

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

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BAD NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST

Recently, the Tasmanian Premier, Doug Lowe, announced that Tasmania's next power scheme would be a hydro electric scheme on the Lower Gordon River. The effects of this scheme will be disastrous on the South West Wilderness.

This scheme will involve a dam being constructed on the Lower Gordon River, above its junction with the Olga River. This will reduce the size of the largest remaining wilderness area in the South West by about 40%. No longer will the South West be the largest remaining wilderness left in South East Australia (The Colo Wilderness will be larger).

Also some magnificent country will be destroyed. The Gordon Splits will be flooded. So too will the Denison Splits and the Denison Gorge. This Gorge is only rivalled by the Great Ravine on the Franklin River in grandeur. The Maxwell, Orange and Albert Rivers will also be inundated. The Truchanas Huon Pine Reserve on the Denison River will be affected.

IS THE FRANKLIN SAVED ?

Along with the announcement of the above scheme, Premier Lowe announced that the Franklin and Davey Rivers would be given National Park status. As the Franklin was proposed for flooding by the HEC, this represents a considerable victory. However, one should remember, that in Tasmania, the original Lake Pedder was in a National Park that was revoked and then the lake destroyed. In the Mercury of 31 July 1980, it states:

"Mr. Lowe made it clear he did not believe the Government decision to save the Franklin and declare it as a wild river National Park would provide permanent protection for the river."

He also indicated the Franklin River may be flooded in the future.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- + Write to the Tasmanian Premier, Hon. D. Lowe, Parliament House, Hobart, 7000, stating your opposition to the Gordon above Olga Scheme. Also for a strengthening of the Tasmanian National Parks Act to prevent National Parks being revoked.
- + Membership and donations are needed urgently by the South West Tasmania Committee (NSW). P.O. Box N204 Grosvenor Street, Sydney, 2000, or call in to the Committee's office at 399 Pitt Street, Sydney and offer labour or services for the continuing campaign.

SEARCH & RESCUE REPORT, 1979-80

The past twelve months have been uneventful (thankfully), with the possible exception of the S & R operation we did not mount for Allison Hogg (Springwood) in the Blackwater Creek area, east of Kylestone. (ref Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 7th April). Our Radio Officer was overdue on a Three Peaks trip and was recovered (?) from the Narrow Neck road by the friendly officers of Katoomba Police Rescue.

At the August Federation meeting we hope to have available for sale our "Bushwalkers First Aid Kit", cheap at around \$12 to \$14. They will be available in limited quantities for the same price in most equipment shops. S & R Medical Officer Sue Cave (UNSWBMC) has put a tremendous effort into preparation of the kit and prospective owners are assured that only the highest quality items have been included.

Special thanks go to the S & R Committee for a consistent effort and to Dave Farrell (SPAN), Keith Massie (NPA) and Warren Myles (SKOPE) for towing the S & R trailer, and to our anonymous donor of scrap wire.

Dates for the next twelve months are:-
6 & 7 December 1980
21 & 22 March 1981
11 & 12 July 1981

It is hoped that clubs will be able to avoid program clashes with these dates and be able to give them prominence in their program. Locations will be advised as soon as possible through the Federation minutes.

Fergus Bell for Search & Rescue Committee

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. 2065
Ph. 438 2484, 438 1047

62 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY. 2001
Ph. 29 4849



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In past years, especially prior to 1972, Bushwalkers S & R played a vital self-help role. Since that time the growing number of Police Rescue Squad officers in Police Stations and NSW Volunteer Rescue Association squads have dramatically reduced the number of occasions we have been called upon. Contributing to the drop in the number of alerts is the growing awareness amongst bushwalkers of safe walking principles and the improvement in the dissemination of information relating to walks.

All this adds up to a decline in the usefulness of Bushwalkers S & R and any individual should consider his involvement in the light of the above comments. All bushwalkers should constantly review the utility of and necessity for S & R, since it consumes a great deal of effort and money that could possibly be directed to better effect.

All search and rescue operations are under the direct control of the Police; all communication with them shall be through the S & R Committee. All activities of Bushwalkers S & R are reported to the Police Rescue Squad, from committee meetings to alerts to actual callouts. We are honourbound to keep them informed; likewise we are obliged to conduct frequent, well-organised training sessions. It is expected that the bushwalkers volunteers attending operations will be well-managed and highly competent in the handling of equipment. Officers will, of necessity, be familiar with volunteers and able to put their various talents to the best possible use, keeping in mind that the subject of all operations is human life.

The prerequisites for participation in Bushwalkers S & R are not difficult to meet; the requirement for attendance at at least one training session per year is very lenient. As implied, the Committee cannot vary these requirements; high standards must be maintained. It is to be expected that all active (and youthful) clubs should be represented at training sessions; regular attendance should be a prerequisite for that ephemeral title "walks leader", where a sound understanding of S & R skills contributes to safer walking.

The stated aim of Bushwalkers Search & Rescue is to assist bushwalkers in difficulty. This aim is extended (as requested) to include any persons in difficulty in the bush. For such operations ALL walkers are expected to oblige when asked. It is understood that some walkers may not feel obliged where the operation lies outside the above conditions. Obviously such reluctance would not prejudice their standing with the Committee.

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue is not a bushcraft training forum.

S & R techniques such as advanced navigation, first aid, ropework and stretcher handling.

Persons satisfying the pre-requisites below and wishing to participate are expected to attend at least one training session per year, where personal particulars will be taken down. Clubs should maintain S & R contacts, whose details should be forwarded to the S & R Secretary. Numerous clubs have not responded to requests for such information. Clubs from beyond the regional centres of Wollongong, Sydney, Bathurst and Newcastle are obviously beyond our immediate help. They should still nominate S & R contacts, whose details should be passed on to the local Police Station and NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Squad.

Bushwalker volunteers are loosely grouped in the following three categories:-

- List 1: Available at almost any time, including from work, near a phone most of the time, ready access to transport. A minimum of two years extensive experience in the Blue Mountains and able to abseil safely, jumar/prussick when required, tie basic knots (in the dark), climb to grade 10 (when desperate) and a good swimmer (for canyons).
- List 2: Not quite as experienced as for List 1, nor as readily available. Generally willing to take day off from work.
- List 3: Same experience as for List 2, not as available. This list will be held in reserve, to be called upon for extended operations.

If you are still unsure of the role of Bushwalkers Search & Rescue you should approach the S & R Committee who will arrange for a member to address your club.

<u>Committee Members</u>		<u>Work</u>	<u>Home</u>
Director	Fergus Bell	218 9698	476 4187
Field Officer	Keith Maxwell	887 8666 Ext 765	560 3252
Asst. Field Officer	Peter Tuft	666 8943 Ext 2489	698 7640
Secretary	Sally Bell		476 4187
Medical Officer	Sue Cave	44 1241	476 6530
Public Relations	Robert Pallin	26 2685	467 1334
Radio Officer	Nick Eichhorn	807 0697	86 1376
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Catering Officer	Beth Mees	61 3718	
Committee Members	Robyn Tuft	662 2358	698 7640
	Greg Cave		476 6530

Fergus Bell for Search & Rescue Committee

MAPS

The Division of National Mapping (they're the ones that produce the 1:100,000 scale maps) are investigating producing a 'snow' map. This proposal to have more contrasting colours for viewing in poor conditions, height information will be accentuated and the depiction of vegetation will be simplified. They consider however that it will take some two years to prepare.

The good news is that the Yarrangobilly 1:100,000 is

MARIE BYLES

Marie Beuzeville Byles was born on 5 April 1900 and had a feminist for a mother and a fresh air fanatic for a father. In 1911 the family emigrated from the U.K. to N.S.W., settling in Beecroft.

After her first night out camping with her parents, "that first taste of sleepless nights was not sufficient, it merely whetted our appetites. From that time camping became a regular institution, and even stories of the prevalence of desperate villains waiting to pounce on undefended girls failed to frighten us. At first I used to carry a revolver, but it always lay unloaded at the bottom of my rucksack. I do not know what use it would have served."

In 1918 Marie took the definite step by entering Law School and by the age of 24, became a Law Clerk (she was admitted as N.S.W.'s first woman solicitor). Three years later she took off by cargo boat to see the world, mountaineering "the only difference between mountaineers and other lunatics is that mountaineers know they are mad, other madmen do not!" in Europe and New Zealand. She wrote "By Cargo Boat and Mountain", (1931).

By 1929 she had returned and commenced her own law practice, "but during my absence from Sydney there had come into existence a Rambling Society, composed of people who love the beauties of the bush, and the open-air life . . . The society has, therefore adopted a charming flannel flower brooch and the horribly prosaic name of Sydney Bush Walkers".

"Considerable comment is made by bystanders if a girl ventures to appear in a train or at a respectable tourist resort dressed in anything except a skirt. (Marie had travelled the world and climbed in knickerbockers.) The lady members of Sydney Bush Walkers accordingly appear on Sydney platforms dressed in proper frocks. When they alight from the train they disperse behind convenient bushes and reappear 5 minutes later dressed in the shortest of short shorts."

She joined the S.B.W. and became involved in Bouddi, Garrawarra, Era and Barren Grounds (and with these campaigns she became involved with Federation). She also made further trips to New Zealand into relatively unexplored country, as well as Asia. In 1941 Marie helped form the Bush Club.

In the 40's she made a study, then took up Buddhism. She still continued with her legal work till she turned 70 - when she handed the practice over to her partner. (In 1966 she was attacked at her home and sustained serious injury.) Marie remained mentally alert till she passed away on 21 November 1979.

During one of her climbs in New Zealand, her partner became ill and the climb was cancelled. She was tempted to go out on her own, protestations followed ". . . but I don't drink, or smoke, or even gamble, and one simply must have some sin, you know, and climbing alone is the only interesting one I can think of at the present time".

WILDERNESS IN VICTORIA - AN INVENTORY

The Department of Geography at Monash University has produced a Wilderness Study for Victoria. This study identifies 12 areas as having retained their basic primitive character and which, in the context of Victoria, can be considered as wilderness.

It is interesting to note that several of the areas listed about three wilderness areas as described in the Helman Report (Pilot, Byadbo and Nadgee).

The Victorian Report also includes an area "Genoa" which is located mainly in Victoria but which also spreads into NSW. It should prove to be a good comparison to Helman's Report.

The Federation would like to welcome the Camden and District Bushwalking Club, 12 Hawkey Crescent, Camden, 2570, to its ranks. This club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month and caters both for individuals as well as family members.

OFFICE BEARERS 1980/81

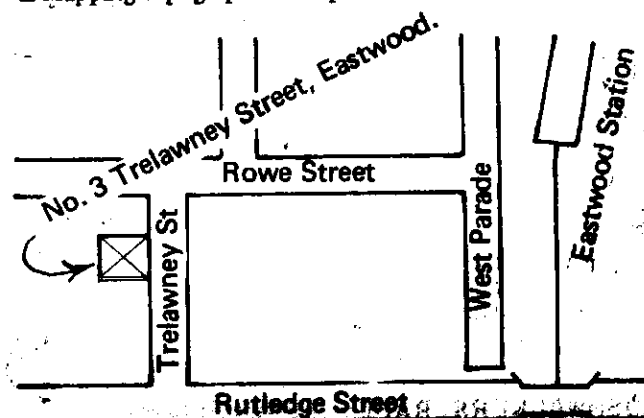
		Phone
President	Murray Scott	520 0750 (h)
Snr. Vice President	Beth Mees	61 3718 (w)
Jnr. Vice President	Peter Tuft	698 7640 (h)
Treasurer	Jim Callaway	520 7081 (h)
Secretary	Spiro Hajinokitas	357 1381 (h)
Assistant Sec.	Warwick Blayden	-
Minute Secretary	Barbara Brearley	36 3532 (h)
Education Director	Adrian Teague	90 1370 (h)
Public Relations Director	Robert Jung	808 1692 (h)
Tracks & Access	Snow Brown	451 7644 (h)
Newsletter Editor	David Noble	312 318 (h)
Conservation Director	Roger Lembit	747 3962 (h)
S & R Director	Fergus Bell	476 4187 (h)
NCC Councillor	Helen Panter	543 3141 (w)

EASTWOOD CAMPING CENTRE

ALL THE USUAL GEAR:

Fairydown sleeping bags, abseiling gear, parkas, packs, tents, boots, groundsheet, lightweight food, AND MUCH MORE.

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



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MT PARALYSER LOG BOOK - STATISTICS

In May this year, Michael Job of Holy Cross School Bushwalking Group sent a filled-up logbook from Mt Paralyser, in the Southern Blue Mountains, back to the Springwood Bushwalking Club (along with a wet Guouogang Book). The books are now in the Mitchell Library.

Below are some interesting statistics taken from the Paralyser book - relating to the number of people and parties visiting the peak and the number of people doing one specific trip - the 3 peaks - i.e. Mts. Cloudmaker, Paralyser, Guouogang from Katoomba and back in 48 hours or less.

PERIOD OF STATISTICS 31/5/75 to 26/4/80

During this time 311 people from 83 parties visited Mt. Paralyser and signed the book. 63% of these people were in clubs belonging to F.B.W.; 68% of the parties were member clubs.

YEAR	No. of Parties	No. of People	Average Party Size
1975*	16	58	3.6
1976	15	68	4.5
1977	20	52	2.6
1978	16	54	3.4
1979	12	49	4.1
1980*	4	30	7.5

* only partial data for these years.

The clubs most frequently visiting the peak are set out below:

CLUB	No. of Parties Visiting Peak	No. of People Visiting Peak
Catholic Bushwalkers	10	29
Ramblers	9	27
Sydney Uni. Bushwalkers	9	16
National Parks Assn.	7	25
Coast & Mountain Walkers	6	31
Sydney Bush Walkers	5	16
Springwood Bushwalkers	4	9
Uni. N.S.W. Bushwalkers	3	12
SPAN	2	9
NAPSAC	2	10
Mt. Druitt Bushwalkers	1	4

THE 3 PEAKS

29 Parties, totalling 68 people (average of 2.3 people per party), were attempting the 3 peaks:

YEAR	No. of Parties	No. of People
1975*	4	8
1976	5	13
1977	8	19
1978	7	16
1979	4	9
1980*	1	3

Of these people, 26% did not identify themselves as being members of a club in F.B.W.; 22% were in the Ramblers; 19% in S.U.B.W.; 9% in S.B.W.; 7% in C.B.C.; 6% in SPAN; 4% in S.B.C. and NAPSAC and 1% in C.M.W.

BUSHWALKERS BALL

BARRINGTON TOPS NATIONAL PARK

Maps: Woolooma & Gloucester 1:63360
Barrington Tops 1:25000

Location: 321 km. north of Sydney, 38 km from Gloucester.

Access: From Dungog, continue to Barrington (Guest House).
12 km south of Gloucester, follow side road.

Description: The tops form a plateau where there are extensive stands of Antarctic beech forests, grasslands and sub-alpine woodlands. Diverse animal life includes pademelons, greater gliders and marsupial mice.

References: "New England Tablelands" - U.N.W. Mount. Club
"100 Walks in N.S.W." - T. Thomas
"Wilderness in Australia" - P. Helman et alii.
Club Magazines - Newcastle Bushwalking Club
F.B.W. (NSW) Wilderness Survey 1978.

Comments: Barrington Tops offers pleasant walking amid lovely rainforests whilst the valleys also have their attractions (including lawyer vine). Unfortunately the plateau is partially surrounded by roads and thus invaded with 4 wheel drives. Once off the plateau and its head-water system, farming and logging interests are intruding.

It would seem that its pristine water catchments are also important recreationally (as well as environmentally). The rivers that tumble off the plateau form the most dependable water for canoeing "the best river in the State (almost) for rapids".

Popular visiting points are Far Eastern Falls, William Falls, Careys Peak, Blue Hole, and Gloucester Tops (slightly further to the north).

One Newcastle Bushwalking Club's member has been walking in the area since c.1956. Until July this year, the only maps were (1942) 1":1 mile, but now the first of four maps (1:25000) has been released - showing more detail but in a ghastly colour, locked gates, rainfall/temperature charts and "gilgai".

Welby

