

of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
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ETHICS FOR WILDERNESS USERS

One of the results following from the A.C.F. Australian Wilderness Conference held last year has been the formulation of a "Wilderness Visitors Code of Behaviour". This was prepared by Dr. Sandra Bardwell of Melbourne. Submissions were made by interested parties including Federation's Conservation Committee. A draft code was circulated for comment and the code is in final form. Bushwalkers as wilderness users should abide by this code. Any comments should be sent to the Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

WILDERNESS VISITORS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

To encourage the preservation of the physical and intangible qualities of wilderness areas and their enjoyment by travellers on foot ski or in hand or sail powered boats.

In wilderness man is a visitor who neither remains nor leaves any trace of his presence.

SELF-RELIANCE - The wilderness visitor is fully self-sufficient and does not use any form of mechanised transport for travel, does not rely on air dropped food supplied and provides his own portable accommodation - a tent.

CAMPSITES - For minimum impact in popular areas, camp on previously used sites.

Avoid camping on fragile vegetation.

Construction of tent platforms and bed sites, digging of trenches should be avoided. Use aluminium tent poles, not green timber.

Remove all evidence of use before leaving a campsite.

FIRE AND FUEL - Use gas or liquid fuel stoves above the treeline, wherever wood is scarce and during bushfire danger periods.

Use existing fireplaces or clear an area for a small fire well away from trees, scrub and grass.

Use only fallen branches sparingly. Thoroughly extinguish the fire with water, scatter or bury ashes and charcoal out of sight of the camping area. At popular sites on thin soil, simply spread charcoal and ash after extinction.

SANITATION - All human waste and toilet paper should be buried, not merely covered, well away from tracks, campsites and streams. Burn toilet paper in rocky country, taking care not to start a wildfire.

WATER AND WASHING - Keep water supplies free of any polluting agent.

Use only soap; wash and rinse utensils, clothing and bodies well away from rivers and lakes.

Swim downstream from where drinking water is obtained.

RUBBISH - Carry out what you carry in - everything that will not burn, especially foil, cans, plastic and glass.

Bury any unburnt food scraps. Leave the campsite cleaner than it was found.

Rivers should not be used as garbage cans - cans and bottles will eventually be washed ashore.

TRACKS AND MARKERS - Use marked or formed tracks where they exist and avoid making a new track. Otherwise leave the track

Blazes, cairns, aluminium, taps or any other markers do not belong in wilderness areas.

River crossings should consist only of local fallen trees, logs or rocks.

VANDALISM - Rock formations, trees, vegetation, archaeological sites should not be defaced or damaged in any way. Birds, animals and other living things should not be molested.

COURTESY - The sounds of the natural inhabitants should predominate. Noise from radios and other electronic devices is not in keeping with wilderness.

BREAKTHROUGH IN ETTREMA WILDERNESS

The Minister for Mines, Mr. Pat Hills, has directed the Chief Mining Warden to hold an inquiry into the conflict which exists between prospecting/mining and recreation/conservation (including the effects of these operations on the environment) within the County of St. Vincent.

The inquiry relates to Mining Lease Application Nos. 494 to 497 Nowra (1906 Act) by P.E. Cogar, Mining Lease Application Nos. 14 to 20 (1973 Act) by J.A. Doyle, Prospecting Licence (Authority to Prospect) Application No. 155 Nowra by J.A. Doyle, Claims Nos. 1 to 5 Wollongong held by J.A. Doyle, Right of Way Application No.1/1977 by South West Mining Pty. Ltd.

The majority of these applications are contained in the upper Ettrema Gorge and Jones Creek canyon - one of the most attractive, unique and geologically remarkable regions in the Ettrema/Bundundah Wilderness. The other applications are located on the wilderness management land, along the Shoalhaven River, and in the contortious Yarramunnum Creek, and Danjera Creek.

In December 1976 joint objections were made to the Dept. of Mines over Mining Lease Applications Nos. 14 to 20 Wollongong (1973 Act) by J.A. Doyle - between the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, the National Parks Association of N.S.W., Sydney Bushwalkers, and the South Coast Conservation Society.

Although the time and place for the inquiry has not yet been set (as this is written) the Minister for Mines, Mr. Pat Hills, can be thanked for his speedy actions, which must inevitably prove for once and for all that the incredible beauty and recreational value of Ettrema/Bundundah Wilderness must surely warrant protection as reserved national parkland, for the preservation of the national heritage.

PETER HARRIS

S. & R. PRACTICE

15 - 16 April

Blue Mountains Canyon
(Example Claustal or Danae)
to be announced.

Information ring K. Maxwell 827 3919 (H)
692 3735 (W)

F. Bell 476 4187 (H)
218 9698 (W)

NOTE - S & R contacts reminded to submit lists of walkers available for

co-opted by the Blue Mountains National Parks Advisory Committee, made a field inspection of the Upper Grose, with particular attention being given to Blue Gum Forest.

Bushwalkers were represented by Peter Harris (F.B.W.), Dennis Rittson (F.B.W.) and Neil Mattes (Venturers). The convenor, Paul Barnes, has sent Federation a summary of the recommendations.

The recommendations have been forwarded onto the full Blue Mountains National Park Advisory Committee who will use it as a basis for their report to the Blue Mountains National Park Management who will submit it to the Wildlife Service which in turn approaches the Minister for Lands.

This is a rather cumbersome system which is a left over from the days when parks were managed by individual trusts. Most of the Trusts stayed on as Advisory Committees when the Wildlife Service took over management. Its easy to see that any recommendation made at the level of Federation's involvement could suffer, to a greater or less degree, some modification on their way up to the Minister.

Partially because of this and partially because the report from the Advisory Committee arrived with scarcely enough time for Federation to consider the controversial points and make our opinions known before the report went on, the Conservation Convenor, Bruce Vote, sent our comments from the November F.B.W. meeting straight to the Director of the Wildlife Service.

Bruce's main point was on the provision of additional heliopads as set out in Recommendation No. 20, as an adjunct to fire fighting and search and rescue operations.

Several other points were discussed at Federation but the one that I really want to elaborate on, and its what all this is leading up to, is the concept that appears in Recommendations 9 & 18. In other words should Blue Gum, once it is being properly managed to minimise the destructive effects of continuing heavy visitor usage, be allowed quite literally to stand or fall on its own capacity to survive.

The Forest is a result of a rather special set of events. One theory goes that 3 or 4 hundred years ago, a catastrophic event occurred (bushfire perhaps) which cleared the prevailing vegetation at the junction of the Grose and Govetts Leap Creek. This fortuitous clearing of the canopy allowed for the generation and growth of a large stand of Eucalyptus Deanii which has grown to become what we know now as the Blue Gum Forest.

Now there are two points here: Firstly the trees in this stand are all the same age and secondly Eucalyptus Deanii requires a lot of light to germinate and grow. There's little natural new growth because of this, the effects of feral herbivores notwithstanding.

The trees at Blue Gum are all very old and are basically the same age. They are almost all the original trees from that distant catastrophe. They are also all starting to die. If you look up into the canopy you'll see the dead branches. And there are very few new saplings growing up to replace the oldsters. They can't, there's not enough light at the forest floor to allow this.

As well as this fact, the Grose River, as a result of its normal evolution, is cutting into its banks and undermining and bringing down quite a few of the Deanii. It's ironic that the banks are one of the few spots where the break in the canopy caused by the River itself would allow for regeneration.

The delegates at the November meeting expressed the two opposing viewpoints that, firstly, come whatever, there should be a hands off policy with respect to interfering with the natural system in the Grose and secondly that Blue Gum should be managed to ensure its survival. I would think that these two viewpoints would be widespread amongst bushwalkers.

I personally support the latter viewpoint if only because of Blue Gum's uniqueness and rather than justify or rationalise my feelings with such statements like its a viewpoint consistent with the maintenance of the status quo which is a common approach in the Conservation movement, I'll say this: In support of the preservation of the Blue Gum

returning.

I will not see all this come to end if there is anything I can do to stop it and it seems to me that regeneration programmes can ensure Blue Gum's survival. The text book or academic approaches that say that what's happening in Blue Gum now should be inevitable because its natural only get me angry. They remind me of the anti-anesthetic campaigns conducted last century on the premise that pain is to be endured because it is 'natural'.

I want to see Blue Gum stay because of what it means to me. Its uniqueness is worth preserving and I'll oppose its demise just as I oppose the shabby fire roads, dams, mines and power lines that threaten to clear the Northern Blue Mountains. I don't care what is causing Blue Gum's last years I'm against it.

I would be most interested in seeing other peoples viewpoint on Blue Gum's future, perhaps towards producing a Federation Policy on it.

DENNIS RITTON, K.R.C.

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S & R ALERT

At 4.30 p.m. on the 21st December Nicholas Bendelli became separated from his two companions whilst nearing the end of a two day bushwalk in the Turoos area. Investigation revealed his foot prints coming to within 50 yards of their car. A localised search was made of the area by his mates, Chris Cosgrove and Ross Bradstock, revealing no trace of Nick's fate. Walking to a local farm (it was Nick's car) they initiated a larger search with police and locals, which, despite retracing the previous days walk, failed to unearth the missing party. On the evening of the 22nd Chris and Ross rang me from Cooma in order to mobilise S and R for a full scale search only to find that Nick had been in touch with me, via his mother whom he had rung from a farm 10 miles from his car 26 hours after being missed, to express concern for Ross and Chris.

It seems that Nick had inexplicably crossed the road near the car without noticing it and, unsure of his position, kept walking, crossing another main road 3 miles away and continuing 10 miles passed that before realising that he was definitely in error and retracing his steps to the main road along which he walked till finding a farm and phone.

So what could have been a major false alarm was averted and Nick was handed over to the police.

issued to affiliated clubs, and upon the recommendations of the first N.S.W. Workshops - Mountain Leadership, the Federation established its Outdoor Recreation Education Committee at the November Council Meeting - for the purpose of instigating the 2nd N.S.W. Workshop.

It is interesting to note that the New Zealand Federation of Mountain Clubs, unbeknown to us, also established their National Outdoor Training Board, along similar management lines, and with similar aims and objectives.

The first Committee meeting of 8th December 1977, assessed questionnaires (results 39 for and 4 against) and as a result made several structural alterations to the workshop, established initial standards and aims including guidelines for the Workshop, and invited Chief Councillors from amongst those most experienced in their field.

One of the most notable changes was the deletion of Orienteering as a subject (due to its envisaged environmental impact) and the toning down of River Crossing, Liloing and Cascading (partly included in Canyon/Abseil). As a substitute Bushcraft (including Bush Navigation) which will be held at Sugee Bag Creek Scout Camp under the 'councillorship' of Mr. Wilf Hilder SBW. As this will also serve as an orientation to the course, all Chief Councillors should be present to present subject papers. Paddy Pallin will conduct Saturday evenings campfire.

Additional clubs and organisations who have particular expertise in any subject are being co-opted to the Committee for the purpose of further setting standards and levels of instruction.

One final question - Does anyone have a solution to the disposal of human waste which will be inevitable at Blue Lake (Mountaineering)?

PETER HARRIS

N.R.M.A. "The Open Road".

CB can link farm vehicles with the home-stead; it can keep campers, bushwalkers, fishermen and boat users in touch with "civilisation", it can give housebound invalids full-time contact with the outside world.

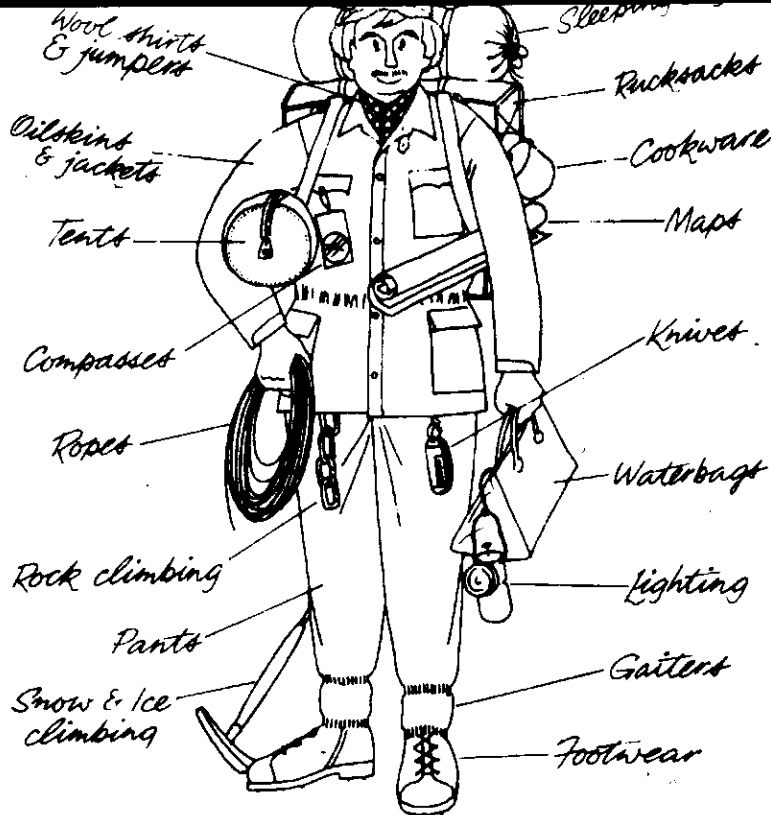
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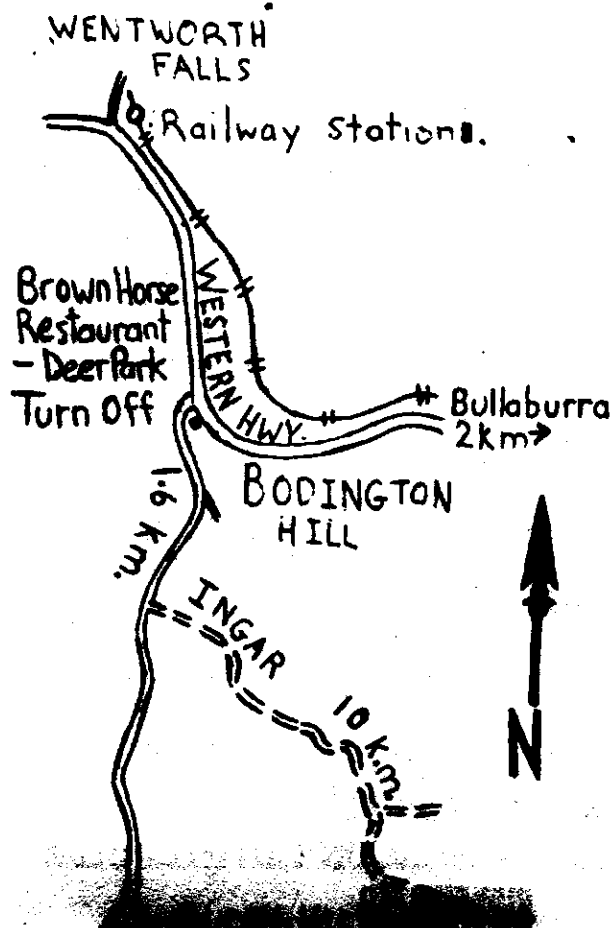
Paddy Pallin

67-69 LIVERPOOL STREET, SYDNEY, NSW 2000 26 2685
JUST DOWN FROM GEORGE ST
46 NORTHBOURNE AVENUE, CANBERRA, ACT 47 8949
35 HARDWARE STREET, MELBOURNE, VIC 3000 47 4845

FEDERATION REUNION 1978

This year's reunion will be held at the Ingar Picnic Ground on the 11-12 MARCH. Ingar is a pleasant site complete with large swimming hole, it is easily accessible by car along a fire trail off Kings Tableland (see map), Bedford Creek is nearby so there is plenty of scope for side trips and day walks.

The Reunion has always been a popular event and with the easy vehicular access this one should be no exception.



building upon basic skills such as plant and animal identification, interpretation of geological features and animal behaviour to give an ecological overview of the sites. This years programmes are to be held at Yarrahappinni near Kempsey over Easter, Mt. Kaputar, June 3-5, Poppinbarra, 30 km from Wauchope in the Hastings Valley and the Barrington Tops in December. Fees vary from \$25 to \$50 for adults \$40 to \$80 for couples and \$50-\$100 for families depending on the amenities supplied which vary with the sites.

A five day workshop studying the field of native photography is held in September between the 18th and the 22nd at Burrendong Sport Recreation Centre on the foreshores of Burrendong Dam near Wellington.

Two Programmes are offered on an Australian Heritage theme, one is a "Journey into the Past" - an 800 km bus tour visiting various historical sites and the other is a Folk Song workshop, they are held from 6-10 March and April respectively, the workshop being located at Nundle 30 km from Tenterden.

Lastly there is a study of the geology of the New England Region through a series of five schools, the first being an introduction to geology followed by four, more specialised programmes of the varying geological features of the New England Region.

Anyone interested in these educational programmes should contact the University of New England via the Department of Continuing Education, Namoi Regional Office, P.O. Box 59, Tamworth 2340.

WHATS NEW.

Looking round the bushwalking shops the following were noticed:

- Complete Guide to the Warrambungles - Alan Fairley \$4.00
- The Alpine Track (Walhalla to Mt. Bogong) \$4.00
- Reprint of the Trucanas book \$26.00
- Discovering Fraser Island \$3.00
- Mountaineering - The Freedom of the Hills \$14.00
- 100 Walks in N.S.W. - Tom Tyrell \$4.00
- Penguin "Book of the Bush" \$4.00

Also updated edition on Bungonia Caves

Alliance are selling dehyd "Prime Beef Steak" a dehyd hamburger. All you do is to soak then grill/fry. Reports indicate it is quite good (for a dehyd) and sells for \$2.70.



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MAPS

1. A vegetation map of N.S.W. 1:1,500,000 has been published for the Dept. of Decentralisation by the Central Mapping Authority and is available from the Lands Dept.
2. Dave Kelly has obtained a map index for New Guinea. About half the country has been mapped so far in 1:100,000 by the Australian Army Survey Corps, but coverage should be complete by the end of 1978. As 1:100,000 sheets are finished, a new 1:250,000 series is being published from the larger scale maps to replace the original inaccurate 1:250,000 series. New Guinea maps are available only from the National Mapping Bureau, Dept. of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 5665, Boroka, Papua New Guinea. For more information, contact Dave Kelly, phone 797 6563.

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.

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 13 March and will be available at the Council meeting on Tuesday, 21 March 1978.

TOM WILLIAMS
Publications Officer
Phone (94) 29 2145

Correspondence & Membership Enquiries