

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

ISSN 0313-2684

REDUCED BOUNDARIES

FOR YURAGIR NATIONAL PARK

Massive reductions in the areas proposed for national parks on the North Coast of NSW are proposed by Ministers Hills, Crabbtree and Day.

A map of the new boundaries proposed for the major North Coast park proposal (Yuragir NP) was leaked from Government sources to the Total Environment Centre which (after checking their authenticity with Government Departments) called a press conference. The resulting publicity appears to have prevented the group of ministers from making their announcement (which was to coincide with Mr. Wran's absence on holidays at Lord Howe Island). Presumably the proposals will now have to be debated in Cabinet. Therefore letters to the Premier would be particularly useful at this time. Letters should express disgust at the reduction of about 3/4 in the area of Yuragir, loss of Lake Hiawatha and Minnie Water and the threat of 4 major mining operations and several land developments proceeding in what was previously proposed by the Labour Government as national park. Letters should call for continued government support for the I.D.O. boundaries gazetted early this year.

The effect of Mr. Crabbtree's boundaries would be to leave three small parks instead of the large Yuragir. Two of the small parks (Angourie and Red Rocks) already exist. The other, Minnie Waters NP consists of land already purchased by the Government through the Coastal Conservation Scheme and by the NPWS. Thus the only gain to the general public from the new boundaries would be a new name: Minnie Waters NP. But half a dozen private companies would be much closer to their development goals.

To cap all this the Total Environment Centre is also in possession of a copy of a letter from Mineral Deposits Ltd. to the Under-Secretary for Mines. The letter dated April 3, 1978 states the company's proposals to mine in 4 existing or proposed North Coast parks. It concludes by listing the Company's proposal to mine the Southern High Dunes in the existing Myall Lakes National Park, commencing in 1982.

Bundjalung NP

A similar position to that in Yuragir appears to apply to the proposed Bundjalung NP to the south. Here two major areas are excluded which will allow for two new mining operations. One of these would be over the High Dunes at Jerusalem Ck.

Meeting between Mr. Crabbtree and Representative of the NPA. On Tuesday August 8, Milo Dunphy and Peter Prineas met Mr. Crabbtree in his office. They showed him a copy of the departmental map of Yuragir boundaries and pressed him to agree to meet a deputation from the NPA to discuss the boundaries in detail before he made any decision regarding them. Mr. Crabbtree refused this request although it was put to him several times. His subsequent media assurances that he is always willing to talk to the NPA are pure obfuscation.

COLO APPEAL

Recent developments in Ettrema make it appear that only loose ends need to be tidied up in order to prevent mining in Federation will now divert its attention to what now appears to be the next conservation issue, that is the mining and damming in the Colo region. The Colo-Hunter Wilderness represents 25% of the total remaining wilderness area in New South Wales (235,000 hectares), embracing the gorges and valleys of the Wollangambe, Colo, Wolgan, Capertee and Bylong Rivers. Its close proximity to the cities of Sydney and Newcastle means that a Colo National Park would cater for a major recreational and inspirational demand. At the same time, the physical and intangible qualities of the wilderness area would be secure in a gazetted, protected reserve.

The threats of the Colo region are very real and very imminent. A major dam and pipeline are proposed within the Colo wilderness area. The major opponent of the Colo's preservation (the Electricity Commission) is a very powerful body. Any campaign will be very costly. Funds are needed to pay for the campaign to save Colo. Donations are asked for. All donations will be acknowledged in the Newsletter. (Unless of course the donor wishes to remain anonymous). All donations should be sent to The Secretary, Box 2090, G.P.O. Sydney 2001.

WHAT'S NEW

NEW MAPS

Some new 1:25,000 maps are available of the Mittagong Region. These new maps are very poor. They are only half the old size and are printed on both sides of the paper. This makes it impossible to fit the maps together (without buying two of each sheet!)

MAGAZINES

A recent CMW magazine "Into the Blue" is out featuring articles on Snowy Mountains Walks, Igloos and Part II of an article of walking from Clyde Mtn to the Victorian Border.

A ramblers "Aark" recently published featured articles on South West Tasmania, Hollanders River and the latest insanity rating of the members.

A new "Kameruka" magazine should now be available with 3 articles on South West Tasmania, 3 on the Northern Blue Mountains, one on Snowy Mts daywalks and 2 on food.

SLEEPING BAGS

Prices of NZ bags have gone up a lot in recent months. Paddy Pallins have a new top end model out "The Snowlord" and have some new synthetic bags in from America selling below \$100 and rated to 20°F.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

A major threat to the conservation of many areas is the areas potential for energy production. South-west Tasmania and the Colo River are obvious examples. By some reasonably simple measures, energy consumption can be reduced, and its efficient use increased.

1. A lot of power is used to provide electric heating and cooking in winter, and for the rest of the year this potential for power lies idle.
2. The Snowy Mountains Scheme is the best and cheapest source of peak power. However, it is only of real benefit if total peak power requirements are kept to about 6500 MW. Therefore, this State should consider greatly encouraging the use of gas for heating and cooking instead of electricity wherever possible.
3. It takes three times as much coal and energy to deliver a fixed amount of heat or energy (say, to boil a litre of water, or heat a room) by electricity, than it does if coal is converted to town gas, piped and burnt in gas heaters at home, or in a stove.
4. The capital cost of a power station is somewhere between \$160 and \$220 per kilowatt, and thus a new power station rated at 2000 MW would cost about \$320-440 million. How is this money to be raised? If people were encouraged to use gas stoves and heaters, the cost to society would be about one-tenth of the above, because gas works do not have to be expanded nearly as much because gas can be made at night and used the following evening. Electricity, however, cannot be stored, and must be made the instant it is required.
5. Society would be far less burdened by the problems of loan raising if people were encouraged by active advertising to:
 - a) Use less energy
 - b) Use gas for home cooking and heating
6. Gas plumbing can be installed in housing and there are available today gas-tight (leak-proof) sockets, so that portable gas heaters can be carried from room to room. There are many such installations, especially in Canberra.
7. The state is now served by a gas grid connecting many coal fields. This pipeline can carry town gas as well as natural gas, as it is thought that natural gas will run out in 25 years time, but coal, if burnt wisely, may last some hundreds of years. Town gas works of moderate size can be built on the coal fields, thus avoiding transporting coal.
8. The government should consider offering cheaper electricity rates to people who undertake not to draw more than 2 or 2.4 kW at any one time. This can be policed quite quickly, effectively and cheaply by adjusting and sealing the 10 amp over-current circuit breaker to 10 amps. This circuit breaker is fitted to every new, and many existing switchboards. The circuit breaker is easily reset by the householder in case of over current; it is just like a switch, but it effectively limits the power that can be used. The allowance is adequate for lighting and T.V., washing machine and small scale heating (e.g. toaster, jug, frying pan and the fridge.) I assume a gas stove and heating will be used.
9. The state government should take firm, positive steps to actively discourage the various county councils around Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong (e.g. McKellar, Sydney, Warringah, Prospect, St. George, Shortland, etc.) from their campaign of selling more installed electricity power (e.g. "Housepower Plus" and the "All Electric Home").

REMEMBER THE FEDERATION BALL

The ball will be held at Chatswood Town Hall on Friday, 6th October, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 and are available at the door.

ROADS AND THE NORTHERN BLUE MOUNTAINS

Throughout the Northern Blue Mountains there are a number of somewhat unfriendly farmers who will not permit bushwalkers to travel through their property to get to the bush beyond. Notable examples are the farmer on the Drip Rock fire trail (Putty Rd), the Condon Ck farmer (Putty Valley), the farmer situated at the head of the Putty Valley (just as the road climbs the ridge to Baxter Junction), and the High Range farmer (Nullo Mountain). These farmers effectively block the Drip Rock fire trail, roads on the Tollagong Range, Bakers Rd (to Baxter Junction) and the Widden Trail. There are many other roads blocked by other farmers.

In many cases the farmers have no legal right to prevent through traffic. Road reserves which provide legal access exist. Farmers do not in general deny that legal access does exist, however they generally become somewhat aggressive if it is mentioned, and nothing overall has been gained.

Though these farmers are opposed to bushwalkers, they too are indirectly preserving the bushlands near their farm. By not allowing any vehicles through, the only people that can penetrate into the bush behind the farms are those who are prepared to walk, either by walking around the farm, or by sneaking through it. It may mean however, that the walker may have to walk a long section of fire trail beyond the farm, something he may have preferred to do by car.

On the other hand 4WDs and vandals have been kept off these roads. The results of this are clearly noticeable. The Drip Rock fire trail is now overgrowing, and some roads leading out of the Putty Valley have become overgrown to the extent that they are no longer trafficable and indeed, in spots, even difficult for the bushwalker to follow them.

NOW INTO HIGH GRADE

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Tents

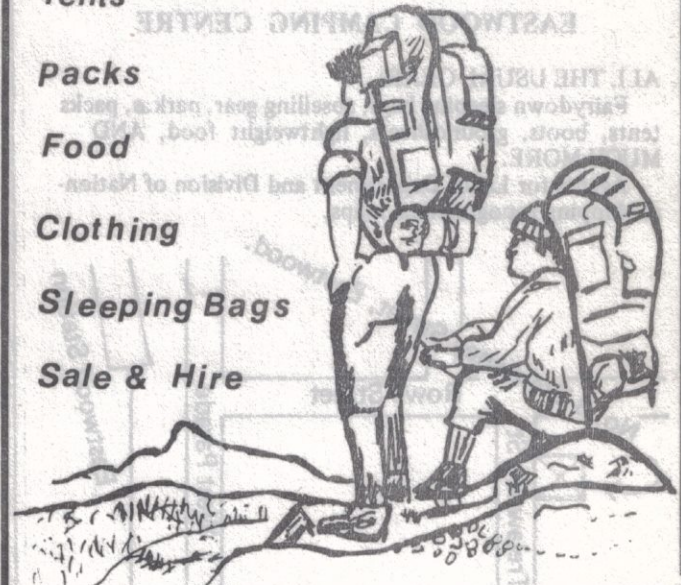
Packs

Food

Clothing

Sleeping Bags

Sale & Hire



WORSKI
163, SUSSEX STREET
SYDNEY 2000
Phone 297792