

# THE Bushw



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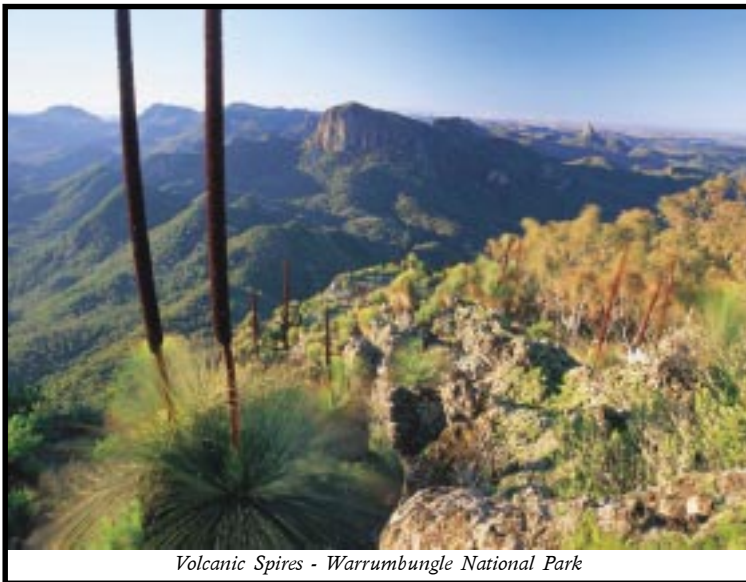
## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR WARRUMBUNGLER NATIONAL PARK



January 2003 will mark the beginning of a year of celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation

of Warrumbungle National Park, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Northern Plains Regional Manager, Wayne Dornbusch announced.

Long the home of the Gamilaraay people, the spectacular Warrumbungle Mountains west of Coonabarabran came to the attention of committed bushwalkers in the first half of last century, many of whom lobbied for the area's protection as it gained popularity.



Volcanic Spires - Warrumbungle National Park

In 1953 the Warrumbungle NP was formally gazetted, and articles announcing the event in the media of the day attracted 4000 visitors the following Easter weekend.

Today the Warrumbungle NP attracts over 40,000 visitors each year, creates \$1.38million per annum annually for the economies of Coonabarabran, Coonamble and Gilgandra shires and provides the

equivalent of 66 jobs locally.

The half-century milestone will be commemorated with a series of events throughout the year ranging from environmental walks and tours, novelty events like a marathon and bicycle ride and art-related workshops, culminating in a major concert in November.

A feature of the celebrations will be the May re-enactment of the DC3 flights that ferried the early bushwalking enthusiasts to the area via Tooraweenah, offering modern day walkers the opportunity to make the journey alongside the original pioneers.

The event will be called the "Barefoot Bushwalking Celebration" in honour of one of the Park's most famous patrons, Dorothy Butler, (see page 8) a renowned international

mountaineer whose trademark was hiking and rock-climbing in the Warrumbungle Mountains barefoot.

In 1936 and barefoot she was the first to scale the Warrumbungle's Crater Bluff along with Dr Eric Dark, and today her grandchildren continue her barefoot hiking

tradition in the National Park.

Dorothy Butler's exploits resulted in her receiving the 1988 Australian Geographic Society's Gold Medallion for Adventurer of the Year.

It is this rich history, combined with the region's cultural and natural heritage that has made the Warrumbungle NP's landmarks so famous, according to Aileen Bell, chair of the Warrumbungle 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations Steering Committee.

## BUNGLEBOORI CREEK TRAGEDY

by Keith Maxwell president BWR Bushwalkers



Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) played an important role in the search and rescue for three overdue canyoners. The three canyoners had

started a day trip on Sat 23/11/02.

There were concerns about their experience in the Bungleboori Creek canyon system. A helicopter search of Bungleboori Creek on Mon 25/11/02 could not locate them. Entry and exit of Bungleboori Creek is very difficult due to its nearly continuous cliff lines of up to 60 metre height. Many of the side creeks become dark yet beautiful narrow slots "canyons" as they cut through the cliff lines. Canyons often have waterfalls, necessitating abseils, and dark cold pools. Even with wetsuits, canyoning is a summer only activity for experienced bushwalkers or groups from reputable outdoor adventure companies.

At the 5am start on 26/11/02 at Lithgow Police Station volunteer emergency services present included SES from Portland, Lithgow & Bathurst, Lithgow VRA, Blue Mountains Guides and BWRS. It was clear that this search would be difficult with poor intelligence being available as to what canyons, if any, this group had attempted. There was general agreement that Hole in the Wall Canyon may have been the logical choice attempted. The Police had charged Lithgow VRA with the organisation of the search and they, in turn, were happy for BWRS and the Guides to prepare the tasking and group allocation.

Base site was established at the end of Waratah Ridge Fire Road on Newnes Plateau. The BWRS base tent was the only covered structure on site and it became the focal point for all the services. It provided both shade from the extremely hot weather (there was a bushfire emergency in force throughout

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## THE BUSHWALKER

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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 70 clubs with a total membership around 11,000 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, the Confederation provides a united voice on conservation and other issues, runs training courses for members, and provides for the public a free wilderness search and rescue service. People interested in joining a bushwalking club are invited to write to the Secretary Bushwalkers NSW at the above address for information on clubs in their area.

Or web site [www.bushwalking.org.au](http://www.bushwalking.org.au)

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# HISTORICAL FEATURE

## A SURVEYOR OF THE MOUNTAINS WILLIAM ROMAINE GOVETT

by W L Havard (Warrigal Club)  
from *The Bushwalker* 1940

William Romaine Govett, believed by many to have been a bushranger, whose leap over a cliff made him prominent in Australian pioneering mythology, was in reality a young and promising surveyor who came to this colony by the barque Asia in December, 1827.

At first, for the sake of field experience, Govett was employed near Sydney, but in mid-1828 he accompanied Major Mitchell, who was extending a trigonometrical admeasurement from the lighthouse at South Head to the Tindery Mountains in the then southern limits of the colony. The party also surveyed ninety miles of the "dividing range" as a county boundary, and parts of the rivers Wollondilly, Cookbundoon and Guineacor, as well as the lakes, lagoon and plains that bound them. In September of that year, Govett surveyed to Lake Bathurst and the Wollondilly morass. Later he worked in the neighborhood of the "hill named Wayo," traced the upper Cookbundoon, and part of the Wollondilly from the point of junction of Paddy's River.

In 1829 Govett surveyed the country towards Wiseman's and the Hawkesbury River, and that between Broken Bay and Sydney. At one stage he reported "... in consequence of my not having a Pack Horse there will be many a day I shall have to wander with blanket on Back, and many a night to trust to the generosity of the weather for my rest.

Early in the next year he was engaged in the district beyond Botany Bay between George's River and the Cataract River.

### THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

Govett left Sydney for the Blue Mountains in March, 1831, and began working in the Mount Victoria district. Subsequently he camped near Blackheath, and began the survey and sketching of the ranges towards the Grose River and Mount Hay, as well as the cliffs on the southern side of the mountain road. It was while so engaged in June that he first saw the wellknown cascades near Blackheath. As for the break of rock that is such a feature of the locality, Govett had seen no other view that showed so well the character of the mountain feature and gully. At first, the falls near Blackheath were known simply as The Cascades. A promontory on the south side of the road was known as Govett's Point, a name that soon gave place to "Tyra Saxa Point," or the Three

Sisters of to-day. Concerning the Blue Mountains, Govett wrote in 1835 :

"The bold broken nature of the country on either side is peculiarly grand, and the streams which at first commence in swamps soon make their way into inaccessible gullies, until they arrive at the cliffs of the main channel where they fall in cascades . . . . The most remarkable of these cascades is the one near the Weatherboarded Hut [Wentworth Falls] and that which falls into the head of the Grose River ; which the surveyor general named 'Govett's leap' from the circumstance of my first having come upon the spot when surveying with Mr Rusden."

In September, 1831, after many attempts, Govett

found it impossible "to descend the rocky cliffs in order to trace the low connecting Ridge which joins the Isolated Mountain [Mount Solitary] -to the main Mountain Range ; but," he said in reporting to Mitchell, "by going from point to point, and extending my bearings both North & South of it, I am enabled to shew on my plan the main Creek on either side, as also the *connect of Ridge* itself-and I think I could distinguish the point where these creeks join Cox's River."

### HIS LAST SURVEY

Govett's last survey in the colony took in the country lying between the "dividing range" of Werong and Cox's River, for which he was given instructions in August, 1833. In November of that year he returned to Mount Clarence, whence he reported :-

"The continuation of my former survey of Ranges & creeks south from the mountain Road to the great bend of the Cox . . . .

"The Kowmung River upwards from its junction with the Cox for about twenty miles, and also a portion of the Konangaroo Creek, a branch of which runs Westerly round the 'Highest land . .

. . . called by the Blacks (if the word can be written as they pronounce it) Kuo-uo-gang.

"The traveling however of the bed of these creeks I found much worse than the bed of the Cox-which River is in some places rendered tolerable by wide flats of stones. The Native name of the three conical Hills, intersected from Jellore, wh. also you [Mitchell] requested me to get is 'Mouin' but they are not named separately. That part of the country where the Cascade Ck from the Weather board Inn [Wentworth Falls] joins the Cox, is called Godoomba [hence 'Katoomba'], 'the isolated mountain' Munmu [?], and the One Tree Hill 'Gindingbla' [hence Kanimbla]."

For six years Govett had explored and traversed stream, ridge and forest in the mountains, covering country previously untrod by the white man, and perhaps no one in the colony had as comprehensive a knowledge of the Blue Mountain system. It is therefore regrettable that, when a reduction was made in the surveying establishment, he returned to London, leaving Sydney by the barque Ann in March, 1834. He died in the 'forties, and is buried in the churchyard at Tiverton, Devon.

In recent years the Upper Nattai has become quite a resort of bushwalkers, and a number of parties have made trips from Mittagong down that valley as far as Burragorang or Starlight's Track. Its roughness, however, detracts somewhat from the pleasure of walking, or rather scrambling, along the valley, but it is of interest to notice that over fifty years ago the hillsides nearby were practically honeycombed with coal mines and drives. In the first six or eight miles of the valley, the upper coal measures which rise above river level are constantly visible, and during last century numerous attempts were made to mine the coal on a commercial scale. Much expensive plant was set up at various places along the valley, and three tramways were built from Mittagong to various drives and adits in the seam. Little public or governmental support was afforded to these projects, although the coal was of good quality, and they were eventually abandoned. In many places, however, traces of the old works can still be found, and these links with the past make an exploration well worth while



From a miniature post card in the Mitchell

Continued from page 1  
NSW) and enough room to act also as a mess tent. A total of seven areas were tasked 5 canyons: (Bubble Bath, Hole in the Wall, Banks, Bungleboori upstream, Bungleboori downstream) and 2 general ridge areas. Each party had a Police Officer, at least one to two BWRS members, with the Blue Mountains Guides being spread through the canyon teams. Police Officers in the canyon teams were not equipped for the conditions and returned to base as each team descended into the gorge.

BWRS was able to advise of possible exit areas that were then searched extensively by trail bike groups. Additional SES personnel were used to search fire roads to the north with concentration around Deep Pass. Lithgow VRA additionally provided food and snack to the command personnel and day teams. The SES provided water and drinks.

Many scenarios were played out as the day wore on, with a faint hope when footprints were discovered in Bubble Bath Canyon. One print was a definite shoe size of at least 11. Police were able to ascertain that at least one member of the missing canyoneers had a foot size of 10 ½ or more. All efforts were made to follow these prints down stream to establish if they had continued further down Bungleboori Creek or in fact headed west into the southern arm of Bungleboori Creek.

Police were so encouraged by this find that Polair was called in to assist in searching the gorge further down stream. Polair located the missing party at approximately 2pm in Bungleboori gorge west of Dumbuno Creek. However, when the rescue helicopter arrived it was found that one member of the party had died. BWRS was immediately informed that the scene was now a "crime scene" and that all our records were required that day at the completion of the search.

As it was not possible to helicopter winch out the canyon teams they would either have to stay overnight or have a long walk out. All teams elected to walk out. Base was eventually able to close down just after 10.15pm with the arrival of the last team.

The Police satellite phones gave inconsistent coverage. The BWRS HF radio system worked well from the gorge most of the time with relays assisting when the signal was unreadable. Without them it is conceivable that the footprints clue would not have been known or acted on until the following day.

BWRS was able to strengthen a wide range of contacts / friendships with the District Commanders down to local Police and VRA squads. All services and volunteers worked harmoniously together and were eager to assist when tasked.

### CALLOUT - BUDAWANGS

On Saturday, 11th January 2003, a lone hiker left Yadbore Flat camping ground to do a day trip to Pidgeon House Mountain. The local Police initiated a search when he failed to return.

His planned walk was taken from a Guide Book and approached Pidgeon House Mt via Pidgeon House Creek before climbing up onto the Wombat Ridge area (north of Pidgeon House Mt) past a number of conglomerate caves and arches. The final approach to Pidgeon House Mt was along the Wombat Ridge track. The return to Yadbore Flat went via Longfella Pass.

Search personnel repeated this walk on Sunday, 12th January while helicopters searched further up Pidgeon House Creek and the Clyde River. The search was scaled up for Monday, 13th January. Bushwalkers Wilderness

Rescue Squad (BWRS) was contacted around 9pm (12/01/03) to have members at Ulladulla Police Station at 6am (13/01/03).

The style of search now changed. The missing man would normally have been seen by the helicopter or walked out of the bush having taken longer than expected to do the round trip. Two assumptions were made. The missing person was possibly injured and / or had made a series of navigation errors. Ground teams were sent to intensively search possible points of navigation error. As usual, BWRS was given one of the more difficult options to search. The BWRS team (including a Police Officer) was taken by vehicle from Forward Search Base at Yadbore Flat as far as possible up the Clyde River. Their task was to go up Pidgeon House Creek and thoroughly search Landslide gully towards Pidgeon House Mt. The assumption was that the missing man may have turned up this prominent gully and be injured.



South Coast VRA Squad plus a number of RFS, SES squads and NP&WS staff were also deployed from Yadbore Flat to search. A Police helicopter was also used again. A (large) Navy Sea King helicopter also assisted.

Tasking of search teams on Tuesday, 14th January was very thorough. Two more BWRS teams were available (total three teams). The overall search area was expanded. There was further intense searching of gullies that lead up to Pidgeon House Mt. The tasks allotted to BWRS once again recognised our bush search and rescue skills. One BWRS team was deployed from Ulladulla Police Station Search HQ to search Wombat Ridge (north of Pidgeon House Mt). Another team searched part of Dithol Creek (Pidgeon House Creek). The third team had to search under Byangee Walls (south side).

Around 11.15am the missing man walked out of the Clyde River valley - close to where many field teams were dropped off for their search areas. He

was uninjured and had tried many times to attract the attention of the helicopters. He had not turned up Pidgeon House Creek but instead spent the three days in the Clyde River valley.

The weather

was hot and dry, so the nights were mild. Communication out of Yadbore Flat was difficult with intermittent satellite telephone service. The Police search radio network had reasonable coverage. BWRS search teams were always able to communicate with BWRS base via our HF radio network. Yadbore Flat was excellent as a Forward Search Base. It had two wheel drive vehicle access and was close to the search area with plenty of space to land and refuel helicopters. Catering (including hot meals) was provided to personnel at Yadbore Flat. There were around 60 Emergency Services personnel involved on Tuesday (14/01/03) and around 40 to 50 on Monday.

Route guide (Guide Book) information can help bushwalkers plan and negotiate travel through rough country. However, all bushwalkers should remember that if you get "off route" you could be back into rough, challenging country that is slow to move through. Once again, BWRS performed its tasks well. Solo walkers are not easy to find!

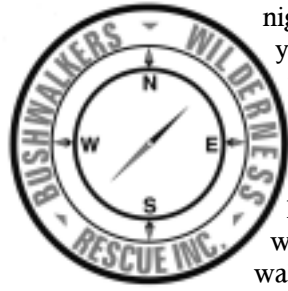


Monolith Valley - The Budawangs - photo Steven Shaw



# DON'T GET LOST GET FOUND

by Keith Maxwell - President BWRS



How many nights out were you really planning on your next bushwalk?

Recently a lone walker went for a day walk of a few

hours and didn't return for three days! He was the subject of a large co-ordinated search and rescue operation that involved up to 100 emergency services personnel and at least three helicopters. When located he was well within the search area and not far from his starting point. He also was lucky. Hot days meant that the night weather was mild. If he had had injuries that would have stopped him moving then the search would have been even larger (and taken much longer).

So why was he so hard to find?

While he did leave details of his planned walk with his wife, he seems to have left his compass at home. Somehow, he also became "helicopter unfriendly".

When you go bush can you navigate at all or are you just following the leader? Are you normally so trusting? All bushwalkers should aim to gain at least enough map and compass skill so that they can interpret a map and determine the direction of travel to safety/civilisation. Details of your

planned walk should include the start and finish time along with contact details for Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS). There should be enough details so that another bushwalker could repeat the walk.

Very early on this lone walker deviated from his planned walk. He saw many helicopters but was unable to get their attention. In fact, he would have been overflown many times,

Helicopters will always be used, wherever possible, before search teams are sent into the field. Many missing/overdue persons have been quickly located and thus saved unnecessary trauma. However, there are many cases where the missing persons saw the helicopter, some 'even smelling the exhaust fumes', but were not seen by the helicopter crew.

So how can people become "helicopter friendly"? What could you do to stand out in a sea of green? Obviously, you need to be somehow different to the surrounding bush. It would be even better if you could signal to the helicopter. The best area to be seen from is a high open area. Be alert, helicopters approach quickly, so you won't have much time to attract attention. What really stands out, as different, is regular shapes, contrasting colour and (with) movement.

Regular shapes such as tents and

rectangular groundsheets really attract the eye. Good contrasting colours include bright yellow, blue, white and orange. Movement is vital. In a test conducted by BWRS, a bushwalker standing in the middle of the Cox's River was NOT seen while a bushwalker in less open country BUT jumping about WAS seen! A good example, of being different to your surroundings, would be jumping around waving a bright blue parka not far from your tent.

The helicopter crew are far more likely to look in your direction if you were to signal them. A flash of sunlight directed off a bright surface towards the helicopter provides a concentrated signal. The bright surface doesn't have to be a heavy glass mirror. The clean inside of a billy lid can be effective. Even more effective are unwanted computer compact disks (CD) which are lightweight and cheap.

To avoid unplanned nights in the bush you need to leave details of the planned bushwalk and contact details for BWRS with close relatives and learn some basic bush navigation. If helicopters do come looking for you, you need to be waiting in a cleared open area and attract their attention by signalling and appearing different from your bush surroundings via regular shapes, contrasting colours and (with) movement. Remember the Confederation motto: Walk Safely - Walk with a Club.

## WILDERNESS SAFETY

- DO give all group NAMES and complete route details of WHERE you are going to close relatives/friends or Police. Include details of where your car(s) will be parked.
- DO tell them WHEN you are LEAVING and RETURNING and anyone's SPECIAL medical conditions e.g. diabetes, asthma.
- DO notify them of your SAFE RETURN.
- DO take the correct MAP and COMPASS. Know how to use them.
- DO take appropriate clothing/footwear. Always take a windproof/waterproof PARKA and clothing that can keep you WARM WHEN WET e.g. wool and definitely NOT jeans.
- DO take waterproof MATCHES and some SPARE food in case of delays. Always take some cold snack food such as dried fruit, nuts or chocolate for quick energy .

DON'T overestimate your abilities. Always ALLOW TIME for the unexpected e.g. thick scrub, cliffines.

DON'T go faster than the slowest member of your group. At regular intervals do a HEAD COUNT of your group.

DON'T SPLIT up your walking group (except for below) during the trip. There is safety in numbers.

DON'T leave an injured person ALONE in the bush. A walking group of THREE or more will allow one to look after the injured while the other goes for help.

DON'T keep moving when LOST. Find a campsite nearby with water that will be visible from a helicopter.

Wave vigorously at any helicopters - they are probably looking for you.

DON'T forget if you are OVERDUE to PHONE home from the FIRST phone box/Police Station you come to.

REMEMBER - Your safety is dependent on your FITNESS and EXPERIENCE as well as your EQUIPMENT and the trip LEADERSHIP. Every trip must include at least ONE experienced bushwalker to every THREE inexperienced walkers.



# CONSERVATION NEWS

Michael Maack - Conservation officer



We have just begun a new year that promises to be an eventful one on all fronts. With war drums beating, bushfires on the horizon, extensive drought and a State Election looming the portents are that we are certainly going to have a gloomy yet active year. What does all this mean on the Conservation front.

Globally, the threat-of-war-come-to-fruitation is the epitome of folly. War is the most destructive land-use activity that man has

devised. This statement does not have to be qualified with examples. In all war the environment suffers terribly.

Witness the effects of Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. And the threat is not just localised to the theatres of war. The production, transport and detonation of armament all contribute to the lessening of our world resources and to the pollution of our little blue planet. Air,

water and all their borne pollutants do not discern national boundaries. They are truly internationalised resources. The time has truly come to think global and act local. No matter the amount of antagonism that is propelled against us we should rise above our urge for retribution. If not for our own sake then it should be on behalf of our successor generations. They are what truly matter.

As I write this article bushfires are threatening the north of Canberra as a secondary assault on our National Capital after the loss of 402 houses and tragically, four lives, recently. The

emotional blame game that follows any bushfire that causes tragedy is happening again. We have a former Federal Minister for the Environment and a former Chief Minister for the ACT going on the offensive against the New South Wales NPWS for that hoary old debate of Hazard Reduction Burning. And it is offensive. Notwithstanding the political points scoring, Hazard Reduction Burning was never going to be of major benefit in the flare-up conditions that prevailed on this tragic Saturday. Before Christmas we had the vision of a fire at Londonderry in Sydney's West where even mown grass provided a conduit for a major run-of-fire. In 2001 a fire conflagration engulfed the township of Warragamba where hazard reduction

## WITNESS THE EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

burning had been conducted the year previously. We cannot fireproof Australia using a burning regime or the bare earthed policy of bulldozing ill-conceived firebreaks that create attendant erosion problems. It is not feasible. A new

browning-off or dying on ridgelines in areas never seen before. This is providing us with a sorrowful benchmark. Hopefully the desertification of our continent is not increasing apace. What can we do? Again, conservation is the key. This time we have to conservative in our use of the most precious commodity, water. Bushwalkers are probably more sensitive than most in this regard since our recreation takes us to places that are deficient in water – deserts, ridgelines, etc. I could not count the number of times when walking up a spur onto a mountain that I did not think of the heavenly cool recesses below me along the creekline where the waters were flowing. Yet these waters are fast disappearing. A consensus is building that we are entering into an age of the Greenhouse Effect. For Australia it should be called Brownhouse effect because that is our experience of it. And it is attributed to our exploitive commercial lifestyle. It seems that to save our waters we have to consume less. All societies have to become more sustainable. This responsibility starts with each individual, not just our government.

And speaking of government, NSW is going to the polls this year. The peak Conservation bodies have issued their first report card on the environmental policy platform or actual performance of the state political parties. The first is titled "A Report Card on the Carr Government's Environmental Performance in 2002" and grades the Carr government on six outstanding hot issues. The Grades range from A to F.

(<http://www.nccnsw.org.au/ncc/projects/Conferenceproceedings/hotreportcard.html>) The gradings for the Carr Government are as

follows: River Health (F), Land Clearing (E), Greenhouse Benchmarks (A), Wilderness Protection (C), Western Woodlands (E), North-East Forest Icons (E). The grades are in brackets. Whilst the Greenhouse Benchmarks scheme acquired a plaudit, all the other benchmarks returned paltry results. I await with anticipation the report cards of the other parties. The promise is that we can use the leverage of these ratings to actually create some meaningful conservation gains. Perhaps we can generate some light in the gloom of this era.



After the fire - photo Neil davis

strategy has to be employed. Our hope comes in the form of the recently announced (December 10, 2002) Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) by the Federal Government. It aims to co-ordinate all agencies concerned with Bushfires and Bushfire research to tackle the problem in a unified manner. It is an example of level heads prevailing over emotive ones. It is worthy of our support.

The Australian drought is starting to impact heavily on our bushland areas. Many reports are coming in that trees are

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I picked up "The Bushwalker" (Vol 28 No 2) for the first time last week, and



I enjoyed it very much. The Conservation News section caught my attention in particular.

I would like to make a suggestion, which is that

you include more complete discussion of the Wilderness Act, its application in practice, and proposed amendment.

I believe the Act is most unsatisfactory at present, and is failing to provide the protection necessary. However I absolutely don't want it weakened to the extent of allowing irresponsible motorized recreation in wilderness areas, and recognize a need to address both the Act AND the proposed amendment. Neither are adequate or appropriate in my opinion.

I am a routine bushwalker, cyclist, helicopter pilot and a volunteer firefighter. As a consequence I am very frequently within official and natural wilderness and see at first hand what's actually happening. I and my family belong to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and the Land Rover Owners Club.

My issues with the current wilderness treatment include:-

1) I am finding it near impossible to determine where official wilderness boundaries exist.

2) Methods used for removing existing tracks (entrances) are causing

siltation, and are making walking dangerous. I have already fallen and hurt myself on a track I which only found out had been purposely ripped at a wilderness border afterwards.

3) Without maintenance tracks weed removal is obviously unlikely, searches and rescues are more difficult. Locking areas up and forgetting maintenance is not a responsible option in my opinion, just politically expedient cost saving.

4) Signage removal makes finding your way in an emergency more tricky.

5) During fire emergencies kilometers of tracks are bulldozed hastily in a situation where protecting the environment is a far lower priority than protecting firefighters and the community. Huge amounts of dirt is loosened to powder state with little or no protection possible against siltation. I am working ankle deep in dust as a consequence. Maintained tracks for containment purposes are a kinder option, provided that an intelligently designed system is in place. This does not mean I want new tracks willy-nilly, in fact some can probably be closed and most but NOT all can be outside of official wilderness.

6) Aerial maintenance is a prohibitively expensive option and as far as I'm aware is not funded at anywhere near a level that allows track elimination. Safe landing sites are not too common.

Please can we have some balanced debate in "The Bushwalker", and some guidance as to what we might say to our representatives with the benefit of our own thinking once appraised of facts and argument.

Yours, Martin Geliot

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e Bushwalker

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We will leave by bus from Adelaide on the 10th August 2003 and travel to the remote Dalhousie springs on the edge of the Simpson Desert, from here it will be 350 km of hard core adventure.

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From massive salt pans to feral camels and wild flowers that can only be found in this part of the world. It is a photographer's dream and a challenge that will leave you with a deep sense of achievement when you reach the famous Poeppel's corner where Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory meet. From here its back in four wheel drives across the largest sand dune in Australia to Birdsville and then on to Brisbane, arriving in the capital of Queensland on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2003.

Cost is \$3,950 per person all inclusive Adelaide to Brisbane.

You will need to be fit and prepared to tough it out, this is no walk in the park and of a rating from 1 to 10 this is an 8. Information and Bookings: Paddy McHugh 61 7 47216720. 0427216720

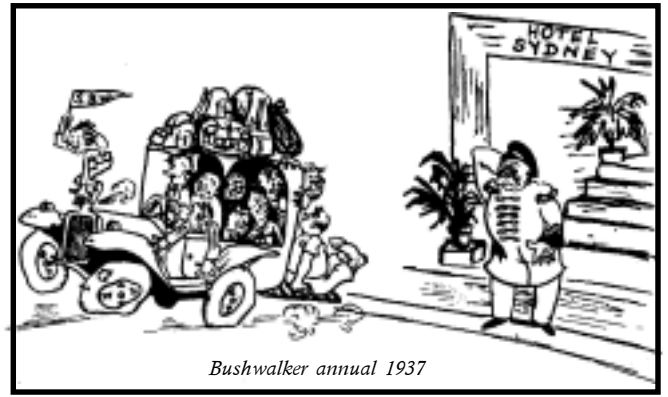


# SOME SKETCHES BY DOT BUTLER (ENGLISH).

Compiled by Colin Wood



photo Stuart Inder Aus Geo



Bushwalker annual 1937



Bushwalker annual 1937



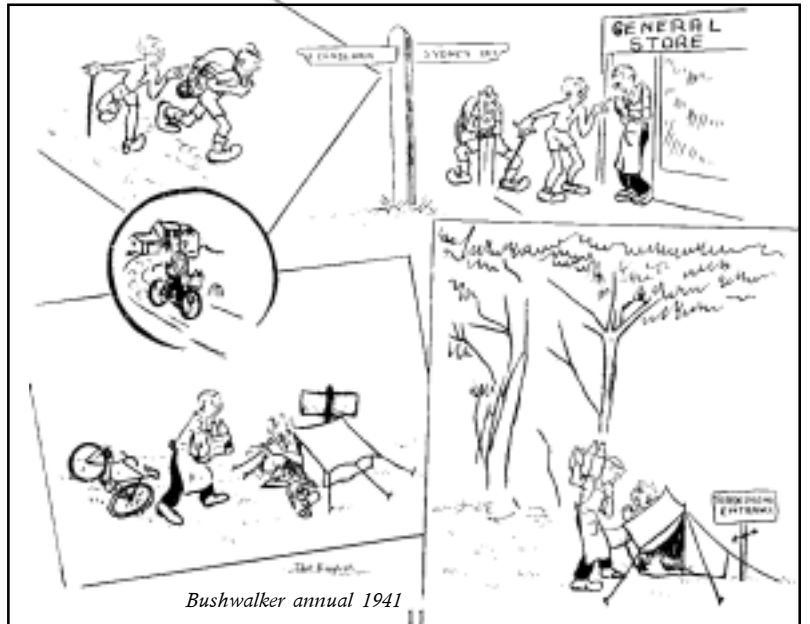
Bushwalker annual 1937



Mt Cook NZ Bushwalker annual 1943



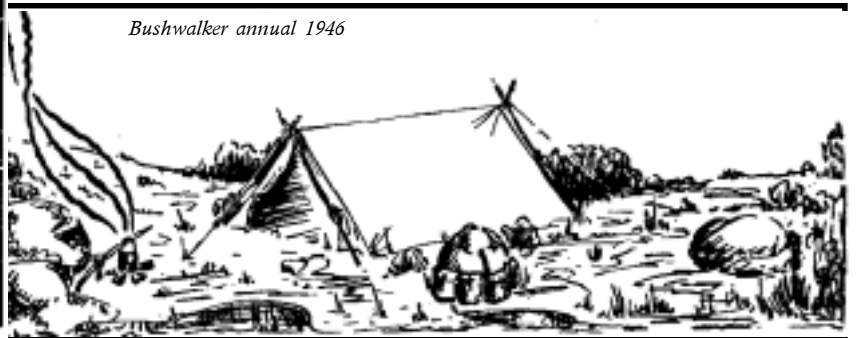
**DOT BUTLER (ENGLISH) HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS SINCE 1935. SEE PAGE 7 TO BUY CD WITH ALL THESE & MORE.**



Bushwalker annual 1941



Bushwalker annual 1938 - Ascent of Arethusa Falls



Bushwalker annual 1946





"The incredible beauty of the Warrumbungle Mountains attracted the local Aboriginal people for thousands of years, and brought them to the attention



of bushwalkers well before the area was declared a National Park," she said.

"In 2003 the committee, in conjunc-

tion with the NPWS, wants to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of events that will showcase the Park's spectacular natural features and mark the Warrumbungle's contribution to conservation, local tourism and the economies of the surrounding shires.

"A key theme of the celebrations is getting together the past bushwalkers, landholders and NPWS staff that helped make the Park a reality to share their experiences and knowledge with the current generation of Park users.

"The information and anecdotes gathered will be used to publish a commemorative book entitled 'The Park a Community Built - History and Memories from Warrumbungle NP'.

"The committee has planned a wide ranging series of events throughout 2003 ranging from the DC3 flight and barefoot celebration to a bike ride, marathon, art workshops, bird-watching, nature walks, beginning with an all shires Australia Day and culminating with the Concert in the Park in November.

"The committee and local NPWS staff are encouraging long-time visitors to return to help celebrate this momentous 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and for novice

bushwalkers and those who may never have seen the Warrumbungle NP to come along for a great experience."

For more information contact Aileen Bell at the Warrumbungle National Park Visitors' Centre by telephoning: 02 6825 4364, or at the website:

[www.warrumbungles.com](http://www.warrumbungles.com)

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# WHO IS THE AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION INC ?

The Australian Wildlife Foundation Inc (AWF) is a non-profit organisation which aims to conserve, preserve and protect Australian native wildlife and its biodiversity through the establishment and ongoing management of environmentally, financially and socially sustainable sanctuaries throughout Australia. The AWF embraces world's best practice for saving Australian native species and their environment. AWF encourages the development of infrastructure such as electrified feral proof fences to preserve and conserve Australian native wildlife. Inside these enclosures, all non-native species of plants and animals are removed such as feral cats and foxes. The AWF aims to encourage nature-based/eco-tourism and other commercial activities associated with wildlife sanctuaries to generate sufficient funding so that the sanctuaries are, within a reasonable time of establishment, self funding and financially sustainable. Unlike previous organisations, AWF works alongside and supports other agencies be they government, private or commercial businesses and charities in its efforts to save Australian endangered species. AWF encourages interactive relationships by way of sharing of information and resources, animal and plant breeding stocks and the like in the best long-term conservation of native wildlife, biodiversity and their ecosystems.

AWF believes the long-term financial sustainability of native wildlife involves generating income on the basis that the activities are environmentally sustainable and in the best long-term conservations interests of the species as a whole. In other words at all times the organisations that the AWF supports must be financially sustainable, environmentally sustainable and socially/community sustainable. The AWF recently worked closely with Conservation Volunteers Australia to build a wildlife enclosure for Rufous Bettongs at the Yaraandoo Environmental Centre in Northern NSW.

Membership of the organisation is \$50 and tax-deductible donations can be made to the Australian Wildlife Foundation Inc.

**FOR MORE DETAILS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP PLEASE SEND YOUR DETAILS TO:**

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. AWF, HEAD OFFICE**

**PO Box 1316 NOWRA NSW 2541**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## CURRY UNDER THE STARS!

Tasty Bite, a range of Ready to Eat Indian vegetarian meals are now available in Australia. The products are fully cooked and need only to be heated to serve. The authentic curries with wonderful flavours are locked in a pouch which can be dropped into a pan of boiling water for a few minutes – presto! You have an Indian curry ready to eat with Rice or flat breads or even a piece of toast. The Tasty Bite range also includes Rice dishes which can be warmed in the same manner as the curries.

Campers or bushwalkers who have had to barbecue a steak or sausage or open a can of beans can now have a delicious Indian meal in minutes. Tasty Bite products are shelf stable for 18 months from the date of manufacture. This makes them an interesting alternative to dehydrated or canned food which is all that has been available to the dedicated camper. The long shelf life makes them suitable for expeditions as well. All one needs is a pot for boiling water. The rice and curries can be eaten straight from the pouch when heated, rolled up when empty and disposed off neatly.

Add some spice to your next camping or bushwalking trip with Tasty Bite!

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## THE CARRIAGE OF LIQUID FUEL ON PLANES

**THE CARRIAGE OF LIQUID FUEL CAMPING STOVES AND FUEL CONTAINERS HAS CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR BOTH AIRPORT PERSONNEL AND PASSENGERS FOR SOME TIME. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, IATA HAS PROVIDED GUIDELINES FOR THE UPLIFT OF THESE ARTICLES**

To meet the new recommended IATA Dangerous Goods acceptance of camping stoves and fuel containers as **CHECKED BAGGAGE ONLY**, the following procedure must be followed:

1. All flammable liquid fuel in the fuel tank of the camping stove, and/or fuel container must be completely drained.

2. To nullify the danger, the empty fuel tank and/or container must be allowed to drain for at least 1 hour and the fuel tank and/or container left uncapped for a minimum of 6 hours to allow any residual fuel to evaporate.

3. Alternative methods, such as adding cooking oil in the fuel tank fuel tank and/or container to elevate the flash point of any residual liquid above the flash point of flammable liquid and then emptying the fuel tank and/or container, are equally acceptable. The fuel tank, and/or container must then have the cap securely fastened and be wrapped in an absorbent material such as paper towel and placed in a polythene or equivalent bag. The top of the bag must then be sealed or gathered and closed with an elastic band or twine.

Check-in staff accepting camping stoves must ensure the customer fully completes and signs Form CMLSTTT7004 to verify that they have completed the actions listed above ensuring that the stove is made safe.



# WALKING IN ITALY

By Ken Short - Walking Holidays Abroad

Walking is an interesting way of exploring an overseas country. In Italy, opportunities vary from leisurely to challenging.



On a number of trips one can spend a week in several villages or towns exploring the local areas. The attraction is to get off the main tourist trails, discovering hidden gems and meeting locals at their friendly best.

Sorrento has a hinterland with delightful villages, an excellent local bus service and marked walking trails shown accurately on the local tourist map. Even nearby Amalfi and Ravello offer interesting walking away from the tourist bustle, perhaps encountering teams of mules carrying building materials or being able to explore the ruins of ancient water-powered paper mills.

Southern Tuscany is much as

portrayed on postcards and calendars – rolling green hills, vineyards, cypress trees and hilltop villages. Walking here is mainly on back roads and farm tracks, with opportunities to explore historic settlements.

Further north the country is more rugged and heavily wooded, so the walking is more challenging. Use is made of ancient mule tracks, minor roads and farm tracks, as well as marked walking trails, although maps are not always reliable. Major centres include the medieval towns of Barga and Lucca.



Tuscany Italy - photo Peter Stubbs

To the west lies the Cinque Terre coast, where five fishing villages, formerly accessible by boat

or mule track, are now on the Rome – Genoa railway. They are also linked by a spectacular coastal track walked as a long distance trail, or on day walks using the train for access.

Further north there is excellent walking around Lake Garda, the largest in Italy. The area is also popular with cyclists and sailboarders. This is very spectacular country, with limestone peaks up to 1600m rising from the lake shore. Walks use marked trails, back roads and mule tracks and can be quite demanding. There is excellent public transport using buses and ferries, with Verona easily accessible on a day trip.

The Dolomites are another popular walking area in the north. As a major skiing area, chairlifts and gondolas give easy access to high level walks with spectacular views. For those who want the challenge, some of the best Alpine walking in Europe is available. There is an extensive network of marked trails and a very good public bus service.

On your next overseas trip put on your boots and get out of the car or coach!



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# BETTONGS RETURN TO THE WILD IN NEW ENGLAND

**A missing piece of the jigsaw of New England's wildlife has been put back. With help from the Yaraandoo Environmental Centre and the Australian Wildlife Founda-**

**tion,** a colony of rufous bettongs (or rat-kangaroos as people used to call them) has been released at Yaraandoo, where they are safe from foxes and feral cats.

Rufous bettongs, rabbit-sized relatives of wallabies, were once abundant across the Tablelands, even being pests in the gardens of the early settlers where they dug up root vegetables. But

bettongs, like most ground-dwelling mammals of their size, disappeared when foxes swept through the region between 1910 and 1930. Bettongs still survive in dingo-occupied country in north-eastern NSW, but have gone completely from the grazing lands wherever foxes are abundant.

Professor Peter Jarman of the University of New England has been

*by Professor Peter Jarman New England University*

studying the bettongs to learn about the problems of bringing an "endangered" species into captivity, breeding larger numbers, and then releasing them to a safe site in the wild. For years he could not find a safe place to release the bettongs. Complete control of foxes by baiting proved impossible, and the cost of building and running a fox-free enclosure was beyond the researcher's resources. Hearing of the problem,



*Bettong Release by Stuart Green*

Lorraine Smith and the Yaraandoo Environmental Centre, at Point Lookout east of Armidale, offered help.

Yaraandoo got together with the Australian Wildlife Foundation and, through gifts from Westfarmers Landmark and Ducats Earthmoving Armidale, and much volunteer effort from Conservation Volunteers Australia

and the friends of Yaraandoo, designed and built a 7-hectare, predator-proof enclosure. The bettong colony is being released into this enclosure, where researchers will now be able to study how animals that have been bred and held in captivity for years settle into the wild, building their own nests and finding their own food. Some bettongs will carry radio-transmitters so their movements can be followed. Dr Karl Vernes, of UNE, will be watching the bettongs to see whether they find truffles, the underground fruiting bodies of fungi and a major food for bettongs, and where they disperse the fungal spores. Those fungi associate with the roots of eucalypts, aiding their up-take of nutrients. Restoring bettongs will replace a link missing from the ecosystem.

"Yaraandoo has helped research and teaching in biological conservation at the University of New England in a very practical and generous way", said Professor Jarman. "In return, we hope that studies by the university will help Yaraandoo to conserve its marvellous range of animals, plants and habitats."

For further info, contact Professor Peter Jarman, University of New England on 02 6773 2194 or Ms Lorraine Smith, Yaraandoo, 02 6775 9219

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