

NEWSLETTER

of the

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

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APOLOGIES AND ERRATA

Apologies to anyone who has been disappointed by the non-appearance of the Newsletter for the last two months. In December the editor was walking in Tasmania, which was a dampening experience both physically and morale-wise. In January the editor was back but the printer was walking in Tasmania instead, and no-one else could be found to do the job at the price to which the Federation is accustomed. Anyway, the silly season is over and we are hopefully now back to normal.

Hasty proofreading of the last Newsletter resulted in a large number of typographical errors which escaped attention. Most were insignificant, with the exception of one in the article "Kosciusko Huts". The second sentence of the last paragraph should have read, "The Park management has clearly stated that some huts are likely to be demolished, and even KHA has hinted that it will listen to suggestions as to which huts should go." As originally printed, this sentence read, rather unfortunately, "The Park management has clearly to be demolished . . .". Apologies to the Park management!

AN O.B.E. FOR MYLES DUNPHY

Among the recipients of New Year Honours was Myles Dunphy — for conservation. Many of today's parks owe their origins to Myles' forethought and planning, some stretching back to the late twenties. Kosciusko, Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, Heathcote, Warrumbungles, Brisbane Waters are all examples of his proposals. The Budawangs, Myall lakes, Murramarang are areas where Myles has also contributed.

Myles was the founder of the first bushwalking/camping club in New South Wales, the Mountain Trails Club of NSW (1914), and was its Honorary Secretary for 34 years. He was a co-founder of the Sydney Bushwalkers (1927) and a Vice President for 9 years. He was also co-founder of this Federation in 1933.

An award that was long overdue.

STOP PRESS

The 1977 Federation Reunion is to be held on the 26th & 27th of March. All details in the next Newsletter.

S & R PRACTICE

19th & 20th March,
at Boyd Crossing on the Kanangra Road.

Activities commence at 11 am on Saturday. There will probably be practice searches on both days, with a return to base camp on Saturday night.

LEADERSHIP COURSES — GOOD OR BAD?

The National Parks Association has recently announced details of a mountain leadership course to be held at Chakola Nature Refuge (on the Murrumbidgee) in late April. The brochure states that the purpose of the course is, "To prepare group leaders for bushwalking trips into the mountainous country of eastern Australia"; that it is run "in the interest of better climbing and walking safety"; and that its scope includes "leadership skills, clothing and equipment, mountain first aid, map and compass, and the application of leadership skills to the base camp situation".

It is some interest to note that both the New Zealand Alpine Club and the British Mountaineering Council have been quite critical of leadership courses of this nature. The main criticism is simply that such courses can engender unjustified confidence on the part of leaders, and hence also in the groups for which they are responsible. Undoubtedly the mountains of both New Zealand and the U.K. are more dangerous than those of Australia, but that is no reason to dismiss the criticism lightly.

Mountain leadership training of this type would probably be quite acceptable if it was restricted to those who have already demonstrated a reasonable degree of competence. However the very nature of these courses is such that they appear to be aimed at those who do not have extensive prior experience, and who need training not only in leadership (in the restricted, literal sense of the word) but also in the basic skills of bush- and mountain-craft. Those who have gained their skills through experience are rarely interested in, or need, formal training anyway.

Perhaps N.P.A. should look more closely at what it is really trying to do before becoming too deeply involved in something whose real value is doubtful.

TASMANIAN ROUTE GUIDES

The December Bulletin of the Hobart Walking Club carried a note to the effect that the Club no longer distributes its maps and route guides. In one sense this is good, as some of the material was so out of date as to be seriously in error — those who distribute material of this nature have at least a moral responsibility to ensure that it is accurate. Nevertheless most of the stuff was extremely useful.

The H.W.C. did not give a reason for the discontinuation (not in that Bulletin anyway). Perhaps it was for financial reasons; perhaps to deliberately discourage walkers from taking on some of the classic trips in order to prevent the deterioration that comes from overuse. Certainly many people who have never been to the Arthurs or on the Mt. Anne circuit and who have no other source of information (especially mainlanders) are now more or less barred from attempting these superb traverses. The routes are too tricky and contorted and many of the campsites are too far apart for even the most experienced walker to tackle with confidence if he has never been there before and lacks detailed information. Given time one could probably find success, but only a lucky few can afford the time required for exploratory route finding.

Information on at least the more popular routes in S.W. Tasmania is almost certainly available through this Federation, the H.W.C. itself will probably still respond to direct enquiries.

MORE ON VOLLEYS

Federation has received the following letter from Dunlop Footwear in response to the article "Foot-wear" in the last Newsletter:

"The October-November issue of the 'Newsletter of the Bushwalkers of NSW' has come to our notice, particularly the information you have published regarding our Volley canvas footwear.

"Firstly, we most certainly are conscious of all consumer needs and value the support of Bushwalkers for our Volley canvas shoes.

"In this article you state, 'the soles are now made in Taiwan instead of Korea' — the Dunlop Volley Shoe is totally produced in Australia. Its upper is made from high grade quality cotton duck which is produced in Australia to the Dunlop specification requirements. The soles are attached to the uppers by the most modern advanced technology of rubber injection and the quality of our rubber soling specification is superior, in our testing, to any other imported quality. In other words, the total product is designed for Australian conditions and is manufactured in Australia to a very rigid quality control specification.

"One of the problems that faces footwear manufacturers is balanced wear and it is the continual aim of footwear manufacturers (those not totally influenced by fashion), to produce footwear where the bottom and upper components show apparent signs of wear simultaneously.

"May I therefore recommend to all your Bushwalker Members that if they have been using the Volley range of products in their recreation activity, today they will find our product of a higher grade and standard than previously.

Yours sincerely,
G.S. Walton,
General Manager — Director.

Apologies to Dunlop for our confusion over the location of their factories. Regarding the other points Federation's Treasurer, who brought up the matter originally, produced this open letter to Dunlop in reply.

"Dear Dunlop,

"Wherever your Volleys are made is irrelevant — the point is that I am greatly inconvenienced.

"As a respected member of a bushwalking club I am often asked by new members what footwear is best for our sport. Until recently I answered Volley OC's or Internationals, but now if I were to give this answer my conscience would suffer. I know that with the new softer soles the tread will wear off in four or five good bushwalks making negotiation of wet rocks and creek walking more difficult and even hazardous.

"Am I now to say to these people that the days of sandshoe walking are over? Should we return to wearing heavy mountaineering boots, probably the only alternative footwear of suitable quality?

"This is to say nothing of my personal inconvenience in having to wear prematurely worn-out sandshoes and of trudging from store to store looking for a replacement product.

"Your most modern advanced technology and rubber injection methods may produce a superior product to imports as you claim your testing shows, but what I am concerned about is the difference between quality of your current Volleys and your superceded ones.

"Fortunately there is a good side to every story — I have recently purchased a pair of 'Adidas Squash Shoe', now \$14 in Myers and sports stores. These appear, from my first few bushwalks with them, to be at least equal to the quality of your product before you introduced the softer rubber soles.

"You have probably now lost a couple of percent of your market since bushwalkers, even if not others users, are vitally concerned at the quality of their footwear.

Ray Alsop"

It is yet to be determined whether the extra cost of alternatives to Volleys is really justified by proportionately longer life and greater confidence in one's shoes. Similarly, it is yet to be seen whether walkers as a group turn away from Volleys towards some other product(s). Nevertheless, it is generally accepted that Volleys are not what they used to be, which is rather sad since they had for a long time been firmly established as the footwear for bushwalking.

N.P.A. JOURNAL - BLUE MOUNTAINS ISSUE

As part of publicity and fund raising for the Greater Blue Mountains National Park campaign, the National Parks Association has produced an extra 2000 copies of its December-January Journal. This issue is an enlarged, high quality publication containing over two dozen photographs by Henry Gold, several maps, and a dozen articles with subjects ranging from the aborigines to Yerranderie, from botany to mining and forestry.

Federation has purchased 500 of the extra copies at cost price, and is distributing them through clubs. Federation will make a small profit on copies it sells to clubs, and clubs may either sell them at cost (60c) or at a profit which may be returned to Federation or retained. The Journal will retail from newsagents etc. at \$1.00, so buy a discount copy from your club and help Federation and the G.B.M. National Park.

BOOK REVIEW

This review by Don Baker is taken from the Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs' Newsletter.

**Australian Bushcraft, by M.W. Plate,
Periwinkle Books, Dae Why West, 1976 Revised Edition**

In this book Mr. Plate attempts to explain bushcraft to people interested in bushwalking and vehicle based camping. Unfortunately there is no clear distinction between the two types of recreation and many of the shifts and contrivances described are not appropriate for bushwalkers. Much of the technology explained in the book belongs to the pioneering era and is no longer environmentally acceptable. A motto adopted for some time by both walking clubs and four wheel drive clubs in Victoria has been "What you carry in, you carry out". Yet Mr. Plate asks that rubbish be buried. There are so many people visiting the bush now that most popular camp sites have already been dug over once.

Some emphasis is given to conservation and etiquette, but it is not convincing. He says, "do not ... cut down trees and shrubs with reckless abandon". However this follows illustrations of a camp bed, broom, tripod and toilet, all to be made from timber cut from around the camp. Mr. Plate would have us erect our tent with timber poles and pegs. This method is not even supported by the illustrations since six of the eight tents shown have metal pegs and poles. He cannot leave his camp without marking a track by slicing "a piece of bark off a tree every fifty yards or so". The natural beauty of our bush cannot withstand this butchery: NO trees or shrubs should be cut.

I cannot understand the departure from the standard recommendation of all other bushcraft books: 2 lbs of food per day. Plate recommends 1 lb.

From reading of his bushcraft skills, it is easy to believe Mr. Plate experiences "Many occasions when cooking the food that the surrounding countryside has to offer becomes a necessity." None of my bushwalker friends or acquaintances have ever needed to rely on food from the bush because they plan and prepare for their trips properly. Thankfully they did not learn their bushcraft from Mr. Plate. Would anybody in a case of necessity "hang it (a bird or animal) for at least fourteen hours" in order to make it more tender or flavoursome?

In several places readers are asked to familiarise themselves with laws which might affect them. Novices expect more than this — they should have been helped with a list of addresses of land managing authorities, fisheries and game authorities, and user groups such as the Federations of Walking Clubs, four wheel drive groups, and automobile clubs.

The book is colourfully illustrated. Unfortunately the fellow "prepared for wet conditions" has a parka two sizes too small and he does not have overtrousers, which should be recommended in the southern States. The necessity of ample size in clothing and footwear is not mentioned anywhere in this book. In the photograph of "well pitched tents" the doors would not close. Many of the fires illustrated do not conform to summer fire regulations in Victoria.

One of the few sections of this book which is acceptable is the description of treatment of snake bite. This is fortunate as Mr. Plate ignores the best advice regarding snakes (ie. leave them alone). He gives four methods to kill one. Failure of any attempt to kill a snake could result in a well deserved bite.

It is regrettable that this book has been republished. One hopes that few copies are sold because the problem of converting people to acceptable bush manners is already a burden upon responsible bushwalkers, 4WD recreationists and land managing authorities.

ON THE FATE OF LOG BOOKS

Last Newsletter it was reported that the Superintendent of Morton National Park had requested the return of a log book which had been removed (full) from Pigeon House Mountain. The particular book had been placed by the NPWS in the first place, and thus they do have the right to keep it. However it is desirable that most log books should be placed in the Public Library of NSW when full, where they will be readily available to any researcher. For this reason, all new log books placed by clubs or individuals should be marked inside the front and back covers to the effect that when completed they should be returned either to Federation or direct to the Library

As a fringe benefit, the knowledge that log books are preserved may result in a toning down of some of the puerile obscenities that are a regular feature of most books. (On the other hand, that fact might unfortunately encourage such scribbles from certain tiny minds.)

NEW GUDGENBY NATIONAL PARK

A large area of the southern A.C.T. was recently gazetted as Gudgenby National Park. This is a superb sub-alpine area which includes Mts. Murray, Morgan, Bimberi, and probably Kelly, Scabby and Gudgenby, although we haven't yet found out the precise boundaries. This will be the first national park to be administered by the previously park-less Australian NPWS.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT NEWS

With new prices coming into effect, we still have some old stocks left:

- " FAIRY DOWN " sleeping bags
- " PADDYMADE " sleeping bags, rucksacks, and tents
- N.Z. Oilskin Parkas (Sizes SM - OS, \$25.70)
- " SCARPA 904 " boots, \$44.50 (excellent value)
- " MOUNTAIN MULE " packs

Just arrived:

- New shipment of " MOUNTAIN DESIGN " down sleeping bags
- " FJALLRAVEN " tents
- " BERGHUAS-THOR " rainjackets

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A DAM ON THE COLO

The Electricity Commission is considering long term plans for a dam on the Colo River near its confluence with the Wolgan or Wollemi. Water from the dam would be conveyed by pipeline across the plateaux south of the river and used as cooling water for a possible power station on the Newnes Plateau. The effects of the dam, pipeline and power station on the wilderness quality of this area (which is the core of the Northern Blue Mountains wilderness) would be disastrous.

GRAZING IN THE K.N.P.

The Minister for Lands, Mr. Crabtree has now replied to Federation's criticism of his decision to allow grazing in the Kosciusko National Park. His letter says, in part,

"I have been assured that drought conditions in the Tumut/Gundagai area were the worst for many years. Numbers of valuable breeding cattle were in imminent danger of perishing unless relief was made available urgently. Recent rains will not provide instant relief.

"The decision to allow relief grazing is for a strictly limited period only and it is not to be regarded as a precedent.

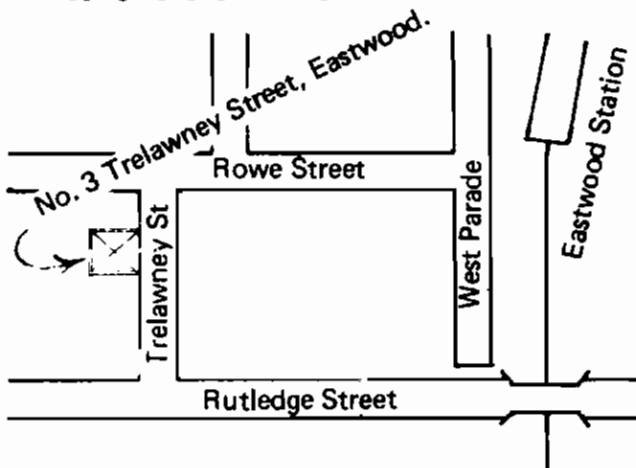
"It might be noted that the approval in respect of the Blowering area of the Kosciusko National Park was subject to the concurrence of the Soil Conservation Service."

EASTWOOD CAMPING CENTRE

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Fairydown sleeping bags, abseiling gear, parkas, packs, tents, boots, groundsheets, lightweight food, AND MUCH MORE.

Agents for Lands Department and Division of National Mapping topographical maps.



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ON PARK PHILOSOPHY

Each year the Kosciusko National Park produces its "Summer Guide", a broadsheet which introduces visitors to the Park. This summer's issue is good stuff — the NPWS could do with more of the same. Of particular interest is a lengthy article by Geoff Moore (Senior Ranger, Planning) called "Never a Final Plan for Parks" which deals with the philosophy behind national park plans of management. The following extracts from that article put the whole national park concept into an elegant nutshell:

"We may say that the Plan is, in effect a value judgement made by our present society in the light of our own knowledge, experience, desires, imaginations and standards of beauty"

"It is certain that our children will have a different concept of National Park aims and purposes than we have.

"It is even more sure that our descendants of 200 years time will be very unlikely to know National Parks as we know them.

"Surely, this is one of the purposes of our Parks — to set aside areas now so that future generations may use them as their needs dictate.

"Increase in empirical knowledge; changing standards of beauty and aesthetic appeal; increasing demands for outdoor sports and the invention of new sports; the degree of psychological rejection of, or adaption to more intense urban development — these and many other factors will have a strong influence on the National Park concepts of future generations and on their modification of the plans we produce today."

"The Plan of Management for Kosciusko National Park is, in a sense, an attempt to achieve two distinct objectives in the one document.

1. To conserve the area for the decisions of future generations, and
2. To allow what is thought to be legitimate use of National Park in the present."

"Parks are created by people for people to use and enjoy. No-one seriously believes that we have set aside Parks and equivalent reserves for the sake of the natural organisms within them. We are not that altruistic. (Some of us might like to think otherwise. Ed.)

"In fact, such far reaching thinking has not been much to the fore in our crusades for National Parks.

"We protect these things because we believe we need them to share our world; because we like to see them; because we believe we may need them sometime in the future; because we wish to have these areas in which we can express our own interests in sport and adventure."

HUNTER VALLEY MINING

Coal mining in the Hunter Valley is nothing new; in fact it has been going on since soon after the time of the first settlement. To date most mining has occurred deep underground, with a few small open cut operations. However the December National Trust Bulletin now reports the Trust's concern at proposals for large scale open cut mines in areas such as Widden Brook, Baerami Creek, Martindale Creek and Doyles Creek, among others. The valleys of these creeks make deep incisions into the northern edge of the Blue Mountains Park proposal. The effects of strip mines 100m or more deep on the valleys and the views from the plateaux is mind boggling.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Illawong Affair

Dear Author of "Hospitality" (Last Newsletter),

I fail to see the validity of the point that you are trying to make in your article. You are bemoaning the fact that the said gentleman refused you hospitality in such "bitter" conditions, and only gave shelter to the hypothermic patient; whereas if you were the owner you would have welcomed all and given them a cup of tea!

Let me state the case as I see it:

1. The debacle from Blue Lake is each group's problem. The various "leaders" should have ensured that the members of their party were adequately equipped and equipped and fit enough for such an eventuality.

2. All groups should have had a sufficient breakfast. After all you cannot expect to travel well on an empty stomach in such weather.

3. The privilege of staying at Illawong Hut has been abused by many people in the last few years. Many parties think that it is their right to enter and forget that they are not members. How would you feel at having strangers inviting themselves into your home and then having to clean their mess?

4. The caretaker was doing you a favour! It is ludicrous to think that one minute's shelter will provide any real benefit when Guthega is less than one hour away. Five minutes rest will only mean that you have cooled down sufficiently, so that it will be very difficult to start again. One hour's rest and recuperation would be a desired interval, yet how would you feel in having twenty skiers in a small room, dripping water all over the floor?

5. The conditions were not terrible for travelling. Once down next to the Snowy, conditions eased considerably, the only problem being poor visibility. Once past the bridge, it was just an easy walk back to Guthega along a good track.

The only remark that I can make is that people going ski-touring should not treat the Snowy Mountains with contempt. Groups should be adequately equipped and have some competent member(s), such that they can travel from point A to B without having to inconvenience people at an intermediate point C.

In conclusion I would like to say that yes, it would be nice to have hospitality extended, however if it is refused, then one should not be offended.

Nick Bendell

(Nick's comments 4 and 5. raised my eyebrows more than a little, and he is right, he missed the point of the article. Nevertheless the rest of his remarks are sound and, together with the original article, contain a clear message on safety in the mountains. Ed.)

Sketch Maps of the Northern Blue Mountains

(The letter from which the following extracts were taken was written from the U.K., and its author could not know that the idea of mapping the Northern Blue Mountains was abandoned almost as soon as it was proposed. Nevertheless the extracted paragraphs contain some cogent arguments against the mapping of too many areas of any region. Ed.)

"Personally, and for the preservation of what I understand to be the spirit of bushwalking, I beg you to carefully consider the future repercussions of Mr. Hutchinson's idea for the publication of a sketch map, or maps, of the whole of this area.

"Bushwalking, as I understand it, provides a rare opportunity to escape from bureaucratic organizers of our so-called civilized society with its well ordered paths of progress. Path builders, whether by intent or not, are one group of people who could so easily destroy the whole character of this area of the Divide. The main facets of this area were, and I hope still are, a pathless maze of contorted sandstone, highly dissected by many twisting clefts and canyons, in which you could lose all the active bushwalkers of NSW with little sign of their passage. The nature of the terrain is such that any competent party will enjoy an equally absorbing trip without being instructed where to go or how to get there no matter how surreptitiously this done."

"There is no short list of observation platforms at present but put some asterisks, false eye-lashes, or superficial names on a sketch map and the result, eventually, could be the creation of a series of mini-highways to a few localities at the expense of by-passing many situations with equally splendid views."

"Sketch maps have been produced by bushwalkers of an earlier period for most of the rugged areas of the Divide within easy reach of Sydney, but I would virtually guarantee that these have had little or no effect on promoting the awareness of the general public to the advantages of declaring an area as a national park. From my experience the majority of non-walkers are not interested in knowing where Claustral Canyon is or how to get onto and off a remote cliff-lined plateau; push a strip of tarmac through though and you might have a winner.

"Surely the stage has been reached where anyone who wants to enjoy the atmosphere of the bush in areas where routes, scenic view points, and camping spots with water are shown on maps can do so to their heart's content."

*G.F. Maddison,
Kameruka Bushwalking Club*

K.H.A.'s A.G.M.

The Kosciusko Huts Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the Sawpit Creek Park Headquarters at 10.30 am. on Saturday, 26th March. Federation urges those of its members who also belong to K.H.A. to go along and take part, because KHA represents an important and influential (at least potentially) cross-section of Park users. Those who can't go but want to express an opinion are invited to contact the Publications Officer, who will be Federation's delegate.

At present, Federation's official view on huts in the Park is that most areas of the Park should be considered as a wilderness that contains some historical relics; that no new huts should be built (as replacement or otherwise) and that no huts should be removed (with only a couple of exceptions). This is the policy background against which Federation will determine its attitude to individual issues.

Later in the year (tentatively late July) KHA will be organising a commemorative Kiandra-to-Kosciusko ski tour to mark the 50th anniversary of the first successful completion of this trip. The organising committee is not running something in the nature of an escorted tour, but will only be co-ordinating participating groups. Those wishing to take part should be competent skiers in self-sufficient parties. Group leaders are invited to contact the committee convenor, Tony Preston, 81 Irvine St., Watson, ACT. 2602.

It sounds like fun.

ON MAPS AND HUTS

During the summer the Central Mapping Authority has released five new maps: Putty, Murwillumbah and Chaelundi (near Ebor) (all 1:25 000); Bigga (in south-west NSW, 1:50 000); and a Royal National Park Tourist Map, including Heathcote State Park. This last is apparently rather poor value. Although it brings together topographical information on the whole of this area, it contains many errors, some of which have been transferred uncorrected from earlier maps. These errors mostly relate to wrongly marked tracks and fire trails.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter the second instalment of Bob Buck's list of national park maps is mentioned. The whole list is now available as a combined reprint from Paddy's for about 25c. It's well worth getting.

Sad news on destroyed huts — Moulds Hut (otherwise known as Spencers Peak) has been burnt down, and the hut at Alpine Creek on the road between Kiandra and Adaminaby was removed just after Christmas.

*Wilf Hilder
Information Officer*

ACCESS PROBLEMS

Walkers proposing trips in the vicinity of Colo Heights would do well to avoid the property of New Yards. The landholder, to put it mildly, does not welcome visitors. Even entering to ask his permission apparently evokes an unreasonably irate response, and it seems that he has even been known to abuse and threaten people passing outside his land. The message is clear — keep well away.

On a brighter note, Federation has decided not to pursue further the issue of road access to South Tomah. Although the fence across the track near Tomah South Trig is still there, a stile has been erected and there is plenty of room to park. That leaves about 1 km to walk, which is hardly going to break anyone, is it?

WALKERS WANTED

Dennis Rittson, who wrote at length in the last Newsletter about trips to Arnhem Land, is off again. He is looking for experienced walkers to join him for 2 to 4 weeks on another trip to the East Alligator River, taking in as well some of the highlights of the surrounding sandstone plateau and gorges. Other attractions include aboriginal art, teeming wildlife, and a total absence of rain. Details of the route will be decided when the group has been finalised, and may even include a quick visit to Cape York. Phone Dennis for more details on 95 6060.

FOR SALE

Paddymade Hotham sleeping bag — \$60 (new price \$86). Made of green japara material with wall construction seams and superdown filling. Suitable for coldest of trips. 2.13 kg and extra long. Four years old but rarely used — too small for present owner: Karl Briedis, 27 9951 (w).

Olympus FTL single lens reflex with standard 50 mm f1.8 lens plus 35mm f2.8 wide angle, filters, etc. Just reconditioned — guaranteed. \$190 o.n.o. Owner has become tired of coddling an "ordinary" type camera in rain, rivers and snow — has upgraded to a Nikons. Peter Tuft, 85 7640.

YERRANDERIE

Miss Val Lhuede, who owns Yerranderie, has applied to the National Trust to have the township classified as worthy of preservation. Initially, other conservation organisations were opposed to such a move, because one of the Trust's objects is restoration of buildings. Federation and N.P.A. felt that this is an indirect threat because of the implied increase in vehicular access, plus commercialisation.

However now that Yerranderie falls within the Southern Blue Mountains National Park (declared in December) the situation is unclear. Current opinion is that although heavy tourist use following detailed restoration is undesirable, so too is the prospect of unhindered decay. Perhaps the NPWS will come up with some plan of controlled access, similar to the shuttle bus from Charlottes Pass to Kosciusko.

CLUB MAGAZINE

The Catholic Bushwalkers' magazine Waysider continues to be good value. The November-December issue contains the second part of Bob Buck's catalogue of National Park maps, plus descriptions of two little-known routes off the west side of Narroineck. Unfortunately, by the time this Newsletter is published there may not be many copies available.

The Kameruka magazine has reappeared after a long absence. The latest issue contains, among other things, an article on the Tuross area (including map) and one on ski-touring. Both magazines are distributed through Paddy's and possibly other retailers.

PADDY PALLIN FOUNDATION

Groups interested in applying for grants from the Paddy Pallin Foundation are warned that applications for 1977 grants will close at the end of March. Then, because the Foundation wishes to put its operations on an annual basis, applications for 1978 will close on 31st December, 1977, and for subsequent years will close at the end of the preceding year (eg. end of '78 for '79 grants).

The Foundation's address is P.O. Box A693, Sydney South, 2000. Grants may be made for any project which furthers the development of the "rucksack sports".

THEFTS AT KANANGRA

A. Wilson, Secretary of the YMCA Ramblers, has written to say,

"You will probably recall a time a couple of years ago when there was someone up at Kanangra Walls stealing articles from people's cars.

"In the course of my work I have been told that this is now happening again, both at the Walls and at Boyd Crossing campsite. It was suggested to me that when leaving cars at either of these locations (or anywhere else in the area for that matter) for any length of time that they be parked, if more than one car, as close together as possible and all valuables taken with you or securely locked away."

Many thanks for the warning.

HIMALAYAN FILM FESTIVAL

Two films of special interest to walkers are to feature in a Himalayan Film Festival to be held at the Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre, Cnr. Cleveland St. and City Rd. on Friday, April 1st and Saturday April 2nd at 8 pm. They are "A Himalayan Journey", a BBC Television film of a trek from Pokhara to Jomson and "People of Everest", featuring the beautiful Gokyo Lake area below Cho Oyu. Tickets (Adults \$2.50, Students \$1.50) at door.

Phone Michael Dillon (76 9554 or 960 1677) for further details.

A.C.F.'s BLUE MOUNTAINS FUND

For taxation reasons the Australian Conservation Foundation will no longer accept donations which carry or imply a direction to a nominated cause. Instead, donors should express a preference that some or all of the money should be spent on a particular project. This, of course, applies to donations to the A.C.F. for use on the Greater Blue Mountains National Park campaign.

"HISTORIC KIANDRA"

A book of some 50 pages with the above title is now available for \$3.00 from Paddy's, among other places. It is published by the Cooma-Monaro Historical Society, and deals with the history of the gold workings in and around Kiandra. A dozen or so photographs illustrate the conditions under which the miners worked (and played). This book appears to be a new edition of one of the same name published quite a few years ago.

Warwick Blaydon

This Newsletter is usually published monthly and is distributed free, through the clubs, to all members of affiliated clubs. Mailing list subscriptions: \$3.00

All material not otherwise acknowledged can be attributed to the Publications Officer.

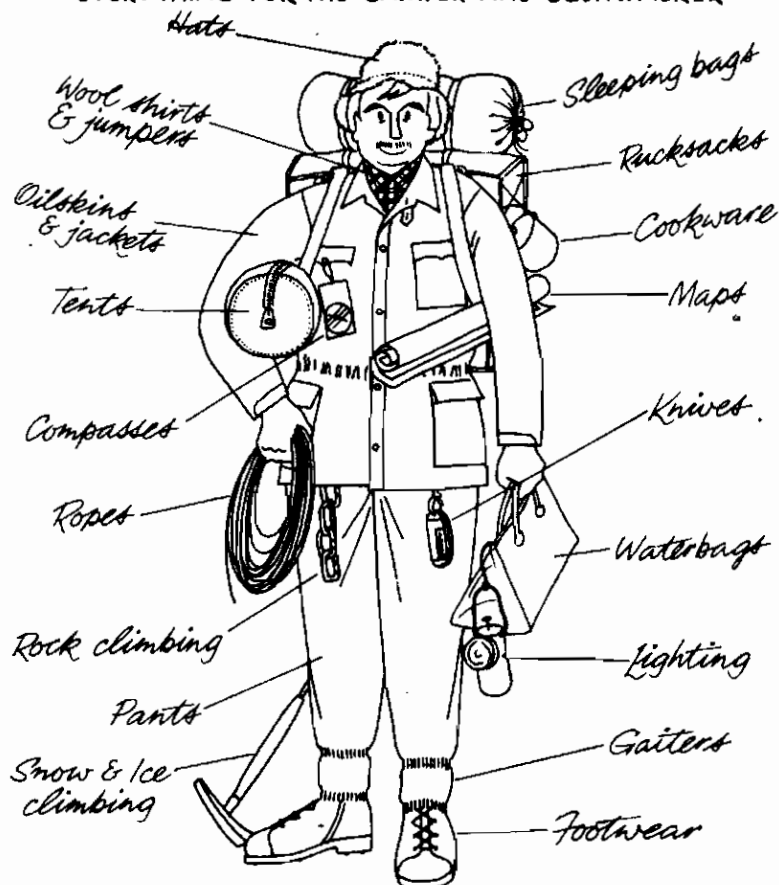
The deadline for the next issue will be Monday, 7th March, and it will be available at the Council meeting on Tuesday, 15th March.

Correspondence concerning the Newsletter should be addressed to the Publications Officer, who is:-

Peter Tuft,
11/30-32 Ethel Street,
Eastwood, NSW. 2122.
85 7640 (h) 888 7227 (w)

All other correspondence should be sent to the Secretary at the address on Page 1.

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