

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
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ETTREMA - HALF A VICTORY?

As a result of representations made by the Federation, and other conservation bodies, at the Mining Wardens Court of Inquiry to examine the impact of mining/prospecting in the Ettrema Wilderness, the following recommendations have been received from Mr. R.J. Mulock, Minister for Mineral Resources and Development.

'After careful consideration of the Chief Wardens report on the inquiry I have decided to take the following steps:-

1. Recommend to His Excellency the Governor that:-
 - (a) A reserve be constituted under the provisions of Section 24 of the Mining Act over the Ettrema Wilderness Area and Management Zone and including an area bounded on the west by the Shoalhaven River and including the area of Mining Lease Application No. 20 Wollongong. A direction will be made that no claims, mining leases, mining purpose leases or prospecting licences shall be granted within the reserve.
 - (b) Mining Lease Application Nos. 14 to 20 Wollongong (Act 1973) inclusive and Nos 494/124A to 497/124A (Act 1906) inclusive be refused as it is considered that the grant of leases would be inimical to the public interest.
2. Prospecting Licence Application No. 155 Wollongong (Act 1906) be refused as it is considered that the grant of a licence would be inimical to the public interest.
3. In specific instances, call upon persons or companies to apply for exploration licences to prospect within the proposed reserve area. The mineral potential of this area should be ascertained. Any such invitations would take into consideration an applicants financial resources and technical advisers and his capacity to meet his obligations under any licence and the provisions of the Mining Act. Holders of any such licence would be warned that the proposed reserve will prevent the grant of a mining title.
4. Impose stringent conditions together with a security deposit of \$2,000 on the renewal of the claims held by J.A. and M.M. Doyle in the proposed reserve area. These claims occupy a total area of approximately one hectare and the area will be subject to frequent inspections by technical officers of my Department to ensure that the conditions of the claims and the provisions of the Mining Act are being observed.

Yours faithfully,
R.J. MULOCK
Minister for Mineral
Resources & Development

Inasmuch as is implied by the above recommendations, the inquiry has achieved the following points:

1. Recognition of the Ettrema Wilderness, and its peripheral Management Zone.
2. Removal of Mr. P. Cogar from his Mining Lease Applications Nos 494/124A to 494/124A inclusive; the location of such M.L.A.'s being in Jones Creek canyon.
3. Removal of Mr. J.A. Doyle and M.M. Doyle from Mining Lease Applications Nos 14-20 inclusive; the location of such M.L.A.'s being Tolwong Mines (1), Jones and Ettrema Creek (3), Danjera Creek (1) and Yarramunmun Creek (2).

4. Removal of Mr. J.A. Doyle and M.M. Doyle from Prospecting Licence No. 155; the location of such P.L.A. being Myall Creek and Ettrema Creek.

Similarly, the recommendations, sanction:-

1. Mr. J.A. Doyle and M.M. Doyles' Claims, which are 4 in number and are located in Jones Creek, Yarramunmun Creek, Tolwong Mine (Shoalhaven River), and Danjera Creek, the total area being approx. 1 hectare.
2. Exploration Licences within the Ettrema Wilderness and the proposed Reserve area, to ascertain the mineral potential.

The Situation to Date:

- (a) As the 23rd January 1979 Mr. J.A. Doyle has reapplied for his Claims (which expired on 31.12.78) but the security deposit of \$8,000 had not been paid as far as the Federation could determine.
- (b) Similarly, it is understood that Shoalhaven Shire Council has granted Development Consent (23.1.79) for Jones Creek Mine, but whether a full Environmental Impact Statement was or has been called for, is yet to be determined.
- (c) Mr. J.A. Doyle is still seeking claims for libel against approx seven (7) individual persons for their respective conservation or bushwalking Associations. These claims are due to be heard in May 1979.
- (d) The actual area of the proposed Mining Reserve has yet to be determined, but the recommendations imply that it would include a large area of Morton National Park.
- (e) Nothing has yet been heard of Essex Minerals application for the grant of an Exploration Licence over almost 1800 square miles of country which includes, Ettrema, Budawangs, Bungonia, and Fitzroy Falls. Certainly the provision of the Recommendations (No. 3) make this lack of news rather worrying.

Federations Action:

The following action must now be taken by the Federation:-

1. Ascertain the correct boundaries of the Proposed Mining Reserve as recommended by the Minister, and ascertain whether it does or does not include a very large section of the existing Morton National Park, and ascertain all provisions of Section 24 of the Mining Act under which the Reserve would be constituted.
2. Take all necessary action to oppose Mining Development within Jones Creek Canyon, and oppose the Development Consent granted by Shoalhaven Shire Council on 23.1.79. Demand a full Environmental Impact Statement. Assess the possibility and feasibility of an Interim Development Order over Jones Creek.
3. Similar to above, to oppose all Mining operations in Claims held by J.A. & M.M. Doyle in the Ettrema Wilderness and its Management Zone.

You can assist by:

- a) Reporting to the Federation on any development sighted within the Ettrema Area.
- b) Sending letters or telegrams to express your disapproval of any mining in Jones Creek, and demanding a full Environmental Impact Statement to Mr. P. Landa, Minister for Planning and Environment and to Mr. R. Knowles, Shire Clerk, Shoalhaven Shire Council.
- c) Sending letters or telegrams to Mr. Landa and the Director, N.P.W.S. (Mr. Johnson) stating that because provisions for mining are so strict the area should be added to Morton National Park.

SAVING THE COLO/HUNTER

Prior to the New Year, the Army undertook some improvements of roads and the airstrip in the Gaspers region. An Army camp was held near Mt. Darcy. On 1st January the Army's Proclaimed Training Area expired.

Objections from the Minister for Lands, Mr. Crabtree, has meant that the Proclaimed Training Area will not be renewed. Though the Army can override Mr. Crabtree's objections this appears unlikely. Still, however, the position of the Army in the area is not entirely clear. However large Army exercises or developments in the area now appear unlikely.

The Minister for the Environment (who is in charge of National Parks), Mr. Landa, has placed restrictions on the forestry activities in the Putty region, to prevent any further development until the future of the Colo/Hunter region has been decided. Naturally this has been met with opposition from forestry interests.

The next few months are likely to be a crucial time for the Colo/Hunter wilderness. It may well decide whether the area is to become a national park. Those people interested in the Colo/Hunter are urged to bring pressure on Mr. Wran and Mr. Landa for the dedication of a Colo/Hunter National Park. Letters should be written to these men now.

WHATS NEW

Rockclimbing at Mt. York.

Simple Foods for the Pack (\$6) and Health Trail Food Book (\$5) - both covering foods for walking, prepared at home or away.

Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership Handbook - a Victorian publication (\$3).

The Green Pages - An ACF conservation groups directory (\$10).

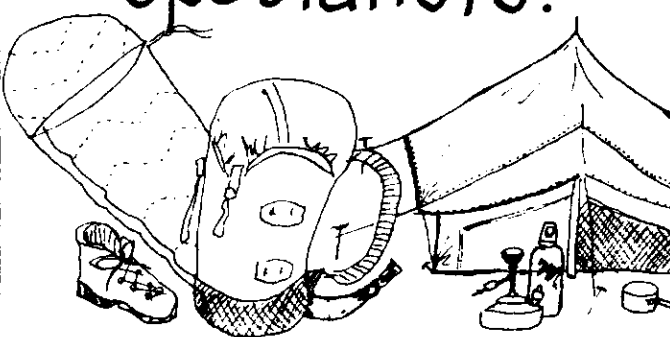
Acacias of NSW - A full listing of wattles of NSW (\$7.50). Available from Mrs. Heins, 63 Waitara Pde, Hurstville. 2220.

Waterbird Aviation Pty. Ltd. offer a float-plane access to the more remote areas of Tasmania. Five passengers or 3/4 tonnes in freight-charter rate \$110 per hour - Bathurst Harbour a one hour flight.

Minox have a small 35mm camera (pocket size) full frame with light meter, which according to reports, gives good results (\$140).

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SLEEPING BAGS

PART I - FILLINGS

A sleeping bag represents one of the single most expensive items of bushwalking gear. Over the years there has been advances in bag design and also there has been a vast improvement in synthetic fillings.

This article will look at the various fillings used in sleeping bags and the next one will concentrate on design features.

The main function of a sleeping bag is for it to act as an insulator. It does not generate heat. The bag will help retain body temperature by ensuring that heat is not lost faster than it is generated. It must, however, allow water vapour, breathed out from the body, to escape without condensing in the bag.

The best insulator is dry, still air. The function of the filling is to provide a trap for air. The best filling is one which traps the maximum volume of air per unit volume of itself. In a sleeping bag the best filling would be the one that gives the greatest 'loft' for a given amount of filling. Loft is the term used to describe the expansion of the filling to fill the compartment in which it is contained. The better the insulation quality of the filling, the less the loft required to keep the sleeper warm.

As more filling is added to a compartment the loft and therefore the insulation increases. This continues until a point is reached beyond which the down cannot expand to its maximum capability. The loft of a sleeping bag can be measured with the bag laid flat, fluffed up with no one in the bag. Only half this loft keeps the sleeper warm, the other half is compressed underneath and contributes little. The more filling a bag has the longer it will retain its loft value.

The value of the insulation can be altered by many factors such as wind, humidity, ground insulation, metabolism, clothing worn, shelter etc.

TYPES OF FILLINGS

1. **DOWN:** This has the best insulating value in dry conditions. The best quality Duck or Goose down will loft up to 650 cu.ins/oz. Most superdown fillings sold in sleeping bags however loft between 450-550 cu.ins/oz. Superdown contains a small quantity of feathers. Featherdown contains a larger amount of feathers and has less loft for a given weight, and for a given loft is less efficient than down. It would seem about 25% more loft with a featherdown filling than with a good superdown filling to achieve the same insulation.

Down is easily compressed - and this makes it convenient to carry when walking. The main disadvantage of down, apart from its cost, is that when wet its loft reduces to virtually zero, it has little insulating value and takes a long time to dry out.

2. **SYNTHETICS:** Over recent years various types of synthetic fillings have come onto the market. The most commonly used are Dacron Fibrefill II, Hollofil and Polarguard. Weight for weight down lofts about 40% more. Also the synthetics for a given loft are less efficient than down. It would seem that you need to have 20-30% more loft to achieve the same insulation as down. Fibrefill II lofts about 350 cu.ins/oz. for example but this would not be as warm as say featherdown with the same loft factor.

However, the synthetic fillings have one important advantage in that they absorb very little water and maintain nearly all their loft when wet. Also they dry out much faster than down.

Synthetic filled bags do not compress as well as down making them bulkier to carry, but they do provide better under body insulation.

CONCLUSION

For the filling of sleeping bags down is by far still the best. However with the price of down increasing markedly and with synthetic filling being superior in wet conditions they should be considered. It can be expected that more advanced synthetics

SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA: The Cartland Committee report, a government report on the future of the South-West, was very noncommittal and generally a non-event. The Tasmanian Government has announced its plans to form a Tasmanian Energy Advisory Council, which could mean the end of the HEC's policy-making role.

There are rumors that the HEC will present plans for only one dam on the Lower Gordon River. This may seem more attractive to the Tasmanian Parliament, in that the expenditure involved would be less than the whole Lower Gordon Scheme. However, once one dam is built, as well as causing great damage, it would make it easier to justify the rest of the scheme (dams on the Franklin and King Rivers).

CAPE YORK: The recent announcement of the creation of a 500,000 hectare national park will preserve one of the more extensive wetland systems in Cape York. The Premier, Mr. Bjelk-Peterson, claimed this was part of a "long range project to make the peninsula the world's largest wilderness area." It can only be hoped that this, along with other recent large Park declarations, are indeed an indication of an intention by the Queensland Government, to improve their poor track record in the Cape. The fact that this park will be covered by extensive grazing leases does not demonstrate an appreciation of the concept of wilderness management. It is believed that the Park declaration was largely due to the Premier overriding the objections of other Ministers.

TIANJARA: The army uses Tianjara under Permissive Occupancy No. 198, due to expire in December 1979. Over the same lands, the previous Premier and Minister for Lands, Tom Lewis, established a Reserve for Public Recreation.

It is understood that the Army wishes to extend its occupancy of the Tianjara area, and that this was supported by a motion to the Shoalhaven Shire Council, subsequently carried. It is believed that the Shoalhaven Shire Council cannot make decisions relating to the existing Army occupancy because of the areas other category as Reserve for Public Recreation and that it cannot be acquired compulsorily. In any case, decisions affecting the reserve must be made by the Lands Board Office and not by the Shoalhaven Shire Council.

There is also a proposed gravel extraction quarry at the end of Army Permissive Occupancy. Shoalhaven Shire Council has expressed some concern that this might pollute Porter's Creek, the water supply for Milton and Ulladulla.

MINERS AND WILDERNESS

The following is a quote from the Australian Mining Industry Council's "A Declaration of Policy" (1978).

"The mining industry opposes the concept of wilderness areas as defined in Commonwealth legislation and particularly its application to huge areas as proposed by the Australian Conservation Foundation. While the wilderness concept may have application in parts of the African and Northern American continents, it is unsuited to the Australian environment because of the high volatility of this country's natural bushland. Australia's conservation areas, therefore, need careful and constant husbanding to prevent their complete devastation by bushfires. Such an approach would not preclude the temporary intrusion of certain mineral activities."

About forty people attended this practice based at the Bungonia Caves campsite.

Clubs present included Berrima NFA, Span Unlimited, Sutherland Ramblers, Mt. Druitt and Skope.

Saturday morning was spent in instruction. Those present roughly divided themselves into four groups. These rotated at hourly intervals between observation and radios (given as two 1/2 hour talks), stretcher handling first aid, and ropework.

As usual the bush first aid talk given by nurse educator Trevor Barnes, was both very practical and comprehensive.

Saturday afternoon was spent in an intensive search of the caves area. The scenario was that a party of four had definitely left the Shoalhaven but had not arrived at their car at Adam's Lookout. They had poor gear and were overdue. The (winter) weather was so bad that they were possible exposure victims; a little bit difficult to imagine while you were rapidly being sunburnt! The lost persons were instructed to go separate ways and not to call back until nearly trodden on.

All persons were found, but some search parties went over the same ground twice before locating a lost person. 'Slow and intensive' cannot be overstressed for this type of searching.

On Sunday, Nick Eichhorn and Peter Harris volunteered to get lost for the day in the Shoalhaven. Five parties of searchers set out in overcast weather. These soon turned into five wet parties when the rain settled in from 11-30 onwards.

Peter was found without injury but it was found 'necessary' to do a stretcher carry of Nick from Mou Ayre to Bungonia Lookout. This was done quite quickly but at Bungonia Lookout, Nick still in the stretcher was unceremoniously propped up against a tree for photos.

The billy was kept steadily boiling all afternoon with a fresh cup of tea usually doing wonders for damp spirits.

This again, despite the rain, was a highly enjoyable practice where much was learnt in a relaxed atmosphere.

Keith Maxwell

VANDALISM IN CLAUSTRAL:

The exit from most canyons is a hot laborious task. But not so with Claustal Canyon. Rainbow Ravine, the Claustal exit gully is a beautiful spot in its own right. Aesthetically it is a very pleasant exit route. Despite that it only just goes in a number of places, the exit by Rainbow Ravine is relatively simple. One of the most pleasant moves in the ravine was the way one climbed a 3m waterfall in a small canyon section. One scrambled up the left of the fall, then made a delicate traverse across a slab (using an exceptionally good finger hold) to the top of the fall. It was a reasonably simple and invigorating move.

However vandals have destroyed this delicate and aesthetically pleasing move. Hand and foot holds have been smashed out of the dark, canyon rock leaving yellow scars on the rockface.

It was not a difficult move. Many people, and beginners, have managed this move over the past 15 years. Why was the ravine scarred in this way? What sort of mentality do the people who did this destruction have? Have they no respect for Claustal on its own natural terms?

One can quote Federation policy which states: "Wilderness visitors ... 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."

WALK IN THE WILDERNESS NADGEE

The details of the Nadgee walk in the 'Walk in the Wilderness' programme, as they appear in the 'Walk in the Wilderness' pamphlet, have been chanted. Details for the Nadgee walk are now as follows:

Dec 15-17 Merrica River Track and return via Nadgee Trig, Nadgee River, Nadgee Lake, and Little River, Newtons and Jane Spiers Beaches

Host Club: Napsac Bushwalking Club
Contact: Chris Wheeler, Ranger/Naturalist, Eden District (0649) 61434 (W)

Grade: Medium Walk
Limit: 15 persons

Maps: CWC will advise

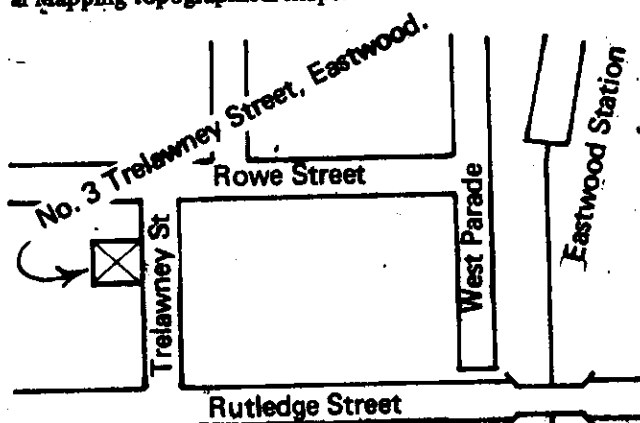
Transport: Participants with transport will

EASTWOOD CAMPING CENTRE

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



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1979 Programme

March 20 -	Himalayan Odyssey	
April 21	Difficult Alpine	\$1400
May 5-6 -	Tarana & Blue Mountains - Grade Med.	\$30
May 19-20-	Warrumbungles - Grade Hard	\$30
June 2-3 -	Three Sisters & Mt. Victoria - Grade Easy	\$30
June 16 -	Sydney Cliffs - Grade Easy	\$15
August 30-	Kosciusko Ice Climbing - Write for Details	

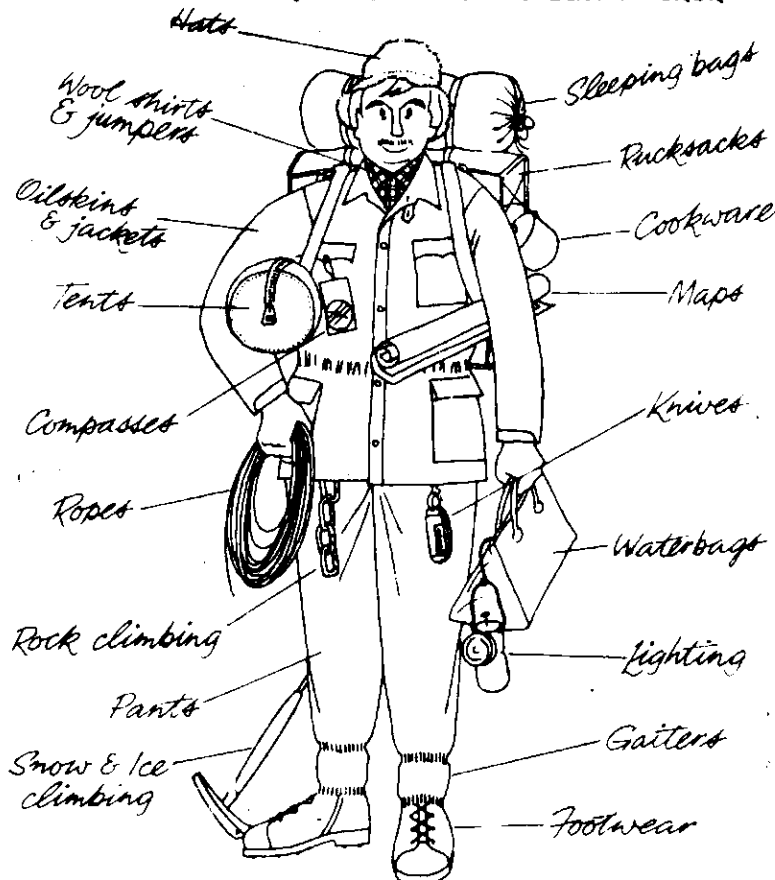
Agency Bookings Advisable. Wet weather programmes usually organised, along with a full film schedule for Saturday evenings. You bring only camping necessities, sandshoes and a tent if you have one, plus food and cooking apparatus where applicable (summer etc.)

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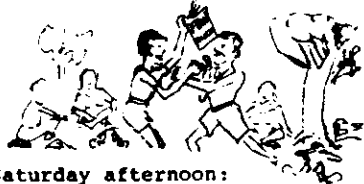
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FBW REUNION 1979

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.
- Roles of FBW: Future of SCR; finances; paid executive secretary; newsletter; 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 key and

Sunday Morning:

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.

Tug o'war:

