skope and Mt. Druitt walkers who did not receive news of the successful end of the alert and arrived at the NRMA depot on Tuesday morning.

The Castle Hill police (whose district the search was in) were very impressed and pleased with the way we avoided work for them. Thanks also came from the office of the new Police Emergency Liaison Officer, Superintendent Baret.

KEITH MAXWELL  
Field Officer

"A typical case of the leader leaving someone behind".

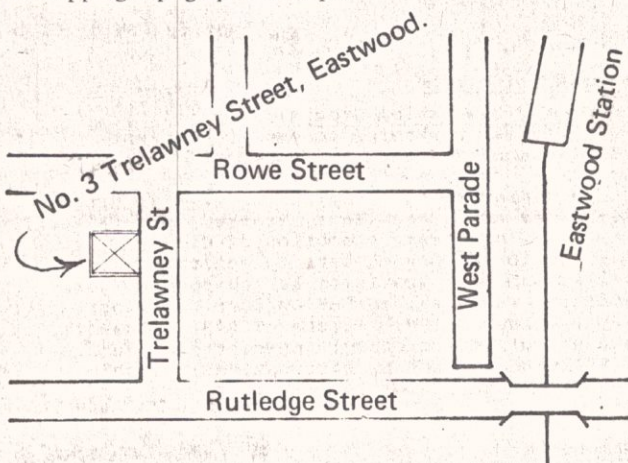
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### AN AMERICAN PRECEDENT

The U.S. Supreme Court in all its majesty and infinite wisdom made a historical ruling recently that has quickened the heart of every American conservationist.

By a 6 to 3 majority the Supreme Court ruled that a \$120 million dam project in Tennessee must be halted in order to save a tiny fish called the snail darter from extinction. The entire world population of small darters (estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000) live in the Little Tennessee River.

The snail darters were not discovered until 1973, six years after construction had begun on the Tellico Dam, a massive project designed to stimulate shoreline development on the resulting 16,500 acre lake, provide flood control and generate electricity.

The Supreme Court was asked to interpret the Endangered Species Act to determine the intent of Congress, in this case to determine Congress' commitment to protecting endangered species was enough to stop the dam project and to save the snail darter.

Chief Justice Burger led the majority decision when he said "Congress has spoken in the plainest of words. It has made it abundantly clear that the balance has been struck in favour of affording endangered species the highest of priorities".

The principal dissent, Justice Powell, maintained: "There is not even a hint in the legislative history that Congress intended to compel the undoing of any project later found to threaten a newly discovered species. There will be little sentiment to leave the dam standing before an empty reservoir, serving no other purpose other than a conservation piece for incredulous tourists. But far more far-reaching than the adverse effect on the people of this economically depressed area is the continuing threat to every Federal project, no matter how important to the nation".

The implications of the Supreme Court decision go far beyond the snail darter. At least ten other major projects in America are now thrown into doubt. None of the projects will be halted yet. But a spokesman in Washington conceded that all are potential consultation problems after the Court decision.

The decision means at least that the snail darter will be saved. The Interior Department and the Tennessee Valley Authority met afterwards and in a reversal of previous policy agreed to redesign the whole project. It seems likely that the dam will not be closed at all, and that the Little Tennessee will remain a free flowing river.

In the course of making his majority opinion, the Chief Justice quoted 'A Man for All Seasons' by saying 'I know what's legal, not what is right, and I am sticking to what is legal'.

Extracted from "The Sun" (Melb.)  
19/6/78

### WOLLONDILLY WANDERINGS

Let it be known that bushwalkers are not welcome on the Wollondilly River, farmers - one in particular, are not in a welcoming mood. Their attitude has been provoked by the proposed park boundaries and by the fact that contracts have been lost with big companies (against because of the proposed take over).

My run-in was not all that pleasant and following a certain amount of harassment I feel that I had a fair chance of laying a charge of assault and battery against this particular farmer.

This farmer gave me his points of view (after a calming down period) on several things and on these I don't wish to continue. However there appears that some 'bushwalkers' have been destructive to property by sabotaging machinery smashing equipment, making fires out of newly cut fence posts, pulling up young plants, scaring cattle and killing wildlife.

Obviously anyone who wears a pack is liable for persecution (and possibly prosecution) from this fellow. He is also responsible for raising the tempers of other farmers in the area. So the moral is; Bushwalkers are not welcome on the Wollondilly.

WELBY

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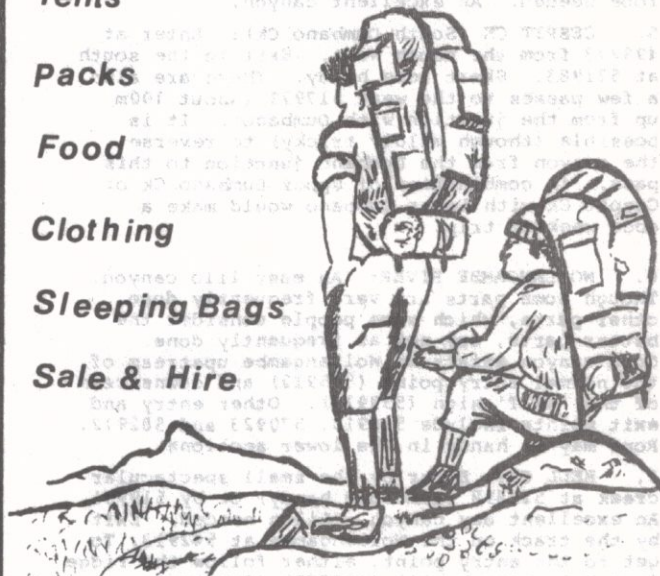
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The aim of the Newsletter is to keep bushwalkers up to date with current matters of interest. It will do this best if its articles come from a reasonably large range of walkers, not just the regular contributors. Articles for the Newsletter are always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