

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs , N.S.W.

G.P.O. Box 2090 , Sydney , 2001

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ANZAC SEARCH

One of the aims of Bushwalkers Search and Rescue when it was established in 1934 was a self-help commitment to all clubs in the Federation. This self-help image is even more important in today's climate of regulation and cost-counting for searches.

Over the last 10 years, the majority of our call-outs have been for people outside the club network. This would indicate that the Clubs are doing an excellent job in the training of their members.

The adopted motto of Bushwalkers Search and Rescue is that we will "go anywhere, for anyone, at anytime" working of course, within constraints of transport.

The combined Clubs of the Federation do a fabulous job no matter what the scenario for a call-out; however, when one of their own members is threatened, as was the case when Robbie MacKillop and his girlfriend Karen, both members of Macquarie Mountaineering Society, were reported overdue, the spirit of comradeship and co-operation between member Clubs is unequalled. Robbie and Karen had planned a trip from Deep Pass to Rock Hill, both in the Newnes Plateau area, leaving on Friday 25th April and returning Saturday 26th. Derek Cattle, another member of Macquarie Mountaineering Society contacted the Search and Rescue committee on the afternoon of Sunday 27th, stating that Robbie and Karen were overdue.

The decision was then made for Derek to drive to Deep Pass and establish that the car was still there and report back to the Committee the same evening. The car was located late Sunday night and the call-out was initiated. Taking into account Robbie's vast experience, particularly in the area concerned, it was immediately assumed that some physical injury had befallen one of them. All Clubs were asked to assemble at Deep Pass for a dawn start the following morning.

At moments like this, I am particularly proud to be associated with Bushwalkers Search and Rescue as most of the 50 walkers who turned up ready to search hadn't even unpacked after their Anzac weekend walks. All were physically and mentally tired from hard walks and long drives home - I knew of several parties that had returned from trips to the Snowy Mountains and yet all merely added a bit more food to their packs and came straight up to the Mountains.

Before the search proper had started on the Monday morning, Robbie and Karen were sighted across the valley and were shown the way down through the cliffs. They arrived back at base very tired, a little embarrassed but well. They had been confused navigationally in some tricky country and would have found their own way out in time.

I'd like to thank Derek Cattle for the cool and efficient manner in which he handled the initial stages of the search and all of the 50+ walkers involved.

As a separate matter, I'd like to clear up an issue that has been raised recently. The Committee reserves the right to call out Bushwalkers Search and Rescue immediately, if necessary, on receiving word of one of its members being overdue, which may mean starting a search at night. We reserve the right to do this no matter which professional body tries to override us.

In the event of us being asked to help in an S&R activity of a non-club member then we will follow the directions given to us by whomever is the controlling body. For any S&R activity to be successful, it involves the co-operation of all bodies concerned. This is of the utmost importance and is always considered by the Committee when any decision is made.

Peter Treseder
Assistant Director

FREE THE BUSH CAMPAIGN

Access, or rather the lack of it to public land is a primary concern of Australia's 4WD club Associations. 1985 has not been a good year in this regard.

Hand-in-hand with this problem is the attitude of many public land-management authorities. While liaison between management authorities and user groups has generally been good - with the exception of Queensland, where the Ministers responsible for public land appear not to embrace the concept of public scrutiny, discussion and accountability for their policies - both parties have agreed in principle that a management plan is an essential starting point.

It is within the concept of the management plan that the 4WD tourer is losing out. To have the right to traverse existing track networks - to experience the beauty and solitude of the bush, and to camp and savour the "great outdoors", is all the 4WD movement asks.

Within this broad desire, of course there are qualifications to which we readily agree. Yes, some tracks should be seasonally closed for environment and user safety reasons, yes, there are some areas justifiable as wilderness areas, yes, there should be some areas for the exclusive use of bushwalkers, yes, there are some areas justifiable as wilderness areas, yes there should in some areas be restrictions on dispersed camping. These and other limitations on our recreation are recognised. They are resultant from commonsense evaluation and desire to cater for a variety of bush user experiences.

At no time does the 4WD movement blatantly demand free access to every track, to every state and national park, nor for the right to camp at will on public land.

What the Australian National FWD Council does demand is FAIR assessment and balanced access and management of our public land.

Unlike our opponents who will accept nothing less than our, and other non-bushwalking recreations, complete banishment from public lands, we assert that our public lands are for ALL to enjoy. They are not the exclusive domain of the elite or any one minority section of the community.

To this end the ANFWDC considers that land management authorities are not managing existing public land resources in a manner conducive to providing maximum recreational opportunity, nor to provide a variety of recreational opportunities.

In the face of track closures, proposed closures and steps being taken to further disadvantage our recreation, four-wheel-drivers have good reason to feel disenchanting with the performances of several State governments and land management authorities

campaign, and the ANFWDC urges all four wheel drivers, trail bike enthusiasts, deer stalkers, sawmillers, mountain cattlemen, and a multitude of other bush users to put your name to the petition.

It is rare for a government decision to be reversed, and in respect to diminishing access to the bush and traditional 4WD areas there may not be a second chance to nationally press for fair management of Australia's public lands. 4x4 Australia is the Official magazine designated by the ANFWDC and shares our genuine concern for fair management of public land resources. It has taken a positive step in defending our rights of access, and we would ask you to support the campaign and to keep the mail boxes at 4x4 overflowing with petitions.

The 4WD Clubs Association of NSW & ACT has produced a comprehensive booklet titled "Land Management for Recreational Use by 4WD Vehicles". It should be compulsory reading for all land managers. The document logically explains the requirements and needs of 4WD touring and addresses the current management deficiencies.

Lindsay Breen, Director of the FWD Association of NSW and ACT recognises the great need being to convince land managers that the closure of tracks and banning of vehicles is not the answer; but rather the answer lies in effective and equitable management of resources. Simultaneous with the growth in four-wheel driving for recreation, opportunities for the use of 4WD vehicles has declined. The decline in the quantity and quality of land available for 4WD touring has occurred primarily as a result of decisions made by managers of public lands.

A major misconception commonly held by the public and to some extent by land managers is that the recreational use of 4WD vehicles necessarily causes environmental damage. This view has been perpetuated by environmentalists and has contributed to the increasing disequilibrium between the demand for any supply of recreational opportunities.

All roads and tracks have a capacity to withstand a certain level of usage before any discernible environmental damage is caused. The ANFWDC considers that an important task of management is to regulate usage levels in accordance with the capacity of tracks to withstand usage. Currently, management authorities are not achieving a matching of usage and capacity. Such a matching is essential to efficiently manage existing recreational resources.

It is only through a reappraisal of current management practices, as opposed to continuing restrictions, that the bush can be freed for all to enjoy.

Editor's Note - Comments welcome.

Weather conditions during winter require that all 4WD trails in Barrington Tops National Park be closed to protect both the public and the trails.

The 4WD trails are usually re-opened for the summer just prior to the October long weekend.

However, illegal use by 4WD vehicles and trail bikes over last years wet winter period left the trails in a very damaged state.

The 4WD trails remained closed until repair works could be undertaken.

Most repair works are complete and the 4WD trails re-opened for public use on 6/12/85.

It was not possible to repair the badly damaged Carey's Peak Trail.

In the interest of public safety and to prevent further damage, the section of Carey's Peak Trail from Lagoon Pinch to the Big Hole Turn-off remained closed to the public.

Bushwalkers should suggest to the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Carr, that the Carey's Park trail should be closed permanently. The trail is poorly sited, the steep road being responsible for considerable erosion. The Service's finite financial resources should not be used to compromise environmental protection of the Park by keeping the road open.

Roger Lembit
Editor



**BELVEDERE
TAXIS
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047-878366**

**KANANGRA BOYD; UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS
SIX FOOT TRACK**

TRAVEL BY TRAIN AND CATCH A CAB

**PICK UP ANYWHERE FOR START OR FINISH
OF YOUR WALK - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT**

Conservation Society reports that their group is concerned at the spread of Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) in the Blue Mountains. The discovery of the infestation was made in 1984 and many of the shrubs found were well established and had been seeding for several years.

Local groups are removing any plants found and monitoring areas following removal. They would appreciate bushwalkers help in locating populations of this weed. Infestations should be verified by someone with botanical knowledge, then destroyed. Reports of findings should be forwarded to the Society, P.O. Box 119, Springwood 2777.

DIAMOND CREEK CATCHMENT

- . A decision will be made regarding the future of this catchment adjoining Deua National Park during 1986.
- . The Forestry Commission, at present will make the decision in consultation with the NPWS - there is no requirement for the Commission to comply with any demands the Service may make.
- . The catchment is included within the Deua Wilderness which would be covered by proposed wilderness legislation.
- . The area has significant nature conservation, reference catchment, wilderness and recreational values. It includes stands of warm temperate rainforest, good quality eucalypt forest and spectacular waterfalls.
- . Exclusion of the area from logging would represent 9% of the timber resource in Dampier S.F. considered in the Wandella-Dampier E.I.S. (1983). This could be made up by (a) changes in timber volumes due to amendments to Forestry Commission timber estimates (b) use of regrowth timber from the coastal working circle (c) reduction in timber quotas (possibly resulting in employment losses and reduced viability of mills).
- . Action is needed now to ensure the area is protected. To help save the area write to the Premier, Mr Wran, the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Carr and the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Aquilina.

Roger Lembit

KAMERUKAS

40th Anniversary Year Celebrations

Dinner - Saturday 9th August

**Re-union - 1st & 2nd November
Nattai River**

All enquiries to P.O. Box 152, North Strathfield
NSW 2137.

We wish to contact any ex-Kamerukans to help us celebrate the club's 40 years.

THREE
The Bushwalker's Shop

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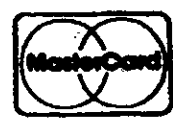
Monday	} 10.30 am - 8.00 pm
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Wednesday	} 10.30 am - 9.00 pm
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Friday	10.30 am - 7.30 pm
Saturday	9.00 am - 5.00 pm.
Sunday	Closed

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SAFE BUSHWALKING

For your own safety and convenience the following principles should be followed on ALL bush trips.

- DO - Tell someone **WHERE** (i.e. complete route details) you are going in the bush. Either friends or local Police/Park Ranger.
- Tell this friend or local Police/Park Ranger **WHEN** you are leaving and **WHEN** you expect to **RETURN**.
- Advise this friend or local Police/Park Ranger of your **SAFE RETURN** so that no one searches for your unnecessarily.
- Take the correct **map** and a bushwalking compass. Know how to use them competently.

REMEMBER WALK SAFETY - WALK WITH A CLUB

Keith Maxwell
 Director
Bushwalkers Search & Rescue

BUSHSPORTS 86

Cross Country Skiing	19-20th July
Introductory Abseiling	20th September
Canoeing	18-19th October
Canyoning	15-16th November

Phone Inquiries and Booking 520 7081.
 Bushsports is a bush education program run by the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (N.S.W.).

This Newsletter is an occasional publication and is distributed free, through its member club, to the members of those clubs. Mail list subscription is \$3 pa.

Contributions to the Newsletter are always considered (and should be accompanied with the name and address of author). All material not otherwise acknowledged can be attributed to the Editor(s). Any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, N.S.W.

Errata -
 The last issue of the newsletter was Vol 11, No 2, not Vol 2, No 2

Correspondence concerning the Newsletter should be addressed to The Editor, Newsletter, Box 2090 C.P.O. Sydney, 2001