

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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THE YEAR AHEAD

At a meeting of the executive held at the start of August many important points were raised the summary of which are here presented.

Peter Harris felt that a fund raising committee should be formed as well as the re-establishment of a Liaise between clubs.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Three main points were raised - the need to convince clubs that Federation is worthwhile means of attracting non-club walkers to clubs and of encouraging potential walkers. More prominent advertising and the approaching of schools were seen as possible methods of achieving these aims.

CONSERVATION

Conservation was seen as an important part of federation as it deals directly with our recreation, giving us a right to speak. Our role is to keep in contact with current events and liaise with our members, the Public and related organisations, there is a need to continue with monthly conservation meetings and look at fund raising. A policy is to be drawn up regarding Wilderness Conservation and Wilderness Recreation.

NEWSLETTER Look for means of support through advertising.

PUBLIC RELATIONS S and R, conservation and bushwalking membership to be promoted.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Emphasis here is placed on restoring relations with the police, this could be achieved by a tightening up of the S & R system, the substitution of a "call out" scheme where a list of people with graded abilities replaces the traditional contracts. Insurance must also be considered regarding training weekends.

FINANCE

It was decided that, the newsletter should be self-sufficient, to investigate the raising of funds for specific causes, to sell N.P.A. journals and Bushwalker Magazines. A committee will have to look at all financing of Federation activities and approaches to be made to the Sports & Recreation Dept. for grants.

POLICIES

To be revised where applicable, then redrafted, the ideas could be formulated by the executive, presented to the body, notified and then distributed to the Clubs.

WELBY

NEWSFLASH - WOLGAN DAM AND POWER STATION?

This is an issue that could become of great concern amongst Australian climbers, not just New South Wales people. The Wolgan Valley is one of the very few areas in this country where climbers can enjoy a full exploratory atmosphere. It approaches true wilderness as only a few of the cliffs have been extensively climbed on and most of the valley is untouched, let alone named. Many cliff areas haven't even yet been visited or seen.

The N.S.W. Electricity Commission's plan/proposal to build a new big 'Wallerawang 9' in the Wolgan is at present tentative but it may also be made firm by the end of the year if the preliminary reports are to be taken at all seriously (ref. E.C. report CI 132). Coupled with the interest in the Newnes area for both coal and power station location is the evident wish and possibility for a dam on the Colo River to supply cooling water for the power station, an environmental Impact Statement for this project has already been prepared. Such a dam would back up through into the Wolgan and, essentially cut in half N.S.W.'s best remaining true wilderness in the northern Blue Mountains.

An essential and vital part of the N.S.W. climbing scene, namely exploration is now being threatened by big business and consumer demands. The fossil-fuel wealth of the Wolgan remains undoubted but the environmental sensibility of a major dam and power station being located in the valley is doubted. Safeguards would need to be better than average for such a fine recreational and wilderness 'buffer area' as this. It is these safeguards which are far from fully obtainable in even the best 'enforced areas' let alone such an out-of-the-way place as the Wolgan. Noise and water pollution issues as well as the need to camouflage any industry must be considered fully IF the deal is to go ahead.

Must we have the energy? It appears to be doubted, even amongst well known E.C. employees who have been advocating measures of power demand decrease over the past few years. The best evidence we can use in fighting this issue is the report on population increase (futures) for this country, a levelling-off having been predicted for about 1990. Coupled with greater social awareness of the need to reduce the risk of such things as the recent New York blackout and other measures such as reduced peak hour demands through flexitime and staggered working hours in the city, it would appear that E.C. projections are at best, out of date.

What is important just now is awareness; try telling your walking and climbing friends about this issue NOW.

For more information write: Joe Friend, Central West Environment Centre,
Community House, Kelso NSW 2795.

MORE POWERLINES?

A reliable source has it that the Electricity Commission has been buying up land round Denman, west of Singleton, for possible use as a power station site. If this is the case then the threat of another powerline, extending over Mt. Monundila and Coricudgy, to link up with the Wallerawang station exists.

Whilst nothing is definite at this stage a cautious eye must be kept on this area until, hopefully, it is incorporated in a Northern Blue Mountains National Park.

WALKERS REQUIRED - Mid November Start

TRIP - Thredbo - Walhalla in 2 parts.

Thredbo - Mt. Hotham (8-10 days)

Mt. Hotham - Walhalla (6-8 days)

Anyone interested in one or both parts contact

Adrian Baker
151 Blainey Crescent
Campbell ACT 2601

Phone 49 7579 (A.H.)

BORDER RANGES

The Colong Committee recently organised a Public meeting to rally support for an enlivened campaign to create a Border Ranges National Park. Speeches were given by Russ Maslen of Byron Bay Flora & Fauna, Prof. Douglas of Macquarie Uni, Geography Department and Milo Dunphy, with slides by Henry Gold, all pretty impressive. Two new facts came out that added hope to the cause: One, the inter-departmental committee inquiring into logging will make their recommendations public. They will then be the subject of an S.P.C.C. enquiry; two, the preservation of the Border Ranges will very likely be recommended by the Australian Heritage Commission. Another refreshing shift of emphasis was the attendance and support of alternative society groups local to the area. Two years ago when F.B.W. organised a bus trip to the Border Ranges we were told that local newcomers weren't interested. It seems that in the intervening period they have realised that the bureaucratic idiocy that drove them out of the big smoke has come to their back door.

CULOUL RANGE

GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

The word is finally out on the Culoul Range enquiry. The State Pollution Control Commission recommended against the mining and the Minister Paul Landa accepted their recommendation. Victory - the battle against the first major threat to the Northern Blue Mountains is won. However, there is the proviso that if no other source is available the Company can try again. But as a result of the enquiry there are discussions presently taking place between Mines & Planning & Environment, on future zoning and rationalisation of the resource.

Evidence was given at the enquiry that there was no physical shortage of light burning brick making shale but there was an economic shortage due to bad zoning and lack of co-ordination between the Mines Department and the P & E.C. This had driven Autobric into the bush. We hope that with more investigation and better planning this situation will not arise again.

As a victory celebration we propose to organise a weekend on the Range sometime in the New Year. The idea is to provide 4 WD transport from the Putty Road on Saturday morning. Seminar Saturday afternoon with speakers on Geology, flora, fauna, park values and future management, followed by barbeque and campfire in the evening. Sunday, short walks to the Colo, Wollemi Creek and cliff edges, 4 WD transport back in afternoon. More in December-January newsletter.

* BRUCE VOTE

Christmas gift opportunity
NEW BOOKS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Display and sale at:
Total Environment Centre
Third Floor,
The Argyle Arts Centre,
18 Argyle Street,

Major Australian publishers display their newest and most popular publications on:-

- wildlife
- nature conservation
- the environment
- alternative life styles
- the outdoors

Bargain Book counter also

Daily from 25 November until
23 December - 9 am to 5 pm

Profits to Total Environment Centre
Phone 27 4714

"ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION"
8th December

Donated to the Colo Committee
by Dick Smith
Raffle drawn: 1st December

No

Tickets:
\$1.00

This could be your ticket to the Antarctic, on sale at November F.B.W. meeting and Total Environment Centre, or ring 31 7101.

Mountain House freeze dry food is now available in most bushwalking shops. They offer such tantalising food tastes as shrimp creole, strawberries, banana chips, lurps, granola with milk and raisins/blueberries. Lurps is the equivalent of scroggin. Import laws do not allow the import of dehyd meat from the U.S. so one can only buy meatless meals.

It is expensive, however, even mundane macaroni and cheese sells at \$2.95 a packet. Bought at the supermarket, the cost would be less than 70 cents for the same ingredients. The granola (or basic oats) with milk and raisins sells for \$2.25, the same with blueberries \$2.75 (makes 2 half cup servings). Compare this with your Uncle Toby's.

At these prices I don't think there will be many buyers especially when similar products can be bought locally at much lower prices.

ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTIONAL

I will be holding two introductory climbing courses over two weekends in January and May 1978. The dates for January are the 7th and 8th at Tarana (granite) and the 21st/22nd at Newnes in the Wolgan Valley.

The accent shall be on a formal approach to abseiling, belaying, leading and protection, leading to the acceptance of individual decision making. Informal film evenings shall be arranged.

Depending on numbers interested, the beginner to instructor ratio shall be kept to about 3 to 1 and all the necessary gear shall be supplied. There will be some cover charge for wear and tear on gear, as well as for payment of instructors; however, the course is essentially non-profit.

Course charge, including food (optional) is \$71.00. Instructors will be Peter Blackwood, Fergus Bell, Bob Killip and myself. For further information write to Joe Friend, P.O. Tarana NSW 2740.

TASSIE HISTORY

For those interested in Tasmanian history, Mary Martin Bookshop, 32 York Street, Sydney, is selling "The Peaks of Lyell" by Geoffrey Blainey for \$4.95 (reduced from \$9.90). It covers the history of Mt. Lyell, and is the revised and updated third edition.

FOR SALE - 1 Flinders Ranges H frame - good condition \$25 or best offer. Various sized framless packs also available - ring Tom Williams (047) 39 2145.

Himalayan Climbing

INSTRUCTIONAL CLIMBING TRIP - NEPAL

The World's most magnificent climbing region is undoubtedly the Solu Khumbu area of Nepal. Because of its inaccessibility most of the expeditions go only for the big name peaks such as Everest, Lhotse and Ama Dablam. Yet, there are wealth of smaller peaks and high passes in the 6,000 metre range that provide magnificent climbing opportunities. The aim of this expedition is to climb Island Peak (6,189m) as well as to cross the Kongma Pass (5,500m) and the Nyimgawa Pass (5,420). As well we are going to trek up to Everest Base Camp, taking every opportunity for free climbing.

The climb is to be instructional in nature, with instructors being Australian climber Joe Friend and Nepalese Everest summiteer Shambu Lama. Particularly we will be stressing basic route finding, glacier and axe work at altitude, and climbing technique at altitude. Trip departs Australia March 4th 1978, numbers limited to 10 people.

Contact: Goronwy Price, AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION
28-34 O'Connell Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
Ph: (02) 231 6050 - (02) 818 1615 (after hours)

Cost including return air fares, all food, tents, sleeping bags, group climbing equipment, accommodation in Kathmandu - \$1,695.

In N.S.W. the coal reserves are covered, in the main, by unproductive sandstone country, this is also rough. Consequently, the largest wilderness in N.S.W. which is only so because of its inaccessibility and agricultural uselessness, is sitting on the largest coal reserve in the State. This reserve has been nibbled at on the edges for the last 8 decades. But now the whole thing is coming into consideration with sophisticated machinery and economic feasibility of mining to great distance and depth.

Why is coal most likely to be exploited as an energy source:

1. Availability,

Coal reserves are four times our uranium reserves and twenty times our oil and gas. Only 2% of black coal and 16% of brown coal have been exhausted. Also, coal in N.S.W. is under Crown Land.

2. Controversy,

While public debate continues on a wide scale about uranium, exploitation of coal hardly rates a mention. Environmental impact on wilderness doesn't have near the same press ratings as radioactive waste disposal. But don't think the impact isn't important. Most of the wilderness land between the Grose and the Wolgan-Colo is being investigated for coal extraction and that's just the beginning. The Hunter proposal by the Wildlife Service has been held up for 3 1/2 years because of Mines Dept. objections regarding future coal mining. The impact is real but it's not given the weight of wider more fashionable issues.

3. Practicality,

We all know the hassles that uranium has got into as an energy source and justifiably so. Solar power is still a pipe dream, the bio-fuels although probably the fuel of 21st century are still not economic. By contrast, coal is there on Sydney's door step, under Crown Land and in huge quantities, the technology of conversion to electricity and gas, is known, safe and acceptable. I am sure that many thinking people will promote N.S.W. coal extraction as the alternative to nuclear power till solar and bio-fuels stream next century and to hell with wilderness values and bushwalking country.

There is the conflict. We have to be members of the Wider Society but we must look to our own interests. In this crucial quarter century can we retain our wilderness and forestall the uranium economy or is this the price we have to pay for the safety of future generations.

BRUCE VOTE

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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3 TRELAWNEY STREET, EASTWOOD.
PHONE: 858-2775

BUDAWANGS

Monolith Valley has long been an ideal spot to camp when visiting this park. Now because of its limited size and its overuse, there is a danger of turning this lush valley into a desert. Regeneration is being retarded by the search for firewood and tentpoles. Add to this the accumulation of litter and we could have another Blue Gum. All we request is that visitors to this park arrange to camp out of this sensitive area - and give it a chance.

PADDY PALLIN FOUNDATION

Applications for grants from the Foundation for 1978 must be in by the 31 December 1977. The aim of the foundation is to provide funds to encourage and assist all "Rucksack Sports" - bushwalking, canoeing, caving and other similar adventurous activities.

The grant may be for;

- contributions towards rent, wages and salaries of office staff
- to assist Australian mountaineering or exploratory expeditions
- acquisition or lease of land for camping, training or biological studies or purchase or lease of buildings or premises for club use
- conservation issues pertaining directly to rucksack sports
- for any other purpose

This is a rough guide further details can be obtained from Paddy Pallin Pty. Ltd., 69 Liverpool St. Sydney NSW 2001 to whom all applications must also be directed.

Points to be considered when applying for the grant;

- Provide quotes, a proposed plan, details of itinerary for your proposed goal, supply balance sheets of your club over the last couple of years,
- try for acquisition of equipment for prospective members. Applications for rope purchase have failed two years running,
- if you have a book or map in mind to promote bushwalking etc. it might be advisable to estimate the market for the item.

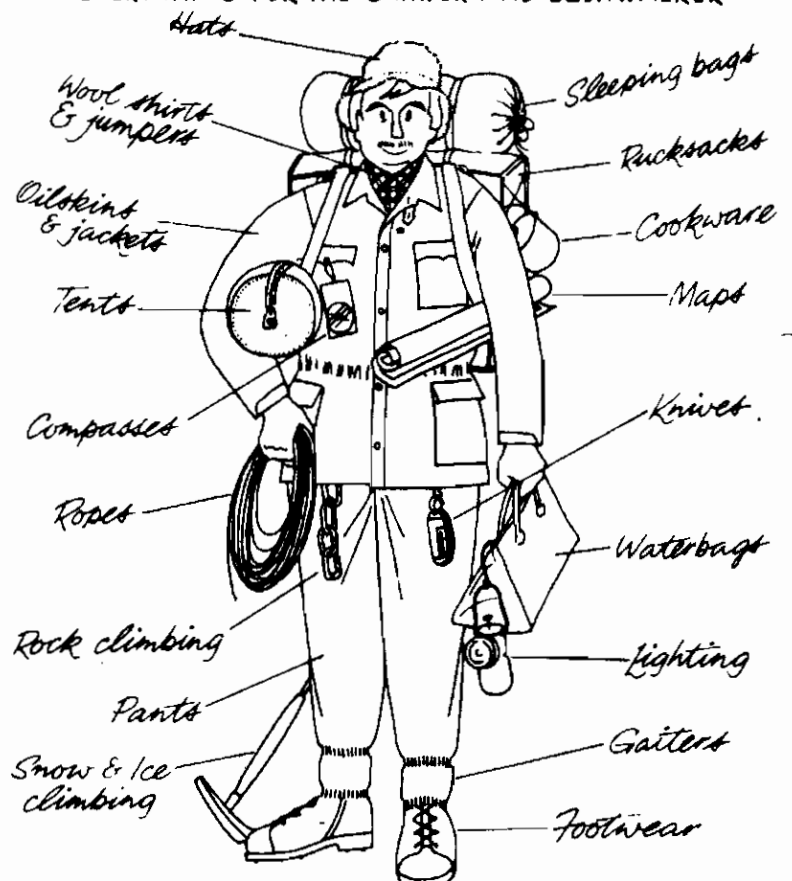
WELBY

A BOLT IN CLAUSTRAL

A ring bolt was recently found at and removed from the head of the first waterfall in Claustral Canyon. It had been placed within eighteen inches of a thread belay which has stood the test of hundreds of descents over the years. One cannot but wonder at the lack of short and long term vision that led to its placement, in the short term the natural belays are both obvious and adequate and in the long term, the bolt will rust and become unsafe after a few years, making an obvious but unsafe anchor for the inexperienced beginner.

Claustral is a remarkable natural feature, people feeling a great urge to hammer pieces of metal into it should perhaps dig their own copy in the backyard. They could then make all the modifications they want and we'd still have an original.

EVERYTHING FOR THE CAMPER AND BUSHWALKER



WE'LL EVEN SHOW YOU HOW TO PACK IT ALL!

Paddy Pallin

67-69 LIVERPOOL STREET, SYDNEY, NSW 2000 26 2683
JUST DOWN FROM GEORGE ST
46 NORTHBOURNE AVENUE, CANBERRA, ACT 47 8949
35 HARDWARE STREET, MELBOURNE, VIC 3000. 67 4845

CONSERVATION BITS

GOOD NEWS FOR PEOPLE

The Minister for Lands announced on August 25 approval of the establishment of the proposed Budawang National Park. The park, about 13,000 ha, adjoins Morton and incorporates Mts. Budawang & Currockbilly. There are to be later additions down to Clyde Mountain.

Although, a continuation of Morton, the Budawang Park is distinctly different. It consists of steeply convoluted hill slopes and mountains of metamorphic and volcanic rocks which contrast with the horizontally bedded sandstone of Morton.

The Park contains a wide variety of habitats ranging from heath, woodland, open forest to rain forest.

Southern Blue Mountains, all Crown Lands within the park proposal have now been transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This leaves the Water Board and private land still to be negotiated and that may take some time, especially, since it is now rumoured that the Water Board is seeking payment for its holdings.

BAD NEWS FOR ANIMALS

The N.S.W. Government has approved a limited programme of hand-laid 1080 baits in National Parks in an effort to control the population of exotic feral animals. They are concerned that a growing population of wild dogs, cats and pigs are seriously threatening native wildlife as well as causing problems for graziers.

The Minister for Lands, Mr. Crabtree, said the programme would be carefully controlled and monitored by the N.P. & W.S. Also the ban on aerial baiting and the use of steel traps would continue. How much the decision to bait was taken under pressure from "Neighbours of National Parks" or to remove the threat to native wildlife, we don't know. But the announced careful monitoring is essential to make sure that baiting does not increase rather than remove this threat.

BRUCE VOTE

WHATS NEW

The Mountaineer pack is now on a new frame and includes a wide waist band.

Down is going up, the cost of sleeping bags went up in August and is expected to rise again.

Paddy has imported some Taiwanese sleeping bags, they are down filled and box quilted. All are zippered and have hoods, the more expensive model has a full length zip. At \$84 and \$95 they are worth considering, especially when compared to the sewn through style Kiandra which retails at around \$80.

At Mountain Equipment they have something to sweeten the tooth. Atkinson the maker of Kendal mint cake have added Butter Fudge, Raisin and Rum Fudge, Peanut Fudge and Coconut mint ice to their range. Also, in limited stock, are photos of the Warrumbungles and Katoomba Sandstone scenes, suitable for use as post cards or for hanging on the wall.

I sincerely recommend this purchase to you as I feel we have negotiated a very good deal for bushwalkers for three books very consistent with our interests.

You are buying at 15% off retail with postage thrown in plus, for each purchase your Federation receives \$1.50 commission. The offer was timed as a possible Christmas present so if you already have one book don't hesitate to take the package as one or two would make a great present.

BRUCE VOTE

a MUST for your 'essential' list

These three superb books available to members on a special price saving offer. Ideal as presents—no bushwalker should be without them.

Collin's Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of South-East Australia

Jean Galbraith

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A complete guide to over 3,000 Australian wild flowers. Over 670 species illustrated, 368 in colour, plus line drawings in text.

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HAROLD GATTY, born in Campbelltown, Tasmania, became one of the world's great navigators. With Wiley Post in 1931 he was the first man to fly round the world in eight days. During the war his 'survival' manual **The Raft Book** saved the lives of hundreds of people cast adrift at sea. In **Nature is Your Guide** he shares his immense knowledge of natural navigation in a way which anyone interested in the outdoors and nature can read and learn from. This book has been long unobtainable: it is now issued for the first time in paperback. With it you need never be lost.

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ORDER FORM

To: Bushbook, P.O. Box 3023, Sydney 2001

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