



BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY. GONE THE NEXT.

LAST CALL TO SAVE THE DAINTREE

WILL NATURE LOVERS
STAND BY AND WATCH A
NATIONAL ICON ON ITS
FINAL DESCENT? WE'RE
ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

Without a second to lose, excited
tourists press their camera lenses up



Cape Tribulation

against the bus window to get that
allusive shot. If it's what they're hoping
for, this could be their closest, most
exciting encounter yet.

It's much bigger than they expect - a
great hairy-looking creature nearly two
metres tall, helmeted, with blue and red
'war paint' splashed across its long
neck. At the end of its short stout legs
are massive claws, sharp enough to
disembowel the largest of predators.

But as road kill, the cassowary's
marvelous adaptations are of little use.
Nearly ten years ago, just fifty-four of
these large, flightless birds were re-
corded for the whole of the Daintree
region. Just like the great Moas of New
Zealand, they could soon disappear
forever.

Their dangerously low numbers are
already sending hundreds of dependent
rainforest species into decline. Accord-
ing to Dr Tony Parkes, Chairman of
Rainforest Rescue, the critical habitat
of the Cassowary is being devastated at

an alarming rate.

"Two-thirds of the tropical rainfor-
est extending up the coast from the
Daintree River to Cape Tribulation is
freehold land," said Dr Parkes. "These
privately-owned, one hectare blocks are
of immense conservation value yet
there are no laws or regulations to
prevent clearing."

"Developers began subdividing the
lowland rainforest in the 1980s, after
the land was
rezoned by
Council."

With the road
to Cape
Tribulation now
bituminised,
settlement of the
privately owned
allotments within
the Daintree is
escalating.
Twenty allot-
ments were
developed for
rural residential
housing last year.

Roads slice
through the home ranges of the
cassowaries and with large areas of
habitat continuing to be cleared for
settlement or lost to weeds, the handful
of surviving birds are forced to dodge
cars, dogs and aggressive feral pigs to
access a dwindling food supply.

"Weed invasion is a real worry,"
says biologist Tim Low, author of *Feral
Future* and *The New Nature*. "Pond
apple - one of Australia's 20 worst
weeds - are sprouting behind the beach,
where exotic coconuts are also invad-
ing," he said.

"Cultivated plants escaping from
gardens into coastal forests is a night-
mare prospect, especially when some
landholders are growing weird tropical
fruits, rare palms and unusual
permaculture plants."

"The result is a very wide variety of
potential weeds that we don't know
much about."

Mr Low predicts a continued trend

COMMUNITY CALLS FOR NATIONAL PARK GAZETAL FOR BEROWRA VALLEY REGIONAL PARK.

CARR GOVERNMENT POLICY TO TRANSFER REGIONAL PARKS TO SPORT & RECREATION MINISTRY ANNOUNCED.

The Premier's Department has
announced an Order signed by the
Governor of NSW ,Marie Bashir AC,
**that all Regional Parks will come
under the control and administration
of the Department of Sport and
Recreation.** This could represent a
shocking blow to the community
particularly in regard to the future of
the the almost 4000 hectare Berowra
Valley Regional Park which includes
the Great North Walk and some of the
finest un-polluted bushland in the
Sydney region.

The Berowra Valley Regional Park
should never have been gazetted as a
Regional Park. With 10 threatened
plant species, over 230 vertebrate fauna
species, 11 threatened fauna species, 18
vegetation communities of which 3 are
endangered ecological communities, at
least 24 known Aboriginal heritage
sites, Platypus, Tiger Quolls and Koalas
and important water catchment signifi-
cance ,it could be one of the Sydney
Region's finest **National Parks**.

Also the policy announcement
indicated that the NPWS will become
the 'National Parks Service' omitting
the word 'Wildlife' and all staff associ-
ated with or principally involved with
the administration of the the NPWS
Act 1974 or the Threatened Species
Conservation Act 1995 will be trans-
ferred to either the Dept. of Sport and
Recreation or to the Dept. of Sustain-
able Natural Resources.

Of particular concern for the future
of all Regional Parks has been
Hornsby Councils push for high impact
recreational uses in the Berowra Valley
Regional Park such as their proposed
construction of environmentally
damaging sports fields at Stringy Bark

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President - Wilf Hilder
Ph h (02) 9587-8912 (h)
president@bushwalking.org.au
The Sydney Bushwalkers

Vice President - Jim Callaway (02)
9520-7081 (h) (02) 9219-4379 (w)
The Sydney Bush Walkers

Administration Officer -
Merrilyn Sach 9294-6797
admin@bushwalking.org.au

Membership
membership@bushwalking.org.au

Treasurer -
Maurice Smith (02) 9587-6325 (h)
treasurer@bushwalking.org.au
The Sydney Bushwalkers

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue
Squad (BWRS) President - Keith
Maxwell (02) 9622-0049 Pager phone
13 22 22 pager no 6277321
rescue@bushwalking.org.au
Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club

Conservation Officer -
Michael Maack Ph (02) 4757-1083 (h)
conservation@bushwalking.org.au
Springwood Bushwalkers

Tracks and Access officer - Herb
lippmann 9638-1171 Up & Downers
Club tracks@bushwalking.org.au

Magazine Editor Colin Wood, Tel
(02) 6775-9214 (h) 0438013500 (m)
editor@bushwalking.org.au

Training officer - position vacant
training@bushwalking.org.au

Insurance Office - Anne Plowman
(02) 9747-1346
insurance@bushwalking.org.au
Catholic Bushwalking Club

Also Committee members at
committee1@bushwalking.org.au
committee2@bushwalking.org.au
committee3@bushwalking.org.au

IN THIS ISSUE

Beautiful One Day. Gone The Next.....	1
Carr Government Policy to Transfer Regional Parks to Sport & Recreation.....	1
Conservation News.....	3
Conservation Volunteer's Australia.....	3
Take a Walk on the Alpine Side	3
Bushwalking Australia.....	5
Macquarie Marshes Open Weekend.....	6
International Porters Protection Group.....	7
Letter to the Editor.....	7
Kosciusko Plan of Management Review.....	9
Update re National Park access in Blue Mountains	9
The Little Mountains of Guilin.....	10
Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc.....	11
NavShield 2003.....	11
Review – The Bushwalker CD.....	12
Book Review Take a Walk.....	14

Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



THE BUSHWALKER

Contributions,
original cartoons and suggestions are welcome. They should be sent to the address below. Except for short notes or letters, all contributions should be accompanied with text file on three and a half inch floppy disk in IBM format or E-Mail, editor@bushwalking.org.au

Advertising rates clubs,
request. Merrilyn Sach 9294-6797
advertising@bushwalking.org.au

Distribution is
major retail outlets, council information centres and national park offices.

Address all correspondence to The Editor, The Bushwalker Bushwalkers NSW PO Box 2090 GPO Sydney 2001.
E-mail editor@bushwalking.org.au

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

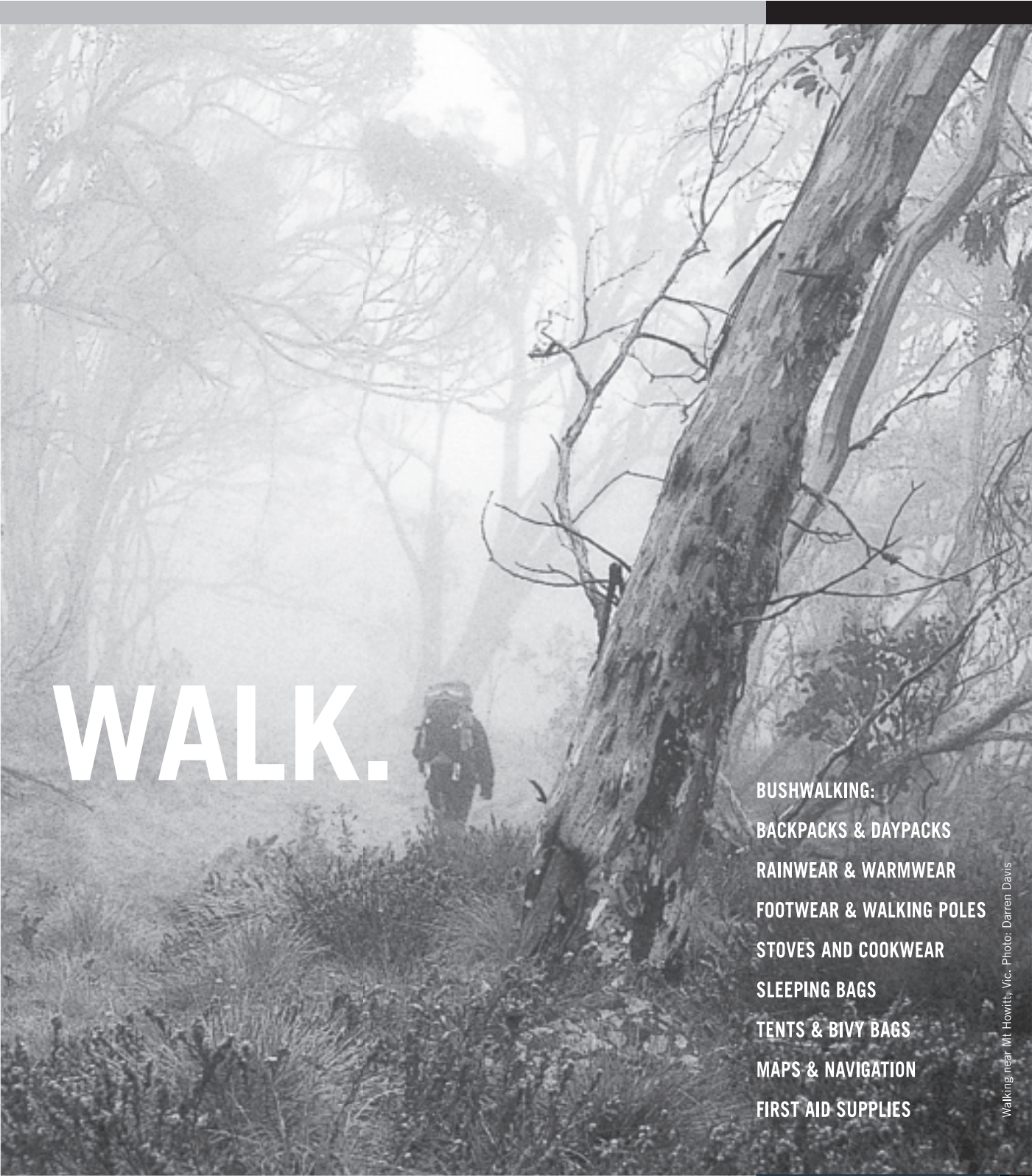
Prices for advertising
Back cover \$515.00 -
full page inside back cover \$460.00 -
full page inside \$400.00 - half
page \$200.00 - quarter
page \$105.00 business
card size \$60.00 insert
\$290.00 + insertion cost approx \$175.00.
All Prices exclude GST

Deadlines for magazine
Summer edition, 2nd week in October-
Autumn 2nd week in January - Winter,
2nd week in April - Spring, 2nd week
in July

THE BUSHWALKER
is the magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It's published quarterly. The aim of the magazine is to provide articles and information of interest to the members of clubs affiliated with the Confederation and Bushwalkers generally. Any opinions expressed by individual authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.



Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



Walking near Mt Howitt Vic. Photo: Darren Davis

- BUSHWALKING:**
- BACKPACKS & DAYPACKS
 - RAINWEAR & WARMWEAR
 - FOOTWEAR & WALKING POLES
 - STOVES AND COOKWEAR
 - SLEEPING BAGS
 - TENTS & BIVY BAGS
 - MAPS & NAVIGATION
 - FIRST AID SUPPLIES

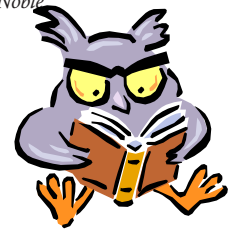
Mountain Equipment

STORE LOCATIONS						
(All stores open 7 days a week)						
SYDNEY	491 Kent St Sydney, 2000 New South Wales Tel: 02 9264 5888 Fax: 02 9261 2025	CHATSWOOD	72 Archer St Chatswood, 2067 New South Wales Tel: 02 9419 6955 Fax: 02 9412 3372	HORNSBY	106 George St Hornsby, 2077 New South Wales Tel: 02 9477 5467 Fax: 02 9476 5566	
MELBOURNE	98-100 Elizabeth St Basement, Block Arcade Melbourne, 3000 Tel: 03 8626 1060 Fax: 03 9671 3500					

REVIEW – THE BUSHWALKER CD

David Noble
Colin Wood is to be congratulated for the outstanding effort he has put into producing this CD. It contains virtually all the Bushwalker annuals and newsletters produced by the Condeferation from 1937 till the present day. Colin has not only managed to unearth copies of the publication but also scan them into a computer and prepare the pages for CD ROM.

The result is excellent. It contains a wealth of bushwalking history. All the pages are presented in Adobe Acrobat pdf format so this means that they can be read by any computer system. Photographs and other illustrations such as cartoons and maps are included. Being scanned images means however that a text



search is not possible. Perhaps an index or detailed contents information could be produced for a future edition?

Any bushwalker browsing through this CD will find a great deal of interest. Highly recommended.

Price \$35. Can be obtained from Bushwalkers NSW PO Box 2090 Sydney 2001.

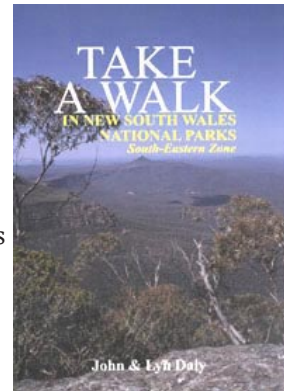
Bushwalking clubs can buy this CD for \$30 and reproduce it for members for a \$20 royalty.

BOOK REVIEW TAKE A WALK

by John & Lyn Daly

This thoroughly researched addition to the Take A Walk series of bushwalking guides explores the spectactacular national parks & reserves of Southern-eastern New South Wales.

Detailed notes on history, features, access & facilities accompany



emailinfo@takeawalk.com.au
www.takeawalk.com.au

Price \$24.95 Take A Walk Publications
Ph 07 3843 3930
Fax 07 3843 3934

Walk Safely - Walk With a Club
sketch maps & over 1600kms of easy-to-follow walk descriptions on tracks, trails & routes from Sydney to the Victorian border.

Walks range from easy strolls to Bungoona Lookout in Royal national park, Australia's first, to great overnight hikes along the Genoa River in South East Forests national Park, NSW one hundredth. The Budawang Ranges, indisputably one of Australia's bushwalking destinations, also feature prominently.

Enjoy discovering secluded beaches, wind-swept heights, rugged escarpments and gorges, old growth forests & pristine wilderness areas. Regardless of your interests or fitness level, there is something in this book just for you.
ibsn 0-9577931-3-8



Walk Safely - Walk With a Club

CONSERVATION NEWS



The Southern Forest Supporters, Charcoal Busters and forest friends in general are worried that the timber supply agree-

ment between the NSW

Government and Australian Silicon to take 200,000 tonnes a year from the South Coast forests is still current. According to their Press Release "the Premier has made it clear that he would still like to see the silicon plant, and the associated charcoal operation, proceed.

It seems highly likely that the company, or someone else!, will try again in New South Wales. Now the company is indicating that they need 300,000 tonnes a year of timber for this woodchip type operation! More than

by Michael Maack Conservation officer

According to a NPWS News Release the NPWS will take advantage of the opportunities offered in the Kosciuszko National Park after the bushfires to reduce the level of feral animals particularly dogs, foxes and pigs. Wild Horses however are not as severely affected as their range is relatively unburnt.

According to the Kosciuszko Huts Association 19 huts have been destroyed in NSW and 4 confirmed in Victoria with 9 others presumed burnt but not confirmed. There are quite a few huts whose condition is unknown in NSW and Victoria as of 18/2/2003.

NP&WS Draft Plans of Management can be accessed on the website:-
www.npws.nsw.gov.au

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER'S AUSTRALIA. VOLUNTEER FOR A CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Imagine building a boardwalk around Uluru or undertaking water quality testing at Kings Cannon - an amazing way of exploring these environments and gaining a unique perspective on Aboriginal sacred sites. Perhaps you would prefer to help construct a walking trail in Eungella National Park - a tropical rainforest where you can see platypus in the river. Or if you want to head west you can help protect the Shark Bay World Heritage Area from visitor impact, construct a walking track in the Bungle Bungles or help survey nesting turtles on Rosemary Island (Dampier Archipelago) off the coast of Karratha. All of these projects are part of the upcoming program being offered by Conservation Volunteers Australia between May and September 2003. Conservation Volunteers Australia is Australia's largest practical conservation organisation, completing more than 1500 conservation projects across Australia every year.

Each Conservation Volunteer Australia project is lead by an experienced and qualified Team Leader who provides the volunteer with all the skills and training they need. Each year volunteers with Conservation Volunteers Australia contribute more than 100,000 days of assistance to conserving the Australian environment.

Volunteers come from all walks of life. To join you simply need to share our love of the Australian outdoors and



Mt Kosciuszko area - photo David Rowe

400,000 tonnes a year of woodchips from NSW forests (Nowra to the Victorian Border and out to Braidwood) are already exported every year from the Eden Woodchip Plant." Clubs are urged to initiate a letter writing campaign to the Premier opposing this potential threat to the Southern Forests. A form letter is available email, conservation@bushwalking.org.au

The Draft Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code for Asset Protection and Strategic Fire Advantage Zones has been compiled and released. This document is intended for land managers (other than private landholders) to streamline the approval process for hazard reduction work. Unfortunately the distance of the hazard reduction area is up to 70 metres from the edge of any building on slopes greater than 5 degrees. This is a somewhat excessive distance to allow for the clearing of native bushland which may have high conservation value. The maintenance of such an area is also problematic.

a commitment to preserving the environment and be capable of undertaking physical outdoor activities. Volunteers contribute \$25 per night which includes transport to the project, all meals and accommodation. In addition to the projects in Australia the Conservation Volunteers Australia World Conservation Program provides volunteers the opportunity to experience the rainforests of northern Ecuador assisting at a biological research station and nursery. Or the opportunity to build an eco-village in South Korea or four weeks of baboon monitoring and bird research in South Africa. For more information on any of these projects or on Conservation Volunteers Australia Freecall 1800 032 501 or visit
www.conservationvolunteers.com.au

TAKE A WALK ON THE ALPINE SIDE

By Elissa Ulanas

Crisp mountain air, trickling streams, rocky outcrops and green hillsides...sound good?

Now is an ideal time to pull on your hiking boots and enjoy a leisurely walk to the tallest and one of the most picturesque points in Australia - a must when you visit the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre.

Australia's highest mountain, Mount Kosciuszko, is located at Thredbo just 35 minutes from the Academy.

In a little over two hours, you can experience the invigorating feel of success as you reach Mount Kosciuszko's summit while taking in some of the breathtaking and pristine scenery of the Snowy region. And you don't need your skis at this time of the year to do so!

I must admit, there was a hint of trepidation as I started on the trek - a 12 kilometre return trip seemed a long way, but this soon changed to excitement as we ascended in the Snowgums chairlift to the start of the trail.

The hike for people from all walks of life.

Our group took the scenic 15 minute Snowgums chairlift to the start of the trail, where we were greeted by a challenging 500 metre rocky climb by foot.

"This is the hardest it will get," we were assured by the instructors.

The rocky (and muddy) terrain made hard work of the 45 degree

Great Outdoors Centre

CAMPBELLTOWN

1500 SQM OUTDOOR MEGA STORE

4627-8288

OVER 30 TENTS ON DISPLAY

Absolutely Everything For:

- Camping • Bushwalking • Kayaking & Canoeing
- 4WD Touring • Inflatables • Towables
- Abseiling & Rockclimbing

EXPERT STAFF THAT REALLY CARE, KNOW THEIR STUFF AND CAN LISTEN!

STORES ALSO AT CARINBAH, ERINA, LIDCOMBE & PROSPECT

FAX 4627-8277

OPEN 7 DAYS www.greatoutdoorscampbelltown.com.au

2/1 TINDALL ST CAMPBELLTOWN (ACROSS FROM BUNNINGS)

BETWEEN FITNESS FIRST & THE RTA

incline, so a pair of sturdy shoes with sufficient grip was a necessity. For those not so keen on trying their basic mountaineering skills, a chairlift directly to Eagle's Nest, near the start of the alpine walk, is available, except in November and May (for maintenance).

In brisk walking mode, the majority of the way was relatively warm, with most of our group in t-shirts and long pants, however, we were prepared for any sudden weather change with a warm jacket. The temperature around November can range from a chilly three degrees celsius to around 14.5 degrees, making the conditions on the trail fairly unpredictable.

In November, snow still caps the

other.

Dome mountains, such as Kosciuszko, are formed when forces from the Earth's plate lift its crust into a broad dome shape. Because the dome is raised above its surroundings, erosion occurs, which results in the formation of peaks and valleys.

We made it - the summit

What an impressive view! 'Unreal' and 'awesome' were just some of the words our group used to describe the spectacular outlook onto the valleys and smaller peaks below.

At the top of mountain, we were engulfed by a cloud which brought a cool change. A rocky outcrop at the peak was a perfect setting for a whole-

some packed lunch from the Sport and Recreation camp, which was heartily devoured as we'd worked up a significant appetite from the alpine walk.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Mount Kosciuszko is 2,228 metres

high - about a quarter of the height of Mount Everest. Its surrounding national park is the largest in NSW and one of the most spectacular reserves in Australia attracting over three million visitors each year.

Contrary to popular belief, the mountain was not first climbed by someone with the name Kosciuszko. It was actually climbed in March 1840 by Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki, an explorer and scientist.

He named the peak after the Polish patriot and democratic leader Tadeusz Kosciuszko with many accounts suggesting he chose the name because its rounded shape reminded him of Kosciuszko's tomb.

HANDY HINTS

Time to walk: Approximately five hours return

How to get there: Kosciuszko National Park is in south-eastern New South Wales, south-west of Canberra. The Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre is just:

- two hours drive south of Canberra

Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



- five hours drive south of Sydney
- minutes from Lake Jindabyne and
- 35 minutes to both Thredbo and Perisher Valley.

What to take: There is no accommodation or food available along the trek. Take a packed lunch and regular rests along the way to ensure you enjoy the walk. Good sunscreen, hat and wet weather gear are also recommended.

Transport: Contact the Snowy Region Visitor Centre on (02) 6450 5600 for transport options. There is a daily vehicle entry fee of \$15.

Cost: The Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre offers a range of competitive accommodation, food and activity packages starting from just \$195 per person for five days. These are ideal for schools, community groups, families and for pre-season training. Daily rates are also available. Ring the Centre on 1800 817 937 for more information.

FIRES IN KOSCIUSZKO

The effort to contain 45 separate bushfires sparked by lightning in Kosciuszko National Park in January, became the largest single campaign bushfire in NSW history.

Approximately 67% of the park was burnt. Key destinations within the park are being opened in stages.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Environmental Liaison Officer, Dave Woods, said although the bushfires burnt vast areas of the park, people may find it difficult to identify burnt patches along the Main Range.

"There's not much evidence of fire on the Main Range, except at the northern end where the fires moved out of the Geehi Valley between Mount Twynum and Mount Tate. The fire didn't move across the Main Range because cold temperatures and high humidity reduced its intensity."

"The low growing alpine vegetation communities including feldmarks, tall-alpine herbfields, bog and fen are not conducive to carry fire, which was the case in 1965, 1972 and now in 2003!" said Mr Woods.

Standing on Mount Kosciuszko looking to the west, Mr Woods says you may see some changes in colour of the forest canopy as a result of the fires.

"This may appear orange like the change of leaves in autumn. Such colour changes are a good indicator of fire intensity. Where there are patches of black amongst the scorched leaves, this indicates fire 'crowning' where the fire has passed from tree top to tree top - the most extreme of fire intensities."



Walk Safely - Walk With a Club

durras lake north caravan park

EXCEPTIONAL BUSHWALKING AREA SURROUNDED BY THE MARRAMARANG NATIONAL PARK. WALK ALONGSIDE THE PRISTINE DURRAS LAKE. THE DISCOVERY TRAIL. OR UP TO DURRAS MOUNTAIN. EXTENSIVE WILDLIFE. PRIVACY AND QUIET COTTAGES, CABINS, CAMPING

PO Box 470
Durras North 2590
Ph 02-44786-072

www.durrasnorthpark.com.au
info@durrasnorthpark.com.au

Durras North SHHHH! it's a secret

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Join one of our treks across the Kokoda Trail. Savour the atmosphere, history and challenge of this unique destination. Small group departures operate most months of the year. Alternatively, canoe the Sepik River, hike with Huli Wigman or bike through New Ireland.

PNG has a special adventure for you - without the crowds

For further details contact:

NIUGINI TOURS PTY. LTD.
(lic.2TA 000 1455)
GPO Box 7002
Sydney, NSW 2001
Ph (02) 9290-2055
Fax (02) 9267-6118
info@newguineatours.com.au



Kosciuszko National Park Head Quarters at Jindabyne. Among the areas under threat were the alpine ski villages of Thredbo and Perisher Valley. In such an emergency the aim becomes to avoid loss of life and hopefully to minimise property losses. The valleys leading up to Thredbo and Perisher contain numerous properties. Roadblocks were instigated outside Jindabyne to control traffic movement in case evacuation was required.

The VRA was asked to provide personnel to staff the roadblocks 24 hours per day. The VRA Squads that responded were Bega, South Coast, K9 and Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue

Squad (BWRS). The pattern became 12-hour shifts from 8 o'clock to 8 o'clock. The only vehicles allowed to pass were Rural Fire Service, or resort staff (as per a supplied list) or residents who could show a pass issued by Police.

The Perisher checkpoint was the NP&WS tollbooth just past the Thredbo River. There were two checkpoints for Thredbo; firstly at the turnoff outside Jindabyne and then the Thredbo NP&WS tollbooth. Traffic was logged in and out of these valleys. The overnight shifts done by BWRS were very quiet with almost no vehicles from midnight to 5am. The

VRA was stood down on Sunday 26th January 2003 and the checkpoints consolidated into one large checkpoint just before the road split into the two directions.

Drivers and passengers, in general, readily understood and appreciated the roadblocks. They thus complied with them although they sometimes had to put up with VRA personnel struggling back through paperwork to find their entry so they could be logged out. The captain of South Coast VRA (Sergeant) Wayne Bolitho worked hard looking after VRA personnel and ensuring good integration of personnel so that the checkpoints were well run. The Park

CALLI HILL

Hunter Valley wilderness eco-retreat cabins. Just 3 hours from Sydney

CALLICOMAHILL
www.calli.com.au
(02) 6571 1208
info@calli.com.au

mountain views

native wildlife

world heritage national parks

rainforest walks

peace and quiet

HQ was unbelievably busy with all shapes and sizes of emergency services vehicles and personnel from many areas of NSW. Despite their differing roles, all personnel seemed to be working well together. They were also well looked after. The cafe attached to the Park HQ was the open catering centre. Emer-

gency services personnel merely had to line up in uniform. Accommodation was provided locally at Bed and Breakfast etc. Night time was still busy with firebreaks being burnt or planned. Local contractors were co-ordinated into the building of firebreaks by bulldozing tracks.

Although the extent of fire damage is yet to be fully assessed it is clear that the character of Kosciuszko and Namadgi National Parks has been altered. Large areas of snowgums and mountain ash have burnt and may never fully recover. Many of the classic Kosciuszko Huts have been lost including Pretty Plain, Boobeys and O'Keefes. Although BWRS was not involved in bush search and rescue its work (and that of all the VRA personnel) was appreciated by the local residents. The VRA can be proud of its role in contributing to such a low casualty rate.

Postscript: After BWRS returned from Jindabyne the fires flared up again. Several of the above VRA Squads returned to Jindabyne for about another week to help on roadblocks. It seems that nineteen (19) Snowies huts have been lost including (sadly) Pretty Plains. Some NP&WS staff made strenuous efforts ("risked their lives") to save huts.



Continued from page 11
over Australia to practise their trip planning / navigation skills. Some teams enjoy it so much they have been back over 10 years!

You can either plan to join the one day sprinters or the serious two day participants. The NavShield is a test of planning, fitness and navigation. You enter as a

team, get a map and a list of grid references of "check-points". The aim is simple. Plan your time to get as many

points as possible from finding these checkpoints. Don't be late because the penalties are strict. Eat and socialise at the end. The NavShield is a great way to revise / practise your bushwalking navigation. BWRS always sets a course with a large number of checkpoints graded from easy to hard. We always ensure that there are plenty of checkpoints close to base for the one day beginners.

You can see details of past NavShields at our website www.bwrs.org.au such as Nav2001 "snowtown", Nav98 "scrub country - never again" or Nav2000 "pagoda country".

Time is short. Start your planning by getting an Entry Form / Event Rules by contacting BWRS at our email box - navshield@bwrs.org.au or sending your details to our Secretary at PO Box 22 CANTERBURY 2193. Be part of Nav2003!

BARREN GROUNDS CALLOUT - 17TH FEBRUARY, 2003.

6.20am beep, beep, beep... pager message re missing group at Barren Grounds. Can you be there by 8.30am? There is a group missing since yesterday (Sunday) and the weather is appalling. No, I can't be there by 8.30 but I will be there as soon as I can after I get hold of some other members of BWRS (Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad).

On Sunday afternoon (16th February, 2003) a group of four field researchers went for a two hour (return) walk to set small animal traps at a tagged location. Map and compass had not previously

been required for this straight forward exercise. However, this time the group went out in low mist and intermittent rainsqualls.

Nine BWRS members were able to join members of two other local NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) Squads (Berrima VRA from the Mittagong area and South Coast VRA

from the Wollongong area) in this search that was based at the Barren Grounds National Park Visitors Centre. The Search Manager was a Police Officer

from the Police Rescue and Bomb Disposal Squad at Zetland (near Alexandria).

The Barren Grounds is a bird sanctuary on the edge of the Illawarra escarpment. As such it is a bad weather trap. The low mist and intermittent squalls continued from Sunday mixed with variable winds. A Police helicopter "PolAir" did enter the area but was forced to return to its Bankstown Airport Base.

The location for the small animal traps was within an area mostly bounded by fire roads. The three VRA Squads were each assigned a portion of this diamond shape to "grid" search. Around 11am a team of five (5) BWRS members drove to the northwest corner of the diamond. When they called search headquarters to say that they were starting their search they received the news that the missing party had called in from a farm. "Early finish" was their thought.

The phone call had come in from a farm in the upper reaches of Broger's Creek well to the west of the 'diamond' area. The missing party had not turned 180 degrees (to retrace their steps) but had only turned 90 degrees and walked through a gap in the roads off the plateau into a distinct gorge. Furthermore it was only one member at the farmhouse. Two others were in a cave near "a" waterfall while the fourth member had continued down Broger's Creek.

One mixed team of BWRS and NP&WS staff was despatched from the Visitors Centre to head to a "possible" waterfall. Meanwhile a team from South Coast VRA did the long drive down to the coast then onto Berry

township where they turned inland to head back up towards the escarpment and Broger's Creek. Teams from Berrima VRA and BWRS also did this long drive to search Broger's Creek for the fourth person. Now, since Broger's Creek becomes a broad farming valley as it descends from the escarpment there was no chance of not finding this fourth person. As he had already been out (for an unplanned) overnight in bad weather the aim became to find him as soon as possible. When quickly located he was in good health. The farmer was able to guide the South Coast VRA back to the "right" waterfall via a local footpad.

All lost persons were thankfully in good health. They, of course, still had to driven back to the Visitors Centre for reunion with relatives.

Despite the short notice for all search teams the three VRA Squads were able to work successfully with Police and NP&WS staff. The Barren Grounds is an undulating heath plateau with limited features. Basic map & compass skills would have prevented a wet night out. The missing group needed to only head in an arc of 270 degrees to intersect a road. Although lost their survival was greatly helped by finding a cave and lighting a fire. It is worthwhile to always carry good wet weather fire lighting equipment. Two persons going for help was a good idea. Splitting up this pair was NOT a good idea and definitely made this search longer. Hypothermia (exposure) is brought on by any two of wind, wet and cold. Your comfort in wet weather depends on a good "outer shell" of a quality parka, beanie and thermals that still keep you warm when wet. This group of four was fortunate that being February the overnight temperature was mild and not cold. The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs motto is still relevant: *Walk Safely - Walk with a Club.*

VRA AT JINDABYNE

Report by Keith Maxwell, President Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc.

The recent widespread and extensive fires in the Snowy Mountains sorely tested the emergency services. Several large fires from the far north of the Snowies to Victoria each demanded urgent attention and threatened to join together to produce a vast fire front. Further north Canberra had suffered the destruction of over 500 homes with the fires still active and mobile. The centre of operations was the NP&WS

Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



Walk Safely - Walk With a Club

continued from page 1
Ridge at Pennant Hills.

Stringy Bark Ridge is a rare geological formation where a thin clay deposit over sandstone has given rise over millions of years to a now endangered vegetation community known as Shale Sandstone Transition Forest. This type of vegetation community is listed as endangered in the Threatened Species Conservation Act of 1995. According to a detailed botanical survey commissioned by The Red Gum Bushland Committee, several threatened and endangered plant species occur. The Red Crowned Toadlet a rare and endangered frog also listed in the '95 legislation has been identified along the ridge close to the former Hornsby Pony Club clearing.

A report to Hornsby Shire Councilors from Robert Ball, Council's General Manager on Wednesday evening 12/3/03 Ordinary Meeting indicated that the General Manager was in favour of a new joint management agreement with the National Parks Service which would involve the abolition of the Berowra Valley Regional Park Trust.

The Pennant Hills District Civic Trust and many other local community and environmental organisations believe that such an arrangement would give Hornsby Council even more power and control over the management of the Park and if the Park is handed over to the Sport and Recreation Ministry the task of protecting the Park's delicate ecology and stopping high impact recreational uses becomes even more difficult.

Such an arrangement would create a situation where the community would be in a permanent state of battle with the Council and State Government.

As a Regional Park Berowra Valley is a sitting duck and highly vulnerable to pressures from damaging recreational uses such as sports field construction, horse riding, BMX tracks, skate board facilities, dog walking including off leash areas, mountain bike trails, motor trail bikes, 4WD vehicles, commercial developments and power boat and jet ski access.

The General Manager's Report also emphasized that the Park is "... Ideally situated to cater for the recreational needs of the community".

The Colong Bulletin, March 2003 has reported that the coalition parties have recommended amendments to National Parks legislation to allow hunting, grazing and other damaging recreational uses in National Parks.

Since Hornsby Council now has 4 Liberal Party Councillors and a Mayor and 'independent' with similar views, it could follow that the Council may continue to push for similar abuses in the Berowra Valley Regional Park.

The Draft Plan of Management is now on public exhibition for your submissions until the 25th of May and is available to download from the NPWS website. The URL is www.npws.nsw.gov.au/news/exhibition/POM/draft/pom_draft_berowra.p

How Can You Help Stop This Threat to This Beautiful Park?

it is Extremely Important That you Write to The Berowra Valley Regional Park Trust at PO BOX 37 HORNSBY 1630 ASAP and demand National Park Status for the Park and,

Write ,Email,Fax Now To The Premier The Hon. Bob Carr at Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower 1 Farrer Place SYDNEY 2000. or fax 9228 3935 or email bob.carr@nsw.gov.au and strongly urge him to reconsider his 2nd April Decision and Announce National Park Status For The Berowra Valley Regional Park.

Some arguments for National Park gazettal include: [Use in your submissions and letters to the Premier]

1. The Park has 10 threatened plant species, over 230 vertebrate fauna species, 11 threatened fauna species, 18 vegetation communities of which 3 are endangered ecological communities and at least 24 known Aboriginal heritage sites. Platypus, Tiger Quolls and Koalas have been sighted in the Park. Recovery Plans are needed for the protection of rare species such as the Giant Burrowing Frog, the Barking Owl, and the Bent Wing Bat.

2. All other Regional Parks in NSW have been formed from previously cleared and grossly modified land and provide for intensive picnic use, bikes, horses etc., Berowra Valley by nature of its high bio-diversity and largely unmodified natural bushland is not in this category.

3. A good comparison is the nearby Lane Cove National Park with one sixth the size of the Berowra Valley Park at 600 ha., has nearly total urban interface, far fewer threatened species, has polluted waters and receives high visitation impact - and yet is given the status of a National Park.

4. Size can not be used as a reason for BVRP not being given National Park

status: National Park comparisons in the Sydney area alone - Botany Bay NP 458 ha, Cattai NP 424 ha, Georges River NP 335 ha, Scheyville NP 920 ha, Wyrabalong NP 620 ha, Sydney Harbour NP 393 ha.

5. Berowra Valley has major water catchment significance.

6. As well as the Pennant Hills Trust the following Community and Environmental organizations are calling for National Park status for the Berowra Valley Park: National Parks Association of NSW, The Nature Conservation Council of NSW, The Hornsby Conservation Society, The Pennant Hills Red Gum Bushland Committee, Galston Area Residents Association, The Association for Berowra Creek and the United Residents Action Group of Berowra and the Ku Ring Gai, Ryde-Epping and Hawkesbury Greens.

7. As a National Park and with consideration of The Great North Walk the Park has important Eco-Tourist potential providing sustainable employment opportunities

well into the future.

For further inquiries please phone The Red Gum Bushland Committee on 9484 0321.

BUSHWALKING AUSTRALIA

Confederation's representative, Maurice Smith (from Sydney Bush Walkers), on the steering committee to form the Australian national bushwalking body has advised that after numerous false starts and some delays along the way, the proposed national bushwalking body is close to coming into being.

This national body will have the major role in managing the national insurance scheme for bushwalking clubs, and for other bushwalking related issues that go across state borders. Some of the possible issues that might come within its ambit include, for example, risk management, leadership accreditation.

Further details of the national body will be published in the following edition of the Bushwalker.

60 YEARS AGO-FROM THE BUSHWALKER 1943

They clambered up into a land bereft Of landmark, time and firm reality By swirling mists that help them in captivity...

D L (SBW)



MACQUARIE MARSHES OPEN WEEKEND

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Quambone

by Margaret Garnsey & Sue Jones

lagoon walks. There will be an evening slide show and talk covering many aspects of the Macquarie Marshes. A local craft display and market will be running in the Quambone Memorial Hall on Saturday and Sunday. Also available will be other optional local activities which will be finalised closer to the date.

Camping facilities and amenities (showers and toilets) will be provided at Quambone racecourse, 1km south of Quambone on the Warren Rd from Friday night to Monday. Caravans are welcome.

Camping fees are \$10 per adult per night with school age children free. A BBQ on Saturday and Sunday night will be provided by the Quambone Re-

sources Committee at a cost of \$8 per adult and \$5 per child.

The cost of the Marsh Walks is \$10 per adult per day, i.e. \$20 per adult for the weekend. Again school age children are free. All other activities that are available, including any charges, will be advertised at the camping ground throughout the weekend. There is a hotel in Quambone as well as a general store which sells fuel, groceries, take away food etc.

This will be a great family oriented weekend with activities arranged to meet the needs and abilities of all ages. So for a fun and inexpensive getaway, join NPWS and the local Quambone Community for an unforgettable Marshes experience.

Number for the Weekend will be limited so bookings and pre-payment are essential. For flyers, booking forms or further information please contact:

Margaret Garnsey "Moblar"
Quambone 2831 NSW Ph 02 6824 2089 Fax 02 6824 2117 Email: moblar@tpg.com.au

or Sue Jones "Boomanulla"
Quambone 2831 NSW Ph 02 6824 2097 Fax 02 6824 2433 Email: jones@tpg.com.au



Egrets and their young in the marshes

north of Warren. It is one of the largest remaining inland semi-permanent wetlands in south-eastern Australia.

The Macquarie Marshes covers about 200,000 hectares and are recognised on the Ramsar Convention as an internationally important wetland. The Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve contains 18,192 hectares and is managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The remaining 90% is mainly private land managed for agricultural purposes.

The Marshes are approximately 100kms long and 25-30kms wide and support a wide range of plants and animals. The Marshes contain extensive areas of common reed, cumbungi, river redgum woodlands, coolibah woodlands and water couch grasslands.

The Macquarie Marshes support over 200 bird species, a number of which depend on the area to breed. Some bird species breed in large colonies in the Marshes including ibis and egrets.

Many of these birds perform important functions in the environment. Ibis feed on insects, controlling their numbers and reducing their impact on crops and pastures.

During the Open Weekend NPWS staff and local community members will conduct guided Marsh walks through River Redgum woodlands and

Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



BUSHWALKERS WILDERNESS RESCUE SQUAD

by Keith Maxwell - President BWRS

Training dominated the last month for Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS). Eleven members of our specialised Rock Rescue Squad took part in V3 vertical (cliff) rescue re-creditation/training. This NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) standard is the recognised standard for VRA personnel of the NSW State Rescue Board. All members participated in a wide range of rope skills including the safe lifting of a rescue stretcher up a cliff complete with casualty.

The following weekend twenty six (26) BWRS members successfully completed helicopter & winch training with the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) at Bankstown Airport. This helicopter & winch training also meets the current requirements of competency based learning. We also had a chance to review the equipment in our rescue trailer and remove many excess items as well as identifying items for overdue maintenance.

The site for our annual navigation training event (NavShield - the 15th) has been chosen and planning has started. There has been a course inspection. The Nav 2003 Procedures document has been written and proposed roles of personnel discussed at a planning meeting. This level of planning is essential to co-ordinate the expected 500 participants. Despite these numbers the NavShield is a friendly

event and definitely an excellent way for your club members to revise/teach beginners their navigation skills. Some experienced bushwalkers increase their enjoyment of NavShield by being event "bush rangers". Please contact our BWRS Secretary at secretary@bwrs.org.au for further details.

Training in First Aid is offered to bushwalkers as well as members of

WE'RE PLANNING - ARE YOU PLANNING?

The Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) Annual NavShield is getting closer. We have stepped up our planning so as to be ready by 6th / 7th July. There is a base site close to a National Park "that-away" from Sydney. The catering menu has been decided. Entry Forms

are being printed; Safety Plans written; Emergency Services notified BUT are you planning to be



Winners of NavShield 2002 - Newcastle Bushwalking Club

there?

The NavShield was developed by BWRS as a navigation training exercise for bushwalkers and Emergency Services personnel. Teams come from all

HIMILAYAN TRIPS



AUTUMN IN THE MOUNTAINS

TASTE OF NEPAL

10 Day Annapurna Trek
3 days Pokhara
3 days Kathmandu
3 days Royal Chitwan National Park
Unbeatable value

\$2680 includes

* Internal flight Kathmandu-Pokhara* all other ground transport and transfers*Quality standard hotels and guest houses*3 meals per day on trek and Chitwan*Welcome Dinner Pokhara*B'fast Pokhara/Kathmandu*Entry permits and Park permits*Entry to all Monasteries *English speaking Guide and Australian Group Leader to assist with all travel arrangements whilst you are in these countries.

Other treks available

*22 day Trip- 18 Day Everest Base Camp Trek -November \$3050
*25 day Trip- 15 Day Wilderness Trek - October - \$1800
*14 day Trip-Easy 4 Day Trek - October - \$1800

5% discount on Land Content to members of Bushwalking Clubs

Lyn Taylor's Adventure Travel
Info@tayloradventure.com.au
www.tayloradventure.com
(02) 9997 7442

Warrumbungle Package



To celebrate the Warrumbungle National Park

50th Anniversary

the Warrumbungles Mountain Motel, adjacent to the Park, offers a

6 day Special Package

- ◆ 5 nights accommodation
- ◆ Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner
- ◆ Groups Welcome
- ◆ Normal Price \$250 per person
- ◆ Huge Special price \$168 per person twin-share (7 nights \$235.00)
- ◆ Family owned 11 years - over 600 groups

OVER 30% OFF



DATES AVAILABLE: June 23 - 27, July 21 - 25, November 17 - 21

Only available to the first 40 bookings

Phone: (02) 6842 1832 Fax: (02) 68 42 2944 Website: warrumbungles.lisp.com.au



THE LITTLE MOUNTAINS OF GUILIN



The city of Guilin (Osmanthus Forest) lies in the semi-tropical south west of China in the limestone karst belt, stretching across from North Vietnam. The scenery is among the most spectacular in world. The land is flat, with mountains rising almost vertically out of paddy fields. The area

Majory Kirk - WEA Ramblers

direction.

I was lucky enough to spend a few months in Guilin, and set about 'bagging' mountains when ever I could spare a few hours. Most now have a stairway of sorts leading to the top - still very precarious and often without a safety hand rail. On the ascent one can gaze in wonder at the ancient carvings and poems etched into the limestone. How

A chair lift ride to the top is a marvelous experience, with breathtaking views. Western Hills Park and Seven Star Park also offer great climbing and rewarding views.

One day I was invited on a picnic outing with local doctors and nurses. We arrived at a river and embarked on little boats into what appeared to be a large cave. It grew darker, then in the distance light appeared, and we came out the other side of the mountain. The boatmen had rowed us clear through the mountain !

Disembarking at the picnic ground, I was dismayed to see the grass littered with rubbish left by other picnickers. Packets which had contained snacks, plastic stripped from the awful sausages they love, plastic bags and tissues covered the grass. I found an old 'Dick Smith' plastic bag in my day-pack and started to pick up rubbish. Soon I was joined by the whole team of over 20 doctors and nurs-es- Rubbish is a nemconcept in China, and they don't know how to deal with it. They have never had rubbish, and still don't in many country areas where everything is used and reused. They are only just entering the throw-away society and are not yet properly geared for it. But they soon learned, and we left the area spotless, to row back through the amazing mountain cavern. I may have started my own Keep China Clean campaign !

I've still to climb a few of Guilin's little mountains if I am lucky enough to have another chance. Meantime, if I see a Chinese painting of pointed mountains rising sheer in a misty atmosphere, pine trees sticking out at odd angles, looking like a vision from the artists deams, I can say yes, it's true, it really does look like that.

Guilin's little mountains can provide an endless fascination for anyone who enjoys a good climb 'because it's there'.experience, with breathtaking views. Western Hills Park and Seven Star Park also offer great climbing and rewarding views.

BWRS DATES FOR 2003

FIRST AID TRAINING

MAY 24/25

NAVSHIELD 5/6JULY

FIRST AID TRAINING

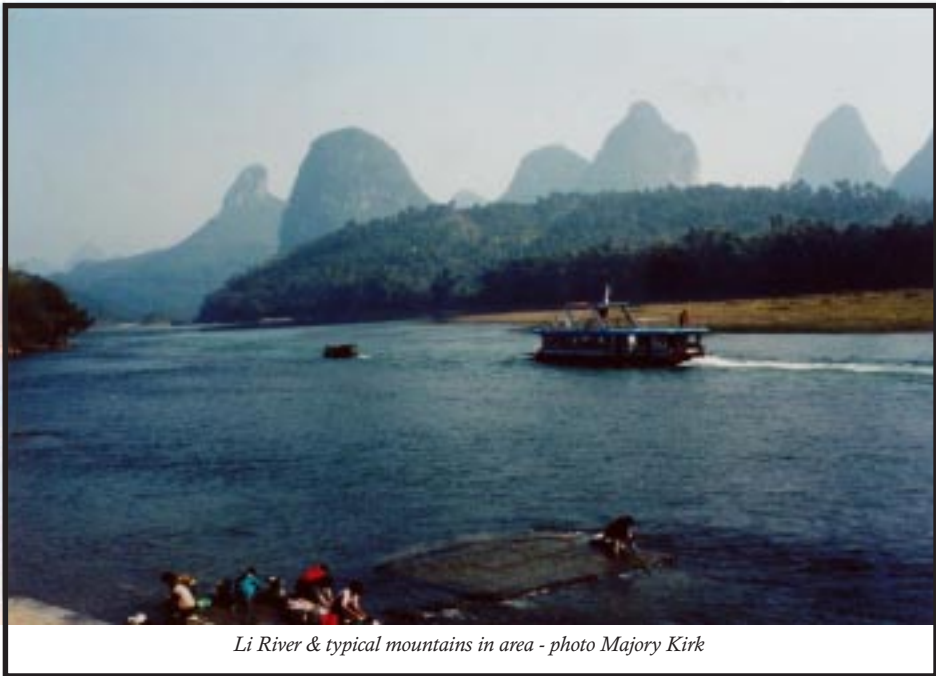
OCTOBER 25/26

were they done so long ago? Surely the mason-poet must have dangled on ropes, or climbed swaying bamboo ladders to reach the inaccessible spots.

At the city centre stands the ancient Palace. Solitary Beauty Peak is captive within its surrounding walls, with over 300 steep steps to the top. The city views are spectacular-. On Ta Shan, Pagoda Mount, stands and ancient pagoda of grey brick. Again the climb is 3/400 steps, no railings and sheer drops over the edge. How did the builders get up there with their materials for the 9-storey Pagoda ? With great difficulty I suspect.

In another park is Huan Shan, Pierced Mountain, where a huge cave goes right through the top of the mountain. Near Yangshuo, about and hour by bus to the South, stands Moon Hill with a similar but smaller hole through the top. Legend has it that a champion archer released an arrow which flew right through Huan Shan, then pierced Moon Hill, leaving these aligned caverns in the limestone.

A taxi ride out of Guilin takes one to the highest mountain of all, Yao Shan.



Li River & typical mountains in area - photo Majory Kirk

was once an ancient sea bed, and the fantastic limestone shapes have been formed by water and erosion over millions of years.

Guilin has a long history, as the ancient capital of Guangxi Province, ruled by the grandson of the Ming Dynasty founder. Sun Yat Sen had his headquarters here in 1925, and the Long Marchers were defeated by the Guomindang nearby. Some years later the war with Japan brought thousands of refugees to the town. They used the many limestone caves as hideouts and shelters from bombing.

Today it is a thriving tourist centre; a couple of days in Guilin features on almost every tourist itinerary. A river cruise on the beautiful Li Jiang is a must, and perhaps a visit to the Seven Star Park, or Elephant Hill.

All about, in and around the city and outskirts these amazing little mountains rise steep and sheer. The city spreads between them, on the flat land. Atop one mount an ancient pagoda, on another a cute Chinese gazebo - one wants to climb them all and experience the marvelous views stretching in every



HERB LIPPMANN & YU HUA LIU:- DIED 23RD APRIL 2003

Konrad Lippmann - his son

Oh how zestful a character, words und witz! Wie geht es mit dich? Keine worte kennen ich schrieben or ones that I speak, to explain Herb - my fathers incredible life.

You know Herb: joking and laughing, bushwalking, trekking, wandering, bushwalking. Look upon his life as an adventure - Born Graz Osterreich (Austria) Wetzlesdorf. 6 resourceful children, A dedicated sister Sieglinde Lippmann. Married Anna-Marie Lipman (Kramer). Son - Franz Lipman (d 1988 23yrs, Clybucca NSW), Daughter - Veronika Malovic (nee Lipman Grandchildren Alyssa, Luke & Kyle). Son - Konrad Lippmann (Grandchildren Kirrily & Franz) and unserer kleine Mousie daughter - Eva Lucas (Lipman). De-facto Jasmin Wilson: Daughter Natalie Lippmann and daughter Tanya

Lippmann. Married Yu Hua Liu of Guangdong, China in Sydney on 6th April 2002 (d 23rd April 2003)

From my view Herb lived an incredible life - Leaving home at the age of 13 travelling and working on boats. Relieved from the Austrian the army for being too much of a joker, Many years of being a Baker, Father, University student, Bushwalking leader and much more.

On the 23rd April 2003 at 12am - The Bus Herb and Yu Hua were travelling in crashed, roll over in Tibet near Lhasa whilst on tour, fatally injuring 5 including Yu Hua Liu (Cheeky) and Herb with a further 4 injured. We await further details.

We will remember Herb, he touched our spirits and guided people in his passion - Bushwalking. We will remember Yu Hua for her wonderful natural grace and gregarious nature. Life's short - adventure.

INTERNATIONAL PORTERS PROTECTION GROUP (IPPG)

Many bushwalkers from Australia travel to Nepal to see the wonderful scenery there, the IPPG is helping the nepalese porters to receive just conditions.

IPPG is a grassroots organisation that was started in 1997 after the avoidable death of yet another Nepali who was working for a trekking company. He got sick, got paid off and sent back on his own, and died 30 hours later.

Our aim is to raise awareness of the problems endured by trekking porters and to educate and change the practices where necessary. This applies to trekking companies and their employees, (especially the leaders and sirdars who are in directly in charge of porters), trekkers and the porters themselves.

Over the six years that IPPG has been active, there has been many positive changes. It is slowly becoming less usual to see trekking porters who are not adequately equipped and who huddle up around a small fire of junipers behind a boulder at 4000 metres. Aidposts/hospitals now report that most sick porters that come to them are now accompanied by a trekker, the sirdar or the leader. Thankfully the Nepalese government is getting stricter about care for the trekking porters and bodies such as TAAN (Travel Agents Association of Nepal) and NMA (Nepal Mountaineering Association) are using their prestige to push for necessary changes.

Many NGO's are now working for similar aims. The main ones that we know of are Porters' Progress, Porteadores Inka Ñan (The Inka Porter Project), HEC (Himalayan Explorer Connection) and Tourism Concern (UK). We all have different approaches, projects and policies. Yet we are all working for the same common goal and support each other's efforts.

All the 25+ people who are actively involved in IPPG are volunteers. No one is paid. Each representative works independently, yet we help each other to achieve the common goal. For more information go to www.ippg.net

SUBSCRIBE TO THE BUSHWALKER.....

Keep up with all the news and developments happening within the NSW bushwalking scene for only \$7 per year.

(This covers posting and handling charges only, the magazine is free)

Name

Address Po

Do you belong to a bushwalking club? yes/no If yes name of Club

If NO would you like a copy of our clubs list free. Please tick. ☐

Payment can be made by cheque, money order made out to

Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs PO Box 2090 GPO Sydney 2001

RECEIVE ALL THE BUSHWALKER ISSUES SINCE 1995 ON CD WITH A BONUS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL PUBLISHED IN 1937 ALSO THE BUSHWALKERS CODE AND NATURAL AREAS POLICY ALL FOR \$20 inc P&H
ADOBE ACROBAT 5 READER INCLUDED.
SEND REQUEST TO BUSHWALKERS NSW PO Box 2001 SYDNEY 1043. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER TO THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW

Continued from page 1

of piecemeal destruction and weed invasion if areas are not purchased and set aside for conservation.

Weeds pose a serious threat to the Daintree rainforest which, until recently, has survived as an unbroken stream of evolution since the appearance of the world's first flowering plants.

"These forests are home to thirteen of the nineteen primitive plant families," says Dr Julia Playford, Director of the Conservation Sciences Unit with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. "Ten of these are found on private land between the Daintree River and Cape Tribulation."

Given her special interest in plant evolution and genetics, Dr Playford's concern for the future of the privately owned forest comes as no surprise.

Over one hundred rare and threatened plant species are found in the area. Forty-three occur on freehold land in the Cooper Creek area alone and twelve have not been found in any National Park areas.

The Cow Bay, Bailey's Creek, Coppers Creek area is a significant tract of Cassowary habitat. It is also vital habitat for the primitive Musky Rat-kangaroo, the rare Bennett's Tree

Kangaroo, endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll, and a myriad of smaller creatures little known to science.

"Look out at night for all the gigantic white-tailed rats," says Tim Low, whose love of native species is only equaled by his passion to put a stop to invasive weeds. "Also look for fig parrots and bumpy satinash which produces big white and golden flowers right down the trunk to ground level, providing nectar for pygmy possums at night."

For tourists, the Daintree is the only place in Australia that serves up World Heritage rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef together. Some call it the heart and soul of the Wet Tropics.

Whether bushwalking or wildlife spotting, its rich, tropical rainforests give nature lovers from all walks of life a taste of 'ecology in action'.

But according to scientists, it won't take much to unravel the intricate web of the Daintree rainforest ecosystem. The loss of even one species to extinction could have a devastating result.

"Without cassowaries, over 100 native rainforest plants are not able to regenerate," said Dr Playford. "They are the only bird in the region capable of

Walk Safely - Walk With a Club



swallowing the large fruits whole."

Eager to act before it is too late, Rainforest Rescue is raising funds to buy back the privately owned blocks of rainforest.

With this support, the Daintree Rainforest Foundation has already purchased four properties in the past two years. Protected forever, and soon to be declared a Nature Refuge, the rescued areas are now being managed for their conservation values. With the purchase of just two more properties, they will form a corridor for Cassowaries in the area.

"The average price for allotments is between \$20,000 and \$35,000. This makes acquisition of allotments realistic and affordable," said Dr Parkes from Rainforest Rescue. "A donation of \$20 buys back approximately ten square meters," he said.

Details of Rainforest Rescue's Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Campaign can be seen online at www.rainforestrescue.org.au

To order a gift card phone (07) 3902 4433 or email info@rainforestrescue.org.au.



Walk Safely - Walk With a Club

KOSCIUSKO PLAN OF MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Wilf Hilder

A Community Forum was set up last year by the N.P.W.S. to revise and redraft the Kosciuszko Plan Of Management (1982 as amended). The Community Forum is comprised of 21 members representing all the major stakeholders and user groups with an interest in K.N.P. and ranged from alpine resort operators to environmentalists. In practice the Community Forum is an N.P.W.S. Advisory Committee charged with the rewriting/redrafting the Plan of Management.

So far 8 very busy meetings of the Community Forum have been held (in 2002/2003) at various centres adjacent to the park. Confederation has been represented at all meetings and I am grateful to Alex Tucker who took my place at the last meeting (in 2002) of the forum. Both the Victorian and South Australian Federations of Bushwalkers have asked me also to represent them, Bicycle N.S.W. has also asked me to represent them as they do not agree with the Mountain Bike Association's policies. In accepting this honour I stressed that bushwalking was my main concern.

An 8 page draft report has been issued by the Community Forum, which outlines the outcomes and unresolved issues for the 6 meetings held last year. The report is available on the internet at www.npws.nsw.gov.au/parks/south/kosciuszko/pom/progress%20report.pdf.

There are naturally a number of very contentious issues concerning KNP for discussion by the Community Forum. The uncompromising position taken by the environmental representatives on the Forum has been a major factor in the significant number of unresolved issues. Every member of the Forum had to sign a declaration that they would not adopt a fixed position on any issued, but would only decide after the debate on the subject matter. This should prevent any group from having a secret website with a fixed agenda on KNP issues.

The Independent Scientific Committee who are reporting on scientific issues concerning KNP for the new Kosciuszko POM have issued an interim Report of over 400 pages. The ISC report is also available on the internet at www.npws.nsw.gov.au/parks/south/kosciuszko/pom/interim-report.html.

The February meeting of the Community Forum was only a single day

and dealt with the disastrous bushfires in KNP. An inspection of the park showed the devastation caused by back burning up steep ridges as opposed to some last minute controlled burning in gently undulating land in the Wilkinson Valley area. I understand that some commendable heroic action by the NPWS rangers saved some huts from destruction. It is interesting to note that in 2003 with helicopters and huge resources of people and equipment 19 huts were totally destroyed. In the catastrophic bushfires of January, 1939 with the limited resources then available no huts were lost, but there were probably some stock losses.

The April meeting of the Community Forum spent quite some time discussing views expressed in the blue brochure issued by the Forum and the 1977 KNP award of a Biosphere Reserve. The second day was taken up by discussing the question of replacing the shelter huts in KNP. A working group has been set up to represent the various stakeholders and make recommendations to the Community Forum. The rest of the day was taken up by establishing a friendly relationship with the Aboriginal Working Group for KNP and supporting their request for funding to establish a Secretariat to consult with numerous state Government departments and Instrumentalities.

Update re National Park access in Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd and Wollemi National Parks, and other national parks and reserves in the Greater Blue Mountains area as of 12 noon on Tuesday 15 April 2003 –

All national parks and reserves in the Blue Mountains area are open.

Some areas will remain closed for reasons of safety, maintenance and facility upgrade, as follows:

Blue Mountains National Park

*Reopened from 17/4: Vehicle access to Red Hands Cave; Mt Hay Road (some tracks/canyons off Mt Hay Rd remain closed – see below).

CLOSED

WARNING: A landslide on the track from Govetts Leap into Grose Valley makes this area extremely dangerous; this track should not be used under any circumstances.

- All burnt areas
- Grand Canyon, Rodriguez Pass
- tracks into Grose Valley from Govetts Leap, Evans Lookout, Lockley Pylon
- tracks from Grose Valley to Govetts Leap, Evans Lookout, Grand Canyon
- track from Acacia Flat to Lockley Pylon
- Point Pilcher, McMahon's Lookout Road
- Fortress and Mt Hay/Butterbox canyons
- National Pass from Valley of the Waters to Slacks Stairs
- Ingar Picnic Area
- *Campfire Creek walking track to Red Hands Cave; Nepean Lookout
- Waratah Ridge and all the area north of Waratah Ridge and east of Glow Worm Tunnel Rd

Wollemi National Park

NB Glow Worm Tunnel Road, Glow Worm Tunnel, Newnes Historic Site, Newnes camping area are OPEN

CLOSED

- All burnt areas
- All the area east of Glow Worm Tunnel Rd, including Deep Pass, River Cave, Galah Mountain trail, Mt Cameron trail
- All the area north and east of Newnes Historic site and camping area, including Pipeline Track, Wolgan River
- All areas north, south, and east of Glen Davis including Capertee River

General advice: All recently burnt areas are CLOSED for safety reasons in all national parks and reserves. Do not enter burnt areas.

For further information on national parks and reserves, please contact the NPWS Heritage Centre, phone 4787 8877 (open 9.00 am to 4.30 pm seven days).

For information on areas and walking tracks outside national parks and reserves, and on attractions and accommodation, phone Blue Mountains Tourism information line 1300 653 408. Geoff Luscombe, Manager, Blue Mountains Region

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A PIECE OF HISTORY.

THE "BUSHWALKER MAGAZINE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE 1937. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF EVERY MAGAZINE/NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED SINCE THAT DATE ON CD IN THE FORM OF ADOBE PDF IMAGE.

SEND \$35 INC P&H TO THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW PO Box 2090 GPO SYDNEY 2001.

READ STORIES BY LEGENDS OF BUSHWALKING . DOT

ENGLISH(BUTLER)(AS WELL AS MANY SKETCHES BY DOT).

DOROTHY LAWRY, MARIE BYLES, MYLES AND MILO DUNPHY, HORACE SALMON, GORDON SMITH, ELSE MITCHELL, BERYL THOMPSON. PADDY PALLIN, TED SLOANE & MANY MORE. ALSO

MANY OF THE MODERN AUTHORS OF BUSHWALKING STORIES AND HISTORICAL ARTICLES. THIS PIECE OF HISTORY THAT HAS TAKEN MANY 100'S OF HOURS TO PREPARE & CAN BE YOURS.

BUY ONE FOR YOUR CLUB'S LIBRARY. PRICE FOR BUSHWALKING CLUBS \$30

y a r a a n d o o

Eco-lodge & Function Centre



**Ideal for groups, overnight travellers and families.
Offering state-of-the-art facilities
in a peaceful bush setting**



- The only pair of breeding Masked Owls in captivity
- A Wildlife Sanctuary for endangered mammals
- Spot lighting to observe native animals at night
- Over 8kms of graded onsite interpretive bushwalks
- A licensed restaurant and conference facilities
- A full range of accommodation styles

**Situated at Point Lookout, off the Waterfall Way, via Armidale,NSW
Located amongst World Heritage-listed New England National Park
and Cathedral Rocks National park**

for a package: Ph (02) 6775 9219 fax (02) 6775 9216

www.yaraandoo.com.au enquiries@yaraandoo.com.au