

WHAT IS THE FEDERATION?

Because there are many things in which all bushwalkers are interested, the different clubs have formed themselves into a unified Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. The Federation deals with everything that concerns the bushwalking movement as a whole, but it does not interfere with the ordinary organisation or activities of the clubs.

The work of the Federation is varied. Its chief efforts are devoted to obtaining the dedication of bushland parks and increasing the public appreciation of the need for preserving the bush. It has also enlisted a Search and Rescue Section from amongst members of the clubs and others. In addition, it publishes an annual magazine, "The Bushwalker," which is commended to you. These are just a few of its many activities.

SOME ADVICE FOR BEGINNERS.

For information regarding gear, food, and the like, read "Paddy" Pallin's handbook, "Bushwalking and Camping." Incidentally, Paddy is unreservedly recommended when you are purchasing or hiring gear—indeed, he is the only satisfactory manufacturer of lightweight camping and walking gear in Sydney, and is himself an enthusiastic bushwalker. His shop is on the first floor of 327 George Street, Sydney. The book may be purchased from him.

Here are Some Brief Hints for Your Trips:

Consult a bushwalker who knows the country, or you may take on too much. Mileages are unreliable, as nature of the country is a more potent factor.

Always carry a first-aid kit; accidents are rare, but be prepared for them.

Write down your intended route and leave it in safe hands—perhaps with "Paddy" Pallin, who will organise a Federation search party if necessary.

Map and compass—the best you can afford—are "musts" on every trip.

Keep all members of the party within sight or coo-ee, particularly at river crossings.

Put out your fire carefully. It is easy to start bushfires and you cannot take too much care. Saturate it with water until it ceases to emit steam.

IN CONCLUSION, you should never hesitate to ask for any information or assistance you may want. The Federation and the clubs will be glad to help you in any way they can. You will find, too, that club members are only too pleased to give you advice and information.

CO-OPERATION forms the backbone of the bushwalking movement. You will get all the help you need if you join a club—and you will be able to help others in return. You will find comradeship counts a lot in those full, healthy days you spend out of doors—happy days that linger long in your memory.

MOUNTAINS MAKE MEN!

*The Whys and Wherefores of
Bushwalking*

FOR YOUTH OR GIRL
MAN OR WOMAN



Suggestions from —

THE N.S.W. FEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS SYDNEY 1947

The purple glow upon the twilight hills . . . the far-flung scenes from rugged mountain chains . . . the climbs to summits rarely trod by men . . . the thrilling dash to gullies far below . . . the grassy lowlands, rugged gorge . . . the sunshine and the open air . . . these are the joys that only the bush can bring you . . . bushwalking brings you face to face with bush.

Since the war, the number of 'teen-agers and adults who go bushwalking increases day by day. Many new bushwalkers do not belong to clubs, and many have little knowledge of bushcraft and camping. Younger walkers are inclined to take on trips which are too long or too rough, so that the Press frequently reports "hikers lost." In reality, they are not lost, but merely overdue; nevertheless, parents are caused much anxiety, whilst police and other people are put to unnecessary trouble. These trials of the new-comers can all be avoided if bushwalkers take advantage of the services of this Federation's Honorary Information Officer, "Paddy" Pallin, at 327 George Street. All advice on routes, gear, etc., **without any obligation.**

WHY JOIN A CLUB?

No matter why you walk—for exercise, for love of the bush, to see unusual scenery—there is a club where you will find kindred spirits who will welcome you as a comrade.

Bushwalking itself breeds self-reliance and individuality, yet the advantages of the clubs are many:

Friendliness and companionship whenever you want it.

Reliable guidance in remote and fascinating country.

Experienced walkers to give you hints on camping and walking technique.

Up-to-date maps and first-hand information from those who have really "been there before."

Advice on how to keep your rucksack light.

Photographers will find fellow-enthusiasts in every club.

Animals and birds, bush trees and shrubs—their life histories and haunts will be revealed by a host of "old hands."

Above all, you will not have to meet the disappointment of abandoning a trip because you could not get a companion to share it, nor will you have to face the danger and loneliness of a solo trip.

WHAT THE CLUBS DO.

Walks each week-end are arranged by most clubs. The majority are camping trips, leaving Sydney on Friday night or Saturday mid-day and returning on Sunday evening (Monday if a holiday). Some clubs do only one-day walks, on Sundays and holidays.

The number taking part in "club" walks varies, but usually averages five or six. Members arrange many semi-private walks amongst themselves.

Lectures on travel, moving-picture nights, debates and social events are part of any club's activities. Regular meetings in the city enable old friends and new to foregather and exchange ideas. The physical side of walking is here left behind, and members tell yarns or lay plans for ventures new.

Photographic rambles and wanderings in search of natural life lend variety to walks in search of scenery.

River canoeists have a club also. Shooting rapids in mountain streams and paddling along placid river reaches form part of this club's activities, whilst they also have lecture nights and movie-film exhibitions.

Whatever your interest, there is a club to cater for you.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

A minimum age of sixteen exists in most clubs, and prospective members usually undergo tests on stamina and walking ability. These tests are not Herculean tasks, and new-comers are given a "training" period, when they can learn by observation of experienced walkers.

Many people fear that they will become "organised" if they join a club, thereby losing some of their freedom to do as they please. Nothing could be further from the truth. Bushwalking is definitely the recreation of the individualists.

There are only three simple demands made on club members: that they shall respect the bush and help to protect it from damage; that no member shall act in a way which may endanger or bring discredit to fellow-walkers; and that each member shall pay a subscription (varying from 1/6 to 15/- a year).

There is no obligation whatever to attend walks or meetings, though, of course, clubs like all members to take a part in activities generally.

HOW TO JOIN A CLUB.

The Federation will gladly supply you with a list of the clubs with vacancies for members, setting out the names and addresses of their secretaries, and giving some brief particulars of the nature of the activities and membership requirements of each. For this list you may apply to the Honorary Secretary of the Federation at the address below, and he will recommend the most suitable clubs for you.

When you have the list, write or telephone the respective secretaries, who will gladly furnish you with full explanations of membership requirements, subscription, etc., and will probably invite you to a meeting. In this way you will be able to decide for yourself which club appeals to you most strongly, and you can then go ahead and apply for membership.