

# BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs  
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## EXTRACTS FROM A SPEECH BY PAUL LANDA, STATE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

The centenary (of the Royal National Park) provides a useful point not only to reflect on past achievements but also to look to the future to ensure that goals and policies of nature conservation remain relevant in the nineteen eighties and capable of meeting the challenges of the next 100 years. The New South Wales Government is preparing to meet these challenges: Firstly, by seeking to cater for the interests of nature conservation over the broad range of land uses other than reserves set aside specifically for nature conservation purposes through a system of environmental planning; and secondly, by reviewing the goals, objectives and management practices of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a clear and explicit policy framework for nature conservation and recreation.

Last week the Government introduced into Parliament the Environmental Planning and Assessment Bill, 1979 to institute a new system of environmental planning in New South Wales. The nature and scope of environmental planning are broader and more comprehensive than land use or town and country planning as undertaken during the past thirty years in accordance with existing N.S.W. legislation.

The new environmental planning system provides a greater opportunity for the identification of areas and issues of importance to nature conservation and their protection or development in harmony, or at least with minimal harm, with other uses of land.

So far as the development of a clear and explicit policy framework for nature conservation is concerned I have recently requested the National Parks and Wildlife Service to prepare a draft policy by the Government. I believe that the development of a clear policy framework for nature conservation will be of significant benefit to the Service in its corporate planning to the community in understanding and appreciating more readily the role and objectives of the Service. Complementary to the development of a nature conservation policy for New South Wales, I have requested the Service in consultation with appropriate authorities to prepare an outdoor recreation policy for the State. The development of these policy statements will take the form of the

preparation of green papers on each matter and then the preparation of a white paper expressing Government policies and objectives directed at future objectives, needs and requirements.

In the interim however we are able to identify, pending the outcome of the abovementioned review, a number of areas requiring the attention of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. These are:

Firstly, the upgrading of the scientific research capacity of the Service;

Secondly, the completion of a number of outstanding investigations and reservations on the North Coast and Northern Tablelands of the State;

Thirdly, the development of a more sophisticated approach to the management planning of the Service estate; and

Fourthly, the undertaking of a major resource inventory of the Far Western Plains and Western Plains, two areas identified in the Specht Report where greater than fifty percent of the plant alliances are not conserved at the present time.

Sir Otto Frankel, the Chairman of the Australian National Committee for the International Biological Programme, has stated:

"The period in which we live is more destructive of the diversity of life than any in the past, not mainly because of the high rate of lost or endangered species but because of the destruction of habitats for potential recovery and evolutionary regeneration. Life in our existing reserves was widely different 10,000 years ago, and presumably it will be different again 10,000 years hence. But without reserves the continuity of life and of evolution would be restricted to organisms which man finds useful, or is unable to destroy.

It is a formidable decision falling to a mere generation or two. It is a heavy responsibility, especially for Australia, where there still are opportunities, more than in most other continents, for safeguarding an evolutionary future for the genetic heritage of the past. Future generations will make their own decisions which we cannot foresee. But in this period of unprecedented change, should we not keep some options open for them?

No longer can we claim innocence or ignorance. We have acquired evolutionary responsibility. The time for decision and action is now."

## WILDERNESS QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Some people may have had to compile (or have seen) the massive Questionnaire on Wilderness Recreation, and Value of Wilderness put out by the Federation. Whilst most of the answers were straight forward, there were some interesting comments.

Q. Within your own Region, which Wilderness Area does your club/association most cherish?

A. The Budewangs.

Q. Why is this?

A. Primordial Majesty.

Q. List the order of priority for the acquisition of wilderness areas.

A. Brogo.

Q. Why?

A. If we get another beef boom, then it is likely that a lot of this area could be cleared for grazing.

Finally, when asked to have a witness to the signature of the compiler:

"Come off it. Who'd stay up as long as I've had to finish this just to witness my signature."

"Look mate, do you really think I'd wade through this lot for fun."

## SNAKEBITE KIT RISKY

A Melbourne doctor has described a Sydney snakebite kit as inefficient and potentially dangerous.

Dr. Stan Sutherland, head of Immunology research at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, said the kit was outdated and its methods inadequate.

The kit, manufactured in Sydney by Mr. Ram Chandra sells for about \$10. It contains 2 tourniquets, a blade, a suction device and a liquid labelled "Bleeding Agent." Dr. Sutherland said the kit's instructions were horrendous. "A block" of tissue has to be cut out and the "bleeding agent" poured into the hole. "It is a cure that's not guaranteed and may be worse than the disease," he said. Dr. Sutherland said Mr. Chandra's method was guaranteed to cause injury and was against all modern scientific evidence. Mr. Chandra has rejected Dr. Sutherland's criticism. He said his method has been used for many years and proved efficient. - from "The Herald."

BUSHSPORTS BALL '79  
OCTOBER 5, BALMAIN TOWN HALL.

## MAJOR WALKING TRACKS POLICY

1. Introduction: The purpose of this policy is to define Federation's attitude to the various walking track proposals that have been, and will be put forward.

These proposals are often in conflict with Federation's attitude to wilderness, and the presently-prevailing concepts in bushwalking in N.S.W. and Australia.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Federation's policy on bushwalkers use of wilderness.

2. Definitions: For the purpose of this policy the following definitions are provided:

2.1 Wilderness: An ideal 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, and in which survival of an individual or group depends on the equipment than that individual can personally carry.

Specifically, areas nominated as such in the Helman study 'Wilderness in Australia' or by the National Parks and Wildlife Service are to be considered as wilderness, but not to the exclusion of other areas.

2.2 Wilderness Quality: Wilderness quality may be defined as that atmosphere of isolation and self-dependence which is experienced in a wilderness and which can also be experienced in smaller regions which are still relatively untouched by works of man.

2.3 Major Walking Tracks: A major walking track is a defined route, intended primarily or otherwise for walking, of a length such that it will usually take more than a day to traverse on foot. It need not be a constructed or cut track, but may consist only of a marked route. It is an extended walking route promoted and presented to bushwalkers and the general public as an identifiable, integral unit.

2.4 Constructed Track: A constructed track is one for which the vegetation has been cleared, and earthworks have been carried out to provide a smooth walking surface. It may include features such as steps and handrails.

2.5 Cut Track: A cut track is one from which only the vegetation has been cleared, the walking surface remaining the natural ground.

2.6 Marked Route: A marked route consists of only a series of easily identifiable markers (e.g. metal indicators, blazes, cairns, paint marks, stakes, snow poles etc.).

3. Value on which this Policy is based?

3.1 This Federation accords the highest value to wilderness as a land use.

In accordance with the definition of wilderness, anything more than the most transient additions to the evidence of man's activities in a wilderness is unacceptable.

3.2 The Federation is also committed to the promotion of bushwalking, not least because greater numbers of walkers will exert increased influence to preserve areas of interest to walkers.

To that end the Federation endorses actions which will encourage and facilitate bushwalking, especially among those who would not consider themselves dedicated walkers.

4. Major Walking Tracks and Wilderness:

4.1 In developing this policy there is a conflict between the wilderness ideal, and the promotion of bushwalking. This conflict is resolved by separating, in general, major walking tracks and wilderness.

Major walking tracks are incompatible with wilderness, and should not pass through wilderness areas, except in the special circumstances noted below.

4.2 Major walking tracks may pass through a wilderness if they make use of existing tracks or marked routes, which do not require any new construction, clearing or marking.

4.3 New tracks or marked routes are not acceptable in a wilderness area, nor is upgrading of existing tracks or routes.

## 5. Major Walking Tracks in Other Natural Areas

5.1 Major walking tracks are worthy of encouragement in that they promote bushwalking.

5.2 A constructed track, cut or marked route, is only half of the major walking track concept. Thus the promotion of such a track to the general public requires just as much attention as does the track itself.

5.3 A major walking track should be of the standard of a cut track, or marked route. A constructed track should be only there where necessary for safety, or where the major track makes use of an existing constructed track such as a fire-road or tourist path.

5.4 Major walking tracks should avoid roads suitable for vehicular traffic. The track should be negotiable only on foot; some trouble should be taken to ensure that it is not negotiable by trail bikes or four-wheel-drive vehicles.

5.5 In the planning of a major walking track/tracks, they should be located as much as possible in areas of interest to users, rather than areas selected for administrative convenience alone.

## 6. Wilderness Corridors

6.1 The concept of a wilderness corridor is closely allied to that of a major walking track, and thus falls within the scope of this policy.

This Federation strongly endorses and encourages, the dedication of a wilderness corridor extending the length of N.S.W., through the eastern ranges. Such a corridor would consist of a series of national parks or similar reserves embracing all wilderness areas, linked by rights-of-way along which walkers may have free access.

6.2 A wilderness corridor may complement a major walking track similarly extending the length of N.S.W. The track and corridor may be wholly independent, or may or may not correspond in some non-wilderness areas.

## 7. Implementation

Despite its endorsement of all that has been expressed in this policy, it is envisaged that the Federation will not have the resources to actively initiate, or pursue, projects of this type. This policy does not therefore require, or expect, such action.

Support may be offered to other organisations who wish to promote major walking tracks which comply with this policy. All major walking track proposals will be monitored by the Federation, and efforts made to modify those which do not conform to this policy.

## 8. Summary

8.1 Major walking tracks should not enter wilderness areas except in certain limited circumstances.

8.2 Major walking tracks outside wilderness areas are endorsed provided that they are not built to standards incompatible with current Australian concepts of bushwalking.

8.3 The concept of a NSW wilderness corridor is strongly endorsed.



# FINALLY, 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. The book has finally been released. The price is only \$11.70. The book can be obtained by mail-order or in person from

THE SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA COMMITTEE  
399 Pitt Street,  
Sydney, 2000

**BUSHSTORIES SAIL '70 OCT. 5.**

## WHAT'S NEW

As it grows into winter all the shops are pushing their winter stocks. Mt. Equipment have fibre pile jackets which appear to be quite warm. Various books are now out on winter sports:

An Introduction to Ski Touring - NSW Ski Assn.	\$2.50
Snow Camping (an American production)	\$3.60
Ski Touring in Australia - Australian Alpine Club	\$4.50

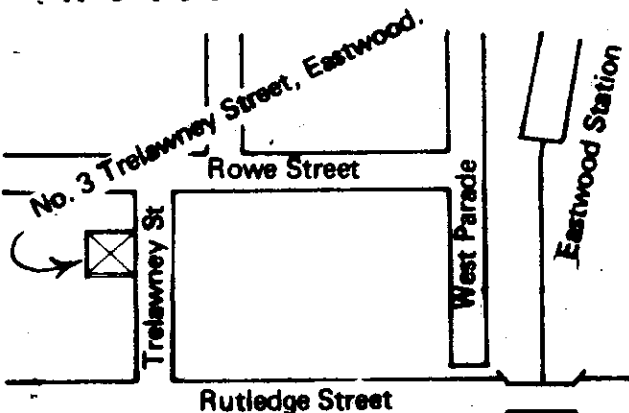
And on a slightly different subject, John Chapman has written a Walker's Guide to South-West Tasmania \$5.95

## EASTWOOD CAMPING CENTRE

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## TASMANIA CRAZED: POWER MANIA

If Queensland is the Australian equivalent of America's sultry Deep South, then Tasmania may be likened to the hillbilly States of Kentucky and Arkansas.

Like the legendary Dogpatch, USA, the Tasmanian back-woods are reputed to be a remarkable refuge of incest, inbreeding and idiocy.

However, a more prevalent and disturbing characteristic of Tasmania is the high incidence of a mental aberration known to the medical science as hydroelectronmania.



This condition, endemic to damp, insular and mountainous regions, may be colloquially described as a combination of water on the brain and power madness.

In its most virulent form, it causes its victims - local politicians and technocrats are especially vulnerable - to indulge in the perversion of Pedderasty.

This deviate behaviour may be defined as the rabid ravishing of unsurpassed natural beauty in an uncontrollable lust for excessive hydro-electricity.

In its milder manifestation, hydroelectronmania is indicated by an irrational impulse to expand the output of power to promote industrial development and population growth.

What makes this urge pathogenic in Tasmania is the delusion that such development is (a) attainable, (b) desirable and (c) to be pursued regardless of any other consideration.

In offering this diagnosis, I am not suggesting that Tasmania was wrong to exploit its mountain water resources to generate electricity and to attract some important industries dependent on abundant power.

The trouble is that Tasmanian Governments and the Hydro-Electric Commission - and even ordinary citizens - have become hooked on hydro-electricity to the point of obsession.

Their distorted perception has led them to exaggerate the benefits, overestimate the demand and misjudge the ill-effects. It has also deprived them - like alcoholics or drug addicts - of a clear recognition of when to stop.

The Tasmanian people should be persuaded to forget their power crazed dream of industrial development and realise that their greatest asset is the natural beauty and tourist potential of their island. Finally, if there is any truth in the recurrent rumour that Tasmanian politicians are easily bewitched, the Tasmanian Government should make a takeover bid for the whole Tasmanian Government

coast is also about eighty percent of the population of this State live and work, and the area provides a major recreational outlet for the population. The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the National Estate under the Chairmanship of His Honour, Mr. Justice R.M. Hope, highlighted the emotional significance of the coastline.

The Hope Report stated:

"Australians have a longstanding love affair with the coasts and beaches. From the baby playing on the sand to the fisherman on the rocks, from the child meeting its first wave to the board rider out on the near horizon, most of us have our happiest memories connected with the interface where ocean meets land. We go back there when we can, and many hope to spend their days of retirement somewhere near the sea."

The Report cited Dasmann's description of the coastal zone as containing "one of the most beleaguered groups of ecosystems on this planet - those which form the interface between land and ocean."

Certain key points need to be made about the N.S.W. coastline and its management needs. Firstly, in a national context, the N.S.W. coast will bear, at an increasing rate, the brunt of coastal development pressures and land use conflicts. Secondly any management philosophy which relies heavily on one aspect, be it public land acquisition programmes, erosion control or national parks will become increasingly inappropriate as public demands for development of the coastline increase. Coastal management requires an integrated approach to the many and varied coastal problems and issues. Thirdly, at this stage, the primary problems of the coastal region relate to land use controls and the effects of land development on biological conditions of coastal environments.

The Bill provides the integrated framework for the development of Government policy on coastal management by establishing the Coastal Council and by providing the necessary input of specialist coastal engineering advice in the development process.

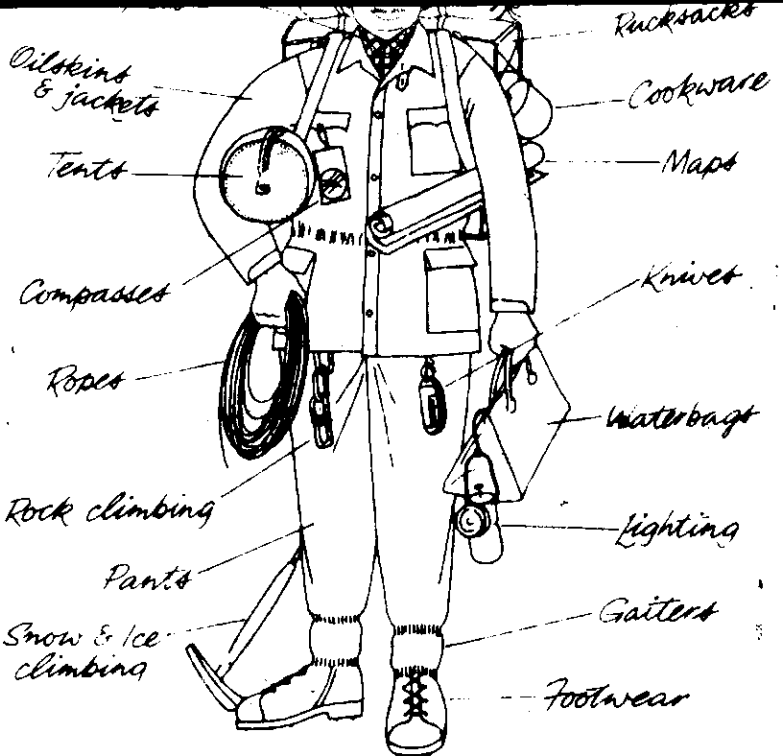
The objects of the Bill are as follows: Firstly, it establishes an expert specialist body, the Coastal Council, to advise the Minister for Planning and Environment. Secondly, it indicates the general role of the Coastal Council to encourage, promote and secure the protection, maintenance and the orderly, balanced utilisation and conservation of the coastal region and its resources. Thirdly, it establishes the functions of the Coastal Council, with particular emphasis on policy development in aspects of coastal planning and management, co-ordination of the policies and activities of public agencies relating to the coastal region, and the identification of lands to be publicly acquired in the coastal region. Fourthly, it establishes the Coastal Protection Fund to provide funds for projects and research in the field of coastal protection and management.

The area of concern of the Coastal Council is the "coastal region" which is defined broadly as including the coastal zone. Given the nature of coastal issues, it is desirable to avoid a restrictive definition concentrating on the littoral zone. Almost all authorities agree the immediate land-sea interface is involved, but there are considerable discrepancies on the land boundaries adopted. If the Coastal Council is to have an effective impact on the problems of the coast, then restrictive definitions of what constitutes the coastal region should be avoided. The coast is a region, not a line, the extent of which varies according to the particular task at hand. Moreover, precise definitions of the coastal region is not required as the functions of the Coastal Council are purely advisory in nature.

## BUSHSPORTS' 1979

The Federation is again running its series of instructional workshops in the rucksack sports. By the time most readers will have received this newsletter, the first two activities will have already been conducted. This still leaves Ski Touring/Snow Camping, Canoeing, Rockclimbing, Caving and Canyoning still to be run. Please note that the Ski Touring/Snow Camping segment, the participants will have been required to have had some previous experience in cross-country skiing.

If your new to the outdoor sports or wish to learn new activities, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Bushsports' 79, Box 2090, G.P.O., SYDNEY. 2001.



WE'LL EVEN SHOW YOU HOW TO PACK IT ALL!

Paddy Pallin

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BUSHSPORTS BAIL '79 OCT. 5.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**South-West Tasmania** (John Chapman): This book (not to be confused with the South-West Book) is a bushwalker's route guide to the standard trips in South-West Tasmania. It gives descriptions of routes to Federation Peak, Mt. Anne Circuit, Western Authors, South-West Cape, Precipitous Bluff and others. It is basically a rewritten version of the old Hobart Walking Club guides to the area. The information, however, has been thoroughly revised. The book is 150 pages long, with many black and white photos, and 22 maps.

The information in the book is quite sufficient and accurate enough for an experienced walker to lead a walk there without any further knowledge. However there are, inevitably, a few omissions and inaccuracies. For example the author clearly did not know of a very good campsite near South-West Cape, choosing to describe a rather exposed one instead. Some of the times he gives seem inconsistent with others. The times, however, are far more consistent and accurate than those given in the Hobart Walking Club notes.

Overall the book is quite good, and the information it contains is a virtual necessity for anyone leading these trips for the first time.

The author, John Chapman, is a Melbourneite with much experience in Tasmanian bush. The basis for the book was obtained mostly personally by John Chapman in the summer 1977-78.

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

Sydney. 2001