

# NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs  
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## ETTREMA - HALF A VICTORY?

As a result of representations made by the Federation, and other conservation bodies, at the Mining Wardens Court of Inquiry to examine the impact of mining/prospecting in the Ettrema Wilderness, the following recommendations have been received from Mr. R.J. Mulock, Minister for Mineral Resources and Development.

'After careful consideration of the Chief Wardens report on the inquiry I have decided to take the following steps:-

1. Recommend to His Excellency the Governor that:-
  - (a) A reserve be constituted under the provisions of Section 24 of the Mining Act over the Ettrema Wilderness Area and Management Zone and including an area bounded on the west by the Shoalhaven River and including the area of Mining Lease Application No. 20 Wollongong. A direction will be made that no claims, mining leases, mining purpose leases or prospecting licences shall be granted within the reserve.
  - (b) Mining Lease Application Nos. 14 to 20 Wollongong (Act 1973) inclusive and Nos 494/124A to 497/124A (Act 1906) inclusive be refused as it is considered that the grant of leases would be inimical to the public interest.
2. Prospecting Licence Application No. 155 Wollongong (Act 1906) be refused as it is considered that the grant of a licence would be inimical to the public interest.
3. In specific instances, call upon persons or companies to apply for exploration licences to prospect within the proposed reserve area. The mineral potential of this area should be ascertained. Any such invitations would take into consideration an applicants financial resources and technical advisers and his capacity to meet his obligations under any licence and the provisions of the Mining Act. Holders of any such licence would be warned that the proposed reserve will prevent the grant of a mining title.
4. Impose stringent conditions together with a security deposit of \$2,000 on the renewal of the claims held by J.A. and M.M. Doyle in the proposed reserve area. These claims occupy a total area of approximately one hectare and the area will be subject to frequent inspections by technical officers of my Department to ensure that the conditions of the claims and the provisions of the Mining Act are being observed.

Yours faithfully,  
R.J. MULOCK  
Minister for Mineral  
Resources & Development

Inasmuch as is implied by the above recommendations, the inquiry has achieved the following points:

1. Recognition of the Ettrema Wilderness, and its peripheral Management Zone.
2. Removal of Mr. P. Cogar from his Mining Lease Applications Nos 494/124A to 494/124A inclusive; the location of such M.L.A.'s being in Jones Creek canyon.
3. Removal of Mr. J.A. Doyle and M.M. Doyle from Mining Lease Applications Nos 14-20 inclusive; the location of such M.L.A.'s being Tolwong Mines (1), Jones and Ettrema Creek (3), Danjera Creek (1) and Yarramunmun Creek (2).

4. Removal of Mr. J.A. Doyle and M.M. Doyle from Prospecting Licence No. 155; the location of such P.L.A. being Myall Creek and Ettrema Creek.

Similarly, the recommendations, sanction:-

1. Mr. J.A. Doyle and M.M. DoYLES' Claims, which are 4 in number and are located in Jones Creek, Yarramunmun Creek, Tolwong Mine (Shoalhaven River), and Danjera Creek, the total area being approx. 1 hectare.
2. Exploration Licences within the Ettrema Wilderness and the proposed Reserve area, to ascertain the mineral potential.

The Situation to Date:

- (a) As the 23rd January 1979 Mr. J.A. Doyle has reapplied for his Claims (which expired on 31.12.78) but the security deposit of \$8,000 had not been paid as far as the Federation could determine.
- (b) Similarly, it is understood that Shoalhaven Shire Council has granted Development Consent (23.1.79) for Jones Creek Mine, but whether a full Environmental Impact Statement was or has been called for, is yet to be determined.
- (c) Mr. J.A. Doyle is still seeking claims for libel against approx seven (7) individual persons for their respective conservation or bushwalking Associations. These claims are due to be heard in May 1979.
- (d) The actual area of the proposed Mining Reserve has yet to be determined, but the recommendations imply that it would include a large area of Morton National Park.
- (e) Nothing has yet been heard of Essex Minerals application for the grant of an Exploration Licence over almost 1800 square miles of country which includes, Ettrema, Budawangs, Bungonia, and Fitzroy Falls. Certainly the provision of the Recommendations (No. 3) make this lack of news rather worrying.

Federations Action:

The following action must now be taken by the Federation:-

1. Ascertain the correct boundaries of the Proposed Mining Reserve as recommended by the Minister, and ascertain whether it does or does not include a very large section of the existing Morton National Park, and ascertain all provisions of Section 24 of the Mining Act under which the Reserve would be constituted.
2. Take all necessary action to oppose Mining Development within Jones Creek Canyone, and oppose the Development Consent granted by Shoalhaven Shire Council on 23.1.79. Demand a full Environmental Impact Statement. Assess the possibility and feasibility of an Interim Development Order over Jones Creek.
3. Similar to above, to oppose all Mining operations in Claims held by J.A. & M.M. Doyle in the Ettrema Wilderness and its Management Zone.

You can assist by:

- a) Reporting to the Federation on any development sighted within the Ettrema Area.
- b) Sending letters or telegrams to express your disapproval of any mining in Jones Creek, and demanding a full Environmental Impact Statement to Mr. P. Landa, Minister for Planning and Environment and to Mr. R. Knowles, Shire Clerk, Shoalhaven Shire Council.
- c) Sending letters or telegrams to Mr. Landa and the Director, N.P.W.S. (Mr. Johnson) stating that because provisions for mining are so strict the area should be added to



## CONSERVATION NEWS

**SOUTH\*WEST TASMANIA:** The Cartland Committee report, a government report on the future of the South-West, was very noncommittal and generally a non-event. The Tasmanian Government has announced its plans to form a Tasmanian Energy Advisory Council, which could mean the end of the HEC's policy-making role.

There are rumors that the HEC will present plans for only one dam on the Lower Gordon River. This may seem more attractive to the Tasmanian Parliament, in that the expenditure involved would be less than the whole Lower Gordon Scheme. However, once one dam is built, as well as causing great damage, it would make it easier to justify the rest of the scheme (dams on the Franklin and King Rivers).

**CAPE YORK:** The recent announcement of the creation of a 500,000 hectare national park will preserve one of the more extensive wetland systems in Cape York. The Premier, Mr. Bjelk-Peterson, claimed this was part of a "long range project to make the peninsula the world's largest wilderness area." It can only be hoped that this, along with other recent large Park declarations, are indeed an indication of an intention by the Queensland Government, to improve their poor track record in the Cape. The fact that this park will be covered by extensive grazing leases does not demonstrate an appreciation of the concept of wilderness management. It is believed that the Park declaration was largely due to the Premier overriding the objections of other Ministers.

**TIANJARA:** The army uses Tianjara under Permissive Occupancy No. 198, due to expire in December 1979. Over the same lands, the previous Premier and Minister for Lands, Tom Lewis, established a Reserve for Public Recreation.

It is understood that the Army wishes to extend its occupancy of the Tianjara area, and that this was supported by a motion to the Shoalhaven Shire Council, subsequently carried. It is believed that the Shoalhaven Shire Council cannot make decisions relating to the existing Army occupancy because of the areas other category as Reserve for Public Recreation and that it cannot be acquired compulsorily. In any case, decisions affecting the reserve must be made by the Lands Board Office and not by the Shoalhaven Shire Council.

There is also a proposed gravel extraction quarry at the end of Army Permissive Occupancy. Shoalhaven Shire Council has expressed some concern that this might pollute Porter's Creek, the water supply for Milton and Ulladulla.

## MINERS AND WILDERNESS

The following is a quote from the Australian Mining Industry Council's "A Declaration of Policy" (1978).

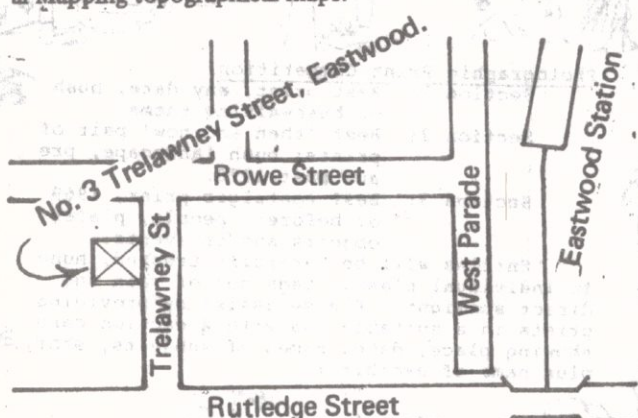
"The mining industry opposes the concept of wilderness areas as defined in Commonwealth legislation and particularly its application to huge areas as proposed by the Australian Conservation Foundation. While the wilderness concept may have application in parts of the African and Northern American continents, it is unsuited to the Australian environment because of the high volatility of this country's natural bushland. Australia's conservation areas, therefore, need careful and constant husbanding to prevent their complete devastation by bushfires. Such an approach would not preclude the temporary intrusion of certain mineral activities."

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## S&R PRACTICE 17th-19th November, 1978.

About forty people attended this practice based at the Bungonia Caves campsite.

Clubs present included Berrima NFA, Span Unlimited, Sutherland Ramblers, Mt. Druitt and Skope.

Saturday morning was spent in instruction. Those present roughly divided themselves into four groups. These rotated at hourly intervals between observation and radios (given as two 1/2 hour talks), stretcher handling first aid, and ropework.

As usual the bush first aid talk given by nurse educator Trevor Barnes, was both very practical and comprehensive.

Saturday afternoon was spent in an intensive search of the caves area. The scenario was that a party of four had definitely left the Shoalhaven but had not arrived at their car at Adam's Lookout. They had poor gear and were overdue. The (winter) weather was so bad that they were possible exposure victims; a little bit difficult to imagine while you were rapidly being sunburnt! The lost persons were instructed to go separate ways and not to call back until nearly trodden on.

All persons were found, but some search parties went over the same ground twice before locating a lost person. 'Slow and intensive' cannot be overstressed for this type of searching.

On Sunday, Nick Eichhorn and Peter Harris volunteered to get lost for the day in the Shoalhaven. Five parties of searchers set out in overcast weather. These soon turned into five wet parties when the rain settled in from 11-30 onwards.

Peter was found without injury but it was found 'necessary' to do a stretcher carry of Nick from Mount Ayre to Bungonia Lookout. This was done quite quickly but at Bungonia Lookout, Nick still in the stretcher was unceremoniously propped up against a tree for photos.

The billy was kept steadily boiling all afternoon with a fresh cup of tea usually doing wonders for damp spirits.

This again, despite the rain, was a highly enjoyable practice where much was learnt in a relaxed atmosphere.

Keith Maxwell

## VANDALISM IN CLAUSTRAL:

The exit from most canyons is a hot laborious task. But not so with Claustal Canyon. Rainbow Ravine, the Claustal exit gully is a beautiful spot in its own right. Aesthetically it is a very pleasant exit route. Despite that it only just goes in a number of places, the exit by Rainbow Ravine is relatively simple. One of the most pleasant moves in the ravine was the way one climbed a 3m waterfall in a small canyon section. One scrambled up the left of the fall, then made a delicate traverse across a slab (using an exceptionally good finger hold) to the top of the fall. It was a reasonably simple and invigorating move.

However vandals have destroyed this delicate and aesthetically pleasing move. Hand and foot holds have been smashed out of the dark, canyon rock leaving yellow scars on the rockface.

It was not a difficult move. Many people, and beginners, have managed this move over the past 15 years. Why was the ravine scarred in this way? What sort of mentality do the people who did this destruction have? Have they no respect for Claustal on its own natural terms?

One can quote Federation policy which states: "Wilderness visitors ... 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."

## WALK IN THE WILDERNESS NADGEE

The details of the Nadgee walk in the 'Walk in the Wilderness' programme, as they appear in the 'Walk in the Wilderness' pamphlet, have been chanted. Details for the Nadgee walk are now as follows:

Dec 15-17 Merrica River Track and return via Nadgee Trig, Nadgee River, Nadgee Lake, and Little River, Newtons and Jane Spiers Beaches

Host Club: Napsac Bushwalking Club  
Contact: Chris Wheeler, Ranger/Naturalist, Eden District (0649) 61434 (W)

Grade: Medium Walk

Limit: 15 persons

Maps: Club will advise

Transport: No assistance with transport will be possible