

a new scheme which would flood the Franklin and Lower Gordon Rivers. Consisting of some 8 glossy documents of some 2,000 pages, the report has been designed to impress and to steamroll opposition. 300 copies have been printed to date and will be dispersed to State Libraries. While the summary document may be purchased for \$5, the total cost of the full report is a prohibitive \$375! We have not been supplied with a copy, despite the Premier's assurance that conservation groups would be supplied. The most critical document, the Environmental Impact Statement is priced at \$50.

The HEC are proposing a Lower Gordon dam and power station but Parliament's consent would imply consent for subsequent dams on the Franklin and other rivers. It is essential that all Australians are familiar with the report and its shortcomings, so that debate can be truly a national one. It seems probable that a decision will be made in late 1980. The more political pressure that can be brought to bear before then - the better the chances of saving one of the world's last remaining wild river systems. This information sheet is designed to counter some of the wild claims made by the HEC.

COST: The HEC claims that the cost of electricity from their scheme would be 1.05¢ per unit, compared with 2.69¢ per unit just to pay off capital costs and interest. Economic analyses by Prof. McColl of the University of NSW have shown that it is no longer cheaper to build hydro schemes in Tasmania. The capital cost of a thermal station is only 1/3 that of an equivalent hydro scheme. The resulting savings in interest nullify the higher operating costs of a thermal station. Because of past Tasmanian policies, the cost of electricity in Tasmania has risen faster than anywhere else in Australia.

ALTERNATIVES: The HEC has dismissed alternative energy sources because, true to its nature, it wants them centralised. Thus, it pays scant attention to the use of solar hot-water heating in the home. Similar comments apply to wind power and to thermal stations powered by wastes. The costs for all these alternatives are all overestimated and make no allowance for new technology and reductions of cost due to largeness of scale.

DEMAND: The HEC has based its request on faulty predictions of electricity demand. Its track record in this area is appalling. For instance, since 1971 the growth of peak power demand has been less than 1/4 that predicted by the HEC. This has left the system tremendously oversupplied with power. It has not learned this lesson and even its lowest predicted growth is almost certain to be over-optimistic.

In fact, the HEC has extremely grandiose dreams of growth. In addition to growth in retail and industrial demand, it is arguing on the basis of a considerable transfer of energy use from oil-based fuels. This puts its total predicted 20-year growth up to 1240 megawatts. Since the entire scheme would only supply 370 megawatts, it is obvious that, even if its figures were true, it would be far better to build a big thermal scheme rather than flood our last wild rivers for a 30% stop-gap measure.

Worst of all, after paying lip-service to the need to conserve electricity, the HEC proceeds to ignore this course of action. NOWHERE in the report does it consider conservation measures as an alternative to its waste-encouraging policies. There is scope for a reduction of 5% in Tasmanian electricity use just by more efficient aluminium smelting alone!

EMPLOYMENT: The HEC argues that employment in a hydro scheme would be higher than in a thermal scheme. Once again, this is nonsense. This multi-billion dollar scheme (final cost, with interest could range from 7 to 24 billion dollars) would

much work as a hydro scheme. The HEC operates using a double standard because it has added on the cost of coal mine development (even though this would be borne by private enterprise) yet it has ignored the employment benefits of a thermal scheme. Furthermore, it has totally ignored the employment benefits of conservation and alternative-technology measures. The U.S. estimates that a \$1.6 billion investment in this area would create 400,000 jobs - more than the entire population of Tasmania!

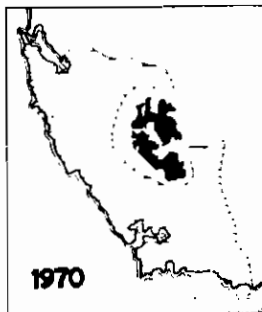
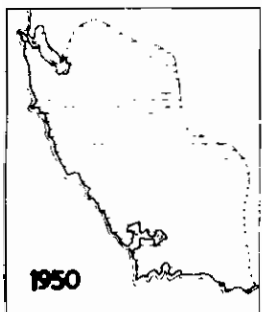
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS): This document is the largest in the report. The HEC commissioned numerous scientific studies of the area. However, it has condensed, censored and edited these reports to accord with its own wishes, e.g. key words such as "catastrophic" are omitted. Because of the HEC's censorship of their work, the biologists are furious and are making their original work available to the media. The Dept. of the Environment in Tasmania asked Peter Waterman (SW Resources Survey) to write a report on information requirements for new HEC developments. This \$3,000 report has been suppressed because the Hydro has threatened legal action if it is printed. In the present political, administrative and economic climate, asking the HEC to compile its own EIS and then to comment on it, is rather like asking a prosecuting counsel to state the case for the accused!

The EIS deals only with the 13,000 hectares to be flooded on the Lower Gordon, yet, when the entire scheme is complete, it will flood 60,000 hectares. As shown on the following map, the area of wilderness in the South West will be nearly halved.

The report brushes off the justifiable concern of many people that the salinity and siltation of the rivers will be adversely affected by the scheme. Although use of the rivers for recreational purposes has doubled every year recently, the HEC dismisses this use of the wilderness as "negligible". What the HEC wants is buses, roads, tourist launches, motels, hotels and visitors' centres. Eighty per cent of Tasmania is already visible from the seat of a car. Surely some can be left in its natural state.

In short, for a scheme that could cost every Tasmanian household \$1,000 per year for 60 years, the report distorts the facts, ignores alternatives and deceives the public about the scheme's environmental impact. It fails to justify in any way the expenditure of billions of dollars on a scheme to destroy our last great wilderness. The Tasmanian Government's National Parks Service has recently (2/11/79) proposed that these rivers be set aside in a new Wild Rivers National Park. This is a commendable proposal, which should have the support of all who value wilderness areas of South West Tasmania. It is to be hoped that such sane views prevail over the wild flights of fancy of the HEC.

THE VANISHING WILDERNESS



TWO SERVE YOU BETTER

That is our aim, and the reason we now have two shops in Sydney.

The advantages for you include:

- * More stock than ever before on display to select from.
- * We can make larger purchases, often at a better price and pass the savings on to you.
- * If an item is out of stock at one shop, we can usually obtain it from the other within a matter of hours.
- * 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 2088
PH. (02) 2088 438 (1987)



South West Tasmania Committee Action

The coming year will be crucial with regard to the survival of the South West as a large wilderness area. The Hydro Electric Commission's proposed Lower Gordon-Franklin power development plans will be submitted to Parliament in about April. Our hopes rest with pressuring the two forthcoming committees of enquiry and the Tasmanian Parliament to reject or delay this scheme. We urgently need people who are interested in helping with the workload which this plan will entail.

PLEASE, help us to help the South West!

- Write to the SWTC at: P.O. Box N204, Grosvenor Street, SYDNEY. NSW. 2000
- Call at the Environment Centre, 399 Pitt St., and leave particulars with the receptionist.
- Telephone the Environment Centre, 233 5388 and leave a contact number or address.

NEW CLUB

The Bankstown Bushwalking Club

The BBC has been established for those experienced and inexperienced bushwalkers 18 and over who live around, within, and beyond the Bankstown Area.

Meetings: Every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. at the Bankstown Sports Club.

Information: contact E.J. Griffin, Tel: 708 2587

AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONS TO ANNAPURNA III (A2A3)

Twelve Australian climbers are to ascend Annapurna III (24,858') in Nepal, departing March 1st. The expedition is endorsed by the International Himalayan Club and a small scientific unit will undertake a Himalayan Impact Study to consider the effect of tourism, trekking and mountaineering expeditions on the previously restricted area. Each climber is contr towards expenses, and two major sponsors have been obtained. Some gear has been donated, but A2A3 is looking for further funds. To this end, treks to the Base Camp (10 days from Kathmandu) are being organised for March and April. Sydney contact for this is Pat Earhart, A2A3 Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 323, Spit Junction, 2088. A slide and film show can also be arranged - contact Jack Higgs, Tel. 818 1969 (h) or 240 2390 (b).

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Fibre Pile Clothing

Recently, in many of the bushwalking retail outlets, fibre pile clothing has made an appearance. This type of cold weather clothing is new to Australia, though it has been used overseas for many years.

Over the past year I have had two different fibre pile jackets and the following comments could be useful to other bushwalkers. The jackets I own are a fairly light one made by Tulloch Mountaincraft (Scotland) purchased in Melbourne and, a more recent purchase, a North Cape "Ogre" jacket imported by mail order from England.

Fibre pile garments are made from synthetics such as acrylic, polyester or nylon, woven to produce a type of 'pile' not unlike a carpet or artificial fur. The shaggy side is worn on the inside, and consequently traps air, giving a warm, very comfortable feel. For this to work best, fibre pile garments should be fairly close-fitting, i.e., not baggy. It is usual for jackets to have a high neckline or a hood, elasticised cuffs and waist and with hand warmer pockets.

With regard to its insulation qualities, a pile jacket would lie between a woollen shirt or jumper and a duvet. Fibre pile seems lighter than wool for a given insulation value and they are a lot less bulky than duvets which are hard to justify in most Australian conditions anyway. The insulation quality of fibre pile does not seem to diminish when the garments are wet (wool's insulation drops about 50%). This is because the pile does not seem to absorb water. Therefore, these garments are particularly useful in wet-cold conditions. The pile also "wicks" perspiration away from the body, to the outside, where it can be evaporated. A fibre pile jacket worn over a woollen singlet or cotton T-shirt can be a very comfortable when worn under a parka

of a fibre pile jacket is a tendency for the pile to reverse or "pill". That is, small balls of the pile form on the outside of the jackets. This makes the jackets look untidy but does not seem to detract from their performance greatly. Some manufacturers claim to have solved this problem.

Most of the fibre pile jackets sold in Australia are fairly expensive because they are imported. Prices range around \$50-\$60; however, these jackets are good quality. Mountain Designs, Brisbane manufacturers, are selling a jacket for under \$40, but I have not heard any comments on it yet.

Fibre pile jackets also seem to have fairly poor wind resistance. However, most garments should be worn under a windproof shell, such as a parka, in poor weather.

Overall, based on my experience of fibre pile jackets, I have found them more comfortable and more practical than a garment such as a wool shirt.

Dave Noble.

CAMERA

We have news of the Minolta watertight pocket camera, which the distributor (Photoimport Pty. Ltd., Tel: 799 2311) claims to be suited to outdoor activities where water could damage a conventional camera. The camera has a waterproof body and a built-in flash, and is claimed to be usable to 5 metres underwater. It has a yellow body and oversize controls, and is said to float on water. Loading is by film cartridge. The distributor says the camera should be available from dealers, but would advise of such dealers if contacted.

DESTRUCTION OF ALPINE HUT

(Letter to FBW)

National Parks & Wildlife Service,
16th November, 1979

Re: Shelter Hut destroyed by fire.

The Superintendent of Kosciusko National Park, Mr. J. Robsob, announced today that Alpine Hut, in the eastern part of the Jagungal Wilderness area had been destroyed by fire.

The fire was apparently caused by a chimney catching alight while the hut occupants were asleep. They evacuated safely, but were unable to save the building. The fire was later reported by them to the Police.

The hut was marked on maps of the area, and was well known to bushwalkers and ski-tourers. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is concerned that as many people as possible are made aware that the hut is no longer in existence.

Consistent with the zoning of the area as Wilderness, the damaged materials from the hut will be removed, and the site will be revegetated.

R. Knutson,
Chief Ranger,
Kosciusko District

CARLON'S FARM

FBW has received a letter from Mrs. Carlon, which included the following details:

- (a) The current charge for parking on our property is \$2 per day per car, with a maximum fee of \$5.
- (b) All cars parked on our property for which the above fee has been paid are automatically covered by insurance.
- (c) There is no charge for Friday night - whether the walker is parked there Friday night or early Saturday morning the charge is still \$4 for the two full days parking."

"Regarding your remarks about the means of collection of the above fees we apologise to anyone who was upset or offended. Unfortunately, we found that most walkers ignored the signs that had been put up and even when notices were placed under their wind-screen wipers they also drove off ignoring these. This did not help the situation."

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The jacket I've had the longest seems to have lasted quite well. Over 12 months, it has had a lot of use, having been worn in New Zealand, Tasmania, the Snowy Mountains and the Blue Mountains over a wide range of conditions. I would estimate that it would outlast a wool shirt worn under the same conditions. One feature

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"The Carlon family has had a half a century relationship with the Bushwalking movement - most of it very pleasant indeed. We think this is because the older walker always acknowledged that he was walking through private property, always said 'hello' and always asked for permission to camp (which permission, incidentally, to my knowledge, has never been refused to anyone on our property). The younger walker doesn't have this attitude and, for this reason alone, we feel that the parking fee will bring to their mind that they are on private property."

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

ISSN 0313-2684

STILL OFF ROAD

An article in a recent Federation Newsletter on some excerpts from the Land Rover Owners Club Newsletter would appear to have embarrassed a few people. This is reflected in their latest Newsletter as the "outcome of misquoting articles" several motions were moved such as:

"That we include the following the following on the front page or cover of all magazines/Newsletters."

"This magazine is produced solely for the benefit of the members of the Land Rover Owners Club of Australia, Sydney Branch."

"The executive of this Club wishes to be known that any article or report printed therein may be partially or wholly fictitious and should not be quoted or purported as being a true record or account of this club, the members, or their activities. Furthermore any views or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Club as a whole."

This motion then produced two amendments:

"That all articles are copyrighted and no item may be reproduced."

The second one is the main reason that I can relate all this for your benefit:

"Since articles can obviously and deliberately or inadvertently be misquoted... the matter be given time for discussion until next General Meeting."

The meaning of all these motions and amendments is clear. Like the daily papers "any article or report may be partially or wholly fictitious" so we can't believe what they say. Does this mean the LROC AGM which was held on 26/9/79 might or might not be a figment of the imagination of the reader? And because "the magazine is produced solely for the benefit of the LROC members" does this mean that

these hot selling little numbers will disappear from our favourite news stands? Maybe they are doing the world a favour!

Whatever it all means it's still good for a giggle!

Bob Burton

THE WAGES OF WALKING

Have you notice in recent times how "bushwalking" has become a business? A walk in Royal National Park (2 days) sells for \$30; near Gosford, walks sell for \$27; four days in the Pilot Wilderness are \$120; and the Wild Dogs are \$25-\$55 per day.

If you also happen to like canoeing, then this leads to 5 days on the Murrumbidgee of \$240, and 6 days on the Nymboida at \$250 (if you live near Coffs Harbour).

1979 saw the Federation try and run its own "business". Bushsports '79 was "a series of instructional workshops" in walking, caving, skiing, canoeing, canyoning and climbing. Costing ranges from \$6 to \$33 with some gear hire extra. "Walk in the Wilderness" offered 2-3 days in nineteen areas of the State for \$5-\$10 plus petrol costs. Admittedly this latter activity was aimed at experienced walkers with their own gear.

In front of me I have the ideas for a proposed 1980 Walk in the Wilderness program - some 50 walks for the year. Take the month of May for example: each weekend has one trip listed in the proposed Coolah

Tops National Park, Cocoparra National Park, proposed Bimberi, and finally, Morton National Park (Ettrema Section).

Unfortunately, the overall response for "Wilderness '79" walks was poor, and was criticised from the start. It was a pity that people could not see it as a way of discovering new areas, rather than just a weekend away. Half way through 1979, it was decided not to proceed with any further programming of wilderness walks.

Perhaps we, too, should have charged high prices. This may have encouraged more people to attend the trips - people value things when they pay heavily for it. Maybe the "Walk in the Wilderness" is like the Wilderness - not destined to survive.

WALK IN A WILDERNESS REPORT

Washpool Wilderness: 10-12 August. Federation's trip for the "Walk in the Wilderness" program.

This trip commenced from the Gibraltar Range National Park on Friday August 10. From here we drove to the ridge above and to the East of Hianana Creek. We followed this stream, down through wet sclerophyl/vine scrub, into Washpool Creek. Hianana drops over a number of short falls before forming a steady stream beneath an almost closed canopy. It joins Washpool Creek at a large swimming hole but the water was too cold. A short rockhop past the junction is Pi Pi Flat. Pi Pi Flat is a surprising area, large, flat, well grassed, some hardwood - enough space to camp an army of bushwalkers.

A short distance further down Washpool Creek, Eaglehawk Creek enters from the west. On the southern side of Eagle hawk, 3/4 km upstream from Washpool Creek we established our campsite. (A good site for up to 5 tents, having ample supplies of wood and water.) Saturday was spent inspecting the upper reaches of Eaglehawk and it's main tributary - Weat gully. About 1 1/4 km above our campsite, the start of the waterfalls is heralded by the presence of many very large boulders. I lost count of the number of waterfalls. The smooth slides (enjoyed by one) are a must for warmer weather.

Above the main drop the creek deteriorated into a small babbling brook winding through the creekbed vegetation. A short trip over a small saddle to the north and the trip was reversed but this time down Weat gully. These creeks and their falls would have to be the prettiest I have seen in northern NSW and south-east Qld. I fully recommend a trip through this area to anyone wanting a quiet but beautiful 2 day walk.

On Sunday we retraced our steps up Washpool to the Hianana-Washpool junction. A further 1/4 km above we proceeded up the ridge between the two creeks. Near the top we stumbled on a line of surveyors pegs. Although the ridge is covered in fine timber, it appears that this may be thinner in the very near future.

In all a good walk at a leisurely pace in a beautiful area.

Kimbal.

(from NRBC Newsletter, October, 1979)

THE COLONG COMMITTEE'S WILDERNESS CALENDAR

Featuring 13 N.S.W. wilderness areas in Henry Gold colour reproductions. Also location map, phases of the moon and times of sunrise and sunset.

To obtain calendars (@\$5.50), write to:

The Hon. Secretary,
Colong Committee Ltd.,
18 Argyle Street,
Sydney, N.S.W.

- It draws energy from the sun.
- It uses foods from the soil and air
- It pumps water 100 feet or more into the tips of its leaves.
- It breathes without lungs.
- Because it is a natural product, a product of solar energy, it costs less to manufacture the finalised product.

BUY SOLAR PRODUCTS - WOOD FROM TREES !

Other gems to come to light:

"We protect our forests for wildlife, for our recreational activities - and for scientific reasons."

"You see, a young tree has a lot of growing to do - and that means a lot of breathing. Yes, trees breathe - carbon dioxide goes in and oxygen comes out.

But there's one problem. The older a tree gets the slower it grows, just like people. And so, old mature trees don't breathe as much.

That's where we come in. The old trees, which have begun to die, are harvested under the control of scientists, and environmental protection measures they have developed make sure new, young trees grow up from the old trees we have harvested.

OUR LEGACY: WOOD TODAY, CLEANER AIR TOMORROW, AND FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE."

Nowhere is it stated that they replant trees, and to quote The National Times: "Terania forest... to haul out one log, 14 other trees had to come down". With their concern over clean air: "Vigorously growing young trees, breathing in carbon dioxide and giving out the oxygen we need", there appears to be a conflict of ideas. But I guess this final comment says it all: "You see, our forests will only remain beautiful if they are harvested - either by Nature's destructive hand - or by man" (destructive hand).

Welby

CONFLICTS

"The Land" newspaper, whose readership is the rural sector, had banners up a few months ago - Farmers and National Parks. Predictably, the attitudes presented were hostile (the area canvassed was the Binghi Wilderness/proposed Beardy River National Park) in the Emmaville-Tenterfield area. The Government as well as conservationists came into a lot of flack.

Just recently, a farmer wrote to the Federation offering his just-acquired land for bushwalking usage. He had about 2,000 acres, heavily wooded and watered, and wanted to know if we would be interested



Illustration by courtesy of
John Fairfax & Sons Ltd

50 years of service to outdoor enthusiasts

Paddy Pallin Outdoor Shops

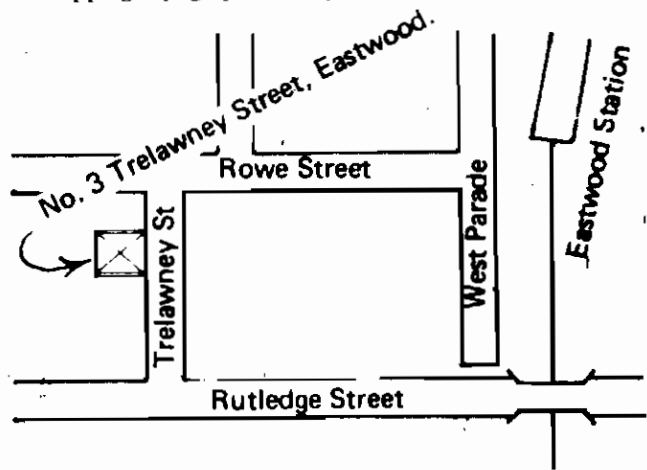
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46 Northbourne Avenue Canberra - 47 8949

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al Mapping topographical maps.



EASTWOOD CANVAS GOODS AND CAMPING SUPPLIES
3 TRELAWNEY STREET, EASTWOOD.
PHONE: 858-2775

in using that land. It's nice to know that all land-holders are not hostile.

The conflict between land-holders, miners and conservationists will continue. It is ironic, however, that in the same issue of "The Land", a book review on National Parks says "and N.S.W., particularly, has been blessed with areas of incredible beauty and peace. With an out-of-character display of foresight, legislation has been provided for the setting aside of areas into national parks".

Welby.

KOSCIUSKO HUTS

Hygiene

Continued reports of sickness at certain heavily used huts seem most likely related to quite basic matters of personal hygiene, rather than to polluted streams or miasma inside the huts. To put it bluntly, clumsy fingers, numbed by the cold and wet from snow or rain, have no guarantee of immunity from faecal contamination when using super soft toilet paper. As mentioned more delicately in a previous KHA newsletter, soap is a useful cleaning agent.

Apart from attention to personal hygiene, defensive tactics liely to help include wearing gloves while handling objects which are possibly contaminated (e.g., the hut door) and removing the gloves while preparing, and eating food. If anyone has other ideas or insights from the occurrence of epidemics at any hut, both the KHA and the NPWS would like to know, and any instance should be reported in the hut log book. Meanwhile, for whom it may concern, spread the good news: keep the - off your fingers.

- from Kosciusko Huts Association
Newsletter, September, 1979.

NEW WALKING TRACK

Early in December, the Minister for Lands was to open the Blue Mountains Historical Walking Tracks at Mt. Victoria.

There are three walks involved:

- Lawson's Long Alley and Lockyers road loop (11 km);
- Berghofer's Pass (3.2 km);
- Cox's Road and Mt. York Road, then to Lockyer's Road (12 km), or Lawson's Long Alley Loop (13 km).

The abovementioned routes generally follow initial and early roads off the western side of the Blue Mountains, and have been clearly marked.

The Lands Department has taken a greater interest in the use of Crown Land for recreational usage. They have already opened a track near Armidale, and are looking at another site near Albury. Other sites are to be considered in the future.

Please send articles,
Correspondence to:

Federation of Bushwalking Clubs,
G.P.O. BOX 2090.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY SAWMILLERS

The Associated Country Sawmillers have now included the Federation on its mailing list, and this is not a bad idea - to obtain the other man's point of view. Unfortunately, their propoganda writer has a weird sense of humour. Under the heading "Conservationists Support Solar":

- Wood is warm, a reflection of the solar energy which helped it grow.
- It draws energy from the sun.
- It uses foods from the soil and air
- It pumps water 100 feet or more into the tips of its leaves.
- It breathes without lungs.
- Because it is a natural product, a product of solar energy, it costs less to manufacture the finalised product.

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"We protect our forests for wildlife, for our recreational activities - and for scientific reasons."

"You see, a young tree has a lot of growing to do - and that means a lot of breathing. Yes, trees breathe - carbon dioxide goes in and oxygen comes out.

But there's one problem. The older a tree gets the slower it grows, just like people. And so, old mature trees don't breathe as much. That's where we come in. The old trees, which have begun to die, are harvested under the control of scientists, and environmental protection measures they have developed make sure new, young trees grow up from the old trees we have harvested.

OUR LEGACY: WOOD TODAY, CLEANER AIR TOMORROW, AND FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE."

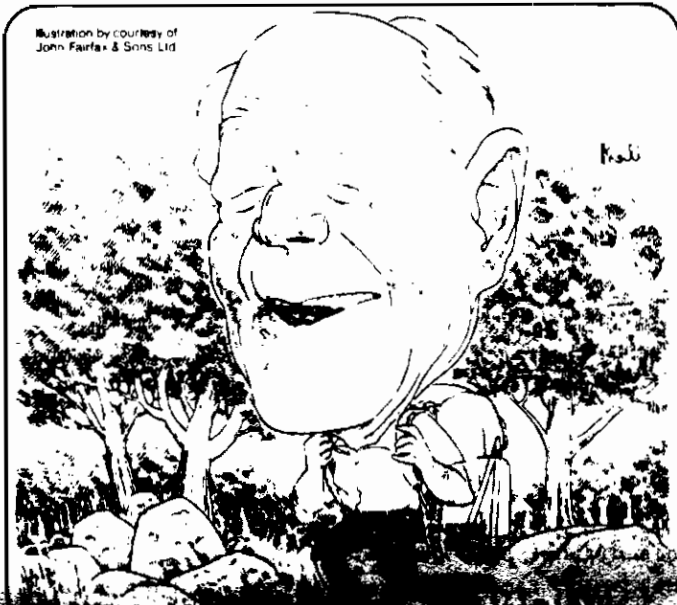
Nowhere is it stated that they replant trees, and to quote The National Times: "Terania forest.... to haul out one log, 14 other trees had to come down". With their concern over clean air: "Vigorously growing young trees, breathing in carbon dioxide and giving out the oxygen we need", there appears to be a conflict of ideas. But I guess this final comment says it all: "You see, our forests will only remain beautiful if they are harvested - either by Nature's destructive hand - or by man" (destructive hand).

Welby

CONFLICTS

"The Land" newspaper, whose readership is the rural sector, had banners up a few months ago - Farmers and National Parks. Predictably, the attitudes presented were hostile (the area canvassed was the Binghi Wilderness/proposed Beardy River National Park) in the Emmaville-Tenterfield area. The Government as well as conservationists came into a lot of flack.

Just recently, a farmer wrote to the Federation offering his just-acquired land for bushwalking usage. He had about 2,000 acres, heavily wooded and watered, and wanted to know if we would be interested

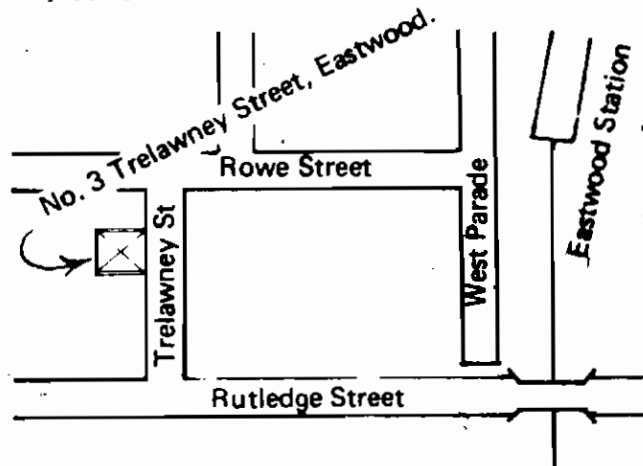


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Agents for Lands Department and Division of National Mapping topographical maps.



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in using that land. It's nice to know that all land-holders are not hostile.

The conflict between land-holders, miners and conservationists will continue. It is ironic, however, that in the same issue of "The Land", a book review on National Parks says "and N.S.W., particularly, has been blessed with areas of incredible beauty and peace. With an out-of-character display of foresight, legislation has been provided for the setting aside of areas into national parks".

Welby.

KOSCIUSKO HUTS

Hygiene

Continued reports of sickness at certain heavily used huts seem most likely related to quite basic matters of personal hygiene, rather than to polluted streams or miasma inside the huts. To put it bluntly, clumsy fingers, numbed by the cold and wet from snow or rain, have no guarantee of immunity from faecal contamination when using super soft toilet paper. As mentioned more delicately in a previous KHA newsletter, soap is a useful cleaning agent.

Apart from attention to personal hygiene, defensive tactics liely to help include wearing gloves while handling objects which are possibly contaminated (e.g., the hut door) and removing the gloves while preparing and eating food. If anyone has other ideas or insights from the occurrence of epidemics at any hut, both the KHA and the NPWS would like to know, and any instance should be reported in the hut log book. Meanwhile, for whom it may concern, spread the good news: keep the - off your fingers.

- from Kosciusko Huts Association
 Newsletter, September, 1979.

NEW WALKING TRACK

Early in December, the Minister for Lands was to open the Blue Mountains Historical Walking Tracks at Mt. Victoria.

There are three walks involved:

- (i) Lawson's Long Alley and Lockyers road loop (11 km);
- (ii) Berghofer's Pass (3.2 km);
- (iii) Cox's Road and Mt. York Road, then to Lockyers road (11 km), or Lawson's Long Alley Loop (11 km).