

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
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CLIMBING IN KAPUTAR

If the quality of rock climbing in the Mt. Kaputar National Park was ever in doubt, such doubts can be laid to rest after the appearance of "Aslan", a 50 m climb on the northern face of Euglah Rock. The climb was put up by visiting top U.S. climber Tobin Sorensen and visiting top U.K. climber John Allen, and is graded at 26, which rates it as the equal hardest climb in Australia. The only others (to my knowledge) being "Procul Harem" by Kim Carrigan at Mt. Arapiles in Victoria and "Manic Depressive" by Greg Child in the Grampians, also in Victoria (possibly the only 3 in the country capable of climbing a 26 at the present time). Compared to these areas and many others such as Frog Buttress in Queensland, Ben Lomond in Tasmania, and the Blue Mountains, Kaputar is a lesser known climbing area and consequently less frequently visited by top climbers which makes the appearance of "Aslan" even more astounding.

Kaputar was much slower to develop as a climbing area than the more accessible regions such as the Blue Mountains, and even the nearby Warrumbungles. In fact, where these latter areas have a climbing history going back to the 1930s, the first recorded climb in Kaputar was in 1963, with the next climbs coming in the mid to late 1960s, and most of the development taking place in the last 5-6 years. In the period 1975-1978, many classic high standard climbs were put up, including "Red Disc" 19, "Sky Pilot" 20, "Trigger" 20, "Air Raid" 20, "Borrowed Time" 20, and "Micauber" 21, all of which are on the Governor and most of which are attributed to Armidale climbers Dick Curtis (now in Tasmania) and Brian Birchall.

But, believe it or not, with all this high standard climbing going on, there are still huge areas of virtually unexplored cliffline, such as the N.E. face of the Gins, Nth faces of Mts Waa and Bobbiwaa and Yulludunida, where all grades of climbing are possible. Such areas allow medium to low grade climbers (and even beginners) to go out and do a new route (which isn't possible in other established climbing areas where all the easy routes were done first). As well as the unexplored cliffs, many medium to low grade classics exist in the area worthy of repeat ascents.

At present Mathew Zuiderdien is preparing the new guide book, which involves the inclusion of some 50 new routes since the first one was published in 1978. This should promote even greater interest in climbing in the area, since the first edition was only a rough working guide.

Mark Colyvan

(from Narrabri Bushwalkers Newsletter)

ON THE CLUB SCENE

Welcome to the Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoors Club, P.O. Box 132, Baulkham Hills, 2153. "The aim of the club is to provide a family club for buswalking, outdoor and social activities". This club is located in the "Hills" district and appears to have no minimum joining age.

The University of New South Wales Mountaineering Club has amalgamated with the University's Bushwalking Club and they are now known as U.N.S.W. Bushwalking and Mountaineering Club.

The Tamworth Rucksack Club has changed its name to Tamworth Bushwalking and Canoe Club.

new address for the Bush Club is C/- 12 Forest Road, Double Bay, 2028.

The Illawarra Bush Club has resigned from Federation affiliation due to a declining membership.

WHAT'S NEW

Several new books have appeared on the shelves recently.

A Guide to Bushwalking, Book 3 - covering ten oneday walks - about \$2.00, Myall Lakes National Park - a touring guide by Alan Fairley - about \$2.00, Rock Climbs of Narrow Neck - about \$5.00

Paddy's Bushwalking and Camping plus Skiing has just been 75% rewritten and is now on sale for \$2.00.

So far as gear is concerned, you can now buy dry japara jackets ('round \$42) which are lighter and less likely to tear. With the fuel crisis, you won't need to re-oil them, and their many colours will attract the flamboyant walker.

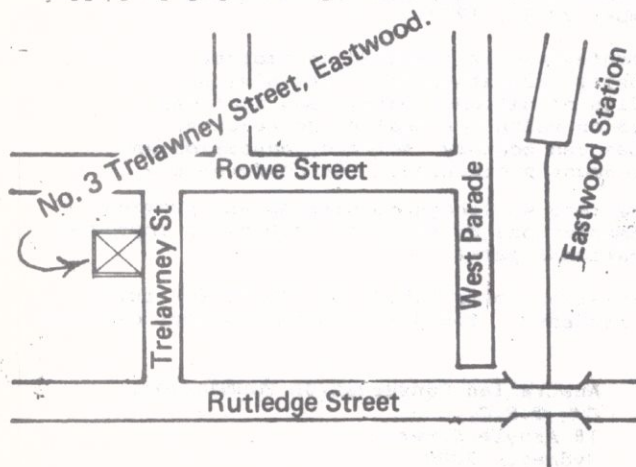
Paddy is also selling the "Bimberi" sleeping bag, which lies between the Kiandra and the Hotham. Described as a good all year bag, it has the advantages of a square-end and weighs only 1 kg.

EASTWOOD CAMPING CENTRE

ALL THE USUAL GEAR:

Fairydown sleeping bags, abseiling gear, parkas, packs, tents, boots, groundsheet, lightweight food, AND MUCH MORE.

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



EASTWOOD CANVAS GOODS AND CAMPING
SUPPLIES

BUSHWALKERS SEARCH AND RESCUE

The New South Wales Federation of Bushwalking Clubs was formed in about 1932 to create a forum of bushwalkers keen to protect the Blue Gum Forest from the developer's axe. Since that time, the activities of the Federation have encompassed all aspects of outdoor recreation and wilderness conservation.

In about 1934, at the site of the newly dedicated Blue Gum Forest, a bushwalker became lost/temporarily mislaid. A number of clubs in the area were involved in the ensuing search, and it was on this occasion that the bushwalkers resolved to form a self-help group for bush search and rescue. Thus the foundations were laid for Australia's oldest land-based volunteer search and rescue group.

For the next forty years, a small band of dedicated and hardy walkers have enjoyed bringing fellow walkers to safety, without further injury to their patients or themselves; an unequalled record in this field.

Being aware of the shy and retiring nature of the typical bushwalker, it is not difficult to appreciate why the activities of Bushwalkers Search and Rescue are rarely emblazoned in the press. A contributory factor to this lack of publicity is the traditional bushwalker "uniform": how could a rabble of such pathetically dressed persons possibly negotiate that rugged terrain in such foul weather? Call them volunteers and say the police did it.

This outward appearance of disarray conceals a group of the most highly experienced walkers trained in every aspect of bush search and rescue; and as you tread ever deeper into the wilderness, remember - Bushwalkers Search and Rescue can get you out!

Bushwalkers search and Rescue is not for all, but if you are a member of an affiliated club, are prepared to take one or two days off per year (without warning), are a reasonably competent walker and are prepared to sacrifice at least one weekend per year for training, then why not you?

Bushwalkers Search and Rescue is not able to train persons to abseil, climb and canyon techniques; that is the responsibility of the clubs. In an earlier issue of this Newsletter were laid down the basic requirements for participation in Search and Rescue. These prerequisites call for a very high standard; we can't afford to have a rescue carried out by untrained and inexperienced people. But in spite of all the gloomy forewarnings, we need new faces at training weekends. We also need club contacts. Your club should have received a club contact advice form soon after the Federation AGM. Complete and post it NOW; otherwise Search and Rescue will not be able to contact your club when the call comes, and you will miss out.

The training weekends for the remainder of the Federation year are as follows:-

- 1 and 2 December: Canyon Search & Rescue at Mt Wilson, base at picnic grounds, approx. 1.5 km beyond Mt Wilson P.O. (towards Mt Irvine), starts 8:00 a.m.
- 22 and 23 March: General large scale search practice, first aid, radio technique, possibly air support; location Wollemi area, to be notified before Christmas.
- 7 and 8 June: Technical/vertical rescue practice, arduous navigation training, Dharug Nat. Park, main camping area, 8:00 a.m.

The committee is as follows:-

- Director: Robert Pallin - 4671334 (H)
262685 (B)
- Field Officer: Keith Maxwell - 5603152 (H)
8881666 ext 365 (B)
- Asst. Fd Off: Peter Tuft - 6987640 (H)
6668943 (B)
- Rescue Officer: Fergus Bell - 4764187 (H)
2189698 (B)
- Catering: Beth Mees - 7994013 (H)
7451800 (B)

- Information: Mike Richter - 4763861 (H)
2335330 (B)
- Equipment: Keith Massie - 6319171 (H)
6394115 (B)
- Medical: Sue Cave - 4766530 (H)
441241 (B)
- Committee Member: Robyn Tuft - 6987640 (H)
6662358 (B)

WALK SAFELY, WALK WITH A CLUB!

TWO SERVE YOU BETTER!

That is our aim, and the reason we now have two shops in Sydney.

The advantages for you include:

- * More stock than ever before on display to select from.
- * We can make larger purchases, often at a better price and pass the savings on to you.
- * If an item is out of stock at one shop, we can usually obtain it from the other within a matter of hours.
- * Our new shop in the city now makes it unnecessary for many to make that trip across the bridge.
- * 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



THE PALAWAN EXPEDITION

Palawan is the westernmost island of the Philippines and measures 425 kilometers by 40 kilometers. Rugged limestone mountains run the entire length of the island.

Palawan is the home of an exotic flora and fauna found nowhere else. In the Taboan caves, remains of paleolithic man have been found that are said to pre-date and have connection with the Australian Aboriginal. Deep in the forests of the south is a tribe said to be culturally the world's oldest. Very little research has been done on the island and only the coastal areas have been explored. The island is honeycombed with caves that were once used as burial sites for a people that buried their dead in clay jars. The classic is St Pauls Subterranean River which is easily navigable for at least four kilometers, and only part of the main river has been explored.

Traditional Explorations is working in co-operation with the Government of Palawan, and various societies and educational bodies in both the Philippines and Australia. We will collect information on the island, prepare reports, make films and generally assist the Government of the Philippines in their plans to preserve parts of Palawan as wilderness sanctuary.

On the island, the expedition will divide into small groups of similar interest. Groups can choose where they want to go. Participants can also visit other islands of the Philippines but will be expected to contribute to reports which demonstrate the worth of this rare and beautiful wilderness. All costs will be worked out on a co-operative basis. Members should be prepared to contribute \$150.00 per week for living expenses, however, it is hoped that the cost will be only \$80.00 per week.

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION
CONTACT:

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Harbord
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