

of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

ISSN 0313-2684

WILDERNESS PERMITS

As a follow on from Minister for Lands Mr. Crabtree's announcement of intention to introduce a wilderness permit system we received last month from the Assistant Director (Management) N.P. & W.S. details of the proposed system to be introduced on a trial basis in Kosciusko from January 1st, 1978. Geoff Armstrong (Ass. Dir.) will attend the F.B.W. meeting on 13th December to discuss the proposal.

The reasons given for introducing the system are:

1. To protect the wilderness
2. To protect the user.
3. To assist the user to constructively enjoy the wilderness.
4. To accumulate data of value for future management.

The system outlined below is proposed.

1. A "wilderness permit" system should be introduced on Kosciusko National Park from 1st January 1978.
2. Use of the system should be voluntary.
3. Centres for distribution of permits should be Saw Pit Creek, Thredbo, Khancoban, Smiggin Holes, Yarrangobilly offices and Head Office of N.P. & W.S.
4. Permits should be numbered and only issued on a face to face basis.
5. At time of issue attention should be drawn to a book on "wilderness use and enjoyment" setting out regulations and ethics.

No return of permits is proposed. A copy can be left with the transport vehicle for S & R purposes or carried by the user.

The proposed form asks for name, address, size and experience of party, proposed trip, entry and exit points, and type of transport to park.

The proposal was discussed at the November Council Meeting and further at the Conservation Committee meeting a week later. So far the consensus of views is as follows:

We have no disagreement with the reasons given for introducing the system.

However, we do not agree that the first reason is valid at this time and that a permit system should be introduced until there is obvious over use by walkers.

As far as protecting the user is concerned we agree that a form of notification of intended trips should be encouraged but at no time should the notification allow any possibility of refusal of entry. In short drop the "permit" and its implication of refusal and call it "Notice of Use". There are bound to be inexperienced and irresponsible people use parks but will they be screened and what is the cut off on experience and who makes the judgement.

As to assisting the user to enjoy the wilderness, yes, by all means improve the interpretive work in any park. Its one area where our service falls behind their counterparts in N.Z. and U.S.A. By all means use the "Notice" system to acquaint users with wilderness values and advice on routes but at the same time improve interpretive work to attract all park users.

There was no objection to data accumulation in fact we would like to widen the intake by making notices available from unmanned stations and by posting of forms to clubs in anticipation of trips.

BRUCE VOTE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At the November General Meeting, delegates voted to support a motion put by Peter Harris that Federation hold an annual conference along the same lines of the Nature Conservation Council. The conference would be the main arena for Federation to discuss and formulate policies.

Section 7 paragraph C of Federation Constitution allows such an annual conference and would comprise all affiliate associations. It also allows the conference to be called at any time if so resolved by a majority of delegates at a monthly general meeting. The Constitution however limits such a conference to a purely advisory capacity.

A date for such an annual conference was not decided but the following ideas were brought out in discussion.

1. Dave Noble - Should be two days long and replace the present reunion - remember the meetings of walk secretaries?
2. Warwick Blayden - We should consider a Newcastle site to attract the North Coast.

To resolve the matter could all affiliate clubs please discuss this at their general meeting.

THE RED ROCKS

A recent party of Kamerukans have commented on the noticeable effects of heavy usage of the escarpment watershed between the Wolgan and Capertee Rivers, the area becoming known as the Red Rocks Traverse (between Baal Bone Gap and the Red Rocks).

Heavy tracks are being beaten on route and many fragile and unique sandstone formations such as those around Mt. Dawson are being damaged. This is in marked contrast to the country as it was at the time of the Barry Higgins' trips of about 4 years ago that awoke interest in the area.

The Kamerukans have decided to voluntarily restrict themselves to one trip a year into this area, and we would ask other walking groups, whether club or not to do the same.

If all the affiliated clubs restrict themselves to one trip per year, and they do not represent all those walking in a given time, it still averages out to almost one trip per week in the area, which is still a fair usage.

Please co-operate in the preservation of this unique area.

DENNIS RITTON
K.B.C. Pres.

A MILESTONE

Early this century bushwalking as we know it today did not exist. Apart from groups of friends or individuals who wandered away from the set tourist paths, our bushland was rarely visited - clubs did not exist. Indeed the closest thing to a bushwalking club was cycling clubs. Then the Mountain Trails Club formed and gradually came to the attention of the public so that enquiries began to flow in. Unfortunately the constitution of that club did not cater for this kind of attention so that something had to be done.

Several members of the Mountain Trails Club called a public meeting of interested persons to discuss the situation and out of those early meetings a new club was formed - the Sydney Bush Walkers. On 21 October 1977 Sydney Bush Walkers celebrated their fiftieth anniversary.

The Federation of the moment represents some thirty three clubs, some date prior to the foundation of Federation (1932) and some only one or two years young. Considering all the clubs that are or have been affiliated with the Federation, each directly or indirectly has resulted from those meetings back in 1927. To S.B.W. and its members - happy walking and to the next fifty years.

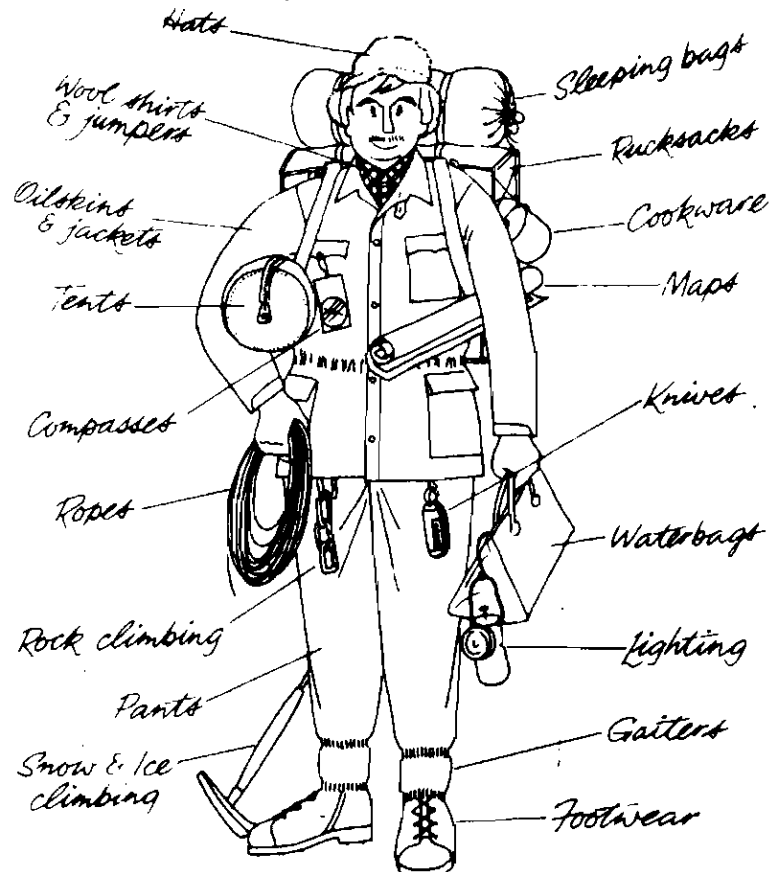
VENTURE CHIEF

TO ATTEND FEDERATION MEETING

As mentioned elsewhere one of those co-opted to the Field Inspection of Blue Gum Forest was Neil Mattes. Neil is the N.S.W. Commissioner for the Venturers and at the time we discussed the benefits of closer liaison between the Bushwalkers and Scouters in N.S.W. Neil has since confirmed that he can attend the General Meeting on January 17 and will be available to answer questions.

Generally bushwalkers have a low regard for Scouting and these days this could be a prejudicial attitude. Here's a good chance to bring your complaints and questions to this meeting. Beware, you may be shot down in flames; Scouting's changed a lot.

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MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT NEWS

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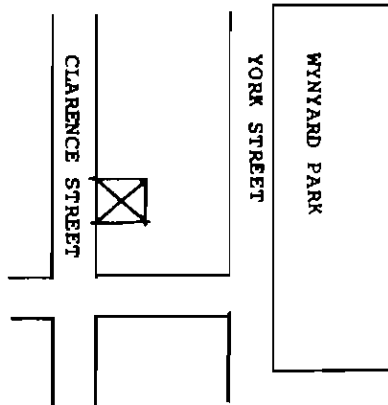
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LITERARY ASPIRATIONS?

If you have a point to raise, information to spread, a grievance to air, malicious rumours to disseminate, an experience to boast about or a story to relate, then what better medium than the newsletter? After all its free, doesn't discriminate much and has a wide circulation. It is also an excellent medium in which to advertise at most moderate rates.

The newsletter is an organ for keeping bushwalkers in touch with bushwalkers, so if your itching about something then spread it through the newsletter.

Items can be mailed to Tom Williams, 60 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773, preferably before the start of the month desired for publication.

PADDY PALLIN FOUNDATION

The Paddy Pallin Foundation is inviting applications for grants for 1978.

The sum available for distribution for this year is \$5,000.00.

Applications should be sent to

Paddy Pallin Foundation
 69 Liverpool Street
 SYDNEY. 2000

and should be lodged by 31st December 1977.

Enquiries should be directed to

Many bushwalkers in the press concerning recent announcements in the press concerning coal mining developments in the Northern Blue Mountains. The purpose of this article together with the accompanying map is to inform bushwalkers just where these coal leases are and point out some of the effects. The coal mining leases of concern are:

1. Joint Electricity Commission of N.S.W. - Japanese Lease.

This covers a large portion of the plateau forming the catchment of the Eastern and Western Branches of the Wolgan Rivers. Coal mining could cause damage to the Wolgan Escarpment as well as pollution to the Wolgan River. Possibly the most alarming feature is that this area is the site of a possible new power station.

2. Proposed Clarence Colliery - Coalex - B.P.

This covers an area immediately to the west of the Wollangambe Wilderness. It includes the headwaters of Wollangambe, Dumbano and Bungleboori Creeks. As well as the development of a coal mine, a washery is planned. After heavy rain acidic waste products from the colliery could pollute Wollangambe Creek. Many bushwalkers visiting Wollangambe Canyon last summer may have noticed the yellow brown silt suspension in the water. This was caused by the exploratory drilling. (In previous years sand mining near Newnes Junction has also caused serious pollution to Wollangambe Creek).

3. Proposed Wolgan Colliery (Coelex)

This is the most serious proposal lying almost entirely within the Colo-Hunter Wilderness Area. During the last year many miles of new roads have been built and drilling carried out. A dam is planned on Deanes Creek. The lease area contains Constance Gorge, Tiger Snake Canyon, Heartattack Canyon, Surefire Canyon, the catchment of Galah Canyon and probably some other canyons.

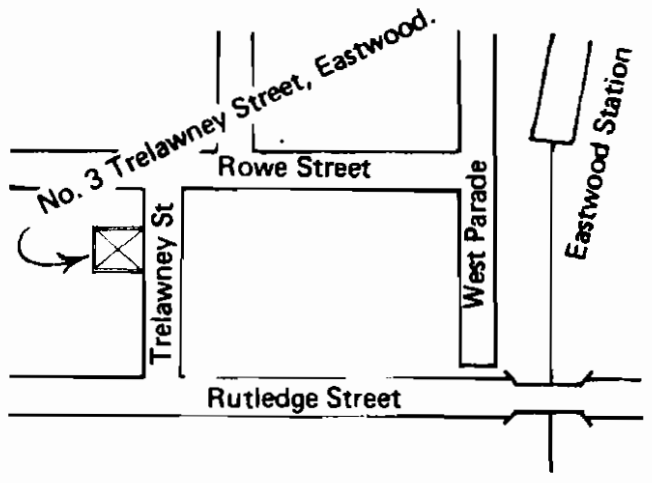
At present Federation along with a number of other Conservation bodies is objecting to the Electricity Commissions lease. However because the other two proposed collieries come under an earlier coal mining act there is no provision for the public or interested bodies to object to mining.

DAVID NOBLE

ALL THE USUAL GEAR.

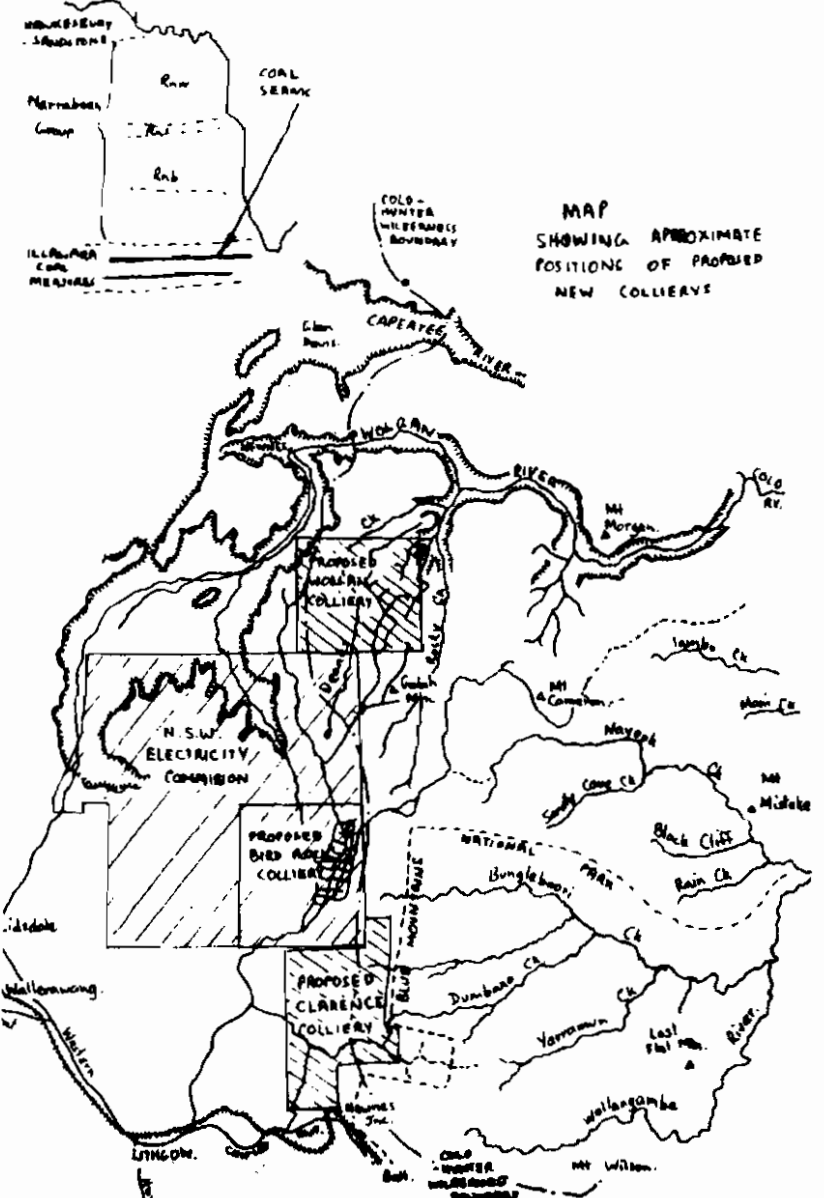
Fairydown sleeping bags, abseiling gear, parkas, packs tents, boots, groundsheets, lightweight food, AND MUCH MORE.

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



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WHERE THE COAL IS LOCATED.



MAP SHOWING APPROXIMATE POSITIONS OF PROPOSED NEW COLLIERIES

The only sports shoe approved by the L.T.A.A.

volley International by DUNLOP



This conference, the first of its type in Australia, was organised by the Australian Conservation Foundation, and located at the Australian Academy of Science; A.N.U., Canberra.

Hereunder is a list of subjects, speakers and the authors interpretation of some of the main points arising in each presented paper.

*Philosophy of Wilderness Conservation - Paul Smith, Officer of Tasmanian Forestry Commission.

Helman study fairly ineffective as it did not mention the challenge of wilderness, and the wilderness experience as a criteria - all access roads should end on periphery of wilderness country - huts should be removed in core wilderness areas - quality of wilderness should be indicative of its primitiveness, remoteness and natural features.

*History of the Wilderness Idea in Australia Geoff Moseley, Director, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Australian Royal N.P. was the first area dedicated as national park (Yellowstone was established initially as Public Park and Pleasuring Ground), wilderness concept first began with Sydney Bushwalking Clubs in particular Mountain Trails Club and Sydney Bushwalkers, 1946 rift occurred in N.S.W.F.B.W. over site of primitive reserve in Kosciusko N.P., first wilderness zone in national park was in the Kosciusko N.P., wilderness idea firmly entrenched in eastern Australia, but not so elsewhere in the country.

*The Contribution of Wilderness to Health and Well-Being - Dr. John Harris, Canberra College of Advanced Education, School of Applied Science.

Individual health is dependent on personal environment and behaviour which is dependent upon the total environment, satisfactory techniques have yet to be developed to measure health value of wilderness, wilderness provides the possibility for individuals to realise and understand our species dependence on the evolutionary production of harmonious diversity

*Recreational Use of Wilderness in Sth Eastern Australia - 2 case Studies - Dr. Sandra Bardwell and Keith McHenry

Proposed registration stations along tracks in S.W. Tasmania, blazed routes favoured, opposition to huts and roads, statistics of wilderness usage cannot provide any argument for reservation of wilderness.

*The Value of Wilderness to Science - Sir Otto Frankel, Division of Plant Industry CSIRO.

Requirements of wilderness for science are: (1) Long term security of tenure, (2) Ecological and genetic importance - therefore size, (3) Representativeness of ecosystems, values include the genetic resource, opportunity for ecological research and biological monitoring, and environmental monitoring through base-line stations, willingness to trade insecurity of tenure for intragency, management problems and arguments will occur for as long as wilderness exists.

*Methods of defining Wilderness and the Extent of Wilderness in Australia - Geoff Moseley, Dr. Trevor Tierney Antarctic Dvsn. Dept. of Science & Consumer Affairs

(A bit of a non-event), continent of Antarctica defined as being to the convergence line, Antarctica accepted as a wilderness.

*Two Case Studies of Wilderness Management Jack Erskine, Regional Superintendent, Sth East Region, N.S.W., and Peter Waterman, Tasmanian N.P.W.S.

Dedication of 4 wilderness zones in Kosciusko N.P. first dedication of wilderness land, difficulty in achieving A.C.F. boundary of Sth West N.P., due to Hydro, Forestry, and Mining interests.

*Factors Affecting Wilderness Dr. Graeme Saunders, Director Qld. NPWS and Dr. Andrew Burbridge, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, W.A.

Hard put to find miners to employ in Maryborough following Fraser Island decision, why can relief country be termed wilderness but not flat country, there is no reservation of wilderness as such in W.A.

*Wilderness vs Competing Land-Uses

Peter Lawson, Land Conservation Council, Victoria

Roads impair wilderness, stock effects on ecosystems vary according to fragility of ecosystem, fences dams huts impair wilderness hydro electric station and corridors, power lines shred wilderness.

*Plenary Session of Workshops.

1. Overall Strategy for Wilderness

Conservation - Chairman John Sinclair

In the short term urgent plans needed to maintain holding operations with a moratorium on development in wilderness areas through political, administrative and legal channels, in the long term a campaign to ensure that we win greater public support.

Geographical Strategies - identify wilderness and study each area by 1980, form Australian Wilderness Society, publicise through films etc. zone wilderness areas outside national parks, expand Helman study to other parts of Australia.

2. Legislation - Chairman Geoffrey Goode

Local, State & Federal Govt. should accept A.C.F. definition of wilderness, legislation should be applied to protect wilderness areas pending investigation of tenure, then full evaluation and reservation of wilderness areas as national park, wilderness value should be improved with additional funds and staff made available.

3. Definition - Chairman Paul Smith

Need for precise definition to classify natural land types which should be drawn up by A.C.F., any definition will conflict with thoughts but this is unavoidable, educate through actual experience, audio visuals, communication with administrators, young people care for over-use.

4. Reversion - Chairman Jack Erskine

Disturbed lands can be rehabilitated to acceptable standard, should receive protection to prevent further deterioration, then added to N.P. system, for proposed reservation firstly define limit of wilderness, the assign top priority to acquisition of undisturbed land, acquire disturbed lands, improve to intended wilderness status then add to national park system.

5. Management of Recreational Uses -

Chairman Paul Barnes

Instigate quote system to prevent over-usage where essential, but only if certainty that it applies to all entries, should this involve money fee, Committee to draw up "Wilderness Code of Ethics", no direction signs, no stone cairns, no track marking or blazing, no huts, no water tanks, have heliopads, cleared campsites.

6. Science in Wilderness Areas -

Chairman Dr. Andrew Burbridge

Prescribed burning is not a management method in core wilderness areas but should be restricted to threshold land, fires in wilderness areas should be allowed to burn, feral animals should be destroyed, research needed for fire impact and recreational impact.

7. Areas of Wilderness Potential -

Daryl Hawke

ACF should press for amendment of NSW Forestry Act, a major national park should be established on the Victorian/S.A. border and be contiguous to both States, study needed for wild and scenic rivers, wilderness should include mountainous country, desert country and marine country.

Representatives from the N.S.W.F.B.W. to the Conference were Peter Harris, President and Bruce Vote, Conservation Officer.

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Representatives from the N.S.W.F.B.W. to the Conference were Peter Harris, President and

on the likelihood of a dam on the Colo. The opinions expressed range from "no immediate plans" to "we're keeping our options open".

The trouble with this vague response is that one day it will be too late like it was with the Cox Valley Power Line.

What we must do is make such a public issue of the possibility that will force Government plans into the open.

Here's some suggestions:

Introduce a friend to walking via the Colo.

Contact Dennis Rittson and Dave Noble to show their Colo slides at your Club meeting or anywhere;

Plan a Lilo trip down the Colo this summer.

Distribute bumper stickers and posters.

Support the Colo Committee (27 4714)

Unless we see the likes of a Colono campaign, one day we will have a dam, pipeline, roads and power line in the heart of the wilderness.

OFF ROAD VEHICLES

From the Dept. of Environment, Housing and Community Development we have received the following draft code of behaviour for ORV use. Although only a draft at this stage we understand it is generally acceptable to RV clubs.

If you see ORV clubs breaking the code as has recently happened at Turross and Ettrima quote their code to them or refer the matter to me, the Wildlife Service or the E.H.C.D.

PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT OF CODE OF ETHICS FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

As off-road vehicle owners we derive considerable pleasure from our vehicles as well as using them to help others. However, our machines can also annoy other people and damage the natural environment we seek to enjoy.

This code of ethics shows how we, the ORV users, can avoid adverse effects of our sport while still gaining pleasure from it.

1. Obey the laws and regulations of Commonwealth, State and Local Governments.
2. Join a club.
3. Seek permission of the relevant authority before you drive on public land,
4. Seek the landowners permission before you drive on private land,
5. Keep to public roads in national parks and other restricted areas,
6. Recognise the right of others to solitude and peace. Do not disturb picnickers, bushwalkers and other recreationists,
7. Walking tracks are for walking, bridle tracks for horses - keep them that way,
8. Keep to defined vehicular tracks. If impracticable minimise and make good any damage,
9. Alpine areas, swamps and vegetated sand dunes are easily damaged. Take special care in these areas,
10. Challenge your vehicle against the terrain only in areas specially set aside for the purpose,
11. Keep the environment clean; carry your rubbish home. If others have left a mess, consider doing the right thing by cleaning it up,
12. Respect the wildlife. Stop and look but never chase animals in your vehicle,
13. Have a sound muffler system, keep your noise to a minimum,
14. Keep well away from settlements and recreation areas where your noise will disturb others,
15. ORVs can be very useful in search and rescue or to fight bushfires. Help the authorities when you can,
16. Encourage other users to abide by this code: ensure that participants in your

Worgan have come in. Thanks to Timothy Hager of C.B.C., we now have maps, slides and a full report on the illegal road building. Unfortunately this group is not a club so commitment to an ethic can not be expected. However we have passed the information onto the Wildlife Service and Lands Department.

COLO - HUNTER - PLANNING CONTROL

The Wildlife Service and the Planning and Environment Commission are seeking gazettal of an interim development order over all their park proposals in the Northern Blue Mountains. This includes Blue Mountains Northern extension Wollemi (Colo), and Hunter & Tayar (Tayan Pic) and if approved will mean that no development can take place without Crabtree & Landa's approval. A similar situation to Mayall Lakes before the recent Park Dedication except that the time span to park dedication may be much longer and there's more money in coal than mineral sands.

HELIPADS

The Blue Mountains National Park Advisory Committee is suggesting the creation of further helipads in the Grose Valley.

They state that there should be more care with their installation than there was at Acacia Flat or Burra-Korain and that the pads are a way of keeping out roads.

With all the care in the world, a helipad needs a large clearing and thats not on. Why are pads the alternative to roads?

Is it too much to expect rescuers, fire fighters, or garbage collectors to walk the maximum of one hour from either of the existing pads to any point in the Upper Grose.

BRUCE VOTE

NOW INTO HIGH GRADE CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Tents

Packs

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WORSKI

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Phone 297792

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. 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 February and will be available at the Council meeting on Tuesday 21st February 1978. There will be no January newsletter.

TOM WILLIAMS
Publication Officer
Phone (047) 39 2145

Correspondence & Membership Enquiries
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney. 2001.

CENTRAL PLATEAU

The Tasmanian Government has published its final Management Plan for the Central Plateau, although it says that further public comment is always welcome. The plan proposes that the western section of the plateau become a conservation area, which means a temporary though too small national park until a use can be found for its water or timber resources. It also proposes that roads be built from Lake Augusta (the present frontier) to Pillans Lake and Theresa Lagoon, which would be the beginning of the end as far as the wilderness area is concerned. Walkers can hardly complain, since they don't use the area except for the Walls of Jerusalem, and have left the fishermen to take over the plateau.

DAVE KELLY

WHAT'S NEW

Paddy is getting a supply of Dia-Dora boots especially designed for cold weather conditions. One feature of these new boots is their calf length sides suitable for snow walking. New additions to the sleeping bag range are the North Face Alpine and Paddy's High Plains sleeping bag - the latter a box walled featherdown bag and is ideal as a snow bag.

Mountain Design have produced a modified Chouinard "Ultra Light Weight" sleeping bag weighing 1100 gms. It is suited for conditions down to 0°C. Mountain Equipment also are selling a N.Z. aluminium canteen kit for \$9.95 - not cheap but good quality and has proved to be a popular seller.

The 1978 Dombrowski Tasmanian Wilderness Calendar is now available from both these stores.

PADDY PALLIN ORIENTEERING CONTEST

This annual event sponsored by Paddy will be held on Saturday 27th May 1978. Naturally details of venue will be withheld until just before the event but it is usually no more than two hours drive from Sydney.

Although the competitiveness and athletic demands of orienteering as practiced by the orienteering clubs, do not appeal to many bushwalkers, this contest is aimed more at walkers and is more a test of navigational skill and bushmanship thus giving it a wider appeal.

BRUCE VOTE

S & R DEMONSTRATION 15-16 OCT.

This demonstration was attended by about 40 people of many clubs. Following the trend of the July practice it was much more active than in the past.

With the help of a nurse educator, Trevor Barnes and two associates, two simulated accidents were arranged with make up used to very effectively fake injuries. Handling these accidents taught us a great deal about our equipment and first aid.

Cardiac massage and mouth to mouth resuscitation were practiced on a dummy that did everything but talk. Little lights would go on if you correctly did the cardiac massage and resuscitation.

The campfire saw Trevor Barnes, an Irishman telling the best of the Irish jokes aside from the normal fun and games.

On Sunday afternoon abseiling instruction was given, whilst the combined radio and orienteering course kept quite a few parties searching for check-points when they were in the wrong area.

The walkers present again said that they enjoyed and learnt a lot from this active type of demonstration.

KEITH MAXWELL
Field Officer

Himalayan Walking

TREKKING IN KASHMIR - KRISHNULLAH EXPEDITION

The Kashmir Himalaya still provides exploratory opportunities in areas where no Europeans have been before. We have prepared a trekking expedition from the Krishnullah Valley in Kashmir, that will attempt to find a high pass across the Great Himalaya, to the Zaskar mountains in Ladakh.

The approach walk takes you through pine forests, open fields, and past gushing streams. Here the Bakharval herdsmen tend their flocks, as they have done for centuries.

This walk will take you into one of the most spectacular and remote areas of the World, and the small group will depart Sydney on 2nd September 1978.

Australian Himalayan Expeditions plans to run four other treks to Kashmir, including a Natural History trek in June. Tour prices range from \$1,430.00 to \$1,755.00 (Includes return air fare).

For further information please contact:

Garry Weare
AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS
3rd Floor, 28-34 O'Connell Street,
Sydney. N.S.W. 2000

or Phone (02) 231 6050