

# NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs  
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## THE ETTREMA STORY

The Mining Warden's hearings of 1978 resulted in the creation of a reserve covering most of the Ettrema Wilderness, in which 11 Mining Lease applications (of which there were several) were refused. But four small Claims remained at Jones' Ck., Tolwong and Yarramunmum Ck.

Our initial delight at the Minister's action gave way to dismay when it became apparent that the holder of the claims, Mr. Doyle, intended to proceed even without additional leases and applied for road access to these claims. FBW and other groups objected to these access roads in Feb. 1979, and the Mining Warden's decision has not yet been announced.

Meanwhile, Mr. Doyle had separately sued six groups of conservation bodies, initially including the Federation as joint defendant, \$20,000 each for defamation because of submissions opposing his Mining Lease applications. This fact is by now well known amongst bushwalking clubs, and members may be forgiven for fearing the worst in the absence of explanation from FBW office bearers. This silence has been due to our reluctance to aggravate the alleged defamation by republishing the paragraphs in question. Recent advice from our Barrister indicates that the writs, including the quotation, may be published if done so in full, without abridgement or comment. This will cost some, each being several pages, and we propose to do this in co-operation with the NPA, so members will be reassured of the responsible nature of our original submission.

To summarise court proceedings to date, FBW, as co-sponsors with NPA, SBW and South Coast Cons. Soc. of a formal Objection to the Mining Warden, were sued for \$20,000 in March 1978. Five similar writs were served on other conservation groups. Colin Ferguson, our solicitor and a member of NPA, briefed a barrister, Mr. Alloway, to defend all six actions at Wollongong District Court. At the first hearing Mr. Doyle failed to appear, and the writs were struck out, being not properly drawn up. But seven new writs were applied for, and a second hearing Mr. Justice Gee found that the case could go ahead to a full hearing. The amended writs in their final form have not yet been served, but in their draft form SBW and FBW have been dropped from the list of defendants, and so appear to be free of direct involvement. But Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club and the NPA are still in it, and clearly we must support these member organizations, and that means financially.

The first hearing cost the six defendant groups together about \$900, but the plaintiff was ordered to pay. The second hearing cost

about the same, but the Judge has not yet ruled on who pays. If at the next hearing we are successful in having six of the new writs struck out, that will cost about the same again, but at least one writ seems likely to go to a full hearing, the cost of which, for barrister, subpoenaed witnesses and court charges, could run to \$4,000, which we may not be able to recover, even though we are confident of winning eventually. Colin Ferguson has to date given over \$2,000 worth of his professional service as our solicitor, free of charge, but can not be expected to do so indefinitely.

The issues at stake are important, apart from the seven times \$20,000. If conservation bodies should be found to have defamed Mr. Doyle and ordered to pay damages on account of responsibly worded letters to Ministers and formal Objections under the Mines Act, then PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ANY GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WOULD BE THREATENED. This must be of concern to the NSW Government, but feelers to date have given no promise of financial assistance. Like any other bloke in the street, lumbered with a law suit, we are on our own!

Please send cheques made out to "Federation of Bushwalking Clubs Ettrema Fund" or make a tax-deductible donation to the ACF, suggesting, by separate accompanying letter, that the funds be directed to the above Fund.

MURRAY SCOTT

## WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARK

Recently, as most bushwalkers would now be aware, the Minister for Planning and Environment, Hon. Mr. Landa, announced the Wollemi National Park. Its boundary closely follows that of Federation's Northern Blue Mountains National Park Proposal.

When gazetted, it will be the second biggest park in the State containing the largest remaining wilderness area - the Colong Hunter. Securing this area as a national park has long been a goal, not only of the Federation, but of the Colong Committee, Colong Committee and National Parks Association.

The protection of large wilderness areas is especially important for nature conservation. The Wollemi Park should not only be important for this but is also admirably suitable for passive outdoor recreation such as bushwalking, rockclimbing and canyoning. These activities, indulged in by members of Federation Clubs, are usually not detrimental to the maintenance of natural eco-systems.

Gazetted of the new park will probably take place in several months. In that time boundaries will be sorted out.

This new park, together with the Wadbilliga and Tuross National Parks, represents excellent progress by the NSW Government in the field of wilderness conservation.

DAVID NOBLE

## WHAT'S NEW

Noticed in the shops:

Algonia Maps of Whites River - Jagungal, and Maddison Hut - Tom Groggin \$2.50 each.

Discover Australian National Parks by Robert Raymond \$4.95

Outdoor Gear You Can Make Yourself - M & B LaMoreaux \$5.00

New products now out in the freeze dry line now include Freeze Dried Yogurt "Orange, Lemon Flavour".

If you can pick up a copy of Mountaineering 1979, published by MUMC (\$2.00), it has interesting articles on the Snowy River - Little River just over the Victorian Border.



The Definition of Wilderness: In the past, there have been many attempts to define 'wilderness'. Many different organisations have formulated their own definition. Whilst the context of these definitions widely differs, there are several common factors.

- Values: The values of wilderness can be described as being both the PHYSICAL and INTANGIBLE attributes of each area.

The following items are extracted from the Federations submission to the Tasmanian Department of Environment in relation to the proposed HEC Gordon River Hydro-Electric Study. As such they are seen as an initial attempt to define wilderness value.

1. PHYSICAL VALUES: The physical values of wilderness are as follows:
  - 1.1 Topography:- Wilderness areas are characterised by a diversity of landforms and climate, and by land types. Climate influences land forms, and in South West Tasmania, several clear types are represented. These are: alpine lakeland, heathland, moorland, mountain, rock, river systems, glacial lakes, coastline.
  - 1.2 Earth:- The topography is basically determined by the earth (soil) history.
  - 1.3 Water:- Wind and water action shape the landform. In no place is there a duplicate creation of landforms by these two elements.
  - 1.4 Flora and Fauna:- The character of wilderness, and the wilderness values are enhanced by the representation of a diverse flora and fauna communities and species. Because of its size, wilderness usually provides suitable habitat for the protection of both common and rare flora and fauna. The natural life style can occur without unnecessary hindrance by Man and his influence.
  - 1.5 Aesthetics:- These comprise of landscape design, historical sites (including aboriginal sites), and unusually attractive landforms which have a greater density of visitor-usage. (In South West Tasmania these would include Federation Peak, Frenchmans Cap, Precipitous Bluff, Gordon River, Western Arthur Range, The Spires, Denison Range, the South Coast, and the Cradle Mtn-Lake St. Clair National Park.
  - 1.6 Atmosphere:- There are two types: (1) that which is usually the influence of climate on landforms, and (2) the challenge of recreational activity.
  - 1.7 Financial:- The monetary worth of wilderness to a community, through the cost of visitation to a wilderness area for the national economy; the stimulation of employment through the tourist promotion of acceptable recreation types of activities. That is to say, wilderness values cannot be considered alone without some consideration being given to the affects of having such a wilderness, and its overall importance to providing revenue and employment through a variety of ways and methods. (For example, the Tourist Industry, Outdoor Wholesalers and Retailers, Recreational Guiding Services rely heavily in wilderness area for income.)
2. INTANGIBLE VALUES: The intangible values of wilderness are more difficult to define, as they are strongly influenced by arbitrary feelings and motivations. They are as follows:
  - 2.1 Quality:- The atmosphere of isolation and self-dependence which is experienced in smaller regions which are relatively untouched.
  - 2.2 Recreational Attributes:- The perception of being a part of the natural cycle, and of being a part of nature; exposed to the challenge of the physical qualities and seeking inspiration from the intangible wilderness values. The main recreational values of wilderness are:
    - 2.2.1 Its solitude and therefore its spiritual refreshment.
    - 2.2.2 Adventure and challenge through self-reliance in a natural area.

A comprehensive work on all aspects of South-West Tasmania - history, natural environment, recreation and conservation. 300 pages, 400 black and white photos, maps and diagrams. The book has finally been released. The price is only \$11.70. The book can be obtained by mail order or in person from

2.2.3 Refuge, in the knowledge that only natural sounds and sights prevail.

2.2.4 A knowledge that large, natural areas do exist where it is possible to pursue recreational activity.

Social Factors:- Primarily, the chief intangible value of wilderness is social health, derived through inspirations and motivations obtained through wilderness recreational activity. Social health is also achieved partially through viewing wilderness from its perimeters and also partly in the knowledge that large areas do exist where it is possible to escape the stress and pressures of life in a modern society.

Aesthetic Qualities:- The intangible aesthetic wilderness values can be simply defined as being representative of an individual's beliefs and feelings in regard to wilderness areas. There is often an attachment by an individual to a specific wilderness area because of a challenge which has been overcome, or because of a desire to further educate himself in the physical attributes of that region.

Scientific:- The scientific value of wilderness is also an intangible, and is defined as the potential which each wilderness area has for study into genetic diversity, gene pools, natural habitat, ecosystems, biology or other scientific study required to further general knowledge into natural laws, life cycles, medicine, disease, anthropology, sociology etc.

Educational:- Simply the way in which wilderness areas benefit the education of the Australian community through natural laws. Many televised documentaries have stressed the need to conserve the scarce commodity of wilderness in order to conserve natural areas for recreation and wildlife habitat.

Hat

Wool shirt & rumpers

Oilskins & jackets

Tent

Compass

Ropes

Rock climbing

Pants

Snow & Ice climbing

Sleeping bags

Tucksacks

Cookware

Food

Knives

Waterbags

Lighting

Footwear

WE'LL EVEN SHOW YOU HOW TO PACK IT ALL!

*Paddy Pallin* 8, 37, LIVERPOOL STREET, SYDNEY NSW 2000 26 2685  
107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917,

Well, May has been and gone but the 24 hour Orienteering (sorry, rogaining) event promised in last December's Newsletter hasn't. For various reasons it has been postponed to October 6th & 7th, and that is final and definite unless we get no starters at all.

There is something of a clash of dates in that the Federation Ball is on Friday, 5th October, but that shouldn't stop you entering the rogaining. To help make it easy a bus direct to the venue will depart from the Ball at midnight, and you will be able to sleep in late on Saturday before the next night's marathon. Of course there will also be buses going up on Saturday morning from Central.

Anyone who can survive a medium day walk without feeling exhausted should have a bash at rogaining. It's quite OK to feel exhausted after 24 hours of walking - you don't have to be a champion tiger walker to enter, just ~~well~~ determined. Sure, you'll feel exhausted when it's finished, but you'll feel great too. 801

We will very shortly be sending leaflets and entry forms to all clubs. Put the date in your diary or on your walks programme: