

SCHEDULE N.2

A CODE OF ETHICS OF THE FEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS, N.S.W.

1. Objects:

To encourage the preservation of the qualities of the natural environment: and to promote their enjoyment by travellers on foot, ski or in oar - or sail-powered boats.

To reinforce the concept that, in the natural environment Man is a visitor who neither remains nor leaves any substantial trace of his presence.

To establish guidelines for the maintenance of the safety of the party unit; and to encourage courtesy.

2. Preservation of the Qualities of The Natural and Primitive Environment:

2.1 Self-Reliance

In the natural and primitive areas visitors are self-sufficient, do not use any form of mechanised transport for travel, do not rely on air-drops for food supplies, and provide their own portable accommodation - for example a tent.

2.2 Campsites

For minimum impact in popular areas camps should be on previously used sites.

Camping on fragile vegetation should be avoided.

Construction of tent platforms and bedsites, and the digging of trenches, should be avoided.

Trees, both living and dead, are part of the scenery and should not be cut. Only fallen wood should be used for tent poles. Aluminium tent poles should be used rather than green timber.

All evidence of use is to be removed before leaving a campsite.

2.3 Fire and Fuel

Gas or liquid stoves should be used wherever wood is scarce, above the treeline, and also during bushfire danger periods. Current regulations about fires in the open should always be observed.

Wherever possible, existing fireplaces should be used, or else a small area cleared for a fire well away from tents, trees, scrub and grass.

Only dead fallen timber should be used, and sparingly.

Completely extinguish the fire with water before leaving.

2.4 Sanitation

Toilet waste including paper should be buried beyond the reach of flies and well away from present and potential campsites, tracks and streams.

2.5 Water and Washing

Water supplies should be kept free of any polluting agent.

Swimming should be done downstream from where drinking water is obtained.

2.6 Rubbish

"Carry out what you carry in" - everything that will not burn should be removed, especially foil, metal, plastics, cans and bottles.

Combustible material, including food scraps, must be burnt completely on the fire AFTER cooking is finished.

2.7 Tracks and Markers

Marked or formed routes should be used where they exist, and making new parallel tracks avoided.

Blazes, cairns, tin tags, etc., do not belong in the natural environment.

3. The Maintaining of The Safety of the Party Unit:

3.1 Preparation

Written details of your walk should be left with a responsible person.

A walker should always carry a map and compass and be competent in their use.

A walker should carry a first aid kit suited to his needs, and be familiar with basic treatments.

A torch and matches should be carried in a waterproof container.

3.2 On the Track

A walking party should have a leader and should abide by a leaders decisions.

Each member of the party should keep in contact with the person in front.

Any member who is unable to keep up should immediately let it be known to the leader.

The leader should count the party from time to time.

A reliable person should bring up the rear.

4. Courtesy and Commonsense:

4.1 Within the Party

The sounds of the natural inhabitants should predominate.

Noise from radios and other devices is not in keeping with the natural experience.

Fires should be lit at a safe distance from any tent.

Each member of the party should provide his own share of wood and water.

Stepping over uncovered food should be avoided.

4.2 To Others

A party should camp alongside another party only if invited.

A supply of wood found in a camping cave, or in a hut, should be replenished before leaving.

The rights of landholders should be respected. Permission should be obtained before crossing private property, or using private roads.

Fences or posts should not be damaged. Gates and sliprails should be left as found. The first through should see that the last knows how to leave it.

Permission should be obtained prior to camping on private lands.

SECOND NATIONAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

A conference on National Parks to be held at the Women's College, Sydney University on November 23-25, 1979.

The conference is intended to improve community understanding of the diverse benefits of national parks, and includes papers on value for health, recreation, tourism and economy, science, education and environment protection. The conference will

divide into workshops to discuss and provide recommendations on specific methods of improving the national parks.

Registration costs \$45.00 or \$15.00 for full-time students. Registration and further details:

Australian Conservation Foundation,
C/- T.E.C.,
18 Argyle Street,
Sydney, 2000

Telephone: 271497

CONFESSIONS OF A ROGAINING BUSHWALKER

Bemusedly rereading the explanatory note "Why Rogaining" thoughtfully included by Peter Tuft in our briefing papers, 50 of us lined up for the start of this year's Rogaining event, organised with admirable thoroughness by the UNSW Bushwalking and Mountaineering Club at Wollombi.

It was to be a test of bushcraft, not just athletic ability, so Don and I planned our strategy: leave road accessible points for darkness; make sure of the easy ones; carry only water and ultralight survival gear. We navigated scrupulously and ran whenever possible - not for us the lame (or sane?) excuse of taking it casually!

The question is not so much "Where did we make mistakes?" as "which mistakes were the most disastrous?" I wasted precious master map reference time covering my map with Contact plastic; Don copied in a road without the 'indistinct' dots; our first leg took in a way-out point "because we couldn't get back for it"; I failed to wear a sun hat and salt my water, took an impulsive sip from a cow country creek, stuffed down dried fruit and spent the next 10km, 4 points and 5 desperate hours vomiting it back up. Don navigated - I was barely conscious.

Back at Wollombi Hall, blessed soup and 3 hours sleep (instead of our anticipated 1 hour) pulled body and mind back together and we set out for a new round of mistakes with heavy torches and only an hour's darkness left, most of which was spent finding an easy point which was actually 100m from the map reference (the only organisation fault I could find). Torches unsportingly dumped for retrieval after the event, we recrossed our tracks of the previous day (there must have been a good reason for it) and really got

Stuck into making up lost time, on a very scrubby ridge which we had expected to be grazed clear like the one adjacent. Forced to abandon half the points which would have made the loop worth while, we roadbashed for home, with the consolation of detouring for a cheeky extra point, running back to the Hall with minutes to spare. At least we felt satisfied with the accuracy of our navigation.

The result? We did about 50km for 17 points out of 39; the winners, Laimonis, Kavalieris, R. Vincnet and Ray Dawes scored 31; runners up, Lorraine Tomlins and Keith Thomas got 24; winning the mixed section.

Murray Scott
Sutherland Bushwalking Club.

MORE ON ROGAINING

The preceding article by Murray Scott amply sums up a competitor's side of the inaugural rogaining event of October 6th & 7th. From the point of view of the organisers I would like to thank all those who turned up and made us feel that our effort was worthwhile. However that is not to say that running the event was a chore - we too had a thoroughly good time.

There seems a good chance that a group of people will be found to enjoy themselves organising another event next year. We hope that Murray and all the others from this year will come along, eager to apply the knowledge and experience gained this time, and determined both to put up a brilliant performance and to thoroughly enjoy the challenge.

The results of the event are set out below - congratulations to the winners and runners-up. Congratulations also to a couple of those towards the end of the list who as far as we could gather, had never done any bushwalking or navigating at all before. They certainly show up all those bushwalkers who probably thought to themselves, "Well, rogaining might be interesting, but I'm sure it's beyond my ability", or something similar. To all of you we say - a big raspberry, you don't know what you are missing, and give it a go next year!

Not being certain of the continuity of the event, no trophies were awarded, and only tiny token prizes. However should next year's event be a success too then some consideration will have to be given to a perpetual trophy, and this year's winners will of course be included on it.

Please send articles to:

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All other FBW Correspondence to:
Federation of Bushwalking Clubs,

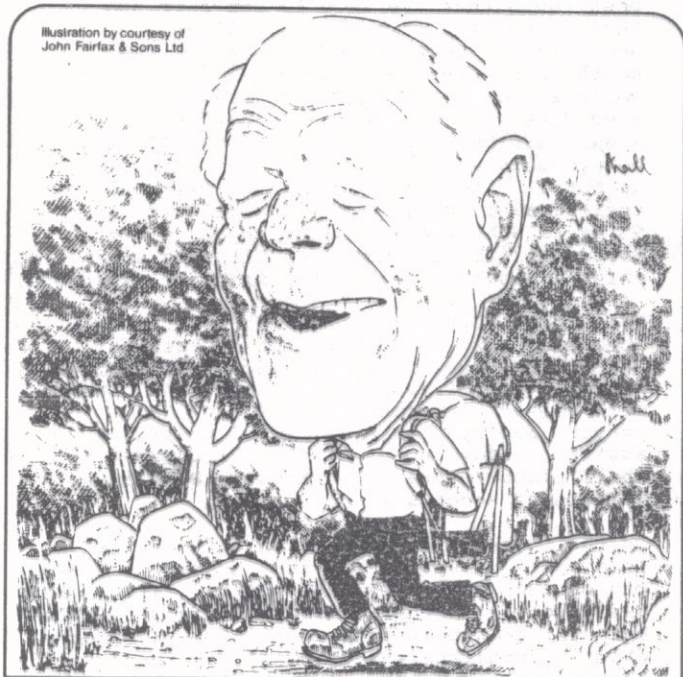


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