

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs

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ETHICS FOR WILDERNESS USERS

One of the results following from the A.C.F. Australian Wilderness Conference held last year has been the formulation of a "Wilderness Visitors Code of Behaviour". This was prepared by Dr. Sandra Bardwell of Melbourne. Submissions were made by interested parties including Federation's Conservation Committee. A draft code was circulated for comment and the code is in final form. Bushwalkers as wilderness users should abide by this code. Any comments should be sent to the Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

WILDERNESS VISITORS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

To encourage the preservation of the physical and intangible qualities of wilderness areas and their enjoyment by travellers on foot ski or in hand or sail powered boats.

In wilderness man is a visitor who neither remains nor leaves any trace of his presence.

SELF RELIANCE - The wilderness visitor is fully self-sufficient and does not use any form of mechanised transport for travel, does not rely on air dropped food supplied and provides his own portable accommodation - a tent.

CAMPSITES - For minimum impact in popular areas, camp on previously used sites.

Avoid camping on fragile vegetation.

Construction of tent platforms and bed sites, digging of trenches should be avoided.

Use aluminium tent poles, not green timber.

Remove all evidence of use before leaving a campsite.

FIRE AND FUEL - Use gas or liquid fuel stoves above the treeline, wherever wood is scarce and during bushfire danger periods.

Use existing fireplaces or clear an area for a small fire well away from trees, scrub and grass.

Use only fallen branches sparingly.

Thoroughly extinguish the fire with water, scatter or bury ashes and charcoal out of sight of the camping area. At popular sites on thin soil, simply spread charcoal and ash after extinction.

SANITATION - All human waste and toilet paper should be buried, not merely covered, well away from tracks, campsites and streams. Burn toilet paper in rocky country, taking care not to start a wildfire.

WATER AND WASHING - Keep water supplies free of any polluting agent.

Use only soap; wash and rinse utensils, clothing and bodies well away from rivers and lakes.

Swim downstream from where drinking water is obtained.

RUBBISH - Carry out what you carry in - everything that will not burn, especially foil, cans, plastic and glass.

Bury any unburnt food scraps.

Leave the campsite cleaner than it was found.

Rivers should not be used as garbage cans - cans and bottles will eventually be washed ashore.

TRACKS AND MARKERS - Use marked or formed routes where they exist and avoid making a new parallel track. Otherwise leave the least possible sign of passage.

Blazes, cairns, aluminium, taps or any other markers do not belong in wilderness areas.

River crossings should consist only of local fallen trees, logs or rocks.

VANDALISM - Rock formations, trees, vegetation, archaeological sites should not be defaced or damaged in any way. Birds, animals and other living things should not be molested.

COURTESY - The sounds of the natural inhabitants should predominate. Noise from radios and other electronic devices is not in keeping with wilderness.

BREAKTHROUGH IN ETTREMA WILDERNESS

The Minister for Mines, Mr. Pat Hills, has directed the Chief Mining Warden to hold an inquiry into the conflict which exists between prospecting/mining and recreation/conservation (including the effects of these operations on the environment) within the County of St. Vincent.

The inquiry relates to Mining Lease Application Nos. 494 to 497 Nowra (1906 Act) by P.E. Cogar, Mining Lease Application Nos. 14 to 20 (1973 Act) by J.A. Doyle, Prospecting Licence (Authority to Prospect) Application No. 155 Nowra by J.A. Doyle, Claims Nos. 1 to 5 Wollongong held by J.A. Doyle, Right of Way Application No.1/1977 by South West Mining Pty. Ltd.

The majority of these applications are contained in the upper Ettrema Gorge and Jones Creek canyon - one of the most attractive, unique and geologically remarkable regions in the Ettrema/Bundundah Wilderness. The other applications are located on the wilderness management land, along the Shoalhaven River, and in the contentious Yarramunm Creek, and Danjera Creek.

In December 1976 joint objections were made to the Dept. of Mines over Mining Lease Applications Nos. 14 to 20 Wollongong (1973 Act) by J.A. Doyle - between the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, the National Parks Association of N.S.W., Sydney Bushwalkers, and the South Coast Conservation Society.

Although the time and place for the inquiry has not yet been set (as this is written) the Minister for Mines, Mr. Pat Hills, can be thanked for his speedy actions, which must inevitably prove for once and for all that the incredible beauty and recreational value of Ettrema/Bundundah Wilderness must surely warrant protection as reserved national parkland, for the preservation of the national heritage.

PETER HARRIS

S. & R. PRACTICE

15 - 16 April

Blue Mountains Canyon

(Example Claustal or Danae)

to be announced.

Information ring K. Maxwell 827 3919 (H)

692 3735 (W)

F. Bell 476 4187 (H)

218 9698 (W)

NOTE - S & R contacts reminded to submit lists of walkers available for searches.

OUTDOOR RECREATION EDUCATION 2ND N.S.W. WORKSHOP

Upon receipt of questionnaires previously issued to affiliated clubs, and upon the recommendations of the first N.S.W. Workshops - Mountain Leadership, the Federation established its Outdoor Recreation Education Committee at the November Council Meeting - for the purpose of instigating the 2nd N.S.W. Workshop.

It is interesting to note that the New Zealand Federation of Mountain Clubs, unbeknown to us, also established their National Outdoor Training Board, along similar management lines, and with similar aims and objectives.

The first Committee meeting of 8th December 1977, assessed questionnaires (results 39 for and 4 against) and as a result made several structural alterations to the workshop, established initial standards and aims including guidelines for the Workshop, and invited Chief Councillors from amongst those most experienced in their field.

One of the most notable changes was the deletion of Orienteering as a subject (due to its envisaged environmental impact) and the toning down of River Crossing, Liloing and Cascading (partly included in Canyon/Abseil). As a substitute Bushcraft (including Bush Navigation) which will be held at Sugee Bag Creek Scout Camp under the 'councillorship' of Mr. Wilf Hilder SBW. As this will also serve as an orientation to the course, all Chief Councillors should be present to present subject papers. Paddy Pallin will conduct Saturday evenings campfire.

Additional clubs and organisations who have particular expertise in any subject are being co-opted to the Committee for the purpose of further setting standards and levels of instruction.

One final question - Does anyone have a solution to the disposal of human waste which will be inevitable at Blue Lake (Mountaineering)?

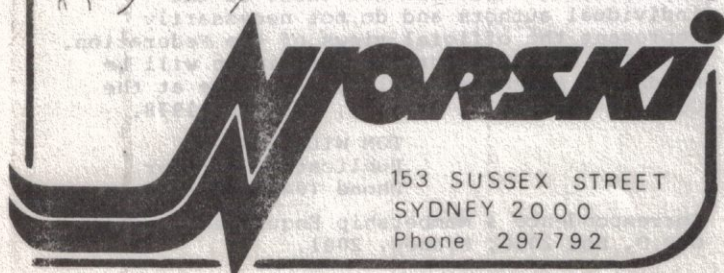
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FEDERATION REUNION 1978

This year's reunion will be held at the Ingar Picnic Ground on the 11-12 MARCH

Ingar is a pleasant site complete with large swimming hole, it is easily accessible by car along a fire trail off Kings Tableland (see map), Bedford Creek is nearby so there is plenty of scope for side trips and day walks.

The Reunion has always been a popular event and with the easy vehicular access this one should be no exception.

