

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

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WALKING IN THE COLO AREA

The Colo Gorge cuts through the centre of the largest wilderness area remaining in N.S.W. It is probably the most spectacular gorge of its type in Australia and consequently provides a superb area for bushwalking. However, difficulty of terrain, with the Colo and its tributary gorges being flanked by precipitous cliffs and the thick, prickly scrub on the ridges have discouraged many walkers from the area.

With the possibility of the Colo being jammed by the N.S.W. Electricity Commission, the next few years may be your only opportunity of seeing the Colo in its wilderness state. For bushwalkers unfamiliar with the Colo area the following list of suggested walks has been compiled. It is not meant as a complete list of walks but only to give ideas of the types of walks from various starting places. All the walks are weekend walks or daywalks if specified.

The best vantage points of the Colo are from the rim of the Gorge or mountains such as Island, Parr West and Alidade Hill. The various tributary creeks such as Angorawa Ck, Tambo Ck, Main Ck and Pinchgut Ck offer easy, fast and pleasant walking. Often the creeks are quicker than the ridges. Most of the creeks are a lot easier going downstream. Long pants and/or scrub gaiters and leather gardening gloves are useful if a fair bit of ridge walking is contemplated. Twenty metres of No. 2 rope is useful for packhauls on the trickier passes. The notes regarding the passes are helpful on Bob Buck's Colo Sketchmap. If you are not experienced at rock-scrambling then try the easier passes first.

Maps - Colo Sketch Map, Compiled by Bob Buck (from Paddy Palline etc.) shows the numbered passes used on the walks list

Six Brothers	
Colo Heights	1:25,000 C.M.A.
Mountain Lagoon	
St. Albans	1:100,000 Dept. Nat. Resources
St. Albans	1:63,360 Army - Be careful using this map as it has many errors

COLO WALKS - WEEKEND WALKS AND DAYWALKS

*From Mountain Lagoon (from Bell Road)

1. DAYWALK - WHEENY GAP
Mountain Lagoon, The Green Scrub, Wheeny Gap and return - Medium/hard.
2. MT. DARCY
Mountain Lagoon, Mt. Conder, Pass 23, Tootie Ck/Colo Jnc, Darcy Range, Mt. Darcy, Tootie Ck, Mountain Lagoon - Medium/hard.
* From Mount Tootie (from Bell Road - Itchenstoke turnoff)
3. WOOLLANGAMBE RIVER
Mt. Tootie, The Big Hill, Pass 27, Bowens Ck, Woollangambe River, Colo River, Pass 37 (Masochists Ridge), The Bill Hill. Medium.
4. WOLLANGAMBE RIVER
The Big Hill, Pass 38, Woollangambe River, Colo River, Pass 37, Big Hill. Medium.
5. UN-NAMED CREEK
The Big Hill, Pass 38, Pass 36a. (MR 727054) Ridge towards Mt. Mistake, Un-named Ck (MR 704074), Woollangambe/Colo Jnc, Pass 37, Big Hill. Medium/hard.

6. MT. TOOTIE TO PUTTY ROAD
Mt. Tootie, The Big Hill, Pass 37, Island (via Pass 28), Drip Rock, fire trail, Putty Road. Medium.
* From Bob Turners Track (from Putty Road).
7. DAYWALK - BOB TURNERS TRACK
Putty Rd, Bob Turners Track, Colo River and return. Easy.
8. DAYWALK - MT. TOWNSEND
Bob Turners Track, Colo River, Pass 35, Mt. Townsend, Putty Rd. Medium.
9. PARR SOUTH
Bob Turners Track, Colo River, Pass 31, Parr South, Drip Rock fire trail, Putty Road. Medium.
* From Drip Rock Fire Trail (Putty Road - Locked gate and farm at start)
10. PARR SOUTH
Drip Rock fire trail, Parr South, Pass 31, Colo River, Hungryway Ck, Parr Spur, Drip Rock trail. Medium.
11. ISLAND AND PARR SOUTH
Drip Rock fire trail, Island, Pass 28, Colo River, Parr South (via Pass 30) Drip Rock fire trail. Medium.
12. PARR WEST AND ISLAND
Drip Rock fire trail, Ridge to Parr West, Pass 22, Colo River, Pass 24, Island, Drip Rock trail. Medium/hard.
13. ANGORAWA CK.
Angorawa Ck fire trail (MR 860107), Angorawa Ck, Pass 22a (MR 757104), Parr West, Drip Rock fire trail. Medium/hard.
14. ANGORAWA CK
Drip Rock fire trail, Pass 23, Angorawa Ck, Colo River, Pass 22, Parr West, Drip Rock trail. Medium/hard.
* From Grassy Hill Fire Trail (Putty Road)
15. PARR WEST AND ISLAND
Grassy Hill firetrail to MR 757146, Pass 21, Angorawa Ck/Colo Jnc, Pass 22, Parr West, Island, Drip Rock fire trail. Medium/hard.
16. ISLAND
Grassy Hill, firetrail to MR 757146, Pass 21 Colo River, Pass 24, Island, Drip Rock trail. Medium/hard.
17. COLO RIVER
Grassy Hill, Canoe Ck (via pass 13), Colo River, Angorawa Ck/Colo Jnc. Out via Pass 21, Pass 22 and Parr West or Angorawa Ck. Medium/hard.
18. COLO RIVER
Grassy Hill, Canoe Ck (via pass 13), Colo River, Pass 24, Island, Drip Rock fire trail.
19. DAYWALK - ALIDADE HILL
Grassy Hill fire trail, Alidade Hill, Pass 11 or 12, Colo River, Canoe Ck, Pass 13, fire trail. Medium/hard.
20. DAYWALK - COLO RIVER
Grassy Hill fire trail, Pass 13, Canoe Ck, Pass 15, ridge to firetrail. Medium.
21. COLO RIVER - ALIDADE HILL
Grassy Hill fire trail, Ridge to Pass 9 or 10, Colo River, Pass 11, Alidade Hill, fire trail. Medium/hard.
22. MT. SAVAGE, TAMBO CK
Grassy Hill trail, Pass 13, Canoe Ck, Colo Rv. Pass 17, Savage Trig, Tambo Ck, Colo River, Tambo Crown, Pass 19, Grassy Hill firetrail. - Medium/hard.
23. THREE PEAKS - SAVAGE, MISTAKE, ISLAND
Grassy Hill, Pass 13, Canoe Ck, Colo Rv, Pass 17, Mt. Savage, Tambo Ck, Main Ck, (13 Mountains, Mt. Mistake, Glass Range, Un-named Ck (MR 732000), Woollangambe/Colo Jnc, Stream Gully (MR 732000), Island, Drip Rock fire trail. Hard.

replaced by "The Bushwalkers' Federation, NSW"; and

Clause 3; Section d: That the words "Federation of Bush Walking Clubs" be replaced by "Bushwalkers' Federation".

Why Change? The present name of the Federation is simply too long and cumbersome, especially when it is only the first half of the name of one of Federation's several committees. For example, "The 2nd NSW Outdoor Recreation Education Workshop Committee of the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs" - pity those of us who in the course of Federation business have to introduce ourselves to others by such a title! (In this case the committee name also needs abbreviation.) Also the information-carrying capacity of the present name is rather poor. Listeners are likely to have almost lost interest by the time the most important word is reached at the end - "Bushwalking". The need for a name change has been recognised for a long time.

Why change now? Federation is very shortly going to require a large order of new letterheads. For this reason alone it is important that the name we will operate under for the next few years be decided promptly.

Why "The Bushwalkers' Federation, NSW"?

There are three important concepts which need to be conveyed in our name. In order of importance they are firstly, the fact that we are bushwalkers, secondly that this is a federation and not just another club, and thirdly our geographical range. The proposed new name simply lists these concepts in their order of importance. It is expected that except for formal usage only the words "Bushwalkers' Federation" will be used, and this is in fact exactly the form of name that many Federation officers use already during Federation business. In other words, to a large extent the name change is only formalising current usage.

It is important that any new name contains the word "Federation" (unlike, for example, "Bushwalkers of NSW") for three reasons:

1. The Federation is universally known as such among walkers.
2. Every clause in the Constitution refers repeatedly to "the Federation", so that a name change not including this word requires a completely new Constitution.
3. It is seen as important that the name of an organisation should describe it fairly accurately, and our organisation is indeed a federation of clubs in the precise terms of the definition.

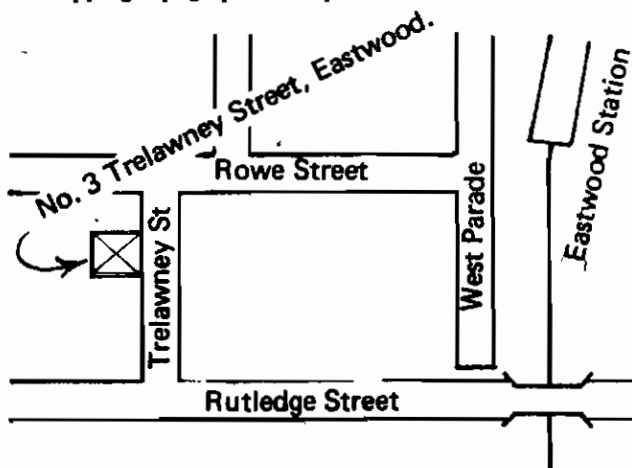
PETER TUFT

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3rd Floor
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Sydney N.S.W. 2000
Phone (02) 231 6050

LIFE...BE IN IT!

Federation has been asked by NSW Sport Recreation Service to assist with a bushwalking 'safari' as part of the 'Life..be in it' campai

Several one day trips will be organised, a special train booked for transport and the people divided into groups which will be taken on easy, introductory walks. What we need from your club is experienced leaders who have:-

- Ideas on suitable walks, particularly on tracks where large numbers of people will cause little damage
- Patience with people who have never been more than 100 metres from their car, esky and radio
- An interest in recruiting new members for their club.

At first thought the prospect of devoting a precious Saturday to plodding through a National Park with a string of novices may not be enticing, but please think again!

The 300 - 400 people who come have chosen to do so BECAUSE THEY ARE INTERESTED IN WALKING IN THE BUSH (they could be chosen to go trail bike riding instead). It will require little encouragement from each group leader to have a big proportion of those people progressing club trips. From the 3 safaris planned, the group leaders are likely to acquire a significant number of new members for their club.

Mirror newspaper will be providing free publicity for bushwalking and the Federation - a full frontal of the newest rucksack and the inside story of a double sleeping bag when the fire dies down!!

If we do not support this project we have no way of ensuring that these people will be introduced to correct and relevant bushwalking skills, that the conservation ethic will be communicated or, that these people who think they may like bushwalking will ever join our clubs.

Please leave your name and phone number with Peter Preneas of the N.P.A. on 233 3618 if you can help, as early as possible.

Tasmanian Wilderness Society Journals will be on sale now at Paddy Pallins. 80¢. Past issues have featured the Central Plateau and the Franklin River, Photos and maps.

The T.W.S. has also produced a set of four greeting cards. Photos by Chris Bell. 50¢ each on sale at Paddy Pallins.

A.B.C. T.V. 8pm Monday 5th June "A Big Country" will be on Olegas Truchanus, called "The Spirit Olegas" featuring Max Angus and Peter Dombrouakis.

New guidebooks are out on the Warrumbungles by Alan Fairly and N.E. Victoria) Alpine Track) Algona Guides

and east to the Colynea State Forest, about 8 kilometres west from Nowra, N.S.W. (See accompanying diagram).

THE BASIS FOR THE STUDY: The published Walking Programmes for:
National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)
Jan 1974 - Jan 1978
The Sydney Bush Walkers - Jan 1975 - Jan 1978
The Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club -
Jan 1976 - Jan 1978

These walking clubs represent three/ forty-thirds of the number of organisations affiliated to the NSW Federation of Bushwalkers. The statistical data extracted from their Walking programmes for the above period was mathematically corrected to obtain a total usage by these 3 clubs over a total four year period.

In order to obtain the total 'Visitation Number' (mentioned below, the Ettrema Bundundah was divided, aesthetically and by natural boundaries, into different sections (12 in all) Each time a club walking trip passed into a different section, a score of ONE was recorded. If the same trip passed through the same area twice, no second count was made.

THE STUDY:
FREQUENCY OF VISITATION TO ETTREMA/BUNDUNDAH:
National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch) -
Once per month

Sydney Bush Walkers - Once per four months
Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - One per two months

PERCENTAGE OF THOSE PROGRAMMED TRIPS WHICH WERE WEEKEND TRIPS, AND PERCENTAGE OF THOSE TRIPS WHICH WERE IN EXCESS OF TWO DAYS DURATION.

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)
73% (weekend) 27% (over)
Sydney Bush Walkers - 90% (weekend),
10% (over 2 days)
Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - 60% (weekend),
40% (over 2 days)

AVERAGE NO. OF PERSONS PER TRIP OVER 4 YEARS DURATION

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)
15 persons
Sydney Bush Walkers - 5 persons
Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - 8 persons

PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAMMED WALKS GRADED MEDIUM, AND PERCENTAGE ABOVE MEDIUM GRADE

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)
50%, 50%
Sydney Bush Walkers - 33%, 67%
Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - 33%, 67%

MOST FREQUENTED AREAS:

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)
1. Jones/Ettrema Area
2. Lower Yalwal/Shoalhaven Area
3. Bundundah Creek
4. Upper Ettrema Gorge
5. Lower Ettrema Creek

Sydney Bush Walkers
1. Jones/Ettrema Area
2. Ettrema Plateau
3. Middle Ettrema Gorge
4. Bungonia/Shoalhaven
5. Bundundah Creek

Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club

1. Jones/Ettrema Area
2. Ettrema Plateau
3. Bundundah Creek
4. Lower Ettrema Creek
5. Quiera Labyrinth

MOST FREQUENTED AREAS (OVERALL)

1. Jones/Ettrema Area
2. Ettrema Plateau
3. Bundundah Creek

VISITATION NUMBER (See under Basis for Study above)

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch) 76
Sydney Bush Walkers 35
Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club 96

Total 207

ENTRY POINTS:

The most used entry points into the Ettrema/Bundundah are:

1. Via the property 'Ennis Clare' (not in National Park.)
2. Via Danjera Dam (not in National Park)
3. Via Grassy Gully Road (in Yalwal State Forest)
4. Via Tullyangela Clearing (not in National Park)

and the highest frequency of visitation, and the largest party numbers on any trip. Its activities are spread throughout the whole area, and its exploratory trips tend to be copied by the other two walking clubs of this study. Whilst its frequency of visitation is high, its usage of the area per walk is low, as only two different sections of the Ettrema/Bundundah are visited per walk, the most popular areas being the Jones Creek/Ettrema Creek area, and the lower Yalwal Creek/Shoalhaven River Area.

The Sydney Bushwalkers have the lowest frequency of visitation, and the lowest numbers in the party per walk, probably due to the fact that 67% of their activities in the area are graded harder than Medium Grade. Their overall usage of the area is generally confined to Jones Creek/Ettrema Creek area, and to the Bungonia Area. The great majority of trips are of weekend duration.

The Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club have the greatest overall usage of Ettrema/Bundundah and their visits tend to incorporate at least 4 different areas per walk, due primarily to the fact that walks are generally programmed in excess of 2 days duration, and are one-way rather than circuitous. Whilst the membership figures for this club are considerably lower than those of the Sydney Bush Walkers, and the percentage of walks graded above Medium Grade is equal in both cases, the Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club has greater member participation on walks in Ettrema/Bundundah. The most popular areas are the Jones Creek/Ettrema Creek Area and the Ettrema Plateau.

DESTINATIONS:

Programmed walks which have a specific visitation point produce the following figures of the most popular viewpoints and locations in Ettrema/Bundundah.

1. Possibility Point (overlooking Ettrema Gorge)
2. Shoalhaven Blockup Gorge (on Shoalhaven River).
3. Thomsons Cliff (on confluence of Ettrema/Jones Cks.)
4. 'Five Ways' (confluence of Tullyangela Ck and Ettrema Creek).

YEARLY VISITATION STATISTICS

Producing a yearly visitation figure is extremely difficult, but some idea can be gained by multiplying the above statistics by the number of walking clubs affiliated to Federation (taking into account those clubs in the New England Area who would not visit the area very much), and allowing for 'unprogrammed' club walks, and 'private' trips between club members, and including an allowance for walks by persons of non-club membership.

Overall participation per year by the three clubs studied = 233 persons
Plus allowance for unprogrammed club walk = 80 persons
Plus allowance for private trips amongst club members = 150 persons

Yearly total of three clubs studied = 463 persons

Of the 43 affiliated clubs, the visitation of those clubs in the New England Area would be virtually NIL (10 clubs), any visitation is offset by including the Newcastle clubs in the study. If we multiply by 11, the figure would be virtually accurate, as increased visitation by large clubs and by clubs in the South Coast/Canberra Area would again offset low visitation by clubs in the Orange/Bathurst Area. However as this study is intended as a guideline to bather an idea of the lowest recreational usage of the area, we concede, AND MULTIPLY THE ABOVE FIGURE BY 10

4,630 persons

SAY, TOTAL VISITATION OF THE ETTREMA/BUNDUNDAH PER YEAR BY BUSHWALKERS IS: 4,500 PERSONS.

PETER HARRIS

weekend instructionals, to be held between June and December this year. The Workshop is intended to foster the spirit of adventure amongst members of outdoors organisations and to direct such persons towards appropriate clubs for further activity.

The Workshop topics, dates, locations are as follows:

BUSHCRAFT - 24, 25 June - Dharug National Park
SKI TOURING - 22, 23 July - Kosciusko National Park

INTRODUCTION MOUNTAINEERING - 26, 27 August
Kosciusko National Park

CANOEING - 23, 24 September - Manning River

ROCK CLIMBING - 14, 15 October - Blue Mountains Nat. Park

CAVING - 11, 12 November - Bungonia Caves SRA

CANYONING - 2, 3 December - Blue Mountains Nat. Park

Instruction will be at basic level with some progression to intermediate, hence experienced persons need not apply for those segments. Costs, including discounted hire equipment are available, so for complete details send SAE to:

The Secretary
Peter Tuft,
11/30 Ethel Street
Eastwood N.S.W. 2122

or enquire at Paddy Pallin, Mountain Equipment, or Southern Cross.

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The Hon. W.F. Crabtree, Minister for Lands,
Parliament House, Macquarie Street,
Sydney, 2000

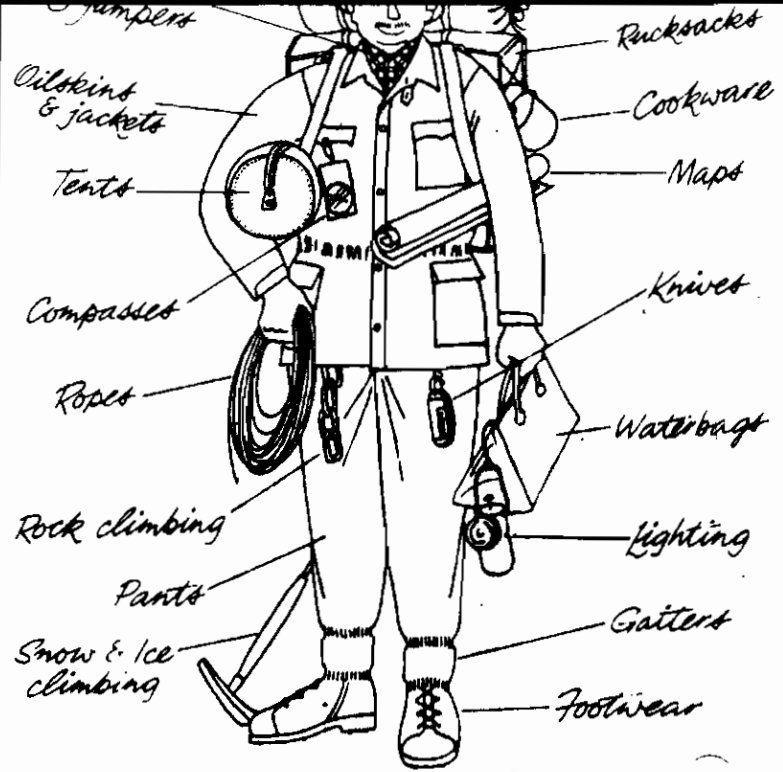
Dear Sir,

I am in support of dedicating the Colo
Wilderness as a National Park.

I feel this should be done as soon as possible
to protect this heritage for all Australians.

Name _____

Address _____



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| NEWTEC FAMILY WALKABOUT GROUP | |
| SPRINGWOOD BUSHWALKING CLUB | |
| GOULBURN FIELD NATURALISTS SOC. | |
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| ED HANVIN | FERGUS BELL |
| ANNE MARIE CAMPBELL | |

Thanks to those who wish to remain anonymous

QUOTATION

A continuous trail from Cooktown south to Melbourne has been mapped by the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association. One of their aims is to encourage riders to protect native fauna and flora. Certainly any effort which gets visitors out of trailbikes and fourwheel drive vehicles, and on to the back of horses is to be encouraged.

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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ISSN 0313-2684

WEEKEND SEMINAR 6-7 MAY

COULOUL RANGE

50 Bushies and Conservationists attended and all felt the weekend was very rewarding. The road into the camp site (7 miles in, at the Blue Gums) was much improved thanks to the Electricity Commission and all drivers were able to bring their own cars in. Speakers included Peter Hitchcock, Chief Resources Officer N.P. & W.S., Dick Mason, Convenor of Reserves Committee N.P.A., Haydn Washington & Rodney Falconer of the Colo Committee and myself. Peter Hitchcock emphasised the seriousness with which the service was pursuing dedication of the Colo-Hunter area but did stress the conflict with coal. However he mentioned the work being done to resolve this conflict without going into detail. Dick Mason covered the long history of involvement of the N.P.A. in park proposals over the area and promised their continuing support. Haydn & Rodney from the Colo Committee gave details of plans of the Electricity Commission and other threats.

The workshop session chose four topics as follows:

- Recreational Use - Peter Tuft
- Political Action - Keith Maxwell
- Data Collection - Rodney Falconer
- Is Cooling Water Necessary?
- Is the Power Necessary? - Haydn Washington

The recommendations of the groups were:

Recreational Use - More walking in the area by club members through newsletter articles and exchange of programmes. By non club walkers through SMH getaway, Orienteering Association, Canoe clubs & Fisherman.

More tourist use of the area provided it conformed with future management plans e.g. car camping in Newnes, Glen Davis, Olinda and near non sensitive lookout points.

Political Action - Counter the 4 wheel drive clubs activity with petitions, letters to politicians and newspapers. Clubs to establish policies on conservation issues so that secretaries can act quickly as issues arise.

Data Collection - Scientific information, plants, animals, geology is essential to case for park - Colo Committee to prepare kits for bushwalkers for data collection. Fast feedback on illegal activity to conservation secretary also essential.

Is Water or Power Necessary? - This is a complex issue that requires greater study. However, the suspicion is that the E.C. works on an inappropriate growth rate, the proposed 6,000 megawatt power station at Newnes which would need Colo water is a political decision and that use of the Hunter coal would be more economic.

The formal session was over by nightfall, dinner followed with the group reassembling at 7 p.m. for a slide show and campfire. Sunday morning five parties left on various daywalks to Bourai Creek, Bourai Ridge, the Cliff Tops, Wollemi Creek, and a through walk down Wollemi Ck. and up Bourai Ridge, the last party arriving back at 5 p.m. A great weekend with many

people saying lets do it again.

B. VOTE

SWIM IN IT, BUT DON'T DRINK IT!

Did you know that Govetts Leap Creek carries the discharge from 2 sewerage treatment works into the Grose? A further 2 outlets drain into the lower Grose via Wentworth Ck and Woodford Ck. The E. coli counts in Govetts Leap Ck., after wet weather would make your billy boil, without the fire!

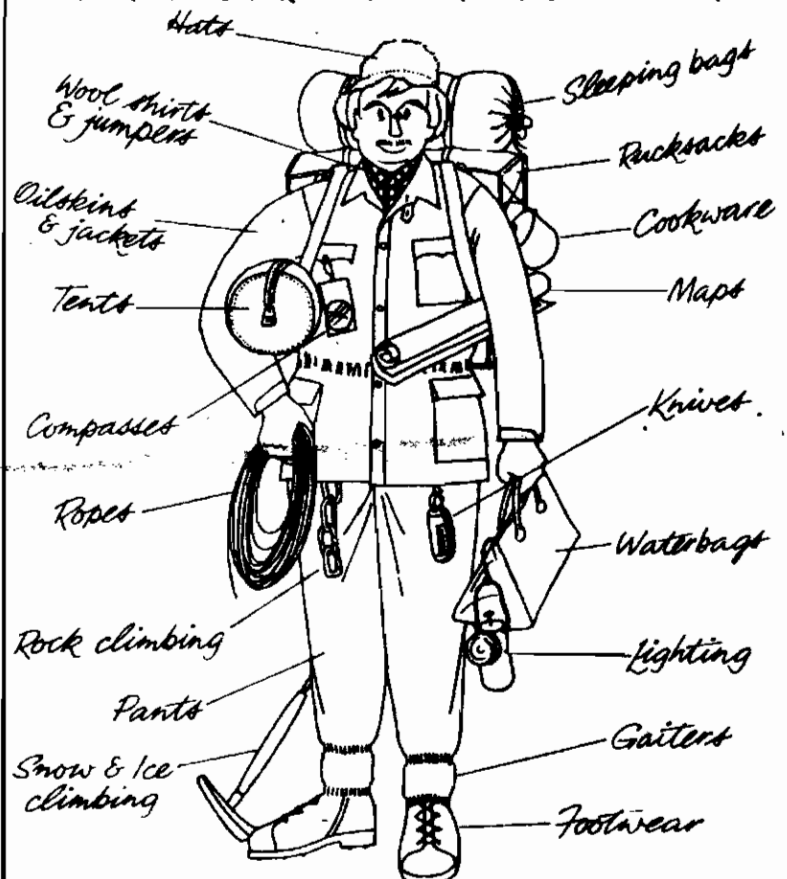
Seriously though, the Grose is standing up to the drainage of a growing urban population reasonably well. It is safe for swimming and almost acceptable for drinking during dry weather, however boiling is recommended at all times.

These fascinating details and more are to be found in State Pollution Control Commission: Report on a water-quality survey of the Grose River, Feb-Mar. 1977.

This book plus a wide range of environmental publications is available for reading, from the LIBRARY AT THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE, upstairs at 399 Pitt Street. Hours are usually 9-5 week days, plus occasional evenings - please phone 233 5388 for details.

May's Choice has a report on framed rucksacks and 16 packs are compared.

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Roddy Bellin

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46 NORTHBOURNE AVENUE, CANBERRA, ACT 2904
28 WINDHAM STREET, MELBOURNE, VIC 3000. 674848

...been completely rewritten, but still embodies the major concept of Ross' original policy. Assistance in compiling the policy presented here came from many people, particularly Ross Bradstock, Keith Morrell and Chris Cosgrove who received a preliminary draft containing Sections 1-7. Sections 8 & 9 were added later at their suggestion and have not yet been shown to anyone for comment.

The policy will be debated at the August Council meeting, and accepted unless major amendments are required.

1. Objectives

This policy differs from others of the Federation in that it is intended to provide guidance for the actions of individual walkers as well as for the Federation as a whole. Its main objective is to set out a code of behaviour for the use of wilderness areas by bushwalkers. Aspects of wilderness use which come under this policy include use and abuse of natural resources, waste disposal, navigational markers, artificial shelters, mapping and motor vehicle and roads.

Much of the policy simply reiterates simple attitudes and ethics which are well known and have been widely accepted by bushwalkers for many years. However familiarity is no reason for exclusion, especially as many such points are particularly relevant to wilderness areas.

A secondary objective, aimed more at Federation Council than individual walkers, is to produce an acceptable compromise between maintenance of wilderness quality, and modifications to natural areas for the convenience of walkers. It is to be hoped that such a compromise will satisfy both those who pursue the highest possible wilderness quality, and those who are prepared to sacrifice some degree of wilderness experience for the ease, or even the possibility, of obtaining that experience. Thus this second aim is largely to protect wilderness as much as possible from the implacable encroachment of man-made features without going to such an extreme as to seriously downgrade the artificial aids already existing in more developed walking areas.

2. Definitions

2.1 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 of an individual or group depends on the natural resources of the region and no more equipment than that individual or group can personally carry. Specifically, areas nominated as such in the Helman study "Wilderness in Australia" are to be considered wilderness but not to the exclusion of other suitable areas.

2.2 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 by man's works.

2.3 Waste. Any item or substance which is of no further use to a walker and which is to be disposed of is waste. Included in the definition are human excreta, food scraps, food containers, and damaged or unwanted equipment.

2.4 Navigational Markers. A navigational marker is any permanent or semi-permanent man-made structure, item or alteration of a natural feature which is intended to provide navigational guidance to walkers. Included in the definition are cairns, tapes, blazes, metal route markers, stakes, signs, snow poles and tracks.

2.5 Artificial Shelter. An artificial shelter is any permanent or semi-permanent man-made structure or modification of a natural feature which is intended to provide overnight sleeping accommodation for walkers. Included in the definition are huts, lean-tos and modified natural rock overhangs.

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 the experience of some degree of wilderness quality is an intrinsic part of bushwalking.

...their enjoyment of the bush enhanced by the same artificial aids which others find objectionable due to their impact on an area's wilderness quality.

Hence both wilderness quality, and the maintenance of some man-made aids to the enjoyment of wilderness, are valid values on which to base this policy.

A third value is that of self-reliance of the wilderness visitor, as implied in the definition of wilderness. Wilderness visitors should be dependent on natural resources and no more equipment than they can personally carry, and should not demand degradation of wilderness to the level of their own ability. A limited analogy can be drawn with rockclimbing ethics, in which a climber should not use artificial aid on a route which has been climbed without it, because to do so would deface the climb for those of greater ability who do not need aid. In other words, those who find that something is too difficult for them in its present condition should raise their own standards to comply with the challenge, rather than use artificial means which destroy the challenge for others.

4. Use and Abuse of Natural Resources and the Environment

The guiding principle in this and subsequent sections of this policy is that the environment in general must be disturbed as little as possible, so that it remains in its original state for the enjoyment of future visitors. Specifically:

4.1 Living vegetation should be untouched, and only dead timber used for firewood, tent-poles, etc. Aluminium tent poles should be carried in areas where suitable natural poles are scarce.

4.2 Rocks and soil should be untouched; great care should be taken of fragile rock formations, and throwing or rolling rocks is unnecessarily destructive.

4.3 Campsites should ideally show no trace of their use as such after departure, new campsites and fireplaces should not be created if existing sites are available.

4.4 Campfires should be located with care, completely extinguished after use, and disguised upon departure.

5. Waste Disposal

The guiding principle in waste disposal is again to produce zero effect on the environment. To this end the policy for garbage disposal is "Carry in, carry out". Burying garbage is no longer acceptable. In high use areas the waste is likely to be dug up by others looking for a burial spot. In low use areas the disturbance to the ground can and should be easily avoided by carrying the waste right out of the bush.

The one partial exception to this rule is that dry, combustible rubbish may be burnt if a campfire is available; fires should not be lit solely for incineration of rubbish. Plastic, or garbage with a high moisture content, often burns incompletely; it should be carried out unless total incineration in a hot campfire is certain. Otherwise all partially burnt, unburnt, and unburnable rubbish should be physically removed from campfires and from the bush. Unburnable rubbish includes not only cans, but foil, squeeze tubes, eggshells and anything metallic or glass. It is not too much to ask that in addition to one's own rubbish, litter left by others should also be carried out of the bush.

All washing should be carried out downstream of the water supply for both present and potential campsites. Soap is much more acceptable than strong detergents.

Human excreta should be disposed of well away from both present and potential campsites, and also well away from both watercourses and tracks. If faeces cannot be buried, they should at least be covered as much as possible, and toilet paper burnt (with due regard, however, for the bushfire danger).

6. Navigational Markers

Ideally there should be no navigational markers of any sort in a true wilderness. However it must be accepted that the most popular bushwalking areas contain a number of navigational markers, which furthermore, are expected to be found there by the majority of walkers.

On the other hand there are strong arguments for a complete moratorium of indefinite duration on construction of new navigational markers in all areas. In this way existing true wilderness will be preserved, and existing popular walking areas will not become a maze of well marked and well worn routes.

Thus the general policy statement is that no navigational markers should be either removed or built. Application of this policy will maintain the present good balance between true wilderness and popular, well-tracked walking areas.

There are three minor exceptions to the general policy statement:

6.1 Navigational markers should be removed if they exist in an area of nearly pure wilderness, if very few people would be dependent on them, or if they are of relatively recent construction and little known.

6.2 Navigational markers may be built if such construction can be considered repair or maintenance of a well known and well used marker system in a well used area containing a significant number of other markers or marker systems. In such cases marker system maintenance should be not only accepted but encouraged, within the strict limitations of this policy.

6.3 Entirely new marker systems may be built in only one circumstance: where an area is so sensitive that significant damage can be caused by small numbers of walkers, and is so heavily used that consequent extensive damage is likely, there may be justification for the marking of a single route on which all damage will be concentrated, leaving the remainder of the area untouched.

On the same grounds, individual walkers should keep to existing paths and avoid creating multiple parallel tracks.

7. Artificial Shelters

(This section does not apply to huts in the Kosciusko National Park, for which there is a separate policy).

Huts are clearly incompatible with true wilderness. Further, they are incompatible with the wilderness experience except in environments of a harshness rarely found in Australia. In this context, management, survival and training value (as defined in the Policy on Huts in the Kosciusko National Park) are not significant in non-alpine areas. Thus the only justification for the existence of artificial shelters in wilderness or near-wilderness is historical value. Otherwise, climatic and other conditions (alpine areas excluded) do not justify huts for use by walkers in areas of significant wilderness quality.

Clearly, on this basis, no new huts or shelters of any sort should be built for use by walkers. Similarly, it should be the Federation's policy to advocate the removal of huts from wilderness areas, unless they have some historical value.

In alpine areas of relatively low wilderness quality a few, well separated, very basic survival huts may be tolerated. However high quality alpine wilderness areas require special competence and self-reliance on the part of the wilderness user.

The hut used by the Catholic Bushwalking Club on Scotts Main Range will be tolerated for the sake of unity within the Federation, despite the fact that other walkers may find the existence of an exclusive hut in a near-wilderness area objectionable.

8. Mapping

Much of Australia is already, or shortly will be, mapped topographically. Such mapping does little harm to wilderness areas. However it is an established fact that ready availability of specialist bushwalking maps or guide books can cause enormous growth in tracks and campsites simply through greatly increased usage of an area; this impact is greatest if a map shows or recommends specific routes and camps. Clearly, publication of detailed specialist maps and guide books to wilderness areas is inimical to the preservation of the highest quality wilderness, and cannot be endorsed by this policy.

However there is justification for the publication of simple small scale maps, suitable for general navigation, which

any other information likely to lead to localised wear if it can be avoided.

Care should be taken to ensure that even these most basic maps do not cover all wilderness areas. Considerable scope must be left, as far as it is possible with the existence of topographical maps, for truly exploratory trips.

9. Motor Vehicles and Roads

(The scope of this section is limited to the use of motor vehicles by bushwalkers while travelling to and from bushwalking areas. It is not a comprehensive policy on off-road vehicles).

Ideally, no vehicles should be able to enter a wilderness, and to this end the Federation strongly advocates the permanent closure and regeneration of all roads in wilderness areas. However in general there is little point in closing a road if it is to be maintained for some specific purpose. From a walker's point of view such an action only converts an easy drive along a wilderness intrusion into an unpleasant walk along the same intrusion. Thus wilderness roads should by preference be revegetated, but if they are to be maintained they should be open to all.

The fact that roads within wilderness areas often provide useful access to these areas for bushwalkers raises the issue of walkers' use of such roads. Firstly, it must be said that no vehicle should ever leave a formed road or well-worn vehicular track. Secondly, if a road within a wilderness area is open to and used by the public, if it can be negotiated without damaging it, and if it is not regenerating to natural bush, then there is no reason why bushwalkers too should not take advantage of it. However vehicles should not be driven along a road or track if to do so would damage regenerating vegetation, steep grades or creek crossings, or if fallen trees or rocks would require a detour off the formed track into the bush. Nor should vehicles ever be driven through wilderness areas simply for the sake of doing so.

PETER TUFT

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Rumour has it that the latest edition of George Elliott's (C.M.W.) Budawang Sketch Map will be available by the June Long Weekend. The map is basically the same however some details have been clarified and the

of gentle streams. Perhaps we are in for a mild winter however it is worth considering the following points.

- Don't try and cross flooded streams, instead it is better to sit it out.
- A stream that is quick to rise is also quick to fall.
- Camp on the river bank that is on the side you wish to get out, or offers the quickest route out.
- Carry emergency food such as rice and apricots, light but fitting.
- Carry waterproof matches and fuel tablets.
- Warn parents of possibility of being trapped by floods.
- Smooth waters run deep.

An alternative to the first point is to walk upstream in an effort to keep active and to find a crossing place. Obviously if trapped by the Kowmung (for example) this would be a bit pointless.

This story was heard third-hand, and may not be entirely accurate, but it nevertheless serves its purpose well as a cautionary tale. On Anzac Day an unknown member of an unnamed club was in the vicinity of Carlon's Farm with a number of beginners (i.e. people even less experienced than himself?). The plan was to walk to the Cox and back via Galong Creek, expected to take "a couple of hours".

Having had lunch at the river the leader suggested a return via Breakfast Creek instead. "Not much extra distance" he claimed, but not having a map (!) he seemed unaware that it was really three times as far. Needless to say darkness overtook the party on the track up Breakfast Creek. It was a very dark night, and cold. No-one had a torch. No-one had matches. No-one had any food. The leader had only the T-shirt and shorts he wore, and most of the others had little more. It wasn't a very pleasant night. Fortunately no-one got hypothermia (but what if it had rained?) and all were back in Sydney by mid-morning the next day.

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concern to Federation because members of its clubs, or at least leaders, are supposed to be competent and responsible. (It is on this basis, for example, that the Water Board grants access to the Warragamba Catchment Area). It is also detrimental to Federation and walkers as a whole if such incidents grow to something more serious and the news reaches the public. The story has all the characteristics of the "little boy lost" that the newspapers love, rather than the behaviour expected from members of a Federation club.

PETER T.

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

If you haven't kept up with recent events on Kakadu N.P. these acquisitions at the Environment Centre Library may be of interest.

Australian & N.Z. Environment Report, a regular summary of events, in issue No. 3, 1978 reports that hearings have now proceeded before the Mining Warden, Darwin in respect of Peko/EZ applications for leases over significant new uranium mineralization within the proposed Kakadu National Park.

Other recent issues of the Report indicated that 50 comments were received by the Dept. of the Environment on the draft environment impact statement for Pancontinental's Jubiluka project; 18 on the Nabarlek Project which is outside the proposed park.

The draft environment impact statements for both Queensland Mines' Nabarlek Uranium Project and the Jubiluka Project are now in the library. We also have the Australian Government's publication on the Uranium Decision, the Fox Report and the Ranger Mines E.I.S.

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