

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

PADDY PALLIN FOUNDATION

Applications for grants are invited from any Club, Society or person whose aims are to encourage or assist the practice of "Rucksack Sports". These include bushwalking, mountaineering, rock-climbing, ski-touring, canoeing, caving and similar adventurous activities but not pursuits that rely for their performance on mechanical power.

The Foundation will also assist in the preservation and conservation of bushland and wilderness areas and reasonable access thereto, also access to canoeable waters.

Grants will be made for office and staff costs of societies, scholarships, mountaineering or exploratory expeditions, acquisition of lease or land for recreation or study, and campaigns or submissions for preservation of land.

Allocation of grants will be made by committee consisting of: the President or his nominee of, N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, National Parks Association of N.S.W. and The Kosciusko Huts Association; one member nominated by the Committee, one nominated by Paddy Pallin Pty. Ltd. and a Trustee.

\$5,000 is available this year.

Applications should be made for the 1976-77 financial year to Paddy Pallin Foundation, Box A693, Sydney South, 2000 by 1 May 1976.

BROAD AREA CONTROL BURNING

Federation has compiled a submission to the Government Members Inquiry into broad areas control burning. It has just missed this issue of the Newsletter, but a summary, or perhaps the complete submission, will be published in the next issue. It is expected that attitude expressed will be one of caution, suggesting that broad area control burning be halted, at least temporarily, until comprehensive research into its effects can be completed.

MT BUDAWANG AND CURRAWAN NATIONAL PARK

Mt Budawang lies at the heart of the shortly to be announced Currawan National Park. With future additions, mainly in the vicinity of Clyde Mountain, Currawan N.P. will secure the entire Southern Budawang Range from Morton National Park near Wog Wog Mtn. to the Braidwood-Batemans Bay Road at Clyde Mountain.

The Forestry Commission obtained the approval of the previous Minister for Lands and Forests (J. Mason) to construct a new and larger fire tower on top of Mt Budawang despite the energetic opposition of the NPWS. The minister added the proviso that a two-wheel-drive, all weather access road to the summit be constructed. Access to the small existing Forestry Commission fire tower is gained by means of a poorly aligned, extremely steep four-wheel-drive road.

Federation has called upon the new Minister for Lands and Forests (C.M. Fisher) to reconsider his predecessor's decision in view of the importance of Mt Budawang to Currawan National Park.

FROM THE FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING

* The Total Environment Centre is compiling a comprehensive map of threats to the Blue Mountains area. Such threats include mining leases, power lines, fire roads, urban development, pollution of streams, etc. etc. Any suggestions as to threats which may not be generally recognised would be welcome.

* The Kosciusko Huts Association has asked whether Federation's decision to oppose the rebuilding of Windy Creek Hut was truly representative of members' opinions. Was it? If not, please let's know. This raises the important issue of whether Federation is really a democratic organisation which genuinely represents its members.

* Mt Druitt Bushwalking Club has donated \$50 to the Search and Rescue account in appreciation of S & R's efforts to find a Mt Druitt member some months ago. Federation is suitably grateful.

* Roger Lyle, Publicity Officer, has requested general opinions on publicity for bushwalking generally and Federation in particular. It seems generally agreed that it is desirable for all bushwalkers to belong to a club, and that Federation should publicise that point of view. However there is some uncertainty as to whether Federation should actively promote bushwalking among non-bushwalkers. Some people feel that too many walkers may damage walking areas and lead to overcrowding, while others feel that large numbers of organised walkers are needed to lobby for the protection of walkers' interests. Clubs are requested to discuss this, and comments will be most welcome.

* It is now some 6 months since Federation underwent its "revitalisation" at the adjourned Annual General Meeting last year. There are indications that we may be again slipping back into our bad old ways. Accordingly, at the June Council meeting there will be a soul searching review of Federation's effectiveness in the last few months. Clubs are again requested to discuss this, and brief their delegates on their views.

* Federation has received a letter from the newly formed Darwin Bushwalking Club, requesting some publicity. Well, this is it. Bushwalkers visiting Darwin may like to contact:

Darwin Bushwalking Club,
C/- Russell Willis,
Casuarina High School,
Darwin, N.T., 5792
Phone 271 088 (school hours)

MYALL LAKES

Everyone interested in the future of Myall Lakes should make the effort to inspect the Planning and Environment Commission's Proposals for Myall Lakes, currently on display at the Commission's offices in the Mark Foy's Building, Castlereagh St., Sydney.

The P.&E.C. scheme seeks to reserve a continuous band of foreshore land around The Broadwater, Myall and Booloombay Lakes as a National Park. The proposed additions fall short of earlier park boundary proposals, but are very welcome nevertheless.

An important part of the proposals is the Non Urban 'C' Zone (Myall Lakes Environs Protection Area): "Originally conceived of as including those lands visible from the lakes, this zone has now been extended to protect the immediate catchment area of the National Park" ... "where protection is required but acquisition is not intended. Agriculture other than buildings is permissible without the consent of Council." Council must refer all proposals involving building, clear-felling, etc to the N.P.W.S. prior to making a decision.

Forms for your comments are available from the Commission and should be submitted to Great Lakes Shire Council by 2nd April.

PUBLIC MEETING

Myall Lakes — Planning and the Environment

Come and hear:

Neville Wran, QC
Milo Dunphy
Spike Milligan
Max Hatherly

Also invited to speak are Sir Eric Willis, Premier; Leon Punch, Minister for Public Works and Ports; Sir John Fuller, Minister for Planning and the Environment; C.M. Fisher, Minister for Lands and Forests.

Time and Place: 7.00 pm on Monday, March 29th
in the Teachers' Federation Auditorium,
300 Sussex St., Sydney.

Be there — Myall Lakes National Park needs you.

Sponsored by National Parks Association, Myall Lakes Committee, Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., Australian Conservation Foundation.

YADBORO FLAT

Following the National Parks and Wildlife Service's rejection of his offer to sell, the owner of Yadboro Flat intends to place his land on the market in the form of 40 acre blocks. The undesirability of this important access area being taken up as small private "hobby farms" or "hideaways" is obvious.

The land includes a number of holdings scattered along the Clyde River and Yadboro Creek as well as Yadboro Flat itself. One cluster of portions extends for 3 km up the Clyde River from Pigeon House Creek. In all about 18 portions are involved, mostly 40 acres but ranging from 20 to 100 acres.

The N.P.W.S. reason for rejection is one of priorities. Service funds for land acquisition are already heavily committed to completing transactions that have been in process for years. Cases where irreversible destruction of valuable natural land will result from non-acquisition (eg. clearing of rainforest) are given priority over modified lands. The N.P.W.S. recognises that Yadboro Flat would be valuable as park service area and contends that damage resulting from sale could be repaired. With expected future additions to the existing National Park parts of the Yadboro lands will become inholdings and hence more important for acquisition.

In the meantime the various portions may be sold separately as there is probably a separate title to each. Local government regulations applying to the area could be expected to prohibit the erection of a building on less than 100 acres except with specific permission of the Minister for Local Government. No restrictions would apply to clear-felling or cultivation.

TRI STATE TRACK

(still no better name)

The first meeting of the TST Coordinating Committee was held on Feb. 9th, 1976. FBW was represented by Bruce Vote and Murray Scott. Also present were:

Paul Barnes, NPA;	Jack Darby, Lands Dept.
Jim Starling, NP&WS;	Jim Patterson, Lands Dept.
Geoff Armstrong, NP&WS;	Neville Davies, Forestry Com.

Initial discussions reviewed the aims and scope of the TST project. Geoff Armstrong reiterated the official NP&WS proposal as summarised in the Bushwalkers' Federation Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 2. Two further points were clarified:

- The TST was considered eventually to be part of a loosely interconnected network of walking corridors, with tracks of varying construction standards in accordance with local land use.
- FBW was specifically reassured that the project brief did not include consideration of non-walking uses, ie horse or motor vehicular trails. Any future proposals for such facilities would be considered separately, and would not use the same corridors. River canoe routes were, on the other hand a definite possibility which might be considered in connection with walking routes.

The present tenure of land along the 1400Km proposed TST route was summarised as follows:-

National Parks, Nature Reserves and proposals:	28.5%
Recreation Reserves, State Forests and Lands of the Crown:	39.4%
Vacant Crown Land	3.5%
Leasehold	7 %
Alienated (freehold)	21.5%

Satisfactory forms of tenure for walking corridors were discussed. Jim Starling pointed to the European and American experience of the insecurity of negotiated "rights of way" on freehold land, eg. for the Appalachian Trail.

Jack Darby outlined procedures for securing corridors, including acquisition (whole portions easier than strips), withdrawal of Crown Leases, creation of Easements over freehold etc. An interesting point which was touched upon was the existence of River access rights for "Navigable Streams", the definition of which is left to common law. (Navigable by LILLO perhaps?).

Paul Barnes represented NPA suggestions for interfacing with proposed QLD and VIC track systems, involving border crossings at Wilsons Peak (QLD border) and three crossings to VIC at Cowombat Flat, Tom Groggin and Genoa River. ACT Branch of NPA was also considering possible linkages from the northern end of a Kosciusko Alpine Track to the main TST route.

NP&WS undertook to prepare a set of Parish Maps to clarify portion Nos. of lands near the proposed route. Jack Darby offered to send these lists to Lands Dept. District Surveyors to forstall any alienation proposals arising, pending finalisation of the route.

Responsibility for detail planning of the route will be delegated to Regional Committees headed by the NP&WS Regional Superintendent, and comprised of District Surveyor, District Forester, representatives of appropriate NPA Branch and other local organisations. The Central Committee, on which FBW is represented, will handle questions of general principle and inter-regional coordination, as well as detail planning of the Central, ie Morton to Barrington section of the route. This Central Section is to proceed with priority over the outlying sections.

Neville Davies put forward the Forestry Commission view that in their sections of the route, no attempt should be made to avoid clearfelled or plantation areas. Another sensitive question is the treatment of fire trails; would we rather walk on a fire trail than have it closed and transferred to the next ridge?

Club members are invited to forward comments to Murray Scott, 4 Electra Street, Heathcote NSW 2233.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter (April issue) should be available at the Council meeting on April 20th or immediately afterwards. The deadline for contributions will be Monday, April 12th.

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