

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs

G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

ISSN 0313-2684

FEDERATION HAPPENINGS

1980 F.B.W. REUNION

Despite a petrol strike, about 60 bushwalkers turned up to the reunion held this year on the Cox's River near the 6 foot track. Everybody who attended had a great weekend. Fine weather, a superb swimming hole, a good campfire, highlighted by the C.M.W.'s play all contributed to the success of the event.

Competition results were:

- Cow Pat Throwing - Tom Williams (S.B.C.)
- Tight Rope Walking - Peter Black (S.B.C.)
- Tent Pitching - Peter Black (S.B.C.)
- Bathing Beauty - Jeanette Tomsett (SPAN)
- Waterbag Drinking - S.U.B.W.
- Tug of War - Central West Bushwalkers
- Nobbly Knees - Nick Melhuish (S.U.B.W.)
- Billy Boiling - Dave Noble (S.U.B.W.)

Thanks go to the Springwood Bushwalking Club for organising the reunion and to Jan Wouters for lugging the reunion logbooks down from Katoomba.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

At present, Federation is in the process of changing its constitution. The old constitution falls short in many areas and a new draft was drawn up largely by Peter Harris, Fergus Bell and Warwick Blayden during 1979. This has resulted in recent meetings being long and boring while changes are being discussed. This should be completed in time for the formal change of constitution motion at the A.G.M.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On July 15, all positions of the Federation become vacant except Junior Vice President. Any member wishing to stand for a position is welcome to attend the A.G.M. held at 6.30 p.m. at the Environment Centre of N.S.W. - 399 Pitt Street, Sydney. Club Presidents and Secretaries are especially urged to attend. If Federation is to continue it needs your support.

"I of the Morals Committee deplore the activity of certain Committee members. For example, a certain couple of the Committee, holding responsible positions, went away for a weekend by themselves, rather than go on the President's day walk.

Another Committee member, in fact the Club President, was heard to ask if any sleeping bags with full length compatible zips were available for the beginner's trip . . . It is left to the imagination as to what he wanted it for!"

- from a Melbourne University Mountaineering Club Magazine.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Below is a reproduced letter of thanks sent by Bob Pallin to Dr. Bob Binks in appreciation of many years service for bushwalkers search and rescue:

"31st January, 1980

Dear Bob,

Your letter of the 14th December has been forwarded to me.

It is with regret that the committee accepts your resignation after so many years of involvement. The section has not been called out or used as much lately due to local Blue Mountain groups and the police being better trained and equipped.

I believe also that better training of young people in bush navigation and safety is reducing the number of searches and rescues although more people appear to be using the bush.

Many walkers have been comforted by your soft words and medical aid when you have been called out to difficult places and of course at no notice. Many people have, I suppose, now forgotten the busy days of S & R when the "smiling" faces of Nan, Heather, Bob and Ray Tyson were always there to run an efficient S & R organisation and encourage the searchers.

I thank you on behalf of all walkers for the years of effort you put in to build S & R into the organisation of today and the many times you were willing to give up whatever you were doing to help walkers in need.

I hope S & R can look forward to being able to call on you in an emergency and I hope that future generations of walkers are able and willing to give their time and effort in the unstinting manner of the "Gang of Four".

Best wishes for your future endeavours to both you and Nan,

Robert Pallin,
Director S & R Section

A canoeing club in New South Wales, on its Application for Membership, has the following requirement:

"I/We have a definite regard for the preservation of the wildlife of Australia, and I am/We are able to swim at least fifty (50) metres clad in shorts, shirt and sandals."

The Federation would like to welcome the Border Bushwalking Club, P.O. Box 119, Lavington, N.S.W. 2641 as its latest affiliated club. This club was formed in July 1978 and meets in Albury. It has members from both sides of the border and runs walks in both N.S.W. and Victoria.

F.B.W. NEWSLETTER

MAY 1980

SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

PAGE 1

RESCUE REPORT EASTER 1980

At 4 p.m. Easter Saturday, Allison Hogg was jumping between rocks, missed her landing and fell hard on the base of her spine. Walking was very painful and spinal injury was suspected.

Tom Williams, the leader of this Springwood Bushwalking Club trip, decided to walk out and get assistance.

He and two others walked down the unnamed creek, where the accident happened to Blackwater Creek. They found a pass through the clifflines near the junction and reached a fire-road after 3 hours evening walk. They eventually reached Rylestone at 4.15 a.m. Easter Sunday and rang me.

The nature of the country was such that a helicopter rescue was essential. Therefore I drove around to the Police Rescue Squad headquarters with a Corcudgy map with Allison's exact location.

A spinal specialist, Neal Betts, was arranged from Royal North Shore Hospital and was to travel on the Police helicopter POLAIR 1.

I was taken to Mascot heliport to show the pilot Allison's location and also the location of a possible helipad in a crater in the creek.

When I arrived at Mascot the news was the Dr. Betts insisted on travelling with the Wales Rescue helicopter.

Since rescue personnel would have to be ferried into the helipad it was decided to also take Polair 1 and I was offered the privilege of a seat.

Polair and the Wales landed at 10 a.m. Sunday in the back of Rylestone Police station.

A quick discussion of action was held and both helicopters flew off to investigate the possible helipad. While checking the area it was noticed that the trig. station at Mt. Coricudgy was ideal as a forward base, having helicopter and road access. It turned out to be particularly useful all day as it was only 3 minutes flying time from the helipad.

It was not possible to land without further clearing of the helipad and the Wales pilot decided to winch down Dr. Betts. It was a long lower and the first for Dr. Betts. Unfortunately the winch failed and as he was not expecting it, fell 6 metres landing badly and doing some spinal injury.

The Wales helicopter then flew back to Rylestone to refuel and Polair winched in 2 local rescue squad men with chainsaws and axes to clear the helipad. The two local ambulance men were also winched in to attend to Dr. Betts until the local doctor, Seranda Borkar, could be brought back by the Wales helicopter.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bett's (unknown) condition was of grave concern to us and I was very pleased when the helipad

Dr. Borkar then went 2 km. down the creek to where Allison was. The Wales and Polair then ran a shuttle service to land enough persons and gear for the carrying of Allison to the helipad.

The Wales helicopter finally landed and parked with the crew going to assist in the carry.

The carry was time consuming as a 4 metre bluff had to be negotiated.

Time was looking to be running short and Tom Williams and myself were winched in to provide some relief manpower. There was no room to land with the Wales helicopter already on the helipad. Although we were being lowered by Polair I still inspected every item involved in the lower of 8-10 metres.

When we joined the rescue party they were over the bluff and making steady progress to the helipad.

Allison was loaded into the Wales helicopter at 4.30 p.m. and arrived at Rylestone hospital at 4.45 p.m.

A reverse shuttle service was then run by Polair to get out all the persons and gear previously dropped in.

The last people were probably taken out about 1/2 hour before it was too dark, in the creek, to operate to the helipad.

This rescue raises several points:

- (1) The total time from accident to rescue was 25 hours.
- (2) This total time even with helicopters that take only 1 1/2 hours to fly from Sydney could not easily be pruned to 18 hours.
- (3) More combined exercises, Police-VRA could help greatly here.
- (4) The time taken by a party walking out to raise the alarm is always a large part of the total time to rescue.
- (5) The above factors should always be remembered in assessing risks taken on trips.
- (6) High technology rescues carry increased risks from equipment failure. Allison Hogg is now out of hospital while Dr. Betts could be there for a further 6 weeks. Fortunately, he seems to have no injury that will be permanent.
- (7) The basic skills of stretcher carrying, hauling over bluffs, etc. will never be redundant. Where Allison was injured the creek was less than 10 metres wide and a helicopter stretcher winch would have been over 50 metres. The stretcher just had to be carried to a more convenient spot.
- (8) Springwood Bushwalking Club regularly attend Search and Rescue practices. If an accident happens to your party (we hope not) your ability to assist must be related to when you last attended an S & R practice.

Finally, such a rescue is not possible without the assistance of many groups.

In this case, my thanks and those of the S & R Committee go to the Police Rescue Squad and their heliport

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Meanwhile, Dr. Bett's (unknown) condition was of grave concern to us and I was very pleased when the helipad was finally adequately cleared and Dr. Borkar could attend to Dr. Betts.

At 2.15 p.m. Dr. Betts was lifted out in Polair and taken to Rylestone hospital. He insisted on travelling in an ambulance back to Sydney.

The carry was time consuming as a 4 metre bluff had to be negotiated.

Time was looking to be running short and Tom Williams and myself were winched in to provide some relief manpower. There was no room to land with the Wales helicopter already on the helipad. Although we were being lowered by Polair I still inspected every item involved in the lower of 8-10 metres.

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Finally, such a rescue is not possible without the assistance of many groups.

In this case my thanks and those of the S & R Committee go to the Police Rescue Squad and their helicopter and crew, the Wales helicopter and crew, Rylestone Police, Rylestone/Kandos Volunteer Search and Rescue Organisation (including the local ambulance officers) and Dr. Borkar and Dr. Betts.

Keith Maxwell
Field Officer
S & R Committee

mentary select committee to look into the next power scheme for Tasmania. Now the Government will decide which scheme is best and present its recommendations to Parliament, which is expected to vote on the issue in August.

It is essential, if the Franklin and Lower Gordon Rivers are to be saved from flooding that bushwalkers write to the Tasmanian Premier. Hon. Doug Lowe, Parliament House, Hobart, 7000, asking for a full public inquiry as promised earlier and giving your view that the area be set aside as a wild rivers national park.

In recent months large coal deposits have been confirmed in Tasmania. They would certainly be sufficient for a thermal alternative to the proposed hydro scheme.

WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARK

It was good news when this park was gazetted in December 1979. However some important areas need to be added to the park:

- (1) Headwaters of Bungleboori, Nayook, Rocky and Deanes Creek in the south west of the area. At present part of Newnes State Forest. In particular, Rocky Creek Canyon, one of the darkest, deepest and spectacular sandstone canyons, is not in the park.
- (2) Large areas need to be added in the north east to protect the Wollemi catchment area.

Note: According to Myles J. Dunphy, the name "Wollemi" should be pronounced Wal - eem - me rather than Wal - em - my.

ETTREMA

With the recent death of John Doyle, hopefully attempts to start mining operations in this important wilderness area will cease.

TERANIA CREEK

The Terania Creek Inquiry has drawn out and conservationists are frustrated that the terms of reference are not broad enough to include a full inquiry on all aspects of rainforest logging. The Forestry Commission have a policy of phasing out rainforest logging but it appears it will only be implemented when there is no rainforest left.

We have had a query to try and find a John Manson, who bushwalked in the 1930's, also a Bob Lawrence in 1950's. The enquirer is requesting information on the Church Creek caves and their history (the S.S.S. Occasional Paper of 1967 is already known). Any information should be directed to:

A. Gibbens,
213 Badimara Street,
FISHER. A.C.T. 2611

Many bushwalkers will be saddened to hear of the recent death of John Morgan. John, for many years, was the Manager of Paddy Pallin's Sydney store. He was well known and highly regarded by many walkers. He also provided valuable assistance to Federation's Bushports Program. Federation's sympathy goes especially to John's

That is our aim, and the reason we now have two shops in Sydney. The advantages for you include:

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- * Running two shops keeps our small staff on the ball.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

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Ph. 438 2454, 438 1647

62 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY, 2001
Ph. 29 4940



BUSHWALKERS SEARCH & RESCUE

Practice, 22 & 23 March, Wollemi area.

Preparations by the Committee commenced in 1979 and included four separate trips to the site. Robyn and Peter Tuft (U.N.S.W.) set out the navigation courses in the middle of the petrol strike; they cycled from Windsor! As a result of a great team effort by all the bushwalkers attending, the weekend was a resounding success.

Saturday's activities comprised stretcher handling, first aid instruction and the navigation exercise. A-1 Saturday campfires at S & R weekends are successes this one was no exception.

Constables Max Schlinger, Garry Smith (Marrickville) and Peter Black (Katoomba) awoke the multitudes early Sunday morning with the wail of a siren and somewhat later a S & R Operation was set under way to search for and recover the survivors of a light plane crash. Allowing for campfire effects to wear off, we expected that the lost party would take some finding. We were caught unawares when the party including the three visiting Police Rescue Squad constables found the survivors at about 10.30 a.m. Had I participated with the navigation exercise on Saturday, I may have avoided taking the rescue party to the wrong hilltop. After a quick lesson in navigation from Murray Scott (Sutherland) we finally made it to the survivors. Meanwhile a quick search was initiated to look for a missing survivor; this was a good source of added confusion to those at base trying to cope with a lost Rescue Officer.

Undoubtedly the best feature of the weekend was the huge swimming hole next to the trailer and the flying fox we set over it.

Fergus Bell.

decided that the public road along Narrow Neck will be terminated in the vicinity of the commencement of the first narrow neck. "The remaining road reserve shall be for the use of authorised vehicles only, such as those utilising the Catchment Area or the Fire Look-out Station as well as this area being made available to bushwalkers".

Kerosene shale was first discovered in the Blue Mountains by Campbell Mitchell in 1870. In 1880 J.B. North found a shale deposit near the Ruin Castle and employed a miner to prospect the site.

North, together with T.S. Mort formed a company, The Glen Shale Mine Co. to mine the area. In the process, a "day light" tunnel was driven through Narrow Neck to link up with the horse drawn rail running from the Ruin Castle to a cable tramway. This aerial cableway crossed the valley to the base of the Scenic Railway. The shale was then transported to the rail head at Katoomba (originally known as "The Crushings").

Old maps show that there were at least 33 mines, extending from the western end of Mt. Solitary to both sides of Narrow Neck - hence the need for a tunnel. Work stopped in 1897 and by 1904 all mining had ceased.

At the end of the last century, the residents of Megalong Valley instigated the idea of a road from Narrow Neck down into the valley. The Minister for Works, E. W. O'Sullivan, made plans and work commenced. The road was never finished and as it formed no useful purpose, it became known as O'Sullivan's Folly or Road.

It's not known when Narrow Neck was first used by "bushwalkers". Early "walkers" used to keep mainly to bush roads and tracks. Due to Saturday morning work, early bushwalking parties used to spend Saturday night on the Neck, the favourite site being Corral Swamp.

In June 1928, after camping at Glen Raphael, E. Austin, J. Debert and Frank Duncan made the first Descent off Clear Hill. From the very end of Clear Hill, the route lay "down a gully to the west of the southern most point of the hill". A series of ledges, extending in the direction of Mt. Mouin, lead to a sheer cliff 15 metres high. A final chimney lead to the base of the cliff. Later parties avoided the chimney but then someone fixed a rope ladder down the chimney.

This route later became known as Taro's ladder (after the late Walter Tarr). Narrow Neck did offer other passes and routes and these came into use in later years. The chains on Carlon's Head were installed in June 1941.

Early in 1939 the Federation was investigating the claim that an airstrip was to be constructed at Clear Hill. About the same time, the Federation was also looking at installing some wells at Corral Swamp to ensure a constant supply of water.

In June 1947, 640 acres of freehold between the first and second necks (V.G. valuation 401 pounds) were put up for sale. Of the allotments, two aggregated a square mile and were valued at 400 pounds, and encompassed the Corral Swamp campsite used by bushwalkers "for 30 years or more".

A year later, the Government had resumed the 640 acres

Narrow Neck was dropped due to the prohibitive construction costs.

It seems now that at long last the Narrow Neck peninsula will be allowed to lie in rest and revegetate (in part, anyway). The Federation congratulates the Blue Mountains Council upon its decision.

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PHONE: 858-2775

"GETTING BUSTED IS NO SPORT"

Sir,

I would like to have my opinion printed about the so called "sport" of bushwalking.

Recently my second son came home and asked to join a Bushwalking Club. He'd evidently been sucked in by a salesman at a Bushwalking shop who had an axe to grind. My lad is only 15 and is a good student and footballer, and I have no intention of letting him go out and get lost like so many other people you read about in the papers.

The community organises plenty of sporting activities to keep young people busy and it's only student "long hairs" and "eco nuts" that go out in the bush getting lost and lighting fires that burn off our valuable timber.

If they like the bush that much they can still be useful to society and volunteer to help out on our hard pressed dairy farms on week-ends. The farmers at least put the bush to good use.

"Mother of 4 boys"
Morwell

Reprinted from Latrobe Valley Express.

from director Damon Smith, Filmed in Baseline about, containing much beautiful scenery of mountains, lakes and rivers; it includes footage of river trips on the famous Franklin. Its purpose is to present the dilemmas facing the area, by means of interviews with representatives of the Hydro-Electric Commission, the Forestry Commission and the Conservation movement. As such it is essential viewing for anyone concerned with the environment.

How to see this film

We would like your club or organisation to see this film. Copies of it are available from the South-West Tasmania Committee. We can provide a speaker to introduce it and answer questions. Should a projector be required this can be arranged. No charge will be made for such a showing although a donation would be appreciated to enable us to keep on functioning. The film is in heavy demand, and we would advise you to book early as we are accepting bookings now for all of 1980.

How to contact us

The South-West Tasmania Committee (N.S.W.) was formed in 1974 as part of an Australia-wide organisation set up in the wake of the Lake Pedder affair. The committee disseminates information about the South-West by the production and distribution of films, booklets and brochures. Press releases, public meetings and film-showings are used to increase awareness of the South-West and to encourage its preservation as a wilderness national park.

You are invited to assist the committee or affiliated groups in other states. For further information contact:

- South-West Tasmania Committee (NSW),
P.O. Box N204 Grosvenor St., Sydney, NSW, 2000; OR
- c/- Environment Centre, 399 Pitt St., Sydney, 2000
- Tasmanian Wilderness Society,
Environment Centre, 102 Bathurst St., Hobart, 7000.

Note: The film is 16mm with optical sound track, and needs a projector with a 2,000 ft (15 in dia.) take up spool.

For some time now access through Wog Wog property has been allowed (to Corang Peak - Budawang). This has been only in the form of pedestrian traffic. Of recent times however cars have been driven onto the property contrary to existing arrangements (i.e. cars should be left outside the gates). As this is private property, anyone who drives their car onto the farm can be charged with trespass.

Relations with the property manager have worsened with the inconsiderate actions of some people. For example, camping in the farm sheds without approval. Waking the manager up in the middle of the night, seeking permission to cross/camp on the farm. And in one case, of entering the manager's house and waking him up in bed.

To alleviate this problem, the N.P.W.S. have been negotiating to purchase a narrow piece of land nearby which will allow parking as well as unimpeded access to Corang. This has been established in the



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PADDY PALLIN ORIENTEERING CONTEST

DATE: Saturday 31st May 1980.

VENUE: Linden

DIRECTIONS: Follow Great Western Highway past Linden Station for 1 km. Turn off (south side) onto Kings Cave Road. Turn left onto Glossop Road and follow P.O.O.C. signs to start. (Total distance 3.2 kms. from Great Western Highway).

TYPE OF EVENT:

1. This will be a 3 1/2 hour duration point score event for teams of two.
2. The standard 2" to 1 mile (Katoomba) map will be used (available at start). Six figure map references will be given for control point locations.
3. There will be perpetual trophies awarded to the winners, and cash order prizes awarded to the first three place getters in the following divisions: A. OPEN B. MIXED

START TIMES: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

ENTRIES: Enter on day at start. Fee \$1.00 per team.

CLOTHING: Thick scrub may be encountered in parts of the course and competitors should bear this in mind in selecting suitable clothing.

REFRESHMENTS: Hot drinks and Staminade will be available at the start.

ENQUIRIES: Paddy Pallin's (02) 26 2685 OR
Ian Landon Smith (02) 43 5129 (Bus.)
(02) 487 3411 (AH)

WHY DOES TASMANIA NEED MORE HYDRO-ELECTRICITY?

Ian Paterson has published an interesting little piece of research, Electricity usage in Tasmania which is very relevant to the case against damming of the Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers.

Amongst other interesting facts, Paterson shows that:-

- Tasmanian power consumption is 3.3 times higher than that of Australia as a whole.
- Industrial consumers use 75.6% of the total Tasmanian supply.
- The 18 largest industrial consumers who buy their power through privately negotiated bulk contracts are receiving the cheapest power in Australia.
- Comalco consumes 28% of the total power supply yet employs less than 1% of the State's workforce.

This publication is available for reference in the Library at The Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street, Sydney.

GON FISHIN

As the law stands, there are Crown rivers and private rivers. Where the bed of a river is non-tidal, it may be on either Crown land or private land. The beds of many non-tidal rivers are in private ownership and, if there are different owners on each side of the river, the dividing line may be the middle of the stream.

During 1979, the Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935, was amended to allow a person to fish from inland waters in a river or creek, notwithstanding that the bed of those waters is not Crown land if, for the purpose of taking those fish, he is in a boat on those waters or is in the bed of those waters.

So the next time you see ~~me~~ wading or out in my lilo, towing a piece of line or string, don't ask stupid questions.

(Please note that this legislation does not protect you if you are charged with trespass on land or in trying to gain access to the stream. One should also carry a fishing licence, in case a fishing inspector apprehends you. Finally one would need to look at the Act to see what actually defines "fishing").

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NEW BOOKS

'BEYOND THE COTTER' by Allan Mortlock and Klaus Huanke, a Companion Paperback, ANU Press \$2.50.

This book leads you on easy journeys to places in the Brindabellas, in the valley of the Goodradigbee and beyond to Rulee Point and Kiandra. It also includes previously unpublished historical material, especially of stockmen's huts like Currango, Circuita and Oldfields and of life in Kiandra 50 years ago.

Available for \$2.95 (including postage) from K. Huanke, 3 Banner Street, O'Connor, A.C.T. 2601.

'THE SCENIC RIM' by Tony Groom, Rigby, \$9.95. Curving majestically around Brisbane, within a radius of 100 kms, 'The Scenic Rim' links 25 peaks over 1,000 m high, and provides a fascinating range of flora and fauna. The author has provided 52 colour photographs and a text focussing on the themes of conservation and appreciation to make up this book. Available from booksellers and newagents.