

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

A WALK IN THE WOLLANGAMBE

(In future, if articles are available, a description of a walk will appear in each Newsletter. Any description of a slightly different trip are wanted).

Map: Wollangambe 1:25,000

On Friday night, after much argument as to where to go, Steve, Rob and I finally decided on our trip, and asked the train to stop at Newnes Junction. That night we walked long fire trails, under a brilliant moonlight sky, to the headwaters of Dumbano Ck (GR470974).

After an early start, we followed an overgrown firetrail along Boiler Ridge. Soon the fire trail petered out, and we navigated to the saddle at GR481981. From here the nature of the ridge started to change. The vegetation changed to low heath, and rocky sections became more common. The weather was excellent and the views were good. We soon arrived at a ridge junction (GR484988) and left Boiler Ridge to follow the northern rocky and barren spur, Arthurs Spur. With many rock obstacles and rather resistant heath, going along this section was rather slow. When we dropped off the ridge to the creek junction at GR497998, the scrub became quite bad for a short bit. Following the creek down was a particularly pleasant change from the last section of the ridge. But soon the creek fell over a small waterfall into canyon below. Rob was very apprehensive at this point. From the top of the waterfall it looked like an almost certain swim, with more waterfalls ahead. Being winter, and not having waterproof packs, the thought of a swim was particularly unpleasant. Steve was keen to go on and see what lay ahead, so he absailed down (the waterfall was big enough to jump). Steve soon yelled back that there was a ledge in the water that would prevent a swim, and that the canyon ahead looked excellent. Rob and I followed Steve's lead, and soon we were walking through a dark magnificent canyon. However it finished shortly, and we found ourselves on Bungleboori Ck. After a relaxing lunch in the sun, we walked 200m down Bungleboori Ck (GR503003) and climbed the south east spur. Though slow going, Bungleboori Ck was very picturesque, with cascades and overhanging trees.

Once out of Bungleboori Ck, we headed across Boiler Ridge, in fading light, to Dumbano Ck. Though a canyon in some parts, there are places where Dumbano can be easily crossed and indeed camped on. Navigation at this point needs to be accurate to avoid canyon sections. We dropped into Dumbano without difficulty immediately opposite a rather interesting tributary (GR521982). The tributary was an exceptionally dark tunnel-like canyon. After walking up this for 100m we were stopped by a dark icy pool.

Returning to Dumbano, we made a pleasant though restricted, camp. Steve was particularly impressed with the creek, especially its crystal clear water. Upstream from the camp we could see a house sized chock stone bridging Dumbano. The pleasantness of the spot was spoiled by drizzle after dusk, but luckily this had disappeared by the next morning.

With an early start, we climbed the spur directly to the south then traversed the tops to descend to Yarramun Ck (GR528953). Two hundred metres downstream was one of the most remarkable features of the Northern Blue Mountains, Yarramun Tunnel. About 100m long and the size of a railway tunnel, Yarramun Tunnel is dark enough to consider using a torch. After suitable investigation, we climbed the rocky, dissected spur to the west, and followed the ridge system to Wollangambe Crater. The descent to a small creek near the Crater (GR514928) was rather spectacular, with large cliffs and pagodas all about us.

After crossing the flat yellow grass of the Crater, we had a later lunch at the Crater's mouth. After a night we had not considered overly cold, the 5cm thick ice on a pool at the Crater's mouth showed what a cold spot the Crater must be. In all the contrast between this spot and the rest of the area was quite remarkable. After lunch, and after a quick visit to a small gorge downstream in the Wollangambe, we walked back to Bell by the standard fast western ridge, Garrats Ridge. Garrats Ridge is quite interesting in its own right, having several very open sections, as well as pagodas and a defile. We arrived back on the road at GR461908, with only a short walk to the railway station.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Total Environment Centre will be holding its third annual book fair between 24th November and 31st January. Major Australian and overseas publishers display their best and newest publications on the environment, conservation, alternative life styles and the outdoors. Posters and prints are also on display. On display and for sale at:

The Total Environment Centre,
18 Argyle Street, Sydney.

DONATIONS

ETREMA APPEAL: Our thanks to the following, who made donations to the Etrema Appeal:-

Frank Rigby	Charlie Morris
Margaret Tafe	The Bush Club
Nancy Stillman	D.J. Shepherd
Christopher Rowland	P. Deacon
K. Sneddon	Jacqueline Cleary
N.P.A. (Milton Branch)	A. Vauy
Y.H.A. Campers Club	J. Hillman
P. Reynolds	P. Miethke
P. Green	Narrabri B/Ws
C.B.C.	A & D Battye
W. Davidson	Newcastle M. Club
A.C.F.	N.P.A. (Tamworth Branch)
Canberra B/Ws	

SOUTHERN CROSS EQUIPMENT has donated \$174 towards the printing of 1000 Etrema & 2,000 Colo car stickers

TRUDIE ADAMS' FAMILY made a donation to Federation in gratitude for Federation's help in attempting to find Trudie. Trudie disappeared in the Mona Vale region, and Search and Rescue helped search some of the local bushlands for her. No trace has yet been found of Trudie.

A primary concept of wilderness is 'unmechanized man and nature'. The use of machines within a wilderness, particularly motor driven transport, is a basic contradiction. One of the reasons why four wheel drive and over snow vehicles are prohibited from wilderness is the obvious interference they cause to people who have to enter the area on foot, hopefully to avoid such things. It is hard to express the feelings of a walker or ski-tourer who has been out for a week, to have his recreation shattered by the arrival of an internal combustion engine. To be interfered with more than once in a week is not uncommon.

- There are four categories of aircraft which affect Kosciuski;
1. Flights of military aircraft, both jets and helicopters.
 2. Light planes providing low altitude joy flights
 3. Helicopters belonging to the National Parks Service
 4. Major civilian aircraft that fly over the northern end of the park.

All categories provide a disturbance to a greater or lesser extent. By far the most objectionable is the first. Not only are the military the most noisy by number and nature, but the very connotations of their activities are completely alien to wilderness. During an eight day trip from Kiandra towards Kosciusko, at the height of our wilderness experience, our silence was shattered by the shriek of F111's hugging the ground on radar, only 30m above our heads. But they were not content with one trip, but they returned again and again. Also the landing of troupes on Watsons Crags for skiing lessons must be a most repulsive intrusion on wilderness.

Unfortunately, the problem is an increasing one. Severe controls should exist on the military's activities within the park, and most specifically within the wilderness areas.

Following the military use of wilderness airspace, low altitude joy flights are second on the list. These joy flights are mostly over the Main Range between Kosciusko and Tate, though I have seen them as far north as Mt. Jagungal. Luckily their activities impinge less on the environment when they are there, but they are there more often. They also tend to circle ski parties and this buzzing only helps to make matters worse. Their presence is alien to wilderness and to argue commercial necessity for the operators surely does not hold water. I find them the least justifiable of the lot. If the joy riders in four wheel drives are excluded, then so should these planes.

As a principle, the Service's use of helicopters is also alien to wilderness. However the arguments for the necessity of their existence for the preservation of the wilderness are worthy of consideration. I can only express the hope that close (closer than at present) supervision is kept in this quarter.

Finally the operation of commercial jets currently offers only a minor intrusion into the wilderness. The high altitudes flown usually results in only a vapour trail. This visual reminder I would prefer to be without but, while their frequency and flight paths remain at present, only a small objection could be raised. A watch would be needed for any significant changes.

Any legislation to control flying, would ideally ban all aircraft from sight and earshot of the wilderness areas. However ideals are frequently not achieved. Clearly low altitude flying is the main factor in the breaking down of the wilderness experience, by aircraft. There is no scope for such activities on any but the most essential and minor scale for wilderness maintenance. The tolerance of wilderness users to high altitude flights would no doubt, vary with the individuals' acceptance of numbers of both flights and flight paths. Present usage in this area would probably be acceptable to most.

TIM LAMBLE

The objects of the newly formed South East Conservation Council are the strengthening of action in support of conservation issues in the South-East Region of New South Wales.

An ever present issue is the wood chip operations based in Eden which have a lasting impact on native flora and fauna and the environment generally of that area.

We believe that the issues involved are not only of local importance but of national importance in establishing yardsticks and parameters of what is and what is not acceptable practice and what should be resisted at all costs.

The general public is not perhaps aware of what forestry is costing the taxpayer annually in New South Wales. For example, the average taxpayer is well aware that taxes are going up and that social services are being pruned, but virtually no one is aware that forestry expenditure for 1976/77 was \$37,000,000 whereas revenue was only \$14,000,000. And over the last six years that forestry expenditure exceeded revenue by some \$90,000,000.

There is obviously a strong correlation between good environmental practices in forestry and revenue and expenditure. Clearly the environment will always come off second best when there is an adverse balance.

The wood chip industry is supposed to be one of forestry's most profitable ventures, but the South East Forestry District does not balance local expenditure against revenue let alone pay salaries etc. which are costed at Head Office. In actual fact, after allowing for Head Office charges, the South East Forestry District is in the 'red' to the tune of approximately \$12,000,000 over the last six years to 30th June 1977.

The taxpayer is subsidising the environmental disasters associated with wood chipping in the South East and this subsidy is one of the issues which continues to concern this Council.

For further information, please contact the South East Conservation Council, P.O. Box 1875, Canberra City, ACT 2601 or phone (062) 544 157 or (062) 473 064.

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ETTREMA: We are still awaiting the decision from the Mining Warden. Meanwhile John Doyle has decided to sue all the clubs he tried to sue before (last time he forgot to turn up at the Court and the suits were dismissed).

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA: The long awaited 'Cartland Committee Report' into land use in S-W Tasmania has been tabled. Basically it would seem the report was a waste of time since none of the major issues - hydro-developments, forestry and mining were resolved. The word "wilderness" is never mentioned in all its pages. It does however recommend extending the conservation area to include all the South West. It also proposes setting up a S-W Authority to decide on future land use problems as they arise. This piecemeal approach we feel will only act as a rubber stamp to development.

Federation has a press release published in the Hobart "Mercury" criticising the report. The Tasmanian Government has allowed only 4 weeks for comments but has declared a moratorium on future developments until it decides whether to accept the report's recommendations.

COLO: An anti-Colo National Park Group has been formed, known as CLUC (Colo Land Use Committee), it consists of 4 WD owners, land owners and sawmillers.

The Henry Gold/Peter Prineas book on the Colo will be available very shortly and can be expected to be a good document in support of the Colo N.P.

WYANBENE: A company known as Occidental Mineral Corporation has applied for an exploration licence over an area which includes all the caves and limestone at Wyanbene. This is in the proposed Deua-tuross National Park.

BUDAWANGS: Federation has been concerned over recent controlled burns taking place. Apparently Monolith Valley has been burnt out. At present we are inquiring of the attitudes of the superintendent, especially in the light of the fact that Federation agreed to a moratorium on capping in the area.

DEUA-TUROSS WILDERNESS: Federation has received a letter from Mr. Crabtree acknowledging Federation's concern over the possible creation of a State Recreation Area rather than National Park in the area. Mr. Crabtree states:-

"I am certainly aware of the natural value of the area and of the pressure for its dedication as a national park. The NPWS has almost completed its investigations of the area and I hope to have a recommendation for its dedication as a national park in the near future."

DAVE NOBLE
Conservation Officer.

COOLENDEL AND THE ETTREMA WILDERNESS

Coolendel Nature Retreat is a private camping park and recreation area beside the Shoalhaven River, 32km west of Nowra. The area has been gazetted as a Wildlife Refuge and with careful management provides for the conservation of flora and fauna for people. This is borne out by the fact that over the last two years, some 6,000 campers and 1,500 day visitors have enjoyed the atmosphere of Coolendel. Coolendel being in close proximity to Morton NP and the Ettrema-Bundadah Wilderness, provides a recreational facility and an ideal base camp for those wishing to walk into the Ettrema area.

It can now be appreciated that the magnificent Ettrema Wilderness can provide, under the strict supervision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, a recreational asset for the people of Australia. From my intimate knowledge of the area, I envisage that this wilderness has prime and exclusive value as a National Park recreational and aesthetic resource, while providing a pollution free catchment for a most valuable commodity - pure clean water.

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MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

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Ph. 439 2454, 439 1647

62 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY, 2001
Ph. 29 4040



NEW PUBLICATIONS

COLO WILDERNESS (Peter Prineas and Henry Gold): This book includes chapters on aboriginal influence, natural history, history and bushwalking. 112 pages, nearly 100 photos maps. Printed on quality art paper, and priced \$6.95. It will be published quite soon. Order from 'Kalianna Press', Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street, Sydney, 2000.

WILDERNESS IN DANGER - A CASE STUDY OF THE NORTHERN BLUE MOUNTAINS (Michael Bell and Associates): This book investigates the threats to the integrity of the Northern Blue Mountains Wilderness. It includes 6 maps as well as chapters on wilderness (and common misconceptions about wilderness), management of the Northern Blue Mountains. Of particular general interest is a section on myths and misconceptions about wilderness. It is priced at \$5 (plus 60¢ postage) and is available from the Colong Committee, Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney.

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS - Their Future in NSW (ed. F.C. Bell): A most excellent general book on NSW forests. Its publication in May was of sufficient note to receive an article in the Herald. It is 92 pages long, with many black and white photos. It is printed on glossy paper, and is available from the Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney. It is a book well worth having.

THE SOUTH WEST BOOK: A comprehensive work on all aspects of South West Tasmania - history, natural environment, recreation and conservation. 300 pages, 400 black and white photos, maps and diagrams. Order now. Prepublication offer of \$10.50 post free (\$15 hard bound - limited number). To be published in December 1978. Orders are to be sent to the South West Tasmania Committee.

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS CALENDAR 1978. 13 superb photographs for only \$4.70 including postage (or \$4 direct from the South West Tasmania Committee). Available now from the South West Tasmania Committee, C/o Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street, Sydney, 2000. (It is a good idea to order through the South West Tasmania Committee as all their profits will go towards the preservation of the South West Tasmania Wilderness).

OUTDOOR SENIOR SCOUTING (Rick Jamieson): Though this book was published 10 years ago, the information within it is still generally not too much out of date. It includes chapters on bushwalking, canyoning, caving and a more out of date section on rock climbing. It contains very useful information on specific walks, canyons and caves. At only \$1.59 it is good value. It is available from the Clarence Street Scout Shop in the city.

During the last twelve months the Committee has completed the renewal of our radio system. The total cost to date has been just over \$5,000. We are grateful to the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation for two grants totalling \$1,000 each, the Paddy Pallin Foundation for grants totalling \$800 and to you, the bushwalkers, for the balance of \$2,200. Additionally, the Paddy Pallin Foundation has made available \$400 to be used for equipment renewal and to go towards a smaller trailer.

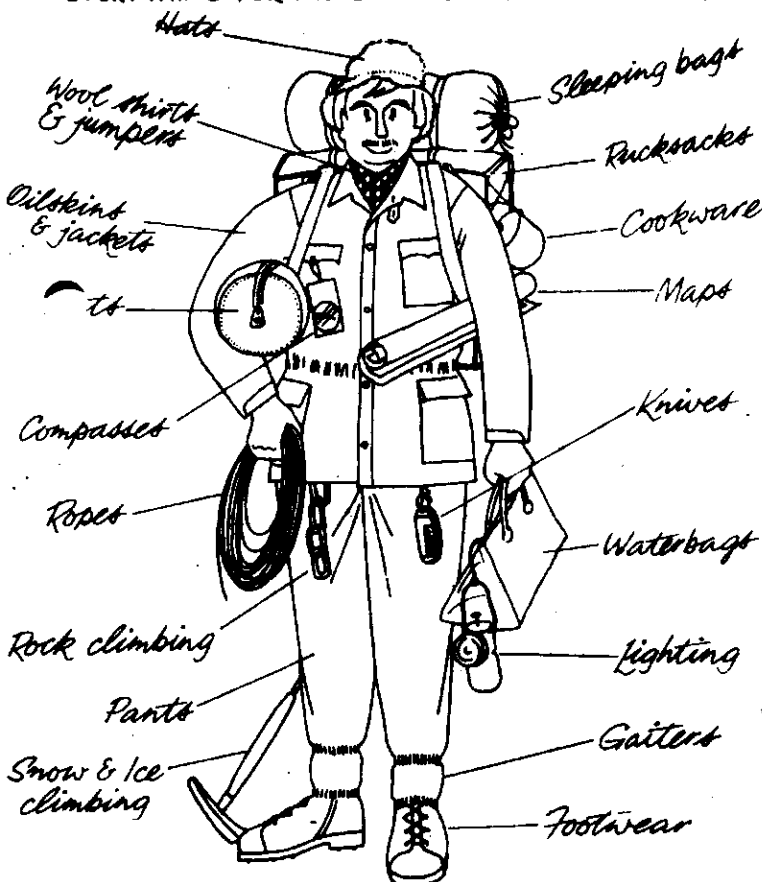
Those walkers who have attended recent practices will agree that the new radios are a worthwhile acquisition. Gone are the days of fiddling with aerial connections and avoiding thick scrub; the new flexible serials have solved those problems. Increased efficiency means much greater range; the portable sets now communicate reliably to base at ranges up to 10km.

In spite of the improved radios, S & R activity has been minimal. There have been no call-outs, however the committee has been on stand-by on two occasions. In one instance a Canberra girl walked out to Carlons and on the other occasion we were not able to convince the Police Department that we should rescue a scout from the Claustral area. Training weekends have been in marked contrast with much accent on difficult terrain. The need for basic rope and rock skills was vividly demonstrated with a late afternoon/evening extraction from Ranon Ravine.

The Committee is arranging a meeting with officials from the Police Department to discuss future activity. Our higher level of organisation will go a long way towards supporting our cause.

On behalf of the
Search & Rescue Committee
FERGUS BELL
Rescue Officer

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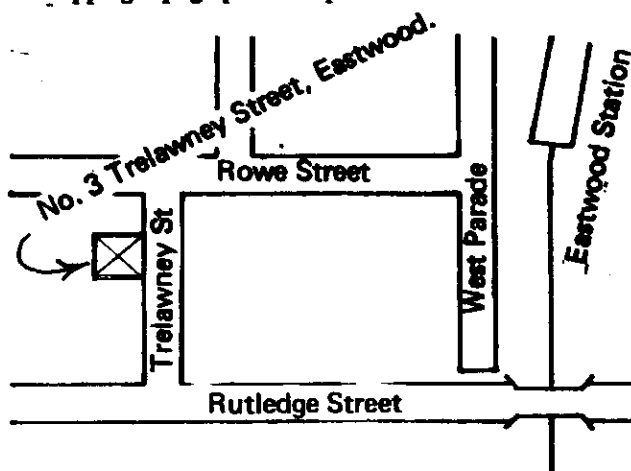
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ORIENTEERING

The Orienteering Service of Australia in conjunction with the Orienteering Association of N.S.W., will be conducting an orienteering Instructors Workshop at the Naamaroo Conference Centre, Lady Game Drive, Lane Cove from Friday evening, December 1st to Sunday afternoon, December 3rd.

The workshop will be open to both residents and non-residents from schools, colleges, universities, youth organisations, recreational departments, community groups.

ORIENTEERING SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA

Postal Address: P.O. Box 118,
Arndale Centre, French's Forest 2086
14 Coster Place, French's Forest 2086
Telephone: 451 4843

POETRY

This poem (painted on a board) overlooks the road to McMahon's Lookout (near Wentworth Falls). It appears on the farm of a man well known for his anti-national parks sentiments. His farm was recently surrounded by the extended Blue Mountains NP.

Brave King Wran,
Has a Socialist Plan
All for Nationalisation is He,
He calls for his Milo,
He calls for his Pen,
and proclaims this Park by Decree.

The aim of the Newsletter is to keep bushwalkers up to date with current matters of interest. It will do this best if its articles come from a reasonably large range of walkers, not just the regular contributors. Articles for the Newsletter are always wanted. Any articles for the Newsletter can be sent to

Bob Sault,
4 Clarence Avenue,
Killara 2071
(Phone 498 7897)

Closing dates for articles will generally be very early in the month. All other correspondence should be sent to

Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
Box 2098, G.P.O.,
Sydney, NSW 2001