

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
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A WALK IN THE WOLLANGAMBE

(In future, if articles are available, a description of a walk will appear in each Newsletter. Any description of a slightly different trip are wanted).

Map: Wollangambe 1:25,000

On Friday night, after much argument as to where to go, Steve, Rob and I finally decided on our trip, and asked the train to stop at Newnes Junction. That night we walked along fire trails, under a brilliant moonlight sky, to the headwaters of Dumbano Ck (GR470974).

After an early start, we followed an overgrown firetrail along Boiler Ridge. Soon the fire trail petered out, and we navigated to the saddle at GR481981. From here the nature of the ridge started to change. The vegetation changed to low heath, and rocky sections became more common. The weather was excellent and the views were good. We soon arrived at a ridge junction (GR484988) and left Boiler Ridge to follow the northern rocky and barren spur, Arthurs Spur. With many rock obstacles and rather resistant heath, going along this section was rather slow. When we dropped off the ridge to the creek junction at GR497998, the scrub became quite bad for a short bit. Following the creek down was a particularly pleasant change from the last section of the ridge. But soon the creek fell over a small waterfall into canyon below. Rob was very apprehensive at this point. From the top of the waterfall it looked like an almost certain swim, with more waterfalls ahead. Being winter, and not having waterproof packs, the thought of a swim was particularly unpleasant. Steve was keen to go on and see what lay ahead, so he abseiled down (the waterfall was big enough to jump). Steve soon yelled back that there was a ledge in the water that would prevent a swim, and that the canyon ahead looked excellent. Rob and I followed Steve's lead, and soon we were walking through a dark magnificent canyon. However it finished shortly, and we found ourselves on Bungleboori Ck. After a relaxing lunch in the sun, we walked 200m down Bungleboori Ck (GR503003) and climbed the south east spur. Though slow going, Bungleboori Ck was very picturesque, with cascades and overhanging trees.

Once out of Bungleboori Ck, we headed across Boiler Ridge, in fading light, to Dumbano Ck. Though a canyon in some parts, there are places where Dumbano can be easily crossed and indeed camped on. Navigation at this point needs to be accurate to avoid canyon sections. We dropped into Dumbano without difficulty immediately opposite a rather interesting tributary (GR521982). The tributary was an exceptionally dark tunnel-like canyon. After walking up this for 100m we were stopped by a dark icy pool.

Returning to Dumbano, we made a pleasant though restricted, camp. Steve was particularly impressed with the creek, especially its crystal clear water. Upstream from the camp we could see a house sized chock stone bridging Dumbano. The pleasantness of the spot was spoiled by drizzle after dusk, but luckily this had disappeared by the next morning.

With an early start, we climbed the spur directly to the south then traversed the tops to descend to Yarramun Ck (GR528953). Two hundred metres downstream was one of the most remarkable features of the Northern Blue Mountains, Yarramun Tunnel. About 100m long and the size of a railway tunnel, Yarramun Tunnel is dark enough to consider using a torch. After suitable investigation, we climbed the rocky, dissected spur to the west, and followed the ridge system to Wollangambe Crater. The descent to a small creek near the Crater (GR514928) was rather spectacular, with large cliffs and pagodas all about us.

After crossing the flat yellow grass of the Crater, we had a later lunch at the Crater's mouth. After a night we had not considered overly cold, the 5cm thick ice on a pool at the Crater's mouth showed what a cold spot the Crater must be. In all the contrast between this spot and the rest of the area was quite remarkable. After lunch, and after a quick visit to a small gorge downstream in the Wollangambe, we walked back to Bell by the standard fast western ridge, Garrats Ridge. Garrats Ridge is quite interesting in its own right, having several very open sections, as well as pagodas and a defile. We arrived back on the road at GR461908, with only a short walk to the railway station.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Total Environment Centre will be holding its third annual book fair between 24th November and 31st January. Major Australian and overseas publishers display their best and newest publications on the environment, conservation, alternative life styles and the outdoors. Posters and prints are also on display. On display and for sale at:

The Total Environment Centre,
18 Argyle Street, Sydney.

DONATIONS

ETTREMA APPEAL: Our thanks to the following, who made donations to the Etrema Appeal:-

Frank Rigby	Charlie Morris
Margaret Tafe	The Bush Club
Nancy Stillman	D.J. Shepherd
Christopher Rowland	P. Deacon
K. Sneddon	Jacqueline Cleary
N.P.A. (Milton Branch)	A. Vaury
Y.H.A. Campers Club	J. Hillman
D. Reynolds	P. Miethke
P. Green	Narrabri B/Ws
C.B.C.	A & D Battye
W. Davidson	Newcastle M. Club
A.C.F.	N.P.A. (Tamworth Branch)
Canberra B/Ws	

SOUTHERN CROSS EQUIPMENT has donated \$174 towards the printing of 1000 Etrema & 2,000 Colo car stickers

TRUDIE ADAMS' FAMILY made a donation to Federation in gratitude for Federation's help in attempting to find Trudie. Trudie disappeared in the Mona Vale region, and Search and Rescue helped search some of the local bushlands for her. No trace has yet been found of Trudie.

CONSERVATION NEWS

ETTREMA: We are still awaiting the decision from the Mining Warden. Meanwhile John Doyle has decided to sue all the clubs he tried to sue before (last time he forgot to turn up at the Court and the suits were dismissed).

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA: The long awaited 'Cartland Committee Report' into land use in S-W Tasmania has been tabled. Basically it would seem the report was a waste of time since none of the major issues - hydro-developments, forestry and mining were resolved. The word "wilderness" is never mentioned in all its pages. It does however recommend extending the conservation area to include all the South West. It also proposes setting up a S-W Authority to decide on future land use problems as they arise. This piecemeal approach we feel will only act as a rubber stamp to development.

Federation has a press release published in the Hobart "Mercury" criticising the report. The Tasmanian Government has allowed only 4 weeks for comments but has declared a moratorium on future developments until it decides whether to accept the report's recommendations.

COLO: An anti-Colo National Park Group has been formed, known as CLUC (Colo Land Use Committee), it consists of 4 WD owners, land owners and sawmillers.

The Henry Gold/Peter Prineas book on the Colo will be available very shortly and can be expected to be a good document in support of the Colo N.P.

WYANBENE: A company known as Occidental Mineral Corporation has applied for an exploration licence over an area which includes all the caves and limestone at Wyanbene. This is in the proposed Deua-Tuross National Park.

BUDAWANGS: Federation has been concerned over recent controlled burns taking place. Apparently Monolith Valley has been burnt out. At present we are inquiring of the attitudes of the superintendent, especially in the light of the fact that Federation agreed to a moratorium on capping in the area.

DEUA-TUROSS WILDERNESS: Federation has received a letter from Mr. Crabtree acknowledging Federation's concern over the possible creation of a State Recreation Area rather than National Park in the area. Mr. Crabtree states:-

"I am certainly aware of the natural value of the area and of the pressure for its dedication as a national park. The NPWS has almost completed its investigations of the area and I hope to have a recommendation for its dedication as a national park in the near future."

DAVE NOBLE
Conservation Officer.

COOLENDEL AND THE ETTREMA WILDERNESS

Coolendel Nature Retreat is a private camping park and recreation area beside the Shoalhaven River, 32km west of Nowra. The area has been gazetted as a Wildlife Refuge and with careful management provides for the conservation of flora and fauna for people. This is borne out by the fact that over the last two years, some 6,000 campers and 1,500 day visitors have enjoyed the atmosphere of Coolendel. Coolendel being in close proximity to Morton NP and the Ettrema-Bundundah Wilderness, provides a recreational facility and an ideal base camp for those wishing to walk into the Ettrema area.

It can now be appreciated that the magnificent Ettrema Wilderness can provide, under the strict supervision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, a recreational asset for the people of Australia. From my intimate knowledge of the area, I envisage that this wilderness has prime and exclusive value as a National Park recreational and aesthetic resource, while providing a pollution free catchment for a most valuable commodity - pure clean water.

RON HENDERSON

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- * Running two shops keeps our small staff on the ball.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

17 FALCON ST., CROWS NEST, 2065
Ph. 439 2454, 438 1647

62 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY, 2001
Ph. 29 4840



NEW PUBLICATIONS

COLO WILDERNESS (Peter Prineas and Henry Gold): This book includes chapters on aboriginal influence, natural history, history and bushwalking. 112 pages, nearly 100 photos maps. Printed on quality art paper, and priced \$6.95. It will be published quite soon. Order from 'Kalianna Press', Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street, Sydney, 2000.

WILDERNESS IN DANGER - A CASE STUDY OF THE NORTHERN BLUE MOUNTAINS (Michael Bell and Associates): This book investigates the threats to the integrity of the Northern Blue Mountains Wilderness. It includes 6 maps as well as chapters on wilderness (and common misconceptions about wilderness), management of the Northern Blue Mountains. Of particular general interest is a section on myths and misconceptions about wilderness. It is priced at \$5 (plus 60¢ postage) and is available from the Colong Committee, Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney.

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS - Their Future in NSW (ed. F.C. Bell): A most excellent general book on NSW forests. Its publication in May was of sufficient note to receive an article in the Herald. It is 92 pages long, with many black and white photos. It is printed on glossy paper, and is available from the Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney. It is a book well worth having.

THE SOUTH WEST BOOK: 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. Order now. Prepublication offer of \$10.50 post free (\$15 hard bound - limited number). To be published in December 1978. Orders are to be sent to the South West Tasmania Committee.

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS CALENDAR 1978. 13 superb photographs for only \$4.70 including postage (or \$4 direct from the South West Tasmanian Committee). Available now from the South West Tasmania Committee, C/o Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street, Sydney, 2000. (It is a good idea to order through the South West Tasmania Committee as all their profits will go towards the preservation of the South West Tasmania Wilderness).

OUTDOOR SENIOR SCOUTING (Rick Jamieson): Though this book was published 10 years ago, the information within it is still generally not too much out of date. It includes chapters on bushwalking, canyoning, caving and a more out of date section on rock climbing. It contains very useful information on specific walks, canyons and caves. At only \$1.59 it is good value. It is available from the Clarence Street Scout Shop in the city.