

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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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation is to be held on Tuesday, 19th July immediately following the Council meeting to be held at 6.30 pm in the NSW Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street. The presidents and secretaries of all affiliated clubs will be invited to attend. As usual, all executive positions will be declared vacant, except for the Senior Vice President. Some of the present office bearers may be standing for re-election, however the President, Secretary and Publications Officer will definitely not be standing. Walkers are urged to give thought to nominations for these three particularly important positions, as well as for all other positions. The absolute fiasco of the 1975 elections is something not to be forgotten.

THE COST OF CONSERVATION

The campaign for the Greater Blue Mountains National Park has really only just begun, yet the costs so far have come to several thousand dollars. The following letter to Federation's treasurer accompanied a receipt for \$429:

Dear Ray,

Thank you for your cheque. I would like to congratulate the Federation on the success of its fund raising effort. Main items of expenditure on the Blue Mountains campaign have been: remunerations of Henry Gold (\$1,200 I think), met by the Paddy Pallin Foundation; cost of the NPA Journal, met by the NPA, Colong Committee and Federation; photographic enlargements paid for by the NPA, Colong Committee and your donation; mounting of the photographic volume presented by Mr Wran, \$660, paid for by Federation and the Colong Committee; food for the Wran inspection weekend, about \$250, covered by a generous donor; hire of crockery, cutlery, etc, about \$70, met by the Colong Committee.

The Campaign has already achieved the reservation of 16 000 ha in the Southern Blue Mountains and we have strong hopes of further additions.

Yours sincerely,
Alex Colley,
Secretary, Colong Committee

DRAFT POLICY ON HUTS

The following document is presented as the greater part of a draft policy on huts in the Kosciusko National Park. It is emphasised firstly that this is only a first draft, and secondly that it is not quite complete. Nevertheless it is put forward at this early stage for discussion and comment.

1. Objective

The primary objective of this policy is to resolve the conflict between the desire to preserve and improve the wilderness quality of regions of the Kosciusko National Park, and the desire to retain the huts which exist in the same regions. The conflict arises from the recognition values of the huts, the conviction that wilderness should be preserved, and the axiom that huts are incompatible with wilderness.

2. Definitions

A number of concepts are defined for the purposes of this policy as follows:-

2.1 Historic value. A hut may be said to possess historic value if it represents an example of building techniques and styles, or evidence of land use practices, which are no longer used and which are unlikely to become normal practice in the future.

2.2 Management value. A hut may be said to possess management value if its existence results in less damage through overuse to a particular area or feature than would occur if it did not exist.

2.3 Survival value. A hut may be said to possess survival value if it is located in an area where, due to lack of sheltered campsites and other huts, or very heavy usage, the probability of occurrence of a death from exposure is very greatly increased over the average probability in the Park.

2.4 Training value. A hut may be said to possess training value if it is situated such that it is easily accessible by novice bushwalkers and ski-tourers, and can form a base for an introduction to an area or activity without requiring novices to be fully competent and self-sufficient.

2.5 Wilderness. An idealised wilderness is a region of an extent such that an unaided person may not cross it in one day or less, in which evidence of man's activities is low or negligible, and in which survival or an individual or group depends on the natural resources of the region and no more equipment than that individual or group can personally carry.

2.6 Wilderness quality. Wilderness quality may be defined as that atmosphere of isolation and self-dependence which is experienced in an idealised wilderness, and which can also be experienced in smaller regions which are still relatively untouched.

Recreational value is not included in these definitions because it is not a separate attribute of a hut in its own right. The only intrinsic unique recreational value possessed by a hut can be considered to be a consequence of its historic value, which is defined separately. Other unique recreational values associated with the hut must arise from its location, and exist independently of the hut.

3. Values on Which this Policy is Based

This Federation recognises and accepts the concept of wilderness as a guiding principle in matters of land conservation. It is further recognised that huts, as permanent man-made shelters, are inadmissible in a true wilderness.

The Federation also recognises and accepts that historic value, management value, survival value and training value are all valid criteria for the assessment of a hut's total worth. Further, these are the only criteria which should be applied to the evaluation of a hut. Recreational value per se is not an attribute of a hut alone.

On the grounds that wilderness is considered by the Federation to have a greater fundamental value than huts, this policy is formulated on a regional basis rather than a hut basis. That is, certain areas will be declared in which policies will be formulated to apply to all huts within those areas, rather than considering each hut individually and arriving at a situation where most areas of the Park are neither wilderness nor well populated with huts.

4. The Existence and Location of Huts

4.1 General Policy.

The conflict between huts and wilderness can be resolved when it is recognised that, in the very long term, huts are not permanent structures. Eventual collapse from general decay is an inevitability which maintenance will greatly postpone but not prevent. There is also a strong probability that destruction by fire, resulting from the carelessness of users, will forestall the process of natural deterioration. Thus all huts have a finite life, although it is reasonable to expect that with care this life will be measured in decades rather than years.

Clearly, left to itself and given sufficient time the greater part of the Kosciusko National Park will revert to wilderness without any assistance from man. In the meantime the existing huts may continue to be used, maintained and appreciated as they have been in the past. On this basis the following three statements of general policy can be made:

- 4.1.1. No existing hut should be deliberately destroyed.
- 4.1.2. No existing hut should be replaced in the event of its destruction, regardless of the means or untimeliness of its loss.
- 4.1.3. No new huts should be built.

These statements apply to the entire Park with the exception of areas proposed for development in the Plan of Management, and areas referred to in the following sub-section of this Policy.

4.2 Exceptions to the General Policy.

There are certain sections of the Park other than areas zoned for development where the general policy on the existence and location of huts is too stringent. These are areas where wilderness quality is unusually low, and hut values are unusually high. Such areas are dealt with explicitly in this sub-section of the Policy, which attempts to define specific policies for certain limited areas.

The policies of this sub-section are based on an assumed distribution of huts and pattern of usage. If the Park management alters that distribution in a manner not foreseen then the relationships between huts will vary from those which were expected, and may require changes in policy. Similarly, the expected conditions of usage may change in an unforeseen way. It is thus strongly recommended that this sub-section of the Policy be reviewed, and if necessary revised, whenever circumstances demand and no less frequently than every two years.

4.2.1 The Whites — Schlink Corridor.

The boundaries of this area are defined fully in the Appendix. It consists approximately of a narrow corridor from Guthega Power Station to approximately 3km north of Schlink Pass. By no stretching of the definition could this area be classed as a wilderness, containing as it does roads, aqueducts, power lines and numerous huts. Because of its accessibility, however, it is a very popular access route and base camp area for the country around and beyond it, and it is also a valuable training ground for novice ski-tourers.

The huts in this area (namely Horse Camp Disappointment Spur, Aqueduct Shelter, Whites River, Schlink Hilton and Diana) possess widely varying degrees of historic value. Their survival value is low, due to their numbers, the roads, and the sheltered nature of the valleys, but training value is very high and in some cases management value may also be significant.

For the above reasons there is no conflict of huts and wilderness in this area. It is considered not only permissible but desirable that destroyed huts be replaced, and there may also be future justification for entirely new huts.

4.2.2 The Snowy Headwaters.

The boundaries of this area are defined fully in the Appendix. It consists very approximately of a quadrilateral with Mt. Townsend, Mt Twynam, the saddle at the head of Trapyard Creek, and Dead Horse Gap at the corners. Much of the discussion in this sub-section also applies to the surrounding country.

This is a problem area, being simultaneously small, unique, very popular, and sensitive to overuse. Its wilderness value is low in summer, but increases somewhat in winter when the Kosciusko Road is almost obscured by snow. Nevertheless small size prevents it ever becoming a high quality wilderness.

The popularity of walking and ski-touring in the area, particularly among less experienced people, and the consequent heavy dependence on huts make it very difficult to propose eventual removal (by natural or other processes) of all huts. Expressed in terms of the criteria of this Policy, most of the huts in the Snowy Headwaters have distinct survival and training value.

Another important factor is management value, which is a definite attribute of Lake Albina Hut, and is very likely to apply to any hut in the vicinity of Blue Lake. Both Lakes and their surroundings could be significantly damaged through overcamping in the absence of a hut.

The conflict between hut values and wilderness cannot be resolved simply. There will be those who wish to sample the area's unique characteristics in a pure, if miniature, wilderness situation. There will be others who wish to do likewise without being forced into total self-sufficiency, which requires relatively expensive equipment and a degree of competence and experience not quickly gained. The solution appears to be a compromise in which a limited number of huts are permitted to exist in locations where they are needed, and are excluded from other areas where relative isolation can be experienced.

The miniature "wilderness" sections of the truly high level alpine country are chiefly outside the Snow Headwaters Area. They consist of the small region immediately to the west of the Snowy Headwaters, and the "Main Range" between Mt Twynam and the Whites - Schlink Corridor. Both of these areas come under the general policy.

The Snowy Headwaters Area itself is accepted by the Federation as an area in which huts will be maintained, replaced if destroyed, and, if there is sufficient justification, newly constructed. "Sufficient justification" implies principally that the hut is required for management reasons, which in practice will result in new huts being acceptable where ever strong demand is evidenced by extremely heavy usage. At the present time the only site at which there may be justification for new construction is in the vicinity of Blue Lake, and then only if Soil Conservation Hut is unlikely to become available within a reasonable period.

The degree of value possessed by the existing huts varies widely. Lake Albina and Seaman's Hut have very high training and survival value (as well as being a memorial in the case of Seaman's) and should be replaced if destroyed. Rawsons Hut and the Stillwell Restaurant are of dubious value. However in the context of the Policy, which assumes that certain other areas will be kept free of huts, it is reasonable to accept the continued existence of these huts in an area of low wilderness quality. Accordingly the Federation will neither advocate nor oppose their removal, but will accept the decision of the Park management. Soil Conservation Hut is not at present available to users, but it is foreseeable that the Soil Conservation Service will eventually vacate it. In this case the hut should be retained, and rebuilt if destroyed, on the grounds of management value in connection with Blue Lake.

The remainder of the policy, which is not yet fully drafted, is concerned with the facilities provided by huts, the characteristics of any new huts, and the alterations that may be made to huts through maintenance or improvements. It is expected to state that all huts should consist only of relatively basic shelters with minimal facilities, and that only maintenance and very limited restoration should be permitted on huts in wilderness areas. Also to be added is the Appendix which fully defines the areas mentioned in the text.

The remainder of the policy and the Appendix will appear in the next Newsletter, and it is hoped to have discussion completed and amendments finalised ready for acceptance of the policy at the August Federation meeting. Those with comments or suggested amendments to the draft are urged to speak now or forever hold their peace.

Peter Tuft

OUT OF THE PAST

"And yet there is a charm about the bush - the perfect peace in the 'free air of God' - that so takes hold of some men that they can never be happy anywhere else. Civilisation is a fine thing in its way, but the pretty worries and annoyances, the bustle and excitement, the crowds of people, the 'you can't do this' and 'you must do that', the necessity for dressing in most uncomfortable garments to be like other people, and a thousand other matters, so distress a bushman, who, like a caged beast in a menagerie, wanders from corner to corner and cannot find where to rest, that he longs for the day that he will be again on the track, with all his worldly goods with him and the wide world before him. Such a man in the bush and in the town is as different as a fish in and out of the water."

from "Spinifex and Sand"
by D.W. Carnegie, ca. 1896.

CAN WE AFFORD TO WASTE ELECTRICITY?

We all waste electricity without thinking: leave on lights that are not needed, use hot water (electrically heated) for washing clothes where cold water would have been just as hygienic, left the hot water running while shaving - the list is endless. The next time you catch yourself doing it, remember this:

Sydney's electricity consumption is increasing at 6% p.a. (500 Megawatts increase yearly) and this is equivalent to building a new Liddel Power Station every four years or a Wallerawang every 12 months! This capacity to generate power will have to be provided to meet the demand. The new power stations will have to be put somewhere and guess where they'll go - that's right, away from people and settlement on vacant crown land.

The rumours of the Newnes Plateau Power Station and associated cooling water supply dam in the Colo/Wollemi region are gradually becoming substantiated. The power station is now expected to commence operation in 1985. If the power lines through the Cox Valley from Wallerawang to Minto weren't enough, consider the proposed corridor from Wallerawang south to Mt Werong thence east to Wollongong. Other power stations are proposed for Tuggerah, Eraring and Mt Arthur (somewhere in the western half of the Doyles Creek 1:25 000 map). In all, six power stations have to be built by the year 2000.

What can we do as individuals? Besides avoiding the sort of wastage outlined at the start of this article, other strategies could be called upon:

- * Use a pressure cooker and/or a steamer to cook vegetables, stews, etc. There is less water to heat and less heat wastage and, in the case of a pressure cooker, cooking time is reduced by half to two-thirds.
- * Don't use a small pot on a big element or vice versa - inefficient. Bang all your pots and pans flat to get good overall metal-to-metal contact with the hotplate.
- * Don't use strip heaters in winter (500 000 people x 1kW strip heater = 500 MW = 1 Wallerawang) but climb into a sleeping bag to watch telly or read (much more fun for couples anyway).

In order to ensure a "secure" supply, the Electricity Commission feels obliged to build power supplies to cater for peak loading. This peak occurs between 5 and 9 pm on the coldest weeknights of the year, when the load demand can be almost double the equivalent daily summer demand. In other words almost half the maximum generating capacity of the state is not in use for most of the time.

Obviously, we have to do what we can to flatten this peak. Some ideas are:

- * Cook and shower outside these times - ovens with automatic timers can be set to cook roasts, puddings etc in the small hours of the morning - there's nothing wrong with cold roasts, after all, or, buy a microwave oven - they cook in a much shorter time. Install off-peak heating.
- * Do you need a bigger washing machine? I have a Scientific American article which demonstrates that in the last 70 years housewives have spent about the same numbers of hours per week washing clothes despite the developing of "labour saving" devices. They just wash the same clothes more often. How about wearing shirts, underwear, etc two or three times before washing instead of just once. Bushwalkers can go without washing anything for three weeks on extended trips. Three days shouldn't be a problem.
- * Go north for holidays in winter.

There are probably countless ideas to further help both save power and even the load demand. I think conservationists have to set an example to their friends /relations and encourage them to follow suit, otherwise those power stations will go into operation. It may help to point out to friends that one of the most popular holiday sports — Tuggerah — will be a site for a power station unless they back off in power consumption.

The Conservation Committee will be doing what it can to protect the affected wilderness areas by approaching relevant ministers and others. Some approaches are:

i) To point out to the Government and Electricity Commission:

* That there is a discouraging levy on people who use solar heaters and wish to use off-peak heating as a back-up.

* That the various County Councils encourage people to buy more and more electrical appliances and oblige the Electricity Commission to carry out continuous expansion programs to ensure "secure" supplies.

* That it is in the Commission's best interests to conduct a campaign asking people to refrain from wasting and consuming power and energy, with emphasis on the consequences.

* That the ideas of flexitime, staggered working hours and winter holidays should be supported.

ii) To encourage the Electricity Commission to adopt a policy of encouraging non-use of electrical appliances. After all, the Commission is always crying crocodile tears about how load demand is constantly increasing. They virtually give assent to the present wasteful usage patterns by not doing anything to discourage it.

So, there are a few ideas on power consumption and the threat that the spiralling demand for it poses to NSW's wilderness resource. We have to try and lead society in power consumption habits or learn to play scrabble or football on weekends. The choice is up to us.

Dennis Rittson,
Convenor, Conservation Committee

(Dennis also wrote most of the Conservation Pieces in the last Newsletter. His name was inadvertently omitted.)

AUSTRALIAN BIRD ATLAS

The Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union has asked Federation if some of its members would like to assist in the compilation of an Atlas of Australian Birds. Field data is required on the past and present distributions of all Australian bird species. The participant need not be familiar with all species, and observations may be intermittent or continuous. It is suggested that an initial study area (about one square of a 10 mile grid) be near a population centre and either be lived in or frequently visited.

To receive record sheets and further information,, write to the R.A.O.U., 119 Dryburgh St., North Melbourne, Vic., 3051.

ROOM TO LET

A bushwalker is wanted to share a house with other walkers at Willoughby. Own room, share facilities (good kitchen, TV, hi-fi), buses 10 mins to Chatswood, 30 mins to Wynyard in peak hour. \$27.50 p.w. plus \$60 bond. Available 21st May (rent already paid up to 28th). Contact Dennis Rittson, 95-6060.

TRESPASSERS PROSECUTED

The following article was originally written by Tony Walstab and published in the Melbourne Bushwalkers' "Walk" last year. It has been revised to make it consistent with NSW law by Mr Phil Broad of Gill, Oxlade and Broad, Solicitors, who also added to it a little. We are grateful for the time spent in this professional review of the article.

As development of land within short distances of Sydney continues, more land is being cleared and fenced and is becoming increasingly difficult for bushwalkers, on at least some part of a walk, not to have to cross through land which is obviously private property. There has been a proliferation of signs such as "Trespassers Prosecuted", "Private Property" and "Keep Out". This is probably motivated by a desire of land-owners to protect livestock and property from the general public (and particularly shooters) and also for privacy. It does make life more difficult for the bushwalker who is interested in seeing the countryside and who is generally very careful about closing gates and not doing any damage and not only for the reason that he may want to return to that area in the future.

What are the rights of a person to enter onto land private land? That is any land not specifically set aside for public entry and use.

Generally a person who enters onto land without permission of the owner or occupier is a trespasser. Historically such a person had no rights at all. Although this word does have an evil connotation it covers all types of persons from an innocent Sunday stroller who takes a short cut across a vacant block of land to a burglar. It does not matter if the person does not know he is a trespasser, so that a bushwalker who enters onto private land by mistake or because he is lost is still a trespasser.

However, often permission to enter land is implied. Permission would normally be implied where a person enters through the main entrance for the purpose of asking permission to pass through the property or to conduct any manner of communication with the occupier. Implied assent again may result from conduct which gives other reason to believe they may freely enter upon land if they wish to do so eg. acquiescence in the case of frequent intrusions. He would not be regarded as a trespasser unless he knows or ought to know that his entry was prohibited. However, a prohibitive sign provided that it is clearly visible, would normally prevent such permission being implied and a person who enters despite the sign, does so at the risk of being a trespasser.

Where a bushwalker has obtained permission to enter onto land, that permission may be restricted to a certain area or to a particular route and if the walker goes into an area which he has no permission to enter this will constitute a trespass.

Furthermore, an occupier may withdraw his permission at any time and if so, the bushwalker must be allowed a reasonable time to leave, but if he fails to leave then he is a trespasser.

What is the effect of being a trespasser?

An occupier is able to bring a civil action for damages, but if no damage has been caused by the trespasser and his conduct has not been particularly high-handed an award of nominal damages would be the probable result. The practical effect of this is that it would seldom be worthwhile for an occupier to bring such an action.

The occupier is entitled to use a reasonable degree of force to control the movements of a trespasser or to eject him, but even this is somewhat risky, because if excessive force is used the occupier may find himself the subject of an action for damages for assault or a possible criminal prosecution.

A mere trespass in itself does not give rise to any criminal liability. Signs such as "Keep Out" or Trespassers Prosecuted" and such entry will constitute a trespass. Section 4 (1) of Inclosed Lands Protection Act provides that any person who without lawful excuse enters the enclosed lands of any other person without the consent of the owner or occupier shall be liable to a penalty of \$10.00. The onus of proof of lawful excuse is upon the defendant again provision is made for penalties if the person entering wilfully or negligently leaves open a gate. Again apprehension applies if there is a refusal to give name and address.

The Crimes Act: further makes provision in respect of destruction of dead wood and saplings on another persons land.

In respect of Crown Land Commonwealth Law may apply: The Commonwealth Crimes Act: provides that any person who without lawful excuse (proof whereof shall lie on him), trespasses or goes upon any land belonging to or in occupation of the Commonwealth and used for Naval, Military or Airforce purposes and as to which notice is posted thereon he may be apprehended by any member of the Defence forces - penalty \$40.00. The main provision of this all is to prevent for example intrusions upon firing ranges.

Thus, a bushwalker who enters onto land without permission does not run a grave risk, but if he is ordered off the land he should do so immediately and not argue, no matter how unreasonable the person giving the order seems to be.

The question as to whether a bushwalker is a trespasser may be relevant if he suffers an injury. If a trespasser is bitten by a dog, trodden on by a cow or falls down a mine shaft and is injured he would generally not be able to recover compensation from the occupier. It would be necessary to show that the occupier did an act with the deliberate intention of doing harm or did some act with reckless disregard of his presence. However if a person has expressed or implied permission to enter onto the land (i.e. he is a licensee) then the occupier has a duty to warn that person of concealed dangers and traps know to him. If you have a danger upon your land and there is a likelihood (i.e. foreseeability) of persons entering upon the land to their detriment then liability will attach to the owner. As a result there is quite often a duty to warn not only licencees but trespassers.

Again the owner is not allowed to alter the condition of his land so as to ensnare the unwary.

In the case of children a definite liability will fall upon the owner who has an allurement such that would be reasonably foreseeable to attract children upon his land.

In one case, for example, for 35 years the public had used a field as a short cut to a railway station. The farmer had from time to time interfered with them in doing so but had never taken legal proceedings to stop them. The Court held that a person crossing the field had implied permission to do so and was entitled to recover damages when injured by a savage horse put into the field by the owner without warning.

However, if confronted by a savage beast, the best advice is to put your faith in your legs, not the law.

PHASMATIDS

Robyn Tuft (85-7640) is investigating the effects of the phasmatid (stick insect) plague which is defoliating much of the forest on the Boyd Plateau. To identify which species of phasmatid are present on the Boyd, she would like someone going up there to collect a few specimens. One will do but several are desirable. This is urgent because they die off each winter, and soon there won't be many left.

NORTHERN BLUE MOUNTAINS MAPS

Two new maps from the Department of National Resources are the Wallerawang 1:100 000 and the St Albans 1:100 000. They have a 20 metre contour interval and the scale 1:100 000 is 1 cm to 1 km. The Wallerawang sheet replaces the old one inch to the mile Wallerawang map and includes the areas covered by the Glen Alice and Glen Davis 1:50 000 maps. The St. Albans replaces the inch to the mile St Albans Sheet and also covers the Mellong and Bala 1:50 000 maps. The above new maps and the previously published Mt Pomany 1:100 000 and Howes Valley 1:100 000 cover almost entirely the Northern Blue Mountains. The same area is covered by 32 NSW Department of Lands 1:25 000 maps.

The main value of the maps is that they give reasonable detailed information of such a large area of land. This is useful when planning extended walks or looking at road access to a specific area. The Department of Lands 1:25 000 maps will still be more useful for actual navigating in the bush.

The plotting of the contours is much more accurate in all the new maps than in the old inch to the mile and 1:50 000 maps which were notorious for their errors - for example see the top left hand corner of the various editions of the Mellong 1:50 000 map. Cliff information on all the new maps is poor. For example the new St Albans 1:100 000 has only 5 short sections of cliff marked on the entire length of the Colo River. Many of the 1:25 000 maps were withdrawn (because they showed no cliffs) and reissued with very poor cliff information on them. The cliffs marked in are so inaccurate that one would think they were done by guesswork; eg. the 1:25 000 Wollongambe sheet has a cliff running co-incident with a creek. The Widden 1:25 000, before it was withdrawn, had miles of 100 metre clifflines missing. Compare these maps with the Lands Department maps of the Nandewar Range) Mt Kaputar National Park) which have a 25 foot contour and cliffs down to 9 feet marked.

The present editions of the 1:100 000 maps do not have shading on the sides of the hills. The Department of National Resources seem to issue the maps without shading first and then issue a shaded edition some time later. The effect of shading is most impressive. - look at the shaded editions of the Katoomba and Moss Vale 1:100 000 sheets - the relief stands out very well

A new set of geological maps of various parts of the Blue Mountains have been issued in provisional form by the NSW Department of Mines. They are at a scale of 1:50 000 and are very detailed showing the various members of the Narrabeen Group of sandstone marked. Present maps are Glen Alice, Mellong, Olinda, Coricudgy, Glen Davis and Yerranderie. Even though they are not coloured they are good value at 50 cents each. (Just why is the Mines Department mapping the Blue Mountains? Ed.)

Dave Noble

BLUE MOUNTAINS REPORT

Printing of further copies of Federation's submission to Mr Wran on the Northern Blue Mountains has been delayed at the printers. It is now hoped to have them available at the May meeting or soon afterwards at a cost of about \$4.00. With both the photographs and the wealth of information this should be a worthwhile addition to any bushwalker's library.

MAPS AND BOOKS

Due to industrial troubles at the Central Mapping Authority's printing section there are only three new CMA maps this month: Bulga and Wirraba (near Singleton and Putty respectively, both 1:25 000) and Yass 1:50 000. There are also the Wallerawang and St Albans 1:100 000 sheets from National Mapping which are discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter. A real bargain for \$1.50 is a reprint of Sir Thomas Mitchell's famous historic map "Nineteen Countries of NSW", first published in 1834 and covering the area between Tamworth, Bathurst and Lake George in three sheets.

Two very useful little publications recently released are "Stoves for Mountaineering" (32 pages, \$1.00) and "Igloo" (16 pages, 75c). The stoves booklet consists of a number of reprints of "consumer tests" on the various models of "Choofer" available in 1973, together with many comments made since then. "Igloo" is concerned with methods of building igloos and snow shelters, and as such should be compulsory reading for all ski-tourers. Both booklets are illustrated, and available from the usual retailers.

Two books currently out of print are Dick Johnson's "The Alps at the Crossroads" (on the case for an alpine national park in Victoria) and Sydney Speleological Society's "Bungonia Caves". However Mountain Equipment still have some copies of both books. A new edition of the Bungonia book is in progress, but there are no known plans to reprint "The Alps at the Crossroads" (an eventual reprinting does seem likely though).

From Wilf Hilder,
Information Officer.

TASMANIAN ROUTE GUIDES

In February the Newsletter reported that the Hobart Walking Club had ceased distributing its maps and route guides. Subsequently enquiries to the Club have revealed that the task of keeping the material up to date was too much for Club volunteers, as users have noticed. The Club decided that it would be better not to continue distributing inaccurate information, especially as the Tasmanian NPWS had agreed to eventually take over the function of publishing route guides and detailed maps. At present there is unfortunately something of a vacuum, since the NPWS has not yet been able to make significant progress in the large task of revising all route guides. We will be making further enquiries on the progress of this project, which is of great relevance to many NSW walkers.

S & R FIELD OFFICER

As Warwick Daniels is going overseas for a few months, Keith Maxwell is now Field Officer until October. His phone numbers are: 827-3919 (h) 692-2735 (w).

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All material not otherwise acknowledged can be attributed to the Publications Officer. Any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Federation.

The deadline for the next issue will be Monday, 13th June, and it will be available at the Council meeting on Tuesday, 21st June.

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)

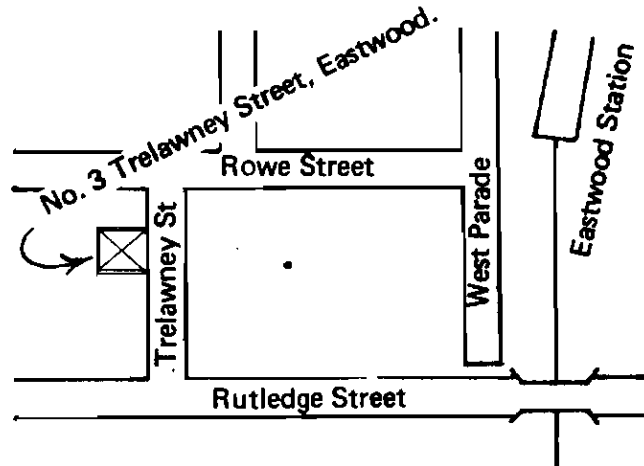
All other correspondence and membership enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary at G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, NSW, 2001. Telephone enquiries to Mrs. Joy Scott, 520-0750.

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