

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

ISSN 0313-2684

WALKERS MEET RIDERS

Two meetings have been held between the "Walkers" (representing the Colo Committee and FBW), and the "Riders" (members of the Joint Land Use Committee which serves the Association of 4WD Clubs and the Offroad Vehicle Federation). The meetings have been informal and conciliatory and both parties see the advantage of a joint statement on agreed points, though each may wish to attach statements on unresolved issues.

The Walkers want an agreement against the proliferation of bush roads, and would also like the Riders to retract their endorsement of the 'moratorium on National Parks', and specifically to support the establishment of the Colo-Hunter National Park.

The Riders seek agreement that roads currently used by 4WD's remain open as 4WD roads, even within National Parks. Further on behalf of their "Neighbours of National Parks" colleagues in the moratorium alliance, they seek more open procedures for NP&WS land acquisition and official denial of resumptions for Colo-Hunter.

Discussions began on definitions of 'wilderness', the Riders objecting to the Helman claim on areas containing established 4WD roads. Pertinent examples are the Colo-Hunter and Deua-Brogo areas. Here they recognise smaller wilderness zones on either side of the roads.

The second meeting addressed itself specifically to Colo-Hunter, and the main point of dispute which emerged was the Wurraba Ridge road. Ironically, a current Army move to upgrade this road will probably lead to a prompt initial agreement to oppose this upgrading.

Draft points of possible agreement include:

- opposition to new roads and upgrading of 4WD roads, except possibly for NP&WS management.
- endorsement of vehicle permit scheme where necessary to regulate usage of 4WD roads.
- opposition to irresponsible advertising, (eg "conquer the wilderness").
- value of wilderness areas, though Riders' definition includes smaller areas but rejects revegetated roads.
- closure of Barrakee Track (Colo-Hunter)
- no use of vehicles off existing roads.
- no resumption of freehold land for Colo-Hunter, except possible life-tenure scheme for certain inholdings.
- no loss of personal livelihood in creating the Colo-Hunter N.P.
- any landholder should be able to obtain from NP&WS a binding statement of intent regarding his property.
- need for NP&WS policy statement on procedures for declaring its interest in private land
- need for more NP&WS management staff.

One other point which was conceded orally by the Riders should also be written down: 4WD trips on roads as rough as Wurraba Ridge are for fit people only. Closure of these roads would force such people to walk, but would not deny them access.

Neither activity unfortunately has much to offer the impoverished, senile, ill or

THE CASTLE

August 1978 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the first successful recorded ascent of the Castle, (Budawang National Park). Previous years had seen several attempts on this prominent peak but it was a party from the CSIRO that finally found a negotiable route onto the tops.

The Castle has been given several names in the early years - Pompeys Pillar, False Pigeon House and finally the Castle (Robert Hoddle 1828). The natives called it Cooyoyo (the meaning is unknown), and this has been retained on the sketch map to a nearby creek.

The notes of Sir Joseph Banks recall "but between Mt. Dromedary and the Pigeon House, we saw high mountains which, except two, are covered with wood. These two lie inland behind the Pigeon House, and are remarkably flat at the top, with steep rocky cliffs all around them, as far as we could see". 22 April 1770. Mt. Owen and the Castle.

CLIO

COLO WILDERNESS APPEAL

Our thanks to the following, who made donations to the Colo Appeal:

All Nations Club (Walkabout Group)
Richmond Valley Naturalists Club
The Etrema Committee B. W. Day
N.P.A. (Berrima) Robin Owens
N.P.A. (A.C.T.) Kevin Eadie
N.P.A. (Armidale) Alic Vanry
Napsac Kerry Hayman
Mt. Druit Bushwalking Club
Newtic Family Walkabout Group
Melbourne Bushwalkers
R. Murrey B.A. Hamilton
We also thank those who wished to remain anonymous.

WILDERNESS USE POLICY

(At the October meeting, the Wilderness Use Policy was finally amended and passed. Below is the full text of the policy.)

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 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, navigation markers, artificial shelters, mapping and motor vehicles and roads.

Much of this policy simply reiterates simple attitudes and ethics which are well-known and have been widely accepted by bushwalkers for many years. However, familiarity is not reason for exclusion, especially as many such points are particularly relevant to wilderness areas.

The secondary objective, aimed more at Federation Council than individual walkers, is to guide the Council in promoting 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 the wilderness as such as possible from the encroachment of man-made features without going to such an extreme as to advocate removal of the artificial aids already existing in the more developed walking areas.

that the individual or group can personally carry. Specifically areas nominated as such in the Holman 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 the atmosphere of isolation and self-dependence which is experienced in an idealized 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 not 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 SHELTERS: An artificial shelter is any durable man-made structure or modification of a natural feature which is intended to provide shelter. Included in the definition are huts, lean-toe and modified natural rock overhangs.

3 Values on which this Policy is Based

This Federation recognises and accepts the concept of wilderness value. It is further recognised that the experience of some degree of wilderness quality is an intrinsic part of bushwalking. Thus all walkers seek, to a large or small degree, some kind of wilderness experience.

However, the Federation also accepts that not all walkers seek the same degree of wilderness quality. It is thus necessary for this policy to recognise that many walkers find their enjoyment of the bush enhanced by the same artificial aids which others find objectionable due to their impact on the 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 dependant on natural resources and no more equipment than they can personally carry, and should not demand degradation of the 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 with 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 undamaged, and only dead timber used for firewood, tent poles, etc. As a rule, in alpine, sub-alpine, heathland and open woodland communities, standing trees, both living and dead, are part of the scenery and should not be used. 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 and rolling rocks is unnecessarily destructive.

4.3 Campsites should 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. The number and size of campfire should be minimized.

5 Waste Disposal

The guiding principle in waste disposal is again to produce zero effect on the environment. To this end the policy on 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 exception to this rule is that dry combustible rubbish may be burnt if a fire 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 campsites and dispersed in the bush. Unburnable rubbish includes not only glass, but also umbrellas, metal cans, and synthetic materials or

6 Navigational Markers

Ideally there should be no navigational markers of any sort in a 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. To remove all of these markers in the name of wilderness purity would be to deprive many people dependant on them of any wilderness experience at all.

On the other hand there are strong arguments against construction of new navigational markers in all areas. In this way existing 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 wilderness and popular, well-tracked walking areas.

There are two 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 dependant 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 not only be accepted but encouraged, within the strict limitations of this policy.

Individual walkers should keep to existing paths and avoid creating parallel tracks. Similarly ski-tourers should as far as possible make and use only one track, partly for reasons of wilderness aesthetics and partly as a courtesy for others following for whom a single well-formed track provides much easier travelling.

7 Artificial Shelters

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

Huts are clearly incompatible with wilderness. Further, they are incompatible with the wilderness experience except in environments of harshness rarely found in Australia. In this context, management, survival and training value (as defined in the Policy on Huts in the Kosciuszko National Park) are not significant in non-alpine areas. Thus the only justification for the existence of artificial shelter 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 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. Some high quality alpine wilderness areas must remain without huts to demand special competence and self-reliance on the part of the wilderness user.

8 Mapping

Much of Australia is already, or shortly will be adequately mapped topographically. 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 the area; this impact is greatest if a map shows specific routes and camps. Clearly publication of detailed specialist maps and guide books to wilderness areas is inimical to the preservation of the ideal wilderness, and cannot be endorsed by this policy.

Considerable scope must be left, as far as 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 vehicle 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.

The fact that roads in wilderness areas do exist raises the issue of walkers' use of such roads. Firstly no vehicles should ever leave a formed road or well-worn vehicular track. Secondly, if a road in 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

VENUE: Coolendel Wildlife Refuge on Shoalhaven River, via Burrier.

Make a note in your diary NOW.

This even, organised by FBW, will be a tented camp on the property of Ron and Wen Hendersons, Coolendel Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge, on the Shoalhaven River, is a popular Canoeing site, and abuts the Yalwal State Forest and the Ettrema Wilderness.

The Seminar will study the Management of Morton National Park, the History, and Future Proposals.

Speakers will include: Mark Morton, Geoff Spencer (Superintendent), Peter Hitchcock (Chief Resources Officer, NPWS), Peter Helman (author 'Wilderness in Australia'), Peter Harris (Chairman, The Ettrema Committee), Colin Watson (Chairman, The Budawang Committee). Other speakers representing Forestry, Mines, 4 Wheel Drive Asscns, Government, could also present papers.

How to Reach Coolendel: Is 32Km from Nowra, NSW. It is approached by turning off the road to H.M.S. Albatross. The road is sign-posted to The Retreat. (See accompanying map).

Starting Time: 9.00 a.m. Saturday, 17th, 1979
Visitors arriving on the previous Friday night should follow the signs and camp in the area indicated.

Intention to Attend
MORTON SEMINAR - Feb. 16-18, 1979

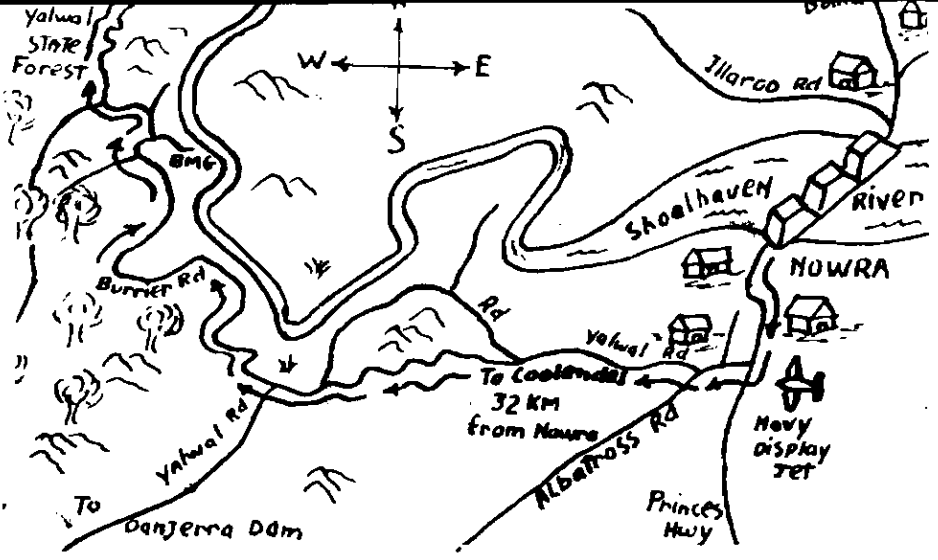
Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms.....


No. of Persons in Group:.....

Phone Numbers:..... (day)
..... (night)

Name of your Club or Organisation:.....

Post to: Morton Seminar
Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, NSW
G.P.O. Box 2090
Sydney NSW 2001





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FBW REUNION 1979

Gunderman Creek - March 31, April 1.



How to get there:
From Northern side of Hawkesbury at Wiseman's Ferry, 14km (road) East to turnoff North. Car parking within 1km of campsite. Bush to be arranged from Strathfield Station. (notify FBW or Club for bookings).

Saturday afternoon:

FBW Policy Discussion Groups.

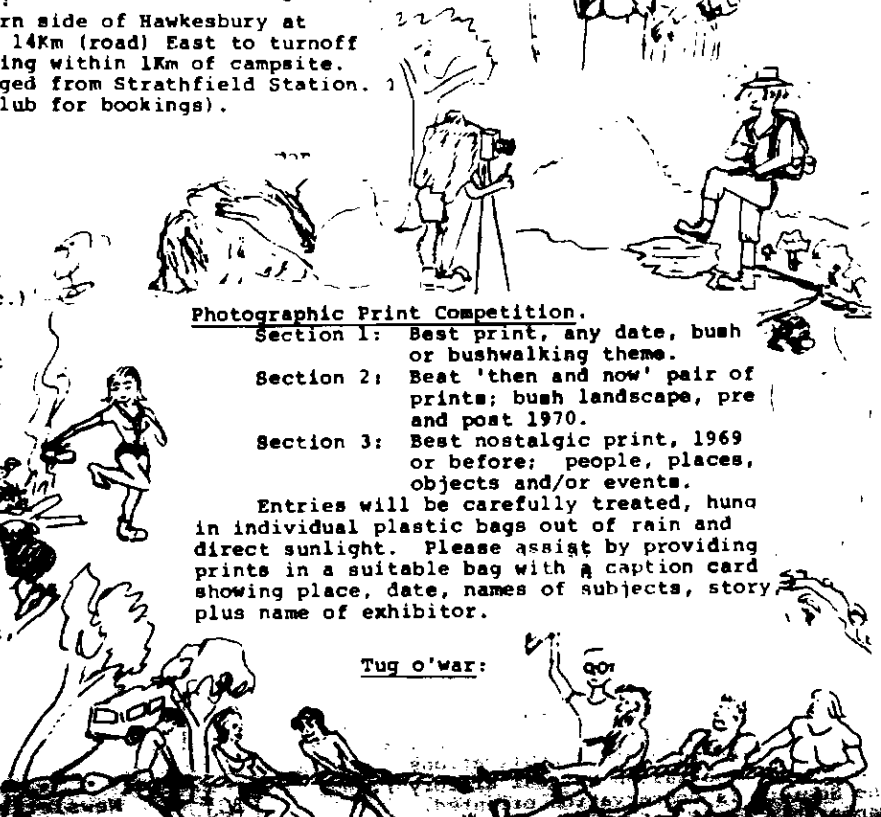
Informal workshops to explain current policies and seek ideas and comments.

Topics:

- Management principles for walking areas: wilderness and other (Huts, tracks, markets etc.)
- New members: promotion of Clubs; introduction of new members to activities, skills, ethics; provision of equipment; joint education ventures, eg FBW Outdoor Workshops.
- Role of FBW: Future of SCR; finances; paid executive secretary; newsletters; Future of Ball and Reunion or alternatives; involvement of country Clubs.

Campfires:

- Two campfires will be provided, one for yarning, the other for Club performances and group singing.
- Clubs requested to rehearse acts in advance; music, dance, recitation, tale, skit, striptease or whatever.
- Individual acts welcome, as per Club acts.
- Group singing will be led for kay and time. Please bring musical instruments for prior tuning. Melody or chord accompaniment in common keys (C,D,G,E and/or capo) would be very welcome, no written music available.



Photographic Print Competition.

- Section 1: Best print, any date, bush or bushwalking theme.
- Section 2: Best 'then and now' pair of prints; bush landscape, pre and post 1970.
- Section 3: Best nostalgic print, 1969 or before; people, places, objects and/or events.

Entries will be carefully treated, hung in individual plastic bags out of rain and direct sunlight. Please assist by providing prints in a suitable bag with a caption card showing place, date, names of subjects, story plus name of exhibitor.

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BITS AND PIECES

FEDERATION BALL. Though the Ball and Raffle were financially a success this year, attendance was generally considered poor. The winners of the Raffle were:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| First Prize | Sue Ashmore |
| Second Prize | Janette Tomsett |
| Third Prize | R. Allen |
| Fourth Prize | T. Collibag |

PILOT WALK IN A WILDERNESS: Canberra Bushwalking Club is hosting the first Walk in a Wilderness, to be in the Pilot Wilderness. It will be held on the Australia Day Long Weekend. Enquiries should be directed to Warwick Blayden, 16/20B Graza Rd., West Ryde.

SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE FOR FEBRUARY HAS BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD ONE WEEKEND TO 24-25th FEBRUARY

PETER TUFT was elected Junior Vice President to replace Ed Havnin (who was forced to retire due to a transfer at his work).

PADDY PALLIN FOUNDATION: Submissions for funds to the Foundation close at about the end of the year.

NON-FERROUS METALS: Search and Rescue are at present collecting non-ferrous metals for fund raising. Any contributions of scrap non-ferrous metals, particularly copper, would be greatly appreciated.

ACCESS: There have been reports of a particularly unfriendly farmer on the Wollondilly between Milnigang and Newyard Cks. Federation has written to the NPWS asking for the closure of the Narrow Neck Road, and to the Water Board asking for bushwalker access to the Lower Wollondilly and Lower Nattia regions. Also reports indicate that Burning Palms is at present closed to camping.

MT. KAPUTAR NP: There has been a change in address for enquiries for Mt. Kaputar NP. The new address is Officer-in-Charge, NPWS, P.O. Box 72, Narrabri 2390.

HERALD WILDERNESS DEBATE: An article by Dave Noble (on behalf of Federation) appeared in the Gateway Extra section of the Herald about two months ago. The article defenced wilderness as a land use, explained bushwalkers attitudes to wilderness, and opposed the use of vehicles in wilderness areas.

FEDERATION POLICIES: Last meeting Federation's Wilderness Use Policy was finally passed. There was no major controversy. A full copy of the policy will appear in the Newsletter next year. Also the initial moves are being made for a Policy on Major Walking Tracks. Any enquiries to submissions about this draft policy should be directed to Peter Tuft.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SOCIETY aims to stimulate community in the activities of the Australian Museum. Privileges include specials visiting right to the Museum, opportunities to attend lectures, films and

to the rest of the party. They had been climbing out of a creek into a deep saddle shown near Pass 11 on the Colo Routes & Passes map.

The climb was scrubby and Evyonne who normally moves very slowly through scrub was allowed to drop back.

However the party became alarmed when she had not joined them by 7.30 p.m.

The party returned to Sydney but the leader, Jim Nethery, and a companion came back to retrace the (easy) trip in reverse on Monday morning.

Evyonne was also retracing the trip and eventually walked up Bob Turner's track and camped at the fire-road.

The alarm was raised late Monday afternoon when no word of Evyonne's safety or otherwise was received.

I commenced ringing around to some clubs for small groups of fast experienced walkers to go out Monday night and cover the CMW trip by the full moon.

The meeting point was the Colo Heights NRMA depot and the first of two parties was sent out at 9.30 p.m. to go down Bob Turner's track.

I had just started organising the establishment of base at the old youth camp (on the road to Bob Turner's track) when the first search party returned with Evyonne.

Jim Nethery had reached Evyonne at 9.5 pm and our search party had handily arrived at 9.45 pm. to provide transport back to the Putty Road.

We then all returned to the NRMA depot and chuffered up copious cups of tea and coffee whilst having an extended post-mortem of the alert.

My thanks to those parties who responded quickly and also those who were preparing to come up to search on Tuesday. My sincere apologies to the Skope and Mt. Drutt walkers who did not receive news of the successful end of the alert and arrived at the NRMA depot on Tuesday morning.

The Castle Hill police (whose district the search was in) were very impressed and pleased with the way we avoided work for them. Thanks also came from the office of the new Police Emergency Liaison Officer, Superintendent Baret.

KEITH MAXWELL
Field Officer

"A typical case of the leader leaving someone behind".

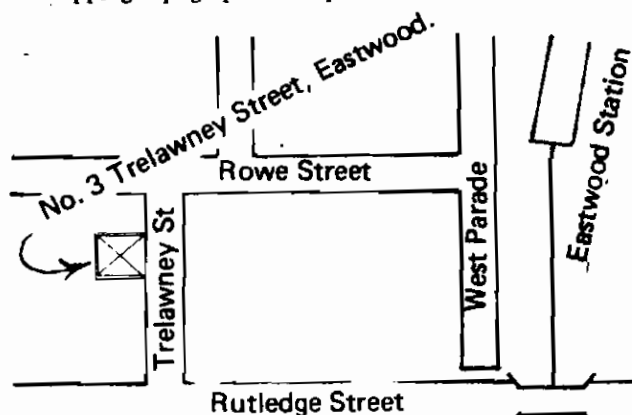
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Agents for Lands Department and Division of National Mapping topographical maps.



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1. **SHORT CK:** A two day canyon. Starting from Mt. Irvin, follow the ridge passed Tesselate Hill and drop to the Wollangambe (via the north-south running spur) at 649971. (Break the final cliffs on the eastern side 100m back from the nose). Climb out of the Wollangambe, going south-west, from 647968. Cross the plateau and drop into Short Ck at 608973. Short Ck is an exceptionally good gorge, with good abseils (60m rope needed) though probably not a high quality canyon. Exit to the south from the creek junction (614992) just before Bungleboori Ck. Return by the same passes as before.

2. **YARRAMUN CK:** A long two day trip. Enter at either 513943 (south branch) or 515958 (north branch). Twenty metres of rope is needed in the south branch. The best canyon does not start until after the junction of the two branches. For those doing the south branch, a short distance up from the branch junction (529953). Passes from both the east and west side exist at the tunnel. Though Yarramun passes through several non-canyon sections, the last of the canyon has stopped by 576970, where there is a pass to the north. The last kilometre or so to this pass is an excellent gorge.

3. **UPPER DUMBANO CK:** Enter at 492979 (from south). Lilo handy. No rope needed. Exit at 521983 (to the south) or via Cespit Canyon (see below). A good day trip.

4. **LOWER DUMBANO CK:** Enter at 521983 (from south). The exit (at 540000 to the south west) requires some route finding. Lilos handy. 35m rope needed. An excellent canyon.

5. **CESBIT CK (South Dumbano Ck):** Enter at 499973 from the south west. Exit to the south at 521983. Short rope handy. There are also a few passes to the west 517979 (about 100m up from the junction with Dumbano). It is possible (though mildly tricky) to reverse the canyon from the Dumbano junction to this pass. (A combination of Upper Dumbano Ck or Cespit Ck with Lower Dumbano would make a good weekend trip.

6. **WOLLANGAMBE RIVER:** An easy lilo canyon. Though some parts are very frequently done, other parts, which some people consider the better parts, are not as frequently done. Good canyon exists in Wollangambe upstream of the normal entry point (545912) and downstream of the 'EXIT' sign (559914). Other entry and exit points include 518910, 570923 and 582912. Rope may be handy in the lower section. → 543914
564915

7. **BELL CK:** Enter by the small spectacular creek at 525898 (10m rope handy) or by 519901. An excellent day canyon. Lilo needed. Exit by the track on the Wollangambe at 542913. To get to the entry point, either follow the ridge from Watertrough Hill (493877) (for train trips) or by crossing Du Faurs Ck (from Mt. Wilson) at 890536 (interesting passes).

8. **DU FAURS CK (Clatterteeth Canyon):** Enter at 532881, and exit by the track on the Wollangambe. An easy lilo canyon.

(Note that a combination of Bell or Du Faurs Ck with the Wollangambe would make an ideal weekend trip.)

There are several other creeks having an interesting canyon nature. However their shortness and inaccessibility prevents them from being done as canyons in their own right. Luckily they are mainly dry and can be done as part of winter extended trips. Some of these are:

ARTHURS CK: Enter at 497998. 20m rope handy. A good canyon and a good way of starting a trip in Bungleboori Ck.

TUNNEL CK: Enter at 566003. 40m rope needed. This has a 30m long dead-end tunnel.

INTERESTING CK: Enter at 574950. Rope handy. A few waist deep wades. Rather tedious to avoid the swims (by high-level ledges). Probably better to do in summer.

FOUR MAN CK: (Outlet creek of the Valley of the Swamps). Enter at 563041. Many small waterfalls and unexpected happenings. 20m rope handy. Scrambling skill needed to avoid some swims. It is possible, though difficult and slow, to reverse.

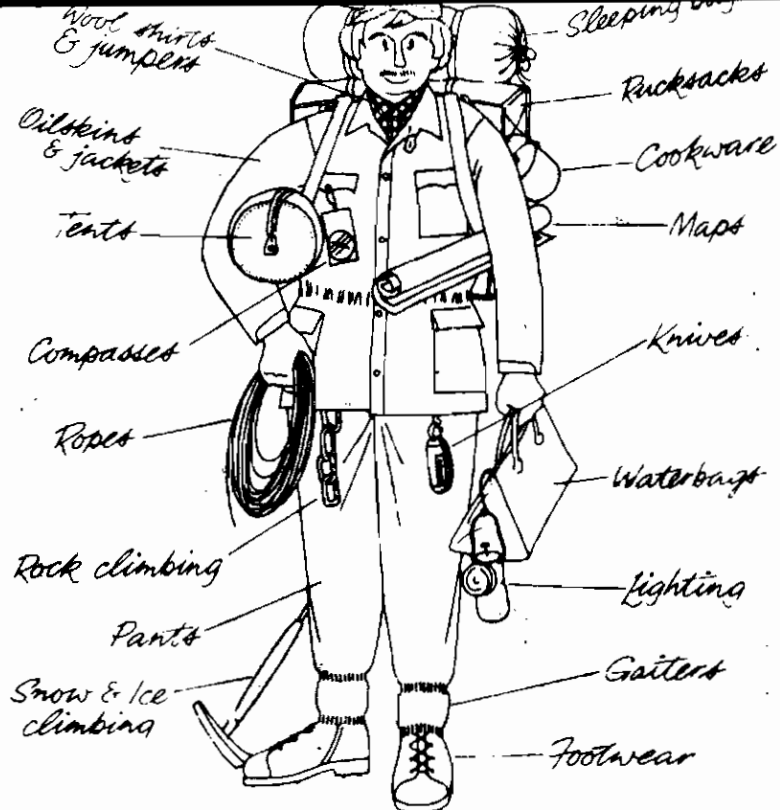
WHATS NEW

Canoeing Guide of N.S.W. Rivers. \$8.00

Bushwalkers Guide to S.E. Qld. \$1.00

(includes Wiangarie State Forest) \$3.00

Lower Hawkesbury Rock Climbing Guide. \$3.00



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ROGAINING???

24 hour orienteering is apparently a fairly popular sport among bushwalkers and others in Victoria (where it is known as "rogaining"), but has yet made almost zero impact in N.S.W. The only pockets of interest appear to be those university clubs (particularly UNSW, New England, Newcastle and Macquarie) who participate in the annual Intersarsity Orienteering, which is a 24 hour event.

Now the Victorians may be considered by some to be a weird mob, but there is no particular reason why rogaining can't be a success in N.S.W. if it is a success south of the Murray. Its absence from N.S.W. can be attributed only to the fact that no-one knows what it is like because no events have ever been organised apart from the Intersarsity which is restricted to very few teams. So, the University of N.S.W. Bushwalking & Mountaineering Club, which thoroughly enjoyed itself organising the 1978 Intersarsity in August, is now going to stick its neck out and organise a similar event for all walkers in May 1979.

Rogaining is basically the game as conventional orienteering - there is a map, a number of checkpoints to be visited, and a time element. The difference is in the scale of things. The map is an entire 1:25,000 sheet, there are 30 or more checkpoints, and you have 24 hours from noon Saturday to noon Sunday in which to reach as many of them as possible. The combination of checkpoints and the route to be taken is up to each team and selecting the optimum strategy is part of the game.

This is a sport which is a real test of bushwalking ability - route selection, navigation, fitness and stamina. It is quite different from a suburban Saturday afternoon 5 Km orienteering event which is over in less than an hour, and forgotten in a couple of days. The strain of 24 hours continuous walking, paying constant attention to detailed navigation, is not forgotten for weeks. Nor is the satisfaction.

Rogaining is a sport for only a hardy few - not many are able, let alone willing to participate. But for those who like to take on the bush on its own terms it is a superb challenge. More details of the May event next Newsletter.

PETER TUFT

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- * Our new shop in the city now makes it unnecessary for many to make that trip across the bridge.
- * Running two shops keeps our small staff on the ball.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

17 FALCON ST., CROWS NEST. 2065
Ph. 438 2454, 438 1647

62 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY. 2001
Ph. 29 4640



AN AMERICAN PRECEDENT

The U.S. Supreme Court in all its majesty and infinite wisdom made a historical ruling recently that has quickened the heart of every American conservationist.

By a 6 to 3 majority the Supreme Court ruled that a \$120 million dam project in Tennessee must be halted in order to save a tiny fish called the snail darter from extinction. The entire world population of small darters (estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000) live in the Little Tennessee River.

The snail darters were not discovered until 1973, six years after construction had begun on the Tellico Dam, a massive project designed to stimulate shoreline development on the resulting 16,500 acre lake, provide flood control and generate electricity.

The Supreme Court was asked to interpret the Endangered Species Act to determine the intent of Congress, in this case to determine Congress' commitment to protecting endangered species was enough to stop the dam project and to save the snail darter.

Chief Justice Burger led the majority decision when he said "Congress has spoken in the plainest of words. It has made it abundantly clear that the balance has been struck in favour of affording endangered species the highest of priorities".

The principal dissent, Justice Powell, maintained: "There is not even a hint in the legislative history that Congress intended to compel the undoing of any project later found to threaten a newly discovered species. There will be little sentiment to leave the dam standing before an empty reservoir, serving no other purpose other than a conservation piece for incredulous tourists. But far more far-reaching than the adverse effect on the people of this economically depressed area is the continuing threat to every Federal project, no matter how important to the nation".

The implications of the Supreme Court decision go far beyond the snail darter. At least ten other major projects in America are now thrown into doubt. None of the projects will be halted yet. But a spokesman in Washington conceded that all are potential consultation problems after the Court decision.

The decision means at least that the snail darter will be saved. The Interior Department and the Tennessee Valley Authority met afterwards and in a reversal of previous policy agreed to redesign the whole project. It seems likely that the dam will not be closed at all, and that the Little Tennessee will remain a free flowing river.

In the course of making his majority opinion, the Chief Justice quoted 'A Man for All Seasons' by saying 'I know what's legal, not what is right, and I am sticking to what is legal'.

welcome on the Wollondilly River, farmers - one in particular, are not in a welcoming mood. Their attitude has been provoked by the proposed park boundaries and by the fact that contracts have been lost with big companies (again because of the proposed take over).

My run-in was not all that pleasant and following a certain amount of harassment I feel that I had a fair chance of laying a charge of assault and battery against this particular farmer.

This farmer gave me his points of view (after a calming down period) on several things and on these I don't wish to continue. However there appears that some 'bushwalkers' have been destructive to property by sabotaging machinery smashing equipment, making fires out of newly cut fence posts, pulling up young plants, scaring cattle and killing wildlife.

Obviously anyone who wears a pack is liable for persecution (and possibly prosecution) from this fellow. He is also responsible for raising the tempers of other farmers in the area. So the moral is: Bushwalkers are not welcome on the Wollondilly.

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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

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Closing dates for articles will generally be very early in the month. All other