

A primary concept of wilderness is 'unmechanized man and nature'. The use of machines within a wilderness, particularly motor driven transport, is a basic contradiction. One of the reasons why four wheel drive and over snow vehicles are prohibited from wilderness is the obvious interference they cause to people who have to enter the area on foot, hopefully to avoid such things. It is hard to express the feelings of a walker or ski-tourer who has been out for a week, to have his recreation shattered by the arrival of an internal combustion engine. To be interfered with more than once in a week is not uncommon.

There are four categories of aircraft which affect Kosciusko;

1. Flights of military aircraft, both jets and helicopters.
2. Light planes providing low altitude joy flights
3. Helicopters belonging to the National Parks Service
4. Major civilian aircraft that fly over the northern end of the park.

All categories provide a disturbance to a greater or lesser extent. By far the most objectionable is the first. Not only are the military the most noisy by number and nature, but the very connotations of their activities are completely alien to wilderness. During an eight day trip from Kiandra towards Kosciusko, at the height of our wilderness experience, our silence was shattered by the shriek of F111's hugging the ground on radar, only 30m above our heads. But they were not content with one trip, but they returned again and again. Also the landing of troupes on Watsons Crags for skiing lessons must be a most repulsive intrusion on wilderness.

Unfortunately the problem is an increasing one. Severe controls should exist on the military's activities within the park, and most specifically within the wilderness areas.

Following the military use of wilderness airspace, low altitude joy flights are second on the list. These joy flights are mostly over the Main Range between Kosciusko and Tate, though I have seen them as far north as Mt. Jagungal. Luckily their activities impinge less on the environment when they are there, but they are there more often. They also tend to circle ski parties and this buzzing only helps to make matters worse. Their presence is alien to wilderness and to argue commercial necessity for the operators surely does not hold water. I find them the least justifiable of the lot. If the joy riders in four wheel drives are excluded, then so should these planes.

As a principle, the Service's use of helicopters is also alien to wilderness. However the arguments for the necessity of their existence for the preservation of the wilderness are worthy of consideration. I can only express the hope that close (closer than at present) supervision is kept in this quarter.

Finally the operation of commercial jets currently offers only a minor intrusion into the wilderness. The high altitudes flown usually results in only a vapour trail. This visual reminder I would prefer to be without but, while their frequency and flight paths remain at present, only a small objection could be raised. A watch would be needed for any significant changes.

Any legislation to control flying, would ideally ban all aircraft from sight and earshot of the wilderness areas. However ideals are frequently not achieved. Clearly low altitude flying is the main factor in the breaking down of the wilderness experience, by aircraft. There is no scope for such activities on any but the most essential and minor scale for wilderness maintenance. The tolerance of wilderness users to high altitude flights would no doubt, vary with the individuals' acceptance of numbers of both flights and flight paths. Present usage in this area would probably be acceptable to most.

TIM LAMBLE

The objects of the newly formed South East Conservation Council are the strengthening of action in support of conservation issues in the South-East Region of New South Wales.

An ever present issue is the wood chip operations based in Eden which have a lasting impact on native flora and fauna and the environment generally of that area.

We believe that the issues involved are not only of local importance but of national importance in establishing yardsticks and parameters of what is and what is not acceptable practice and what should be resisted at all costs.

The general public is not perhaps aware of what forestry is costing the taxpayer annually in New South Wales. For example, the average taxpayer is well aware that taxes are going up and that social services are being pruned, but virtually no one is aware that forestry expenditure for 1976/77 was \$37,000,000 whereas revenue was only \$14,000,000. And over the last six years that forestry expenditure exceeded revenue by some \$90,000,000.

There is obviously a strong correlation between good environmental practices in forestry and revenue and expenditure. Clearly the environment will always come off second best when there is an adverse balance.

The wood chip industry is supposed to be one of forestry's most profitable ventures, but the South East Forestry District does not balance local expenditure against revenue let alone pay salaries etc. which are costed at Head Office. In actual fact, after allowing for Head Office charges, the South East Forestry District is in the 'red' to the tune of approximately \$12,000,000 over the last six years to 30th June 1977.

The taxpayer is subsidising the environmental disasters associated with wood chipping in the South East and this subsidy is one of the issues which continues to concern this Council.

For further information, please contact the South East Conservation Council, P.O. Box 1875, Canberra City, ACT 2601 or phone (062) 544 157 or (062) 473 064.

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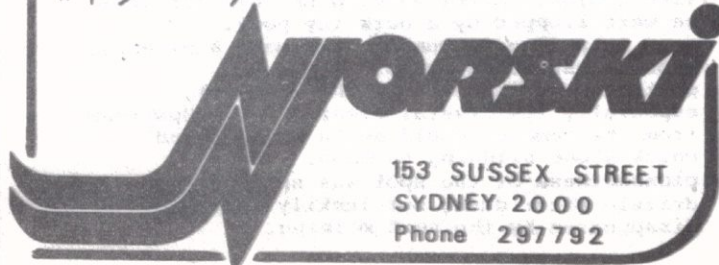
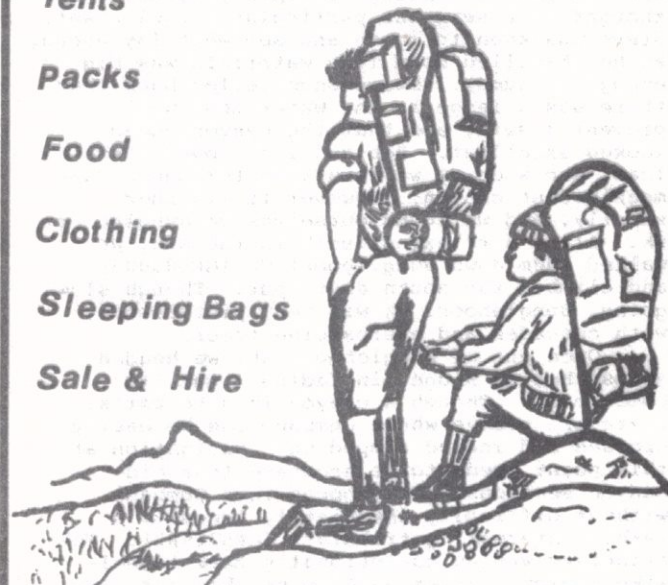
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BUSHWALKERS SEARCH AND RESCUE

During the last twelve months the Committee has completed the renewal of our radio system. The total cost to date has been just over \$5,000. We are grateful to the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation for two grants totalling \$1,000 each, the Paddy Pallin Foundation for grants totalling \$800 and to you, the bushwalkers, for the balance of \$2,200. Additionally, the Paddy Pallin Foundation has made available \$400 to be used for equipment renewal and to go towards a smaller trailer.

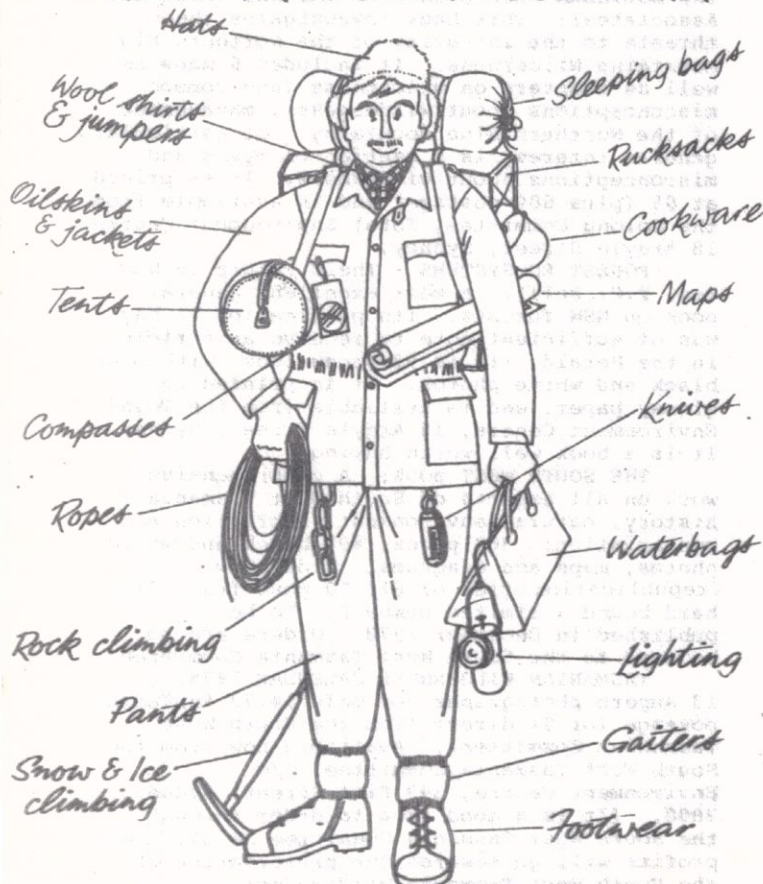
Those walkers who have attended recent practices will agree that the new radios are a worthwhile acquisition. Gone are the days of fiddling with aerial connections and avoiding thick scrub; the new flexible aeriels have solved those problems. Increased efficiency means much greater range; the portable sets now communicate reliably to base at ranges up to 10km.

In spite of the improved radios, S & R activity has been minimal. There have been no call-outs, however the committee has been on stand-by on two occasions. In one instance a Canberra girl walked out to Carlons and on the other occasion we were not able to convince the Police Department that we should rescue a scout from the Claustal area. Training weekends have been in marked contrast with much accent on difficult terrain. The need for basic rope and rock skills was vividly demonstrated with a late afternoon/evening extraction from Ranon Ravine.

The Committee is arranging a meeting with officials from the Police Department to discuss future activity. Our higher level of organisation will go a long way towards supporting our cause.

On behalf of the
Search & Rescue Committee
FERGUS BELL
Rescue Officer

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Paddy Pallin

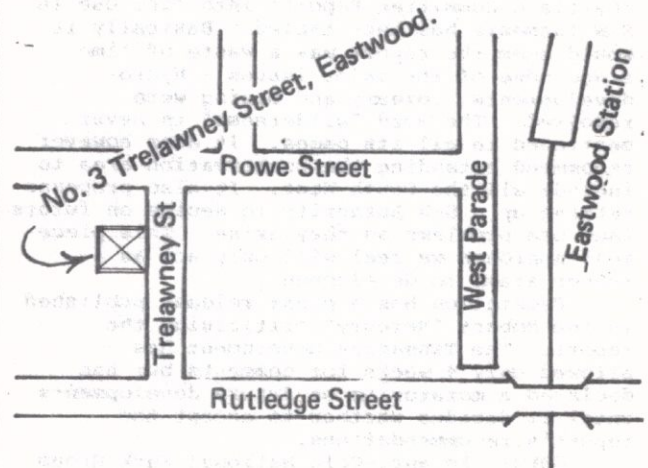
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Agents for Lands Department and Division of National Mapping topographical maps.



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ORIENTEERING

The Orienteering Service of Australia in conjunction with the Orienteering Association of N.S.W., will be conducting an orienteering Instructors Workshop at the Naamaroo Conference Centre, Lady Game Drive, Lane Cove from Friday evening, December 1st to Sunday afternoon, December 3rd.

The workshop will be open to both residents and non-residents from schools, colleges, universities, youth organisations, recreational departments, community groups.

ORIENTEERING SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA

Postal Address: P.O. Box 118,
Arndale Centre, French's Forest 2086
14 Coster Place, French's Forest 2086
Telephone: 451 4843

POETRY

This poem (painted on a board) overlooks the road to McMahon's Lookout (near Wentworth Falls). It appears on the farm of a man well known for his anti-national parks sentiments. His farm was recently surrounded by the extended Blue Mountains NP.

Brave King Wran,
Has a Socialist Plan
All for Nationalisation is He,
He calls for his Milo,
He calls for his Pen,
and proclaims this Park by Decree.

The aim of the Newsletter is to keep bushwalkers up to date with current matters of interest. It will do this best if its articles come from a reasonably large range of walkers, not just the regular contributors. Articles for the Newsletter are always wanted. Any articles for the Newsletter can be sent to

Bob Sault,
4 Clarence Avenue,
Killara 2071
(Phone 498 7897)

Closing dates for articles will generally be very early in the month. All other correspondence should be sent to
Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
Box 2090, G.P.O.,
Sydney. 2001

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