

Come bushwalking with us! Leave the bustle of workday life; the noise of cars, phones, T.V., the demands of the city. We can show you another world not far away. A quiet, natural world of creeks, and trees, bush tracks and mountains, the warm glow of a campfire under the stars.....

WHAT IS BUSHWALKING?

"Bushwalking" means different things to many people. It can be an afternoon stroll along the foreshores, a half days walk along tourist tracks to a semi isolated mountain pool, a weekend spent in the country side with an overnight camp beneath tall eucalypts, or harder longer trips spent in trackless wilderness. Sometimes there are mountains to be climbed, rivers to be swum, rapids to be canoed, cliffs to be abseiled, deserts to be crossed, caves to be explored, ranges to be skied,.....it depends upon your own interests.

WHAT IS THE FEDERATION?

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, N.S.W, was founded in 1932. It began as a co-ordinating body in order to fight the proposed destruction of Blue Gum Forest in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney - a favourite walking area. This campaign proved successful and soon other areas were being "saved" from commercial exploitation.

Apart from conservation, the Federation deals with everything that concerns the bushwalking movement as a whole - information on tracks, maps, gear, educational courses, central reference point for enquiries from the public as well as commercial and governmental interests. We also have our own Search and Rescue section to help bushwalkers as well as members of the public who get into difficulties.

The Federation itself does not run trips, and directs all enquiries to its member clubs. Contacts for the various clubs are included on a separate leaflet.

WHY JOIN A CLUB?

Anyone can put on a rucksack and walk off into the bush with a couple of friends, but there are many benefits to be gained from walking with a club.

- It's safer to walk with a party that has previous experience of an area, especially if special equipment is required (e.g. abseiling, skiing).
- Experienced walkers can lead trips into more remote and inaccessible wilderness areas where skill with map and compass is essential.
- There are many aspects of bushcraft, navigation, first aid, identification of plant and bird species, which can be easily absorbed on club trips.
- For those who want companionship, there is plenty to share amongst people who together have enjoyed the view from a mountain top, boiled the billy or yarned around a campfire.
- Age differences are eclipsed by common interests such as photography, bush music or natural sciences which are shared by many bushwalkers.
- Club journals reveal members who have an interest in local history, map making, aboriginal traces and habitation, photography, interesting or special trip reports on local, interstate and overseas areas.
- Parties usually number 3 to 8 walkers which allows friendships to develop easily as well as improving the speed of the party. Generally, the only obligations on members are those of common sense considerations based on the safety of the party and the preservation of natural areas.
- Transport costs are shared by those who travel together so expenses are reduced.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT WEEKEND? COME BUSHWALKING WITH US!