

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
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OFFICE BEARERS 1979/80

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OFF ROAD VEHICLES

The following is "lifted" from the June edition of the "Land Rover Owners Club News" as part of an item concerning a forum on off road vehicles hosted by the Australian Conservation Foundation with speakers from different sides of the issue.

"Address by Roy to Aust. Cons. Found.

- 30 in audience
- audience appear radicals with own interests
- not Australians at heart
- quoted passages from club magazine out of context
- plus own interpretation

Bushwalkers want roads defined in their terms."

Our contributor assures us that the above is an exact replication, and also quotes from the LROC Federation Report "NP&WS submission distorted views and ratbaggy". He goes on to suggest that this stuff is good for a giggle.

This last comment notwithstanding, I have not read the LROC nor attended the forum. For all I know, each of the above charges could well be perfectly correct. In an issue of such deep conflict (i.e., how much to restrict off road vehicles), it can be very easy to appear to stand a long way over the fence. No doubt the above extreme view is not shared by all ORV drivers.

However, that third point (not Australian at heart) brings sharply to mind a newspaper article of a couple of years ago, in which no less than one half of the front page was devoted to a headline asking "Aren't you proud to be Australian?". The rest of the page contained photographs, and page 2 or 3 told us how a bunch of fools on a picnic were happily engaged in hoisting their garbage in all directions into

the bush. Sometime during the day, a religious group entered the scene and cleared all the surrounding bush of cans, bottles, etc., and stacked this litter ready to be removed. Our typical Australians were enraged and promptly scattered the stuff back into the bush.

Does this mean, then, that to be Australian is to destroy the small amount of "virgin" land remaining to us? Fortunately, starting with the dedication of the Royal National Park, Australians have been showing increasing interest in preserving natural landscape for the repeated appreciation and enjoyment of ourselves and our descendants. Unfortunately, the percentage of our population even capable of being interested in such things is terrifyingly small. Public education is thus of paramount importance in dealing with any conservation issue, and that includes ORV drivers and bushwalkers.

Bushwalkers can be relatively easily educated. FBW policy sheets on such subjects as bushwalker ethics in wilderness is a step in this direction, and the "carry out what you carry in" slogan is now fairly well established amongst bushwalkers. However, the Monolith Valley cease-camping request shows that even well-behaved bushwalkers can overuse an area. And overuse is the real problem involved in the ORV situation. An ORV causes a lot more damage than a bushwalker, or say a horserider. It is all a question of degree.

So, the sooner the various parties stop bickering over who gets what area, and realise that we are all Australians on the same side of the fence, and get down to detailing limits of use of each activity in each area, the better off we'll all be.

SCHOOLS PROJECT - WESTERN SYDNEY

The western suburbs and lower Blue Mountains area has long felt the need of environmental education for many of the children living in that area. On any weekend, and particularly during school holidays, young people can be seen travelling to the mountains from the western suburbs to go camping.

It is essential that the potential bushwalker of tomorrow be educated in the value of appreciating and wisely using our limited bushland resources.

The Blue Labyrinth Tent Camping and Environmental Experience Committee has been formed, comprising teachers from the Blue Mountains and Outer Western Suburbs, and has the following aims:

1. The establishment of a fixed training area near Glenbrook Primary School where groups of 30 or more children can be accommodated to be educated in environmental principles and basic bushcraft;
2. The production of a manual for user groups explaining resources of the area, and methods by which teachers can use the outdoors to study natural sciences - flora and fauna, ecology, bushcraft, orienteering, etc. - and merge it into their curriculum.

The first aim is already well on the way to being established, but assistance is required from experienced bushwalkers, resources people and people who can contribute natural science information.

If you are interested in promoting bushwalking training and environmental awareness in schools in that area, and would like to be one of a sub-committee, please contact principal Frank Ley on 047 7391274 (work) or 047 391156 (home), or Ted Hartley (Mt. Druitt BWC) on 6222416.

FEDERATION NEWS

SEARCH AND RESCUE

(i) Schedule Practices

December 1st/2nd 1979 - Canyon Practice
- Mt. Wilson

March 22nd/23rd 1980 - Large Scale
General Search

June 7th/8th 1980 - Arduous Rescue

(ii) Annual Report

The S&R group was involved in six incidents over the past twelve months. One search was at the request of the Police to assist them in their search for Trudi Adams (still missing). Another search was successfully conducted in the evening in the Colo area. A rescue in the Colo area was completed with the aid of the Wales/Channel 10 helicopter, and a walker was carried out of the Red Rocks area (Wolgan) complete with broken ankle. An accident in the Barrington area was referred to the Police as it was felt that S&R would be unable to respond quickly enough. At our request, the Police also checked on an overdue party in the Kanangra area.

Four training exercises were conducted and attendances were dominated by members of Uni of NSW, Span Unlimited and the Ramblers. The lack of interest by some metropolitan clubs is to be deplored. Keynote for training was the last training exercise where Dick Smith carried some lucky walkers as observers in his new helicopter. A great deal was learned by all, relating to air searching and visibility from the ground.

This opportunity is taken in thanking Judy Johnson (Uni of NSW), Mrs. Adams and Span Unlimited for donations received.

No major items of equipment were purchased. However, after much paper warfare, we are protected by a \$4 m public liability policy and \$30,000 personal accident cover. As may be apparent from the first paragraph, co-operation with the Police has been excellent. Members are reminded that all communication with that Department should be through the S&R Committee.

Club contacts are still required and the early completion of the club contact advice forms (circulated at the AGM and with the minutes) will help ensure that your club is not overlooked at the next callout. Remember that high standards of ability are required of participants. Persons who feel they can serve S&R should approach the Director.

Walk safely!

PHONE SECRETARY 799 4013

For the last two years the FBW has been listed in the telephone directory under the Environment Centre's number, and the phone Secretary's number has been separately advertised in the Newsletter, newspaper articles, etc. A dramatic increase in enquiries has been generated, particularly via the directory listing.

Each month, FBW now receives approximately 60 enquiries about club membership, most of these being answered directly by the Environment Centre which has the "green list" and phone numbers of clubs. About 10 other calls are received per month from walkers requiring information about gear, maps, access, etc., and from the media.

If club leaders want these enquirers to be channelled to their clubs, they must keep the Environment centre staff and the phone secretary informed of their current activities, phone contact and new member details.

Some clubs forward a copy of their club programs, but clubs are reminded that FBW requires several copies, to be distributed to the several contact points for enquirers.

BALL

BUSHSPORTS BALL \$6.00

It's on October 5th, at Balmain Town Hall. Tickets now available. Write to Ball Convenor (address at rear of Newsletter) or ring phone

CONSERVATION

The Southwest Tasmania Film screening is to take place on October 12th/13th at 7.30 pm at the Law School, King and Elizabeth Sts., Sydney. Tickets \$3. Clubs and interested parties are invited to support this worthwhile cause.

The water of the upper Grose is polluted (black), particularly creeks on the northern side, from coal mining as it would appear. Enquiries will be made of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and of the Minister for Mines.

Discussions have been proceeding between NPA and the Minister for Planning & Environment concerning Mann River and Guy Fawkes Wilderness areas. FBW is also urging a moratorium on logging in Mumbilla-Eden and Border Ranges.

PRIORITIES 1979/80:

1. Recommendation for Plans of Management of:
 - (a) Morton National Park
 - (b) Deua National Park
 - (c) Wadbilliga National Park
 - (d) Wollemi National Park
 - (e) Kanangra-Boyd National Park
2. Recommendations for the review of the Plan of Management for Kosciusko National Park.
3. The conservation and reservation of
 - (a) Ettrema/Bundundah Wilderness
 - (b) Apsley/Yarrowitch Wilderness
 - (c) North Coast National Parks
 - (d) The finalisation of boundaries and gazettal of Wollemi National Park.
4. The conservation and reservation of the South West Tasmanian Wilderness.

BUSHSPORTS

Twelve people attended the Cross-country Skiing Weekend. The weekend was a success, but not financially so.

Despite leader difficulties, the Mountaineering Weekend was undertaken. Of the eight people who booked, four paid, and there were only two who participated. Joe Fringe is thanked for leading the party.

The mid-September Canoeing Weekend is booked, and arrangements are proceeding smoothly as of this writing.

If you are new to outdoor sports and wish to learn please send s.a.e. to Bushsports '79, GPO Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

TRACKS AND ACCESS

A public road to Bindook is being built by property-owner Lang (who presently charges \$5 access). FBW has decided to support in principle that the Scott's Main Range Road and the Yerranderie area be closed to public vehicular traffic.

It has been reported that vehicle parking is now being charged for at Carlon's farm (Mega-long Valley). T&A is ascertaining details.

GENERAL

A 24 hour orienteering event called "rogaining" will be held on October 6th/7th. Enquiries and participants welcome. Contact our phone secretary.

NPA (ACT Branch) is now an affiliate of FBW. We extend our welcome and best wishes to that group.

In response to FBW concern over its Reunions, seven clubs have written to support retention of the event, with some improvements nominated. Nevertheless, lack of attendance in recent years has resulted in the decision not to hold the 1980 Reunion unless a particular club undertakes to organise it.

Donations for the Ettrema issue should be made out to "ACF Ettrema Fund".